More than 6,000 people have died in Mexican drug-related violence throughout the last year; 1,000 of these killings took place in January alone.

Mexico for Spring Break? Maybe Not.

Acapulco, a destination of sun, sand, and fun, is the average college student’s absolute dream getaway. You’ve been planning for this trip all year. The time has almost arrived for you to set off on your picturesque spring break vacation; you can practically feel the tingling of the hot sand between your toes, the massive roar of the beautiful ocean waves, and not to mention that you’re already dreaming of the monumental memories that will be made. You are so anxious that you can’t sleep, and despite what you are saying to yourself, you know that you are planning your trip to set off on your picturesque vacation.

Although tourists have not yet been targets of the Mexican cartel in border towns such as Phoenix or Juarez, there have been murders within tourists towns located deep inside Mexico. More than 6,000 people have died in Mexican drug-related violence throughout the last year; 1,000 of these killings took place in January alone. Although there are serious warnings directed towards spring breakers, students who choose sand over sanity are urged to take certain commonsense precautions such as avoiding the “rougher” parts of Mexico. As previously mentioned, cities simply in Mexico are not the only places where you may encounter drug-related violence.

Drug Wars Threaten Civillians, Spring Break

With spring break and violence brewing in border towns, college students look for other destination spots.

Chris Brown in Court

Tired of the Star Magazine Rumors?

Rihanna’s Pregnant? Brown and Fenty tie the knot? Writing a book together? She was with Jay-Z?

Coming to America

Welcome to paradise. Or wait. Goodbye? Meet our new students!

Stephen Skacall

Goodwill Weather

Temperamental are we? Do I need my jacket or not?

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places feeling this harsh statement by Mexican cartels. Phoenix, Arizona has become the second largest kidnap capital in the world. Officials there account that there are most likely twice as many kidnappings occurring then are being reported. Numerous states across the U.S. have also been affected by this drug war. Officials estimate that $14 billion worth of illegal drugs are smuggled into America from Mexico every year. They are believed to have reached 130,000 in numbers. The Mexican government has spent $6.5 billion on top of their already adopted budget; however, this number is overshadowed by the drug gangs’ $10 billion. Mexico’s attorney general has pleaded for the United States to harshly persecute all selling weapons to these criminals.

“Officials estimate that $14 billion worth of illegal drugs are smuggled into America from Mexico every year. They are believed to have reached 130,000 in numbers.”

On Monday, February 23, the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Flag flew high above the capital as members of the Centennial committee and representatives of the student body traveled to the state capital at the invitation of Representative Gus Blackwell.

An official resolution was read welcoming the representatives of the college to the Oklahoma State Capitol. Those in attendance were Student Senate members Carlie Scofield and Katie Wiggins, Executive Secretary of the Foundation Doris Looper and her husband Lloyd, Centennial Committee members Brent Shoulders, David Miller, Saw Richter, and Tito Aznar. JB Flatt, a former student of OPSU, also joined the group. The group was recognized in front of the House of Representatives. A House Bill was then read proclaiming the day Oklahoma Panhandle State University Day in honor of the University’s centennial year. An official resolution also approved the nicknaming of the Oklahoma portion of Highway 54 “Oklahoma PSU Centennial Corridor.” Signs should begin appearing as soon as possible. February 23 of 2009 officially honored OPSU’s 100 years of educating students. I personally, am thankful that the college was recognized for its amazing achievement. What a wonderful day.

"Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday Dear OPSU," Gus Blackwell

Drug Wars Cont...

“Officials estimate that $14 billion worth of illegal drugs are smuggled into America from Mexico every year. They are believed to have reached 130,000 in numbers.”

However, you plan to traverse to this next week, please be well informed about your surroundings and take all necessary precautions so that your spring break will not be forever broken.

Photo Courtesy of Epoch Times
The corpse of an unidentified woman lies on a street in Juarez, Mexico on Nov. 29, 2008 and it is assumed that her death is the result of a drug cartel dispute. (Guadalupe Perez/AFP/Getty Images)

Photo Courtesy of Stratfor.com
Border towns are the home to drug violence causing students to rethink spring break plans.

A life without happiness.

What is your personal “hell”? having an everlasting hangover! working for national beef at the same *** job that i had during the summer for the rest of my life.

Having an everlasting hangover!

A life without happiness.

Living in Goodwell for the rest of my life.

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Towns Abandoned Across Oklahoma

Fires burning across the state of Oklahoma causes hundreds to evacuate, burn ban increased.

Taloga, Oklahoma was evacuated Thursday as a large wildfire grew more and more out of control. The town lost a number of homes and put the entire town in danger. Taloga is a small town of about 400 people in Dewey County, just south of Selings. 200 fire trucks have been brought in from eighteen surrounding communities, including Selings, Putnam, and Clinton. The fire has also reached into nearby Woodward County, destroying several homes there. So far at least 60,000 acres have burned in Dewey and Woodward counties. Since Friday morning, the fire has made its way across the river, putting the town at risk.

A second fire burning in Okfuskee County has engulfed the town of Weleetka, with several blocks of the town on fire. Weleetka is in East Central Oklahoma, near the towns of Henryetta and Okemah and is approximately 40 miles east of Shawnee.

A third fire has threatened Oklahome County, specifically the city of Edmond. The northern edge of Edmond city has been choked by smoke as the fire approaches building campfires or bonfires if you can. As a reminder, the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles are both under a fire weather advisory and burn ban. Anyone caught in violation of the burn ban will likely be given a serious fine by law enforcement and could face jail time in some cases.

Conference Scholarship

McKee Library at Oklahoma Panhandle University is proud to announce that Rhonda Donaldson, Access Services Librarian, was awarded an Assoiciation of College and Research Librarians (ACRL) National Conference Scholarship. Ms. Donaldson received a complimentary conference registration and an expense stipend. The ACRL National Conference will take place March 11-15 in Seattle, WA.

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide opportunities for librarians with five or fewer years of experience after earning their Master’s in Library and Information Science degree. This professional development experience will provide educational programming and networking events to expand her skills and knowledge. Ms. Donaldson has worked at McKee Library since December, 2007. Her responsibilities include reference, circulation, and instruction in her first professional position. McKee Library appreciates the ACRL scholarship assistance and Ms. Donaldson’s dedication in applying for one of the 73 scholarships awarded nationwide. This scholarship allows McKee Library to send a librarian to the first time in recent memory. This conference provides new ideas and programs that Ms. Donaldson will implement to improve library services to OPSU students. OPSU student learning will benefit from this ACRL scholarship program.

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While the word democracy is banned in online chat rooms in China, Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

In your lifetime, you'll shed over 40 pounds of skin.

Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every year.

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

The highest paid CEO in 2004 was Terry Semel of Yahoo. He earned $230 million, or approximately $630,000 per day.

Sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100 miles (161 km) an hour.

Photo Courtesy of NewsOK, Oklahoma City

Fun Valley Family Resort
South Fork, Colorado

needs students for all types of jobs: kitchen, dining room, housekeeping, stores, maintenance, horse wranglers, office. For information and employment application write student Personnel Director, 635 Westover Drive, Granbury, TX 76049 or call 1.800.548.1648 or e-mail rafain@sbcglobal.net.

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Editor
Layout/Staff
Advisor
Photography
Sports/Alia Man
Rodeo Reporter
Staff
Staff/Headlines
Staff

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Wright, music professor.

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Equestrian Team Wins Big in Nebraska

February 14-15 Equestrian Team represents OPSU in winning fashion

Goodwell, Okla.— The OPSU Equestrian Team rode to victory February 14-15 at a show hosted by the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, Neb. The team won Reserve High Point Team the first day of the competition and High Point Team the second day. The Open division rider, Alicia Havens, earned High-Point Rider both days, winning 1st place in the Reining both days and 1st and 3rd in the Horsemanship.

Other team members placings include: Cherie Scholz in the Advanced division with 1st and 1st; Sierra Epperson in the Novice division with 3rd and 2nd; Ashley Jarrett in the Novice Division with 5th and 7th; Carrie Kluever in the Intermediate Division with 4th and 3rd; Faith Long in the Intermediate division with 1st and 7th; Genna Buettner in the Intermediate Division with 2nd and 4th, and Carri Claxton in the Beginner division with 4th and 6th.

OPSU's Bioni, Jackson Earn Conference Honors

Aaron Jackson (Dallas, Texas), Kariz Bioni (Parana, Brazil) were both Aggie scoring leaders, averaging over 12ppg.

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Goodwell, Okla.— The Heartland Conference has announced its 2008-2009 men’s and women’s All-Conference basketball teams and two Oklahoma Panhandle State student athletes have been honored. Aaron Jackson of the Aggies and Kariz Bioni of the Lady Aggies each received Honorable Mention recognition.

Jackson is a cat-quick guard from Dallas, Texas who led the Aggies in scoring, assists, steals and free throws. The 6’1 senior was the high scorer for the Aggies in seven games including a season high of 30 points. A superb athlete, Jackson finished the season with a scoring average of 12.0.

Bioni is a 5’9 senior guard from Parana, Brazil who led the Lady Aggies in scoring, assists, and free throws. The junior was the high scorer for her team in a dozen games and the leading rebounder 19 times. A hard worker at both ends of the court, she finished the season with a scoring average of 12.2.

Teams making up the Heartland Conference in basketball are OPSU, Newman, St. Mary’s, St. Edwards, Incarnate Word, Texas-Panhandle Basin, Texas A&M International, Lincoln, and Dallas Baptist (men’s basketball only).

Heartland Conference Update For the Week of March 2

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<td>5. Texas A&amp;M International</td>
<td>5. Oklahoma Panhandle State</td>
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In a very close, exciting game against the St. Edward’s Hilltoppers, the OPSU suffered a 1-0 defeat, with a no-hitter included.

The game was the third one of the four-game series played over the weekend in Austin, TX. The series was thrown by L. Hair, allowing only three players to get on base. The Lady Aggies pitcher, Arlene Soto, also more than held her own. She allowed only one run and seven hits in six innings of labor.

The rest of the weekend’s games were not as close as the Lady Aggies saw the scoring end of all three by scores of 1-0, 0-4, and 0-4.

The Lady Aggies fall now to a 1-13 (0-4 HC) record.

St. Edward’s 79, Aggies 14

Andres Belandria

It is not a football score. The Hilltoppers completely manhandled the Aggies when the OPSU squad visited Austin, TX for the four compromises on the Heartland Conference schedule.

The Hilltoppers never gave the Aggies a chance. They made it clear it was going to be a long weekend for the OPSU squad right from the beginning. Scoring 16 runs in the first inning of the first game. The scores for the four games were 23-8, 24-3, 22-0, and 10-3. The Aggies record stands now at 1-21.

The Lady Aggies fall in a No-hitter

Channing Hawks

OPSU's Bioni, Jackson Earn Conference Honors

Scott Puryear

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The Lady Aggies fall now to a 1-13 (0-4 HC) record
We've not done with remakes yet. Bring 'em back 1970's horror with a 2009 twist. Revenge anyone?

THE HORSEMEN

Dennis Quaid

Biblical prophecies lead clures to a series of murders.

MDN'S MARCH

R

Astin Knoll

True love lasts forever. That is, unless you're not awake for it.

RACE TO THE MOUNTAIN

G

Dwayne Johnson

UFO's are back. Bet's put a Dracula spin on it. The Rock will protect us.

Almost a month after Singer/Pop star Fenty was found beaten and alone in a boyfriend, Chris Brown's rented Lamborghini, it seems as though the pop sensation may be facing up to a very unpleasant prison.

CAKIFORNIA THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2009, Chris Brown, 19, was formally charged with two felony counts after allegations of kidnapping of girlfriend of two years and a half, Rihanna Rihanna Fenty, 21, on February 8. Although the portions of 911's received from Rapper Ja-Z to a pregnant Rihanna with Brown's baby have been rumored to have started the altercation, according to the warrant filed from the arrest, singer Rihanna had picked up the accused's cellular phone only to read a three page text message from a woman that Brown had previously been involved with.

AFTER READING the text messages, a verbal argument caused the two to pull over to an undisclosed street when Brown opened Fenty's door and then attempted to force her out of the vehicle. As she was unable to get out of his truck, Fenty then attempted to call her assistant Jennifer Rosales whom didn't answer, but continued to force a conversation to the message greeting stating "I'm on my way home, make sure the cops are there when I get there". This angered Brown who then stated that she had done it and he was going to make her pay for that mistake. She then attempted to get a hold of her personal assistant Nikola Ford but the phone was quickly grabbed from her hand and thrown out of the window. Following his effort to possess Brown's telephone from his lap, he then 'pressed on the victim's carotid arteries causing her to go into an out of consciousness" whenever she bit her ear as well as a few of her fingers causing Fenty to scream. Brown then exited the vehicle and walked away as the confused Brown (of which we are both fans). The two- month discussion about the merits and missteps of the film relative to the comic, this serves to further parody the masked heroes. Just another wonderful bit of subversion.

Talking with the dedicated Francophile, we ruminated on the movie's depiction of violence Watchmen's director Zack Snyder is the same dude who helmed 300. Translate the blood exhibited in that, just in more contained instances and you have the idea. However, while mindless glorification of its brutality, Watchmen instead aims to shock viewers into questionning the efficacy of bloodshed. Still, my drunken friend was eager to know my thoughts. As these things tend to go, we left the discussion at the crux of which are in the experience. The hero man consensus? We do it. More than I, but nonetheless, day. And what of the unintended?

Going in to the film, I had expected a droive film. I had, however, expected the film to be so by far. I've heard raves and tears from comic book fan. It is campy, Manageable in the few days since its release. I've spoken with fans of the source material who loathed it and those oblique to the book who loved it. Critics seem just as split.

I believe one of the primary factors of the film's success at individual level hinges on its artificial texture. Something counterintuitive considering the story's reputation of stern veracity, it nevertheless rings true. After all, Watchmen exists in a camp style, you can instead aim to shock viewers into questioning the efficacy of bloodshed. Still, many of viewers will find this content objectionable no matter its underlying purpose, and reasonably so. Important to mention, the violent content extends well past punches and bullets, though it is thoroughly entertaining. I had an intriguing little dream the night before watching Watchmen. I ran around the comic strip world, as a feature film in my dreams. I played as supporting character behind Bill Murray and his character. De Bankolé. Bill Murray played a murderer, though he was still very much "Bill Murray". I think it came about by watching the Limits of Control trailer, the brilliantly washed Anderson-inspired "Oscar the Grouch" video by Company of Thieves, and having Beck's Modest Gem album on loop. I share this not to wildly bane you, but to explain how, while I was having a ball of a time seeing Watchmen come to life, I'd have rather been watching Bill Murray murder people, or try to anyway. Point is, I have these ideal romanticizations (this, 300, Sex) don't become a dominant trend. Besides, at least in this instance, the movie can't come close to matching the book's heights. Much of the original genius is specific to the comic as a whole.

In the end, while it doesn't sap its origin, I'm happy to have seen the film. Love or despise it, Watchmen promotes bold artistic risk taking and is all once challenging, thought-provoking, and entertaining.

The moment the end credits rolled, I was leaning in on an array of chatter ranging everywhere from "awesomness" to "that is the worst movie I have ever seen!" I received a text message as I passed through the exit trying to formulate my own opinion.

Eyeling the Doomsday Clock

Film Review - Watchmen (R) 2hr 43min

Where does one even begin? "The most celebrated graphic novel of all time" Sideways the terminology issue, it's near impossible to argue that claim. Alan Moore's and David Gibbon's Watchmen 1985 inception. Beyond that, aspiring artists as well as plain ol' comic book fans have been trying to formulate my own opinion.

A CONTINUATION on Fenty's left arm was apparently two inches in diameter as well as a number of bruises on her left face, the wound described to the police as a stab wound to the victim with his right. Fenty then attempted to call her assistant Jennifer Rosales whom didn't answer, but continued to force a conversation to the message greeting stating "I'm on my way home, make sure the cops are there when I get there". This angered Brown who then stated that she had done it and he was going to make her pay for that mistake. She then attempted to get a hold of her personal assistant Nikola Ford but the phone was quickly grabbed from her hand and thrown out of the window. Following his effort to possess Brown's telephone from his lap, he then 'pressed on the victim's carotid arteries causing her to go into an out of consciousness" whenever she bit her ear as well as a few of her fingers causing Fenty to scream. Brown then exited the vehicle and walked away as the confused Brown. Brown (of which we are both fans). The two-month discussion about the merits and missteps of the film relative to the comic, this serves to further parody the masked heroes. Just another wonderful bit of subversion.

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My drunken friend was eager to know my thoughts. As these things tend to go, we left the discussion at the crux of which are in the experience. The hero man consensus? We do it. More than I, but nonetheless, day. And what of the unintended?

Going in to the film, I had expected a droive film. I had, however, expected the film to be so by far. I've heard raves and tears from comic book fan. It is campy, Manageable in the few days since its release. I've spoken with fans of the source material who loathed it and those oblique to the book who loved it. Critics seem just as split.

I believe one of the primary factors of the film's success at individual level hinges on its artificial texture. Something counterintuitive considering the story's reputation of stern veracity, it nevertheless rings true. After all, Watchmen exists in a camp style, you can instead aim to shock viewers into questionning the efficacy of bloodshed. Still, many of viewers will find this content objectionable no matter its underlying purpose, and reasonably so. Important to mention, the violent content extends well past punches and bullets, though it is thoroughly entertaining. I had an intriguing little dream the night before watching Watchmen. I ran around the comic strip world, as a feature film in my dreams. I played as supporting character behind Bill Murray and his character. De Bankolé. Bill Murray played a murderer, though he was still very much "Bill Murray". I think it came about by watching the Limits of Control trailer, the brilliantly washed Anderson-inspired "Oscar the Grouch" video by Company of Thieves, and having Beck's Modest Gem album on loop. I share this not to wildly bane you, but to explain how, while I was having a ball of a time seeing Watchmen come to life, I'd have rather been watching Bill Murray murder people, or try to anyway. Point is, I have these ideal romanticizations (this, 300, Sex) don't become a dominant trend. Besides, at least in this instance, the movie can't come close to matching the book's heights. Much of the original genius is specific to the comic as a whole.

In the end, while it doesn't sap its origin, I'm happy to have seen the film. Love or despise it, Watchmen promotes bold artistic risk taking and is all once challenging, thought-provoking, and entertaining.
adios argentina, hola america!

Summer Juan Huling finds herself passionate about something that she never would have thought she could ever do.

Students majoring in HPER (Health and Physical Education) are most likely familiar with a student named Summer Jean Huling. Summer, a sophomore here at OPSU, happens to have a boisterous and outgoing personality that cannot go unnoticed. This carefree girl is passionate about her major and looks forward to becoming a coach; however, she never dreamed that she would want to coach for a living.

Summer grew up on a farm between Turpin and Forgan, Oklahoma. She filled her childhood days with bike riding, rollerblading, and running around the farm with her animals. This farm girl has always been athletic and she remained anxious about the opportunity to play competitive sports. Sports were influential rather heavily in Summer’s life.

Tired of feeling belittled, she decided her days of playing sports were over. Summer thought long and hard about her future in sports and decided not to quit, but to take a different approach to playing. She became determined to prove her coaches wrong and she worked hard to gain the respect of the coaches. She strived to become a stronger athlete and a bigger asset to the team.

That year Summer excelled on the softball field, the basketball court, the golf course, and the track; however, her gaming achievements were not as important as what she learned about her own life. She learned that she could have a passion in sports and she wanted to use that passion for the rest of her life. That’s when she decided that she wanted to become a coach. She wants to nurture the passion that young players have for sports and help them make better plays by encouraging them to be their very best.

Summer spends her days in classes learning about health and physical fitness. She also works as a lifeguard at the Noble. Center where she enjoys getting to know other athletes and she also assisted her in becoming a certified lifeguard. This summer she looks forward to lifeguarding and returning to her fondest days of sports by coaching some future athletes in Kids Inc. While she once detested coaching, Summer’s days and dreams are now filled with her passion to teach other athletes in competitive sports. Her story just goes to show that one should never say never.

Adios Argentina, Hola America!

Villa Maria is a city of 76,000 people a short drive from Córdoba, the second largest city in Argentina. Julia is a 19 year old English major and Juan is a 27 year old Music Composition major.

Juan (who prefers to be called by tassia, a shortened version of his last name) is on his way to San Antonio as it is his writing story, so for this year I focused on Julia and her experiences in Goodwell. Juan will be featured in next week’s paper.

“It was awful, I hate planes,” said tassia, referring to her journey to Argentina to the US. “We left Argentina at noon Monday, and arrived in Amrillos at 20 hours later, it was a horrible flight! The 20 hour plane ride is longer than what most OPSU students travel to and from Argentina in a semester.”

“I came here to practice English and to experience a new culture, while also sharing the culture of Argentina,” said Julia. According to an article on the UNVM website, “the objective is to spread the culture of our country and especially the UWM to encourage future trade relations.” Julia visits the US is the first in what is hoped to be a series of student exchanges between OPSU and UNVM.

Explaining part of the exchange process in coming to America, Julia says that “in order to become an ambassador, you are invited by (the State Department). They then asked where I would be visiting in the US, told me where I would be visiting in the US. But I don’t care about that; there are many parts of Argentina which are very similar to Goodwell.”

Asked about her experiences so far at OPSU, the mile and a half walk to school, Julia explained that “there is a big difference in life. In Argentina you don’t have a degree you can still get a good job. In Argentina, you have to be more prepared with education. If you want to find a good job, Julia has also noticed a difference in the way American women dress. Argentina women are very warm to each other, we always kiss each other on the cheek when we meet and when we leave. In America, people don’t do that.” Julia says that the people at OPSU are “very kind. Every single person is polite and very friendly to us, we really enjoy being here.”

Juana would like to encourage other students to consider visiting Argentina, as the program that brought her here is also sending OPSU students to Villa Maria. The program will continue sending OPSU students to Villa Maria for several months; students will attend classes in their major field while learning about the culture of Argentina and the Spanish language. You do not have to be fluent in Spanish and the antepuesto and the direct cost to you is the flight to and from Argentina. For more information find Julia Sassoatteli or Julia Ancarla, contact Teni Nora in Hamilton Hall.

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“We’re without cable for two weeks; our bathrooms are always leaking; our rooms don’t have close doors. It is impossible to control the water temperature when we shower, and our rooms are always hot. We’re all in college, we don’t need our parents worried about who’s coming in and out of our rooms, there’s a lot more they can be worrying about. Let’s get things taken care of.” Kariz Bioni
Oklahoma City Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Program is currently taking applications for admission to the fall 2009 nursing class.

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