Olympic show wows crowd

Spectacular diving tricks and clowns entertained a crowd of about 1750

Troy Dumais, 1997 diving athlete of the year, from Austin, Texas; David Pichler, the lone Olympic veteran for the men, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Mark Ruiz, who qualified for the Olympics in the 3-meter springboard and the 10-meter platform.

All Olympic divers participated with the exception of 3-meter springboard qualifier Davidson who injured her arm in an earlier exhibition.

Dick Wilson, the voice of U.S. diving since 1984, provided commentary.

The exhibition included demonstrations of two newly-added Olympic events.

Flip Centre, a team of gymnasts from a training facility of the same name, demonstrated trampoline fundamentals. Trampoline will be added as a gymnastics Olympic event at the 2000 games in Sydney, Australia.

Flip Centre performers, from Yukon, recently returned from the national championships in Cincinnatti.

The OKC Dive Club demonstrated synchronized diving, also a newly-added Olympic diving event, and performed a choreographed diving sequence.

In synchronized diving, two divers perform the same dive. Instead of the usual seven, nine judges score the dive on individual performances and synchronization.

About 1000 fans packed the Aquatic Center to watch the first exhibition at 1:30. A comedy clown diving act kicked off the show.

The clowns rode bikes off the 10-meter diving platform as the crowd watched in wonder.

The crowd groaned as a clown slammed into the water face-down from the 10-meter platform.

"I enjoyed the show a lot," Teresa Francisco said.

"We were visiting our friends the other night and saw a poster and decided to expose my 7-year-old to it."

The profits from the exhibitions will help bring the team to Sydney, Australia. A portion of the proceeds went to the refurbishment of the Aquatic Center.

College receives extra $1 million for development

Recently Republican legislators and Gov. Frank Keating set aside $1 million in state bond revenues to support business and economic development efforts at OKCCC.

Gary Lombard, OKCCC vice-president for business and finance, said the money was received in addition to approximately $1 million in state bond funds which the college received from Democrats in May.

The Oklahoma state bonds will be sold in January 2001, he said.

As an important asset to Oklahoma City's economic development, the college plans to spend the money on the Economic and Business Development Center and workforce development, said Lombard.

Among other ideas being considered is the possibility of expanding the second floor of the main building on top of the roof of the underground portion of the college, he said. Experts explored the idea and found that the construction is possible, he said.

Lombard said the OKCCC Board of Regents had discussed the option of adding more space in previous board meetings. The regents said that more room is needed for the growing student body and needed training facilities.

However, no concrete plans have been made. Currently the college is in the process of planning, Lombard said.

The Board of Regents will be considering how it wants to spend the money. The funds could be available as soon as the bonds are sold in spring 2001.

"Currently the project is in its initial stages," Lombard said.

College leaders are very pleased to receive the money. It will help to address the needs of the community and students, Lombard said.

See "Money," page 8
Editorial

What’s new on T.V., copycat?

NBC recently said that it made a bad decision by not getting into the reality-based genre shows as CBS and ABC did with “Survivor” and “Who Wants to be a Millionaire.” NBC is proposing a new reality-based show in which a woman is chained to several men. She goes out with them and decides who is kicked out and who gets to remain chained to her.

Nothing is scripted; the actresses and actors are not professionals, but real people reacting on their true emotions to real situations.

This is an example of the networks’ tendency to jump on the money-making bandwagon.

NBC had “ER” and CBS counter punched with “Chicago Hope.”

ABC created “Dharma and Greg” and NBC created “Will and Grace.” ABC created the hit “Who Wants to be a Millionaire.” NBC and Fox jabbed with “21” and “Greed,” both of which failed to capture the audience’s attention in the long run.

Cable, not bound by the same rules as the major networks, was able to show more sex and violence than the networks.

The networks, sensing cable’s growing dominance, fought back by using the old saying, “If you can’t beat them, join them,” which they did.

ABC had the controversial “NYPD Blue.” CBS allowed an uncensored expletive in its programming.

MTV’s “The Real World” and “Road Rules” helped give birth to the popularity of today’s reality-based shows, offering viewers unique programming. Is reality stranger than fiction?

Why is the videotaping of real people in real situations appealing to the tastes of viewers?

“America’s Funniest People” and its home videos showed kids hitting balls into their fathers’ crotches. Very funny.

Adults stranded on an island eating rats and bugs deciding who stays for a million bucks in “Survivor?” Sounds interesting.

People have heart attacks waiting for Regis Philbin to give them the answers in “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” Mesmerizing.

This constitutes entertainment these days.

The racier your program, the more viewers you will attract. The more viewers you attract, the more money you make.

It’s what the people want, network execs say.

But, do people really enjoy watching what low depths their neighbors will go through for meat?

What ever happened to the simple slapstick humor of “I Love Lucy?”

Maybe society got bored with it, the same way it’s getting bored with today’s “Seinfeld” and “Friends” clones.

What’s next?

Public executions?

To the Editor:

The Oklahoma City-County Health Department is preparing for the annual back-to-school immunization rush. Preschool and grade school children throughout the Oklahoma County area will be required to have their immunization current before returning to the classroom.

In August of 1999, the city-county health department saw 4,503 children for immunizations. The number of back-to-school immunizations clients for the four-month period of June to September of 1999 totaled 7,883.

According to Phillip Parker, Child Health Program administrator, last summer, on top of the increased number of required immunizations and clients, August was exceedingly hot with a long streak of 100+ degree days. This made waiting in a long line even more trying for our clients.

This year, to better accommodate clients and reduce the amount of waiting time, the department will be using a numbering system that will allow us to give immunizations to the maximum number of children possible each day.

Every morning, clients will be given a number on a first-come-first-serve basis and told whether they will be seen in the morning or in the afternoon. We feel this will allow us to maximize the number of immunizations and reduce the number of unhappy parents and fearful children.

To decrease the amount of time waiting, all children should have their immunization records with them. If that is not possible, it will be necessary to talk with a nurse about what immunizations the child has had in the past and to make a new immunization record before the child can be immunized.

It is also important for the parent or guardian to be present, the person with the child must be an adult and must have written permission to get the child immunizations.

The Oklahoma City-County Health Department will be giving these vaccinations daily, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Wednesday when the hours will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The vaccinations are free at 901 NE 23rd in Oklahoma City. For more information call the OCCHD Immunization Clinic at 425-4450.

—H.R. Holman

Oklahoma City County Health Department

Free back-to-school immunizations

STRAIGHTJACKET BY: M.C. GAREY

TALES FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BOTTLE:

“AND WHEN IT WAS TIME TO KISS THE BRIDE AND SHAKE HANDS WITH THE GROOM, YOU REALLY MESS THAT UP!”

—Vu Vu

Staff Writer
Express Lube beats expectations

In need of an oil change? How about getting your car vacuumed out? Maybe it’s a tire air pressure check and window clean that you need?

Well, prepare yourself for the place that will take care of all that in one visit.

Express Lube on 855 N.W. 12th in Moore is a one-stop place for your car's needs.

I recently had the privilege of getting to meet the Express Lube team, and let me tell you, they are some of the most courteous people you will ever meet.

I went to get the oil in our family’s ’86 Suburban changed. That’s a lot of oil. Not once did I ask for the air to be checked, the windows to be cleaned, or even the inside to be vacuumed. They did it all on their own.

And it was not a lazily done job either. They vacuumed every part of the inside, including the dashboard. They cleaned the outside and the inside of the windows.

It was an ace job.

The entire time they performed their job, they talked to us about our day, and I could tell that they truly cared. It wasn’t the usual “make-the-customer-happy-by-asking-how-their-day-is” routine.

And all of this service early in the morning, the time most people are grumpy and mean.

I expected the bill to be pretty high for this kind of service, but I was surprised to find out that all this was done for less than $30.

I don’t know if this is how the rest of the Express Lubes of the world run, but I hope it is, so that others may experience the quality service that I had the opportunity to experience.

I give the Express Lube on N.W. 12th and Janeway 5 out of 5 rotating tires.

—Ryan Johnson
Staff Writer

The nebulous world of Dr. Vu

Happy camper wonders about future career

This is the final column of the summer for “The nebulous world of Dr. Vu.”

I am not a doctor, nor was Dr. Seuss a doctor.

Actually, I think Dr. Seuss was awarded an honorary doctorate before he went to writer’s heaven.

I’m just a 19-year-old Caucasian male who thinks he wants to major in journalism instead of something productive like computer science, engineering or philosophy.

Vu the philosophy major... kinda has a nice ring to it.

I wanted to be a sports writer.

When I arrived at OKCCC, I figured my career was doomed because we have no sports, except for soccer.

Although soccer is the most popular sport in the world, writing about a bunch of guys chasing a ball isn’t appealing, especially if it’s against Rose State College.

Writing about a bunch of drunk Englishmen kicking drunk Germans while chasing a ball is appealing, however.

(That reminds me we don’t officially have a rival, although if we did, I’d pick RSC – the OSU of the community colleges.)

But I did get a chance to write swimming stories thanks to our fantastic Aquatic Center.

My first journalism experience with collegiate sports was when the Mountain West Conference held its men’s and women’s swimming and diving championship at OKCCC.

These are the same fans who throw tortillas when ESPN covers a basketball game.

Probably my most memorable journalism experience was when the U.S. Olympic diving team came to OKCCC.

I didn’t get a chance to mingle with them at the press conference because of prior commitments, but the opportunity to catch a glimpse of possible Olympic Cinderellas was amazing.

And the food was awesome, I was told.

Things always turn out perfect for me, even though I expect the worst.

Just by hanging in there, and trusting in eggrolls and apple juice which help power my brain along with my faith, I’m one happy camper.

I am one happy camper.

—Vu Vu
Staff Writer

Comments and Reviews

‘X-men’ too realistic to beat comic series

Mutants take over theaters. Based on the Marvel Comic series X-men, human mutants with special powers fight the evil on film.

The psychic Professor Xavier runs a school for genetically gifted human mutants. His mutated pupils all want to use their powers to promote peace, justice and understanding in a world that fears the more advanced mutants.

Among Professor Xavier’s followers are knife-handed Wolverine, Cyclops, who shoots laser beams from his eyes, psychic Jean Grey, weather controlling Storm and Rogue.

Shapeshifter Mystique, the Toad and the man-beast Sabretooth fight on the evil side, led by the evil Magneto. He believes a war between the mutants and the hostile humans will come. His mission: to convert all humans to mutants before the humans can act against the mutants.

All America ran to see the movie spectacle “X-men” on its first weekend, making it the number one flick in America. However, what was fascinating was that the comic book lost much of its intensity on the big screen with real people.

Even though the makers cast perfect mutant material such as model Rebecca Romijn-Stamos (Mystique), pro wrestler Tyler Mane (Sabretooth) or Halle Berry (Storm) with a platinum blond wig, the movie does not transport the mystique of the fantastic world in the X-man comics.

Not even science fiction veterans such as Ray Parker (The Toad) of Darth Maul fame from Star Wars and Patrick Stewart (Xavier), who is better known as Star Trek’s Captain Picard, can light the spark.

Two actors, however, were great. Wolverine is played by Hugh Jackman. Not only does he look like the comic Wolverine, but he also presents the edginess and energy of the character. Besides that he has the coolest knife hands since Freddy. Jackman also strongly resembles Sean Penn except younger and hairier.

Oscar-winner Anna Paquin of “The Piano” is Rogue. She plays a young mutant who can transport other’s energy into her own body by touching them. This power is dangerous, because if she holds on too long she will suck out the total life-energy and kill. The evil Magneto centers his plan around this power and kidnaps her.

Paquin perfectly portrays the heartache and pain of the young, confused mutant who can’t touch someone without endangering his life, making personal contact and intimacy impossible.

The special effects make up for the fact that real people just can’t look as cool as comic characters.

The movie will probably rate high among comic and sci-fi freaks. But also non-mutant-lovers can enjoy explosions, fight scenes and iconic images of American pop culture in funny mutant outfits.

—Michaela Marx
Editor

The Pioneer at www.okc.cc.ok.us
Violence in the workplace explored during seminar

By Kathi Etherton
Staff Writer

I really think [the seminar] is making a difference," he said.

“Some of them reported as much as an 85 percent reduction. That's significant for the person working there. They feel better." Dudley Freeman, staff development director, said the faculty, staff and the President’s Advisory Council requested training on violence in the workplace. Ralph deCardenas, Perkins Collections Assistant in the Bursars office, attended the seminar.

He said Tye’s suggestions such as having a code word to alert co-workers, a safe room to run to and having an escape route without having to go past the perpetrator were very helpful.

The most valuable thing for me was at the end of the seminar when he gave us ideas on how to deal with a problem. "I do [have a way out of my office], but unfortunately my co-workers don’t, not without going over the person," deCardenas said. "I plan to share [the ideas] with the other two employees and try to figure something out."

Statistics show that while homicide rates went down from 1997 to 1998, from 1992 to 1996, homicide was the number one cause of death for women in the workplace and number two for men.

Seven hundred to 1000 Americans are murdered on the job each year and two million are assaulted. Fifty-four percent of those incidents were an employee against another employee. Tye said he has been leading these seminars for about four years, mostly in Oklahoma.

He said he also has traveled to other states. He presents between 10 to 14 seminars a year. "He graciously volunteered his time to help us," Freeman said. "From one institution to another."

There are tentative plans to have more seminars on violence in the workplace in the future.

Freeman said OKCCC, along with those in Staff Development, is working on having a similar training seminar in the fall, possibly October, and then maybe in January as well. For more information about the “Violence in the Workplace” seminar go to www.osudp.okstate.edu

The site contains the Power Point presentation Tye used. He also used portions of a training video entitled “The Calm Before the Storm,” and a video of an ABC News program 20/20.

CD reader, writer stolen

By Kathi Etherton
Staff Writer

A Hewlett Packard re-writable CD drive and a Dell CD reader were discovered missing July 12 from area 2J3 of the main building.

John Richardson, director of computer systems development, filed the report.

Keith Bourque, coordinator of safety and security, said the computer was taken from a commons area, not a locked room.

He said the items were internal, but that he didn’t see any damage to the computer. Richardson said the items were last seen on at about 6 p.m. July 11.

The rewritable CD drive is valued at approximately $8379. The cost of the CD reader is unknown.

Richardson was unavailable for a comment.
Olympic and local divers team up for show

Left: Olympic diver Jenny Keim holds her balance as she prepares for a handstand dive at the U.S. Olympic diving tour. Handstand dives were described as difficult as well as dangerous due to the possibility of losing balance which could lead to entering the water incorrectly.

Right: Oklahoma Dive Club members hold up a sign wishing the Olympic divers good luck in Sydney, Australia. The team performed a choreographed pre-show for the audience and divers.

Below: Dive Club members Natalie Swisher and Shelby Noonan perform a synchronized dive during the preshow.

Right: The Dilly Divers prepare to awe the crowd by riding a bicycle from the 10-meter platform.

Right: The Olympic Dive Team and the Dilly Divers gather for a group hug at the end of the show.

Photos by Ryan Johnson
Students have option of buying books online

By Kathi Etherton
Staff Writer

As of the first week in July, students don’t have to wait in line to purchase books. The bookstore has a new feature that allows students to buy books from the comfort of their home and have them delivered.

“We are hoping this will help the students. Possibly the lines will not be so long,” Kathy Reed, bookstore director said.

Students can log on to the college website. On the left column, go to the option entitled “Online Bookstore.”

From there, students have the option of checking the books needed for a particular class, the cost and there is a place to search the site by typing in either the title of the book or the author.

Books will be sold year round by credit card only.

The books are the same price as they are in the bookstore, but there is a standard shipping charge.

“That is the only extra expense. There isn’t any handling charge or anything like that.”

Students do not have to register or have an ID number. Anyone can place an order online.

“Once the order is placed online, every morning when I come in the office, I will run the list of orders. Then I will pull the orders and [bookstore employees] will put them in a box and mail them,” Reed said.

“This will be an alternative to standing in line.”
Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to currently enrolled OKC students and employees. Ads must be written in English 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: '89 Olds Royal 88, champagne color, very clean and good condition. Asking $4,000 (OBO). Call 943-8049.


FOR SALE: '88 Conquest. Call 634-6787.

FOR SALE: '89 Honda Accord LX, 4-door, auto., power everything, good condition, 130K miles. Asking $3,000. Call David or Woody at 525-8359.

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

FOR SALE: '77 Suburban, needs body work. 454 engine, 400 turbo transmission — both GC. New rear end, radiator recently re-cored, new exhaust. $1000 firm. Call 790-2774 evenings.

HOUSEHOLD


FOR SALE: Oak dining table with leaf and 4 chairs on casters. $250. Call 621-0021 or page at 440-7696.

FOR SALE: Montgomery Ward refrigerator, $75. Call 364-6051 or 417-3816, ext. 7674.


MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Moving, must sell fast! Calculus for Business/Life/Science (OBO), Accounting I & II (FAP) $50 (OBO) -- Both cheaper than at the OKCCC Bookstore! Call Michelle at 789-5984.

FOR SALE: '92 12’ x 65’ 2-bedroom mobile home, EC, 2 extra lots with all utilities. Snug Harbor area, Lake Eufaula. Call 1-918-452-0270. Priced to sell.

FOR SALE: Sega Genesis game system with several games, $50. Call 364-6051 or 682-1611, ext. 7544.

FOR SALE: Two 12” speaker boxes, $100 and $150. Kenwood CD Changer (never used, still in box), $200. Great additions to any car! Call 822-7250.

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July 24, 2000 • PIONEER • 7
Gas leak shuts down all college entrances along May Avenue

By Michaela Marx
Editor

Traffic on May Avenue in front of the college as well as ingoing and outgoing college traffic came to a sudden standstill July 18 when construction workers accidentally cut a gas pipe near the intersection of May Avenue and S.W. 78th Street.

The line was severed during the ongoing widening process of May Avenue. The street was immediately shut down to traffic.

Oklahoma Natural Gas Company was called in to fix the leak as Oklahoma City firefighters and police secured the scene.

Keith Bourque, coordinator of campus safety and security, said his office was notified and asked to regulate the outgoing traffic on campus.

Major Phil Sipe of the Oklahoma City Fire Department, Hazardous Material team, said the accident occurred about 10 a.m.

Sipe was on standby in case an emergency occurred while ONG shut off the gas.

Don Sherry, manager of communications for ONG, said a contractor struck a medium pressure gas line. The pipe was repaired by ONG technicians, he said.

It took about one hour to fix the pipe, said Sipe.

Even though neighbors and college personnel smelled gas and heard a loud hissing noise near the scene, Sipe said there was no risk to the public.

Sherry said ONG had the situation under control at all times.

“Any time you have an open gas line you have to treat it with respect,” he said. “But we are quite accustomed to dealing with a situation like this.”

Sherry said gas is lighter than air and streams upward so the gas didn’t remain in the area long.

Sipe said windy weather conditions and the fact that the leak occurred in an open space made the situation less dangerous.

Sherry said, to his knowledge, neither the college nor the surrounding neighborhood was without gas because of the accident.

Olympic dive team shines during show

“Olympic,” Cont. from page 1

U.S. diving squads have dominated Olympic diving in the past, winning 125 of the 225 medals awarded, until the recent emergence of the Chinese teams.

The U.S. squad will have another chance to score medals in the synchronized 3-meter springboard and 10-meter platform.

At the end of the exhibition, the U.S. divers celebrated with a fireworks display of dives into the pool.

Come September, slated as underdogs, the U.S. divers hope to regain the glory of the past with a celebration in Sydney as champions.

Extra class space could be added as result of bonds

State Senator Keith Leftwich, (D-OKC), State Senator Kathleen Willcoxson (R-OKC), and Representative Tim Pope, (R-Mustang), were especially instrumental for the college receiving the bonds, said Lombard.

“They were very appreciative of the college,” he said.

Willcoxson said it is important to invest in projects like the Economic and Business Development Center.

“I believe that everybody in Oklahoma can be wealthy,” she said. “We have to bring in businesses and industry that provide larger salaries for young people to stay in Oklahoma,” Willcoxson said.

To reach this goal it is important to invest in training to attract these companies.

Leftwich said that, as a representative of the south side of Oklahoma City, he always tries to act in the best interest of the college.

“We have had a great economy on the south side, as well as all over Central Oklahoma in recent years,” Leftwich said.

To continue this trend, he said, it is important to invest in the infrastructure.

“One thing is to keep the college’s facilities up to date,” he said.

However, the issue still needs to be approved of the state bond council, Leftwich said.

Photo by Ryan Johnson

Oklahoma City firefighters responded to a ruptured gas line call July 18. Construction workers accidentally cut the line located near the intersection of May Avenue and S.W. 78th Street.