

PIONEER

March 23, 1998



Photo by John Ellis

Cultural art in motion: Shelly Bointy, OKCCC psychology major, competes in the women's fancy shawl contest at a powwow in south Texas last November. Bointy and several other American Indian dancers are scheduled to perform from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. April 2 in the college union as part of Native American Cultural Awareness week. An art show and Indian taco sale are also part of the week-long activities.

Jack Cain scholarship offered

By Amy Lawrence
Newswriting I Student

The Jack Cain Memorial Scholarship will be awarded this spring in the amount of \$250 for students enrolled in college classes at OKCCC.

Jack Cain was a former faculty member who died in a mountain climbing accident May 28, 1996. He taught at OKCCC from 1972 until his death in 1996.

Cain was known for his good humor and commitment to the advancement in mathematics, as noted in the profile of Cain on the scholarship application.

The eligibility criteria are as follows: the completion of at least 12 credit hours at OKCCC, completion or enrollment in Math 2225, Calculus and Analytic Geometry I, a grade point average of 3.25 and an intention to complete an associate degree at OKCCC.

Applications are available in the office of the Executive Director for Institutional Advancement, the Financial Aid Center, or the Office of High School and Community Relations.

The Jack Cain scholarship will be presented at the Student Awards Ceremony on April 24. Scholarship applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. April 3.

For more information, contact Judy Mee in the math department at 682-1611, ext. 7276.

College hopes for bond money to finish library

By Theresa M. Pitts
Staff Writer

The state Legislature is considering a bill this year which could provide up to \$350 million in funds for building projects at state colleges and universities, said state Sen. Cal Hobson, D-Lexington. Nearly \$13 million of that money would go toward projects at OKCCC.

Gary Lombard, vice president for business and finance, said the college was asked what building projects it would undertake if capital improvements

could be funded. In response, a list of 13 projects was submitted to the State Regents for Higher Education.

"Completion of the third and fourth floors of the library is the number one priority," Lombard said.

When finished, the library will house the Center for Information Technology. More than \$3 million would be used for computer software development laboratories and classrooms, related technology, establishment of a workforce

See "Money," page 8

History professor retires

Peter Wright says his plans are 'not to die'

By Rica Mitchusson
Staff Writer

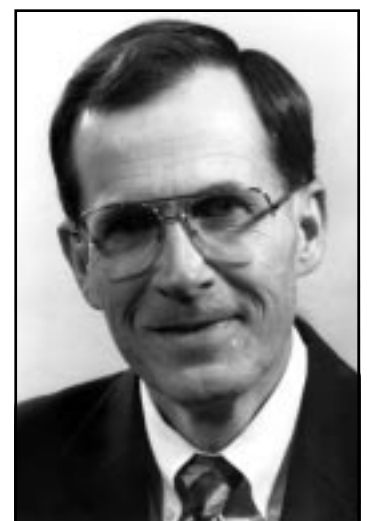
Dr. Peter Wright bid farewell to teaching history March 13, after 10 years at OKCCC.

Retirement came early for Wright due to an active cancerous tumor in his brain. Wright had been struggling with cancer for two years.

Wright said on March 28, 1996, he underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor.

Pathologists told Wright that the brain tumor was being fed by another cancer that had not been located at that time. Wright returned to OKCCC in the summer of 1996.

After a trip to the Mexican border in March 1997, Wright said he suspected



Peter Wright

something was wrong. "Coming back from Laredo I felt fine, and then began having headaches," Wright said.

See "Wright," page 8

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Istook bill threat to real religious freedom in U.S.

The Clowns on the Hill, Congressional Mix, have authored a bill allowing religious beliefs to be acknowledged on public property.

The bill, authored by Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK), reads as follows:

"To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience: the people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage, or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. The Government shall not require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity, initiate, or designate school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion."

The bill, called the religious freedom amendment, passed the House Judiciary Committee on March 3.

At first glance, this looks like a fairly innocuous concept. Under the surface many conflicts arise.

The amendment would invite competition between religious groups for scarce government funds and space for displays.

The bill is worded to appear to support expression for any belief or tradition, but the first sentence contradicts the stated intent.

By "securing the people's right to believe in God," the people's right to believe in Goddess, or Gods, or not to believe at all is infringed.

Do our good representatives truly believe all faiths and world views will have equal access to government property?

Are they sure they want it?

What would Rep. Istook, who is Mormon, think of his children attending schools displaying crescents and pentacles alongside the cross?

Do we as citizens want competition between faiths going on in our public schools? Are there not enough divisions between people? Do we really need to cut more time out of a school day for something such as prayer?

Religious clubs operate in more than 15,000 public schools in this country. No one is denying the right for students to pray.

The United States has had enough of conservative political strong arming.

The bill is against the spirit of the First Amendment. It will a blur the roles of government and religion.

This bill would open the door to tax money flowing into parochial schools, since the government cannot "deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion."

This bill is an underhanded attack on true religious liberty and an insult to the intelligence of the American people.

— Robyn Lydick
Student Editor



Excellence teacher nominations sought

To the Editor:

The President's Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented during each spring to a full-time faculty member who exemplifies teaching excellence.

To be placed in consideration, a faculty member may be nominated by a fellow faculty member, by a current or former student, or by a staff member.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the Information desk.

Nomination forms must be submitted by Friday, April 10 to the office of Dr. Paul Sechrist, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Nominees are requested to complete a reference sheet supplying personal and professional information. After a review of all nominations, a committee representing students, faculty and administration will recommend three candidates to the president, who will then make the final selection.

Criteria for selection include:

- A high degree of professional competence exhibited by knowledge and expertise that is extensive and current;

- Effective teaching methods that demonstrate quality, creativity and resourcefulness, as well as clear, accurate and effective communication;

- Enthusiasm and a strong commitment to teaching in general and a genuine concern, commitment and fairness to students;

- Contribution to the teaching profession at the institutional, state and national level.

The recipient of the award will be announced during commencement exercises in May.

The recipient will receive a plaque and a cash award of \$1,000.00.

—Paul W. Sechrist
Vice President for
Academic Affairs

The PIONEER can be found on the college homepage @ www.okc.cc.ok.us under News

PIONEER

Vol. 25 No. 25

Robyn Lydick.....Editor
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Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

The PIONEER is a publication of Oklahoma City Community College through the Division of Arts and Humanities. It is published weekly during the fall and spring semesters and the eight-week summer session.

All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher.

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

Letters to the editor can be delivered in person to the PIONEER office, mailed to Student Editor Robyn Lydick, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to 682-7568.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.okc.cc.ok.us>



Oklahoma City Community College
PIONEER

We welcome all
comments, opinions and
letters to the editor
Call 682-1611,
ext.7675, or come by 2M6,
second floor of the
main building

Pianist lets fingers do the talking



Photo by Trent Dugas

Classical performer Max Lifchitz held a workshop, class and concert on campus March 6. He played music from Latin and American composers and spoke on the cultural history of music.

Vehicle vandalism vexes victims

**By Jason Goodwin
Newswriting I Student**

Parking lot C became a hotbed for vandalism recently when three vehicles were broken into on the same day within the same time frame.

According to OKCCC incident reports, the vehicles of Adam Johnson, Luis Deras, and Carisha Osburn were all broken into sometime between 6 and 10 p.m. March 3. The discoveries were made after 10 p.m.

In all of the cases, entry had been gained by prying open door locks.

In addition, two of the students returned to find a broken window.

Johnson reported a compact disc case containing 60 CDs, with a total value of \$620, missing from his 1993 Ford ranger XLT pickup.

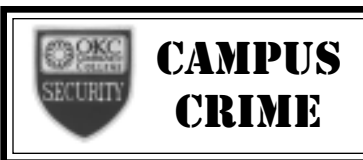
Nothing was reported missing from the other two

vehicles.

Damage to Osburn's 1989 Honda Accord LXI and Deras' 1985 Chevy Cavalier has been estimated at approximately \$150 apiece.

Vandals struck again March 6.

Student Stacy Mills said



she returned to parking lot E at approximately 6 p.m. to find the passenger-side window of her 1995 Chevy S-10 pickup broken.

Mills reported that a stereo speaker system had been stolen. She estimated the total in damages and stolen property at \$1745.

One of the vehicle owners, Johnson remarked, "I think this could have been prevented. Nobody appeared to be patrolling the

College regent plans return to work after triple bypass surgery

**By Robyn Lydick
Student Editor**

Regent Daniel Hardage is making plans to attend the Board of Regents meeting on March 23, one month after undergoing triple bypass surgery.

Hardage had surgery Feb. 26. It was his second bypass operation.

Janice Phillips, executive assistant to the president, said Hardage was doing better than expected.

"He's a little sore and tender, but he's walking everyday."

Hardage said his recovery is going extraordinarily well.

OKCCC President Bob Todd calls Hardage an exceptionally bright individual with the highest personal standards.

"He is very thoughtful as the board deliberates."

Hardage has been a

member of the Board of Regents for three years.

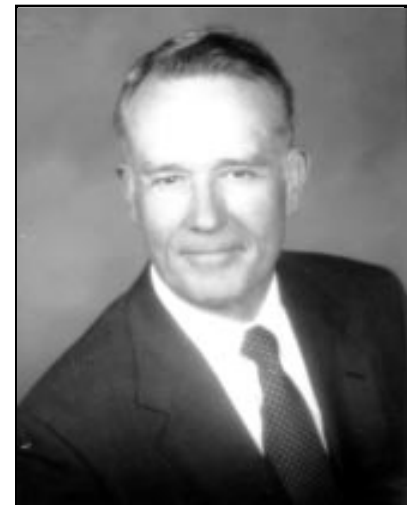
Previously, Hardage served on the Western Heights school board.

Todd described Hardage as a roll-up-your-sleeves type of person.

He also volunteers with the Capitol Baptist Association.

Recently the group put vinyl siding on Knob Hill Baptist Church.

"Dan is very active. It's a challenge to mind the doctor and slow down while you're mending," Todd said.



Regent Daniel Hardage

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John T. Baldwin, Ph.D. "The Rainbow Connection: Explaining Death in the Geologic Column and its Meaning for Calvary"

Saturday Afternoon: 2:30 P.M.

Art V. Chadwick, Ph.D. "How the Grand Canyon Layers Were Deposited: Fresh Field Evidence Suggests a Revolutionary Model"

John T. Baldwin, Ph.D. "Yellowstone Fossil Forest Research: A Transport Model Suggested for the Upright Trees"

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Job fair employers look for good workers

**By Nick Spross
Staff Writer**

Students had a chance to talk to representatives about employment as OKCCC hosted the annual Career and Job Fair March 11 in the college union.

The Graduate Employment Services sponsored the fair so students as well as employers could have a chance to meet with each other face to face.

More than 30 different companies at the fair sent out representatives to recruit potential employees.

Some of the companies are seeking part-time help while others are looking for full-time.

Gary Young, Recruiter for United Parcel Service, said his company wants those interested in part-time work.

"We recruit at the fair because we need people to work part-time," Young said. "College students seem to work best because

they are usually only looking for part-time work."

Several companies came to the fair looking for ambitious individuals.

Jerry Seward, general manager for American General Life and Accident Insurance Company, said he likes energetic people.

"At the colleges you always find a variety of energetic people," Seward said. "Community colleges offer a wide variety of ages from teenagers to those over 50."

Pat Singleton, recruiter for Federal Transfer Center, said the center is looking for people in the area.

"We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and recruit within the community," Singleton said.

Some students had no idea the job fair was being held.

"I was just walking by and saw the fair going on," student Adam Johnson said. "I thought maybe I could get a good job."

The fair brought many former students to the college.

Ralph DeCardenas, diversified studies graduate, said he came to the fair in search of a career.

"I came to see what kind of opportunities they had," DeCardenas said.

Many of the companies

had applications on hand while others had interested people sign a list for future contact.

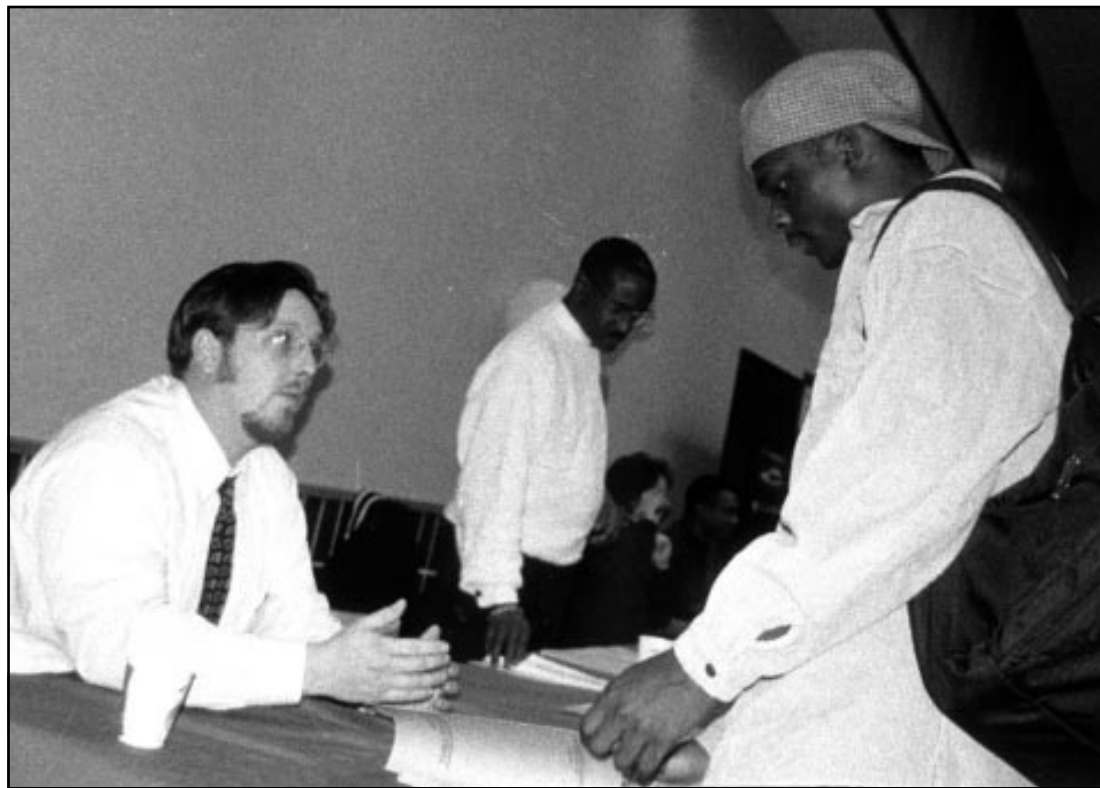


Photo by Trent Dugas

Lance Cullen recruiter for Oklahoma Office of Personnel Management shares some of his knowledge about the company with student Michael Atakpo at the Career and Job Fair. The fair was held in the college union on March 11. More than 30 companies sent representatives to the event.

Transfer days make next educational rung easier to reach

**By Drew Harmon
Newswriting I Student**

Both the University of Oklahoma and the University of Central Oklahoma will hold transfer days in March for students considering transferring from a two-year college, including OKCCC

Students will be able to get first-hand information about the universities, apply for admission, and meet representatives from clubs

and academic departments.

Students attending OU's transfer days will have the opportunity to enroll in fall classes before current OU students, according to the OU Office of Prospective Student Services.

OU's transfer days are March 25, 26, and 27, or any time by individual appointment.

Each prospective student will receive a personal schedule and attend orientation, academic assessment, and advisement ses-

sions.

Students will be given general information about OU and a calendar of university functions. Attendance at the transfer days is not mandatory for admission.

For more information, contact the OU Office of Prospective Student Services at 325-2151.

"Get to Know UCO" will be held Wednesday, March 25, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Students will be admitted, get to know the campus, and prepare to enroll

for the fall semester, according to a UCO press release. In addition to academic information, this event offers refreshments, door prizes, and a UCO fun

pack.

For more information, students should call the UCO Office of Prospective Student Services at 341-2980, extension 2727.

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Camera chronicles life of professor

By Trent Dugas
Staff Writer

OKCCC Photography Professor Hugh Scott likes simple things such as eating McDonald's french fries, watching the movie "Harvey" and taking pictures of any athlete with a ball in play.

In fact, Scott's real passion is for photography. He also takes photographs for the marketing department at The Daily Oklahoman.

This doesn't sound too challenging until one takes into account that Scott suffers from a disability — he is legally blind in one eye.

Scott said he doesn't see this as being a problem.

"Being legally blind in one eye actually helps me with my photographs," he said. "I see everything just like a photograph — on a two-dimensional plane."

Hugh Scott Sr., played a major role in promoting his son's interest in photography at age 8. Scott sighed as he recalled his father's best advice.

"Never take a bad picture out of the darkroom. If people do not see your bad pictures people will not know you take bad pictures."

With that in mind, Scott began to shape his future.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and a master's degree in Education from Oklahoma City University. He said school was long and tedious but it was worth the effort.

From 1986 through 1991 Scott served as University Photographer at Oklahoma City University, the college's first photographer in 30 years. Scott also created brochures, tabloids, magazines and supervised the school's \$30,000 yearly budget while photographing the school's sports including most basketball games.

"What I was doing was fun — taking pictures of basketball games. To me that is the fun stuff," he said. "Sitting on the court and having ball players step on you. And I got paid for it too."

After graduation, Scott worked at small-town newspapers in both

Bartlesville and Yukon.

At the Yukon Review he served as photographer, staff writer, editor, sports editor and columnist writing a weekly editorial ranging from politics to personal opinion.

"It was hard work, performing all the jobs I had at the Yukon Review, but I also learned a lot," he said. "Many people can write. And many people can take pictures. But not many people can do both well. I learned to do both rather well."

The tone in his voice changed to sadness as he recalled a particular moment from 1995 when he worked at the Yukon Review — April 19, the day of the Oklahoma City bombing.

"I realized history was unfolding and convinced the paper that a photographer should be on the scene for the citizens of Yukon," Scott said.

"During those first morning hours on April 19, nobody realized how damaging the explosion was and the loss of life."

Scott said he pointed out to his superiors that they had an obligation to cover the breaking news because Yukon would feel the effects of the devastation.

Determination surfaced as Scott explained his experience.

"You cannot get emotionally involved in it because if you do, you cannot do your job."

"You would not expect firefighters and police officers to cry on each other's shoulder and say 'oh how terrible it is,'" explained Scott. "That comes later, after the job is done."

"Photographers are the same way. When you are looking through the camera you are distancing yourself from the event. You are recording it for history, you're not a part of it. You are like a bystander."

Most of Scott's pictures from that day are of volunteers and the damage to surrounding buildings.

Photographs from his camera have glossed the pages of many publications including Sports Illustrated, Time, Leisure Lifestyles, The Sporting News, The Los Angeles



Times and The Houston Post. They also grace the pages of the books "We Will Never Forget" and "Garth Brooks-Platinum Cowboy".

Scott's hard work in photography has been rewarded.

The Oklahoma Press Association awarded him with first place in four different categories for Picture of the Year and first place in six

and he also received the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education award for a "Don't Drink and Drive" campaign. There are more than 30 distinctions and awards with Hugh Scott's name on them.

However, shooting pictures of basketball players in motion is number one on his list of favorite things to do. He has taken pictures of more than 500 games.

"When I am sitting at the end of the court on the floor I feel as if I am more involved in the game," he said. "I feel the floor vibrate when they run and jump on the court."

"They will dive for a ball going out-of-bounds and land on top of you. I've had my glasses broken one time and had a tread mark of a guy's shoe on my leg where he jumped over me."

Scott has also covered more than his share of football games and said it can sometimes be dangerous on the sidelines.

"From high school to professional — I have covered many football games and have never been hit while standing on the sidelines."

Not by a football player anyway.

Hugh Scott took this photograph during his stint as photographer for Oklahoma City University.

The players are from OCU and Phillips University during the 1991 Sooner Athletic Conference tournament.

Scott said he remembers that the game went into overtime with OCU emerging victorious.

"It was an awesome game," he said. "I think OCU went on to National Championship."

Scott has photographed more than 500 basketball games in his career.

He said once, he was on the sidelines when the players began running toward him. When he started to run out of the way he tripped over a fellow photographer, became airborne and slammed onto the ground. The camera jammed into his side bruising a couple of ribs.

As fun as those experiences have been, Scott still enjoys time spent in the classroom.

He said he loves teaching students photography.

"I get a real kick interacting and talking with other students," he said. "The key to my class is to have fun. I hope people in my class get an appetite for photography and understand it," Scott said.

His best advice for beginning photographers is to shoot as much film as possible and allow one week to work on a new photography assignment. He said discipline separates the great photographers from the good ones.

Although you might not notice Scott if he passed you on the street, it's almost certain that his accomplishments in photography have passed before your eyes at some time or another.



Hugh Scott

different categories for Photographer of the Year.

The Oklahoma Education Association gave him the Marshall Gregory Award for year-round coverage in photojournalism

Highlights

Beanie Baby basket and Easter basket bonanza

The Student Physical Therapy Assistant Organization will be selling \$1 tickets for a drawing from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. March 24 thru 26 in the main lobby. Your \$1 ticket could win a basket full of goodies, including free dinners, free health club passes, craft items, White Water passes, candy and much more. In addition, Beanie Baby Easter baskets will be on sale for \$10 each.

Pager winner announced

March 5 was a lucky day for student Tony Cortez. Cortez won a pager in the \$1 drawing sponsored by Hispanic Organization to Promote Education. HOPE raised about \$150 for their annual awards banquet scheduled for April 18. The pager was courtesy of USA Paging and Cellular.

OU Health Science Center discussion slated

The Health Professions Club announces a panel discussion beginning at 6:30 p.m. March 31 in CU1 and CU2. Students from OU's physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, pharmacy, dietetics, physician's assistant and medical school programs will be on hand for open discussion on topics such as how to get in to various programs at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center.

Order cap and gown now for graduation

Information for ordering caps, gowns and graduation invitations is available in the bookstore. Time is short, ordering now is recommended.

Deadline for summer tuition fee waiver just ahead

Summer tuition fee waiver forms will be available in the student financial aid center beginning March 23. The last day to submit applications is 5 p.m. April 24. Awards will be posted May 8 in the student financial aid center.

Future Teachers Organization announce meeting

The FTO will meet at noon March 25 in room 2R8.

Abilities Galore announce meeting and scholarships

A general meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. March 23 in room 1E7. Scholarship applications will be available. Sally Edwards, director of Prospective Student Services, will speak on "Scholarship Application Strategies."

Swimming is fun for all ages

Learn the basics of swim techniques and how to be confident in the water. New lessons for adults and children will begin March 28 for Saturday a.m. classes and March 31 for p.m. classes. For more information contact the recreation office at 682-1611 ext. 7425.

Recycling program up for grabs

Attention campus clubs and organizations: the aluminum can recycling program is in need of a new sponsor. Groups interested in the project should call Gary Phillips at 682-7554 for more information.

Club announces meeting and trip plans

The Native American Cultural Awareness Organization will hold its general meeting from noon to 1 p.m. March 25 in 2N5. All members are urged to attend. The "Gathering of Nations" trip will be discussed.



Photo by Alejandro Gonzales

Phi Theta Kappa members Marcy Wiggins, Chris Malcolm and Jeff Cheek were named to the Hall of Honor at the Oklahoma-Arkansas Phi Theta Kappa regional convention in February. The convention was held at OKCCC. Cheek also won Most Distinguished Member.

Phi Theta Kappa shows who's #1

By Ronda Williamson
Newswriting I Student

And the winner is . . . Phi Theta Kappa.

OKCCC PTK members emerged victorious at the recent Oklahoma-Arkansas Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention held at OKCCC Feb. 20 through 22.

PTK is an international honor society. Students must maintain a 3.75 grade point average and membership is by invitation only.

OKCCC's PTK chapter won several first place awards. Within the Hallmark Award category, PTK took first in both the Fellowship and Scholarship divisions.

The chapter also received first place in yearbook, service project and newsletter.

PTK members nabbed several other awards as well.

Member Jeff Cheek walked away with the Most Distinguished Member award.

Hall of Honor members named included Jeff Cheek, Chris Malcom, and

tion Resource Center, and M.C. Smothermon former executive director of Oklahoma's Regional Aids Interfaith Network.

Twenty-five chapters participated in the weekend event. Approximately 167 people were in attendance.

Chris Malcom, chapter president, said it was an honor to host the regional convention.

"It was a great success," she said.

Marcy Wiggins, vice president of OKCCC's chapter, said membership in PTK is beneficial.

"Phi Theta gives students a different kind of leadership opportunity as well as refining their own leadership skills."

The chapter will attend the International Convention in Nashville April 1 through 5.

CLUB NEWS

Marcy Wiggins. Named as Hall of Honor advisers were Dana Glencross and Richard Rouillard.

Keynote speakers for the convention were Anne Roberts, executive director for the Oklahoma Institute of Child Advocacy, Raymond L. Waters, prevention specialist of the Area Preven-

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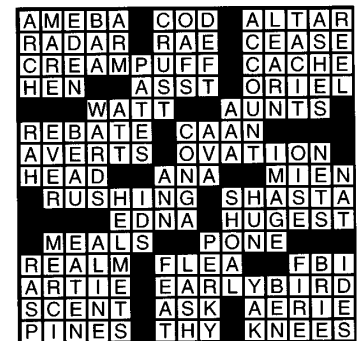
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If Interested, please contact Gary or Chris at 948-2405 to set up an appointment.

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- ACROSS**
1 Surrounded by
5 Garden veggies
9 Old-car feature
12 Not any
13 Goodbye, in Cannes
15 Install electricity
16 Scads
17 Broaden
18 Director Kazan
19 Moment
21 Most sympathetic
23 Carrier's partner
24 Nourished
25 Duplicated genetically
28 Health problem
33 Seeps
34 Lotion ingredient
35 1996 candidate
36 In the past
37 Gather
38 Be victorious
39 Singer Turner
41 Distorted, in a way
42 Kilt feature
44 Frozen in
46 Inlets
47 Scribble (down)
48 By oneself
49 Takes
53 Spring flower
57 Alliance
- DOWN**
1 Against
2 Earth's satellite
3 Taverns
4 Ordain
5 Hocked
6 Blue-pencils
7 Help
8 Hunt
9 Put away in folders
10 Rainbow goddess
11 Like Felix Unger
14 Joins
15 Type of bliss?
20 Blvd. crossers
22 Composer
25 Raccoon's cousin
26 Reason
27 Lightning by-product
- 58 Correct
60 Wild goat
61 Sect
62 Wooden rod
63 Snout
64 Dolphin's home
65 "Primal Fear" star
66 Obtains

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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42 Heap
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Alley —
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48 More sensible
49 Fundamentals
50 Detective's find
51 Soft drink
52 Air pollution
54 Wind instrument
55 Bluebird's residence
56 Former spouses
59 Lamb's parent

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OKCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 4 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611 ext. 7674 for more information.

POSITIONS

HELP WANTED: Part-time work - full-time pay! Now hiring people to canvass neighborhoods between 4 - 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, casual dress, no sales required. Call Joe, 2-5 p.m. 634-3338.

HELP WANTED: Child care teacher, flexible hours, day and evening available.

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AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '94 Toyota Celica, less than 50,000 miles, loaded, new tires, new brakes, \$11,200. Call: 631-6213.

FOR SALE: '94 Toyota pickup 4x4, 30K miles, immaculate condition, must see to appreciate. Call: 360-4410 after 6:30 p.m.

FOR SALE: '93 Honda Accord LX, maroon, 2-door, 5-speed, in great shape but high mileage, \$5,400, Call: 842-5595.

FOR SALE: '88 Ford Escort runs good. \$2,500, leave message: 790-0299.

FOR SALE: '86 Ford T-bird, \$3,500 O.B.O. New tires, brakes, exhaust and battery. Fully loaded, looks and runs great. Call: 386-9400.

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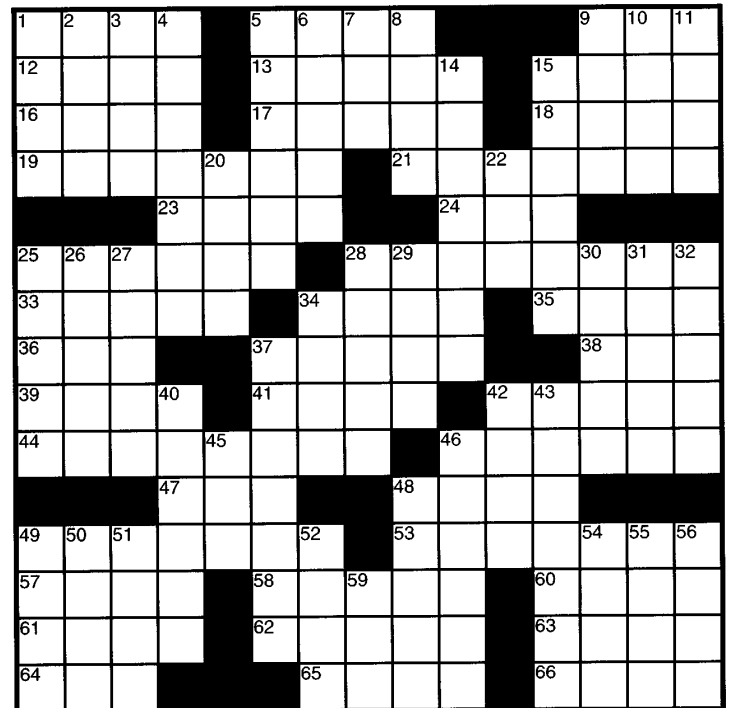
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Tumor forces professor's early retirement

"Wright,"

Cont. from page 1

A second surgery was performed in May 1997.

Recently Wright suspected the tumor was growing again. Radiation therapy could have been administered if the tumor wasn't too large, Wright explained, but one of his four doctors wouldn't agree to the treatments.

"One doctor wanted to wait for 90 days," Wright said.

"I had an MRI and the tumor had grown too large for the gamma-knife radiation treatments."

Gamma-knife radiation is a fairly new procedure wherein slits are cut into the skull and radiation pulses are directed at the tumor, said an oncology technician at Midwest Regional Medical Center in Midwest City.

Wright said he is exploring other treatments.

"There are a number of possibilities, but no one will cut on my head again. This is my decision."

Another decision Wright made was to prepare his students for the professors they can expect to see teaching his classes after spring break.

Dr. Ron Gray will teach the American Indian history class and professors Mindy Bergin, Gary Ramsey and Ray McCullar will take over Wright's history survey classes.

One of Wright's former students, Amy Thomas, said she was sorry to hear of Wright's extended illness.

"As a teacher, he was absolutely fabulous," Thomas said. "He sets a high standard for teachers and I respect him so much. He is amazingly intelligent and a treasure."

Her feelings are shared by the faculty.

Ray McCullar, professor of history, said the word that came to mind in describing Wright was "gentleman."

"It's a word that isn't used much now, and Dr. Wright embodies it with a combination of modesty, unfailing courtesy and genuine concern for people

and learning," McCullar said.

Learning and teaching have been a large part of Wright's life.

After graduating from El Reno High School in 1958, Wright received a bachelor's in 1962 and a master's in 1965 both in history from the University of Oklahoma.

Wright then graduated with a doctor of philosophy degree in history from the University of Wyoming in 1978.

Dr. Wright taught at California State University at Long Beach, the University of Wyoming and the University of Alabama at Birmingham before coming to OKCCC in June 1988.

"I am happy to say I came here and found this to be a very happy school," said Wright.

"President Bob Todd has been very supportive, and I'll always be grateful."

When asked what his future plans are Wright answered: "I plan not to die."

Remodeling, renovations planned

"Money,"

Cont. from page 1

training center, and expansion of advanced technology education.

The remaining \$10 million would be used for various campus remodeling and renovation projects such as a semi-conductor manufacturing technology program, a biomedical laboratory, classrooms, the science lab, and the student services area.

Funding for the bill, which passed in the state Senate on March 2, may be difficult to obtain, said state Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City.

Hobson, who coauthored the bill, said the money for the building projects could come from the sale of bonds, similar to bonds that funded the \$1 billion road package last year. That package was not voted on by the people, but was

approved only by the Legislature.

Leftwich said the Legislature's handling of the road bond issue has met with opposition, and that could affect this year's higher education bonds.

A citizens' advocacy group, Common Cause Oklahoma, is arguing that the road bonds were unconstitutional. The case is now being heard by the Oklahoma Supreme Court, Leftwich said.

Hobson said until the court rules on the legality of the road bonds, the Legislature is proceeding with plans for higher education bonds.

Depending upon the court's ruling, those plans may deviate somewhat.

If the court rules against the Legislature on the handling of the road bonds, Hobson said, the higher education bonds may be brought before a vote of the people.

"That may be where we end up," Hobson said. "But we may be able to implement it statutorily (by legislation only) depending on how the court rules. I want to be positioned and ready either way."

Hobson pointed out that other bond issues have been handled like last year's road bonds, and there has never been a problem before.

State Rep. Dan Webb, R-Oklahoma City, said he supports the completion of the OKCCC library, but he does not yet support the bond issue.

"Until I get answers on how we're going to retire the debt, which I have not heard yet, then I'm on hold."

The last capital improvements bond issue was passed by a vote of the people in 1992. Lombard said the library was built with OKCCC's share of those funds.

OKCCC's film series revived

By Lloyd Nickell
Newswriting I
Student

The OKCCC film series returns April 2. It will kick off with two screenings of "Schemitzun '96," a film that deals with Native American issues. (Times and location will be announced later)

Chosen by the OKCCC Film Committee as a shift from Hollywood blockbusters to cultural awareness films, "Schemitzun '96" is the second film to be shown since the committee changed its focus.

The first film in the latest series, February's showing of "The Ghost of Mississippi," coincided with Black History Month.

Mike Jones, coordinator of student activities, said he supports the committee's shift away from blockbusters, but said both he and the committee are open to suggestions from students.

Jones said the main reason for the switch is attributed to low turnout

in the past.

While showings of "Toy Story" and "Jurassic Park" were huge successes in the past, Jones said, box office hits like "Batman Forever" and "Jerry Maguire" were shown to dismal audiences last fall.

This low turnout is also to blame for the committee's decision to show four to five films per year instead of four or five per semester.

Although it's a good start, as one student pointed out, changing the genre may not solve all of the problems

Student Tommy Sturdivant said it's not the choice of films keeping him away, but rather his lack of spare time and his schedule, which conflicts with show times.

Mike Jones said he understands students dilemmas and hopes to make the films more accessible by having two screenings and encouraging friends and family of students to attend also.

Screenings are free to the public.

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