

- Constructive criticism good, editorial, p. 2.
- Black History week celebrated, p. 9.
- Swimmers, divers compete, sports, p. 12.
- Volunteers help out others, p. 14.

## It will cost big bucks to build new festival site

Up to \$1 million has been pledged to ready the area over several years

By Valerie Jobe  
Editor

Arts Festival Oklahoma has been held on OCCC's campus for the past 28 years. Although the long-standing site just outside of the Arts and Humanities Building has been cleared for the construction of the Arts Education Center, the festival will continue its tradition in a new location — at a price tag of up to \$1.4 million.

At a Board of Regents meeting Feb. 19, a proposal was approved for Triad Design Group to begin planning for the relocation across Faculty Circle in the northwest corner of the campus.

The firm will be in charge of all necessary architectural and engineering services for the project.

According to the Feb. 19 meeting agenda, up to \$81,650, or 5.75 percent of the total construction contract, will be paid to Triad Design Group to provide those services.

The agenda reports that the new site will require "excavation, irrigation, electrical, water, sidewalks, a new stage, etc."

Those projects will be phased in over several years using Section 13 Offset funds, money that See "AFO," page 16

## Details, details



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Sophomore Visual Arts major Yuko Oshizawa works on a greenware sculpture of a boot in Professor Layne Thrift's evening ceramics class.

## Online degree programs penciled into OCCC's future

By Amanda Bittle  
Staff Writer

Students may soon have the opportunity to earn an OCCC degree without changing out of their pajamas.

One of many steps in OCCC's plan to offer online degree programs was completed recently, said OCCC President Paul Sechrist.

A peer review team from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central American Association of Colleges and Universities visited the campus Feb. 19 and 20, Sechrist said.

The purpose of the HLC team's visit was to help determine whether OCCC is ready to offer degrees based strictly on online course-

work.

Though no official response has been received, Sechrist said, the HLC team indicated in their exit interview on Feb. 20 that they felt OCCC met the necessary qualifications.

If approval is granted, the first program offered will be an associate of arts in liberal studies.

Degrees in humanities, psychology and information technology also are being considered, Sechrist said.

Online degrees already are offered at many Oklahoma colleges and universities.

In addition to franchise universities such as The University of Phoenix and DeVry University, the Uni-

versity of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University also offer some online degree programs, according to www.open-university-online.com.

Oklahoma City University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University offer online degrees as well.

Sechrist said the team determines qualification

based on several criteria.

"I think they're looking at quality and support structures and what is called

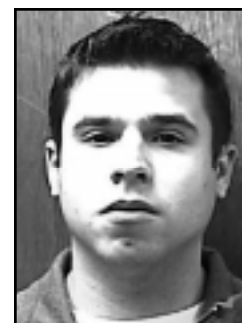
See "Online," page 16

## Former student sentenced to six years

By Valerie Jobe  
Editor

Former OCCC student Kevin Wayne Durant, 28, was sentenced to six years in prison for taking clandestine photos of a female student on campus.

Oklahoma County District Judge Twyla Mason Gray considered Durant's past encounters with the Oklahoma court system when the sentence was handed down. Gray told Durant that his failure to complete any community-based treatment



Kevin Wayne Durant

programs showed his willingness to ignore his problem.

Durant was charged in May 2002 with second-degree rape in Canadian County.

Gray referenced a preliminary investigation report in which Dr. Richard Kisher, a psychiatrist, diagnosed Durant with paraphilia, or voyeurism that, according to Kisher, could not be remedied.

Durant was caught in August 2005 at OCCC videotaping up a female student's skirt.

"Durant mini- See "Durant," page 16

## Editorial and Opinion

## Editorial

## Criticism can be helpful

OK, so Anna Nicole Smith is dead, Britney Spears is now a space monkey ready for her mission to Mars and the pointless, media-induced morbid fascination with both of them remains everlasting.

However, what does the public do when tales of celebrity faux pas, either those in life or those that contribute to someone's death, occur? Do we help them? No. We instead ridicule them in instant messages, blogs and chatrooms.

While the fascination with Spears and Anna Nicole is superficial at best, the students and faculty here at OCCC can learn from their misfortune.

Receiving criticism, both positive and negative, is vital to our growth as individuals, and as a global society. It's when that criticism is distributed to an unrelated third party, or the masses, instead of the proper recipient, that it becomes destructive in the name of passive-aggressive behavior, as well as being construed as gossip, on the part of the person misguidedly releasing the criticism.

When feeling the need to criticize someone, even for legitimate reasons, most people feel an apprehension in doing so for fear of upsetting the recipient. Conversely, some people would rather complain to someone else instead of experiencing that brief uncomfortable moment in which they tell the person what they're doing wrong, even though it might encourage a more efficient and positive environment afterward.

Humans need criticism whether they like it or not. However, it should come from a place of respect and a genuine desire to help that person who wants to perform to the best of his or her ability. It shouldn't be derived from a desire to belittle a person, which is evident when the criticism is told to an unrelated third party.

We also need to be strong enough to accept that criticism when it is deserved. A healthy attitude toward receiving constructive criticism is imperative to a working and learning environment. If one can't take the criticism, then he or she most likely will suffer during these interactions with co-workers for the rest of the time he or she is in the workforce.

The other vital ingredient is trust. We need to trust the faculty as well as our peers to care enough to tell us when we can do something better and also provide us with methods to improve our performance.

In this learning environment known as Oklahoma City Community College, let's care about and respect each other enough to give constructive criticism so as to create a healthy and productive learning environment. Perhaps if someone close to the two celebrities mentioned above had done this, one would possibly be more well-rounded and the other might still be walking the Earth.

—David Miller  
Staff Writer

## Peace comes in variety of forms

### To the editor:

It was recently in the Pioneer that our Free Hugs Campaign was an admirable, symbolic gesture "but if peace is going to take hold, it must be done with more than the symbolic gestures of hugs and poles" and that the most important way "to create peace is through awareness."

The writer urges readers to "give peace a better chance with actions." I would refute this notion that a hug is merely a symbolic gesture. There is certainly an amount of courage shown by club members who chose to take time out of their day to hug complete strangers.

I'm not discrediting the symbolism of a hug, but rather endorsing the idea that the action of human embracement in our individualistic society is perhaps one of the most effective ways to promote love.

Many Western Civilizations have become so consumed with separation and self-promotion that something as simple as hugging is considered strange and undesirable. Advocates of Peace want to demolish the barriers between people.

The article states that "showing unabashedly the

gruesomeness of war can spread an awareness." Do we really need to know stories of bloodshed to truly know peace? This isn't an Anthony Burgess novel and OCCC students are not your average droogs.

We are not characters of fiction and you cannot attempt to mandate private screenings of the darker and bloodier side of our existence and expect us to know peace. Forcing our eyelids to open to such atrocities is a moot point.

The horrible nature of war is apparent and we are reminded of this several times a day on television. We see death tolls in different languages on different news stands. How has this served us?

The greatest advocates of peace were pacifists who did not partake in any sort of combat. Jesus, Dr. King, and Gandhi spread their collective wisdom through non-violent actions.

There is a misconception that has been socialized into our society — that peace is opposite of war.

Peace has so many other dimensions that many simply do not understand. Peace is finding a common ground, humanizing enemies, accepting others

and yourself, and most importantly, peace is love.

The Advocates of Peace Club, and the events it sponsors, is dependent upon students and their ideas, and encourages both to help it establish a starting point. Every revolution has a starting point.

—Kristi McClatchy  
and Cody Ingram  
Advocates of Peace Club  
Members

## PIONEER

Vol. 35 No. 23

Valerie Jobe.....Editor  
Amanda Bittle.....Staff Writer  
David Miller.....Staff Writer  
John Savage.....Staff Writer  
Courtney Barrie.....Staff Writer  
Drew Hampton.....Staff Writer  
Scott D'Amico.....Online Editor  
Mike Ferak.....Webmaster  
Carrie Cronk.....Photographer  
Tim Cronk.....Ad Manager  
Richard Hall.....Lab Assistant  
Ronna Austin.....Lab Director  
Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

The PIONEER is a publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

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

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

Letters to the editor can be delivered to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to (405) 682-7843.

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

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



MarkParisi@aol.com  
©2007 MARK PARISI DIST. BY UPS INC.

offthemark.com 2-27



## Comments and Reviews

# 'Black Snake' makes viewers moan for home

It's been said "you can't turn a ho into a housewife," and this statement is proven true again and again in the film "Black Snake Moan," directed by Craig Brewer.

Brewer is known for his writing and directing of "Hustle and Flow," but "Black Snake Moan" lacked flow and the only hustle you will be wanting is from the credits.

The movie features Samuel L. Jackson, who plays the part of Lazarus, a God-fearing bluesman who is intent on saving Rae, played by Christina Ricci.

A lot of the comedy in this film is ho-hum at best, and is funny only when Lazarus gets angry and spouts out a memorable line, which are few and far between.

Some scenes with Reverend R.L., played by John Cothran Jr., could be considered funny, but I wasn't laughing, perhaps because

of the corny and cliché lines.

This movie portrays Rae as an over-sexed drug addict who finds herself face down, beaten and left for dead near Lazarus' farmhouse.

Rae's character spends more time on all fours than the dog in "Air Bud," but Lazarus is determined to force her to change her wrongful ways.

Lazarus soon nurses her back to health, and to stop her wickedness, he eventually chains her to the heater in his living room.

Scenes of Lazarus playing the guitar are well-cut and sound genuine as he plays the blues in several scenes.

The plot bounces around from scene to scene without informing viewers that things are happening. There is no real sense of direction.

Jackson's acting was solid but nothing out of the



ordinary. In the end, viewers are left with an empty feeling and no closure.

Snakes may have saved Jackson's last film, but this one doesn't have enough of a sensible plot to leave viewers satisfied.

**Rating:** C-

—John Savage  
Staff Writer

# Stick to the show with 'Reno'

Break out the aviator sunglasses and the short shorts — "Reno 911!" has made the transition to the silver screen.

In "Reno 911!: Miami," the Reno, Nev., Sheriff's Department receives an invitation to participate in a national police convention in Miami.

After making the journey via a beat-up charter bus, the officers arrive in Miami and attempt to check into the convention.

They are dismayed to learn they are not on the registration list, but they attempt to make the best of things by finding alternate lodging and spending the evening getting drunk.

As luck would have it, biological terrorists hit the convention during the night, leaving the attendees quarantined inside the swank hotel at which the convention is being held. Almost every cop in the immediate vicinity is under microbial lockdown.

It's up to the Reno Sheriff's Department to step in and keep the city of Miami in line while the Department of Homeland Security searches for the terrorists.

Fans of the show can guess what happens during the film's subsequent hour.

The Florida setting brings the officers

into contact with new varieties of wildlife and the new opportunities for mishaps provided by the beasts.

All of the officers, with the possible exception of Trudy Wiegel, take full advantage of the all-night party scene for which Miami is known.

Though the individual scenes retain the humor that brought popularity to the series, the film's plot adds nothing to the material. Writers Robert Ben Garant, Thomas Lennon and Kerri Kenney-Silver seemed simply to find a reason to relocate Reno to Miami.

Besides co-scripting the film, Garant serves also as director and actor, portraying Deputy Travis Junior. Lennon and Kenny-Silver also appear onscreen, as Lt. Jim Dangle and Wiegel, respectively.

"Reno 911!: Miami" is rated R for sexual content, nudity, crude humor, language and drug use. Fans of "mockumentary" humor will enjoy the film, but probably no more than they would an episode of the series. Be sure to stick around for the full credits.

**Rating:** B-

—Amanda Bittle  
Staff Writer

## View from the PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



The title of this column is very appropriate this time.

The view is of construction equipment and crews working on several new building projects on our campus.

From my view, I see that OCCC is moving forward and building the infrastructure to empower our current and future students to achieve a college education of the highest quality and value.

The final trim is being added to the Robert P. Todd Science, Engineering and Math (SEM) Center and will be completed in March.

This new facility will provide new classrooms and labs to support students studying math and science — and includes a world-class botany classroom and greenhouse. The \$10 million addition to the Main Building is being built by the students of OCCC — by raising bond funds repaid through student fees.

It is truly a building built for and by students. We plan to move into the SEM Center after spring break and be fully operational by the end of the spring semester.

Two other major buildings are under construction — the Health Professions Education Center and the Arts Education Center.

These buildings have a combined cost of \$15 million. They are being paid for by the state of Oklahoma as the result of a statewide bond issue that the voters approved to support at least one project on every state college or university campus in Oklahoma.

The new buildings are scheduled for completion next spring and should be ready for the summer semester in 2008.

Some other good news — we are one step closer to begin offering selected programs totally online.

Last week, our regional accrediting association conducted a comprehensive evaluation of OCCC's ability to support an entire degree online.

The review team concluded that OCCC is ready and will recommend approval.

The reviewers were very complimentary of our faculty and staff, the quality of our online courses and support services, and the College's long-term commitment to an effective online learning and college experience.

We also learned this past week the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation approved a grant for new state-of-the-art broadcasting equipment at OCCC.

The grant, in the amount of \$105,000, will be used to purchase five high-definition camcorders, which will provide hands-on recording experience for our broadcast journalism students.

It is an exciting time for OCCC, and the view from the President's office looks great and is getting even better.

—Paul Sechrist  
OCCC President

# Students added to honor rolls

Final grades are in and the following people have been included to the Fall 2006 honor rolls. Congratulations.

## President's Honor Roll

**Students are eligible to be on the President's Honor Roll by achieving a GPA of 4.0 while carrying at least 12 hours. Part-time students are eligible if they have maintained a 4.0 GPA for two consecutive semesters.**

Arati Adhikari, Bobby Alahyar, Susan Angelino, Hilario Barraza, Theresa Beller, Rochelle Bohanon, Geoffrey Boyd, Heather Brewer, Sara Brickey, Aaron Bryant.

Owen Burnett, Jason Bynum, Valerie Carter, Jennifer Cochnauer, Justin Comp, Tori Contreras, Tyler Crain, Jeanne Davilla.

Kevin De Young, Patricia Dexter, Jeremiah Didier, Stacy Fitzgerald, Danielle Franklin, Sally Gomez, Daniel Graham, Jordan Gullo, April Hampton.

Jason Hanan, Chasity Harjo, John Hashimoto-McCreery, Tracie Hickey, Christopher Hyde, Kevin Hymel, Furrukh Iqbal, Cynthia Jones, Eric Jones.

Jessica Joyner, Kimberly

Kennedy, Jaclyn Kephart, Kayla Kirlin, Sandra Klezyte, Lona Lodge, Amber Louch, Jesse Lucas, Hai Lung, Elaine Lyons.

Nancy Mai, Jeannine Mantooth, Sheryl Martin, Robert Mason, Robert McDonald, Robyn McHan, Leroy Montano, Kathryn Morris, Katherine Neale.

Charles Nelms, Timothy Nix, Lauren Nunn, David Oakes, Rosa Olivo, Kelly Olson, Joseph Ortega, Salma Parven, Jimmy Patillo, Robert Pekus, Neyland Pettis, Christine Phelps.

Jorita Pittman, Kathleen Plummer, Glory Police, Julie Porter, Stephanie Pratt, Jessica Price, Michael Rankin, Christopher Ratz, Jeremy Real, Jose Reyes, Amelia Rios-Baxter, Anna Roberts, Jamie Roberts, Li-ana Rowe, Jarrod Rutledge.

Amanda Schaefer, Virginia Schiefer, Alicia Schoggin, Colin Shawhan, Debra Shoestock, Elizabeth Shultz, Jamie Silvest, Michael Simons, Brock Smith, Jeff Spence, Rachel Stanley.

Kendall Steverson, Gary Stokes, Jodey Stokes, Ashley Sutton, Logan Swift, Beverly Taggart, Tara Tate, Laurie Thornton, Jennifer VanWassenhove.

Stephen Varner, Amber

Walls, Robert Weaver, Sara Wheeler, Amanda Williams, Nicholas Wilson, Trent Wood, Danielle York.

## Vice President's Honor Roll

**Students are eligible to be on the Vice President's Honor Roll by achieving a GPA of 3.5 while carrying at least 12 hours. Part-time students are eligible if they have maintained a 3.5 GPA for two consecutive semesters.**

Trevor Adler, Jessica Albrecht, Roberto Alvarez, Stephen Anderson, Tami Anthony, Erick Atlee, Kimberly Atterberry, Athar Balloch, Jessica Blackshaw.

William Blankinship, Victoria Boyles, Willie Braggs, Kalyn Bray, Monique Bristol, Christie Brophy, Candace Brown, Brian Buetner, Scott Burkhart.

Candace Cantrell, Courtney Carothers, Fransisco Cazares, Kerri Christian, Caitlin Clabes, Brent Coffman, Shanita Cogshell, Brad Collins.

Chris Cope, Cynthia Coszalter, Kyle Davis, Caleb Dobbs, Tarah Donoghue, Clayton Dorris, Rashida Douglas, Amanda Dupler, Sadia Durrani.

Ekole Ebune, Michael Faith, Paul Ferguson, Amy Ferrell, David Fetter, Mary Fitzgerald, Kayla Ford, Jason Freeling, Lucas Garfield, Justin Garrett.

Shane Gibson, Donna Goll, Thomas Graham, Justin Grimsley, Donna Guy, Jennifer Haddon, Stacey Hale, Steve Hamilton, Notta Harjo, Tamara Harris.

Cristen Hartman, Lisa Heath, Kerry Hebblethwaite, Patricia Heffley, Nicholas Henthorn, Amanda Herren, Cynthia Herrera, Richard Hill, Michael Hisey.

Paul Hobbs, Sharlet Hogue, Steven Hoke, Adam Holt, Mark Horton, Amber Huffer, Angela Hunter, Alecia Jacobs, Philip Jecty, Andrew Johnson, April Johnson, Kristen Johnson, Deborah Kennison, Jimmie King, Paula Lackey, Rita Landsberger, Emily Langley, Christian Leclercq.

Chris Lehew, Katie Leonard, Lisa Leyn, Janette Lile, Justin Liston, Rachel Livingston, Spencer Livingston-Gainey, Patrick Lockett, Mary Lockyer.

Annette Loughridge, Cody Lovett, Elizabeth Lovett, Robin Marshall, Susan Mattison, Rodney McAlister, Samuel Mendiola, Rebecca Milledge.

Lindsey Miller, Joshua Mills, Dani Mirich, Jamin Miser, Obrien Montoya, Brandi Moore, Gary Moore, Tira Moore, Naisha Morris, Makenzie Morrissey.

Betty Mwangi, Ken Nghi, Joseph Nicholson, Robert Nolan, Travis Norman, Sean Oats, James Ocasio, Landon Olson, Amber Overturf, Richard Pasley.

Roberta Peters, Phu Pham, Rachel Picott, Keshia Potts, Dennis Powell, Christopher Price, Modesto Resendiz, Kit Revell, Ronald Riggs, Tony Robertson.

Tracey Robinson, Samuel Sampson, Apryl Satterlee, Joshua Sauer, Brandi Schmidt, Amelia Scott, Michael Searle, Martha Selzer, Natisha Shepard.

Lawrence Simpson, Donna Smith, Rhonda Spain, Jason Spiller, Gregory Stanton, Skye Statum, Jamie Steichen, Jeffrey Stevenson, Summer Stiger, Emily Stock, Jennifer Stramski, Arlene Sullivan.

Barbara Tech-Buckner, Blake Thompson, Carrie Tomlinson, April Trumbo, Stephanie Viner, Jerry Walker, Elizabeth Wallace, Charlie Ward, Tuesday Watkins, Kenny Watson, Jennifer Wells, Whitney Wright, Aaron Zaitshik.

**"My congratulations to each of these outstanding students. Your academic achievement is an honor that all of us at OCCC celebrate."**

—Paul Sechrist  
President



**"I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to all those who made the honor roll. This represents a tangible recognition of your hard work and drive."**

—Felix Aquino  
Vice President



**Earn \$\$\$ for teaching Math or Science**  
using the Teachers Shortage Employment Incentive Program (TSEIP)

**\$ Earn a Math or Science education degree**  
**\$ Teach for 5 years in Oklahoma**  
**\$ Receive a "CASH" bonus \***

**\* \$11,148.00**  
Amount awarded to 2007 Recipients



[www.cashforteachingok.org](http://www.cashforteachingok.org) or contact the Dean of Teacher Education

**read the PIONEEROnline**  
[www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer)



# Enrolling requires some advance planning



Photo by Scott D'Amico

In a recent lecture, "Enrollment Basics," Academic Advisor Melissa Aguigui spoke about the importance of planning a class schedule that fits around a student's personal schedule.

**By Scott D'Amico**  
Staff Writer

Enrollment consists of more than just picking classes, said Academic Advisor Melissa Aguigui.

In a recent lecture, "Enrollment Basics," Aguigui spoke about the importance of planning a class schedule that fits around a student's personal schedule.

"You have to balance your work and family obligations," she said.

Aguigui said students should also be leery of taking classes that don't fit their personality.

She said students who have a hard time waking up shouldn't take morning classes and students who go to bed early should not take night classes. "You have to be realistic," she said.

She also went over important deadlines with students.

For instance, she said, students can add or drop classes through the first week of a 16-week semester.

Students also can register late during that first week and if a class is full, students can ask the professor for an override, Aguigui said.

An override allows a professor to

let a student into the class even if the class is full.

Aguigui also spoke about online enrollment, something she said she recommends to returning students.

Business sophomore Porsha Webb, 23, said she found the lecture helpful. "It makes me want to use my time more productively to get the schedule and professors I want."

Aguigui said one of the more important aspects of enrolling is knowing what your long-term goals are. She said some degree programs — like an associate degree in applied science (AAS) — allow students to go to work immediately after school.

If a student is looking to transfer to a four-year university, she said, the student can either finish a degree here or transfer before finishing the requirements for an associate degree.

Aguigui said getting the most out of enrolling isn't that difficult.

"Basically, in a nutshell, you guys need to be proactive," she said.

Online Editor Scott D'Amico can be reached at [OnlineEditor@occc.edu](mailto:OnlineEditor@occc.edu).

## Vans ordered for security officers

**By A.J. Houston**  
News Writing Student

The OCCC Safety and Security Department will be receiving new security vans this March and new surveillance equipment in June.

The college will receive two 2007 service package Ford Expeditions, which are expected to arrive this March.

"The larger vehicles will allow for us to use them as a command center for radio and telephone communications in the event of a disaster," said Ike Sloas, Safety and Security director.

New camera systems also were approved by OCCC President Paul Sechrist on Feb. 19 and will be delivered by June 30.

The total cost of this project is \$95,000.

The new cameras will be placed in the parking lots



on campus.

The cameras will be accompanied by a wireless surveillance system. This will allow the officers to view any camera on campus from laptops in the newly-acquired security vehicles.

"The camera system will

provide documentation of all parking lot activity," Sloas said.

"It will also provide us with a real-time, advantageous viewing platform in which to deter criminal activity.

"It is a step forward in reducing overall crime on campus," he said.

With the numerous reports of car break-ins on campus, he said, these new additions will be a great tool for officers, Sloas said.

"I would like everyone to know that this is a direct result of forward-think in crime prevention by the President's Cabinet and President Sechrist."

**Have a story idea?**  
**Call 405-682-1611, ext.**  
**7409, and tell Valerie**

**Employment  
Services  
Job Fair**



**OKLAHOMA CITY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**General Employment**

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

10 a.m.—2 p.m. College Union rooms 1–3

**Health Professions**

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

12 noon—6 p.m. College Union Dining Area

For information call 405-682-7519 or email  
[employmentservices@occc.edu](mailto:employmentservices@occc.edu)

**Place a personal classified ad**  
**It's FREE to OCCC**  
**students & employees!**  
**ADMAN@occc.edu**

# Signs designate proper smoking areas

**By Courtney Barrie**  
Staff Writer

Oklahoma state law requires smokers to stand at a 25-foot distance from all state-owned facilities' entrances.

According to Oklahoma's Secondhand Smoking Laws, law-breakers could be subject to fines of \$10 or more for standing too close to school doors.

Ike Sloas, Campus Safety and Security director, said he is not aware of any official OCCC smoking policy.

Sloas said the school must follow state law, but that security officers do not have the power to enforce this law since they are not state police officers.

Technically, those who choose to smoke closer to the doorway are breaking no laws if they stand at least 25 feet from the door, and they are not subject to disciplinary action.

"We ask that the entire college help enforce this law," Sloas said.

Keith Bourque, Campus Safety and Security coordinator, encouraged those who see people smoking before reaching the designated area to respectfully ask them to move. If the offender refuses, security officers may then be asked to intercede.

In regard to recent complaints, Bourque said, security officers who do not observe the designated smoking area are dealt with as an internal department issue.

Signs on OCCC's campus have been set out by Physical Plant workers to point out the appropriate distance for smokers to stand, but the lack of uniformity from entrance to entrance could be a source of confusion for both smokers and nonsmokers alike.

For instance, although the Transportation Technology building has signs posted 30 feet from the doors near entry 13, a sign on a wall next to the entry way reads, "Smoking Allowed in this Designated Area."

Three feet away on the glass doors a sign reads "No Smoking in this Area."

Because of the confusion surrounding designated smoking areas, Pioneer staff measured all main entrances. They found all have signs posted well beyond the required 25-foot mark.

The main entry has signs posted 75 feet from the door.

According to a report by the Surgeon General, there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Non-smokers who come into regular contact with secondhand smoke increase their chances of heart-related disease by at least 25 percent.

OCCC student Geraldine Campbell doesn't mind standing away from the door when she lights up.

"[The sign] is right there by the door," Campbell said. "Besides that, you've got to be considerate of the people who don't smoke."

History major Jeremy Harris also is a smoker who places a high value on courtesy toward others.

"I always go past the line, because I don't like to blow smoke in peoples' faces," said Harris.

For more information on Oklahoma's smoking laws, visit [www.breatheeasyok.com](http://www.breatheeasyok.com).

Staff Writer Courtney Barrie can be reached at [StaffWriter3@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter3@occc.edu).



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Smokers gather at a designated campus smoking area. Signs identifying the areas are posted in compliance with state Secondhand Smoking Laws.

## Emergency Medical Sciences program adds new technology

**By Kerry Lowery**  
News Writing Student

The Emergency Medical Sciences department at OCCC can breathe a little easier these days.

Thanks to Emergent Respiratory Products, a CPAP, or continuous positive airway pressure machine, is now available for EMS students to use in their studies.

Emergent Regional Sales Manager Lois Tanner presented the device to EMS Professor Harvey Connor and his students on Feb. 22, giving a brief demonstration of CPAP's capabilities.

Connor said CPAP allows emergency workers to give patients a higher level of care than was available before.

Designed for severe respiratory distress, the machine forces oxygen into the patient's lungs with great efficiency.

The CPAP is an adjustable pressure machine that gauges the patient's exhalations to determine the amount of oxygen needed.

Tanner explained that the CPAP machine greatly reduces the amount of drugs that need to be administered to the patient on the



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Paramedic Care Three student Ryan Stewart adjusts the mask to the new continuous positive airway pressure machine (CPAP) on an Emergency Medical Technology Basic student during a demonstration on Feb. 22. The CPAP machine was one of five donated to schools by Emergent.

way to the hospital.

"One of the key reasons we chose OCCC to receive the CPAP machine is Harvey Connor," Tanner said. "He has been pushing the advancement of CPAP for years."

Leaugeay Barnes, EMS program

director, and a group of EMS students attended the presentation.

The CPAP machine is valued at more than \$1000, Barnes said.

Connor added, "We're real fortunate that Emergent has decided to give this unit to our school."

# Tutors needed for one-on-one work

**By John Savage**  
Staff Writer

TRiO Student Support Services wants to hire students who can tutor subjects such as mathematics, science and history.

Although some other labs help students with the same academic subjects TRiO does, Program Specialist Linette McMurtrey said the difference is the TRiO tutors will mostly be working one-on-one with the students.

"We're looking for students who feel confident about tutoring in that subject," McMurtrey said.

Students can apply online at [www.occcjobs.com](http://www.occcjobs.com) and also will need to submit a transcript. The pay is \$8.50 per hour.

The Federal TRiO programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvan-

tagged backgrounds, according to [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

The program is federally funded and offers help to students who are first-generation college students, low income or have a disability.

McMurtrey said TRiO services can help up to 160 students each year.

"We just provide extra services for them to be successful in college," she said.

She said students would be qualified depending on household size. TRiO uses the same numbers as Financial Aid. Normally if the student receives a Pell Grant, they qualify for help.

One of the requirements that must be met is the student's grade point average needs to be a 2.8 or higher.

The applying tutor also must be currently enrolled at OCCC and must have had a B average or

higher in the subject he or she will be tutoring.

Some students who have received help from the tutors really appreciated it.

Ashley Tomajan is an art major who received help with college algebra.

"[My tutor] was really good and helped me get the main concepts," Tomajan said.

"He always expected me to have my homework done.

"Having my homework done was one way he could look and see where I was having problems," she said.

Other students had their tutors help them in the science department.

OCCC student Raquel Carranco said last year she received help with her chemistry and this year she might require tutoring again.

She explained that last year, due

to her work schedule, she had to drop the class but could use the tutoring services to finish the class next semester.

Math Tutor and OCCC student Vu Tran said he likes to help students with their studies.

"Mostly I like to stick with a lot of the stepping stones like elementary and intermediate [algebra]."

Tran said he likes to tutor because it helps fellow students accomplish their goals.

He said he enjoys working individually with the students.

"When [students] go to the math labs they might have to sit there and wait their turn," Tran said. "This is more of a one-on-one basis."

For more information, contact McMurtrey at 405-682-1611, ext. 7865.

Staff Writer John Savage can be reached at [StaffWriter2@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter2@occc.edu).

## Students test-drive new video game design course

**By Locke Grant**  
News Writing Student

From "Pong" to "Donkey Kong," video games have slowly but surely become commonplace in most households. For good or ill, the era of digital entertainment has reached its golden age.

With the game industry surpassing Hollywood in gross income, many of the silver screen's "who's who" are swapping scripts for microphones to cash in by lending likeness and voice to digital counterparts.

A vast new market for talented designers has appeared. Colleges nationwide have seen this void, and many are taking steps to fill it.

OCCC is in the final stages of approving an associate degree program for video game design and development.

The program would teach students about the history of the industry, how to anticipate and exploit potential trends in the market and how to find employment in the cutthroat world of freelance game design.

In order to gauge student interest in the program, the first class in the game de-

sign degree program is being offered as a stand-alone trial class and has already been filled to capacity by eager men and women.

Thomas Ashby, computer science professor and network/software coordinator, has taken up the task of teaching the course. This is his first experience in the field.

So how does one teach a special topics class without any first-hand knowledge of the material?

"Anytime you go about teaching a new subject, it's all about doing your own homework," Ashby said.

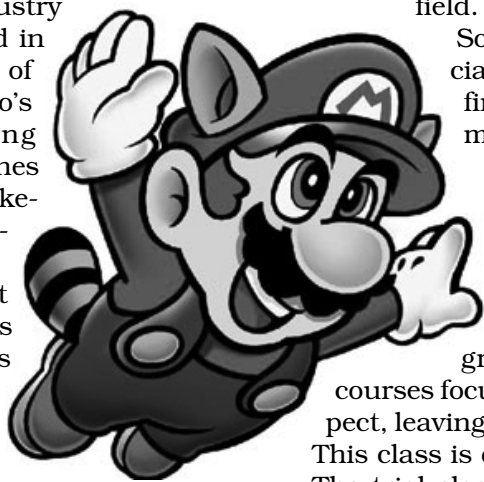
"We're breaking new ground. Most video game

courses focus on the programming aspect, leaving the creative niche empty." This class is different, Ashby said.

The trial class aims to teach students how to "speak the lingo," and tries to invoke the creative spirit by instructing students in the design and creation of their first original game, he said.

The deadline for the first major project in the class is March 13, at which time students will submit a fully-tested game of their own make and design.

If the guinea pig course proves fruitful, the full program could be offered as soon as next spring.



## Courses offered for late-semester credit

**By Drew Hampton**  
Staff Writer

There is hope for students needing just a few more credit hours to graduate before summer.

Spring late eight-week and fast-track classes are still open for enrollment, said Admissions Services Assistant Lyndsie Stremflow.

Students can sign up for spring late eight-week courses until March 26, when the classes begin, Stremflow said, although several classes already are full.

"To enroll in (the full) classes, students will need the instructor's permission," she said.

Enrolling after the deadline also might be possible with the professor's permission, Stremflow said.

"See the corresponding division office for details," she said.

Once classes begin, the latest date students can drop a late eight-week course with a full refund is March 30. Students have until May 4 to drop without academic penalty, Stremflow said.

Five-week fast-track courses also are available, Stremflow said. Session 2 classes start March 2, while Session 3 offerings begin April 13.

For more information, pick up a copy of the OCCC 2007 Spring Schedule, or visit the Recruitment and Admissions office on the first floor of the Main Building.

Staff Writer Drew Hampton can be reached at [StaffWriter1@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter1@occc.edu).

Read the Pioneer Online at [www.occc.edu/pioneer](http://www.occc.edu/pioneer).





Photo by Carrie Cronk

Derrick "Jump Off" Wallace, played by Kennard Rose, entices De'Angelo "Grand" Grayson, played by David Harris, to participate in illegal activities during a scene of David Harris' "Grand Standing."

## Week reminds of history

**By David Miller**  
Staff Writer

In the observance of Black History Month, the college's Black Student Association expressed their history in several ways.

The BSA set up a table, giving away bookmarks and buttons containing information on African-American leaders.

"We need to know the history, not only the history that they teach in class," said BSA president Carlos Robinson.

"But also some of the things the African-American culture has done that people may not see every day."

BSA members rounded out the month by dressing up as more obscure African-American leaders to increase the public's knowledge, as opposed to popular figures such as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks.

They dressed up as the icons on the last three days of the month. Robinson portrayed abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

However, one of the icons he most admires is native Oklahoman Clara Lupert.

Robinson said Lupert fought segregation in local restaurants by organizing and participating in the 1958 sit-in movement.

"It's one of the highly respected things that she did here in this state," Robinson said.

BSA member Torey Jackson dressed up as Patricia Bath, the first female doctor to receive a

patent for a medical invention.

"I chose her because I wear contacts and glasses, and I thought it was amazing how she created that laser tool to remove cataracts," Jackson said.

Black History Month actually originated as Black History Week when Carter G. Woodson, known for writing the contributions of black Americans into the national spotlight, founded it in 1926 during the second week of February, according to [www.emich.edu](http://www.emich.edu).

After the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, it was expanded to include the entire month. Black History Week is now commemorated Feb. 19 to 23.

Student Life hosted two guest speakers during the week.

The first speaker was Oklahoma author Rilla Askew, who penned "Fire in Beulah," gave a lecture on Feb. 19 regarding the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921.

The most anticipated speaker was perhaps Daryl Davis, a black man, who befriended numerous Ku Klux Klan members, even convincing some to renounce their racist beliefs.

Student Life also set up a display that focused on the role of African-Americans during the Depression, World War II and the Civil War, along with more obvious historical events such as slavery and abolition. Icons featured included Nat Turner and Daisy Bates.

Staff Writer David Miller can be reached at [StaffWriter3@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter3@occc.edu).

# Author reveals time spent with KKK

**By Amanda Bittle**  
Staff Writer

Daryl Davis is possibly the only African-American to proudly possess Ku Klux Klan robes and hoods. He spoke Feb. 22 at OCCC about how he came to acquire that paraphernalia.

Davis spoke to an audience of 90 about his book, "Klan-Destine Relationships."

While researching the book, Davis befriended several Klan members, including Roger Kelly, the Imperial Wizard of the Invinible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Over time, Davis said, some of these members abandoned the Klan. When they did, many gave Davis their Klan regalia.

Davis said he grew up in numerous countries as the son of a foreign service officer. It was typical for him to attend school with classmates of different races, colors and backgrounds.

His first experience with racism did not come until age 10, when he was living in the Boston area. While marching in a parade with his white scout troop, Davis was heckled and pelted with objects from spectators.

Davis didn't realize they were targeting him. He thought the spectators must not like the Boy Scouts. When he returned home and told his parents about the incident, they explained to him the concept of racism.

Davis refused to believe anyone could dislike him without even meeting him. He later became interested in race studies, he said. In 1991 he decided to write a book on racism.

"I wanted to write about the black supremacists ... the white supremacists ... the neo-Nazis, the Klan, the skinheads — you name it, I wanted to write about it," Davis said.

"But I needed a focal point, a nucleus. If I had that nucleus, all the other groups could come in on the fringe of the book."

The Klan was a logical nucleus, he said, because he had come into contact years earlier with a member of the Klan. The Klansman had been impressed with Davis' piano playing, who was "like Jerry Lee Lewis," but refused to believe black musicians had influenced Lewis.

Davis tracked down the man, who had recently left the Klan, he learned. The man told Davis where to find Kelly. Davis contacted Kelly and told him he was writing a book on the Klan. Kelly, unaware of Davis' race, agreed to meet with him.

Davis said hatred comes from fear of the unknown. By reaching out to Klan members, he alleviated some of their fears.

"While you are actively learning about someone else, you are passively teaching them about yourself," he said.

Over time, Davis said, he developed a friendship with Kelly and even began attending Klan rallies. Kelly left the Klan in 2000.

Many audience members seemed surprised by what Davis had to say. First-year art major Ben Safely said he attended the lecture as part of a course.

"I didn't know what to expect," he said.

Safely said he was impressed that Davis was brave enough to approach Klan members for the book.

Ann Hovda, a first-year student with an undecided major, said she enjoyed the lecture.

"Some of it was almost heart-breaking," she said.

"But I'm glad I came and that I learned so much about how much hate there is out there."

Staff Writer Amanda Bittle can be reached at [SeniorWriter@occc.edu](mailto:SeniorWriter@occc.edu).



Daryl Davis



# Higher Education Day highlights students

**By Valerie Jobe**  
Editor

Five OCCC students participated in Higher Education Day at the State Capitol Feb. 27.

Students were given an opportunity to meet with state senators and representatives during their visit to the capitol.

The day allows students to ask their representatives questions they feel need to be addressed in higher education.

Business major Carlos Robinson was one of the student speakers who addressed how higher education has benefited his life.

"I will be the first in my family to graduate from college," Robinson said.

A standing ovation followed his speech, the only one given to a student presenter.

Robinson's mother, sister and sister-in-law were present to show their support.

Literature about OCCC's programs, alumni and services, in the form of the magazine "Connections," was left with each representative.

Higher Education Day is open for any student or faculty member to attend, said Pat Berryhill, Institutional Advancement executive director.

Kathryn Jones, Higher



Photo by Liz Largent

(From left to right) OCCC student Carlos Robinson stands with Lt. Gov. Jari Askins and fellow OCCC students Chris Stewart, Valerie Jobe, Miranda Noakes and Carrie Cronk. The group attended Higher Education Day on Feb. 27 at the State Capitol.

Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma executive director, gave the opening speech inside the Senate chamber. Jones said this day does several things for students.

"I think each year we not only have a larger number of higher education supporters who attend, but we

also have a larger number of students," Jones said.

Jones said the purpose for the day is to make everyone feel welcome to share ideas of how higher education can be better.

President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Mike Morgan, spoke about last year's efforts that he hopes will not

diminish.

"We had a tremendous year in higher education last year," Morgan said. "It is important that we not backslide now."

Morgan said he wants the student population to have confidence these actions work.

Lt. Gov. Jari Askins said

higher education is about access to affordable learning.

"For us to make the access [to education] affordable to you, the state of Oklahoma needs to continue to step forward and up to the plate."

Editor Valerie Jobe can be reached at [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu).

## Women's History Month celebrated in March

**By Drew Hampton**  
Staff Writer

When asked who they thought had most influenced the course of women's history in recent years, students' answers ranged widely.

"I'd say Laura Bush," said business major Karie Dove. "She's not meek and mild, like many in her position have been, and she sees a lot — she's outspoken, and isn't afraid to say what she thinks."

"I could probably name three — Hillary Clinton, Anita Hill and Helen Keller," said music major Gloria Arce. "(Keller) graduated from Radcliffe as a cum laude, and

spoke several different languages ... she was deaf and blind, and did all of that."

When asked what woman had personally had the most influence on their lives, however, students almost universally answered with "my mother."

Every March, the National Women's History Project sponsors Women's History Month — a celebration of the influence of women on world events.

According to the National Women's History Project's website at [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org), the theme of the 2007 Women's History Month is "Generations of Women Moving

History Forward."

In honor of this, the NWHP is highlighting two important historical anniversaries — the integration of Central High School in Little Rock 50 years ago and the meeting of the National Women's Conference in Houston 30 years ago.

Both were major events in the civil rights movement — and, by extension, the women's rights movement.

Women's History Month began as a single week of celebrations in March of 1978, isolated to the city of Santa Rosa, Calif. With a large amount of popular support and the bipartisan approval of Congress,

Women's History Week was extended to its current length in 1987.

Since then, the subject of women's history has become a widespread topic taught in public schools across the nation.

The NWHP is also honoring 14 women who have made impressive strides in their respective pursuits.

For information on these honorees and more details about Women's History month, visit the National Women's History Project website at [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org).

Staff Writer Drew Hampton can be reached at [StaffWriter1@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter1@occc.edu).

## Accident damages cars, not people

**By Amanda Bittle**  
Staff Writer

An automobile accident involving two students left two cars damaged on Feb. 23, reported Safety and Security Officer Larry Lundy.

No one was injured in the accident, Lundy reported.

A silver Buick Century collided with a black Honda Accord on J. L. Keels Boulevard. The driver of the Buick failed to yield to the posted sign, according to the report.

The Honda sustained damage to the radiator, hood, front bumper, both light fixtures and both front fenders.

The Buick sustained damage to the rear bumper and passenger-side rear door, tire and axle, according to the report.

The driver of the Buick drove his vehicle from the scene, Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas said. The Honda required towing.

In another incident, a missing purse was recovered on Feb. 23, reported Safety and Security Officer John Hughes.

Student Tonya Nelson reported her purse missing from the Communications Lab, where it was later recovered. Nothing was missing from the purse, Hughes reported.

Staff Writer Amanda Bittle can be reached at [SeniorWriter@occc.edu](mailto:SeniorWriter@occc.edu).

## Nursing program offers quick degree program

**By Whitney Olschwanger**  
News Writing Student

OCCC offers a nursing program that will provide students with bachelor's degrees a unique opportunity to earn a nursing degree.

The program is called the Baccalaureate to Associate Degree Nurse Accelerated Pathway, abbreviated as BADNAP, said Nursing School Director Rosemary Klepper.

The program will give students who already have a bachelor's degree the opportunity to complete the associate degree in nursing in 10 months instead of two years.

**"This program will allow the nursing school at OCCC to create more opportunities for its students."**

—Rosemary Klepper  
Nursing School Director

Since the time period is much shorter, there will be a heavy academic load as well as clinical workload, Klepper said.

"This is a great opportunity to become licensed as a registered nurse, but it is not for people with jobs or other time commitments," she said.

Applications are due March 30 in the nursing department and the program will begin this June.

To be considered for this

new program, a student must have completed all of the OCCC admission requirements, and students must also have at least a 2.5 grade point average, Klepper said.

Students don't have to have a bachelor's in a specific area to be considered for this program.

"This program will allow the nursing school at OCCC to create more opportunities for its students," Klepper said.

## Students get job information

**By Courtney Barrie**  
Staff Writer

Laura Choppy, Employment Services coordinator, has prepared students to be successful when they fill out job applications at OCCC's upcoming job fair and in other future job searches.

Choppy was the presenter for the "How to Fill Out a Job Application" workshop Feb. 26.

Choppy had a list of tips for those who are undertaking the daunting task of filling out job applications.

She reminded students to always write neatly and legibly.

Also, while filling out the application, pay close attention to spelling and grammar, she said.

If there is a negative aspect from a past job, do not lie about it. Instead, put it in as positive light as possible.

Choppy also presented the topic "How to be Successful at a Job Fair" on Feb. 27.

In this workshop, Choppy went over the basics of how to leave a lasting impression when meeting with recruiters at a job fair.

She encouraged students to obtain a list of businesses who are setting up during the fair.

Use this list to do Internet research on potential employers.

This knowledge could potentially give students a leg up on what questions to ask during the initial meeting.

**"How to Start a Job Search"**  
**Noon**  
**March 12**  
**1F6**

When first meeting a recruiter, make eye contact and don't be shy about giving a firm handshake.

Always follow up with a potential employer with a phone call or a thank-you card.

This will let them know they have a serious applicant.

Choppy said her goal is for these workshops to help relieve the stress many people feel when figuring out the unique atmosphere of a job fair.

She encourages all who attend the March 7 job fair to bring copies of their résumés and cover letters.

For those unable to attend the job fair, Choppy will host a workshop at noon, March 12, in 1F6 of the Main Building, called "How to Start a Job Search."

For questions about OCCC's job fair, or for help with résumés, contact Choppy at 405-682-1611, ext. 7369, or e-mail [LChoppy@occc.edu](mailto:LChoppy@occc.edu).

Staff Writer Courtney Barrie can be reached at [StaffWriter3@occc.edu](mailto:StaffWriter3@occc.edu).

**THE FUN**  
FLEXIBLE JOB FOR YOUR BUSY LIFE



**Daytime Staff Needed. Apply in Person:**  
**931 S.W. 25th, Moore, OK Near 19th St. & Telephone Rd. (next to Shoe Carnival).**

McAlister's Deli is now hiring energetic dedicated people. We offer a fun environment and good compensation. Best of all we can work with your schedule. Hey what good is a job if you can't have a life too!

**FREE**  
**OCCC JOB BOARD**

**[www.collegecentral.com/occc](http://www.collegecentral.com/occc)**

More information is available at:  
**OCCC Employment Services**  
**First Floor, Main Building**  
**405-682-7519**  
**[Employmentservices@occc.edu](mailto:Employmentservices@occc.edu)**



# Fashion trends part of campus life



Pocket designs, which hit a peak in popularity in the 90s, continue to thrive as a fashion trend.

**W**hat do UGGs, hobos and headbands have in common? They're all trends sported by the fashion-forward at OCCC.

The über-popular UGG boots can often be seen with skirts, or over skinny jeans or sweatpants.

These sheepskin boots were developed in Australia, according to [www.shoes.about.com](http://www.shoes.about.com).

The name "ugg" reportedly was short for "ugly" and traditionally referred simply to sheepskin boots favored by Australian farmers.

Today the U.S. manufacturer, UGG Australia, holds a trademark on the name "Ugg."

Hobo bags and messenger bags are a popular way for students to schlep their school gear. Messenger bags come in a variety of styles, from no-frills to embellished, and can be seen on the shoulders of both men and women.



Rashida Douglas, diversified studies sophomore, said she thinks perusing magazines is a good way to follow current trends.

"If you look at Lucky magazine or Shop magazine, you can get a pretty good idea of what the trends are going to be," Douglas said.

"It gives you a good idea of how to put things together."

Style from the 1980s also has seen a recent comeback. Leggings under skirts, nautical stripes, off-the-shoulder tops and wide headbands can be seen all over campus.

Carlos Robinson, second-year business major, said he thinks how a person dresses can affect how he or she feels for the day. He said he tries to dress to feel good and to be an individual rather than simply following trends.

"I have my own style," Robinson said. "[I find clothing at] G Q Fashions, Burlington's and even Wal-Mart."

Natalie Deitz-Bales, second-year business major, said she also looks to trends for inspiration but is careful to choose pieces that look good on her. "I'll watch what other people have on ... and if I see something I like and I think it will look good with something, I'll put it together and try it."

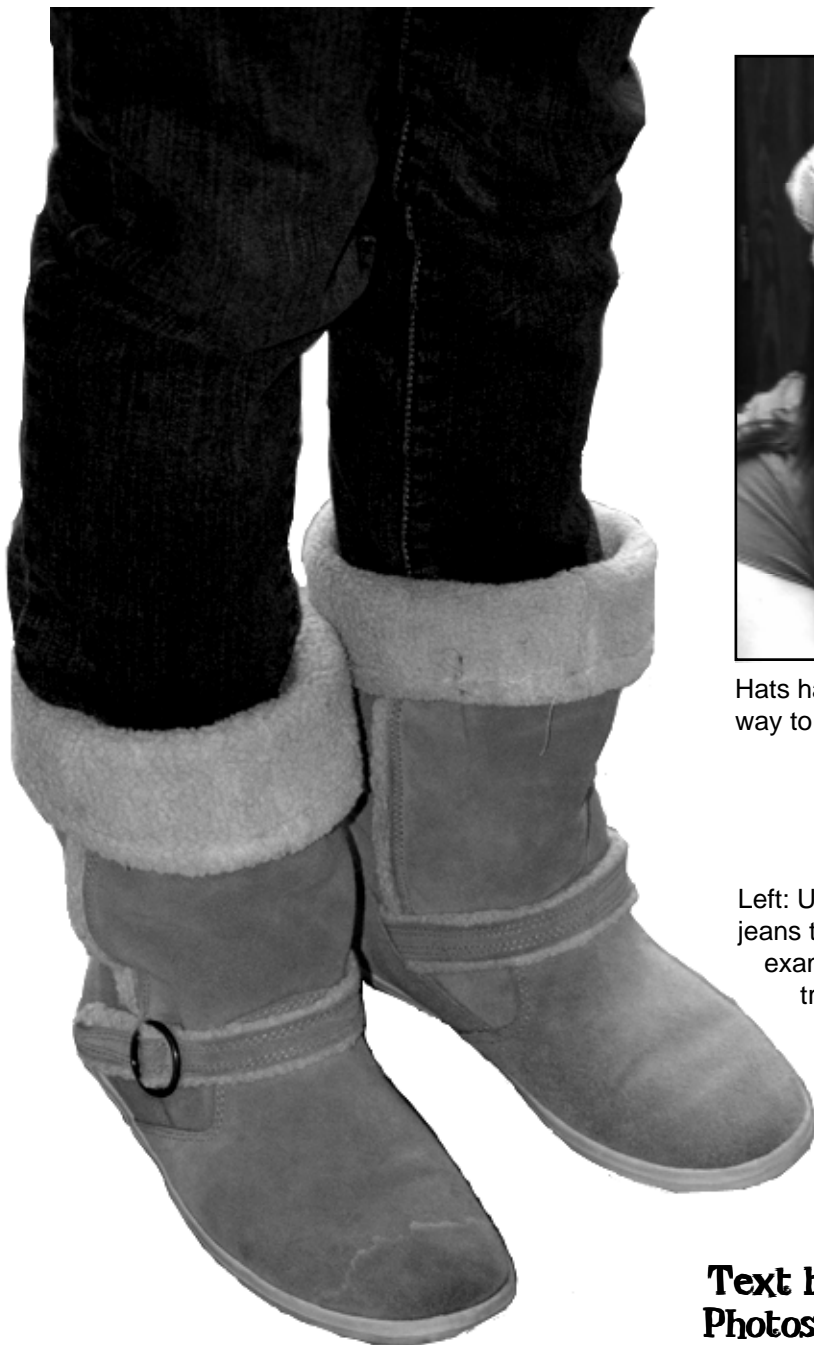
Other trends that can be spotted on campus include ballet flats, large, ornate jewelry, metallic fabrics and winter coats with fur or faux-fur trim.

Staff Writer Amanda Bittle can be reached at Senior Writer@occc.edu.



Hats have made a comeback as a way to express individuality.

Left: UGG boots, with skinny jeans tucked in, is just one example of current fashion trends. Right: Ballet-slipper-type shoes offer comfort to the wearer while still being stylish.



**Text by Amanda Bittle  
Photos by Carrie Cronk**

# Sports

## UPCOMING

### OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

•**March 5:** The Intramural Women's five-on-five basketball tournament will have its first team meeting in the gymnasium at 12:30 p.m. Registration is any time for this event at the Recreation Services office. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**April 4:** The Intramural 5k run members will have a meeting at 1 p.m., April 4 in the gymnasium. Registration for this event is any time at the Recreation Services Office. This event is free for students and faculty. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**April 4:** The Intramural Home Run Derby players will have a meeting at 1 p.m., April 9 in the gymnasium. There will be a total of three meetings before this event takes place. Registration for this event is any time at the Recreation Services Office. The Home Run Derby challenge will take place at 2 p.m., Thursday, May 3. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

•**April 5 - 12:** The Intramural men's and women's Bench Press Contest will take place during the week of April 5 through 12. This contest will be spread out over three days. Registration for the event is open. Forms can be found in the Recreation and Community Services office. For more information, contact Community Education and Health Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

**For more information on all sport classes and schedules, visit [www.occc.edu/rcs](http://www.occc.edu/rcs)**



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Texas Christian University freshman Natalie Melenric swims in the eighth annual Mountain West Conference Championships which took place at the OCCC Aquatic Center Feb. 21 through 25. Fifteen teams competed in the event and broke several records. The women's TCU team scored 394 points and came in sixth place. The men's team also placed sixth with 431.5 points.

## Athletes go the distance at championships

By Miguel Rodriguez  
News Writing Student

The University of Las Vegas men's swim team did it again. They won their third Mountain West Championship at the OCCC Aquatic Center in February.

The women's championship team was Brigham Young University. Together the men and women broke seven records.

Amber Walter, of the University of Utah, broke the 50-meter freestyle conference record with a time of 22.51 seconds and automatically qualified for the NCAA national championships.

Angela Goodson of BYU broke two all-time MWC records in the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 54.29 and the 200-meter butterfly with a time of 2:01.14. Brett Allen of BYU tied the MWC record for the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 19.62.

**"I love the event being held in Oklahoma City and I think the Aquatic Center is wonderful."**

—Theresa Rogers

University of New Mexico swim team member

The Utah women set an NCAA record in the 200-meter freestyle relay with a time of 1:31.93.

The BYU women broke the all-time record for the 400-meter freestyle relay with a time of 3:22.47 and broke the MWC record for the 400-meter relay with a time of 3:42.76.

The BYU women's team took first place with 747 points.

Utah's women's team placed second with a total of 618 points followed by UNLV with 527 points.

The UNLV men's team took first place with a total of 699.5 points. BYU men placed second with a total of 684.5 points. The Air Force Academy placed third with a total of 633 points.

Many of the competitors agreed that holding the event at OCCC was fair to all the teams competing because it's a neutral site.

Theresa Rogers from the University of New Mexico said, "I love the event being held in Oklahoma City and I think the Aquatic Center is wonderful."

Rogers, who made the consolation finals, swam in the 50-meter freestyle.

Coordinator of Aquatics Roxanna Butler said the MWC championships had a good turnout of teams and spectators.

"It ran very smoothly," Butler said.

For more results, visit [www.themwc.com](http://www.themwc.com).



# Students ready to compete

By Drew Hampton  
Staff Writer

Six members of the OCCC Business Professionals of America club will compete at the 2007 State Leadership Conference, said BPA Club President Chris Stewart.

The conference, to be held March 13 and 14 at the Oklahoma State University campus in Okmulgee and Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, will give students the opportunity to show their business and computer skills and exchange ideas, Stewart said.

Stewart will compete in Desktop Publishing. Other categories OCCC students will compete in include Fundamental Word Processing Skills, Fundamentals of Accounting, Integrated Office Applications, Prepared Speech, Graphic Design Promotion and Human Resource Management.

Students must finish first or second in their category to advance to nationals, Stewart said.

In addition to these competitions, the conference also will host a number of workshops on various topics, Stewart said.

"It's a great opportunity for students," Stewart said.

"They'll be able to expand their horizons ... they'll get to see other people and the way that they think, the different ideas that they have."

This is not the first time OCCC has attended the event, Stewart said, but the organization had lain dormant until a year and a half ago. Since then, BPA has become one of the leading clubs on campus, voted "Best New Club of the Year" in its first semester, Stewart said.

For more information about BPA, contact Stewart at bigtyme02viking@yahoo.com.

## BPA to host speaker

Jim Mason, State Chamber of Commerce vice president.

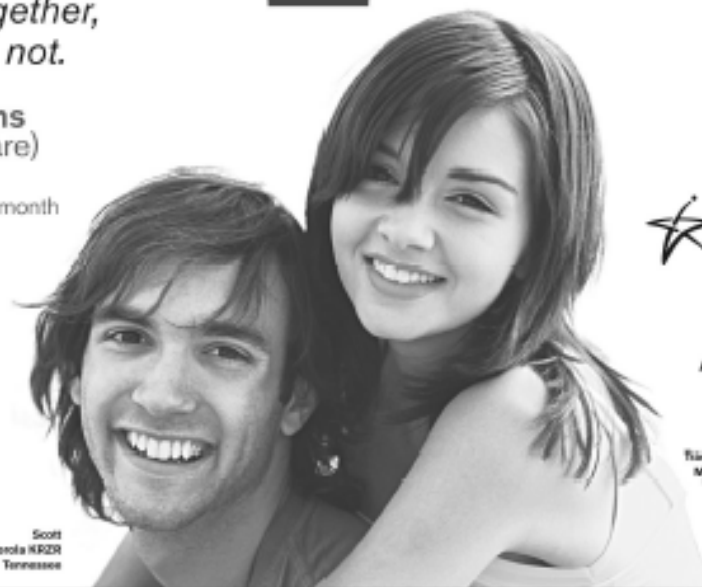
"Nanotechnology in the World Today" at 12:30 p.m., March 6, in CU3.

U.S. Cellular® gets us...  
so we can get together,  
even when we're not.

### National Family Plans (even friends can share)

- 1400 minutes for \$89.99 a month
- UNLIMITED Mobile-to-Mobile Minutes
- UNLIMITED Night & Weekend Minutes (Starting at 7:00 p.m.)
- FREE Incoming Text Messages

Scott  
Motorola RAZR  
Tennessee



Take our best network challenge, test our products, experience our customer service and make sure they are right for you.

**U.S. Cellular**  
We connect with you.

Check out the  
ALL NEW [getusc.com](http://getusc.com)

1-888-buy-uscc

Only  
Motorola RAZR  
Tennessee

Offer valid with two-year service agreement of \$89.99 and higher. All service agreements subject to early termination fee. Credit approval required. \$30 activation fee. \$15 equipment charge fee. Roaming charges, fees, surcharges, coverage charges, and taxes apply. 195¢ Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee applies; this is not a tax or government required charge. Network coverage and reliability may vary. Usage rounded up to the next full minute. Use of service constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions. **Unlimited Night and Weekend Minutes** valid M-F 7 p.m. to 6:59 a.m., or 9 p.m. to 6:59 a.m. (depending on plan) and all day Saturday and Sunday. Limited time offer. **Text Messaging:** Functionality may depend on other carrier's network and phones. U.S. Cellular does not guarantee message delivery or timeliness. 150¢ character limit per message for text messaging. E-mail Address has 400 character limit; messages may be segmented into smaller units. U.S. Cellular not responsible for content of messages. A charge of 15¢ per outgoing message applies if no messaging package is selected or existing package limit is exceeded. For internet transmission, message content including your phone number may be intercepted by third parties. By using Text Messaging you agree to be bound by all terms and conditions at [www.uscc.com/Messaging-terms](http://www.uscc.com/Messaging-terms). **30-Day Guarantee:** Customer is responsible for any charges incurred prior to return. All other trademarks and brand names mentioned herein are the exclusive property of their respective owners. ©2007 Garmin. All rights reserved. Garmin, Bowlink, and Garmin are trademarks of Garmin in the U.S. and/or other countries. There are additional associated charges related to downloading premium content products. All rights reserved. Other restrictions apply. See store for details. ©2007 U.S. Cellular Corporation.

# Highlights

## Auditions for Greek comedy March 5

Auditions for Aristophanes' classic Greek comedy "Lysistrata" will be at 7 p.m., Monday, March 5, and Tuesday, March 6, in the OCCC Theater. Fifteen to 20 women and 10 to 15 men are needed. For more information, contact Theater Professor Brent Noel at 405-682-1611, ext. 7246, or e-mail bnoel@occc.edu.

## College Republicans to host Shawnee mayor

The College Republicans are hosting a special presentation with Shawnee Mayor Chuck Mills from 1 to 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 6, in the OCCC Theater. Mills will speak about voting and community involvement. For more information, contact Dustin Fisher at 405-519-3716.

## Guest to speak on nanotechnology

The Business Professionals of America is hosting Vice President of the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Jim Mason from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m., March 6, in room CU3 of the College Union. Mason will speak on nanotechnology and its effect on students' lives. For more information, contact Chris Stewart at 405-410-7891.

## Gay and Lesbian Alliance to meet

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance is meeting at 2:30 p.m., March 6, in the Club Meetings Room on the first floor of the Main Building. GALA will discuss sponsoring a Gay Student Alliance at Moore High School. For more information, contact Learning Skills Professor Mark Schneberger at 405-682-1611, ext. 7624.

## Business scholarship offered

Application forms are available for the Connie Nieser Memorial Scholarship in the Business division office and the Institutional Advancement office. Applicants must have completed 12 or more credit hours at OCCC, have a GPA of at least 2.5, have declared a major in business and be intent on completing an associate degree at OCCC. The deadline for submission is 5 p.m., Friday, March 16. For more information, contact Business Professor Myra Decker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7332.

## Psi Beta membership drive

Psi Beta is looking for new members. Students who are interested must have at least a 3.0 GPA, have at least 12 hours of credit completed, and must be interested in majoring in psychology. Three of the 12 hours must be in a psychology course. Induction will be held 6:30 p.m., April 13, in the College Theater. For more information, contact Peggy Jordan at 405-682-1611, ext. 7157.

## Scholarships available

The Office of Recruitment and Admissions has scholarship forms available for qualified applicants. There are currently 10 scholarships available. For more information, contact Linda Sapp, Prospective Student Services assistant, at 405-682-7580.

**Highlights are due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday for publication in the next issue of the Pioneer. Forms are available in the Pioneer office, located in 2M6, on the second floor of the Main Building, adjacent to the elevator. Highlights may be e-mailed to StaffWriter1@occc.edu using the word Highlights in the subject line.**

## A sodding good cause



Photo by Carrie Cronk

Public Speaking student Julieta Ortiz helps lay sod at the construction site of a Habitat for Humanity home on Saturday, Feb. 24. In all, 15 OCCC student volunteers helped lay half an acre of sod for the home.

# Students help lay sod, plant shrubs for Habitat home

By Avery M. Cannon  
News Writing Student

On a windy day in south Oklahoma City, Habitat for Humanity and 15 volunteers were hard at work doing what they do best — helping the community by building low-cost houses.

The site was a newly-built house across from an elementary school on S.W. 23rd Street where a family will move in soon.

But before they do, the house needed a yard. This is where volunteer students and one construction supervisor came in.

"We were armed with over a half an acre of sod," said Student Life Coordinator Jon Horinek. Trees and bushes were brought and the crew went to work.

The sky was full of dust and the wind howled as they began to lay the sod.

"It was the most difficult part of the experience," said Antranetta Willis, journal-

**"It feels good to help someone settle into a new home. It was my first time, and hopefully not my last, to work with Habitat for Humanity."**

—Antranetta Willis  
OCCC Student

ism major and student volunteer. "We were slipping and sliding in the mud as the wind blew the sod back into our faces."

Difficulty aside, it was worth it for Willis. "Despite the wind it only motivated us more," she said.

"It feels good to help someone settle into a new home. It was my first time, and hopefully not my last, to work with Habitat for Humanity."

Helping the community is important to Horinek.

"It was difficult with the wind, but it feels good to help the community," he said. "Good deeds make people feel good. It was a great time and I'm glad I was a part of it."

Habitat for Humanity funds most of their volunteer work through donations from various corporations. They sponsor a community service event every Saturday where volunteers do everything from build houses to clean up streets.

Anna Steven, representative for Habitat for Humanity, said the organization has six full-time construction staff members. "But for something like landscaping they will only send one of the six," she said.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity or Service Saturdays, contact Horinek at 405-682-1611, ext. 7697, or Steve Mush, Habitat for Humanity coordinator, at 405-232-4828.



# Classifieds

**Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OCCC 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. For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or fax 405-682-7843.**

## AUTOMOBILES

**FOR SALE:** '99 Sportage Jeep 4x4. Nice car, manual tran., low miles, fully-tinted windows, very good condition. Asking \$2,700. 405-408-2828.

**FOR SALE:** '88 Honda Prelude. Black 2-door, manual trans., tinted power windows, anti-lock. Neat and clean interior. New tires and valves. New engine and alternator/battery. Work done at Eskridge Honda. 200k miles. Great condition with car alarm w/ remote. Needs clutch work. Asking \$700. Call 405-821-5675. For pics or more info: e-mail nneka.c.gadzama@email.occc.edu.

## CHILD CARE

**BABYSITTER AVAILABLE:** OCCC student will babysit at person's residence. Flexible hrs., can work nights and help around the house. \$6.50/hr negotiable. Please contact Jennifer at 703-3664 or jenie@hotmai.com.

## ELECTRONICS

**FOR SALE:** Microsoft wired router, like new. Wired ethernet base station model. \$25. Call Dustin at 388-3913.

**FOR SALE:** Dell Desktop PC. Dimension 3000. P4-3000, 800fsb, 512-dual inline Memory, DVD+/RW, 80GB HD. Complete system w/17-inch Flat Panel LCD monitor. Purchased 10-05. Must sell. \$600. 590-7041, 378-0619.

**FOR SALE:** Durabrand 20" color TV. 2 years old/silver color. \$50, please call Rachel at 405-408-5327.

## EMPLOYMENT

**MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY AT NEW STORE!** Fast Lanes Supercenters are looking for individuals with leadership skills. We have a new store opening by Quail Springs Mall, and are looking for good people to help us grow. Good pay & health benefits available to those who qualify. Come by Fast Lanes 2220 S. Broadway in Edmond to apply, or call 844-8084.

**FAST LANES NEW STORE!** Now hiring Carwash Attendants,

Detail and Lube Technicians. No experience necessary. Advancement opportunities. Come by 2220 S. Broadway in Edmond or call 844-8084 to apply.

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FAST-PACED AND EXCITING?** Trappers Fish Camp is now hiring experienced waitstaff. We have one of the largest per person guest check averages on Reno ranging from \$17-\$24 per person. Apply in person @ 4300 West Reno in OKC from either 9-11 AM or 2-4 PM, 7 days a week.

**NOW HIRING:** Energetic Servers with great attitudes at the County Line BBQ in Oklahoma City. Flexible scheduling. Perfect for students. Apply in person between 2-4 at 1226 NE 63rd St.

## Zio's Italian Kitchen

2035 S. Meridian

### Now Hiring 12 Servers

Apply in person Monday thru Thursday 1 PM-4 PM

## CITY OF EDMOND

Summer positions @ Pelican Bay Aquatic Center: Lifeguard, Cafe & Cashier Staff, Water Safety Instructors. Golf Course, Arcadia Lake, Parks & Recreation jobs also open. Job info line 359-4648

www.edmondok.com

Apply at 100 E First, room 106

## FOR RENT

**ROOM FOR RENT:** Homestay for Korean student. 20-25 minutes west of OCCC. All utilities, groceries, and house expenses paid. Delicious Korean and American foods served. \$800 per month. Contact Sun: 824-5430.

**FOR RENT:** 2 bed/2 bath duplex next door to OCCC. \$600 per month. Call Robin at 570-5310.

## FURNITURE

**FOR SALE:** Daybed for sale. Black, western-looking. Asking for \$125 OBO. Call 255-8989 and ask for Ashley.

**FOR SALE:** 4 POD Computer Table. Just like the ones in the Computer Center. Great for gaming! Asking \$200 OBO. E-mail at ataghavi@occc.edu.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**FOR SALE:** Three-year-old Ludwig Doetsch violin with soft-side case. In excellent condition. Kid graduated. A real buy at \$1500. Contact 306-3290 or 306-1396.

**FOR SALE:** Tanning Bed for sale. Cheaper than some con-

tracts. Save time and money. Great gift. Call Mark for details 405-802-3330.

**FOR SALE:** New PowerHouse Weight Machine. Cost \$200 at Academy. Moving, must sell. Price: \$150 OBO. Call 590-7041 or 378-0619.

**FOR SALE:** Women's Hyperlite Diva 128 wakeboard. Never been used, brand new. Size small bindings included. \$100 OBO. 570-1499.

**FOR SALE:** Sound system. 2 12" Cerwin Vega subwoofers with ported box and a JBL 600 watt amplifier. Like new. Need to sell in order to upgrade car. Contact Logan at 405-740-4095. These are competition subs and are very nice. Call for price.

**VOCALIST, BASSIST, SYNTHESIST WANTED:** For Hardcore/Death Metal Christian band. Must be devoted to Christ and open to practicing 3 times a week regularly & playing shows. Contact Andrew Lopez: 350-1639 or 350-7501 or e-mail theandre wlopez@yahoo.com.

**CHRISTIAN MUSICIANS NEEDED:** New Horizons Fellowship in OKC is in need of experienced musicians to assist in leading praise and worship. Playing by ear would be most helpful. If interested please contact Cheryl Flud at cpflud@aol.com.

**TRADE WANTED:** Yamaha 12 string guitar FG-410-12. Will trade for Japanese Fender 6-string and wah-wah pedal OBO.

**REWARD OFFERED:** LARGE REWARD for LOST WHITE GOLD SMALL HOOP EARRING with nine small diamonds in it. Lost Thursday, Feb. 8, in main parking lot or Main Building. First Christmas present from my husband and very sentimental. Please call Christina at 788-5258 or contact school security.

**TUTOR AVAILABLE:** I teach Math, French, and advise for good health and nutrition. You set your own schedule. Call for details and I will be glad to help you. You will enjoy it! 405-632-4111.

**CAREGIVER NEEDED:** For paralyzed lady in the Village-Nichols Hills area. Weekend split-shift available Saturday and Sunday. Morning 6AM-10AM & Night 9PM-10:30PM. Must interview with patient and be hired through agency. Call Sharmel at 752-9064. Leave your name and number and you will be called back.

**The Pioneer accepts CREDIT CARDS! Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674 for details.**

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 — plaisir
- 5 Wide open
- 10 Sci-fi craft
- 14 Chelsea's dad
- 15 Stoneworker
- 16 Dick or Jane
- 17 Popular beverage
- 19 Mine entrance
- 20 Edgar — Poe
- 21 Herons
- 23 Binges
- 25 Ringo's instrument
- 26 Guide
- 27 Make believe
- 30 Marsh plant
- 31 Dieter's order
- 33 Pairs
- 35 Sandy's comment
- 36 Rule
- 37 Couple
- 38 Degree holder, for short
- 40 Poet John —
- 42 Italian river
- 43 Shellfish
- 45 Idea
- 47 Mexican sauce
- 48 Roomy sleeve
- 49 Conclude
- 52 Zodiac sign

- 53 Golf-course unit
- 54 Without thought
- 59 Baseball events
- 60 Picture
- 61 Fencing sword
- 62 Steak or pork
- 63 Some portraits
- 64 It's a long story!

### DOWN

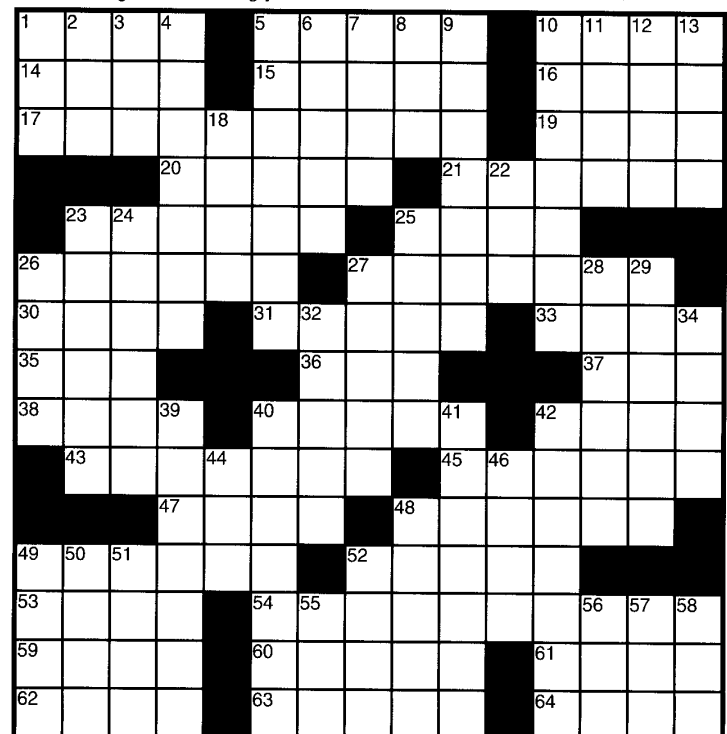
- 1 Easy as —
- 2 By way of
- 3 North Pole worker?
- 4 Netted
- 5 Charms
- 6 Some parties
- 7 Wise — owl
- 8 Luau fare
- 9 Went inside
- 10 Weaponless
- 11 Bleach
- 12 Skip
- 13 Collections
- 18 Writer Waugh
- 22 Clean a fish
- 23 — Nevada
- 24 "Instant" house
- 25 Sketched
- 26 Type of race
- 27 Aircraft
- 28 Plant-eating rodent
- 29 Angry with

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

FIND	LOOPS	EYRE
ODIE	IDEAL	NOEL
BOLL	SAUNA	DUNK
SLEPT	FILBERT	
HOPS	CORA	
HESITATE	MIRTH	
ASK	SCALD	EERIE
ISAK	TIGER	DANA
LATHE	RIGOR	IDS
YEAST	NAVYBLUE	
RAYS	SEAR	
FUTURES	NOBEL	
ARLO	ANODE	NEMO
MENU	NOMAD	TAIL
ADAM	TREYS	ETTA

7-10-98 © 1998, United Feature Syndicate

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 32 Leave well enough — | 48 Crest                 |
| 34 In a short time     | 49 "To — it may concern" |
| 39 Soggiest            | 50 Rake                  |
| 40 Miami player        | 51 Can. province         |
| 41 Makes possible      | 52 Go first              |
| 42 Map collections     | 55 Ostrich's kin         |
| 44 Gehrig or Costello  | 56 Health resort         |
| 46 Fairy-tale baddie   | 57 Trouser part          |
|                        | 58 "—, team!"            |



**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE PIONEER**  
**CALL 405-682-1611, ext. 7674,**  
**or e-mail adman@occc.edu**  
**FOR RATES AND DEADLINES**



**Tim Tanner**  
**Air National Guard Representative**

Oklahoma Air National Guard  
 5624 Air Guard Dr.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73179-1067

Office: (405) 686-5215  
 Cell: (405) 517-3409  
 Fax: (405) 686-5537  
 Toll Free: (800) 528-2231  
 DSN: 720-5215

e-mail: tim.tanner@okokla.af.mil

# College proposes spending up to \$1 million on festival

"AFO,"

Cont. from page 1

is specifically used for construction improvements.

Although college officials estimate the total cost of the project could be as much as \$1.4 million, President Paul Sechrist said nothing has yet been set in stone.

Regents expressed concern about the cost of developing the new site.

"I have not had sticker shock like this in many a year," said Regents Chairman Tom Hoskison.

Sechrist defended the festival, which is co-sponsored by the South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Central Arts Association and Women of the South.

"[Arts Festival Oklahoma] is an event that is part of the mission of most com-

munity colleges," he said.

"In addition to providing education, a community college strives to have some cultural activities for the community it serves. The festival is one way that OCCC, as a community college, reaches out to our community."

Sechrist said the festival is not a money-making event for OCCC.

Nevertheless, he said, spending the money to improve the new site for the festival is something that is good for the college in a variety of ways.

"The benefit to the college is that we have thousands of our community members on our campus in one weekend," he said.

"The event provides an avenue for Oklahoma artists to show their art."

Some students on the campus have thoughts

about the cost.

Lyndsie StremLOW, admissions assistant, said the price tag did not shock her at all.

"I think it's a noble cause to spend money on," she said. "The arts are one of the most important things that this college has to offer."

Journalism and broadcasting major Valerie Carter wonders why the college needs to spend this money.

"It seems like the \$1.4 million is a lot," Carter said. "Even spread out over a couple of years it still seems like a lot of money."

"We need to keep the Arts Festival Oklahoma here on campus and I guess if this is the asking price, then we have to do it."

"I am very proud of the school for all of this."

Editor Valerie Jobe can be reached at [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu).



The proposed site for Arts Festival Oklahoma is flanked by Interstate 44 and S.W. 74th Street.

## College receives approval for online degree programs from commission

"Online,"

Cont. from page 1

'sustainability': [whether] we have the capacity, the financial resources, the right people, the right expertise and the right technology to be able to sustain quality as we add (online degree) programs," he said.

"They verified that the right people, the right finances (and) the right structures were all in place for us to do this."

Sechrist said there still are several steps ahead be-

fore final approval.

Final approval requires action by the OCCC Board of Regents, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the HLC Board, he said.

"The reason [approval] takes a little bit of time is that the review team prepares the written report, which they have not done yet," Sechrist said.

"Then they send it to us for any corrections of (clerical) errors," he said.

"Then, it goes back to them and they forward it to

the full (HLC). Then it's taken to the Board for action."

The OCCC Board of Regents approved the proposal, Sechrist said. He said final approval is expected this spring.

Students say not everyone is a candidate for an online degree.

One said she would miss the human contact lacking in online classes while others may fear they lack the discipline to complete online coursework.

Megan Robinson, second-

year elementary education major, said she has taken online courses in the past.

She said she took psychology and film studies online and will begin English II after spring break.

Robinson said, while she enjoys online courses, she would not want to earn a degree entirely via the Web.

"I wouldn't want to take all my classes online," she said. "I wouldn't get any interaction with people."

Josh Harris, nursing student, said he will continue taking all of his classes on campus. "I don't have the discipline for [online classes]," Harris said.

Staff Writer Amanda Bittle can be reached at [SeniorWriter@occc.edu](mailto:SeniorWriter@occc.edu).

Classified Ads **FREE** to students, faculty, & staff. Turn form in to the Pioneer office (2M6) by 5 p.m. Tuesday for the next issue.

## Six-year sentence handed down in video crime

"Durant,"

Cont. from page 1

mizes his own behaviors," Gray said.

Prosecuting Attorney Pam Stillings said the victim withdrew from school because she was so disturbed by what Durant had done.

Stillings went on to say that Durant has shown no remorse for his actions, past or present.

Durant's attorney, Brian

Dell, argued that his client was being punished too severely when Stillings insisted on a 10-year sentence.

Stillings defended her decision.

"No program will work to rehabilitate Mr. Durant until he admits to his wrongdoing," she said.

Gray pronounced the sentence with only one other stipulation. If Durant successfully completes a cognitive behavior program

and sexual offender class, Gray will consider suspending the remainder of the sentence at the time.

Durant's family, who were at the sentencing hearing, declined comment but were affected by the judge's decision with his mother saying, "Oh, sweet Jesus."

Durant was taken into immediate custody following the decision.

Editor Valerie Jobe can be reached at [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu).

**NEW DONORS EARN \$40 TODAY! \$80 THIS WEEK!**

**DONATE PLASMA**

**AND SAVE LIVES!**

**ZLB Plasma Services**

Good for You. Great for Life. [www.zlbplasma.com](http://www.zlbplasma.com)

716 NW 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73103

**405.521.9204**

Walk-Ins Welcome

**Voice your opinion.  
It's FREE**

**Write the editor at [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu)**