

- Textbooks too costly, editorial, p. 2.
- Laser tag comes to OKCCC, p. 4.
- Casino Night sees full house, p. 5.
- Organization Fair cut short, p. 6.

Oklahoma City Community College PIONER

Many qualify for financial aid assistance

Half of all OKCCC students receive help

By Kathi Etherton **Staff Writer**

**** ollege can be expen-✓ sive, but that does not have to make getting an education impossible. Many forms of financial aid are available.

Nearly half of the students attending OKCCC in the 1998-1999 school year received some type of finan-

Harold Case, dean of financial aid, said students need to start applying for financial aid for the fall semester now.

More than \$8 million was awarded to students last year. Case said money should not be a factor in keeping anyone from taking classes.

"Almost everyone — regardless of income — can receive financial aid, whether it's a grant, loan, scholarship or tuition fee waiver," he said.

"The college offers all of these types of financial as-

"It is critical that students fill out the FAFSA

"Almost everyone regardless of income — can receive financial aid, whether it's a grant, loan, scholarship or tuition fee waiver."

—Harold Case **OKCCC Financial Aid** Dean

form. If they are interested they can do it on the web, in our [financial aid] office or on any of the sites around campus that are hooked up to the web or from their home comput-

Case said there is money that goes unclaimed but, he said, the reason could either be that students don't know about the award or that the award is too specific and not enough people are eligible.

"They are not general scholarships. They are very specific scholarships and many times they do go unclaimed because people aren't aware that they might meet the criteria."

He said there are searches on the web that will bring up these awards and make students aware of the criteria.

Case said students sometimes turn in applications but inadvertantly leave out information.

He said the financial aid department notifies those students but there are some students who ignore the requests and lose the

Acording to Case, another problem that keeps a student from receiving financial aid is poor academic progress.

The financial aid office has to consider academic progress because the student is receiving federal dollars, he said.

See "Financial," page 8



Old Man Winter: After an unseasonably mild winter, Oklahoma finally receives the first sign that it really is the cold season. This picture was shot Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. It shows what students had to brave at the main entrance of the college in order to enter.

Afternoon classes, beginning with the 1 p.m. classes, were cancelled and the college closed its doors at 3 p.m. All classes were cancelled the following day and the college remained closed as well as the snow continued to fall, blanketing much of central Oklahoma with more than a foot of snow. Oklahoma weathermen said the snowfall is the biggest Oklahoma has had in the last decade. For more information on college closings and other news, visit the college website at: www.okc.cc.ok.us or call (405) 682-1611.

Writing contest deadline nears

By Michaela Marx Editor

Tf hidden writing tal-Lents linger within you and you hope to get published or win a cash prize with your work, the deadline for the annual Essay Contest, organized by the OKCCC English Department, is Feb. 1.

Students who were enrolled in English 1113 or 1213 in 1999 may enter one essay of their choice.

The winner in each category, English 1113 and 1213, will receive a \$100 cash prize along with a backpack filled with books and other goodies, said OKCCC English professor will not be returned. Mary Punches.

The prizes will be awarded in April.

She said submitted essays should be no longer than 2000 words; however, there is no minimum.

The entry must be typed or computer printed on white paper, double-spaced with standard margins.

Entries should be stapled, include an entry form and an 'Absolute' release form.

The title page should contain the writer's name, address, social security number and phone num-

Punches also advises writers to keep a copy of the work, because the essays

Punches said she encourages every eligible student to enter the contest.

"We do not have very many entries yet; therefore the chances to win are pretty good," she said.

The entries should be mailed or delivered to Punches.

For more information call Punches at 682-1611, ext. 7634 or English professor Bertha Wise at ext. 7658. Punches said a student may also seek help from any OKCCC English professor.

Guidelines and entry forms are available on campus or on the Internet at http://www.okc.cc.ok.us/ ah/essay contest.htm.

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Textbook prices put the pinch on students

Books have been bought by many students (as you might have seen by the horrendous line at the OKCCC bookstore), and the question now is: Did you spend too much for what you got?

I think that the cost of books is ridiculous in regards to the fact that we all know that the book publishers did not spend that much to make them.

I spent more time and money that I ever thought I would at that bookstore and when I sold them back at the end of the last semester, I got \$15 for a book I spent \$79 on. In some cases, the book was discontinued so I received nothing for it but that's another problem in itself.

The bottom line is — the bookstore is already making a profit, then they sell the books again as used books for an outrageous amount and the cycle continues. So, not only did they make a profit the first time, they also made a profit the second time around.

It seems as if students are getting short-changed because as soon as they sell their books back, they go and spend more on new books for the following semester.

One way to eliminate a little overspending is to beg, borrow, and buy books from students who have already had the class.

If you have a class and you know that next year they will use the same book, keep it, don't sell it back. Put your name on the bulletin boards around school for this purpose. Also let your professor know you have a particular book and maybe the professor will give your number to one of his new students who need to buy that book.

This way, you make more than you would if you sold it back to the bookstore and the student who buys the book saves money because the price is less than the bookstores used price.

Another way is to save is to shop online. This might save a little money and the hassle of standing in line. Before you click on the cart to buy the book, do some research. I have found that with some books you save as much as \$15 by purchasing it online but for others you only save a few dollars. And the few dollars you save go toward shipping costs.

For instance, the Advertising Procedures book by Russell Kleppner is \$88.05 at OKCCC and only \$73.57 at Varsitybooks.com. I think this is still expensive, but any little money saved is worth it.

Whether you buy your books at OKCCC or another venue there is a considerable mark up. I think college students are being taken advantage of because they must purchase the books.

After paying tuition and student fees, college students are beginning to feel a little low on cash and they still have to spend hundreds of dollars on books.

—Kathi Etherton Staff Writer

Don't take OKCCC for granted

To the Editor:

A little more than a year ago, I graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree.

I transferred to OU from OKCCC with an associate's degree. Before I left the community college, I did my share of whining.

It was only after I left the community college to attend the university that I realized just how simple it is for students at OKCCC.

By that, I don't mean the coursework is not just as

demanding. In most cases, it is. However, the parking, getting around campus and scheduling time in any of the labs is much easier.

For one thing, there is no parking fee at OKCCC. At OU, a student will pay dearly for the privilege of maybe finding a parking space and then probably walking a half mile to class.

Then after you leave that class, you'll walk outside — not inside like you would at OKCCC — to a class that may be located all the way

across campus. Sometimes it's raining so you may be soaked by the time you get there.

Want an appointment at OU's writing lab? Better plan way ahead.

The point is — OU is a great university and it's beautiful too but OKCCC really knows how to take care of its students.

—R. Austin OKCCC Alumni

PIONEER

Vol. 28 No. 19

Michaela Marx......Editor Kathi Etherton......Staff Writer Ryan Johnson....Photographer Susan Wierimaa...Ad. Manager Ronna Austin......Lab Director Sue Hinton......Faculty Adviser

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All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher.

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 PIO-NEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 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.

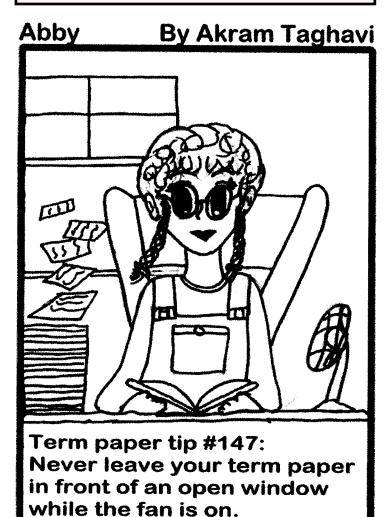
The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: http://www.okc.cc.ok.us



READERS!

Use these pages to share your ideas, thoughts, comments with the rest of the world.

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We want to hear from you!



Comments and Reviews

'Cradle Will Rock' weaves tale of suspense

I recently saw the new movie "Cradle Will Rock."

Halfway through the movie I still did not know what to think. I know now: It was... interesting.

New York City's art and theater world of the 1930s is the setting of the film. There is not only one story; the movie is a net of interwoven stories.

America is striken by labor strikes and New York is the center of a cultural and political revolution.

Italian propagandist Margherita Sarfatti sells Italian art such as DaVinci's to American millionaires, such as Rockefeller and Hearst, to fund Mussolini's war plans.

Nelson Rockefeller pays Mexican artist Diego Rivera to paint the lobby of the brand-new Rockefeller Center.

A young actor and director named Orson Welles directs a stage production of "Cradle Will Rock," which will be closed down on opening night and the hunt for communists has begun.

All these stories are supported by even more demanding personal stories.



stars such names as Susan Sarandon, Joan and John Cusack, Bill Murray, Emily Watson, Vanessa Redgrave and Hank Azaria. Even though the

cast of this movie includes so many superstars, there is no leading character. Each and every one of these characters is of equal importance and strength.

The magic of this movie is created by this. Each character's personality is developed and detailed. Even the non-speaking characters like Hearst's girlfriend or Frieda Kahlo, who is Diego Rivera's sidekick, are important and believable.

However, the list of stars does not break up when it comes to the credits for director and screenwriter Tim Robbins.

The movie is unusual in many ways, not only because you follow more than

one character, but also due to its

artistic style of film making as well as an extraordinary script.

It has the character of a play or a classic movie.

This movie includes singing and unusual storytelling mixed in with a political message.

That was why I leaned over halfway through the movie and asked my boyfriend sympathetically, "Do you want to leave? ...we don't half to stay...I have enough to review the movie..." I guess it was not that bad because we stayed until the end.

Overall, this movie is great, very artistic and beautifully shot.

However, it's not a movie for people who can't enjoy a movie unless a car is blown up during the first few minutes or those who had to run out of the theater when they realized "Evita" was a musical.

I say, go see it! It's great. Just do not take anyone who rather would like to see the new James Bond movie.

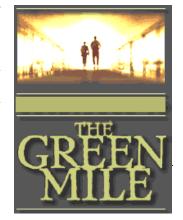
—By Michaela Marx Editor

Death row story gives life to movie

You walk countless miles in your life but how many of can say we ever walked a green mile on our way to eternity.

How many of us know what "The Green Mile" is? Not many unless you've seen the latest movie adaptation of Stephen King's serialized novel or actually read it. Don't let the fact that it's another big-screen version of one of his books throw you off because this one is actually good.

This death-row saga is set in a 1935 southern prison headed by none other than the man himself: Tom Hanks. Hanks plays the role of Paul Edgecomb, the chief guard the prison, who receives a larger-than-life prisoner named John Coffey, played by Michael Clarke Duncan. This prisoner has a special gift.



Who is Michael Clarke Duncan you ask? He is known to millions of thankful people as that big, lovable Bear from "Armageddon." The rest of the movie is supported by big faces but not so big names such as David Morse, who's most notable for "The Rock," and Gary Sinise.

The story unfolds with small trials and tribulations of the guards and the prisoners all trying to make sense of what life has handed them and what they have handed themselves

The whole thing is scattered with familiar faces that reunite actors with seemingly "old friends" and it gives a sense of a big family with a member here and a member there.

This penitentiary story was adapted for film and directed by Frank Darabont whose last movie just happened to be "The Shawshank Redemption," also a Stephen King novel, so if you liked it you have to see this one.

It runs a little over three hours but may well be worth it for anyone wanting to see a movie that doesn't rely on explosions and extremely hot girls to keep your attention.

On my scale of "a-lot-of-bars-and-small-confined-spaces-that-still-feel-like-home" I give this movie an $8\ of\ 10$.

—John Huggins Contributing Writer

German restaraunt wunderbar!

What do you think of when you hear the words German food? Yes, it is beer and schwein (pork) served by people in Lederhosen, who happily sing along with a Polka song.

To clear up the common stereotype of Germans, there are other things they eat and drink. I know that because I happen to be very German.

One day I had this incredible craving for German food and I discovered The Keller in the Kastle. It is owned by real Germans named Vormann.

It is located on 820 N. MacArthur. The restaurant itself looks like a small castle. The dining area is not one big room, but at least three individually decorated rooms.

But now to the important facts: the food!

They serve the better kind of food. Believe it or not, Germans do not live on Bratwurst and Sauerkraut, even though it is available at The Keller. They have different versions of Schnitzel and old favorites such as the Apple Strudel.

Everybody in my party liked the Rouladen, a thin beef fillet rolled up with vegetables, bacon and mustard, with brown gravy and either Knoedel (Big Potato Dumplings) or Spaetzle (German egg noodles).

The food tastes authentic German because they cook with real German recipes.

The Keller also has an impressive wine selection.

Everything on the menu is spelled out in German as well as in English, but trying to pronounce the German words is more fun.

It is fine dining, although it is not too fancy. The atmosphere is great.

My tongue enjoyed this little trip back home to Germany very much. I give The Keller in the Kastle five out of five flying Lederhosen!

—Michaela Marx Editor

OKCCC gears up for a day of Laser Tag

By Ryan Johnson Staff Writer

It's a game of skill and precision, a game where speed is everything. Shoot or be shot.

Laser tag by Laser Storm will be at OKCCC from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 7 in CU1, 2, and 3. Admission is free and the games are open to everyone.

Student Life Director Mike Jones said it's a good way to blow off some steam.

The laser tag game has many features to give you the thrill of a lifetime. It is located in a self-contained arena with enough lasers and room for 12 competitors.

Features include surround sound to enhance your auditory experience. A fog machine and search lights will give you the feel of the hunt and the electronic scoreboard keeps you informed of who is in the lead.

To simply put it in the words of Laser Storm it is "The game of tag at the speed of light."

The activity is sponsored by Campus Activities Board.

Because of the college closing for bad weather, students have been given a payment extension until Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The original deadline was Friday, Jan. 28.



Photo by Ryan Johnson

The guitar man: Michael Gulezian entertains the lunch bunch in the College Union with a variety of musical styles, ranging from jazz and rock to classical. Student Life sponsored the performance.

SPJ Job & Internship Fair

Presented by

The Society of Professional Journalists Friday, Feb. 25, 2000

12:30 to 4 p.m.
Frontier Room, Oklahoma Memorial Union
The University of Oklahoma, Norman

Keynote Speaker Tom Lindley

Senior Staff Writer
The Daily Oklahoman

Before coming to The Oklahoman, Lindley was editor of The Flint Journal in Michigan, where he also wrote columns for the opinion page. In addition, he has served as graphics and sports managing editor at The Times Picayune in New Orleans and as a national reporter for The Dallas Times Herald.

Panel members: Editors and Recent Graduates

Carol Hartzog, managing editor, Edmond Sun

Dennis Lang, managing editor, The Lawton Constitution
Carla Hinton, metro editor, The Daily Oklahoman
Susan Ellerbach, managing editor, Tulsa World
Lisa Tatum, 1998 University of Central Oklahoma graduate and medical reporter for The Daily Oklahoman
Jason Collington, 1998 Oklahoma State University of Oklahoma graduate and feature writer for the Tulsa World
Nicole Hughes, 1998 University of Oklahoma graduate and staff writer for The Wichita Eagle

SCHEDULE

Noon-12:30 p.m. Registration

12:30-1:45 p.m. "Workplace realities": Editors from several major Oklahoma newspapers will join recent graduates in a panel

discussion of what employers expect and what new employees will find on the job. Panelists will allow time for

questions from those attending.

2-2:45 p.m. "A Passion for the Profession": Oklahoma Senior Staff Writer Tom Lindley 3-4 p.m. Networking: Participants will meet with editors from regional newspapers.

BRING YOUR RESUME AND CLIPS

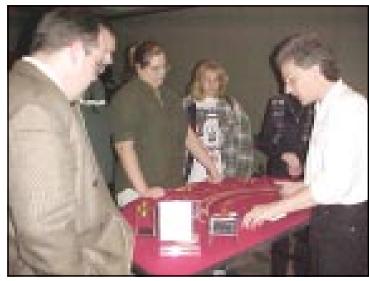
Las Vegas gambling, OKCCC style



Left: Looking like he's flown in directly from a Las Vegas casino, volunteer dealer and OKCCC student Matt Cook gets into the spirit of the evening.

He, along with other OKCCC students and personnel, volunteered time to operate gaming tables at Casino Night.

The games included most games that can be found in Las Vegas except slot machines.



Above: Student Life director Mike Jones shows off his carddealing prowess at the blackjack table during Casino Night held Jan. 21 in the college union. Jones said the evening was fun for all the community members and students who attended.

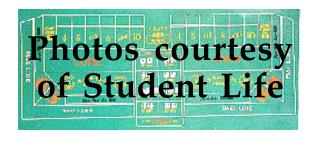




Above: Hit or stay? Gamers wait to see if they'll hit 21 at one of the blackjack tables set up in the student union during Casino Night. Dealer Pat Hauck, an employee in OKCCC's financial aid department, was one of the many college employees who volunteered time to work the various games. Participants could win all types of fun door prizes during the games.



Above: A brave soul lays his chips on the line at a roulette table. Casino Night is sponsored by Student Life each year.



Highlights

SPJ Job and Internship Fair

The Society of Professional Journalists are having a job and internship fair from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25 at the University of Oklahoma in the Frontier Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. There will be speakers. Bring your résumé and clips of your work.

Morris K. Udall Scholarship Applications due

Morris K. Udall scholarship applications are due in the office of Prospective Student Services by Feb. 1. Native Americans or environmental majors eligible. For applications, see Prospective Student Services.

Financial courses offered in weekend format

OKCCC is offering a new 24-credit hour certificate program in Financial Services. Pre-licensing courses for insurance and finance professionals will be offered in weekend format this spring. The first course will meet Feb. 4 through 6 and Feb. 12 through 13. The second course will meet Feb. 18 through 20 and Feb. 26 through 27. For more information or to enroll call the Business Division at 682-7550.

NACAO meeting and taco sale

The Native American Culture Awareness Organization is having a meeting at 7 p.m. on Feb. 2 in room 2P8 with skating afterwards. They are also having a taco sale beginning at 11 a.m. on Feb. 3.

College Fair for Busy Adults

Adults with hectic schedules or families are invited to the first Adult College Fair, to be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Feb. 12 in the College Union at OKCCC. Free workshops are available as well as information from 13 representatives from area colleges. For more information, contact the Office of Prospective Student Services at 682-

Volunteers needed for "Teenline" Training

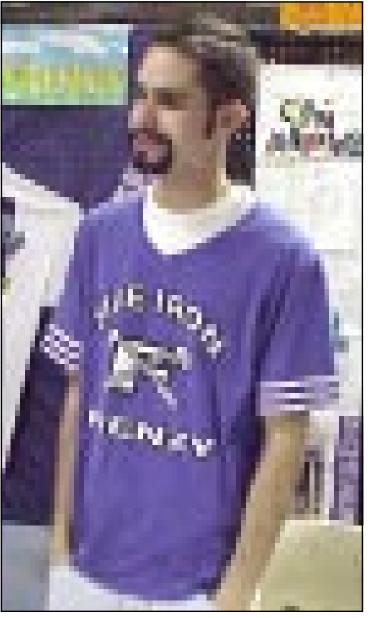
Volunteers, 16 or older, interested in helping teenagers cope with life situations, are being sought to participate in the next "Teenline" training, Feb. 19 and 20. Operated by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Teenline is statewide and designed to help teens and young adults on many issues. For more information about the training, including times and locations, call (405) 522-3835.

Presentations are available from Health Department

The OKC County Health Department has formed a speaker's group and is offering groups and organizations a choice of presentations in several areas. Presentations are designed to last 15 to 20 minutes and are free to the public. Requests should be made two weeks in advance. For more information contact H.R. Holman, Community Relations Coordinator, at (405) 425-4361.

Women of the South Scholarship available

New scholarship available - Executive Women International Assist scholarship. Requirements include primary providers or displaced homemakers with financial need. Women of the South is for women who reside in the South OKC Metropolitan area. Other scholarships are also available. See Prospective Student Services.



David Badders, left, manned a booth at the Organization Fair Jan. 26, hoping to increase membership in the Chi Alpha, a Christian fellowship

"Because of the snow, not very many people are in school today to sign up," Badders said.

Even though classes were cancelled for Wednesday afternoon and all of Thursday, various clubs were in the main building lobby talking to the few students who walked by about their club's mission and some of the activities they sponsor.

The Fair was scheduled to run two days but was cut short because of the weather.

There aren't plans to reschedule the lost day, but individual sign-up sheets and information tables may be available if the clubs are interested, said Janice Raney, OKCCC Student Life Assistant.

Photo by Ryan Johnson

Winter weather cuts organization fair short

By Michaela Marx **Editor**

Snow-covered roads and cancelled classes caused the turnout for the OKCCC Student Organizations Fair to be less than satisfying.

The sudden winter weather caused classes to be canceled Wednesday afternoon and Thursday.

The fair was held so clubs could inform students about their mission and recruit members. The fair was scheduled for Jan. 26 and 27.

"Because of the snow, not very many people are in school today to sign up," said David Badders, who took his shift at the Christian Fellowship booth.

the Gay Alliance and Friends Club, agreed: "Things are going slower than expected."

However, some organizations seemed to be satisfied with the turnout.

Christians on Campus sponsor, Michael Reddy, said they had approximately 15 people sign up in the morning.

Also, the newly-formed Christian organization, Helping International Students, had a positive feedback. Approximately 40 interested students had signed up to that club by

However, not many clubs had representatives at their presentation tables, because of the weather.

Each club did have a

Leroy Ball, sponsor of table with a sign-up sheet regardless if representatives could be there.

> Janice Raney, OKCCC Student Life Assistant, said, at the moment, there are no plans to reschedule the fair, but said she wants to set up individual information tables later if the clubs are interested.

> For more information on clubs, students may contact the student organizations office at 682-1611, ext. 7697, or check the OKCCC homepage at www.okc.cc.ok.us.

PSSST!!! Tell us what your club is up to. editor@okc.cc.ok.us

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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.

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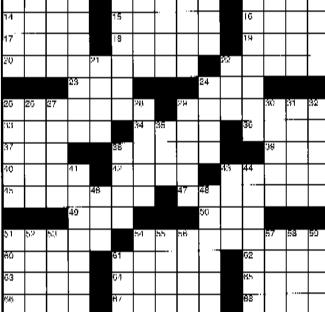
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If interested, we would like to invite you to come to our facility every Monday at 7:30 p.m. or 10:30 p.m. or call 948-2405

Students encouraged to apply for financial aid

"Financial," Cont. from page 1

Students who don't meet the criteria because of poor grades are entitled to an

He said some students don't take the time to appeal even though the finan- completed the paperwork

cial aid department approves hundreds of appeals every year.

These two variables result in hundreds of files of students who don't get all of the financial aid they could have gotten.

Case said students who have already filed for the current year and have not need to come in. He said they can still award financial aid for this spring semester and the semester and the upcoming summer semester.

There are applications available in the financial aid lobby along with the new student guide to help students understand the different programs.

The Pioneer staff is interested in your opinion, your event and your ideas. To inform us of what is happening in your area call (405) 682-1611 and put in the following extension or e-mail the following staff members:

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Tips for funding college

If you are seeking financial aid opportunities, there is help. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education offer the following tips to apply-

- Determine which colleges and universities to apply to and request their admission and financial aid information.
- · Request necessary application forms from colleges and universities, counselors and organizations offering scholarship or grant opportunities.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Copies of the form are available from a high school counselor, or the college or university the student plans to attend. Copies are also available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA will help determine financial aid need and eligibility for both state and federal programs.
- Apply early by submitting all applications as soon as possible after Jan. 1. More grant money is available to early applicants, and early application will enable the financial aid office to have the financial aid awarded and in place when the students actually begins classes.
- Read the instructions on the financial aid package forms carefully and fill them in as neatly and accurately as possible. Send applications promptly and remember to keep a copy.
- Know the difference between the types of financial aid. College funding from grants, scholarships and work-study programs do not have to be repaid. Most student loans require cash repayment, although some types allow repayment through services such as employment after graduation.
- Complete admission forms required by the college or university the student plans to attend.
- Review the Student Aid Report (SAR), a response letter that the government sends an applicant after receiving a FAFSA form. It will outline all information submitted on the FAFSA. Verify that the information is correct and submit it to the financial aid office at each college or university where the student is applying.
- To reduce delays, always respond promptly to requests for information from the financial aid office.
- Review all award letters received from each institution and accept or reject their offers.

For more information, call the State Regents' toll-free hotline at 1-800-858-1840 or 524-9239 in Oklahoma City, or visit them on the web at www.okhighered.org.



CIRCULATION STUDENT ASSISTANT

Temporary/ part-time 20 hours/week Provide support at circulation desk in Library on weekends Organizational Skills Filing skills Effective communication skills Ability to lift equipment on and off cart (50 lbs.) Ability to adhere to work schedule

Application deadline Feb. 4. 2000 Human resources 3L2 main Building 682-7542 or 682-7814 **EOE**





RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES AQUATIC & WELLNESS CUSTODIAN

 Provide custodial care and cleaning of Aquatics and **Wellness Center for** daily operations as well as special events •Must be able to follow instructions, lift up to 60 pounds, and perform strenuous work requiring lifting, pushing, pulling, bending, stooping & climbing. 20-25 hours per week days/night/weekends \$6.52 per hour Application deadline Feb. 4, 2000 Human resources 682-7542 or 682-7814



