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PIONEER

Student receives NAACP support

By Kathi Etherton
Editor

An OKCCC student has asked the National Association of Colored People to intercede for her after she was expelled from her computer class this semester, said Clara Luper of the NAACP's Freedom Center.

College President Bob Todd confirmed an NAACP representative visited OKCCC on Nov. 27 in regard to a student grievance hearing.

Luper said she was representing student Olwakemi Kongi. She said Kongi stands accused of verbally abusing adjunct computer science professor Carla Pierce on Oct. 12.

Luper said Kongi told her she had asked a question in class, just as any student would, and was told to leave after a conflict started.

This is not the first time Kongi has been involved in a conflict on campus.

In March a campus security report was filed after Kongi was reported to have threatened physical science lab assistant

See "NAACP," page 12



Photo by Melissa DePew

Hard work pays off: Student Lauri Marlor works hard to memorize the various muscles from a muscular leg model located in the science center. Muscle labs such as this one are a regular part of Anatomy I classes.

OKCCC leaders re-vamp executive level positions

By Michaela Marx
Staff Writer

Starting Jan. 1, a number of new responsibilities will be added to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Paul Sechrist's job description.

OKCCC is restructuring its executive level in order to serve students and the community more effectively said OKCCC President Bob Todd.

Among Sechrist's new challenges are internal institutional leadership tasks. However, Todd said, he



Paul Sechrist

will remain the college's chief academic officer.

Sechrist's new title will be Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Todd announced Nov. 29.

Sechrist said he will take over some of the internal tasks of the president.

"The college has increased its

See "Sechrist," page 8

Aquatics center flood dampens Thanksgiving

Physical plant workers called to clean up mess

By Vu Vu
Staff Writer

A damper was put on Thanksgiving morning for some OKCCC employees when they got the call to come to work after a security guard discovered the college's swimming pool had overflowed, flooding parts of the health technology center with water.

Terry Kilpatrick, HVAC/Maintenance mechanic, said physical plant workers were called at their homes around 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving morning. The 10 employees worked on the flood until about 3:30 p.m. he said.

President Bob Todd and Vice President of Business and Finance Gary Lombard also helped fight the battle against the chlorinated water with shop vacuums and squeegees.

It is unknown how much water escaped the pool.

John Knight, director of the Physical Plant, said the cause of the flood is also still unknown. "We're still investigating," he said.

Knight said a dollar amount on the damage will surface in the coming days. The Aquatic Center was constructed in 1989.

Days after the flood, carpet in the offices near the Aquatic center locker rooms resembled wrinkles of blue skin on a Chinese shar-pei.

Knight said some of the poolside offices and classrooms adjacent to the pool were covered in an inch of water.

This caused problems for the Physical Therapy Assistant club.

A T-shirt and sweatshirt fund-raiser organized by PTA club members was washed out when the shirts were damaged in the flood.

The students purchased \$600 in shirts and had hoped to raise \$1299 for their graduation

See "Flood," page 8

"Cleaning my office and sorting through papers wasn't on my schedule of things to do."

—Cecelia Yoder
Psychology Professor

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Unnatural end to life provides wrong answers

Many interesting things occurred in the month of November, mainly the crazy, some would say kooky, 2000 Election.

Also, on Thanksgiving, the Aquatic Center flooded, causing workers to clean up the mess on turkey day. President Bob Todd and Vice President for Business and Finance were also there, helping in the cleaning efforts. This event was even kookier than the 2000 election.

And the kookiest event happened during the final week of November.

Holland's parliament passed a euthanasia bill.

It's expected that the bill will become a law next year.

According to Webster's New World dictionary, euthanasia is the "act of causing death painlessly, so as to end suffering."

In a sense, it's not suicide. Also in a sense, it is suicide.

If enacted, this bill will allow doctors to end the lives of patients who request to stop living.

In the Associated Press story, the process of ending one's life would be closely watched. The qualifications would be stringent. Also, 12-year-old kids can opt for euthanasia with their parents' and the government's permission.

This is just the flick of the first domino. In the end, none will stand unless a hand divides the chaos from the peace, the peace being morality and the chaos being the lack of morality.

If this bill becomes law, the sanctity of life will fall into the garbage.

Why do people forget that there is pain in life and that death should occur as naturally as conception? They say that every birth is a miracle.

Every death is a miracle as well, although a sad one. It's a signal that the body has gone its course throughout life and that it is ready for a new beginning in a place as mysterious as anyone can imagine.

Then there's the Hippocratic Oath, "I will prescribe regimen for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone."

Human suffering is a part of the game we play after, during and even before birth. And to set a date when death will occur is horrendous.

What kind of evil possesses a man to ask another to end his life and what kind of evil allows a man's conscience to end the life of another?

When the first domino falls, it's very difficult to catch the destruction before all the dominoes fall.

It may look awfully neat, but in the end, it's an ugly mess. Someone will have to clean it up.

It is difficult to watch a person in pain, but it is not difficult to comfort a loved when it is their time to part.

—Vu Vu
Staff Writer

Fill someone's pantry for Christmas with donations

To the Editor:

The Gay Alliance and Friends Student Organization is collecting cash donations, paper goods and toiletries to fill holiday baskets in support of Other Options, a local, non-profit agency that provides a food pantry and services to low income families and individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

The Friends pantry is the only pantry in this part of Oklahoma for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS and is their primary food source. Those served are individual men and women, single mothers and fathers, single pregnant women, husbands, wives, partners and children being cared for by grandparents.

Free groceries for nearly 600 low-income Oklahoma City area men, women, children and families are distributed weekly through the Food for Friends pantry.

Last year, with the generous support of members of the community, the Friends Pantry was able to provide enough food for

65,135 meals. For the past eight years, Other Options has put together Christmas baskets (red and green laundry baskets) filled with toiletry items, things that can not be purchased with food stamps and other items that are expensive for families with an average income of under \$600 per month. This Christmas, they hope to fill 200 baskets.

Items they need include: toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, shampoo, hand and body lotion, razors, shaving cream, cotton swabs, deodorant, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dishwashing liquid, tissues, antiseptic mouthwash, band-aids, bathroom cleanser and prenatal vitamins.

They also plan to distribute gifts of: men's underwear, men's tube socks, men's thermal underwear, children's socks, women's underwear, sweat suits, gloves, scarves, hats, coats, blankets, books for children and adults and child safe toys. All clothing is needed in all sizes.

Collection points are in the Arts and Humanities Division office and the Math and Science Division office. The collection of donations will continue until Dec. 14. Contact Cathy Bowman at 682-1611 ext. 7218 or Leroy Ball at ext. 7627.

—Gay Alliance and Friends

PIONEER

Vol. 29 No. 15

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Vu Vu.....Staff Writer
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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>



STRAIGHTJACKET BY: M.C. GAREY



Comments and Reviews

'Footloose' captivated audience during movie-like performance

"Footloose" proved phenomenal as the audience could do nothing but give the dancers the standing ovation they deserved during opening night at the Rose State Theater.

The dancers were so vibrant and natural with their roles it was like watching the movie — only much better.

Time lapses were so smooth that they swiftly

carried the audience through the scene changes.

A great re-enactment of the eighties time period was produced through the costumes, personalities and language.

It was so great that I don't even know where to start when trying to describe my favorite scene.

The town meeting where Ren tried to convince the minister to allow a school

dance was a funny scene. With the help of Ren's crush, which ironically happens to be the preacher's daughter, Ren is able to use the Bible to prove to the minister that dancing is not a sin.

During this comical scene, some of the townspeople begin dancing when the minister isn't looking.

At the end of the hearing the minister is beyond frustrated.

With the aid of his caring wife, the reverend finally makes a decision to put his own past behind him and allow a dance.

The whole town seemed to go footloose.

The dancing and the music with live songs such as "Let's Hear It For the Boy" and "Almost Paradise" were phenomenal.

This national tour of Footloose is a must see.

—Melissa DePew
Staff Writer



'Unbreakable' proved fragile at end

A movie that begins with a thrilling train wreck ends with the train coming to a complete stop before the movie ends.

The actors and actresses in "Unbreakable" prove their abilities in a stunning performance, but piecing the characters together was a little rough on the edges.

There were great scenes and the plot works, but one major weakness was that the end product just didn't seem like a final version and the ending didn't match up to the beginning.

"The Sixth Sense" director M. Night Shyamalan, gave a good attempt to match his prior success, but fell short. "Unbreak-

able" is more mature and thoughtful and deals with the very

complex issue of fate, but didn't give the feel of mystery like "The Sixth Sense."

The 107 minutes of movie evolve slowly as if not to "break" the plot. This proved to be a good tactic to give it a twist from the normal action movie.

Bruce Willis serves up a stunning performance as David Dunn, a man who is the sole-survivor of a train wreck and with the help of comic book dealer, Samuel L. Jackson, tries to understand why he has "super-hero" attributes.



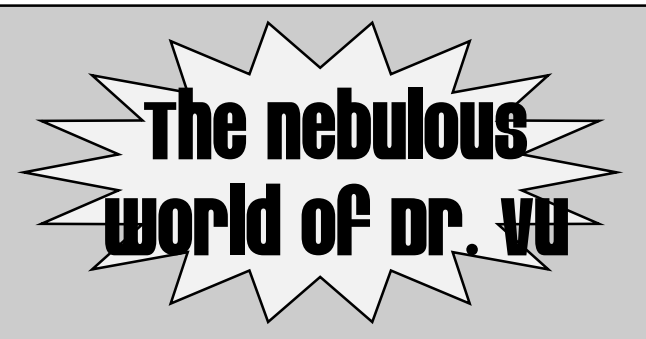
Jackson as Elijah Price has bones as brittle as glass while Willis never seems to get sick or injured under any circumstances, the two compliment each other as they search for answers.

"Unbreakable" doesn't top my list, but it doesn't rank at the bottom either. With a little more plot development it could move up in the ranks though.

"Unbreakable" receives 2 out of 4 stars.

—Kathi Etherton
Editor

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College football election crazier than presidential election

Everyone strives for perfection and yet, perfection is never attainable. It is the striving that counts. It is the process of attaining that is important. It is the hard work, the dedication, and the sacrifices one must suffer while attempting to attain perfection.

After all that hard work, one expects a reward, maybe a trip to Miami, preferably in the Orange Bowl.

OU will go there if they beat Kansas State. The only remaining question is whom they will play.

Actually, we know what state OU will play. Florida. OU will play a team from the state of Florida, either the Seminoles from Florida State or the Hurricanes from Miami.

According to the Bowl Champion Series standings, if the game were played today, OU would play the Seminoles, who were defeated by Miami earlier this season.

Miami is ranked No. 2 in both the Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today polls. If it weren't for the BCS, OU would play Miami for the championship. However, if it weren't for the BCS, OU might not play Miami for the championship.

Because of this, my friend Jeff "Crazy Jeff" Ryan proposed a college football playoff system. The top 16 teams ranked by the BCS would square off just like in NCAA basketball. After the eight games are played, the four teams left would go to two major bowls. The last two teams remaining battle it out for the real national championship. The other colleges not invited to the shindig will go bowling just the same.

Also, Crazy Jeff would get rid of the conference championship games and the Kickoff Classic and the Pigskin Classic, shortening the season for the playoff.

I hear the furnituregallery.com bowl will be truly exhilarating...

My old high school buddy, Kara Keister can watch her New Mexico Lobos contend for the championship.

But college football is still a game we all love and enjoy. They don't play for us, or for the schools, but for themselves—for their futures.

College athletics give students a chance to succeed in life. A playoff would be nice as long as it's okayed by the college athletes.

—Vu Vu
Staff Writer



Sweet teeth delight:

The Computer-Aided Design Club worked hard to sell cotton candy for the Brandi Evans Transplat Fund on Nov. 29. Brandi is the daughter of adjunct professor Julie Evans. Pictured (left to right): Bryan Thomas, Dave Derringer, Marilyn Parrott and Jennifer Manjiliman.

Photo by Melissa DePew

With the holidays come new lab hours

By Heather Miles
Newswriting I Student

The holidays are approaching and final exams are lingering and with tests come studying. The labs will be open the last week, Dec. 11 to 18. These are the hours:

Communications Lab

Monday-Thursday
8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Math Lab

Monday – Thursday
8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Friday – Saturday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Science Lab

Monday – Thursday
9 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Friday – Saturday
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Computer Lab

Monday – Thursday
8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Friday – Saturday
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Contact the
editor at
682-1611
ext. 7675 or
e-mail at
editor
@okc.cc.ok.us**

Library study rooms offer needed privacy and quiet

By Robbi Patzkowsky
Newswriting I Student

Final exams are a few weeks away and many students have their own way of preparing for the stressful weeks ahead.

The environment where a person studies could be a very important factor in their success, said Barbara King, director of library services.

"Some students like complete privacy and others like to be able to talk to others," King said.

Studying at home provides students with a common environment and the option of privacy.

"I like to study at home because that is where I am the most comfortable," said Mardi Saxon, advertising major.

However, Rocky Cook,

business marketing major studies at the library.

"I like the study rooms in the library because it is really quiet and easy for me to concentrate," said Cook.

"I can't study around a lot of people because I like to talk too much."

Few students know about the study rooms in the library. The rooms are located on both the first and second floors.

"I would have studied in these rooms if I had known about them," said Saxon.

These rooms are usually for groups of two or more, but individuals can use them too.

"The study rooms offer great privacy and the second floor rooms are especially quiet," said King.

"The study rooms offer great privacy and the second floor rooms are especially quiet."

—Barbara King, director of library services

If students are interested in using one of these study rooms in preparing for final exams, they need to make reservations. There are reservation procedures posted inside the library.

Students can use these rooms during the regular library hours.

The hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

See the Pioneer at www.okc.cc.ok.us

Campus security officers certified as first responders

By Alyssa LaValle
Newswriting I Student

With the recent certification of OKCCC campus security as first responders, officers may be better equipped to handle certain emergency situations.

The state requires that OKCCC security officers meet the qualifications of a certified first responder.

First Response certification allows officers to use an automatic external defibrillator in the event of heart attack or cardiac arrest. This alleviates the need to rely solely on manual cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The first responder course OKCCC officers took is a 16-week course offered on OKCCC's campus each semester.

The course covers blood pressure, trauma injury, first aid treatment, and how to respond to a medical emergency situation until further help can arrive. First responders must be re-certified every two years.

OKCCC armed campus security officer Jim Springer said he worked hard to pass the course.

"It was tough," he said.

Springer said he studied three to four hours a day for the course and completed his first responder training in May of 1999.

Springer said there might only be two responder calls that come in a week.

"Typically, it's quiet," he said.

Campus armed security officer Kevin Tipton said medical calls are unpredictable.

"Sometimes we have two or three calls a day. It just depends."

OKCCC security officers patrol the campus grounds each day, both on foot as well as bicycle. One officer is patrolling the parking lot at all times, while another may be seen on bike.

Tipton occasionally patrols the grounds on his bike.

"Anywhere that anything could be going on, I'll be there," he said. "Anyone here can handle any medical situation. That's what we are trained to do."

For more information on campus security, contact 682-1611, ext. 7691.

Sexual assault program scheduled for Dec. 6

A sexual assault prevention seminar called "The Men's Program: Sexual Assault Prevention Education for Men by Men," will be held at noon, Wednesday, Dec. 6, in college union room 1.

"The Men's program" is an all-male, sexual assault prevention, peer education program for young men.

The program is delivered in a one-hour workshop by

Deputy Jeremy Yerton of the Tulsa Sheriff's Department.

The program is designed to be relevant to men as potential helpers, not as potential rapists.

The group presentation covers what men can do, both long- and short-term, to genuinely help.

During the program, myths, misconceptions and the assault experiences are

discussed directly, succinctly and explicitly.

It gives men a forum in which to discuss and confirm the majority's view in a non-threatening manner.

For more information, contact Mike Jones in the Office of Student Life at 682-1611, ext. 7523.

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Christmas spirit grabs students and staff

Traveling home for Christmas, shopping is on everyone's mind during the last days of classes

By Vu Vu
Staff Writer

Students have their eyes set on home and family this holiday season.

For some students, family means traveling across the country.

"I'm visiting my aunt and uncle in Tennessee," said Ralph Oliphant, computer animation major.



Oliphant

Biology major Heather Valadez will travel to Sacramento, Calif. to visit her family.

Marco Yanes, a CAD ma-

jor, will leave the cold plains of Oklahoma for sun, warmth and family in Miami.

"I went there last Christmas and had a lot of fun,"

Yanes said.



Valadez

Others plan to take trips closer to home.

Zoology major Bonnie Means will visit her par-

ents in Shawnee. Chemistry major Linzi Stewart plans a trip to grandma's house in Chickasha.

Larry Golden, Student Development counselor, plans to spend his holiday



Yanes

at home with his family.

"We plan to remain at home with our kids and grandchild," Golden said.

"We have one grandchild due Dec. 14, so that'll be my Christmas present."

Besides traveling, people have Christmas



Means

shopping on their minds.

Although high tech toys are on the wish list for most, no gift is greater than the gift of family and love.

"I'm getting my mom a family photo of me, my brother and my cousins," Stewart said.

Some kids will receive a

big present.

Valadez plans to buy her three children age 7, 6 and 2, a \$1500 four-wheeler.

Valadez has a different request for her own present, however.

"I want to have all my family together," Valadez said.

Golden and his wife will donate money in their children's names to the Christmas Store in Norman that helps the homeless.



Golden



Stewart



Celebration of love: Mr. and Mrs Claus trim the chosen Christmas tree in harmony. They know that they have just the right thing for their better half. They both read the Pioneer gift ideas.

How to make your special someone (really) happy

By Kathi Etherton
Editor

The hardest people to shop for are the ones you want to like their Christmas gifts most: boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands and wives.

The worst part is that one is supposed to read all their wishes from their eyes.

To make your life easier, the Pioneer asked OKCCC students what they really want.

Ho Ho Ho, and happy shopping.

What a girl needs...

- Tickets to a ballet, opera or show
- Scented candles. This is a good gift from guys who wonder "Are we...or are we not?"
- Leather jackets
- Anything animal print

• Clothes and shopping gift certificates.

• Pajamas and underwear, but remember, whereas men believe that less is more, the ladies appreciate the beauty and elegance of Victoria's Secret items.

• Spa gift certificates
The gift every girl hopes for are classics:

- Jewelry, especially big and sparkly diamonds
- Puppies, but no dalmations. Remember, she is not a five-year-old Disney fan.
- Watches...the good kinds are Fossil, Seico, Nine West

Techno toys for the boys

- Clothes, especially Jeans, but remember what looks cute on Ricky Martin, may not be something your boyfriend is going to wear in public.
- Sports magazine subscription
- Cell phone

- Watches
- Cologne
- CDs and Stereo equipment
- Sooner gear

This year's top gifts for guys are:

- The Sony Playstation 2
 - DVD Player and/or DVD movies
 - Computer equipment, computer and video games.
- Tip: Take your ten-year-old nephew with you. Not only does he know all the cool stuff, but he probably knows more than you about computers.
- The Orange Bowl Package: includes tickets, hotel and transportation. However, considering the steep price of \$1,200 to \$1,500, the girl better make sure that he really, really loves her.



❁ The Pioneer wishes all of you a Merry Christmas ❁

Time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas

What is the true meaning of Christmas?

The typical modern Christmas is a completely different deal compared to the events one night more than 2000 years ago, that changed the world forever and brought us Christmas.

Today the stores are stocked with Christmas trees, Santa Claus, elves, and eight tiny reindeer. All these things are now associated with the holiday.

They are practically the only things seen in stores, said David Badder, president of Chi Alpha at OKCCC.

But Christmas, as the name indicates, is about Jesus Christ, he said.

Christmas is everyone's favorite holiday. Retailers especially enjoy the season.

However, for Christians it is a time to reflect on the

true meaning of Christmas.

Badder said the significance of the birth of Christ seems to get lost among all the c o m m o t i o n around gifts, food and Santa Claus. People seem to be distracted by material things.

Everybody knows about the Virgin Mary, Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus, said Badder. Unfortunately "people don't sit back and reflect on that anymore," he said.

It is unfortunate that among all the Christmas merchandise people can hardly find a nativity scene, Badder said.

Another popular Christmas habit is to abbreviate Christmas with X-mas. Badder said he understands that some people are bothered by this, because it takes Christ out

of Christmas.

Bria Cheek, finance major, said the true meaning of Christmas gets lost today, because it has become commercialized. Christmas has become a multimillion dollar business.

People tend to focus more on gifts than on Christmas itself, she said.

Cheek said the true meaning of Christmas is spending time with your family and those you are close to, regardless of what your reasons are to indulge in the Christmas spirit.



Festival of lights to begin

The Jewish community celebrates a special holiday as well, while Christians prepare for Christmas.

Hanukkah falls on a different date every year, because of the Jewish lunar calendar. It begins this year at sundown Dec. 21.

Hanukkah is an eight-night festival, also called the Festival of Lights. The Jewish community celebrates the miracle of burning oils.

Even though it is celebrated around Christmas and gifts are exchanged, it isn't a holiday in competition with Christmas. It has its own origin and customs.

The holiday started after Jews defeated the Syrians in 165 BC. Jews rebuilt a temple in honor of God, but they had only enough oil to light the temple for one day. Instead the light burned for eight nights.

Jews celebrate the holiday by lighting candles on the menorah for the eight nights of Hanukkah, but there are other traditions not as well known:

- **Playing the Dreidel.** The word is derived of a German word meaning "top." The game is an adaptation of an ancient gambling game. Hanukkah was one of the few times when rabbis permitted games of chance.

- **Pancakes:** A favorite Hanukkah food is latkes, or potato pancakes. Originally the pancakes were made of cheese.

Jews explained this custom with the story of Judith. Judith was a daughter of the Hasmoneans. She fed cheese to the leader of the enemies of the Jews. He became thirsty and began to drink wine. When he got drunk she cut off his head.

- **Gelt:** money gifts and chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil are modern versions of a traditional gift known as Hanukkah gelt. Gelt is a Yiddish term for money.

—based on information at www.joi.org



Santa Claus — an American success story

Santa Claus provokes excitement in kids and grown-ups alike. Some fear the wise old man who has all our good deeds as well as our bad behavior documented in his big book. He is a timeless character and a superstar all over the world.

Santa is a product of numerous European legends.

However, Santa Claus has a secure place in America's hearts and popular culture.

According to information on the website www.santaclausoffice.fi/english/history.htm, the basis for the Santa Claus is Bishop Nicholas of Smyrna (Izmir), in what is now Turkey. Nicholas lived in the 4th century AD.

He was very rich, generous, and loving toward chil-

dren. Often he gave joy to poor children by throwing gifts in through their windows.

The Orthodox Church later raised St. Nicholas, m i r a c l e worker, to a position of great esteem. Russia's oldest church was built in honor of him.

The Roman Catholic Church honored Nicholas as one who helped children and the poor.

St. Nicholas became the patron of children and seafarers.

St. Nicholas made his way to the United States with Dutch immigrants.

The American version of Santa Claus was inspired by the Dutch version of

Santa, Sinter Klaas, brought by settlers to New York in the 17th century.

In American poetry and illustrations, Santa Claus, in his white beard, red jacket and cap, would sally forth on the night before Christmas in his sleigh, pulled by eight reindeer, and climb down chimneys to leave his gifts in stockings children set out on the fireplace.

Kids naturally asked where Santa Claus actually came from.

The question gave rise to the legend that Santa lives at the North Pole, where his Christmas workshop was located.

In 1925, since grazing reindeer would not be pos-

sible at the North Pole, newspapers revealed that Santa Claus in fact lived in Finnish Lapland.

Finnish public radio revealed the secret for the first time in 1927: Santa Claus lives on L a p l a n d ' s Korvatunturi - "Ear Fell."

Throughout the world the legends of Santa evolved. He is known under many aliases.

In many countries in Europe, Santa distributes gifts to the children on Dec. 5 or 6. In

some countries, the gifts come at another time during Advent or on Christmas Eve.

According to the website www.religioustolerance.org/santa.htm in Germany, St. Nikolaus is a helper of the Christkind (Christ Child).

In France, Pere Noel contributes gifts.

Under the influence of communism, St. Nicolas evolved into the secular Father Frost in Russia. He brings toys to children on New Year's Eve.

In England, Father Christmas delivers the presents. He is shown with holly, ivy or mistletoe.

In Scandinavian countries, the ancient Pagan Yule goat has transmuted into Joulupukki — similar to the American Santa, stated the website.



Santa — now



Santa — then

Text by
Michaela Marx



Changes made in college's top level

"Sechrist,"
Cont. from page 1

leadership role in higher education," said Todd. Therefore the role of the president has changed. He said there is a need for the president to be more engaged in representing the college outside campus.

"I saw this as a chance to use Dr. Sechrist's strength in leadership," said Todd.

Also Sechrist can expect a 5 percent salary increase based on his current pay of \$96,516, said Todd.

Sechrist will supervise several executive council positions including director of human resources, executive director of enrollment management and dean of

planning and institutional research, said Todd.

Further, he is in charge of forming a President's Cabinet. This committee will be responsible for policy matters such as preparing budget or staffing recommendations, said Todd.

Sechrist said that the President's Cabinet is a new group at OKCCC and will meet in a board format on a regular basis.

Also the college is going to hire an associate vice president for academic affairs, assisting Sechrist with the administration of academic affairs.

The position was deleted from the staffing plan last year, but will be hopefully filled by the beginning of the next fiscal year, said

Sechrist. The salary for the job is covered within college budget resources.

The new provost and vice president of academic affairs will also head the executive council, said Todd. The focus of the executive council will be on college operational matters.

The council will be made up of the new associate vice president for economic development and the associate vice-president for academic affairs in addition to its current membership.

Sechrist said he is excited about the new challenge. The new approach will help the college fulfill its mission.

Sechrist has been involved in the field of education for 25 years. He joined OKCCC in 1995.

Business and finance VP hired after search

By Michaela Marx
Staff Writer

The position of vice president for business and finance has been filled after a six-month of search.

Arthur Bode of Harrah was scheduled to begin his duties Dec. 1.

He replaces Gary Lombard who had been juggling dual responsibilities since July 1 as vice president of business and finance as well as vice-president of special projects.

President Bob Todd said he is very positive about Bode joining the college.

"He brings a lot of experi-

ence and leadership and comes highly recommended."

The position at OKCCC is Bode's first assignment in higher education, Todd said. However, Bode is no stranger to the education administration.

Bode served as business manager for the Choctaw-Nicoma Park Public Schools. Further, he held a position as the director of management operations in the Oklahoma City Public School system.

Todd said Bode also has more than 20 years of service for the United States Air Force. He last served as director of technology and industrial support at Tinker Air Force Base.



Photo by Vu Vu

After the Thanksgiving flood in the Aquatic Center, Physical Therapy professors Vicky Davidson and Peggy Newman sort through \$600 worth of fund-raiser T-shirts. The T-shirts would help pay for Physical Therapy Assistant students' graduation.

Flood clean-up nears completion

"Flood,"
Cont. from page 1

pinning.

"They wanted graduation to be really nice," said Peggy Newman, director, professor and club sponsor of Physical Therapy.

Graduation will go on, however. Newman said the students will sell the damaged shirts at discounted

prices.

In the meantime, clean up continues.

The Physical Plant used an anti-microbiological spray to cease any potential mold or mildew problems. Also, blowers were used to dry the carpeting.

Some professors were waterlogged at the worst possible time.

"Cleaning my office and sorting through papers wasn't on my schedule of

things to do," Dr. Cecelia Yoder, psychology professor said.

Even though some workers missed out on some Thanksgiving festivities, all was not lost.

"Everybody was in a good mood," Kilpatrick said.

Donations for the Physical Therapy Assistant students fund-raiser can be made by calling Newman at 682-1611, ext. 7305.

Joel Kinnamon bids farewell to OKCCC

By Vu Vu
Staff Writer

At the beginning, the room was empty.

But with time, there was a line — a line to say final goodbyes and to give final hugs to Joel Kinnamon, dean of Business, who left OKCCC after 11 years for Tulsa Community College Dec. 1.

Kayla Fessler, professor of accounting, said Kinnamon will be missed.

"We'll miss his attitude. He was easy going and easy to work with."

Kinnamon's presence was felt throughout the college.

"He provided support when we needed it and motivated us to do new things just by his attitude," said Anita Williams, professor of business.

Arts and Humanities Dean Susan VanSchuyver felt the same way.

"We're going to miss him a lot," she said. "He leaves a hole in our college community that will be hard to fill."

Kinnamon was widely admired.

"[I will remember] his enduring effort to remain calm in the midst of chaos," said Chuck Carselowey, professor of sociology.

"He has a nice wardrobe, a nice collection of outfits."

While the sociology professor will remember Kinnamon's "wry sense of humor," and Karlen Grayson of Student life will remember his "warm, friendly smile. He's a great guy," she said.

Psychology professor travels to Sweden, presents arson study

By Amy Berringer
Newswriting I Student

OKCCC psychology professor Thomas Jones traveled to Sweden in July to present a paper about his eight-year study of child arsonists.

His presentation focused on a program designed to aid in the early identification and intervention of juvenile fire setters.

Jones, currently the mental health director for the Oklahoma City fire department, developed the program through a grant from the U.S. Fire Marshall.

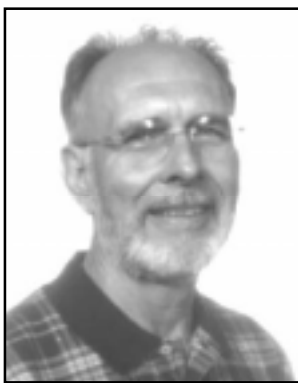
The conference was the 27th International Congress of Psychology in Stockholm.

After receiving a grant funded by the college's Global Education Committee, Jones was able to represent OKCCC and the state of Oklahoma at the congress.

"Juvenile fire setting is one of my areas of interest,"

"Juvenile fire setting is one of my areas of interest. This program is used to study and treat children as young as four and as old as 13, who intentionally start fires. I am amazed at the success of the program."

—Thomas Jones
OKCCC
Psychology professor



Thomas Jones

Jones said.

"This program is used to study and treat children as young as four and as old as 13, who intentionally start fires.

"I am amazed at the success of the program."

Jones said repeat fire incidents have declined from about 14 percent to ap-

proximately 2 percent after treatment.

"I was really surprised at the interest in my presentation," Jones said. "There were many more people in the audience than I expected, too many to

count."

Many questions came from the international audience, Jones said, and a number stayed after for more detailed information.

One group from Sydney, Australia, expressed enthusiasm about applying this model and are now corresponding with Jones.

Most of the interested listeners were western Europeans and North and South Americans.

"Interventions are fragmented, ranging from traditional outpatient therapies to institutionalization. Our approach is significantly different, surprisingly effective, and we are just now beginning research on the data we have been collecting since 1992."

The International Congress of Psychology convenes every four years in different locations around the world.

Kurt Lewin and Ivan Pavlov gave keynote addresses at the 1929 congress and are among the many famous psycholo-

The spirit of giving...

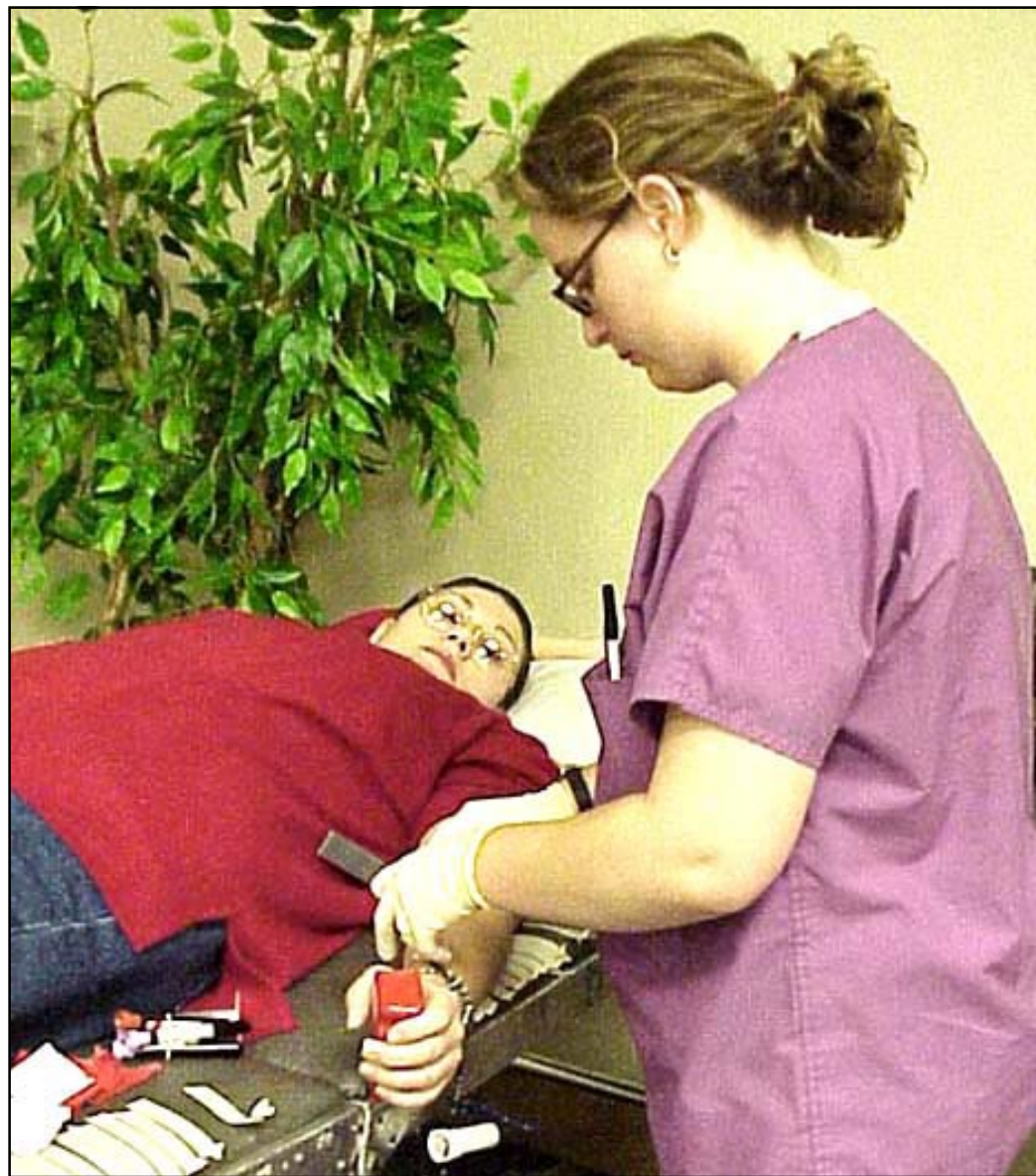


Photo by Melissa DePew

Oklahoma Blood Institute nurse Jacey Richards prepares to remove a needle from the arm of Shanna Douglas. Douglas was one of approximately 60 people who donated blood during the OBI blood drive Nov. 19 and 30. OBI representatives will return to the OKCCC campus on Valentine's Day.

gists who have attended over the years. This year's congress drew approximately 7,000 psychologists, from all over the world. The meeting lasted a total of seven days.

The psychologists were free to attend any activity of interest and plan their own schedules throughout the week.

"My most valuable experiences at the congress were the group discussions," said Jones.

"There were two small group discussions in particular about student teaching issues that were among my favorite.

"Picture 20 psychologists in one room facing each other in a circle, discuss-

ing the problems and challenges they experience.

"Some of the issues that we discussed included the best way to introduce psychology to students in order for them to get the most out of the class.

"I found it fascinating that despite the fact that we lived thousands of miles apart, we seem to face the same challenges."

Jones said his experiences in Sweden were good.

"Everyone in Stockholm was very patient with me when I had to ask for directions," he said. "I found it difficult to read Swedish because of all the dots that are located on top of almost every letter."

Jones said he even re-

ceived a personal escort to the platform he was trying to find by the toll takers in the subway. He said, due to the complicated transportation system, that was easier than trying to get him to understand directions.

Jones earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma.

He proceeded to Oklahoma State University to complete his doctorate degree.

He has been a full-time professor in the psychology department at OKCCC for 10 years.

In addition, Jones is a licensed psychologist and practices in Bethany.

Highlights

Attention spring and summer 2001 graduates

It's time to apply for spring and summer graduation. Commencement is around the corner on May 11. To participate, turn in applications for graduation by Feb. 2, to be included in the program. Spring graduates not participating have until April 13. Summer graduates not requesting to participate in graduation have until July 9.

All applications for fall 2000 graduates should be on file in the Graduation/Transfer Evaluation office. If you plan to graduate in December and haven't applied, please see Mary Jones in room 1J5 in the main building.

Scholarships available

Several different scholarship applications are now available in Prospective Student Services. Included are: Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges, Mensa, Daughters of American Revolution (membership not necessary), Morris K. Udall and Datatel. For more information contact Linda Sapp at 682-7580.

Scholarships for the asking

OKCCC students have been awarded over \$31,533 in fall Semester Scholarship monies. Don't miss out on scholarship opportunities. A "How to Play the Scholarship Game and Win" workshop will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5 in CU1.

Scholarships for scholarly adults

The Office of Prospective Student Services is currently taking applications for the Workforce Development Scholarship. This scholarship offers six credit hours of tuition assistance or book credit in OKCCC's Bookstore to adult students. Twenty scholarships will be awarded. Applications may be picked up at the Office of Prospective Student Services, 1J6 or call 682-7580 for more info.

It's not easy being Greens

The Campus Greens will have a meeting at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 6 in room 2N5. Discussion will be over the November election and local issues. Guests are being invited from the OKC-Metro area.

Maestro...

Don't forget to do something special for yourself this New Year's. Enroll in MU 1151 Piano Group and learn the joy of playing the piano. The class meets Tuesdays from noon to 1:50 p.m. in 1D4 of the AH building. For more info, call the Arts and Humanities office at 685-7558.

But it's the last one

The Abilities Galore club is holding its last meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, in CU7. People with disabilities should come to the meeting.

It's finally over!

Jay Parmley, national president of Young Democrats of America, will give his account of the election from 12:30-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14, in College Union rooms 2 and 3. He spent the final three months of the presidential campaign in 10 states, managing the youth focus for the Democratic campaign. For more info contact Elaine Lyons at 682-1611, ext. 7536 or Parmley at 232-3382.

A time to give

The student bookstore is sponsoring a food and toy collection. All donations will be accepted at the bookstore and the Wellness Center. Drop off donations before Dec. 15. They will be given to Parents Assistance, a nonprofit organization. For more info contact Corey Berlier at Elitecw@aol.com



Gift of giving:

Corey Berlier places a toy in the box for the Parents Assistance toy and canned food drive. He began the drive on Nov. 20 and plans to continue it until Dec. 15. A discount is being offered through the bookstore for those who participate.



Photo by Melissa DePew

Bookstore offers gifts for canned food, toy donations

By Melissa DePew
Staff Writer

The OKCCC bookstore is hosting a canned food and toy donation to assist needy families through the Parents Assistance program, which is funded through United Way.

The charity idea came from staff member and student Corey Berlier, who thought it would be a good idea to help a charity this Christmas.

"I found this organization while searching for charities online," said Berlier.

The program is a part of the Center for Children and Families, which has been in existence for 30 years.

It seeks to help every child grow up feeling safe, nurtured and loved.

Berlier also plans to give to another charity if he can.

"Anything left over after Dec. 11 will go to the Salvation Army," he said.

The drive began on Nov. 20 and will continue until Dec. 15.

On Dec. 18, Parents Assistance will host a Christmas party for needy parents to come and get toys and canned food items.

This gives a chance for those less fortunate families to offer their children Christmas toys this holiday season.

Out of the giving Christmas spirit, the bookstore is offering a discount to people who donate toys or

canned foods.

"We're going to offer 25 percent off any novelty purchase with any unwrapped toy donation," said Paula Jackson, of the bookstore.

For those who don't want to purchase something immediately with the discount, a coupon will be issued and can be used within one month.

Donation boxes are located in front of the bookstore and in the wellness center.

If you miss the Dec. 15 deadline, you can drop off any items at the Center for Children and Families, located at 1151 E. Main St. in Norman.

For more information regarding this charity, call 364-1420.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Spokesperson for student claims discrimination; OKCCC denies charge

"NAACP,"

Cont. from page 1

B.J. Higgins.

The report includes information from Higgins, who alleged Kongi was verbally abusive towards the lab assistant in her classroom.

In the report one of Higgins' students told the security officer that Kongi had said to Higgins words to the effect of "Don't screw with me or I'll mess you up."

Luper said she believes Kongi is being treated unfairly in the current situation.

"This is the worst case of discrimination I have ever seen in my life and I have investigated all kinds of dis-

crimination," Luper said.

Luper has worked with the NAACP for 43 years. She serves as the youth adviser for the Freedom Center which is the home of the NAACP Youth Council and serves as an educational and motivational center.

Luper said Kongi may be expelled from all classes at OKCCC for the remainder

of the school year, depending on the outcome of the hearing. Marion Paden, vice president for student services, said the student conduct committee conducted the hearing. A decision on what will happen to Kongi was to have been made by Friday, Dec. 1.

"If we expel this student for asking a question, there

wouldn't be any students at the college because no one is perfect," Luper said.

Mary Johnson, director of student relations, would not comment on what happened, citing the nature of the event and the regulations protecting the student's right to privacy.

Paden expressed confidence that the college has

acted properly.

"I feel as though the college has dealt with the situation in accordance with its publicized policies and procedures," Paden said. "We have ensured that our students have equal access to educational opportunities."

Neither Kongi and Pierce were available for comment.



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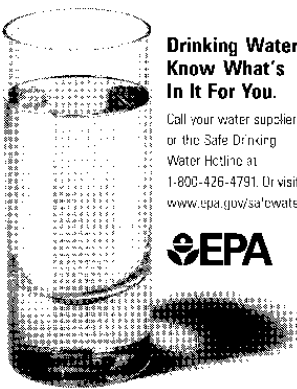
Need friendly outgoing personality. Start immediately. Earn quick cash for Christmas break. Contact Eric Hamilton at 632-2339 or 623-9118 or fax résumé 632-2558.

Help Wanted

Need care giver to work with 36-year-old female, with developmental disability. S.W. OKC area, Friday 4:30 p.m. until Saturday midnight, and Sunday 4:00 p.m. until Monday 8:30 a.m. Contact Dana with Panhandle Opportunities at 844-1209.

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