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PIONEER

www.occc.edu/pioneer

Equipment check



Photo by Kenny Hilburn

Van Mai and Johnny Benson, Engineering Lab assistants, talk with Physical Science professor Gary Houlette about sieves the school received for the new Engineering Lab which officially opened Tuesday, Jan. 20. For more about the lab, see page 9.

Jan. 30 last day to drop classes with full tuition and fee refund

By **Stephen Sossamon**
Editor

Students unsure about how their classes will suit them have until Jan. 30 to decide without a financial penalty.

Jan. 30 is the last day to receive a refund for withdrawing from 16-week classes, said Bursar assistant Heather Wall.

"Students can find the information on page seven of the spring schedule," she said.

Wall said students would still be required to pay a 2 percent finance charge for dropping by that date.

After Jan. 30, students will not receive any type of refund, she said.

Wall said students can either withdraw on campus in the registration area on the first floor of the Main Building or online at <http://mineonline.occc.edu>.

edu.

Wall said the students will receive the refunds through their Higher One accounts, set up by the college. Every OCCC student enrolled in credit classes has a Higher One account, she said.

"Whatever preference they set for Higher One is how they will get their refund," she said.

If students pay by credit card, she said, the refund would go back to their credit card account.

She said cash and check payments will be refunded to the Higher One account.

Refunds don't have a set date they are sent out, Wall said.

"We send money out three times a week."

Those who used other methods for paying tuition and fees may have a wait, Wall said.

"If they are getting loan money, they are processed twice a week," she said.

"Of course, Pell (Grants) [have] specific dates they transfer, but it will be after February before they will be sent out," Wall said.

The refund amount varies, she said, and is based on how much the student is awarded through scholarships and financial aid, and the number of hours taken, she said.

Wall said students who withdraw on or before Jan. 30 will definitely get a refund.

"If you have a refund out there, you will get one," she said.

For more information, call the Bursar's Office at 405-682-1611, ext. 7825, or call Records and Graduation services at ext. 7512.

Editor Stephen Sossamon can be reached at editor@occc.edu.

Extra security planned as bomb threat date nears

OCCC will step up watch on Jan. 28

By **Cynthia Praefke**
Staff Writer

Extra vigilance will be the order of the day on Jan. 28, the possible date contained in a letter that was recently found where the writer threatened to "blow up the school."

Campus security personnel will watch for any harmful actions against the school that day, said Campus Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas.

The threatening note was found on campus Dec. 15. It read, "I will blow up the school on Jan. 28 ..." with the only legible numbers of the year being 20.

While the last two numbers of the year are illegible, Sloas said, the note is being dealt with as a threat targeting Jan 28 of this year.

The note was turned over to Oklahoma City police and information also was exchanged with the national office of Homeland Security.

Sloas said a plan is in place for that date. "OCCC will staff additional security officers."

"There also will be additional law enforcement officers from the Oklahoma County Sheriff's department, and we will implement additional security measures for Jan. 28."

Sloas said, other than the extra watch, it will be business as usual at OCCC that day, with the college being open for normal business and all classes being held that day.

Most students seem con-

"... We will implement additional security measures for Jan. 28."

— Ike Sloas
Campus Safety and Security Director

fident in the campus security system.

"I'll worry about my studies, and let the officers handle it," said Kateri Guyer, Graphic Communications major. "They do a really good job."

Nursing student Amy Rupe said she's not worried.

"We had threats in high school too and most were unfounded. I feel security will handle whatever happens here."

President Paul Sechrist said everyone on campus should be aware of their surroundings and immediately report anything suspicious.

"We must work together at all times, not only during an emergency situation," Sechrist said.

If a student sees any suspicious activity at any time, Sloas said, they can report it by using the emergency buttons on classroom telephones, using the call boxes located in the buildings and parking lots, or by calling the college's main number 405-682-1611, and asking for the security office.

"We are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Sloas said.

Staff Writer Cynthia Praefke can be reached at adman@occc.edu.

Editorial and Opinion

Editorial

Property misuse a growing issue

Misuse of college property has been increasing in many colleges and universities, including OCCC.

Whether it's viewing pornography on college computers or printing too many copies on a computer lab printer, these abuses cause problems for the college.

Exceeding the maximum number of printing jobs, downloading malicious software, viewing pornographic websites, and breaking computers, headphones and printers are some of the issues that can be seen at OCCC.

Communications Lab Assistant Brandon Isaak sees the problem firsthand.

He said the problem occurs when students feel a sense of entitlement that they have paid for the equipment, so they have full right to do anything with it, which is wrong.

Printing too many copies is the biggest misuse of the Communication Lab.

"We use at least 10 reems of paper every week," Isaak said.

A carton of paper costs \$30, said Sheri Kingsbury, buyer in the finance at OCCC.

As a result, the Communications Lab uses \$300 worth of a paper each week.

Also, a printer toner cartridge costs approximately \$20 to \$80, depending upon the printer, Kingsbury said.

"The printer toner cartridge has to be replaced at least twice during the semester," Isaak said.

Another misuse of college computers is viewing pornographic websites.

There are a number of incidents where students have viewed the pornographic sites on library computers, which can often allow for viruses and spyware to download itself onto the computers, causing more extensive damage and is a violation of college policy.

Video surveillance is one means to track activities done by the student inside classrooms, parking lots and computer labs.

Video surveillance camera in the corner of every room definitely helps to reduce such activities inside the computer lab, said Gary Dominguez, Student Computer Center supervisor.

The presence of lab assistants also plays an important role in eliminating the misuse of campus technology.

Moreover, the best option to prevent such activities is to make students aware of the importance of caring for college property.

Students need to realize the equipment they use is a privilege.

The students should know the equipment they are using is purchased from the tuition and fees they are paying for, so they should be more thoughtful when using college property.

—**Bishal Malla**
Staff Writer

Pell Grants and loans are charged

To the editor:

In response to Mr. King's letter last week, asking why students are unable to charge books to their student accounts, I respectfully disagree and would like to clarify for Mr. King.

For many years students awarded a Pell Grant and/or a student loan they have accepted but funds have not yet disbursed to their account, have been able to charge books against their award at the bookstore beginning one week before classes begin and through the schedule adjustment period.

This is a total of three weeks.

During the three week period, students are added

to the list daily when they are awarded or otherwise become eligible for federal Pell or loan funds.

For the current semester, over \$1.2 million in Pell grant charges have already been authorized to 2,380 students.

Over \$4 million in loan funds have already been disbursed to student accounts and refunds credited to their debit card or to a bank account.

Those funds are available to purchase books.

As long as the student will have remaining funds after tuition and fees are considered, they are able to charge their books.

You will need a current student ID. Please check

with Financial Aid and pick up a FACT Sheet at the Financial Aid front counter that will help you understand how this service works.

—**Harold Case**
Student Financial
Support Services Dean

Oklahoma City Community College PIONEER

Vol. 37 No. 18

Stephen Sossamon.....Editor
Matt Bishop.....Staff Writer
Christina Barger.....Staff Writer
Justin Combs.....Staff Writer
Bishal Malla.....Staff Writer
Kenny Hilburn.....Photographer
Cynthia Praefke.....Ad Manager
Brian Stansberry.....Webmaster
John Weis.....Online Editor
Luke Carter.....Workstudy
Chris Lusk.....Lab Assistant
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 to the PIONEER office, mailed to: Pioneer Editor, 7777 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73159 or faxed to 405-682-7843.

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@occc.edu. A phone number for verification must be included.

The PIONEER can be accessed on the Internet at: www.occc.edu/pioneer.

Color printing this semester is paid for, in part, from a grant from OPUBCO Communications Group.



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Comments? Opinions?
E-mail Stephen at
editor@occc.edu
Let your voice be heard!

www.occc.edu/pioneer

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



offthemark.com

Comments and Reviews

Debit card system brings confusion, causes anger

To the editor:

I don't usually feel strongly about anything, but this new debit card system has me so up in arms I had to forcefully knock aside the pen and paper blocking my view of the keyboard to write this.

Back in my day, after the tuition was paid, I could just wait for that sweet check to roll in and I'd never have to lift a finger (except for my thumb in an upward direction when I saw my bank account).

Now I have to do something to get my refund check? I'm so angry I can't even contain my anger.

Worse still, I didn't even get my card so I actually have to reorder one which is probably going to take longer than it takes my Mom to make me a plate of pizza rolls.

Using the website was a headache in and of itself.

It was most likely started by one of those old guys

that tell you how they're going to get into computers because that's where the money is, then hire the kid down the street to make a site for them while they rest on their laurels and wait for the money to roll in.

I checked the FAQ and I swear one of the links took me to a page called Photos of my Grandchildren that actually had photos of someone's grandchildren!

Another one took me to a single photo of a sad, old man eating a birthday cake by himself.

I felt so guilty I called Customer Service just to see how they were doing. We talked for over an hour about the weather, how low pants have gotten, and something to do with onions on belts.

I don't really remember much of it to be honest, but by the end of it I think I agreed that a wooden hoop and a stick would make an

excellent birthday present.

Now I have a wooden hoop instead of my refund check. What do I even do with this thing?

Am I supposed to hit it with the stick? It's a hoop so it has to roll. I think I'm supposed to make a wagon out of this. Now I broke it.

So, how much did the school make from this sweet scam?

If I knew we could bribe the current administration with Werther's Originals I'd have a pirate ship built on the roof by now. Luckily, the helpful folks in the Bursar's office helped me get my card reordered and my extravagant lifestyle back on track.

And to think I was actually worried about losing my subscription to XBox Live! Dr. Sechrist, do you know what my kokoro wish is?

—Aaron Boto
OCCC Student

'Road' a beautifully crafted and deeply troubled movie

Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet are once again paired as a love duo in the Dreamworks release, "Revolutionary Road."

Frank and April meet at a party during the 1950s. They are each independent spirits with an idea of how their lives will progress.

After their marriage, all dreams are put on hold, as they buy a house in the suburbs and have children.

While the scenario unfolds in a Connecticut suburb, this film could have taken place anywhere there are couples trying to live the American dream.

Frank (DiCaprio) has taken a boring 9-to-5 job in the city, while April



(Winslet) is a homemaker and mom. Their lives are ordinary, and that is not what they had planned.

They begin to hate their own existence, and each other.

The movie is an adaptation of the first book writ-

ten by Richard Yates in 1961. At the time the book was written, "Revolutionary Road" was described as beautifully crafted and deeply troubled. That is also true of the movie.

Director Sam Mendes did a fine job of maintaining

the tension and keeping the sparks flying between Frank and April.

The love scenes were not as tender as those in "Titanic" but they were as passion filled.

A viewer could easily see why Winslet won a Golden Globe for her performance. She and DiCaprio both run the gamut of emotion in

this film.

Rated R for some crude language and sexual content, "Revolutionary Road" is not a love story with a happy ending. It is a realistic look at failure, depression, and lost dreams, so take some tissues.

Rating: B

—Cynthia Praefke
Staff Writer

YOU asked FOR IT

Q: Does the college library do Interlibrary loans of the books from other Libraries? Interlibrary loaning is borrowing a book, article, CD, DVD or newspaper from other libraries around the country.

A: "OCCC does a lot of Inter-Library Loaning from other Libraries, but we are not allowed to borrow the textbooks. We only borrow the reference books, DVDs, articles and newspapers from other libraries. Borrowing such things from other libraries is free for the students and students will get it in less than a week. Sometimes it might take a maximum of three weeks,"

—Rachel Butler
Reference Librarian

Q: How do people get their pictures on the college posters and schedules?

A: "We have a photographer come out about once a year who takes photos of classes and students on campus. You pretty much just have to be around when the photos are being taken."

—Cordell Jordan
Media Relations Coordinator

Q: How many full-time professors do we have at the college?

A: "There are 147 full-time professors here at the college."

—Larry Robertson
Senior Human Resources Specialist

Q: Do you have to take a foreign language class to use the World Languages and Cultures Center?

A: "No, everybody can use it. Even non-students can use it, but OCCC students have priority privilege and will want to bring their student ID for the priority."

—Chiaki Troutman
World Languages and Cultures Center
Lab Assistant

Comments and Reviews

The Republic Tigers hit the mark in debut album with homemade sound

I had never heard of The Republic Tigers until this week. While searching through recent releases I was pleasantly surprised to find "Keep Color."

The Kansas City quintet describes their sound as half organic and half synthetic. After hearing their album, it is a hard statement to disagree with.

Their sound is melodic and serene, but at the same time, the pace of the music gives it just the right amount of intensity to keep the listener from getting tired.

I would say The Republic Tigers have a classically indie sound with an innovative layer of synthesizers that can add an ethereal aspect or can drive the momentum of the entire song like in "Golden Sand," one of the better tracks on the

album.

The band recorded the album at The Ballroom in Hollywood, with noted producer Mark Needham, who has worked with the likes of Louis XIV, We Are Scientists and The Killers.

However, according to their website, they wanted to keep their sound homemade to a degree so the lead singer recorded most of his vocals at home in his bedroom.

I honestly hope The Republic Tigers get the attention they deserve and are able to keep making music.

They bring something that has been lacking in most music of late true musicianship and creativity.

All of the guys in the band play more than one instrument and write mul-



tiples pieces, and then blend what they have together to create a pleasant amalgam of sound.

"Keep Color" is the de-

but album of The Republic Tigers on Chop Shop Records.

For more information check them out at MyS-

pace at myspace.com/republictigers.

Rating: B

—**Luke Carter**
Staff Writer

'The Unborn' scary, but fails to live up to its hype

For the first time in a while, I was excited about a horror film because I thought it could be this generation's "Exorcist."

I was horribly wrong.

"The Unborn" is filled with frightening sequences, but it doesn't hit home.

The film is about Casey Beldon (Odette Yustman), a girl plagued by evil dreams and visions of an unborn boy and fiendish dogs.

The film focuses on the legend of the dybbuc, an evil spirit that refuses to leave the human world and inhabits the bodies of others as vessels.

Beldon tries to figure out what the visions mean and why she is having them.

She enlists the help of her friend, who happens to be a fan of myths, to uncover the mysteries surrounding Beldon's thoughts.

Beldon meets her grandmother who tells her the

story of the dybbuc. She realizes the spirit of her dead twin brother, who died in the womb, is trying to find its way into the world.

There is a not-so surprising twist at the end which adds to its predictability.

Friends turn rivals in new flick 'Bride Wars'

Even best friends can't share the same wedding day — or can they?

In the movie "Bride Wars," Liv and Emma (Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway) have been best friends who have been planning their dream weddings since they were little girls.

They even planned to be each other's maid of honor.

Directed by Gary Winick, director of "13 Going on 30" and "Lipstick Jungle," "Bride Wars" tells the story

The film was good for those types who enjoy the scare tactic of absolute silence, followed by a dark individual of sorts popping out to kill.

Other than a couple of sudden spurts of fright, the film didn't bring much

of two friends who become rivals when wedding coordinator Marion St. Claire (Candice Bergen) books their weddings on the same day.

With no other June dates available at New York's premier bridal destination, the Plaza Hotel, they set out to destroy each other's wedding.

These two will stop at nothing to have their dream wedding come true and sabotage is not beneath either one of them.

Out to find a new maid

enjoyment to the table.

The acting was cheesy and at times, not believable. The plot of the film was predictable and it became tough to watch knowing exactly what is going to happen.

Like so many scary mov-

ies, the idea was a good thought but just didn't pan out on the big screen.

It's sad when previews become the best, and scariest, parts of the movie.

Rating: C

—**Stephen Sossamon**
Editor

of honor, Liv turns to her work assistant Kevin (Michael Arden).

Together they turn Emma's wedding plans upside down when they tamper with Emma's tanning bed and she comes out looking like a lobster.

Emma retaliates and makes Liv's trip to the salon nothing but horrific when Liv ends up with blue hair.

They could have made up just in time but when Emma calls to make amends, Kevin tells her Liv

is "handling a crisis." Mistaking this as a blow off line usually given by Liv, Emma hangs up before he can get her name.

Released Jan. 9 by 20th Century Fox, this hilarious comedy is a test and triumph of friendship that will leave you asking yourself where to draw the line in "Bride Wars."

Rated PG for suggestive content, language and rude behavior.

Rating: A-

—**Christina Barger**
Staff Writer

Engineering center discovers missing equipment over break

Thieves take an estimated \$2,000 in stolen items

By Matt Bishop
Staff Writer

Thieves struck a campus storage room over Christmas break, stealing close to \$2,000 in engineering equipment, said Physical Science Professor Gary Houlette.

"I think someone just happened to go in there and saw a roomful of stuff," he said.

Houlette believes the motive was the value of the new and expensive equipment.

Drills, tool sets, a welding hood, a circular saw and a roll-around 20-gallon air compressor were taken from the storage room, Houlette said.

Last summer, the Engineering Lab stored equipment in an old faculty office located across the hall from the physics lab in the Science, Math and Engineering Center.

At that time, the construction of the new engineering center was going on, Houlette said.

When inventory was tak-

en over the break, the engineering center staff started noticing things were missing, Houlette said.

"We don't know if it all was taken at once, or if it was taken one piece at a time," he said.

"It was a shock to us to say the least."

Campus Safety and Security Director Ike Sloas said no surveillance footage was captured of the robberies because the lower level of the Science, Engineering and Math Center has limited coverage with

cameras.

Work is in process to get more cameras installed in that area, Sloas said.

Safety and Security installed a new core (lock) on the door that will limit accessibility to the room, Sloas said.

Science and Mathematics Division Dean Max Simmons had Houlette reorder nearly all the items that were taken.

The roll-around 20-gallon air compressor and load ring are the only items that have not been re-

placed because those two items cost about \$1,000 themselves, Houlette said.

However, Simmons said, there will be minimal effect on the operation of the Engineering Lab or engineering classes this spring semester.

Houlette said he looks forward to the upcoming semester.

"We've got the tools and we're ready to go," he said.

Staff Writer Matt Bishop can be reached at SeniorWriter@occc.edu.

Theater professor looks for student-actors to participate in collaborative performance

By Justin Combs
Staff Writer

Theater professor Brent Noel is looking for eight to 10 actors to participate in an experimental theatrical performance called Forum Project II.

The actors won't be the only ones carrying the show in this interactive production, Noel said.

Crowd participation is a must in this collaborative problem-solving play, he said.

"We really don't know what the play's all about quite yet," Noel said.

"It comes from a type of theater called theatre-of-the-oppressed created by Augusto Boal in the sixties and early seventies."

Noel said the actors will be creating a couple of scenarios that feature a protagonist who goes through different struggles.

Ultimately, the audience helps resolve the conflict.

"We ask the audience what they would do if they were in this person's situa-

tion," Noel said about how the audience becomes part of the show.

Furthermore, the audience then comes up with different ideas to fix the problem, he said.

"Not only the actor tries out the ideas but also the spectator comes up and shows what they mean, actually demonstrating, not just telling them what to do," Noel said.

With the spontaneity required to perform this play, actors should be ready for anything.

"What we're looking for is a lot of flexibility and creativity from the core group of actors that are creative enough in their improvisational skills to deal with what the audience is going to bring to it," said Noel, about what actors could expect in their performance.

He said the goal of the play is not only to entertain but also to discover.

"There's a real empowerment that it brings to the audience," Noel said.

"There's a certain amount of ownership in participation that the audience feels."

No preparation or experience is necessary. Auditions will take place at 7 p.m. on Jan. 28 and 29 in

the Bruce Owen Theater.

Staff Writer Justin Combs can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

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Campus geese pose threat to airport

By Christina Barger
Staff Writer

The picturesque Canadian geese who choose to land at OCCC's pond as one of their migration stops cause worry for the college's next-door neighbor, Will Rogers World Airport.

As a result, their numbers are thinned from time to time to keep the geese from posing an air safety hazard for jets landing and leaving the airport, said J.B. Messer, Facilities Management director.

Messer said the Jan. 15 crash of a jetliner out of LaGuardia airport in New York City was caused by the jet flying into a flock of geese.

That's the kind of disaster Will Rogers hopes to avoid, he said.

From 1990 to 2007, there were nearly 80,000 reported incidents of birds striking aircraft, about one strike for every 10,000 flights, according to the

Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Agriculture.

"Flying birds are always an issue," said Phylis Hensley, pilot and airplane owner. "Wetlands attract birds and as a pilot in command you are supposed to avoid them."

Wildlife biologist Karen Duncan, USDA Wildlife Services, said in an e-mail, she estimates there are up to 100 Canada geese that frequent the OCCC pond.

The geese have become an issue to the FAA because of the close proximity to Wiley Post and Will Rogers airports, Messer said.

"The Department of Agriculture is monitoring our geese and mallard population, and when it exceeds a certain number, the USDA Wildlife Services will come to the campus and remove them," Messer said.

Using big nets baited with food, workers can capture the fowl and re-



Photo by Christina Barger

A flock of geese take flight after wading around in the retention pond. The close proximity of the pond to Will Rogers and Wiley Post airports prompts the Federal Aviation Administration to keep tabs on the campus geese, relocating them when necessary. Flying geese can be a safety hazard to airplanes landing and leaving the airports.

lease them in a more rural area. At their new location, the geese's wings will be clipped to prevent the birds from returning.

"Last September, 100 birds were removed from

the OCCC retention pond," Messer said.

Hensley said relocating the geese farther away from the airport is a necessary precaution.

"One goose can bring

down a jet if it knocks any of the blades on the engine out of alignment," Hensley said.

Staff Writer Christina Barger can be reached at StaffWriter3@occc.edu.

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Warm welcome eases first week jitters



Brandon Wilkins, freshman, picks up some free breakfast provided by Student Life on the first day of classes. Free breakfast and coffee were available to new and returning students the first day of classes.



Above: Efren Afante, physics major, hosts Deal or No Deal as business major Hueng Tia steps up to test his luck. OCCC began holding Deal or No Deal games after Afante appeared on the show in 2007.

Right: Destiny Mennig, business major, prepares to demonstrate her ability to break boards. ATA Karate Association held a demonstration in the general dining area as a part of Welcome Week.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist greeted students Jan. 20 with warm coffee and friendly directions.

The spring semester kicked off with a plethora of activities and services offered to students.

Students were welcomed into the doors by a free cup of Starbucks coffee as Student Life workers stood by to help with directions and questions.

Tuesday's activities also included a free breakfast and a watch party for the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Inaugural ceremonies were broadcast on television screens campuswide. There also was a big screen in the Student Union broadcasting the historical event.

The festivities continued on Wednesday with a karate demonstration in the student union. Members from the ATA Karate Association demonstrated their forms, sparring and board-breaking abilities.

Student Life also enlisted the services of Hog Wild Entertainment's wax hand molding. Students were able to get a mold of their hands made and colored for free. Everything from hands folded in prayer to peace signs could be seen in an assortment of different colors.

Thursday ended the Welcome Week activities with a game of Deal or No Deal held in the Student Union. Students were able to participate in the game during lunch with the opportunity to win cash prizes ranging from 10 cents to \$100. Nobody struck it big this time though, less than \$50 was awarded overall.

Text and photos by Kenny Hilburn



Sports

UPCOMING

OCCC INTRAMURALS EVENTS

• **Jan. 28:** As soon as basketball teams are assembled and registered for the intramural league, there will be a meeting at noon at the gym inside the Wellness Center. Teams will be informed about when games will be held, team names announced and court times arranged for practice. For more information, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Feb. 2:** 2009 Spring Club Soccer meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. inside the Wellness Center Gymnasium.

• **Feb. 6:** 5-on-5 Intramural basketball season tips off. For more information about games, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Feb. 6-7:** The OCCC Aquatic Center will host the Mid-State/Metro Conference swim meet. For more information about OCCC Aquatic Center events, call Recreation and Fitness Director Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

• **Feb. 13:** Intramural Free Throw Hot Shot Challenge. For more information, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

• **Feb. 20-21:** The OCCC Aquatic Center will host the Oklahoma High School State Championship, for more information about OCCC Aquatic Center events, call Recreation and Fitness Director Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

• **Feb. 27:** Intramural 3-Point Shooting Challenge. For more information, call Recreation and Fitness Specialist Eric Watson at 405-682-1611, ext. 7786.

Ready to dive in



Photo by Christina Barger

High school swimmers from Putnam City North get some laps in during practice at the Aquatic Center on campus. For more information about OCCC Aquatic Center events, call Recreation and Fitness Director Roxanna Butler at 405-682-1611, ext. 7425.

Indoor kayaking offered as part of outdoor wellness program

By **Justin Combs**
Staff Writer

OKC Kayak has teamed up with OCCC to bring students and the general public the opportunity to learn the basic skills of navigating the one-person canoe-like craft called the kayak.

The Aquatic Center has become a warm refuge for kayak enthusiasts to learn new maneuvers, practice and meet new people.

Dave Lindo, owner of OKC Kayak, is leading classes through basic skills up to advanced techniques

"You can come take an intro class to learn all the basics," Lindo said.

"We've had people that have kayaked their whole life say that they've learned so much in this three-hour-long class."

Lindo said kayaking is an activity that people of all body types, abilities and disabilities can use to advance their fitness regimen.

"You can come out and do it leisurely from just a recreational standpoint, like riding a bike, or

if you want more of a fitness regime you can go all out and get a cardiovascular exercise program going in the kayak," he said.

Lindo explained the different levels of exercise that can be accomplished through kayaking.

People are frequently asking Lindo where to go kayak in Oklahoma.

"We have more shoreline here in Oklahoma than the entire east coast of the United States," Lindo said.

"Places like Lake Hefner, Lake Overholser, Lake Stanley Draper, Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge on the North Canadian River, there are just tons and tons."

Lindo said a person doesn't need to go on vacation to kayak to feel comfortably disconnected from his or her workload.

"You can literally feel like you're on vacation," said Lindo. "Once you're in the water, surrounded by it, you just forget that you're so close to the city."

It's already attracting people from as far as Hydro, where first-time participant Eric Cloninger

calls home.

Cloninger said he is going on a cruise to Alaska and kayaking is one of the cruise activities.

Cloninger also does photography and is going to use the kayak to help enhance his capability of taking pictures.

Open sessions are free for students from 4 to 5 p.m. on the first Friday of every month and \$5 the remainder of the month. Quick start sessions are from 5 to 8 p.m. on Fridays, and are \$25 for students and \$35 for the general public.

Advanced classes are held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, and are \$35 for students and \$45 for the general public.

OKC Kayak will furnish kayaks and life jackets. The rental fee is \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public during open sessions.

Information and monthly schedules are available at www.okckayak.com or by calling OKC Kayak directly at 405-830-9689.

Staff Writer Justin Combs can be reached at StaffWriter2@occc.edu.

Engineering lab open for business

By **Stephen Sossamon**
Editor

Engineering students finally have a place to call their own.

The Engineering lab, located on the first floor of the Science, Engineering and Math Center, near the automotive area opened its doors the first day of classes this semester.

"The goal with the space in general is to have a room where students can congregate and work on homework and study together," said Engineering professor Greg Holland.

Holland said construction of the lab, which cost approximately \$250,000, took six months.

The lab is the first engineering lab at the college.

Engineering is the "E" in the title of the SEM Center, which also includes science and math.

The lab, formerly the Math Lab, is open to anyone, Holland said, but is geared toward engineering students.

"The laboratory component is to get the students out of the classroom ... and doing things with their hands," Holland said.

"This gives them those fabrication skills and the measurement skills.

"These are all the things [engineering students] end up doing down the road."

A common area provides students a place where they can work on their homework and study together, if they so choose, he said.

Holland said the larger space houses the engineering group lab and is used for big projects.

"That is where they will do soil sampling analysis, which is used for finding

the size of various particles," he said.

"Then we put the samples into the shaker cabinet that shakes everything to make things fall through, placing the bigger stuff on top, the smaller samples on bottom."

He said the analytical lab, which is a smaller counterpart to the bigger group lab portion, will have different tools, such as the tinsel tester, for student use.

"The tinsel tester pulls the different metals until they break, so we can figure out how strong the metal is," he said.

Holland said the compression tester uses a different method to test the strength of metal, by compressing it.

There are many different things, such as laptops computers, connected to equipment so students can get experience with data acquisition, he said.

Holland said the lab doesn't have set hours yet, but the common area is open anytime the college is open.

The lab area hours are limited to when the lab staff is available, he said.

Johnny Benson, OCCC pre-engineering graduate and lab assistant, said he is excited about the engineering lab. "I wish it was around when I went here," he said.

Benson's duties as lab assistant are to help students during lab hours.

Holland said he is glad the engineering department finally has a place to call home.

For more information, contact Holland at 405-682-1611, ext. 7163.

Editor Stephen Sossamon can be reached at editor@occc.edu.

Spring 2009

"Employment & Career Power Workshops"

Presented By:

Student Employment & Career Services Office
(Main Bldg. 1st Floor-Next to Student Life)

Wednesdays
12:30 PM-1:00 PM

February 04-----Job's On-Campus/Off-Campus

February 11-----Job Board Registration

February 18-----Optimal Resume Creation

February 25-----Job Fair Strategies

March 11-----Optimal Cover Letters

March 25-----Dress for Interviews

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April 08-----DISCOVER-Career Exploration

Hot Occupations, Top Salaries

April 15-----Internships "Greater Grads"; Tinker AFB

More Info: 405-682-7519 or, 7362

employmentservices@occc.edu or dvaughn@occc.edu

International Holidays to remember

Jan. 25: Sao Paulo Anniversary, Brazil; Lunar New Year Eve, Hong Kong, Taiwan.

Jan. 26: Republic Day, India; Australia Day, Australia, Japan; Lunar New Year, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea S., Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam.

Jan. 27: Lunar New Year 2nd Day, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea S., Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam.

Jan. 28: Lunar New Year 3rd Day, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea S., Taiwan, Vietnam; Jose Marti's birthday, Cuba.

Jan. 29: Lunar New Year 4th Day, China, Vietnam; Martyrs Memorial Day, Nepal.

—courtesy www.xpmail.com/HolidayCalendar09

Highlights

Open theater auditions on Jan. 28 and 29

Auditions for "Forum Theatre Project II," an improvisational theater experiment in collaborative problem solving, will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, and Thursday, Jan. 29, in the Bruce Owen Theater. No preparation or experience necessary. For more information, contact theater professor Brent Noel at 405-682-1611, ext. 7246, or e-mail bnoel@occc.edu.

Brad Richter, Viktor Uzur in concert

Guitarist Brad Richter and cellist Viktor Uzur will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in the Bruce Owen Theater. Richter is a master as well as a composer for the guitar. He taught himself how to play guitar and compose at the age of 12. At 18, he was awarded the Presidential Scholarship to the American Conservatory of Music, where he began composing, performing and eventually teaching professionally. Uzur has appeared as a soloist and has held concerts in many countries in Europe, Asia and North America. Tickets can be purchased on campus in the Cultural Art Series ticket office in the Main Building, room 1G1.

Make It, Bake It sale planned

The Faculty Association Scholarship Committee is organizing a craft and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Main Building. There will be a silent auction, baked goods and craft items. For more information, contact Linda Boatright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7468, or e-mail lboatright@occc.edu.

Military Career Fair at OCCC

OCCC invites students and community members to the Military Career Fair which will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, in the College Union. Military recruiters will provide enlistment and educational benefits to all the guests. The Oklahoma Veterans Regional Office also will be available to share updates on the new GI Bill. Oklahoma Veterans center will make a presentation from 10 a.m. to noon in the College Union.

Volunteers needed for Swim and Dive Championship

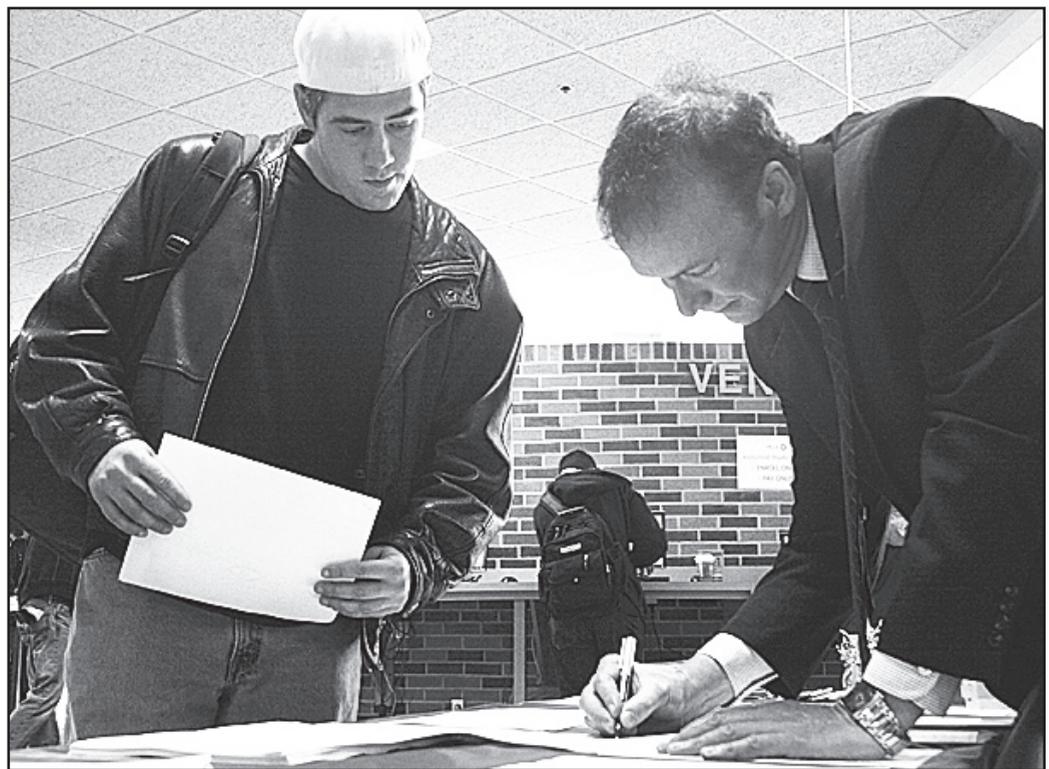
OCCC is calling all the volunteers for the 2009 Mountain West Conference Swimming and Diving Championship, which is going to be held from Feb. 25 to 28 in the Aquatic Center. Volunteers will be needed to assist as timers, ticket sellers, ticket takers and door guards. Interested students can pick up the volunteers sheet from Recreation and Fitness Office which must be returned by Feb. 18. For more information, contact Kristen Hoaglin at 405-682-1611, ext. 7442.

Native American club meetings

The Native American Student Association will hold its club meeting from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday in room 2N7 of the Main Building. NASA is an excellent place for Native Americans to meet other Native Americans and create lifelong friendship. NASA welcomes all new and returning students to join the club. For more information, contact NASA President, Paul Varela at 405-313-2076 or Kristi Fields at 405-682-7550.

Highlights are due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

Opening day



Kenny Hilburn

Freshman Aaron Lowe gets help finding his classes from OCCC President Paul Sechrist. Sechrist, along with Student Life staff, greeted students Tuesday morning on the first day of classes. Lowe, a new student, said, "It's my first day, I'm really nervous."

Student clubs on parade at organization fair Jan. 28

By Bishal Malla
Staff Writer

OCCC helps students interact with each other by offering a variety of interest groups that students can join. The Clubs and Organization Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 28, and Thursday, Jan. 29, in the general dining area.

Joining a club or organization is a great way for students to meet other students who share common interests, said Karlen Grayson, Student Clubs and Organizations assistant.

Joining a club helps students share their interests, she said.

Networking and leadership skills are a few benefits students gain from being a part of club or organization. It's something that gets them involved in campus activities, she said.

Students can join any

club or organization.

Grayson said clubs are where individuals come together to share different interests and professional goals. She said many students choose organizations related to their field of study.

Engineering major Daniel Vargas said he joined the Computer Club to get to know other students in that field. Also, he said, it's one of his interests.

"The most interesting part I like about my Computer Club is that I can play video games with other people," he said.

There are approximately 35 clubs and organization at OCCC.

Some of those include Business Professionals of America, Child Development Club, Engineering Club, Health Professions Club, Nursing Students Association, Photography Club and Psychology Sociology Club.

Students who want to

form a new club at OCCC can pick up the Student Club and Organization brochures at the Student Life Office.

Computer Science major Justin Niblak is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges.

"I get mail from different colleges across the country because PTK sent my educational information to them and that helps me to decide the university, where I am trying to go," Niblak said.

Students who have maintained a grade point average of at least 3.75 are eligible to be a member of PTK. It costs \$60 to be a member, Grayson said.

For more information about clubs and organizations, visit the Student Life Office on the first floor of the Main Building or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7523.

Staff Writer Bishal Malla can be reached at Staff Writer1@occc.edu.

Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC 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. For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or adman@occc.edu.

EMPLOYMENT

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FOR SALE: 1998 Volkswagen, GOLF GTI VR6, 2 door hatchback. 129K miles. Great condition. \$5,200 obo. E-mail me at:

MISCELLANEOUS

TUTOR AVAILABLE: Computer Science/Engineering major would like to help you succeed in Intermediate and College Algebra. Price per hour will be discussed when you call: 405-637-1637

TUTOR AVAILABLE: Will help students with math issues from basic math to Calculus I. For information call: 405-213-2751. Let me help you be successful.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE: Will place your ad to sell unwanted items, cars, books, etc. We will also advertise for a roommate for you. We offer these ads free to students. Contact Cynthia at: adman@occc.edu, or stop by the Pioneer office with your student ID to get your ad in the next issue.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Door handle
- Large number
- A twist of —
- Volcanic flow
- Cougar
- Seas
- Consistent
- Foray
- Vote to accept
- Ending for "auction"
- Garden veggie
- Cafeteria sights
- Pullover
- Plant pests
- Scent
- Freight boat
- Mast
- Expert
- Mil. address
- In the direction of
- Snag
- Noticed
- Nutmeg spice
- Topic
- Chalkboard material
- Halted
- Pay attention
- Some exams
- Ill-mannered
- Coffee container
- Genetic copy
- Harem rooms

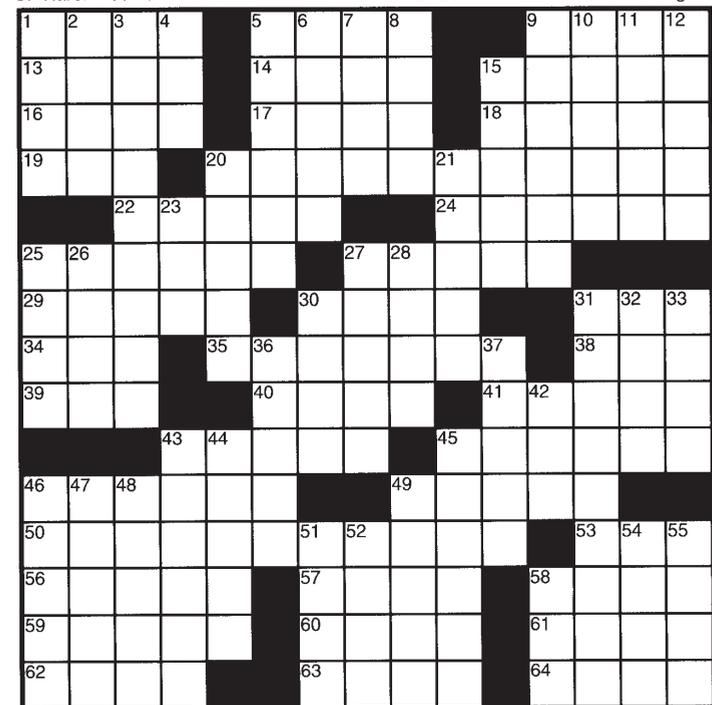
DOWN

- Gratis
- Gamut
- Kind
- Leaned over
- Woolly animals
- Large-antlered deer
- of March
- Swiss painter Paul —
- Church part
- Topple (a government)
- Prohibit
- Mists
- Hawaiian feasts
- Jannings or Zatopek
- Dry riverbed
- Felt hat
- Admits frankly
- Plains dwelling
- Vestibule
- Oregon capital
- West Point student
- Norwegian bay
- Eighteen-wheeler
- Loose robes
- Don't Preach"
- Swiftly
- Not common

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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

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Appologies to puzzle workers. We are starting a new series of crosswords for the semester, and the solution to the previous puzzle is no longer available to us. We hope you enjoy the new series.

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