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## Science book disclaimer stirs up arguments

By Michaela Marx  
Editor

*"...Evolution, a controversial theory which some scientists present as scientific explanation for the origin of living things, such as plants and humans."*

This is an excerpt from the disclaimer intended to be placed in public school science books.

When the Oklahoma textbook committee voted on an evolution disclaimer late last year, nobody knew the issue would stir up so much public reaction. Since then an opinion by Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson has put the disclaimer on hold, at least temporarily, but the discussion has not stopped.

The disclaimer issue drew America's attention to Oklahoma. At OKCCC, too, this topic has heated up discussion about evolution vs. creation.

The theory of evolution holds that today's species have evolved from prior, more primitive, ones. Creationism is based on the belief that man was created separate from animals, following the events described in Genesis.

These two opposite theories try to explain how life appeared on this planet.

Biology Professor John Perry and fellow science professors have collected signatures for a petition against the disclaimer. The group at OKCCC basically supports the position adopted by the Oklahoma Academy of Science Nov. 13. Perry himself attended the meeting of the Academy and voted for its resolutions.

The Academy believes the textbook committee did not have power to require the disclaimer, and they fear more disclaimers in the future. Further, they reject some statements on the disclaimer. The Academy affirms that "the theory of evolution is the current best explanation for a large body of facts and that no other theory adequately explains these observations."

The signatures collected at OKCCC were turned into the organization Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"We (OKCCC professors) collected approximately 100 signatures among our professional

See "Theory," page 12



Photo by Ryan Johnson

**Music break:** Paul Stuke, diversified studies major, takes a time out on the third floor of the main building to strum his guitar. Stuke entertained a group of friends and students between classes.

## Outstanding leadership seen in six OKCCC professors

By Cami Burns  
Newswriting I  
Student

Six OKCCC faculty members will be rewarded for outstanding service in teaching and leadership by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development in May.

More than 600 colleges throughout the United States, Canada and Australia are part of the organization that shares a commitment to support excellence in teaching and learning.

NISOD was created in 1978 by the K. W. Kellogg Foundation

and the Foundation for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education to focus on the improving of teaching and learning effectiveness.

To be recognized as an outstanding teacher, the professors have to be recommended by their academic division dean. The dean then sends the nominations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Paul Sechrist.

Sechrist then reviews the names and forwards them to President Robert Todd who then sends the names to NISOD.

OKCCC staff recipients are: Bruce Farris, Jeanne Lowell, Larry

**"I am pleased they are being recognized at a national level for their contribution to higher education and to the success of students."**

—Paul Sechrist  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Grummer, Marsha Austin, Michael PUNCHES and Pete Weaver.

Sechrist said each of the faculty being recognized has an outstanding record of successful teaching.

"I am pleased they are being recognized at a national level for their contribution to higher education and to the success of students," he said.

Farris, professor of Emergency Medical Technology, said he

feels very privileged to be nominated for this award.

"In education you don't get a whole lot of accolades so it's nice to have one by our peers." Farris said. "It's a good feeling."

Jeanne Lowell, professor of Nursing, said she is very excited about receiving the award. She said she

See "NISOD," page 9

## Editorial and Opinion

### Editorial

# OKCCC mealtimes often more trouble than they're worth

The OKCCC cafeteria doesn't seem to be geared toward serving many of the people who attend here — no-time-to-spare individuals.

Most people at the college are in a rush to get from class to class or from class to work and don't have a lot of time to spare.

The policy where only cash or checks are accepted at the OKCCC cafeteria — debit cards and credit cards aren't — leaves much to be desired in this fast-paced atmosphere.

The policy often leaves people searching for a simple way to pay for single meals or a lunch card.

Writing a check in the amount of \$3 just seems ridiculous and the waste of a check. Plus it takes much more time to write out a check than to use a debit card on the same checking account.

And not all people are carrying cash at all times. That's why I have a debit card. That way, I don't have to take time out of my busy day to draw cash from an ATM or drive through the bank. My time can be better spent on other things.

The "cash or check only" policy wasn't a problem when the bookstore sold lunch cards. Students could use credit cards and debit cards to buy them. But that is a thing of the past. The bookstore no longer sells the lunch cards.

Some might believe the solution is the ATM right outside the bookstore. However, it only allows a withdrawal of money in \$20 increments. What if a person doesn't have \$20 in an account?

If a person does have \$20, there is the added problem of surcharges.

Not only do students have to take more money out than needed, but also there is a \$1.50 surcharge attached at this particular machine. And the bank you belong to can charge an additional amount on top of that.

So, this means that, what was a \$5 lunch now costs \$6.50 or more and you have drawn more money from your checking account than you really wanted.

There are several possible solutions.

The most common-sense solution is for the cafeteria to start accepting debit and credit cards.

If that's not possible, let the bookstore begin selling lunch cards again.

Finally, install an ATM in the cafeteria area — one that doesn't have a surcharge.

The truth is, if I have to go to a lot of trouble just to get a meal in my stomach, I'm likely to just wait until I get home and eat there for much less hassle and far less expense.

—Kathi Etherton  
Staff Writer

Read the Pioneer at [www.okc.cc.ok.us](http://www.okc.cc.ok.us)

# Bible says stealing is wrong

### To the Editor:

I hope that I speak for many when I say that I am saddened by the people on a crusade to tear down every club sign of OKCCC's Gay Alliance and Friends.

I know that there is no

arguing with the perpetrators even though the original languages of the Bible come out much more clearly against stealing than they do 'against' homosexuality.

With a family to support,

I hope that I am not endangering myself by expressing my opinion. Let the perpetrators go with their God; let the rest of us be free.

—David Charlson  
OKCCC Professor of  
English

# Get a jump on vaccinations

### To the Editor:

Although it may seem like an issue parents can put off worrying about for a few months, it's not too soon to consider the Oklahoma immunization requirements students must comply with prior to enrolling for the 2000-2001 school year.

Consider the opportunities you have now to vaccinate children early and avoid rushes.

[Children getting ready to go into] kindergarten through fourth grade must have five doses of DTaP, four doses of polio and two doses of the MMR vaccine.

Children who will be in the seventh through tenth grade must have two doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine.

Children in kindergarten

through second grade and seventh through ninth grade must have two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine; and children in kindergarten through second grade must receive one dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

Children who have had chickenpox do not need the varicella vaccine.

The month and year the child had chickenpox disease should be recorded on the child's record with the notation 'had disease.'

Parents and caregivers who have questions about the immunizations required for school entry can contact their local county health department or the Oklahoma State Department of Health Immunization Division at (405) 271-

4073.

—J.R. Nida, M.D.  
State Health  
Commissioner

## PIONEER

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The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. 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.

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

### STRAIGHTJACKET BY: M.C. GAREY



## Comments and Reviews

# 'Sims' make having a bad time virtually impossible

"Get a virtual life."  
This is the slogan that Maxis is using to promote their newest simulation game "The Sims."

Maxis is known for their creation of such games as "SimCity," "SimEarth" and "SimAnt."

"The Sims" is a game that allows you to create and decide the fate of an entire neighborhood of people.

The people you create are able to interact with each other and make decisions based upon their moods at the time.

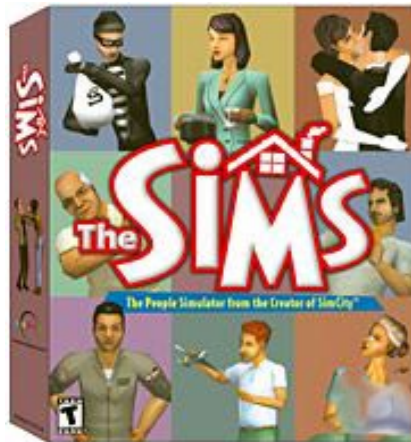
For instance, if one of your sims is in a bad mood, chances are they will argue and even fight with your other sims.

On the flip side, if your sim is in a good mood, then they are likely to throw a party and invite the whole neighborhood.

They don't have complete free will though.

After you create them, you have most of the say regarding their actions.

If one of them wants to go to bed and you decide to



not let them, you can just change the orders and make them work out on the

weight machine or perform some other activity.

They have all of the needs of real people. They need a social life, food, jobs to pay bills and basic hygiene.

The building aspect of the game is my favorite.

You create the houses in which your sim or sims will live.

You can make this a simple one-story, one-bedroom house, or you can make it the most elabo-

rate two-story, 20-bedroom mansion. The variations are only limited to how creative you get.

The game is fairly cheap as far as games go these days coming in at \$44, making it a game definitely worth the buy.

I give this game my official "best-game-I-own" seal of approval.

It gets 5 out of 5 Sim Stars.

—Ryan Johnson  
Staff Writer

# 'Cradle of Death' bone chilling

Ten infants and one murderer, their mother, tell the sad truth in a book written by John Glatt.

"Cradle of Death" is a true story that details the deaths of 10 babies all belonging to Marie and Arthur Noe.

The babies were all found dead while in the care of their mother. She held by her innocence and had an excuse for all the deaths.

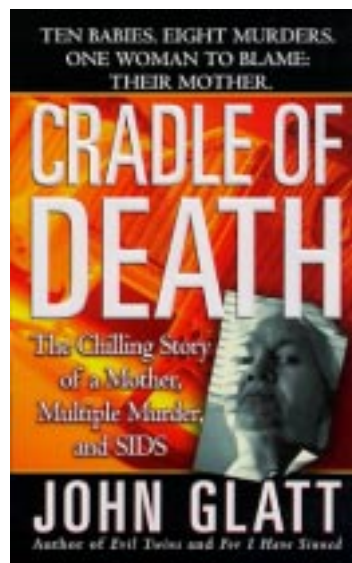
The book began by describing Marie Noe's childhood. Her family was not wealthy and her life growing up was not one to be proud of. She met Arthur Noe in a bar. They got married and moved into a small house.

The book then goes into the next 50 years they spent together.

The couple wanted children and their families believed they would make good parents.

Marie would become pregnant 10 times in the next 50 years, but in the end she never cared for a child for more than about a year and a half.

Sudden Infant Death syndrome (SIDS) was being researched at the time of these deaths. The death of the Noe babies gave



reason to believe that SIDS could be genetic.

However, the truth was uncovered in 1998 after extensive investigation when she confessed to killing eight of her 10 children by suffocating them. She did so, she said, because she would get frustrated with them crying.

The other two infants died at birth or in the hospital shortly after.

Right now, Marie Noe is under house arrest. She went to trial but because of her age and the fact that she isn't an immediate threat, she was confined to

her house with her husband.

The husband maintains his innocence because he was never home when the deaths occurred and he didn't believe that his wife was capable of such an act.

I found the book interesting, but there wasn't a mystery about whether the mother did it or not because the cover revealed the truth. Even so, the book is a definite page turner that can't be put down. If you enjoy crime stories this is a must read.

—Kathi Etherton  
Staff Writer

# 'Pitch Black' dark sci-fi thriller

The dark is something that has been feared throughout history by what it holds or, more correctly, what we don't know that it holds. In the sci-fi suspense movie "Pitch Black" it becomes the vehicle of death.

Starring Vin Diesel, Radha Mitchell and Cole Hauser, the movie is supported by relatively unknown actors except for Diesel who has just now hit mainstream with his parts in "Saving Private Ryan" and the more recent "Boiler Room."

Some time in the future when interstellar travel and "cryo sleep" are available for space flight, a really big ship with a group of people on their way somewhere crash lands on a desert planet. Of course, of the handful that survive, the crazy killer Diesel has to be one of them.

The main thing is whenever it gets dark on this planet there's these crazy, flying, teeth-big-enough-to-bite-your-head-off things that come out and eat everything.

I liked this movie because it stayed within the mainstream of sci-fi which has a special little place in my heart and it wasn't too hard to follow.

It was an entertaining hour and some minutes, and is worth seeing. But unless you're a true sci-fi fan you may want to stick with the "funny ha-ha boy-meets-girl-movie" when you're in line buying tickets.

On John's "crazy-alien-things-killing-people-in-really-gruesome-ways" scale this one ranks up there at about a 7.5 out of 10.

—John Huggins  
Staff Writer



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# Middle-college program explored by college regents

By Michaela Marx  
Editor

Did you ever dream in junior high school that you could go to college instead? Junior high students may have that option.

OKCCC's Charlotte French and Dr. Guy Sconzo of the Oklahoma City Public Schools, introduced the concept at the Board of Regents meeting March 27. Students with great academic potential but who cannot succeed in traditional high schools may be able to participate in an alternative program.

The program would provide a seamless journey from grade 8 to grade 14, including the completion of an associate degree, said Sconzo.

OKCCC would be the home campus to this brand-new program he said.

"It would be the first of its kind in Oklahoma."

Children who show academic promise would be taken out of the traditional high school environment and put on a college campus. They would be instructed by high school teachers who are hired, supervised and funded by the school district.

Included in the curriculum would be English, Spanish, American History, Introduction to Biology, Algebra, Computer Literacy and Fine Arts. Graduates of the program would be bilingual, biliterate and would qualify for the state's honor diploma.

Students would be instructed based on the Great Expectations model. An example of this teaching method is that the students and teachers exclusively communicate in full sentences, said Sconzo.

If approved by the Regents, the first class that will attending OKCCC will consist of 25 to 30 eighth graders who would start class in the 2000-2001 school year.

"The drop-out rate among Oklahoma students is the highest in eighth and ninth grade. That's why the program starts in eighth grade" said Sconzo.

He expects the success rate to be high because the students will work closely with their teachers.

Sconzo also praised the long-term partnership between OKCCC and Oklahoma City Public Schools. He said OKCCC has made great contributions in keeping Oklahoma students in school.

Charlotte French, executive director of enrollment management, said the program is an opportunity for the college to link closer to the community.

Also, she said, a program like this may draw the attention of the media to OKCCC because the middle-college program is the first in the state.

College Regents, to whom the program was presented for the first time, reacted positively to the proposal.

OKCCC Regent John Michael Williams said OKCCC had very positive experiences with cooperative programs. However, he said, the program needs further evaluation on the regents' part.

# Camera, valued at \$4500, stolen

By Erin Case  
Newswriting I Student

A video camera was stolen late last week and a broken surveillance camera failed to film the crime.

Friday morning Media Technician Tim Whisenhunt said he noticed the college television studio door slightly open and discovered that a Cannon digital video camcorder, valued at \$4500, was missing.

He reported the theft to campus safety and security at 9:45 a.m.

Keith Bourque, coordinator of Campus Safety and Security, said a microphone adapter, tripod base, two battery packs, a dual battery charger and holder

valued at approximately \$200 were also missing from the television studio, located on the second floor of the main building.

However, because of a broken recorder head on an area surveillance camera, no evidence was recorded.

The crime was later reported to Coordinator of Media Services Nick Ackles, who contacted the Thursday night staff member to see if he had any information about the camera.

The staff member indicated to Ackles that he had no knowledge of the crime.

The Oklahoma City police

were contacted. They lifted one fingerprint on Monday, Bourque said.

Oklahoma City police officer Sgt. Brock was unavailable for comment.

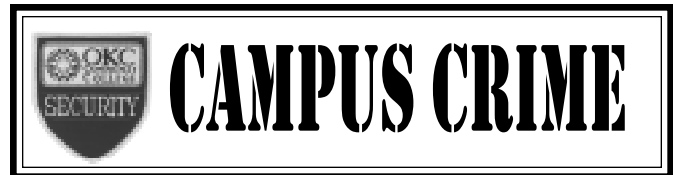
Bourque said there are 16 security cameras on campus.

He said this is the first time a faulty recorder head has been discovered, Bourque said.

"We have replaced the video recorder that was bad," he said.

"The bad one is being serviced."

Now, all cameras will be serviced every other month.



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EOE

# Employee developed love for theater at a young age

By Chad Pittman  
Newswriting I Student

Melanie Scott first set foot on the campus at the age of 13 when she performed in a college play.

Scott, who now works at the college as an admissions officer, will be in the OKCCC theater again when she guest directs the play "Open Plains Originals" April 5 through 8.

Scott said she realized she loved the theater early in life.

"When I was in middle school, it was an elective and I ended up enjoying it," she said. "I got serious around the age of 13 when I performed here at OKCCC."

She performed in "The Drunkard," in the role of Julia.

"It was an old melodrama."

With a career in theater on her mind Scott set her sights on getting a degree in theater arts.

# Mentoring program enhances students mentally, physically

By Carrie Reichenbach  
Newswriting I Student

The combination of mentoring and judo is expected to make some Oklahoma City school children stronger — both mentally and physically.

Both the members of the Future Teachers Organization and school children in Oklahoma City are learning from a program called Community Out Reach Effort.

The after-school program is run by a husband and wife who fund the program and share their skills with the children. CORE offers tutoring followed by judo lessons for the students.

Twice monthly, OKCCC students involved in FTO volunteer their time to tutor grade school and junior

She began classes at OKCCC in 1989, graduating with an associate degree in theater art in 1991.

Scott then transferred to the University of Oklahoma to begin working toward a bachelor's degree in theater.

In 1992 she started attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University, she said. While there, she began working in various positions in the theater.

Those included a technical supporter and costumer for the theater department at Southeastern OSU.

In May of 1994, Scott received her bachelor's degree in general theater with directing and acting emphasis.

Scott also worked for the Oklahoma Children's Theater as assistant director.

There, she taught children's theater workshops, built sets, and ran lights and sound for productions.

When Scott decided to apply for a full-time job, she didn't pursue a position in the theater. She said the

high students in all subject areas including mathematics, essay-writing, computer skills, and printing letters.

FTO began volunteering with the program approximately two months ago.

The OKCCC students choose the grade of the students they primarily work with. Their CORE experiences then often help them decide which age level they would like to teach in the future.

Cathy Hume, CORE volunteer, said the program helps everyone involved.

"Not only does it help kids who want to succeed in school but it also gives me experience with working with kids in a learning environment," said Hume.

In addition to helping with schoolwork, the members of FTO form a positive relationship with the stu-



Melanie Scott

birth of her child had changed her career goals.

"Theater is not a well-paying profession," she said. "I came [to OKCCC] to work, had my baby and ended up staying here."

Scott said, although her love for the theater lives on, she doesn't know if or when she'll direct another play.

"I would really like to get back into the field of theater," she said. "I have to be realistic about my choice of professions because I'm a single mother. I would probably do this for fun, but not full time."

dents they tutor.

FTO co-sponsor Mary Punches said although homework is the top priority in CORE, the students form a mutual bond through the time they spend together.

"Mentoring is an important part — the talking and forming a relationship with the student. There's a kind of trust that goes along with that," she said.

Shelly Hale, CORE volunteer, said judo lessons — the physical aspect of CORE — also offers advantages to the student.

The lessons are provided to both the students and their parents after tutoring is finished.

"Not only are they getting tutored school-wise, but through judo they are also learning self-discipline. It is a complete program," Hale said.

# Lab assistant stays involved with theater

By Amy Double  
Newswriting I Student

OKCCC adjunct faculty member Darin Young wore another hat when he served as the director for the drama department's production of "Twelve Angry Women" last February.

Young attended the University of Central Oklahoma where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

He worked at Edmond High School before coming to work at OKCCC but decided that high school did not suit him.

"[Since] students weren't paying for classes, they didn't care," he said. "They didn't feel like they needed to come to class. I taught history then which was a required course. It probably would have been a lot different if I had been teaching a non-required subject."

The desire to teach somewhere other than a high school level prompted Young to apply for the position he holds now, working in the communications lab with college level students.

"The best thing about this school is the students. The students here do have a good idea about what they are working towards," Young said.

Although Young works in the communications lab and majored in education, he has an extensive history with drama under his belt.

Young has been involved in theater for roughly 20 years. He has been involved with the stage company Theatre A La Carte for the past 10 years. Theatre A La Carte is a stage company that originates out of Edmond.

Young has been involved in many theatrical performances during his 20-year tango with the performing arts.

He participated in summer stock theater and performances held in Edmond's Liberty Park in 1990. Young also worked for two years with Oklahoma City's productions of Shakespeare In The Park.

While a faculty member at OKCCC and working with Theatre A La Carte, Young made his first theatrical contribution to OKCCC drama.

Theatre A La Carte brought a production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night Dream" to OKCCC three to four years ago. Young was involved in that production. He played Nick Bottom, the weaver, in the play and even did fight-scene choreography.

Young then began to build a stronger bond with OKCCC and its drama department.

OKCCC Drama Professor Patrick Daugherty requested Young act in a show at the college. Young responded with a show last spring called "Open Plains Originals." This eventually led to a liaison between Young and the drama department and his connection to "Twelve Angry Women."

"Patrick asked me to help and that was how I got hooked up with "Twelve Angry Women," Young said.

"I couldn't have asked for a better cast for my first show to direct. They were very willing to do what I asked of them for the show. It was great," Young said.

"I'm interested in working more in drama. It is a very positive experience."



Darin Young

# Two-year college committee selects OKCCC dean of student affairs to serve on board of directors

**By Ryan Johnson  
Staff Writer**

Being able to help all students is the dream of most college teachers and deans. For one dean, that dream has become reality.

OKCCC Dean of Student Development Rusty Fox has been elected to Two-year Colleges Commission Chair-elect of the National Academic Advising Associa-

tion.

Fox has also been honored this year by NACADA for his proposal, "Integration of Learning: An Exploration of the Role of Academic Advising in a Learning Community."

This proposal has been selected for presentation at the next national NACADA conference.

Fox will serve a three-year term on the NACADA board of directors.

The first year will be as

Chair-elect, and the last two years will be served as Chair.

Fox has been involved in NACADA since 1989 and has been serving as a member of the National Conference Committee.

"This new role on the Board of Directors will be an exciting challenge for me," Fox said.

"It means representing the growing voice of two-year college advising."

Fox will be directly in-

involved in issues that are important to two-year colleges and the students who attend them.

When asked what he would most like to accomplish, Fox replied, "Try and facilitate what others have already tried to implement.

"That's what I hope to accomplish."

**Rusty Fox, Dean of Student Development**



# Clocks spring forward, while bodies fall behind

Did your body spring forward with your clock April 2 the first day of Daylight Saving Time?

It may take your body five days to adjust to that one hour of lost sleep. Just think what happens to your body when you lose a couple of hours of sleep each weekend when you stay out late having fun.

Benjamin Franklin was the first known person to mention the idea of Daylight Saving Time in an essay in 1784.

Daylight Savings Time was first instituted to conserve energy and increase production during World Wars I and II.

After the wars, The Uniform Time Act was estab-

lished in 1966 to standardize the length of Daylight Saving Time. Hawaii and parts of Arizona and Indiana choose not to use Daylight Saving Time.

Be glad you don't live in Indiana, where there are two standard time zones, Eastern Standard Time and Central Standard Time. In the spring, five counties use Eastern Standard and Eastern Daylight, five use Central Daylight Time and Central Standard

Time and 77 counties use Eastern Standard Time all year.

One family who lived on the border of one county dropped their children at school at the same time they went to work in another county.

Confused?

There are people who hate Daylight Saving Time and there is even a website devoted to those who want to end DST.

One of the arguments

they use is the 8 percent increase in the number of car accidents the first Monday after the clocks are moved ahead. Apparently, in 1973, year-round DST was tried and repealed because of an increase in school bus accidents in the darker mornings.

Don't worry, by the time you let your clock 'fall back' the last Sunday in October, you will no longer miss the hour you lost on the first Sunday in April.

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# Kidney transplant transforms math prof into athlete

Glen Risinger received a bronze medal in the 1998 U.S. Transplant Games

By Jan Gilbreath  
Contributing Writer

**O**KCCC Professor Glen Risinger approaches the front of the class and begins writing on the board.

Students in the first few rows find it hard to keep their eyes on the board and keep glancing at the large ridges running the length of his forearm.

After introducing himself and giving the particulars of Intermediate Algebra, Risinger smiles.

"You may be wondering why my arms look this way," he says, pointing at them. "I've had a kidney transplant. This was one of the results of the medication.

"They can get rid of these but I'd lose the use of my arms. Guess which one I chose?"

Risinger, a veteran teacher of algebra at both the junior high and college levels, was diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney Disease, or PKD in 1993, after losing his mother at an early

**"I was very lucky. I was only on the transplant waiting list for three days."**

—Glen Risinger  
OKCCC Math Professor

age to the same disease. His sister was also diagnosed with PKD.

Polycystic Kidney Disease is a genetically transmitted disease in which cysts form in the nephrons, tubes that filter impurities from the bloodstream.

There is no cure and the only treatments are dialysis and kidney transplant. The disease, however, can be controlled through diet and blood pressure.

Risinger, a Moore resident who also teaches at

Highland East Junior High, said early detection can help somewhat.

"My sister was diagnosed when she was about 16 and didn't have to go on dialysis until she was about 40. It was too late for mine to be controlled through diet. I had to go on dialysis pretty quickly," he said.

"I would go in for dialysis three times a week," he said, "From 6:15 to 8:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and then from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday. I kept teaching the rest of the week."

Each treatment cost around \$400 and purified his blood only one cup at a time.

"I did this for four months until I had the transplant," he recalled.

Risinger received his transplant Dec. 31, 1994.

"I was very lucky," he said. "I was only on the transplant waiting list for three days," he said.

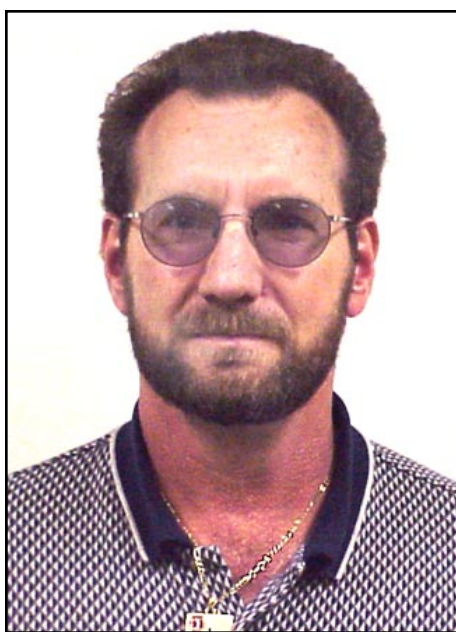
One side effect of the transplant was his bulging midsection.

The original kidneys are not removed in a transplant, he explained. The non-functioning kidneys are left in the body and the donor kidneys are placed upside down in the patient's abdomen leaving the recipient with a protruding stomach.

In an effort to promote organ donation, Professor Risinger participates in the Transplant Games, an Olympic-style competition for transplant recipients.

This bi-annual event is presented by the National Kidney Foundation and sponsored by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. The 2000 Transplant Games will be held at Disneyworld in Orlando, Fla., June 21 through 24.

The U.S. Transplant Games began in 1982 to



Glen Risinger  
OKCCC Math Professor

draw attention to successful transplants and organ donation.

They were modeled after the Transplant Olympics which were organized in

**"Our athletes stand on the podium to receive their medals. Larry Hagman... presents a lot of the medals..."**

—Kim Collins  
Team Leader of the U.S.  
Transplant Games

England in 1978.

The purpose of the games is to educate the public on the benefits of and need for organ donation. Anyone who has received a transplant of a kidney, heart, liver, lung, pancreas or bone marrow is eligible to participate. Athletes may be any age and compete in their own age category. Risinger competes in the 46 to 55 age bracket.

Very few of us will ever win an Olympic medal in our forties, or even expect to, especially after undergoing a kidney transplant. Risinger is the exception. He received a bronze medal at the 1998 U.S. Transplant Games in Columbus,

Ohio after he swam the 100-meter breaststroke in 1 minute, 54.11 seconds.

"He didn't even know he'd won," laughed Kim Collins, team leader.

"He thought it was over and didn't know he had the medal until someone asked him where he was."

Team Oklahoma took 25 athletes to the games in 1998.

The team collected three gold, three silver, and three bronze medals in badminton, bowling, field events, swimming, tennis, and table tennis.

"Our athletes stand on the podium to receive their medals," Collins said. "Larry Hagman, himself a liver recipient, presents a lot of the medals and acts as a Master of Ceremonies."

Risinger said the ceremonies are spectacular.

"This event is just like the real Olympics, with opening and closing ceremonies, and the whole nine yards," said Risinger. "We marched in the opening ceremonies wearing matching Indian head-dresses with yellow shirts and black shorts."

"We were the best looking team there," agreed Collins.

"We take lapel pins to trade with the other athletes" she added. "They are a commodity."

"Ours from Team Oklahoma are Indian Headdress pins and are the most sought after pins there. This year we'll be taking about 4000 pins.

Risinger said trading pins with other athletes is very special.

"The Oklahoma pin is one of the nicest pins there," he said. "Ours are metal where a lot of them are plastic. We've learned to trade for the metal ones if we can. We wear them on our hats."

"One of the most touching things that happened was when we were riding a bus between venues. A lady sat down beside me and another Oklahoma team member and asked about trading pins. It turned out she was from a donor family."

Risinger said NBA player Sean Elliott will be the spokesperson for the 2000 Transplant Games.

He will be lighting the torch during the opening ceremonies.

Elliott is making history with his return to professional basketball after receiving a kidney from his brother Aug. 16, 1999.

Risinger will be at Disneyworld in June, with the rest of the Oklahoma Team.

Walking proudly in his Oklahoma Indian Headdress, raising his arms in victory, he is ready to show the world just what can be achieved after receiving an organ transplant.

**For more information...**

**More information on transplants is available from the National Kidney Foundation at 800-946-6405 or Kim Collins, Team Oklahoma Manager, at (918)438-1316.**

**Professor Risinger is also available as a group speaker. He may be reached at (405) 794-9896 or through OKCCC at 682-1611.**

# AIDS and HIV testing offered on campus

By Susan Wierimaa  
Staff Writer

Cathy Bowman, OKCCC faculty sponsor for the Gay Alliance and Friends club, said early diagnosis of HIV and AIDS is essential in the fight for survival.

"Women's survival rate is much lower than men's, a result of being misdiagnosed at the onset of their symptoms," Bowman said.

As a community service, OKCCC's student organizations Gay Alliance and Friends and Psi Beta are co-sponsoring Carepoint Inc. to conduct free HIV and AIDS testing and education on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12 in the mini-hospital in the Nursing wing.

CarePoint Inc. is a local non-profit AIDS support organization that provides testing, counseling, and a variety of services to HIV-positive individuals.

These services include housing assistance, help with medication, nutrition counseling and job placement.

Pre-test counseling and testing will be provided for students, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

Follow-up post-test counseling and results will be provided from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 26 in the mini-hospital in the Nursing wing.

Testing and results are confidential.

For more information, please contact Professor Charlotte Mulvihil at OKCCC at 682-1611, Ext. 7225.

## AIDS/HIV in Oklahoma

Many Oklahomans may wonder: What do AIDS and HIV have to do with me?

The following statistics were provided by HIV/STD Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health.

In the State of Oklahoma, from 1983 to the end of 1999, there were 16 confirmed pediatric (less than 13 years of age) HIV cases. Of those, one died and of the 23 AIDS cases, 16 died.

During the same time period, adult and adolescent HIV cases numbered 2,232 with 98 deaths and 3,320 AIDS cases with 1,863 died.

Oklahomans between the ages of 20 and 29 reported slightly higher HIV cases than AIDS (903 to 880); whereas, in individuals between the ages of 30 and 39, the number of AIDS cases was twice the number of reported HIV cases (1,591 to 719).

HIV and AIDS do not single out only the young. Nine percent of Oklahoma's AIDS cases were over the age of 50 and it is reported that 10 percent of all new AIDS cases in the United States occur in people over the age of 50.

The World Health Organization reports 75 percent of the world's adult HIV infections are transmitted through heterosexual intercourse.

However, Oklahoma records indicate that only 10 percent of HIV cases and 6 percent of AIDS cases were transmitted through heterosexual intercourse.

Forty-eight percent of the HIV cases and 61 percent of the AIDS cases in Oklahoma resulted from men who have sex with men.

It is reported that HIV cases are made up of 66 percent whites and 23 percent of African Americans. AIDS cases consist of 73 percent whites and 16 percent African Americans.

American-Indians come in third, followed by Hispanics and Latinos.

It is estimated that, worldwide, 42 percent of the 21 million adults living with HIV and AIDS are women and that rate is steadily rising.

Sixty-eight percent of HIV cases are male and 82 percent of AIDS cases are also male.

# Special employees sought for recognition

By Julie Fraga  
Newswriting I Student

Do you know a colleague or professor who exemplifies excellence at the OKCCC?

Nominations for the outstanding employee awards are being taken. They are due to the Human Resources office by April 10.

Applications can be obtained at Human Resources or online on the Human Resources web site under electronic forms.

Awards will be given to enthusiastic, dedicated employees in the departments of professional,

classified and faculty groups.

An honorary annual award will also be given called the Elven Gray Award.

Ruth Boone, director of Human Resources, said certain criteria must be met for the award.

"This award recognizes an individual with a minimum of five years of service who is very devoted to the college, inspires others, displays a friendly positive attitude and consistently goes the extra mile."

The applications will be reviewed by former award winners and those chosen to receive the awards will be presented during the College Convocation in 2001.

# 'Open Plains Originals' plays written by students

By Kathi Etherton  
Staff Writer

Students are getting the chance to write their own plays and see them taken to the stage in the upcoming theater production of "Open Plains Originals," directed by Melanie Scott, OKCCC Admissions Officer.

"Open Plains Originals" is a conglomeration of six small plays each written by students and acted by students.

"This gives them a chance to show off both their writing abilities and their acting abilities," said Rochelle Mosby, the Arts and Humanities secretary.

The performance will be at 7 p.m. April 5 through 8 in the lobby of the library.

Most of the students who wrote a story for this performance took an intercession class entitled "How to write a 10-minute play," instructed by Linda McDonald. The cost to see "Open Plains Originals" is \$4 for students, \$5 for regular admission. Children are free.

## CAST LIST FOR "OPEN PLAINS ORIGINALS"

### More Than One Ghost\*

Jennifer-Tracey Rodgers • Elanor-Ronii Evilla • Ernest-John West IV

### Almost Sabbath\*

Esther-Ronii Evilla • Anna-Kalisa Wade • Gisela-Leila Janloo • Joseph-Ace Burke • Hans-Matt Payne

### Strangers\*

Steven-Christian Anthony • Jessica-Leila Janloo

### Sly\*\*

Marianne-Mary Jones • John-John West IV • David-Matt Payne • Rick-Christian Anthony

### Test\*\*

Lena-Leila Janloo • Robert-Ace Burke  
Broken Bonds\*\*

Sheila-Mary Jones • Harry-John West IV

\*Radio Shows

\*\*Staged Shows



## Students named as All-Stars

**By Kathi Etherton  
Staff Writer**

Two individuals from OKCCC shone as they were named to the 2000 Oklahoma Academic All-Stars.

This team is an elite group of 32 community college students honored for their grades, character, leadership and public service.

Stacia Roybal, 21, a theater arts major, and Kara Tomlinson, 20, diversified studies major, have been named to the Academic All-Stars Team.

Roybal said she was surprised to learn she was chosen.

She is a graduate of Putnam City West High School and is planning to graduate from OKCCC this spring. Then, she said, she will go to Oklahoma City University to study theater this fall.

Roybal has a 3.95 grade point average and is a recipient of the President's Award for Excellence. She has been on the President's Honor Roll six semesters.

She also made the National Dean's List in 1999 and the "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges."

Roybal is vice president for communications for the Oklahoma-Arkansas region of Phi Theta Kappa, a national community college honor society.

"You don't have to be a

member of Phi Theta Kappa to get the award, but it really helps," Roybal said. "It is a very respected organization."

Previously, she served as the president for the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

She has also been a member of the Leadership Council, President's Advisory and Student Advisory councils, Drama Club and Psychology Club.

She has also volunteered her time at the Oklahoma Food Bank and Special Care Inc., which provides

**OKCCC Students  
Stacia Roybal, 21,  
and Kara Tomlinson,  
20, have been named  
to the Academic All-  
Stars Team.**

education and day care services to disabled children.

Tomlinson, a Westmoore High School graduate, is graduating from OKCCC in the spring. She then plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in radiology.

She holds a 3.86 grade point average. She was listed on the President's Honor Roll and is enrolled in the Honors program.

She is involved in many clubs around campus and is the recording secretary for Phi Theta Kappa.

She also serves as secretary for the Scholar's League and is a member of the Health Professions Club.

Tomlinson also worked as a volunteer for the Oklahoma Food Bank. She was a volunteer at the Arts Festival Oklahoma, Grace Assembly of God and the lo-

cal Stay-Tok program.

"It is a program for first graders who need help in reading and math."

Tomlinson said she believes choosing the winners was based on the combination of many things and how students handle all those together.

"I think the focus was leadership, which goes along with extracurricular activities. They looked at how you handle everything and still make good grades."

Professors nominated the students, then the students completed an application listing school activities, honors and community service activities.

The students then filled out the application and turned in three letters of recommendation.

The presidents at each of the state's 16 two-year schools then chose two winners for this award.

The All-Stars were honored at the annual convention of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges on March 9 and 10 at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton.

The Oklahoma All-State winners will be considered for selection on the nationwide All-USA Academic Teams, sponsored by USA Today, the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Students named to the teams will be featured in the April 8 issue of USA Today and could win up to \$2,500.

## Rose State shuts out OKCCC 4-0

**By Michael Penix  
Newswriting I Student**

The OKCCC men's soccer team was defeated Sunday 4 to 0 at the O.K. Country soccer fields near Rose State College.

The team seemed a little tentative in the first half as they gave up two early goals.

"Our defense played well, but the midfield was lacking," said OKCCC team forward Brady Berry.

"We just could not get it together as a team; that is why we did not score.

"This is the first time we have played together and the chemistry is just not there yet," Berry said.

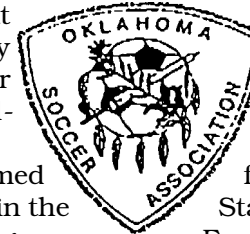
The defense was not the only bright spot Sunday.

The goal keeping by Brian Richardson was stellar.

He stopped shot after shot and at times seemed to frustrate the Rose State squad.

Forwards Yessir Janah and Phillip Hamilton had several scoring chances, but could not put the ball in the net for OKCCC.

This week the team has a bye, but will play at 2 p.m. at the University of Oklahoma on March 19.



## OKCCC faculty to be honored in Austin

**"NISOD,"  
Cont. from page 1**

loves every minute she works at OKCCC.

"I especially like the diversity of the programs that the school has to offer," she said.

Larry Grummer, professor of Automotive Technology and Automotive Coordinator, said he feels honored.

"This school allows the faculty to try new ideas and implement them into the classroom. It is very rewarding," he said.

Marsha Austin, professor of mathematics, said she is very honored to be selected to receive the NISOD award this year.

"There are many wonderful teachers in the Science and Mathematics Division."

Michael Panches, professor of English, said he also feels honored to have been selected to receive this award.

"Being recognized by one's peers is always grati-

fying and humbling, and I will continue to make an effort to be deserving of this award," he said.

Pete Weaver, professor of Computer Science, said it is nice to receive recognition for your work.

"I would do the same work whether there was an award or not, but it's still nice to be recognized," Weaver confessed.

NISOD recognizes more than 1,000 Excellence Award recipients each year. The International Conference is held in Texas at the Austin Convention Center.

This awards tradition since 1989 allows colleges to showcase their finest full- and part-time faculty and administration in an international area.

At the annual convention, the awarded faculty will be given medallions to wear throughout the conference. They will be identified in the annual awards booklet with their pictures and personal quotes.

They will also be the special honorees at the closing session.

## Poetry month to be celebrated

**By Johnna Howard  
Newswriting I Student**

April is poetry month, the month of rhyme and reason.

OKCCC is celebrating with some exciting events for poets and lovers of poetry.

Poetry readings are being held from noon to 1 p.m. April 11 through 14 in the library entrance. Two poets a day will be sharing original works.

Mary Panches, sponsor of the event, encourages everyone to attend.

"Anyone who writes poetry or just enjoys poetry is welcome to come."

From 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. April 14, OKCCC and visiting Northern Oklahoma University Creative Writing and Poetry students will read selected works.

An open microphone session will follow for any interested poet with original poems. Volunteer readers may sign up upon arrival.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information on these upcoming events or for an opportunity to share your poetry on campus contact Mary Panches at 682-1611, ext. 7634.

# Highlights

## **PASS with CLASS**

PASS with CLASS will be having a meeting from 12:30 to 1:30 April 4 in room 2N5. They will be choosing spring fund raisers and community service activities.

## **Nursing Book Sale**

The department of nursing is having a book sale from 830 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the mini-hospital on April 3 and 4. The sale is a fund raiser to defray the cost of the pinning ceremony. There will be all kinds of nursing books and other titles related to health and wellness.

## **Free HIV testing**

The Gay Alliance & Friends and Psi Beta are sponsoring free HIV testing by Care Point from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12, in the mini hospital in the nursing wing.

## **Occupational Therapy Assistant program taking aps**

There are still openings in the fall OTA program. Applications will be accepted until noon May 12 in the Admissions and Records office.

## **Make It, Bake It, Sell It!**

The third annual Faculty Association spring scholarship fund raiser is to be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 5 in the main building. There will be baked goods and craft items to purchase.

## **Public Works Employees scholarship**

Office of Prospective Student Services is announcing the American Public Works Association scholarship. Applicants must be dependents of public works employees or enrolled in a course of study to pursue a career in public works. See Prospective Services for more information or call Linda Sapp at 682-1611, ext. 7580.

## **Book Sale**

The Gay Alliance & Friends student club is sponsoring a book sale on April 17 and 18 in the main building. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Kay Edwards Memorial Scholarship fund. Collection boxes are located in the division offices for Arts and Humanities and Science and Math.

## **Employee award nominations due**

Now is the time to nominate an outstanding employee who has contributed to the success of OKCCC. Awards are presented in the professional, classified and faculty employee groups. Awards are presented at the College Convocation Return completed nomination forms to Human Resources by April 10.

## **Summer tuition fee waiver applications available**

Summer tuition fee waiver applications are now available in the Student Financial Aid Center. All applications must be turned into the financial aid center by 5 p.m. April 21

## **Educational Conference Scheduled**

The Oklahoma Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development announces its Spring Educational Conference on April 6 and 7 at Shangri-La Resort. The conference is titled "High Expectations for All." To register for this conference contact Dr. Blaine Smith (918)627-4403.



Photo by RyanJohnson

**Sing me away:** Cory Sipper artfully plucks the strings of her acoustic guitar to produce a beautiful lore. Sipper played to a full house in the college union March 28. The College Activities Board sponsored the event.

## Baptist Collegiate Ministries speaker says gay is not the way

**By Susan Wierimaa  
Staff Writer**

"You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female. It is an abomination. (Lev. 18:22)."

First Stone Ministries Co-Director Stephen Black read this passage from the Bible when he visited the college recently.

The OKCCC student organization, Baptist Colle-

giate Ministries, welcomed Black as their guest speaker at their weekly meeting March 23. Black's topic of discussion was "Dealing with Homosexuality."

Black said, in his position at FSM, he ministers to those who need spiritual guidance from sexual brokenness.

Black, once himself a homosexual, said a person is not born gay.

"It is through childhood

influences and not genetics that incline one to homosexuality," he said.

He said any intimacy that varies from Genesis and God's creation of a man and a woman is wrong.

Black said gays need to turn to God.

"Deliverance from homosexuality comes only from Jesus Christ and him alone," Black said.

BCM provided pizza and sodas at the conclusion of the weekly meeting.

**Got club news?  
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Classified Ads are **Free** to students, faculty, & staff. Go by the *Pioneer* office (2M6) and fill out an ad form by 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication in the next issue.

# 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:** '90 Nissan Sentra, 4 spd, 2-door, A/C, AM/FM/ Cassette, white, and very clean. Reliable transportation and good condition. Asking \$1,950. Call 350-2011.

**FOR SALE:** '96 Honda Passport Ex, loaded, very clean. 72K miles, green with gold trim. \$14,299 FIRM. Call 823-5284.

**FOR SALE:** '96 Honda Prelude S.I., 5 spd, 2.2L, 58K miles, Clarion Flip Down Face, Cerwin Vega Speakers. Exc. Cond, Red, \$14,500. Call Corey at 850-4534.

**FOR SALE:** '87 Toyota Camry LE Sedan, 4-Cyl., auto, A/C, power locks/windows, tilt wheel, cruise, leather interior, alloy wheels, and AM/FM Cass. 153K miles. Asking \$3,000. Call 799-2815 for more details.

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful '94 Olds. Cutlass Supreme, 2 door, power locks/windows, rear spoiler, one owner. 71K miles, \$8,000 OBO. Call 692-0177 for more details.

**FOR SALE:** '94 Mustang, red, 79K miles, auto, all power accessories. In showroom condition. \$8,300 OBO. Call 691-1300.

**FOR SALE:** '96 Isuzu Hombre XS, silver, 4 cyl, 5 spd, A/C, AM/FM, split bench, 37K miles. \$7,200 OBO. 524-9707, pager 539-4068.

**FOR SALE:** '87 Isuzu Trooper, 4x4, 4-door, A/C, white, new brakes, excellent condition. Asking \$2,200. Leave a message for Suzana at 330-0731.

**FOR SALE:** '82 Chevy Citation, V6. Runs great. Asking \$650. Call 685-6017.

**FOR SALE:** '65 Mustang, new interior, new brakes, great after school hobby, and it runs. Asking \$2,100 including extra car parts ready to be installed. Leave a message for Kelly at 616-0542 or 691-4427 after 5 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** '87 Ford Bronco II, 4x4. Excellent interior and exterior, AC, tinted windows, automatic, detachable stereo, runs great. Asking \$4,000. Call Marcus at 616-0542 before 2 p.m. or leave a message after 2 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** '94 Tahoe, 4x4, 2-door, Navy Blue, PL, PW, Alarm, CD player, 10" subwoofers and nerf bars. In excellent condi-

tion. \$14,900. Call: 691-8930 or 631-9839 or page me at 690-6901.

## HOUSEHOLD

**Roommate:** 2 bedroom house, Smoker a plus. Must like cats. \$200 per month + 1/2 bills. Call 923-4292 for more details.

**Roommate:** 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, N.W., close to OCU. \$182 per month + 1/2 elec. Call: Hind at 528-4329.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**LOST:** Small Chihuahua-mixed dog. Female with brindle coloring. Answers to Hyena. Lost near SW 44th and May. Call 682-3128.

**FOR SALE:** White crib on wheels; converts to crib-size youth bed; new mattress included. \$270 new, asking \$100. Call 728-1305.

**FOR SALE:** '97 Skyline, 16 x 80, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. No down payment, take over payments. SE OKC. Call 631-2325.

**FOR SALE:** Lot on Lake Fort, TX, .056 acres, \$4,000. Call (405) 688-4304 for more information.

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## TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Door handle
- 5 Large number
- 9 A twist of —
- 13 Volcanic flow
- 14 Cougar
- 15 — Seas
- 16 Consistent
- 17 Foray
- 18 Vote to accept
- 19 Ending for "auction"
- 20 Garden veggie
- 22 Cafeteria sights
- 24 Pullover
- 25 Plant pests
- 27 Scent
- 29 Freight boat
- 30 Mast
- 31 Expert
- 34 Mil. address
- 35 In the direction of
- 38 Snag
- 39 Noticed
- 40 Nutmeg spice
- 41 Topic
- 43 Chalkboard material
- 45 Halted
- 46 Pay attention
- 49 Some exams
- 50 Ill-mannered
- 53 Coffee container
- 56 Genetic copy
- 57 Harem rooms

### DOWN

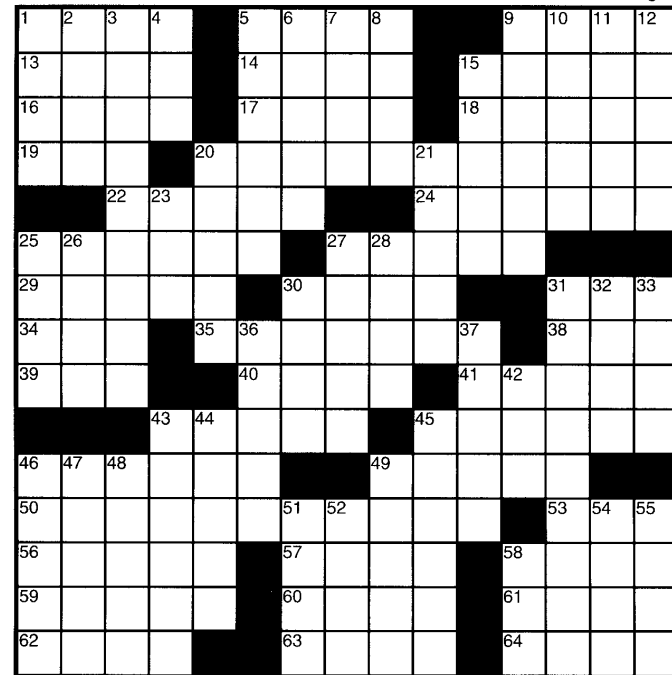
- 1 Swiss painter
- 2 Church part
- 3 Topple (a government)
- 4 Prohibit
- 5 Mists
- 6 Hawaiian feasts
- 7 Jannings or Zatopek
- 8 Dry riverbed
- 9 Felt hat
- 10 Admits frankly
- 11 Plains dwelling
- 12 Vestibule
- 15 Oregon capital
- 20 West Point student
- 21 Norwegian bay
- 23 Eighteen-wheeler
- 25 Loose robes
- 26 "— Don't Preach"
- 27 Swiftly
- 28 Not common

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

DEFY	PODS	BRUSH
ERLE	ILIE	AERIE
BAY	WINDOW	NASTY
USE	CAIN	SAGAS
TERMITE	OONA	
ALA	IGUANAS	
WACKY	CORNS	BUS
OSLO	LOWED	VENT
EAU	GALAS	PESKY
PELICAN	JOE	
AVES	MESSAGE	
OARED	HOWE	DEN
AXLES	DETERMINE	
HEIDI	OREL	PERM
ANTON	NESS	HUEY

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|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 30 Smack                     | 45 Peaks             |
| 31 Bullied, in a way         | 46 It's filthy!      |
| 32 Frost                     | 47 Spouse's relative |
| 33 Newspaper-columnists' pg. | 48 Breakfast item    |
| 36 Muscat citizen            | 49 — Mountains, Ark. |
| 37 Lieu                      | 51 Misplace          |
| 42 Computer in "2001"        | 52 Matinee man       |
| 43 Bee bites                 | 54 Coty or Descartes |
| 44 River embankment          | 55 Court dividers    |
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## OKCCC profs sign disclaimer petition

**"Theory,"**

Cont. from page 1

group," Perry said.

Perry and his colleagues did not approach students with the petition, because they believed students should make up their own minds rather than accepting the professors' position.

"I think the evolution theory explains how things changed over time," Perry said.

He said the scientific term "theory" is often misused and many confuse the word "theory" with hypothesis. A hypothesis is an "educated guess" that must be tested by experimentation to determine its validity. A theory is a working hypothesis that, based on accumulated evidence, has a high degree of probability. Evolution is, therefore, one of these theories based on substantial evidence.

Dennis Anderson, science department chair, said he, too, signed the petition as did many colleagues.

"I believe everybody in this department signed it," he said.

Anderson thinks it would be a mistake to put the disclaimer in post-elementary to pre-college science books. It limits what people can learn, Anderson said. Evolution is for biologists a basic and essential component, just as medical students have to understand germs in order to know medicine, said Anderson.

"People think it (evolution) takes God out of the picture. That's not true. Millions of people can accept both," Anderson said.

Dr. G.T. Sharpe, president of the Creation Truth Foundation, said any position made on the origin of life is based on faith. Sharpe supports the idea of a disclaimer, saying it gives some counter balance to the theory of evolution. No one knows for a fact how life came into existence. It cannot be made up in a laboratory, he said.

Scientists can understand the hardware of life, but cannot explain the software, Sharpe said.

"It is an argument between belief systems." He said neither side can prove their position 100 percent, and both are biased. Sharpe admits that he, as a creationist, is biased, too. However, he said, it is very hard to get a scientist to admit he is biased, because scientists think they are scientifically objective.

Sharpe said creationists do not want to discredit evolution, but they expect fair and equal treatment of both theories.

Even though the action on the disclaimers was put on hold due to the ruling by the Attorney General, Sharpe said he does not think the discussion is over.

OKCCC sociology professor Chuck Carselowey said, "The core of the conflict is about an approach to the truth. Human beings share a need to explain the world."

Both religion and science try to do so. Both assume there is order in the universe and patterns of cause and effect, Carselowey said. Both arrive at generalizations based on what they perceive as the "cause."

However, religion and science are based on two different things. Religion is based on faith. Once the belief is established, new information that questions that belief is usually not accepted, he said.

In contrast, "honest" science avoids absolutes. It is based on research, involving the testing of assumptions about measurable phenomena.

Finding the truth for oneself is very personal. However, the two positions, creationism and evolution, now compete in the political arena, said Carselowey.

"In my experience most of the critics of evolution principles have never studied them," he said. This lack of education often results in the wrong assump-

**"It is an argument between belief systems."**

—Dr. G.T. Sharpe, president of the Creation Truth Foundation

tion that evolution teaches that humans evolved from monkeys, which is not true.

In Carselowey's opinion, the evolution theory should be protected and taught, because "it represents the most comprehensive, imperically credible evidence that we have to date."

Most important to understand is that evolution does not mean creation is impossible and vice versa. Many Christians believe in evolution, Carselowey said. In 1950 the Catholic Church accepted a "doctrine of evolution" with stipulations that the spiritual soul was created by God.

OKCCC student Erica Johnson supports the idea of a disclaimer. She said as a believer in creation she cannot accept the evolution theory as taught in school.

"It takes faith to believe that God just did it." The disclaimer is a good way to make everybody happy, just like the parental guidance sticker on music CDs, Johnson said. She added that she thinks it is right to make reference to the creation theory in science class.

"In school people are taught evolution but creation is kept from them because of the separation of church and state."

A contrasting view was expressed by OKCCC student Kimberly Dawn Sexton. She is Christian.

However, she said, "The scientific research and discoveries overwhelmingly lean toward the evolution theory."

Sexton said a disclaimer is not necessary. Furthermore it should not be placed on the books, because it would, in a way, question the credibility of the scientific findings.

## Textbook disclaimer

"This textbook discusses evolution, a controversial theory which some scientists present as scientific explanation for the origin of living things, such as plants and humans.

No one was present when life first appeared on Earth. Therefore any statement about life's origins should be considered as theory, not fact.

The word evolution may refer to many types of change. Evolution describes changes that occur within species. (White moth, for example, may evolve into gray moth). This process is micro evolution, which can be observed and described as fact. Evolution also may refer to the change of one living thing in another, such as reptiles into birds. This process, called macro evolution, has never been observed and should be considered a theory. Evolution also refers to the unproven belief that random, undirected forces produced a world of living things.

There are many unanswered question about the origin of life, which are not mentioned in your textbook, including: Why did the major groups of animals suddenly appear in the fossil record, known as the Cambrian Explosion? Why have no new major groups of living things appeared in a long time? Why do major groups of plants and animals have no transitional forms in the fossil record? How did you and all living things come to possess such a complete and complex set of instructions for building a living body?

Study hard and keep an open mind. Someday you may contribute to the theories of how living things appeared on earth."

## Controversy that began 74 years ago, continues

**By Michaela Marx  
Editor**

It all began 74 years ago in Tennessee. John Scopes, 24, a small-town science teacher had violated Tennessee law, teaching evolution to his science class.

The incident first turned the school upside down, then it drew waves on a national level. Today America again debates the creation vs. evolution issue.

The wave swept over Oklahoma Nov. 5, when the Oklahoma State Textbook Committee voted to place an evolution disclaimer on science and biology books. Schools were allowed to use books without the disclaimer, but could not purchase those with state money.

Only a few days later Oklahoma had made it into the national news. As a result, scientists from all over the country attacked the decision, calling it misleading and false. The national public policy group, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, warned Oklahoma's officials to reject the disclaimer or risk a lawsuit. A group of teachers and church people in the Tulsa area signed a petition thanking the textbook committee for the disclaimer.

South Western Educational Publishing an-

nounced its refusal to print the message on their books.

On Nov. 13, the members of the Oklahoma Academy of science published their official position opposing the disclaimer.

One hundred-twenty-four University of Oklahoma faculty members sent a statement to Gov. Frank Keating in early December stating the disclaimer not only "misconstrues the theory of evolution, it misrepresents the meaning of the scientific theory..."

Keating called the textbook disclaimer "thoughtful."

Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson ruled that the textbook committee did not have the power to decide about an issue like the disclaimer.

That brought the controversy, at least temporarily, to a halt. The topic, however, is still passionately discussed in Oklahoma.

By the way, John Scopes, the young man who started it all back in 1925, was fined \$100, the lowest amount possible for the crime.

Even though he was convicted, evolution was no longer seen as theory without basis.

The trial had put the subject in the national eye. It lasted 15 days.

Many of the country's finest lawyers were involved and it set loose a never-ending discussion.