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PIONEER

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Music in the air



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Rob Webb and Johnlee Lookingglass, both music majors, jam out on the piano in the new Visual and Performing Arts Center during some free time. "We enjoy just coming in and playing around," Webb said.

OCCC president says budget shortfall may require cutbacks

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

A state budget shortfall may reduce funding for OCCC next year, meaning employees likely won't see raises, said President Paul Sechrist in an e-mail.

While Sechrist assures students their education will not be directly affected by the economic hardships, he said sacrifices will need to be made by others at the college.

"[The] President's Cabinet has already begun to lay out the options for a shortfall," Sechrist said.

"Those options are centered around cutting expenses, deferring projects, limiting hiring of new faculty and staff, and no in-

"[The] President's Cabinet has already begun to lay out the options for a shortfall,"
— Paul Sechrist
OCCC President

creases in salary."

This wouldn't be the first time college employees have gone without raises. A story in the June 23, 2003, issue of the Pioneer showed employees did not receive raises for two years straight — in fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

Online Marketing Coordinator John Richardson, employed at OCCC since 1976, was on the staff then. He said sacrificing pay raises isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"How would anybody feel if they got a raise and somebody else got the boot," Richardson said.

He said everyone at OCCC should be happy to be employed.

Sechrist has proposed faculty and staff pull together "through these tough times, but continue to push forward to make OCCC the best it can be."

He also is supportive of a proposal made by University of Oklahoma President David Boren for the Legislature to dip into the state's Rainy Day Fund, which is like a savings account.

"Most economists agree that this economic crisis may be the worst since the Great Depression. That

See "Budget," page 12

Enrollment up by 7 percent from this time last year

Biggest increase is returning students

By Stephen Sossamon
Editor

Student enrollment is up by 7 percent for the spring semester compared to last spring, said Executive Director of Planning Stu Harvey.

A substantial increase in returning students is one of the reasons for the increase, Harvey said.

Returning student numbers are up 5.3 percent from spring 2007, he said.

"I believe one of the reasons we have more returning and new students is due to having a full staff in recruitment.

"They are advertising and heading out to the high schools to promote the college."

Student numbers rose from 11,241 to 11,883 and credit hours were up by 7 percent — an increase from 98,216 to 105,051, according to enrollment numbers provided by Harvey.

Harvey said the college has worked hard to keep students at OCCC.

"There is also the Success in College and Life class," he said. "We've done studies with the success class and the success rate for those who complete the success class is 11 percent higher than those who don't."

Harvey said the college has retained more than 58 percent of students from the previous semester, which is a jump compared to 55 percent last year.

"I believe the difference in each semester is we've been working on retaining

(students)," he said.

Harvey said he believes the economy contributes to the rise in the enrollment rates.

"Unemployment is going up and people are anticipating a possible job loss," he said.

"So students are taking courses to get the edge in the market."

The largest increase in enrollment was the 25-to-29-year-old demographic with an 18 percent increase. The 55-to-59-year-old demographic saw a 20 percent increase, according to the enrollment numbers.

The 60-to-64-year-old demographic fell 37 percent, and the 17 and below demographic fell 18.5 percent, according to enrollment numbers.

Harvey said enrollment also was up 3 or 4 percent for international students.

"We are lucky to have such a large group of international students, especially when other colleges don't have as many," he said.

English professor Mary Punches, whose English Composition I class is full with 30 students, said she thought class would be harder to teach due to full enrollment, but said so far the class has been good.

"It's harder to grade papers," she said.

"It's also hard because I like the one-on-one help with students."

Algebra professor Gail

See "Enrollment," page 9

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Technological take over

About two months ago, an OCCC student was devastated when the hard drive of her computer crashed.

Endless numbers of documents from years of work, along with thousands of amateur and professional photographs, were all lost.

Countless personal family pictures were all gone.

This posed the question as to whether our society has become too dependent on the electronic devices we are so attached to.

"We are in an age where people want what they want, when they want it," said Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, mass media communications professor. "We have become a society of media-on-demand and I think technology is fantastic."

However, we may have lost track of how dependent we have become. These days, almost anything can be accomplished from a cell phone, like transferring money from one bank account to another or being alerted by text when your account balance is low. This can be done from the palm of your hand.

In this day and age it would be difficult to make a phone call without the numbers in a cell phone directory, because so many people rely on their cell phone as their primary phone book.

Most companies would not be able to operate if their power went out or there was a network failure because everything is done by computer these days. Even if we were able to do it by hand, without the use of computers, calculators, and other electronic devices, the question still remains whether anyone still knows how to do basic math or spell without spell check.

Without technology we would not have electricity or an automobile, so it is not all bad. There are a lot of things that technology has done to make life easier and save time. But, we need to be aware of this accelerating dependence and develop a back-up plan.

There will always be practical ways of keeping back-ups to electronic devices. One way to ensure you never lose all the files stored on a computer is to keep back-up disks of your data and do back-ups frequently. A plain paper phone number and address book is an alternative to relying only on a cell phone for information.

Items such as binders, planners and paper will never be obsolete and should be used as a back-up method to electronic devices.

Just because we can check our bank balance from our phone doesn't mean that we should not monitor, balance and oversee our accounts on a regular and more personal basis.

No matter how hard we try, electronic devices will never be as stable as the human touch.

—Christina Barger
Staff Writer

Ignorance isn't bliss with health

To the editor:

Each year, more than one million Americans suffer a heart attack and 700,000 have a stroke.

A leading risk factor for heart attack and embolic stroke is lack of physical activity.

About 70 percent of Americans are not getting enough exercise, blaming lack of time and lack of motivation. Ignoring fitness and health increases our chances for disease.

OCCC is proud to partner with the American Heart Association Start! Campaign, a physical activity program to improve health, and fight heart disease and

stroke by getting people moving through workplace walking programs and emphasizing a more healthy lifestyle.

Participating in this program can significantly improve your health.

By making physical activity part of your everyday life (walking on your break, at lunch or even during a quick meeting with a colleague), you can begin to see other benefits.

To get started, register online at www.mystarton-line.org. This tool will help you make positive lifestyle changes through walking and a better diet. With yStart! Online, you can

track daily physical activity and daily diet intake, receive a weekly summary of your progress and receive reminders and encouragement if you forget to track.

—Rhonda Simpson
Wellness Coordinator

PIONEER

Vol. 37 No. 20

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

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.

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Comments? Opinions?

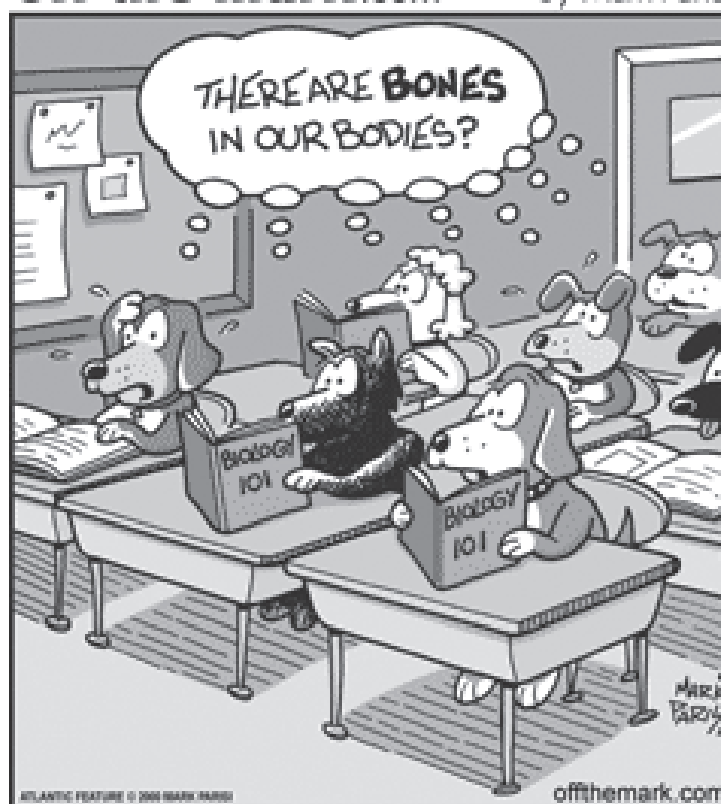
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Let your voice be heard!

www.occc.edu/pioneer

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



THE BIG FREAK-OUT IN A PUPPY'S LIFE

Comments and Reviews

Super Bowl XLIII exciting watch; ads not so much

Great players aren't always great; they are just great when they have to be.

Whether one believes Ben Roethlisberger is one of the best quarterbacks in the National Football League, his performance in Super Bowl XLIII proved to be great.

Super Bowl XLIII, between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals, had all the material for a classic Super Bowl.

A 100-yard interception return, an epic comeback by the underdog and a game-winning 78-yard touchdown drive in the final seconds.

Many times throughout the history of Super Sunday, the commercials can be more exciting than the game itself, but that was not the case this year.

Super Bowl XLIII was one of the greatest ever.

During the fourth quarter, the Cardinals (12-7) showed the same resiliency that enabled them to make it through the playoffs as underdogs.

Quarterback Kurt War-

ner threw for 377 yards and three touchdowns, and solidified a Hall of Fame career after leading the Cardinals down the field for another late fourth-quarter scoring drive.

Pro-Bowl wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald caught seven passes from Warner for 127 yards and two amazing fourth-quarter touchdowns, which put the Cardinals ahead 23-20 with 2:37 remaining in the game.

Too bad the Steelers (15-4) had "Big Ben" Roethlisberger.

Some say Roethlisberger is an inconsistent quarterback.

One thing he is consistent on is leading his team in the fourth quarter.

Roethlisberger, who completed 21 out of 30 passes for 256 yards and a touchdown, led the Steelers to his 18th career fourth quarter comeback.

A six-yard pass to Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes with 35 seconds left in the game capped the sixth Super Bowl win in Steelers' franchise history.

Super Bowl ads weren't as good as some have been in previous years.

Bud Light offered the funniest clips and Go-Daddy.com pushed the censors to the limit with a risqué cleavage commercial.

A good commercial that may not have been seen by many was the one-second Miller High Life commercial. The commercial was made to prove a point on how ridiculous the price of a Super Bowl ad has become today.

The commercial cost \$100,000 to air and consisted of a simple phrase: "High Life!"

The commercials can be seen on sites such as YouTube.com and superbowlads.fanhouse.com.

This year, however, the spectacle of the game outweighed the ads, the way all Super Bowls should be.

Super Bowl Sunday only comes around once a year and when one is as good as Super Bowl XLIII, one can only wait for next year.

Rating: A+

—Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

'Coraline' features journey into a fantasy world in 3D

Be careful what you wish for is the lesson taught by the new Laika/Focus feature "Coraline."

This is the first animated production to be filmed in 3-D, so be sure to get a pair of glasses when you enter the theater or you will miss out on much of the fun.

Based on the 2002 best selling children's book by Neil Gaiman, "Coraline" is the story of a bored 11-year-old girl whose parents are too busy writing a gardening book to pay attention to her.

They move to the Pink Palace apartments where there are a variety of odd neighbors including Wybie, (Robert Bailey, Jr.) a boy the same age as Coraline (Dakota Fanning).

Wybie rides a motorbike and has a strange cat for a pet. He brings Coraline a doll that looks just like her. She feigns disinterest in him, but keeps the doll with her at all times.

Another neighbor is Mr. Bobinski (Ian McShane) who owns a mouse circus. His mice get loose in the house and Coraline follows

one to a hidden door.

Much like Alice in Wonderland, Coraline goes through the door into a parallel world that is as wonderful as she wished her life to be. Or is it?

Directed by Henry Selick ("Nightmare Before Christmas"), this stop-motion fantasy is in the genre of "James and the Giant Peach."

While this has been given a PG rating for "scary images and suggestive humor," it is suitable for most children.

The animation is excel-

ADVISER'S 11

Transferring information at students' fingertips

Are you thinking about transferring to a four-year institution? Did you know that there is an office on campus to help you with your transition? The Transfer Center offers many services to get you headed in the right direction.

Campus Tours: The Transfer Center takes groups of students to college campuses to meet with staff, students and advisers.

Students also get a tour of the campus.

The dates for the spring semester are:

University of Oklahoma – Feb. 10 and Apr. 8

University of Central Oklahoma – Feb. 17 and Apr. 15

University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma – Mar. 31

Cameron University – Apr. 16

Oklahoma City University – Apr. 23

Transfer Fair: Every semester the Transfer Center brings in over 30 four-year institutions that are here to recruit you. This semester, the Transfer Fair will be on Thursday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in CU2 and CU3.

Transfer Guide: This resource has a lot of great information on transferring. It has questions to ask when considering where to transfer, scholarship information and university contact information. These books are available in the Office of Academic Advising.

Transfer Center Website: The website www.occc.edu/TransferCenter has many links that you will find useful in your research on transferring, including the Transfer Equivalency Guides and the Transfer Calendar. The Equivalency Guides allow you to look up classes you have taken at OCC and see how they will transfer to various institutions. The Transfer Calendar has the days and times of all of the campus visits from four-year institution representatives.

Campus Visits: Most days you will find a four-year representative on our campus. They are here to answer your questions. The days and times of their visits are listed on the Transfer Center website and are posted outside of the Office of Academic Advising.

For questions or to sign up for Campus Tours, please contact Sara McElroy at smcelroy@occc.edu or 682-7567.

—Sara McElroy
Transfer and

Academic Advising Coordinator

lent and the 3-D adds to the effect which will entertain the entire family.

Be careful what you wish for; it may not be what you want. But if you want to

see a well-produced animated movie, put "Coraline" on your list.

Rating: B+

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer



Copy that

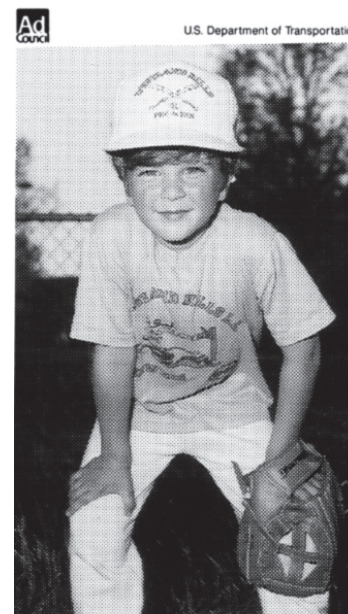
Sooner Copy Machines salesman Ryan Riddle looks over the final product after installing the new copy machines next to the stair well.

The new copy machines were purchased from Sooner Copy Machines in Oklahoma City, which puts copy machines in various colleges and schools in the city.

Riddle said the new ARM-257 copy machines can copy, scan, print, do two-sided scanning and two-sided copying on papers. "It's the best copy machine you can get in the area," he said.

In addition to the features, the new copy machines are faster than the older ones, he said. "They are state of the art," Riddle said. "The newest you can have." There are four total located on campus.

Photo by Kenny Hilburn



DRUNK DRIVING DOESN'T JUST KILL DRUNK DRIVERS.

Nicholas Esposito, killed Oct. 13, 1989 at 8:25pm.

Next time your friend insists on driving drunk, do whatever it takes to stop him. Because if he kills innocent people, how will you live with yourself?

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

Watch and listen
Pioneer SportsTalk
Vodcast!

<http://www.occc.edu/pioneer>

OCCC Student JOBS ORIENTATION

Wednesday-Feb 11th
11:30-12:30 & 12:30-1:30
CU3

Learn how to WORK on campus

For additional information call 682-7819
or email: kschmidt@occc.edu

Workshop scheduled Feb. 11 for students interested in OCCC jobs

Employment director says college is looking to hire more student workers

By Hunter Bickford
News Writing Student

Human Resources Specialist Karen Schmidt will host a jobs workshop at 11:30 and again at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in room CU3, said Debra Vaughn, Career and Employment Services director.

Each session will last one

hour and is entitled "OCCC Student Jobs Orientation."

Vaughn said students would learn many things that will be helpful in securing a campus job.

Schmidt will demonstrate how to access the website and submit applications for a job, Vaughn said.

The greatest benefit of attending the orientation, however, is meeting

Schmidt, she said.

"If [students] attend the workshop, they will benefit by having a connection to Karen," Vaughn said. "She's the representative who works directly with student employees and is the person to know."

OCCC employs roughly 135 students on campus and is looking to hire more.

Vaughn said having a job on campus has many benefits, including creating and maintaining relationships with fellow students as well as supervisors and full-time staff.

Students who have on-campus jobs tend to have higher graduation rates, and the experience gained from working carries over after finishing their education, she said.

Starting pay is \$8 an hour for the first year, with pay raises available after that, Vaughn said.

She said her office wants to help students put forth their best effort when applying for a job, whether they choose to work for the college or elsewhere.

Current student employee Hannah Williams said one main benefit of working on campus is being able to work around her

"If [students] attend the workshop, they will benefit by having a connection to Karen. She's the representative who works directly with student employees and is the person to know."

—Debra Vaughn

Career and Employment Services Director

class schedule.

Williams said her only complaint is she was not able to work more than 30 hours per week.

Vaughn said each department has different qualification requirements for their student workers.

"A student worker in Career and Employment Services would need to have clerical and grammatical skills along with being an excellent communicator," Vaughn said.

In order to assist students, Career and Employment Services will scan a student's transcripts to apply for jobs online, she said.

Vaughn said students who are interested in applying for a job on campus should be aware of a few things: There are two types of jobs available to students, college-funded student jobs and federal work-study jobs.

Work-study jobs are capped at 30 hours a week,

while most other student jobs are between 15 and 20 hours per week.

If students are called for an interview after applying, and then offered the job, it will take about a week before they can start working, Vaughn said.

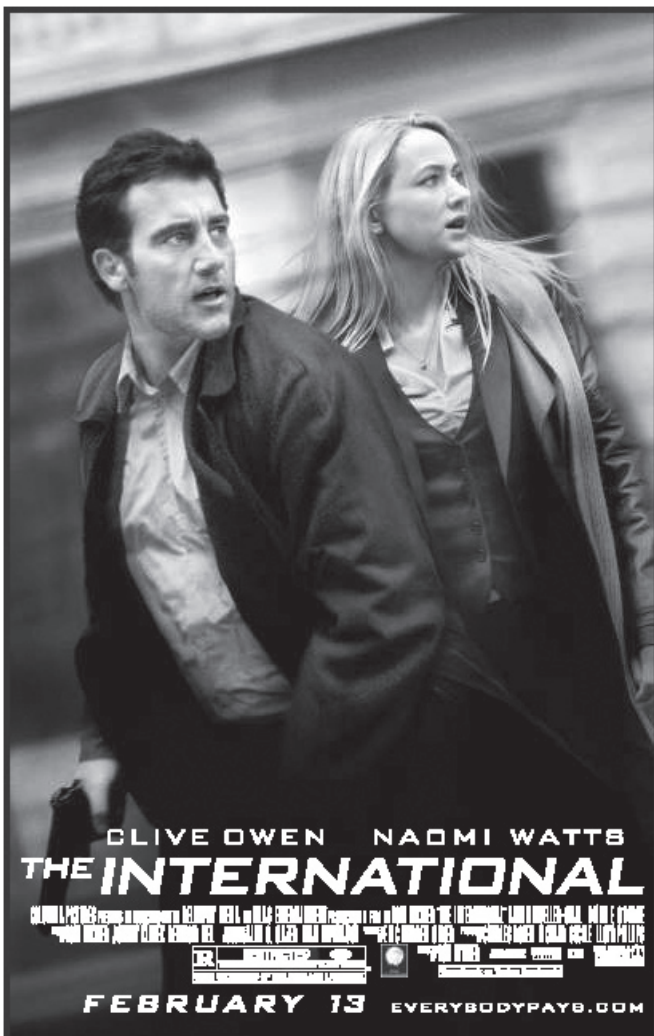
A full background check will be performed before a student is hired.

A complete package, including the online application, cover letter and a copy of transcripts, is strongly recommended. Just filling out the online application will yield minimal chances of being called back for an interview, Vaughn said.

Finally, students should make sure to list all previous jobs whatever they may be. Babysitting, mowing lawns or any job can show that they a strong candidate and should be considered for the job, Vaughn said.

For more information, contact Debra Vaughn at 405-682-1611, ext. 7362.

YOU AND A FRIEND ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL SCREENING



Thursday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Harkins Bricktown 16

*Supplies are limited. Complimentary passes are available in the Pioneer office 2M6 MB on a first-come, first-serve basis. One admit-two pass per person with a valid OCCC ID and proof of age.

COLUMBIA
PICTURES

R RESTRICTED
Under 17 requires accompanying
parent or adult guardian
Some sequences of violence and language

Oklahoma City Community College
PIONEER

OPENS NATIONWIDE JANUARY 23



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?

Texas Gypsies to offer jazz, swing Feb. 17

By Christina Barger
Staff Writer

The Texas Gypsies will perform their sound of hot jazz and southwestern swing at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the Bruce Owen Theater, as part of OCCC's Cultural Art Series.

Dixieland music, also referred to as hot jazz or New Orleans jazz, is a style of jazz with a ragtime tempo which developed in New Orleans.

"There was a great response to the hot jazz we had last season, so when we heard about this group

that combined hot jazz and southwestern swing we thought it would be a wonderful addition to our cultural art series," said Scott Tigert, Cultural Programs Assistant.

"The fusion of the two styles is wonderful.

"I've heard a recording of it and it's really going to be fantastic."

The Texas Gypsies stars Steve Curry on guitar and vocals, John Hewitt on bass and vocals, Erik Swanson on guitar and lead vocals, and Mark Menikos on the violin.

General admission is

\$22. OCCC students and children under 17 can purchase tickets for \$10. Seniors, faculty, staff and Alumni Association members pay \$17.

"This is one cultural experience of hot jazz and western swing you won't want to miss," Tigert said. "If you like Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grapelli and Bob Wills, you'll love the Texas Gypsies.

"So if you want to two-step into happy times, come join us."

Staff Writer Christina Barger can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.



Professors forced to adjust after icy weather strikes

By Justin Combs
Staff Writer

How do students and teachers adjust to make up for lost time due to weather?

Professors across campus said they have had to make adjustments for their classes.

English professor Kim Jameson said her classes were still going to cover the scheduled material, but they would have to alter their schedule.

"We're going to double

up on some things this week to help us get back on track," said Jameson.

Jameson said she called her students to let them know about the assignments they will need to work on.

"There's a certain amount of things especially in English, such as reading and writing, that students can do at home," she said.

Modifications in lesson plans are inevitable with the week of Jan. 26 having been cut short. Some

teachers are doubling up and others just cut out some assignments to focus on assignments that are more critical.

Math professor Charles Jaronek teaches Elementary Algebra, a critical class for college students that's crucial to be successful in College Algebra, Jaronek said.

"I just teach two days a week," he said. "So when I miss one day it's like missing class for a week.

"We have to cover everything (from the syllabus)

so we're going to double up so we can stay on schedule."

Jaronek's classes do use My Math Lab, an online-based math program students use for their assignments. Since students can access My Math Lab from home, he said it came in handy during the ice storm.

"That's the good thing about My Math Lab," Jaronek said. "Students can work on it at home

Mary Punches, English professor, said her classes

remained unscathed by the set back.

"I'm extremely flexible," she said. "In one literature class, I took out a short story and in other classes I just did abbreviated versions," Punches said. "We're pretty much back on schedule."

Both Jameson and Punches agree flexibility is very important to teaching.

Punches said she would much rather have classes canceled than put students in a situation where they may be harmed.

Across campus, student workers will see smaller paychecks because of the weather holiday.

Malonna Davis is a communications major who works in the library as student circulation assistant. She said the biggest setback was the loss of hours of work due to the closings.

"Class-wise I wasn't affected too much but working, it put me back 10 hours on my shifts," Davis said. "Since I won't get paid for that I have to make them up. It's kind of difficult with class and still having to work my regular schedule.

"I'm just trying to make it all work out."

Staff Writer Justin Combs can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

\$2,000 scholarship video contest
at **BUCK the norm.com**

Tell us about it: "My Money Mistake"
We know when you're just starting out, it's easy to take a few steps in the wrong direction every once in a while.
We want to hear your story, what happened and what you learned – in a video you make yourself.

Grand Prize: \$2,000 scholarship and a Macbook.

Visit **BucktheNorm.com** for complete contest rules. Deadline to enter is Jan. 30th!

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Ten best V-Day gift ideas on a budget

Everyone is pinching pennies these days, so why buy the \$75 roses and the \$30 box of chocolate when you can opt for a more personal gift?

Here is my top 10 list of gift ideas that will make an impression on your special person without making a dent on your bank account.

10. A stuffed animal holding a single rose is a winner, and easy to do. One rose is about \$5. A cute bear or puppy can be found for \$10, and a pretty bow for \$1.

9. Not that involved yet, or want to be remembered for your sense of humor? Hallmark has a "Heart Beating Gorilla" for \$15.99 that has a flashing heart that beats like a drum.

8. If you have a favorite picture of yourself or the two of you together, have it blown up and put it in a nice frame. A 5 x 7 enlargement at Wal-Mart is \$1.49, so you can afford to spend a bit more on a frame.

7. If chocolate must be a part of the day, don't just grab any heart-shaped box. Find out your sweetie's favorite and create a special gift by placing the chocolate in a container that can be used for another purpose when the candy is gone. A glass jar with a lid can serve many purposes and costs around \$5.

6. Have dinner at home, but add romantic touches like serving it on a blanket like a picnic. Pillows and soft lighting will enhance the atmosphere.

5. Married and running out of ideas? A candle-light double-bubble bath is a treat you can both enjoy for around \$15. Choose a scent that is relaxing but not flowery. Vanilla is always a good choice. Candles, soft music and a bottle of wine add to the mood.

4. If you must buy flowers, pick his or her favorite. Not everyone likes roses. Buy flowers at a supermarket. They are just as nice but less costly — between \$8 and \$10. Pick out a vase at the dollar store to put them in.

3. If you share a favorite movie, rent it and watch the movie by candlelight. Gourmet popcorn also is a good idea. The Popcorn Pharmacy at N.W. 74 and May Ave. will deliver locally and offers 35 types of popcorn priced from anywhere from \$2 to \$46.

2. If you want to get a piece of jewelry, purchase it at Kohl's. They have good quality items for reasonable prices. A charm bracelet with some memorable charms is a wonderful way to say you care.

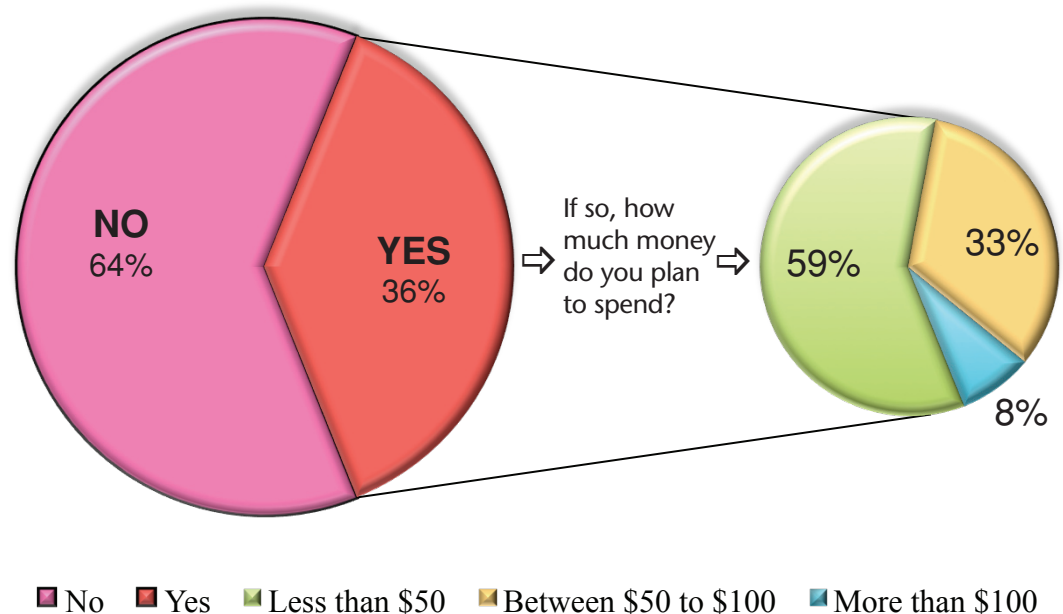
1. A gift basket can go a long way in the "you remembered" category, provided you do not buy one pre-made. A basket from the Dollar Tree, a gift bag, tissue and a bow is only \$4. A favorite CD, candles and lotion may add up to \$25.

Of course, don't forget the card. Hallmark can say all the things you can't but want to.

Have a happy Valentine's Day, and remember to put yourself into the gift. It's not how much you spend; it's how much you care that counts.

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

Do you have a Valentine this year?



Pioneer staff members surveyed 225 OCCC students to find out how many students had a date for Valentine's Day and if so, how much money they planned to spend on their date. This is what they found: Sixty-four percent said they did not have a date, 36 percent said they did. Of the students who reported having a date, 59 percent planned to spend less than \$50, 33 percent planned to spend between \$50 and \$100, while 8 percent said they planned to spend more than \$100 on gifts for their special someone.

Feb. 14 not a holiday for everyone

By Bishal Malla
Staff Writer

As Valentine's Day approaches, many couples are busy buying gifts and making plans. But what is the single person doing on this day of love?

Danielle Mcrae, diversified studies major, said she regards Valentine's Day as just a normal day. She said giving gifts should not be a priority.

"It's supposed to be the day that you spend with someone you love but a lot of people just expect expensive gifts," she said. She said it has become a materialistic holiday.

Lyle Karcher, biology major, said he doesn't mind Valentine's Day as it's a day to spend with loved ones. But since he is not in a relationship it's a normal day for him, he said.

Karcher said he does not feel pressured to date anyone because he is too busy with his studies.

"If I had a girlfriend I would be busier, which I don't want to be," he said.

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner said no one should feel pressured on Valentine's Day.

Turner said people in relationships might feel pressure to buy something expensive, which may not be financially feasible for them.

"These days, different companies make people feel obligated to buy things for this day and it becomes pressure for lots of people," Turner said.

She said creating a romantic evening could be done simply.

"There are lots of other things one can do rather than buying chocolate."

Turner said it's natural for people who are not in a relationship to feel lonely.

Turner recommends peo-

ple who are single on Valentine's Day to do things that make them comfortable.

"Get with friends and hang out together," she said. "Friends can go out for lunch or do something fun."

Turner said counseling help is available at Student Support Services for anyone feeling alone.

She said students could talk to Jenna Howard, Students Support Services counselor, if they want someone to talk to.

For more information, contact Student Support Services at 405-682-1611, ext. 7520.



Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Feb. 6:** 5-on-5 Intramural basketball season tips off. For more information about games, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Feb. 6-7:** The OCCC Aquatic Center will host the Mid-State/Metro Conference swim meet. For more information about OCCC Aquatic Center events, call Recreation and Fitness Director Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

• **Feb. 13:** Intramural Free Throw Hot Shot Challenge. For more information, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Feb. 20-21:** The OCCC Aquatic Center will host the Oklahoma High School State Championship. For more information about OCCC Aquatic Center events, call Recreation and Fitness Director Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

• **Feb. 27:** Intramural 3-Point Shooting Challenge. For more information, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Feb. 24-28:** The Aquatic Center will host the Mountain West Conference Swimming and Diving Championship. For more information about OCCC Aquatic Center events, call Recreation and Fitness Director Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

• **March. 2:** Adult Volleyball League begins, for more information, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Deadline for the OCCC Intramural Sports is by 5 p.m. each Tuesday for inclusion in the next issue.

Got Game?



Michael Bridges, engineering major, completes a layup in the gym. OCCC is gearing up for basketball intramurals which began Feb. 6.

For more information on intramural basketball, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Aquatic Center jobs plentiful

By Justin Combs
Staff Writer

OCCC offers students and the general public several opportunities for employment. Positions for lifeguards and water safety instructors are always available.

James Hensley, Aquatic and Safety Training specialist, said there are ample opportunities for employment with all the swim meets and other activities ongoing in the Aquatic Center.

"We have employees always transferring to other schools or in the summer going to work at outdoor facilities," Hensley said.

Hensley said most hiring occurs at the beginning of each semester.

Lifeguards must be able to handle emergencies that require life saving skills.

OCCC is a state run facility so applicants must be at least 16-years-old. "You have to be a certified lifeguard through either the American Red Cross, the YMCA or another nationally recognized organization," Hensley said.

Tracy Lister, biology major, is a lifeguard in the Aquatic Center. Lister got his Red Cross certifica-

tion at OCCC.

"There's a full lifeguarding class you can take at the college through the Red Cross," Lister said.

"I've been a lifeguard here for over three years," Lister said. "It's given me a lot of management experience, everyone's encouraged to step up and be a leader. This is the only job I've ever had and it's provided me with a lot of work experience."

CPR, First Aid and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) certifications are required to prevent and respond to life threatening emergencies that may occur.

These certifications are not the only things required, lifeguards must pass a physical test as well, to prove they are capable of retrieving a troubled swimmer from the pool.

"They have to be able to pass a skills test," Hensley said.

"You must be able to go to the bottom of our diving well, which is 18-and-a-half feet deep, and retrieve a 10-pound object and bring it back to the surface."

Kateri Guyer, graphic communications major, is a lifeguard and water safety instructor.

Guyer attained both certifications while being a junior life-

guard at the Mustang Community Center pool from an instructor who is a certified trainer by the Red Cross.

"Lifeguards are trained to watch the water, and to be able to get in and get out of the water," Guyer said.

"A water safety instructor is someone who is trained to teach someone how to swim and the basics of the stroke to keep themselves afloat."

"I like kids and it's fun to interact with the kids and see them grow into it because they have to go through certain levels," she said about the little thrills she has found through her experience.

The starting pay for lifeguards is \$8 an hour. Volunteers are always needed as well.

The Aquatic Center will be hosting the Mountain West Swimming and Diving Championships Feb. 24 through the 28.

Volunteer positions are still available to assist as timers, runners and hospitality help.

Applications and information on jobs and volunteer work are available in the Recreation and Fitness office.

Staff Writer Justin Combs can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Economy, unemployment numbers affect OCCC's enrollment increase

"Enrollment,"
Cont. from page 1

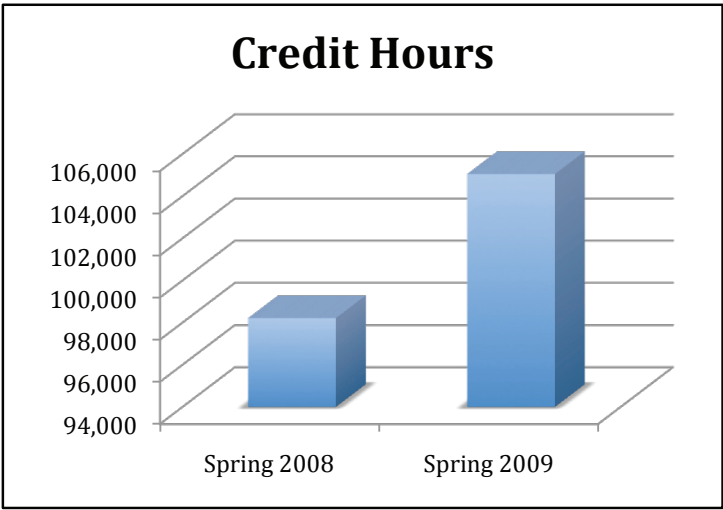
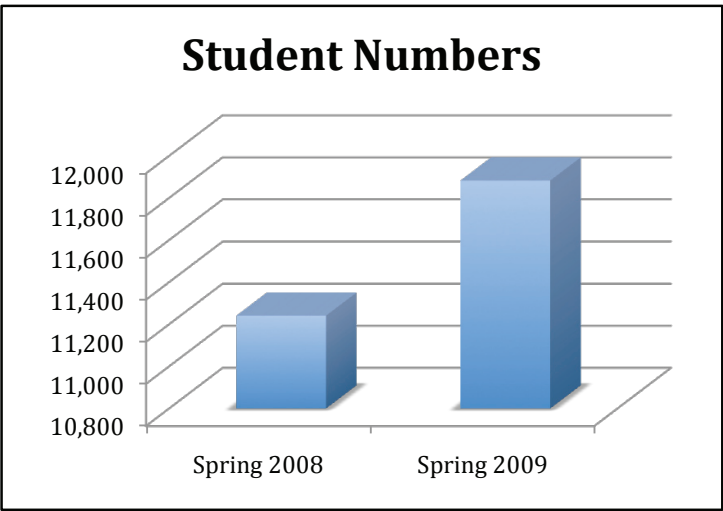
Malmstrom said she agrees with Punches about one-on-one time.
"(In larger classes) you

don't have as much individual time with a student," she said.
"Sometimes classes are too small and students spread out and don't talk, but it's also hard to help

them individually with a large class size."
Malmstrom has 34 students in her College Algebra class.



"Since the college is getting more students, the large class size is necessary in order to meet their needs," she said.

"We just didn't expect that many students."
Editor Stephen Sossamon can be reached at editor@occc.edu.



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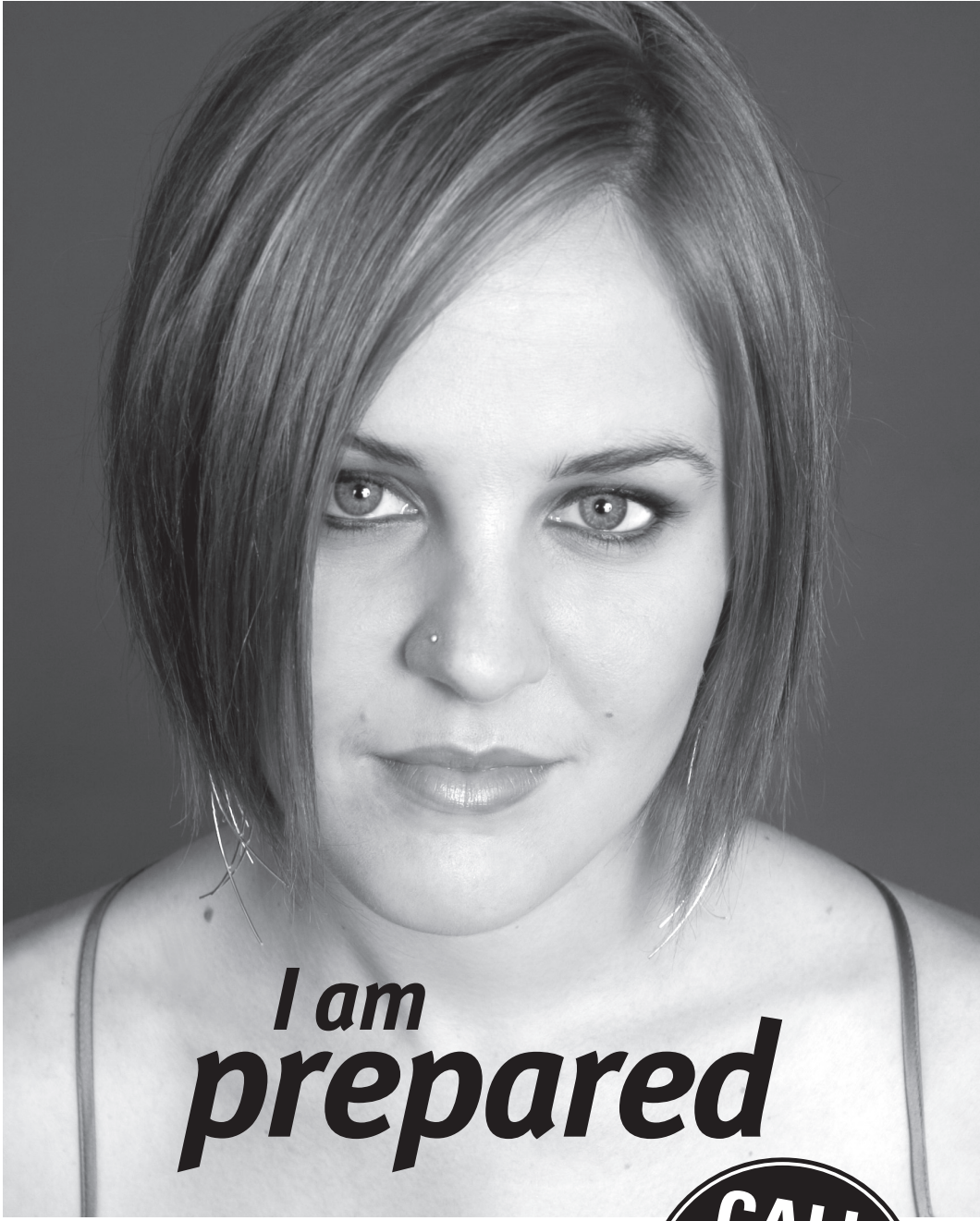
For 30 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share, 3400 International Drive, NW, Suite 2K (AD4), Washington, DC 20008.

  Earth Share

GIVE BLOOD

OCCC Blood Drive


Feb. 19 & 20
9:30 to 3:30
in the Student Union



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Highlights

Jack Cain Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the Jack Cain Scholarship are available now. The Jack Cain Memorial Scholarship of \$500 will be awarded at the student luncheon on April 17. Jack Cain, a former mathematics professor of OCCC, died in a climbing accident on Mount Shasta in Northern California on May. 28, 1996. The applications are available in the Math Lab Located at room 2G6 of the SEM Center. The deadline for applying is Feb. 27.

The Texas Gypsies in Concert

The Texas Gypsies will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the Bruce Owen Theater. The Texas Gypsies are the winners of the 2008 Swing Group of the Year by the National Academy of Western Artists. They perform songs with lightning-fast guitar runs darting in and out of beautiful violin melodies. To purchase tickets, visit the Cultural Arts Series ticket office in the Main Building, room 1G1(A) or call 405-682-7579.

Graduation Degree Check

Records and Graduation Services is doing a degree check from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 16 and 17. on the first floor of Main Building. Any student can talk to an adviser regarding their degree at OCCC. For more information about graduation, contact Kyron Smoot at 405-682-7547 or e-mail ksmoot@occc.edu.

Alvin Sykes "Self Made Civil Right Activist"

Guest Speaker Alvin Sykes, "Self Made Civil Right Activist," is giving his lecture from 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, in the College Union. Sykes dropped out of high school and got most of his education from the public library. He deserves the credit for the Justice Department's decision to review as many as 100 old murders in 14 states. He also persuaded the Justice Department to re-investigate the 1955 slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till. For more information, contact Katie Treadwell at 405-682-7523 or e-mail ktreadwell@occc.edu.

Student Life Events

Student Life Office is offering an OCCC Student Jobs Orientation from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11, in College Union room 3, located in the Main Building. Student Life also is doing a Candle Creations from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 11, in the College Union. For more information on Student Life Events, contact Katie Treadwell at 405-682-7523 or e-mail ktreadwell@occc.edu.

Military Career Fair at OCCC

OCCC invites students and community members to the Military Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in the College Union. Military recruiters will provide information on the enlistment and educational benefits to all guests. The Oklahoma Veterans Regional Office also will be available to share updates on the new GI Bill. Oklahoma Veterans Center will make a presentation from 10 a.m. to noon in the College Union.

Native American club selling roses for sweethearts

The Native American Student Association is having a roses and kisses sale at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 13 in the Main Building lobby. For more information, contact Marcelene Rogers at 405-682-1611, ext. 7667.



Brennen Berry, psychology major, signs up for the Black Student Association club at the student club fair in the College Union Jan. 29. Club memberships are still available to all OCCC students. More than 150 students signed up for different clubs and organizations during the fair.

There were officers of 16 clubs and organizations to recruit new members.

Despite the bad weather, the club and organization fair was successful, said Karlen Grayson, Student Clubs and Organization assistant.

Since the new system Ecampus Group became available, students can join any club or organization online by visiting www.occc.edu/studentlife.

Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Neither ice nor snow kept students from fair

By Bishal Malla
Staff Writer

Despite the bad weather many, students took advantage of Student Life's recent club and organization fair to join a campus group and meet new friends, said Karlen Grayson, Student Clubs and Organizations assistant.

Sixteen clubs and organizations worked to recruit new members on Jan. 29, in the general dining area.

More than 150 students signed up for different clubs and organizations at the fair, Grayson said.

However, the total number of students who signed up does not include students who signed up online after the new system Econnect Group became available, she said.

"We were trying to phase out the old system and implement the new system," she said.

The numbers were down from last semester's 834

total signed up as reported on the Sep. 1, 2008 issue of Pioneer.

Nevertheless, she said, she believes the fair was successful.

College Democrats president Nathan Holt said he was happy with the number of students who signed up for his club.

"College Democrats had 27 new students signed for spring semester," Holt said.

Jennifer Harrison, Future Alumni Network sponsor, said 31 members signed up to that club during the fair.

"I was pleasantly surprised with the involvement of the students in the fair," she said.

Future Alumni Network is a special interest organization which builds OCCC's future alumni leadership by providing current students with networking opportunities as well as leadership skills, Harrison said.

Camille Njeugoue, International Student Association president, said 15 students signed up for that club, which is less than last semester.

"Bad weather might be the reason students were not able to participate in the fair," he said.

Computer Arts and Technology Society sponsor Douglas Gregory said only five members signed up for the club.

He agreed that bad weather might have kept students away.

With the launch of the new system called Ecampus Group, students can join any club and organization online by visiting to the OCCC website, Grayson said.

For more information, contact the Student Life Office on the first floor of the Main Building or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.

Staff Writer Bishal Malla can be reached at StaffWriter1@occc.edu.

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.

EMPLOYMENT

NEED SOME DOUGH?

Big Sky Bread Company is looking for an energetic, reliable person to help customers, slice bread and bag granola. Apply in person at 6606 N. Western Ave.

PART TIME EMPLOYEE NEEDED:

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AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: 1998 Corolla LE, 144K miles. MP3/CD player. A/C, all power, mint condition. \$4,000 obo. Call: 405-863-9982.

FOR SALE: 1998 Volkswagen, GOLF GTI VR6, 2 door hatchback. 129K miles. Great condition. \$5,200 obo. E-mail me at:

MISCELLANEOUS

TUTOR AVAILABLE: Computer Science/Engineering major would like to help you succeed in Intermediate and College Algebra. Price per hour will be discussed when you call: 405-637-1637

TUTOR AVAILABLE: Will help students with math issues from basic math to Calculus I. For information call: 405-213-2751. Let me help you be successful.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE: Will place your ad to sell unwanted items, cars, books, etc. We will also advertise for a roommate for you. We offer these ads free to students. Contact Cynthia at: adman@occc.edu, or stop by the Pioneer office with your student ID to get your ad in the next issue.

FOR SALE: Toddler clothes and shoes for sale. Boy size 18 months. Great condition. Priced per piece or the entire lot of 50 items. Call: 405-255-9571.



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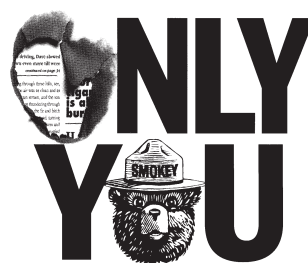
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Attention: Anyone interested in forming a team to compete in this year's GOVERNORS CUP business development contest please contact guy.r.williams@email.occc.edu. I have the list of rules and requirements available for discussion.

THE 2009 EDITION OF THE ABSOLUTE IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PRODUCTION

Another year has gone by and with it a chance to see your name in print if you did not submit your poem, story or artwork. Don't wait until November. Pick up a submission form at the Art and Humanities office, for the 2010 OCCC literary and art journal.



Burn Debris Disaster Free

Smoky is counting on you to follow the rules for safely burning debris.

1. Check local laws on burning.
2. Don't burn on dry windy days.
3. Clear a 30-foot circle around debris before lighting fire.
4. Keep shovel, rake and water nearby.
5. Don't leave fire unattended by an adult, even for a minute.
6. Consider alternatives to burning: composting, recycling, or hauling to a landfill.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Breathe hard
- 5 Cut of meat
- 9 Open a bit
- 13 Actress Burstyn
- 15 Locale
- 16 Java's neighbor
- 17 Wise saying
- 18 Suburban sight
- 19 Business attire
- 20 Actor Lowe
- 21 Important period of life
- 24 Fiber source
- 25 Poker stake
- 26 Like hot stuff
- 29 Handy
- 32 Corporate symbols
- 33 Mongolia's location
- 34 Luau decoration
- 37 Rock-band instruments
- 41 Minuscule
- 42 "Famous" cookiemaker
- 43 — down: move like an eagle
- 44 Part of a wave
- 46 — -eyed: lifeless
- 47 Admirer
- 49 Glamorous wraps
- 50 "Shine On, —": old musical
- 54 Miniature, as a

DOWN

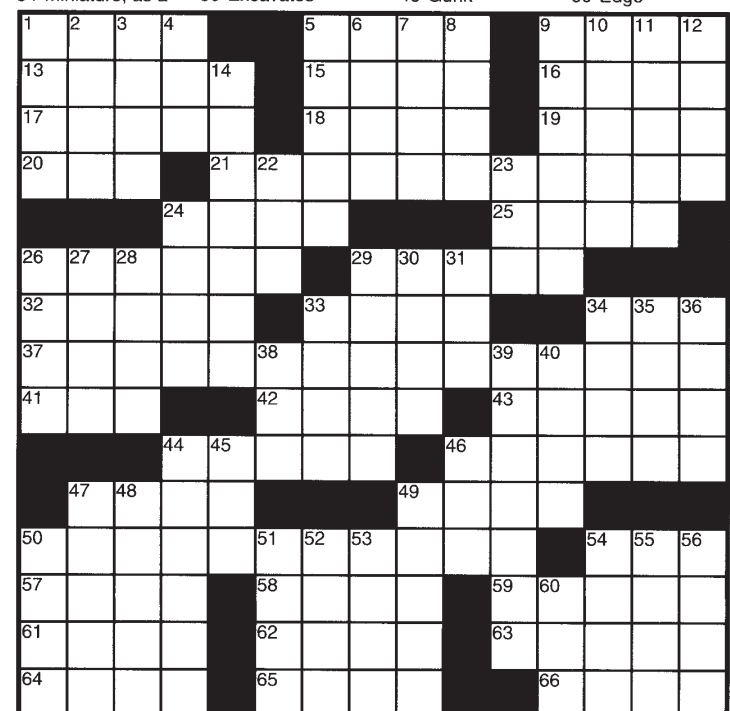
- 1 Paraphernalia
- 2 Actor Ray
- 3 Thick slice
- 4 Wooden pin
- 5 Synthetic fabric
- 6 Russia's — Mountains
- 7 Pierre's mother
- 8 Cushions
- 9 Not there
- 10 Trip
- 11 "Looking Glass" girl
- 12 Ceremony
- 14 — and dearest
- 22 Newscaster
- 23 Lid
- 24 Coalition
- 26 Large number
- 27 Decorated tinware
- 28 Type of molding
- 29 Wide tie
- 30 Excavates
- 31 — de cologne
- 33 Goals
- 34 Thailand's neighbor
- 35 God of love
- 36 Early Cosby show
- 38 — Dawn Chong
- 39 Block and Ellis
- 40 "— the night before . . ."
- 44 Frolic
- 45 Feel remorse
- 46 Gunk

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

P	A	C	E	S	A	N	G	D	O	G	M	A
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M	I	T	E	S	R	U	E	S	T	I	N	A
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7-6-98

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President supports 'dip' into Rainy Day fund

"Budget,"

Cont. from page 1

sure sounds like a rainy day to me."

However, he said, the state should take a cautious approach.

"If the state decides to dip into the Rainy Day fund this year, I would hope that it is just a dip in the fund and not a depletion of the fund.

"This downturn in the economy could last for two years or more. Using some of the Rainy Day funds each year could be helpful to our state's economy."

Sechrist said high levels of anxiety are driving decisions across the state now because nobody knows what the future holds.

"Once we reach bottom and start the climb back, economically, this will add stability and lessen the fear," he said.

"The problem in making decisions is not knowing where the bottom is and when things will turn around."

The next couple of years will be challenging for OCCC, Sechrist said.

"Challenging times provide an opportunity for innovation and creativity," he said.

OCCC student Jack Armstrong said he is confident he will still get a great education at an affordable price here.

"I can continue my studies and afford to do so," Armstrong said. "And that makes me happy."

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

International Holidays to remember

Feb. 9: Tu b'Shevat, Israel; Feast Saint Maron, Lebanon; Macha Bucha Day, Thailand.

Feb. 11: Revolution Day, Iran; National Foundation Day, Japan.

Feb. 15: Daylight Savings End, Brazil; Arbin, Iran.

—courtesy www.xpmail.com/HolidayCalendar09

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