

- Where's the love? editorial, p. 2.
- Honor roll recipients listed, p. 4 & 5.
- DNA studied at OKCCC, p. 8.
- Blood drive in need of participants, p. 10.

PIONEER



Photo by Michaela Marx

Soaking up nature's rays: Tia Campbell basks and reads in the summer sun outside of the college while waiting for her friend Professor Mary Ann Merz to meet her. Temperatures are expected to reach the upper 80s and low 90s this week.

Scholar to jock — student wears two hats equally well

By Vu Vu
Staff Writer

Blake Dills' accomplishments on the athletic field fare well against his skills in the classroom.

The Lexington High School two-sport star has earned numerous accolades in football and placed fourth in Class 2A's state wrestling tournament.

He also excels off the field and mat.

Dills, who was concurrently enrolled at OKCCC while in high school, has been recognized for his athletic and academic skills.

He is among those chosen as the Daily Oklahoman/Jim Thorpe

Male All Sports Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

When looking at his 6-foot, 1-inch, 280-pound frame, the first word people think of to describe Dills may be athlete, not scholar. However, both would be an apt description.

People don't realize that he scored a 32 on his ACT.

People don't realize that Dills is Lexington High School's valedictorian.

People don't realize that Dills, who works on his family's farm, is a University of Oklahoma Regents' Scholar.



Blake Dills

See "Blake," page 12

Success of area high school students priority for OKCCC president

By Kathi Etherton
Staff Writer

Instead of bemoaning the steady decline of high school graduates, President Bob Todd, along with his staff and the Board of Regents, recently came up with some ways to make learning a priority among young people.

In this way, Todd hopes to entice those graduates to continue their educations OKCCC.

According to the "Urban Report," a newsletter put out by the group For Renewal and Change in the 21st Century, there were 1,203 graduates from the Oklahoma City Public School system in 1998, but only 99 of them came to OKCCC.

This percentage was not acceptable in the eyes of Todd who was also taking into consideration the growing drop-out rate of students between ninth grade and graduation. At present, it stands at 58 percent.

One of the solutions Todd came up with was an incentive to attend OKCCC on a tuition fee waiver. This gives free tuition to all graduates of Oklahoma City Public Schools for their freshmen year, beginning last fall.

"This gives students the opportunity to succeed that wouldn't otherwise be here," Todd said.

This incentive increased the number of students who took advantage of the tuition-free promise from 99 in 1998 to 278 students in 1999.

"To me, that says when people are given an incentive, they will take it," Todd said.

Free tuition is offered to everyone who graduates from Oklahoma City Public Schools and attends OKCCC. There are no other requirements.

"It is a win for students, a win for the college, a win for the com-

"Oklahoma City is dependent upon the success of the Oklahoma City Public School system. If we abandon them, then we are abandoning Oklahoma City."

—Bob Todd

munity and a win for the state," Todd said.

He said that while this plan may be a risk, some risks are worth taking.

"Most of the time they will pay off because the students will be able to succeed. And this is the college's life commitment," Todd said. "You've got to step out."

"People may step on your feet, but then you just need to step out again."

Another major component of the plan to increase enrollment of Oklahoma City Public School students is the development of the "middle college."

It targets students from ninth to 12 grade who have promise and potential but need a change of atmosphere because they are not performing well at their current high school.

The project is in conjunction with the Oklahoma City Public Schools and will be held at OKCCC. The students will have access to the labs and facilities.

"It is for the students who have shown by almost any measure,



President
Bob Todd

See "Success," page 12

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Common courtesy not so common in this day and age

Is it just me, or does no one know what common courtesy is anymore?

I mean, back in the day people said "thank you," "please," and "you're welcome."

These days, you're lucky if you get a nod of the head in recognition.

Let me explain what I mean.

Just the other day, I was nice enough to hold a door open for a lady who had her hands full. She walked through the door but not once did she say "thank you."

I thought to myself, "she must be in a hurry." But later that day it happened again.

I held the door open for a mother and her two children and none of the three bothered to express any sort of thanks.

Is that any way for that mom to teach her kids proper manners? I think not.

It's not that I'm looking for self-gratification. I'm looking for a hint of manners.

Holding doors is not the only area where people show no courtesy.

I am not that large a person in stature so when I walk down the hallways and sidewalks, people must expect me to move out of their way.

I say this because most people walk straight toward me and expect me to always be the one to move aside if we are on a collision course with each other.

Once I did not move just to see what would happen. After the person passed by, he turned, giving me a look like "what are you doing?" — as if I had done something wrong.

Why is it usually my place to move? Is it because he was bigger than I?

The lack of courtesy goes beyond simple "please" and "thank you." It extends to actions too.

Suppose your arms are full and you're approaching a door. Wouldn't you want someone to help you open the door? More than likely.

I think that many people expect common courtesy from others but don't bother to give it themselves.

Not everyone is rude in this way because I have encountered the few who still say niceties, and who will help in a situation, but it has been my experience that they are the minority when it comes to everyday good manners.

It's just like the golden rule says, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

So next time you see someone in need of a little help, or someone does something for you, remember it could be you in that situation.

Wouldn't you want help or recognition?

—**Ryan Johnson**
Staff Writer

Library director welcomes input

To the Editor:

I wanted to respond to the students' ideas for improvements to the college library.

Additional group tables are available throughout the first and second floor of the library in the private, group study rooms. Students can reserve these through the circulation desk. We encourage groups to use the rooms to reduce the noise factor which might disrupt other students trying to study.

The library has 44 computers. All are web-based. We encourage students to use the dedicated Internet computers located by the circulation desk for Internet browsing and the other bank by the Information Desk for specific library research. However, if computers are full at either bank of computers, students are free to use any of the others.

The library also has a vending area located in the lobby of the library. It's located by the restrooms. And we no longer have a restriction on bringing food and drink into the library.

We want all students to feel relaxed as they study and do research. So, kick back and have a drink or snack as you cram for your test or hustle to get your term paper finished.

Currently the library doesn't have a drive-thru book return. We discussed the possibility of doing that when the building was constructed and will certainly consider an outside book drop.

Also, as far as any books or materials for the library collection, we welcome suggestions from all users (faculty, staff, students and community users). A suggestion form is available on the library website at <http://sirsi.okc.cc.ok.us>. Click on Library Request Form from the frame on the left. This allows you to request materials from other libraries, request a book to be purchased, as well as other requests.

If you want the library to purchase materials on a certain subject, you can request that as well. You don't need to know a specific title.

We appreciate any comments, suggestions or questions. We consider all comments and suggestions and make a strong effort to respond to all questions in a timely manner.

Look for a new and improved website this fall!

—**Barbara King**
OKCCC Director of
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PIONEER

Vol. 28 No. 33

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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.

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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>



STRAIGHTJACKET BY: M.C. GAREY



Comments and Reviews

Cage steals scenes, cars in 'Gone In 60 Seconds'



Nicholas Cage, Angelina Jolie, and Giovanni Ribisi in "Gone In 60 Seconds."

Another win for Nicholas Cage. "Gone in 60 seconds" tops the list with its heart-racing, car-stealing plot.

Randall "Memphis" Raines, played by Nicholas Cage, has left the life of stealing cars until he has a visit from a friend that results in him going home to save his brother's life.

His brother, Kip, played by Giovanni Ribisi, is involved with a mob and, in order to live, he needs to steal 50 cars in one night.

A reluctant Memphis agrees to find and steal the 50 cars. The mob gives him a list of the cars to steal and Memphis and the rest of his old car-stealing crew are off to a night of running from the cops.

Even though Memphis isn't stealing cars for a living anymore, he definitely hasn't forgotten how.

Nothing stops him from getting a car. Alarms?

No problem. Locks? Don't slow him down. Memphis is a car thief like no other. He knows and loves every make and model.

While 49 of the cars are a cinch to boost — there and gone in 60 seconds — one car, a 1967 Shelby Mustang GT 500, is sent through the ringer in a massive car chase, sending it flying over a car accident on a bridge.

In the midst of this thrilling movie, there is also romance which blooms between Memphis and one of his long-time car stealing friends. Sara "Sway" Wayland, played by Angelina Jolie, also strays away from the car-boosting life, only to return when Memphis needs her help. This in turn causes some romance to stir.

"Gone in 60 Seconds" is a thrilling drama with a new turn around every corner. It is fast-paced with great characters. I give this movie 5 out of 5 grand theft autos.

—**Kathi Etherton**
Staff Writer

Movie lets viewers get inside the head of John Malkovich

Have you ever dreamed of experiencing life as another person? Maybe as a model or a genius, possibly as a member of the opposite sex or as a celebrity?

In the film "Being John Malkovich" that can be reality — a very surreal reality that is.

A puppet player finds a portal in the head of the actor John Malkovich's brain on floor seven and a half of an office building with low ceilings.

This door allows those who enter literally to see the world through the eyes of the artist. The ride lasts about 15 minutes. Then the person is spit out on the roadside of a highway. Whoever enters has the opportunity to live life through Malkovich.

Because of this, dates are not arranged in restaurants, but actually within the head of Malkovich

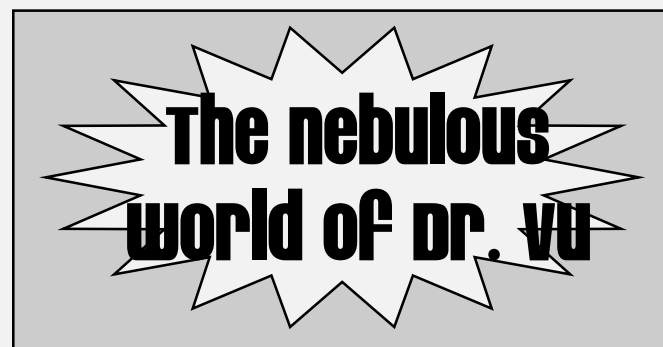
prompting the line, "Meet me in an hour in Malkovich."

However, every word said about the plot is one word too much and could spoil the movie for you.

Among the people who want to be John Malkovich are John Cusack as the puppeteer Craig Schwartz, Cameron Diaz with a bad hairdo and a big heart for monkeys and lizards as Schwartz's wife, and Catherine Kenner who pulls the strings as Craig's co-worker and extramarital love-interest.

Their performances are flawless. Even though they portray strange characters they seem to be real people, well... very strange real people.

Someone from whom you expect nothing less than a flawless act is John Malkovich. Malkovich plays himself as the unknowing host of



Apologies all around bartender!

I would like to make a formal apology.

I admit that I was wrong.

I did not tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I failed as a journalist.

I would like to apologize to Michael and John, the youngsters I included in my June 12 column.

Their parents didn't leave them at the college to use it as a baby sitter, but because of convenience.

By staying here after their swimming lesson, it is a convenience for their parents because one of them works in Moore.

Why am I apologizing?

John and Michael, 9 and 10, confronted me after they read the story.

They talked to me man-to-college journalist, student-to-student and friend-to-friend.

I respect that.

They also mentioned that their parents would be very mad and that their brother was in the Navy and had muscles bigger than my eggroll and apple juice fed belly.

Also, while I'm in an apologetic mood, I'd like to apologize for the guys at Los Alamos for losing two hard drives with nuclear secrets.

I'd like to apologize for the gas companies, especially the ones whose prices are above \$2 per gallon.

I'd like to apologize for the kid who shot and killed his teacher.

I'd like to apologize for the kid who killed a person when he was 13 because he won't be freed until he's 21.

It'll be difficult to adjust to the real world after spending almost a third of your life imprisoned.

I'd like to apologize for our presidential candidates because of their past actions.

I'd like to apologize for the guy who ordered the brush fires in New Mexico.

I'd like to apologize to Ryan Johnson, Pioneer photographer and writer, because he can't win at the Mac version of solitaire.

And I would like to apologize for being naive.

I am a very sorry man.

Will you forgive me?

—**Vu Vu**
Staff Writer

the people entering his mind.

As a metaphor to the puppet player, the characters are played in the story like puppets on a string.

Credit for this outstanding screenplay goes to Charlie Kaufman, who has crafted an intriguing, surrealistic story.

The story is unpredictable and director Spike Jonze, who also did last year's "Three Kings," has done

an outstanding job of bringing the story to life without losing a moment of surprise.

"Being John Malkovich" is now available on video.

Go and get it or wind up being one of the very few people who haven't been absorbed by the body-swapping, mind-mangling experience of being John Malkovich.

—**Michaela Marx**
Editor

Students named to president's honor roll

Students are eligible to be placed on the President's Honor Roll in any semester in which they have achieved a semester grade point average of 4.0 while carrying at least 12 hour. Part-time students are eligible if they have maintained a 4.0 for two consecutive semesters.

Wayland Adams, Ernie Adkins, Abidemi Akande, Laura Alexander, David Allen, Jennie Jo Allen, Donna Allred, Priscilla Anderson, Jeff Annesley, Jill Arnold, Ann Ayala, Tory Aylesbury, Brian Bailey, Rhonda Ballare, Cecilia Banga, Jennifer Barrera.

Stacey Baxter, Deryck Beard, Gary Beckmann, Deborah Belcher, Paula Belcher, Cindy Belknap, Scott Bennett, Sherry Bennett, Francis Berry, Nacy Bettes, Carenza Birkicht, Julia Blain, Nathan Blais, Bill Blankenship, Melanie Bone, Teresa Borum, Robert Bosley, Cathy Bowman.

Claudia Boydston, John Bradley, Angela Brooks, James Brown, Erine Budi, Thuy Bui, Leisha Buol, Dana Butler, Lisa Butler, Kevin Caliendo, Melissa Campbell, Jennifer Capps, Brett Carel, Ramona Carey, Paige Carr, Deanna Carter, William Carver, Shana Castle, Diane Castro, Craig Cates, Sharon Cayton, Shelley Chambers, Jeffrey Cheek, Chih-Chia Chen.

Rosario Chinchayan, Michal Christian, Marina Clifton, Holly Cochran, Steve Coffelt, Tsugi Coleman, Tammy Collett, Kyle Compton, Heather Cooley, Connie Coppenbarger, Christy Cornell, Paige Cory,

Tonya Cron, Michael Cross, Phillip Crouch, Brandi Culver, David Currier.

Khoi Dang, Tonya Davis, Brandy Dean, Amanda Dembowski, Troy Denton, Shelly Despain, Cameron Dobie, Ray Dockrey, Susannah Donaldson, Dana Drake, Stacy Driscoll, Anne Dugan, Matt Edwards, Misty Edwards, Robert Elliott, Heather Ellison, Billie England, Denise Engle, Kevin English, Pamela Ethier, Andy Fair, Tangi Felgenhauer, Shellye Felker.

Jason Ferguson, Patrick Figaro, Nickie Flambures, Sharon Followill, Dana Foreman, Nela Foster, Lanita Francis, Benjamin Freeman, Trixy Fry, Connie Fuller, James Fynmore, Michael Gangl, Carl Garrison, Tammy Gasaway, Christopher Giberson, Helen Giddens, Janet Gilbreath.

Karen Gilleland, Mark Gilliam, Donna Glenn, Revathi Gnanasekaran, Puja Gogri, Heather Gold, Mandy Gonzalez-Jaimes, Michael Gotcher, Mark Goyette, William Gray, Donna Greenwood, David Greer, Amy Griffin, Barbara Gwinn, Kathy Ha, Phuong Ha, Tina Hale, May Hamer, Richard Hampel, Lin Han.

Patricia Hansen, Gina Harris, Sheri Harris, Cheryl Harwell, Vicki Hawk, Reginald Hawkins, Mindy Hay, Glen Hendrickson.

Michelle Hendrickson, Brianne Hinojosa, Y Ho, Minh Hoang, Chandra Hodgden, Clinton Hodges, Ashley

Holden, Nathan Hollenbeck, Holly Holman, Christopher Holmes, Jennifer Hopkins, Arlene Howard, Mark Huggins.

Stuart Hughes, Cathy Hume, Amber Hunt, Kaye Hutchinson, Daniel Hyden, Castro Ibarra, Ofonime Ikpa, Eri Ishimine, April Jackson, Christopher Jackson, Ken Jenkins, Angela Jessup, Tammy Johnson, Milja Jokanovic, Kenneth Jones.

Mary Jones, Carl Jonson, John Justice, Sharmell Kehoe, Sara Kelley, Kelley King,

Chandra Maynard, Dale Maynard, Jennifer McBride, Kelly McBride, Rodney McCornack, Alonda McGraw, Amanda McMahon.

Barbara Menifee, Danny Meyers, Christyne Miller, Krista Miluszusky, Michael Moore, Jerry Morgan, Tammy Morris, Joshua Morrison, M.D. Morshed, Lorrie Moyer, Justin Mullinax, Mohammad Munir, Matthew Murdock, David Murray, Peter Mwangi, Peter Ndula, Billie Neal.

Sterling Nelson, An Nguyen, Cuc Nguyen, Edward Nguyen, Ngoc Nguyen, Nhut Nguyen, Vinh Nguyen, Melissa Niblett, Rhonda Nichols, Neomah Nickell, April Nordstrom, David Nunes, Rob O'Hara, Kevin O'Donnell, Susan O'Keefe, Vernedia Okoroafor.

Heather Oltermann, Carla Osmus, Todd Overturff, Christopher Owens, David Painter, Aaron Parker, Rahul Patel, Melanie Patterson, Michelle Pearn, Carol Perry, Michael Perry, Barbara Pettigrew, Canh Pham, Hoa Pham, Minh Pham, Tuan Pham, Vannesa Pham.

Travis Phelps, James Proctor, Robert Purser, Beth Reagan, Natalie Reagan, Deborah Redden, Jennifer Reed, Camilo Reyes, Tyson Reynolds, Lesa Rhoads, Curtis Rhodes, Tammy Ridgeway, Brett Ritchie, Jon Robbins, Thomas Roberts.

Kristie Robertson, Jennifer Rogers, Isabel Rosales, Stacia Roybal, Shelley Ruble, Jeff Ryan, Kasie Sallee, Nancy Sanders, Yoshimasa Sato, Marcus Savage, Loren Schrupp, Waylon Schutt,

Nicholas Selsor, Julie Shatswell, Deshawn Slaughter, Jesse Sloan.

Carissa Smith, Markus Smith, Phil Smith, Charla Smithson, Glenna Stahl, Tammy Stanford, Angela Stephens, Brandy Stephens, Gregory Stephens, Rebecca Stevens, Sharon Stokes, Thomas Stokes, Frankie Strange, Yohanes Sugeng, Trisha Sutterfield, Aimee Sutton.

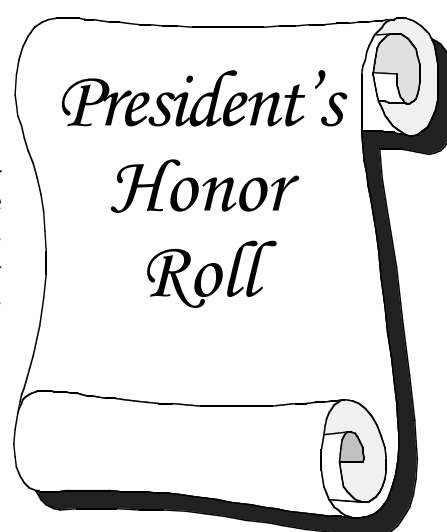
Lisa Sykes, Hung Ta, Mary Tasier, Misty Tate, Robert Tautfest, Marsha Taylor, Patricia Thomas, Terri Thomas, David Thompson, Tebra Thompson, Randall Thomson, April Thrailkill.

Ann Tinnin, James Tipton, Kara Tomlinson, Sarah Townsend, Hao Tran, Charlotte Trobaugh, Bryan Tucker, Gary Tucker.

Michelle Tucker, Cari Turner, Christy Vanderbilt, Sergio Vasquez, Davonna Vicsek, Dorothy Virden, Vickie Vogler, Triet Vu, Joshua Waggoner, Sean Wainner, Alysia Waits, La Dawn Walker, Sajit Walter, Twyla Walters, Sarah Walton, Travis Walton, Heather Want, Lawrence Ware.

Katie Wasserbeck, Valari Wedel, Allison Welder, Deborah Wells, Cheryl Westbrook, Tracy Wheeler, Patrick White, Silke White, Carrie Wickersham, Kyoko Williams, Stacey Williams, Jennifer Williamson.

Joshua Willingham, Anne Wilson, Cory Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Pamela Winchester, Carse Wood, Kathryn Wood, Lou Wood, Chad Woodward, Gayle Woodward, Heather Yarbrough, Jeff Young, Shawna Young.



Timothy King, Becky Knight, Naoya Koga, Alicia Kopisch, Amy Kopisch, Justin Kreger, Jeanette Lain, Hung Lam, Rita Lancaster.

Melissa Langerman, Julie Lara, Autumn Leopold, Kristen Lewellen, Jackie Li, Ulysses Lindley, Scott Lindquist, Chris Lindsey, Sherryayn Lingenfelter, Tony Loftis, Carol Lorange, Karie Love, Lynette Luginu, Erin Lusk, Chad Mach, Margie Maloy, John Marks.

Joseph Martin, Budi Martono, Robert Matherly,

"I am extremely proud of each and every student who has achieved this honor. I commend them for their commitment and dedication to accomplishing their educational goals."

—President Bob Todd



Vice-president's honor roll recipients named

Students are eligible to be placed on the Vice-President's Honor Roll in any semester in which they have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.5 while carrying at least 12 hours. Part-time students are eligible if they have maintained a 3.5 GPA for two consecutive semesters.

David T. Akakpo, Stephanie L. Alexander, Jennifer D. Allen, Amanda M. Allison, Kristal D. Almquist, Michelle B. An, Brett D. Andrada, Elizabeth M. Andre, Shawn F. Arledge, Sunshine L. Arnold, Syed Z. Asad, Brenda G. Asby-Baldwin, Teresa A. Atkins, Netha R. Austin, Kathal N. Bales, Bryan L. Ball, Bill B. Barber, Robert G. Barkley, Linda Barlow.

Elizabeth C. Barnes, Michael W. Barnett, Tiffany L. Barnett, Amy N. Barringer, Jennifer Barrios, John C. Bates, Brian B. Bauernschmitt, Ariadne B. Beals, Sarah M. Bean, Carissa J. Bennett, Brandy C. Benton, Rabindra Bhandari, Dan K. Bibb, Melissa K. Bibb, Tamara C. Black, Sara J. Blackwood, Dustin L. Blessum, Justin J. Blew, Tamera J. Boehm, Tammy R. Bogle.

Heather M. Bouska, Phyllis J. Boyd, Melissa D. Bradley, Melissa A. Brady, Jamie M. Branan, Amber L. Brown, Barbara M. Brown, Chuck Brown, Ginger R. Brown, Krisha L. Brown, Royce A. Brown, Stephanie R. Brown, Michele C. Brownell, Angela J. Bruehl, Ivana L. Buchanan, Mark W. Burgess, Kyna J. Burnett, Anida A. Burnham, Cami L. Burns.

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Thomas A. Choate, Phuoc

H. Chung, Russell D. Clark, Andrea L. Clem, Gregory A. Cline, Kevin M. Cobb, Pamela A. Coker, L.B. Colby, Jerry W. Cole, Desirae Cook, Suzanna R. Cook, Gloria G. Cooper, Thomas J. Copeland, Sandra T. Corey, Charlene A. Coy, Duane L. Cranford, Jeff J. Crawford, Mark D. Crum.

Stacy L. Cummings, Anna M. Dalton, Giang B. Dang, Chuong H. Dao, Lindsay N. Davidson, Kerali B. Davis, Debra S. Day, Rose A. Day, Melissa M. Depew, David A. Derringer, Billie J. Devilbiss, Dana L. Dewey, Deanna R. Dibble, Chad L. Diebold, Blake E. Dills, Melissa K. Donahoo, Yaser Dorri, Jacquelyn M. Dorsey.

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Be sure to know the skin you're in

Different skin cancers and their treatments

By Michaela Marx
Editor

The beautiful, warm sunshine is enjoyed by many during the summer. Outdoor picnics and weekends at the lake provide countless opportunities to spend time in the sun, especially in Oklahoma where it is basically summer from late April to mid-September.

However, all this fun in the sun can result in regrets.

One of five Americans will develop some kind of skin cancer, which makes skin cancer the most common form of cancer in the United States. The ones most at risk are children. One hour in the sun for adults equals only four minutes for babies.

People with dark complexions often assume they are safer than, say, a fair

redhead. However, even dark skinned people are affected by the dangerous ultraviolet rays, which cause 90 percent of all skin cancers.

Even when you are not directly exposed to the sun you can be in reach of the sun. Sun rays can reach through three feet of water.

If you never go in the sun without SPF protection, you are on the right track, but it does not make you immune to skin cancer. Most damage is usually done years before cancer is detected. When most of today's 20-year-olds were children, skin-cancer and the effects of sun overexposure were not a big issue.

Skin cancer can be deadly, but can often be easily treated before it turns fatal. Close to 90 percent of all skin cancers can be cured if detected and treated in time.

Skin cancer is the uncontrollable growth of ab-

normal cells in a layer of the skin. There are several different kinds of skin cancers, distinguished by the types of cells affected. Among the most common forms are:

• Basal cell carcinoma

It usually appears as raised, translucent lumps. This cancer attacks 300,000 to 400,000 people each year. It does not usually spread in the body through the blood stream. However, it may cause considerable damage by direct growth and invasion.

• Squamous cell carcinoma

It is usually distinguished by a raised reddish lump or growth. This cancer develops in almost 100,000 people per year. This form can spread in the body. Approximately 2,000 people die due to this cancer.

• Malignant melanoma

It appears first as a light brown to black irregular

shaped blemish. This is a very serious form of cancer and can be deadly. It spreads to other body parts through the bloodstream and lymph drainage system.

Self-exams are recommended. Often what looks strange to you turns out to be a false alarm when checked by a dermatologist, but better safe than sorry. Today many modern techniques are available to treat cancerous skin.

Here are some treatment techniques and procedures:

• Curettage

Malignant tissue is scraped away with a sharp instrument. This technique is used for small, superficial cancerous tissue that had not been treated previously. It is often followed by the destruction of the cancerous tissue with an electric needle.

• Surgical excision

The dermatologist cuts

into the skin and removes the growth, then the skin is closed with stitches.

• Cryosurgery

With this procedure liquid nitrogen is applied directly to the skin to freeze the cancerous tissue.

• Topical Chemotherapy

Chemicals capable of destroying precancerous growth are applied to the skin.

• MOHS micrographic surgery

The tumor is cut out with the help of a microscope. This method allows the surgeon to trace the outline of the cancer, layer by layer, with great accuracy.

• Laser surgery

Intense waves of light are beamed at cancerous skin to cut away or vaporize the tissue.

With this in mind, enjoy the sunny days, but play it safe and protect yourself and your family.

Helpful Tips for Safer Skin

• **Avoid the sun** between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., when the sun's rays are the strongest. Schedule outdoor activities for other times of the day, even on cloudy days. Clouds provide little protection from the sun's rays. Check news reports for the daily Ultraviolet Index, which tells you how strong the sun's rays will be.

• **Wear protective clothing** such as long pants and a long-sleeved shirt whenever possible. Put a T-shirt on children when they are swimming.

• **Wear a wide-brimmed hat** and protective sunglasses.

• **Sit in the shade** when you are outdoors. Keep infants out of the sun altogether.

• **Don't use a sunlamp** or visit a tanning parlor.

• **Know your skin** and report anything unusual to your doctor. Also look for the ABCD warning signs of melanoma: Asymmetry, irregular Borders, Color that is not uniform or is black, and Diameter greater than 6 millimeters (about the size of a pencil eraser). If you have a mole with any of these features, or a spot on your skin that is changing in color, shape, or size, see your doctor. Learn how to do a complete skin self-examination, which can significantly reduce your risk of dying of melanoma.

• **Use sunscreen** with an SPF of 15 or higher on yourself and your children (except for babies under six months of age — they need to be kept in the shade, but no sunscreen). Also look for a product that is labeled "broad spectrum," which means that it protects against both of the major types of sun rays. Apply it liberally on all exposed skin a half-hour before going in the sun, and reapply after swimming or perspiring. Regardless of activity, reapply sunscreen every two hours, even on cloudy days. Also use a lip balm with an SPF of 15. And remember to use sunscreen often, not just when you are visiting the beach or the pool. You are exposed to the sun when you walk from the car to the store, too.

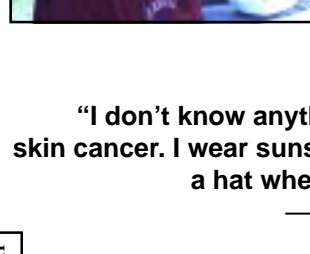
—Information courtesy www.mskcc.org

Students speak out...



"Right now I'm sitting in the shade. I put basic SPF15 if I'm out for quite a while because I have some Native American in me. I get brown before I burn. Some sun is necessary. There's a happy medium."

—Jennifer McBride



"I don't know anything about skin cancer. I wear sunscreen and a hat when I'm out."

—Tyler Duerr



"You need to try to protect yourself as much as you can. I stay in the shade. I don't get out much. I hibernate during the day and work at night."

—Lisa Moody

"[Sun] could be bad for people as you age because it catches up with you. I just try to stay in the shade. I don't wear any sunscreen or anything."

—Connie Zanola



Photos by Ryan Johnson

Let the endurance games begin

**By Vu Vu
Staff Writer**

OKCCC hosted the Oklahoma City Super Sprint Championship triathlon for the sixth year on June 10.

Competitors swam for 500 meters, rode their bikes for 12 miles and ran for 5 kilometers.

"It's a passion," said Joe Smith of Oklahoma City, 53. "We love it."

Despite the cool, cloudy,

windy and sometimes wet conditions, athletes agreed that conditions were favorable.

"Today was nice and cool," said second year competitor Phil Smith of Ft. Smith, Ark.

"I'd take cool and windy anytime."

The course's layout was praised.

"The pool was designed better and I enjoyed the course—real flat and fast," said Craig Hobson of Hot Springs, Ark.

Ranked ninth in the

world and fifth nationally in his age category, Charles Taylor, 60, finished in first place in his age group.

"You'd have to be half insane to do this," Taylor said.

Taylor has competed in triathlons in Australia, Mexico, Germany, Hawaii and Italy. Two years ago in Switzerland, he ran the fastest time in the run.

"It's very compulsive," Taylor said.

Taylor, who finished in thirteenth place overall, swims at the Aquatic Cen-

ter three times a week because of its low chlorine levels.

Many of the athletes competed as hobbyists.

"I did about average for me, which is slow for everyone else," said Lara Luker of Tulsa. "It's a hobby — I just want to see what I'm capable of."

In the men's overall division, Carter Johnson finished in first place with a time of 00:57:05.

In the women's overall division, Kimberly Rashid, 30, finished in 1:02:38.

The Office of Recreation and Community Services crew began building the course the day before the race at 8 a.m. and worked on the course for the next 18 hours, finishing at 2 a.m. Saturday morning.

The crew returned to OKCCC at 4 a.m. after a few hours sleep and stayed until 12:30 p.m.

All participants received a commemorative T-shirt.



Michael Scherlag, 31, exerts the last of his energy to cross the finish line. This section of the course was named "the hard finish" due to the difficulty and energy need to complete the entire course.



Slipping into his cycling shoes, Bernie Hand, 43, prepares to pedal his way through the 12 mile bicycling section of the triathlon. The average time for males to complete the course was 1 hour and 20 minutes. Females averaged 1 hour and 24 minutes.



Running as an individual, many participants were required to have a great amount of stamina to finish the entire course. The triathlon was divided into many different divisions including individual, team, and military.

Photos by Ryan Johnson

Genomics educators use college facilities to take a look at DNA

By Michaela Marx
Editor



Charlotte Mulvihill

Scientists of the Human Genome Project are racing to decode the complete sequence of human DNA. They have reached their goal to two-thirds, making biotechnology more important than ever.

OKCCC's new biotechnology facility provided the stage for a national Genomics Workshop June 5 through 10. High school and college educators from all over the country gathered at the college to attend genomics seminars.

The DNA Learning Center of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, with the funding from the National

Science Foundation, developed the workshop.

Oklahoma was one of the four states in which such a workshop was held, said Charlotte Mulvihill, head of OKCCC's biotechnology program. The workshop mixed theoretical, laboratory, and computer work with team projects and classroom management advice, she said.

"OKCCC is very pleased to be a site for this workshop," she said. "We not only got a chance to showcase our brand new biotechnology facility and program, but also to help bring a workshop from the nationally famous DNA Learning Center to the regional teaching community."

Seminars were held by local scientific experts, including Phillip Silverman from Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Tyrrell Conway from the University of Oklahoma, John Mulvihill from the University of Oklahoma Health and Science Center, as well as Joyce Gilchrist from the Oklahoma City Police Department.

The 24 educators in attendance worked in the biotechnology lab and performed experiments in bacterial and plant genetics.

They also took a look at human DNA variations.

"We looked at our own DNA," Mulvihill said.

Each person pulled out two hairs with roots. Then they isolated their DNA from the hair.

"Two hairs are enough to identify yourself," said Mulvihill.

Their data was used as the basis for online investigations with Internet tools, she said.

The group also explored personal and social implications of the genome project in the context of the Eugenics movement archives.

Now of more importance than ever, OKCCC's biotechnology program turns two in August.

"We have our first group of students at internships," Mulvihill said. "They work everyday with biotechnology."

"The student interns get stipends from the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology grant," she said.

"This group will be the first to graduate from the program."



Photo by Ryan Johnson

It's your... 35 cents: Ayana Walker, 5, probably doesn't remember the phrase "It's your dime." She used a college phone last week to try and call her imaginary friend although she didn't have the correct change. Ayana was at the college with her mother Havana Walker who was enrolling in fall classes.

Regent retires after 16 years

Campus reception honors John Michael Williams

By Michaela Marx
Editor

After 16 years of service on the Board of Regents, Regent John Michael Williams has relinquished his governing role.

A reception was held to honor Williams' leadership and dedication to OKCCC June 13 in the college union. Williams' popularity was displayed in the large turnout.

Among the guests were many fellow regents including Tom Hoskison, who took over Williams' place on the board.

Also there was President Bob Todd, other OKCCC officials

and employees.

Todd said the reception to honor Mr. Williams was "a tremendous success."

"The numerous comments made by faculty, staff, regents, and legislators vividly described our appreciation for John for the Williams era at the college," he said.

After the mixing and mingling the person of the hour was honored by Todd and Regents Chairman Dan Hardage.

They presented Williams with an award proclaiming the deep appreciation the college has for Williams' dedication and accomplishments on behalf of OKCCC.

Todd said that Wil-



John Michael Williams

liams' impact on the board will be missed; however, the college looks forward to his continued involvement with OKCCC.

Todd credits Williams as a leading force in the development of what OKCCC stands for today.

In his life outside OKCCC Williams is a partner for the Oklahoma law firm of Williams, Box, Forshee & Bullard, P.C.

Williams will remain active in various community and civic organizations.

"The numerous comments made by faculty, staff, regents and legislators vividly described our appreciation for John for the Williams era at the college."

—Dr. Bob Todd
OKCCC President

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Professors have seen it all in student dress

By Laura Roberts
Newswriting I Student

College is usually a time in one's life when there are few limitations and rules.

One of the rules most students entering college look forward to leaving behind is a dress code or uniforms if they attended private school.

However, even in college, there are still some unwritten rules that should be followed in order to show respect to and get respect from your fellow students and professors.

Connie Kuebeck, professor of nursing, said she feels students should be able to express themselves to a point.

"I don't have any strong feelings on the matter ex-

cept if a student is too exposed, it is inappropriate for the classroom," she said. "Just as long as their clothing is not distracting to fellow students I don't care. [A student can have] purple hair, whatever."

History Professor Ron Gray said he has seen it all during the years he has taught at the college but has never seen anything overly offensive.

"Over the last 25 years I have been a professor, I have never had anyone have to leave the classroom due to what they are wearing," he said. "I don't think there should be anything banned."

"I feel the students here are mature and responsible enough to be able to wear the right attire to class."

OKCCC does not have a dress code.

Siblings played role in choosing program

By Jeremy L. Kling
Newswriting I Student

Occupational Therapy Assistant student Paige Cory said she became interested in the field as a result of being raised with several foster brothers and sisters who were autistic and physically challenged.

Cory, who just completed her second semester in the OTA program this spring, said she finds the program rewarding. She said the main goal of an occupational therapist is to help a person become as independent as possible.

According to Cory, the duties of an OTA graduate include teaching physically challenged people dressing, bathing and other challenging skills, and helping them find a job.

She said there are difficult aspects to the job but even those are rewarding.

"The hardest part is to make splints to prevent contractures."

Cory defined a contracture as the effect caused by pain when the joints tense up and muscles contract causing hands and limbs to ball up.

"The program deals with the use of adaptive equipment."

Adaptive equipment is equipment that is used by a physically challenged person to perform day-to-day routines that one who is not physically challenged would not need to use, she said.

Cory said, when she completes the program, she plans to get a job working with the physically challenged in a nursing home or care facility.



College boasts tree farm

By Adrian Crooks
Newswriting I

Hundreds of trees occupy space on the southwest side of the campus. The greenery serves a number of purposes.

One, according Physical Plant director John Knight, is to make life better for students.

"It is a tree nursery for the campus, to give the students a scenic atmosphere," he said.

"Our number one goal is to make this [campus] a desirable place for students to attend."

Knight said, when he first set foot on campus 16 years ago, the area was a bare piece of land.

"The campus looked like a prairie with the grass five feet high and no trees."

Building and Campus Services Supervisor Gary Phillips said it was determined that having a nicer landscape

would be good for students.

"The trees that we grow on this campus are mainly for the school," he said.

"There are 800 trees in the nursery that are counted and that's not including the trees which are around campus," Phillips said.

Knight said finding the trees is an exciting process.

"We buy various trees from the state nursery and other parts of the United States," he said.

Phillips said the nursery will be around for years.

Students appreciate the trees too.

Computer major Leland Galberth said the trees from the farm that have been planted around the campus provide quiet places to relax.

"It makes the college look nice," she said.

Computer major Mike Gary said he had no idea that the tree farm existed.

"I haven't noticed the trees but I think what they are doing is cool," Gary said.

Students share thoughts, ideas about OKCCC communication lab

By Adrian Crooks
Newswriting I Student

The communication lab is a great place for students to learn things such as different languages. There, students can listen to language tapes, have Internet access, work with tutors and do different language activities.

Although students are satisfied with the lab for the most part, several students had ideas for improvements.

OKCCC broadcast major Greg Cline said he works on homework there and would like more time to do that.

"I think the hours of the lab need to be

lengthened for students," he said. "Otherwise everything is in great shape."

Computer science major Seing Sik Jung said the lab needs more tutors.

Other students think the lab services are fine the way they are.

Computer science major Eric Trogron is one of those students.

"There's nothing wrong with the lab," he said. "Everything is fine with me."

History major Rita Lancaster said she wouldn't change a thing about the lab.

"I love it! I think everyone in the lab is great," she said.

The communication lab is located in the arts and humanities building in 2F3. For more information call 682-1611, ext. 7247.

Highlights

Instruments made of plastic needed

Bring all your plastic soda or water bottles by the Child Development Center. They will be used in the children's tent at the Arts Festival on Labor Day weekend. The children will be making musical instruments with them.

Discount tickets available at Bookstore

The bookstore sells tickets to Six Flags, Hurricane Harbor, White Water Bay and Frontier City. A Six Flags one day adult ticket is \$21.50, Six Flags one day child ticket is \$19.38, Six Flags two day pass is \$38.78, Six Flags season pass is \$43.08, Hurricane Harbor ticket is \$13.46, Frontier City one day ticket is \$14.50, White Water Bay one day ticket is \$12.50 and a Frontier City/White Water Bay Double Park Season Pass is \$59.05. For more information call Kathy Reed at 682-1611 ext. 7242.

Fall Tuition Fee Waivers

Aug. 4 will be the last day to submit tuition fee waivers to the office of Financial Aid. No applications will be accepted after 5 p.m. The names of those receiving the waivers will be posted in the Student Financial Aid center Aug. 18.

Susan E. Clowers Memorial Scholarship

The Susan E. Clowers Memorial Scholarship has been established by the OKCCC Board of Regents. Contributions can be made payable to the Oklahoma City Community College Foundation. The scholarship fund will be used annually to assist students with the cost of attending OKCCC.

Tips for Veterans

Tutors are available for Chapter 31 Veterans (Voc-Rehab). Tutors must be approved by Dennis Jackson. The following web addresses may be helpful for Veterans: The Veteran News and Information at www.vnis.com and the Department of Veterans Affairs at www.va.gov. The office hours for the Veterans Certification Office for the summer are Monday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday 11:30 to 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. For more information call 682-1611, ext 7694 or 7695.

Scholarship offered for community service

Stop by the Prospective Student Services and pick up the Coca-Cola Two-Year College Scholarship application. To qualify you must have completed 100 hours of volunteer activities within the past 12 months. Deadline is June 23.

Scholarship applications available

William P. Willis Scholarship applications are available at the office of prospective students services. Requirements are low income, less than \$32,000, full-time undergraduate, making satisfactory academic progress, must plan to enroll full-time both fall and spring semester at OKCCC. The deadline is June 30.

Free child development screenings

The Child Guidance Division of the Oklahoma City-County Health Department will present a free screening day for children birth through 5 years old from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26 by appointment. The screenings will be held at the Village Library at 10307 N. Pennsylvania. To schedule an appointment, please call 755-0710.



Photo by Ryan Johnson

Off to a great start: Coordinator of Community Outreach Craig Robinson, left, discusses the benefits of early enrollment with David Williams, prospective student. Robinson helped set up a welcoming table for the OKC-Go program. "The welcome site helps students get started the best they can on their college endeavors." The OKC-Go program provides tuition fee waivers for Oklahoma City public school graduates who want to attend OKCCC.

It's time to give the gift of life

By Vu Vu
Staff Writer

The Oklahoma Blood Institute hopes to replenish its supply as they return to OKCCC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 29 in room CU3.

Summer causes more than crop droughts. It also causes blood droughts.

During the summer months, schools close and the OBI loses a vital component of their blood drives.

"Summer is more difficult for us," said blood program consultant Elizabeth Smith. "It's a higher need time."

Also blood supplies across the nation were ravaged by flu bugs during the

winter and Y2K fears.

Healthy adults ages 17 and up, who weigh 110 pounds or more are encouraged to donate.



Donations take about one hour and each donation can save three lives.

Blood donations are used for cancer treatment, heart operations, organ transplants, ulcers and sickle

cell anemia,

The American Blood Center gave these tips. Before giving blood:

*Get a good night's sleep.

*Eat breakfast.

*Drink plenty of fluids several hours before you donate blood.

*Relax.

After giving blood:

*Drink juice or something with sugar to raise your blood sugar levels.

*Eat a hearty meal.

*Do not drink any alcoholic beverages for five hours.

*Do not smoke for one hour.

*If you have any questions, call the local community blood center.

Participants will receive free T-shirts.

For more information, visit the OBI website at www.obl.org

CLUBS! Share your events with the world. Call the Pioneer at 682-1611, ext. 7675, e-mail your news to editor@okc.cc.ok.us or drop it by at 2M6 in the main building.

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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FOR SALE: '88 Conquest. Call 634-6787.

FOR SALE: '89 Dodge Caravan; light blue. Needs water pump. Asking \$600 OBO. Call 682-3744.

FOR SALE: '89 Honda Accord LX, 4-door, auto., power everything, good condition, 130K miles. Asking \$3,000. Call David or Woody at 525-8359.

FOR SALE: '90 Nissan Sentra, 4 spd, 2-door, A/C, AM/FM/ Cassette, white, and very clean. Reliable transportation and good condition. Asking \$1,950. Call 350-2011.

FOR SALE: '96 Honda Passport Ex, loaded, very clean. 72K miles, green with gold trim. \$14,299 FIRM. Call 823-5284.

HOUSEHOLD

FOR SALE: Montgomery Ward refrigerator, \$150; 5-piece black laquer dining room set, \$75. Call 364-6051 or 682-1611, Ext. 7544.

FOR SALE: Sofa for sale, very comfortable, just asking \$45. Wood TV stand, \$25. Love Seat, \$35. Call 330-0731, leave a message.

FOR SALE: Mahogany Piano, early 1900's, appraised at \$500, asking \$500 OBO. Entertainment Center, \$100 OBO. L-Shape Secretary Desk, \$100 OBO. King-size Cannon Ball waterbed with new heater and mattress, \$250 OBO. Small wooden student desk, needs repair, \$15 OBO. Call and leave a message, 794-9494/ask for Misty.

FOR SALE: Futon, \$35. Please call Carol or Jon at 680-9302 and leave a message.

MISCELLANEOUS

FREE: Kittens. Call Alisha at 321-5880. Leave a message.

FREE: Guinea Pig, brown and golden, long hair. Includes cage,

food dish, and water bottle. Real friendly. Call 681-2296.

FOR SALE: Sega Genesis game system with several games, \$100. Call 364-6051 or 682-1611, Ext. 7544.

FOR SALE: '86 Bayliner Capri 16' ski boat with 85hp Force outboard motor, swim step with ladder, AM/FM Cassette Stereo. Trailer included. Asking \$2,100. Call 692-2476

FOR SALE: Two baby sugargliders, too young to tell sex, but perfect for hand taming. \$175 each, \$300 pair. Cage \$50. Leave message for Stephen, 619-0850.

FOR SALE: Two 12" speaker boxes, \$100 and \$150. Kenwood CD Changer (never used, still in the box), \$200. Great additions to any car! Call 822-7250.

FOR SALE: 1999 Pioneer Stereo Receiver, 200 watts. Works and sounds great! Call Zac at 364-3539.

FOR SALE: '97 Skyline, 16 x 80, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. No down payment, take over payments. SE OKC. Call 631-2325.

FOR SALE: Lot on Lake Fort, TX. .056 acres. \$4,000. Call (405) 688-4304 for more information.

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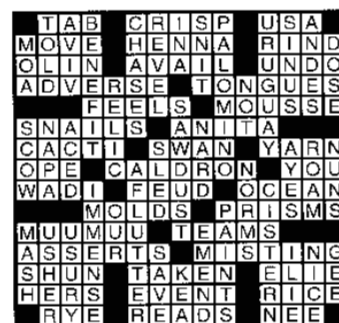
ACROSS

1 Serve soup
6 Volcano's dust
9 Cowboy movie
14 Bay window
15 Health resort
16 Broadway offering
17 Group of stars
19 Duck-hunter's need

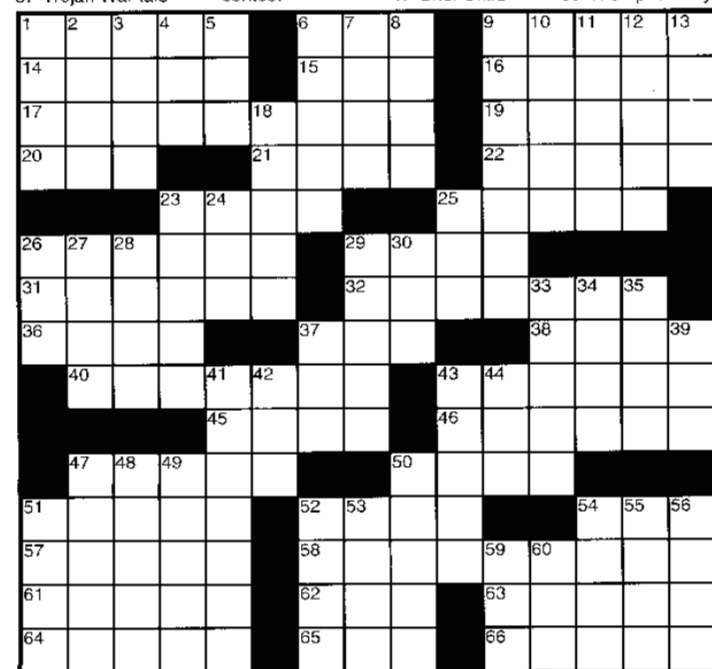
DOWN

1 Gray wolf
2 Opratic highlight
3 Uses a shovel
4 Guided
5 Yale alumnus
6 Rocky Mountain tree
7 Went 95
8 Difficult
9 Crackpot
10 Territories
11 Unspoken
12 Overact
13 Sunbeams
18 Not poetry
23 Skyrockets
24 Be- —: hippie happenings
25 — capita
26 Russian fighter
27 Iowa town
28 Agile
29 Knight's contest
57 Trojan War tale

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Student Life camera stolen

Theft prompts office to adopt stricter borrowing policies

By Vu Vu
Staff Writer

A digital camera worth \$499 was reported missing June 8 from the Student Life office by Mike Jones, coordinator of student activities.

The office is located in the main building in 1P3.

In a report taken by Campus Security Officer Ronald Morehouse, Jones said he initially discovered the camera missing May 25 but didn't report it for two weeks.

Jones said he thought

the camera was being used by a club.

Jones said, because the staff was gone during the semester break, he wasn't able to question anyone about the camera and if it had been checked out.

The camera was last used by the office of Recreation and Community Services and returned to Student Services on May 23.

"To the best of our knowledge, it was in the safe," Jones said.

The camera is stored in a safe in the Student Life of-

fice which can only be opened by a key. Only Student Life employees have keys, Jones said.

There is no check in or check out procedure for the camera currently, Jones said.

However, Student Life will institute a strict borrowing process.

"They'll have to take the desk with them," Jones said.

"We'll chain it down."

The camera is used for club and college use, Jones said.

CAMPUS INCIDENTS

College officials outline plans for future successes

"Success,"

Cont. from page 1

whether it be through testing or interaction with faculty, that they are bright and have potential but don't fit the mold at their high school," Todd said.

He emphasized that it is not an alternative school or detention; it is for those who are going somewhere but something has not clicked yet.

"Oklahoma City is dependent upon the success of the Oklahoma City Public School system. If we abandon them, then we are abandoning Oklahoma City," Todd said.

A third aspect is the launching of a fund raising campaign by the College Foundation. This would help students with additional costs such as books, special fees and transportation.

In order to help with the fund raiser, Oklahoma City Mayor Kirk Humphreys sent a letter to the largest companies in Oklahoma City asking that they donate \$1,000 a year for five years to the Foundation to help with the costs.

The fourth point is to lower the dropout rate by mentoring and tutoring junior high students, sixth through eighth grade. This would also include inviting them to the campus.

These steps to improve the college are part of a plan called "Priorities 2002."

This plan involves four major goals to make OKCCC a primary part in the economic, educational and social development of central Oklahoma.

According to the RC 2000 newsletter, the goals are:

- Preparing and challenging Oklahomans to participate in an increasingly global society.

- Acting as Central Oklahoma's primary educational partner in brokering services that benefit the economy.

- Serving as Central Oklahoma's premier center for developing high-tech communication skills and accessing worldwide information.

- Leading Central Oklahoma in providing health technology and pre-professional programs.

Also featured in the RC2000 newsletter were the many things OKCCC has already achieved.

The college has created the biotechnology and semiconductor manufacturing curriculums, opened a simulated "clean room" to train students to produce silicon wafers for the semiconductor industry and opened one of five human anatomy laboratories in the states.

Also the college has teamed up with four other colleges and universities in the metropolitan area to build a college consortium downtown to offer courses using the newest techniques such as interactive television, and Internet instruction at convenient hours.

These advancements along with many others have helped guide OKCCC into the 21st century.

These have also helped OKCCC gain acceptance into the elite group of community colleges in the RC 2000. The maximum membership is 35 metropolitan colleges around the world, including Great Britain and Canada.

"We have gained a lot from the organization, but we have given a lot too," Todd said.

Todd, a native of Oklahoma City and a graduate of the Oklahoma City Public Schools, has been the president of the college for almost five years and has been an OKCCC administrator since the college opened in 1972.

•IT PAYS TO
ADVERTISE IN THE
PIONEER•

Concurrent student has high aspirations

"Blake,"

Cont. from page 1

"A lot of people think I'm a dumb jock," Dills said. "OKCCC doesn't care — [the people here are] just nice."

Many have realized Dills academic prowess.

Part Cherokee, he received the Oklahoma Indian Honors Society LeClair-Wright scholarship award.

Dills' is also a Coca Cola Scholars award finalist.

Of the 117,000 applicants, Dills was one of the 1965 students chosen, which earned him a trip to Atlanta in April.

Dills, a pharmacy major, said his college experience is not that different from high school.

"OKCCC is a lot like high school," Dills said. "[The people] always work with you."

Dills will be attending OU on a Regents Scholar scholarship in the fall. He said he chose pharmacy as his major because of his many family members currently working in pharmacy.

Another reason Dills chose pharmacy is because of his childhood experience of visiting his grandfather in nursing homes.

"I didn't like they way they were treated," Dills said. "I'm interested in pharmaceutical medicine because I want to find drugs to help people."

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