

PIONEER

May 10, 1999



May 3, 1999: Rescue workers armed with a search dog sift through the remains of a Moore home after a tornado hit the small community. Powerful twisters with winds gusting over 260 miles an hour ravaged the state leaving more than 30 people dead.

Photo by Ronna Johnson

College professor survives twister

By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Jim Johnsen, professor of political science at OKCCC has been known to joke with his students about tornadoes.

"I have been teaching here now for 22 years and in my entire life in Oklahoma I have never seen a tornado," Johnsen would say.

On the evening of May 3

that all changed. Johnsen found himself eye to eye with one of the most destructive tornadoes that has ever ripped through this area.

Johnsen was at OKCCC teaching his Monday night course when his class was interrupted around 7 p.m. He and his students were herded into the science center in the main building to wait out the approaching tornado.

"I met with my class

down there to tie up a few loose ends and then left because I wanted to get home. My wife gets nervous when tornadoes are about."

When he left it was raining and he could see the tornado approaching.

"When I turned east, that tornado seemed to turn east," he said.

Johnsen listened to weather reports tracking the tornado as he was driving right into it.

"I'm driving down SW

119th street, and looking over my left shoulder and it's following me," He said.

"I got to our complex and I drove in. I wasn't even sure I was going to get to my house before the tornado, it was that close."

When he got to his house he couldn't get in through the garage door because there was no electricity. At that moment the tornado began ripping through the apartment complex right across the street from his

housing addition.

"I ran to the door, pounded on it and it was locked, Laurie didn't know I was coming home," Johnsen said.

"I was pounding and pounding and pounding and no one came. I figured she couldn't hear me."

The storm began approaching rapidly.

"I didn't have time to stand there so I pulled the wood rack, the wrought-iron wood rack that people

OKCCC opens arms to high school

By Jamie Johnson
Assistant Editor

OKCCC is going back to high school. The college has opened its doors to Westmoore students, beginning May 10.

Westmoore's campus was damaged by the tornado May 3.

More than 1500 students need a place to finish the rest of the school year, said Pat Berryhill, executive director of institutional advancement.

"The college offered the use of its classrooms to the Moore School Board," Berryhill said.

"They told us Thursday that they would be sending

their students to us starting May 10 until the last day of their school year, May 20."

High school students will be using the college classrooms from noon until 4:25 p.m., Berryhill said.

"Because these students

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Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Smile on your brothers, try to love one another

When tragedy strikes, Oklahomans respond generously.

We line up and wait patiently for hours to give blood.

We rush to designated donation areas to offer food, blankets and other necessities.

We even invite strangers, who have lost their homes, into our own.

We pulled together at the time of the bombing and we are pulling together now to help our most recent victims, the people who lost so much as a result of the tornado that ripped its way through our state.

But doesn't it make you wonder – why do bad things keep happening to good people?

Why do bad things happen at all? What made those kids at Columbine shoot their classmates? What made someone blow up the federal building in downtown Oklahoma City? Why are there natural disasters and why haven't we figured out a way to stop them from causing so much damage?

I know that there is a difference between natural disasters and man-made tragedies, but isn't there supposed to be some all-powerful being somewhere who has complete control over everything?

I know that I don't want to believe in a God that would allow a tornado to rip a mother from her 5-year-old son's arms, hoist her into the air and throw her limp, lifeless body back to the ground, severing it in half as it fell through live power lines.

I know others believe the philosophy that whatever goes around comes around. I'm not so sure about that one either. What did those babies in America's Kids Daycare do to deserve the punishment they received? What did their parents do to have to bury their children?

I used to be able to tell myself that all things happen for a reason, that when it's your time to go, that's when it will happen. I don't know what I believe anymore.

Maybe it's just the luck of the draw. Maybe it's nothing at all. Maybe I'll never know for sure.

For right now, I am going to try to help where I can. I am going to try to be a good, decent person and not hurt anyone intentionally. I am going to try and do one good thing each day and tell someone that I love them (even if it's just my dog).

I think the world would be a much better place if everyone else would do the same.

Instead of condemning others because of their sexual preferences or religious beliefs, spend your time and energy helping someone who actually wants your help.

—Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Point fingers at the parents

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to Becky Gerred's recent editorial regarding the shooting in Littleton, Colo.

To suggest it happened due to the declining morals of society is irresponsible and without factual basis. Gerred wrote, "Children all over America are crying out for help...We are fast becoming a heartless society..." Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the same issue, Gerred's movie review stated she hadn't been to a movie since the '80s due to "unruly children." Is avoiding the troubled youth of America for more than a decade the answer to the cry?

If you want to know the lesson your granddaughter should learn from not being able to have her favorite Bible story read in class, the answer is respect. Respect for the rights of other people to choose the religious teachings their children are exposed to. Not everyone is a Christian.

You suggest that "morals, values and beliefs be nurtured and instilled into

the hearts and souls of our babies from birth." I'm curious, just whose morals, values and beliefs — yours?

You told the absolutely horrifying story of unruly 5-year-olds that kick, spit and scream. What is the world coming to?! Kindergartners never used to do those things, did they? It's your turn to "get real."

You don't blame the parents, kids or teachers for this behavior, instead you blame society. None of the people involved are responsible, but the guy down the street mowing his lawn is? All those violent movies, vulgar music and "smut on the Internet" have corrupted our kindergartners. Wake up, the parents are to blame.

As for Littleton, all kids are exposed to today's media blitz and only a scarce few ever commit such awful crimes. If your theory were true, all kids would be gun-toting gangsters. No, it's not the fault of the media or society.

I see your position as this: society is different now. Bad things happen. Therefore, today's society is

bad. Who did you blame before society turned so evil? Perhaps bad things never happened until now. I would suggest to you that the good old days weren't as good as you remember them. Let's not compound a tragedy by making freedom of religion, thought and expression the scapegoats. It's a bad plan.

—Kevin O'Donnell
OKCCC Student

PIONEER

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Melissa Guice.....Editor
Jamie Johnson.....Asst. Editor
Darcey Ralls.....Staff Writer
John Thomas.....Photographer
Becky Gerred.....Ad. Manager
Ronna Johnson.....Lab Director
Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

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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. However, the PIONEER will withhold the name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity.

Letters to the editor can be delivered in person to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Editor Melissa Guice, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to 682-7568.

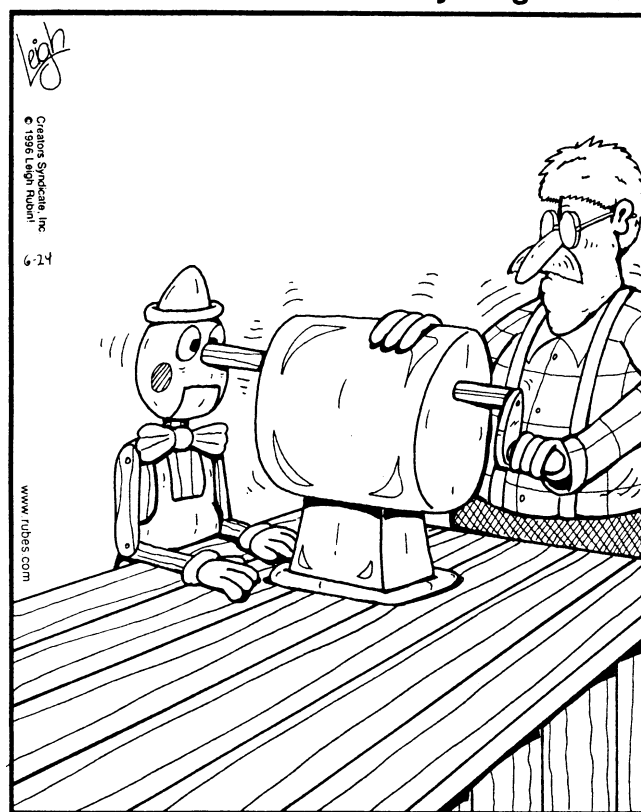
Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@okc.cc.ok.us. A phone number for verification must be included.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: <http://www.okc.cc.ok.us>



RUBES®

By Leigh Rubin



Pinocchio gets a nose job.

Comments and Reviews

Sin, gays not part of God's plan

To the Editor:

After much thought and prayer, I feel I must respond to the letter written by Robyn Webb concerning the most recent editorials on homosexuality. I feel that there has yet to be any complete and accurate information given on the Bible's stance. There seems to be a lot of speculation on what God actually has to say about the subject. Perhaps, I can share what the Bible teaches on homosexuality and how Christians are to respond.

First, it is made extremely clear in the Bible that all sexual immorality

"If you do not believe in God and Jesus Christ, then you have no reason to believe that anything is a sin."

— Stefanie Parnell
OKCCC Student

including homosexuality is condemned. Corinthians 6:9-10, states: "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor the idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders...will inherit the kingdom of God." This verse makes it very clear that God views homosexuality as a sin.

In Romans 1:27, Paul wrote of the sinless nature of mankind and said, "In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversions." Here, again, we see that homosexuality is a sin.

Those who are not Christians will not accept these simple facts. The only

justification I have for my belief that homosexuality is wrong is my faith that the Bible is the infallible word of God.

If you do not believe in God and Jesus Christ, then you have no reason to believe that anything is a sin. Romans 8:5 says, "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the spirit have their minds set on what the spirit desire."

This, I believe is the basis for the comment that the speaker from First Stone Ministries was never gay. He was gay. He was living in the sinful nature but once he gave his life completely to God, he was living by the spirit and therefore, no longer living in the sinful homosexual lifestyle.

This is not to say Christians do not sin. Everyone sins on a daily basis. Only Christ was perfect. When I

"I will not sit silent as the world condones a sinful lifestyle as acceptable in the eyes of God."

— Stefanie Parnell
OKCCC Student

became a Christian, I did not cease to sin. However, I made a conscious effort to please God and obey his word.

God, indeed, loves everyone. Webb was correct in her statement that God loves us in spite of our faults. God hates sin because it keeps his sons and daughters from a relationship with him. Romans 8:38-39 says: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

However, to say that God loves homosexuals because

homosexuality was part of his plan is incorrect. That is like saying murder must have been part of God's plan or there would not be serial killers. Sin was never a part of God's plan.

I will close with what I believe is a passage that every Christian should take to heart— and obey.

Second Timothy 4:2-5 says: "Preach the word; be prepared...correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine...But, you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministries."

This is my job as a Christian. I will not sit silent as the world condones a sinful lifestyle as acceptable in the eyes of God.

— Stefanie Parnell
OKCCC Student

What love's got to do with it

To the Editor:

Over the past few weeks, I've faithfully picked up a copy of this paper to see what folks have had to say about the controversial issue of homosexuality. Quite honestly, I had hoped that someone would express a new opinion.

I was disappointed in that, though. I've seen the same old and stale arguments taken out and dusted off and the same lukewarm stance of acceptance. There is, however, something that no one has pointed out. Being the old and ornery woman that I am, I decided to throw in my two cents and point out the thing that's missing.

In all the hoopla, everyone seems to be concentrating on just one aspect of homosexuality. Robyn Webb wrote, "But (First Stone Ministries) is more comfortable with rape and

"Homosexuality is not just about sex. It's about love, too."

— Beth Colby
OKCCC Student

molestation than sex between two consenting adults who just happen to be of the same sex." Patrick Figaro wrote, "Homosexuality is obviously a choice because one chooses whether he or she wants to have relations with a man or a woman."

What I want to know is this - why doesn't anyone talk about love?

Homosexuality is not just about sex. It's about love, too. One's sexual orientation is not defined by whether one is attracted to the same sex or to the opposite sex. Rather, it is de-

fined by who we fall in love with. Why is this simple fact ignored in this controversy?

I'd like for each and every one of you who are reading this to stop for a bit and think about it. In the meantime, I'll leave you with part of an article written by a chaplain in response to the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard.

"Silence killed Matthew Shepard. The silence of Christians who know that our scriptures on homosexuality are few and murky in interpretation and far outweighed by the words of a savior whose only comment on human relationships was to call us to never judge but only to love."

Think about that, too.

How can love be wrong?

— Beth Colby
OKCCC Student

Homosexuality has effects on everyone, everywhere

To the Editor:

As a Christian, I want to uphold what we stand for.

In our world today, homosexuality has become so accepted that it is on every channel, in public and every where we go.

Is it our place to judge these people? Absolutely not! However, is it acceptable for us to tolerate sin? No. We love the sinner but hate the sin.

John Thomas's editorial is understandable, though.

However, I don't necessarily believe it is Christians "judging" homosexuals because they put them in light of a murderer or a pedophile. It is only to say that sin is sin. We have put degrees on sin, but in the eyes of Jesus Christ one sin is just as grieving to him as another. He went to the cross for all sin.

Mr. Thomas says that homosexuals do not affect the lives of others. Does it spread AIDS? Does it set bad examples for other people? Is it an abomination to God? I think it is evident that homosexuality does affect others. How about the fact that it is basically on every TV show that ABC has on air? Kids are watching these shows. I promise it affects people.

If nothing else, it is becoming so prevalent that people are accepting of the sin. It is not OK to tolerate the sin. I do believe that we should love gay people in order to show them the love of Jesus Christ, in hopes that they would turn their lifestyle around and live for Him. I truly want that for every individual.

— Jenell Bradley
OKCCC Student

Students take cover as tornado hits city

**By Becky Gerred
Staff Writer**

A ground hugging tornado roared from Chickasha along the H. E. Bailey Turnpike, cutting a swath through Newcastle and Moore. It appeared to be taking aim at southwest Oklahoma City.

Simultaneously students sat in classes at OKCCC the evening of May 3, unaware of the danger lurking outside.

Security guards with megaphones made their way around campus sounding the alarm.

"Attention Students! Move to the first floor chemistry lab at once."

The weather forecasters were warning the southside of Oklahoma City to get underground.

About 200 people, students and residents alike, including wet dogs and cats, took shelter in the underground sections of the college.

"People in the neighborhood have known for years to come here," said Broadcasting professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, who

was teaching class that evening.

Anyone seeking shelter is welcomed.

"We do not turn anyone away," said Keith Bourque, interim director of campus safety and security.

Students moved quickly from their evening classes into the underground parts of the college, said Faulconer-Lippert.

While waiting in the chemistry lab for the storm

to pass, someone decided to turn on a computer. The student brought up Channel 4's web page. Students were able to follow the tornado's direction from county to county.

"It was interesting," said Faulconer-Lippert.

After a two-hour confinement, the crowd was given the all clear.

"We experienced no damage on campus," Bourque said.

OKCCC students watched television weather warnings while waiting for news on the tornado.



Students and faculty lined the hall in front of the Science Center while the storm passed.



**Photos
by
Professor
Hugh Scott**

Student hides in bathtub while tornado passes

**By Melissa Guice
Editor**

Melanie Reser's day was going well until her pager went off while she was standing in a party supply store.

"It was my boyfriend's birthday and I was at MG Novelty buying him some balloons when my mom paged me," Reser said. "I saw '911' and knew I had to get back home."

Her mother had paged her to warn that a tornado watch was in effect and a tornado was traveling northbound from Newcastle.

Around 6:30 p.m. she arrived at her Moore home just across the street from Westmoore high school.

Reser's family including her mother and her father as well as her boyfriend and two of her friends were home at the time.

"We were watching the news on TV and they said a tornado was headed toward us," Reser said. "They said it would be in Moore by 7:20 p.m."

At around 7:10 p.m., all of the power in Reser's house went out.

The six huddled up in the bathroom. Reser, her boyfriend and her friends crammed into the bathtub, covering themselves with blankets and pillows.

Her parents stayed in the bathroom closet.

"It seemed like forever," Reser said. "There was this time when everything was just calm, no sound."

Then, she said, she

heard a loud thunderous sound that seemed to go on forever.

"And then, it was just over."

The group walked out of their still-standing house and began to help their neighbors out of the rubble that were once houses as well.

"Our house is OK," Reser said. "We didn't really receive that much damage."

Just across the street, Westmoore High School stands in ruins.

Two blocks in the other direction, where homes once stood, is now a leveled field littered with pieces of houses, broken furniture and soiled mementoes.

"We're really lucky. We still can't believe how our house survived it."



Fearing the worst, some students took shelter under desks and tables in front of the Science Center.

Donations, please...

The Office of Institutional Advancement, located in the administrative connector between the Arts and Humanities Building and the Main Building will be a collection point for donations (money, food, and supplies) for victims of Oklahoma's recent tornadoes. Checks are accepted and can be made payable to the Oklahoma City Community College Foundation.

Tornado rips through Moore neighborhood



Above: A pick-up truck lay hitched up on a tree near North Windermere Drive in Moore.

PHOTOS BY RONNA JOHNSON



Above: Cars, trucks and pieces of homes litter the yards and foundations of former houses.

**By Becky Gerred
Staff Writer**

Pioneer Lab Director Ronna Johnson and her family sat glued to their television early Monday evening, May 3, watching a monstrous tornado bearing down on Chickasha.

From their home near N. 12th and Janeway in Moore, the family followed the storm's path as it struck Chickasha, Newcastle and Bridge Creek.

The weather forecaster had already warned people in Moore to take cover. Johnson knew they did not want to endure another storm in the hallway of their home.

They had just completed repairs from October's tornado.

The family made a run for the storm shelter next door. Other neighbors followed them.

Minutes after everyone was inside, they could hear debris flying outside. Johnson's husband Nelson and her son held tight to the cellar door as the tornado's fury fought against their grip.

They could hear crashing, banging and roaring winds as mother nature tore their neighborhood to splinters.

Everyone understood it was all right to cry.

After the storm passed, the group emerged to face a scene of desolation. Because so many homes had been demolished, police cordoned off the neighborhood.

The Johnson family chose to stay in their home which had sustained only minor damage. Just three houses to the west, roofs were gone. Beyond that was an ocean of rubble where houses once stood.

Her children's grade school, Kelley Elementary, was demolished.

"If you took a bunch of match sticks and held them up in the air and let them drop where they may, that is my neighborhood," Johnson said.

"One of our cars was smashed by flying debris. We have a window out in the back of our house, but we are the lucky ones."

As of Thursday, everyone in the area was without electricity and natural gas. Fortunately they had water.

Wednesday Johnson was allowed to venture out of her neighborhood. She was warned to return by curfew or she would not be allowed back.

She was driven through damage that she was unaware of. She had not seen a television or a newspaper since the tornado knocked out her power.

"Oh my God! My grocery store is gone. Oh my! Oh my!" she murmured as she looked at the destruction.

Spotting a shelter serving hot meals, Johnson recalled the best sandwich she had ever eaten—just the night before.

All day Tuesday the family had eaten nothing except a banana creme pie salvaged from the freezer. They had ran out of food that didn't require cooking.

Curfew was 8 p.m. Tuesday and the residents were cautioned not to go outdoors after curfew. They could be arrested.

"We saw a Salvation Army truck drive past our house. Oh my! Food! We were all standing at my door hollering, 'Come back. We're hungry.' The truck turned around the corner.

Johnson's neighbor flagged down the truck which returned and brought them food.

Police guarded them as they stood in line receiving boxes of sandwiches and bananas. Johnson and her family returned to their homes loaded down with food.

Candles were lit and grace was said over the ham, Swiss cheese and mayo on white bread.



Above: A driveway to a former home near Janeway and N. 12th in Moore.

OKCCC graduates fifteen automotive technicians

By Melissa Guice
Editor

OKCCC graduated 15 Automotive Service Education Program students April 29.

Among those were two students who received special recognition for being the first students to graduate from the Automotive Youth Education System and to graduate from the ASEP program as well.

"Brian Butler and David Bishop are the first students in the nation who went to vo-tech in high school and completed the AYES program to go on and receive a degree from ASEP," said Carroll McNish, professor of automotive technology.

Also receiving a special honor was Brent Ready, who received the Mr. Goodwrench Award.

"Every year, Goodwrench selects one student technician who shows outstanding technical skills and abilities," McNish said.

Ready said he was happy to receive the award and even happier to graduate.

"I'm happy to graduate," Ready said. "Now I can go to work full time."

Alan Moore, recent ASEP graduate, expressed his gratitude to his instructors and his classmates for helping him through the two-year program.

"I'd like to give thanks to all of my teachers and fellow students," said Moore, who will become a full-time service technician at Sparlin Pontiac, Buick and GMC in Purcell at the close of the semester.

As for the success of the program and its graduates, Rich Steere, OKCCC professor of automotive technology, said he credits the marriage between the college and the dealerships.

"The best part about this program is that the students are working out in a real dealership while they go to school, so we actually see them in the workplace," Steere said. "It gives the program a 'real' aspect feeling, kind of an 'earn as you learn' idea."

Along with their associate degrees, the graduates received a plaque in recognition of their achievements.

The graduates are:

Phillip Bart, David Bishop, Bret Burnham, Brian Butler, Nick Chiles, Anthony Foster, Casey Hall, Brett Kimbro, Jason King, Richard Lenhart, Alan Moore, Richard Marson III, Brent Ready, Kristopher Timm and Damon Woosley.

During their studies, the students worked part time for a dealership in Oklahoma. After the semester ends, they will work full time for their respective dealerships.



OKCCC's first graduating class. The ceremony was held in the foyer of the main building in May of 1973. The college opened its doors in 1972.

Graduation a family affair for three sisters

By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Monica Mann, Mary Brese and Patricia Higgins have a lot in common.

They are sisters, they are graduates of Del City High School and they all graduated with associate degrees from OKCCC.

And now, all three assiduous sisters will acquire their bachelor's degrees this month.

"It wasn't anything that was planned," Brese said. "I don't think we even realized it until the middle of last semester."

For Brese, this is a major step toward her long-term goal of obtaining a master's degree and teaching at OKCCC.

"Even though it's taken us a while to complete [them], it's been nice to be able to come to an atmosphere like the community college,"

Brese said.

"You can take things at your own pace and not feel like you have to take full loads and overwhelm yourself. It's been real nice."

Brese has worked as a hairdresser for 22 years and owns her own business.

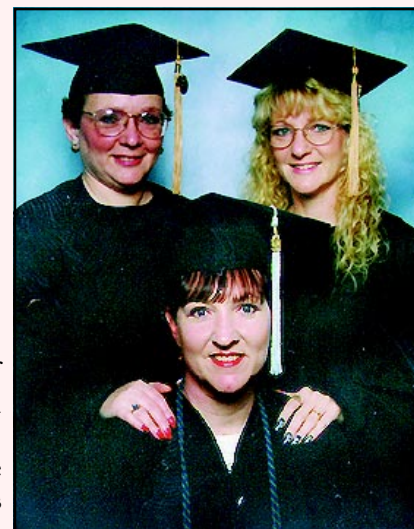
"I'm changing professions," Brese said. "I've always wanted to be a math teacher."

Brese went to work as a tutor in OKCCC's math lab in the fall of 1997 when she was a student at the college. In October 1998 she accepted a position as math lab assistant.

Mann and Higgins will graduate from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond with degrees in science and accounting and Brese will graduate from the University of Oklahoma in Norman with a degree in science

and math education.

Brese plans to complete her student teaching in the fall and hopes to teach junior high in the Moore school district.



Clockwise from top left: Sisters Monica Mann, Patricia Higgins and Mary Brese. All will graduate in 1999 with bachelor's degrees, Mann and Higgins from Edmond's University of Central Oklahoma and Brese from the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Three spring graduations welcome one foursome family

By Melissa Guice
Editor

"Pomp and Circumstance" will be heard three times for one Bethany family this spring.

Beverly McElroy and her three daughters are graduating from three Oklahoma schools.

"We were all talking one day and saying that we had to buy our caps and gowns and everything and then we just realized it — we're all graduating together," McElroy said.

McElroy, business administration major, will graduate from OKCCC May 14 with her associate degree. Her plans are to con-



Top row, l-r: Melissa Langley, Jennifer Evans. Bottom row: Beverly McElroy, Jackie Langley.

tinue her education at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

One of her daughters, Melissa Langley, will also graduate from OKCCC with an associate's in psychology. She plans on attending the University of Okla-

homa and on changing her emphasis to English with hopes of teaching at the university level someday.

Jennifer Evans, her oldest daughter, will graduate from UCO with a bachelor's in business. She plans to continue her education at UCO

where she hopes to earn a master's degree.

Jackie Langley, the youngest daughter, is graduating from Carl Albert High School. She wants to study drama and music, though she is undecided on which college to attend.

OKCCC graduation candidates named

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Henryetta Caldwell, Deborah Henderson, Jeana McGinnis, and Tamara Russell.

DIVERSIFIED STUDIES

Meri Barker, Judy Barrett, Stephanie Cook, Phillip Christopher Corbett, Sandra Davis, Kathy DeVore, Gary Ellis, Jarvis Hankins, Stacy Hill, Kortney Von Kuhlman, Cody Lorange, Linda Mowery, Thomas Newbrey, and Patrick Riley.

HISTORY

Jack Hunter, Rebecca Kuhns, and Timothy Mannin.

HUMANITIES

Erin Sigler.

JOURNALISM AND BROADCASTING

Susan Brown, Christy Deen, LaRonda Donaldson, Jacquelyn Fladstol, Jason Goodwin, Misti Graham, Melissa Guice, Thomas Johnson, Michael Kobriger, Amy Lawrence, Robyn Lydick, Brian Maughan, Sumer Miller, Craig Moore, Brandi Pierce, Breana Pinto, Julie Retter, Jan Sherrick, and Nicholas Spross.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Jennifer French, and Nancy Sellars.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Jamie Johnson, Kelly Lawrence, and Susan O'Hara.

PSYCHOLOGY

Aaron Armstrong, Roxanne Baker, Kelli Booe, Connie Brown, Lorrie Byrum, Mary Canello, Sheila Curtis, Donetta Dalman, Tammy Davidson, Sue Dolezal, Ryan Fuller, Dana Garrison, Randell Gudgel, Melissa Langley, Robin Leasure, Holly Lindsey, Marcikus Long, Scott Marmen, Kristi Mayhle, Jerrilea Miller, Lana Moore, Joanna Myers, Ryan Neasbitt, Tracy Nelson, Cristal Parks, Patricia Pierce, Crystal Puckett, Tamara Russell, Jill Sharp, Toni Shields, Tara Shultz, Trent Smith, Rebecca Sullivan, Mark Uptegrove, Amy Walkonen, Julie White, Amy Williams, Tiffany Woods, and Cyndi Yazza.

SOCIOLOGY

Kristy Caudle, Bonnie Chrisman, Travis Creasey, Alice Denwalt, Terra Doan, Sue Dolezal, Shari Folsom, Gordon Grider, Pamela Hudson, Lori Kill, Tiffany Ladell, Robin Leasure, Jerrilea Miller, Calvin Oldcamp, and Cyndi Yazza.

THEATRE ARTS

Amy Ackerman, Cheryl Callaway, Jason Goodwin, Charlotte Hill, Thomas Johnson, Jason Lamb, and Christine Stanley.

VISUAL ARTS

Meri Barker, Sherri Crutchfield, Linda Etherton,

Lesa Kobriger, Terri Munkres, and Robert Tautfest, Jr.

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE BUSINESS

Maria Adame, Thomas Baste, Melanie Billingsley, Michele Brent, Simore Chandler, Stacy Crawford, Dena Davidson, Lien Do, Hope Fitzgerald, Peter Frullo, Von'Diza Yvette Gaines, Stephanie Goad, Hiroyuki Hagiwara, Matthew Hamilton, Kristie Harned, Jeffrey Henderson, Thu A. Ho, David Hullet, Timothy Hunt, Rusty Jones, Tonya Jones, Josiah Kim, Jacob Kloczewski, Cara Lehnhoff, Lorene Lehr, Gregory McCoy, Timothy McNear, Arthur Moore, Jeremy Muchow, Quyen Do Nguyen, Brenda Osborne, Jeffrey Poe, Kenneth Richard II, Heather Rogers, Berry Sewell, Rene Shaffer, Elizabeth Sherlock, Shanna Smith, Maryne Soto, Kyle Suchy, Dylan Vann, Sarah Whiteside, Rory Williams, Kimberly Woodward, Chen Wu, Rebecca Zech, and Angela Zelenik.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Joann Bethel, Tara Deer, Kara Fleming, Gayla Garrett, Chad Lamb, Adam Maxey, Kathy Miller, Jeremy Muchow, Andrew Murrell, Ann Nelson, Duc Ngo, Binh Nguyen, Matthew Rabe, Mohammed Rahman, Kevin Sherrard, Michael Smith, Anh Tran, Dinh Tran, Quang Vu, Thuy Vu, and Maki Yokoi.

DIVERSIFIED STUDIES

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Jim Johnsen trapped under brick wall during tornado

"Johnsen,"
Cont. from page 1

keep their firewood in, I pulled it away from the brick wall and I dove between it and the brick wall and then the storm hit."

Johnsen said he has heard people compare the sound of a tornado to the sound of a train. He agreed because a train was all he could think about.

"I was lying on my left

side and I was looking up to my right trying to look at the storm because, by God, if I'm going to die, I'm going to at least look at this," Johnsen said.

He watched for as long as he could. He saw debris flying everywhere and he eventually had to turn away because even the smallest piece of debris would cause serious injury.

Johnsen huddled there on his patio waiting for the storm to pass.

"The next thing I knew, the brick wall fell over on me. The only reason I wasn't crushed was because the wood rack, which had some real big pieces of wood on the lower level...broke the fall."

Finally, the storm passed and Johnsen yelled out to his family. His wife answered that she was all right, but she didn't think that she could get out of the closet. Their son, who was in his bedroom closet with

the cats, did not respond to their calls. After a few moments he replied that he and the cats were OK.

"They managed to work their way to the front door where I was pinned. They couldn't lift the brick wall by themselves, they finally got some help from a neighbor of ours. He was able to lift it up about 5 or 6 inches."

Johnsen was able to crawl out.

"Had I known my family

was going to survive I would not have driven into that storm," Johnsen said in retrospect.

He said he would have stayed behind the storm and followed it. Then he would have gone in to help his family get out. But he had no way of knowing his family would be all right.

"All I knew is I had to get to my family to be there if they needed help, and I was the guy that ended up needing help."

Westmoore students coming

"Westmoore,"
Cont. from page 1

will be walking from building to building on campus, we will need volunteers to help guide these students in the right direction from classroom to classroom," Berryhill said.

OKCCC students and staff willing to serve as

campus guides and hosts should contact Charlotte French at 682-1611 ext. 7584. Volunteers will be asked to staff assistance tables in two-hour shifts from 11:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. until May 20.

College employees are being asked to wear name tags so high school students can identify them if they have questions.

OKCCC students, organizations help victims

By Jamie Johnson
Assistant Editor

PASS with CLASS, an organization for single parents, will be accepting donations of school supplies for Kelley Elementary School, one of the schools damaged by the tornado, from May 10 until May 14. Donations

boxes will be set by the bookstore and in the media center.

Jerri Gronemeier, photography professor, is offering free service to help people who have damaged photos. "I may not be able to save all the photos, but I will do my best to help those who need it," she said. Anyone needed her services or anyone who would like

to help her out can call 677-5616.

The Center for Student Development is offering its service to those who need to talk about their experiences, get information about services available to them, or who just need a place to get away from the pressure. For more information, call 682-1611, ext. 7535.

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Biotech teaches on 'shoestring' budget

By Traci Washington
Newswriting I Student

Did you know that you can extract DNA from spinach?

Did you know you can screen for cytotoxic activity by using brine shrimp?

These are just a few lessons that will be presented to 24 area high school science teachers during a workshop at OKCCC this summer.

Dr. Charlotte Mulvihill, professor of biotechnology at OKCCC, and Lynn Cook of Putnam City West High School will present classroom activities on biotechnology with limited resources during an institute called "Shoestring Biotechnology."

The program will be presented June 1 through 4.

It is free to the participating teachers who will receive a manual and supplies to take back to their classrooms.

The cost of the workshop is paid in part by School-to-Work funds from Francis Tuttle and Moore-Norman vo-techs and by funds from an OKCCC Economic Development Grant.

"Most public school districts don't have the resources to obtain the expensive equipment used in experiments."

—Charlotte Mulvihill
OKCCC Professor

"The general idea is to bring in these high school teachers from various districts for four days of intensive desktop and laboratory activities," Mulvihill said.

"Most public school dis-

tricts don't have the resources to obtain the expensive equipment used in experiments, so we'll show the teachers how they can conduct experiments using everyday items found at a local grocery store."

Some laboratory activities include Popeye's Delight which is the extraction of

DNA from spinach.

Other experiments include screening for cytotoxic activity with brine shrimp, the production of recombinant plasmid with spinach DNA and the processing of denim with enzymes.

"This will update many of these teachers on the lat-

est technology and give them ideas about some of the projects they can do with their students without expending a lot of their budgets," Mulvihill said.

To learn more about the biotechnology program at OKCCC, contact Mulvihill at 682-1611.

Or visit her website and

even link to the national project's website at: cmulvihill@okc.cc.ok.us/biotech/document/tch.html.

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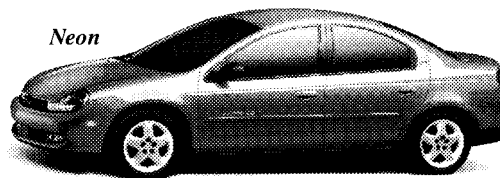
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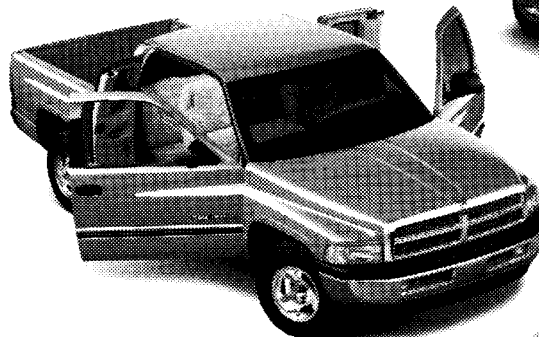
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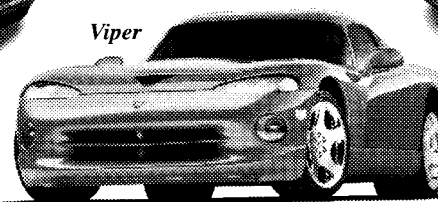
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Highlights

Calculators to be returned, summer leasing available

The graphing calculators that were leased for the spring semester will soon be due in. Please return the calculator as soon as possible to avoid a hold being placed on grades. The signed contract stipulates the calculator must be returned within 3 days of the end of the semester. Leasing for the summer semester begins May 31.

Pagan Student Alliance seeks interested students

Another new club, the Pagan Student Alliance, is forming on campus this semester. OKCCC student Heather Belcher said the purpose of the club will be to support students who have pagan beliefs and also to inform people as to what paganism is. The club will allow pagan students and students who are interested in Paganism to learn and grow with others following the ancient paths. To sign up or to request more information, call the Student Life Department at 682-1611 ext. 7737.

OKCCC offers opportunity to learn, speak Spanish

OKCCC's Spanish in Mexico '99, July 24 through Aug. 1, gives students the opportunity to speak Spanish with native speakers and soak up Mexican culture. The cost of this 9-day adventure is only \$1090. This includes airfare, hotel, ground transportation, museum fees and two days in Mexico City. The deadline to sign up for the trip and pay the deposit is Wednesday, May 12. Contact Patricia Brooks at 682-1611 ext. 7655 or Diane Broyles at 682-1611 ext. 7657 for more information.

OKCCC gets physical

Fitness instructors who would like to receive certification or continuing education training can attend one of several workshops sponsored by OKCCC's Health Technology Center and the National Dance and Exercise Instruction Training Association. The Aerobic Certification Workshop will be held Saturday, May 15, for potential and current fitness instructors. This workshop covers the basic academic and practical applications of teaching group exercise, including basic steps, heart rate checks, warming up and safety. Workshop registration includes a full-day review, written exam, two-year certification and membership to the NDEITA. Continuing education workshops will also be held for teachers of aquatic aerobics and kickboxing on May 16. Pre-registration for any of the workshops is important, as space is limited. For more information or to register, call 1-800-237-6242.

Fall tuition fee waiver applications available

Fall tuition fee waiver applications are available in the student financial aid center located on the first floor of the main building. The deadline to submit applications to the student financial aid center is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6. Fall tuition fee waiver awards will be posted in the student financial aid center on Friday, Aug. 20.

Scholarship deadlines approaching

The deadline for the Cloud of Witnesses Scholarship is May 15. Anyone can apply for the Cloud of Witnesses Scholarship. The deadline for the Future Teachers Scholarship is May 21. Only those who are planning to pursue teaching as a career should apply for this scholarship. Applications can be picked up in the Prospective Student Services office on the first floor of the main building. For more information, contact Linda Sapp at 682-1611 ext. 7580.

Pagan Student Alliance, new club forming on campus

By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

"Double, double toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble."

This rhyme from Shakespeare's "MacBeth" and the image of three wart-faced witches standing around a black kettle casting spells give the wrong picture of Pagan beliefs said OKCCC student Heather Belcher.

Belcher wants to change that common misconception. She is the driving force behind the formation of the Pagan Student Alliance at the college.

"We want to start a club where we can support each other as students that have Pagan beliefs," she said.

"We also want to inform people as to what Paganism is."

Belcher said that people are frightened and fearful of Paganism because they don't really have a clear understanding of it.

"Paganism is not satanic in nature. It has nothing to do with Satan. In fact, most Pagans don't believe in Satan or God."

Belcher noted that there are quite a few Pagans on campus. She thinks they may feel ostracized because they don't have the support from their fellow Pagans like the Christians have from other Christians.

"It's a good opportunity for us to get together, enjoy fellowship and learn more. Here we have the opportunity to pull a lot of people in to do lectures and workshops that we wouldn't have in any other setting."

Belcher already has a speaker lined up. A woman who is in seminary to become a Unitarian minister and is also a Pagan has agreed to come and tell her story to the new group.

"I want to encourage

anybody that has questions about Paganism to come to the meetings as long as they're open to listen and not disrupt the meeting," Belcher said.

She explained the differences between Christianity and Paganism.

"A lot of Pagans take the Christian concept and use it in their own spiritual beliefs. The main difference is that we don't believe in heaven and hell, per se. Most Pagans believe in reincarnation. We don't believe in sin, but we do believe that whatever we do comes back to us ten-fold.

Whatever we do, we should do it in a positive aspect. We should do what we feel in our hearts is right as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else."

Belcher said that Pagans usually meditate and practice magic, which is nothing more than lighting incense and candles. They try to invoke the power of their own spiritual being and the power of the earth and send those spirits in a certain direction.

For more information call the Office of Student Life at 682-1611 ext. 7737.

Pentagrams



The pentagram is an ancient symbol, and has been used by many different religions at different times; consequently, multiple meanings have been attributed to it.

Many people interpret it as representing the five "classical elements," namely earth, air, fire, water and spirit; these, in turn, represent the forces and substances that comprise both human beings and the entire universe.

In medieval Europe, the points of the pentagram were said to represent the Five Wounds of Christ, or five cardinal virtues; in this capacity, the symbol appears on Sir Gawain shield in the Arthurian legend of Gawain and the Green Knight.

Wiccans often identify the five points with the three aspects of the Goddess (Maiden, Mother, and Crone) and two of the God (Consort and Son, or in another view Warrior and Sage.)

Still other people use the pentagram as a symbol of Earth, or as a protective symbol or merely a way to publicly indicate their Pagan beliefs.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all **currently enrolled OKCCC students** and employees for any **personal classified ad**. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611 ext. 7674 for more information.

AUTOMOBILES

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FOR SALE: Girls bdrm. suite. Solid oak with hearts. Daybed with trundle, chest of drawers, matching desk and night stand. Very nice. \$250, call 682-1611 ext. 7377 or 392-3177.

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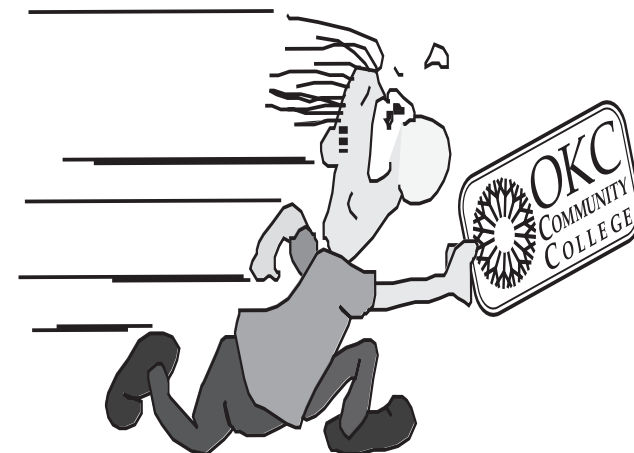
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OKCCC offers high school graduates college incentives

**By Susan Brown
Newswriting I Student**

OKCCC is giving Oklahoma City public school students another reason to finish school.

Twenty-four free college credit hours.

The tuition fee waiver is part of an OKCCC plan to combat the high drop-out rates in Oklahoma City public schools. It covers one year of college tuition.

In 1993, 2,864 ninth graders entered the doors of Oklahoma City Public Schools. Only 1,203 came out as graduates four years later. That's more than double the drop-out rate of Putnam City, the school system with the next highest rate. Of those Oklahoma City public school graduates, only 19 percent have gone on to college.

OKCCC President Bob

Todd expressed his concern about the statistics at the monthly Board of Regents meeting April 26.

"It's not enough to complain about the problem," Todd said. "We must be involved in the answers."

Todd recently met with Oklahoma City Mayor Kirk Humphries and Dr. Marvin Crawford, superintendent of Oklahoma City Public Schools, to discuss ways to encourage high school completion and college attendance.

"We've entered into a partnership between Oklahoma City Public Schools and [OKCCC] to impact the students in inner city schools," Todd said. "We want to give them incentives to put college in their scopes."

Charlotte French, executive director of enrollment, outlined the plan devised by the college for the

OKCCC regents.

"We started by working with the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders," French said. Groups from area middle schools were given tours of the campus and encouraged to think about college.

OKCCC representatives also met with high school students and gave campus tours. So far, the response has been positive.

"Students from Douglas and Capitol Hill have toured the campus," French said. "We've received 93 applications for admission from those groups. Obviously, we've caught the attention of the students."

The tuition assistance is the biggest incentive offered by OKCCC. The state Legislature is considering simi-

lar financial aid measures, but OKCCC is a step ahead.

"I never thought about going to college," said Natalie Halbert, a Southeast High School sophomore. "I figured I would go

to vo-tech or something. But I always wanted to be a teacher. It's something to think about."

Giving students a goal to think about is just what Todd had in mind.

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PSY 2113 940

Research Methods I: Statistics
Wednesdays, 5-7:55 p.m.

PSY 3203 940

Cognitive Psychology
Thursdays, 5-7:55 p.m.

It is the student's responsibility to confirm with an advisor the applicability of a course to his/her degree program. Eligibility for enrollment in courses listed above is subject to admissibility to the University of Oklahoma and satisfaction of prerequisites when applicable.

For registration and course information contact OKCCC-OU office, 682-7569 (located in Main Building near Campus Safety & Security Office), or the University of Oklahoma College of Continuing Education, 325-2891.