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State Rep. Jason Murphey pushes HB 1083.

PIONEER
Online
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RETREAT

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In the aftermath of a false report of a shooter on campus, college officials call for an investigation.

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GAME TIME

One campus club is sponsoring a Wii night and everyone is invited. The event will be 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Find out more inside.

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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

MARCH 5, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

OCCC's scariest 53 minutes

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

Early Friday morning, Feb. 26, a chain of events was set in motion that resulted in the campus being locked down and a security guard accidentally firing his gun. The threat of an armed intruder on campus ultimately proved false but much occurred in the intervening 53 minutes.

Here is how the day's events progressed:

Sometime that morning, the college received word of a potential campus threat by way of an e-mail that originated from the Oklahoma Information Fusion Center, a state entity that is a part of the Justice Department.

Cordell Jordan, OCCC media relations coordinator, said the State Regents originally received the e-mail.

Although he said he couldn't discuss the exact wording, he did say "a threat was made that there might be a campus shooting on Feb. 26." No specific states or campuses were named in the threat, Jordan said.

In a phone interview, Brian Rizzi, Oklahoma Information Fusion Center director, said alerts such as the one sent Feb. 26 are sent only to public officials and verified that the alert received that day at OCCC was "not specific to Oklahoma."

The State Regents office then forwarded the information to OCCC's Safety and Security office who then sent it to the Community Outreach and Education office.

The State Regents forward such information to OCCC security "if there is a need," Jordan said.

Jordan said the Community Outreach and Educa-

tion office received the alert because that area partners with the Aquatics Center where a swim meet was being held that day.

It was in that office that the day's events began to unfold.

It's believed a worker there related the information OIFC sent to an office visitor and from there, the information made its way back to the library, Jordan said.

This set off the chain of events that ended with the campus being shut down and a full investigation being launched.

About 10:10 a.m.

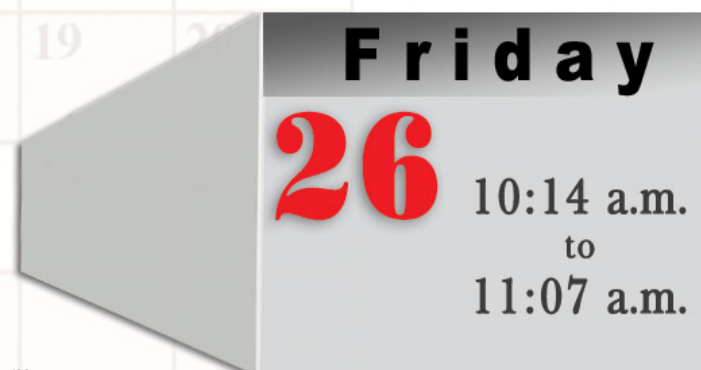
A library student worker alerts fellow staff and faculty of a possible threat she has learned about.

Somewhere down the line, a professor misunderstands the student's use of the term "active shooter." The professor uses the emergency button on a campus telephone to alert Safety and Security of a possible shooter on campus.

10:14 a.m.

Students, faculty and staff members of the Main

See **TIMELINE** page 7



OCCC COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULED MAY 7 IN DOWNTOWN OKLAHOMA CITY

Students urged to apply now for graduation

MORGAN MANLEY

News Writing Student

Now is the time for students to apply for graduation if they plan to complete their degree in August, December or even May 2011.

Barbara Gowdy, Graduation Services director, said the deadline to get your name in the May commencement program has passed, but

there is still time to apply to be able to walk at graduation this May.

The graduation office will be accepting applications as late as the last day of the semester.

"Not all students know that they need to apply for graduation for the process to begin," said Megan Fite, nursing major.

Fite said she is one of the many students who did not know she had

to apply until she asked at the Graduation office.

Students can get the graduation application in the graduation office at the front table, online by clicking the graduation application link at www.occc.edu/Records, or at the welcome desk of the Main Building.

After students submit the form, the OCCC graduation office notifies them of what classes or

paperwork is needed to graduate, and when and where caps and gowns can be ordered at the bookstore.

Each year a formal commencement exercise is held in May.

By this time of year, the OCCC graduation office is busy sending letters to students about the upcoming commencement ceremony.

Gowdy said although

summer and fall numbers were down just a little bit, numbers seem to be looking good for the upcoming 2010 graduation class.

Graduation exercises will be at 7:30 p.m. May 7, at the Cox Business Services Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

For more information, contact the Graduation Office, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7470.

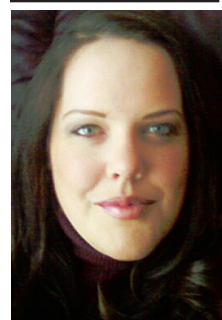
OPINION

OUR VIEW | By being forthcoming, the college could save face; end the rumor mill

Immediate truth always best

Words like “miscommunication” and “accidental discharge of a firearm” are littered among murky statements made by OCCC President Paul Sechrist about the “incident” on campus Feb. 26.

In an attempt to quiet the rampant wonderings of its information-starved population, Sechrist ordered two communication forums — one held March 4, and the other, 5 p.m. Monday, March 8.



JENNIFER MASSEY

According to the college, the forums were put together in an effort to allow students, faculty and staff members the opportunity to voice their concerns about what happened.

This sounds like another futile attempt to settle the fears of restless victims of an unnecessary event.

OCCC's policies are in place for a reason. They are meant to be proactive, not reactive. In this situation and its aftermath, they failed to serve their intended purpose.

As the director of public policy for security on campus.org, Daniel Carter has helped write federal policy on safety and security for college campuses.

Carter said what happened was not normal.

“Each institution should have a process for responding to a threat quickly, not recklessly,” Carter said.

Although it was later learned that students and staff weren't in any immediate danger from an outsider, our response made us a danger to ourselves.

The lesson here is that everyone involved, especially campus security personnel and college officials, must keep a level head. All of the proper response training in the world cannot prepare us for a gunman on campus if we are making snap judgments and not following proper security protocols.

In addition, the quick solution may not always be the right answer. A calculated response is usually the more reasonable one.

With campus officials releasing little to no information about why the alarm was sounded or why the gun was discharged, the rumor mill will continue to spin.

Conversations can be heard around campus speculating about what might have happened because almost no one believes they have been told the whole truth.

The college has issued its official statement but reports it is continuing to investigate what happened. Reports aren't expected to be finalized until after March 5 — one week after the incident.

Without the findings of these initial reports, this may be another way the college puts the cart before the horse.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

YOUR VIEW | Celebrate Arbor Day on March 24

College to host Arbor Day events

To the editor:

To increase awareness and environmental responsibility throughout OCCC, the Green Task Force is hosting Arbor Day Celebrations starting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 24.

Arbor Day kicks off with a showing of the movie, “HOME,” which is a documentary about how humanity has disrupted the balance of the planet through its overconsumption of its resources.

The cinematography is similar to the Planet Earth series on the Discovery Channel.

While the film is playing, Green Task Force members will passing out approximately 400 baby Loblolly pine trees for free. So start thinking about a great place to plant a tree.

After the film, at about 12:30 p.m., task force members will help plant a tree on campus.

Everyone is welcome to the celebrations, and questions regarding the event or other environmentally responsible concerns can be sent to Brandon Isaak, OCCC Green Task Force chairman, at bisaak@occc.edu.

—**BRANDON ISSAK**
GREEN TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN

YOUR VIEW | The college should start fining those who break the law

Toughen up enforcement or go smoke-free

To the editor:

In response to “Former Smoker: Heed the 25 feet” — the Feb. 19 letter to the editor — I have to say that I am elated to hear a former smoker support the 25-foot law.

I support a smoke-free campus and I think the 25-foot law should be more strictly enforced, with consequences for

anyone caught violating it.

The last thing I want to do before I walk inside is cough and hack because a smoker was too lazy to stroll out to the 25-foot mark and is instead loitering rudely next to the doors, puffing away.

I'm an asthmatic and allergic to cigarettes and second-hand smoke. When I breathe it in, I

get an instant headache, gag and cough, and my stomach lurches like I'm going to vomit.

Smokers: It's like walking too close to someone who hasn't bathed in a while. Gross, right?

So as I'm walking past you smoking, I have to start holding my breath at least five seconds before I approach you and at

least five seconds after I pass you.

There should be a fine for violators of the law. If that doesn't work, then OCCC should definitely go smoke-free.

That would clear the air of rude smokers, since they wouldn't be allowed to smoke on campus at all.

—**SARAH SMITH**
OCCC STUDENT

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

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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. E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The **PIONEER** will withhold the author's 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 should be fewer than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the **PIONEER** office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator, mailed to 7777 S. May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, faxed to 405-682-7843, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included. The **PIONEER ONLINE** also can be accessed on the Internet at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FILM REVIEW | Movie follows three cops on very different paths



PHOTO COURTESY OVERTURE FILMS

‘Brooklyn’s Finest’ keeps viewers on the edge with a great story

If you like cop dramas, then “Brooklyn’s Finest” is a movie for you.

From the director of “Training Day” (Antoine Fuqua), this new movie is a great story about three Brooklyn cops from varying sides of the police force. These officers couldn’t be any different.

Eddie Dugan (Richard Gere) is an over-the-hill cop who does not want to do any police work. Dugan is set to

retire in seven days and all he wants to do is think about receiving his pension, moving to Connecticut and going fishing.

Sal Procida (Ethan Hawke) is a narcotics officer trying to support his wife and seven kids, and willing to cross any line to do that.

Clarence “Tango” Butler (Don Cheadle) has been an undercover cop for two years and is trying to make first grade

detective so he can get off the streets and get back to his wife. However, Tango has begun to lose hope in the police department and has become more willing to help his buddy Caz (Wesley Snipes).

Caz is a big time drug dealer in Brooklyn and is looking to make one big final deal before getting out of the game.

When the New York Police Department operation targets the drug zone within Brooklyn’s

housing project, the officers find themselves at the same building — but for very different reasons.

This is a great movie and it will keep you off balance. You never know what will happen next.

So take a ride with “Brooklyn’s Finest.” If they don’t get an Oscar nomination, I will be shocked.

Rating: A

—KEVIN MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

YOUR VIEW | Be proud of OCCC’s response

Take the shooter scare and improve

To the editor:

As a major in the Oklahoma City Police Department, I want to congratulate the students, faculty and staff on the OCCC campus for their quick and safe actions last Friday, Feb. 26. My officers were the first to arrive on the scene after calls reporting an armed person in the library.

While that call turned out to be rumor, I was impressed with how everyone responded to the unsettling situation. Fortunately, no one was physically hurt or injured.

As a lifelong resident of the south side of Oklahoma City, I have tremendous pride in OCCC and its efforts to grow and improve over the years. I am impressed with how your president, Dr. Paul Sechrist, and others handled this crisis. While campus administration has admitted that there were flaws in how they responded, they are taking great steps to improve that plan and learn from the situation.

I encourage all of you to be part of the process to make your campus a safe environment. OCCC is hosting another public forum Monday, March 8, to get your feedback and improve communication and safety precautions.

Sometimes a crisis is a blessing in disguise. Let’s take this opportunity to learn and become better prepared citizens and residents of OKC.

—JOHN GONSHOR

OKC POLICE DEPARTMENT MAJOR

YOUR VIEW | Address the other parking problem

More spaces needed for handicapped

To the editor:

I agree with the writer of “A staff-only parking lot would ease student’s parking woes” — the Feb. 26 letter to the editor. However, there are more parking problems than just a staff-only parking lot would fix.

I am a disabled person and I require a handicapped spot, but in parking lot A there are only nine handicapped spots.

I go to class twice a week. I start at 8 a.m. and if I am late I do not get a handicapped space.

I have to go find one on the other side where there are five that are together and four others off in different direction.

With the more influx of students that we are receiving, this is another issue that needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

—BRIAN SNOW
OCCC STUDENT

Comments? Opinions? Let us Know!

E-mail the Pioneer at

editor@occc.edu

Let your voice be heard!

NEW! The Pioneer blog is the place to share your feedback on the issues and to let your voice be heard

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Check it out today!

FILM REVIEW | Adequate plot, intense action make this remake of George Romero's 1970s movie good but not great

Horror flick high on action, low on survivors

Something crazy is driving the citizens of a small Iowa to absolute psychopathic lunacy.

A remake of George Romero's 1973 original, the story line to "The Crazies" is rather simple.

After three hunters uncover a decaying body, the town sheriff David Duff (Timothy Olyphant) searches the water of the pond where the body was located and uncovers an airplane hosting biological weapons.

The hazaãrdous material has contaminated the pond, which provides the town's drinking water, and has slowly started to infect the citizens, who slowly become zombie-like vessels with a dead end stare on a massive murdering spree.

Military personnel dressed in chemical warfare suits begin taking the temperature of citizens to determine if they have been infected.

People who record a fever-type temperature are presumed infected and are quarantined — strapped to a bed as the infection causes them to lose their minds, laughing maniacally into insanity.

The film does a good job conveying the panic and danger that's overtaking the town as it's turned into an Auschwitz-like

death camp.

Action remains intense throughout the movie, although there are a couple of scenes where the main characters reflect on the lives they once cherished, but these flashbacks are abruptly interrupted, thanks to the maniac killers.

The camera work of the film, shaky at times, works with the heavy breathing of the characters as they run for their lives. This hooks viewers' attention to the anticipation of how bad things will get.

Also, the dialogue isn't too bad, and it isn't too serious. It's laced with humor that got quite a few laughs out of the audience.

The movie contains a lot of violence amplified with loud booms of gun blasts and lung-filled screams of the infected and their victims.

Olyphant is convincing as a sheriff faced with a moral dilemma every few seconds as he, his deputy, wife and friend try to escape the killing field their town has become and, of course, not many make it out alive.

Altogether, "The Crazies" contains all the ingredients to please horror fans.

Rating: B

—JUSTIN COMBS
SENIOR WRITER



PHOTO COURTESY OVERTURE FILMS

EVENT REVIEW | Students, Oklahoma residents take their moves to Sooner World Class Wrestling

Local wrestling organization flops on its face

At 225 SW 25th St. there's a Prohibition-era building called the Underground Theater. It has no heat and the oxygen inside is half dust clouds. In the center stands a hexagonal ring.

Every other Sunday, this ramshackle dive turns into a professional wrestling arena for Oklahoma's own Sooner World Class Wrestling.

On Feb. 14, I attended a show. The spectacle on display wasn't one of dropkicks and suplexes, but one of people with their massive self-delusions on parade.

OCCC student Destiny Mennick is a member. Her stage name is Baby Cakes and her job is to wear a cheerleader uniform and give cheers to good guy Rick Garrett.

Garrett is a 59-year-old wrestler. I talked to him at his day job, selling mobile homes. He's one of two bookers for the federation, meaning he sticks wrestlers with gimmicks and decides who wins.

"We have a lot of talent on roster. We have to fit them with wrestling gimmicks that fit the kids personalities," Garrett said.

The under card was mostly quality wrestling from skilled up-and-coming indie wrestlers.

The Heavyweight Championship match was between 3rd Rail and Kristoph Wage Riechten. Rail is a gray-haired black man, a monster character at 320 pounds. He could only communicate in subhuman grunts, and wore a mask designed from red plastic straps.

Out came his opponent — A Neo Nazi superman, the bad guy, stomping in black boots to a song by Rammstein.

It appeared to be a tasteless Black History Month battle. Then I pinpointed the blonde ubermensch's prison tattoos. Aryan power over his right nipple, skulls and swastikas inked upon his back.

I looked behind me to the people cheering him. They were all skinheads. One had the SS lightning bolt emblem tattooed on his temple.

The main event involved both the elderly booker and the owner of the company, Rick Garrett and Tyson Ahboah, beating down two younger guys.

They didn't use a single wrestling move. Instead they lashed them with barbed wire and pretended to shave their foreheads with cheese graters, but that's company politics to the extreme.

I can't recommend anyone to go see this pro wrestling show except out of hipster irony. Yet, all is not lost for the organization. The young talent shines like jewels in a sewer pipe. Wrestlers like Damien Morte and Race Logan are great.

Rating: D

—DANNIEL PARKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REQUESTS FOR EXPANSION NOT FEASIBLE RIGHT NOW, DIRECTOR SAYS

Evening childcare program sees growth

DARREN COOK
News Writing Student

Evening childcare at OCCC has grown from one child to 45 children since it started as a pilot program two years ago, said Mary McCoy, Child Development Center and Lab School director. The 45 children fill a total of 81 time slots. Mai Ayars is an OCCC student who uses evening care for her daughter Haylee.

“The school is very multicultural,” Ayars said. Her daughter Haylee, who is 25 percent Asian, had the opportunity to participate in a Chinese dragon collage project in her class at

the center. Ayars, a child development major, provides family childcare in her home during the day along with her mother. “Everything I’m learning in my classes is being practiced here,” Ayars said. “I thought it was a great opportunity for my child to come [to the Child Development Center and Lab School] because she is only used to my mom and me all day long. “I think it would be kind of hard to find somebody to watch your child for just two or three hours a night,” she said.

Evening care is broken up into two slots: 5 to 8 p.m. and

8 to 10:45 p.m. “They let you pay it out in four payments too, if you need it,” Ayars said. The cost for evening childcare is \$10 an evening and is open Monday through Thursday. The evening program is viewed as something of a model by other schools. “We have been asked if we would ever expand it to include care for children of students at other colleges,” McCoy said. “Right now we don’t have space for it.” At this time, the program is only open to children whose parents or guardians are taking

evening classes at OCCC, she said. Accepted age range is 6 weeks to 8 years old. “We don’t call it daycare,” McCoy said. “It’s childcare.” The lab school also offers childcare during the day, at the same rate as its evening care: \$10 per morning and \$10 per afternoon, she said. The center is licensed as a three-star facility with the state of Oklahoma and has been nationally accredited since the early 1980s with the academy portion of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. McCoy said reservations are required and spaces are limited

Program info

WHAT: Evening childcare
WHO: Children of OCCC students enrolled in evening classes
AGE RANGE: 6 weeks to 8 years old
WHEN: 5 to 8 p.m. and 8 to 10:45 p.m.
WHERE: Child Development Center and Lab School
COST: \$10 per evening
CONTACT: 405-682-7561

for the program. For reservations, call 405-682-7561 or for more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7450.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT EXPERT OFFERS PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP ADVICE

Parents taught guidance strategies

DACIA BREWSTER
News Writing Student

Building good relationships with children starts first by building a stable foundation and understanding the different developmental stages of children, said Jane Humphries, a child development expert with the Oklahoma State Health Department. Humphries spoke Feb. 25 to a group of students and parents at OCCC.

The age range she focused on at the workshop was from birth to 5 years old, although most of the techniques taught may also be used on older children, she said.

Humphries gave the group several positive guidance strategies including talking respectfully, redirecting the focus away from the bad behavior, and setting reasonable rules for young children. The most important point Humphries made was for parents to have patience.

Humphries also talked about learning styles and how they change depending on the age of the child.

“Figuring out a little bit earlier rather than later is very helpful and helps you realize what you’re up against,” she said about understanding a child’s learning style. Humphries summarized common learning categories. First is the looker, she said. This category of children learn best from observing: monkey see, monkey do, Humphries said. Then, there is the listener. Humphries said these children learn from hearing information and instructions that are being spoken to them. Last is the mover. She said these children tend to be the most misunderstood children who are often labeled “hyper” and “overactive.” This group of children learn best when they are constantly moving, for instance, rubbing their hands on a textured surface or playing with a stress ball, Humphries said. Teaching these children to be anchored to an activity can be tough but accepting the children for who they are is important, Humphries said. Most of the workshop par-

ticipants were either students of early childhood education or were already working in the field. One parent, John McLeod, said he came because he learned of the workshop through his job. He has a 12-year-old daughter and his face lit up with pride while talking about her straight As on her report card and her first year playing basketball at her school. “I think it’s great that the college provides these free lectures on how to deal with our children better,” McLeod said. Two more workshops are planned for this semester, in March and April. March 25 will be a workshop about language and literacy. The workshop in April will cover childhood obesity. The exact date for this workshop has not yet been set. These workshops are held at OCCC and can benefit parents and students who want to better understand their children. For more information, call the OCCC Child Development Center and Lab School at 405-682-7561.

OCCC

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OCCC

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STUDENT SERVICES STEPS UP SUPPORT AFTER SCARE

Counselors 'here to help' students in need

ETHAN HENDRICKS

Staff Writer

staffwriter3@occc.edu

Mental health counselors on campus want students to know they are available to talk to them, whether it's regarding the shooter scare on campus Feb. 26 or any other problem.

"We want to make sure students know that we are here for them," said Pat Stowe, Student Services director. The service is free, she said.

Stowe said her department has taken several steps to let students know they have access to a counselor if they need one.

"After events like the shooter scare, we send out e-mails to all students letting them know we are here," she said.

The college has two counselors on staff, but will add more mental health providers to deal with the psychological impact of a traumatic event on campus, Stowe said.

She said the college has a contract with an outside counseling service — Sherabumps and Associates.

The counselors from Sherabumps will work with the college to determine the impact on the campus and how to deal with the students, Stowe said.

The counseling service would determine how many sessions a student might need to schedule. The service would also determine the types of sessions needed, including both group and one-on-one sessions, she said.

An event like the one on campus Feb. 26 can reawaken bad memories that may haunt some students, said Jenna Howard, counselor.

"Sometimes people may worry or think about harmful events in the past," Howard said.

"It's perfectly normal to have those feelings and those thoughts."

Whether a person needs professional help to deal with anxiety or depression depends on individual students and their experiences, Howard said.

Stowe said students should approach her office when they are in need.

"Students can come to us about anything," she said. "That's what we are here for."

Student Counseling Services is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays. The office, located on the first floor of the Main Building, can be reached via telephone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7520.

Want to share your experience of Friday, Feb. 26? E-mail the Pioneer at

editor@occc.edu.

Send us a number where we can reach you and the best time to call.

Campus speaks out:

What did you experience Feb. 26?



"I was confused because you couldn't tell what the alarm indicated and there were not enough security officers around to tell us what to do. The evacuation process was not good."

—Christy Johnson,
Psychology Major



"I was freaked out at first, with security running around with guns and police driving through the grass. It shows that OCCC security is on the ball. I really feel safe actually."

—Scott Whitehead
Biotechnology Major



"I wasn't scared. They handled it well for the resources they had. They could have blocked off the entrances more, but I think now they know how to handle it."

—Alexis Easterling
Nursing Major



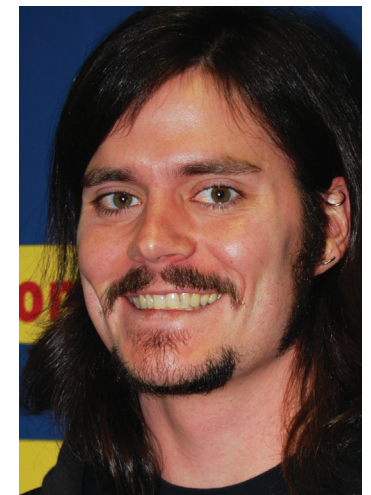
"I think the college dealt with it kind of well. But, I felt like I could've been harmed if there was a shooter because our teacher told us to just evacuate."

—Courtney DeBoise
Photography Major



"I was quarantined in a closet waiting with other people and a lady let us go before we were supposed to be allowed to. We were walking through the Coffee Shop area, and somebody screamed shooter and everybody panicked. I think there should've been better communication as to when we were safe to be let go or not."

—Kyler Prewitt
Music Major



"We left class when the fire alarm went off, then everybody decided to go back ... to the classroom and a girl stands up, shouting 'there's a shooter in the Library, my boyfriend just texted me.' So, everyone panicked, went back outside and everyone's just hanging out in front of the Library, like it was a show. I thought everyone needed to get away because of the shooter. I thought it was chaos and not handled well at all"

—Jake Chambers
Journalism Major

**By Thea Slavin and
Justin Combs**

COLLEGE OFFICIALS SAY SERIOUS ERRORS WERE MADE FEB. 26

Sechrist orders review of shooter response

ETHAN HENDRICKS
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

OCCC President Paul Sechrist has ordered a top-to-bottom internal review into the shooter scare that took place Feb. 26 on campus.

"We will go over what we did and didn't do, and what needs to be changed," Sechrist said.

Jerry Steward, executive vice president, said he has been put in charge of the review.

Once campus security officials received word of a possible shooter in the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library, most of their actions were appropriate but serious errors also were made, Steward said.

"They did exactly what they should have been doing," Steward said. "However, the failure to send out an appropriate alert and the accidental discharge of the gun were big mistakes."

Cordell Jordan, OCCC media relations coordinator, acted as the college's official spokesman during the incident.

"It's an unfortunate situation," he said.

Jordan said when college officials need to send emergency alerts, they are coded into the phone system.

However, he said, the wrong alert was initially dialed — activating the fire alarm.

Students and staff evacuated the Main Building according to fire alarm procedures, which

left many people standing outside, directly in front of the Library, Jordan said.

"They didn't receive word that there was a potential intruder on campus, and if there had been a real gunman, they would have been prime targets," he said.

Jordan said the only gunfire that took place on campus was an accidental discharge by a campus security officer during a search of the Library.

The safety officer, along with Oklahoma City Police Department officers, was sweeping the third floor of the Library looking for a suspect when the incident occurred, Jordan said.

"Everyone had their weapons out and in the process of

looking for the suspect, his gun accidentally discharged," Jordan said.

Neither Sechrist nor Jordan would reveal the name of the officer, but they did say the officer has been placed on desk duty during the review and will not serve in any type of enforcement capacity.

The confusion that took place during the incident was one of the main issues that needs to be addressed, Sechrist said.

"I talked to students, faculty and staff on Saturday and what I gathered from them was the fire alarm was very confusing," Sechrist said.

Oklahoma City Police Captain Patrick Stewart said the

incorrect fire alert, along with several other elements, led to misinformation.

Maj. John Gonshor of the OCPD was in charge of the sweep last Friday.

He said there was good communication between OCCC and the police department.

"The president, the security office, the faculty and the staff — they all cooperated very well," Gonshor said.

Sechrist, Jordan and Steward all agreed that the college wants to make improvements in its safety practices.

"What happened was unfortunate," Sechrist said.

"We will learn from this situation and make the college safer and more secure."

Timeline: Miscommunication blamed for false shooter report

Continued from page 1

Building are prompted to evacuate the area via an IT telephone alert stating a fire alarm has been activated. Classes are dismissed, and students spill out into the hallways and outdoors.

10:18 a.m.

As occupants of the Main Building unknowingly file outside in response to the fire alarm, shelter-in-place procedures are already in place in the Library, where an alleged shooter is reportedly on the fourth floor.

"We are trying to evacuate," says one caller from the Main Building over a two-way radio.

"We have a man on the third floor in a wheelchair that needs help."

Another caller reports people standing around the Library, "not knowing what to do."

Ike Sloas, Safety and Security director, says the wrong alarm had been issued to the Main Building.

"Something malfunctioned with the phone system," he says. "The wrong alarm was sent out."

Meanwhile, the Oklahoma City Police Department receives word of the potential

threat, and is en route to the campus.

10:20 a.m.

With many occupants of the Main Building still standing outside, Safety and Security issues a shelter-in-place alert to the entire campus.

Jorie Hemphill, accounting major, later said she was among those who evacuated from the Main Building for the fire alarm.

"My friend and I were standing outside the library for about five minutes," Hemphill said.

"We noticed there was something going on over there, but we didn't know what. There were probably a couple hundred of us out there."

Megan Schmidt, nursing major, later said her class in the Health Professions Center did not evacuate because the fire alert was issued for the Main Building.

"When the intruder alert came up, my professor said, 'Everybody get down under your desks,'" Schmidt said.

"I was scared."

10:22 a.m.

OCPD arrives on campus.

10:25 a.m.

"This is a real situation," Sloas says as reports come in of people

still out in the hallways of the second floor of the Library. "We have to deal with this."

The fourth floor of the Library, where the alleged shooter was initially reported, is reportedly secured.

10:26 a.m.

The Main Building receives an all-clear message.

Those outside are ushered indoors by campus security officers, while those who had taken shelter-in-place procedures come out of lock down.

Meanwhile, calls come into the Safety and Security office reporting that a shooting took place in room 402 of the library, and that police may have apprehended the suspect.

"They didn't take him down," says one caller over the radio waves. "He voluntarily laid down."

10:28 a.m.

Lights are restored to the Main Building as confusion arises in the Safety and Security office as to how the wrong alert was issued. "I pressed the intruder alert and it sent out the fire alarm," Sloas says. "I pressed the intruder alarm."

10:30 a.m.

"The phones are ringing off

the hook," says Patricia Keasling, operator and dispatcher, as she struggles to answer calls from students, faculty and staff members, as well as those concerned about the well being of those on campus.

10:35 a.m.

"We just had a shot fired toward the Main Building," says a voice over a two-way radio as a flood of panicked people run as far away from the Library as possible.

"We've got mass pandemonium coming this way," says Larry Lundy, Safety and Security officer, as more than a dozen students pour into the Safety and Security office, seeking shelter.

John Helton, computer-aided technology department chair, later said he was on lock down in his office on the fourth floor of the Library when the shot was fired.

"Once I heard the bullet, I was behind the door," Helton said. "I wanted to be behind solid wood, not sheetrock."

He said the bullet that penetrated the outside wall of the building in the office next to his sounded "like a firecracker."

It is later learned the gunshot

was accidentally fired by a college security officer.

10:39 a.m.

As a group of students, faculty and staff members hide in his office, Ike Sloas retrieves a bulletproof vest from his desk and puts it on.

10:45 a.m.

A News 9 helicopter is reported circling above campus.

11:07 a.m.

All campus buildings are given the all clear.

11:15 a.m.

The campus reports there was never an armed intruder on campus; that the only shot fired came from a campus security officer's gun.

"All you can do is tell them to go home," Sloas says as campus is closed down for the remainder of the day.

All students, faculty and staff members are instructed to vacate the buildings and leave campus.

Many are escorted through the building and into the parking lot.

"Our teacher advised us to walk out to our cars in groups," Hemphill later said.

"They still didn't know what was going on, or if it was safe."

SPORTS

Straight Shooter

Jamaal Surrell, physical therapy major, puts up a shot after grabbing the rebound during a game in the gym. Robby Boston, psychology major; Zak Huggins, government major; and Jerrone Montgomery, computer programming major, anticipate the basket.

Students can play basketball in the Wellness Center gym for free with a valid student ID.



LANDA MCCLURE/PIONEER

INTRAMURALS | Women athletes to compete in basketball tournament Friday

Women's three-on-three basketball tournament seeks more participants

LANDA MCCLURE
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Lady basketball players are needed for the upcoming women's three-on-three intramural basketball tournament at 1 p.m. Friday, in the Wellness Center gym.

Charlie Tarver, Recreation and Fitness sports assistant, said nine participants have registered for the tournament.

"We have three teams, but I would like to see more teams register for the event," Tarver said.

He said at least one more team is needed to even out the elimination rounds.

Tarver said if one more team registers,

there would be two games in round one with the winners facing each other in the finals round.

If not, the three teams would have to face each other in three rounds.

Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, said the tournament is just another part of Intramurals at OCCC.

"We like to offer a variety of intramurals," Watson said. "Getting all students involved in activities such as the intramurals is important."

Jaleesa Robinson, psychology major and Hot Shots female champion, said she encourages more women to form a team and participate in the three-on-three basketball tournament.

Robinson said she is excited there are three established teams.

"There are three teams, but it is a lot more fun when you have four or five teams playing," she said.

"I enjoy the competitiveness," Robinson said.

"The guys are the ones usually involved in the Intramurals and it would be nice to see female athletes get involved."

She said she anticipates the talent of the other athletes, seeing other female students ability to compete and how competitive the tournament will be.

To sign up, e-mail ctarver@occc.edu, ewatson@occc.edu or fill out a registration form at the Recreation and Fitness Center office or at the cage located by the cardio and weight room inside the Wellness Center.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Monday:** Adult volleyball: Brookwood – 2 vs. Can You Dig It at 7 p.m. on Court 1. Garder vs. Skippy's Mistake at 7 p.m. on court 2. Brookwood – 1 vs. The Bow-Legged Pirates at 8 p.m. on Court 1. Can You Dig It vs. Brookwood – 2 at 8 p.m. on Court 2. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. Brookwood – 1 at 9 p.m. on Court 1. Serendipitty Slammers vs. All Set Are Off at 9 p.m. on Court 2. Games are held in the Wellness Center gym.

• **Thursday:** Adult basketball: Men's spring basketball league begins. Games are held at 6 p.m. every Thursday in the Wellness Center gym.

• **Friday:** Intramural basketball: 2009/2010 spring intramural basketball tournament will be at noon in the Wellness Center gym.

• **Friday:** Intramural basketball: Women's three-on-three basketball tournament at 1 p.m. in the Wellness Center gym.

• **March 13:** Aquatic Center to host Meet of Champions. Pool will close to public at 1 p.m. Friday.

• **March 15-20:** Recreation and Fitness Center closed for Spring Break. Recreation and Fitness will reopen at 6 a.m. Monday, March 22.

• **March 15-April 15:** Aquatic Center closed for renovations.

• **March 22:** Adult volleyball: Skippy's Mistake vs. Brookwood – 2 at 7 p.m. on Court 1. The Bow-Legged Pirates vs. Can You Dig It at 7 p.m. on Court 2. Garder vs. All Set Are Off at 8 p.m. on Court 1. Brookwood – 1 vs. Serendipitty Slammers at 8 p.m. on court 2. All Set Are Off vs. Garder at 9 p.m. on Court 1. Serendipitty Slammers vs. Brookwood – 1 at 9 p.m. on Court 2. Games are held in the Wellness Center gym.

For more information, contact Recreation and Fitness specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

SPANISH IMMERSION WEEKEND PLANNED MARCH 26 TO 28

Students to experience Spanish-only weekend

MALLORY DODSON
News Writing Student

Spanish students will perform skits, play games, tell stories, sing and dance during Spanish Immersion Weekend from March 26 through 28, said Ginnett Rollins, Spanish professor.

Students will leave from campus and spend the weekend at Canyon Camp and Retreat Center in Hinton, about an hour west of Oklahoma City, Rollins said.

The class will be led by Rollins and Jorge López, Spanish professor.

Participants agree to speak only Spanish the entire weekend, Rollins said.

Students will be with native Spanish speakers, so they will have an opportunity to hear different dialects, Rollins said.

"It is a good course for people who are needing to push themselves to get beyond the psychological barrier of, 'I want to speak Spanish, but I'm afraid to,'" Rollins said.

Two course levels are offered: beginning and intermediate/advanced. Students will earn one-credit hour for participating in either course.

Student Steve Berrymore will attend the Spanish Immersion Weekend for the fifth time.

"They do everything they can to make you feel comfortable, no matter your level of Spanish. We pull each other along," Berrymore said. "When it comes to learning a language, it is very easy to not seek out opportunities to engage in the language."

"It is a great point of encouragement for you to continue studying and it gives you hope of learning a second language ..."

—STEVE BERRYMORE
FIVE-TIME SPANISH IMMERSION
WEEKEND ATTENDEE

Berrymore said he gained enough confidence in the Spanish immersion classes to travel many times to Spanish-speaking countries.

"One thing I've found after talking to countless Spanish speakers is that you can always tell that they are greatly appreciative of someone speaking in their native language," Berrymore said.

Students can enroll in the course online or in person. The tuition fee is \$84 and can be paid in the Bursar's office. There also is a \$155 fee that covers five meals, snacks, two nights' lodging, and activities.

The deadline for enrollment is Friday.

One benefit of the program is to see other people learning, Berrymore said.

"It is a great point of encouragement for you to continue studying and it gives you hope of learning a second language," he said. "The program gives you motivation, and is a catalyst to go on and be better because you see other people doing it."

For more information, contact Rollins at 405-682-1611, ext. 7704, or e-mail grollins@occc.edu.

Class learns through teamwork

VERDINE OSEI
News Writing Student

OCCC engineering students are increasing their knowledge by interacting with fellow students, building machines and experimenting with projects this semester.

Greg Holland, engineering professor, said building Stirling engines and wind turbines has allowed a lot of teamwork.

"Students are working together and learning about different machines," Holland said.

Working together is beneficial, he said, because everything on the job requires teamwork.

It allows students to docu-

ment failure so others will not make the same mistake, he said.

Three students can work together experimenting with a wind turbine, which converts wind energy into kinetic energy. Four to five students can work together building a Stirling engine that turns heat energy into mechanical energy.

Students in the Engineering Practice Lab spoke about their experiences this semester.

"I loved it," said Jeremy Queen. "Working with wind turbines demands precision."

Student Jeremy Adams said he did some experiments with a Stirling engine in the Engineering Center this semester.

Student Ronnie Hochau also said working with a Stirling engine brought a new concept to him.

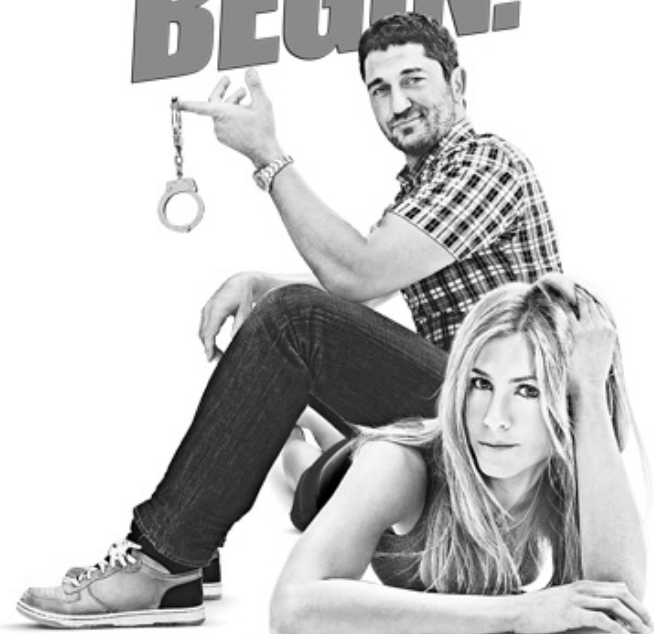
"I learned a lot about heat and combustion, something that I never heard of but really liked," Hochau said. "The Stirling engine project was great because it deals with alternative energy which helps the community."

In the fall, Holland plans to have students build an air distribution system in the outdoor workspace of the Engineering Center.

The engineering professors said they plan to increase the types of projects their students will work on in the future.

You and a guest are invited
to an advance screening

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MARCH 19

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 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.

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Oklahoma City Community College
PIONEER

OPENS IN THEATERS MARCH 19

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Building a relationship



LANDA McCLURE/PIONEER

Rob Metheny, literature major, and Alissa Dowson, journalism major, discuss how to sculpt the three essential components of good communication during the final Relationship U workshop Wednesday, March 3. The three-week series, which began Feb. 15, was designed to help students understand how to develop and maintain healthy relationships with others.

GAME NIGHT | Psychology/Sociology Club to host pre-spring break bash

Club offers students evening of free pizza, video games

WHITNEY KNIGHT
Staff Writer
staffwriter1@occc.edu

What do brawling cartoon characters, crazy white rabbits, fighter jets and rock stars have in common with psychology and sociology?

"Absolutely nothing," said Laurie Thornton, division assistant and staff adviser of the Psychology/Sociology Club.

And that's the idea.

The club will partner with psychology honor society Psi Beta to offer students Wii Night 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday,

March 11, in room 1H6 of the Social Sciences Center.

Thornton said she hopes the come-as-you-go event will allow students to relax a little before spring break.

"By Thursday, most students are either done or nearly done with most of their mid-terms," she said. "We want them to have a little fun before the real vacation starts."

At least two Nintendo Wii consoles will be on hand for students' gaming pleasure, Thornton said.

She said a variety of

games will be available for play, including "Wii Sports Resort," "Super Smash Brothers Brawl," "Raving Rabbids: TV Party" and "World War II Aces," as well as various incarnations of "Rock Band" and "Guitar Hero."

"We'll have a little bit of everything," she said. "There's something for everyone to enjoy."

Free pizza and refreshments also will be provided to those who attend, Thornton said.

Kendra Roberts, club president, said the event is the first of its kind for

the club.

"We would love to do more things like this in the future, but only if people are interested," she said. "Hopefully, this will be successful."

Roberts said the event is not limited to members of either club.

"You don't even have to be interested in psychology or sociology," she said, "just in playing video games, eating pizza and having fun."

For more information, call Thornton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7359, or e-mail lthornton@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Nacho fundraiser planned

The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education will be holding a nacho sale fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, in the College Union. For more information, contact Paul Burkhardt at 405-682-1611, ext. 7280, or e-mail pburkhardt@occc.edu.

Substance abuse Brown Bag scheduled

Learn about substance abuse statistics, warning signs, and how to help a friend or family member who might be struggling with addiction problems with the Substance Abuse 411 Brown Bag, held from noon to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, in CU1. Drinks will be provided. Students may bring their own lunch. Proof of attendance will be given to students who participate in the lecture. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Date auction planned for relief

The Black Student Association will hold a date auction from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, in the College Union. Bidding starts at \$5. Six men and six women will be up for bids. A dinner date will be provided for the winning couples. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to the earthquake victims of Haiti. For more information, e-mail Centerria Wright at cwright@occc.edu.

Check on degree progress

Graduation advisers will be on hand to talk to students about their degree plans and their progress toward graduation at "Degree Check-It-Out" from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, and Wednesday, March 24, on the first floor of the Main Building, across from the Coffee Shop. Students can drop in to speak personally with an adviser. No reservations are needed. For more information, call 405-682-7547 or e-mail Kyron Smoot at ksmoot@occc.edu.

Nursing advisement to be offered

Nursing students who are interested in transferring to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program will have the opportunity to meet with advisers from four senior institutions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- March 8: Northeastern State University
- March 10: University of Oklahoma
- March 11: University of Central Oklahoma
- March 23: East Central University

Meetings will be held in room 215A in the Health Professions Center. For more information, contact Claire Echols at 405-682-1611, ext. 7729, or e-mail cechols@occc.edu.

All Highlights are due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue.

Highlight forms can be picked up in the Pioneer office, located on the second floor of the Main Building, across from the elevator.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

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FOR SALE: 2001 Mazda Milenia. 88k mi. 4-door, automatic, 6-cylinder. White with sunroof. Great condition. \$4,500. Call: 405-408-8102.

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WANT TO BUY: Psychology book, "Theories of Personality" Edition 7. Authors Jess Feist, Gregory J. Feist. ISBN #0073382701. Call: 405-625-0988.

WANT TO SELL: Regional Geography book, "The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography." \$79. Contact Grace at 405-625-0988.

WANT TO BUY: Used copy of "Casegrader" Microsoft Excel 2007. For class CF 1343. Call: 405-682-1611 ext. 7397.

FOR SALE: Basic Math book with unused discs. 7th Edition, \$40. 405-609-2543.

"THE RED BACKPACK": OCCC Nursing Program Kit. \$99. Call: 405-701-5931. Leave a message.



PLAY TREASURE HUNT

Each week search the pages of the Pioneer for answers to treasure hunt questions. Submit your answers, including the page number where each answer was found, to adman@occc.edu. The people to correctly answer all the questions will be placed in our drawing. Two prizes will be given each week.

THE QUESTIONS ARE:

1. What does HOPE stand for? Where will the HOPE organization nacho sale be held?
2. Who is the Lab Director of the Pioneer?
3. What is the name of the movie you can get a free ticket for at the Pioneer office?
4. What is the name of the pianist who gave a concert at the Bruce Owen Theater March 2?

Good luck. Enjoy reading the Pioneer.

The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education, HOPE, will host a fund raising nacho sale on Tuesday, March 9. The sale will be at the College Union counter starting at 11 a.m.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Cod's relative
- 5 Salad-dressing cheese
- 9 "I'm glad that's over!"
- 13 Outdoor area
- 14 UFO pilot?
- 15 Roof part
- 16 Son of Aphrodite
- 17 Destructive beetle
- 19 Henri's negative
- 20 Soldier's shoe
- 21 "1984" author
- 22 Art for tar, e.g.
- 24 Old Norse inscription
- 25 Rower's need
- 26 Clemency
- 30 Warsaw's place
- 33 Helper
- 34 Electrical unit
- 35 October gem
- 36 Weapon
- 37 Garden soil
- 38 Soak (flax)
- 39 Beseeched
- 41 Actress
- 43 Plumber
- 45 Pew adjuncts
- 46 Prune (branches)
- 47 Fancy trim
- 48 Traded
- 51 Quantity
- 54 Actor Connery
- 55 An Asian

DOWN

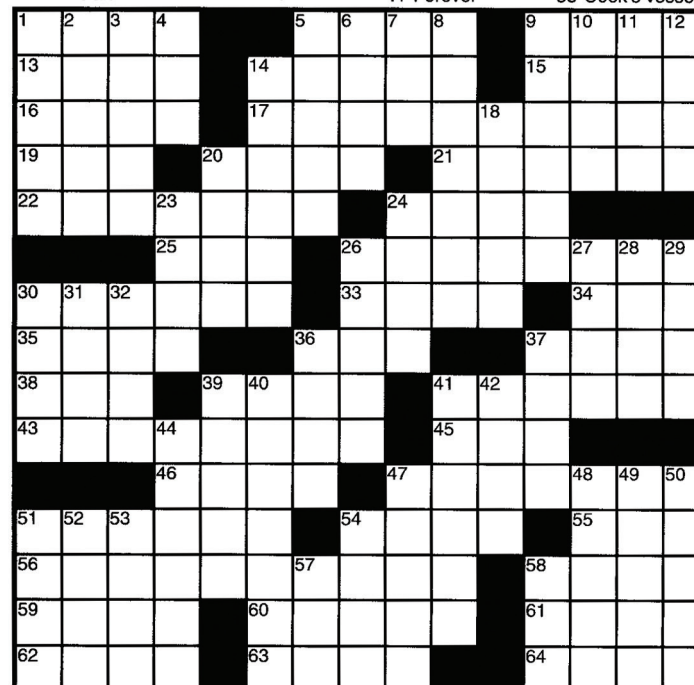
- 1 Laughing mammal
- 2 Tori's dad
- 3 Swedish money unit
- 4 Sullivan and Asner
- 5 Flower
- 6 Happy tune
- 7 Long fish
- 8 Relaxed
- 9 Baseball's Reese
- 10 Possess
- 11 Harmful
- 12 Water source
- 14 On the train
- 18 Tennessee — Ford
- 20 Kind of muffin
- 23 Hockey score
- 24 Harness part
- 26 Extols
- 27 Midday
- 28 Sudan's
- 56 One way to quit smoking
- 58 Contented sound
- 59 Tennis pro
- 60 Nastase
- 61 Forays
- 62 Atlanta arena
- 63 Bears' shelters
- 64 Stops
- 64 Hardy heroine

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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

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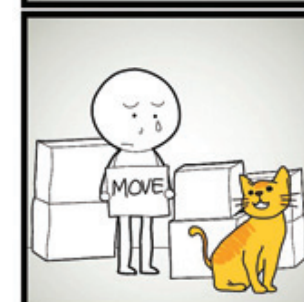
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not
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fault**

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