

## State hurt by lack of image

Oklahoma is VERY unlike the sports team analogy made by Renzi Stone (Sunday, July 3rd) as "never had the best talent, abilities or record". Oklahoma definitely has a capable workforce with plenty of talent, great abilities and a proven record of success.

The people of Oklahoma are as intelligent, creative, skilled and visionary as any people on the planet. Oklahoma is home to world renowned civic leaders, artist, architects, medical professionals, athletes, actors, musicians, philanthropist and businessmen and women. The idea that business owners and high-powered professionals do not come to this state due to any "lack of talent, ability or record" is completely false. The people of Oklahoma always rise to a challenge, including (but not limited to) homegrown terrorism and tornadoes.

The problem is not the image, but the lack of image. People outside (and inside) the Sooner state simply do not realize all that Oklahoma has to offer in the way of people, places and services. Mr. Stone asked "Who is going to solve its (Oklahoma) problems?" and the answer is: The citizens of Oklahoma. The citizens of this state should not rely on state government to change (or create) the image of Oklahoma outside the state. We have a duty as Oklahomans to tell the world about the greatness that is Oklahoma.

Oklahomans also need to embrace their role as Oklahomans. Brag about your city and state. Tell everyone how great it is to live in Oklahoma. The citizens of our state have to believe this is a great place before others will. Invite people here to see for themselves. Take visitors on a sight seeing tour. You will be hearing "I didn't know Oklahoma had all this". Mission accomplished.

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OPINION

### State hurt by lack of image

By Kyle Golding

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The people of Oklahoma are as intelligent, creative, skilled and visionary as any people on the planet. Oklahoma is home to world-renowned civic leaders, artists, architects, medical professionals, athletes, actors, musicians, philanthropists and businessmen and women. The idea that business owners and high-powered professionals don't come to this state due to any "lack of talent, ability or record" is false. Oklahomans always rise to a challenge, including (but not limited to) homegrown terrorism and tornadoes.

The problem isn't the image, but the lack of image. People outside (and inside) the Sooner State simply don't realize all that Oklahoma has to offer in the way of people, places and services. Stone asked who is going to solve the state's problems. The answer is: The citizens of Oklahoma. They shouldn't rely on state government to change or create the image of Oklahoma outside the state. We have a duty as Oklahomans to tell the world about the greatness that is Oklahoma.

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Relatives here from the East Coast? Take them to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Bricktown, but also stop at the museum of art, the Civic Center and the Oklahoma River. Business clients from California is town? Show them the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the Harn Homestead, as well as Myriad Gardens and Untitled Artspace. Next time you're near Tulsa, go to the Price Tower in Bartlesville. Talk about Oklahoma like a proud parent bragging about their honor student. Your civic pride will make an impression on others.

Always be proud to be an Oklahoman. Tell the world how great this place is. Shout it from the rooftops. Support local groups, buy local goods and hire from the excellent talent pool.



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Kyle Golding

Bring business associates here to see things firsthand. Hold your convention or shareholder meetings here.

But most of all, never accept that Oklahoma doesn't have the talent, abilities or record of success — it's just not true. The best way to create a positive image of our state is to simply show the world the truth: The citizens of Oklahoma have talent, ability and a record of success!

Golding, a graphic designer, lives in Oklahoma City.