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PIONEER



Photo by Ronna Austin

OKCCC's main foyer fills to standing room only as Westmoore students scramble to get to their next class. Some 2000 high school students attended classes at OKCCC after their school was damaged by a May 3 tornado.

OKCCC student breaks Guinness world record

By Melissa Guice
Editor

The next time Rachel Cheatwood opens a Guinness World Record Book, she just may see her name in it.

Cheatwood, 23, is one of OKCCC's hearing-impaired students.

She is also now one of Oklahoma's record-breakers after she and 1,116 other deaf Oklahomans gathered on the south steps of the Oklahoma state capitol to sign the song, "Love in Any Language," by Christian singer Sandy Patty.

The number of participants outnumbered the current record held by the state of Texas, by nearly 500 signers.

"We couldn't let Texas beat us," Cheatwood said.

Cheatwood, who lost her

hearing after a fight with meningitis while she was still an infant, is also an advocate for the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

"DRS is a support system for people with disabilities," she said. "It also provides education, new technology, and information on [Americans with Disabilities Act] law changes."

DRS was the sponsor for the Guinness Book competition which coincided with the fifth annual People with Disabilities Awareness Day.

Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin was the keynote



Rachel Cheatwood

See "Record," page 12

OKCCC opens doors to area high schoolers

Westmoore students get early taste of campus life

By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Posters announcing prom pictures, yearbook distribution and football meetings were posted in strategic locations throughout OKCCC's campus.

Young teens were overheard discussing dates, music, cars and other very important issues. Between classes the halls buzzed so loudly with excited students, it sounded like a swarm of bees had invaded the college.

This high school flashback was provided when OKCCC invited approximately 2,000 Westmoore High School students to share the campus after their own school was damaged in the May 3 tornado which killed 44 people, injured 795 and destroyed or damaged 6,785 homes.

College President Bob Todd said there was never any doubt that OKCCC would

help if it could.

"We're trying to be good neighbors within a hurting community," he said. "By opening our doors to the Westmoore students, many of whom need[ed] the stability and structure of school in this time, we [allowed] them to reach a closure to the school year."

In addition to giving the students an opportunity to complete their classes and be with their friends before the summer break, this effort also provided Westmoore students with a chance to find the support they needed after the trauma caused by the tornado.

Several licensed professional counselors joined Westmoore's counselors in offering emotional support.

The high school students attended classes at OKCCC from noon to 4:30 p.m.

See "Westmoore," page 12

Storm gives 24-hour college new meaning for stranded students

By Melissa Guice
Editor

The mere mention of Monday, May 3 sparks a memory in the minds of four OKCCC students.

That evening, as Chrissy Marsee, Annette Carr, Susan Craig and Misty McGlugritch sat in their respective classrooms, tornadoes moved through Chickasha in southern Oklahoma and gathered strength as the winds pushed further north.

By the time the twisters hit far south Oklahoma City, the four women and

countless other students and staff had been ushered out of class and into OKCCC's main building underground science center.

The storm moved toward Midwest City allowing most of the students and staff to leave the school.

For Marsee, Carr, Craig and McGlugritch, that was impossible.

The four live outside of Oklahoma City; McGlugritch lives in Moore and Carr, Craig and Marsee live in Norman.

Traveling south, the roads were closed due either to police blocks and barricades or to debris cluttering the roadways.

Craig said she wasn't aware of the damage until after she saw news reports on a television set up on the first floor of the main building.

"After we were dismissed, I went to the computer lab and checked my e-mail and played around on the computer.

"I didn't really think of the tornado damage until after I saw the news," Craig said.

That is when she spotted McGlugritch and Marsee sitting at a table near the television.

See "Storm," page 12

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

NRA not OK

The most famous high school in America is Columbine High School, a large suburban high school that holds a population of some 6000 students.

The school isn't known for its national merit scholars or for its football team, but, instead, for two disturbed teen-agers who shot and killed a dozen of their classmates and a teacher.

The massacre left Americans heartsick and angry. The loss of life still leaves us confused.

Even so, in all the confusion, tragedy is supposed to convey something to us.

How sad to know it could have all been prevented.

I don't believe it was the movies they watched, the music they listened to or the hours and hours of computer games that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold played that were responsible for the massacre.

And as much as I hate to admit it, I don't believe it was the gun industry that was responsible for what the two did, either. These were two young men capable of making their own decisions, right or wrong.

But the gun industry, the NRA and its supporters are responsible for ensuring that the weapons used in the massacre were available to the two.

The two used a variety of weapons including a Tec-DC9 semiautomatic handgun, a 9 mm Hi-Point semiautomatic carbine rifle and two sawed-off shotguns along with 50 or so homemade bombs.

The problem is that each of these weapons were legally available with no required licensing of the user or registration of the guns.

What's worse is that these weapons fell through the loopholes when it comes to banning.

According to a 1994 federal government ban on assault weapons, it was agreed by both gun control advocates and weapons-industry leaders that an assault weapon included one that has a detachable ammunition magazine (a container that holds the cartridges or bullets.)

However, gun supporters as well as, yes, our government, maintained at least two other characteristics had to be present before a gun could be banned including a flash compressor or a folding stock.

One of the weapons used — the Hi-Point rifle has a detachable magazine, but because it didn't have either of the two other features, it is still available.

As far as the Tec-DC9 goes — it was banned in 1994, but a stipulation allows the ownership, selling and buying of pre-existing assault weapons.

So, see, the boys didn't just make their own weapons or steal them from some small arsenal.

Actually, an 18-year-old friend of the boys bought the two a Hi-Point semiautomatic carbine and two 1969 Savage shotguns at a gun show. Another, a 22-year-old friend, acquired a Tec-DC9 at a gun show and conveyed it to one of the killers.

Assault weapons, weapons designed for war times — bought by 18- and a 22-year-old civilians?

So, by all means, defend the right to bear arms and the right to pour money into the NRA to fund another rally against people who want to rid the nation of our precious guns and our so-called precious freedoms.

And keep it up, it won't be long until Columbine repeats itself, and when it does, we won't have to worry about our precious lives, either.

— **Melissa Guice**
Editor

He's not up there just for fun

To the Editor:

According to recent letters to the editor, God has no problem with anything, except Christians who presume to call any act a sin.

It's no wonder the writers have that view. It's true that many churches teach only about God's love because it is an agreeable topic in today's "anything goes" society.

But God is not a "grandpa in the sky" who benevolently winks at any wrongdoing and bestows blessings indiscriminately.

He is the almighty God. He is perfect — without the slightest smudge of evil, without any sin at all. He is holy. He has a hatred for the filthiness of sin.

And he's God. That means he has the right to say what's acceptable and what is not.

He says that homosexuality is not.

In fact, he says it's an abomination to him. That literally means it makes him sick.

Over and over, He says plainly, "This is dreadful. Don't do it," [Romans 1:26-

**God is not a
grandpa in the
sky who winks
at wrongdoing
and hands out
blessings.**

28; Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17; and Corinthians 6:9.]

When you consider God's holiness and his hatred for sin, you can begin to catch an inkling of how wonderful his love really is. He hates sin. The sinner is disgusting — deserving of death. Yet, he came to earth, himself, and took the punishment for the very sin that revolted and angered him, even when the sinner didn't care at all about him. That's love.

God's love doesn't excuse sin. It conquers sin. Christians shouldn't excuse it or make light of it, either. They should keep holding out the hope of redemption of sinners.

We want to go on record as saying we don't hate ho-

mosexuals or fear them. We are concerned for them.

Our God has freed us from sin. We encourage those who are bound in the homosexual lifestyle to come to him for that same glorious freedom.

—**Courtney Owens**
Heather Greenlee
Hope Greenlee
Christy Chambers
Peter Brown
Susan Brown
Becky Gerred
OKCCC Students

PIONEER

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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.

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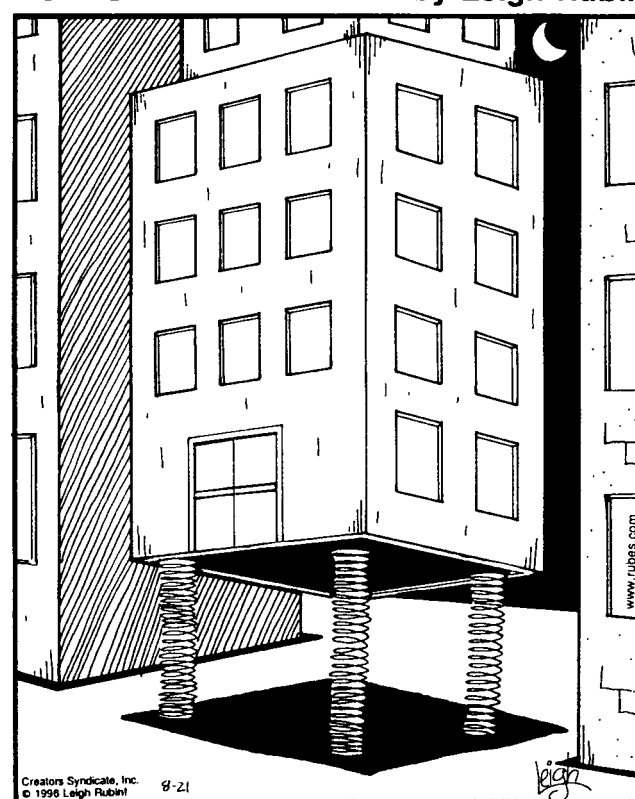
Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@okc.cc.ok.us. A phone number for verification must be included.

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



RUBES®

By Leigh Rubin



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Comments and Reviews

God never planned on gays

To the Editor:

Several weeks ago, I read a letter in the Pioneer titled "God loves straights and gays equally," by Robyn Webb.

I would like to tell Webb that she was so right when he said, "people go through rough points in life and they look for answers in many places. Sometimes the answers are right, sometimes the answers aren't." I could tell by this statement that Robyn wants to be sure she has found the right answer. She said, "If homosexuality were not part of God's plan, no one would be gay."

I would like to challenge Robyn to show me where in the Bible it says that homosexuality is God's plan. What I see in the Bible is that God created a man and a woman and told them to be fruitful and multiply which meant to have children.

Two men can't have children without the aid of a woman no matter how hard they try. Two women can't have children no matter how hard they try without the aid of a man. God is intelligent, so he made the first two people of the opposite sex and told them to be fruitful and multiply. This was God's plan. God

"We can take from the Bible's laws the idea that God loves us and doesn't want us to harm ourselves or others."

—OKCCC Student

created male and female of every creature in order that they populate the world.

Robyn was right about the Bible verses she quoted in her article. They were indeed laws given to the Jews. I looked up those verses and did a little reading about them. God gave the Jews many laws to keep. So why should they be of any interest to us?

When looked at as a whole, they were given for the protection and health of the Jewish nation. Some of them like the mixing of two fabrics or the rounding of the corners of their beards seem very strange. They had spiritual meaning to Jews. They were to be different and keep themselves holy unlike all the other heathen nations that worshipped idols, some of which offered their own children to their idols by burning them in fire. What does that have to do with us? We don't offer our chil-

dren in fire sacrifice.

We can take from the Bible's laws the idea that God loves us and doesn't want us to harm ourselves or others.

What has been the greatest health problem to come from the homosexual lifestyle? Of course, we all know it is AIDS. God wanted to protect his children from all sickness; therefore, he forbid the act of homosexuality.

Adultery is forbidden, and so is premarital sex. Why? Sickness. Not only the sickness of sexually transmitted diseases but emotional harm comes to all involved.

Once more, I challenge Robyn to find one verse in the Bible that says God approves of homosexuality.

Robyn, I hope you will make very sure you have found the truth you so desire. And yes, you are right that God does love gays. He hates the act of homosexuality because it harms you.

—Name withheld by request

Thanks OKCCC

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter to express thanks to security officer Al Horn.

He went beyond the call of duty to make us as comfortable as possible while we were stranded over night at the school after the tornadoes hit Oklahoma City May 3.

He and his family made sure we got food to eat and a place to sleep as well as clothes to sleep in.

Also, thanks to Kari Chancellor, Misti Chancellor, Jim Ellis, Jack Kraettli, Paula Belcher and Charlotte French who also helped us in more ways than words can say.

Thanks OKCCC.

—Chrissy Marsee,
Annette Carr, Susan
Craig and Misty
McGlugritch
OKCCC Students

Gay people should be least of worries, problems

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to all the news that has appeared in the Pioneer about the right to be gay.

I am not gay; however, I have several friends who are, I both love and respect them for who they are — not who they are sleeping with.

Everyone keeps quoting the Bible but has managed to avoid the phrase, "Judge not lest you be judged."

I feel that all the energy spent on worrying about who someone else is wak-

ing up next to would be better spent on ways to improve the really important issues of the world — the things that affect everyone such as children murdering children, children starving, the lack of education, the poor quality of Oklahoma schools — need I go on? No!

Live your life as you see fit, enjoy your family, love your dog and let God judge all before his throne as he will judge you.

—Sarah Neal
OKCCC Student

Keepin' it real with 'Trippin'

MOVIE REVIEW

"If you can't stroke it, smoke it."

This was one of the clever manipulations of the ever-present marquee in front of the high school in the new movie "Trippin'" by Rogue pictures.

"Trippin'" is a comedy about high school senior Gregory Reed, played by Deon Richmond, and his attempts to get the beautiful Cinny, played by Maia Campbell, to accompany him to the prom.

Reed receives a lot of pressure from his parents to fill out college applications and he feels compelled to lie to Cinny about being accepted into a prestigious institute of higher learning.

He also feels pressure from his instructors. One in particular tells him that he needs to start thinking about his future. "You can go left, or you can do what's right," the pushy teacher says.

Reed's idea of planning for the future is trying to figure out how he is going to pay for his prom night festivities.

"Trippin'" is the story of a dreamer who is doing his best to keep it real. This is especially hard for Richmond's character, considering that he spends most of his time on Fantasy Island.

Once, during breakfast with his family, Reed daydreams about the "perks" of co-ed dorm life when he suddenly realizes he is mauling his



Deon Richmond plays a day dreaming high school senior in Trippin'.

fried eggs.

Reed is again catapulted into reality when Cinny, who had agreed to go to the prom with him, calls off the date because she finds out he had lied about college.

In his last ditch effort to "be real" Reed goes to the prom by himself. Instead of riding in the big stretch limousine as they had planned, he rides the bus to the prom.

Passing his high school, he notices someone has changed the marquee which promoted the prom from "Education and Recreation" to "Education and Procreation."

This movie, with its excellent soundtrack and accomplished actors, took me for a boisterously entertaining trip back to high school.

The film stars Richmond, Campbell, Donald Faison and Guy Torry. It is rated 'R' and opened in theaters on May 12.

—Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Campus hiring freeze melts, leaves openings

By Melissa Guice
Editor

Of the 39 jobs left vacant due to OKCCC's hiring freeze, 22 have been filled or eliminated.

The freeze, which has now been lifted, was implemented Feb. 1 by OKCCC President Bob Todd.

The freeze was to continue until an analysis of college employment trends was conducted.

"The analysis has been completed," Todd said. "It indicates that during the 10 year period of [fiscal year]

1989-90 to [fiscal year] 1998-99, the number of college employees has increased approximately 26 percent."

Todd wanted to be sure each position was still needed.

So far, 11 aren't.

The eliminated positions include a director of Safety and Security, a mail service technician, a corporate wellness and community relations specialist, an associate vice president for academic affairs, a human resource specialist, a human resource representative, assistant registrar, an admissions officer, micro-

computer support technician, a systems programming specialist and a secretary position.

With the exception of the eliminated positions, 18 positions have been either reassigned, temporarily filled, approved for a search or are still pending.

The six reassigned positions were filled by current employees while five have been temporarily filled.

Seven that were approved for a search will be advertised in area newspapers.

The positions pending a search include a dean of business, a dean of arts and humanities, a job de-

"The analysis has been completed. It indicates that, during the 10-year period of [fiscal year] 1989-90 to [fiscal year] 1998-99, the number of college employees has increased approximately 26 percent."

—Bob Todd
OKCCC President

veloper/intake specialist, a math lab assistant, a financial aid counselor, a lead interpreter and a micro-computer support technician.

Ten positions are still pending a justification of critical need, said Ruth

Boone director of human resources.

"The justification of critical need just means that we'll have to analyze the position," Boone said. "Then we'll determine to which of the four other categories it belongs."

• IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE PIONEER •

Student services has solution for long waits

By Courtney Owens
Newswriting I Student

Tired of long waits in the Counseling and Student Services Office? The counselors may have a solution — Student Development TV.

"Some students get sick of waiting and walk out before a counselor can see them," said Rusty Fox, dean of student development.

Fox said SDTV will make waits in the office more bearable, as well as inform students about OKCCC.

Peggy Jordan, who masterminded the project, explained her idea.

"We want to get information out in as many avenues as we can," she said.

SDTV will be set up in the waiting room of the Counseling and Student Development office. A wide variety of informative videos will be displayed. According to Jordan, the videos will display information about the many student services offered at OKCCC.

"This is a college that is more helpful in assisting students at being as successful as they can be," Jordan said.

She said videos about relaxation, stress reduction, anger management and study skills will also be shown.

"We will do anything we can, within reason, to help the students," Jordan said.

SDTV is still in planning. Counselors hope to have the first tape ready in August, just in time for the fall semester.

For more information about SDTV, call the Student Development Office at 682-7535, or stop by and speak with a counselor.

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OKCCC nursing students pinned, ready for future

**By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer**

Students, family and friends gathered in the college union May 13 for OKCCC's 1999 spring class pinning ceremony for the nursing program graduates.

The lights went down and the candlelight processional, which included nursing faculty and graduating students, entered from the back of the room. They advanced through the audience and took their places in the front.

OKCCC President Bob Todd offered his congratulations to the future nurses.

"OKCCC has the best nursing program and nursing faculty that exists," Todd said.

Several outstanding graduates were recognized with awards.

Patty Allen received an award of excellence. Jill

Alberter and Thomas Tucker were each given clinical excellence awards and Sara Bigger received the award for overall excellence.

Jennifer Akin and Kristina Woods shared some fond memories from the past two years of study. Akin cited the audience members as being crucial factors in the success of the graduates.

"Thanks to you, we can be in one of those pictures on the nursing school wall," Akin said.

Forty-two OKCCC students were pinned. Among them were: Jill Alberter, Jennifer Akin, Patti Allen, Linda Anderson, Chris Anshutz, Terry Antanaitis, Raymond Archer, Pricila Avalos and Kristina Ayers.

Also taking part in the ceremony were: Sara Bieger, Maranda Bigler, Edward Buchanan, Keri Carson, Michelle Clark, Peggy Clouse and Joy Felts.

Other graduates included: Amy Gay, Diane

Geddes, Shelli Gibson, Elizabeth Haile, Debbie Hartman, Nicole Hudson, Tina Lambert, Nona Lette and Krystal Lindquist.

Jeremy Moore, Timothy Morehouse, Treverlee Peters, Phillip Pruitt, Jamie Rich, Dawn Scott, Tracy Sellars, Amanda Smith, Melissa Smith, Shawna Stiles, Tina Streber and Angela Studebaker were pinned.

Other spring 1999 graduates included: Susan Joseph, Thomas Tucker, Chizoba Udo-Okoye, Shannon Wilson and Christina Woods.

Right: Dean of Nursing Anita Jones pins nursing graduate Jennifer Akin. Akin was among the 42 who graduated May 13.

Below: OKCCC has been sending caregivers out into the world since 1976. This early class of grads depict a time when nurses still wore starched white dresses. Today's nurses don more relaxing attire suited for the fast-paced career they've chosen.



Photo by
Darcey Ralls



Photo courtesy
OKCCC Public
Relations Office

Online classes convenient

**By Jan Gilbreath
Newswriting I Student**

Grab your keyboard and let's surf!

OKCCC now offers a number of credit classes online as an alternative to traditional classroom instruction.

What began about a year ago with two courses has swelled into 14 courses for the fall 1999 semester.

Michael Punches, professor of English composition, said students usually select online courses for the same reasons they chose telecourses.

"Convenience," he said.

Students studying online may choose their hours, work from a variety of locations, including home and at work and save on day care — all important considerations for the

"It's important not to fall behind. The student has to be very motivated and self-disciplined."

—Mike Punches

OKCCC English Composition Professor

working adult student.

While a basic knowledge of the World Wide Web is not required, it is helpful. Class assignments and discussions and, in some cases, tests are handled online.

"It's important not to fall behind," Punches said "It is very difficult to catch up. The student has to be very motivated and self-disciplined."

Courses follow a standard format with assignments due on a regular schedule. At this time, classes are not self-paced so they must be completed within the semester.

Professors create their

own online courses just as they do in the classroom, with techniques varying by instructor.

While some courses may be entirely outlined on the website, others will not be as detailed. Each course requires an on-campus orientation at the beginning of the semester.

Classroom discussions are replaced by chat rooms and bulletin boards so students develop a sense of camaraderie through electronic visits.

For additional information, visit the OKCCC website at: www.okc.cc.ok.us/distanced

OKCCC items fun way to show spirit

**By Jan Gilbreath
Newswriting I Student**

OKCCC logo merchandise is a fun way to show your school spirit. A quick check of the bookstore reveals a wide variety of merchandise, T-shirts, and school supplies bearing the familiar OKCCC sunburst.

During an unscientific survey on campus, OKCCC T-shirts came in behind the very popular University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University T-shirts. However, OKCCC shirts did show up more often than national sports teams or advertiser shirts.

Paula Jackson, the buyer, and shipping and receiving supervisor for the bookstore, said the clothing sells really well, especially when it is on sale.

"We run sales normally around book buy back, toward the end of the year and around holidays," Jackson said.

Three departments — Emergency Medical Technology, School of Nursing and Physical Therapist Assistant — have their own specialized clothing merchandise.

Shirts seem to be the most popular wearable item, but hats, jackets and sweatshirts are also available.

You may even want to drink your coffee from an OKCCC mug, pick up your keys on an OKCCC keychain, drive to school and attend class with your OKCCC pencils and notebooks, and carry it all in an OKCCC bag.

Whatever your logo preference, there is something for everyone.

Seniors go for the gold at classic games



Above: Dorothy Crosby plays exercise bingo during the 1999 Classic Senior Games.



Above: Friends waited together for the games to begin. From left, clockwise, Paris Rocklein, Gay Long, George Long, Lilli Mote and Earl Rocklein. This year, 331 seniors participated in the classic games which included beachball volleyball, washer throw and shuffleboard.

By Becky Gerred
Staff Writer

With pride and excitement, Gay and George Long carried the torch for the 18th annual Oklahoma Senior Classic Games held May 21 on the OKCCC campus.

This year, participants ranged in age from 55 and up. A 95-year-old lady was the oldest to join in the fun.

Margy Davis, OKCCC employee and staff assistant for the games, has worked with the program since 1992.

Davis said the number of participants stayed about the same as last year's 331.

"We had approximately 339 pre-registered this year," Davis said.

"The purpose of the Oklahoma Senior Classic Games is to promote physical well-being programs throughout the state," Davis said.

The Longs are veterans of the games.

"This is our fifth year," said Gay Long. "We really enjoy ourselves."

The Longs are especially proud of their roles as this

year's torchbearers.

When it came time to carry the flame, George said, he looked at Gay and asked, "Are we going to walk or run?"

Gay said she felt it was fitting for them to walk calmly up and back.

Afterwards, Gary Rankin, vice president of external educational programs, set the mood for the day by proclaiming, "Let the games begin."

Attendees participated in everything from exercise bingo to wheelchair laps, to beachball volleyball.

The Longs split up with George heading off to the bowling alley while Gay and a few friends stayed on campus taking part in exercise bingo, washer throw



Gay and George Long carried the torch in this year's Senior Classic Games opening ceremonies.

The Longs have participated in the games for the past five years.

and shuffleboard.

This year's games were sponsored by Hillcrest Health Center — A Saints Network Provider; OKCCC; Special Unit on aging — Department of Human Services; Salvation Army Senior Centers and COEDD Area Agency on Aging.

"This is our fifth year. We really enjoy ourselves."

—Gay Long
Participant and Co-Torchbearer for the 1999 Senior Classic Games

Photos by
Becky Gerred



Sechrist attends educator's leadership academy

By Jamie Johnson
Assistant Editor

More than 60 leaders gathered

OKCCC's own Dr. Paul Sechrist, vice president of academic affairs, recently graduated with more than 60 other Oklahoma leaders from the Educators Leadership Academy.

The program, designed by Ponca City businessman Charles Hollar and leadership consultant Dr. Leo Presley, takes a business-world approach to-

ward leadership in education.

"It was a wonderful experience," Sechrist said.

"It gave me an opportunity to explore a management and leadership role in a more sophisticated way."

The academy met last summer and again, four more times, over the course of the year to examine the latest concepts in leadership, systematic thinking, employee empowerment, trustworthiness and spirituality.

Sechrist said the academy was an application of what people do in their everyday jobs.

He said the most meaningful experience for him was spending a day with Dr. Ronald Herfetz, professor of business at Harvard.

"Dr. Herfetz discussed theories of leadership from a current standpoint with practical applications," Sechrist said.

He added that it was a great experience being able to work with people from

other places in jobs similar to his.

To be eligible to attend the academy, Sechrist first had to be nominated by the college president.

Then, he explained, he had to apply. After completing those steps, class members were then selected for the academy.

"This is an academy that is designed for administrators who are already in leadership positions who want to enhance their leadership skills."



Paul Sechrist
OKCCC Vice-President
of Academic Affairs

Graduates all smiles on special day

By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Approximately 250 graduation candidates participated in OKCCC's 1999 Commencement held May 14 at the Myriad in downtown Oklahoma City.

Robert Funk, founder of Express Personnel Services, delivered the commencement address.

He told the graduates they have completed a milestone but warned that a formal education is only the kindergarten of life and encouraged his audience to never stop learning.

"Do you know all of the answers?" Funk asked. "Perhaps not, but I'll bet you have a few good questions."

He explained that though answers may change, questions will remain the same. He humorously cited a few important questions. Where is the remote and does this dress make me look fat?

Funk concluded his speech by commending the college for helping Westmoore High School students after their school was hit by the May 3 tornado.

OKCCC Professor of Biology Dennis Anderson received the highest honor an instructor can obtain at the college.

At the commencement ceremony he was given the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Anderson said he was shocked.

"I had been nominated several times before and every year my family came just in case I won," Anderson said. "This year, I told everyone to stay home, don't bother to come."

"It was one of those things I was hoping would happen, but didn't really think it would. When it did, I was really surprised."

The award is given to a professor who models the very best of the faculty. A committee made up of faculty, staff and students review nominations and recommend three candidates to the college. OKCCC President Bob Todd makes the final decision.

Todd presented Anderson with the award. Anderson is one of 25 original faculty and has been with the college for 27 years.

Todd said Anderson has shown great enthusiasm in the classroom and a commitment to success.

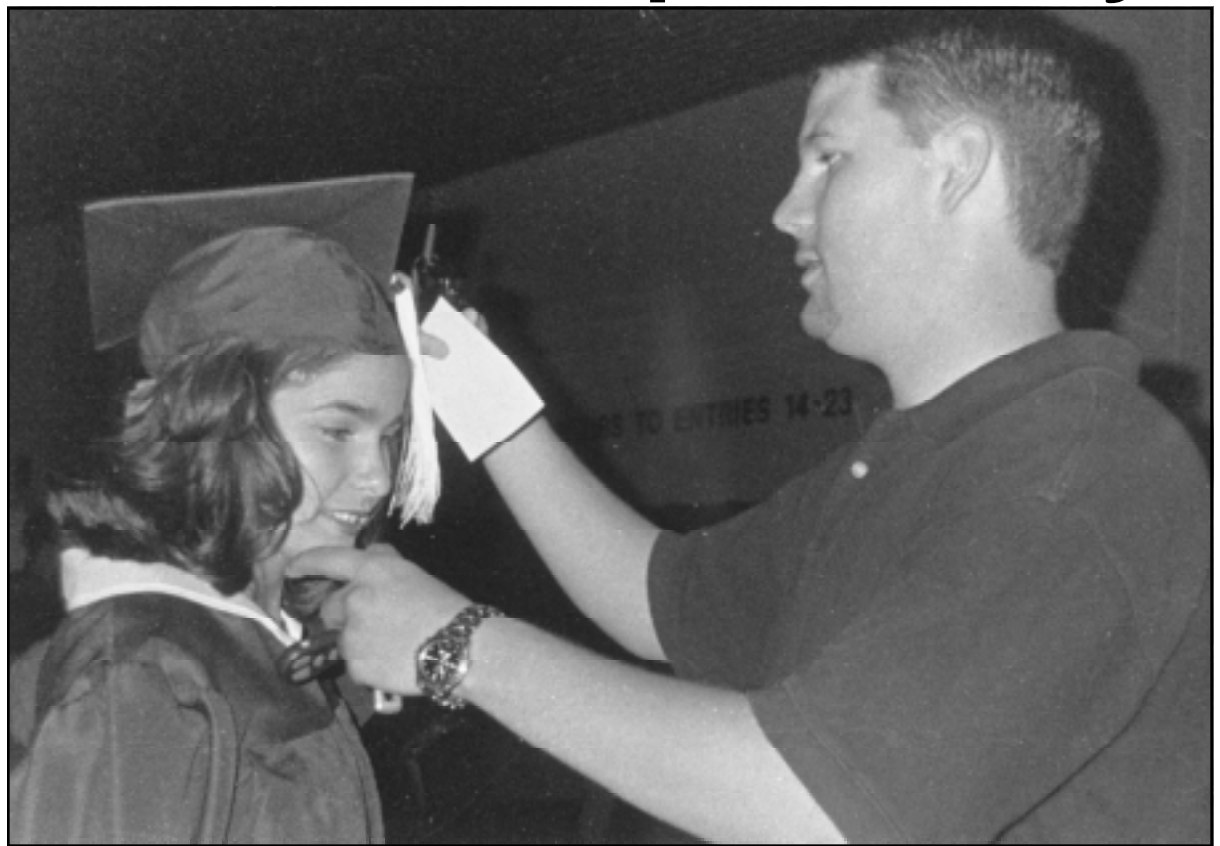
He said students value Anderson's teaching methods, innovative style and encouragement for success.

Many friends and family members braved the construction downtown to watch their loved ones graduate.

A reception was held in the outer lobby following the ceremony.

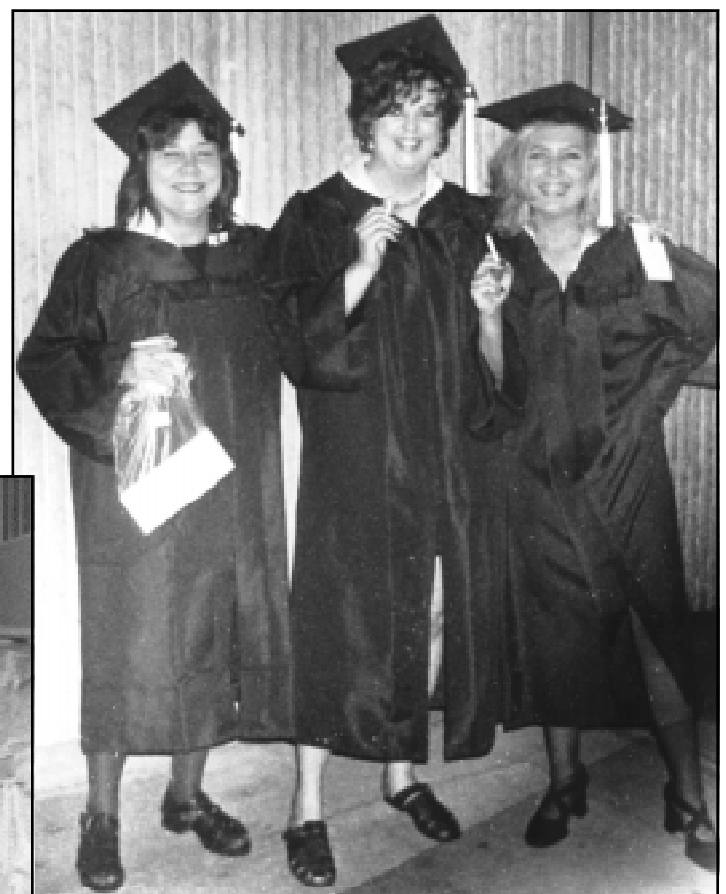
Right: OKCCC student Rollo Fellow congratulates recent graduate Rich Ortiz at the May 14 graduation ceremonies held at the Myriad Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

Ortiz received a degree in electronics from OKCCC. He said he plans to start classes at the University of Central Oklahoma in August where he will pursue a degree in computer science.



An excited Cindy Battaglia stands as still as possible as her boyfriend, University of Central Oklahoma student Marty Jones, adjusts her tassel prior to OKCCC's graduation ceremonies May 14. Battaglia received an associate degrees in applied science and finance.

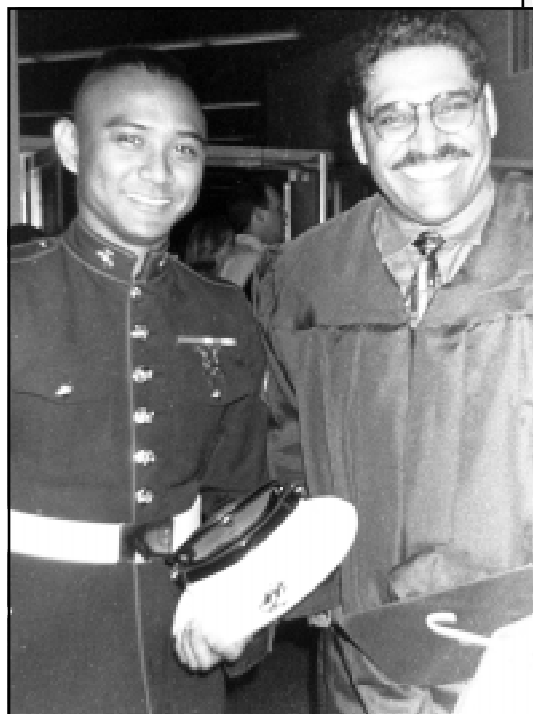
*Photos by
Darcey
Ralls*



Above: Left to right — Marna Schank, Kristi Osgood and Pauline Willoughby take a few minutes before graduation ceremonies to reflect on the years leading up to this big moment.

All three received associated degrees in applied science as occupational therapy assistants.

They were among approximately 250 others who graduated this year from OKCCC.



College fashions undergo change

By Valerie Nelson
Newswriting I Student

From bell-bottoms and button-fly jeans to butterfly collars and knee-high boots — with each year a new style comes to life in the college fashion world.

Stephen McCloy, professor of economics at OKCCC for the past 18 years has been witness to the changes.

"Clothing has gotten baggier and skirts have disappeared in favor of slacks," he said.

McCloy said he has also noticed baseball caps are being worn by all age groups, both male and female, and backpacks are in abundance.

"When I started teaching," McCloy said, "students simply carried their books."

But then, McCloy said, the age of the student body has changed somewhat too.

"The student body used to be an older set — 45 years of age and older," he said. "They would come to

evening studies wearing coat and tie and the ladies wearing business suits."

Today, McCloy said, students are wearing more T-shirts and jeans and attending day classes.

College administrators have also changed their image according to McCloy.

"It used to be that the administration did not wear coat and ties very frequent," recalls McCloy. "They now wear them every day."

Others have also noticed a more comfortable attire.

"It's much more casual now than in the '70s," said Nirmala Varmha, professor of English.

Some think that students look much better now and care more about their appearance.

"In the '70s kids did not care as much about what they wore as they do today," said Charlotte French, executive director of enrollment management.

"The shoes are not much different now though."

"I wish I had saved some of my shoes from then."

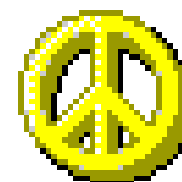


Left: The OKCCC choir of the '70s were fashion plates with wide shirt lapels and even wider bell bottoms worn by both men and women.



Left: Knee-high boots were popular in the '70s. Girls would either wear them with skirts — midi or mini — or with pants, tucking the lower portion into the boots.

Below: Turtle-necks and vests were also very popular as shown in this fashion show photo.



Right: Current OKCCC President Bob Todd was quite the trendsetter in the early days of the college. His wide tie and hairstyle reflect the times well.



Student wins state's top male journalist scholarship

By Valerie Rodgers
Contributing Writer

This year's scholarship winner for top college male in broadcasting goes to recent OKCCC graduate Jason Goodwin.

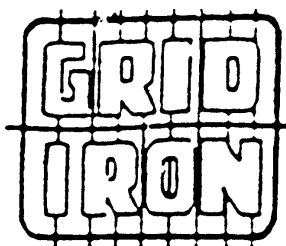
Goodwin competed with hundreds of students from high schools, junior colleges and universities across the state for the prestigious W.B. Bill Martineau Gridiron Scholarship.

This award is designed to recognize top students in print and broadcast journalism. It was founded and is supported by people currently working in those fields.

Goodwin received a \$2500 scholarship to be used to further his goals in broadcasting.

Recipients of this award must go through a series of rigorous requisites which, for Goodwin, included filling out the application and submitting a résumé, cassette tapes of on-the-air experiences, a videotape of live TV news coverage and articles he wrote for the OKCCC Pioneer.

After a weeding process to determine which students qualified for the award, Goodwin was called back for an interview to test his impromptu abilities and



determine if he was Gridiron material.

In the end, he walked away with one of the highest awards.

Jason Goodwin graduated from OKCCC this spring with a double major in broadcasting journalism and theater arts.

He managed to juggle two jobs in the process, one of which is at KTOK NewsRadio 1000, where he produces talk shows and newscasts.

"It was in college that I first began to seriously consider working in broadcasting," Goodwin said.

"It never felt like work to me, and I could do it for

hours and not get bored.

"So I thought hey, I could do what I like and get paid for doing it."

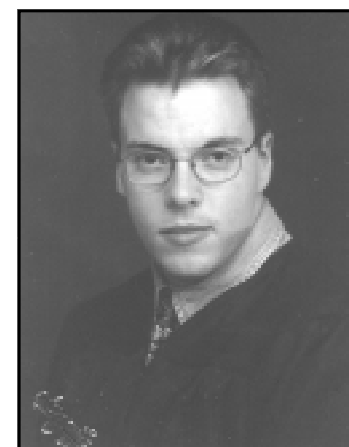
He said he plans to continue his education at the University of Central Oklahoma, where he will work toward a bachelor's in broadcasting.

From there, he said, he wants to try his hand at small-market television news, then eventually come back to Oklahoma as a television reporter.

Don Schmidt, chairman of the Gridiron Scholarship committee, said Goodwin impressed the committee.

"He was an outstanding candidate for this award and we were glad to give it to him."

"He deserved it."



Jason Goodwin was recently named Oklahoma's top male journalist scholarship winner by the Gridiron Foundation. Goodwin graduated in May from OKCCC with a double degree in broadcasting and theater arts. He has plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma.

Student turns back yard into big thrill ride

**By Jamie Johnson
Assistant Editor**

Remember those seemingly endless car trips to the amusement park for an anticipated ride on the roller coaster?

One student need go no further than his own back yard to experience the same thrill.

With the help of OKCCC professor of engineering and physics Masil Masilamani, Jeremy Reid, 21, built his own thrilling ride.

Reid, former OKCCC engineering and physics student, said he has been working on the roller coaster for more than a year and a half.

Reid is now a mechanical engineering major at the University of Oklahoma.

He was one of 30 under-

graduate students from 14 Oklahoma colleges and universities recently recognized for outstanding achievement during the Research Day activities held April 19 at the State Capitol.

"I've had a fascination with roller coasters ever since I was a little kid," said Reid.

"I started to take engineering classes and started to learn the physics of how roller coasters work," he said.

"I decided that I wanted to build this for myself to show others I could do it."

Reid said he didn't anticipate the enormity of the project as he first began to build the coaster in his back yard in Newcastle.

"It got a lot bigger than I ever imagined it would be. I had to take pictures to my professors to show them

what I did.

"They didn't understand how big it was until then."

He said his coaster stands about 20 feet tall and is about 150 yards long.

"It goes about 21 miles per hour," Reid said. "It gains a lot of speed on the way down. You come out of your seat."

Reid said his professors were amazed by his unique application of classroom information.

Masilamani said he had no idea the coaster was as big as it was until he went to look for himself.

"He was talking about it and I thought it was something small," he said.

"Jeremy is a typical community college student.

"He really made progress from an average to an outstanding student.

"He became interested in



Photo courtesy of OKCCC Public Relations

Jeremy Reid takes time to explain to an attendee of Research Day how he built a roller coaster in his Newcastle backyard. Research Day was sponsored by the National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCOR) and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

engineering and used the stuff he learned in class to build his roller coaster," Masilamani said about his former student.

After graduation, Reid said, he hopes to work for an amusement park or a roller coaster design company.

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*This week's entries must be received by noon Thursday, June 10.

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Highlights

Campus Activities Board to meet

A Campus Activities Board meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. June 8 in CU7. Students wishing to help plan and carry out campus activities are encouraged to attend the meeting and join CAB. This organization is responsible for implementing a variety of campus events. CAB is a fun and exciting group that gives every student the chance to be involved in the activities at OKCCC. Advised by the Coordinator of Student Activities, Mike Jones, this group meets every other Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. For more information contact Jones at 682-1611 ext. 7318.

College, Ripper Park getting kids into swim of summer

Kids spending time at Ripper Park in Bethany this summer will be getting into the swim of things with new activities provided by OKCCC's Aquatic Center Staff. The park's first-ever competitive swimming team is now forming for children ages seven to 14 who have completed Level 4 of the American Red Cross Learn to Swim program or who can demonstrate Level 4 skills. The team will compete against others from around the metropolitan area. The team meets during four-week sessions, to be held from 8 to 9 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays beginning June 7 and continuing until July 29. Cost is \$30 for each session. Junior lifeguards ages 11 to 15 are also needed to assist instructors with morning and evening Learn to Swim classes, to be held in 10 separate two-week sessions June 7 through Aug. 12. OKCCC Aquatic Center staff will provide the training for the volunteer junior lifeguard positions. Junior lifeguards will receive passes to White Water Bay and Celebration Station fun parks and will be treated to an end-of-the-summer party. For more information about joining the swim team, becoming a junior lifeguard or enrolling in Learn to Swim classes, call Melanee Hamilton, Learn to Swim coordinator, at 682-1611, ext. 7786.

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 deadline approaching

The William P. Willis Scholarship is now available. Requirements include income of less than \$20,000, Oklahoma residence, and full-time enrollment for the Fall and Spring semesters. The deadline for the William P. Willis Scholarship is June 18. 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, Prospective Student Services Assistant, at 682-1611 ext. 7580.

Loop road to be closed Saturday, June 5

On Saturday, June 5, the loop road around the OKCCC campus will be closed from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. This is due to the large number of biking and riding participants in the South Mid-West Regional Championship SuperSprint Triathlon hosted by OKCCC's Aquatic Center. If any staff or faculty need access to the building during these hours, please park in the Child Development parking lot and carefully cross the loop road to the main building. For more information or to volunteer, contact Bret Wood, Coordinator of Aquatics and Sports, at 682-1611 ext. 7662.



Photo by Darcey Ralls

Club members assemble bouquets for Mother's Day:

Pass with Class members (l to r) Chandra Hanson, Jewell Shannon and Shiela Cannon made Mother's Day bouquets which were sold to raise money for the club's activities. The activities are designed to allow club members to spend quality time with their children. On May 15 they went on a picnic and they are planning a trip to White Water Bay this summer. Pass with Class provides a support structure for single parents and for members of the TANF program who attend OKCCC. For more information about the club, contact sponsors Annmarie Shirazi at 682-1611 ext. 7213 or J. P. Johnson at 682-1611 ext. 7533.

Summer activities promise fun in the sun

By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Everyone from teens to senior citizens can get buff for summer in hot new fitness classes offered by the Office of Recreation and Community Services at OKCCC.

Seniors can instantly feel the benefits of Tai Chi, an ancient form of exercise that consists of slow, relaxed movements which circulate energy, or Chi, throughout the body. Classes meet from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday and Wednesday mornings for six weeks beginning June 7 and July 19. Cost is \$45.

Or jump into Cardio Kickboxing, the exercise that combines the fun of karate and self-defense with calorie-burning aerobics. This class, which requires no previous martial

arts or aerobic experience, is great for beginners. Classes meet from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for eight weeks beginning June 1 and July 27. Cost is \$35 per eight-week session.

For teen-agers between the ages of 11 and 15 who complain about being bored, the Office of Recreation and Community Services is offering three great camps this summer to chase the boredom away.

Kids will learn the principles of leadership through an intense three-day curriculum that uses group trust and teamwork learning to rappel. The camp meets June 10, 11 and 12 at Red Rock Canyon State Park in Hinton. Cost is \$250.

Teens can explore leadership through activities such as rappelling, hiking, camping, first aid, CPR and more. The Teen Xtreme

camp meets from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday May 24 through Aug. 6 at Western Oaks Middle School, 7200 NW 23rd. Cost is \$68 per week.

In Career Camp participants have the opportunity to explore a different career each week. The camp meets from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from June 7 to Aug. 6 at OKCCC. Cost is \$55 per week.

For more information about the fitness classes or teen camps or to enroll, call Jonie Welle, Community Education Coordinator, at 682-1611 ext. 7205.



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

FOR SALE: 89 Honda Accord LXI, automatic, 4 dr., am/fm stereo, A/C. Reliable. Good deal. \$4300. Call David or Woody at 525-8359.

FOR SALE: 95 Izuzu Rodeo- 6 cyl, 56K miles, all power, tilt, cruise, alarm, tint, super nice. \$13,800 OBO. Call 682-9190.

FOR SALE: Exc. deal on 83 Volvo Turbo wagon. Contact Leeann at 943-8049 or 682-7561.

MISCELLANEOUS

ROOMMATE WANTED: Looking for Asian female roommate. NW or near OKCCC. Call Sania 947-7003.

FOR SALE: HP 5040 Pavilion, 1.2 mgh, 40 mg ram, Windows 98, fax-modem, speakers, and monitor, \$350. Also, 85 Sony Trinitron 19" color TV, \$125. Call 692-1407.

FOR SALE: Truck box. Heavy plastic "Work Box," black, locks, 5 ft. across. \$25, call 672-6328.

FOR SALE: College algebra book and solutions manual. Both for \$75. Call Robby at 745-3994 or 410-2626.

FOR SALE: Wooden bunkbed. Angled design, twin top, double bottom. Drawers underneath bottom with mattresses and hardware, ladder, side railing. \$350 call 672-6328.

FOR SALE: Wedding items never used. White wedding dress, size 8/10; long sleeve, V-neckline, full train, V-waistline \$600 OBO. Two slips, size 8/10 \$40 OBO. Veil-comb, shoulder length, beaded with roses \$90 OBO. Cake top, heart shaped, cherub angels \$50 OBO. Three bridesmaid dresses, long chiffon bow, maroon \$65 OBO. White shoes, size 10, sq heel, \$35 OBO. All items from David's Bridal. Contact Jill at 691-0613, leave message.

ANIMALS

FOR SALE: Cute and adorable black German Shepherd puppies, need new homes. Only 7 weeks old. \$50 each. Call David or Woody after 5 p.m. at (405) 525-8359.

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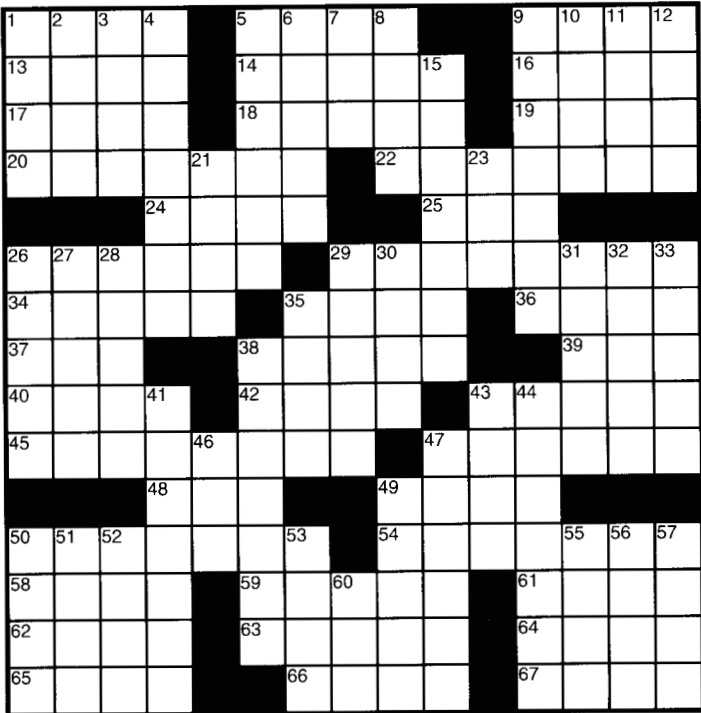
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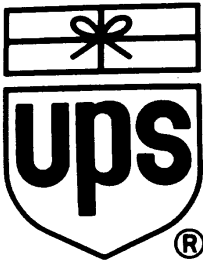
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College becomes storm shelter

"Storm,"

Cont. from page 1

"We started talking and we realized there was really no way we could leave," Craig said. "We were stuck there."

That is when Carr walked in.

Carr had left after the students and staff had been released from the science lab. Unable to make it through the traffic and the confusion, Carr turned around and came back to OKCCC.

Even if the roads had been drivable, McGlutch was left without a ride. Her husband had dropped her off at school.

"His plans were to drop me off for class, take the girls to get a hair cut, go to Wal-Mart and pick me up after class."

As he passed by, OKCCC Campus Security Officer Al Horn overheard the women talking about their dilemma in passing.

"As I kept walking by, I would stop to talk to the ladies and ask how things were going," Horn said. "Finally, the time came for the school to close."

"I knew they weren't going to be able to leave."

Horn set up camp for the foursome in the Nursing Center near entry five.

Two of the women drove to a nearby grocery store to buy dinner and other "essentials."

"I remember I had a ham sandwich and then we had some M&M's and other goodies," Craig said. "In light of it all — you've got to make fun where you can find it."

The four took showers in the Wellness Center and watched television in the Nursing Center.

Horn, who lives in Midwest City, another area hit hard by the tornadoes, had to wait until 1 a.m. himself to find out if his house was damaged.

His wife and children had left their home and gone to a shelter before the tornadoes hit their neighborhood, Horn said.

Shortly after, Horn's wife and children made their way back to the still-standing home, gathered up some supplies and brought shirts and jogging pants up to the school for the women to sleep in.

Each of the women, except for McGlutch, had been able to contact their families.

"I was just a basket case," she said.

"The other women there tried to comfort me and keep my mind off of it, but,

I was worried — I was in a panic."

Horn, whose shift usually lasts from 4 p.m. to midnight, stayed through the night from 2 p.m. Monday afternoon until 8 a.m. the next morning. He made phone calls to nearby police stations and shelters in search of McGlutch's family.

McGlutch finally located her family the following afternoon at the Moore Community Center.

Craig drove her to the center.

"I didn't know at the time, but as Susan drove me down the street, we passed her best friend's home — it was leveled," McGlutch said. "Susan

"We started talking and we realized there was really no way we could leave. We were stuck there."

—Susan Craig
OKCCC Student

held back her tears for me."

The four women who never even knew each other's names became close friends that night.

"It is amazing how one night can pull you together so quickly," Craig said of her newfound friends.

"It is just amazing."

houses and teaches some 180 students.

"It is an old school that has been around for a long time but people need to let go," she said, pointing out that a magnet school in the city would better serve deaf students in the metro and surrounding areas.

"One thing talked about was the idea to build a magnet school for the deaf in Oklahoma City," she said. "It would replace the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur."

Cheatwood agreed with the plan to replace the school for the deaf. She attended the school that

Westmoore students pick up where they left off at OKCCC

"Westmoore,"

Cont. from page 1

May 10 through 20. Faculty, staff, students and volunteers all pitched in to accommodate the needs of Westmoore's students.

The Westmoore newspaper and yearbook staffs lost the spring yearbook supplement and the last issue of their newspaper in the tornado.

By using the OKCCC Pioneer student newspaper office and equipment, they were able to combine the supplement and the newspaper and put out an issue which they called The Aftermath.

Sally Burr, Westmoore's newspaper adviser, had to spend most of her time teaching class in OKCCC's nursing center.

She said her students practically put out the final issue without her being around.

"We try to teach these kids independence," she said. "I felt really successful. They came in on their own time and did what they've been taught to do."

"I am very proud of them," Burr said.

Gary Lombard, OKCCC vice president for business and finance, coordinated the transition effort and made sure the Westmoore teachers had the supplies and equipment necessary to conduct classes.

"We felt this was the best way we could help," he said. "The devastation of the tornado has affected the entire community."

"Many people at the college and at Westmoore have lost all their possessions."

"We just want them to know we will do whatever it takes to give them back a sense of stability while they rebuild their lives."

According to Robert Funk, this year's speaker at OKCCC's graduation ceremony May 14, the college demonstrated its commitment to the community by reaching out to help the tornado victims.

"OKCCC has put the community into the college."



A quilt bearing this Senior '99 square in the middle hung in the glass case in the main building while Westmoore students attended OKCCC. The class of 1999 finished their last two weeks on the college campus this year after a tornado destroyed parts of Westmoore High School.

Hearing-impaired student helps set record

"Record,"

Cont. from page 1

speaker for the day-long event.

Cheatwood said she took the opportunity to catch up on new technology for the disabled as well as some proposed state changes.

"One thing talked about was the idea to build a magnet school for the deaf in Oklahoma City," she said. "It would replace the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur."

Cheatwood agreed with the plan to replace the school for the deaf. She attended the school that

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Summer bookstore hours

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8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

These hours are in effect until the week of Aug. 9 with the exception of extended hours June 8 and holidays