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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Jan. 2, 2019

Caleb Slinkard 3 hrs ago



Downtown Norman needs a boost

In Sunday's Transcript I just read that Elliot Nelson made the "Last Call" for McNellie's on East Main. It's a shame to see another business leave downtown and ironic that 2019 will open with a closing on January 5th. McNellie's had good pub food, a great selection of beers, and a dart board upstairs where I always lost to my friend Dan. Perhaps there are too many downtown burger bars, but Elliot's attribution of City Council's lack of support for the development of downtown rings true. Downtown is the soul of any city or town. Just think about 6th Street (Austin), Bricktown (OKC), 16th Street & Union Station (Denver), The River Walk (San Antonio), or Guthrie Green & The Brady (Tulsa) relative to the series of mega-strip malls sprawling along the I-35 North Industrial Park which serve Moore just as much as Norman.

Mr. Nelson opined that the Norman City Council's failure to build an OU-Campus Corner-Downtown nexus led him to pull out. From what I've seen in my eight years living in Norman, including four years working downtown, Mr. Nelson's criticism is valid. Downtown Norman does not need revitalized per se, but rather stimulated. Whilst improved parking, better transport flow from Campus Corner (bike-scooter lane / dedicated small trolley), and incentivizing local merchants could be considered, what is most needed is an attitude that Main Street is how you get downtown, not just a 3-lane route through it.

Andrew Cullen

Norman

Sooners kept on fighting

Like any OU fan, I would have preferred a win against Alabama, but I've never been prouder of my team than at the Orange Bowl Saturday.

During the BCS era, the Sooners earned an ignominious nickname due to a string of no-show bowl performances and a wholesale inability to respond to in-game adversity. But there was no "Chokelahoma" in Miami.

After watching in dismay as Kyler suffered two consecutive sacks and the Tide garnered a 28-point advantage in just 17 minutes of play, OU fans remained on their feet, screaming themselves hoarse, begging the team to keep fighting.

And that's exactly what the team did. Not a single player hung his head in premature defeat or lost his cool with opposing players. No one looked helplessly at the scoreboard or lounged idly between snaps.

Instead, our supposedly "appalling" defenders set an example for young players, wrapping up the fastest ball carriers in the NCAA with their heads-up tackling. The offensive line vowed to protect Kyler from further abuse, allowing Lincoln to devise a 20-3 scoring run against the vaunted Alabama defense. And for his part--in an era when many elite players opt out of bowl games to protect their long-term stock--Kyler dazzled spectators with his risk-taking runs and his seemingly impossible pass completions.

As a third-generation Sooner fan living near UT's campus in Austin, I'm expected to answer for every Oklahoma loss. I'll happily respond to any critics of this one.

Live on University!

Lisa Kinzer

Austin, Texas

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Tower Theatre			Norman Public Library				1st United Methodist Church...			Newcastle Christian Church			Norman Public Library			Riverwind Casino				
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Caleb Slinkard

Caleb Slinkard was hired as the editor of the Norman Transcript in August of 2015. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University-Commerce and previously was in charge of several newspapers in northeast Texas.

