

THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST DOG

The Paino family introduces Oscar, the newest member of the family.

BY GRACE BUECKENDORF
Features Editor

Just when the Truman State community had gotten used to the four person Paino family, it has grown to five. They recently adopted a puppy named Oscar. According to Paino, his daughters finally wore him down and he couldn't say no to the cute, furry little friend. The Index asks him about the new addition to the family.

Grace Bueckendorf: Why did you choose the name Oscar?

Troy Paino: It actually does have significance. He was named after Oscar Robertson. Probably no students will have heard [of him]. He was a great basketball player from Indianapolis, Ind., and in many respects, he was the Jackie Robinson of high school basketball. He led an all-black high school team to back-to-back state championships. I've always looked up to Oscar Robertson. He's a role model, he's one of the greatest NBA players of all time. A lot of people put him as one of the top five players ever to play the game. He's a pretty phenomenal basketball player.

GB: What breed is Oscar?

TP: [He's] a mutt. So, [he's] got beagle in [him] and then I'm told [he] has mountain cur, but I have no idea what a mountain cur is.

GB: Does he have a little bit of bulldog, at least at heart?

TP: Exactly. [He] has bulldog at heart... We seriously considered getting a bulldog, but they're just not active enough for us. And we had considered even naming [Oscar] "Bulldog" just so that people understood that really, at heart, he's a bulldog.

GB: Why did you decide to end up getting a dog?

TP: My daughters, Sophia and Chloe, wore me down. They've wanted a dog for a long time and I kept saying that our lifestyle is too hectic and we can't do it and that there's no way we can manage this. Finally, over the winter, they beat me down and one of [Chloe's] friend's dogs had a litter, and they were going to send the dogs that they couldn't give away to the Humane Society and so [the girls] went over and they looked at them and they fell in love. I knew there was no way I could say no, and so we got Oscar.

GB: Describe Oscar's personality.

TP: Oscar's great. He's very social. If you see him on campus, say 'hi' to him. He loves people. Every time he passes a student on campus, he runs over. I hate to say this, but he likes young women. It is interesting to see how he reacts to the female students. He wants to get up and love on the female students and play with them, but male students, he sometimes barks at them. So it's really interesting — he reacts very differently with different students. But he's very social. Very playful. He does not bite, so you don't have to be afraid of him. He's a puppy, so he likes to have a lot of fun. But he likes girls.

GB: Why do you think that is?

TP: I don't know. At home, I have two daughters, along with my wife. Maybe he's just more accustomed to girls. I've found that he responds — like if someone says, "Oh, he's cute," he's very friendly and goes to them. Girls are much more receptive to dogs. Girls, when they see a puppy, are like, "Awwwww!" and he loves that, whereas boys, when they pass, just kind of look at him [and give a head nod]. He's not happy if you don't give him a little love. He thinks he deserves the attention.

GB: Do you consider the dog yours or the University's? In other words, is Oscar the "first dog"?

TP: I consider him the first dog. Even though he's not a bulldog, I hope everyone — when they see Oscar on campus — they adopt him as their own, so they feel he's as much a part of the campus scene as possible. I see him as very much a part of the Truman community.



Submitted Photo
The Paino family recently acquired a new puppy, Oscar. Paino said Oscar is sociable and loves to be loved. He encouraged students to say 'hi' to him.

He's our dog, obviously — I don't expect the students to take care of him — but I would like the students to have fun with him.

Superheroes assemble for big screen adaptations

BY KATEY STOETZEL
Asst. Features Editor

It's a great year to be a superhero — you know, if you're into that sort of thing. For those of us who do not take to the streets in a blaze of vigilantism, the best place to see superheroes in action, and avoid being arrested for good-intentions-turned-disastrous-reality-checks, is the big screen.

Here's a look at what superhero films are in store for the rest of the year.

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier"

Three weeks ago, Marvel Studios released "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," its ninth film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Other films in the MCU include three "Iron Man" movies, one "Hulk" movie, two "Thor" movies, the first "Captain America" movie, and the superhero team-up "The Avengers." This second "Captain America" film follows Steve Rogers as he adjusts to the 21st century, and the new way the government and S.H.I.E.L.D. work.

What's smart about this film is it puts Captain America up against America itself, as Steve soon realizes his enemies may be the people he works with.

"X-Men: Days of Future Past"

The sequel to "X-Men: First

Class," in which audiences saw how the young versions of Professor X, Magneto, and Mystique came to be, is called "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

Not only is this a sequel to "First Class," but it also brings back Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, and Ian McKellan as their older selves, and the past and future must work together to change history.

"The Amazing Spider-Man 2"

Being released next Friday, "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" once again follows a teenage Peter Parker, played by Andrew Garfield, as he struggles with the implications of being Spiderman and living his life. Joining the cast of characters is Dan DeHann as Harry Osborn, Parker's best friend.

"Guardians of the Galaxy"

Marvel is releasing "Guardians of the Galaxy," directed by James Gunn and starring Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper and many more Aug. 1. "Guardians of the Galaxy" brings a group of misfits together who have to set aside their unseemly pasts and personalities to save the world.

Though not the most popular comic under Marvel, "Guardians" is best known for renegade superheroes.

At the helm is Peter Quill, also known as the self-pro-

claimed Star-Lord, portrayed by Chris Pratt. Zoe Saldana is Gamora, a green-skinned assassin. David Bautista is Drax the Destroyer. And then things get weird — Bradley Cooper voices Rocket the Raccoon, who is, well, a raccoon. Rocket's sidekick is Groot, a walking tree, voiced by Vin Diesel.

The secondary cast of characters is noteworthy as well. Karen Gillan of "Doctor Who" is Nebula, sister to Gamora, Lee Pace is Ronan the Accuser, and Benicio Del Toro is The Collector. Other actors include Djimon Hounsou, John C. Reilly, Michael Rooker and Glenn Close.

The Future of MCU

"Guardians" rounds out the superhero films for this year, but many more will be coming during the near future. The MCU has planned movies roughly all the way until 2028 — possible "Fantastic Four" and "X-Men" crossovers are being rumored across the internet, and secondary or less-known superheroes such as War Machine from "Iron Man," Hawkeye from "The Avengers" and "Black Panther" also are being discussed.

With these possible films coming to theaters in the near and distant future, vigilantism on our parts is certainly not required. Let's leave it to the professionals.


Bringing back Bear Creek



Amanda Atwell/Index
Junior August Kersten, right, organized the event to plant donated trees and revitalize Bear Creek.



Amanda Atwell/Index
Community members gather at Bear Creek Tuesday to plant trees. Bear Creek runs from Normal Avenue to LaHarpe Street.



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