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PIONEER

Aquatic Center reopens doors

Repairs done, new bulkhead in place

By **Caroline Ting**
Editor

The OKCCC Aquatic Center reopened its doors Nov. 1 after a six-week renovation period. Swimmers and divers can now feel more comfortable in the Olympic-sized pool, said Traci Wheeler, Recreation and Community Services director.

During the Nov. 15 Board of Regents meeting, the college regents recessed to visit the Aquatic Center, and later accepted the renovations.

The aquatics facility, which had been in service for 15 years, was five years past its warranty so the reconstruction was necessary, Wheeler said.

Two major renovations done on the swimming pool include a new pool bottom surface and a new bulkhead.

The new pool bottom is made of polyvinyl chloride with a pad underneath it, she said.

"It's really cushioned so it's nice to our retired population, (and) more friendly to my learn-to-swim instructors who teach the kids," Wheeler said.

The baby blue color of the liner also gives the pool a nice sparkle, Wheeler said to the regents on Nov. 15.

The previous pool bottom was old and had started to hurt people's feet, she said.

The old bulkhead caused some injuries too, Wheeler said. The bulkhead is used to shorten or lengthen lanes for competition.

"[A bulkhead] is used for flip turning," Wheeler said. "So when [the swimmers] do a flip turn, [the old bulkhead] would cut their feet."

The new bulkhead is made of solid fiberglass, she said. Unlike the old one, "there's nothing attached that can fall off."

Wheeler also told the regents that the new bulkhead is "the best on the market, moveable and vital for competitions."

The new pool liner and the bulkhead have a 25-year warranty, Wheeler said.

In addition, a new gutter system was installed on the diving well, Wheeler said.

"The old gutter system had tiles all the way around the lip, and that tile was starting to fall

See "Aquatic," page 16



Photo by Christiana Kostura

A Gathering of Countries: International students gathered in the atrium of the main building to present their home countries' flags during the International Flag Dedication ceremony. More than 500 international students from 60 countries attend OKCCC. For more on the dedication, see page 9.

Database takes college back to 1800s

By **Erin Lewis**
News Writing I
Student
and **Richard Hall**
Staff Writer

OKCCC students are now able to search newspapers back to the 1800s, thanks to the new Proquest Historical Newspapers database.

Systems Librarian Dana Tuley-Williams said OKCCC history professor Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen made the request for the database.

"Before getting Proquest, [OKCCC] didn't have historical newspaper coverage prior to 1980," she said.

"Proquest is an excellent and beneficial database that allows

students to search for newspaper articles dating back into the 1800s."

Tuley-Williams said if the college had wanted to have coverage prior to 1980 for certain newspapers, they would have had to buy it on microfilm.

The cost of a microfilm database of The New York Times dated from 1851 to 1980 would have cost the college approximately \$700,000.

Tuley-Williams said the entire Proquest database cost less than \$10,000.

Tuley-Williams said with Proquest, students can currently search The New York Times from 1851 to 2000, the Wall Street Journal from 1889 to 1987, Los Angeles



article can be difficult."

She said students should think of how to search for their topic, and to use specific dates or time frames. She said this will reduce the time

the student spends looking for the article they need.

Additionally, The Oklahoman archives have been enhanced to include articles dating back as far as 1910.

These additions will assist students in furthering their research.

To access the Proquest Historical Newspaper database and other databases offered by OKCCC, visit www.okccc.edu/library/articles.

Times from 1881 to 1966, the Washington Post from 1877 to 1988, and Christian Science Monitor from 1908 to current issues.

Tuley-Williams said although the program is outstanding, it does have a learning curve.

"Proquest searches newspapers using Optical Character Recognition," she said.

"This means it searches images of newspapers, and sometimes finding the exact

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Media's hit or miss on Arafat

What could be said about a man who funded terrorism and had a deep, personal involvement with the massacre at the Munich Olympic games? Kind words aren't the first that come to mind, but apparently that's all that can be said about the kind of man Yasser Arafat was.

Arafat's death has his followers mourning while the rest of the world revels. One of the largest roadblocks on the road to Middle Eastern peace is now gone.

If this is the case, then it should be found absurd that many media personalities and news stations portrayed Arafat as a victim. They gave Arafat the persona of being a frail, grandfatherly figure, rather than detailing his life as it really was.

Katie Couric, co-anchor of the "Today" show, wore black the day Arafat was buried. Fox News' Sheppard Smith even went as far as to compare Arafat to George Washington, calling him a liberator and freedom fighter.

This means Arafat also can be compared to Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr. and Mohandas Gandhi, all of which is asinine.

While the remarks and actions of those media personalities are inane and impious, they're nothing compared to how news stations handled Arafat's death on our nation's Veterans Day.

As stations covered the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, many of them cut away from the event to discuss Arafat's death, which proved to be disrespectful and tasteless.

As the co-founder and Chairman for the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Arafat led the group who was directly responsible for the Munich Massacre.

In his autobiography, "Palestine - From Jerusalem to Munich," Palestine National Council member Abu Daoud admitted the PLO was directly responsible for the assault on the Israeli athletes, which left all 11 team members dead. Daoud was a leader of Black September, the group that carried out the attack. Arafat and two other men saw him off with the words, "Allah protect you."

For a man who had his hand over the massacre, Arafat was made out to be a folk-hero upon his death. It's sad to see that much of our nation's media echoed the thoughts of political leaders who herald Arafat as a great and wonderful man.

Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak said Arafat was a defender of justice, while French president Jacques Chirac called Arafat a man of courage and conviction.

Although it's true that Arafat was a man of conviction, it's too bad his conviction led him to terrorism. Arafat's greatest contribution to his people was when he attempted to make peace, and one of the greatest chances for peace ever is here. Let's all seize the chance, respect it and put it to good use.

—Richard Hall
Staff Writer

Student wants a policy in place

To the editor:

I see posters all over the campus that say, "The World Is Your Campus." I totally agree. Attending college is a very efficient, fast-paced, concentrated way to learn, but experience is the best teacher. The Oklahoma State Regents and OKCCC recognize that fact. The Regents website goes into great detail explaining their commitment to granting credit for "Experiential Learning." OKCCC mentions it in the 2004-05 college catalog.

Unfortunately, I discovered that OKCCC is unprepared to implement its own policy. This became clear when I asked an admissions counselor how to take advantage of this "Credit for Experiential Learning" option. She didn't know. No one knew. No one even knew whom to see. But after being shuffled through five or six offices, administrators did manage to concoct a plan and assign a professor to review my experience.

During this haphazard process, I asked a senior administrator why there was no policy in place to guide the students and staff. The answer I received was, "We're working on it. We've been working on it for a year and a half." I later

learned the Oklahoma State Regents promulgated their "Extracurricular Learning" policy to colleges in Oklahoma in the fall of 1995. Colleges have had over nine years to come up with a policy.

My application was denied primarily because the professor assigned to review it had no training in assessing prior learning. Her lack of assessment skills resulted in over half of my experience being ignored. I asked an Oklahoma State Regents administrator why Oklahoma colleges don't have people trained to objectively assess students who seek out this option. She told me the training required is "very expensive" and many colleges just can't afford it. I researched this, too.

CAEL (The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning), an agency the state regents work hand-in-hand with, has put together a course for this exact purpose. It is an online course offered by DePaul University and would cost OKCCC \$2,400. As I understand it, OKCCC's budget is in excess of \$30 million. I can't imagine \$2,400 being out of the question.

Overall, I have had a great experience here at OKCCC. It is a good college.

It could be better. Forty-one percent of all students in Oklahoma colleges are over 25 years of age.

Many of us have been out in the world — the world that has, indeed, been our campus. OKCCC should be better equipped to recognize that.

—Sheldon Barger
Business management major

PIONEER

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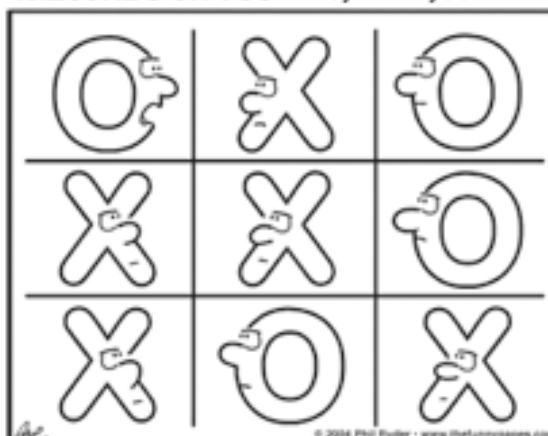
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Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@okccc.edu. A phone number for verification must be included.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: <http://pioneer.okccc.edu>.



THE JOKE'S ON YOU by Phil Ryder & YOU



"Can ya keep it down over there? These walls are pretty thin, ya know!"
- Frank Monaco • North Lauderdale, FL

Comments and Reviews

Men in Blue calls for a rematch

To the editor:

OKCCC intramural volleyball team Men in Blue is calling out the Social Science Spikers.

Men in Blue were in a staff meeting with Dr. Todd while the games between the Spikers and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries were being played on Nov. 9.

We call out the Spikers to the best two out of three, and the winner gets all the bragging rights.

Men in Blue will be returning two seniors: Bashing Bennie Slover (team captain) and Diving Dan Gurka, with four newcomers: Jumping Jason Beam, Dangerous Darrell Pearman, Charging Charlie Neatherlin and High Flying Annette Kolander from Financial Aid.

Maintenance Supervisor Gary Belcher said, "Our team is in top physical shape and ready to avenge

last year's embarrassing loss to the Spikers."

I've posted a cutout of the Pioneer article on every player's locker to keep focus.

There's a lot at stake, but we will prevail.

If the Spikers accept our challenge, we will set a date all can attend, and settle this on the court.

—**Men in Blue**
OKCCC intramural
volleyball team

Smart lyrics from the vault

The vault has been opened once again in search of a favorite from yesteryear. Rather than hunt down another '80s teen comedy, music is this week's treasure. Straight out of 1996 is the album "Take Me to Your Leader" by the Newsboys.

This album is the finest example of the band's unique wit and view on life. Lyrically, the album covers a multitude of people and situations. It sets off a switch in your head that there is an uncomfortable side of life.

"Breathe" centers on a person stuck in traffic and states "drivers beware." It drives home the feeling of irritation, but offers hope with a completely subtle chorus.

A sad, but inspiring song is "Miracle Child." The slow music provides a great backdrop for the picturesque lyrics. It is likely that most people have seen the inside of a hospital and dealt with the loss of a loved one. However, if not, this song puts the listener into such a place.

Another song that does a great job of imagery is "Breakfast." This song is a fan fave with its references to Captain Crunch and other breakfast foods. It is a memorial to a friend who gave such advice as "you will lose it in your gym class, if you wait 'til noon to eat."

Though unnamed, the person "Breakfast" is written about led a breakfast club before his abrupt death. A short song is attributed to him, "when the big one finds you/may this song remind you/ they don't serve breakfast in hell."

Death and dealing with trying circumstances is a strong theme on this album.

A softer song that encourages forgiveness is "Let It Go," one of two songs that relies on softer sounds rather than electric guitars.

The album's title track is full of pop culture and Biblical references. Again, the band's lyrics are choice, considering that they refer to actor Steve McQueen, belly dancers, fish and Bib-

lical figures.

However, as the old saying goes, "save the best for last." The Newsboys did just that. "Lost the Plot" is a classic song. The lyrics define both imagery and irony. Regardless of your religious beliefs, this song makes perfect sense. It deals with people who claim to be faithful and committed to something, but do not follow through.

The opening lines refer to the alleged second coming of Jesus Christ. Whereas this should be a joyous moment for any member of the Christian religion, the singer seems unaffected.

Lyrics such as, "When you're coming back again/ Would you bring me something from the fridge/ Heard a rumor that the end is near/ But I just got comfortable here."

This album shows how bad things can be and how they can improve. If you want to visit the '90s for a while or hear great music, "Take Me to Your Leader" is for you.

—**Matthew Caban**
Staff Writer



Around Campus

with the

President

EMS program best in state

Last month the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions was on our campus to review the college's EMS program.

Every five years the faculty prepare for this extensive self-study report and two-day visit by evaluators selected by the national accreditation office. After an evaluation of the curriculum, faculty, lab equipment and student pass rates on licensure exams, the committee once again reaffirmed that OKCCC has the best EMS program in the state.

The college has the first, and is still the only nationally accredited Emergency Medical Service-Paramedic program in the state of Oklahoma. The program is continually growing.

From fall of 2003 to fall 2004, the program saw an increase in its student body of 67 percent. Enrollment increases in the program are having a remarkable impact on the shortage of health care professionals in the state. The most recent EMS graduating class had a 100 percent pass rate on the national licensure exam. The current national pass rate is 64 percent.

The report filed by the accreditation team was extremely positive and listed numerous strengths: experienced and highly regarded faculty, excellent institutional support, state-of-the-art equipment, "tremendous" community support from the EMS advisory committee, technological support and the availability of two medical directors — both OKCCC graduates.

At the end of the visit, the team met with faculty and administrators. During this meeting, team members were gushing about our program. One member stated, "This is the best evaluation visit I have ever been on." Outcomes like this derive from continued excellence.

I would like to recognize Jo Ann Cobble, dean of the Division of Health Professions; Romeo Opichka, director of the Emergency Medical Science Program; Harvey Conner, professor; Bruce Farris, professor; Brent Stafford, professor; and Shelly Tevis, Health Professions division secretary. Congratulations on having the best EMS program in the state. We are very proud and honored to have such a dedicated group of faculty, staff and students.

—**Dr. Bob Todd**
OKCCC President

Quote of the Week:

"Age is a very high price to pay for maturity."

—**Tom Stoppard**

E-mail your letters to the editor:
editor@okccc.edu

Comments and Reviews

Ladies like armor plating... and 'Halo 2'

Ever since "Halo" debuted along side the Xbox, many video game companies and designers have attempted to dethrone "Halo" from the top spot of being the best first-person shooter on any console system ever.

Many games have come and gone, and while some may have expected it, most will be surprised to find "Halo 2" is responsible for the dethroning.

"Halo 2" picks up exactly where "Halo" left off. The battle ensues against the alien races of the Covenant and the Flood, as the Covenant have discovered Earth and another Halo — the massive ring that has the ability to destroy all life in the galaxy.

Sporting the Spartan gear as Master Chief, players assume the role as the man bred for war, destroying everything in his or her wake.

While the story is essentially an extension to "Halo," as it should be, players will be shocked

when they encounter the many plot twists and turns littered throughout the single-player experience.

Pushing the spoilers aside, the race to stop the Covenant from activating the new Halo is made more enjoyable the second time through, due mostly to the gameplay tweaks.

Players are now able to dual-wield weapons, jump higher and man a more diverse blend of vehicles. Although some of the new elements take some getting used to, intense players will find everything to be second nature in a matter of minutes.

Enemy intelligence has also received an upgrade, and players will find some scenarios must be thought through rather than allowing themselves to burst in, guns blazing.

This adds depth to the game, as it becomes slightly more challenging in the higher levels when compared to "Halo."

The graphics are phe-

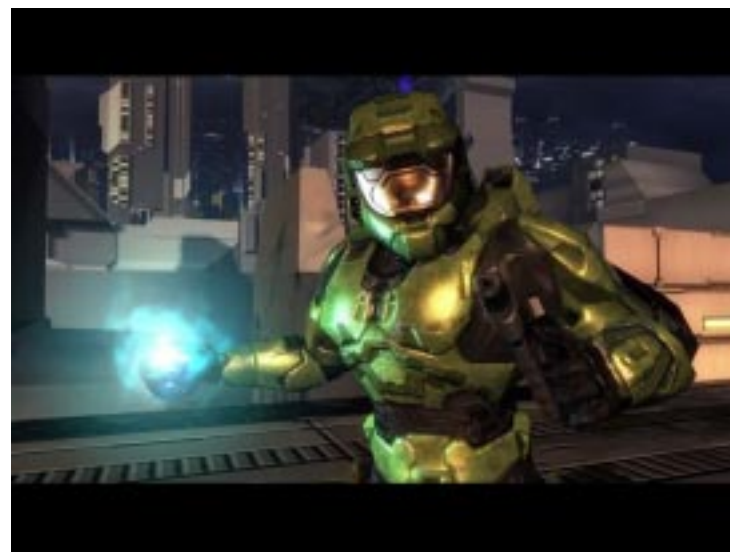
nomenal and brilliantly displayed. There's more atmospheric and environmental detail, as well as an amazing amount of detail added to the character art and movement. It's easy to forget "Halo 2" is a video game and not some nicely put together sci-fi movie.

Players will constantly have a busy screen, whether it be filled with enemies or a wonderfully-done cut scene. All the better as there is virtually no slow down during gameplay, except when the game loads at its checkpoints.

Thankfully, the control scheme has stayed the same with respects to minor differences that mainly deal with dual-wielding.

One of the best aspects of "Halo" was the control layout, and it's nice to see Bungie Software have retained it and, somehow, made it more comfortable.

Ears will beg for mercy as the sounds of shots firing, engines revving and ally radio chatter pushes



through the speakers. Every bit of sound is crisp and clear, as if the game were being played in a movie theater.

Aside from having wonderful sound effects, the actual soundtrack of the game is great. It blends and supports the story immaculately, adding to the intensity the game itself brings to the table.

As it is with many first-person shooters, "Halo 2" does come up short in one category: game length.

An avid player can easily knock this game out in six hours.

"Halo" seemed to last a bit longer than "Halo 2," and gameplay time is a significant decisive factor in respects to if a player should rent or buy.

Though this may sound like a big deal, it really isn't, simply because players can challenge themselves to different difficulty settings, or even by going through the entire game using only a certain weapon.

And of course, how can one forget about the most

lovable part of any first-person shooter?

The multi-player additions to "Halo 2" are incredible, so much that the multiplayer experience alone is worth the purchase price.

Players are able to battle in a vast array of environments, from large to larger, against 16 friends or foes with voice chat capabilities, which translates into a chance to do a lot of trash-talking.

Online scoreboards made available through Xbox Live are now up and running, and the ability to download future content and join multiplayer clans is great.

In the end, players will find the "Halo 2" single-player experience to be a bit short, although aggressive and pronounced.

But keeping in mind the other things "Halo 2" has to offer will unfailingly keep die-hard fans and newbies alike smiling until the next big thing comes along.

Rating: 5/5

—Richard Hall
Staff Writer

James Bond, the diamond thief

"After the Sunset," starring Pierce Brosnan and Salma Hayek, is an action-packed drama full of laughs.

The film begins with a brilliant scheme involving a couple stealing the second jewel in a set of three famous diamonds.

Brosnan, a skilled jewel thief named Max Burdett and Lola Cirillo (Hayek), Burdett's sexy partner and lover, play the couple.

The huge diamonds come from the handle of Napoleon's sword.

Stanley P. Lloyd, an unlucky FBI agent (Woody Harrelson), is trying to transport the second gem when Burdett and Cirillo's scheme plays out.

Lloyd knows the couple has stolen the first diamond, but can't prove it was them. He suspects they will try to steal the sec-



ond one while it is in transport.

Burdett and Cirillo plan to retire at a young age after successfully stealing the second diamond, but are followed by Lloyd to the tropical island they have retired on.

Lloyd suspects the couple will try to steal the third Napoleon diamond, which will be displayed on a ship docking at their island for 10 days.

Many surprising events happen during the movie. The ending is the most hilarious, completely unexpected twist to this film.

The movie is rated PG-13 for sexuality, violence and language. Parents should be aware there is an excess of fleshy scenes and violence.

—Christiana Kostura
Staff Writer

**Are you a cartoonist?
Want to have your cartoon
published in the Pioneer?
Contact Caroline at
682-1611, ext. 7409**

Celebration of Heroes event brings tears

**By Christiana Kostura
Staff Writer**

Many eyes were moist during OKCCC's Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 11.

American, Oklahoman and college flags located in the main building were dedicated in honor of veterans during the ceremony.

A plaque was installed stating the flag display is dedicated to "students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Oklahoma City Community College who have served in our Nation's armed forces."

U.S. Grant High School Junior ROTC members presented the colors and performed a gun exercise for the audience.

President Bob Todd gave a heartfelt speech to attendees about veterans and

their family members as well as soldiers currently serving in the armed forces.

"Veterans past, present and future, you have guided our nation through good and bad times," Todd said. "Through war times and peace, your valor and hope inspires others to serve."

Drew Baker, an OKCCC student, performed "God Bless America" to a solemn crowd, filling the college's main building with her voice.

"I've never heard this college sound so beautiful," said Marion Paden, vice president for Student Services.

The flag dedication ceremony ended with Todd hanging a plaque dedicated to veterans.

Bill McGinnis, a U.S. Army veteran attended the ceremony. He said he

wants to lend support to the soldiers fighting in the Middle East.

"I really enjoyed (serving in the military)," he said. "I learned a lot."

Senior Writer Christiana Kostura can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu.

Veteran David Perry wipes a tear as he listens to Dr. Todd thank all the veterans for their service to the country. He was one of the veterans who visited OKCCC on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Perry was in the Navy and did nine tours in Saudi Arabia.



The U.S. Grant Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps performed the Posting of the Colors at the Celebration of Heroes Veterans Day Ceremony. The ceremony was held in the college foyer on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Photos by Ann Lushbough

Having lunch with the VP

**By Shawn Bryant
Staff Writer**

Students who have something they would like to say to the vice president for Student Services will have a chance to say it Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Marion Paden will be hosting a Brown Bag Lunch Series event titled Lunch with the VP, at 12:30 p.m. in CU3.

Jon Horinek, community engagement coordinator for Student Life, said since this is part of the Brown Bag

Lunch Series, those attending should bring their own food.

"[This event is] designed to give students a chance to voice their concerns with the vice president," Horinek said.

Since this is the first time Paden has been involved in something like this, she said she will feel satisfied to get the opportunity to speak with even one student.

"Anytime I get feedback from a student it will help me do my job," Paden said.

Paden said this is a wonderful opportunity for stu-

dents to speak out.

"Anytime you have the opportunity to speak with someone in a leadership position, you can be heard."

Paden said she plans to do everything she can to make this a productive event.

"If there is a particular question or concern that needs to be addressed I will definitely follow up with that student," Paden said.

Paden also said she hopes people will attend the event.

Staff writer Shawn Bryant can be reached at StaffWriter2@okccc.edu.

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Drugs, warrant lead to arrest on campus

By Christiana Kostura
Staff Writer

Drugs and paraphernalia were found in a mislaid diaper bag on Oct. 29 near the college library, leading to the arrest of a campus visitor. Megan Woodward, 27, of Oklahoma City, told officers the bag belonged to her.

William Snyder, a security officer, found the diaper bag and a car seat on a curb at the southwest corner of the library.

Snyder turned in the items to OKCCC's security office where the college's lost and found is located.

Liquid methamphetamine and needles were found during the process of inventorying the diaper bag, said OKCCC security officer John Hughes, Jr.

Hughes said a man identifying himself as 36-year-old Benjamin Lucas arrived at the security office to claim the items. He told security officers the bag and car seat belonged to a friend waiting outside in his truck, according to the incident report issued by OKCCC.

Upon arriving at Lucas's vehicle, Hughes discovered Woodward and her baby. Woodward said the car seat and bag belonged to her, Hughes said.

Hughes said he took Woodward and her baby inside the college and called the Oklahoma City Police Department.

Neither Lucas nor Woodward is a student at the college, Hughes said.

"(Lucas) stated he brought (Woodward) up here to use a computer for personal use," Hughes said.

Oklahoma City Police Officer Jared Cox responded to the call at 8:27 p.m., according to the crime report issued by the OCPD.

In the police report, Cox said he searched the diaper bag upon arriving at the college.

Cox said stolen checks, credit cards and altered identification cards were found in addition to the drugs and paraphernalia.

Woodward was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance with the intent to distribute, and knowingly possessing a fictitious identification document.

According to the crime report, Lucas was released and Woodward's baby was released to its father.

In the crime report, Cox said a check revealed a warrant issued by Oklahoma County for Woodward's arrest.

According to documents from the Oklahoma County District Court, Woodward had pled guilty to charges of possession of a controlled dangerous substance with the intent to distribute and the crime of transporting a loaded firearm in a landborne vehicle on Jan. 11, 2001.

She was sentenced to 10 years and six months in prison. The sentence was suspended and Woodward was placed on probation.

After violations to her probation, an application to revoke her suspended sentence was filed by the state and a warrant was issued for her arrest.

Woodward could not be reached for comment. Lucas refused to comment.

Senior Writer Christiana Kostura can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu.



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Making music: Musician Alvaro Malave played Brazilian music for OKCCC students Nov. 16 in the college union. Student Life hosted the event for International Education Week. From Edmond, Malave plays Brazilian Jazz, which combines elements from Brazilian and jazz music. Malave blends all his influences to create various ballads, bossa novas and sambas. Brazilian Jazz is most popular in Europe and Asia, and has gained a strong following in the United States. Visit www.garageband.com/artist/alvaro to download songs and for more artist information.

Technology important to students

By John Savage
News Writing I Student

Interactive Television has been a mainstay on the OKCCC campus since 1979.

The technology allows remote students to receive live instruction simultaneously with the students in the originating site, said Glenda Prince, coordinator of Telelearning.

"We now have two-way audio and video that has clear and crisp full motion," Prince said.

ITV has evolved and now uses an Internet Protocol, or an IP address, Prince said.

Prince said IP allows the video and audio to be sent to other facilities and allows students and teachers to talk with each other in real time with no delays or pauses.

This permits classrooms to have face-to-face contact, even though they are miles away from each other, Prince said.

The classrooms used for ITV at OKCCC come equipped with remote controlled cameras, television monitors, microphones and speakers, Prince said.

Prince said OKCCC is now able to send and receive classes from anywhere in the world because of the IP addresses.

A main advantage to using ITV is the time and money ITV saves students.

"This is a great solution for students that live in rural areas," Prince said.

ITV allows students to receive general education in college credits they would not otherwise be able to receive.

"ITV applies to education, business and high schools," Prince said.

Another advantage of ITV is the ability to use the service for video conferencing, Prince said.

ITV also helps people who may not be able to travel to the OKCCC campus and allows high school students to start college earlier, Prince said.

The number of sites

OKCCC can send out at one time is three, Prince said. This means up to three classrooms can work on the same class together.

OKCCC political science professor Paulette Camp Jones said she has been using ITV for three years.

"I like the technological aspect," Jones said. "They are helpful and get the student involved."

Although some students might be embarrassed to be televised on ITV, many students said they don't mind it.

"I feel like it is a comfortable atmosphere, and it is very laid back," said OKCCC freshman Megan Kimmel.

While many students said they enjoy the ITV classrooms, freshman James Compton prefers having a live professor.

"I enjoy this class, but I would prefer to always be in the classroom with the teacher," he said.

For a complete listing of ITV courses, visit the college's website at www.okccc.edu.

Faculty group to look at part-time pay

By Alli S. Riney
News Writing I Student

A resolution calling for pay raises for part-time professors will be considered at the Dec. 14 meeting of the Faculty Association.

It was decided at the group's last meeting.

Approximately half of the classes offered at OKCCC are taught by adjunct faculty. These professors earn much less than half the amount per credit hour compared to full-time faculty members.

The average annual full-time faculty salary at OKCCC is \$46,153. The current pay rate for OKCCC adjunct faculty members is \$535 per credit hour. Even if an adjunct faculty member taught full-time, the annual rate of pay would amount to only \$16,050,

according to the October 2004 edition of the Voice, the Faculty Association's bulletin.

"Education has always been subsidized by its teachers," said Judy Gailey, a math professor. "I'd love a raise."

"When I first started teaching here, I had been making more per credit hour at Howard Community College in Maryland in 1986," Gailey said.

Numerous OKCCC students are unaware of the existence of adjunct professors. Many of the students often are unable to define adjunct faculty.

"I don't know what that is," said Diana Rogas, a freshman studying to become a medical office assistant.

In layman's terms, ad-



Photo by Christiana Kostura
Judy Gailey

junct faculty is another title for part-time faculty.

"Adjunct faculty are highly regarded by students for their fine teaching and faithful maintenance of office hours," stated the Voice.

Textbook buy back soon

By Christiana Kostura
Staff Writer

OKCCC bookstore's textbook buyback will be from Dec. 13 to 18 near the Communications Lab behind the bookstore.

Brenda Reinke, bookstore director, encourages students to sell their books back to the college bookstore.

"Support the local store and support your college," she said.

Reinke said OKCCC's bookstore offers competitive prices for purchasing used books.

Most books are accepted, Reinke said, if the books will be used again next semester.

Discontinued versions will not be purchased by the bookstore.

"If you have a book that had a CD, bring the CD back," Reinke said.

Used books still containing a CD are likely to be assigned a better selling price, she said.

Students are not required to show identification to sell a book.

Times for book buy back will vary.

Monday, Dec. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. will be the first day to sell back books.

Tuesday, Dec. 14 through Thursday, Dec. 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. is another opportunity.

Friday, Dec. 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon are the last chances to sell books.

For more information, call the bookstore at 682-1611, ext. 7510.

Senior Writer Christiana Kostura can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu.



Campus theft increases

By Christiana Kostura
Staff Writer

At least eight items have been reported stolen to the Safety and Security Office in the past month, according to incident reports.

Some items stolen include a TI-83 calculator, cell phones, purses, wallets and a laptop computer, according to the reports.

Keith Bourque, safety and security coordinator, said he isn't that surprised. He said he has seen students leave their personal belongings unattended on numerous occasions.

"Walk through the cafeteria anytime and you will see many book bags unattended," he said.

The majority of items stolen on campus were left unattended by their owners, according to the numerous incident reports filed by the college's Safety

and Security Office.

Bourque said students "need to be [aware] of their surroundings."

Valuables should not be left unattended, Bourque said, even in vehicles.

"If you're not going to bring your purse into the college with you, leave it at home or at least put it in your trunk," Bourque said.

Students also should use the hooks on stall doors in the bathrooms to hang bags when using the facility, Bourque said. This way, items are out of sight.

Even when safety advice is observed, items can be stolen.

"Report it to us as soon as possible," Bourque said.

Security officer Shawn Palmer agreed.

If students make themselves the target of opportunity, Palmer said, belongings may be stolen.

Senior Writer Christiana Kostura can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu.



**56 Minutes
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Took...**

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Musical comedy lightens the heart

By Kyle Sonner
News Writing I Student

A Sister Act-style comedy will be performed in the OKCCC Theater Dec. 9 through 11.

Amen!

This musical comedy is called "Nunsense."

Two of the funniest characters in the play are Sister Robert Anne (Stacey LeGrange) and Sister Mary Amnesia (Bonnie Montgomery).

"We provide a lot of comic relief," said Montgomery, 23, theater major.

In the play, Montgomery's character is always forgetting things and the other sisters have to move her where she's supposed to be on stage during the talent show.

LeGrange's character is very blunt and a little unruly.

"She's really bold and

very New York," said LeGrange, 23, journalism major. "The stereotypical New Yorker."

"Nunsense" was written by Dan Goggin and premiered in 1985.

Rick Nelson, an OKCCC adjunct professor and the artistic director at the Oklahoma City Theatre Company, will direct the play.

"Nunsense" is a real upbeat, fun musical," Nelson said.

"I thought it would be good for the holiday season."

"Nunsense" is about a group of nuns raising money to bury their sisters who died after eating a tainted batch of soup made by their cook, Sister Julia — Child of God.

To raise money to bury their sisters, the convent starts up a greeting card business.

Having a lot of success with the sales of the greeting cards, Mother Superior

"It's like a Disney cartoon. Adults and kids will like it."

—Stacey LeGrange
Journalism major

(Shelley Lytle) frivolously spends some of the money on a digital recorder and a DVD player, leaving no money to bury four sisters.

To come up with more money to bury the remaining sisters, Mother Superior comes up with an idea to stage a talent show.

Mother Superior casts herself and four other nuns to perform in the show.

The cast of "Nunsense" rehearses five days a week, getting their musical numbers just right and perfecting their tap dancing.

None of the cast is nervous about singing as they all have singing experience. However, LeGrange said, she is nervous about the

group parts.

"I don't know how to harmonize," she admits.

Tap dancing might prove tricky for Jessica Chitwood, 20, theater arts major, who plays the part of Sister Mary Hubert.

"I don't dance at all," Chitwood said.

Nelson is confident the cast will be ready when it comes to show time.

"They will get it down, even if we have to keep doing it over and over and over," Nelson said.

"Repetition is the key to success."

The cast is excited about this play and agrees the play is funny.

"It's a riot," Montgomery said.

"It's hilarious. I think anybody who is coming to see the play needs to have a sense of humor."

LeGrange agreed with Montgomery.

"It's like a Disney cartoon. Adults and kids will like it,"

"Nunsense" Cast

- Shelley Lytle
Mother Superior
- Stacey LeGrange
Sister Robert Anne
- Jessica Chitwood
Sister Mary Hubert
- Bonnie Montgomery
Sister Mary Amnesia
- Stacia Roybal
Sister Mary Leo

she said. "It's fun because there is audience participation."

The play will be shown each night at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 9 through 11.

Admission is free to students and faculty with an ID on opening night.

On the remaining nights, it will cost \$4 for students and faculty. The cost for the general public is \$5.

For more information about the play, e-mail Nelson at rick.nelson@po.okccc.edu

New York actor's dreams come true in Okla.

By Jennifer Stamps
News Writing I Student

He never thought his dream of being a professional actor would come to life right here in his hometown of Oklahoma City, said Richard J. Nelson, OKCCC theater arts professor.

When Nelson moved to New York to pursue his dream of professional acting, he worked on off-Broadway productions.

In Queens, New York, he worked at Bloomingdale's, where he sold five pairs of sweat pants to Segourney Weaver.

"It was my first brush with an actor in New York," Nelson said.

In 1999, Nelson frequently came to Oklahoma to attend to his ill father, and decided it would be best to stay in Oklahoma while his family needed

him.

"I didn't really have anything tying me down there, besides wanting to be an actor," he said.

While in New York, Nelson earned his way into the Actor's Equity Association, a professional acting union. However, AEA union work was difficult to find in Oklahoma.

Nelson said one of the only ways around the job drought was to make his own work.

"I saw a theater born from the ground up, and when I came here, I decided to try it."

He, along with several colleagues, opened a theatrical company in Oklahoma City, named Synchronicity Theatre Company, after the first theater Nelson worked at in New York.

"I was not intending to stay here, but after [Synchronicity] became big-



Richard J. Nelson

ger than I was, it gave me a reason to stay here."

Nelson said he realized building a theater company was what he was striving for all along.

The theater was paid for out-of-pocket and from personal contributions.

Also, surrounding theaters, such as Shakespeare in the Park, University of Central Oklahoma and Carpenter Square Theatre were willing to loan costumes and set pieces.

"They were really generous and supportive of each other," Nelson said.

Synchronicity Theatre Company changed its name to the Oklahoma City Theatre Company in 2001.

"We decided to simplify and become sort of a theater for the community, as opposed to an independent company."

"We decided to simplify and become sort of a theater for the community, as opposed to an independent company."

—Richard J. Nelson
Theater Arts professor

Nelson serves as Artistic Director at the OCTC, a position that is renewable each year.

OCTC is a non-profit theater funded by the Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, local businesses and private donations, Nelson said.

It was at the Civic Center Music Hall that Nelson met Ruth Charnay, OKCCC Theatre Arts director.

"Like everything, if you're at the right place at the right time, other things fall in your lap," Nelson said.

Nelson is directing the

college's upcoming production.

Sophomore Jeremy Williams, stage manager for "Nunsense," said Nelson brings a sense of discipline and professionalism to OKCCC.

"He is one of the best directors I've worked with," Williams said.

In addition to directing "Nunsense," Nelson is directing "A Christmas Carol" at the Oklahoma City Theatre Company and teaching three classes at OKCCC and at the University of Oklahoma.

Freshman Jessica Chitwood, playing Sister Hubert in "Nunsense," said she enjoys working with Nelson.

"He is a very creative and supportive director," Chitwood said.

Nelson graduated with a bachelor's degree in theater arts from OU. From there, he went to graduate school at the National Theatre Conservatory in Denver.



OKCCC President Bob Todd rises to the occasion to hang the flag of Pakistan. It was the first flag hung at the ceremony. Todd praised the international students for their courage and for following their dreams and goals to become the best they can be.



Oklahoma drummer Jahruba performs during the international flag ceremony and student dedication, A Celebration of Culture. Jahruba is one of Oklahoma's best drummers. He blends his styles of world beat and reggae music and influences into African music. Jahruba's band, Jahruba and The Street People, have toured together to schools and festivals throughout mid-America.



International students recognized

Sixty new international flags outline the perimeter of OKCCC's main atrium in the main building, now known as the "Hall of Nations."

The flags were raised in dedication to the international students enrolled at the college from 60 different nations.

The ceremony, called A Celebration of Culture, was held Nov. 15 and was just one of the events that occurred during International Education Week.

The celebration kicked off with African music performed by Jahruba, one of Oklahoma's finest world beat and reggae musicians.

After the dancing subsided, Dr. Marion Paden, vice president for Student Services, spoke of the international students, and their goals and

virtues.

"These students represent America's enduring values," she said. "They have overcome many obstacles and risen to the task so they can enrich their lives."

Paden described the flags as a representation of the rich diversity of OKCCC's student body.

OKCCC President Bob Todd said he is happy students are exploring their individual potential, and that the student body has grown in influence and family.

"These international students chose to journey to an unknown place," Todd said.

"They did it to pursue their dreams."

More than a dozen international students presented their country's flag at the ceremony. Among them were students from Taiwan, Pakistan and Mexico.

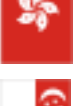
Jon Horinek, community engagement coordinator for Student Life, organized the event.



Sixty international flags represent the diverse members of the student body. The flags are hanging in the "Hall of Nations," on the railing around the main atrium in the main building. More than a dozen international students volunteered to display their flags during the ceremony.

Text by Richard Hall

Photos by Christiana Kostura and LaWanda LaVarnway



OKCCC students observe children

By Dana Fisher
News Writing I Student

No one ever said college had to be all work and no play.

OKCCC students in the Child Development degree program get to spend a portion of their time at the Child Development Center and Lab School observing and interacting with the children.

"It is fun working with the children," said Laney Ketring, teacher and former lab student.

Child development professors and psychology professors require students to observe and do lab work with the children at the center.

"By students observing and doing lab work, we want them to be prepared when they enter the work force," said Lee Ann

Nurdin, the Child Development Center's lab supervisor.

Nurdin explained the center's goal is to make the college students become professionals in child development.

The amount of observation hours required varies according to the professor and the class, Nurdin said.

On the observation level, students do not interact with the children.

Nurdin said observation styles could range from shadowing a certain child to studying the teacher's techniques.

Once a student has completed the required number of observation hours, lab work is allowed to begin. Lab work allows students to interact with the children. But, before a student can fulfill lab work, the student must buy an insurance card from the school, allow the center to run an

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation check, and test negative for tuberculosis. If all these conditions are met, a health card is issued that permits the student to satisfy the lab work requirement for the given class.

The center is nationally known and is used as a model for colleges and universities in Oklahoma as well as other states, Nurdin said.

During the fall 2004 semester, the center has had 516 students come through to perform lab work, Nurdin said.

This has been a record semester with the enrollment for the child development classes being higher.

"Observations are a great experience for individuals going into work involving children," Ketring said.

"I really enjoyed the lab work because you get to interact with the children."



Photo by Ann Lushbough

Freshman Debbie Armstrong sits and observes the children at the Child Development Center and Lab School.

Students excel with Pathways

By Kris White
News Writing I Student

College classes are just a few steps away for students in Pathways, a high school located on the third floor of OKCCC's main building.

Juniors and seniors who meet the academic requirements can take college classes as part of their high school curriculum.

Eight Pathways students, including four juniors and four seniors, are participating in dual credit classes. These classes are for both high school and college credit.

Juniors are required to have a 3.5 grade point average and a composite score of 21 on the A.C.T. Seniors must have a 3.0 grade point average and a composite score of 19 on the A.C.T. to participate in dual credit classes.

Holly Tiller, senior, had to

work hard for the opportunity to participate in dual-credit classes.

"There are a lot of differences between college classes and high school classes," Tiller said.

"The main reason college classes are different is the maturity level of the students compared to high school students."

Tiller is currently enrolled in English and psychology for dual credit.

"The college classes are interesting," she said, "because the older students sometimes act like I'm stupid but I prove them all wrong."

José Gonzalez, senior, is enrolled in Introduction to Computers and psychology at OKCCC for dual-credit.

"Basically, I focus more on academics because of the maturity and responsibility college individuals influence," Gonzalez said.

Principal Carol Brogan said these students, being

in a college atmosphere, mature faster than the average student in a regular public school.

She also said thinks Pathways students are more likely to succeed because of their college background.

The high school on campus started in January 2001 with the enrollment of 15 eighth graders from the surrounding Oklahoma City school district. There are now 70 high school students enrolled in the program.

Brogan said she hopes the Pathways program will have 100 students enrolled every year.

Have a story idea?
Contact the Editor!
editor@okccc.edu
or call 682-1611,
ext. 7409

College continues art show tradition

By Matthew Caban
Staff Writer

Paintings, mixed media and poetry will be on display at the second annual Student Life Art Show and Competition from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, in the main building atrium.

The competition is open to all currently enrolled OKCCC students.

Jon Horinek, community engagement coordinator for Student Life, said this year's theme is "Create Your Future." He said each student's entry is judged on how it captures the theme.

Entrants also must write a brief essay defining "Create Your Future," and must be turned in by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6, to the Office of Student Life, Horinek said.

He said a variety of media is accepted including watercolors, poems, essays, paintings and mixed

media.

The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Wal-Mart and the winning entry will be professionally framed and displayed in the Office of Student Life, Horinek said.

The students who receive second and third place will receive certificates, Horinek said.

All entries must be matted or framed with wire hangers and students are asked to make only one entry, he said.

Horinek said Student Life is not responsible for any inadvertent damage that may occur while the artwork is displayed.

Other rules, important information and an application form is available in the Office of Student Life, he said.

"We encourage people to participate to show their art work," Horinek said.

Staff Writer/Club Reporter Matthew Caban can be reached at StaffWriter1@okccc.edu.

College hires new general counsel

By Caroline Ting
Editor

Nancy Gerrity joined the OKCCC faculty and staff on Oct. 11 as the college's attorney.

She said, so far, working at the college has been enjoyable.

"I think it's a great atmosphere and people are wonderful," Gerrity said.

"Everyone seems to be really committed to the goals of the school."

On a daily basis, Gerrity said, her job as the college attorney engages her in various tasks.

"Essentially, what I'm doing here is providing legal reviews to the various departments (in the college)," Gerrity said, "as far as things like contracts are concerned."

She said she also advises the OKCCC Board of Regents on bond issues as



Photo By Ann Lushbough
Nancy Gerrity

well as other matters.

Gerrity said she's always been interested in education and that's why she chose to work at the college.

"My father was a history professor at a college and I always liked that atmosphere I was exposed to through him," Gerrity said.

Prior to coming to the college, Gerrity had been an attorney for 12 years.

Gerrity practiced law for

10 years in Chicago, where she first started in a law firm of about 180 attorneys. Then, she had her own private practice for a while, she said.

Gerrity moved to Oklahoma about two years ago, and practiced in a law firm in downtown Oklahoma City.

Most of Gerrity's legal experience has been of employment law and employment litigation, she said.

She also has worked with commercial contracts, commercial litigation, family law and personal injuries.

Originally from Philadelphia, Gerrity said she moved to Oklahoma for family reasons.

"I have two sisters with their families who live in Edmond," Gerrity said. "I wanted to come down and be close to my sisters and their families."

Gerrity is single with no children, but she said she's

thinking of getting a Dachs-hund.

In her free time, Gerrity likes listening to music and going to concerts. Her favorite types of music are acoustic and folk music.

"I'm not a musician, but

I'm a great listener of music," she said.

Gerrity has a bachelor's degree in history, a master's in marketing and a juror's doctorate in law.

Editor Caroline Ting can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

Senator shares political passion

By Mave McKinney
News Writing I Student

Sen. Kathleen Wilcoxson, a steadfast member of the Republican Party, recently spoke to students about the shift of power in the state government.

In the Nov. 2 elections the GOP gained control of the state House of Representatives for the first time in Oklahoma history.

Wilcoxson answered questions about her role as an Oklahoma state senator for more than 20 students.

"Oklahoma is changing its political complexion," Wilcoxson said. "It is going to be an interesting and fun experience this year."

In addition to the changing face of Oklahoma politics, Wilcoxson spoke about the Legislature's role in the distribution of appropriations, or money, in Oklahoma.

"The distribution of appropriations is our biggest and most important job," Wilcoxson said.

Appropriations in Oklahoma last year barely exceeded \$5 billion — a modest amount compared to most states.

"We are not a very wealthy state," Wilcoxson said.

Oklahoma's meager income doesn't allow sufficient funding for all the programs in need.

"We do not spend enough money on education, roads, mental health care and substance abuse services, highway patrol and public safety, but we spend every bit we have," Wilcoxson said.

The largest chunk of Oklahoma appropriations — 55 percent — goes toward education.

Oklahoma spends a higher percentage of state money on education than almost any other state in America.

Wilcoxson, who has been passionate about education her whole life, said she credits this to the state's high regard for education.

The Oklahoma Legislature appropriates the remainder of the money to all other agencies and programs throughout the state, but a common consensus is that what the state has just isn't enough, Wilcoxson said.

She said she recognizes that Oklahoma's economy is in need of a boost.

"We want and need the producers of wealth to come to Oklahoma," Wilcoxson said.

"Oklahoma is changing its political complexion. It is going to be an interesting and fun experience this year."

— Sen. Kathleen Wilcoxson (R) District 45

Professors share high-tech methods of teaching math

By Christiana Kostura
Staff Writer

Several OKCCC math professors attended the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics on Oct. 29 and 30 in New Orleans.

During the conference, OKCCC math professors Chris Oehrlein, Marsha Austin, Linda Knox and Mike Turegun presented an information session about WebCT, or web-enhanced, courses.

Ken Harrelson, another OKCCC math professor, also contributed to the presentation but wasn't able to attend the conference.

OKCCC currently offers six different math courses in WebCT form, Oehrlein said. "It seems like we are

one of the few (colleges) that are (offering web-enhanced) courses," he said.

The idea of web-enhanced courses for mathematics seems to be an idea "other schools are throwing around," Oehrlein said.

Oehrlein said teachers and administrators were interested in ideas for a math class that is part in-class and partially online.

Oehrlein said the objective of the conference is for teachers from higher education institutions to share ideas about using technology to assist in teaching math.

Austin said she attended a session that addressed an approach to developmental mathematics. OKCCC is considering trying.

"We can take advantage of some of the things (other schools) have tried and are

"It seemed like we are one of the few (colleges) that are (offering web-enhanced) courses."

—Chris Oehrlein
Math professor

working well," Austin said.

Oehrlein said the conference is held every year or 18 months.

He said teachers take information they learn at the conference, try it and bring feedback to the next conference.

The idea is for math teachers to help other math teachers think of ways to make teaching math easier with the use of technology.

Senior Writer Christiana Kostura can be reached at SeniorWriter@okccc.edu.

Sports

UPCOMING

INTRAMURALS

•**Nov. 30:** Volleyball league continues. Games will be held on Tuesday from 2 to 5 p.m. in the OKCCC gymnasium.

•**Dec. 2:** 3-on-3 basketball league continues. Games will be held in the OKCCC gymnasium Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

YOUTH

•**April 7:** Sign-up deadline for T-ball. The season will start May 3, ends June 10 and is for children ages 4 to 7.

Contact Eric Watson at 682-1611, ext. 7786 for more information on OKCCC's sports programs.

Do you have an OKCCC-related sports event you want to put in the calendar? Contact Sports Reporter Shawn Bryant at 682-1611, ext. 7440, or e-mail StaffWriter2@okccc.edu. All submissions must be in no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday for inclusion in the next issue.

**Do you
know any
OKCCC
athletes?**

**Call
Shawn at
682-1611,
ext. 7440**

Keep away



Photo by Shawn Bryant

Jorge De la Pena (left) and Alex del Cid (right) enjoy a friendly game of basketball in the college gym. Cid is about to take Pena to the hoop. The gym is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free to any student who has a valid student ID. Basketballs can be checked out at the Wellness Center desk if you don't want to bring your own.

Youth basketball starts Dec. 4

**By Shawn Bryant
Staff Writer**

Close to 170 kids are raring and ready to go as they count down the days until the youth basketball league begins.

Eric Watson, community education and health specialist, said the office of Recreation and Community Services is responsible for putting the league together.

"We put the teams together [ourselves]," Watson said.

The kids range from ages 5 to 12, Watson said.

Watson said the kids seemed excited about starting practice last week.

"The first game is Saturday, Dec. 4," Watson said.

Watson said all games

will be played on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kathy Plummer, Recreation and Community Services secretary, said the participants had to pay \$55 in order to sign up.

Sports to change in spring

**By Shawn Bryant
Staff Writer**

The lack of student participation has had a negative effect on this year's fall intramurals.

Eric Watson, community education and health specialist, said he plans to do things differently next spring in an effort to increase participation.

"We buy everyone a jersey and present the winners with trophies," Watson said.

Watson said he was very pleased with the large number of kids who de-

cided to sign up.

Watson also said youth soccer and T-ball, will start in the spring.

Staff Writer Shawn Bryant can be reached at StaffWriter2@okccc.edu.

"The fall intramurals just didn't go over as well as I'd hoped," Watson said.

"I am still going to do volleyball," Watson said.

Next time around, Watson said, he is going to switch to 5-on-5 basketball instead of the current 3-on-3 teams that play now.

"Students seem more interested in a five-man game," Watson said.

Watson said he also is talking with local bowling

alleys in an attempt to set up an OKCCC bowling league.

Other ideas Watson has been thinking about include softball, golf, chess and checkers.

Watson also said he is going to speak with Student Life about borrowing their Playstation 2 to set up a video game tournament.

Staff Writer Shawn Bryant can be reached at StaffWriter2@okccc.edu.

Communications Lab great place to hone grammar skills

By Mave A. McKinney
News Writing I Student

When 25 OKCCC students were recently asked at random to complete a high-school level basic grammar and spelling test, 50 percent of the students scored below 60 percent.

This statistic is but one indicator of the declining language abilities of college students. Nationwide studies have shown a steady decline of basic English proficiency among college students for years.

Some students seemed surprised at their results.

"I thought the test seemed pretty easy and I thought I had scored higher," said one OKCCC student who scored poorly on the test.

Alice Tillinghast, OKCCC Communications Lab director, said the college is looking for ways to help its students. The most substantial and accessible of these resources is the OKCCC Communications Lab located on the first floor of the main building on campus, she said.

The lab offers a wide variety of programs including many that focus on basic language skills such as grammar, spelling, vocabu-

lary and writing, Tillinghast said.

"The lab offers assistance and support for skills within a broad spectrum," she said.

"Our goal is to make students as successful as possible in the language arena."

She said students who are having trouble with language skills, mild or extreme, can visit the lab and participate in several programs that will assist them in elevating their language proficiency levels.

The lab offers workshops and seminars throughout the semester as well as an abundance of information and worksheets for sharpening language skills.

Students also can receive private tutoring and use in-depth computer programs. The lab offers a more specialized agenda for students severely lacking in these areas.

Tillinghast suggests that perhaps the key to improving the deficiency is a change in student ambition. "All students can be very successful if they are motivated to try," she said.

However, OKCCC Student Matt Smith believes that even when opportunities to improve exist, students don't always take advantage of them.

"Our goal is to make sure you learn something and further yourself every time you come to the lab."

—Alice Tillinghast
Communications Lab
Director

"You can't sum up the whole student body, but I think a lot of students do the minimum just to get by," Smith said.

Tillinghast agrees those in need don't always use the lab. "The students that really need improvement generally aren't the ones that come in," she said.

However, she said, she is pleased with student turnout in the lab.

Tillinghast encourages students to make use of the lab, paid for through student fees. She said students have nothing to fear by going in.

"The Communications Lab is not a place that focuses on your deficiencies," she said.

"Our goal is to make sure you learn something and further yourself every time you come to the lab."

More information can be found at www.okccc.edu/comlab/ or by calling 682-1611, ext. 7379.

Culture show set for Dec. 3

By Ivo Lupov
News Writing I Student

OKCCC's International Club is organizing a Culture Show to be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 in CU3. Representatives from Africa, Argentina, China, Korea, Colombia, Pakistan and Slovakia will be on hand.

The show will have traditional fashions, dancing, poetry, rap, singing, martial arts and more, said E.J.

Johnson, International Club president-elect.

"I do not know when or even if there was such [an] event previously at [the college]," Johnson said.

Twenty-two-year-old Yu Da Kim from South Korea will perform martial arts in "Tuk gong moo sul" style. Besides martial arts, Kim will show some magic tricks with cards. "I see magic as a hobby, but martial arts is a way of life," Kim said.

Another performer at the Cultural Show will be Ray Johnson from the United

States. The 19-year-old student will perform a song he wrote.

Johnson said there will be an entry fee, which has not been set yet.

Johnson said International Student Association worked hard with Student Life to celebrate the importance of international education during the week of Nov. 15 through 19.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton declared International Education Week official in 2000.

The International Club

Check writers should pay heed to new law

By Kevin R. Hicks
News Writing I Student

Many students write checks with the expectation those checks won't clear the bank for a few days. A new law, passed in October, will make it harder to "float" those checks.

Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, known as Check 21, will allow banks to immediately collect on a check by sending an electronic image to the check's home bank, rather than sending the original document which takes two or three days.

By sending an image of the check, banks are able to collect funds in about 24 hours, according to the Federal Reserve Board website.

Ralph Cornelius, an official for a local Oklahoma City bank, said the law has already had an impact.

"Check floating is the habit of writing a check for a purchase when the money may not be in your account," Cornelius said. "The new check policy is already cutting down the amount of check fraud by preventing people from writing checks without available funds."

Some students admit the new system will affect them and they don't like it.

"Sure I float checks," said Josh Hinkle, history major. "When I'm starving on Wednesday nights, and I don't get paid until Friday, I know it's OK to write a check for pizza because it won't clear by then."

Other students said Check 21 will have no effect on them and do not plan to change their check-writing habits.

Ambi Howell, psychology major, said she records every check she writes and doesn't write checks unless the money is in the bank.

Students like Howell say they understand the importance of spending only the money a person has in the bank in order to avoid extra charges.

As Check 21 takes effect, many students on a budget may now have to watch their account balances carefully to avoid bouncing checks and incurring unnecessary fees.

For more information and tips from Consumer Union, a non-profit publisher of consumer reports, visit www.consumersunion.org/finance/ckclear1002.htm.

had a display set up to recognize and celebrate a different portion of the Globe each day: Monday for Europe; Tuesday, Africa; Wednesday, South America; Thursday, North America; and Friday, Asia.

In addition to the displays, the ISA showed selected international films Monday and Friday in

CU7.

After the films there were discussions over important cultural views and points demonstrated in the films, Johnson said.

ISA joined forces with the Native American Student Association on Thursday for North American day. NASA sold Indian tacos, Johnson said.

Highlights

Guitarists to perform on campus

Award-winning guitarists Edgar Cruz and Ruben Romero will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, in the college theater. Cruz plays a mixture of rock, jazz and mariachi. Romero's music includes Spanish, classical and flamenco. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students, seniors and Alumni Association members. Tickets are available online at www.okccc.edu/cas. For more information contact Scott Tigert at 682-7579.

Final Employment Services drawing

This is the last month of the Employment Services drawing for a \$50 gift certificate from Wal-Mart. To enter the drawing, upload your résumé to the OKCCC Student Employment website before Nov. 30. The web address is www.collegecentral.com/okccc. For help with a résumé, contact Employment Services at 682-7519.

Absolute submission deadline nearing

OKCCC's literary and artistic journal, Absolute, is accepting submissions until Wednesday, Dec. 1. Student editors are currently reviewing submissions for the 2005 edition of Absolute. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to submit photographs, stories, poems, essays and drawings. Submission forms are available at www.okccc.edu/ah/absolute/index.htm. For more information contact Clay Randolph at 682-1611, ext. 7238.

Clubs to collect items for troops

The College Republicans and the Young Democrats will collect CDs and DVDs for members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed overseas. Collection times are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30; Wednesday, Dec. 1; Tuesday, Dec. 7, and Wednesday, Dec. 8, in the college union. For more information contact Susan Mills at 317-7857.

Final Brown Bag Lunch for fall semester

"Lunch with the VP" will conclude the Student Life Brown Bag Lunch series for the fall semester. It takes place at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 7, in CU3. Students will have the opportunity to voice their concerns to Marion Paden, vice president of Student Services. Those who attend must provide their own lunch, but drinks will be provided. For more information contact Student Life at 682-7523.

Winter Ball in college union

The Black Student Association will host its first annual Winter Ball from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, in the general dining area of the college union. The ball is open to all age groups and will feature a diverse music selection. Dress is formal, and the BSA king and queen will be crowned. Finger food will be provided. Tickets are \$7 for couples and \$10 for singles. For more information contact Zakee King at 682-1611, ext. 7353.

Does your club or organization have news to share? If so, we're interested!
Contact Club Reporter Matthew Caban at 682-1611, ext. 7410 or visit the Pioneer office in 2M6 of the main building.



Photos by Ann Lushbough

Frequent donor miles: Freshman Jeremy Barr earned his one-gallon blood donor pin at the Oklahoma Blood Institute blood drive. The blood drive was held Nov. 17 and 18, in the college union. OBI reported 51 units of blood collected during the two-day drive.

Club to host winter ball before finals

Black Student Association plans red carpet affair for inaugural celebration

By Matthew Caban
Staff Writer

With the end of the fall semester nearly here, some students are in need of stress relief or a night on the town.

The Black Student Association offers both with its Winter Ball from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, in the college union.

Club President Carlos Robinson said tickets cost \$7 for couples and \$10 for singles. He said tickets went on sale Nov. 18 and are available from club members.

He said the ball is open to all age groups. Robinson said the club wants to mingle with other cultures.

Club reporter Jessica Blankson said the event is open to everyone, not just African Americans.

Blankson said the attire is formal. She said the ball will be similar to a prom,

but she pointed out some differences.

She said the club did not want to do a high school activity because many of the members recently graduated from high school.

Blankson is a member of the decoration committee.

She said the ball's color scheme is black, white and silver. She said the table centerpieces will be floating candles to add a bit of elegance.

One of the club's members is making a special red carpet for the ball, Blankson said.

Robinson said the club wants to make the Winter Ball more enjoyable for those who attend by allowing them to choose the music.

"We will have a Winter Ball music selection booth on campus," Robinson said. "It will allow a diverse music selection."

"There will be a poster board with a list of [genres] like rap and country. You

can write in a song title and artist under the type of music."

Robinson said students can bring a recorded CD with the song of their choice on it.

Blankson said the BSA would have photographers on hand. She said those in attendance would be able to buy photographs from the ball.

Club sponsor Zakee King said finger foods will be provided.

Blankson said the club members invited students from other local colleges and hopes to have 150 people in attendance.

"We want everybody to come, dance and have fun," King said.

For more information about the Black Student Association or to purchase tickets, contact Zakee King at 682-1611, ext. 7353.

Staff Writer/ Club Reporter Matthew Caban can be reached at staffwriter1@okccc.edu.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OKCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611, ext. 7674 for more information.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '04 Kazuma 50 ATV. Brand new, 50cc 4-stroke Honda engine, semi-auto, kill switch and warranty. Great Christmas idea for kids! \$660. Call 834-9590.

FOR SALE: '02 Dodge Quad Cab. Line-X bedliner, 31K miles, 20 in. chrome wheels, 3 step nerf bars, custom stripes. In excellent condition. Call 802-8558 for more info.

FOR SALE: '01 Mitsubishi Montero Limited SUV. Infinity stereo system, 58K miles, leather seats, luggage rack, keyless entry, power sunroof, PW, 3rd row seat, wood grain, 4WD, heated seats and more luxury features. NADA value is \$19,300, asking \$18,000. Call Ronnie at 759-2119 or 274-0215.

FOR SALE: '00 Nissan Frontier King Cab XE, 44,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto, bed liner and rear sliding glass window, \$9,000. Call 378-8051.

FOR SALE: '99 Toyota Camry. Auto, 95K miles, leather, sunroof, alarm and new timing belt. Runs and drives great with good gas mileage, \$8,100 OBO. Call 921-9278.

FOR SALE: '99 Dodge 3/4 ton truck. Diesel, 4WD, 90K miles, auto, SWB, white/gray, SLT, extended cab and have maintenance records. Call 306-4781.

FOR SALE: '96 Isuzu Rodeo. Red, 5spd., dependable, new clutch and brakes, CD player, cold A/C, 119K miles and runs great. \$3,200 OBO. Call 227-4562.

FOR SALE: '95 Chevrolet Blazer. Well maintained, 4 door, 4 WD, teal green, gray interior, A/C, 159K miles, asking \$3,800. Call 485-4521 or 370-1400.

FOR SALE: '95 Toyota 4 Runner. Auto, 126K miles, sunroof, all power, new brakes and new motor. Call 306-4781.

FOR SALE: '94 Mazda Protege. Exterior is white and it is in fair condition; \$1,700. Call 378-3647 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE: '94 Ford Crown Victoria. Well maintained, 107K miles, beige; \$3,300. Call 682-1611, ext. 7795 or 364-0924 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE: '93 Chevy Astro extended van. Burgundy, tint, CD player, running boards and well cared for, \$3,000. Call 863-6066.

FOR SALE: '92 Buick Ltd. Roadmaster. Air, cruise, tilt, keyless entry, 133K miles, V-8 and power everything including lumbar support. Drives great with clean paint and interior. Luxury ride at a low cost, \$1,500. Call Terri at 682-1611, ext. 7729.

FOR SALE: '92 Isuzu Rodeo. Exterior is a metallic sand color and it is in fair condition; \$1,700. Call 378-3647 after 6 p.m.

MUST SELL: '90 Buick LeSabre. Needs minor work and has a bad transmission, \$100. Call Porsha at 427-1605.

FOR SALE: '83 GMC 1/2 ton. Runs and drives good, \$1,000 OBO. Call Bryan at 922-1284.

FOR SALE: '78 Datsun 280Z 2+2 and a '79 Datsun 280ZX. Both are project/parts cars and are being sold very cheap. Call 388-5939 for more info.

FOR SALE: '76 Datsun 280Z. Runs good, needs paint and body work; \$1000 OBO. Call 409-9571.

CHILD CARE

LICENSED CHRISTIAN HOME DAY CARE: DHS approved, 11 years experience, meals included, lots of TLC and references available. Please call 740-5535. M-F, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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FOR RENT

ROOMMATE NEEDED: Roommate needed ASAP to share a 2 bed, 2 bath apartment. Situated on NW 47 & Penn (near Penn Square Mall); \$250/monthly plus bills. Call David at 924-8542.

FOR RENT: Great 1-bedroom duplex. Close to campus, water and trash paid; \$395/month. Call 919-0685 and leave message.

RESPONSIBLE ROOMMATE WANTED: Room for rent approximately. 1 mi. from OU. May require a co-signer for lease and must be tolerant of my nice pit bull. Includes cable, phone and Internet. \$265/mo. and half the bills. Please call Cara at 701-5958 and leave message if not home.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Baby bed, light natural wood with hunter green highlight on headboard and footboard. Excellent condition. Needs mattress. \$25; Baby swing, plays music. Purchased brand new. Used approximately 5 hours. \$35. Will take \$50 for both. Call 818-0083.

FOR SALE: 3 in 1 deal, baby bed/ day bed/ full size bed. Premium mattress, like new bedding set and all in excellent condition. Paid over \$600, will sell for \$275 OBO. Call David or Stacey at 408-5295.

MISCELLANEOUS

KATY'S TYPING SERVICE: Term papers, thesis, reports, résumés, transcription, legal documents and flyers. Pick up & delivery available. Fast service. Discount rates for students. Call Katy at 969-3955 or e-mail wmblid@peoplepc.com.

FOR SALE: 2 Sony X-Plode 12" subwoofers with box, \$180. 2 Kicker Comp. VR 12" subwoofers with box, \$200. 1000 watt Xplore amp with bass boost controller, \$150 OBO. Call 409-9571.

FOR SALE: S&M dirtbike with profile 3PC, PhatJack 48h, pitch forks and slam bars. Good condition. \$275 OBO. Call 818-0083.

FOR SALE: Assorted sizes of ceramic tile. Three medium-size Rubbermaid tubs full. \$30; Large box of assorted power strips, \$20. Call 818-0083.

BASS GUITAR FOR SALE: Dean Edge 4. Near mint condition. Powder silver basswood body. Strap, straplocks & hard case included, \$300. Call Andy at 573-0170 or 919-4696.

FOR SALE: 14 foot trampoline for sale, \$75 OBO. Call Lindsay at 745-4620.

FOR SALE: Matching light tan Whirlpool Super Capacity washer and gas dryer. Both work great. \$200 for set or \$125 each. Call Michelle at 470-2773.

FOR SALE: Sony micro cassette recorder, model # M-100 MC Mic'n Micro, with cassettes, brand new, never been used, bought from college bookstore; \$45. Call 366-6009 and leave message.

FOR SALE: 2 Rockford Fosgate 12" subwoofers in a Q Logix Bandpass Box, with a 200w x 2 Infinity 102a Amp. Will sacrifice for \$150 OBO. Call 388-3913.

WANTED: 4' X 8' enclosed utility trailer. Call 682-1611 ext. 7641 during the day and 681-3618 during evenings and

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ACROSS

1 Protrude
4 Impressed
8 Run —; go wild
12 Teeming
13 Earring's place
14 Wild West show
16 Woodwind
17 Was in a winter Olympics event
19 Snuggle
21 Schuss
22 — of Capri
23 Put on the payroll
25 Ego
27 Tree science
31 River nymphs
35 Geisha's sash
36 Peeled
38 French cap
39 Jump
41 Sense organs
43 Out of danger
44 Escorts
46 Pass along
48 Powerful snake
49 Molded
51 Coffeecake topping
53 Two of a kind
55 Seaweed product
56 Chills and fever
59 "Quiet!"
61 Shady places

65 Unpredictable
68 Writer James —
69 Church member
70 Pecans
71 Orderly
72 Miner's find
73 Chocolate cookie
74 Moray

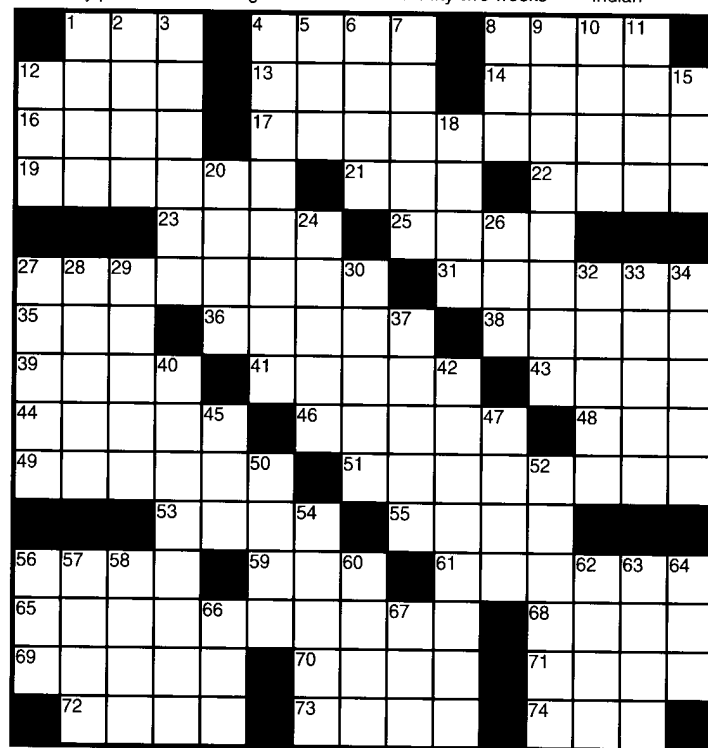
DOWN

1 Agree
2 Sci-fi craft
3 Grow incisors
4 Edmonton, native
5 Pay court to
6 Recedes
7 Office furniture
8 "You — Mine"
9 Changes
10 Probabilities
11 Ship bottom
12 Actor Silver
15 Certain poem
18 Claim on property
20 Speech problem
24 Blunder
26 Scientist's area
27 Pleats
28 West Indies religious belief
29 Cowboy's rope
30 Affirmatives
32 Fine horses
33 "Robinson Crusoe" author
34 Act like a crook
37 Actress Burke
40 Seasoned
42 With 45-Down, body of water noted for its gulfwed
45 See 42-Down
47 Fifty-two weeks
50 Type of jockey
52 Debonair
54 Jungle animal
56 Expert
57 Impudence
58 Kind of coiffure
60 Sixty minutes
62 Molding type
63 Authentic
64 Collection
66 Anger
67 Colorado Indian

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

SCAB	MINDS	SPA
HAUL	UNION	WORM
ANDA	FUNGI	ALOU
GAIN	FREETHROWS	
LOCALES	ALISLE	
NED	MOWN	
CRAPS	FIR	EAVE
HARI	VOILE	SLID
INTO	ALT	ESSES
NONE	OCT	
STEER	SPICIER	
CELEBRATED	NEIL	
OMAR	OPINE	ERNE
OPTS	OSLER	RIDE
POE	FEEDS	TESS

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weekends.

FOR SALE: Weight Bench with weights, \$20. Satellite dish, \$10. Wooden coffee table (white), \$10. Infant car seat/stroller combo, \$75. Kodak 2.0 MP camera, \$40. Call Kim at 414-7070.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED: The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center research team needs participants between the ages of 18 and 30, who have a parent with or without a history of an alcohol or drug problem. Qualified participants will be compensated for their time. To see if you qualify or to learn more

about the study, please call 552-4303. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

TEXTBOOKS

TEXTBOOKS FOR SALE: Appm. 1313, \$40. Bio. 1314/1414, \$90. Bio. 1023, \$65. Psy. 2403, \$60. Hist. 1493, \$50. Hist. 1493 supplemental, \$25. Pol. Sci. 1113, \$60. Call 990-2590.

BOOKS FOR SALE: Practicing College Learning Strategies, \$20. West's Legal Environment of Business, \$75. Modern Real Estate Practices, \$40. Call 366-6009 and leave message.

Aquatic Center can get back to business with pool renovations done

"Aquatic,"
Cont. from page 1

apart," Wheeler said. [As a result], it was cutting divers' feet.

The new gutter system is nicer and safer, she said.

Now that the renovations are completed, Wheeler said, the Aquatic Center is better equipped for upcoming events ranging from high school swim meets to national championships.

"We've got 50 plus events a year in that pool," Wheeler said.

Mountain West Swimming and Diving Championships, scheduled on Feb. 23 to 26, is one of the major annual events the college hosts, Wheeler said.

Although numerous events and activities happen in the Aquatic Center, the college doesn't actually host all of them, she said.

The college rents the aquatics facility, like a facility agent.

"We are there for support, life guarding, cleanliness and (to provide) equipment," Wheeler said.

To host an event such as the Mountain West Swimming and Diving Championships, Wheeler said, "OKCCC is responsible for the event from start to finish."

Another important annual event the center hosts is the Joe Stocker Invitational, which is scheduled to occur on Dec. 4.

Stocker, who died of cancer, was a "very well-respected" figure in the swimming community and was involved in Oklahoma swimming for a long time, Wheeler said.

"Our connection with him runs pretty deep," she said.

Some other upcoming large events through spring 2005 include: Kerr-McGee Swim Club Elite Pro-AM, Dec. 16 to 19; Mid/State Metro Conference Championships, Feb. 4 to 5; Oklahoma State Swimming Athletic Association High School Swimming and Diving Championships, Feb. 18 to 19, and National Collegiate Athletic Association Zone Diving Meet, March 8 to 12.

Other than the major events, the Aquatic Center

also is occupied on a regular basis by the college's own age group swim team, area high school swim practices, and fire and police departments' training, Wheeler said.

The age group swim team consists of sixth through eighth graders that make up a team of 30.

The children voted on the

team name OKCCC Mako Sharks, Wheeler said.

The U.S. Diving Team also uses the Aquatic Center as the official regional training center, and there are a number of young children on the team who are potential Olympic divers, she said.

Wheeler encourages everyone, especially the local

community, to come and watch the children swim and dive, or to come enjoy the facility themselves.

For more information on events at the Aquatic Center, contact the Recreation and Community Services office at 682-7860.

Editor Caroline Ting can be reached at editor@okccc.edu.

Oklahoma City Community College Choral Department

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For more information on the SOSU aviation
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