Student discovers working for self can be rewarding
Joyce Larkins goes from welfare to entrepreneur

By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

O KCCC student Joyce Larkins went from being a single mother of four, relying on public assistance to being chosen as the Small Business Administration’s Welfare-to-Work 1999 Entrepreneur of the Year for Oklahoma.

Larkins owns a child care business.

Larkins said she had received welfare for about three years before enrolling in the Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City’s Opportunity Lending Circle Program, a micro-credit program for small businesses. The Community Action Agency nominated Larkins for the award.

“She worked very hard and deserved recognition,” said Chandra Smotherman, an economic development coordinator with the program.

In May of 1998, Larkins opened An Angel’s Touch Home Day Care Center at 3114 N.W. 50th St. in Oklahoma City.

“I felt like I had been touched by an angel, so I decided I would name the day care An Angel’s Touch,” she said.

At first, she had only three children to care for but by November the number had grown to 12.

“Most of the clientele are commuters from far north-west Oklahoma City who are working in this area.” However, she said, she also works closely with Department of Human Services clients.

The day care has one full-time employee and operates two shifts from 6 a.m. to midnight. Larkins offers additional services such as picking up the children from school, having extended evening hours and taking the children on weekly field trips.

Larkins started the business after qualifying for a $2,500 loan.

Aida Alvarez, Administrator of the United States Small Business Administration, said the SBA helps former welfare recipients start their own businesses.

Larkins received her Child Development Associate credentials after taking child development courses at OKCCC.

Jane Humphries, part-time child development instructor at OKCCC, said she is proud of Larkins.

“Joyce has been an enjoyable student in my classes. She has many gifts to offer the children and families she serves in our community.”

Concurrent enrollment offers high schoolers chance to get ahead

By Melissa Guice
Editor

Know any high schoolers anxious to get their feet wet when it comes to college?

At an information session July 8, many high school juniors and seniors found out about a program OKCCC offers that will let them do just that.

J.P. Johnson, OKCCC’s college club coordinator, said the college’s concurrent enrollment program is designed to give eligible high schoolers the chance to attend college and earn credit for classes taken.

But there is a limitation on the number of hours high school students can take, said Deidre Black, admissions officer.

“Students are limited to 19 total credit hours each semester.” Black said.

The 19 hours include college and high school combined. Each high school course counts for three hours of instruction, which can allow a student to take five high school courses and one college course.

Eligibility in the program is based on several factors.

Both juniors and seniors need to be “on track” to graduate with their class, enrolled in college preparatory classes and successfully completing high school classes that prepare them for college level courses.

Juniors also need an ACT composite score of 27 or better. Seniors need a score of at least 19.

Certain subject sub-scores are also needed depending on which class a student takes.

For instance, if a junior wants to take a math course, he’ll also have to score a 27 or better on the math portion of the ACT.

See “Enroll,” page 8
Editorial

Read my lips, no new Bushes

Is George Bush Jr. the righteous and wonderful man he claims to be or is he just another phony politician?

Choose the latter, folks. Here’s the hard-hitting—“compassionate conservatism”—preached-honest-to-God-truth: George W. Bush Jr. was head cheerleader in prep school. Besides being head pom-pommer, he was a full-fledged partying fraternity brother at Yale and a so-so college student.

Nothing wrong with that — especially the so-so college student part.

Except his message: “Some think it is inappropriate to draw a moral line in the sand. Not me.” Hmm, morals. Let us think. Well, Bush has been described as a heavy drinker who partied all through college well into his early 40s.

Now, again, there’s nothing wrong with that according to my morals, but according to his and his political consultant’s morals, former Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed, I am certain there is.

Even if his drunken days are of no concern, surely his two arrests may be. One for theft and one for destruction to private property.

Even if that’s no problem, Bush is a man who dodged the draft in the same way Bill Clinton did — an academic deferment.

Soon after he graduated from college, Bush joined the National Guard, which drastically decreased the chances of him ever seeing any action during the war. While there was a waiting list of 100,000 to get in the Guard, Bush was accepted right away — after a phone call made by his father, the then-Texas U.S. Representative.

After his stint in the Guard, Bush was rejected from the University of Texas Law School but was accepted at the Harvard Business School. Huh, I wonder who made the call for him that time.

At 30 years old, Bush had started his business ventures. Fifteen years later, three failed businesses and three bail-outs from his father’s high-up-there business buddies, Bush was under investigation for insider trading.

He was cleared though. However, it should be noted that the Securities Exchange Commission chairman had been nominated by George Bush Sr. in 1989 and the SEC’s general counsel had also represented George Jr. in an earlier business deal.

Here’s the kicker. Back before he was even considering governorship, Bush helped work out a deal to buy the Texas Rangers. He invested a total of $606,000 — 1.8 percent of the team. After winning the governor’s spot, he imposed a state tax to fix up the ol’ ballpark. Then, the park sold — for $250 million dollars. Bush made $14.6 million off the deal.

I don’t know. Maybe he’s learned from his drinking days. Maybe he can make a country work even if he can’t make his businesses do the same. Maybe he won’t make any more money off the taxpayers. Maybe not.

—Melissa Guice
Editor

Oklahoma teens biggest in nation? Fat chance!

To the Editor:

More Oklahoma teens think they are overweight than teens nationally, according to the Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey of teens grades 9-12.

Almost 7,000 Oklahoma teens were surveyed.

The results indicate that 29.6 percent of Oklahoma teens think they’re overweight in comparison to 27.3 percent nationally.

Thirty-six percent of Oklahoma girls are more likely to think they’re overweight than the national average of 33.5 percent.

Another survey indicates that magazines influence body perception. Researchers found that 69 percent of the girls surveyed said magazine pictures influenced their idea of the perfect body shape. Forty-seven percent wanted to lose weight because of the pictures, but only 29 percent were actually overweight.

Researchers stressed that publication of healthy eating habits and exercise would help get the message across.

Key dietary guidelines for teenage Americans include:

• Eat a food from each part of the food group pyramid including dairy products, meat, vegetables, fruit and breads.

• Choose a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol.

• Eat rice, noodles, pasta or bread with each meal.

• Limit intake of empty calories and junk food like sodas and candy bars.

• Eat only when you are hungry.

• Accept the fact that people come in different sizes and shapes.

• Exercise and play hard enough to sweat at least 15 minutes every day.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is offering a new BodyWise website as a part of the Girl Power! campaign to teach girls skills for healthy living including exercise, healthy eating habits and positive role models.

For more information, visit the Girl Power! website at www.health.org/gpower

— Oklahoma State Department of Health
Brainwashing’s not just a cult thing

I feel happy. I had a bad morning but I feel happy anyway. Know why?

Because my New Radicals CD is playing in my computer’s CD player as I write this.

You know — the band who gave us the feel-so-good-you-want-to-sing-and-dance song “You Get What You Give.”

I remember the exact moment I heard that song. I was at the mall in Gadszook’s. It was December 1998.

They were playing the usual oh-so-cool-barely-ever-been-heard videos on the television that hangs behind the counter.

I was minding my own business when I heard THE song. I almost broke into dance right then and there. Yep, you guessed it. It was “You Get What You Give.”

I tore my purse open, frantically searching for paper and pen so I could write down the name of the group and the title of the song. Then I promptly put the CD on my must-have-for-Christmas list.

“Maybe You’ve Been Brainwashed Too,” is, without question, one of the best CDs I’ve heard in my life.

Every song is fun or upbeat or sentimental or all of the above. And, damnit, they all sound great too.

Lead singer Gregg Alexander’s vocal abilities are unique — in a light and playful sort of way. And when Alexander’s voice is combined with backup harmonies provided by various artists, prepare to have your ears instantly begging for more of the brilliant barrage.

This CD, with 12 songs penned by Alexander or by a combination of Alexander and friends, contains a provocatively different kind of music that, at times, reminds me of the innovative music of ’70s artist Todd Rungren.

My second favorite song on “Maybe You’ve Been Brainwashed Too” is “Crying Like a Church on Monday.” But, you don’t have to take my word for it. Make up your own mind.

No brainwashing here, folks. Go to the nearest music outlet and give a listen to “Maybe You’ve Been Brainwashed Too.” Then buy it.

I guarantee you’ll get a lot more from this CD than you give (for it).

—In-house Contributing Relic

Enlightenment a novel away

Looking to open your mind, find enlightenment and be entertained all at the same time?

Look no further than Hermann Hesse’s “Siddhartha.” “Siddhartha” has been described as Hesse’s most powerful novel. The book follows a young man’s search and struggle for self-knowledge and spiritual enlightenment.

“Siddhartha” isn’t, however, a spiritual-based novel. Its main focus is characterization, and it has plenty of drama and plot twists to keep you hooked.

The novel reads like a super-charged Hindu epic but begins surreal, yet vivid, descriptions of people and places.

The reader is also treated to the deep life lessons the main character Siddhartha learns in his journey to find himself.

—Courtney Owens Contributing Writer
For those who are ready to beef up or slim down for the summer, there’s still time. Better yet, for many, it can be done for free in OKCCC’s wellness center weight room.

The weight room offers a variety of choices including an aerobics room with recumbent and upright cycles, treadmills, stair-steppers, and a new Life Fitness cycle and the cardiovascular room with machines for leg curls and presses, upper body machines, a new multi-hip and thigh machine, and a cable cross-over station.

The cardio room also includes both incline and decline bench presses, assisted pull-ups and dips and a dumbbell rack with weights ranging from 3 to 110 pounds.

Chris Moler, director of recreation and community services, said the school spends $1600 to $1800 each year on new equipment.

This year, he said, the money was spent on Cybex and Life Fitness equipment.

Those who use the weight room are also given the option to receive personal attention.

Moler said, in the four years since the weight room was built, all the assistants have become certified personal trainers.

He said a personal training program is available for $25 per hour. During the first session, Moler said, the trainer will perform a fitness assessment to determine an individual’s needs and goals.

The community is also taking part in using OKCCC’s weight room.

Moler said those who come to the weight room can expect to work out in comfort. The room is air-conditioned with cable television and music.

Located next to the gym, the weight room is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Beginning this fall semester, the weight room will also be open on Saturdays.

The facilities are free to all students with a current student ID as well as all OKCCC employees and family members of full-time employees.

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Lifeguards face rough White Water competitors

OKCCC lifeguards held their own against 18 other lifeguard teams from across Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas when they participated in the 14th annual Southwest Lifeguard Games held July 8 and 9 at White Water Bay in Oklahoma City.

The three OKCCC teams — a blue, a red and a black team — took part in the team lifeguard competitions, placing seventh, 14th and 19th respectively in overall competition.

Members of team 16, OKCCC’s Blue Team, were optimistic at the beginning of the day.

“I guess we’re doing OK,” said OKCCC lifeguard Stephen Hurst, “We’ve only had two events so far.”

The events featured two days of competition including swim relays, strength and agility competitions, water rescues and first aid competitions.

Julie Emery of Team 10, OKCCC’s Red Team, predicted her team would do very well in the water scenario event.

In individual competition, OKCCC placed in top spots many times.

OKCCC’s Blue team took second in the Swim-Paddle-Tow competition and tied for first place in the First Aid/CPR rescue event. The Blue Team placed first and the Black Team took second in the Spinal Injury Management competition and OKCCC’s red team placed second in the Pick-Up Sticks event.

Chris Moler, OKCCC director of recreation and community services, coordinated the event.

“I think it gives them a great opportunity to show off their lifeguard skills,” he said.
Highlights

Student Life presents a Journey to Leadership

Make plans now to attend the Fall 1999 Student Leadership Retreat Aug. 13 through 15 at Roman Nose State Park, just north of Watonga. Departure time from OKCCC will be noon on Friday, Aug. 13, and return time is 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 15. Cost for the retreat is $35 and includes lodging, meals, transportation and a T-shirt. Each club is required to send at least one officer or representative, but all officers and sponsors are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 682-7523.

Everyone’s invited to party at the Aquatic Center

OKCCC’s Aquatic Center invites everyone to help ring in their 10th birthday on Friday, July 23 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the pool area. Activities include a free open swim, coin dives, a seed spitting contest and many other interesting activities. For more information, contact the Office of Recreation and Community Services at 682-1611, ext. 7662.

A time to sing for OKCCC students

Auditions for OKCCC choirs will be held Aug. 23 through 26 in room 1C5 on the first floor of the Arts and Humanities building. OKCCC offers many different choirs to suit a variety of student needs. Financial aid is available for eligible chamber singers. For more information or to sign up for an audition time, call 682-1611, ext. 7245.

Fun camp for kids offered at college

OKCCC’s Office of Recreation and Community Services is offering an informative summer camp for kids and teens.

The Computer Graphics Camp, for teens ages 12 and older, provides a hands-on introduction to computer-aided design, applications and learning how to create basic 3-D drawings. The camp will be held Aug. 2 through 5. Cost for the camp is $135.

For more information about the kids camp, call Jonie Wolfe at 682-7560.

Continuing education offered for insurance agents

The Training Center at OKCCC is offering continuing education opportunities for life and accident/health insurance agents. The Oklahoma Insurance Department approves the courses for credit toward license renewal.

“Professional Ethics” is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 30. The course is worth two continuing education credit hours at a cost of $25.

“Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Update June 4, 1998” will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 31. It is approved for six hours of continuing education credit at a cost of $45.

“Trusts Used in Estate Planning,” worth four hours of continuing education credit, will be presented from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, August 1. Cost for this course is $30.

Registration in all 12 hours is offered for only $75. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call The Training Center at 682-7562.

Fall tuition fee waiver applications available

Fall tuition fee waiver applications are available in the student financial aid center located on the first floor of the main building. The deadline to submit applications to the student financial aid center is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6. Fall tuition fee waiver awards will be posted in the student financial aid center on Friday, Aug. 20. For more information, call 682-1611, ext. 7524.

Chess game encourages thinking, concentration

By Rick Tautfest

Staff Writer

OKCCC students Chris Young (left) and Richard Hampel challenge each other in a friendly game of chess. Young has played chess for about eight years. He said his favored opening position is the “center counter” where he sacrifices one of his pieces (usually a pawn) to gain an advantage in board position. Hampel said he prefers to play a very strong “end game” in which he is able to overcome an opponent who has become overextended. Hampel’s point rating is 2030, one of the highest in Oklahoma. He qualified for the Air Force National Team while serving in Europe. Hampel was the teacher for the Chess Club meetings last semester.

The Chess Club was the first club on campus and is still one of the most active. The Chess Club is open to any student who already knows how to play the game or would like to learn. Chess lessons are taught during the fall and spring semesters at noon on Thursdays in the student union.

Every Thursday evening the OKCCC Chess Club meets at 7:15 p.m. with members of the Oklahoma City Chess Club for a four-game tournament in the student union.

Besides being active on campus, the Chess Club also provides the community with a much-needed service. They have adopted S.W. 74th Street, north of the college, as part of the adopt-a-street program. Club members usually spend two days a month cleaning up the area along the street.

For more information about the Chess Club or about chess tournaments, call Anderson at 682-1611, ext. 7271.

OKCCC’s Chess Club sponsor Dennis Anderson believes that playing the game of chess may improve concentration and thinking skills which could result in many additional benefits including a higher grade point average.

“Chess helps students because it teaches them to concentrate,” Anderson said.

“It exercises the same areas of the brain used in math and reading. Studies with children show that it helps them improve.”

Anderson was one of the original professors hired when OKCCC opened in September of 1972. He was recently awarded the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and he has been the sponsor of the Chess Club since 1973.
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 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611, ext. 7674 for more information.

AUTOMOBILES


FOR SALE: 95 Izuuu Rodeo-6 cyl, 56K miles, all power, tilt, cruise, alarm, tint, super nice. $13,800 OBO. Call 682-9190.


FOR SALE: 94 Mitsubishi Galant LS. 79K miles, 4 door, automatic, all power, alarm, tint, spoiler, am-fm stereo, A/C. Very nice car. Asking $9299, OBO. Must see. Please contact Andy at 209-7875.

FOR SALE: 81 Yamaha/Virago, 2100 miles. Burgundy, pretty nice!! $1800. Call Professor Summers, 682-1611, ext. 7333 or 232-9402.

FOR SALE: 79 Ford F100, 1/2 Ton, LWB Pickup Truck. V8, Automatic, Cold A/C, rebuilt trans. starts every time. $2,000. Call Joe or Nancy at 681-4244.

FOR SALE: 67 Mustang V8, 289 manual trans., original engine has been rebuilt. Runs like a rocket. $3,450. Call Joe or Nancy, 681-4244.

FOR SALE: 91 Honda CRX. Excellent condition and clean. 35+ mpg. $4,200 OBO. Call 912-4788.

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FOR SALE: Queen-size bed with mattress and frame, $150. 9X12 Emerald Green Chinese Rug. $125. 10-drawer dresser with mirror. $100. Call Vickie at 691-2732.

FOR SALE: Notebook, one year old, Pentium Processor w/MMX, Intelside, high speed CD ROM, MS Office 97, Chinese software. $1000. Call Ellen at 686-1542.

FOR SALE: King-size waterbed, 4-months old with waveless mattress and Blue Magic heater. Etched mirrored glass and glass doors. 6-drawer pedestal. Asking $250. Call 579-7699.


FOR SALE: 98 STX 1100 Jet Ski, 33 hours, w/extras. $6200. Call 367-4543 or 367-3260.


BADBOYZ NEEDED: Oklahoma’s only semi-pro football team is looking for college prospects for the Oklahoma BadBoyz—’95-’96 League Champs. Must be at least 18 and have a love for the sport. Call Chris Knight at 636-1267 or pager 961-4384.

BABYSITTER NEEDED: At my home, S.W. 74th and May. Various hours, mostly evenings. Own transportation a must. 1 child during summer, then 3 children rest of the year. Call 680-7843 and leave message.

HELP WANTED: Seeking tutor for English Comp I. Urgently needed to assist with essays, 3 times a week for up to 2 hours. Pay Rate $5 an hour. Call 946-3681. Leave message on call notes if no answer.

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MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: 85 Honda 200X three wheeler. Runs great. $700, OBO. Call 691-1356.

FOR SALE: White wedding dress and veil, worn once. $500 OBO. Also used cake topper. Please call Christine at 728-5712. Can e-mail pictures.

FOR SALE: 67 Mustang V8, 289 manual trans., original engine has been rebuilt. Runs like a rocket. $3,450. Call Joe or Nancy, 681-4244.

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FOR SALE: White wedding dress and veil, worn once. $500 OBO. Dress was $900 brand new. Also used cake topper. Please call Christine at 728-5712. Can e-mail pictures.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE PIONEER, CALL BUSINESS MANAGER @ (405) 682-1611, ext. 7674 or e-mail your ad or message to: adman@okc.cc.ok.us.

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Campus collision causes $7000 in damages

By Becky Gerred
Staff Writer

The sound of metal being twisted and crunched reverberated over the 5 p.m. campus rush hour traffic July 13 when two cars collided at the intersection of Regent Boulevard and Faculty Circle, on the north side of the campus.

According to a report taken by OKCCC Safety and Security Officer James Cobble, student Teresa Gage, 37, was turning northbound from the stop sign located on Faculty Circle onto Regent Boulevard. Her 1994 Lincoln collided with a 1996 Camaro driven by student Krista Howe. Howe was traveling northbound on Regent Boulevard.

The Camaro was struck on the right front, causing it to jump the northeast curb and travel 85 feet before coming to rest on the grass.

Gage lost control of her car on impact, spinning back through the intersection and coming to rest on the northwest curb of Regent Boulevard and Faculty Circle.

No one was transported to the hospital by EMSA however Gage said she went to the emergency room later.

“I had cuts and abrasions,” she said, “but no whiplash. I woke up stiff and sore the next morning.”

Coordinator of Campus Safety and Security Services Keith Bourque heard the call come over his police radio while driving home from work. He immediately headed back to campus.

On-duty Campus Security Officer James Cobble also rushed to the scene.

“The air bags in both vehicles had deployed,” Cobble said.

He said both women had burns on their arms from air bags.

The Lincoln sustained an estimated $4000 in damages and the Camaro’s damages were estimated at $3000.

Both drivers were wearing seat belts according to a report filed by Oklahoma City Police Officer Dennis Bueno.

EMSA, Oklahoma City Fire Department, Oklahoma City Police Department and OKCCC Campus Security all responded to the accident.

Krista Howe could not be reached for comment.

Concurrent enrollment good investment for students

Cont. from page 1

For English, a score of 28 is needed. For science, they’ll need a 27 and for reading, a 30.

For seniors, the scores needed are 19 with the exception of college algebra and chemistry — both of which require a minimum math score of 21.

Three steps are needed to enroll concurrently.

First, a student must take the ACT. If a student is unable to take the test in time to enroll, he can still take the Residual ACT at OKCCC.

Second, a student must apply and enroll as soon as possible. High school counselors can help with the enrollment process and paperwork.

Finally, all completed documentation must be brought to the OKCCC Admissions Office.

After a student has been admitted and enrolled, OKCCC’s counselors will provide the student with the information and support needed to be successful, said Johnson.

Much like regular college courses, it’s not cheap to enroll concurrently.

The cost is the same for concurrent students as it is for regular attendees. But, a limited number of privately funded scholarships are available to students from particular schools.

For more information about concurrent enrollment, students can call Prospective Student Services at 682-7580 or Johnson at 682-7533.

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