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PIONEER

Prof travels from afar to OKCCC

More than 20 years have passed since Vijay Ramachandran left home for college

By David A. Harris
News Writing I Student

At the young age of 17, Vijay Ramachandran, born in Malacca, Malaysia, was on a bus headed to Kuala Lumpur, the capital. Though he was never the exceptional student in high school, he would soon find out the true meaning of failure. With tears trickling down his face, his father loaded him on the bus and wished him well on his journey to college.

Ramachandran said his first semester at Stamford College in Kuala Lumpur was the turning point of his life.

For the sports-minded Ramachandran, soccer was more of a focus than college. He said it showed through his grades. When the fall semester concluded, he had recorded a smooth 0.00 grade-point-average.

Ramachandran had to muster the courage to call his father with the news. He said that is when he decided to change how he performed academically.

Through the next four years Ramachandran would make mostly A's and graduate from Stamford College with an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration, a United Kingdom-based British degree.

The next big decision he would make would come in the form of a trip from Asia to America, where he wanted to earn his next degree.

Ramachandran said that, although he had \$3,000 when he arrived in the United States, he still had to work hard to put himself through graduate school. He found two jobs to support himself and enrolled at Oklahoma City University.



Photo by Melissa DePew

Creating art: Pottery lab assistant Nora York, right, helps visual arts major Laurel Ewing shape a pot. "It's really something to be able to master," said Ewing. "But once you've got it, it's an addiction."

College food service prices go up

By Vu A. Vu
Editor

Recently, when student Cynde Chicks paid for a salad from the college student union, she paid 60 cents more than she would have just a week before for the same salad.

As of July 2, Sellers catering, the food service provider to OKCCC, raised prices an average of 10 to 11 percent.

Although signs are posted, announcing the increase, all food

prices weren't raised. So in some cases, it's hard to tell what will cost more and what will remain the same.

Chicks said the price increase of the salad was a "surprise attack."

She said she didn't realize her salad cost 25 cents per ounce until she was at the register. The new prices for the salad bar are posted.

"At the new cost, I could go to Golden Corral and eat a lot more," Chicks said. "What was I going to do? Throw it away?"

Chicks, who is trying to eat

healthier, said, with the price increases, she'll be more inclined to bring her own lunch or to eat from "unhealthy" vending machines.

When asked what she would do if she could change things in the union, Chicks said she'd get rid of the fountain drink area, using the extra space to increase the size of the salad bar and its offerings.

"[The union] should promote

See "Food," page 8

See "Vijay," page 8

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Recycle me

While walking around Washington, D.C. and hanging out in a dorm at American University, I noticed something extremely weird on some of the streets and in some of the recreational areas at the dorm.

Some streets had three or four different garbage cans, each one with a specific function. One was for paper. One was for plastic stuff like pop containers. The other one was for glass, if I'm not mistaken. The fourth was for garbage like foodstuffs.

However, it wasn't perfect. The garbage cans were filled to the brim (on a Wednesday night) and in many cases, garbage lined the streets.

In the AU dorm, cleanliness was better. The multiple garbage cans were designated for things like plastic cups, spoons, bottles and the like. Also, bins for paper goods were available for students. Since it was summer, however, most students went home.

Their dining area was a marvel. Instead of foam plates and cups and plastic knives and forks, the college had hardy plastic plates, nifty plastic cups and shiny metal spoons.

Although D.C.'s recycling program isn't perfect (In 1995, garbage piled up along homes because the city ran out of garbage transportation money), at least they're trying to preserve their environment.

Paperwise, there's recycling in every department. OKCCC's paperless goal is close although someone should install a paper recycling bin in every computer room on campus.

OKCCC still has issues with plastic and Styrofoam, however. At OKCCC, I counted two blue recycling bins from Pepsi Cola. The bins, however, are for aluminum cans only.

Inside, instead of empty cans or even empty bottles were pieces of garbage like paper and food wrappers and those plastic six-pack holders, the kind that dolphins suffocate on unless they're cut. To add insult to injury, the bins weren't even half full on Tuesday night.

If Pepsi is willing to recycle the competition's cans, why aren't they willing to recycle their own bottles?

In the union, it's an environmentalist's nightmare with all the foam used.

Yes, foam is cheaper, in the short run. But in the long run, the costs and the benefits of reusable silverware outweigh the consequences of foam, especially when competing for landfill space.

Breakage is a valid concern, but the plastic industry can build tough plates. Theft and vandalism are valid points as well. That's where the honor code comes to play. Also, in order for this to work, we need to hire people to collect, sort and wash the dishes.

The bottom line, as always, is money. Since students are paying for the remodeling of the school, perhaps students could vote to assess another fee for the new dishes and the extra employees.

Maybe 25 cents per credit hour would cover it.

—Vu A. Vu
Editor

Safe summer swimming tips

State health officials caution that while swimming is fun and great exercise, it is important to remember that some illnesses can be contracted from swimming in contaminated water.

Observe these water safety tips during the holidays and throughout the summer:

- NEVER swim in stagnant water, or water that looks "polluted."
- Take "No Swimming" signs seriously.
- Avoid swimming in shallowing chlorinated pools or natural waters.
- Use earplugs and swim goggles, or a mask, if you tend to get ear or eye infections after swimming.
- Keep wading pools clean and change the water daily, particularly when temperatures are high.
- Avoid getting water into your nose when swimming in shallow waters, especially during periods of high temperatures.
- NEVER allow a child to swim in a chlorinated pool or natural water source while ill with diarrhea —

even while wearing disposable swim pants or plastic diaper covers.

- Children with other illnesses (fever, vomiting, etc.) should also stay home.
- NEVER drink, or cook with, untreated water from a natural water source.
- Do not swim in ponds or lakes that are actively used by livestock.
- NEVER dive into shallow water or into water where the bottom is not visible.
- NEVER use alcohol or drugs while swimming or boating.
- NEVER leave children unattended near a water source for even SECONDS at a time.
- NEVER swim alone, no matter how good a swimmer you are.
- Limit time spent in the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Children and adults should use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher following label directions.
- Do not attempt to jump in and save a drowning victim unless you're certified in lifesaving.
- Try to reach the victim

with anything they can hold on to that can be used to pull them to shore.

- Throw anything to the victim that will float and that can be hung on to until rescue is made. Get out of the water and move well away from any water source before, or during, a thunderstorm of any size.

—Oklahoma State
Department of Health

PIONEER

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. However, the PIONEER will withhold the name if the request is made in writing. The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity.

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

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



e-mail the editor: editor@okc.cc.ok.us



Comments and Reviews

Get free stuff online

It's common knowledge that everybody loves free stuff, especially when there are no strings attached.

TheFreeSite.com (www.thefreesite.com) is an informative, creative site to find all your free goodies.

Marc McDonald, owner of TheFreeSite.com, lists the site's purpose along with other answers to questions on his link to frequently asked questions.

"TheFreeSite.com aims to list all the top free products, services and offers available on the web," said McDonald.

"It's our ongoing mission to round up all the latest and greatest freebies in one convenient spot."

Twenty-seven links are featured on the home page, including: Freebie Features, Fun Freebies, Free Samples and Family Freebies.

Ten of the 27 links consist of free computer-related items, such as graphics, Java and web space.

Each link contains a list

of free items relating to the topic and a short summary of each item. Hearing aid batteries, a Fox News travel mug and a sample of Serenity pads are just

a few of the items listed in the Free Samples link.

According to McDonald, all of the sample items are "totally free," with no shipping and handling fees. He also makes the process for obtaining items sound pretty easy.

"With only a couple of exceptions (for especially attractive offers,) you should have to do nothing more than fill out an e-mail form or call a number to obtain the freebies."

He said it's a good idea not to use your primary e-mail address when requesting freebies, so as to avoid getting junk mail. He suggests signing up for a free web-based e-mail just for your freebies.



McDonald also offers some good advice to those wary of "free stuff."

"Although we work hard to make sure all our offers are legitimate, it's always best to remember that people usually don't give away free stuff out of the goodness of their hearts, but there are an enormous number of great freebies out there for the taking. So just be careful and use common sense, and you'll be OK."

Although not all free stuff comes without strings attached, it's still fun to try.

Who knows, in six weeks, I may really get my free sample of Dove deodorant.

—Melissa DePew
Staff Writer

Big man returns to tube

Primetime has its new star, and surprisingly it's not in the form of reality TV.

Jiminy Glick has made his long-awaited return to national television and it's all "primetime" for this overweight star.

Glick flexes his fat every Wednesday at 9:30 p.m. on Comedy Central.

Glick, who first debuted on Martin Short's syndicated talk show last year, has now found a permanent home perfect for his rather candid and offbeat interviews.

Guests of the show have included Steve Martin, Bill Maher, Jerry Seinfeld, Dennis Miller and Billy Crystal.

Guests of the show will surely have to endure a squirmy Glick with clueless questions about past roles and shows.



Martin Short

Glick is a witty and unsuspecting interviewer with the gift to dish out jabs as well as he can take them.

He is constantly mispronouncing stars' names, looking at his watch, talking with his mouth full and either fawning over or insulting the guests.

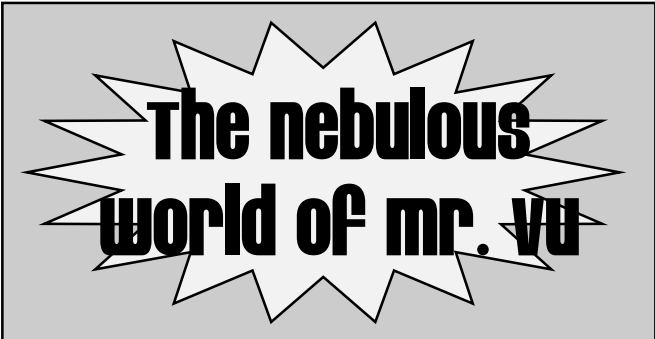
He's also continually fidgeting and trying to get

comfortable in his chair, which often leads to him falling out of his chair. The show follows along the same parameters of regular late-night talk shows fully appointed with monologues, skits, interviews and fake commercials.

The best part of the show is clearly the slightly over-tan harpsichord music director Adrian VanVorhees played by Michael McKean ("This is Spinal Tap," "Best in Show.")

Martin Short is terrific portraying the senile aloof man in the fat suit, and it's paying off. Short doesn't know how long the gig will last, but like Deion Sanders says, "it's always good to have a little 'primetime' in your life."

—Mark Stack
Staff Writer



Vu's best buddy nearly bites dust

I knew my dog Rudy always had his eye on it. After all, it did look like a nifty bone.

When I went to the kitchen or the living room, I'd always catch him sneaking out of my room with this sly innocent look on his face.

One night, I caught him. There he was, chewing on my Playstation 2 controller.

I tackled him and wrestled the \$30 Dual Shock controller out of his mouth.

The controller was mangled. It looked like someone tried to pry the controller in half. I couldn't find one of my buttons either. And it smelled like doggy chow. Gran Turismo 2 would never be the same.

Vu was...upset. Not only did Rudy chew my stuff, but he also chewed everything else. Mom was...upset when Rudy chewed holes into the couches and she was...upset when he destroyed her leather shoes and she was...upset when Rudy found last night's dinner in the garbage and decorated the kitchen floor with all the stuff he couldn't eat. My sister was...upset when Rudy chewed her brush. Truthfully, I think Rudy chewed my mom's shoes because she wanted new ones.

But besides his tendency to chew stuff, he really was a good dog at heart.

After late night cram sessions, I never wanted to wake up until the afternoon. That's when my mom or my sister opened the door and Rudy did his job.

He ran toward my bed, leapt on top of me and licked the drool from my face.

Once, I thought he was Cali Tucker, Miss Teen All American 2000, that is, until I smelled Rudy's killer doggy breath.

When I did my laundry one night, I went to my room to get my clothes. When I came back, Rudy found a package of rat poison we hid before we got him. I knew I needed to throw the poison away, because I saw that suspicious look on Rudy's face. For some reason though, I didn't trash it.

Three days later, Rudy tapped my door with his nose, his signal that he needed to go out. On the floor was an empty packet of poison. Bits of green poison stuck to his teeth and gums.

Rudy was poisoned. I was scared he was going to die, like a rat, lumped somewhere, alone.

The next day, we called the vet. He said as long as Rudy ate and drank regularly, he'd be fine.

Today, he's still the same obnoxious and stubborn dog he was when we first got him.

—Vu A. Vu
Editor

Youngsters create perfect banana bread

By Jennie Dougherty
News Writing I Student

A sweet smell filled the air in the kindergarten classroom at the Child Development Center Monday July 2, as kindergartners worked together in a cooking project to create the perfect banana bread.

Chris Shay, kindergarten teacher, called the kids to the table to begin.

"Please don't forget to wash your hands before we start cooking," she reminded the anxious children as they rushed to the table.

The cooking project involved making banana bread from a box mix, vegetable oil, flour, water, and

eggs. The youngsters were in charge of everything from adding the ingredients to mixing the batter.

The children used problem-solving skills as they guessed what steps were involved as well as what order they went in.

The kindergartners also used math when they made the ingredient measurements and counted to 10 as each child took turns stirring the batter.

"How am I supposed to know how to make it?" Shay asked, referring to the bread.

"With bananas!" student Taylor Sims answered matter-of-factly.

All of the students took turns helping make the banana bread.

The mixing bowl was

passed around the table so one person could add the flour and another could mix in the water until every student received a turn.

Little voices piped in from every side of the table, offering to get the water or add the flour.

"I want to do the vegetables!" someone shouted, meaning that he wanted to pour in the vegetable oil.

"Who knows how to crack an egg?" Shay asked, addressing the class.

"I do! I do!" was the unanimous reply. The children then watched in amazement as their teacher demonstrated. The demonstration was followed with a collective "ooh."

Kindergartner Chase Weaver later said cracking the eggs was his favorite

"Who knows how to crack an egg?"

—Chris Shay

Child Development Center teacher

part of the activity.

After all of the adding and mixing was done, the children were asked to guess how long the bread needed to bake.

Guesses ranged from five minutes to 55 hours though the actual baking time was one hour.

When asked what the temperature needed to be to bake the bread, none of the kindergartners were even willing to guess. When Shay told them the temperature would need to be 350 degrees, everyone gasped at how hot that was.

The rest of the activity was left to the teachers as they put the filled bread pans in the oven and set the timer.

The children said they had fun with the activity.

Student Aryan Young said her favorite part was pouring the batter into the pan.

"I like the smell," said kindergartner Patra Files.

Everyone in the class had the chance to enjoy all the hard work they put into the banana bread when the finished product was served with their lunch.

Third year means new computers

By Meredith Minshaw
News Writing I Student

All the computers on campus are upgraded every three years, said Lisa Davis, director of technology support services/network administrator. This is going on right now.

The process of switching out the computers in the classrooms is different from replacing computers in campus offices.

In the classroom, the software that is pertinent to the class or lab is downloaded into the computer.

"We can do multiple computers at one time," says Davis.

In an office, the process is more specialized.

All documents in the old computer must be saved on a server. They are then re-installed into the new com-



Lisa Davis

puter.

The process for buying new computers entails seeking bids from approved vendors.

"Whoever has what we need with the best price gets the bid," said Davis. This year Dell was picked.

After the old computers are removed, two options are available.

If the computer is still in good condition and fairly new, it is redistributed to

a classroom or lab on campus.

If the college does not want to keep the old machine, technicians wipe everything off the computer hard drive, then send it to surplus.

A surplus auction is then held and the money from that goes back to the college.

OKCCC Construction update:

•Red and blue signs such as those identifying the location of the bookstore and the Admissions office will be used throughout the construction period to guide students to relocated offices.

•Admissions and Records has relocated to the area where the bookstore was on the first floor of the main building.

•Enrollment Management has been relocated to Board Rooms A and B on the first floor of the main building.

•Renovations in the college library are nearing completion.

•Computer classrooms, IT faculty offices, the computer lab, the center for teaching and learning and the training center offices will begin relocating the week of July 9.

•The newly-remodeled science center is scheduled to be complete and ready for classes before the beginning of the fall semester.

*Update information provided by Art Bode,
vice president for Business and Finance.*

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Earth Share

www.okccc.pioneer.com

History students get a gander at London

By Lindsey Maynard
News Writing I Student



Photos by
Micah Joe-Williams

Above: The Tower of London, just one of the many sites the students saw during the trip.



Above: Student Monica Gallamore poses in front of a statue from Easter Island.

Left: Alicia Kopisch, Dr. Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen and Monica Gallamore on their recent trip to London.

A photo-journal essay was the assignment given eight students ready to embark upon a learning trip to London. They all came back with much more.

On May 22, history Professor Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen led a group of students to England on a nine-day expedition.

Before leaving the states, Sheetz-Nguyen held a five-night survey course on British history. In that class, she said, the students learned about the sites they would visit and which ones were important.

Upon their arrival the group checked into The Royal National Hotel. Sheetz-Nguyen said they also checked into perfect vacation weather.

She said it was never cooler than 60 degrees and that it did not rain once during their week in London.

Lunches were packed each day but dinners were eaten in restaurants serving Chinese, Greek, Indian, Italian, Moroccan, Turkish, and Vietnamese cuisine.

"The students bought fresh fruits from the vendors on the square to pack in their lunches," Sheetz-Nguyen said.

History major Monica Gallamore took part in this class trip.

"London is such an international city," she said. "From the food to the people, everywhere you turn you're faced with something new and exciting. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to experience this wonderful place."

She said the one place she would probably describe as her favorite place to visit would be Canterbury.

"We traveled by British Rail to Kent where Canterbury Cathedral is located. It was a perfect day," Gallamore said.

"The weather was unusually warm for England and flowers were in bloom for as far as the eye could see from the train.

"Canterbury is the place of the martyrdom of Thomas Beckett and it is still a pilgrimage site for Christians to this day."

Beckett was an archbishop who was beheaded at Canterbury in the late 1100s.

Some of the priceless sites that the class encountered was during a double-decker bus ride. Sheetz-Nguyen said the bus tour was "priceless" because although she's spent time in London in the past, she had previously missed some of the sites she saw during the bus tour.

The sites and artifacts in England are very old and rare compared to what is in the United States, she said.

Gallamore said the Magna Carta was unbelievable.

"I was most impressed with the fact that Britain was the seat of the Western world and was the push of this Western culture. That immense power and strength is still obvious today."

Highlights

Fall OTA applications still being accepted

Applications for the fall 2001 Occupational Therapist Assistant program will be accepted through Friday, July 27, by noon. Applications for the spring 2002 Nursing and OTA programs will be available July 16 in the Office of Admissions and Records.

Volunteers needed for swimming championships

OKCCC needs volunteers to work the hospitality area, sell tickets, and perform several other duties during the Southern Sectional Western Zone USA and Central Sectional Western Zone USA Swimming Championships. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts: Thursday, July 19, 4 to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, July 20 to 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, July 25, 4 to 8 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, July 26 to 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.

Intersession classes still available

Students still have the opportunity to earn college credit during the August Intersession. Classes begin July 30 and run through Aug. 17. Numerous sections are available in courses such as biotechnology, computer science, economics, English, history, nursing, political science, psychology and sociology. Students can enroll in person, on the phone by calling 682-6222 or they can enroll online at www.okc.cc.ok.us

New music class for part-time musicians

A new music course is being offered at OKCCC. Fundamentals of Music, taught by Dave Archer, is a music course for non-music majors who love music and would like to know more about the theory but know they aren't ready for Music Theory 1. People who like to sing in church choirs but can't read music, those who play a little guitar or piano and would like to play better, but need some theory to do so can all benefit from the class. The class will be offered in the fall from 9:30 to 10:50 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. For more information about the class, contact Dave Archer at 682-1611, ext. 7245.

Federal student aid available

Students who are interested in applying for student financial assistance for the 2001-2002 academic year should apply now. The free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available from the College's Student Financial Aid Center. A web version of the FAFSA can be accessed at www.fafsa.ed.gov and can be completed using computer stations located in the Student Financial Aid Center. Students completing the web version of the FAFSA must print and sign a signature page then submit it to the Federal Central Processing System. Each year the College's Student Financial Aid Center disburses over \$8 million in federal and state student financial assistance. Information about the various student assistance programs is available in the college catalog, Student Handbook, the college homepage and from the Student Financial Aid Center.

Fall Fee Waiver applications being accepted

Tuition Fee Waiver Applications for Fall 2001 are now available from the Student Financial Aid Center. To be eligible, the student must: be in good academic standing and maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA; maintain enrollment of at least 6 credit hours for fall; obtain a current "Academic History" at the admissions desk. Deadline to the Student Financial Aid Center is by 5 p.m., Aug. 3.



Lifeline:

Joshua Allen, computer science major, waits patiently as Oklahoma Blood Institute supervisor Jocelyn Patterson, completes the process of drawing his blood.

Allen was one of 19 people who gave blood to the OBI when they were on campus June 27.

Photo by
Melissa DePew

Blood Drive helps some overcome fear of needles

By Kelly Wyatt
News Writing I Student

As she sat with a ghost white face waiting for her blood pressure to be taken, Tammy Warner, who works in the Financial Aid office, expressed her reason for giving blood.

"I've never given blood before, so I thought that I would try it," Warner said.

"My husband does it all the time and I have been wanting to, but I have just been too much of a chicken because I don't like needles."

On June 27 the Sylvan N. Goldman Center Blood Institute hosted a blood drive in the college union.

This was the first blood drive of the summer for OKCCC. The goal was to

draw 20 to 25 units of blood. Donors missed that goal by one unit.

"We originally had about 23 or 24 people signed up and 19 of them actually came to give blood," said Jocelyn Patterson, supervisor of the event.

"We are always low on blood, especially in the summer, so we need as much blood as we can get."

Appreciative of the 19 units received, Patterson remarked on the importance of giving blood.

"A lot of people are scared of the needles. If you can overcome that, then you could find that you are helping so many people by donating," she said.

"If you ever need blood yourself, you are going to be really grateful that someone donated and you are going to see why people need to

donate."

Overcoming the fear of needles was a lot easier than Warner thought it would be in the beginning. Afterwards, she said, she would have no problem giving blood again.

"Like I said, I was afraid of needles at first, but after I did it, my fear of needles seemed nonexistent," she said.

"My first experience was a good one and I have decided to give blood more often."

Got club news?

**Call Mark at
682-1611,
ext. 7676.**

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.

FOR SALE: Glass dining room table with four rose-colored upholstered chairs on wheels. Asking \$95 OBO. Call 329-6992.

FOR SALE: '91 400cc Suzuki Bandit, new tires, throttle cable, seals in front forks, and carburetors cleaned. Only 15k miles. Asking \$2,000 OBO. Call Paul at 376-5440 or 414-1686.

FOR SALE: Size 6 Eden Bridal wedding gown. Never worn. Asking \$300. Please call 841-9739 or 749-2155.



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1. Check local laws on burning.
2. Don't burn on dry windy days.
3. Clear a 30-foot circle around debris before lighting fire.
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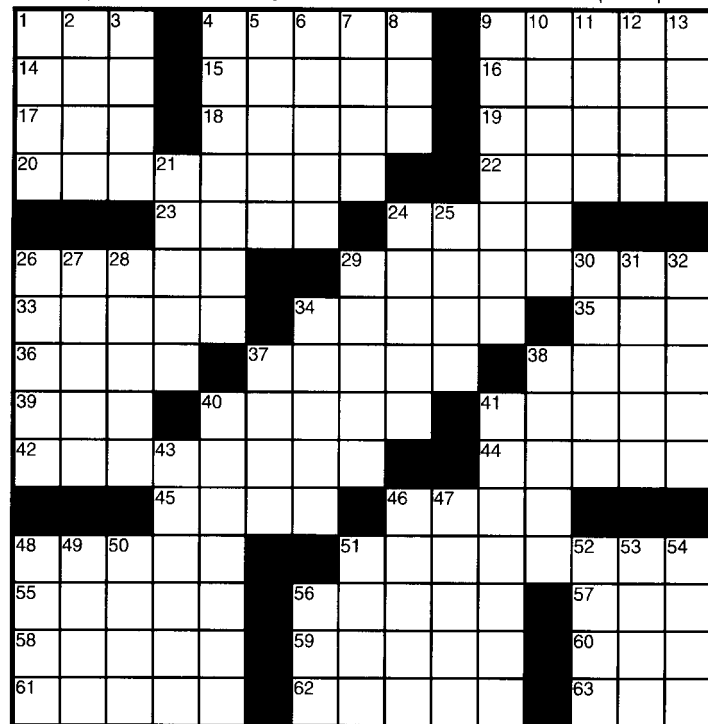


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- 12 Bean —: tofu
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- 26 Slow mover
- 27 "Beer Barrel —"
- 28 Colorado resort
- 29 Herring

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Office theft prompts door lock change

By Stephanie Stapleton
News Writing I Student

On May 24 Lisa Davis, Director of Technology Support Services, reported to Safety and Security that more than \$4,000 of computer equipment was missing from office area 2K1 in the main building.

The items reported missing are an Easy CD Creator used for creating CDs, a Brother Label maker used for making labels, a Brady ID Pro Label maker, two Western Digital brand hard drives, and a Casio hard drive.

Davis said most of the items were removed from their boxes and the empty boxes left behind.

The items were last seen May 21.

Keith Bourque, head of security, said there was no sign of forced entry. Bourque said there are no suspects. The locks have been changed on the doors.

Food price increase generates responses

"Food,"

Cont. from page 1

healthy food instead of junk," Chicks said.

Physics professor Steve Kamm, who has been employed at the college since it opened, said he has seen food providers come and go.

"Whenever we get a new contractor, things go fine for the first few months," he said. "After that, they go downhill."

Kamm said on July 2, the day the union raised food prices, he made some changes in his routine.

"I won't be eating [in the union] anymore," he said.

After the price increase, Kamm paid 50 cents more for a sandwich.

"My pay raise was 3 percent. I can't afford a 20-percent increase in my food budget.

"Service is getting worse and the prices are increasing," he said.

Kamm said he is aware that Sellers needs to make money and that the college has to provide food service.

"It's not a good deal for anybody," he said.

The price increase hasn't bothered Gary Lombard, OKCCC vice president of special projects.

"Chicken strips have gone up a dime. They're still a bargain," Lombard said.

Kemi Atoyooye, a pre-nursing major from the University of Oklahoma and part-time OKCCC student, said the OKCCC union offers things the OU union doesn't.

"If you're in the [OU] union, you won't be able to buy a bowl of fruit," Atoyooye said when comparing unions. "You can buy like an apple or a banana [at OU] but nothing like this. I like the variety — it's not limited."

She said the OKCCC union seems clean and the service and prices were "OK."

"I wish they were open longer," she said.

Sellers Catering employee Heather DeShazo has received mixed messages about the new price increases.

"Some understand that the increase is a positive move to save the school money," DeShazo responded via e-mail.

Business dean still getting educated

"Vijay,"

Cont. from page 1

"For the most part of my working career, I have had two jobs," he said.

Ramachandran, 39, eventually earned his Master's of Business Administration in International Business from OCU. He is now at OKCCC serving as the acting dean of the Business Division.

Ramachandran has worked as a business professor since 1997. He is now also working on finding a place to complete his doctorate — an endeavor he embraces.

"Everything in one's life happens for a reason."

Acting Business Dean
Vijay Ramachandran

Photo by Melissa DePew



"Others who are on a budget are upset that their money doesn't go as far. Complaints and compliments are about even."

DeShazo said food portions will remain the same and food quality will increase when Laura Brown takes over the role of head chef at OKCCC July 11.

She also said Brown, who was the former head chef at Metro Tech and Portobello restaurant, plans to increase the variety of food offered at the salad bar.

Linda McMurtry, assistant director of Finance, said it was difficult to project how much the school will save with the new price increases.

McMurtry said before the price increase, people abused the salad bar by filling to-go boxes with as much salad as possible, and that the new charge per ounce would quell salad abuse.

Arthur Bode, vice president of business and finance, said the college and Sellers had a mutual discussion about food prices

prior to the increases.

"We tried to work together to meet [Sellers'] needs and the college's needs, financially," Bode said.

"Our hope is that with sound management and the slight increases in prices, that we can overcome the losses and allow the college to at least break even."

The college lost \$45,000 due to a clause in the contract with Sellers that says

the college will pay for any losses up to \$45,000 each fiscal year.

Bode said the prices are still competitive with other food companies.

In the June 18 issue of the Pioneer, Jim Sellers, owner of Sellers Catering, said a price increase of 10 to 11 percent was expected due to the increased costs of wholesale food costs.

(Editor's note: As of press time, a campus-wide e-mail was sent out by Heather DeShazo with notification that salad bar prices had been reduced to 16 cents per ounce.)

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