

- Video games not the problem, p. 2.
- Tornado season approaches, p. 6.
- Kids play firefighters for the day, p. 7.
- Engineering club catapults, p. 10.

PIONEER

Science professor helps plan hometown students' futures

Gary Houlette wants kids to have opportunities

By Vu Vu
Editor

Physical science Professor Gary Houlette lives in the small rural Oklahoma town of Wanette.

By the time he gets home after teaching at OKCCC, he's traveled more than 100 miles.

"I don't want a senior graduating from Wanette High School who doesn't have a plan for their lives," he said.

That's why the prof serves on the Wanette school board.

And because he has no children, Houlette said, he offers an unbiased viewpoint.

"I'm looking out for what's best for the children because I know what education is about.

"I know what it takes to make people successful in the classroom," he said.

Houlette, who has been on the school board for about a year and a half, ran again this term for Wanette's Seat Number One on the school board for a five-year term.

He received 48 percent of the votes, the most votes of the three candidates during the Feb. 13 election.

However, he needed 50 percent of the vote to win. That forced a run-off election for April 3.

Wanette also has a large elderly population.

Houlette offers his help, serving on the senior citizen's board and helping out at the senior citizen center.

Houlette graduated from OKCCC in 1977, earning an associate's degree and then transferred to Oklahoma

"School Board," page 12



Photo by Melissa DePew

It's a piece of cake: OKCCC students Demetrius Paggett, Meredith Dunkeson and Marissa Shirley participated in a bake sale March 22 to raise money for Abilities Galore. The group sold all sorts of goodies from cookies and brownies to chocolate cake. The next bake sale will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 19.

High school students attend college just down the hall

By Amity Tillman
Newswriting I Student

Capitol Hill High School students now have the opportunity to get an early start at earning college credit with a program that links OKCCC to the high school.

The program was implemented by Principal Brian Staples last year to encourage more of his students to attend college.

"The biggest challenge we face is getting kids to believe they will be successful in college," said Staples.

To be eligible for the courses, a student must be either a junior or senior and meet the criteria for admission to OKCCC.

Classes students are able to take include Contemporary Math, American

Federal Government, Music Appreciation and Introduction to Psychology.

In the future, Staples said, the school hopes to offer a total of six or seven classes.

OKCCC math professor Chris Oehrlein teaches Contemporary Math to the Capitol Hill students.

"It gives the students a realistic idea of what college is all about, including the atmosphere and workload," he said.

Oehrlein said this is his second semester in the program. He said he hopes a statistics class for those wishing to take math beyond 1503 will be among the new courses offered.

Staples said the number of Capitol Hill students participating in the class has increased.

See "Program," page 12

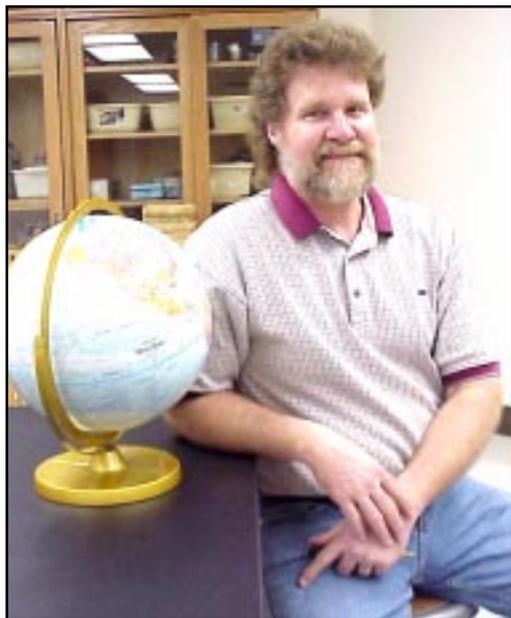


Photo by Melissa DePew
Gary Houlette

Wanette is a really small town. That's why he wanted to live there.

"[Our high school] had 13 seniors graduate last year," Houlette said.

About eight years ago, he heard a story from a student from a small town.

"What happens [in this small town] is the girls get pregnant and the boys get thrown in jail," his student said.

That's when Houlette realized a person can make a difference.

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Players dislike blame games

There are only a few things in life more disturbing than school shootings.

At the same time nothing is more ludicrous than blaming them on the entertainment industry, more specifically video games.

It seems that every time a child or teenager commits a crime, it's all because of the entertainment industry. But when an adult walks into his office and opens fire, it was because they were "stressed out."

Please.

The beautiful thing is that our great state legislature of Oklahoma has proposed a new bill. Senate Bill 757 states that no store or retailer shall sell a video game containing high violence to any person(s) under the age of 17.

Thanks to good ol' Oklahoma government, I won't be able to buy my video games without some kid harassing me asking, "Hey mister, will you buy this game for me?"

I can relate, of course. How do you think we were able to get beer and alcohol when we were so young?

I appreciate the effort of our government trying to curb school violence, but it's time to focus on the real problem, not the scapegoats.

How about this for starters? Take all the soft money from the NRA out of the Republican's pockets, and we might actually have gun control.

I'm not making this into a partisan issue for campaign finance reform, because in the immortal words of Bill Maher, "Democrats are bought off by slightly less scarier (interest) groups."

It's something Republicans and Democrats will have to work at.

If I can steal a line from the great Bobby Knight, "School shootings are inevitable, why not sit back and watch it happen?"

Now Knight was actually talking about a more serious crime, but the point is still relevant.

That's exactly what we do. We sit back and watch it all happen, or else we would do something to prevent it, like getting rid of assault rifles and other dangerous guns not used for hunting.

It's time to stop blaming video games, Hollywood, and rap artists and go after the heart of the problem such as the parents of these kids who shoot up schools, as well as the people who put these weapons in kids' hands.

My favorite argument is that video games teach kids better aim and accuracy with a gun.

If that were the case I would be as awesome as the sniper in the movie "Saving Private Ryan."

My heart goes out to the students and faculty at both Santana and Granite Hills high schools.

And that's why it's time government takes real action against the real problem, and leave me alone to blast on some computer animated criminals.

My PS2 and I are getting tired of Uncle Sam.

—Mark Stack
Staff Writer

Taxing issue trivial to average student

To the Editor:

I would like to thank Diana Bittle for responding to my letter. It shows that I am not the only one who cares about what happens to them. I went to the web site suggested and she is correct. According to the tax calculator, you would receive a \$300 tax cut. This is approximately a 12.2 percent tax rate according to www.heritage.org

I also compared the tax rate applied to the calculations with the tax schedule

proposed by President Bush. They do not match. After reading the tax plan at www.whitehouse.gov and studying the appendix that applies to your taxable income, after deductions, there is no such thing as a 12.2 percent tax rate.

My findings are just the result of my own curiosity. Check for yourself. The people that do not change their tax rate are:

- Single—\$6,000 to \$27,050
- Head of household—

\$10,000 to \$36,250

•Married-joint filing—\$12,000 to \$45,200

All of these people will remain at the 15 percent tax rate where they are currently located. You might disagree so check for yourself and double check our resources. If they do not match the actual plan, then they might be wrong.

—Michael Pascarella
Business Student

Problem with simple solution

To the Editor:

In the Pioneer you talk about school violence and seem confused as to what should be done to resolve such a situation.

You said you do not know what to do. I came from a violent public school. I am a victim of such things you describe and talk about.

There are others if you would only seek us out.

To solve such a problem is simple.

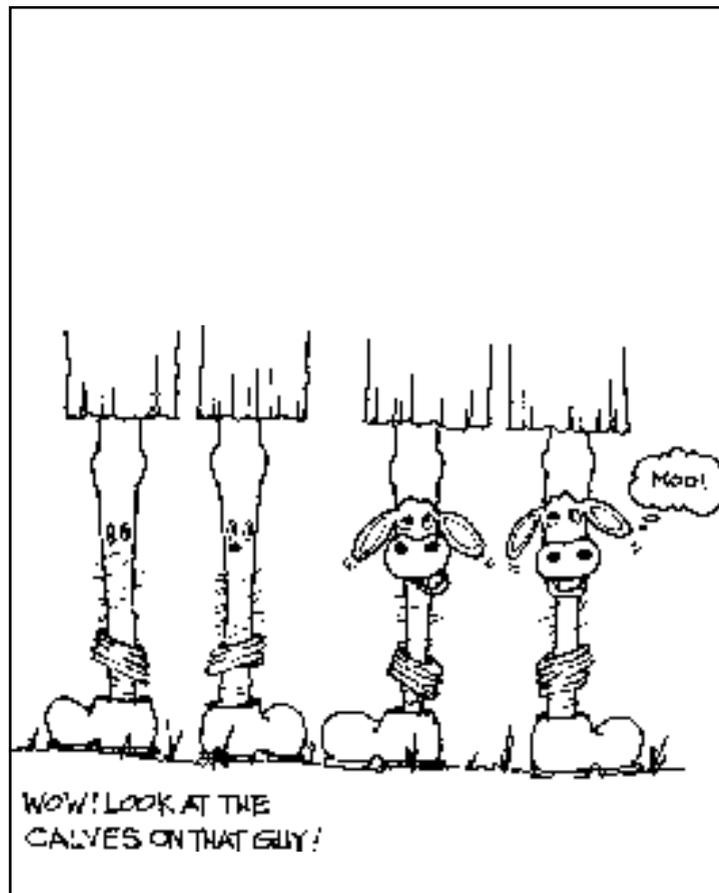
Eliminate cliques; establish a dress code (jeans, T-shirts, tennis shoes, hair).

What must be kept in mind is education not fashion, violence, fads or money-hungry people wanting to harm our future citizens.

Let kids be kids. They do not need the pressure of social success put on them at such a young age.

—Dwight Gullickson
Student

STRAIGHTJACKET BY: M.C. GAREY



PIONEER

Vol. 29 No. 26

Vu A. Vu.....Editor
Brandi Peterman.....Staff Writer
Mark Stack.....Staff Writer
Melissa DePew...Photographer
Melissa Guice.....Online Editor
John Easley.....Ad. Manager
Jason Lomas.....Work Study
Ronna Austin.....Lab Director
Sue Hinton.....Faculty Adviser

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

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

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

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

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@okc.cc.ok.us. A phone number for verification must be included.

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



Comments and Reviews

Politics, religion still don't mix

To the Editor:

Because it is a political season, those of us who live in the United States often hear that we should elect leaders who will make it a Christian nation.

One minister recently declared on television that if he lived in Japan he would expect a Shinto government and if he lived in Indonesia he would expect a Muslim government.

Because he lives in the United States, he stated, he expects it to have a Christian government. He asserted that the United States has always been a Christian nation and always should be.

He was partly right.

Many of the Europeans who first settled on this continent were looking for religious freedom for themselves, but not for others. They established colonies that conformed to their respective versions of Christianity in many ways.

Some made it illegal to engage in business on Sundays. Some used stocks to humiliate and torture those they deemed wayward. Some executed women they called "witches." To put it gently, these pioneers did not embrace "the aloha spirit."

It is also the case, however, that others who pioneered this nation, particularly some who prospered in the middle Atlantic states in the eighteenth century, believed that the government of the United States should be religiously neutral. Some of those who wanted the nation to have no state religion were skeptics. Others wanted the federal government to leave this matter in the hands of the various states. A number were believers who realized that the only way to guarantee religious freedom for themselves was to grant it to others, too.

There were also Christians who agreed with Roger Williams, who had

founded Rhode Island in 1636 on the principle that "forced worship stinks in the nostrils of God."

Given these different beginnings, it is not surprising

that those of us who call the United States home have long experienced a tug-of-war between those who want its government to be Christian and those who want it to be free. Both sides claim to be faithful to the past. Both sides marshal arguments and lines of evidence.

Both sides spend much time, money, and energy promoting their views. So far, for the most part, the idea has prevailed that the government of the United States should make it possible for persons of all faiths and no faith to live as they wish—providing they do not harm others. We can hope that it will continue to do so.

One consideration along these lines is that the United States is one of the few nations in the history of humanity to organize itself this way. The practice of formally or informally giving one religion a favored position has been more common. But who needs another nation with a government that officially endorses Christianity? We have had plenty of them already!

Furthermore, the record of nations with Christian governments is not encouraging. Tyranny, superstition, and bloody conflict have disgraced them far too often. Hardly anyone would freely choose to return to such circumstances.

Those who say the United States should be a Christian nation today may believe that this time, if given permission to do

One of the best ways to kill a thriving church is to make it a nation's official religion.

—David R. Lawson
President, AAF

so, we Christians would rule well. This is doubtful. We are all human. When given too much power we almost always abuse it. This is as true of those of us who are Christians as it is of everyone else.

Most importantly, Christianity does not need to be enforced by the state in order to flourish. If anything, the opposite is the case. Where the government officially endorses one form of Christianity, churches are often empty and support often low.

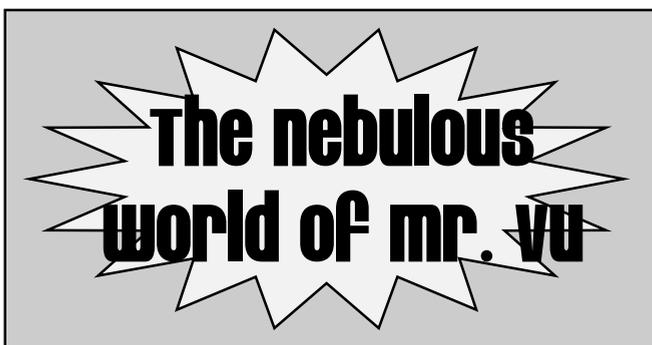
However, where Christian churches realize that no one else will invest in their preservation and growth, indicators of involvement are generally higher. One of the best ways to kill a thriving church is to make it a nation's official religion.

Many of those say the United States should be a Christian nation probably don't mean that its government should force on religion on everyone.

Their point is that the nation's policies should be fair and that those who implement them should be honest. Of this there can be no doubt. But one does not have to be a Christian to favor just policies or to be a person of integrity. The links between religion and morality are more subtle and complex than that.

What matters most is that we all strive in every honorable way to foster "liberty and justice for all." And "all" means everybody!

—David R. Larson
President, Association of
Adventists Forum



\$5 bill cause of society's pains

Henry David Thoreau had his pond; Vu Anh Vu has OKCCC.

But did Thoreau have his own column? I didn't think so. Word to the mother.

It was about 9:30 on a cold February evening. While working on some homework in the office, a thought suddenly sprung to me like drool on a six-month-old baby.

I was in much need of an energy source. My rustic dilapidated body, creaking from years of writing, editing and pasting, needed nourishment.

I sat in my chair and whirled a bit much like a carousel to stave off hunger. Alas, in the end, it just made me long for the outside, the land beyond the great glass cell. I wanted to, as they say, "run for the border." Yes, I longed for T-Bell, Taco Smell, home of the Mexican pizza.

But alas, my how do I love saying "alas," it was not to be, for my magazine news feature writing grade depended on my cunning diligence.

Night drifted on and soon it was 9:45 p.m. I ventured from my home away from home to the assorted potato chip and cake-based vitamin dispenser, my kitchen away from my kitchen. My wallet stared at me, shivering at the terror of losing another of its dear, dear companions.

"Sweet, sweet wallet, do not cry, for your friend will not die in vain, but instead, he will be free as the crane to fly low, to fly high; to fly..."

But alas! I was fooled. My wallet hath deceived me. I had no dollar! I could not quench my hunger, nor feed my thirst. My mind wandered like a leper in the Sahara.

All I had was a \$5 bill, useless in a world of \$1 heathens!

But alas! I remember another nourishment dispenser on the first floor, one with real food like sandwiches with meat made from assorted animal products and/or by-products. It took \$5 bills!

I hiked to the center of the college, growled at all the offerings. My eyes followed a light sent from heaven, leading me to my destiny, an eggroll!

I put my \$5 bill inside, but it did not go in. I turned it upside down, and yet no eggroll came out. Finally, after seven tries, I gave up, for the machine was turned off and I had no access to a microwave.

A woman gave me some change and I bought some donuts. Then I finished my homework and went home. I got a B- on the paper. Word to the mother.

—Vu Vu
Editor

Weekend classes make room for work, family time

By Sally Mullins
Newswriting I Student

Students who have full time jobs are probably aware of the challenges that arise when trying to earn a degree and work 40 or more hours per week.

But there is an alternative to the typical day that includes work from 8 to 5, and school from 5:30 to 8, or even 10:30 — weekend college at OKCCC.

Credit classes are offered on the campus Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, said Dr. John Barker, director of research.

He said there are several options for weekend courses including typical 16-week courses, eight-week courses, and Fast-Track courses that are five weeks in duration.

Although weekend college is not new to the OKCCC campus, many students do not realize there is an alternative to the traditional daytime or evening classes offered.

Weekend college was established in the fall of 1991 with an initial enrollment of 1,411 or 14 percent of the college's students.

In the fall of 2000, the number of students enrolled in weekend credit classes held steady at 1,001 — 11 percent of the college's students, according to Barker.

The popularity of the five-week Fast-Track classes has increased. In previous years, students enrolled in Fast-Track classes were working adults, and generally older than the average student but, Barker said, that has changed.

The idea of earning three credit hours in five weeks as opposed to 16 appeals to many students, regardless of age. Rather than prima-

Shorter class times allow students more freedom

rily older students, Fast-Track classes now contain a more diverse age group, said Barker.

Are weekend classes much different from conventional daytime or evening classes?

"Yes and no. It depends on the course and the instructor," said Barker.

"Weekend classes might be more likely to contain students who work full-time during the week, which suggests that these courses might contain students older than the traditional college-age student. Speaking from personal experience, it is not uncommon for classes that meet in alternative times to be a little more relaxed."

However, this may not be the case with the five week Fast-Track classes. Because the overall meeting time is the same as the other weekend classes, the material must be absorbed in a shorter amount of time.

Although OKCCC is not the only college to offer weekend courses, the college has been offering them longer than most colleges in the Oklahoma City area.

"The college has always strived to be responsive to student needs," Barker said. "This also explains why the current schedule of intersession, eight-week and online classes is growing."

The opportunity to attend college on the weekend can be helpful for those who have to work late during the week or for parents who want to spend time with their children in the evening. It may also be easier for students with children to find a baby sitter on the weekend or for the other parent to take care of the children.

Brandon Jones, a student at OKCCC, is enrolled in a five-week Fast-Track Biology course that meets on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"It's just more convenient for me to come to school on Saturdays," Jones said. "I take 12 hours during the

week and work part time at night.

"I would rather take a class that is five weeks long than one that is the full 16 weeks. And this way I can get my 15 hours per semester in by taking a weekend course."

Jones also said he would

like to see "more variety of classes offered on the weekend."

For a listing of weekend classes, pick up a copy of the class schedule at several locations on campus, including the lobby of the main building. Students can also access the schedule via the Internet on the OKCCC home page at www.okc.cc.ok.us

Job fair participants offer students tips for success

By Brandy Hudgens
Newswriting I Student

The student job fair held this month answered questions that college students often ask themselves about how to get the job they want.

Representatives from about 30 companies were present to recruit employees, answer questions about their companies and tell what they expect of prospective employees. Participants came from Sears, Farmers Insurance Group, Radio Shack and many other companies.

Janet Altenhofen, Human Resource Recruiter from Farmers Insurance Group, said when screening applicants she looks for job tenure, neat résumés, good verbal and oral skills and whether applicants pay attention to detail.

"Applicants today are lacking a good command of the English language, such as using good grammar and avoiding slang," Altenhofen said.

She said Farmers will be hiring about 1,200 new employees to fill several positions over the next few years as they build their Oklahoma City offices.

Debbie Jackson, Human Resource Specialist from Sears, said her company is a good one to work for because it offers scholarships and works around even hectic college schedules.

"College students should look for employers who will work around their college hours and Sears will do that," she said.

Jackson said Sears offers a tuition reimbursement benefit where 75 percent of

qualifying expenses are repaid for job-related approved undergraduate and graduate courses.

The company also offers a management trainee program for employees interested in business management and fashion. On the average, she said, Sears always has eight to 10 positions open.

The representatives participating in the job fair all said students looking for a job should look for the following:

- The ability to grow in a position.
- Gaining experience from their prospective employers.
- Companies that offer an opportunity to advance in the workplace.
- Good employee benefits.

The recruiters advised applicants to steer clear of jobs they aren't really interested in because job stability is important to employers. When you quit right away, it shows you're not committed to staying at one job.

I don't do weekends...

United Parcel Service offers:

- * \$8.50 per hour to start
- * Up to \$9.50 per hour after 30 days
- * 4 hours per day
- * Full medical, dental, and vision benefits for you and your family
- * Advancement Opportunities
- * Paid vacations

Now hiring for:

- * **Twilight:** Monday - Friday
5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- * **Midnight:** Monday - Friday
10:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.

If interested, we invite you to come tour our facility every Monday at 6 p.m. or call 948-4470



EOE-M/F/D/V



PIONEER^{Online}

www.okccc.pioneer.com

• IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE
PIONEER •

Tuberculosis invades campus classrooms

By Vu Vu
Editor

About 50 students and two faculty members were tested for tuberculosis the week before spring break.

On March 9, the Oklahoma City-County Health Department informed the college that a student had a case of active contagious TB.

Students who had classes with the infected person were informed and given skin tests the following week, said Marion Paden, vice president for student services.

Dr. Dale Clafin, TB controller of the Oklahoma City Health Department said, after the initial testing, none of the students tested positive for tuberculosis.

Clafin came to OKCCC on March 22 to speak and answer questions about TB.

"AIDS and TB run neck and neck," he said.

He said eight million people worldwide are infected.

Three million die each year.

"It's the number one infectious disease killer," he said.

There are two forms of TB, Clafin said.

He said people who show no symptoms after exposure have the inactive and non-contagious form of TB. "About 90 percent don't get sick," Clafin said.

The other 10 percent have the active form of TB. If TB infects the lungs, victims face excessive coughing of phlegm and blood along with excessive chest pain while coughing.

EMT student John Coffey said he didn't know about the incident.

"What if we walked past them in the hall? What if [someone] sneezed when you walked past and you said, 'Excuse you,' or 'God bless you?'" Coffey said.

He said there should be more information posted about infectious diseases at the college.

"There should be a bulletin board," he said.

Transmission of the disease is spread through coughing and sneezing.

TB infects the lungs in about 70 percent of the

cases, Clafin said.

He said the disease infects the body anywhere blood vessels flow.

The students and faculty tested will be re-tested in about three months because of the possibility of developing the disease, Clafin said.

Gloria Cardenas Barton, dean of Admissions, said the students were not charged for tests and X-rays.

Clafin said transmission of TB in the classroom setting is unlikely, due to the constant flow of air.

However, he said, once airborne, TB can survive indefinitely as long as it remains in an aerosol form in the air.

"Air movement will keep it moving," he said.

He said TB couldn't be transmitted if it makes contact with an object or changes size after leaving the body.

"You're not going to get it if someone sneezed on a desk, but you may get a cold," Clafin said.

Clafin said in 1900, 25 percent of the population were dying of TB.

CAMPUS SECURITY INCIDENTS

Thefts up in parking area A

By Mark Stack
Staff Writer

OKCCC seems to be a hotbed for car break-ins in recent weeks, as three more cars were broken into in parking lot A. This is the fifth vehicle break-in to occur in parking lot A in the last month.

The most recent burglary occurred Monday, March 19.

Upon returning to his car at about 1:35 p.m., Mohammad Seirafi-Pour discovered two pairs of pants, two checkbooks, a duffel bag and airline tickets missing.

Seirafi-Pour reported to campus security that he arrived on campus at about 12:30 p.m. and returned an hour later to find his car door open. The report states there were no signs of forcible entry.

Two other break-ins occurred Wednesday, March 7, both also in parking lot A.

Jason James said he came out of his afternoon class about 4:30 p.m. to find his car had been burglarized.

James reported to officer James Springer that thieves broke the passenger side window of his 1993 Ford Mustang.

He said a Clarion CD player, valued at \$500, was stolen.

Later that afternoon, officer Kevin Tipton was patrolling parking lot A around 5 p.m. when he noticed the window smashed out of a 1991 Saturn. Tipton then informed student Craig Walker that the rear passenger side window of his Saturn had been broken out.

Walker reported that his \$200 Sony CD player had been taken.

Head of safety and security Keith Bourque said students need to take precautions against theft. He said it's a good idea to hide valuables, set car alarms, make sure doors are locked and park close to the buildings.



Oops! In the March 29 issue of the Pioneer, we incorrectly reported the Brazilian Guitar Quartet would perform Tuesday, March 22. The correct performance date is **Tuesday, March 29**. The group will be in the college theater at 7 p.m.



**Need help or an
escort to your
car?**

**Call campus
security at
682-1611,
ext. 7691**

When tornados attack

OKCCC on cutting edge of severe weather technology



Photo by Melissa Guice

Coordinator of Campus Safety and Security Keith Bourque shows off the college's Weather Center. The center provides radar updates every 15 minutes during non-eventful weather. During severe weather, it updates every five minutes.

**By Melissa Guice
Staff Writer**

OKCCC's Weather Center does more than show a few weather forecasts.

The computer system can show radar updates every five minutes during severe weather and 15 minutes during normal weather.

Not only is it helpful in showing current weather conditions in Oklahoma, it is also helpful in predicting weather in Oklahoma.

"I can see what's happening in Nebraska or Kansas [for instance] and if there's any bad weather there, I can keep an eye on it to see if it is headed this way," said Keith Bourque,

coordinator of Campus Safety and Security.

OKCCC's Weather Center receives a lot of the same information many local television meteorologists receive from the National Weather Service.

The center gets updates, weather forecasts that range from three to five days to months into the future, warnings and even national missing children alerts.

The center also receives Associated Press updates and Cable News Network radio programs.

"It's a useful tool," he said.

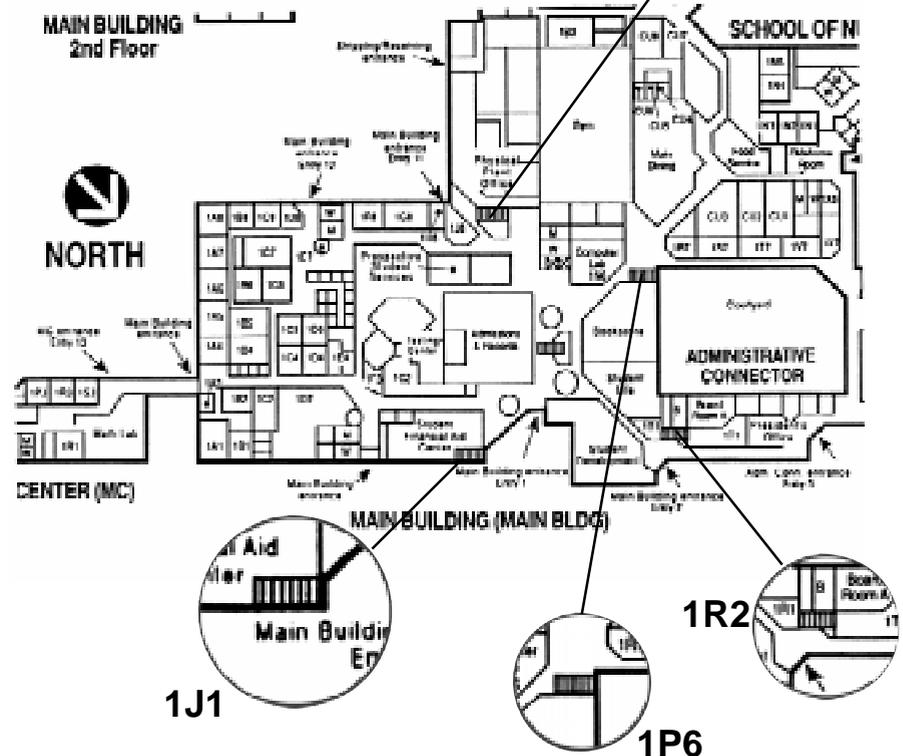
The Campus Safety and Security office currently leases the center for a little more than \$1,100 a year.

Want to know where to go?

If you are here: Go here:

Main Building	1st Floor Fire Stairwells
Underground Building	Southwest Wall, underground building
Gymnasium	South wall of gym
College Union/Wellness Center/Aquatic Center	College union rooms 1, 2 and 3
Career Learning Center/Math Center	Southwest Wall, underground building
Arts and Humanities and Theater	A&H, first floor fire stairwell
Administrative Connector	fire stairwell, 1R2, main building
Nursing Center	men's/women's restrooms
Child Development Center	as per approved posted plan
Health Technology Center	Area 1H9; Physical Therapy Men's and Women's Restrooms (HTC); area 1H11, Physical therapy utility room

In the Main Building, in the event of a tornado, seek shelter in one of the four main fire stairwells.



In the event of a tornado during operating hours, OKCCC has planned certain emergency procedures.

If a tornado warning is issued, all employees are to leave their work areas and proceed to the closest available, designated safe area.

All students will be dismissed from their classes and are also to proceed to the safe areas.

If a college function is being held on campus, the function will also be terminated and participants will also go to the safe areas.

College security personnel will serve as guides during the classroom and work area evacuation.

Because the college is not a sanctioned shelter, it will not be opened during non-operating hours for use as a shelter.

Firefighters aren't that scary after all

**By Ashley Martin
Newswriting I Student**

Imagine this: You're 5 years old, and your house is on fire. Your bedroom is filled with smoke and flames are peeking under your door. Suddenly, the door is kicked in and a looming figure wearing a mask is coming towards you. The figure looks and sounds just like Darth Vader! What would you do?

The kindergarten teachers at the Child Development Center are well aware that fire safety is something everyone should be familiar with.

On March 7, the kindergarten class took a field trip to Oklahoma City Fire Station #9, located near S.W. 89th and Penn. The children learned about what to do in case of a fire and they got to see that firefighters really aren't that scary.

Kindergarten teacher Lee Ann Nurdin recognized some of the common fears of young children and had the firefighters address them.

"Young children tend to be afraid of firemen," she said. "I wanted them to see how friendly they are and how concerned they are about their safety."

The children got to see a firefighter dressed in the full gear that is worn when they are working.

The big mask and the helmet could be a frightening thing to see coming towards them through fire and smoke. Nurdin wanted the children to know that there was a friendly person underneath those 40 pounds of material.

As far as Nurdin is concerned, it's never too early to start learning about fire safety. Some of the children proved just that, as many of them knew what they would do in a fire before they took their trip to the fire station.

Becca Newman, 6, has fire drills at her house.

"At my house, I practice," she said. "My brother yells 'Fire!' and then he comes and gets me and we all leave the house."

Aryan Young, 6, knew exactly what to do in case her clothes caught on fire. "Stop, drop and roll," she said.

The youngsters were given a special treat on their trip. The firefighters drove the fire truck out and raised the ladder as high as it would go.

Seeing the ladder go up was 6-year-old Devin Loflin's favorite part. Major David Graham said seeing the ladder go up and being allowed to squirt water from the big hoses on the truck tended to be the favorite parts of the trip for many kids.

Graham also took notice to how knowledgeable the children already were about fire safety.

"They knew what to do when

they found a lighter, what to do when their clothes caught on fire. When they were asked questions, they were on it," he said.

The trip to the fire station was full of excitement and the children learned many new things. They made some special friends in the firefighters, too.



The kindergarten children from the Child Development Center look on with curiosity as a firefighter shows them the dragon slayer. From front, L to R: Meghan Barton, Becca Newman, Andrew Hanes, Kali Tevis, Devin Loflin. Back: Arielle Ayalla, Taylor Clanton, Cory Grabenbauer.



Right: Becca Newman, 6, gets a lesson from Lieutenant Al Cothran on how to use a firefighter's hose. With smiles on their faces, the children each took turns squirting the hose.

Left: Kaleb Cain, 6, gets a great view and finds a new friend in Corporal Craig Fletcher during his visit to the Oklahoma City Firestation #9.



**Photos by
Melissa DePew**

Bombing memorial recalls tragedy

By Brandi Peterman
Staff Writer

Six years have passed but the pain is still there — the pain that Oklahomans endured April 19, 1995, a day when we knew our lives would no longer be the same.

In order to help educate Americans to the real threat of terrorism, the Oklahoma City National Memorial Center was established.

Former OKCCC Regent Karen Luke is co-chairman of the committee that created the memorial center.

Luke serves on the board of trustees for the OKCCC Foundation. She served on the Board of Regents for seven years.

The doors to the memorial opened Feb. 19.

President and Mrs. George W. Bush, and Gov. and Mrs. Frank Keating attended the opening. Staci McPhearson, director of student life at OKCCC, also attended.

"I hope that people are able to find some peace in the memorial," McPhearson said.

Survivors and the families of those killed in the bombing were given three days to tour the museum alone before it officially opened to the public.

As visitors enter the museum, housed in the former Journal Record newspaper building, they are welcomed by words engraved in marble which convey the hopeful message the museum holds within its walls.

"We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever. May all who



Photo courtesy of Karen Luke

Frank and Karen Luke, President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush attend the Oklahoma City National Memorial Center museum opening. The museum takes visitors through a re-creation of April 19, 1995.

leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope and serenity."

These words speak volumes for the museum and what visitors can expect as they take the elevator ride up to the third floor to start a tour that many won't soon forget.

The museum recreates with as much reality as possible the events of that day in April.

The tour starts in a room that depicts how an average morning can go so terribly wrong. The room is filled with voices and pictures of people doing ordinary things to start their day, such as shaving and feeding their children breakfast. Things we all do on auto pilot.

"I still get very emotional when I come to the museum."

—Karen Luke
Committee
Co-chair

One of the first rooms the visitor encounters is barely lit and very quiet; the only voices heard are those on a tape recording of a meeting that was taking place across the street in the Water Resources building during the minutes leading up to 9:02 a.m. and the minutes that

followed.

The emotion in the voices of those in the meeting was that of terror. Those on the tape were screaming that they needed to get out of the building. Some did manage to get out and others didn't.

"I still get very emotional when I come to the museum," Luke said.

Guests are given just a taste of the havoc that rocked downtown Oklahoma City when they enter the room

fittingly named the "chaos" room. There, museum-goers are enveloped in pictures of the rescues in progress and noise of screaming people running through the streets looking for their loved ones.

These images only touch on the real pandemonium that those people involved in the bombing faced.

In fact the survivors, rescuers and the families of those lost played a very important part in the making of the memorial center. Their input was welcomed and encouraged.

The museum holds so many gripping artifacts. One of many is the seal that was on the exterior of the Murrah building. The holes and the shards of metal embedded into this inch-thick bronze is just one more reminder of the destruction.

The Survivor Wall holds pictures of each victim. Families could put an item of remembrance in the glass case with the picture.

There is also an area devoted to children who visit the museum. Educational resources explain to them what happened April 19 and remind them that the world isn't a bad place. There is a pathway covered with pennies from the penny drive that children all over the state contributed.

"We actually had to get permission from the Department of Treasury to place them in the floor," said Luke.

The museum brings back the pain but is also a very serene place.

Luke said there has been a lot of positive feedback from people who have visited the museum. The museum has brought visitors from all over the country, she said.



—An estimated 387,000 people in Oklahoma City knew someone killed or injured in the bombing, which is more than one-third of the population.—

•Admission into the museum is:
\$7 general admission
\$6 seniors
\$5 students age 6 +
Membership passes are available

For more information:
•Call 1-888-542-HOPE

•Visit www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org

Female astronaut commemorated

Shannon Lucid will grace latest mosaic wall at OKCCC

**By Stephanie Rollins
Newswriting I Student**

The fourth and final panel of the college's mosaic project on Oklahoma history will welcome the first woman, Bethany native and astronaut Shannon Lucid.

This segment on Oklahoma aerospace pioneers will also feature Will Rogers, Wiley Post, Gordon Cooper and Thomas Stafford.

The last panel will depict travel and "Aerospace in

Oklahoma."

The panel was designed by retired art professor Paul Ringler who also conceived the other three panels, Mega-Hunter: The First People, Coronado's Expedition, and The Battle of Honey Springs.

All of the work on the panels has been directed by art Professor Mary Ann Moore. Her students have assembled the mosaics since the project began in 1984. Moore said the project is expected to be finished about 2004, an average pace of five years per panel.

"It has been a long, hard project."

—Mary Ann Moore
OKCCC Art Professor

"It has been a long, hard project," Moore said.

She said the tiles, made from clay, are almost all hand painted by Moore's students and then signed by each artist.

Learning the history behind the scenes being depicted and knowing that they are leaving their mark on the OKCCC campus, makes the students feel good about themselves

Moore said.

She said the murals are expected to last for several hundred years.

Future ideas for the mosaic project include a book and a color brochure. Postcards are being made and soon will be sold in the college bookstore.

The mural is located in the courtyard between the Arts and Humanities, and Main buildings.

Day care kids learn about mail

**By Jennifer Miller
Newswriting I Student**

The preschool class at the OKCCC Child Development Center have been doing a very special project. Each child has made a personal mailbox from a shoe box.

The child's name and picture adorn each mailbox. The kids have received mail from their parents and classmates.

Some children created their own mail.

They made a letter, wrote on it, chose a stamp and distributed the mail to other children's mailboxes.

Other preschool children have created their own stamps.

One student created a "Star Wars" stamp which was very pink and bright. Another student created a "Chained-up-monster-with-1,000-eyes" stamp. And another student made a "My family stamp."

According to preschool teacher Connie Pigeon, the children were very excited about having their own individual mailboxes.

Preschool student Austin Foley said he had fun.

"I like it when I get a lot of mail," he said.

OKCCC professors to take part in filmmaking panel discussion April 5

"Filmmaking in Oklahoma" will be the topic Thursday, April 5 at the Oklahoma City Art Museum located at 3113 Pershing Blvd.

This panel discussion will include various people working in the film industry in Oklahoma.

Brian Hearn, film cura-

tor, will moderate the discussion.

Discussion topics include the issues facing filmmakers, producers, screenwriters, educators and students throughout the state.

Other subjects being covered are the Oklahoma-Hollywood connection, independent voices, film edu-

cation opportunities and whether Oklahoma is a good place to make movies.

The panel will include OKCCC professor of film and video Fritz Kiersch and artist-in-residence, Gray Frederickson along with many others.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. with a networking re-

ception, followed by the panel discussion at 7 p.m.

Cost is regular museum admission of \$3.50 and \$2.50 for students.

Admission is free to museum members.

For more information call 946-4477.

Contact the editor at 682-1611 ext. 7675 or e-mail at editor@okc.cc.ok.us

Practice is Over.

Practice is over and you're on. Now your actions count. And you're proud. You're someone special and so is your team. The Coast Guard.

It's a place where you can accomplish a lot. Right away. Every day... because the missions of the Coast Guard matter as much in peacetime as in times of conflict. So when you join, you're in. And on. Saving lives, stopping illegal drug smugglers, protecting the environment, ensuring the safety of our ports and harbors... and much more.

So join the Coast Guard today. Because practice is over... and it's time you were part of the action. Now. Call toll free (800) 231-4483.

U.S. Coast Guard & Coast Guard Reserve
Be Part of the Action

RECYCLING AIN'T ROCKET SCIENCE IT'S EASY. DO IT.

KEEP OKLAHOMA BEAUTIFUL

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM THIS PUBLICATION AND KEEP OKLAHOMA BEAUTIFUL, Inc. a nonprofit Oklahoma Corporation

read the Pioneer online at www.okcccioneer.com

Highlights

HOPE to see you there

The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education will be holding a free breast cancer screening for Latino women ages 40 and up. The free screening will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 30, and will be held in the Latino Community Development Agency located at 420 SW 10th Street in Oklahoma City. Please contact Jamie Fyler at 236-0701 for more information.

Are you puzzled?

The Engineering club will be having a cotton candy sale Tuesday, March 27 in the Main Building area. Frank Zubek will have a demonstration to show a puzzle put together using mathematical theories, chemical bonds, different geometrical shapes and more.

OKCCC to host Alcohol Awareness event

In order to raise awareness about alcohol related problems and issues, OKCCC will be hosting National Alcohol Screening Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 5 in the college union.

Attention graduates!

Caps and gowns for the May 11 commencement ceremony can be purchased at the student bookstore for \$23.73 including tax. They will be available until 5 p.m. on May 11, but participants are encouraged to buy their cap and gown early. An approval card is required. If the bookstore doesn't have your approval card, you need to see Della Green in the Graduation Office.

Book sale March 28 and 29

The Gay Alliance and Friends club and the Oklahoma Biotechnology Association will host a book sale on Wednesday, March 28, and Thursday, March 29. Book donations of all sorts are welcome. Collection boxes are located the Arts and Humanities building and the Science and Math building.

Chi Alpha has settled

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship is having regular meetings from noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday in the Main Building room 3N5.

Physical Therapists Association accepting apps

Applications for the Fall 2001 Physical Therapist Assistant Program will continue to be accepted until noon April 13. Students interested in applying may pick up an application in the office of Admissions and Records. Questions may be directed to Barbara Gowdy at 682-7528.

Phi Theta Kappa sets meeting

Phi Theta Kappa is having a meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, and at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 5 in the Main Building room 3P0. Discussions will be over important dates for April and May, new inductee information and officer elections. Also, new inductee profiles and fees are due Monday, April 2.

What is Right to Work?

The Right to Work law states that no one shall be denied the right to work because of membership or non-membership in a union. That's why you are invited to learn more about Right to Work from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12 in CU3. Dean Schirf, Vice President-Government Relations/Corporate Secretary with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, and Jim Curry, President of the state AFL-CIO chapter, will address the issues of Right to Work and how it can affect our city and state.



Photo by Melissa DePew

Just a little noontime praise: During the March 21 Chi Alpha meeting, psychology major Ryan Rice and art major Amy Griffin led worship with songs such as "Shout to the North." David Badders spoke about insecurity during the March 21 meeting. Chi Alpha meets for worship and Bible study at 12:20 p.m. every Wednesday in the main building room 3N5.

Engineering club going medieval with catapult

By Melissa DePew
Staff Writer

The Engineering club will be bringing a taste of the medieval days to OKCCC during its catapult competition on April 12.

Although students will be catapulting two-pound beanbags during the event, the idea was actually born of the urge to throw a computer during last year's Tech Fling, said engineering Professor Masil Masilamani.

"Three professors, Martha George, Clay Randolph, and Chuck Carselowey made a catapult and actually threw a mock computer," said Masilamani.

"George said it was not successful, so I prepared something and proceeded with this (catapult competition)."

Masilamani said there would not be a Tech Fling

this year, but they will proceed with the competition as planned.

Participants include seven teams, each with three members, all of which are engineering students.

The teams are responsible for building their own original counterweight catapults. Counterweight catapults contain no hydromatics or springs. Modern styles are not permitted in this competition.

The initial drawings have already been submitted "and they're amazing," said Masilamani.

At a distance of 75 feet, each team will have three chances to launch a beanbag from the launching arm within a 10-minute time frame.

The target for each team is a 55 gallon drum, which will be placed in the center of five concentric rings. Students whose beanbag lands in the barrel will receive the maximum of 80

points.

For each ring outside of the barrel points will continue to be deducted.

Students will also earn points for the design of the catapult, with a maximum of 20 points.

The average number of points from the three shots added with the points for design will total the score.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winning teams, with \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place.

Although there is much fun involved for the students, Masilamani also has an educational purpose in mind.

"It involves lots of physics and math, so it is a very good engineering project for the students. It will give them real experience building and testing something."

The event will begin at noon in the courtyard, next to the CAD lab and Theater.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OKCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with IDs supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611, ext. 7674 for more information.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: '95 Dodge pickup truck, long bed, power windows, power locks, green and silver, runs good, excellent condition. \$7,000. Call 834-9272.

FOR SALE: '94 Jeep Wrangler S, \$7,800. 4-cylinder, soft top and bikini top, alarm, cd/stereo, tow package, 80k miles, rarely driven, owned 18 months. Call 376-0086 or 650-4704.

FOR SALE: '93 Dodge Daytona. Excellent condition, new paint job, new transmission, \$2,800 OBO. Call Jason at 823-0918 or 634-3058.

HOUSEHOLD

FOR SALE: Kenmore 15+ Cubic foot chest style deep freeze. 2 years old, some warranty left. \$500 new asking \$300. Call 681-1845 or 627-6054.

FOR SALE: Bunk beds, wood, needs one new mattress. \$100 OBO. Call Crystal at 601-4280.

FOR SALE: King-size waterbed with lighted headboard. New mattress and heater. \$150. Call Dortha at 670-4328.

FOR SALE: Glass-topped, wooden coffee table and end table. Very pretty with lattice insets. \$40 for set. Call 692-0177.

MISCELLANEOUS

LOST: Navy blue, floor length coat. Please contact me or leave with campus security. Please, I need my coat.

FREE: 1 year old female short-haired dog with house. Moving overseas cant take. 376-0512

FREE: 1 year old female long-haired dog with house. Moving overseas cant take. 376-0512

TYPING: I will type your term papers! Call 912-2389

Editing/Proofreading Services
\$6 per hour
Experienced • Also Type
On George St. in Norman
321-8834

YOU ARE INVITED!!
Bible Study & Fellowship
"A Fresh Start for a New Living"
Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.
Main Building Room 2R5
Sponsored by:
Christians on Campus
631-0536
E-mail
OCCC Bible Study@usa.net

SUMMER JOBS
SILVER DOLLAR BAKERY
NOW HIRING FOR 2001 SEASON
POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR FRONTIER CITY AND WHITE WATER BAY
GOOD PAY, FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE AND FUN ENVIRONMENT
CALL 405-818-7636



Doing Good Gets Better and Better at Aventis Bio-Services

We need people like you to donate plasma, so we can restore the low supplies - *Peoples lives are depending on us.*

Giving plasma is such an important job, we pay you the highest fees in the area. So you get two rewards for donating - extra income and the great feeling that comes with doing a good deed.

Plus, at Aventis Bio-Services, we're always finding new ways to make you feel even better. Check out the latest improvements we've made . . .

HERE'S WHAT'S NEW!

Mention this ad for an additional **\$5.00**

Call or visit Aventis Bio-Services today. Find out how donating plasma can be fast and easy for you.

716 NW 23rd in OKC
(405) 521-9204

www.aventisbioservices.com

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Flaws in a system
 - 6 Dance for Cinderella
 - 10 Arab prince
 - 14 Happening
 - 15 Have — in one's bonnet
 - 16 Church part
 - 17 Having more spunk
 - 18 Information Network
 - 20 Fell in flakes
 - 22 Was enough for Pull
 - 26 Baby grands
 - 27 "An — and a Gentleman"
 - 31 Type of contact
 - 32 Islam deity
 - 33 Entertain
 - 36 Traffic problem
 - 39 Harness part
 - 40 Overflowed
 - 41 Ruler of Venice
 - 42 Drain
 - 43 Visitor
 - 44 Actress Hayes
 - 45 "Alley —"
 - 46 Responded
 - 48 Drinks noisily
 - 51 "— seeing things?"
 - 52 Swindler
- DOWN**
- 1 Beer barrels
 - 2 "Terrible" one
 - 3 Fictional captain
 - 4 Was acquainted with
 - 5 Limber up
 - 6 Awful
 - 7 Sheiks' robes
 - 8 Pause
 - 9 Greenest, in a way
 - 10 Motor
 - 11 Traveler Polo
 - 12 Climbing vines
 - 13 Actor Foxx
 - 21 Expected to arrive
 - 23 Actress Dunaway
 - 25 Green fruit

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

OSLO	MOOR	CAPP
RHINO	OGLE	AGUE
BISON	SEEN	MERE
SPA	ISLE	OPENER
COKE	SVELTE	
ANTONYM	TAR	
LOOMS	JETTISON	
TUNE	AGAPE	REBA
ANYTHING	COLOR	
ALA	STANLEY	
VELVET	HIES	
VENEER	FENS	DAB
ETNA	OPAL	ALOHA
SCUD	NEIL	RIDER
THIS	SIRS	DOME

- 8-18-98 © 1998, United Feature Syndicate
- 27 Rower's needs
 - 28 Type of market
 - 29 Type of chart
 - 30 Writer Fleming
 - 34 Prefix for "take"
 - 35 Very very
 - 36 Jar
 - 37 Writer James —
 - 38 Repair
 - 40 Displace
 - 41 Last mo.
 - 43 Al or Tipper
 - 44 Scarier
 - 45 Expelled
 - 47 Ostrich's kin
 - 48 English county
 - 49 Suit fabric
 - 50 Storm drain
 - 52 Household pets
 - 53 — avis
 - 55 Singer Guthrie
 - 56 Tidy
 - 57 "Do — others"
 - 58 Fortuneteller
 - 61 — Kippur

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
20					21	22			23				
				24	25	26							
27	28	29	30					31					
32					33	34	35			36	37	38	
39					40					41			
42				43						44			
				45				46	47				
	48	49			50	51							
52						53		54		55	56	57	58
59					60			61		62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

STUMPED? Call for Answers • Touch-tone or Rotary Phones
• 95¢ per minute 1-900-370-9800 ext. code 500



Offers a Competitive Compensation Package

- 20-25 hours a week
- Up to \$8.00 per hour to start
- Tuition Assistance after 30 days
- \$.50 raise after 90 days
- Shifts that fit school schedules
- Career Opportunities

Apply in Person at:

1500 West Reno
Monday Through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
AA/EOE

Guess what Johnny's bringing for Show and Tell today.



Every day, thousands of kids bring guns to school.

Find out how to help get guns out of the hands of children.

Call **1-800-WE-PREVENT** for free information.

Not one more lost life.
Not one more grieving family.
Not one more.



School board gets input from prof

"School Board,"
Cont. from page 1

State University where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering.

He worked in the civil engineering field for several years, but came back to OKCCC 15 years ago to pursue teaching.

It's a decision he is glad about.

"[OKCCC] is a wonderful place to work," Houlette said.

High schoolers receive help in college program

"Program,"
Cont. from page 1

This semester 25 students are enrolled; up by 10 students from the first semester.

Not only are more students enrolled but also the students are doing well in their classes, said Staples.

Last semester the 15 students earned a total of 78 credit hours with most students taking one or two classes.

The Capitol Hill program is sponsored by the Oklahoma City public school district, Gear UP and Hispanic American Student Services.

WANTED

YOUR IDEAS, COMMENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS!

SEND THEM TO:
EDITOR@OKC.CC.OK.US
OR CALL VU AT
682-1611, EXT. 7676
OR DROP BY 2M6 MB

Leading into the future...



Photo courtesy of the Leadership Council

Students from the Leadership Council, along with college faculty and staff, met with Sen. Kathleen Wilcoxson during Higher Education day at the State Capitol. Higher Education Day is sponsored by the Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Student Government Association.

FREE AIDS TESTING OFFERED AT OKCCC

Many myths and misconceptions surround the disease Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Perhaps the most prominent is that AIDS is a gay disease. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) now reports that HIV/AIDS is among the leading causes of death for U.S. women age 25-44. In an effort to help educate, the student organization Gay Alliance and Friends is again sponsoring Care Point to conduct free HIV/AIDS testing on campus at Oklahoma City Community College. Testing will be on April 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the mini-hospital.

This testing is provided for the benefit of students, faculty, staff, or any interested members of the community. Testing is free, confidential, and does not require an appointment. Follow-up post-test counseling will be provided April 25, 2001, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the mini-hospital.

—Public Service Announcement—

Virus Protection For Your Hard Drive.



Available at Planned Parenthood.
www.ppfa.org/ppfa

Planned Parenthood
1-800-230-PLAN

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE PIONEER — CALL JOHN AT 682-1611, ext. 7674 FOR RATES AND DEADLINES