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PIONEER

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Artistic expression



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Priscilla Yott, graphic communications major, enjoys the warm weather while she inks her world on paper. "It's a difficult project because we can only use ink and the utensils that were given to us," she said.

Returning students can enroll beginning Oct. 6

By Dillon Hart
Staff Writer

Current OCCC students can enroll for spring semester classes as of Monday, Oct. 6, said Associate Registrar Alan Stringfellow.

For new students, enrollment begins Monday, Oct. 13.

Stringfellow said current students get somewhat of a head start.

"Basically, we give returning students one week to enroll prior to all of our new, incoming students," he said.

"We provide our returning students with an advantage to be able to get in some of the courses.

"It benefits those students who need one or two classes to graduate, or are

Spring, May Intercession & Summer Enrollment

TIME: Monday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DATE: All returning students: begins Oct. 6

All new incoming students: begins Oct. 13

PLACE: Registration Office, first floor, Main Building

close to graduating."

Stringfellow said it's never too early to start planning a class schedule.

"The spring schedule has been out there for about a week, maybe two weeks, so a student could get out there today, build their schedule, and know exactly what they want," he said.

"Then they're assured of getting the classes that they need."

Students also can meet with academic advisers before the enrollment window

opens, to see which courses they need.

Stringfellow said he strongly encourages students to take advantage of the dates and enroll as early as possible, to make sure they get into the classes they want.

Stringfellow can be reached by phone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7522, or by e-mail at astringfellow@occc.edu.

Staff Writer Dillon Hart can be reached at Staff Writer2@occc.edu.

Most students test into zero-level courses

Number of those taking remedial classes statewide stands at 80%

By Matt Montgomery
Editor

A recent study by Strong American Schools estimates nearly 80 percent of Oklahoma's community college students have to enroll in remedial or, zero-level coursework.

Nationwide, that number is 43 percent.

Ben Hardcastle, communication director for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, said the need for remediation might be associated with the difficulty of college coursework but said he also attributes it, in part, to the average age of today's college student. At OCCC, that age is 25.7.

"The level of rigor for making a passing grade in college entry-level classes may be challenging for someone who isn't fresh out of high school," Hardcastle said.

He said this issue is not solely an Oklahoma issue but a nationwide one that needs to be given attention by all community colleges.

"This is an issue that community colleges must face head on," Hardcastle said.

"In the history of the community college, they have been the pioneer for offering remedial courses in an effort to strengthen student success for the long haul of the students' academic career."

Hardcastle said students have a better chance for success by taking remedial entry-level courses.

He said remedial courses aren't necessarily an indicator of a lack of skills but rather, a good opportunity for students to strengthen their skills before taking core classes.

"The reason most of these students are taking remedial courses is rather complex," he said "... and students may not be to blame.

"Rather, their preceding educators might be to blame."

OCCC President Paul Sechrist said he is aware that remedial classes are important for student success.

"Without a commitment by community colleges to a robust remedial program, we would undermine our nation's

"This is an issue that community colleges must face head on."

—Ben Hardcastle
Communication Director
Oklahoma State
Regents for Higher
Education

See "Remedial," page 9

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Relax, unclutter your life

A songwriter once said, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." Peace is not only the absence of war. It is the state of mind that allows a person to lay her head on a pillow at night with a sigh of contentment. A serene person can drift off into a restful state of recuperation. The problem is, my mind cannot rest among clutter.

Point in fact: It took my daughter and me what I consider to be too much time to move into our new apartment. I call it the "two women, two trucks, two days to move two blocks syndrome." No matter how tired we have been after working, school, packing and unpacking, there has been a state of unrest that stems from the overabundance of items we have toted from one place to another. Not only do we have to determine where to place these "things" in our new home, but in some cases, we actually find ourselves saying, "I haven't seen that in years, I forgot I had one of those and remember when the baby (now 25 years old) wore that?"

Some memories are nice to rekindle, but how many knick-knacks are too many before they are collectors of dust? How many drawings and magnets can a refrigerator hold before it qualifies as an art gallery?

We own a blender, a Magic Bullet, an electric veggie-chopper, a mandolin slicer, a food processor, a salad shooter and a cutting board with a set of knives. I do not know why we feel the need for that many ways to cut our salads. To be honest, we do not eat that many cut vegetables, but if we ever decide to, we know we have options.

All women know there is a rule about the amount of makeup, nail and hair products you must maintain in order to be prepared for any mood that strikes.

One hair dryer is not enough. The straightening and curling irons must supplement the two dryers, plus attachments. Finally, there is the closet where the clothes we can wear now hang between the clothes "we hope to lose enough weight to wear someday," and the "fat clothes" we hope never to wear again.

My daughter and I collect books, videos and music CDs, but they could be put away if we moved all the games we have not played in years off the bookcase. The important papers are the things that create the most clutter and unrest. They seem to grow in volume each time we leave the house and return. Is there a time limit for bank statements and pizza coupons?

So, what did I do about all this? My first instinct was to throw it all away. I gave a truckload of things to the school for the faculty garage sale (on Oct. 16 and 17), made several trips to the dumpster, gave some items to friends and finally went to the basket store and spent more of that consumer stimulus money buying baskets in which to hide things.

My mother used to say, "Once you have enjoyed a gift, it is time to pass it along and let someone else get pleasure from it."

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

Beware of financial aid scams

To the editor:

Saving for college and investigating financial aid options are important steps in college planning.

Fortunately, there are many types of programs that provide financial assistance for college, or "financial aid," to help you and your family manage the cost of college.

To become eligible for financial aid assistance, some scholarships and grants require you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and others require you to sign up while still in middle school and agree to meet certain requirements in high school.

Someone claiming to be a representative of the U.S. Department of Education is calling students, offering them grants and asking for their bank account numbers so a processing fee can be charged.

Specifically, the caller tells the student he understands the student has federal student loans and offers to replace the loans

with an \$8,000 grant. The caller explains that a processing fee must be charged, and obtains the student's checking account information.

There is no ED program to replace loans with grants, and there is no processing fee to obtain Title IV grants from ED.

Furthermore, students should never provide their bank account or credit card information over the phone unless they initiated the call and trust the company they are calling.

Therefore, it is important that every student contacted by the person or people in question lodge a complaint so the FTC has an accurate idea of how many incidents have occurred.

Students must take vital steps to ensure their safety from fraud.

Notify the police about the incident.

Impersonating a federal officer is a crime, as is identity theft.

For information about identity theft prevention

and basic information on what to do if you encounter a theft issue, visit www.ed.gov/misused. For more information about preventing financial aid scams, visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/lisa.

—Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

PIONEER

Vol. 37 No. 8

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

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

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.



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



Comments and Reviews

Michael Cera's latest film lacks originality

Michael Cera was undoubtedly great in "Arrested Development." He also was great in "Superbad" and "Juno," but it's safe to say he played essentially the same shy, aloof character in all three projects.

In "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" Cera once again plays that same character, only this time it's in a mediocre movie.

If the title didn't make it completely apparent, "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" focuses on two teenagers. Nick is an aspiring indie rocker who can't quite get over his ex, and Norah is a lonely rich girl who is constantly being ridiculed and taken advantage of by her friends.

The entire film takes place in one New York City night, and tells the story of Nick and Norah's crazy adventure in finding Norah's best friend. Along the way they are all trying to find the location of their favor-

ite band's secret performance.

During the course of the night, they run into Norah's pseudo boyfriend, see Brooklyn band Bishop Allen and even check out a drag queen show.

The filmmakers seem to be aiming for a sort of "After Hours" for modern teens, but director Peter Sollett is no Martin Scorsese and the film falls way short.

It is littered with terrible romantic-comedy clichés, bad gay jokes and tasteless gross-out humor.

Indie rock is a prominent part of the film, but it never really feels authentic. It's doubtful the filmmakers really care about the music they are featuring.

Instead, they seem to just be using it for the sake of marketing. The indie rock angle helps obscure the fact that this is really just an-



other bland teen comedy.

If you, like most of the film's targeted teen demographic, aren't expecting any sort of originality and are OK with the obvious homogenization of indie rock, you'll probably enjoy the film. But for everyone else, it's a no-go.

Rating: C

—Cameron Buchholtz
Staff Writer

Local band releases debut

If their name didn't make it completely apparent, color is an important factor to Stillwater band Colourmusic.

Lead singer Roy Biv claims to be a descendent of Isaac Newton and writes songs based on Newton's Theory of Color. Biv also claims to have a rare disorder called sythenasia in which he sees music visually in the form of colors.

Whether any of that is true is irrelevant, as it has clearly had a huge impact on the band's identity.

A great deal of hype has been built up around the band as of late, thanks in no small part to the band's involvement with the Flaming Lips' management com-

pany, World's Fair.

That involvement has not only gotten the band opening slots for the Flaming Lips, but also for other World's Fair bands like British Sea Power.

World's Fair and Great Society Records have just released Colourmusic's debut full-length recording, "f, monday, orange, february, lunatic, 1 or 13."

The album is filled with chant-like choruses and a strong Brit-pop vibe. It's all very light-hearted, catchy and fun. But it's also quite repetitive.

Many of the songs sound alike, and after a few listens, the album's shallowness is apparent.

Those familiar with the

band will already know a number of these songs. The majority of the songs featured on the album have been released on their previous "Red" and "Yellow" EPs. Though these songs have been re-recorded, they still sound much the same.

"F, monday, orange, february, lunatic, 1 or 13" is a fun ride while it lasts, but it doesn't really give the listener much reason to revisit it.

Rating: C+

—Cameron Buchholtz
Staff Writer

JOB&CAREER POWER

Seek internships

An excellent way to enter a career field is through an internship. Internships are designed to introduce college students to the actual work-tasks and assignments associated with a particular job or career.

Through an internship, students have the opportunity to discover whether or not they have chosen a field that is ideally suited or one that is not what they had originally hoped for.

The Student Employment and Career Services office is ready to help with internship options in all fields of study. We will be hosting the "OCCC Career Day with the Tinker Intern Program-TIP" from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23, in CU3.

The Tinker Intern Program is an outstanding opportunity for students pursuing a Tinker Track plan of study to get involved with the technology and innovation of Tinker Air Force Base and gain hands-on work experience at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center while in school.

Recruiters will be present to share TIP program application processes and to answer questions. Light refreshments will also be provided.

The Tinker Intern Program offers the following student benefits:

- Flexible schedules based on your school work
- Promotion to a GS-05 or GS-07 based on your GPA at graduation
- Promotion potential to the GS-11
- Conversion to a fulltime career conditional position upon completion of the Tinker Track degree

Federal benefits include:

- 10 paid Federal Holidays a year
- Earn annual and sick leave based on the number of hours you work
- Federal Health and Life Insurance with several options to choose from
- Paid time for on base fitness activities
- Tuition Assistance
- Incentive and Time Off Awards

Please contact or visit the Student Employment and Career Services office located in the Main Building for additional information on this upcoming career and employment event.

—Debra Vaughn
Student Employment and
Career Services director

Listen to audio versions of Pioneer reviews online
www.occc.edu/pioneer

Election Coverage '08

Economy, foreign policy highlight first of three presidential debates

Professor says debate lacked substance, candidates kept cautious

By Cameron Buchholtz
Staff Writer

The current economic crisis was the main focus of 2008's first presidential debate, on Sept. 26 in Oxford, Miss.

The debate was originally scheduled to focus on national security and foreign policy, but because of the economic emergency, the focus was changed to allow McCain and Obama to weigh in on the bailout issue.

The economy was such a pressing issue that McCain vowed not to attend unless the problem was resolved.

He decided the day of the debate that enough progress had been made to allow him to attend.

"Overall, I didn't think the debate had much substance," Professor of Political Science Randy Hopkins said.

"They just seemed to be reiterating talking points."

The first 40 minutes of the debate focused squarely on the issue, though neither candidate laid out specific plans for its resolution.

Obama tried to group McCain in with the Bush administration and called the economic crisis "a final

verdict on eight years of failed economic policy promoted by George Bush, supported by Senator McCain."

"They didn't really say anything that we didn't already know," Hopkins said.

The second half of the debate unfolded as originally scheduled; foreign policy and national security. The debate got particularly fiery when discussing Russia and meeting with leaders of hostile nations.

McCain spoke strongly against Obama's proposed meeting with Iranian leader Ahmadinejad, but Obama responded by saying he would meet with anyone if it would help keep America safe.

Iraq was another hot topic.

McCain criticized Obama for not supporting the

"This debate just didn't do anything for me. Maybe the second or third [debate] will deliver more, but this first one just didn't."

—Randy Hopkins
Political science professor

surge of troops in Iraq last year.

McCain said that the war was "very badly mishandled," but that the troop surge was working.

"McCain seemed a bit condescending, but other than that, both candidates were just very cautious," Hopkins said.

Very little eye contact was made between candidates during the debate, and it was clear that the candidates are not on friendly terms.

"This debate just didn't do anything for me," Hopkins said.

"Maybe the second or third [debate] will deliver more, but this first one just didn't."

Some OCCC students didn't watch the debate, because they felt they already know the candidates and whom they are going to vote for.

"I didn't watch the debate, because, to me, debates are for people who are undecided," said Justin Teeman, sophomore, "and I have definitely already made my decision."

Staff Writer Cameron Buchholtz can be reached at StaffWriter1@occc.edu.

Upcoming presidential debate schedule

Oct. 7 — Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn.

Oct. 15 — Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.

**Each debate begins at 8 p.m. central time and lasts for 90 minutes. They will be aired on every major broadcast network.*

'08 election energizes the young; record numbers of youth voters expected to vote

By Natalie Torrey
News Writing Student

As the 2008 presidential election nears, OCCC students are preparing to flex their democratic muscle by voting in November.

Young voters turned out in record numbers for the last presidential election in 2004. Todd Goodman, field director for the Oklahoma State Democratic Party, said the 2008 election will be another record breaker.

"Young voters are not only the future, they are also the now," Goodman said.

In order to get college students involved and excited about the election,

there will be a number of events held at various college campuses across the state including Rock The Vote events and open forums with State Sen. Andrew Rice, who is also a young Democrat at the age of 35.

Ray McCullar, professor of history, said that young voter participation is much greater in this election than those in the past.

"[Young voters] just want good candidates," McCullar said.

Art major Kyle Kern, 23, said he is preparing to vote.

"I'll definitely be voting in November," Kern said.

"After all our country has been through since Sept.

11, I can't imagine why anyone wouldn't want to vote."

Both candidates, Barack Obama and John McCain, have taken notice of the growing influence youth voters have. The Internet has become an important tool in both candidates' campaigns.

Each candidate has a MySpace and Facebook account, offering visitors up-to-date information on their campaigns and stances on the issues. Both pages also have links for people to get registered to vote.

"Technology is definitely making it easier for our generation to become fa-

miliar with the candidates," Kern said.

"I think that having all

the information at our fingertips helps us stay interested in the election."

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 10

Where can you go to register?

- OCCC Student Life office
- Post offices
- Tag agencies
- Public library
- www.elections.state.ok.us/vrfrmshl.html

**To be eligible to vote in the Nov. 5 presidential elections, all applications must be submitted by Oct. 10*

Peacemaker founder visits campus

By Cal Corbin
News Writing Student

Peacemakers who are strong enough to resist violence are needed around the world, said speaker Gene Stoltzfus, founder of the Christian Peacemaker Team. Stoltzfus addressed The Advocates of Peace club Sept. 30, on campus.

Stoltzfus related a story to the group about one of his experiences in Palestine's West Bank, a hot bed of Arab-Israeli tension.

He said he was asked to help Palestinian students in the city of Hebron, east of Jerusalem, because Israeli soldiers and settlers had blocked access to their university.

Stoltzfus' job was to do what the Palestinians could not: stand up to the Israeli soldiers and help the young students back into their classes.

Stoltzfus said they needed him there because if the Israeli soldiers arrested any of the Palestinians, they would go to jail for six months without any sort of trial or way of appeal.

Sometimes it was even possible to be incarcerated for another six months if the Israelis felt the need to get a judge's order to detain a prisoner longer, he said.

Stoltzfus said he and the CPT used hammers to knock down the cinder blocks that were being used to cover up the entrance to the school.

The group could afford to do this, because at worst they would just be deported or scolded, and didn't have to worry about indefinite jail time like most from the region, he said.

In the end, Stoltzfus said his group was not able to get the university reopened immediately, but they did

give people the inspiration and the initiative to change the world around them.

Eventually, he said, they pushed the Israelis enough that they opened the school again to Palestinian students and allowed them to attend their classes.

Until two years ago, Stoltzfus was director of the CPT.

Now retired, he still does work for the group and speaks with people who would support his cause, no matter what generation, race or gender.

His group took root in his first trip to Vietnam back in the 1960s. After that, he said he had the chance to help people in Colombia, Mexico, Iraq and Haiti, plus Native Americans in the United States.

The CPT has a philosophy similar to that of Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., in that to create change an organization must be forged.

"We draw on our warrior energy that gives us a sense of purpose and our willingness to give our lives," Stoltzfus said.

To combat the armies of the world with nonviolence, an army of nonviolence itself must be created, he said.

With this idea, Stoltzfus



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Christian Peacemaker Team founder Gene Stoltzfus speaks to the Advocates of Peace organization about his experiences as a peacemaker. Stoltzfus has traveled across the world advocating nonviolence.

put together a well-organized group of peacemaking soldiers who would undergo training to deal with high-pressure confrontations.

Peacemakers would learn techniques that taught them how to confront a soldier, how to report someone and how to mediate between two disagreeing parties.

Sometimes, he said, they would use cameras and multimedia to their advantage, because so often injustices were never seen by the outside world.

When working in a com-

munity, Stoltzfus said, the group had to do more than just talk and analyze. They had to "build alliances, which requires concrete activities."

Stoltzfus said he realized, after his years of work, that all humans, soldier or civilian, have the same characteristics in common.

"Anger is a message from deep within us, that something needs to be done," he said, "How anger is used will be different for every person."

For more information on the CPT, visit gstoltzfus.blogspot.com

Writing workshops offered to students

By Caleb Day
News Writing Student

This fall, the Communications Lab has teamed up with Student Life to offer writing workshops to help students improve their writing skills.

Two workshops have already been completed, but the third workshop will be held at noon Monday, Oct. 13, in room CU3. Students are allowed to bring their own lunches, said Communications Lab Assistant Lydia Rucker.

The workshops consist of a simple 45-minute PowerPoint presentation by lab assistants Nick Webb and Rucker that focus on specific topics to help students become better all-around writers.

"We do the workshops to improve the students' writing and to help reinforce what the teachers are teaching," Webb said.

The workshop taking place on Oct. 13 is titled "MLA Style: A Necessary Evil" and will focus on common problems writers have with MLA documentation, style and formatting in research papers.

Rucker said there will be two more workshops offered on Nov. 10 and Dec. 1 that will cover different writing topics.

For more information or questions concerning the writing workshops, e-mail Webb at nwebb@occc.edu or visit the Communications Lab on the first floor of the Main Building.

Senator urges political action

By Justin Combs
News Writing Student

On Sept. 29, State Sen. Debbe Leftwich told Emergency Medical Science students to be involved with legislators to create funds for the under-funded emergency services in Oklahoma.

Leftwich spoke on campus about how advocacy groups can effect legislators on bills in the House of Representatives and State Senate.

Advocacy groups can look out for emergency services by searching for bills that can improve the necessary

tools, knowledge and funds needed in the field, she said.

She said rural towns are the most overlooked for funds. EMS service is mostly volunteer in these towns, Leftwich said.

"When you're the only one in a rural community with emergency medical training," she said, "you need the same training and funding as paramedics have in Oklahoma City."

She said competent caregivers should be available to all, not just those who live in or near urban centers.

One student asked how

one person or one vote could make a difference.

"One [vote] does matter," Leftwich said. "John F. Kennedy would not have been president if there had been a difference of one vote per precinct. There's a lot of historical evidence that shows how just one vote does matter."

Leftwich was elected to the state senate in a special election in December 2003 to fill the vacancy of her husband Keith Leftwich, who died of cancer in September of that year. She was re-elected to District 44, the south Oklahoma City area, in 2006.

'Fahrenheit 451' chosen for Big Read

By **Victory Reneau**
News Writing Student

This fall, the OCCC library is teaming up with Rose State Metropolitan Library and other libraries across the nation in an effort called the "Big Read."

This project, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, is to encourage students to read more books.

Since the theme this year is censorship, the book chosen is "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury, said Reference Librarian Rachel Butler.

This novel was chosen because the sponsors felt it would have the most impact and meaning for college students, she said.

First published in 1953, "Fahrenheit 451" is a classic novel set in the future when books are forbidden by a totalitarian regime. The regime believes book readers to be eccentric, dangerous and threatening.

As a result, all of the books are ordered to be burned, according to barnesandnoble.com.

Many students who have read this novel have enjoyed it.

English major Nathan Clymer said "Fahrenheit 451" was interesting, although it was "a little strange and confusing."

The story is based on a fireman named Montag, the foe who becomes a hero.

Montag believes in the burning of books until one day when he meets a young girl who demonstrates to him the beauty of books, knowledge and the sharing of ideas.

She wakes him up to the idea and it changes his life forever — to the point of him becoming an advocate for books.

"The main plot of the book, to me, is that if you let society and the government censor and make decisions for you, you will miss out a lot in life and not ever get to experience what

all it has to offer," Clymer said.

History professor Ray McCullar and English professor Marybeth McCauley have made "Fahrenheit 451" one of their required readings in their classes.

Along with the book, the National Endowment for the Arts also has provided CDs, reader and teacher's guides to help with discussions concerning this book.

"This story is about a culture without books and, therefore, a culture without much thinking, and the thinking that does occur is limited because the citizens without books lack the perspective and critical analyses that different literary opinions bring," McCullar said.

Butler said "Fahrenheit 451" has done more for OCCC's students "than just being a good read."

"It has helped create a certain perspective for their life and society that they didn't have before. It has brought a good deal of knowledge to our students."

OCCC Student Jessica Marsh said she was given a new perspective after reading the book.

"It really taught me that TVs, cell phones, and Internet can be so distracting from what is really important."

"Society is becoming so materialistic."

As a part of the Big Read effort, OCCC is bringing in a speaker as well.

At 2 p.m. Oct. 14, in the Student Union, Oklahoma State University journalism and broadcasting professor Joey Senat will speak about censorship and how it relates to "Fahrenheit 451."

"First arrivals to hear Mr. Senat speak will receive a free copy of Fahrenheit 451," Butler said.

"Copies are few so be early."

For more information about this book and event, contact the OCCC Library at 405-682-7564.

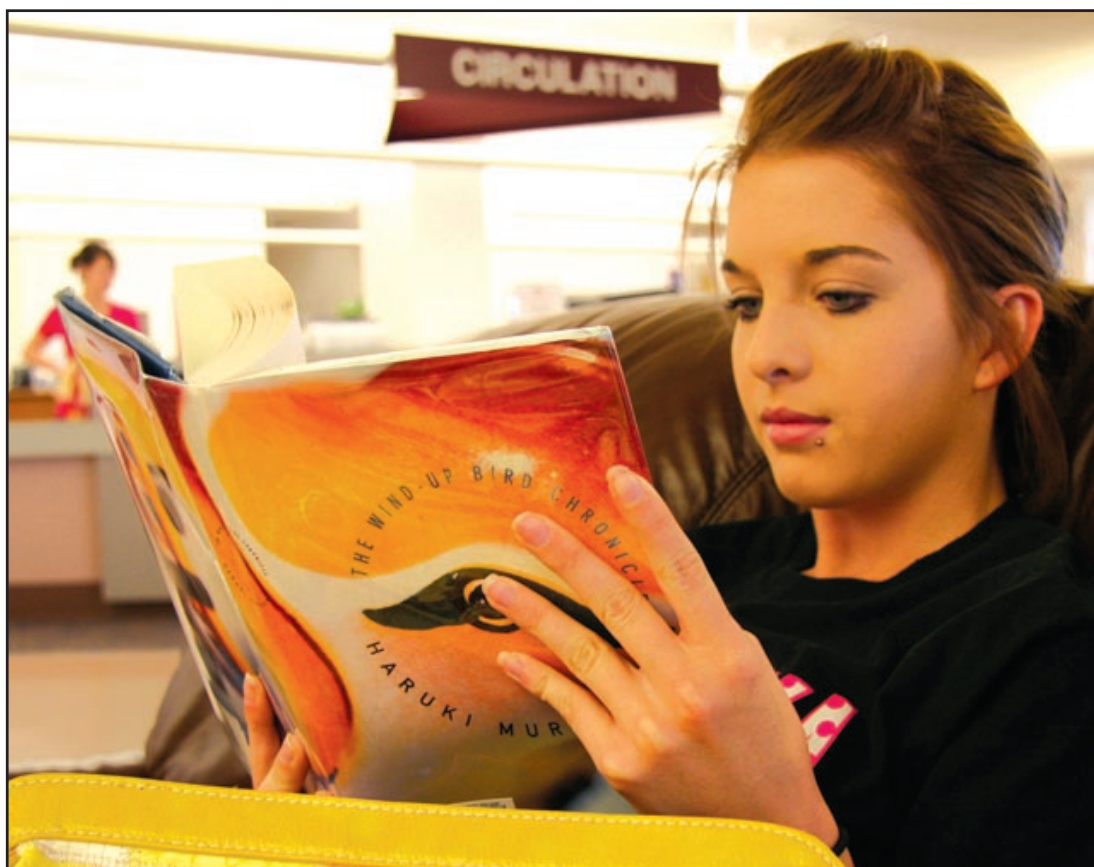


Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Megan Hall, undecided major, reads the "The Windup Bird Chronicles" by Haruki Murakami. OCCC students are currently participating in the program, the Big Read, which encourages students to read more books, through the college's library.

Original 'Corn' director speaks out on remake

By **Matt Montgomery**
Editor

In 1984, former OCCC professor Fritz Kiersch directed the classic horror movie "Children of the Corn," written by Stephen King.

Now, almost 25 years later, Hollywood has decided to re-make his film.

Kiersch said he will have no involvement with the remake.

"I think it is wonderful that someone wants to spice up something I did a quarter of a century ago," he said.

"When I originally wrote the film I was no one more than a 30-year-old kid trying to have some fun."

Kiersch worked with Donald Borchers on the original film, Borchers was a co-producer.

Borchers will direct the



film during September in Davenport, Iowa.

Kiersch is in support of Borchers' attempt to re-create a franchise that already exists but said he just doesn't have the ambition to re-make something that can't really be altered too much.

"Donald is on his own on this one," Kiersch said. "I

wish him the best of luck but the 'Children of the Corn' franchise already exists."

"Sequels can sometimes not work out as well when the original story wasn't meant to have sequels."

Kiersch said he is excited to see what a larger budget would do for the re-make.

"In 1984, we really didn't have an adequate budget," Kiersch said.

"So, we did the best we could with what we had."

Kiersch was a film and video studies professor at OCCC from 2000 to 2005. He also was the former director of the Oklahoma Film Institute at OCCC.

The re-make is set for release in the spring of 2009 and can be seen on the Sci-Fi channel.

Editor Matt Montgomery can be reached at editor@occc.edu.

College makes plans to update International flag display soon

By **Lindsay Whelchel**
News Writing Student

OSCCC's international flag display, located in the Main Building, is expecting its semester update during International Education Week, Nov. 17 through 21.

The college will update the flags based on which countries the current international students represent.

Coordinator of International Student Admissions Sunny Garner said 2008 international student enrollment is up 27 percent from spring 2006.

She said a record 470 students from all over the world are attending classes this semester.

"That number is more than we've ever had," Garner said.

The students' countries of origin make up an extensive alphabet from Albania to Zimbabwe, she said.

Garner said OSCCC's increased international numbers may be a result of the new recruitment software the college has started using.

"We have gotten, I think, 20,000 inquiries," Garner said.

"We'll get calls from Asia and South America on the same day."

Garner said most international students seem to enjoy the small class sizes and location of OSCCC, but that "at first students can be really isolated and homesick."

Students have to find a place to live and possibly a job, among other things, she said.

"We work with the student from the time before they arrive in the United States to graduation," Garner said.

"[International Student Admissions] is a big umbrella of international ser-

vices."

Many times, the obstacles which international students face are more complicated than living situations.

The challenges international students face are further explained by Syed Hashmi, a student from Oman, a small country in the Middle East near Saudi Arabia.

International students must go through a process of researching colleges and universities, turning in applications to the school, completing an English language course called Test of English as a Foreign Language, obtaining a visa from the American Embassy, and finally arriving and going through orientation, Hashmi said.

As with any college student, there can be challenges with housing and transportation, Hashmi said.

However, he said, international students also deal with communication issues, difficulty getting apartments without Social Security numbers and problems getting around because they typically don't have a car.

Hashmi said he misses his home.

"It's a completely different world out here, a completely different experience," Hashmi said.

Despite the difficulties, Hashmi said the experience has been really good, that he's learned much.

Murod Mamatov, an OSCCC student from Uzbekistan, formerly the USSR, is thankful for the flags and the help of the international student admissions department.

"When I first came to Oklahoma, nobody knew about the country I was from, but when I entered the hall, I saw there was a flag and was very, very,



Fifty-four countries are designated by the flags that drape the center commons. These flags represent the countries of the international students who attend OSCCC.



surprised," Mamatov said.

Currently, there are 54 flags hanging, displaying the diversity of students on the campus this semester. That will soon be 58.

Mamatov speaks highly of his experiences as an international student at OSCCC.

"I've never seen a more helpful international student coordinator than Sunny," he said.

"She helps so much, before we come and until we leave, I cannot be more satisfied from help I've received."

Photos by Kenny Hilburn

To the many international students that walk the halls of OSCCC, the flag of their country is a welcome sight. The flags are scheduled for an update during International Education Week, Nov. 17 through 21.



Flags from countries ranging from Russia, to Mexico, to South Korea are hung in the Main Building. This week was International Flags Awareness week at OSCCC.

Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Oct. 8:** Meeting for co-ed intramural dodgeball will be held at 12:30 p.m. inside the Wellness Center gymnasium. For more information about signing up, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Oct. 9:** OCCC Chance club basketball team tips off its inaugural season against Mid America Bible College at 6 p.m. in the Wellness Center gym. For more information about signing up, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Oct. 10:** Intramural basketball games scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Zilla vs. Short Bus and OCCC1 vs. ReMix.

• **Oct. 11:** Intramural basketball games scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Pretty Boyz vs. Geek Squad and Spartans vs. Short Bus.

• **Oct. 13:** OCCC Chance club basketball team plays Southern Nazarene University at 7 p.m. in Bethany.

• **Oct. 17:** Intramural basketball games scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Geek Squad vs. Short Bus and Zilla vs. OCCC1.

• **Oct. 18:** Intramural basketball games scheduled for 1:30 p.m. ReMix vs. Geek Squad and Pretty Boyz vs. Spartans.

• **Oct. 20:** OCCC Chance club basketball team plays Southwestern Christian University at 7 p.m. in Bethany.

• **Oct 24-26:** The OCCC Aquatic Center will host the Chesapeake Halloween Invitational swim meet. For more information on Aquatic Center events, call Aquatic and Safety Training Specialist James Hensley at 682-1611, ext. 7662.



Weight room time

Nursing major Samuel Campos focuses on his form during his twice-a-week "burnout" workout.

The Wellness Center also provides treadmills and stationary bikes for endurance training.

The Wellness Center is free to all students with a valid student ID. The Wellness Center is open 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Photo by Kenny Hilburn

OCCC club basketball set to tip off inaugural season

Chance versus Mid-America Oct. 9 at Wellness Center

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

This fall, a new sports team has been born on campus.

The OCCC Chance club basketball team is set to tip off their inaugural season at 6 p.m. Thursday Oct. 9, at the Wellness Center gym.

The name "Chance" comes from the opportunity OCCC has to showcase its athletes to surrounding colleges and universities, said Wellness Center assistant Charlie Tarver.

"It's a chance to show we have athletes at OCCC although we don't have a big athletic program," Tarver said.

OCCC has a lot of good athletes and the Chance will give players a good opportunity for exposure among other schools, Tarver said.

Many players from the OCCC intramural basketball teams are joining the Chance, including defending back-to-back champion forward from the Spartans, Matt Lohn.

Lohn said practices have been going well and there is definitely talent on the court.

"I think we will be good because of the chemistry we are developing

from playing together every week," Lohn said.

The Chance will be playing an up-tempo style of basketball because speed is the team's best attribute, Lohn said.

"The other teams we play will have guys bigger than us," Lohn said. "If we run up and down the court, we can wear them down and avoid playing against zones in the half court."

Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson said the main goal for the Chance this season is to prepare the team for the NIRSA Regional Basketball Championships during March in Arlington, Texas.

Watson said at this point there is not a designated coach, but he is working on getting one to work with the team.

Also, Tarver said another goal for the club next year is to play more games at home, so students on campus will have more opportunity to see the Chance play.

The Chance will play their opening game at home, then travel the rest of the season.

The Chance will play independently and are looking for support to boost the program toward the same level as schools, such as

Southern Nazarene University and Southwestern Christian University.

Tarver said he would like to see OCCC clubs run fundraisers around campus or during games to support the Chance.

As the season goes along, officers will be selected for the club basketball team such as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, Lohn said.

Watson said he would like for players in the fall intramural basketball league to consider joining the Chance.

The Chance club basketball team is open to all students, faculty or staff. Students must be enrolled in six or more credit hours.

Membership is \$25 which covers team expenses. All students will need a valid student ID.

Staff Writer Matt Bishop can be reached at SeniorWriter@occc.edu.

OCCC Chance Schedule

Thursday, Oct. 9
Mid-American Bible @ 6 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 13
at Southern Nazarene @ 7 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 20
at Southwestern Christian @ 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 4
at Southwestern Christian @ 7 p.m.

Three laptops taken from storage facility

By Stephen Sossamon
Staff Writer

Three misplaced laptop computers were Safety and Security's top priority this week.

On Sept. 23, Facilities Management reported the laptops missing, according to a report.

Material Control clerk Royce Liston said an entire pallet of used laptop computers was moved without

consent from its original location in the Facilities Management Storage facility July 21.

Liston said he placed the shrink-wrapped laptop computers on the first set of storage racks in the storage facility.

Campus Safety and Security coordinator Keith Bourque confirmed seeing the computers in that location the last week in August when he was retrieving

equipment from the facility for Arts Festival Oklahoma, according to the report. However, Bourque said, at that time, the computers were in disarray and not shrink-wrapped.

The laptops have not yet been located, according to the report.

The current value of each laptop computer is only \$140.55, but each was purchased some years ago at \$1,685.17, according to the

report.

Safety and Security also investigated an abandoned knife in the library, according to a report filed.

On Sept. 24, security officer Tanya Vroenen was called to the first floor of the library about an opened knife, according to a report.

Three women found the knife on the northwest side of the library, according to the report.

Vroenen said the knife

blade was approximately four to five inches long with a black handle.

Security officer Jacob Roby reviewed video footage of the first floor of the library, but was unable to identify any one particular person who may have had the knife in their possession, according to the report.

Staff Writer Stephen Sossamon can be reached at onlineeditor@occc.edu.

OCCC choirs team up for fall concert Nov. 9

By Lauren Purdy
News Writing Student

OCCC's concert choir, chamber singers and symphonic community choir

will join together at 7 p.m. Nov. 9, at MidAmerica Christian University for a fall concert.

Under the direction of music director Ron Staton,

the choirs will perform more than 15 musical pieces including "Pilgrim's Hymn," "Danny Boy," and "Summertime."

Staton said the groups

have been working hard for the past few weeks in order to put on a wonderful performance.

MidAmerica Christian University is located at

3500 S.W. 119th Street in Oklahoma City.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7249, or e-mail rstaton@occc.edu.

OCCC president says remedial courses increases number of grads

"Remedial,"
Cont. from page 1

ability to create a better future for America," he said.

"Therefore, it is essential that a full program of remediation be available at our community colleges."

Sechrist said the subject area that requires the "lion's share" of remediation is mathematics.

"Recent statewide initiatives to require more and higher-level mathematics in high school should result in lower remediation rates in the future," he said.

"Basically, a more rigorous math requirement for high school graduation should result in more students being prepared for the first college-level math class."

OCCC mathematics Department Chair Tamara Carter said there are three main reasons entry-level students require remediation.

Many students are returning students and haven't had math in a long time, she said.

Also, Carter said, many of

Oklahoma's high school students don't take math their senior year.

Finally, she said, many students just never learned math.

Carter said students who have trouble with math can get the help they need.

"Take advantage of the math lab located on the second floor of the Main Building," she said.

The math lab is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Carter urges students to take advantage of the computer-aided programs that are available through the math lab as well.

Although most students require remediation in math, many are also having to brush up on their English skills.

OCCC English professor David Charlson said teaching English is intensive.

"Teaching writing is hard

and without the chance to teach one-on-one, it's not going to work as well."

Oklahoma State Superintendent Press Secretary Shelly Hickman said high schools are doing their part.

Hickman said the Achieving Classroom Excellence initiative was passed in 2005 to ensure students are prepared for college. ACE requires students to pass four out of seven state exams in order to receive a high school diploma, she said.

"With ACE, students can take Algebra I, Algebra II, English II, English III, Geology, U.S. History or Biology, and must pass four out of the seven to receive a high school diploma," Hickman said.

Sechrist said OCCC community colleges across the nation will remain committed to remedial programs as a good investment because it works.

"The state of Oklahoma

and our nation need more college graduates, not less," Sechrist said.

"Having remedial courses in colleges is an effective way to increase the number of Oklahomans and Americans with a college

education."

For more information and facts about remediation go to www.edin08.com/diploma/tonowhere.aspx

Editor Matt Montgomery can be reached at editor@occc.edu.



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Tues & Thurs 5:30-8:00pm



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Highlights

Popcorn sale fundraiser for club

The Native American Student Association will be hosting a popcorn sale to raise funds for the club. The fundraiser will be from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7, in the lobby area of the Main Building. For more information, call publicity officer Paul Varela at 405-313-2076.

Brown Bag lecture series

The next Brown Bag lecture on budgeting will be from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7, in College Union room 1 of the Main Building. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-77523.

Free Speed Learning Classes

Students wanting to learn better study skills, note taking and how to read faster can attend free Speed Learning class from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8. Classes will take place in the Library room 407 A&B. To register, call Corporate Learning at 405-682-7562.

First Lecture Series of the semester

A speech on "Race, Gender and Media in the 2008 Elections," with media critic Jennifer Pozner, will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, in College Union room 1. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Fall Writing Workshop

The next writing workshop: "MLA Style: A Necessary Evil" will be at noon Monday, Oct. 13, in room 2F3 of Arts and Humanities. For more information, contact Communications Lab Assistant Nick Webb at 405-682-1611, ext. 7678.

Campus Tours

The OCCC Transfer Center is taking groups of students to the University of Oklahoma and the University of Central Oklahoma. Students will receive a campus tour, information on application deadlines and transferring. Limited space is available. The tour dates for UCO are Oct. 21 and Nov. 13; tour dates for OU are Oct. 14 and Nov. 6. For more information, call Kim Lusk at 405-682-7566 for more information or to reserve a spot.

College Poets and Writers meeting

The College Poets and Writers will meet from 1 to 1:50 p.m. on Wednesdays, in room 1C3 of Arts and Humanities. For more information, contact Chris Verschage at 405-682-1611, ext. 7140.

Native American club meetings

The Native American Student Association will hold its club meetings from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday in room 2N7 of the Main Building. NASA is an excellent place for Native Americans to meet other Native Americans and create lifelong friendships. For more information, contact NASA publicity officer Paul Varela at 405-313-2076.

Black Student Association meetings

The Black Student Association will meet from 1 to 2 p.m. every Friday in room 1X5 of Arts and Humanities. The goal of the club is to help the black community to succeed in college. The club is open to and welcomes all comers. For more information, contact club president William Booker at 405-248-1886.

Health Professions speakers

The Health Professions Club will host lectures from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 13 and Oct. 14 in College Union Room 1. Oct. 13 will feature University of Oklahoma Nursing adviser Margaret Robinson; Oct. 14 will feature University of Central Oklahoma Nursing adviser Brenda Brent. For more information, contact Claire Echols at 405-682-1611, ext. 7729.

Job searching



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Michael Irvin, business major, talks with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality representative Ayana Wilkins. Despite the recent increase in the jobless rate in America, 115 different employers were present at last week's job fair on campus. Last year, over 1,000 jobs were filled because of the OCCC sponsored job fair, according to Wilkins.

Hispanic Organization lifts off its semester in a parade

HOPE sets plans for semester

By Barteas Cox
Staff Writer

The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education had a float in the "Fiesta de las Americas" parade Sept. 27.

The parade is held annually in the Capital Hill district in south Oklahoma City on Commerce Street.

During the parade, HOPE made a float that represented both their club and OCCC.

The parade was filled with information regarding the city, said HOPE president Martin Ramirez.

He said the parade had live music, food and an array of activities to keep people there all day.

Ramirez said the club's mission is to raise money and restore pride in the community of Capital Hill due to the community's steady decline.

He said HOPE is a club that participates in community service and volunteer work.

Club members travel to schools in south Oklahoma City to encourage youth to pursue higher education, Ramirez said.

HOPE currently has 20 members and has already done a few things this semester.

The club has met twice on campus and has already went to Capitol Hill High School to encourage students to attend college and to consider OCCC as their college destination.

"In two weeks, we will be visiting Santa Fe South High School to discuss the importance of attending college," Ramirez said. "We are trying to reach out to south Oklahoma City schools."

Club sponsor Paul Burkhardt referred to the

club as a source of community spirit, "a group that will help in the rebirth of the Capital Hill area and Hispanic community because we have a commitment to them as a college."

For more information regarding HOPE, contact club president Martin Ramirez at mramirez@occc.edu.

Staff Writer Barteas Cox can be reached @ Staff Writer1@occc.edu

Interested in joining a club? Student Life, located on the first floor of the Main Building, has information on all available clubs and organizations. For more information, call 405-682-7523.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all 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 adman@occc.edu

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '04 white Ford Mustang, Mach 40th edition. Tinted windows. 86K miles. \$6,500 OBO. Call: 405-863-5720.

FOR SALE: '00 Chevrolet Camaro. ABS, A/C, bucket seats, CD, rear defrost, tinted glass. Very good condition. Black. V6, 25MPG, XM ready. \$6,000 negotiable. Call Steve 405-417-7999, E-mail: tray_5_7@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: 1997 Honda Accord, V6, Black, 4 door. \$4,000, OBO. Contact: 918-361-8277.

FOR SALE: 1996 Chevy Blazer 4x4. Great condition. Looks and runs excellent. 2 door, pw/pl. Asking \$3,000 OBO. Call Lana at 405-436-0400.

NINJA FOR SALE: 2007 Kawasaki Ninja, 650R, red, 5,000 miles, Leo Vince exhaust, Targa solo cap, frame sliders, fender eliminator, LED signals, stainless bars and pro-grip grips. \$5,800. Call Jacob at 405-205-2753.

ELECTRONICS

DIGITAL CAMERA FOR SALE: Sony CD Mavica MVC-CD400 4.OMP. Has official Sony mini bag, larger camcorder-style bag, power supply/battery charger, USB cable, spare battery, one mini CD-RW, and several mini CD-Rs. Can write both CD-R and CD-RW media. \$250. Call Drew at 405-745-3266 e-mail: drew.stone@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Opened Box Archos GMini 4GB MP3, WMA player and picture-viewer. \$75. New Compaq laptop 15.4" IntelPent. DualCore 80Gb-HD 1Gb-RAM. \$470. New Logitech VX Revolution Cordless Mouse. \$40. Call Kevin at: 501-442-8260 or e-mail me at: littleox06_vn@yahoo.com.

TV FOR SALE: 2004, 13-inch Sanyo with remote. Working condition. Caption capable. \$20 cash and carry. Call: 405-682-1611 ext.7225.

EMPLOYMENT

NEED SOME DOUGH?

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REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

Across the street from OCCC. Two bedroom updated home. Storage building in back yard. \$87,000. Open house every Sunday 2 to 4 p.m. Call Deby at 405-414-8742.

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FEMALE ROOMMATE: Rent \$250 per month and 1/2 bills. One pet allowed. \$125 deposit. Call: 918-409-7122.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Solid oak oval dining table with four chairs. Excellent condition. \$250. Call: 405-632-7175.

NEW BOOTS FOR SALE: Size 13.5 D. Belleville Intermediate cold/wet weather. Leather upper, Vibram soles, Goretex, new in the box. Two pairs of liners. Retail price is \$180. Will sell for \$75. Call: 405-816-5824.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WRITE? You do not have to be a professional writer to write a good story or poem. The Absolute, OCCCs literary publication is accepting submissions for the 2009 edition. Submission forms can be found in the Arts and Humanities Office. The deadline for entry is December 1. For information, contact: crandolph@occc.edu; MMccauley@occc.edu; jinglet@occc.edu. Copies of the 2008 Absolute can be purchased in the OCCC bookstore.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Cod's relative
- 5 Salad-dressing cheese
- 9 "I'm glad that's over!"
- 13 Outdoor area
- 14 UFO pilot?
- 15 Roof part
- 16 Son of Aphrodite
- 17 Destructive beetle
- 19 Henri's negative
- 20 Soldier's shoe
- 21 "1984" author
- 22 Art for tar, e.g.
- 24 Old Norse inscription
- 25 Rower's need
- 26 Clemency
- 30 Warsaw's place
- 33 Helper
- 34 Electrical unit
- 35 October gem
- 36 Weapon
- 37 Garden soil
- 38 Soak (flax)
- 39 Beseached
- 41 Actress
- 43 Plummer
- 43 Pew adjuncts
- 45 Prune (branches)
- 46 Fancy trim
- 47 Traded
- 51 Quantity
- 54 Actor Connery
- 55 An Asian
- 56 One way to quit smoking
- 58 Contented sound
- 59 Tennis pro
- 60 Nastase
- 61 Forays
- 61 Atlanta arena
- 62 Bears' shelters
- 63 Stops
- 64 Hardy heroine

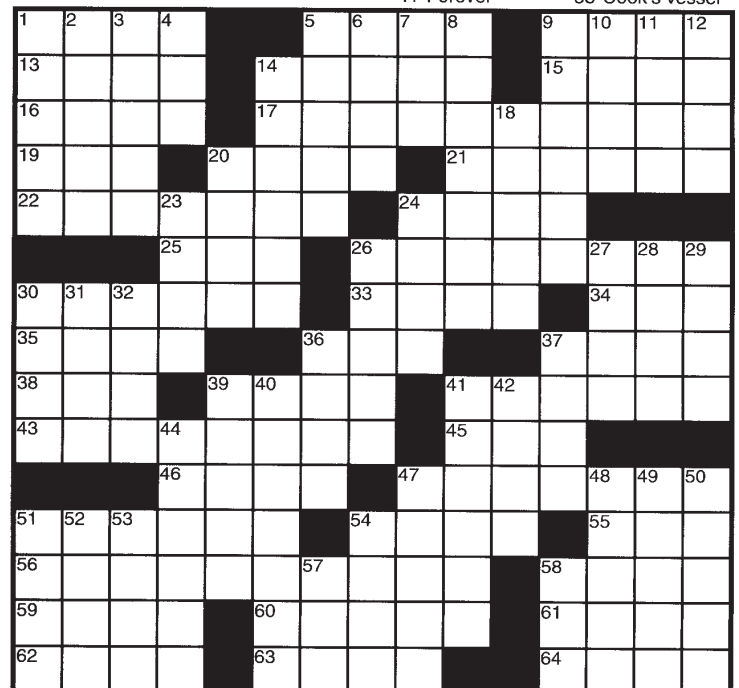
DOWN

- 1 Laughing mammal
- 2 Tori's dad
- 3 Swedish money unit
- 4 Sullivan and Asner
- 5 Flower
- 6 Happy tune
- 7 Long fish
- 8 Relaxed
- 9 Baseball's Reese
- 10 Possess
- 11 Harmful
- 12 Water source
- 14 On the train
- 18 Tennessee — Ford
- 20 Kind of muffin
- 23 Hockey score
- 24 Harness part
- 26 Extols
- 27 Midday
- 28 Sudan's

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

AFRO	AGAVE	IRKS
BRET	LIMEY	GAIT
BOAT	SNORE	ONLY
AGRA	ASKSFORIT	
	WIT	AUG
IDEALISM	LLAMA	
LON	LAPEL	EBONY
KNEW	NUDES	ARGO
SUMAC	RIATA	EER
TYROL	CHENILLE	
	GAG	ATM
JET	STREAM	MOTE
OOZE	HORNE	URAL
OKRA	EAGER	NESS
PEAK	STOWS	ELKE

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Mid-fall enrollment ongoing

By Dillon Hart
Staff Writer

It's not too late to add another class for the fall semester.

Students interested in enrolling in the second set of eight-week fall courses must do so by Thursday, Oct. 16, said Associate Registrar Alan Stringfellow.

Enrollment for "Late eight" classes is ongoing. Classes begin Oct. 14.

Some of the course offerings are in astronomy, automotive technology, biotechnology, child development, computer science, English, history, learning skills, math, psychology and Spanish.

Enrollment options for eight-week courses are the same as with 16-week courses, Stringfellow said.

"[Students] have two methods by which they can enroll," he said.

"They can enroll online, with Mine Online, and they can also come on campus and enroll here in the registration area."

OCCC offers two sets of eight-week courses per semester — one in the first half of the term and another in the second half. Though there aren't as many courses available as with the 16-week session, Stringfellow said students still have plenty of options.

"There's a good variety of classes for these eight-week sessions," he said.

"It's not as extensive as what you might see in a 16-week semester, but you're going to see good variety and many options for students."

Associate Registrar Alan Stringfellow can be reached by phone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7522, or by e-mail at astringfellow@occc.edu.

Staff Writer Dillon Hart can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

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