Treat anxiety natural ways, editorial, p. 2.

- · Black History Month celebrated, p. 7.
- · B'ball teams heat up court, sports, p. 8.
- HOPE awards money, clubs, p. 10.

PIONEER Oklahoma City Community College The Community College Oklahoma City Community College

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Holding court



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Val Frederick, Emergency Medical Science major, fills a patient simulator with fake blood as part of her class training at OCCC. The college has several patient simulators that look human and are so lifelike that they breathe and respond to medications and treatments. The procedure helps train EMS students for real field work.

For more information about the college's Health Professions department, visit www. occc.edu or call 405-682-7507.

Essay entries encouraged

Prize money to be given to winners

By Jonathan Allen News Writing Student

Entries are now being accepted for the 2009 OCCC Annual Essay Contest, said Contest Coordinator Professor Kim Jameson.

Held every year, the contest is open to any student enrolled in College Writing II, English Composition I, or English Composition II, she said.

Jameson said all essays must have been an assignment completed for those classes.

Students may enter one essay per course, meaning that students can submit

up to three essays and triple their chances of winning a cash prize.

The contest period runs from January until December, when the fall sememster ends, Jameson said.

Student Marijah Adams won a second-place prize in 2007 after submitting just one essay.

"Don't get discouraged," she said. "It's not hard. Just turn in your essay and hopefully, walk away with a check."

The textbook publishers McGraw Hill, and Printer Hall donate the prize money.

Last year's prize money donations amounted to

"It's not hard. Just turn in your essay and hopefully, walk away with a check."

> —Marijah Adams OCCC Student and 2007 Essay Winner

\$1,000, double what had been raised in the past years.

The prize money is divided between the top six winning essays.

Jameson said 2009's prize money donations are expected to match or even exceed that of 2008.

She said she urges students to enter the contest.

E-books seen as affordable alternative

Some U.S. colleges already on board with new concept

By Matt Bishop Staff Writer

All students know text-book costs can put a dent in their pocketbook, but one OCCC employee thinks some of those costs could be cut by looking to an alternate source.

Denny Myers, Virtual and Enterprise Systems and Services coordinator, said he has recommended OCCC instructors look into using open source eBooks for textbooks.

These eBooks can be downloaded or viewed online for free, Myers said.

Printed copies also can be purchased at a discounted price, typically around \$10 to \$15, he said.

Myers said open-source eBooks are inexpensive because, in many cases, advertisers pay to put ads within the material, absorbing the costs the student usually pays.

He said he realizes that concept isn't appealing to everyone.

"Some people may say the ads can be distracting," Myers said.

Education major Justin Murphy said he could overlook the advertising if it meant the book was less expensive.

Chemistry major José Vargas said he is undecided and wonders if the distraction would end up outweighing the savings.

Many students seem to share Varga's sentiment about the new concept. An August report by the student activist network Student Public Interest Research Groups found 75 percent of students surveyed said they'd prefer a printed textbook to a digital one.

SPING's website shows "thirty-three percent said they felt comfortable reading on a computer screen, 22 percent were uncomfortable and 45 percent were in the middle."

Still, many U.S. colleges have already started using eBooks, most in the hopes that students will warm to the idea when they see the savings.

Inside Higher Ed reports on its website www.insidehighered.com that the trend is to move toward more open source textbooks.

In fact, Northwest Missouri State University President Dean L. Hubbard is quoted in a story published there, saying he hopes they'll be an e-book only campus soon — "as soon as the market will allow it. We'll move as fast as the industry moves and they're moving very rapidly."

Vice President of Academic Affairs Felix Aquino is open to the idea on OC-CC's campus.

He said he has shared links to eBooks with OC-CC's academic deans and has asked them to share those links with their faculty.

See "Books," page 5

Editorial and Opinion _____

Editorial

Addictive prescriptions?

Imagine: Palms sweaty, heartbeat racing faster than normal. Breathing becomes harder as air escapes the lungs and as the esophagus tightens. The body heats up and sometimes even shuts down as the pulse races faster. These symptoms plague yet another victim of a panic attack.

Many Americans struggle with this disorder known as General Anxiety Disorder. It is one of the most ignored mental disorders in the U.S. and is found in all ages.

College students are thought to especially be at risk because of the stresses of holding multiple jobs, parenting children, or some other stress, all while trying to excel academically.

The most prescribed drugs to treat anxiety are a family of pharmaceuticals called benzodiazepines, according to www.webmd.com. For many, this medication helps anxiety by calming their nerves. But for some it becomes a devastating addiction.

"Familiar names include Valium and Xanax. They are some of the most commonly prescribed medications in the United States," according to WebMD.

So, if this is true, then many Americans could potentially face a large problem if they become chronic users of this drug. Xanax has been rated a class IV drug by the federal government. This means it has potential addictive properties, but has general use in science and medicine.

Both WebMD and addictionsearch.com claim many people form a dependency to benzodiazepines.

This is a problem because when more of the drug is being used, a dependency may be formed.

The worst thing about it is often times patients have no idea that they are becoming physically, emotionally and mentally addicted to a drug, because the drug is prescribed by a doctor. Benzodiazepines are prescribed to treat anxiety, not cure it.

Maybe it's time for people to start looking for alternative methods for dealing with stress and anxiety, instead of relying on medication.

WebMD recommends applied relaxation therapy and cognitive-behavioral therapy. Both involve the therapist teaching the patient to control his or her thoughts.

Maybe it's time for America to slow down, breathe, relax and enjoy life.

If you think you might suffer from an anxiety or other mental disorder, OCCC offers free counseling.

Jenna Howard, the campus mental health counselor, is available by appointment. Her office is located in the Student Support Services offices on the first floor of the Main Building near entrance 12.

—Kenny Hilburn Staff Writer

Students can still apply for FAFSA

To the editor:

February is Financial Aid Awareness month and a great time for students to start planning for the 2009-10 academic year.

OCCC students are encouraged to complete the 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid online as early as possible.

The FAFSA is the first step students must take to be considered for federal financial aid programs and state grants such as the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant. OTAG has a priority deadline of April 15.

It is also not too late for students to complete the 2008-09 FAFSA to be considered for financial aid for the spring 2009 and summer 2009 semesters. Students currently enrolled in courses but have not completed the 2008-09 FAFSA should do so.

After students have completed the 2008-09 FAFSA, summer aid can be evaluated simply by providing the Financial Aid Office with a copy of their summer schedule.

Financial Aid plays a key role in student success, especially during the current economic times.

According to the College Board, college students around the country received more than \$143 billion in financial assistance during the 2007-08 academic year.

The financial aid office at OCCC estimates that approximately 8,000 OCCC students will receive nearly \$27 million for the 2008-09 academic year.

Comments? Opinions?

E-mail Stephen at

editor@occc.edu

Let your voice be heard!



For more information about important deadlines and how to apply for financial aid, visit the Financial Aid Office website at www.occc.edu/FinancialAid.

—Alicia Harris Financial Services Assistant Director

PIONEER

Vol. 37 No. 21

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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 and Reviews

Martin's inspector, plus poor storyline make bad sequel

A giant pink cat, created by cartoonists DePatie and Freleng, meanders in and out of the frame to the strains of the memorable theme music from famed composer Henry Mancinni.

The audience is drawn into the mood for a fine comedy titled "Pink Panther 2," but they were let down as soon as the dialog began.

The familiar music and the "Pink Panther" leads the viewer to believe this will be a movie as enjoyable as the original.

This was not the case with "Pink Panther 2."

In fact, the introduction was the funniest part of the movie.

The predictable story line is the disappearance of world famous artifacts, including the Pink Panther diamond.

So named because of the tiny flaw, a discoloration in the shape of a panther, the diamond is priceless.

Inspector Jacques Clouseau (Steve Martin) is added to a dream team of sleuths assigned to find the thief and the missing items

Actor Peter Sellers played

the bumbling Clouseau in the original 1964 "Pink Panther" movie.

The character created by writer Blake Edwards was portrayed as inept, but suave and serious about his profession.

Martin's interpretation of the detective made him look like a complete idiot.

It was a letdown to see Martin showcasing himself, and having it fall flat.

Even with a supposed new story line, a parody of a satirical comedy does not add up to a great piece of entertainment in this case.

The love interest is stereotypical. Nicole (Emily Mortimer) wears her hair up, has glasses and carries a clipboard with her at all times.

I kept thinking she would whip off her glasses and shake out her hair to look sexy, but it never happened.

Perhaps she was stifled by the Lily Tomlin character, a sexual harassment monitor for the office, another ridiculous addition to a cast of too many people.

More characters show up when Ponton (Jean Reno), the assistant, brings his two children to live with Clouseau.

The small boys attack the detective with their karate moves and destroy the house. This adds nothing to the movie, and is not funny. In the first "Pink Panther," the attacker was a houseboy who is hired specifically to keep Clouseau on his toes.

Jeremy Irons, John Cleese and Geoffry Palmer are seen briefly in roles that could have been phoned in.

Alfred Molina and Andy Garcia as detectives working with Clouseau rolled their eyes at his stupidity so often, viewers began wondering if they were acting or reacting to the script.

A few of the location shots of Paris are worth seeing, but the poor acting detracts even from that.

This movie has a PG rating. Parents, guide your children and yourselves away from this film. Save your money, and watch it on television at 3 a.m. some Saturday, if you can stay awake.

Rating: D

—Cynthia Praefke Staff Writer

Documentary displays reality

A man who has been handling poisonous snakes for many years is placing a cobra into its box.

Suddenly, the serpent strikes and bites the man in the stomach.

Knowing this could be the end of his life if he does not get help quickly, the bitten man is rushed to a medical facility.

A shark attacks a surfer, but while the fish is dragging him down in the water, another shark attacks both of them

This is a glimpse into the documentary "When Wild

Animals Attack," produced by A. Smith & Co.

It was originally shown on Fox television in 1996.

The film has become popular with students of animal "shockumentaries" and is now available on DVD.

The film is a compilation of amateur and professional footage that highlights animal attacks on people.

Robert Urich narrates the movie by introducing each event and explaining it in a calm manner. He does not sensationalize the attacks. He gives details and clarifies what is happening.

The disclaimer at the beginning of each episode tells the viewer there is graphic footage of animals attacking humans and other animals.

Small children may be afraid of the scenes because of the realism, but there is no over-the-top gore.

If you enjoy watching the unpredictable happen, this is a real reality show.

Rating: C+

—Cynthia Praefke Staff Writer



'Job Board' available for job searching aid

Finding a job is getting tougher. The unemployment rates are rising. Keith Hall, commissioner for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, gave the following statement on Feb. 6, to the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress:

"The labor market continued to weaken dramatically in January. Total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 598,000, and the unemployment rate rose from 7.2 to 7.6 percent. January's sharp drop in employment brings job losses to 3.6 million since the start of the recession in December 2007 (as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research). About half of the decline occurred in the past 3 months. Job losses in January were large and widespread across the major industry sectors."

Now, the good news. Oklahoma's unemployment rate is 4.8 compared to the national 7.6 percent level. The OCCC Student Employment and Career Services office is ready to assist your job and career search goals.

We help students find jobs through the "Job Board" registration at www.collegecentral.com/occcc where 200-plus jobs are listed every day.

Students register with their 7-digit student ID number and may upload their résumé for employer review. We also help job-seeking-students create job search résumés and cover letters through the "Optimal Résumé" website at www.occc.optimalresume. A sharp résumé gives our students the edge in landing the right job.

Another opportunity to find work is through the upcoming "OCCC Job Fair and Health Job Fair" on Wednesday, March 4, in the Student Union. General employers will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m, in the General Dining area and Health employers are scheduled from noon until 6 p.m. in College Union 2 and 3. Dress professionally and bring plenty of résumés. Many employers hire-onthe-spot. A few of the already registered employers include: Oklahoma Department of Transportation; OU Center for Public Management; Mathis Brothers Furniture; Homeland; City of Oklahoma City; VA Medical Center; OU Medical Center; and Norman Regional Health Center. More than 100 employers are anticipated and the public is welcome to attend.

Don't despair. Visit the OCCC Student Employment and Career Services office, Main Building, room 1G7, adjacent to Student Life. Or, call 405-682-7519 for an appointment or additional information.

—Debra Vaughn
Career and Employment Services Director

Jack Cain scholarship to be given to outstanding student with math skills

By Stephen Sossamon Editor

One student will be \$500 richer on April 17 when he or she is awarded the Jack Cain Memorial scholarship.

Jack Cain was a math professor for 24 years at OCCC who was known for his wit and humor, according to a press release.

To honor Cain, a \$500 scholarship is awarded in his name during the spring semester.

"It's a check, so students can cash it for any purpose," said math professor Gail Malmstrom.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, students must meet certain criteria.

The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at the college and must also have behind it," said Malmstrom. "That completed or be enrolled in Math 2104, Calculus and Analytic Geometry I. A minimum of a 3.5 GPA is also required.

Finally, the student must be intent on completing an associate degree at OCCC and must be a returning student to OCCC in either the summer or the fall semester, according to the release.

A brief essay is also required and it's strongly recommended the student use the Communications Lab for help in writing the essay.

Malmstrom said the winner will receive the scholarship at the Student Scholarship Luncheon on

"In the past, we've presented a framed certificate with the check way the students have something to take a picture with."

Bachir Mahomad, a former engineering student at OCCC, was the last recipient of the award.

"I saved the money and paid tuition," he said.

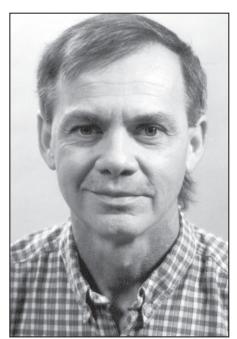
"I was excited about the scholarship because it helped my education."

Mahomad is now studying engineering at the University of Okla-

Applications are available in the Math lab, which is located in 2G6 of the SEM Center.

The deadline for submitting all applications is Feb. 27 in the Math Lab.

Editor Stephen Sossamon can be reached at editor@occc.edu.



Jack Cain

Annual bake sale to raise scholarship money

By Anthony Rhodes News Writing Student

The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee is hosting its annual "Make It Bake It" sale, headed by Librarian Linda Boatright. It will be held on Feb. 24, in the Main Building, in front of the bookstore.

The sale is designed to raise money for scholarships for currently enrolled students. The sale has raised more than \$2,000 each year for the last two years, Boatright said.

A variety of goodies will be offered the students and faculty members to pick and choose from. She said, there will be pies and cakes and an assortment of cookies and brownies.

Also, the sale will offer gift cards to movie theaters, gas stations, and various restaurants throughout the area, Boatright

will offer crafts such as handmade jewelry and gift baskets. In the past students have donated pottery, Boatright said.

Former acting dean of social sciences Cecelia Yoder, who has a long history of donating exquisite beadwork, will be involved once again. Professors Lisa Adkins and Jacqueline Forck also will donate

With the proceeds going to schol-Some artistic faculty members arships for currently enrolled students, Boatright encourages student participation in the event.

Students are invited to bring baked goods, crafts or even offer services that could be sold in the silent auction.

In the past, contributors have offered services ranging from juggling classes to performing magic shows. One accomplished chef auctioned off a gourmet meal in the winner's home. Boatright mentioned that nursing students have helped out in the sale as part of the sales staff.

Faculty Association scholarships are awarded in the spring and fall for an average of \$250 to \$300. Students are eligible for these scholarships if a professor nominates them.

Criteria for nomination are for a student to be academically solid with a high grade point average and showing improvement, and being active in their community and in OCCC activities such as clubs and organizations.

Degree check available for students

By Andy Jensen News Writing Student

Students wanting to monitor their progress toward earning a degree at OCCC will be interested in Degree Check It Out.

The event, hosted by Graduation Services will take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 16, and Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the common area next to the coffee shop.

Staff will be available to answer any questions students may have.

"We can tell you what you are lacking for your degree," said Barbara Gowdy, director of Graduation Services.

Students can also research this on their own by visiting the OCCC Academic Advising website. The

site lists more than 100 degree programs, with about half considered "university parallel" degrees intended to transfer to a bachelor's program. University parallel degrees are labeled either an associate in arts or an associate in science.

The other programs, known as associate in applied science degrees, are intended to take the graduate directly into the work-

If students are interested in a program area OCCC does not offer, they may consider talking to an academic adviser about creating a Diversified Studies program, said Mary Ann Bodine, academic

In addition to checking their de-

gree status, students at Degree Check It Out can apply for graduation.

They also can find out who academic adviser and where they are located.

"It's an easy way to apply for graduation without standing in line," said Gowdy,

Chris McFarland, business major, plans on attending the event to get degree advice.

"I just recently decided what I want to do, so that would probably be the most helpful way," he

If students cannot attend Degree Check It Out, they can stop by the graduation office located in the Main Building next to enrollment, or call 405-682-7512.

Check out Online exclusives at

> www.occc.edu/ pioneer

Scholarship opportunity in Washington D.C.

By Stephen Sossamon *Editor*

Capital Semester is offering OCCC students the chance to serve as an intern in the nation's capital this fall, while taking classes at Georgetown University, said Mary Connell, Fund for American Studies Recruitment and Admissions Manager.

"Capital Semester is one of five academic internship programs The Fund for American Studies sponsors in partnership with Georgetown University," she said.

"We provide generous scholarship funding to students to help them offset the cost of the program.

"Awards are made on the basis of financial need and merit."

Conner said any student who has completed at least one semester of undergraduate education is eligible to apply for the Captial Semester program. The Fund for American Studies is accepting applications for their fall 2009 and spring 2010 programs.

Capital Semester can



serve as a great way to kick off a career in politics, journalism, lobbying, government or the nonprofit sector, according to the Capital Semester website at www. dcinternships.org/cs.

As part of the experience, according to the website, Capital Semester students attend exclusive site briefings at Washington's places of power, such as the White House, the U.S. Capitol and the State Department.

Haley Heieck, Recruitment and Admissions assistant for The Fund for American Studies, said they offer scholarships for the students who apply to their programs but not to students looking for private funding.

Students can find the on-

line application and more information about Capital Semester at www.dcinternships.org/cs.

"Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, so applicants are encouraged to apply early," Connell said.

The early deadline for the fall program is March 1.

Connell said applicants will know of their admission and scholarship decision within three weeks of applying via e-mail and mail

Editor Stephen Sossamon can be reached at editor@

Students consider the idea of digital textbooks or e-books

"Books,"

Cont. from page 1

"We are all very sensitive to how expensive textbooks can be," Aquino said. "eBooks can offer a solution to this dilemma."

However, Aquino said, the material presented in the eBook would be the primary consideration. He said it would have to meet certain standards.

"Where our faculty can find an eBook of the same quality as our more traditional textbooks, I would heartedly endorse their using them," Aquino said.

"We will always put our students first."

Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke said she also would be in favor of ways the college can get books cheaper for the students.

Some courses are using eBooks or digital books, where students purchase a code for an online version of the textbook used in that course, she said.

It's sometimes cheaper to purchase the digital books — if the course allows — than buying a new book if used books are sold out,

Reinke said.

Business and Economics professor Germain Pischop said he plans to use an eBook for his International Business course next fall. He said the eBook will be free to the students.

Although there are pros and cons to these books, having cheaper prices is the bottom line for many students, including criminal justice major Gayla Field.

"As long as it doesn't cut out the information, it might make the book more interesting."

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

WAYS STUDENTS CAN EASE THE HIGH COST OF TEXTBOOKS

Library - Students can check out textbooks for up to two hours at the college library. The books must stay inside the library.

Copy Machines - Students can use the copy machines located in the Main Building to copy pages from a book loaned from a classmate. The cost is 10 cents per page.

Online Store - Online stores such as Amazon.com and Ebay.com typically have textbooks at a cheaper price. Shipping and handling may be charged.





Self-made civil rights activist visits campus, shares story with students

Hours in public libraries turned a high school dropout into a difference-maker

By Kevin Kues News Writing Student

A civil rights activist who dropped out of high school has gone on to develop legislation that will lead to one of the biggest criminal manhunts in American history. He told his story to OCCC students on Feb.

Alvin Sykes, president of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, said he is searching for truth and justice for the victims' families whose loved ones lost their lives in civil rights struggles prior to 1970.

His work led to the passage of the Till Bill, also known as the Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act, which was signed into law on Oct. 7.

Sykes began his journey with the murder of Kansas City musician Steve Har-

Harvey was beaten to death in a park in Kansas City, Sykes's hometown. Sykes said Harvey would play his saxophone in this park often by himself late at night. The man responsible for the beating, Raymond Bledsoe, was eventually charged with the crime but was acquitted by an all-white jury in 1981.

Sykes said he and other members of the African-American community were bitterly disappointed with the outcome. Because of his layman's background in the law, Sykes knew that nothing more could be done on the state level.

But he thought some measure of justice might be found through federal law. He started by calling the U.S. Justice Department. When they turned him down, he went back to doing research in the public library, where he said he received most of his education.

Eventually Sykes found a statute that allowed

Bledsoe is now serving a life sentence for the mur-

"Anything is possible," Sykes said. "You can take the knowledge you gain and turn it into something positive."

Sykes said he acquired much of his education the hard way, learning outside the mainstream.

He was born to a 14-yearold mother in 1956. As a sufferer of epilepsy, he spent so much time in and out of the hospital, he thought it was his second home. Shortly after that, he became a victim of sexual abuse by a neighbor across the street.

The inner struggle he had to deal with took a great toll on him as a voungster.

Looking for some way to "protect" his community, he and his friend started what he referred to as a "junior police" force. They would ride around on their bikes, looking for people starting fires and causing mischief, and would turn them in. The result was to make him a target for neighborhood bullies.

That led him to Boys Town in Nebraska. It was here where he learned the value of education. He took this back to Kansas City with him.

When he returned, he realized the best way for him to get the knowledge he desired was by dropping out of high school and teaching himself at the local library. This is where he discovered his passion for law.

Sykes then gained a reputation around the community for helping people. That would lead him to Harvey's case which led him to his most important case so far, Emmett Till.

Emmett Till was a 14-year-old African-American from Chicago visiting Bledsoe to be re-tried for a his relatives in Mississippi

federal civil rights offense. in 1956. One day Till was walking with his cousin to the local store when Till whistled at a woman. The woman told her husband. As a result, a few days later Till was kidnapped and lynched.

The two men accused in the murder were tried but acquitted, again by an all-white jury. Again Sykes worked successfully through the U.S. Justice Department to bring one of the perpetrators to trial.

It was this case that led Sykes to the Till Bill.

"I realized I could make a difference with this," he said. He then took this inspiration to Congress.

The bill was going to pass the U.S. Senate until Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn put a hold on it. This prohibited the bill from even reaching a vote in the Senate.

Sykes became worried and reached out to Coburn. They met and each explained his side. Coburn told Sykes he supported the purpose of the Till Bill, but wanted the funding in place before it was voted on.

Coburn assured him the bill would succeed even though Sykes' doubts were becoming stronger.

Finally, on Sept. 24,



Alvin Sykes

2008, the bill was brought forth. When asked if any senator disapproved of the bill, not one objection was recorded.

This marked the first time a major civil rights bill passed through Congress without an objection.

The bill creates positions in the Justice Department and the FBI specifically to investigate civil rights deaths before 1970. It also gives grants to the states that want to launch their own investigations. A total of \$13.5 million is now set

aside to re-open civil rights cases and bring justice to those families.

"The beginning of any achievement is believing," Sykes said. He encouraged everyone to talk to their elder relatives about mysterious disappearances before 1970. He said this may be the only way to find out if a crime had been committed.

When asked to sum up his incredible journey, Sykes looked upon the students and replied: "Truth

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act



Emmett Till

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act directs the Attorney General to designate a Deputy Chief in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. This Deputy Chief is responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of criminal civil rights statutes in which the alleged violation occurred before Jan. 1, 1970, and resulted in death. The bill also authorizes up to \$135 million over 10 years for investigations. In 2008, the Till Bill cost less than \$1 per American.

> Introduced — Feb. 8, 2007 Reported by Committe — June 13, 2007 Passed House — June 20, 2007 Passed Senate — Sept. 24, 2008 Signed by President Bush — Oct. 7, 2008

> > *source: www.govtrack.us

Students reflect on Black Heritage Month



"We still need to bridge the gap between all Americans, but Black Heritage Month gives us a chance to see where we came from and what we are doing now."

Kenyon BondsPhysical therapy major



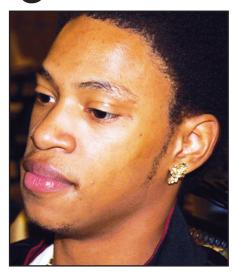
"It's about being proud of where we came from and what we went through. It's an important month for all ethnicities."

—Dreonna Adkins Biomedical engineering major



"I think Black Heritage Month should be more emphasized. No one really recognizes it anymore, not even African-Americans."

> —Sophia Calhoun Business major



"I like it because you get to learn about the African-American heritage. It's a memorable month."

> —BayShon Payne Premed major



who call Oklahoma their home

RALPH WALDO ELLISON — Oklahoma City

- Famous for his 1952 novel "Invisible Man"
- Earned Nation Book Award in 1953

J.C. WATTS — Eufaula, Okla.

- Served four consecutive terms in the U.S. Congress
- Played quarterback for the University of Oklahoma

CLARA LUPER — Okfuskee County, Okla.

- Known as the mother of civil rights movement in Oklahoma
- OKC NAACP Youth Council Advisor who organized sit-ins

ANITA HILL — Morris, Okla.

- \bullet Brought the issue of sexual harassment to the national spotlight
- Popular lecturer on racial and gender issues in the workplace

Joseph Carter — Oklahoma City

- 1981 College Baseball Player of the Year
- Remembered for winning home run in 1993 World Series for the Toronto Blue Jays

John Hope Franklin — Rentiesville, Okla.

- · Best known for his book "From Slavery to Freedom"
- Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, highest civilian honor

Wayman Tisdale — Tulsa, Okla.

- Dominant basketball player for the University of Oklahoma
- · Accomplished jazz bass musician in the OK Hall of Fame



"I celebrate Black Heritage Month because I believe the African-American culture is rich in history. It's also good to see that America has come so far ... as pertaining to racism and coexistence."

> —Colby Ellison Sophomore



"My family has its own family business, so we celebrate Black History Month every year. I also enjoy celebrating it because the events throughout the month are fun."

—Ryane AdamsDigital arts major

For more in-depth information on famous African-Americans native to Oklahoma, visit

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Pioneer Online — your place for breaking news and exclusives.

Sports___

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

- **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.
- March. 5: Men's Basketball Open Run Tournament. For more information, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.
- March. 6: 5-on-5 Intramuaral Basketball Tournament. 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.

Holding court



Photo by Christina Barger

The Squad's Dillon Dolezal eyes down the Pretty Bois' Bayshon Payne, as he drives toward the basket during week one of Intramural basketball. For more information about Intramural basketball, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Fall rivalry renewed, defending champion wins first two games

By Justin Combs Staff Writer

Intramural basketball tipped off the season with returning champions Short Bus, now aptly named Swagga, winning their first two games back to back.

Swagga defeated Pretty Bois 73-51 by playing the fast-break defense, and keeping up the hustle throughout the entire game.

The first time out was taken with 11-minutes left in the first half with a score of 16-5.

Swagga kept the pressure on as Tony Carter fought off three Pretty Bois under the basket to make a lay up, making the game 18-5 with 10:30 left in the first half.

Swagga proved themselves worthy of their title from last season leading the end of the first half 43-23.

Team captain for Swagga, Josh

Vanover, kept pushing his players and letting them know about sloppy playing, even with a 20-point lead.

"We played this team last semester and they got out on us quick in the first game of the season," Vanover said during the half-time breather.

"I told my guys, 'lets get out on them fast.' So we did a lot of fast breaking, taking it to the hoop," Vanover said about what he wanted his team to focus on.

Vanover said his team did end up getting a little tired by the end of the first half, which slowed them down a little defensively.

In the second half, the Pretty Bois took advantage of the hustle Swagga played with in the first half, leaving them a little gassed out. They closed in on Swagga 59-51.

But it wasn't enough for the Pretty Bois, Swagga went on a 22-0 run, to win the game 73-51.

Swagga had a ten-minue break before, facing the Free Agents in the second game.

In that game the score margin remained tight, but Swagga gained a 10-point lead by the 3-minute mark with the Free Agents trailing 26-16.

In the second half, the Free Agents turned up their playing, trailing 1 point behind the Swagga, 38-37 with 14 minutes left in the game.

With 9:26 left in the game Swagga took a time out with the Free Agents close to stealing the game, trailing 2 points 47-45.

It wasn't enough to stop the Swagga from getting their second win of the day and the season.

Swagga defeated the Free Agents 61-53. The Swagga is off to a good start early in the season.

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

State-of-the-art studio for film students

By Justin Combs Staff Writer

There's no need for any Oklahoman to relocate to California for an education in filmmaking when a state-of-the art Film Studio Lab is located in OCCC's Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Especially when that studio — stocked with the same equipment used in high-budget blockbusters — is partially manned by professor and seasoned filmmaker Gray Fredrickson

The Oklahoma native produced two of the "Godfather" movies, associate producer for one and producer for "Apocalypse Now."

Students can get a sneakpeek of the facilities online, Fredrickson said.

He said a recently-produced recruitment video is posted on the college's website at www.occc.edu.

The video is being used as a recruiting tool to get more film students interested in the program, Fredrickson said.

"Basically, [it's] an information video about the Film and Video program in the new studio and all the facilities we have."

"We've filmed the stage, equipment and cameras, and we did stills of all that to put in the brochure, plus a video to put on the website."

Fredrickson said the video also will be sent to high schools, he said.

Students visiting the OCCC Film and Video website also can watch video showing film students at work on the film set as well as the production stage, equipment and other amenities.

The equipment used in the studio is the best around, Frederickson said.

"The cameras are high definition," he said.

"Two of the cameras are called the Red cameras. They're the latest 35mm look, high-definition cameras used in Hollywood

now.

Not only are the cameras high definition, he said, but the stage also is high tech and completely soundproof. The lighting board has virtual studio capability.

"You can build your set in the computer, put people in and light it to see where the shadows go." Fredrickson said. "Then you send that information to the light board on the stage and it will light the stage exactly the way you did your virtual set."

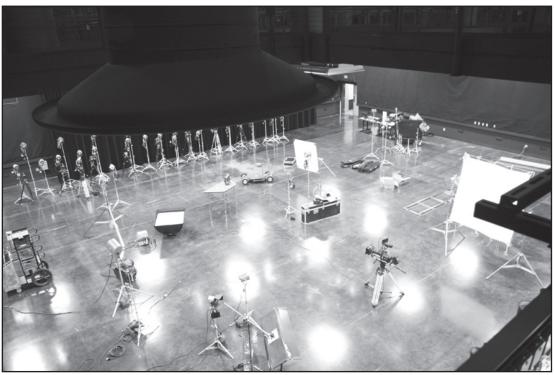
The editing facility has more than 20 Avid editing stations as well as the Isis switching system, another Avid product.

Fredrickson said the Isis switching system allows those doing edits to keep track of everything that each person has done and save all the changes.

"It's all real high tech and has an incredible amount of memory because it will cut real time high-definition video," he said.

The studio is available to the general public for a fee, Fredrickson said.

A rate sheet is available that shows the cost for renting equipment, the stage, for prepping and construction on the stage, and for office space for a production if needed.



A state-of-the art Film Studio Lab, located in OCCC's Visual and Performing Arts Center, is stocked with the same equipment used in high-budget blockbusters, said film professor and seasoned filmmaker Gray Fredrickson.

Fredrickson said film professors are constantly receiving scripts for filming and have made some of them.

He said the Film and Video program has already graduated students who have gone on to work in Hollywood and in movies he's done in Oklahoma, as well as Oklahoma television stations.

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



Above: Lights are operated by a lighting board in the studio that has virtual studio capability. Professor Gray Fredrickson said students can build sets "in the computer, put people in and light it to see where the shadows go. Then you send that information to the light board on the stage and it will light the stage exactly the way you did your virtual set."

Above: A spiral staircase behind the scenes in the studio, leads to a catwalk over the studio. Professor Gray Fredrickson said the Film and Video Program has already graduated students who have gone on to work in Hollywood, in movies he's done in Oklahoma, as well as Oklahoma television stations.

Photos by Kenny Hilburn

Highlights

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.

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 Astists. 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.

Student Life Events

The student Life Office is organizing a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 18 and 19, in the General Dining Area. Student Life welcomes all students who are interested in donating blood. Student Life also is doing a LeaderQuick practical leadership learning series at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 17, in the Oklahoma Room located in the Main Building. For more information on Student Life events, contact Katie Treadwell at 405-682-7523 or e-mail ktreadwell@occc.edu.

Greater Grads Internship Presentation

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce is presenting information on the Greater Grads Summer Internship Program from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday. Feb. 19, at College Union 2. For more information contact, Employment and Career Services at 405-682-1611, ext.7362.

Greater Grads Career Fair

Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Greater Grads Career Fair from noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Cox Convention Center. Students can find many internship and job oppurtunities at Oklahoma companies at the fair. Interested companies can open their booth for \$500. For more information, contact Marketing and Communications director Jennifer Seaton at 405-297-8941 or visit www.okcchamber.com/events.

Income Tax Preparation course

OCCC is offering an Income Tax Preparation course through the college's Corporate Learning Program from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, in the John Massey Center located at 11919 S. I-44 Service Rd. The fee for the class is \$45, which includes materials and instruction. To enroll for the class, contact Corporate Learning Office at 405-682-1611, ext.7562, or e-mail jclaybon@occc.edu.

Correction

Due to a misunderstanding by the reporter, the Feb. 2 issue of the Pioneer incorrectly identified the computer system EcampusGroup as a social networking site for student clubs. Student Life Director Darin Behara said EcampusGroups is a club and events management system. Students can join campus clubs by visiting the website at www.occc.edu/studentlife.

A sweet scent



Photo by Christina Barger

Chris Ketcher from Hog Wild Entertainment helps Students make scented candles for their Valentine sweethearts and even one for themselves. Student Life hosted the Candle Creations as the part of their special events.

HOPE offers scholarships to members for fall semester

By Bishal Malla Staff Writer

Hispanic Organization to Promote Education is offering four scholarships for the upcoming fall semester, said HOPE President Martin Ramirez.

The scholarships include one for \$1,000, one for \$500 and two for \$250.

To apply for a scholarship, students must be a member of HOPE, he said. It costs only \$5 to join.

Ramirez said the deadline to apply for the scholarships is Tuesday, March

He said the fund for the scholarships came from different fundraising events that HOPE did last semester. Oklahoma City attorney Michael Brooks Jimenez contributed \$1,000.

There are certain requirements for recieving the scholarships, he said.

The student must have minimum of 3.0 GPA, must show community involvement and must be enrolled or planned to enroll Hispanic Americans. as a full-time student at OCCC.

HOPE has other events

this semester, Ramirez

They will be attending a Latino Youth Leadership Conference held on Feb. 20, at Oklahoma City Uni-

versity. He said, the conference is about the future leaders of the Hispanic community to come together in an open environment to educate, discuss, motivate and build today's leaders.

There are 250 to 350 Hispanic students expected to attend.

HOPE members also will be attending the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza, which will be held from July 25. through 28, in Chicago, Illinois.

NCLR is the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., Ramirez said.

The group works to improve opportunities for

As part of its fundraising program, HOPE is hosting a taco sale on Thursday, Feb. 19, in the College Union.

HOPE currently has 20 members. They are planning to visit various high schools as the part of their community service and volunteer work this semester.

Their motive for visiting high schools is to interact with the students and give them ideas on how to be successful once they go to college, said Sergio Gallegos, sponsor of HOPE.

Gallegos is an admission advisor at OCCC.

Members will make high school students aware of different scholarships and funding aids available at the college, which will help them when they go to college.

For more information regarding HOPE, e-mail Ramirez at mramirez@occc.

Staff Writer Bishal Malla can be reached at Staff Writer1@occc.edu.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising information call: 405-213-2751. 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.

SERVER NEEDED:

Need energetic person with some experience in beverage service. If you're a fun-loving person, over 21 this may be the place for you. Apply in person Mon - Thurs. 2 p.m. -4 p.m. 820 S. McArthur Ave.

PART TIME **EMPLOYEE NEEDED:**

Bilingual, reliable, energetic person to work at Cricket Wireless store. 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Apply in person at Bucks, 2724 N. Santa Fe Avenue. Moore

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: talharizwan85@yahoo.com.

MISCELLANEOU

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

Let me help you be successful. FOR SALE: Toddler clothes and shoes for sale. 18-month-boy size. Great condition. Priced per piece or the entire lot of 50 items. Call: 405-

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.

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CLASSIFIED ads are free to ALL OCCC students & employees Call Cynthia at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674.



TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Some vessels 5 Out of funds 10 Oscar-winner
- Jannings 14 Ark builder

- 23 Walk wearily

- Strait of
- 55 Colorful fish

- 15 News source 16 Style 17 Container
- weight

 18 Molecule parts
 19 Tree trunk
 20 Quick look
 22 Church official
- 24 Made cloth 26 Musical Count 29 Sidewalk, in Britain

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 37 Composer
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 38 Fuzzy fruit
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- 44 Slant 45 Small combo 46 Advance, as
- money 48 Desert bloomer

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- Slaughter 63 Representative 64 Not common

DOWN

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- 6 Evaluated
- 7 Smell
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 Basinger
 9 Dawn goddess
 10 Badge
 11 Atmosphere
 12 Not working
 13 Cast a sidelong
- glance
 21 Bullfight shouts
 22 Always
 24 Cart
 25 Baker's need
 26 Disney deer

- 56 Friendship 58 Othello's foe 59 Learn by —:
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- horse
 3 Undercover cop
 4 Embarrassed,
- in a way 5 Praise for
- - 27 Love, in Paris 28 Mythical being 29 Blender setting 30 Viewing 31 Staircase post 32 Rope 34 "It Be You" 37 Jai —
- 37 Jai 38 More pleasant 40 Taj Mahal site 41 Freeway strip 43 Urges 46 Livy's language 47 Cairo's place

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

- 48 Days of —: the past 49 "Once a

- statesman 51 Marathon unit
- 52 Zhivago's love 53 Lab-culture
- medium 54 Facial feature
- 56 premium: scarce 57 Coffee holder
- TT PAYS VERTISE IN THE CCC PIONEER. LL: 405-682-161



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We have free WIFI/Big screen TV tuned to anything the OU Sooners or OSU Cowboys are doing!

to 5:00 P.M.



International Holidays to Remember

Feb. 16: Kim Jong II's birthday 1st Day, Korea N.

Feb. 17: Kim Jong II's birthday 2nd Day, Korea N.

Feb. 19: Rashtriya Prajantra Divas, Nepal.

Feb. 21: *King* Harold's Birthday, Norway.

Feb. 23: Carnival, Brazil, Ecuador, Luxembourg, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Madeto

—courtesy www.xpomail.com/ HolidayCalendar09

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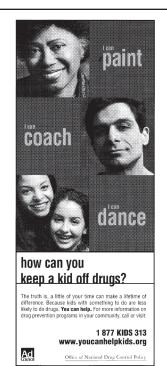
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NATIONAL ENGINEER'S WEEK FEBRUARY 15-21, 2009 ENGINEERS MAKE IT WORK!



OKLAHOMA CITY **COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENGINEERING PROGRAM**







Hundreds of children have been injured or have died because of dangerous power windows in vehicles. The average power window has the power to cut a cucumber or a carrot or a grapefruit in two. And, today, too many cars on the road have "rocker" or "toggle" switches that are too easy to push and windows that do not automatically reverse when encountering resistance. A child in a car, with their head out of the window, a knee inadvertently pushing the switch, is a disaster in the making.

The message to parents is clear: Never, ever leave a child alone in a car. Not for one minute. The message to auto manufacturers is also clear: Every single car should have the safer switches that must be pulled up to raise the car window. And, just as garage doors, every car should come with "auto-reverse" mechanisms on all power windows. Power windows have the power to kill.



Never ever leave a child alone in a car alone. Not for one minute.

Read the Pioneer Online for breaking news! www.occc.edu/pioneer