

Traditional TWIRP week arrives on OBU campus



CIARA O'NEAL / THE BISON

Students Rachel Spahr and Tristan Demmit discuss an upcoming TWIRP date this week on campus.

DEMETRIUS HICKS
Contributing Writer

TWIRP week is a large, well-trod tradition for Oklahoma Baptist University students.

For those who are unfamiliar with the practice, TWIRP is an acronym that means The Woman Is Required to Pay; one could compare this OBU tradition to a weeklong Sadie Hawkin's.

TWIRP week began Monday, September 18, 2006 and lasts through Friday.

Female students are expected to ask guys out on a date and pay for it, as well as provide transportation.

OBU students have differing views on the date selection process, as well as what are considered "normal" dating procedures for

the event.

Some of Bison Hill's many male newcomers have expectations or opinions of TWIRP week that are similar to Adam Hardy's, a Freshman Broadcasting major.

Hardy said, "TWIRP week is a really good idea," and when asked what he would do to prepare for the event, Hardy conveyed a nonchalant attitude when he said, "Whatever happens, happens."

He said he knew about TWIRP week before coming to OBU because of his brother who attends Bison Hill as a senior.

"They [Girls] won't have to drive their own cars; they can just drive my convertible, but I do expect them to open the door for me," Hardy said.

Kendall Akers, a Freshman Marketing major, didn't know about TWIRP week

before arriving on campus.

"I think TWIRP week is a great idea," Akers said. "It's a break from the norm."

As for "normal" dating etiquette, "It's usually the guys' responsibility to ask the girl on dates," she said.

"It's okay for the girl to pay sometimes, or for both parties to pay for half of the activities on a normal date, but it's nice if the guy at least drives the majority of the time."

Akers said she already has plans to TWIRP someone.

"We are going on a group date with a few other people so it won't be as awkward," Akers said. "I plan on driving and paying for the date."

The group date is a "secret," she said, and it is being planned by someone else, so Akers isn't exactly sure what they will be doing.

Molly Moore, a Freshman International Business major knew about TWIRP week prior to arriving on campus.

Moore said, "A friend of mine who attended OBU last year told me about TWIRP week. I think TWIRP week is an awesome idea," she said.

"I'm going on a group date because a one-on-one date would be pretty awkward."

As far as the economic aspect of dating, she said, "If the guy never pays, that's not acceptable, but I don't mind paying from time to time. It's a great idea for guys who don't have money to go on creative,

cheap dates. It's just great for the guy to spend his time with me."

Some female students are getting a head start on the TWIRP week selection process as seen by Kyle Pettit's, a Sophomore transfer student, actions.

"TWIRP week is a good idea," he said. "The ladies just flock to me naturally. I was outside the GC hanging out with some of my friends when a giant paper airplane fell from the sky and hit me. I guess you can say that I have been pre-TWIRPed."

The large paper airplane was a TWIRP invitation that had been written in the folds of the large sheet of cardboard.

Sophomore Olasuboni Bashorun, a Studio Arts & Business Marketing major, has a memory of his own freshman TWIRP week experience.

"I got TWIRPed by this soccer player, and we were supposed to go out the Saturday at the end of TWIRP week with the other guys that had been TWIRPed by soccer players," he said.

"I told her to call and tell me when she needed me to come back for the date because I would be out of town the day of the date. It was a random TWIRP. She never called me so I came later in the evening and called her. I ended up joining in on a card game that she was participating in. It was fun and I had a good time."

Nathalie Jarufe, a Junior public relations major didn't know what TWIRP week was before arriving on campus. She heard about it in her news writing class.

She is planning to go on a four-person TWIRP date just for fun. She said that she and her friends are going to a thrift store to buy 80's prom style clothes, but other than that, the group hasn't done much to plan for the date.

"We most likely will cook dinner or something," Jarufe said, "The group date is just for fun, but I am planning to go on an actual TWIRP date later on in the week. I plan on taking him out on a picnic or something."

When asked her opinion about TWIRP week Jarufe said, "I think TWIRP week is a fun way to get to know people, and it's a nice change of pace."

TWIRP week activities can lead to some lifelong relationships and connections.

Tray Williams, Sophomore Biology major, was TWIRPed year by his current girlfriend, Natalie Pederson.

They met at the beginning of the year and began talking soon afterwards, he said. To William's surprise when TWIRP week came around, Pederson TWIRPed him.

"We had started hanging out a couple of weeks before TWIRP week and during that week she just asked me out on a date," he said.

"She was always busy with track, so she asked me the Friday of TWIRP week. I happened to have an extra ticket for the Hornet's game so she came along, and we went to eat afterwards."

After the Hornet's game they ate at Spaghetti Warehouse in Oklahoma City and she paid.

"Being TWIRPed caught me by surprise but I somewhat expected it," said Williams. They have been together ever since.

Many of OBU's students have positive ideas of TWIRP week and the opportunities that it provides.

By skipping the week and snubbing tradition, many students will be left out of the fun as well as the connections that TWIRP represents.

New Skillet album will rock your socks off

Skillet turns up the heat with another awesome album that will hit stores October 3.

The new album, "Comatose," is a refreshing blend of Skillet's music styles at full force.

The press release for the new CD explained that, "John Cooper's [the band's vocalist/bassist] songwriting has expanded to cover a vast range of topical territories, some of which follow spiritually and socially conscious thought processes, while others vulnerably mirror his personal life and struggles." While I may not be familiar with his personal life, I can certainly attest to the topical variety of the album; no two tracks cover the same issue. . . or musical style.

"We've been proud of where we've been in the past, but I feel like this is our strongest record," Cooper said. "There are so many different influences where it won't just be about rock audiences or metal audiences. I think there's something here for everybody and it's our most mass appeal record."

The new album is full of "classic rock riffs, swirling drums, monstrous hooks and undeniably catchy choruses." In fact, there does seem to be an eclectic yet effective combination of old school and alternative rock and classical influences and string use. Such a combination delivers what the CD jacket promises: an album that is "indeed a fusion unlike any other, marking the latest chapter in the continuous evolution of Skillet."

"Comatose" has the traditional Skillet hard rock sound that I have come to love over the years. I really enjoyed all 11 songs, especially the song "Better than Drugs," which focuses on eternal destiny rather than earthly gain. Cooper really emphasizes in this

song to forget about the temporary feelings of this world and just focus on Jesus.

"John has written the best songs he's ever written and there's been such an evolution on all levels for the band," said Andy Karp, director of A&R for Atlantic Records. "Sonically we set out to create a combination of electronic elements, orchestration and a melodic approach and Skillet's managed to hit all of those three exactly on target, raising up its game to yet another level of excellence."

"Comatose" as a concept is meant to challenge people to invest in relationships around them," Cooper said. "We're all so desperately trying to communicate with each other online with Myspace and instant messenger that no one gets to know one another and they feel so alone with nobody to talk about their problems. At the same time, there are a lot more severe situations out there like the aftermath of a hurricane, poverty or homelessness. As a society, we need to come out of our sleepy apathy, out of materialism, and as a church stop fighting over our petty differences. If we do that, maybe on a grand scheme we can help someone out in a city that we've never met. In traveling around so much, especially in the last couple of years, we're aware of people needing and hurting more than ever before. We want these songs to start the wheels in motion for believers and non-believers alike to change that cycle for the better."

As artists, the band achieves both their musical and their philosophical goal: the product is a diverse collection of inspired music and lyrics that are entertaining and thoughtful.

AMY ADAMS
Arts Editor



COURTESY PHOTO

Skillet performs a song during the *Collide* tour in 2005. The new *Skillet* album, *Comatose* will hit stores on October 3.