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PIONEER

Citizens speak out on proposed loop highway

Opinions divided down the center

By Vu Vu
Editor

A few hundred southwest Oklahoma City residents voiced their opinions April 12 about the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's proposed \$300 million highway.

ODOT's proposed 18-mile highway starts where the Kilpatrick Turnpike ends at Sara Road and heads south to S.W. 149 and Rockwell, then east to Indian Hills Road and Interstate 35 in Norman.

Sam Shehab, strategic planning branch manager at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, said there are no plans or funding to build the highway.

However, he said, the addition of another highway in the future may help residents rather than hinder them.

"If you look at traffic, something must be done to relieve the congestion of I-35, I-40, I-240."

The proposed "outer loop" is designed to do that.

He said the new road is estimated to relieve current highways of 42,000 to 64,000 cars.

Don Lynch of Oklahoma City, an electrical engineer at the Federal Aviation Administration and one of the few people favoring the highway, agrees with Shehab.

"I wish they had built the route 20 years ago," Lynch

said. "The protesters need to travel to other cities like Dublin, Ireland, that are locked up and congested due to lack of forethought."

He believes now is the time for Oklahoma City residents to plan an expansion of the highway system.

"Their grandkids will thank them if they're still around," Lynch said.

Joe Daugherty, city manager of Tuttle, said the road wouldn't affect him, but still he had an opinion.

"It looks awfully expensive. It looks like it could cause more congestion than help because it'd be dumping traffic into Indian Hills road which is already congested," he said.

The public also pondered whether the highway would be a toll road or a free highway.

"Loop," page 12



Photo by Melissa DePew

Developing life: Graphics Communication major Diego Cardenas brings life to his photograph of the statue near the Oklahoma City bombing memorial in the OKCCC darkroom. Cardenas said he hopes his photograph would be chosen for the college art show.

Native American scholar seeks truth in film

By Kathryn Mohr
Newswriting I Student

Native Indian scholar and author LeAnne Howe's initial response to the release of the movie "Dances With Wolves" was one of suspicious reluctance about seeing the film.

Howe lectured on "Indians: Our Love Hate relationship with the movie 'Dances With Wolves' on

Thursday, April 5 at the college theater.

Howe dreaded the movie "Dances With Wolves" because in past films Native Indians had only been portrayed in dismal stereotypes. Eventually, Howe got the courage to watch the film with some Indian students from Grinnell College. Howe fell in love with the movie instantly.

"There was something about this film that made you proud to be an Indian,

regardless if you were from Sioux descent," Howe said.

Howe had never seen anything like "Dances With Wolves" before.

It was the first time in her generation that Indians were playing Indians in films. Howe passed notes during the film to her Sioux friends to clarify the validity of the language spoken in the film.

Her Sioux friends informed her that the language was spoken cor-

rectly. Howe was so impressed with the film that she returned to watch it with her students and friends for the next six months.

Upon further review, Howe recognized there were many weaknesses involved in "Dances With Wolves."

The most obvious problem that Indians saw in this

See "Howe," page 6

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Water cheaper than petroleum

Dear dude in charge of important stuff:

Hi. Today it cost me \$2.25 to go to school. My car, a Honda, travels 24 miles for each gallon of gasoline it consumes. Keep in mind that I am one of the luckier students, owning a modern car whose engine was built when the world thought that cleaner burning cars would diminish or reduce global warming.

This, of course, means that the price for regular gasoline costs \$1.50 at most gas stations.

My fellow colleagues face the same issue, spending a gallon or more of fuel, commuting to and from the college each day.

As a matter of fact, one of our better journalists could not come to the college because he ran out of gas in his car. This journalist lives in Norman, also the city with the nation's second-highest levels of arsenic in the drinking water.

This was no silly excuse, for he called us early in the day and told us of his dilemma.

Also, since we get paid at the end of the month, money runs tight. Budgeting gas money a month in advance is nearly impossible the way fuel prices have fluctuated.

Two weeks ago, gas prices jumped 10 cents in one week.

Also, there are some students who have engine displacements of five liters or more, compared to my measly but gutsy two liters.

These behemoths are twice as powerful and consume twice as much fuel, thus adding more pollution to the air. In other words, it can cost them twice as much as my car to go to school.

Some students, I suspect, have turbochargers or less restrictive intake and exhaust modifications to their cars that impair the efficiency of their cars. Not only do these modifications improve performance, these cars also burn more gasoline.

More gasoline means higher cost of living.

Also bear in mind that I work at a gas station in the wilderness of Edmond. I only have a juvenile evaluation of the true oil business, but I do know one thing and that one thing is that gas stations only make pennies of profit on each gallon of petrol sold. Thus, when the driver of a gas-guzzling, for example, Ford Excursion, one of the largest SUV's, steals gas, the loss can set back a gas station more than \$50 if a thief chooses to fill up his or her gas tank.

I still live at home. My mom pays the bills. But quite a few of my peers are quite independent, paying car bills, gas bills, rent, tuition, etc.

I work for peanuts. In the near future, I hope to be working for super peanuts. When I have a higher paying job, or when my kids have moved out of the house and I'm having a mid-life crisis, I hope to be working for premium peanuts.

Hopefully, by the time I'm retired, the peanuts will be electric.

—Vu Vu
Editor

Professor's logic not logical

To the Editor:

I am writing to complain about one of my professors and to get your opinion. I have gotten several opinions from other students at the college and I seem to get the same response.

What a crock of @\$%! On April 9, I had all of my wisdom teeth pulled. The oral surgeon knocked me out completely. The week before the procedure, I asked my instructor how I could make up the quiz that I was going to miss and he said that it was not an option. There was not going to be a make up quiz for me.

He told me that extracting wisdom teeth was not serious enough to miss class, so I was just going to have to miss the quiz. He also told me that another student from my class called him the night before our test and asked how she could make up the test. He also said she couldn't.

However, she was going to miss the test because she broke up with her boyfriend and she wasn't feeling up to taking the test.

Tell me, how can you compare "going under the knife" and missing class after breaking up with a boyfriend?

I feel that I have already overpaid the teacher by paying him at all. My parents and I have put thousands of dollars into this college and I'm still not allowed to make up a quiz?

Getting my wisdom teeth pulled was something unavoidable. I had to choose a good time for everyone, work, school and other outside commitments. Regardless of the fact that my teeth were killing me, it was not convenient enough for the college professor, whom I pay to teach so that I may receive an education.

I missed four days of work and they still didn't fire me, so I don't think it

would have killed the instructor to let me make up the quiz. It's the principle of the whole point. He has a child. Do you think that he would be happy if his son's teacher told him he could not retake a quiz because he was knocked out (for medical reasons of course)?

—Mandy Clark
Student

PIONEER

Vol. 29 No. 30

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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>



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STRAIGHTJACKET BY: M.C. GAREY



WAIT A MINUTE! WHEN GOD SAID
SMOKING OR NON-SMOKING I
THOUGHT HE MEANT CIGARETTES!

Comments and Reviews

Integrity double-edged

To the Editor:

Education is a top priority on a nationwide level. What are the priorities of educational systems? It is to provide quality education and support, promote and encourage any potential idea, concept or creativity.

All members of this college were more than supportive of my little concept. I have never met so many courteous, professional and wonderful people under one roof.

Our college seems to bend backwards to help students achieve the absolute best academic results at all levels.

In my case, I have just recently finished a physical model of an item, which according to all, proved to be very educational and entertaining at the same

time. All the staff, the professors, the students and even the college president were very supportive and agreed on the educational and challenging character of this cube.

It is obvious to most that such an item definitely has market potential and that the college itself can do nothing but benefit from it. After all, it was made by one of our students. Isn't that a part of excellence?

Unfortunately, the opinion of the Pioneer editor is somewhat different. The editor had a very interesting suggestion: after the product sells, we will write a column. Until that, the cube is not worthy of the news article.

I do admire your devotion and firm decision to preserve the integrity and purpose of the Pioneer. It ap-

...sometimes preserving integrity can contradict its own mission."

—Frank Zubek
Math Major

pears that we were all wrong. We all thought that the cube was very worthy of an article.

Well, Vu Vu, sometimes preserving integrity can contradict its own mission.

I am very surprised how a single individual, not even comprehending the full potential, can actually determine the worthiness of an article?

Maybe to you, integrity is more important than an article itself.

—Frank Zubek
Math Major

Pioneer news choice worthy of reading

To the Editor:

Let me start by saying that it just amazes me what some people would do to get a little attention.

I'm referring to Michael Wagner's comments in the April 9 Pioneer.

I'm replying to the writer's comments and hopefully satisfying the attention he desperately deserve.

He stated, "The Pioneer's content is mainly wasted space, a pile of silly vanity pieces by writers who are so tragically mainstream they reek of Mayberry."

Wasted space? Silly vanity? Let's see if we read the same paper. I probably didn't read the same paper he did that warranted the comments he made. But some of the headlines for the April 9 edition were:

"Leapin' lizards! Algebra project evolves into more." Just in case he didn't read that article, it was about an

OKCCC student who did his own research on the gestation of geckos. He will present his findings at the OU Undergraduate Research Day. Congrats, Mr. Ledbetter.

"J.C. Watts to visit college."

He came to the college on April 17 at 12:30 p.m.

"Divers participate in Olympic-style meet."

Sounds like pretty good training to me.

The writer probably didn't see the coupon on page 4 for a "buy one get one free Whopper."

These are just a few of the many things that were college related in the paper.

College related? That's something I've noticed about the paper. If staff or students write it, it will be in the paper.

For instance, the writer mentions Tim McVeigh. He stated that a case of beer deserves more attention

than McVeigh does. I've got to disagree with him there. I'd rather watch weeds grow, paint dry, or watch dirt settle than give Tim McVeigh attention.

In another article that's titled "America, turn off your televisions," it talks about (you guessed it) Tim McVeigh's airtime.

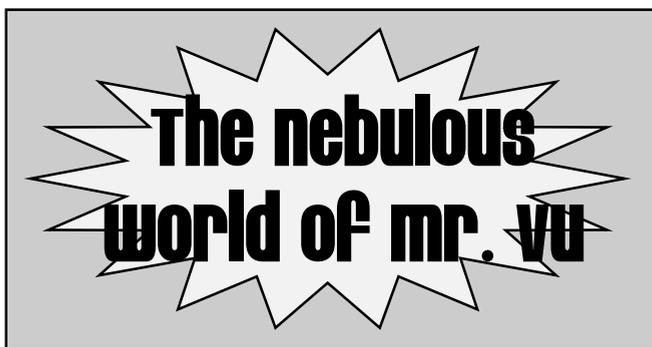
The title says it all. Basically, if you don't like what's on television, change it.

That's my advice to the letter writer. If you don't like what you read in this newspaper don't pick it up.

On that note, I'm gonna grab a beer that the letter writer would give all of his attention to, raise it high for Mr. Vu and that staff of the Pioneer and let them know they write some pretty good stuff.

Now, I'm off to smell the roses.

—Craig Conatser
Electronics major



Drinking water clears complexion

I didn't get any free pizza. Not that I didn't try to get free pizza; I was five minutes late for class.

I waited until the last second to ask him a question, up to the time when College Republicans President Michael Pascarella stood by the big congressman, and gave J.C. that "dude, it's time to go" look.

"We have time for one more question," Pascarella said. I raised my hand. Watts pointed in my direction. My lips, once wet with the anticipation of free pizza, but now dry from Republican rhetoric, opened and for a split second, my heart stopped beating.

I, Vu A. Vu, in non-journalism mode, as a favor to Professor David Charlson, was going to ask a U.S. congressman a question, just like the White House Press Corps members do.

I had rehearsed what I was going to say.

"Representative Watts, what is the EPA planning to do about the water in Norman, where the arsenic levels are some of the highest in the nation?"

"J.C., nice tie. Why did President Bush agree to allow 50 parts arsenic per billion gallons of water, compared to President Clinton's 10 parts per billion gallons? Does President Bush like it when Norman residents drink arsenic?"

I could hear the sighs of "oh's" and "ah's" in the background. Everyone would stare at Mr. Watts with eyes of stone, waiting for his answer.

The wishbone QB pointed in my direction and said, "You in the red shirt." I looked down and realized that my shirt was a murky green. I thought that my only chance was gone and that I could not make my point to an audience of devoted elephants.

To make a long story short enough to fit in my allotted space, I did get a chance to ask him my question.

"Mr. Watts, is the tap water in Norman safe to drink?" I asked.

"Sure it is. I drink it every weekend," he said, despite the April 14 New York Times article that said Norman is one of the top three plagued cities.

Everyone else laughed too. I managed a meager smile of defeat. Have we forgotten "Silent Spring" and Rachel Carson so soon?

A day later, however, the Bush administration said they were going to change things, setting the numbers in between the two previous standards.

The city of Norman may have the No. 1 college football team, but it's also No. 2 in arsenic levels in drinking water.

—Vu Vu
Editor

Outlook on life different when on wheels

By Michele Wynott
Newswriting I Student

Elwyn Hastings has worked at OKCCC since it first opened in 1972. He really knows his way around the campus.

But after suffering a leg injury which temporarily requires him to use a wheelchair, he has gained a new perspective on his familiar environment.

As the director of Voice Communication Services, Hastings maintains the telephone systems and voice mail for the college. He also teaches computer classes.

Hastings has been working at home since he's been in a wheelchair, but his wife brings him to the college once a week. He said, with computer technology, it is easy to do his work at home, but there are just some things he has to come to the college to do.

He has discovered that simple work routines he took for granted before are now challenges to be met.

He said he has found the ramp-like sidewalks going in and out of many of the college entrances to be steep, making them difficult for a wheelchair bound person to navigate.

Life-altering experience

Hastings' life changed on New's Years Eve when he slipped and fell on a sheet of ice in his church parking lot.

Meredith Dunkenson's life changed 13 years ago when she dove into an apartment swimming pool, fracturing the spinal cord in her neck.

The OKCCC student, 26, has been in a wheelchair since.

"I was really active and

participated in a lot of sports," Dunkenson said.

She said she understands Hastings' plight all too well.

"I don't have full use of my triceps so ramps and carpeting are a problem. It can be discouraging."

Hastings said flooring does make a difference to a person in a wheelchair. He said tile is great to roll on, but said carpeting is a nightmare and is very tiresome.

The ramps are a hindrance, Hastings said, but he has also discovered that some entrances aren't available to him at all in his present state.

Dunkenson thinks she knows exactly which one he is referring to.

She said ramps leading from parking areas A and G, leading up to the second floor of the main building, are misleading.

"The first time I saw the ramps, I thought, 'This is great. I have second-floor classes. I won't have to fight for space on the elevator,'" she said.

"Then, I get to the entrance and there are steps. I had to go back down and find another way in. Steps are a big thing."

Neither Dunkenson's nor Hastings' wheelchair are motorized, making some tasks even more difficult.

One area in which the two disagree is college parking.

Hastings said there aren't really any close parking spots.

Dunkenson said she believes the college really does have good handicapped parking.

"I've been in a wheelchair for so long, I've seen how far things have come," she said.

She said perhaps she

just takes certain things for granted because that's the way they were when she was injured or because she has been in her wheelchair for so many years, she takes some obstacles for granted.

"There are some things I've gotten used to," she said. "Do you feel a pain that is always there? No."

Hastings agrees that OKCCC does have certain advantages over other places.

"The college is nice because you don't have to go in and out of buildings except for the library."

Room for improvement

Dunkenson, who is active in many campus activities, said she gets around OK but can name, off the top of her head, some things that frustrate her when she's on campus.

"Teachers who don't allow tape recorders in the classroom really cause problems for some disabled people."

The raised dining area in the student union is also a hassle she said.

"During college events, like Christmas dinners, it's the only area open to students."

"And the bathrooms in the main building have doors that are wide enough but the stalls are too shallow to fit a wheelchair into. I can't shut the door."

The final insult, she said, is not being able to use the pool in the aquatics center.

She said a specially-designed table that allows people in wheelchairs to change clothes without assistance would be great.

"[The campus club, Abilities Galore] requested one but never heard back from anyone."

'I never thought...'

The 6'7" tall Hastings never dreamed he would be navigating the world from a sitting position.

For three days he thought he had a twisted ankle until he finally de-

"Getting strength built up in your arms and shoulders is most difficult. I didn't know it was such a chore."

—Elwyn Hastings
OKCCC Employee

cidied to go to the doctor.

After taking some X-rays, Hastings found out he had a broken bone in his ankle and was put in a cast for 10 days. The cast wore a sore into his leg, sending him back to the doctor's office. New X-rays revealed yet another broken bone in his leg. By this time Hastings's ankle had collapsed.

After being sent to an orthopedic surgeon, he found out he was suffering with a condition known as Charcot Neuropathy, a condition that eats the cartilage in a person's joints but isn't felt because all of the nerves are gone.

"I was walking with broken bones and a broken ankle with bone rubbing against bone, but I couldn't feel it," Hastings said.

He was told by the doctor that this condition happens to many people with diabetes. Hastings has been a diabetic for 18 years.

In late February, Hastings went through surgery to clean out all the damaged tissue in his leg.

His leg is again in a cast and he has to use a wheelchair.

Hastings will not be in a wheelchair permanently. Once the neuropathy subsides, which will probably be four to five more months, he will undergo another surgery to rebuild his ankle.

The doctors want to fuse his bones together. After the procedure, he said, his leg won't bend like a normal ankle, but he should be able to walk. When the surgery is done, Hastings will also have to undergo therapy. So he still has a long way to go in the healing process.

At home Hastings is

fairly comfortable. He has a diabetic pad he sits on, and he uses a walker when he is walking short distances.

Also, his friends from church have built him a ramp on his front porch.

Despite all the difficulties, Hastings feels his life is getting easier, but it is not the same.

He said the insurance the college provides is very helpful and his family, friends, and staff have really been supportive.

"This experience is definitely harder than I thought, but I keep looking forward to getting on my feet again."

Through the eyes of others

The biggest lesson Hastings said he has learned is the difficulty those in wheelchairs have just getting from place to place — anyplace.

"Getting strength built up in your arms and shoulders is most difficult," he said, "I didn't know it was such a chore."

"Now I really have empathy for people in wheelchairs."

Dunkenson said she hopes Hastings will turn his experience into a positive one. She said her advice to someone who is in a wheelchair temporarily is twofold.

"First, when somebody offers to help you, do not be proud. Accept the help."

"Secondly, remember what you're going through. You'll want to forget but it'll come in handy later and help you deal with others."

"You'll be better in the long run."

In the meantime, she said, if you see her on campus, her motto is: "I'll always take a push."

"When somebody offers to help you, do not be proud. Accept the help."

—Meredith Dunkenson
OKCCC Student

Counselors, computers aid in course transfers

**By Vu Vu
Editor**

In the office of Student Development, every student who goes through the doors always asks the same question, said George Maxwell, a veteran OKCCC counselor of about 20 years.

"Will this class transfer?" The transfer grid developed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is the best resource to answer that question.

The State Regents added 132 courses for a total of 4,531 courses that are transferable to other Oklahoma colleges during their March meeting.

Maxwell said the transfer system, or grid, isn't perfect yet, however.

"Schools can't seem to agree on calculus. Some courses are three to four credits; some are five credit hours. It's impossible to get them to agree," Maxwell said.

Located on the State Regents' website at www.okhighered.org, the entire listing of transferable

courses is online.

Maxwell said the grid is great for students who live in Oklahoma City and attend college at Oklahoma State University or Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.

"If they come back home for the summer and they take a course at one of the three colleges in the city (OSU-OKC, OKCCC, Rose State College), they can use the grid to see if [the college] will transfer to their four-year college," Maxwell said.

Although students can have some of their ques-

tions answered online, Maxwell said students can't get all their course transfer questions answered.

He said contacting advisers at the receiving college is still important.

"Some questions can't be answered by the grid," Maxwell said.

If a college doesn't accept a course, Maxwell said the most important thing students should do is talk to advisers.

"You can petition a department or the dean or vice president of the college."

Maxwell said the Univer-



George Maxwell

sity of Oklahoma has an education committee that students can petition to accept courses.

Donors roll up their sleeves to give blood this spring

Oklahoma Blood Institute provides blood to more than 70 hospitals in 44 counties and they need more.

That's why OKCCC's Campus Activities Board

and OBI are hosting a blood drive Wednesday, April 25 and Thursday, April 26.

The two-day drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in College Union Room 3 near the cafeteria.

Donors will receive a free T-shirt as well as free checks on temperature, blood pressure, pulse rate, iron and cholesterol levels. Cookies and juice will also be available to donors.

OBI also offers a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test to screen for prostate cancer at a nominal fee of \$15 for blood donors and \$20 for non-donors.

OKCCC's last drive was in

February and recruited more than 80 donors. The goal for the April drive is more than 100 donors.

For more information, call 682-7523. Walk-ins are also welcomed.

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April designated as National Cancer Control Month

**By Mark Stack
Staff Writer**

Almost everyone has known someone with cancer, and many of them have been children.

This is why the American Cancer Society has designated April as National Cancer Control Month.

According to the American Cancer Society, 8,600 estimated cases of cancer are expected to occur among children through the age of 14 in 2001.

About 1,500 of those cases are expected to end in death.

Although cancer among children is rising at 1 percent a year, the Cancer Society said mortality rates have declined 50 percent

"As long as researchers dream of making discoveries that save lives and diminish suffering, there is a hope for curing cancer."

—Ted Buckland
American Cancer Society

since 1973.

The reason for such a decline is because of new research that allows children to receive lifesaving treatment through specialized programs and experts.

"Research is clearly the key to conquering cancer," said Ted Buckland, chief executive officer of American Cancer Society, Heartland Division.

This is why the ACS has set up 60 grants in 2001 totaling \$22 million related to childhood cancer.

"As long as researchers dream of making discoveries that save lives and diminish suffering, there is a hope for curing cancer," Buckland said.

The American Cancer Society is doing all it can to prevent cancer among children, as well as other cancers such as breast and ovarian cancer.

For more information regarding National Cancer control month, visit the ACS website at www.cancer.org

View the Pioneer online at www.okcccipioneer.com

Pay differential system to be implemented

By Michele Ryan
Newswriting I Student

OKCCC leaders are devising a plan to recruit faculty by developing a pay differential system.

Assigned to develop the system is Dr. Paul Sechrist, vice president of Academic Affairs, along with nine other faculty members.

The group will attempt to create a procedure to assist in recruiting qualified applicants, as well as retain current faculty members.

The current pay system

used at the college is a standard pay scale used for all professors, regardless of discipline area. A newly hired professor with a bachelor's degree can earn \$31,900 to \$35,900 depending on years of experience. The pay is slightly higher if a master's and doctorate is held.

The procedure will be designed to help any discipline areas having difficulty in recruiting qualified applicants, said Sechrist.

"A number of colleges have adopted pay differential systems to help attract more applicants in areas

where they are experiencing difficulty in attracting and retaining faculty," said Sechrist.

Recruitment of faculty becomes increasingly difficult for those colleges that choose not to make a similar adjustment, Sechrist said.

"The division of information technology has experienced difficulty in attracting qualified applicants and the division has had faculty resign to take positions in private industry," Sechrist said.

"I would support such a procedure," said Mary Wil-

liams, dean of Information Technology.

"We are competing in an industry with highly competitive salaries," said Williams.

A big factor in recruiting difficulty is due to the large demand for critical skills in specialized areas in private industry and higher education.

Lucrative compensation packages play a big part in the shortage of qualified applicants.

The shortage of personnel changes as technology changes.

At times a highly specialized course or program, such as information technology, telecommunications or health professions, experience shortages, said Sechrist.

"Students and the community could suffer if there is a continued lack of qualified faculty.

If the college doesn't propose a way to recruit and retain faculty to teach in

high demand disciplines, courses and programs would be canceled. This would mean employers would be unable to fill job vacancies with graduates," said Sechrist.

Once the taskforce has established a procedure, the Board of Regents and Bob Todd, president of OKCCC, will have to approve implementation.

The taskforce includes Pat Barker, professor of sociology and Faculty Association chair; Ruth Boone, director of human resources; Dianne Broyles, professor of modern languages; Vicky Davidson, professor of physical therapy; Myra Decker, professor of business and accounting; Al Heitkamper, professor of computer science; Max Simmons, professor of physics; Peggy Tampkins, professor of child development; Susan VanSchuyver, dean of the division of Arts and Humanities.

Local television station comes to college seeking interns

Kelley Patzke
Newswriting I Student

Professor Rick Lippert's Thursday night video production class at OKCCC now has a little more knowledge about Channel 5 news.

Joe Hengemuehler, Channel 5 news director, spoke to the students about jobs in the news business.

"There is only so much you can do in front of the camera, but so much you can do behind the camera," Hengemuehler told the class.

He said television now offers job opportunities for both genders and all races.

Melissa Lopez, a Spanish speaking student at OKCCC, was encouraged

by the news director's remarks.

"I think that's great," Lopez said. "I always wanted to have a news network in Spanish to inform those who don't speak English about what's happening in American society."

Hengemuehler told Lopez and the rest of the class that there is a new Spanish network looking for Spanish speaking students interested in news broadcasting.

Job opportunities are one of the main reasons Hengemuehler came to speak to the class. Channel 5 is now interviewing students for internships.

He said the interns will not be paid in cash, but will be paid with great connections and experience on the job.

"I would very much enjoy the opportunity of working in a news room," said Aaron Wheelburger, an OKCCC sophomore majoring in Public Relations.

"That kind of experience would look great on my résumé."

Hengemuehler said he is interviewing students from colleges all over Oklahoma including the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University and OKCCC.

'Dances with Wolves' interesting, disturbing

"Howe,"

Cont. from page 1

film and literature.

"The most interesting and troubling aspect of John Dunbar is his interest in seeing and experiencing a culture that is about to disappear," said Howe. "This is a foolish notion for humanity to expose this idea of extinction."

Another disheartening aspect in the film is that Dunbar is allowed to be a multi-faceted character that is forever changed by his experience with the Indians.

On the other hand, Indians are two-dimensional characters in the film, which means they remain the same. Indians are not allowed to change in literature and in films.

This is the main reason, Howe said, why Indians love and hate this movie because Indians are portrayed incompletely when they are shown still riding horses.

"People don't recognize Indians without feathers," said Howe. "America loves to love Indians that did not exist."

Despite the film's weaknesses, "Dances With Wolves" did revolutionize Native Indian roles in films.

In preparation for her speech, Howe called a friend who is a Sioux spiritual leader to ask his view.

When he picked up the phone he had to turn down John Berry's music from "Dances With Wolves" because his grandchildren were watching the film.

"Dances With Wolves' is still creating a wonderful experience for many people," Howe said.

Howe believes it is important that American Indians are finally writing and publishing stories, films, and videos in which they can impact social change through their own voices.

film was that it was aimed at white audiences.

Kevin Costner, who plays Lt. John Dunbar, is portrayed as the hero when he finds the buffalo for the Indians.

He also saves the Indians from the "bad Pawnee Indians" by using the guns from his fort to fight them.

This good Indian-bad Indian element was very disturbing for many Indians.

"Basically, Costner killed the "bad Indians" and saved the "good ones," Howe said.

Contemporary cinema once again portrayed Indians as being saved by white men. Howe believes many people, Indian and non-Indian alike, have been extremely limited in their critical understanding of

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Catapult competition hurls bean bags



Left: Petroleum engineering major Anagabriela Carvallo holds up the rock weight, while Brian Smith, center, and Gavin Bell make final preparations for the launch.

Carvallo's group took first place, beating out four other teams in the competition.



Below: Silence falls over the audience as electrical engineering major Dustin Blessum and film study major David Oubre prepare their catapult for the big moment.



Below: After catapulting their bean bag dead center into the 55-gallon barrel, Jan Reed, president of the Engineering Club, can hardly contain her excitement as she jumps up to offer a high-five to teammate Ryan Roggow. Reed's team was the only one to get their bean bag into the barrel.

**By Mark Stack
Staff Writer**

Bean bags were a flyin' on April 12, as the Engineering Club held its first catapult competition in the OKCCC courtyard.

For well over a month, Engineering Club students put a whole lot of money, time and effort into the construction of these models.

It finally paid off for them as the catapult competition turned out to be a huge success, with more than 100 people in attendance and lots of fun.

"Everyone had a great time, and we had a great turnout which made it even better," said club president Jan Reed.

A total of five teams competed for cash prizes of \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place.

The object was to catapult a two-pound bean bag

into a 55-gallon barrel located 75 feet away. Teams could also earn points by landing the bean bag in one of the concentric circles surrounding the barrel.

The team of Brian Smith, Anagabriela Carvallo and Gavin Bell came in first after catapulting two bean bags that directly hit the barrel. Hitting the barrel scored 75 points. Their source of energy to propel the catapult came from a 150-pound rock.

Second place went to the team of James Fynmore, Ryan Roggow and Jan Reed. They were the only team to land the bean bag inside the barrel for a bullseye, which earned 80 points.

The third place prize went to Jessie Viator, Jonas Houchin and Jason Goss. They used dumbbell weights for the energy source of their catapult.

David Oubre and Dustin Blessum took home the \$75 prize for fourth place, and the \$60 prize for fifth place went to Michelle

Rodriguez, Johanna Rojas and Leonardo Rojas.

Everyone who entered the competition expressed enthusiasm.

"We enjoyed being a part of the event," said Brian Smith.

"We put about 40 hours and \$40 into this project, with a whole lot of trial and error, but it was worth it," he said.

The event was such a success that members hope the competition comes back next year.

"It's a great event for our club, plus it gives students a way to apply engineering and physics to things they aren't familiar with," said Reed.



**Photos by
Melissa DePew**



Retirement reception to honor 12 employees

By Melissa DePew
Staff Writer

Saying goodbye isn't easy, especially if you're saying it to long time friends and a familiar work atmosphere of a decade or more.

President Bob Todd will honor 12 employees at a retirement reception May 3. Each honoree has been employed at OKCCC for at least 10 years and has recently or soon will be saying goodbye to work at OKCCC.

The retirees are:

Phyllis Baker

As a professor of occupational therapy and program director, Phyllis Baker has dedicated 10 years of service, from 1991 to 2001, to OKCCC. In addition, she has been a faculty sponsor of the Student Occupational Therapy Association for the last 10 years.

Baker said her last 10 years have been wonderful.

"I love the students and people I work with. It's been a joy."

Baker's last day will be in June.

Leroy Ball

Leroy Ball has been a professor at OKCCC for 29 years, since the first year the college opened in 1972. He has been a full-time professor of chemistry and taught physics for six years.

Anna May Caldwell

For 19 years, Anna May Caldwell served as an assistant in the Test Center. She retired in January 2001.

Paul Chapman

Paul Chapman worked as the Building Maintenance/Operations Supervisor

from the first month of 1990 to the first month of 2001. He has contributed 11 years of service.

Joy Cooley

Joy Cooley worked in the purchasing department as a buyer for 10 years. She retired in April.

Georgie "Buster" Dunn

As a maintenance mechanic, Georgie "Buster" Dunn has been employed at OKCCC for more than 18 years, since 1982. He retired in April 2001.

Dr. Phyllis Faw

Phyllis Faw served OKCCC as a mathematics professor for 16 years, from 1984 to her retirement in December of 2000.

Deanne Ingram

Deanne Ingram was employed as a math lab assistant for 12 years. She worked from 1979 to 1980 and again from 1989 to June of 2000.

Keith Leafdale

Keith Leafdale currently holds the position of Adviser to Students with Disabilities. He will have held this position for 10 years when he reaches his last day in July.

Leafdale also served as a financial aid counselor for one year, a sponsor for the Veterans Club from 1991 to 1994 and a sponsor for Abilities Galore for six years.

"Most of what I've learned, I've learned from the students," he said. "... but I'll always remember the carpeted walls."

Dr. Gary Rankin

Employed under multiple Vice President titles since 1976, Gary Rankin has dedicated 25 years of service to OKCCC.

In 1976, he was hired as the Vice President for Student Services. He then moved to the position of Vice President for Planning, but within a year he was Vice President for Planning and Research. Then in 1992, he accepted the position for Vice President to Administrative Services. In 1997, Rankin became Vice President for External Edu-

cation Programs.

As of 2000, Rankin has currently served as Vice President for Economic and Community Development which will be his title until his last day in July of 2001.

Dr. Linda Thornton

Linda Thornton served as a full-time English professor for almost 22 years, from 1979 to March of 2001. She also served as an adjunct English professor for three years previous to her full-time position.

In addition to the role of professor, Thornton was also an academic adviser and an 11-year honors program coordinator.

During an interview earlier this year, Thornton said she misses everyone very much.

Joseph Tornello

Since 1984, Joseph Tornello has dedicated 17 years to OKCCC as a professor of computer science. His last day is scheduled to be in June.

Dr. Todd expressed warm sentiments for those retiring.

"Each of the employees whom we are recognizing have contributed greatly to the success of the college.

"They will be missed, but I wish them the very best as they enjoy their retirement."

Others invited to celebrate include members of the executive council as well as Dr. Paul Sechrist, vice president for academic affairs.

All employees of OKCCC are invited to attend the reception, which will be from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in college union rooms 1 and 2. Director of Human Resources, Ruth Boone is coordinating the event.

Long-time profs witness many changes

By Dan Archer
Newswriting I Student

Some long-time college professors have watched as OKCCC has advanced in many ways over the years.

The grading system is one of those positive changes.

Imagine seeing an OKCCC college transcript full of M's, instead of A's and B's.

That is what a transcript looked like back in 1972 when South Oklahoma City Junior College, better known today as OKCCC, opened its small underground facility.

English Professor Richard Rouillard, who has been at OKCCC since it opened, recalls the innovative grading system that was used when the college first opened.

Rouillard explained that students would earn an M (Mastery) for successfully completing a course.

"In that particular grading system you're only rewarded if you finish," he said.

"If you don't finish there's no record. It was one grade or no grade."

Music Professor Dave Archer, who is also an original member of the faculty at OKCCC, recalls the grading system causing trouble to students who wanted to

transfer out of OKCCC.

"It made it a little difficult to transfer because other schools did not fully understand what an M stood for," he said.

Eventually a change to the traditional (A-F) grading system made everyone happy.

Both Archer and Rouillard remember a dramatic rise in enrollment after the traditional grading scale was adopted.

Another positive change over the years has been to the architecture of the college.

From the ground up, the college was virtually unnoticeable because the entire facility was based underground.

Archer remembers the school's small visual profile.

"Really the college was hardly visible from May Avenue, except for the glassed in area at the top of the roof," said Archer who is in his 29th year at the college.

Archer remembers seeing only five people graduate in

the college's first graduation in the spring of 1973.

OKCCC Research Specialist John Barker confirmed that the average age of the student in 1972 was around 33 compared to 27 today.

History Professor Ray McCullar, who also came to OKCCC in 1972, remembers more students being around age 30 as opposed to 18 or 19.

"It seemed a little strange but it didn't bother me too much," said McCullar who was just 25 when he came to OKCCC.

McCullar jokingly suggested that he was even more good looking at 25 than he is today.

What has made professors stay here so long?

McCullar credits OKCCC as a good employer because of the people.

"It's a good place to work and the proof of that is that everyone's trying to get on and no one is leaving," he said.

"I've stayed here because I work for and with wonderful people."

"It's a good place to work and the proof of that is that everyone's trying to get on and no one is leaving."
—Ray McCullar
OKCCC History Professor

Contact the editor
at
682-1611 ext. 7675
or
e-mail at
editor@
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Debaters discuss pros, cons of Right-to-Work

By Brandi Peterman
Staff Writer

Some topics bring out the passion and opinions of people from all walks of life, but few are as divisive as Right-to-Work.

OKCCC faculty and staff witnessed a Right-to-Work debate in the college union on April 12.

The audience, which appeared equally split between pro and con listened to Dean Schirf, the vice president of government relations for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, and Jimmy C. Curry, president of the Oklahoma State AFL-CIO present both sides of the heated issue.

For the first time since 1964 Oklahoma voters will

Oklahomans to get opportunity to vote on issue

get the chance to decide whether it will be a Right-to-Work state.

The last time this issue went before the voters it failed by more than 20,000 votes.

What is Right-to-Work? Who does it affect and how?

A prepared statement from Schirf defines Right-to-Work as a law that states no one shall be denied the right to work because of membership or non-membership in a labor union.

Oklahoma workers would no longer be forced to pay union dues, collective bargaining fees or any other in-lieu fees in order to keep their jobs.

With a Right-to-Work law, union membership cannot be a condition of obtaining or continuing employment.

Schirf believes a Right-to-Work law would give Oklahoma a chance to grow economically.

"People want to go to states with Right-to-Work," Schirf said. "Right-to-Work is an attitude."

Curry argues that "the merchandisers of Right-to-Work have been fond of describing their quackery as a patron saint of individual liberty and an economic magic bullet that will create jobs. Neither could be further from the truth."

Curry continues by saying, "The truth is that Right-to-Work won't protect or create a single job and it certainly doesn't convey any meaningful employment rights both on and off the job."

Dan Mahoney, director of

communications for Gov. Frank Keating's office, said: "The governor strongly believes in the public's right to vote.

He is a very vocal supporter on Right-to-Work and he will be voting for it on election day in November 2002."

Many of OKCCC staff had a lot to say about this issue.

History Professor Ray McCullar said that "at one time the entire United States was characterized by Right-to-Work."

The question really is, why did unions develop in the first place?

The answer is that some businessmen were willing to pay the lowest wages possible, McCullar said.

"The fear is that if Right-

to-Work passes in Oklahoma that it will not work to the advantage of anyone except those who like to pay low wages and deny benefits to those they employ," said McCullar.

W.D. Coffey, risk management and service contract coordinator for OKCCC, said he favors Right-to-Work. He believes it will enhance the state's economy.

"I don't feel it is fair that a substantial percent of union members who don't pay union dues should still receive the protection that the union provides for them," Coffey said.

Rep. Dan Webb (R-OKC) commented that he supported Right-to-Work being sent to the people for a vote.

"This vote could change the Oklahoma Constitution."

Remedial rates up at OKCCC

By Vu Vu
Editor

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education applauded schools when final figures came and only 37 percent of first-time college freshmen took fewer remedial courses than they did four years ago, according to the Annual Student Remediation Report.

The report said 32 percent took remedial math courses like elementary algebra and intermediate algebra, and 15 percent of freshmen enrolled in remedial English courses.

The number of students enrolled in remedial courses declined across the state. However, most two-year colleges, including OKCCC, had increased percentages in the number of students taking remedial courses.

Dr. Paul Sechrist, vice president for Academic Affairs, said from 1996 to 2000, OKCCC freshmen enrolling in remedial En-

glish courses increased from 24.4 percent to 30 percent.

In math, students taking remedial courses jumped from 36 percent to 51.8 percent.

"The increase in both English and mathematics remediation at OKCCC and other two-year colleges in...Oklahoma is due to the rising entrance requirements at state universities and the move within the

state to move most, if not all remedial education to the two-year colleges," Sechrist said.

According to the State Regents report, 58 percent of adult students took remedial classes.

OKCCC's remedial and regular pass rates are: remedial writing, 76 percent; English composition, 80 percent; remedial math, 54 percent; college algebra, 72 percent.

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Highlights

Attention international students

International students who plan to travel during the summer need to come by the Office of Admissions and Records at least one week before leaving the country so the proper travel documents can be prepared. For details call 682-1611, ext. 7366.

Library needs help with surveys

Oklahoma Council of Academic Library Directors, in cooperation of the OKCCC Student Advisory Board, has developed a survey of student use of library services. Data collected from the survey will help guide library and campus leadership in further developing library services that best meet students' needs. The library has placed this survey on the library website at <http://library.okc.cc.ok.us> or through the main college website. The survey will be accessible through May 4.

H.O.P.E. elections

The Hispanic Organization to Promote Education will be having officer elections from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26, in room CU8. If you have ever wanted to be president or secretary of a successful organization, now is your chance. There are huge benefits for new officers and lots of fun. For more information contact H.O.P.E. at hope_okccc@yahoo.com. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be Latino.

Student Art Guild to host exhibition

The Student Art Guild will be presenting its annual Spring Art Show from April 21 through 27. Students are encouraged to enter art that they feel is worthy of winning. Students can enter their work in two categories, fine art and commercial art. Entries must be hand delivered to the main building near the elevators between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. by April 20. For more information, contact Carolyn Farris at 682-1611, ext. 7250.

You can help Teenline

Summer volunteers are needed for Teenline training, April 28 and 29. Teenline is a statewide resource for teens and young adults who need a caring listener with whom to discuss troubling issues such as mental health, substance abuse, human sexuality, suicide prevention, HIV/AIDS and other issues relevant to teens and young adults. For more information on becoming a volunteer for the Teenline, contact Julie Geddes at 522-3835.

Free school!

Applications for the Fall 2001 Physical Therapist Assistant Program will continue to be accepted until noon May 11. 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.

Attention spring graduates

Commencement for spring graduates is at 7:30 p.m. May 11, at the Myriad Convention Center. Caps and gowns are available at the bookstore at a cost of \$23.75. If a graduate or candidate does not have an approval card on file in the bookstore, see Della Green in the Graduation Office.

Highlights deadline is no later than 5 p.m. Tuesdays



Photo by Melissa DePew

My fellow Americans:

Congressman J.C. Watts speaks in front of a crowded cafeteria during the College Republican's Meet Your Congressman event April 12. Watts answered questions from the audience about national and local issues.

College Republicans served free pizza and beverages after the event was over.

State programs and Social Security top Watts' agenda

**By Mark Stack
Staff Writer**

He came, he saw, he hopes to come again.

The campus of OKCCC was graced with a touch of Washington, D.C. and its political power Tuesday, April 17, as Oklahoma's 4th district Congressman spoke in front of a packed student union.

J.C. Watts, coming off Congress's Easter break and his recent trip to Africa, was in town to speak at several area schools, including OKCCC.

A few of the current hot issues in Washington that were discussed by Congressman Watts included the national debt and budget, problems with Social Security, the \$5.9 trillion surplus and certain tax penalties.

"It's an exciting time for me to be in Washington," said Watts. "There are a lot of things going on that could affect a lot of people."

Watts also discussed several solutions to many of these problems.

He talked about the problems with Social Security and how the U.S. government takes money out of Social Security to pay the national debt.

Watts believes in a couple ways to save Social Security for the future. One is by cutting Social Security benefits and the other is to raise the F.I.C.A. tax.

Watts said he would like to see people given the option to receive a portion of their Social Security money early so that they may invest it as they wish while they are still living.

He also hopes that states and schools are given more flexibility to create programs and grants that specifically suit their needs.

"We need programs that allow schools with different needs to accommodate those needs, instead of just helping out one school's necessity," said Watts.

He said schools that need computers might not get

them because other schools have different needs.

He believes the death tax should be eliminated since it penalizes those who have owned and worked on a farm all their lives.

Watts fielded questions from the audience after he was finished speaking.

Questions ranging from campaign finance reform, strength of our military to foreign trade with African nations were all asked.

Watts was surprised to see the level of participation involved at this event.

"This college is more politically involved than most around the state," said Watts. "It's great to see such interest on important issues."

Watts said he would like to serve in Congress for several more terms, but the wear and tear of traveling and missing his family may cause him to reconsider.

Who knows, maybe the role of governor of Oklahoma will one day be in the cards for this Congressman.

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.

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OKCCC Recreation & Community Service is now hiring for several positions! We are looking for lifeguards and water safety instructors. Lifeguards start at \$6 per hour. WSI's start at \$7.50 per hour. If you are not currently certified, come see us. We offer the classes you need to earn these certifications. This is a fun job with flexible hours! Visit the office of Recreation and Community Services to apply or get more information. You can also call Stephanie Jensen, aquatic specialist, at 682-1611 extension 7662 or email at sjensen@okc.cc.ok.us.



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ACROSS

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- 17 Primp
- 18 Spent
- 19 Wren's home
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- 25 Old Faithful, for one
- 26 Ski run
- 30 Healing plant
- 32 Russian sea
- 33 Noblewoman
- 35 Evade adroitly
- 40 Hunting dog
- 42 Nose part
- 44 Mist
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- 56 Dueling sword
- 58 Celtic priests of old
- 59 Homeowner's burden

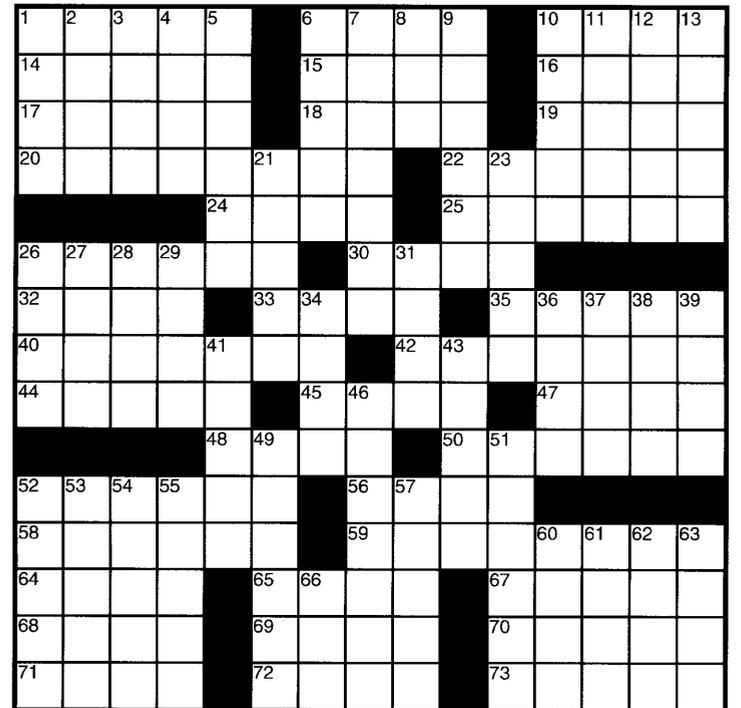
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- 28 Tresses
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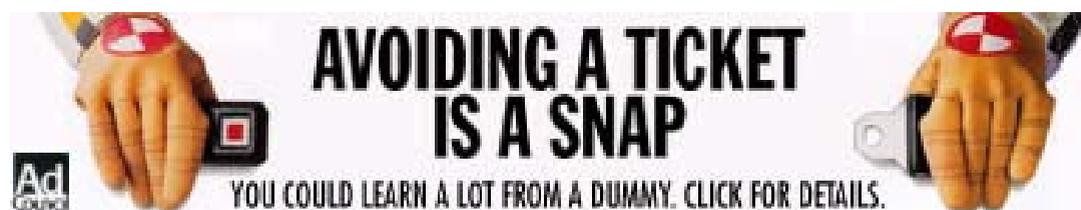
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Some argue loop will decrease land value

"Loop,"
Cont. from page 1

"The decision whether it will be a toll road or free is beyond our control," Shehab said.

He said if it is a toll road, the highway could be built as soon as three years from now.

Richard McMahon, a member of the opposition group, is building his home at S.W. 145 and May Avenue. He said, under Oklahoma Statute 69, the state has the legal right to build a toll road and that more than likely, ODOT will build the highway as a turnpike.

A major concern of residents is the highway's effects on property value.

Printing company owner Blake Wright, who has four children, has \$500,000 invested at Prairie Creek Estates located at S.W. 95 and Rockwell, where he is currently building his home.

"It's devastating. We've been developing property to get away from traffic and people. Now they're going to build a highway 20 feet from my house.

"[ODOT] wants to build it to get rid of traffic in the inner city," Wright said.

Patrick Meyer, of Meyer and Associates Real Estate, said land in the Tuttle area near where the highway is being built currently goes for \$3,000 to \$5,000 per acre.

"The land hasn't depreciated. It hasn't affected land values. It's been appreciating because of more traffic from Oklahoma City."

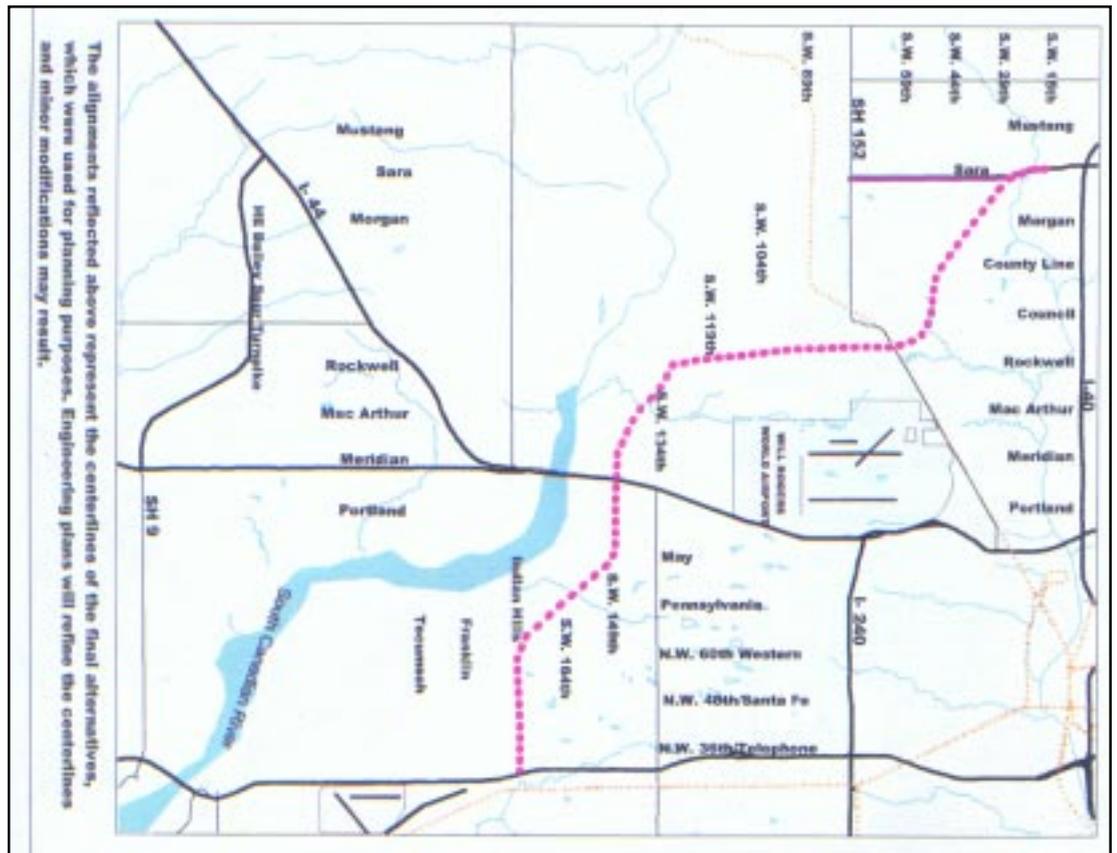
Meyer said that five years after the highway is built, property values could double as more traffic comes in.

Shehab points to property values after the completion of past turnpikes.

"Look at our current turnpike, the Kilpatrick. Property is sky high. Value of land is going up," he said.

D. Hurst, a construction superintendent who lives near where the proposed loop is being built at Sara Road in Mustang, said the highway would be 20 feet from his back yard that is located in the Whispering Oaks subdivision.

"I don't want that kind of traffic by my house," Hurst



said.

No one knows when the highway will be built.

"That's the million dollar question, when it will be built," said Shehab. "It could be seven to 10 years.

"There are no plans or funding to do it. It's anybody's guess."

The dotted line on the map above shows where the proposed loop highway will be built.



Outer Loop MIS

Oklahoma Department of Transportation
Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
Oklahoma Transportation Authority

Recommended Alternatives

- Non-Highway (Throughout the Region)
 - Qq Express Bus
 - Rr Commuter Rail Service
 - Tt Transportation Systems Management
 - Uu Intelligent Transportation Systems
 - Vv Transportation Demand Management
 - Xx High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes
- Highway
 - Centerline
 - Preserve SH-152 Connection

0 5 Miles

Prepared by:
COBB
ENGINEERING
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
March 2001