

PIONEER ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

STUDENT LIFE NEEDS MORE PROMOTION

Staff Writer Chasadi Fails-Ortiz says Student Life could use more avenues to promote upcoming events. See what solution she suggests in this week's editorial.

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AROUND CAMPUS

STUDENT FINDS FUN IN ROLLER DERBY

One OCCC student is as at home on the roller derby track as she is in a classroom. Read her story.

CAMPUS, p. 7

RECREATION

FITNESS PROMOTED AT OCCC

As the holidays near, students and staff may want to take advantage of OCCC's many fitness classes. See inside for details.

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CAMPUS LIFE

HEALTH PROFESSIONS CLUB STAYS BUSY

Students took an educational tour of a new area hospital. Find out their reactions and what they learned.

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PIONEER

DECEMBER 3, 2010

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

OCCC website redesign team gives feedback

Consulting firm hired to evaluate college's website reports preliminary findings

WHITNEY KNIGHT

Online Editor

onlineeditor@occc.edu

One month after announcing the OCCC website would receive an overhaul, the consulting firm contracted to help rebuild the site presented its preliminary findings Nov. 16.

Stephanie Geyer, Noel-Levitz Higher Education Consulting associate vice president, said 431 prospective students, community members and OCCC faculty and staff members responded to a web-based survey regarding the current website.

In addition, Geyer said, an additional survey targeting current students is available online now at www.occc.edu/survey.

An overwhelming percentage of prospective students said a college's website plays an important role in their decision to enroll in the school.

"Nearly all [prospective students] told us they go to the college's website to learn how to enroll," Geyer said.

Although most of those prospective students are accessing the college website from home, she said, a growing number of individuals — 20 percent — are accessing the site from their mobile phones.

"There has been an incredible increase in the use of smart phones in the past six months," Geyer said.

Because of increased cell phone usage, she said, mobile compatibility is a driving factor in the website's redesign.

Geyer said tuition costs, and program and degree details ranked as the most important information for prospective students to view online.

Ninety-six percent of students said they visited the OCCC website for tuition details.

As a result of their findings, she said, the new website



See **WEBSITE** page 9

Christmas is in the air



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

Chamber Singers (left to right) Rachel Tullis, Bethany Bush and Victoria Hazboun perform with the choir during the Capitol Hill Lions Club Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 18 at Draper Park. The choral group will perform a Christmas concert with other campus singers at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7 at the Wilmont Place Baptist Church, located at 6440 S. Santa Fe Ave. in Oklahoma City. Admission is free and the public is invited.

ANGEL HELP SITE GETS MORE THAN 35,000 HITS

Online class orientation well received by students

JANELLE STONE

News Writing Student

An orientation offered to help users navigate ANGEL — the college's online learning management system — has met with initial success.

Glenné Whisenhunt, Center for Learning and Teaching director, said within 28 days of going live, the new ANGEL online orientation had received a total of 35,141 hits by OCCC students and faculty.

She said this number far exceeded the initial expectations for the opening few weeks.

Whisenhunt said the goal of the ANGEL orien-

"We began to notice a gap between online students and on campus students. This is the support they need to help them be more successful."

—GLENNE' WHISENHUNT

CENTER FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING DIRECTOR

tation is to give students a clear idea of what they are getting into when they enroll for online classes.

Business Professor Anita Williams said the orientation also is designed to better acquaint students with computer technology.

Williams said students often sign up for an online class, then find they can't adequately manipulate the computer.

Whisenhunt said the

orientation is set up to focus primarily on three of ANGEL's features — basic computer skills, navigating ANGEL and using the components within ANGEL.

The first part of the orientation begins by addressing basic computer skills that are crucial to success in any class, whether it's online or in

See **ANGEL** page 9

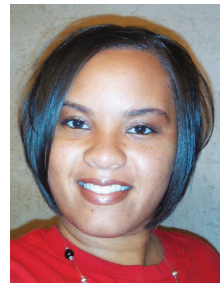
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Student Life should make more effort to promote events

It's too easy to miss campus events

OCCC students are possibly missing out on participating in cultural events or hearing speakers because Student Life often fails to adequately promote the events it sponsors.

Recently, several students and employees were surprised to hear a lunchtime performance by a Hispanic band in the student union. When asked what type of promotion was done for the event, Service Learning and Student Life Programs Coordinator Katie Treadwell said it could be found on the Student Life calendar.



Chasadi Fails-Ortiz

A check of the calendar Nov. 22 didn't turn up anything about the event although the November calendar for the entire month is still visible.

But that isn't the real problem.

Why would the event only be posted on the Student Life calendar? With a print and online student newspaper that offers free campus highlights and three Facebook accounts — one maintained by Student Life, one maintained by the Pioneer student newspaper

and another maintained by the college — where free posts can be made, all college events should be heavily promoted from the time of their inception to the time of the event actually happening. Why should a student have to regularly jump through hoops to access the Student Life calendar? Isn't Student Life supposed to be about helping students?

A check of the Student Life Facebook page on Nov. 22 showed it was last updated Oct. 14, more than a month. The same goes for its Twitter account.

Student Cinnamon Russell agrees that more promotion needs to be done. Russell said she missed out on the Hispanic band and a student singing in the union at the beginning of the semester.

It is remarkable that artists are invited to OCCC and are paid with college money — student fees — but Student Life often drops the ball in getting the word out. Then, on top of that, its employees refer people to a calendar online to find the events. How difficult would it be to spend a few minutes each day promoting upcoming events via all of the available free media outlets?

OCCC's population is large enough to be a community of its own. We could have a great impact on the careers of various artists and speakers we bring in.



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

Plus, many people attending OCCC are strapped for extra cash or time, so being able to see a free performance or listen to a speaker might be a luxury.

Those amazing events that someone is taking the time to schedule deserve to be promoted with just as much thought.

—CHASADI FAILS-ORTIZ
STAFF WRITER

YOUR VOICE | Website offers students ways to raise money for charity

Tough times call for innovative fundraising measures

To the editor:

According to The American Association of Fundraising Council, charitable donations decreased by \$11.4 billion last year alone.

Now more than ever, non-profits are threatened by the direct impact of the economic recession. Their young supporters are forced to find new, innovative ways to raise money.

For instance, thou-

sands of half-naked students, from UCLA to the coast of Florida, strip to participate in an "undie run" where they collect clothing for charities.

Also, North Dakota students build igloos where they collect money from passersby, and a school in Iowa holds an annual "knobby knee" contest.

Tough times call for more than just a creative breakthrough, especially

when supporting the non-profits.

The Sage Mentorship Project (SMP), a group of more than 450 Berkeley students recently joined a fresh fundraising program, hosted by MyEdu.

The organization makes mentoring elementary school kids possible in the Berkeley and Oakland area.

"We plan on using the money we raise to purchase school supplies

for all the elementary schools we work with," said Joel Gerson, SMP president.

"The mentoring program was created to address the major disconnect between tutoring and mentoring projects and building real relationships between college-aged individuals and our youth in the community."

"Working with MyEdu seemed like a natural

fit since they too are dedicated to improving education," he said.

Other organizations are catching on to SMP's approach to raising money. Within four days of MyEdu announcing their "Share The Love" campaign, more than 200 student groups nationwide flocked to the site, the majority dedicated to raising money for a charitable cause.

Before the opportunity

ends on Dec. 15, any student group can start raising money to support their mission through "Share The Love" at www.myedu.com/giving-back/student-organizations.

For more information about myedu.com fundraisers visit myedu.com or contact April Bennet at 512-469-9777.

—KATHRYN WALKER
PUBLIC RELATIONS
COORDINATOR

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 at www.occc.edu/pioneer.

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

SHE SAID | Latest installment in J.K. Rowling's critically acclaimed series a success

Dark themes propel 'Potter' film

It's the beginning of the end.

Part one of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the final installment of J.K. Rowling's mega-popular series about the eponymous boy wizard, was released into theaters Nov. 19.

The significantly darker aura of "Hallows" is set early when newly appointed Minister of Magic Rufus Scrimgeour (Bill Nighy) laments: "These are dark times. There is no denying."

Scrimgeour's mournful words quickly set the tone of the film as Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and his friends Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson) sever ties with their families and embark on a dangerous quest to track down mystical items known as horcruxes.

Horcruxes are dark objects in which a sliver of an evil wizard or witch's soul is kept, granting the individual immortality.

In "Hallows," the seven



horcruxes Harry and his friends seek contain pieces of the spirit of Lord Voldemort (a very creepy Ralph Fiennes), an unfathomably evil villain whose Hitler-esque views on blood purity led him to slaughter thousands of people, including Harry's parents.

In order to destroy Voldemort, Harry and his friends must find and destroy all seven horcruxes, an act which will in turn render him mortal.

Doubtlessly, "Hallows"

is the scariest "Potter" film so far.

Characters are tortured both on and off-screen, and the mere sight of Voldemort's pet snake Nagini is enough to make ophiophobics faint.

Director David Yates manages to suffuse this movie with a sense of dread that never dissipates.

And although "Hallows" is Harry's darkest adventure, it is also the most magical.

From that opening first minute to the spine-

chilling last moment, the film literally casts a spell on your eyes that won't allow you to take them off the screen.

Old friends return, romance buds, and above all, good always prevails over evil.

There are few laughs to be had, although an early scene of a bare-chested Harry sporting a lacy brassiere is more than enough to suffice.

Unlike all previous "Potter" films, in which much of the novel's original magic was lost in

YOU asked FOR IT

Q: How does a student get a work study related job?

A: "We have around 230 jobs. Sometimes getting a work study job requires a good résumé, good cover letter, (and) attaching the proper files when applying. It certainly does not hurt to go in and talk to the person employing. You will need a letter from financial aid to apply for a work study job. Applying to a job in your field of study or you having prior experience with helps. To apply for a work study job go to occc.edu and use the jobs tab. Click on employment opportunities and use the search postings for student employment."

—JUDI MCGEE

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Q: How long can a library book be checked out?

A: "You can keep the book for up to two weeks. You can renew it twice. There are no late fees as long as the book is returned in a reasonable amount of time."

—MONICA CARLYLE

LEAD LIBRARY CIRCULATION ASSISTANT

translation, "Hallows" actually gives testament to the greatness of the book while still giving non-readers an excellent story that is easily followed.

The only disappoint-

ment "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" has to offer?

Part II is a long eight months away.

Rating: A+

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

HE SAID | Performances waning in second to last Potter film

First 'Deathly Hallows' doesn't live up to the hype

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part I" is the seventh installment based on author J.K. Rowling's book series.

The movie is being split up into two parts so the movie distributor, Warner Brothers, can cash in on the Harry Potter hoopla one final time.

This installment finds Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson), and

Ron (Rupert Grint) away from Hogwarts, looking for the horcruxes that contain pieces of the soul of the dastardly Lord Voldemort (Ralph Finnes).

What this movie should have spent 146 minutes looking for is its actual soul.

For 146 minutes, the film drones on like a soulless money monster through an animated sequence.

The angst ridden

“For 146 minutes, the film drones on like a soulless money monster through an animated sequence...”

—JOEY STIPEK
STAFF WRITER

teenage brooding from Harry over his headmaster Dumbledore's death in the last installment is an insipid love story that at one point is absurdly set to a Nick Cave song.

The plodding, mindless battles are all to set

up for Part II coming out in June in 3D.

There are a few pluses in the film, Severus Snape (Alan Rickman) chews up any scene he is in but the rest of the cast leave something to be desired.

The film is a visual

feast for the eyes when experienced in an IMAX theater.

Hardcore Harry Potter fanatics will be pleased with the back story and minute details. The casual viewer, however, will have wished the filmmakers condensed all of the book into one single film.

For all of the series' magic and wizardry, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part

I" ultimately fails to cast a spell on the viewer.

Rating: C-

—JOEY STIPEK
STAFF WRITER

Have a movie CD or book you'd like to see reviewed? Tell Pioneer Editor Jennifer Massey at editor@occc.edu

'THE GIVING TREES' TOOK ABOUT TWO YEARS TO WRITE

Adjunct professor explores minority historical influence

MORGAN BEARD
Staff Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Often times we wonder what our professors are like outside the classroom. What exactly do they do in their time off from teaching hundreds of students every day? One OCCC professor uses his time outside of the classroom just as he does in it, spreading knowledge.

Charles Jaronek, science and math adjunct professor at the college, is in the process of adding the final touches on his book "The Giving Trees."

Jaronek's book covers the contributions to society made by the many different minority groups within America.

The book delves into the history of each minority group.

African-Americans, His-

panic-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Native-Americans are the main subjects of the book as he covers an extensive history of their influence in our society today.

"The Giving Trees" has been in the works for approximately two years, Jaronek said. However, the idea came to him about 20 years ago when he completed his dissertation over the perceptions of minority contributions.

Jaronek cites these misconceptions as the driving force that made him want to inform others about what, he said, is a commonly overlooked topic.

"Most people just don't realize the contributions that these groups have given to us over time," he said. "I want

"Most people just don't realize the contributions that these groups have given us over time."

—CHARLES JARONEK
SCIENCE AND MATH ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

my book to clear up some of these questions."

Jaronek notes the importance of these minority groups in his book, highlighting how crucial they are to bringing America where it is today.

"The Giving Trees" is not yet on shelves or even entirely finished, but Jaronek said he anticipates completing it in time for a release date sometime next year.

He said the book is being added to each and every day.

"It's a process," he said. "It could be one of those things that [is] never truly com-

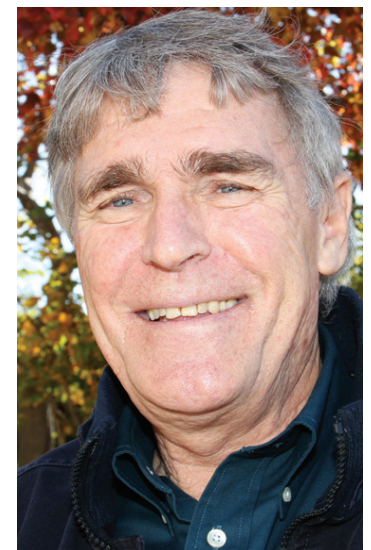
pleted because of

all of the information out there," Jaronek said. "But final pieces are being put together and it could be on shelves within a year."

In addition to writing the book, Jaronek is offering students another chance to learn about minority contributions. In collaboration with science professor Ron Scribner, a scholarship opportunity is now available to OCCC students.

The Jaronek-Scribner Scholarship requires students to write a 500-word paper about any one minority group or individual and their contribution to American society. Along with the essay, students are required to have at least a 2.0 GPA and be com-

mitted to completing an associate degree program at OCCC, Jaronek said.



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER
Charles Jaronek

Jaronek and Scribner worked together to offer \$1,000 to the scholarship's recipient. The deadline to apply is Dec. 9.

FILM BASED ON BOOK ABOUT NATURAL GAS PIONEER ROBERT A. HEFNER

Students ready to shoot documentary in spring

MEREDITH ELLINGER
News Writing Student

The next documentary project for Professor Greg Mellott and his students in the film and video program will begin shooting in the spring.

It will be based on the book "The Grand Energy Transition" by Robert A. Hefner III.

Hefner is a lifetime natural gas explorer, and the documentary will be about his life and his book.

Hefner is sometimes referred to as the "father of natural gas" and this story will depict how he fostered that title, Mellott said.

Mellott and Gray Frederickson, OCCC's artist-in-residence and Academy Award-winning producer of the "Godfather" trilogy, will film with Hefner.

The project also will include interviews, stock footage, and archival footage, Mellott said. He said it will probably be under an hour in length.

Mellott has been a professor at OCCC for four years.

He, along with Frederickson, won Emmys for their documentary "Dream

No Little Dream," a biography of Oklahoman Robert S. Kerr.

Mellott said all but one person involved in the documentary was either a graduate of or a student in OCCC's film program.

"That is a testimony to what a great group we had to work with," Mellott said. "It was a very cool experience."

Hefner said he became interested in making the documentary after seeing "Dream No Little Dream," Mellott said.

"That is a testimony to what a great group we had to work with."

—GREG MELLOTT
FILM AND VIDEO PROFESSOR

Mellott and Frederickson saw it as a great idea for the students in the program and also a way to bring Hefner's story to the screen.

Recording, editing, and set productions are just a few of the components necessary in making a successful documentary, such as "Dream No

Little Dream" and "The Grand Energy Transition," Mellott said.

OCCC film students are capable of doing all of these, he said.

OCCC's film program has grown enormously since its birth from the Oklahoma Film Institute, Mellott said.

He said he hopes it will continue to grow through films such as this upcoming documentary.

For more information about the OFI, contact Mellott by e-mail at gmellott@occc.edu or by phone at 405-682-1611, ext. 7793.

Christmas concert planned for Dec. 7

ERIN PEDEN
News Writing Student

OCCC choirs will help bring in the holiday spirit as they take the stage at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Wilmont Place Baptist Church located at 6440 S Santa Fe Ave. The concert is free and open to the public, said music Professor Ron Staton.

The symphonic, concert, and chamber choirs will each have their own performance at the concert and the

entire program will last between 60 and 90 minutes.

Songs will include Christmas tunes such as, "White Christmas," arranged by Anita Kerr; "Carol of the Bells" by Peter Wilhousky; "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," by Anita Kerr; and "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" by Howard Helvey.

Staton said the choirs have put a lot of effort into their programs.

"All the ensembles have been working very hard all semester. We have really

great choirs this year."

This will be the last performance of the choirs for the semester but they will resume work after the holidays, preparing two new programs for the next semester. Staton said he welcomes other vocalists who would like to join any of the choirs. Only the Chamber Singers must audition to join the group.

For more information about OCCC's choirs, contact Staton at 405-682-1611, ext. 7249 or by e-mail at rstaton@occc.edu.

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" SHOWCASES TWO PERFORMERS DOING IT ALL

Radio play comes to campus

KATELYN ANDERSON
News Writing Student

Two actors will produce all the sound effects, an abundance of characters and more as they perform a live radio show of "It's A Wonderful Life" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, in the Bruce Owen Theater.

The radio play is just like the nostalgic performances of the 1940s, said Lemuel Bardeguez, Cultural Programs director.

Bardeguez said the play is not a traditional performance with many costumes and actors. The main attraction, he said, is two people portraying over 40 different characters.

He said he discovered the talented group, the Odeum Theatre Company,

“... a great way to get into the holiday spirit.”

—LEMUEL BARDEGUEZ
CULTURAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

after attending one of their performances.

Bardeguez said he asked the Tulsa-based company to put on a lighthearted family show for OCCC, something apart from their regular “edgy” programs. The company accepted.

“[The play] is a great break for finals and a great way to get into the holiday spirit,” he said.

This is a unique way for people to experience how things were done 50 to 60 years ago, Bardeguez said.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.occc.edu/cas or visit the Cultural Arts Series ticket office, which is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in room 1G1A of the Main Building.

Student tickets and tickets for those 17 and under cost \$12.50. Seniors 55 and older and OCCC faculty, staff, and Alumni Association members pay \$19.50. General admission tickets are \$24.50.

Tickets are available for pre-sale and at the door.

For more information, contact the Cultural Arts Series ticket office at 405-682-7579.

To learn more about the Odeum Theatre Company, visit www.odeumtheatrecompany.com.

A Kappa Beta Delta Christmas

An Angel tree is located by the Business Division office on the second floor of the Main Building.

There are request forms for gifts for those who wish to help the children of an OCCC student or staff that are in need.

Contact Germain Pichop
at
405-682-1611, ext. 7285,
or

Michael Southerland at
michael.d.southerland@email.occc.edu or by
phone at 405-626-1452
for more information.





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DREAM JOB COMES FROM SKILLS LEARNED ON CAMPUS

OCCC graduate in scoring position with OKC Thunder

MORGAN BEARD
Staff Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

“

OCCC is a great place to get an education.”

—MATT BISHOP

OKC THUNDER WEBSITES AND
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

There was more than one winner when the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trailblazers 110-108 Nov 12.

OCCC graduate and Thunder employee Matt Bishop provided a behind-the-scenes experience for two Pioneer reporters sent to cover the game that also was attended by about 100 students as part of OCCC Night.

While the collaboration between the Thunder and the college gave many students an opportunity to witness their first NBA game in person, things are different for Bishop, since he's a part of the team.

Working as the Thunder's websites and publications coordinator, Bishop used OCCC as the impetus for his current dream job.

He said he jumped on the opportunity to be involved with the team while working for the Pioneer as a sports writer.

The broadcasting major was told of an opening with KSBI, an affiliate with the Thunder, by mass communications professor Gwin Faulconer-Lippert.

“Gwin heard that KSBI needed help filming some things over Christmas break, so she told me to give them a call,” Bishop said.

He said the position had already been filled, but a persistent attitude and a series of phone calls landed Bishop a job for the Thunder following his time at OCCC.

Bishop went on to the University of Oklahoma to work on his bachelor's degree and plans to conclude his studies at the University of Central Oklahoma. But, he said, he credits OCCC for the progress he has made thus far.

“OCCC is a great place to get an education,” Bishop said. “I feel I've learned more at OCCC than at OU, because it's more

hands on.

“Professors seem to care about the students and getting them educated in the best way possible.”

Bishop noted that one professor in particular was the key in getting him started on his career. Faulconer-Lippert was the link between Bishop and the Thunder in 2009.

“Gwin always brought the best out in me,” Bishop said.

“When I had her for audio production, she brought out this confidence in me that I could do anything.”

Faulconer-Lippert said Bishop paved his own path.

“Matt Bishop's tenacity is what set him apart from others,” she said.

Bishop is now responsible for various tasks related to the official team website. From constructing photo galleries, interviewing coaches and players, and writing headlines for the website, Bishop can do it all.

“Whatever they've wanted me to do, I just stepped up and went with it,” Bishop said.

Although it's coined as a job, working with the Thunder has been a lot of fun, he said.

Since joining the Thunder, Bishop has traveled all over the country, courtesy of the organization.

“They've sent me out to Dallas for the All-Star weekend, to Vegas and New York for USA basketball, Orlando for the summer league, and L.A. for the playoff series against the Lakers,” he said.

Although traveling and mingling with NBA stars may sometime blur the line between work and play, Bishop said work is still work, citing 16 hour days during his trip for the All-Star weekend.

Regardless of the workload,



JOEY STIPEK/PIONEER

OCCC graduate Matt Bishop poses for the camera in his office in downtown Oklahoma City. Bishop is websites and publications coordinator for the Thunder.

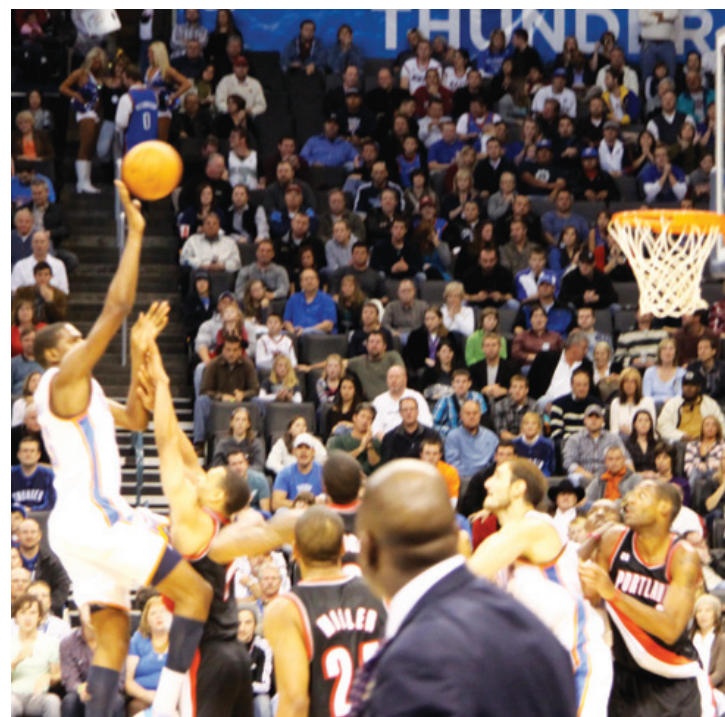
lifelong sports fan Bishop said he couldn't be any happier with his current occupation.

Following Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls in the '90s, Bishop was a season-ticket holder for the Thunder preceding his employment by the team.

“It's just cool to be here and have the kind of job that you love to do,” he said. “I've always loved sports, especially basketball, so this opportunity was a no-brainer.”

Angela Gutierrez, current OCCC student, said stories like Bishop's are inspirational.

“That reassures students here at the college,” Gutierrez said. “It's proof that people can pursue their dreams and succeed regardless if they attend a major university or a community college like OCCC.”



MORGAN BEARD/PIONEER

Oklahoma City Thunder star forward Kevin Durant puts up a shot over Portland Trailblazers defender Brandon Roy. The Thunder would go on to win the game, 110-108.



RACHEL MORRISON /PIONEER

In forefront is OCCC pre-nursing student Camille Ford-Atkins as the Oklahoma Victory Doll's alter ego Camie-Kazee, in jammer position. She breaks through the pack during roller derby practice Nov. 15 at Star Skate in Norman. Atkins has completed her "rookie" year with the Victory Dolls, who compete nationally.

Roller Derby whips up passion

MYSI JONES

News Writing Student

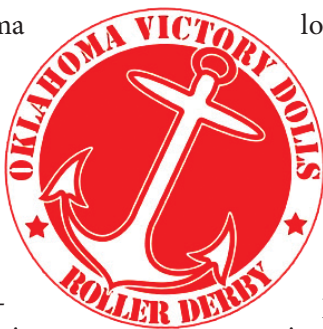
The students who have seen her on campus this semester know her as Camille Ford-Atkins.

But to the Oklahoma City community and surrounding areas, she is known by her roller derby alter ego, Camie-Kazee.

Ford-Atkins, a pre-nursing student, has just completed her rookie year in roller derby with the Oklahoma Victory Dolls. She said she loves the thrill of competition.

"It's an indescribable feeling," Ford-Atkins said. "Hearing the crowd cheer for you is a wonderful feeling."

The Victory Dolls typically pack a full house at their home rink, Mile's Roll-Away Rink at 5800 NW 36 St. in Oklahoma City. Spectators can expect to pay \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door to watch the bouts, or games, which last about an hour, with a 30-minute halftime show generally featuring live music and raffles.



Women's roller derby teams consist of four blockers and a jammer on the track during one jam.

Between each jam girls will switch off with other players on the bench to allow for

longer stamina throughout the game.

The idea behind the game is for the jammer to score points by skating

past the opposing team's players.

The opposing team's blockers use every legal method to block the opposing jammer from skirting past them, including booty blocks, hip checks and various other methods.

Blockers must train hard to keep their momentum of moving forward while still being aware of all of their surroundings.

Blockers will hit other blockers to make room for their own jammer to score, while keeping an eye on the opposing team's jammer coming up behind them to block.

Communication between the team's players is key to timing the perfect placed hits. Each player trains for both positions on a team in the event they are needed to fill that position.

Each "jam" lasts two minutes but can end earlier if the lead jammer calls off the jam by putting her hands on her hips. There is no limit to how many jams can be played during a game as the game continues until the clock runs out. The lead jammer is the jammer who is out front.

The Victory Dolls typically have nine bouts per season, which run from February through August, and two to three bouts during the off season.

After experiencing her first game, Ford-Atkins described it as "...breathhtaking, literally and figuratively."

The Oklahoma Victory Dolls range in age from 19 to 45. They are equally diverse in background and ethnicity. Ford-Atkins said this is frequently misunderstood.

"So many girls I have talked to think because they don't have tattoos or are on the PTA, they

roller derby *History*

Roller derby developed as a sport in 1935, according to Catherine Mabe's book on roller derby. In the beginning it was designed as a marathon style competition of average people interested in roller skating.

Soon a 47-year-old woman named Josephine "Ma" Bogash joined the derby. Bogash's skill and strength attracted an all new audience of housewives.

Because of Bogash's influence, women flocked to watch their peers in a female sport, something that was lacking at the time, Mabe wrote.

The first breath of modern roller derby sprang out of Austin, TX, in 2001.

A group of skaters banded together and formed Bad Girl Good Woman Productions. BGGW decided to do things differently. According to Mabe, the first change was no men, although derby had been coed to this point.

The second change was that management of the teams would be done by skaters, which coined the phrase: "For the skaters, by the skaters."

Eventually management disputes led to the break up of BGGW and the teams split in 2003.

One group left to form the flat track league, Texas Rollergirls. The other formed a banked track league named Texas Roller Derby Lonestar Rollergirls, now the infamous TXRD as featured on A&E's Rollergirls. They are both still going strong today.

The banked track is a throwback to the old days with a massive oval shaped track. The banked track has an inward slope on the curves that allows for skaters to gain momentum while jamming.

A flat track is much more portable than a bank track. With a flat track league, one is capable of setting up a bout virtually anywhere with a flat surface and some tape or rope lights.

Before you knew, it derby teams were popping up in every city.

Oklahoma City was no exception. Oklahoma City is home to the Oklahoma Victory Dolls, founded in 2007. They play on a flat track.

There are currently two teams in the Oklahoma City area, with additional teams in Lawton and Tulsa.

Each team is coached by the players. There is generally a veteran of the league who oversees training new girls, but all the girls pitch in on techniques and improving which increases the bonding between team players.

don't have what it takes," Ford-Atkins said.

"This is absolutely not true. In our league alone we have a hair dresser, a social worker, homemakers and nurses."

Dress and hair styles vary as each member of the group showcases her own personal tastes and interests.

"Roller derby allows women to bond together in a fashion they haven't been able to before," said Danielle Wilkerson, aka Lucy Lockdown, a student at OCCC and retired veteran of

the Oklahoma Victory Dolls.

"When you are helping and also learning from each other, it's very easy to form a sisterly bond," Wilkerson said.

"Roller derby is all about pushing yourself to limits that you never thought you could meet, let alone surpass. Not just physical limits but mental and emotional ones as well."

For more information, visit their website at www.oklahomavictorydolls.com or e-mail them at contactus@okvd.net.

SPORTS

Staying in shape



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Sergio Lopez uses OCCC's weight room. Equipment in the Wellness Center is available at no cost to all students with a student ID from Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

INTRAMURALS | Students offered ways to shed holiday pounds

OCCC offers fitness classes

RYAN PULS

News Writing Student

As students return to OCCC after the Thanksgiving holiday, many may be looking for ways to lose the holiday weight they put on from helpings of turkey, stuffing, and pie.

OCCC offers a variety of fitness classes at times that are convenient for everyone. Classes start as early as 7:45 a.m. and end as late as 8:15 p.m.

For students looking for an intense workout, OCCC offers a Cardio Kickboxing class that started Dec. 1.

Cardio Kickboxing meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. Recreation and fitness sports assistant

Charlie Tarver said he has been told the kickboxing class is the most intense class the college offers.

Tarver said those looking for something a little less intense and more on the fun side, Zumba is the way to go.

"Zumba is the most popular class because of the music and the beat people can dance to," Tarver said.

Classes are offered from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, noon to 12:55 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Fridays.

The cost for Zumba classes is \$25, except the Friday class which costs \$20.

The Monday and Wednesday classes run from Dec. 1 until Dec. 22, Tuesday and Thursday classes run from Dec. 2 through Dec. 23, and Friday classes run from Dec. 3 through Dec. 17.

"I think a lot of people want to look for a way to lose some of the turkey weight," Cory Thacker, art major, said.

"Cardio kickboxing would probably benefit those who are looking for an intense workout although Zumba is starting to become more and more popular."

Tarver said students can enroll in three ways: by phone, online or in person.

To enroll online, go to www.occc.edu/rf, then select the Online Enroll-

"I think a lot of people want to look for a way to lose some of the turkey weight..."

—CORY THACKER
ART MAJOR

ment tab on the left side.

To enroll by phone, call 405-682-7860.

Enroll in person at the Recreation and Fitness office. Payment can be in the form of cash, check, or credit card.

Office hours are from 6 a.m. through 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. Friday and on from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. Saturday.

Do you have sports news to share? Maybe you know of an OCCC athlete worthy of a mention. If so, contact Morgan at sportswriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Dec. 6:** Abs Express class from 5:05 to 5:25 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 6:** Cardio Kickboxing class from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 8:** Combo Aerobics class from noon to 12:55 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 8:** Pilates class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 9:** Hatha Yoga class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 9:** Zumba class from noon to 12:55 p.m. and again from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. Additional classes offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Dec. 10:** Water exercise class from 7:45 to 8:40 a.m. and again from 9 to 9:55 a.m. in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

**Have sports news?
E-mail Morgan Beard
sportswriter@occc.edu**

Thieves make off with backpack, iPhones

CHRISTIAN KOSTED
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Recently, several thefts have taken place across the OCCC campus. The epicenter was the Fitness and Wellness Center.

On Monday, Nov. 15, student Darrio Moss reported his backpack had been stolen while he was working out. Moss said he placed his things in a locker but did not lock his locker. The contents of the backpack included a textbook and a T-shirt.

Also on Nov. 15, Elyssa Daur reported her iPhone had been stolen while she used the ladies room across the hall from the Safety and Security office. She had set her phone down and forgotten about it. Daur said she returned to retrieve her

phone 10 minutes later to find it had been taken. Security cameras in the area show several possible suspects but nothing conclusive.

On Nov. 18 OCCC student Jacques Trenton reported his iPhone and several credit

cards had been stolen from his clothes and backpack while he showered following his workout. Trenton said he had placed his belongings in an unsecured locker and returned to find several items missing. The phone is valued at \$200.

Website: www.occc.edu surevy shows where changes are needed

Continued from page 1

will feature a tuition calculator for students to use.

Another feature highly sought after by students is a private social networking site accessible only by OCCC students. Geyer said that was an unexpected finding.

"It's normally something we only see in four-year and private institutions," she said.

"But because students here have expressed the desire for

this kind of connection, we will see what we can do."

In addition to the tuition calculator and social media site, she said, prospective students surveyed also suggested features like customized website personalization and online forms to request campus visits and information such as course catalogs.

Three-quarters of the 190 faculty and staff members who participated in the study said they not only regularly access

the website from work, but also from home and mobile phones.

Many employees cited MineOnline and the employee e-mail system as their favorite website tools, Gower said, although nearly half reported struggling with managing the multiple passwords needed to use the different web applications.

In addition, 85 percent of surveyed employees said they would appreciate a comprehensive portal featuring a

single password to log into all programs.

Nearly half of 152 surveyed community members said they use the OCCC website to research upcoming community events and programs, such as Arts Festival Oklahoma and the Cultural Arts Series.

Geyer said these individuals turn to the website in search of facility details, schedules and offers.

In addition, she said, almost 90 percent of surveyed citizens

said they would appreciate an online system that would allow them to register and pay for recreational classes online.

Other frequently requested items included an easy-to-find calendar, virtual tours, and an e-mail inquiry form, Geyer said.

She said the website's preliminary framework testing should begin soon.

No launch date has been announced for the website's debut, Geyer said.

ANGEL: Orientation part of Achieving the Dream initiative

Continued from page 1

a classroom setting, Whisenhunt said.

"You still have to do homework, log into the course, and take tests," she said. "You must know how to use a mouse, save and retrieve a document as well as have the proper settings and programs on your computer."

The second section looks at where things are located within ANGEL, Whisenhunt said.

She compared this part of the orientation to a map. It is similar to finding classes — only instead of classrooms, it looks at the tabs where the course content is located, she said.

"The third part is set up to allow you to learn how the features of ANGEL work," Whisenhunt said.

In this section the goal is learning how to take quizzes, use a drop box and operate the course mail.

Whisenhunt said the orientation is part of the Achieving the Dream online student suc-

cess program.

She said students in online classes are statistically less likely to complete the semester, compared to traditional classes.

"We began to notice a gap between online students and on campus students. This is the support they need to help them be more successful."

During the Board of Regents regular meeting Nov. 15, Felix Aquino, vice president of academic affairs, briefly spoke about the improvement in online success.

From the year 2007 to the year 2010, success rates in online classes have shown a steady 4 percent increase in 1000-level courses and a 1.2 percent increase within the last year in 2000-level courses.

"The online course completion was one of the priorities of Achieving the Dream and our efforts appear to be very good," Aquino said.

"The orientation was created in response to information

gathered from OCCC students about issues that many faced when they begin using ANGEL," Whisenhunt said.

"For the year 2010, 20.9 percent of all enrollments were delivered in an online format."

Student Courtney Bull said the orientation might have helped her if she had taken it before jumping into online learning.

"This is my first online class and it was challenging learning how to use the online program," Bull said.

"It was very confusing and it got my roommate and me off to a rocky start."

The idea is that students should work through the orientation before enrolling in an online course to decrease difficulty when they begin.

For someone who is not familiar with ANGEL, or is taking an online class for the first time, the orientation will probably be of some assistance, Bull said.

Whisenhunt said the numbers are encouraging.

"The first day it was available, people accessed the orientation 4,284 times. Four hundred fifty-four students have completed the first assessment and 271 students have successfully

completed the orientation."

Whisenhunt said it takes about an hour to work through the entire orientation.

"We realize the orientation is long, but all the content in it is necessary to help students be successful in the use of ANGEL," Whisenhunt said.

For more information about ANGEL orientation, visit www.occc.edu and click on the information banner at the top of the page.

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www.occc.edu/pioneer

CAMPUS COMMUNITY



PHOTO COURTESY KIM KYKER

Health Profession club members and sponsor physics professor Steve Kamm, (front, kneeling), gather in the lobby of the Oklahoma Heart Hospital prior to beginning a tour. Kamm and biology professor Kim Kyker, along with 22 students, took a two-hour tour of the hospital led by COO of Oklahoma Heart Hospital staff John Austin and chief nursing officer Janet Fundaro. "They have a philosophy that it should be like going to a five-star hotel and not to a hospital," Kamm said. "You're greeted by concierges. You can order full meals at any hour of the day, no restricted visiting hours and family members can stay in their own room."

HEALTH PROFESSIONS CLUB | Oklahoma Heart Hospital site of tour

Health Professions club tours hospital

JOEY STIPEK

Staff Writer

staffwriter1@occc.edu

“Our hospital is a new model for staff and the way we deliver care.”

—JANET FUNDARO

OKLAHOMA HEART HOSPITAL CHIEF NURSING OFFICER

OCCC's Health Professions club took an educational tour of the brand new Oklahoma Heart Hospital south campus located at 5200 E. 1-240 Service Road in Oklahoma City on Nov. 12. The hospital opened this past January.

Health Professions sponsor and physics professor Steven Kamm and biology professor Kim Kyker, along with 22 students, took a two-hour tour of the hospital led by Chief Operating Officer of Oklahoma Heart Hospital staff John Austin and chief nursing officer Janet Fundaro.

Kamm said a letter he received about a heart check-up over the summer prompted him to send the hospital a query about a possible student tour.

"I was surprised when I heard back from them about scheduling a student visit," he said.

Kamm, who has taken students on four or five hospital visits during his tenure at OCCC, said it's difficult to get into a hospital with all the restrictions related to patient privacy.

He said the students thought the Oklahoma Heart Hospital facilities were amazing.

"They have a philosophy that it should be like going to a five-star hotel and not to a hospital," Kamm said.

"You're greeted by concierges. You can order full

meals at any hour of the day, no restricted visiting hours and family members can stay in their own room."

Fundaro said she enjoyed showing the stu-

dents the facilities and patient care.

"Our hospital is a new model for staff and the way we deliver care," Fundaro said. "The staff does not have to walk more than five feet for anything," she said, "This way the staff can take more time with patients so they are able to provide better care."

Kamm said everyone at the hospital pitches in.

"Even the COO wears scrubs," he said. "If staff needs something, he steps right in to help."

Julie Burnam, 20, premed major, said the trip was the highlight of this semester.

"It opened our eyes to see what an actual hospital atmosphere was like," she said. "We toured the operating room, emergency room and spoke with the nurses."

"One thing they said to us is there is always going to be sick people and there is going to be a need for us."

For more information about the Health Professions Club, contact Kamm at skamm@occc.edu.

Calling all clubs

Does your club have an upcoming event or meeting? If so, call Christy Johnson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7410, or e-mail communitywriter@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Health Professions club invites speaker

A recent Survey of Biotechnology graduate will be on campus at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, in Room 1C7. Students are invited to attend and learn about the benefits of the field of biotechnology. Free lunch will be provided. For more information, call Health Professions club President Kelvin David at 240-421-6603 or visit www.occc.campusgroups.com/health.

BSA holds general meeting

The Black Student Association will hold a general meeting from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, in room 1X5 of the Main Building. For more information, www.occc.campusgroups.com/bsa.

Student Life holds service day

Student Life will have their final service day of the semester for the Regional Food Bank from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. Participants should meet in the Student Life office located in the Main Building. This event is open to students and staff only. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Club officer meeting for business club

Students in Free Enterprise will hold an officers meeting from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, in the Business Lab, room 2R0 in the Main Building. For more information, go to www.occc.campusgroups.com.

Christmas performance scheduled

The three college choirs will perform a Christmas program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7 at the Wilmont Place Baptist Church located at 6440 S. Santa Fe in Oklahoma City. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Live Radio Play Comes to OCCC

Next in the Cultural Arts Series is "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, in the OCCC Bruce Owen Theater. Ticket prices are \$24.50 for general admission, \$19.50 for seniors, OCCC faculty, staff and alumni, \$12.50 for OCCC students and children 17 years old and under. Tickets are available online at www.occc.edu/cas and at the Cultural Programs Office, 1G1(A), Main Building. For more information, call 405-682-7576, or visit www.occc.edu/CAS/2010-2011.

Spring Classes offered downtown

Three OCCC courses are being offered on Thursdays this spring through the OKC Downtown College Consortium. The classes are Contemporary Oklahoma Writers (ENG 2113), Understanding Art in OKC (HUM 2003), and Accounting I/Financial Acct (ACCT 2113). For more information, visit www.downtowncollege.com or call 405-232-3382.

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 in 1F2 of the Arts and Humanities Building, just inside Entry 2.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 2005 Dodge Neon, four door, four cylinder, manual transmission, 35 mpg, 144K miles, runs great and good condition. \$2,950. OBO. Call: Mike at 405-702-0562.

APPLIANCES

FOR SALE: Used Galanz microwave oven for only \$25. Works good and looks great. Call Ahmed at 405-996-0609.

ELECTRONICS

For Sale: TI-84 & TI Inspire keyboards, operating systems. Looks new, used for one semester. Manual, software. \$50.00. Call: 405-682-7804 or e-mail jatkinson@occc.edu.

FOR RENT

Roommate Wanted: Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom, pets allowed, no smoking or alcohol inside the apartment, \$250 per month. Call A.J. at 405-549-3398 or e-mail olalekanjl@yahoo.com.

Roommate Wanted: Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom apartment, no pets, no smoking or alcohol, \$400 per month. Call Jaime at 405-520-1262 or e-mail jaimecom@lycos.com.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: No down payment, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 2 car, CH&A, Move in ready, spotless, close to OU and



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Resumes • Cover Letters • Interview Skills

Musicians Needed

The Cross, an established southside church, but under new direction with a passion for Christ and His people, is seeking one or more musicians with keyboard or guitar performance experience who would love to serve their Lord and Savior in a small but growing work. Interested can call Pastor Mike at 405-641-8194 or Natalie at 405-641-0611.

OCCC, 227 S. Bristow, Moore. \$87,500. Call 405-364-8555, 405-820-3630 or e-mail cshutt1@cox.net.

SERVICES

Need a Ride: Looking for a ride from Norman to OCCC for the remainder rest of the semester. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Willing to share the gas money. Call Evan at 702-875-1505.

NEED A RIDE: Looking for a ride from Norman to OCCC for Spring 2011. Willing to pay or make an arrangement if anybody is interested. Call: Fatoumata at 405-474-1332 or e-mail fatoumatacisse@email.occc.edu.

Tutoring Offered: Are you struggling in any subject? Take a tutoring class with Nguyen. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625 or e-mail nguyen.h.truong@email.occc.edu

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: Larousse student dictionary English-French for only \$5. Useful for students. Few other books for Business major are also available. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@gmail.com.

Follow us at
www.occc.edu/pioneer

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Bushy hairdo
- 5 Desert plant
- 10 Is wearisome to
- 14 Writer Harte
- 15 British sailor
- 16 Walk or gallop
- 17 Gravy dish
- 18 Sleep sound
- 19 Nothing but
- 20 Taj Mahal site
- 21 Persists in an annoying action
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- 25 Summer mo.
- 26 Certain philosophy
- 31 South American animal
- 35 Chaney of film
- 36 Part of a jacket
- 38 Black
- 40 Recognized
- 42 Some portraits
- 44 Golden Fleece ship
- 45 Wild shrub
- 47 Lariat
- 49 "Ballad" ending
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- 52 Bedsprad material
- 54 Practical joke
- 56 Bank amenity: abbr.
- 57 Swift air current
- 62 Speck

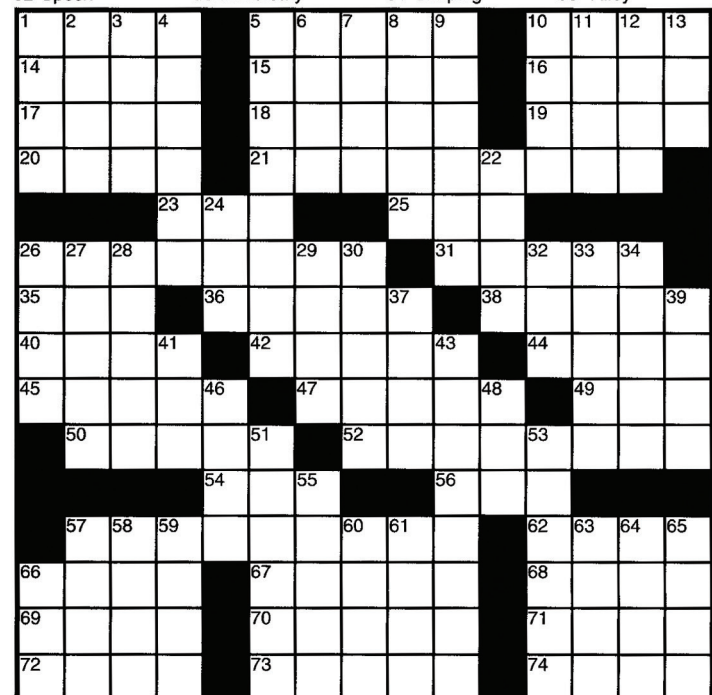
DOWN

- 66 Seep
- 67 Singer Lena —
- 68 Russian river
- 69 Gumbo veggie
- 70 Keen
- 71 Loch — monster
- 72 High mountain
- 73 — away: gets a free trip
- 74 Ms. Sommer
- 1 Swedish rock group
- 2 Prince in disguise?
- 3 Back
- 4 City in Ontario
- 5 Four-footed shepherd
- 6 Liquors
- 7 One way to run?
- 8 Vice —
- 9 Good look
- 10 Inventor Sikorsky
- 11 Rajah's wife
- 12 Highlander's attire
- 13 Farm home
- 22 Act like a wolf?
- 24 Wis. neighbor
- 26 Kinds
- 27 Bakery item
- 28 Adversary

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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Correctly answer four Treasure Hunt Questions and be entered in our final drawing of the semester:

- 1: When and where is the OCCC all-female group of students hosting the Eclectic 2010 Student Portfolio Art show?
- 2: How many teams participated in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament held campus Nov. 10 and who won the crown?
- 3: When is the Student Life office holding their final service day of the semester for the Regional Food Bank?
- 4: How many Americans suffer from seasonal depression that occurs in the fall, according to the National Institute of Health?

Correct Answer for last week:

- 1: 707 professors. 2: OCCC Dream Team. 3: Ron Summers. 4: Ahmed Omer, Pakistan.



Read the Nov. 19 Pioneer issue for the answers. Send your answers to:
adman@occc.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCISSOR

Norman rock band Scissor members left to right: Jacob Reynolds, Jon Smith, Tommy Grotts and Eric Welch recently won The Wire student radio's Battle of the Bands at the University of Oklahoma. Reynolds and Welch are OCCC students.

GETTING THE WORD OUT FIRST ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

Students have hopes for band

SCOTT MICHAEL
News Writing Student

Norman rock band Scissor has but one goal, "Keep good music alive."

For more than three years, singer Eric Welch and drummer Jacob Reynolds have been doing just that.

The two OCCC students, along with bandmates Tommy Grotts and Jon Smith, have already seen success in their quest for music's immortality, winning The

Wire student radio's Battle of the Bands Nov. 12 at the University of Oklahoma.

Scissor's definition of success, however, differs from the majority.

"I feel like 90 percent of the music out there today is focused on the money aspect of the business," Reynoldssaid.

"We're just trying to create good music that we think people will enjoy. Honestly, we're just having fun."

The band's music-first approach doesn't mean they wouldn't appreciate business.

With three songs already recorded and scheduled studio time in its future, Scissor plans

to produce a full-length album when time and money permit.

Although the band is classified as rock 'n' roll, Scissor members consider their band as somewhat of a hybrid, with influences ranging from Stevie Ray Vaughn and Jimi Hendrix to Blink 182 and Nirvana.

not widely known yet so we're just trying to get our music out there at this point."

While that may be true, Scissor has already made believers out of their growing fan base.

Sara Weaver said she first saw Scissor play in March and has been a fan ever since.

"I really liked the song 'Octopus,'" Weaver said of her first impression of Scissor. "It's really upbeat and the drummer goes crazy on the drums."

While the band continues to grow,

Scissor remains grounded, putting the music first.

"I just hope people like our music enough to keep supporting us," Reynoldssaid about the growth of his band.

"I just want to have fun with it while I can."

That may not seem to be asking much, but as for Scissor's fans, they see the potential.

"They have the potential to go as far as they want," Weaver said of the band's talent.

"Their music is really good and could take them many places."

Scissor can be heard at www.myspace.com/scissoringeric, with an album forthcoming.

“We’re not widely known yet so we’re just trying to get our music out there at this point.”

—JACOB REYNOLDS
OCCC STUDENT AND SCISSOR FRONTMAN

"The funny thing is, we all have different influences," Welch said.

"Jon and Jacob are more greatly influenced by '90s rock; whereas, my influences are spontaneous and all over the place."

While Scissor has been playing together for more than three years, the band's recent success has them looking to the future more than ever before.

"I'd like to be touring the country and release an album," Welch said of his band's career. "That would be the ideal situation."

Reynolds added to his singer's aspirations, saying, "We're

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