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OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PIONEER

JANUARY 21, 2011

WWW.OCCC.EDU/PIONEER

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Students can pick from many healthcare plans

OCCC encourages students to prepare for 2014, when all U.S. residents will be required to have health insurance

MORGAN BEARD

Staff Writer

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Among the many hot topics in politics over the years, and one that has garnered much attention, is healthcare.

With President Barack Obama's initiative to reform the healthcare policy in America, many are wondering how it might affect them, if at all.

Starting in 2014, all residents of the United States must purchase health insurance or face a penalty of \$695 annually according to cbsnews.com. Although there will be exceptions for certain low-income people, those without the ability to pay for insurance will be pressed to develop a plan in the coming years.

This reason, along with many others, is why OCCC is encouraging all students to find out information regarding their healthcare plans for the future as well as the present.

Mary Turner, Learning Support Specialist, said it's key for the college to provide as much information as possible.

"We want to help students find resources so that they can be healthy," said Turner.

"A healthy student tends to be a more successful student, and that's what is most important."

Student Support Services, located on the first floor of the Main Building, provides helpful information for students inquiring about all things health insurance-related.

Brochures and pamphlets can be found in the Student Support Services office, Turner said.

The brochures include different health insurance plans geared specifically toward college students.

Among the providers found in Student Support Services are Assurant Health, Sentry Insurance, and Insure Oklahoma. More information and other

See **INSURANCE** page 9



We all scream for ice cream



RACHEL MORRISON/PIONEER

OCCC sophomore Jacob Niles tops his brownie à la mode with whipped cream, compliments of TRiO Jan. 19. TRiO hosted an ice cream and brownie social just outside the Student Union to bring awareness to the college organization which is available to students to help them solve problems and overcome obstacles during their collegiate experience.

STUDENTS HAVE ALTERNATIVE TO BUYING SOME BOOKS

Textbook rentals available

JOEY STIPEK

Editor

editor@occc.edu

Students looking to alleviate part of the financial burden of college have the option of renting textbooks starting this semester.

English 1113 (Comp I), English 1213 (Comp II), and Bio 1023 (Introduction to Nutrition) are the first three textbooks available this semester at the OCCC bookstore,

"... We've selected three textbooks to see how much interest there is from the students."

—BRENDA REINKE
BOOKSTORE DIRECTOR

said Brenda Reinke, Bookstore director.

The textbooks rent for 50 percent of the retail cost of a new textbook, Reinke said.

For instance, the English Comp I textbook which sells for \$77, rents for \$39, she said. The

English Comp II textbook rents for \$43 and Bio 1023 rents for \$52.

Reinke said the textbook rental program was brought about by faculty and administra-

See **RENT**
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OPINION

EDITORIAL | Student bookstore should look at alternative storage methods for backpacks

Cubbyholes invite crime

As the new semester begins, familiar sights abound: cars fill the parking lot, students buzz through the hallways, and dozens of backpacks are left ripe for the stealing in front of the OCCC Bookstore.

For those of you who do not know, the bookstore forces students to abandon their backpacks near the cubbyholes in front of the store, where they are left out of the owner's sight and unsecured.



Whitney Knight

While at least one campus security officer routinely prowls the bookstore aisles, bags containing everything from expensive textbooks to laptop computers go unwatched outside.

Supposedly, this measure is in place to protect the bookstore's stock — but who is there to look after the students'

valuables?

Last month, a backpack containing items worth nearly \$800 was snatched from in front of the bookstore. This wouldn't have happened if the bookstore had allowed the student to carry his backpack into

“Forcing students to leave their belongings outside of the bookstore makes as much sense as Wal-Mart making customers leave their purses and wallets in the parking lot.”

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

the store with him — or if they had provided a safe area in which to leave it.

For example, a counter to the left of the bookstore's entrance is only used for book buyback periods.

Why can't this empty space be used for safeguarding students' possessions during the rest of the year?

Even placing bags inside of the bookstore, where their owners, fellow customers, and employees could easily see them, would help deter theft.

Forcing students to leave their belongings outside of the bookstore makes as much sense as Wal-Mart making customers leave their purses and wallets on the ground in the parking lot.

By not providing students a safe haven for their possessions, the bookstore looks like just another



MARK PARISI/OFFTHEMARK.COM

business that only cares about profits, not customers.

Maybe they will change their rules when customers flock to Textbook Brokers across the street, where students are welcomed to carry backpacks in with them — and offered cheaper prices.

—WHITNEY KNIGHT
ONLINE EDITOR

YOUR VOICE | Student reminds us that MLK's methods should be remembered as well

Martin Luther King Jr. taught non violence, reader says

To the editor:

Martin Luther King Jr. was an amazing man and his contributions to the civil rights movement in America are not only phenomenal, but also are without parallel.

Deservingly, we celebrate his leadership, strength, and perseverance on his birthday every year. However, there is something missing from our celebration of

Dr. King's life.

It is this something that I have been trying to impart to my son and it is for this missing element of his message that my son and I marched in the MLK parade with the Oklahoma Center for Conscience (a group that defends conscientious objectors to war).

What is missing from our celebrations, the news coverage, and the

“Martin understood the only way to make your enemy stop hating you was to love him or her first, and he lived that message every day.”

—KENNETH MEADOR
COLLEGE DEMOCRATS PRESIDENT

editorial pages on MLK's day is a deep and profound respect for the method he used to accomplish all that he did. The method was non-violence.

You see, Dr. King knew that if African-Americans in the South fought back with violence against the punches, kicks, fire hoses, and nooses of the racists, the

only thing they would make would be enemies.

Dr. King understood the only way to make your enemy stop hating you was to love him or her first and he lived that message every day.

As I raise my son of mixed heritage, I am thankful that Dr. King, following in the footsteps of Gandhi before him, was able to effectively use non-violence

resistance and civil disobedience to bring us the diverse America that we live in today.

However, as an advocate of peace, it pains me to see that in our media coverage much is appropriately made of what Dr. King did but not enough coverage is given to how he did it.

—KENNETH MEADOR
COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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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

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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

MUSIC REVIEW | Indie rock royalty release new album to the masses

The Decemberists reign in new album

The Decemberists bring in the New Year with the drop of their latest LP "The King Is Dead."

Capitol Records will release the collection Tuesday, Jan. 18, and make it available for streaming in its entirety on NPR.com until then.

This folk-influenced indie-pop band has a sound reminiscent of Bob Dylan and Modest Mouse mixed with early '80s college rock. The band's line-up includes bassist Nate Query, keyboard/accordionist Jenny Conlee, drummer John Moen, and guitar/multi-instrumentalist Chris Funk.

Front man/songwriter Colin Meloy's lyrics in this album show off his knack for storytelling.

The presence of stringed instruments is



definite. "The King Is Dead" goes into a more countryesque direction in comparison to 2009's "Hazards of Love." Don't expect any fussy charged-up explosive blows. With the help of harmonicas, saloon pianos and warmhearted melodies, "The King Is

Dead" is easily one of the greatest albums to drop in 2011.

Written and recorded in the spring of 2010 near their hometown of Portland, "The King" is a comparatively humble collection of folk songs.

Noticeably, the accordion is traded for a

harmonica, which adds an extreme difference to the sound.

R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck plays a leading guest role on this album. Buck collaborates with the band in three tracks. His influence is noticed on the first single "Down By the Water."

The end result, according to Meloy, is a record heavily inspired by Buck's legendary outfit, with a sound that is said to be more "straightforward, driving folk/rock."

The Decemberists appeared on Leno Jan. 20 to perform the single "Down By the Water," featuring Buck along with Gilian Welch.

This song is notably the band's highest charting radio single ever.

Rating: A+

—KERAYA HASSAN
STAFF WRITER



Education best way to weather economic storms

The beginning of a new year always provides an opportunity to reflect on the past and anticipate what a new year may bring.

Last year will be remembered in Oklahoma for our historic election of our first female governor. It is no doubt that Gov. Mary Fallin will serve as an inspiration to women throughout our state.

As we move forward this year, it is reassuring to see the economy in Oklahoma recovering, albeit slowly. One of the lessons learned from the most recent recession is that those with more education were more likely to remain employed, or to become employed.

I commend our students for making the wise choice to continue their education. An education is something that cannot be taken away and is your best insurance to weather the ups and downs in the economy.

It is important to recognize that the slow recovery in state revenue will have a continued impact on resources at OCCC, a state-supported college.

Challenging times also bring an opportunity to examine what we do and to create innovative ways to continue to accomplish our mission. OCCC has often led the state with innovation in the delivery of instruction and services to students, even without an abundance of funding. This innovation comes not from financial resources, but from the intellectual resources of our faculty and staff.

I remain highly optimistic that OCCC will not only survive in the next few years, but we will continue to thrive.

As the election of Mary Fallin has reinforced the notions of hope and opportunity for women in Oklahoma, OCCC continues its commitment to provide hope and opportunity through education for all those who are willing to work for it.

Have a great Spring Semester at OCCC.

—PAUL SECHRIST
OCCC PRESIDENT

FILM REVIEW | '80s icons go back to their roots with new album

Duran Duran zoom in on familiar sound

After the letdown of their last album "Red Carpet Massacre" in 2007, Duran Duran fans have eagerly and impatiently waited for the time the band would regain their signature sound which made them the ultimate party band in the '80s.

With their newest album "All You Need Is Now," the goal was to return to the group's roots and provide something that would satisfy die-hard Duranies while still managing a contemporary sound.

The album, which was produced by Mark Ronson and features guest vocalists such as Ana Matronic of Scissor Sis-

ters and musical artist Kelis, does not disappoint.

While the album is not exactly the imaginary follow-up to "Rio" as Ronson anticipated, listeners are provided with nine tracks which feature the familiar vocals of lead singer Simon Le Bon and contain catchy tunes that could easily be heard at a dance club.

Slower tracks such as "The Man Who Stole a Leopard" and "Before the Rain" take a glimpse into the past with an uncanny resemblance to their 1982 song "The Chauffeur."

While the album is unlikely to bring in many new fans, upbeat tunes

“The fab five (now four) are back in the game and hungrier than ever.”

—ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

such as "Safe" please by highlighting the skillful counter melody of bassist John Taylor and the outstanding rhythms of drummer Roger Taylor, while "Girl Panic" offers clever chords from the synthesizer played by Nick Rhodes.

The lyrics from Le Bon are as poetic as ever, ranging from a romantic ballad about a lover returning after a long time away in "Leave a Light On" to the mysterious message in "Being Fol-

lowed."

Although the album is currently available for download exclusively through iTunes, three bonus tracks will be added and released on an in-store album sometime in February.

Despite past challenges, the fab five (now four) are back in the game and hungrier than ever to prove that all you need is "All You Need Is Now."

Rating: A-

—ERIN PEDEN
STAFF WRITER

**Comments? Opinions?
Let us know!**

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STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND GET INVOLVED

Campus clubs to recruit members at fair

ERIN PEDEN
Staff Writer 2
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Students Life will host its bi-annual Student Clubs and Organizations Fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 26 and 27 in the College Union.

The fair, held twice a year at the beginning of each fall and spring semester, will feature various clubs and organizations offered at OCCC, said Student Clubs and Organizations Assistant Karlen Grayson.

Students will have a chance to visit and get information about many of these organizations as well as sign up to join, she said.

Grayson said around 1,000 people are expected to attend.

“The fair is an opportunity for our various clubs and organizations to get out there and get noticed by the student body, for them to recruit new members, and basically let them know they’re here and what they’re about,” Grayson said.

With almost 40 clubs available on campus, there is a wide

WHAT: Student Clubs and Organizations Fair

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 26 and 27

WHERE: College Union

range of diversity including groups such as International Student Association, Advocates of Peace, Photography Club and Black Student Association.

Fifteen clubs are departmental or major-related, 15 are special interest, five are religious, and three are academic groups

based off of a student’s GPA.

Two new clubs also are being added this semester: Multicultural Students Club and Christ Campus Fellowship.

“Most students have joined a club by spring but we catch a few of them during the spring semester,” Grayson said.

By being involved in a club

or organization, students are more likely to be successful and meet new people, she said.

For students who are unable to find a club that piques their interest, another option is available. With just 10 interested students and two sponsors, students are able to start their own club.

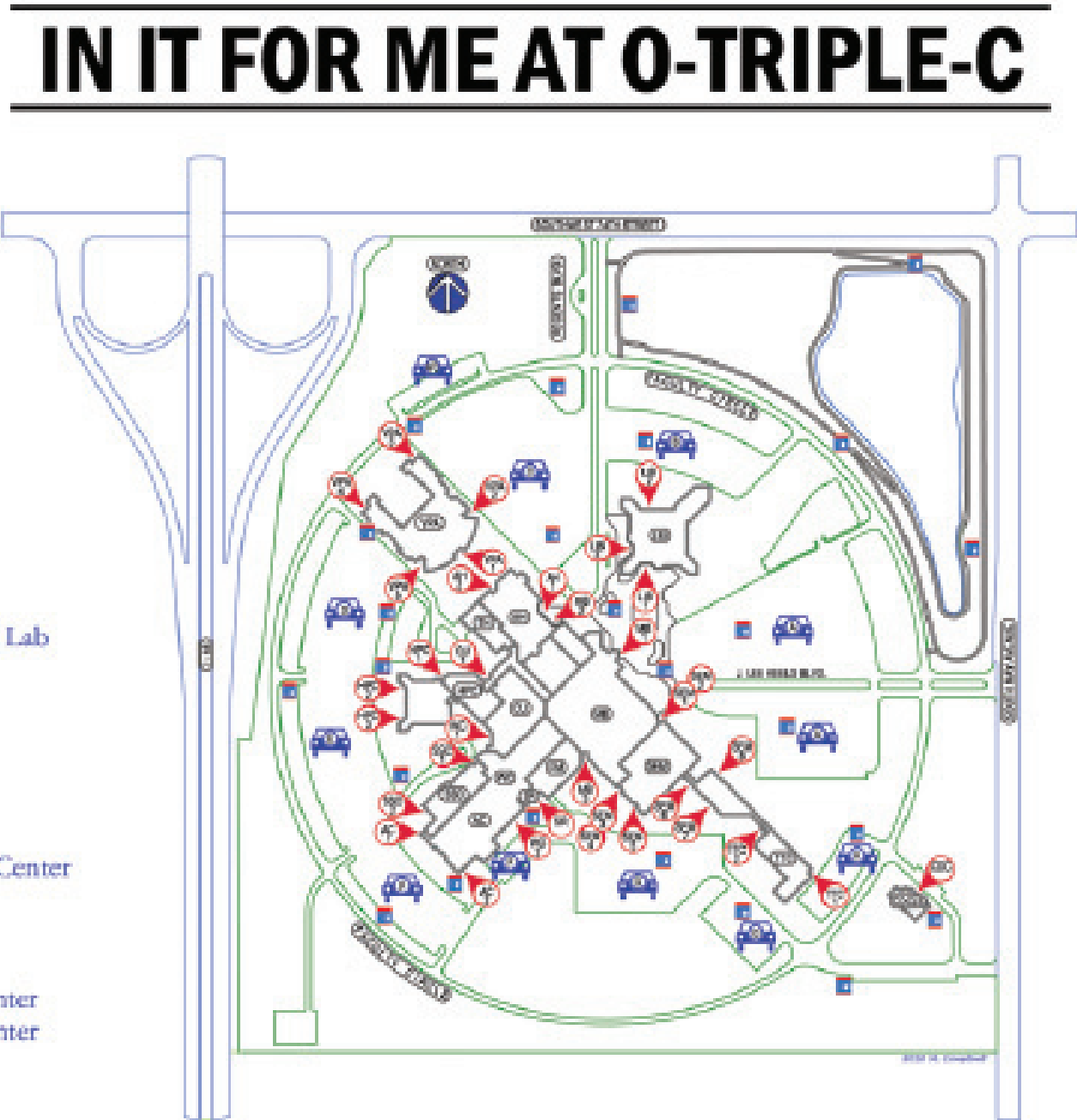
For more information about Student Life, campus clubs and organizations, or the Student Clubs and Organizations Fair, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or visit www.occc.edu/StudentLife.



- Parking Lots
- Entrances
- Emergency Callbox

Buildings / Areas

- AC Aquatic Center
- AH Arts and Humanities Center
- CDCLS Child Development Center and Lab School
- CU College Union
- FM Facilities Management
- HPC Health Professions Center
- LIB Library
- MB Main Building
- SEM Science Engineering and Math Center
- SR Shipping and Receiving
- SSC Social Sciences Center
- TH Bruce Owen Theater
- TTC Transportation Technology Center
- VPA Visual and Performing Arts Center
- WC Wellness Center



The above map shows the available parking areas and entrances on the OCCC campus. An outdated map ran in last week’s Pioneer. We apologize for any confusion that may have caused.

E-CIGARETTES NOT NECESSARILY A SAFE ALTERNATIVE TO ORIGINAL

Smoking ban will likely extend to e-cigarettes

JACOB CHAMBERS
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When the college goes tobacco free Aug. 1, e-cigarettes, or electronic cigarettes, will likely be included in the ban, said OCCC Executive Vice President Jerry Steward.

He said e-cigarettes were included in the list of banned products made by the Tobacco Free Advisory Committee, a group put together after the decision was made to make OCCC a tobacco-free campus.

"The Tobacco Free Campus Advisory Committee determined from evidence presented that e-cigarettes contain harmful substances and that may affect the health of the user and those in the vicinity of the user," Steward said.

According to www.thesafe-cig.com, e-cigarettes are "a safer smoking alternative.

They deliver an optional 'hit' of nicotine, but contain no tar, tobacco, toxins, or open flame."

Users inhale doses of nicotine through a vaporized solution, that dissipates almost immediately. Consequently, e-cigarettes are being allowed in many areas where smoking is banned because they produce vapor instead of smoke.

But it's likely e-cigarettes will be banned everywhere on campus, Steward said.

Steward said the decisions regarding what products will be included when the campus goes tobacco free have been made fairly.

He said the Tobacco Free Campus Advisory Committee is made up of people from all over campus, including smokers and non-smokers.

After the Tobacco Free Advisory Committee develops a proposed policy they all agree

with, they will present it to the Institutional Policy Review Committee to be revised and polished, he said.

Then the Institutional Policy Review Committee will provide its recommendations to the President's Cabinet for final judgment.

Steward said the Institutional Policy Review Committee is in place to review potential policies and procedures before they are presented to the President's Cabinet for consideration, according to the Institutional Committee list found online at www.occc.edu/InstitutionalCommittees/Institutional-Committee-List.pdf.

OCCC's Safety and Security department will be responsible for enforcing the policy if it's approved.

"Fines may be assessed for repeated violations," Steward said.

Better equipment saves time, provides more opportunities

ROBERT BOLTON
Staff Writer
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The Computer Aided Technology department recently received a grant from the college for much needed new equipment, said John Helton, department chair for computer aided technology.

The grant money went for two new 42-inch printers — one of which has a scanner on it — plus several new digital cameras and a 3D scanner.

"We've needed this for a while," Helton said. "We have been limited to only 24-inches wide. And a lot of our students' architectural projects are larger than that."

Akram Taghavi-Burris, professor of computer aided tech-

“Students spend so much time modeling objects that it takes away from actually animating or programming a game”

—AKRAM TAGHAVI-BURRIS

COMPUTER AIDED TECHNOLOGY PROFESSOR

nology, was also pleased with the new equipment.

"We got the new digital cameras for our digital imaging class, and they will probably also be used for our digital video editing classes as well," Taghavi-Burris said.

"We wanted to have cameras available for students to check out, but we only had one or two, and they were such high-end cameras that they were not practical for students to go and take pictures with," she said.

"So we got some smaller

digital cameras that they could check out, go do an assignment, and bring it back."

The 3D scanner is going to be very helpful with the game design and animation programs, because it will enable students to scan an object, and make a digital copy in 3D instead of modeling it from scratch, which will save a lot of time, Taghavi-Burris said.

"Students spend so many hours modeling objects that it takes away from actually animating or programming a game."

Tips to drive safe in winter weather

Snow is once again forecast for Oklahoma. AAA Oklahoma advises motorists to be prepared.

"Even a dusting of snow can cause slippery conditions that can result in a driving nightmare," said Chuck Mai, spokesman for AAA Oklahoma. "Now's the time to prepare your vehicle and at the same time, prepare your mind to be ready to drive at speeds that match prevailing visibility, traffic and road conditions."

Pack an Emergency Road Kit:

- Blankets
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Drinking water, food, snacks
- Small shovel
- Sand or clay-based kitty litter for traction
- Ice scraper/brush
- Battery booster cables
- Emergency flares/reflectors
- Towels
- Extra clothes, gloves, etc.
- Cell phone with charger

Winter Driving Do's

- Prepare your vehicle for cold weather. Check battery, ignition system, lights, brakes, tires, the exhaust system and windshield wipers.
- Slow down. When the roads are icy, allow extra time to reach your destination. Rushing creates risk.
- Use major routes. After it snows, major roads are cleared and treated first. Avoid secondary roads.
- Dress as if you were going to be stranded. It can get very cold in a car on the side of the road waiting for help. Be sure to have extra blankets and insist that children who may be traveling with you have some, too.
- Use low gear to get out of tough spots. You need steady pulling and moderate power when traction is poor.

Winter Driving Don'ts

- Avoid slamming on brakes. Minimize brake use on very slippery, icy roads and hills; if further speed reduction is needed use a gentle and slow brake application.
- Avoid changing lanes. On a four-lane highway, stay in the lane that has been cleared most recently. Changing lanes over built-up snow between lanes may cause you to lose control of the vehicle.
- Never use cruise control. When driving on any slippery, wet, or icy surface, cruise control prevents you from having total control over your vehicle.
- With ABS brakes, don't pump the brake pedal. Apply steady, firm pressure.
- Do not drive in four-wheel-drive. It will get you going faster and easier but it does not provide an advantage in stopping.
- Do not panic. If your vehicle skids out of control, steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go.

—Chuck Mai

V.P. Public Affairs
AAA Oklahoma

Nicole Moan is sculpting a big name for herself

CHASADI F. ORTIZ
Staff Writer
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After graduating in 1999 with an automotive degree, Nicole Moan discovered her creative side. Now, she pulls in \$600 to \$5000 apiece with her custom-made adjustable ceramic corsets. The corsets are made from clay in four to six pieces, and laced together with fabric she said.

"I have to figure this out," Moan said, about the first two corsets she made for her and her husband. They were one piece and uncomfortable. However, she said, the corsets

ignited a lot of attention from both women and men at the party they attended.

Moan said it wasn't until a year later that she would make her next corset, only this time she took to her drawing board. "My engineering side came out," she said. Moan set out to make the corsets more comfortable, adjustable and lighter.

She said her explosion of creativity is masterminded in her home, which inspires creativity with beautiful works of art hanging there. She said her bathroom looks like an underwater ocean. Moan said

“

I love having a challenge, working with new people and making it happen.”

—NICOLE MOAN
ARTIST AND FORMER
OCCC STUDENT

she hopes to make her house a museum one day.

Born into a family of artists, Moan said she also gets inspiration from her family. In addition, she said, everyday life and society also help keep her creative edge going.

Moan said she is an artist first, but considers herself an inventor or creator who, by using everything around her, creates a new medium.

She works as a team with her husband Jason Moan who, she said, shares her interest as an artist and engineer.

"He grounds me," she said. "When I'm in my cloud, he brings me back to reality."

Moan said her parents also inspire her. Her mother Deborah Eilers Riddles is an impressionist artist who took art classes at OCCC. Moan's father Albert Riddle is a cubist artist.

Moan said, for the less creative side of the business, an

OCCC marketing professor showed her how to market herself and catch people's attention with her art.

"He empowered me."

Moan said she is working on a new series of work that will include a bridal and a superhero line.

"Sky's the limit," she said.

Moan said she learned a lot from OCCC professors, and received a lot of support from the staff in her automotive and art studies. Moan said her engineering and automotive sides work hand in hand when creating art.

"I skip around and work on more than one thing, so I don't get bored," she said.

Moan has a wide array of art such as: corsets, high relief tile, murals, wall hangings, jewelry, switch plates, waist centers and fashion.

Her latest ceramic corsets can be seen in OCCC adjunct English professor Tyrone Stanley's new musical "Soul on Fire."

Stanley said working with Moan is easy.

"She comes up with creativity and is free spirited," he said.

Stanley said the costumes Moan designed for him are so

well created it helps put him into character for his musical.

"(It's) so much fun working with Ty," Moan said.

"I love having a challenge, working with new people and making it happen."

Katie Wygle, 26, OCCC nursing major, models Moan's ceramic corsets. She said she thinks the corsets are "fun and creative, crazy and outrageous."

Moan, who lives in both Oklahoma and Los Angeles, considers her different works of art "high fashion."

Moan rents and sells her art to people and events. Her work can be found at www.nicolemoan.com and www.4anythingart.com.

Moan's creations also can be seen at the Carnality Ball, an annual erotic art show Moan participates in that will take place at 8 p.m. Friday, May 13, at The Farmers Public Market, 311 South Klein Ave. in downtown Oklahoma City. Admission is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

The Carnality Ball will showcase art, musicians, ribbon dancers performing from the ceiling, fashion performances, and an array of food.



Above: OCCC graduate Nicole Moan, 33, fits OCCC professor Tyrone Stanley with handmade wings that attach to a custom sculpted ceramic corset. Moan designed the corset for Stanley's musical "Soul on Fire" (www.soulonfirethemusical.com) which will be touring the U.S. starting in North Carolina in April 2011.

Right: OCCC nursing student, Katie Wygle, 26, models a custom ceramic fire corset created for professor Tyrone Stanley's musical "Soul on Fire". Artist Nicole Moan is an OCCC graduate.



RACHEL MORRISON /PIONEER

Gay, lesbian students seek out tolerance

Club attempts to break down barriers between students

KERAYA HASSAN
Online Writer
onlinewriter@occc.edu

What is it like being gay and “out” in college? According to Diana Kardia, Michigan University researcher, college is much less prejudiced than high school campuses.

Both faculty and students are expected to be aware of the importance of tolerance and respect for diversity in sexual orientation.

President Paul Sechrist said OCCC is set up in that way.

“OCCC is committed to making sure that our non-discrimination statements are not just words but are reflected in how we treat each other on a daily basis.”

The statement adopted by the college and located on page 1 of the catalog is very specific: “In addition to the federally protected characteristics of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap, disability, or status as a veteran, OCCC is committed to a diverse and inclusive educational environment, respecting diversity in religious belief, political affiliation, citizenship or alien status, sexual orientation, and material status.”

Sechrist said this philosophy is important.

“This statement not only guides our behavior, it is an expectation of everyone on campus.

“If anyone feels that they have been, or are being, treated in a discriminatory manner, they should let a college official know.”

Camryon DeCarlo, former president of the Gay Straight Alliance said while that may be the official statement at OCCC, many students ignore it — at least in her experiences.

“I had heard through



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION YASMIN SHIRALI /PIONEER

friends that OCCC is a pretty liberal school,” DeCarlo said. “However as the former president of the GSA, I know that there is still a lot of hate or lack of understanding towards the GLBTQ (Gay Lesbian Bi-sexual Transgender Queer) community at OCCC.

“I know this first hand when fliers that were put up were torn down and replaced by invitations to Bible studies. I have heard people yell ‘faggot’ at GSA events.”

One of the club’s sponsors who wished to remain anonymous said GSA tries to break down the barriers.

“GSA is Gay Straight Alliance and our job as a club is to provide an open place for all students but also an avenue for recreation, education, and advocacy.”

Other students say they haven’t faced any discrimination on campus.

Nick Potter, photography/business major, said he is comfortable being gay at OCCC.

“I don’t openly wave a banner,” he said.

“I feel like it’s my business. If someone asks or it comes up in a conversation, I will

Discrimination is against college policy and law.”

—MARY TURNER
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
SPECIALIST

definitely tell the truth, but it’s not the first thing I say when I introduce myself.

“I don’t think there are any issues that really concern me. I think O-trip has a very safe environment as far as being gay goes. I haven’t felt or seen anything to suggest otherwise.”

Shane Scott, business major, is another openly gay student.

“I’ve never experienced any discrimination at OCCC,” he said. “Everyone is pretty laid back.”

Although Potter and Scott have had positive experiences regarding their sexual orientation, one professor who asked not to be named, said he has one issue with being gay at OCCC.

“Only once, in 2001, there was an administrator that used to work here and I happened to be photographed in a local gay newspaper and that newspaper was also on-

line.

“The administrator saw fit to call as many people into his office as possible to point out my photo in the newspaper to stir up some controversy about my sexual orientation.”

He said the administrator asked him not to file a complaint, a request he granted. However, he said, he did ask the administrator to stop the harassment.

“As a man, I said ‘man to man, this has to stop. My sexual orientation is my business and not part of my work environment’ and it stopped.

“I think that you have a couple of options when you are discriminated against.

“You can either attack or find common ground and I always search for the more peaceful aspect,” he said.

Mary Turner, Student Support Services specialist, said “discrimination is against college policy and law.”

Turner said any students who feel they are being discriminated against or harassed can contact Erin Logan, Student Relations director, at 405-682-7821 or elogan@occc.edu.

“We help students find more effective ways to handle

Statistics

- One in 20 people in the U.S. considers himself or herself gay, lesbian, or transgender.
- More than 7,000 acts of hate, ranging from verbal harassment to physical violence, were committed against homosexuals and lesbians last year, reports the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Nearly one in five occurred on college campuses.
- 53 percent of students report hearing homophobic comments made by school staff.
- Fewer than 20 percent of guidance counselors have received training on serving gay and lesbian students.
- Homosexuals are the most frequent victims of hate crimes in the U.S.
- 19 percent of gay/lesbian youth report suffering physical attacks.

Gay/Lesbian Hotline
1-888-843-4564
www.glnh.org/

situations and how it impacted them,” Turner said.

She said employees can contact Human Resources at 405-682-7542.

DeCarlo said she won’t let any obstacles get in her way.

“I know that for the most part, despite these small clashings, I feel comfortable to be gay at OCCC because, I know that this is something that I just have to go through and it’s something that I have been through a lot.”

SPORTS



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

Otto Kling, 81, (front) follows instructor Lisa Vaughan's lead in Combo Aerobics. Kling participates in this class along with Myra Decker (back left), and Harriet Monsee while she teaches at OCCC's Wellness Center. The Center offers many classes not only for students but also for community residents. Class schedules are available at the Wellness center desk or online at www.occc.edu/RF/Wellness-Classes.

FITNESS CLASSES! STARTING IN THE SPRING, OCCC OFFERS FITNESS CLASSES TO THE PUBLIC AND STUDENTS

Spring fitness classes at OCCC

JACOB CHAMBERS

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

This spring, OCCC is offering a wide variety of fitness classes for those age 3 and up, according to the Fitness and Recreation manual.

All spring fitness classes are open to the public. The only events limited to students are the intramural sports programs, said Jenny Kellbach, Recreation and Fitness assistant.

Every fitness class this spring is located in the Wellness Center.

Kellbach said current OCCC students receive discounts toward all fitness classes. There are no cancellation fees for individuals after signing up.

Those interested in learning about a class before enrolling can participate by paying a \$4 fee per class.

One class that may appeal to some individuals is Spin Aerobics with Instructor Marlene Shugart. Spin Aerobics is a group-training program with inspirational music used in aiding

“If you want to have fun, this is the place to be because we are getting in shape at the same time.”

—MARK WHITAKER

FITNESS AND RECREATION INSTRUCTOR

the conditioning process for the mind and body, according to the Fitness and Recreation manual available in front of the Fitness and Recreation Office in room 1C6. Spin is available from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Other fitness classes are already under way, but will accept latecomers.

Those who enjoy martial arts might consider signing up for Cardio Kickboxing.

Cardio Kickboxing, with Instructor Mark Whitaker is from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Cardio Kickboxing teaches participants to use their hands and feet to defend themselves while improving conditioning and stamina according to the Fitness and Recreation manual.

Whitaker said he wants people to be ready to work hard and have fun in

the class.

Whitaker also is the Boot Camp class instructor on Mondays and Wednesdays, the Abs Express class on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the Bosu Blast class offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“If you want to have fun, this is the place to be because we are getting in shape at the same time,” he said.

The popular exercise Zumba also is offered.

Zumba runs from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, Jan. 3 through Jan. 31; from noon to 12:55 p.m. and again from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 4 through Jan. 27.

Zumba fuses Latin music with easy-to-follow dance steps, Whitaker said.

For more information, stop by the Wellness Center on the first floor of the Main Building and speak with Kellbach, or Watson; call 405-682-1611, ext. 7786, or visit www.occc.edu/RF/wellness.

Questions also can be e-mailed to Watson at ewatson@occc.edu.

UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Jan. 3:** Abs Express class from 5:05 to 5:25 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Jan. 3:** Spin Aerobics class from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Tuesdays and Thursdays in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Jan. 3:** Cardio Kickboxing class from 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Jan. 3:** Pilates class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Jan. 3:** Hatha Yoga class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Jan. 4:** Bosu Blast class from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the OCCC Wellness Center. For more information, contact Eric Watson, Recreation and Fitness specialist, at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Jan. 3:** Boot Camp class from 4:15 to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays 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 Jacob Chambers
sportswriter@occc.edu

Insurance: Students encouraged to get healthcare coverage

Continued from page 1

providers can be found on the OCCC website.

Kenneth Meador, College Democrats president, said the effort exerted by the college to provide information is a valiant one.

"I do think the informational opportunities that OCCC

provides are a great way for the students to find out their options and make an informed decision about their healthcare needs," Meador said.

"The most important thing for a student to do is to get all possible information before making this huge decision that has such large implications."

However, for those who

believe acquiring insurance is not a realistic possibility, the school also offers information for local health clinics that are free or sliding-scale based.

Jamerye Paulin, a student at OCCC, contends these health clinics are as important as insurance as a whole.

"In these economic times especially, a lot of students

don't have insurance, so a low cost or free clinic is in high demand when the unexpected happens," he said.

And because the unexpected should be expected, Turner puts an emphasis on healthcare coverage.

"We never know what the future may hold, which is the point of insurance," she said.

"In case something happens, you'll be covered with insurance, so it's really important to have some sort of healthcare coverage."

For more information about healthcare coverage possibilities, visit the OCCC website at www.occc.edu or contact Student Support Services at 405-682-7520.

Rent: Bookstores offer alternatives to buying

Continued from page 1

tion concerns on the cost of textbooks for students.

"We thought we'd help people save some money," she said.

Reinke said textbook rental is common in the college bookstore industry.

"The spring semester is the first semester we have done it, which is why we've selected three textbooks to see how much interest there is from the students," she said.

Reinke said English Comp I and II were chosen because of the number of students required to take those classes.

The biology book was chosen because OCCC has 500 to 600 students enrolled in nutrition each semester.

She said textbooks put into a rental program are usually the same textbooks the bookstore buys back at the end of the semester.

"For the last 20 years we've had a rental program," Reinke said.

"It's called book buy back."

And OCCC is not the only bookstore renting textbooks to students.

Brice Varbel, Textbook Brokers manager, said his store rents about 15 percent of their textbooks.

A branch is located on the north side of OCCC at the northwest corner of SW 74th and May Avenue.

While Varbel thinks it is good to rent textbooks if you do not have the income to buy

them outright, he said you get more money in the long run if you purchase the books rather than rent.

Reinke agrees.

"Because you're paying half of the new cost price, if you buy a used book and sell it back at the end of the semester you won't spend as much money," Reinke said.

One student has her own opinion about the program.

Melessa Olivio, graphic design major, said she found cheaper textbooks online.

"I found my book \$15 cheaper on Cheg.com," Olivio said.

"I would rent a book from school only if it was cheaper than online."

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Students prepare for a new semester



YASMIN SHIRALI/PIONEER

OCCC students stand in line at advisement. Advisers help students choose majors and classes. The advising office is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

START! Student Life helps students track activities

Clubs enrich college experience

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER
Community Writer
Communitywriter@occc.edu

Students can make the most out of their time at OCCC and have fun in the process by joining a club. With almost 40 clubs on campus right now, there is something for everyone. Students also have the option of forming a new club.

Karlen Grayson, Student Clubs and Organizations assistant, said all that is required to form a club is 10 members, two sponsors, and a simple petition form available in the Student Life office. Petitions are filed with Student Life. The Vice President of Enrollment has final approval on petitions.

"We have four categories of clubs here at OCCC," Grayson said. "We have honor societies, departmental clubs that go along with your major, special interest clubs and religious clubs. Most clubs fall in the special interest category."

There are many reasons to join a club, Grayson said. The ability to network and build relationships with faculty and other students are chief among them.

Reports have shown that being involved with clubs during college helps with student development, Grayson said. Participation leads to greater success in college and, later, in careers.

Leadership skills are another important facet of joining a club, she said. Employers look for these skills

"We have honor societies, departmental clubs, special interest clubs and religious clubs."

—KARLEN GRAYSON

STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTANT

average," Grayson said.

Students can begin a special transcript that tracks involvement in various clubs, as well as community service, honors and awards, and more.

Student Activities and Recognition Transcripts, or START, can be submitted with both college and job applications. It is an official record of all activities. Student Life has brochures available to learn how to start one or students can visit Student Life online at www.occc.edu/StudentLife.

Maria Torres, business major, said she is going to join Phi Theta Kappa.

"I'm really shy normally, so hopefully it will help me be less shy," said Torres.

Karla Ortega, pre-education major, said she would like to join a multicultural club.

in today's market. Grayson said they also reflect well on college résumés.

"To be officers students have to be enrolled in at least six hours and have a 2.0 grade point

If you have community news, contact Holly Davis Walker at communitywriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Christians on Campus to host lunch

Get to know other students at Christians on Campus's walk-in Welcome Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, in CU1. The first Bible study session will also take place Monday, Jan. 24, at noon in 2P7 in the Main Building. Call James Kenedy at 405-314-7739 for more information.

Student Organization Fair

Student Life will host a student organization fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, and Thursday, Jan. 27, in the college union. Students are invited to attend and discover all the clubs OCCC has to offer.

Hank Williams Sr. Tribute Band

Hankerin' for Hank, a Hank Williams Sr. tribute band, will perform at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28, at the OCCC Bruce Owen Theater. Tickets are available from the Cultural Art Series box office for \$18 to students, faculty, staff, and members of the Alumni Association. General Admission tickets are \$20. For more information, call 405-682-7579 or visit www.occc.edu/cas.

Spring writing workshops

Students can attend Writing Righteous Essays N Theses, a workshop aimed to assist students in the art of writing a quality essay. The workshops are held between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and last for about an hour. Writing Righteous Essays N Theses is on Monday, Jan. 31, in the Communications Lab. For more information, contact Nick Webb at 405-682-1611, ext. 7678. More information and a list of other workshops planned for the semester can be found at www.occc.edu/comlab.

Spring Graduation Applications Due

Students planning to graduate in May can pick up applications at Records and Graduation Services in the Main Building. Applications are due Feb. 4 and can be turned into Graduation Services or Records after hours. Students can receive a degree evaluation in the Advising office to ensure that they are on the right track for graduation this semester.

Com Lab teaches textbook efficiency

Students can increase their success by attending a workshop from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Communications Lab on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Attendees will learn how to study their textbooks more efficiently in as little as three sessions. Contact the Communications Lab in the Main Building for more information.

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.

ELECTRONICS

FOR SALE: 19" Samsung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. \$40. Call: 405-501-8777.

FOR SALE: TI 84 & TI Enspire keyboards, operating systems. Used for one semester. Manual, software. \$50. 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 olalekanji@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.

FURNITURE

FOR SALE: Wooden highchair. Good condition. \$10. OCCC ext 7674 or 405-501-8777.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: No down payment, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 2 car, CH&A, Move in ready, spotless, close to OU and OCCC, 227 S Bristow, Moore, OK. \$87,500. Call: 405-364-8555, 405-820-3630 or e-mail cshutt1@cox.net.

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SERVICES

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

TUTORING OFFERED: Are you struggling in Chemistry or Math? Take a tutoring class with Nguyen. Call: Nguyen at 918-850-5625 or e-mail nguyen.h.truong@email.occc.edu

TEXTBOOKS

FOR SALE: Freshman books for Business & Management major. Used but in good shape and affordable price. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@gmail.com.

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.

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www.occc.edu/pioneer

TODAY'S
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Florida city
6 Pretenses
10 Burn
14 Caesar's tongue
15 Diving bird
16 After-bath attire
17 "— You Glad You're You?"
18 Division word
19 Jazz's home
20 Moocher
22 Allot
23 "What — is new?"
24 Badge
26 Giddy
30 Style
32 Type of spray
33 "— and the King of Siam"
35 Hand warmers
40 Solar spectacle
42 Walden Pond dweller
44 North Woods animal
45 Poet's inspiration
47 Social misfit
48 Farmer's produce
50 Highland misses
52 Take to task
56 Peddle
58 Arkin or Ladd
59 Insect repellent

DOWN
1 Nonesay's patron saint
2 Mystery writer John Dickson —
3 Fit to —
4 Queue
5 Stag feature
6 Pseudonym
7 Express strong disapproval of
8 Carry
9 Made sleep noises
10 Bit of bread
11 Marriott holding
12 Subside
13 Change the length of
21 Earthenware pots
25 Note
26 Polite cough
27 Texas town
28 Hawaiian port

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

29 Writer Murdoch
31 Edible grains
34 Julia Verne's captain
36 Coffee containers
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38 Bill of —: menu
39 Beer: slang
41 Quick kiss
43 "Hi!"
46 Parvenu
49 School period
51 Alloy used for magnets
52 Ran
53 Avoid adroitly
54 Flat-bottomed boat
55 Beneath
57 Sea eagles
60 Nastase of the courts
61 Light tan
62 Fibs
63 For fear that
64 Music and sculpture

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PIONEER
Treasure Hunt
Search the Pioneer for answers to our weekly treasure hunt questions.

Read the Pioneer issues to play the Treasure Hunt game. Send your answers to: adman@occc.edu.

THE TREASURE HUNT QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:

1) Name four classes being offered to the public in the Wellness Center.

2) Name three important Winter driving "Dos and 3 "Don'ts."

3) What is the OCCC official stance on electronic cigarettes when the campus goes smoke free?

4) Which musical group has a new album titled "All You Need Is Now?"

PIONEER ONLINE OFFERS PODCASTS, FACEBOOK, TWITTER

Student newspaper expands coverage

JEREMY CLOUD

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Students interested in keeping up with campus news will have many more options than just picking up the newspaper this semester, said Joey Stipek, Pioneer student editor.

"The Pioneer has become so much more than just a newspaper," Stipek said. "It's also an online media outlet, serving all facets of campus newsgathering and reporting."

And the Pioneer is putting a greater emphasis on online and multimedia services than ever before, said Whitney Knight, Pioneer online editor.

"The Pioneer Online (www.occc.edu/pioneer) is always looking to expand, always looking for new ways to get our newspaper out there," Knight said.

"For instance, just this semester we've launched a new podcast with Bonnie Campo which will cover a wide variety of topics. The podcast is free to download on iTunes, with new

podcasts becoming available twice weekly."

In addition to the podcast, the Pioneer's Facebook (www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer) and Twitter (http://twitter.com/occcpioneerpages,) were started during the summer of 2010. They will continue to serve as a way for students to follow the news and provide

with a print newspaper, the only way to get feedback is through letters to the editor," Knight said.

Stipek said a multimedia approach is essential for the Pioneer to effectively fill its role for the college.

"We're the only dedicated news source for the whole campus," he said. "We provide news and information on issues that affect students directly and report on all aspects of this campus, as well as providing information to students that they might otherwise have to go hunting for."

"To do that well, we're constantly expanding the range of ways we report and deliver the news."

Even though the online aspect of the Pioneer is expanding, there will still be an emphasis on print, said Knight. "Don't get me wrong," she said. "I love online. But it's hard to replace that feeling of holding a newspaper."

"The sound of the pages rustling, the weight of it in your hands, the feeling of having something physical there."



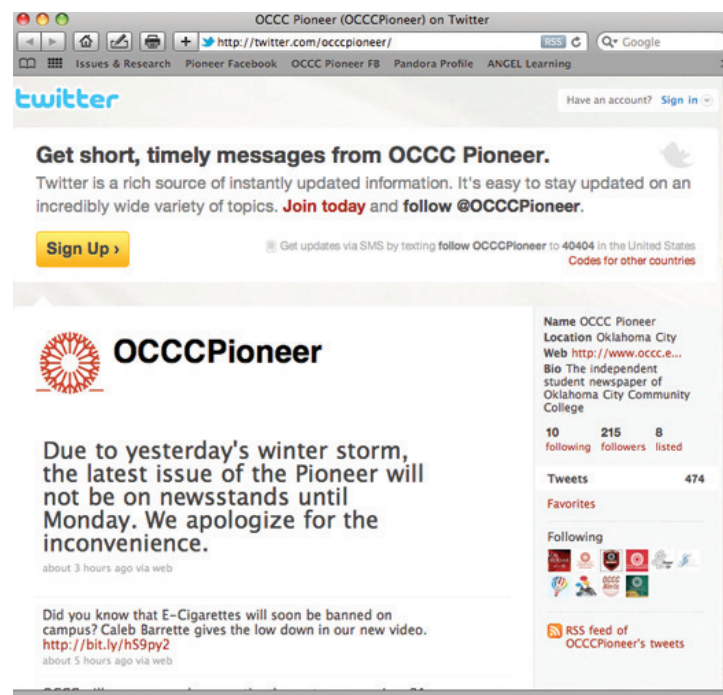
feedback, Knight said.

"We have about 200 fans on both of those services now," she said. "It's a really great opportunity for us to interact with our readers in a way that's not really possible through a print medium."

"We love posting, asking our readers questions, and actually getting to talk to them, whereas



Ever Get Somebody Totally Wasted?



HOW TO LIVE UNITED:
 JOIN HANDS.
 OPEN YOUR HEART.
 LEND YOUR MUSCLE.
 FIND YOUR VOICE.
 GIVE AN HOUR.
 GIVE A SATURDAY.
 THINK OF US BEFORE ME.
 REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND
 INFLUENCE THE CONDITION OF ALL.

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LIVE UNITED.

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