

PIONEER



Cody Cao travelled to the Capitol with his news writing class for Higher Ed Day. *Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer*

How to make your voice heard

SOPHIA BABB

Editor

editor@occc.edu

Becoming involved in the Oklahoma legislative process is not as hard as you may think. Just a few simple actions can make a difference in whether a bill gains support or not.

Bailey Perkins, an Outreach and Legislative Liaison with the Oklahoma Policy Institute, said the first step is finding what you're passionate about.

1. Find your passion, find your people

"Are you passionate about education? The environment? Criminal justice reform? There are several organizations throughout the state who do policy, advocacy, and research," Perkins said. "The first step is finding an organization who follows this stuff, and will help you get educated about these issues and find out what's going on."

Understanding the legislative process as a single voter can become confusing or overwhelming, so participation in an organized group can bring focus to the specific issues you care about. Whether it's through a Facebook group or a weekly meeting at a friend's home, more people make for louder voices.

Organizations such as Voices Engaged in Civic Education and Together Oklahoma exist to inform Oklahoman voters on a nonpartisan platform, tackling singular issues to consolidate

See **LEGISLATORS** on page 10



Inside the Oklahoma State capitol rotunda, visitors can view a nine-foot replica of "The Guardian." The original 22-foot-tall statue stands atop the Capitol building. *Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer*

Higher Ed Day *at the State Capitol*

RAVEN DIAZ

Staff Writer

Oklahoma college students gathered recently at the State Capitol to show the legislature how much they value higher education.

Each year, college students, faculty and administrators come from all over the state to visit with their representatives and senators.

This year, students stressed the importance of the budget cuts on higher education and guns on campus.

Angelica Bryant, a student at Oklahoma City Community College, said she hopes she can make a difference at Higher Education Day by persuading her legislature to no longer cut funding to higher education.

Many students from several colleges had the same main issue to talk about: budget cuts.

University of Central Oklahoma student Carl Peterson said higher education remains important to students. But, Peterson added, it is not a priority to the legislature.

"In interviews we've done, they say they can write

the check, but they can't allocate where those funds go. So, there are not enough people fighting for the right to allocate these funds; therefore it remains not as important," he said.

Oklahoma has reached record high budget cuts to higher education. State Rep. Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City, said, "The budget cuts that happened to higher education were much harsher than any other agency last year."

The budget for FY 2017 is \$67 million dollars less than the FY 2016.

"Too many legislators, when they think of higher ed, they think of OU expanding their football stadium," Echols said. "They need to understand that higher education is not just the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University."

State Sen. Ralph Shortey, R-Oklahoma City, said he didn't want to increase higher ed funding, despite his support for community colleges.

"We've got these two systems that unfortunately fall under the same budget, and if we cut higher ed

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EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | EXCHANGE OF CONTRARY IDEAS ESSENTIAL TO DEMOCRACY

Freedom of speech even for Milo



On Wednesday, February 1, violent protests prompted the cancellation of Milo Yiannopoulos' appearance on the University of California Berkeley campus.

Yiannopoulos is a right-wing speaker, and is a former editor of the far-right outlet Breitbart News. He resigned from his editor position Wednesday, after his past statements concerning pedophilia resurfaced.

With Yiannopoulos' fame stemming from his off-color commentary and offensive speaking material, he's been met with heavy opposition from the left.

A January speaking engagement at UC Davis was also canceled due to protests, leaving Yiannopoulos crusading for the freedom of speech in retaliation.

President Trump himself weighed in on the cancellation of Yiannopoulos' event, tweeting, "If U.C. Berkeley does not allow free speech and practices violence on innocent people with a different point of view - NO FEDERAL FUNDS?"

The right claims that keeping Yiannopoulos from speaking is an infringement on the First Amendment, while the left says Yiannopoulos' presentations are filled with abhorrent hate speech that shouldn't be endorsed on a college campus. The intersection of free speech and hate speech is where the disagreements arise – who's right? Who's wrong?

The interpretive considerations of the Constitution tell us that Yiannopoulos SHOULD be allowed to speak at publicly funded institutions, but only after proper invitation and application. If Yiannopoulos is invited by a club or organization on campus to speak, he is afforded every right to speech under the First Amendment.

If Yiannopoulos were to informally show up to a campus uninvited, the Newseum Institute outlines that a public college or university is "Constitutionally permitted to place certain time, place, manner, and (in very limited circumstances) even content-based restrictions on speech, as long as the restrictions are reasonable, apply to everyone, are in line with the school's educational mission, and do not discriminate according to viewpoint."

However, when a forum is formally opened on college grounds, First Amendment rights are back in full swing.

Cal Berkeley said in a statement after the protests, "While Yiannopoulos' views, tactics and rhetoric are profoundly contrary to our own, we are bound by the Constitution, the law, our values and the campus's Principles of Community to enable free expression across the full spectrum of opinion and perspective."

In the 1972 *Healy v. James* U.S. Supreme Court Case, it was stated that "state colleges and universities are not enclaves immune from the sweep of the First Amendment."

Whether college campuses should endorse a speaker or not is up to the college's own objections, but regardless of endorsement, Yiannopoulos was a Constitutionally protected speaker.

The left's diagnosis of Yiannopoulos' commentary as "hate speech" is not unfounded. But to censor or silence his vulgarities or offensive views would stifle the freedom of expression that the democratic left so often values.

Geoffrey R. Stone writes in "Perilous Times," "to meet the responsibilities of democracy, individuals must have access to a broad spectrum of opinions, ideas, and information. For the government to censor public debate because it thinks a particular speaker unwise or ill informed would usurp the authority of citizens to make their own judgments about such matters and thus undermines the very essence of self-government."

Free speech allows the emergence of healthy and essential traits of a working democracy.

Tolerance of varying ideas, skepticism, independence of thoughts, and the criticism of authority are all parts of free speech that each of us, regardless of political ideology, take advantage of.

To restrict one voice sets the precedent to restrict another.

The American Civil Liberties Union supported the rights of a neo-Nazi group to march through Skokie, a Chicago suburb, in 1978.

The suburb was known for having a high number of residents who were Holocaust survivors, making the march of the neo-Nazis notable. The ACLU defended the neo-Nazi group's right to free speech with the same laws that were cited when Civil Rights era protests were threatened to be shut down by southern cities.

When discussing free speech on college campuses, the ACLU stands by that same principle of protecting everyone's right to expression, without policing what they have to say.

"Many universities, under pressure to respond to the concerns of those who are the objects of hate, have adopted codes or policies prohibiting speech that offends any group based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation," the ACLU website says. "That's the wrong response, well-meaning or not. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects speech no matter how offensive its content. Speech codes adopted by government-financed state colleges and universities amount to government censorship, in violation of the Constitution."

When we silence others, we cannot hear what they are thinking, feeling, believing, or seeing. We cannot understand how they've come to their positions without hearing what they have to say. When hate speech is right in front of us, we can see the problem and learn how to address it.

We must embrace every voice, even if it says exactly what we are fighting against.

To end discrimination, hate speech, prejudice, and intolerance, we must tolerate and welcome the free discussion of every voice, hateful or loving.

—SOPHIA BABB
EDITOR

We value your opinion. Send your letters to the editor to editor@occc.edu
and visit our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/OCCCPioneer](https://www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer)

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | A MOVING TALE OF GRIEF AND FRUSTRATION



‘Manchester’ a modern-day masterpiece

Grief isn’t something that comes along when it’s convenient. Grief doesn’t wait for when your life is together and you’re ready to handle hardship. Grief doesn’t care if you’ve already been beat into the ground.

Grief just happens.

Lee Chandler (Casey Affleck)’s brother dies. He has to take care of his brother’s son (Lucas Hedges). The audience slowly gets to uncover everything Lee has gone through and why he is the way he is.

This is all you need to know before watching this modern-day masterpiece. Even the trailer reveals too much by showcasing a pivotal scene between Affleck and supporting actress Michelle Williams.

Affleck’s performance conveys a type of nuance in his depression in ways that cinema has never seen. This is one of the greatest performances ever committed to film.

Affleck’s idiosyncrasies when he’s in the morgue looking at his dead brother are a prime example of his magnificent performance. His eyes shift from side to side until they reveal his brother’s body and Affleck’s arms slightly drop. His eyes pierce with sadness at the sight. You see the life escape him when he sees his brother is only a lifeless body now. There’s nothing there anymore for either of them. The downside is that Lee has to continue living.

Acting isn’t about who is the loudest in the scene. It’s about portraying your character inside and out to the best of your ability. Showing hesitance and a

slight stutter on a word to portray heartache and uncertainty is what separates the greatest performances from the passable. The beauty of “Manchester by the Sea” is in its nuance. It has many tiny motors that work together to bring forth an emotional powerhouse. Michelle Williams’ character isn’t on screen much, but her presence is prevalent in every moment of Lee’s life.

Kenneth Lonergan’s use of light-hearted humor in dark situations showcases a realistic portrayal of grief. Humor in serious films is always a problem, as you have to be an impressive enough writer to avoid confusing the audience over what should be laughed at and what should be taken seriously. Lonergan handles this brilliantly. There’s a scene with Lee and his nephew that goes masterfully from sad to laugh-out-loud humorous with each line.

There’s no silver lining offered. Depression is shown to not have an expiration date. Lee can’t beat it, but some things make it easier to ignore and live with. Lee understands that people can only live within his grief for so long before they decide to live for themselves. Everyone Lee hopes to get close to eventually leaves. Everything slowly fades to black.

—KEVIN TUDOR
STAFF WRITER

 @KEVTUDOR



OCCC hosts healthy relationship panel

KEVIN TUDOR
Staff Writer

Relationships might prove to be fairly difficult at times for either party. Trust issues, domestic abuse or untrustworthiness are just a few things that can break a relationship down overtime.

Those problems and other issues surrounding the human connection were part of Oklahoma City Community College's latest Title IX Education Series event.

The workshop, held on Feb. 14, covered the topic of healthy relationships, how to maintain them and what the roadblocks are.

Robin McMurry, a volunteer nurse at the Baptist Mission, the Baptist Children's Home, the American Red Cross, and a Professor of Nursing at OCCC said she once told a victim of domestic violence, "If you do not leave this relationship now, you will die."

McMurry said the victim was being treated

for strangulation.

McMurry has worked with many victims of sexual assault. She discussed the different levels of relationships she has encountered while in her profession, including how to spot red flags in a relationship that can lead to abuse.

The entire panel agreed that building the foundation of a healthy relationship requires active listening, natural communication and respect. The dichotomy of healthy vs unhealthy relationships is based on equality and respect, rather than power and control. Controlling behavior goes beyond physical abuse and can come down to respecting each other with verbal interactions.

Other members of the panel included Regina Switzer, Director of Equal Opportunities; Steven Swinford, Training and Community Liaison Officer; and Janey Wheeler, an OCCC counselor.

The next Title IX discussion, "Locker Room Talk," is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on February 28th in CU2.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

BIBLE STUDY
Christians on Campus at OCCC will host Bible studies Mondays from noon to 12:45 p.m. and Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in room 1C5 of the Arts and Humanities building.

STUDENT BLUES BAND
February 27: OCCC Music presents the student Blues Band at 7 p.m. in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free.

STUDENT ROCK BAND
February 28: OCCC Music presents the student Rock Band at 7:30 p.m. in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free.

GREEK TRAGEDY
March 2 - 4: Join OCCC's Theatre department at 7:30 p.m. in the Bruce Owen Theater for "Medea" by Euripides, directed by Rachel Irick.

AUDITION DEADLINE
March 6: Entries for the "OCCC's Got Talent" contest are being accepted now. A basic video or audio clip must be submitted by March 6 to enter for a chance to win cash prizes.
Visit www.occc.edu/talent

SPRING BREAK
March 13: Campus will have limited access Monday, March 13 through Sunday, March 19.

PIONEER

Vol. 45 No. 12

Sophia Babb.....	Editor	Victor A. Pozadas.....	Art & Music Writer
Grace Babb.....	Senior Writer	Zachary Volk.....	Staff Writer
Stevana Simmons.....	Staff Writer	Kevin Tudor.....	Staff Writer
Raven Diaz.....	Staff Writer	Aaron Cardenas.....	Photographer
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Katelyn Stewart.....	Copy Editor		
M. Scott Carter.....		Faculty Adviser	

7777 S May OKC, OK 73159	phone: 405-682-1611, ext. 7307	email: editor@occc.edu
Pioneer Online: pioneer.occc.edu	Facebook: www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer	Twitter: @OCCCPioneer

The PIONEER is a student publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts. It is published bi-weekly during the 16-week fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature.

E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER reserves the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Students must list a major. OCCC staff and faculty must list a work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included.

The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

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Nothing Will Ever Be the Same.

Smoking gave me throat cancer
at 39. Now I breathe through a
hole in my throat and need this
machine to speak.

—Rosaide Martinez

QUIT SMOKING TODAY
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The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Richard R. Bloomberg, Mayor. Thomas E. Fricker, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner.



Drivers who use cellphones are 4 times more likely to get into crashes that could be fatal

Using a cellphone while driving delays a drivers reactions as much as having a B.A.C. level of 0.08

"Don't Drive while inTEXTicated. Driving while inTEXTicated kills."

To learn more about the effects of texting while driving can do go to <http://www.distraction.gov/>
Everyone can DO SOMETHING to help.



STEVEN SWINFORD: Training Officer and Community Liason for the OCCC Police Department. *Victor A. Pozadas/Pioneer*

Recognize and report suspicious activities

STEVANA SIMMONS
Staff Writer

Training Officer and Community Liaison, Steven Swinford, moderated a panel on reporting crime and suspicious behavior at Oklahoma City Community College on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

What is suspicious behavior?

- Unattended bags, taking pictures of entryways or looking into various cars could all be examples of suspicious activity.
- Trust your intuition. Sometimes, our bodies can assess a situation better than our minds can. Intuition is an instinctive reaction or "gut feeling." So, if you have an inkling, report it!

What to do?

- Be safe! Your first priority is your well-being, so get to a secure location.
- Take notes. What is the alleged suspicious activity? What are they wearing? Ethnicity, height, tattoos? In what direction were they headed?

How to report:

- OCCC Shield App: A free app on which you can report activity by uploading a photo or video with a short description. The app has GPS technology for swift aid to your location, and FriendWatch, which allows you to track a friend to ensure they arrive at their destination safely. OCCC Shield provides prompt 24-hour connection with campus security.
- Campus Police Direct Line: 1-405-682-7872
- Emergency Button on campus landlines
- Red Emergency Buttons throughout the buildings
- Blue Emergency Call Boxes

Constituents give senator's proposal no quarter

SAVANNAH MELHER

News Writing Student

State Senator Ralph Shortey went toe-to-toe recently with his constituents who were angered by bills that would roll back portions of state questions 780 and 781.

The bill 512 and 503 authored by Shortey, R-Oklahoma City, would repeal most of the sections of both state questions Oklahomans approved last November.

Shortey said voters were not given the correct information on the ballot when they casted their vote in November. He said people confronted him about the bills after the election saying, “we’ve got some concerns with 780.”

Many of these concerns toward the bills were aimed at “its penalty lowering possession of schedule one and two drugs to misdemeanors,” Shortey said. Shortey said the possession of some of the drugs for “personal use” included several drugs used in date rape cases such as vicodin, adderall, and ecstasy.

Despite his attempts to sway them, most of the 200-plus crowd pushed back. Daryl Gandy, local civics teacher, thinks “it’s ridiculous

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Oklahoma City residents came prepared to debate State Senator Ralph Shortey, R-Oklahoma City, on revisions to State Questions 780 and 781. Shortey held a town hall on the Oklahoma City Community College campus Monday evening. (Above) Nurse and OCCC Alumni, Amanda Holmes, voices her opposition. *Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer*

Proposal: Shortey would alter SQ 780, 781



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that a man without a college degree is telling me what I do, and do not know.”

Former Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Kris Steele, said Shortey was being disrespectful to voters when Shortey claimed they didn’t know what they were voting on.

“To say that these forms are flawed or that the people didn’t know what they’re doing when they voted in favor of these reforms – I think it’s disrespectful,” Steele, a Republican, said. “I think it’s dangerous for any elected official to ignore the wishes of his or her constituents.”

Anne Saunders, a nurse who attended the meeting, said she was concerned if the rollback provisions were approved it could affect her personally. Saunders said the rollback could mean prison time due to her neurological disorder.

“I could go to jail under what Shortey is proposing right now just because I fall asleep behind the wheel,” she said.

Later Shortey told the crowd he would not rework the bill if it were to die on the committee floor. Many commentators were skeptical to the idea that a person in government would stick to their word.

Saunders, said she takes a schedule two drug every day for her narcolepsy, a sleeping disorder. She said Shortey’s bill, Senate Bill 512, could cause her to be jailed for five years for having a loose pill on her during a routine traffic stop.

Records show that more than 57 percent of Oklahomans voted for state question 780, and 781.

While most of those who attended



(Left) State Senator Ralph Shortey R-Oklahoma (Above) Steven English, reacts to Shortey’s proposal to roll back some provisions of State Questions 780 and 781. (Below) An Oklahoma City Resident who wanted only to be named as “a concerned citizen” grills Shortey. *Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer*

Monday’s meeting opposed the senator’s proposal, at least one member of the crowd worried that lowering current felony possession charges to misdemeanors could result in an increase in abuse cases.

Lorrie Poole said Oklahoma already has a ‘three-strikes’ rule in which a person can commit a crime three times until they are sentenced to prison.

David Hall, who attended the meeting, said the Geo Group, a private prison corporation, is the reason behind Shortey’s efforts against both state questions.

Hall told The Pioneer that Shortey had received contributions from Geo Group. Records from the Oklahoma Ethics Commission support Hall’s claim. Those records show that Shortey received \$4,000 in campaign contributions from the Geo Group in November of 2015.

The debate over the new laws comes as Oklahoma continues to incarcerate an increasing number of residents. Records show the Department of Corrections’ incarceration rate rose from 25,434 total inmates in 2010 to 27,482 in 2014. Supporters say that if state question 780 and 781 are given “a chance to be implemented” then the prison population will decrease, costing taxpayers less.

See more photos at pioneer.occc.edu.



When a hotel room becomes a stage

GRACE BABB
Senior Writer
sseniorwriter@occc.edu

When I arrived in Kansas City on Wednesday morning, I felt like I was getting ready to see an old friend.

The familiar city skyline beckoned, and the skyscrapers waved hello.

Upon entering the hotel, a wash of voices and music came over me. Women with guitars were at every turn, and men in hats decked the halls. Amplified music spilled out from the hotel ballrooms. Australians, Canadians, Brits and other foreigners stood in line for check-in, discussing their week plans and song setlists.

All the elements of a standard business conference were present: seminars, lectures, panels, and tote bags full of branded merchandise. But this was no business conference. This was Folk Alliance International.

To anyone unfamiliar with the Folk Alliance International conference, it would seem as though nearly every musician in the folk genre had been kidnapped and dumped in Kansas City for a week, for no other reason than to play music.

That isn't far from the truth.

Folk Alliance International began in 1989 as a retreat for folk organizers to discuss the formation of a folk coalition. It became a full-fledged conference as the years went on, involving all cogs in the folk music machine and connecting folk musicians with promoters, presenters, venue owners, record labels, booking agents, and publicists.

It is a bizarre, beautiful experience. At no other time will you be in such close contact with so

many talented individuals trying to make their name, and musicians who already have.

Three entire floors of the hotel are blocked off from the general public. Each hotel room on the 5th, 6th, and 7th floor serves as a private showcase room, sponsored and hosted by various

venues or promoters.

The beds and furniture are shoved out of the way. Small refreshments are set out.

After 11:30 p.m., the back of the room becomes a stage.

Official showcases take place earlier in the evenings, giving industry

members a chance to see hand-selected artists already vetted by a committee to showcase their act.

I felt like I had a firm grasp on how things would go, as this was my second time attending.

My band, Annie Oakley, had a few showcases last year. I experienced the running around from place to place, the clogged hallways, and the glittering experience of feeling like a part of something bigger than my hometown's music scene.

I was prepared, or so I thought. Eleven shows in four days. I underestimated the strain it would have on my body.

Simply navigating the hallways is one of the hardest things to do at Folk Alliance, dodging the transport of huge stand-up basses from one room to the next, swimming through a sea of acoustic guitars.

After three nights of this, my bandmates and I went back to our room to collapse. Three deflated human-sized balloons slapped out across a hotel room bed – we were done for the night.

"Maybe we should go out and see what's going on... maybe just for tonight?" my band's violinist, Nia said.

My sister, Sophie, was already conked out.

I was somehow still alive.

"Why not?" I said – famous last words.

We made our way around the show floors and listened in for snippets of a few sets. We were too tired to really enjoy the bouncing party the night had become.

We yawned as we climbed the stairs, ready for bed.

The sound of guitar and a ringing mandolin filled the stairwell.



Musician performing in hotel showcase room. *Grace Babb/Pioneer*

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Take part in the conversation – leave a comment on our facebook page.
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(Above) Musicians practice in a stairwell before their set. (Below) Music at the Folk Alliance lasts late into the night. *Grace Babb/Pioneer*

Folk: Musicians take over KC hotel

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It was too happy of a sound to not find the source. Nia took my hand.

“Let’s go see who it is, just for a second!” she said.

Three flights below us, we discovered the culprits: one banjo, one mandolin, one guitar. Three boys.

I had met Julian, the guitarist, the year before, picking his guitar in the lobby. He was one of the only other young musicians attending the conference, so naturally, we became fast friends. The two other guys introduced themselves. A Canadian banjo player – Jaxon, and an Alaskan mandolinist, Harrison.

They had just met Julian, and decided to hold their own stairwell jam.

Two hours later, we were all still up, and we were all sung out. I smiled more than I knew was possible. There’s something about bluegrass music that’s light-filling. Warm. How can you be sad when you hear a banjo roll?

How can you be unsure when everyone knows the next line?

I could not have been anywhere but so fully in that moment.

Every moment of exhaustion was worth the work. Every moment of panic before a set was worth the calm of knowing you did it and you did it well. Every second of anxiety was worth the sound of music ringing in your head through the hours of the night. It was worth the friendships you knew you’d find again at the next Folk Alliance, and for all the years to come.

Earlier in the night, I caught Jaxon’s eye. He had been staring off into the distance with a strange look in his eyes.

“You okay?” I asked.

“I just ... I just never thought I’d be here. In America at five a.m., with strangers,” he said.

I thought about all the absurd happenings of the week so far; doing things you’d never have to do in a normal situation – having to describe yourself and your band in less than 15 seconds on any given elevator ride, conducting business with music big-shots in the middle of the night, and running through jam-packed hallways just to sing a couple songs. Ending up in a stairwell at 5 a.m. with strangers?

“That’s Folk Alliance,” I said.



Budget: Students challenge cuts to education

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the junior colleges and the community colleges get cut as well, when really the ones that need to be cut are the ones that are doing the wasting,” Shortey said.

“I think the cuts are necessary to certain schools, and I think they are hurting a lot of other good schools that can’t afford the cuts,” Shortey said. “My idea is to separate the two systems. We need all the junior colleges and regionals to be on an entirely different separate system and funding stream.”

Shortey said that he would not vote to increase funding to higher education until he knows the money is going to be spent properly.

Greyson Wolf, a Rose State student, said college students need the funding help.

“People need to understand, especially the representatives that are not for higher education, that a lot of us are working for our education or paying for it on our own without any help at all.”

“We don’t want to come in and just say support higher ed, and have people kind of brush us off like we are whiny college students that want free stuff,” Wolf said. “That is the exact opposite of what we are. We are hard-working college kids that are trying to get our education and become stronger and better citizens.”



Travis Ruddle, OCCC's Student Life Coordinator discusses strategy for approaching legislators with a student. *Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer*

Legislators: let representatives know you're paying attention

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time and energy. These organizations, Perkins says, are extremely helpful in making an effective difference.

2. Find your legislators on Twitter/Facebook

The second step is to utilize social media to your advantage.

“Legislators are using social media now more than they ever have, because it has become such a wide tool to connect with people and have a larger platform,” Perkins said.

Whether you follow your legislator on Twitter or Instagram, or friend them on Facebook, commenting on your legislator’s posts keeps your representatives and senators aware that their constituents are paying attention. A constituent is someone who lives in the represented area of an elected official. For example, if you live in the same district as Oklahoma City Community College, you are a constituent of Rep. Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City and Sen. Ralph Shortey, R-Oklahoma City.

You can find your elected officials at oklegislature.gov by using their “Find My Legislator” tool.

3. Meet with your representatives

If you have time during session, or any time dur-

ing the semester, make an appointment to meet with your lawmaker. The millennial generation often succumbs to a complacent attitude toward politics due to busy work schedules and full time study. Despite the busy schedule, Perkins said, the young voice needs to be heard.

“College students have a perspective that legislators need to know, and they shouldn’t be afraid to share that,” Perkins said. “It’s not speaking to someone superior to you, it’s speaking to someone who works for you, who is supposed to represent you. They need to hear what you have to say.”

When a constituent calls to schedule a meeting with their legislator, they should use the buzzwords, “I am a constituent of Rep. X or Sen. Y.” These words act as a “golden ticket” to securing a meeting with a legislator, because legislators prefer to only meet with their own constituents.

Perkins emphasized the importance of building a productive relationship with your legislator, rather than a tumultuous one.

“Sometimes, in those meetings, that legislator is not going to agree with your viewpoints. That’s something you should prepare for, but not be angry at,” she said. “It’s important to keep your cool. Share your view, but share it in a way that is productive so that bridges are not burned.”

If you do not have time during your semester to meet with a legislator, Perkins said “it is totally okay to call or email a legislator,” but that it’s important for a college student to have a specific purpose when calling or emailing their elected official. “Give them something actionable that you want them to do, such as ‘I want you to vote yes’ or ‘I want you to vote no’ or ‘I want to see a bill about this.’”

4. Follow what’s going on in the legislature

After you find your passion and personally connect with your legislators, the final step is to follow the status of issue-specific bills as they make their way through the house and senate.

All the committee meetings and budget hearings are recorded live on the oksenate.gov and okhouse.gov websites. If you do not have time to watch the livestream, there is a feature on both government websites that will send you updates about individual bills.

The Oklahoma Policy Institute also has a daily newsletter called “In The Know,” which briefs subscribers about Oklahoma policy-related news and legislative information.

Though it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the entire political process, taking these small steps can simplify your efforts toward passing legislation that is representative of the people.

CLASSIFIEDS

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\$9.50 per hr/ 20+ hours per week.
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Village OK. 73120

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION

S	P	A	S		D	E	A	T	H		I	D	E	S
T	A	X	I		E	E	R	I	E		N	O	A	H
E	P	I	C		B	L	A	N	C	M	A	N	G	E
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			B	E	T					D	E	A	R	S
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A	D	S		T	O	T	E	M		Q	U	E	L	L
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L	A	B	O	R	E	D		L	O	T	T	E	R	Y
A	M	B	A	S	S	A	D	O	R		I	D	E	A
P	I	E	D		A	R	E	C	A		L	E	A	P
S	E	T	S		U	N	B	O	X		E	N	D	S

<http://pioneer.occc.edu>

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\$8 per 7 lines.
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1. Got up
 - 6. Shopping place
 - 10. Widespread
 - 14. Jumpy
 - 15. Chills and fever
 - 16. Curved molding
 - 17. Sea
 - 18. A box or chest
 - 19. A field of grass
 - 20. Middleman
 - 22. Misled
 - 23. Indian dress
 - 24. Restitution
 - 26. Awestruck
 - 30. A parcel of land
 - 31. Do it yourself
 - 32. Wings
 - 33. Kind of bean
 - 35. A common green newt
 - 39. Windlass
 - 41. Sovereign
 - 43. Muse of love poetry
 - 44. Store
 - 46. Former Italian currency
 - 47. European peak
 - 49. Genus of macaws
 - 50. Boor
 - 51. Package
 - 54. Take it easy
 - 56. Double-reed woodwind
 - 57. A formal charge of wrongdoing
 - 63. Japanese wrestling
 - 64. Low islands
 - 65. Markedly masculine
 - 66. Brother of Jacob

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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56						57	58				59	60	61	62
63						64				65				
66						67				68				
69						70				71				

- DOWN**
- 1. Winter precipitation
 - 2. Engineering school
 - 3. Chocolate cookie
 - 4. Egg-shaped
 - 5. Units of force
 - 6. Almond paste cookies
 - 7. Nimbleness
 - 8. Ploy
 - 9. Foursome
 - 10. A sport involving a ball and a net
 - 11. Twice
 - 12. Stitched
 - 13. Looks after
 - 21. Chip dip
 - 25. Bearing
 - 26. Dash
 - 27. Winglike
 - 28. Dad
 - 29. Possessing a hard shell
 - 34. In a romantic manner
 - 36. Invigoration
 - 37. Beige
 - 38. Not this
 - 40. Lacquered metalware
 - 42. Opaque gems
 - 45. Idyllically calm and peaceful
 - 48. Tranquil
 - 51. Modelled
 - 52. Gall
 - 53. Ancient empire
 - 55. Lights
 - 58. An abandoned call
 - 59. Container weight
 - 60. Computer symbol
 - 61. Units of resistance
 - 62. Schnozzola

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