State rep introduces science bill

House Bill 1551 is up for consideration

JOEY STIPEK
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Oklahoma State Rep. Sally Kern (R-Warr Acres) has introduced a bill that some believe would hobble science departments in the presentation of their subject matter if it passes through the Legislature and is signed by the governor.

In an e-mail interview, Kern said House Bill 1551, the Scientific Education and Academic Freedom Act, is not about religion, but about science and what makes for the best science education.

“HB 1551 mandates that teachers follow the curriculum and teach the pro-evolution evidence. It also gives teachers academic freedom to teach the science that challenges the consensus view,” Kern said.

Kern said teaching students about scientific questions allows them to learn how scientists debate scientific issues and gain critical thinking skills.

HB 1551 is one of two similar bills introduced in the Oklahoma Legislature this spring which address science education.

Senate Bill 554 was filed by State Sen. Josh Brecheen (R-Coalgate).

Critics have dismissed both bills as opposing the teaching of evolution under the guise of academic freedom.

In an e-mail interview, Chair-elect of Oklahomans for Excellence in Science Education Joseph D. Maness opposes HB 1551, saying it puts the teaching of science at risk.

“The legislation potentially creates the false impression that a religious belief or objection that does not require evidence has equal scientific standing with a theory that is thoroughly supported by evidence.”

Passing such legislation would not be in the best interests of Oklahomans, he said.

“It is not the legislation itself that is the problem,” Maness said. “It is its unintended consequences that are the problem.”

Kern said those who oppose HB 1551 essentially have only one talking point — they claim the bill promotes religion or creationism. She said that’s not the case.

“Courts have uniformly found that creationism is a religious viewpoint and thus illegal to teach in public school science classes,” Kern said.

“Darwin lobbyists brand scientific views they dislike as religion or creationism.

“Those who love the First Amendment should be outraged.”

See BILL page 9

College to open two Sundays

LOGAN KENNEDY
News Writing Student

OCCC will open the next two Sundays to allow students to make up work missed due to the recent snowstorms which swept the state. The library and most learning labs will be serving students.

From noon to 5 p.m. on Feb. 20 and 27, OCCC will open its doors to faculty and students who want to make up time lost during the school closings.

President Paul Sechrist said the extra hours should give students and faculty a good opportunity to catch up.

“We felt like extending some hours on the weekend would be helpful, when generally students don’t have other classes,” he said.

See SUNDAY page 9
Writers differ on snow closing

**POINT/COUNTERPOINT | How should OCCC have handled inclement weather?**

**OCCC was right to close early because of snowstorms**

Last Tuesday, Feb. 8, local meteorologists predicted that a monstrous snowstorm — one just as large as the icy beast that shut down campus for a consecutive four days the week before — had taken aim at Oklahoma City.

Forecasts showed the storm, which was expected to include freezing rain and dangerous road conditions, would strike around 6 p.m. that evening.

Subsequently, a decision was made by President Paul Sechrist and other OCCC officials to shut down campus for the evening out of concern for the safety of students, faculty, and staff members.

However, as often happens in Oklahoma, the weathermen flubbed and the storm didn’t strike until the early morning hours.

Yet another night of OCCC classes was lost without any real reason.

Although the closing was frustrating, it also was for the best.

Closing early allowed students and college faculty the opportunity to make trips to grocery stores and pharmacies, allowing them a chance to gather emergency supplies before the storm hit.

And more importantly, had initial forecasts been correct, hundreds of students, instructors and college workers would have been stuck facing hazardous driving conditions.

Some OCCC students may live as close as the neighborhood across the street, but others might live as many as 20 or 30 miles away.

For them, the drive home from class may have been one they never returned from.

Attending class is important, but it pales in comparison to one’s safety.

Coursework can be made up, but a life can’t.

—Whitney Knight

**Students, faculty should be allowed to determine own safety**

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, the decision was made to shut down the college at 5 p.m. due to incoming winter weather.

The issue is, the winter weather didn’t materialize until much later that night.

Although the caution shown by our college is laudable, the early closing deprived students of the opportunity to take advantage of the college’s services before losing time to snow days.

The argument in favor of the college’s decision is that it allowed students and professors to head home before the weather hit.

But with the schedule already off because of the week lost to the last snowstorm, professors and students could have used the extra time to get caught up before losing even more time.

And the decision also assumes that the college is solely responsible for the safety and health of its students and staff.

Students who needed the time to work in labs, talk to professors, use the library, or just plain go to class were denied that opportunity.

Wouldn’t a better choice have been to release the students and professors to make their own choices?

After all, we’re all adults here.

And I think the decision to go or stay should rest with individuals, not the college.

—Jeremy Cloud

**College group against SB 858**

To the editor:

The OCCC College Democrats club has voted unanimously to oppose the Concealed Carry on Campus legislation that is being brought before the Oklahoma … Legislative session.

We feel that any legislation that would allow firearms to be brought into an institution of higher learning, where the free exchange of ideas should be safe and often, is dangerous and potentially deadly.

We urge any and all legislators considering a vote on this measure to consider the safety and well being of all Oklahoma students and to consider the requests of a majority of security professionals and educational professionals for a no vote on this measure.

We also urge all students to contact their legislators, whether for or against the measure, and voice their opinions.

—OCCC College Democrats
COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

REVIEWS | Well crafted fantasy is an enchanting reading experience

Book casts spell over readers

Ghosts, magicians, detectives, and sorcerers all work to solve the mysteries that surround them in “Unusual Suspects.”

Released to paperback December 2010, and available at most bookstores, “Suspects” is an ACE fantasy anthology edited by Dana Stabenow with a mystery theme.

Featuring short stories by authors such as Simon R. Green, Charlaine Harris, and 10 other gifted writers, the anthology presents a broad range of well-crafted fantasy stories.

In “An Appetite for Murder,” Green revisits his Nightside world with his signature dark humor and fast pace.

Charlaine Harris takes readers back to Bon Temps through the eyes of Sookie Stackhouse, the character whose books became the hit show “True Blood.”

No two stories are anything alike, running the gamut from dark dystopia to post-apocalyptic, to a tale of ghosts set in the normal, modern world.

The heroes in the stories are as different as the worlds they work in.

Some are simply thrown into mysteries by chance, some are professional detectives, and some follow other careers and find the mysteries in the course of their work.

Overall, the writing in this anthology is solid and clean. Some stories, though, may give readers problems stylistically.

For instance, Michael A. Stackpole’s “Looks Are Deceiving,” though an entertaining read, has a convoluted storyline that can leave readers confused at times.

And “Glamour,” by Michael Doogan, is a strong story but the dialogue is written to read as though the speaker had a thick peasant accent. It can take a moment to figure out what the characters are saying.

Still, the stories presented in “Unusual Suspects” make it a good read.

For anyone who’s short on time but still wants a little mystery and fantasy in their reading, “Suspects” is a must have.

Rating: A

—Jeremy Cloud
Senior Writer

—Joey Stipek
Editor

REVIEWS | Indie rock album catalogs musicians’ hedonistic experiences

Album has familiar yet retro sound

Destroyer’s ninth studio album, “Kaputt” recalls a sound that reminds the listener of discotheque-and-yacht rock opulence and decadence.

Drawing from those influences, Dan Bejar, who in addition to being the creative mind behind Destroyer is a member of The New Pornographers, has crafted one of the finer pop albums so far in 2011.

The first track on Kaputt, “Chinatown” recalls bits of ‘80s new wave and discotheque mixed with elements of mellow jazz. Bejar channels his best Roxy Music impersonation while softly crooning about women and recalling memories of self-indulgent times.

Bejar manages to do this while retaining a sense of humor and charm about the eccentric topics he’s singing about.

On the standout title track, “Kaputt” continues with the smattering of synthesizers soft drums and horns. Bejar sings about “wasting away and chasing girls” with a saxophone distinctly playing over the chorus.

Longer tracks showcase the musicianship of Bejar with the 8-minute song “Suicide Demo of Kara Walker,” while the 11-minute track “Bay of Pigs,” originally recorded in 2009, features elements of ambient disco.

Bejar manages to pull “Kaputt” off quite astonishingly with a sound which is both retro and familiar sounding yet retains an element of freshness.

“Kaputt” sounds like an album you would hear either out shopping or enjoying cocktails on the town with a group of girlfriends.

It has a distinct sound, which certainly will not appeal to everyone. However, it is worthy of listening to for adventurous music fans.

Rating: B+

—Joey Stipek
Editor
**Eight-week Classes Affected by Weather**

**Snow closing especially hurts short courses**

**Erin Peden**
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Icy roads and slick sidewalks did more than just shut down school and give students a second winter break. With school having been closed a total of six days in two weeks, many students are now finding it hard to keep up with their studies — especially those taking shortened courses.

With these classes being in session for only eight weeks, attending class is vital.

Despite campus opening at 5 p.m. after the storms last Thursday, some still found they had problems getting to the school to attend evening classes and to make up tests and labs.

“I feel like I have to come because I’m close to being done with my class so I don’t want to miss anything,” said psychology major Kandy Ingram-Tottress.

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**Occc Regent David Lopez Will Resign From His Position**

**Jacob Chambers**
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Dave Lopez, OCCC Board of Regents member, has recently been appointed Secretary of Commerce by Governor Mary Fallin.

“He brings a great deal of expertise and enthusiasm to the job and I’m happy to have him serve in my cabinet,” Fallin said in an e-mail.

“Dave is going to join an experienced and diverse cabinet dedicated to moving the state of Oklahoma forward.”

Lopez said he is honored to have been chosen for the position.

“... (I) look forward to working with her to grow our economy and bring more jobs and opportunities to our state,” he said.

Lopez said he believes his experience working with SBC Communications and American Fidelity Foundation, along with his business background helped contribute to Fallin choosing him for the position.

He served as president at both locations “I have known Governor Mary Fallin for 15 years,” he said. “I first met her when I first came to Oklahoma in 1995.”

While employed at the American Fidelity Foundation, Lopez said, he spent most of his time managing the development of the companies’ priorities and giving away money. He said most of the money went to education.

President Paul Sechrist said Lopez deserves the appointment.

“I can think of no other person more qualified for this important position as Oklahoma seeks to increase business and employment opportunities in the state,” Sechrist said.

“His service as Secretary of Commerce is definitely good for Oklahoma.”

Sechrist said he regrets that Lopez will have to resign from his regent position, but said he knows Lopez will always remain a loyal friend to OCCC. Lopez agrees.

“I really enjoyed my experiences as a Regent at OCCC,” he said.

“I am hopeful in my new position that I will be able to keep some of the students that are attending OCCC in Oklahoma and employed.

For more information, visit www.okcommerce.gov or www.ok.gov/governor.

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**Questions? Comments? Contact Joey at editor@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, Ext. 7409.**

**First Amendment Debate Planned**

**Holly Davis Walker**
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

A free debate open to the public will allow participants to consider their positions on separation of church and state — the distance between organized religion and the governmental entity.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a non-partisan educational organization that promotes the separation of church and state and is the only way to ensure religious freedom for all Americans, according to their website.

The organization bases its mission statement on the First Amendment’s religious clauses.

For more information about the upcoming debate, contact Joey at jah30@cox.net or Mike Fuller at mfl12@sbcglobal.net.

The Americans United website can be viewed at www.au.org for more information on the organization itself.

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**World Language Lab presents:**

"Japanese Workplace Culture"

12:10 to 12:40 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23

World Languages and Culture Center
Second floor of the Main Building
Students support services offers many different accommodations

HOLLY DAVIS WALKER
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Students encountering challenges as they begin or continue their education at OCCC may not fully realize the range of support services available to help them overcome these challenges.

The Student Support Services office, located in the Main Building, offers mental health counseling, disability accommodations and a learning support specialist.

The TRIO office near the Bursar's office, offers many of these services to first-generation or low-income students or students with disabilities.

Students have to be accepted into TRIO to get help.

There also is a mental health counselor available for students to talk to from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Student Support office.

"It's someone to talk to," said Pat Stowe, Student Support Services director.

"They will continue to see you as long as you're here.

"It's not long-term counseling. If you need that, they're going to have to hook you up with community resources.

"It's good to know [students] have a safe place to check in and talk about those issues that happened today, right now, that are upsetting them."

Approximately 200 students also are helped in class with accommodations for their physical, mental and learning disabilities.

"We have a lot of different accommodations based on what people need," Stowe said.

There is a full-time American Sign Language interpreter who goes to class with deaf students to translate what the instructor says.

There also is a full-time captioner who captions videos shown in class as well as class lectures and discussions for hard-of-hearing students who don't know ASL, Stowe said.

Other accommodations include screen-readers that help vision-impaired students by turning their texts into audio.

Mary Turner, Learning Support specialist, visits classes like the Success in College and Life course to inform students about the availability of these services and more.

Turner also receives referrals from faculty through an automated retention alert system.

Faculty can e-mail Turner about students they are concerned about regarding their attendance or if they're struggling.

This usually happens after the instructor has made attempts themselves, Stowe said.

"It kind of depends on the subject they're struggling in. "She can help you think about how to think," Stowe said.

"She doesn't tutor, but she can certainly point you in the right directions for the tutoring you need."

TRIO is in the same hallway as the Bursar's office. That office is supported by a federal grant and offers many of the same services as Student Support Services, but to a smaller audience.

Karolyn Chowning, TRIO Grant Programs director, said TRIO serves 160 current OCCC students.

"Students can qualify by being first generation, low income or disabled," she said.

First-generation students are defined as those whose parents have not graduated with a bachelor's degree when the student graduates high school, Chowning said.

TRIO accepts applications for the fall during the spring semester, she said. They are taking applications now through April for the fall 2011 semester.

Chowning said the applications are pretty straightforward.

Students are invited to come in for an interview as part of the selection process.

All applications are reviewed at the same time.

"Our biggest selling point for why a student should be a TRIO student is that we offer one-on-one tutoring," she said.

Chowning said the most popular subjects for tutoring are math and science, but tutors can be hired for any subject a student needs help in.

TRIO also offers two part-time learning support specialists that are available for drop-in tutoring, among other things, she said.

Students also can learn about community resources available outside the college.

The wall outside the Student Support Services office has information on student health insurance, wellness and more.

This same information can be found online at www.occc.edu/support.

Students can call the Student Support Services office Monday through Friday at 405-682-7520 to make an appointment with a counselor or learning specialist.

TRIO can be found online at www.occc.edu/trio or reached Monday thru Friday at 405-682-7865.

For more information, visit www.occc.edu.

Those with cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above are eligible

ERIN PEDEN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Students looking for a challenge as well as a deeper understanding of course material are encouraged to apply for OCCC’s Honors Program said Nina Smith, English professor and Honors Program coordinator.

Applications are taken all semester but students are generally encouraged to get them in by the fourth week in a 16-week semester and the second in an eight-week semester.

To be eligible for the honors program, students must have a composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT or have a 3.5 cumulative GPA.

In addition, Smith said, students must have at least 30 remaining hours of college work before their degree is complete.

She said after students have been approved for the program, students will pick a class they have a particular interest in, and work with the instructor to form a project that will be both challenging and meaningful.

These range from projects about art in architecture to photographing and writing a research paper on rocks for geology, Smith said.

The goal is to find a project that expresses a student’s interest in a certain subject in a creative but academic manner, she said.

Smith said being in the program also has its benefits for their future.

“Being in the program will look very good on job applications,” she said.

“Employers will see that the person has put in the extra time and effort to do something challenging.”

NINA SMITH
HONORS PROGRAM COORDINATOR
STEVE KAMM HAS LIVED HIS LIFE ON HIS TERMS

After almost four decades, prof says goodbye

JACOB CHAMBERS
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Before he found a job he liked enough to stay with for 39 years, Physics Professor Steven Kamm worked his way through a variety of positions — cutting lawns, cleaning pools, working in a camera shop, a dry cleaners, and while in college, he worked for Douglas Aircraft as an errand boy, then eventually as a draftsman.

Kamm also earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering at University of California, Los Angeles, and a master’s degree in Ergonomics at the University of London. In addition, he completed all the necessary coursework for a doctorate at the University of Oklahoma, but didn’t complete the degree.

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SHOW TO FEATURE MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

Dallas Brass to make debut March 1

ERIN PEDEN
Staff Writer
staffwriter2@occc.edu

Dallas Brass, one of America’s premier brass and percussion ensembles, will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1 at Westmoore High School, at 12613 South Western.

The performance is part of OCCC’s Cultural Arts Series which provides concerts for students and community, said Lemuel Bardeguez, Cultural Arts Director.

The group, which tours professionally, features music through the ages, from classical to popular.

The Dallas Brass also will hold a clinic with the Westmoore High School band and perform select pieces with them at the concert.

“Of the missions of the Dallas Brass is to provide music education for kids,” Bardeguez said. “What they do is come to the school and do a clinic for the band. In addition to the clinic, they rehearse with the band and incorporate them into two of their numbers for the production.”

Bardeguez said he encourages everyone to attend the one-of-a-kind performance.

“It’s a great evening of entertainment and it’s fun for the entire family,” he said.

“It’s the kind of show that will appeal to people who want to bring their families and kids that enjoy music, so it has something for everybody.”

Videos of the group performing can be found on www.youtube.com.

Tickets for the performance can be bought online at www.occc.edu/cas or through the college. General admission is $24.50. Students and children are $12.50. Seniors and OCCC employees are $19.50.

For more information on Dallas Brass or the Cultural Arts Series, contact Bardeguez at lbardeguez@occc.edu or call 405-682-7576.

“I’ll soon turn 67 and complete my 39th year in the classroom. So, it’s time to pass the torch and let younger faculty take my place”

—STEVE KAMM
OCCC PHYSICS PROFESSOR

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SEVEN OCCC STUDENTS WIN AWARDS

Students receive broadcasting awards for projects

JEREMY CLOUD
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Seven students from OCCC received awards in various categories from the Oklahoma Broadcasting Education Association.

Brant Warner, Drew Stone, and Owen Pickard took home second-place awards while Matthew Coffey, Chavon McMillian, Casey Akard and Bonnie Campo each placed third.

Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, broadcasting professor, said the projects submitted to the OBEA are class projects.

“When I’m choosing the candidates for audio submissions, I listen to and review all the projects from the past year. I take into consideration the category the project will be entered in, the quality, and how creative the project is. Then I pick the top three for each category and enter those.”

Rick Allen Lippert, broadcasting professor, said he uses a similar process to determine which video projects to submit.

“I keep a copy of every student project, and the ones I think have a possibility of placing, I enter. If I don’t think a project has a chance of winning, I won’t enter it.”

Campo, a broadcasting major who placed third for a podcast, said she’s grateful to both professors for the effort they make for their students. “It’s $10 per entry and she enters 10 students as does her husband Rick Lippert. I think it’s amazing these professors ... are going out of their way and spending $200 to make sure their students are receiving the [credit] they deserve.”

Campo said she’s excited to receive the award. “It opens up doors for me, and creates opportunities for me to enter in scholarships. “And it gives me a sense of validation that what I’m doing matters...”

Akard, broadcasting major, who won third place for her commercial “Doggone Funeral Home,” said she also feels honored to have received the award.

“I feel very fortunate to have had the education and guidance from my instructors to have been able to complete the project in a way that would help me win.”

Faulconer-Lippert said the OBEA awards are as important to the broadcasting community as the students.

“These awards are actually judged by broadcasting professionals, people that are doing the work every day in the trenches.

“Always feel excited because it shows them what students are doing in classes today and how talented they are.”

Lippert said he feels proud when his students win awards.

“Our students are competing against university students from all over the state,” he said.

“So when any of my students takes a first, second or even third place, that means they beat out someone, or many someones, from a university.

“So I’m always exceptionally tickled.”

REMEMBERING THE WORST ACT OF RACIAL VIOLENCE IN OKLAHOMA HISTORY

Tulsa race riots are unfortunate part of state history

CHRISTY JOHNSON
Staff Writer
staffwriter3@occc.edu

Hundreds of prominent African-American business and property owners thrived in the city of Tulsa in 1921.

The Greenwood district — known as little Africa or Black Wall Street — is where many African-Americans lived out what most people would view as the American dream.

That is, until May 31 when an event triggered one of the most tragic moments in Oklahoma history.

According to the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Tulsa Race Riots stemmed from a rape allegation made by a white woman Sarah Page. Page, an elevator operator said she was raped by Dick Rowland, a black shoe shining, in broad daylight on a public elevator.

It was reported in many archives about the riots that rising tensions already existed in the area due to many of the blacks there being financially stable while many of the whites struggled.

Reports of a white woman being raped by a black man added fuel to that fire.

Homes, businesses and bodies were burned. People were dragged out of their homes, beaten and killed.

Many unarmed black men, women and children were shot. Some were hanged.

There were even reports of a bomb being dropped from the air.

According to a report filed by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, after the riots were over many blacks were sent to detention camps.

A number of blacks were denied medical attention and died. Some of the dead were placed in mass graves.

Many of the African-Americans who died on this day had little or no identification, leading to them being buried in unmarked graves.

The Commission report states that damages were estimated at $1.5 million. More than $4 million in claims were filed but all were denied.

Later, two claims were reported being paid in the sum of $5,000 total.

Reparations were never made to the black community for property or damages.

History Professor Ron Gray said the Tulsa Race Riots were the worst incident of racial violence in American History. “An entire African-American community was burned down to the ground,” he said.

Gray said the Ku Klux Klan was very powerful in Oklahoma during that time.

“Due some racial attitudes in Oklahoma during that time, it was not surprising that no whites were ever sent to prison for the deaths,” he said.

“Most of the blacks had to live through the winter months in tents because their homes had been destroyed.”

Daniel Davis, a graphics art major at OCCC, said he was unaware of the riots.

“I am not from Oklahoma but I have been living here for many years and did not know that this had happened,” he said.

“I am outraged.”

To this day the many reports on how many people died are conflicting. Reports range from 39 to 300 with the majority of the dead being African-American.

It is hard to say what happened to Dick Rowland after the riots. Some reports say he was released the next day and then left Oklahoma.

Page was said to have sent a letter to the court stating that Rowland never attacked her.

For more information on the Tulsa Race Riots or to download a free copy of the report done by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riots of 1921, visit www.okhistory.org.
**INTRAMURALS | SNOW AND ICE DELAY INTRAMURAL SPORTS LEAGUES**

Intramural Basketball league still forming due to inclement weather

**JACOB CHAMBERS**
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

It is not too late to sign up for intramural basketball at OCCC, said Eric Watson, OCCC sports specialist.

Watson said his focus right now is to get the college's basketball program up and running.

Many factors have led to the delay of the intramural basketball league, he said.

"We are contacting the basketball captains and informing them that we are in the process of allowing more time for teams to get enough players," Watson said.

He said the weather was a main contributing factor to the slow formation of the basketball league.

Students wanting to play intramural basketball can go to www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration to register and sign up as a free agent, or join an already existing team, Watson said.

Right now, Watson said, there are three teams available to join — Make It Drizzle with six players, the Crusaders and In Dub See with two players each, according to the website.

Intramural basketball is not the only activity affected by the inclement weather, Watson said.

He said the OCCC soccer team also was unable to form a team for the spring season.

Watson said there are not enough players to form a team.

He said the team will still practice and train during the spring and plan for the fall season.

The weather has pushed back team meetings for all other intramural sports as well, Watson said.

All students interested in intramurals soccer should go to www.imleagues.com to register for the soccer team, or call soccer club coach K.B. Yeboah at 405-255-7735.

"We are contacting the basketball captains and informing them that we are in the process ..."
—ERIC WATSON
SPORTS SPECIALIST

**UPCOMING INTRAMURALS EVENTS**

- **Feb. 23:** Circuit Training Level 2 for Men and Women meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, running from March 1 through March 31. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

- **March 1:** Basketball Hot Shots Challenge for Men and Women meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Event takes place March 4 at the OCCC Gym in the Wellness Center. Register online at www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

- **March 3:** Badminton CoRec team meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Event takes place March 25 through April 29. Register online at www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

- **March 23:** Softball CoRec team meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Games will be held at Oklahoma City University starting April 9. Register online at www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information contact the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

- **March 30:** Circuit Training Level 3 meeting at noon in the OCCC Gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays running April 5 through April 28. Register online at www.imleagues.com/Schools/OCCC/Registration. For more information call the Wellness Center at 405-682-1611, ext. 7310.

**Have sports news?**
E-mailsportswriter@occc.edu
Bill: College leaders vow to fight SB 858

Continued from page 1

Kern said a similar bill passed in Louisiana in 2008 with strong bipartisan support and has never been challenged in court.

She said HB 1551 addresses problems relating to science education.

“The First Amendment allows for open discussion,” Kern said.

“Students cannot be expected to make well informed decisions if they’re only hearing part of the story,” Kern said.

Kern said HB 1551 provides an express statutory right to teachers who choose to objectively present the scientific strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories pertinent to the course without fear of any negative repercussion to their jobs.

In an e-mail interview, Richard Broughton, assistant professor of Oklahoma Biological Survey and Department of Zoology at the University of Oklahoma, said HB 1551 is unnecessary and confusing.

Broughton said his views do not necessarily represent those at OU.

“Teachers can already discuss controversial issues in science classrooms,” he said. “What they cannot do is present social, political and religious controversies as if they were based in science.

“The science teachers of the state (Oklahoma Science Teachers Association) seem perfectly clear on what they can and should do in the classroom with respect to the established curriculum.

“The reason some teachers may be unsure of how to teach evolution, etc., is due to anti-science interference from some parents and members of the community.”

Kern said HB 1551 covers a wide variety of topics and controversial scientific theories.

“The bill is needed because some teachers are unsure of the expectations and their rights as teachers concerning how they should present information on controversial scientific topics, such as global warming, biological evolution, chemical evolution, and human cloning.

“Making informed decisions requires having good information.

“Allowing the communication of one viewpoint or theory and claiming it as the only viewpoint is indoctrinating, not educating,” Kern said.

She said, at her urging, a teacher association took a poll of their members regarding HB 1551.

“We expect faculty to explain the phenomenon in terms of science,” he said.

“So if it is about biology you have to discuss natural selection. Right now the best explanation of biology is natural selection.”

Kern said HB 1551 does not authorize the teaching of creationism or intelligent design.

“The bill expressly does not protect the teaching of religion, but only protects the teaching of scientific information.”

She said HB 1551 bill does not require any change to the curriculum and topics like evolution will still be taught if this bill passes.

HB 1551 is scheduled to be heard in this session by the Oklahoma House of Representatives but as of press time, is yet to go before a committee.

HB 1551 as introduced in the Oklahoma Legislature:

(In part) “An Act relating to schools; creating the Scientific Education and Academic Freedom Act; providing short title; stating legislative findings; directing State Board of Education, district boards of education, and certain administrators to create certain environment within schools; permitting teachers to help students understand certain information about scientific theories; disallowing State Board of Education, district boards of education, and certain administrators from prohibiting teachers from helping students understand certain information about scientific theories; providing for evaluation of students based on understanding of course materials; prohibiting penalizing of students for holding certain position on scientific theories; prohibiting certain construction; directing State Department of Education to provide certain notification; directing superintendents to disseminate certain information; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.”

(For the complete bill, visit, www.occc.edu/pioneer.)

Sunday: College opening extra days to make up missed class time

Continued from page 1

Already a month into the semester, most students have attended only a handful of classes, because the college was closed a record number of six days, said Felix Aquino, vice president for academic affairs.

Chris Martin, 22, nursing student, said it’s great that OCCC is taking action and opening on Sunday.

“I know I’m behind in some classes and having the option to come in on a day off should be beneficial,” Martin said.

Another nursing student, Jenny Jansing, 21, said she thinks students should make use of the extended hours.

“I’m planning on taking advantage of the Sunday openings,” Jansing said.

“Some of my classes are offering extra credit for attending so that’s going to really help me out.”

Students and faculty alike voiced their support for OCCC’s efforts to make up for lost class time.

Christine Peck, Math Lab supervisor, said members of her staff are happy to be opening their doors to students and instructors.

“We’ll have plenty of staff for all math subjects and we will have calculator workshops as well,” Peck said.

Bethany Vanderschans, 24, a Communications Lab tutor, said these extended hours will be as important to instructors and tutors as it is to students.

“It will be good for employees to be able to make up some work hours they lost,” Vanderschans said.

The areas of the college that are going to open during the two Sundays are the library, Testing Center, Accounting Lab, Biological Sciences Center, Communications Lab, Student Computer Center, Math Lab, and Physical Sciences Center, according to a memo from Sechrist.

The college will provide the necessary security, maintenance, and information technology during the Sunday openings.
Hug it out

Physical therapy major Liana Schoonover gets a hug from Advocates of Peace member Mike Wormley, journalism major.

COMMUNITY | Advocates of Peace offer options to violence

Campus club offers free hugs

JEREMY CLOUD
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Members of the student organization Advocates of Peace gave out free hugs Feb. 15 in the lobby of the Main Building.

“We’re trying to get people together, trying to show people that you don’t have to know each other to feel compassion for each other,” said Ivan Ponce De Leon, biology major.

Jorge Krzyzaniak, science major, said he believes reaching out to the people around you is the first way to advocate peace.

“You spread joy to the people you encounter and then they’re going to carry that on to the people they deal with for the rest of the day. They’ll make positive decisions that day.”

—Jorge Krzyzaniak
OCCC Student

“We’re just trying to let people know that there are options out there that don’t involve violence.”

Heather Nicole Poile, EMS major, said when people ask her why, she responds, “why not?”

“I think it’s important for people to believe in something that costs nothing,” Poile said.

For more information, visit http://occc.campus-groups.com/advocatesofpeace.

Money Matters-Funding College

Students can attend a workshop that will teach attendees important financial skills for the future. The Funding College workshop will take place at noon on Monday, Feb. 21, in CU1 in the College Union. For more information, call Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by their office in the main building.

Brown Bag series-Eating Disorders

Attendees will learn about the dangers and signs of eating disorders in this workshop at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22, in CU1 of the College Union. Participants should bring their own lunch. Drinks are provided and attendees can register to win a Nintendo Wii and LCD TV. Contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by their office in the Main Building for more information.

Career Power workshop

A workshop on being successful at job fairs will teach participants valuable tips on making positive lasting impressions at job fairs like the upcoming OCCC Spring Job Fair. Employment and Career Power workshops take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays in room 1G7 of the Main Building. Contact Student Employment & Career Services for more information at 405-682-7519 or employmentservices@occc.edu.

Psychology Club/Psi Beta

A club meeting for the Psychology club and Psi Beta will be held at 12:30 p.m. in room 1H2 of the Main Building on Thursday, Feb. 24.

OCCC Service Day

Students looking for an opportunity to volunteer their time to a worthy organization are invited to attend the Christmas Connection service day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28. Volunteers will meet on campus and ride in a van to the location. Contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or stop by the Student Life office in the Main Building to reserve a spot or for more details.

All Highlights are due Monday by 5 p.m. for inclusion in the next issue.

If you have community news, contact Holly Davis Walker at communitywriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7675.
Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Mondays prior to the publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

### ROOMMATE WANTED
**Nice room to share close to OCCC, two-bedroom, pets allowed, no smoking or alcohol inside the apartment, $250 per month. Call A.J. at 405-549-3398 or e-mail olalekanjl@yahoo.com.**

### FOR Sale
- **TI 84 & TI nspire keyboards, operating systems. Used for one semester. Manual, software. $50. Call: 405-682-7804 or e-mail jatkinson@occc.edu.**
- **Wooden highchair. Good condition. $10. OCCC ext 7674 or 405-501-8777.**
- **19” Samsung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. $40. Call: 405-501-8777.**
- **19” Sam’sung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. $40. Call: 405-501-8777.**
- **19” Sam’sung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. $40. Call: 405-501-8777.**
- **FOR SALE: Freshman books for Business & Management major. Used but in good shape and affordable price. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@gmail.com.**
- **FOR SALE: 19” Sam’sung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. $40. Call: 405-501-8777.**
- **Gently used power wheelchair in good condition. Works well and has a zero turn radius. Only $500. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7544, or 405-364-6051.**

### FOR RENT
- **FOR RENT: No down payment, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 2 car, CH&A, Move in ready, spotless, close to OU and OCCC, 227 S Bristow, Moore, OK. $87,500. Call: 405-364-8555, 405-820-3630 or e-mail cshutt1@cox.net.**
- **FOR RENT: 19” Sam’sung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. $40. Call: 405-501-8777.**
- **FOR RENT: 19” Sam’sung television with remote. Older model. Cable ready. Works well and has great color. $40. Call: 405-501-8777.**
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### TEXTBOOKS
- **FOR SALE: Larousse student dictionary English-French for only $5. Useful for students. Few other books for Business major are also available. Call: Ahmed at 405-996-0609 or e-mail anth19@gmail.com.**

### SERVICES
- **NEED A RIDE: Looking for a ride from Norman to OCCC for Spring 2011. Willing to pay if anybody is interested. Call: Fatoumata at 405-474-1332 or e-mail fatoumatacisse@email.occc.edu.**

### CLASSIFIED ADS
- **Assessments 10 & 24 Hour ADSAC State-Certified For Court & Drivers License Reinstatement**
  - **10-Hour Class- March 4, 5 & 6 F 5:30-8:45p, S/S 8:30a-12 OR March 7, 8 & 9 M/T/W 5:30-8:45p**
  - **24-Hour Class- Start anytime, call for times Assessments- Call for appointment NW OKC, 3160 N. Portland Call: 94-DRIVE (943-7483) AT&E, INC.: check us out at www.okduischool.com**
OCCC’S FIRST THEATER PRODUCTION OF THE SEASON IS A GREEK TRAGEDY

‘The Trojan Women’ set for Feb. 24 through 26

PRISCILLA COLLEY
News Writing Student

Neither hell nor high water, or rather snowstorms and missed rehearsals can delay OCCC's first theater production of the season.

The Greek tragedy “The Trojan Women” will open in the Bruce Owen Theater at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, and run through Feb. 26. The theater is in the Arts and Humanities building.

Thursday night admission is free to all OCCC students and faculty. The admission price for the remaining shows is $5 for students and $10 for the general public.

“The Trojan Women” is an anti-war play which focuses on the aftermath of war and the atrocities perpetrated upon the victims of war,” said guest director Rachel Irick.

The playwright Euripides wanted his original audience to be confronted with the universal human emotions of grief, loss, and vengeance experienced by the people they defeated, Irick said.

“These people, the Trojans, were considered barbarians by the Greeks,” she said.

The play was written by Euripides in the classic era of Greek tragedy about 415 B.C.

“I am passionate about Greek tragedy,” Irick said. “I love its scale physically and emotionally and its pageantry.”

She said she finds the ritual aspect appealing.

“Although we don’t know exactly how these plays were performed in ancient Greece, we are attempting to honor the spirit of the text by using stylized, non-realistic movement and masking the actors,” Irick said.

“The movement and stage pictures created in rehearsal are inspired by paintings from ancient Greece that have survived on pottery and other artifacts.”

After snowstorms halted rehearsal for almost two weeks, even a casual observer could see a determination to work hard in the tone of the cast and the director alike during practice Feb. 11.

Student Amanda Edwards plays Andromache, Hector’s loyal wife who is grieving her husband’s murder by the Greek hero Achilles. She sums up “The Trojan Women” in its most basic form.

“It’s about loss,” Edwards said. “It’s a look into the eyes of the conquered.”

Poseidon, the god of the sea, and narrator of the show, is played by Roderick Wright. He talked about what he called the “divine experience” of the theater.

He said that live theater gives much more than just entertainment but also an experience, an escape from reality.

“It’s just plain entertaining … anyone looking to have a good time and be captivated by a story will not be disappointed,” Wright said.

Irick comes to the task of directing with experience that extends from Shakespeare to “Beowulf,” the stage adaptation of the oldest surviving epic poem in the English language.

In 2003 and 2005 the Oklahoma Gazette newspaper named two productions directed by Irick, “On the Verge of the Geography of Yearning” and “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol,” to their list of Top Five dramatic events in Oklahoma City.

This is Irick’s second production to direct at OCCC, but she is an experienced director having directed about 25 productions, plays, and musicals. She is an associate artistic director for Oklahoma City Theatre Company and has graduate degrees in theater from Oklahoma City University and the University of Oklahoma.

For more information, contact the Arts and Humanities department at 405-682-7558.