EDITORIAL
GAY MARRIAGE SHOULD BE LEGALIZED
Editor Paris Burris says it’s time to stop fighting against equality for all Americans and legalize gay marriages.

OPINION, p. 2

CAMPUS LIFE
OCCC GETS INTO HARLEM SHAKE GROOVE
Students gathered on a sunny day near the fountain to make a film, adding the college to the ever-growing number of Harlem Shake videos on YouTube.

NEWS, p. 7

SPORTS
FRISBEE GOLF TOURNEY OPEN TO ALL
Students, faculty and staff are invited to take part in a Frisbee golf tournament happening April 12 and 13. Turn inside to find out details of the event.

SPORTS, p. 8

CAMPUS LIFE
PROF BRINGS CELLS AND MORE TO LIFE
At a recent TEDx talk on campus, two professors showed how big small things can actually be. See more inside.

COMMUNITY, p. 10

Art appreciation
TRIO Student Support Services Adviser Jermaine Peterson, along with OCCC students Brian Whinery, Betty Arduine and Ella Smyth gaze up at the Oklahoma Persian Ceiling in the Oklahoma City Museum of Art’s “Illuminations: Rediscovering the Art of Dale Chihuly” exhibition.

The OKCMOA have “one of the most comprehensive collections of Chihuly glass in the world,” according to their website.

“Chihuly was introduced to glass while studying interior design at the University of Washington. He continued his studies at University of Wisconsin and the Rhode Island School of Design where he established the glass program and taught.

In 1968, after receiving a Fulbright Fellowship, he went to work at the Venini glass factory in Venice. In 1971, Chihuly cofounded Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State, according to Chihuly’s website.

To see the other pieces in the exhibit, visit www.okcmoa.com/see/exhibitions/dale-chihuly-the-collection.

Chris James/Pioneer

Better economy weakens college numbers

OCCC enrollment is down 5.8 percent from one year ago

PARIS BURRIS
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Those who forego a college degree may find it increasingly difficult to find lucrative employment in the future, said Planning and Research Executive Director Stu Harvey.

This advice comes on the heels of a report that shows OCCC has seen a 5.8 percent decrease in total headcount, with 12,990 students enrolled this spring — a down of 804 since spring 2012.

Harvey said the college is seeing a 7.6 percent decrease in the number of credit hours being taken this semester with a total enrollment of 110,929 credit hours — a difference of 9,109 since spring 2012.

Harvey said he hates seeing the numbers drop.

"It's important for students to stay in school because more than 70 percent of jobs only require a high school degree, [but] that's expected to go down to 38 percent in the next five years," he said.

The college has held a consistent four-year annual enrollment increase since 2009, with the peak enrollment in 2012 at 22,582, according to the college website.

Harvey said there are a variety of factors that influence a decrease in enrollment.

"I think it's complicated," he said. "I think one of the factors is largely the economy … Our online sections are down, which is unusual.

"I think it's premature to comment until we get to analyze that.

Harvey said the economy is partly to blame for the decrease. When the economy is doing better, he said, enrollment tends to decrease and vice versa. He said the enrollment decrease is not necessarily unexpected.

"We always like more students to come," Harvey said. "I think it's something that is in the nature of things. We're much more sensitive to the economy than..."
It could be your rights tomorrow

Equality: It’s been an issue since the beginning of time. What it means, who decides it and most controversial, who deserves it, is currently being debated.

With all the hype surrounding the U.S Supreme Court’s hearing arguments over legalizing gay marriage, it seems many are more concerned with their own beliefs and concerns than the equal treatment of others. I think it’s safe to say that many of the judgmental and unfair concerns against gay marriage and homosexuality are widely based on religious beliefs. Many argue the laws of God, according to the Holy Bible, should be upheld. Others argue that homosexuality is unnatural or untraditional.

While these concerns may be valid for one’s personal belief system or morals, that is not justified reasoning for the decision on whether two people—who, by the way, are no less human than anyone else on this Earth—should be legally able to celebrate their love and commitment to each other through marriage.

If one wants to argue that something shouldn’t be allowed because it is unnatural, then surely wearing makeup, clothes or using technology should be banned due to their unnaturalness. That’s no less absurd. And, if gay marriage is so contrary to God’s word that it should be illegal and not just discouraged, then surely premarital sex should be illegal, too. See how ridiculous this concept is?

According to a study at www.trincoll.edu, various historians say homosexuality has existed for as long as heterosexuality has.

Saying gay marriage shouldn’t be legal is as logical as saying that a woman’s right to vote should be illegal. All of these arguments are invalid.

Plain and simple, not allowing all the same rights for all Americans is discrimination. It is not different from racial, gender or any other type of discrimination.

America is often described as a salad bowl; a mixture of all kinds of different cultures, religions, beliefs and so on.

To function as a society, we as a nation, need to get along for the most part.

However, some of the population are so misconstrued in their ways of thinking that they can’t get out of the prehistoric bubble of what they think is natural or traditional, let alone acceptable. This is nothing new, really.

The world has always been populated with women, yet women have had to fight for equal treatment.

Individuals of other races and ethnicities, despite always having been present, have also had to fight for equal treatment. The equal treatment of LGBT individuals is inevitable and is most likely going to happen in our lifetime, despite personal opposition.

The point is, there are always going to be individuals who do not agree with our personal beliefs, but that does not give us the right to deny anyone the right to be treated equally.

Gay marriage should be legal everywhere. I would be interested to know what kind of harm or chaos it would bring to anyone in any way whatsoever.

The legalization of gay marriage would only reap positive benefits, the biggest one being another step toward achieving equality for all.

I encourage those who can’t agree with the equal treatment of all people in all walks of life to consider how they would feel if their rights were taken away solely based on the fact that they don’t agree with someone else’s.

—Paris Burris
Editor

City asks citizens to rethink choosing sugary drinks

To the Editor:

Wellness Now and the Oklahoma City-County Health Department are encouraging all Oklahoma City citizens, schools, organizations and businesses to continue the challenge that started with Rethink Your Drink Week—an initiative meant to reduce or eliminate consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

The commitment to replace sugar-sweetened beverages with healthier alternatives is intended to help people break the sugary beverage habit.

Participants are encouraged to drink water, fat-free milk, seltzer, or unsweetened teas instead of heavily sugared sodas, energy and sports drinks, sweet teas, and other sugary beverages.

While the challenge is only one week, Wellness Now hopes to encourage participants to start making healthier choices on a regular basis.

According to the American Heart Association, sugar-sweetened beverages are the number one source of added sugars in our diet.

These added sugars are directly linked to weight gain, obesity, cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, and metabolic syndrome.

These adverse health effects are at their highest ever, with obesity affecting more than 500 million people worldwide.

What’s more staggering is the way in which sugar-sweetened beverages are impacting the health of children.

Among children, each extra can or glass of sugar-sweetened beverage per day increases their chance of becoming obese by 60 percent.

This has contributed to a doubling of childhood obesity rates in the past 30 years, from 6.5 percent to 19.6 percent among 6- to 11-year-olds.

One 20-ounce soda contains the equivalent of 16 packets of sugar. To burn the calories in that 20-ounce soda, an individual would have to take a brisk three-mile walk.

For more information on Rethink Your Drink, visit www.occhd.org/wellnessnow/sugarydrinks.

—OKC-County Health Department

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Officials hope to continue initiative launched April 1

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—OKC-County Health Department
MUSIC REVIEW | Release of “Mosquito” on April 16 will end five-year silence for band

Yeah Yeah Yeahs get big nod with latest album

After a nearly five-year unofficial hiatus, American indie rock band Yeah Yeah Yeahs have unveiled “Sacrilege,” a track from their first upcoming full album release since the spring of 2009.

The album, “Mosquito,” is due to drop later this month and if “Sacrilege” is any indication as to how the rest of the record may sound, diehard fans of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs have every right to be excited.

“Sacrilege” was recently made available for digital download on iTunes and within minutes, it had Yeah Yeah Yeahs fans and critics buzzing.

The Yeah Yeah Yeahs have been making music since 2000. Their first studio album, “Fever to Tell,” was met with critical and fan acclaim. Since then, the band has released two more full-length albums and a studio EP. The upcoming “Mosquito” will be the band’s fourth full-length studio album release and “Sacrilege” has people talking.

The band has never strayed far from the iconic sound that made 2003’s “Fever to Tell” such a hit.

While the sound of “Sacrilege” is consistent with the band’s earlier work, it’s in no way run-of-the-mill or boring.

“Sacrilege” is dark and brooding, and atmospheric in a way that gets under your skin. It’s a challenging, engaging track made possible only by the band’s experience and skill they’ve honed over the years.

Lead singer Karen O’s voice sounds as dynamic and contrasting as ever. Combined with the funky guitar riffs that make up the song, “Sacrilege” seems to harken back to a time of trippy ’70s psychedelic rock. O’s tinny soprano voice skips ranges at unexpected intervals, adding a sense of disorientation and dissonance to the already creepy track.

The song is interesting and surprising, and definitely not a letdown from the band who haven’t been in the public eye for some time now.

Somewhere in the last two minutes of the track, a full church choir joins in, adding something very special to the song.

It would seem with the release of “Sacrilege,” the band is trying hard to get back to the sound that made them so popular in underground circuits when they first started out.

All in all, “Sacrilege” is a strong comeback track. If the release was meant to pique my interest in the full-length album coming out soon, it definitely served its purpose.

Mostly, I think I’m just glad the Yeah Yeah Yeahs are back on the scene and doing what they’re so good at. “Sacrilege” has definitely got me wanting more from this still-promising band.

“Mosquito” is due to drop on April 16 in the U.S.

Rating: B+

—KATIE THURMAN
Staff Writer
‘Illuminations’ a glass paradise inside museum

The Oklahoma City Museum of Art exhibition “Illuminations: Rediscovering the Art of Dale Chihuly” takes visitors on a walk through rooms full of vibrant colors and strange illuminated shapes that would be right at home in any Dr. Seuss book — and it’s all made of glass.

Chihuly is a renowned American artist with works displayed in more than 200 museums.

OKCMOA has “one of the most comprehensive collections of Chihuly glass in the world,” according to www.okcmoa.com, the museum’s website.

The website said the galleries “incorporate a unique design that features a three-dimensional approach to viewing some objects in the collection.”

It’s the result of a collaboration with Chihuly Studio.

As a visitor to the museum, your first exposure to Chihuly glass would be a huge column of glass tentacles spanning from the main lobby floor to its three story ceiling.

Walking through the the galleries, I was amazed by the variety of shapes and sizes of the pieces on display.

One of my favorite installations was two boats overflowing with beautiful glass called “Floating Boat” and “Ikebana Boat.”

Another creative installation was a hallway with colored glass discs, orbs and other shapes encased overhead called the “Oklahoma Persian Ceiling.”

Light filters through each piece of glass, casting colored light down onto the hallway’s white walls.

The light seems to be as much a part of the art as the pieces themselves.

Overall, “Illuminations: Rediscovering the Art of Dale Chihuly” is well worth the price of admission, which is $12 for adults; $10 for seniors, college students, and children (ages 6 to 18); $5 for military; and children under 6 free.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. They are closed on Mondays and major holidays.

For more information about “Illuminations” or other exhibitions, contact the museum by phone at 405-236-3100, ext. 237 or go online to www.okcmoa.com.

Rating: A+

—Chris James
Pioneer Photographer

PRODUCT REVIEW | With a longer use time, Genesis worth $20 price tag

DID atomizer top vaping pick

I recently reviewed the Lavatube 2200 mAh vaporizer detailing the power and vapor produced from this massive electronic cigarette. For those who are unaware, the battery on these systems are rechargeable and are simply the power source for the cigarette.

It is the atomizing unit that does the hard work.

The new DID atomizer from Genesis is easily at the top when it comes to reliability and taste.

On an e-cigarette, the atomizing unit — once it's heated by the battery — heats the liquid nicotine to a boiling point, allowing the flavor and nicotine to become a basic mist, which is then inhaled by the user.

Most atomizing units are made of metal posts and coils, plastic tanks and a plastic mouthpiece. This often creates a noticeable plastic taste when vaporizing liquids.

The one thing I really like about the DID is the stainless steel tank, which is also replaceable with Pyrex, both of which do not noticeably affect the taste of your vape.

Also, on most disposable tanks is a synthetic rope wick which tastes horrible when heated, especially with a powerful battery like my Lavatube. The DID atomizer does not have this problem.

Users actually make their own wicks out of a small sheet of stainless steel mesh, and wrap it with Kanthal A-1 wire themselves. This was absolutely awesome because the power this thing can now handle is incredible.

Users actually have to oxidize the wick themselves with a torch, which is easier than it sounds.

Not only do users get to be involved in their own equipment, the Genesis DID holds three milliliters of liquid, allowing for long periods of time between refills. And the DID is not so disposable — in fact it is virtually indestructible.

The Genesis costs $20 but is well worth the price to save on constantly replacing plastic tanks.

Rating: A-

—SHAWN STAWICKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
CLAUDEY CUMMINS  
News Writing Student

Reality shows portraying women as catty and unloving toward other women is one way the media presents women in a negative light, an audience member said in a program on campus on March 28.

Following the screening of “Miss Representation,” a small discussion group analyzed the message of the film.

One participant was student Katie Hall.

“It is really sad that we, as women, are seen as natural-born enemies to one another based off of how shows such as 'The Real Housewives' make us out to be,” she said.

A specific topic that raised much discussion was the way women in the news are being objectified by the way they dress and do their makeup.

The concern was that some women give news anchors a bad reputation by dressing seductively when on television and not dressing or acting professionally. Some people care more about Katie Couric’s hair than they do about the news that she is reporting.

Another media issue that was scrutinized was women in politics and how they are dehumanized by the media. It is hard to live up to America’s expectations as a woman in politics.

Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin were two women who were torn apart by the media, according to the film. Many people said that Hillary Clinton was too "brute" while Sarah Palin was too feminine.

A man in the audience said he believed more people were concerned about the looks of female politicians than they were about their stances on specific issues.

After discussing areas of media in which women are portrayed, the discussion turned to advertisements and what they tell future generation about what it means to be a woman.

Audience member and student, Chloe Crain, said she finds herself relying too much on advertisements to determine what she considers stylish.

“It is exhausting trying to keep up with what is in style and what is considered beautiful,” she said. “Sometimes I feel like advertising rules my life.”

Other women nodded in agreement that they too felt controlled by the media.

The discussion leader, Student Life coordinator Brittany Carradine, commented that if marketers continue to objectify women in the media, the men in the country will continue to objectify women.

Carradine suggested that if America were to make a radical shift into integrity-filled advertisements, we would see a country with less violence towards women, including rape and murder.

“Discrimination is not just about black and white or social standing in America,” Carradine said. “It is also about gender -- and the statistics about discrimination against women are overwhelming.”

Carradine explained there is still a glass ceiling to break through when it comes to women’s advancement but it begins with each individual woman voicing her opinion in the media, in politics, and in the boardroom.

Crain said she left the discussion feeling empowered and confident in her womanhood.

“I am ready to be a voice for women all over the country,” Crain said. “I am ready to be a working professional woman who does not need to rely on my looks or femininity to be successful or valued.”

For more information about the film, visit the website at www.missrepresentation.org.

For more information about this program or other topics being presented in Student Life discussion programs, contact Carradine at Brittany.F.Carradine@occc.edu.

The next film in the series will be "Bully," a film about a student who is bullied for his disabilities.

The series will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, in Room CU3 in the Student Union.

ASSISTANCE OFFERED FOR APPROACHING TAX DEADLINE

KATIE THURMAN  
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The deadline for the Spring 2013 tax filing season is April 15. This marks the last day a person can file returns for the 2012 tax year, and applies to both federal and state taxes.

There are several ways to file, according to www.irs.gov.

While the most common way to file taxes is e-filing or online filing, there is still an option to file the old-fashioned way, with pen and paper.

The website also offers advice to individuals, self-employed citizens, international taxpayers, military veterans, students and others as to how to file.

E-filing for individuals with an income less than $57,000 is free through the IRS website.

Filing paperwork also is offered free for all individuals, regardless of income, on the same webpage. A person can also opt to buy tax preparation software if they choose to file for themselves.

While taxpayers can file an extension to pay their taxes, they should do so in advance (before the deadline) and with much care and consideration.

The website also provides the criteria that must be met for an extension and instructions on how to file one.

VITA, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, has been on campus since the beginning of February where they’ve been helping students and Oklahoma City residents file their taxes. VITA offers their assistance to those who make $51,000 or less each year.

VITA volunteer Don Wigley said those seeking to file an extension should visit irs.gov and complete form number 4868.

Wigley said even those who miss the April 15 deadline still need to file.

“They need to go ahead and file the return. They’ll get a bill back from the IRS with a late filing penalty,” Wigley said. He said those filing late should be aware the more they wait, the more the late penalties may increase.

If an individual doesn’t file at all, Wigley said, the IRS will notice and take immediate action in seeking any taxes owed.

“The IRS knows [when an individual] has income. They have copies of W2 forms and other documents from employers,” Wigley said.

“The [individual] will eventually get a letter from the IRS telling them that they didn’t file.

“I’m not sure that the letter details the penalties but it does make it clear that there are penalties and the longer the clock runs, the more the penalties are increasing.”

Wigley said the volunteers at OCCC have been busy but the volume of people seeking help for their taxes is dramatically smaller for this time of year than it normally is, meaning that most people have already filed or they’re cutting it close to the wire while waiting for the deadline to approach.

Wigley offered a solution to avoid worries with the Internal Revenue Service.

“Do what you’re supposed to do and you don’t have to worry about all that stuff,” he said.

VITA volunteers will be available until the deadline on April 15 to help students and members of the community who fall under the $51,000 income umbrella and need assistance filing.

VITA volunteers are set up across from Student Life on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Those who want to have a VITA volunteer help them need to bring their 2011 tax return, social security cards for everyone on their return and a valid driver’s license or I.D. with them, along with their W2 forms.

For more information on the deadline and filing, visit www.irs.gov, or stop by and visit a VITA volunteer in the Main Building, near the coffee shop.
A film about prison inmates training service dogs is coming to OCCC at 7 p.m. Friday, April 12, in the Bruce Owen Theater. The film is directed and co-produced by Film and Video professor Greg Mellott.

Mellott said the 45-minute documentary was funded by the Kirkpatrick Foundation. Other co-producers in the project were Sean Lynch, Film and Video equipment coordinator, and Dr. John Otto, veterinarian.

"We filmed for many, many hours," Mellott said.

Several OCCC film and video students worked in various areas of the production. All the students were taken to the Lexington prison for filming. Some students also worked in editing and sound.

The film introduces a way of helping inmates and dogs get a second chance at life. It shows a program where inmates at a state prison in Lexington are assigned abandoned dogs and given the challenge of training the dogs in basic obedience.

Mellott said the last segment of the film was shot first. In it, the black mixed-breed dog named Sarge comes to the Veterans Center in Norman, where he will serve as a companion for the men and women at the facility.

The center recently lost its service dog, who succumbed to old age.

The film captures the feisty animal’s personality as Sarge boldly sets out to greet individuals in the crowd of residents who had assembled to meet him.

Many of the dogs brought into the program were mistreated for one reason or another. Many come from the Second Chance animal sanctuary in Norman.

The film was screened for audiences for the first time in March, once at the Oklahoma City Art Museum and later at a theater on Chesapeake Energy’s Oklahoma City campus.

Mellott said the camera operators typically shot the scenes while crawling on the ground or the floor, to capture the story from the dog’s point of view.

Once the dogs are introduced to an inmate-trainer, the dog spends 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the inmate until the training is complete. This takes from one to four months, said Lee Fairchild, a caseworker who oversees the inmates in the Lexington program. He said some dogs take a little longer depending on how well they train.

Beforehand the dogs are tested to see if they are aggressive towards humans, said Fairchild, in a question-and-answer session after the screening March 27 at Chesapeake. If not, they are OK to be trained in the program.

About three or four dogs out of 10 are being trained for the public, Fairchild said. All of the other dogs are sent to service programs for veterans, people with disabilities, schools or even to people who need companions.

There is no charge to see the film. At 6 p.m., before the showing, there will be snacks and refreshments, Mellott said.

Many students who worked on the film will attend and be honored at the showing.

Most dogs featured in “Dogs of Lexington” will attend the show, Mellott said.

For more information, contact Mellott at 405-682-1611, ext. 7793 or by email at gmellott@occc.edu.

Training film from dog house to big house

KATIE HORTON
News Writing Student

OCCC TO HOST LATE SPRING BLOOD DRIVE

KATIE THURMAN
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OCCC will host its second blood drive of the semester on April 17. The blood drive, organized by Student Life and made possible by the Oklahoma Blood Institute will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the College Union.

“We usually have two blood drives each semester and one in the summer, and we coordinate those dates with the Oklahoma Blood Institute.” Student Life Coordinator Brittany Carradine said.

The upcoming blood drive is the second blood drive to take place on the OCCC campus during the spring semester, Carradine said.

“The last drive, we had 84 successful donations,” she said.

Carradine said it is likely more people tried to give blood, but 84 of the donations were accepted, and those 84 donations taken solely from volunteers at the school can save 252 lives.

Carradine wanted to specify students are not the only ones who are welcome to give blood; faculty and staff are also able to participate in the donation if they’d like to.

“All of the blood given here at OCCC stays within the community,” Carradine said. “So we saved 252 lives in this community.”

She said students, faculty or staff who choose to give blood will receive a gift from the Oklahoma Blood Institute after their donation.

“They’re always good about giving donors something for their contribution,” Carradine said. They have given out T-shirts, zoo tickets and other small rewards in the past, but the real reward of donating is knowing you’ve done something to help someone in need.

“I think about it as service,” Carradine said. “When we think about service work, we think about giving money or giving our time but one of the highest forms of service is actually giving the blood out of your body to someone else.”

Carradine said, donating blood is one of the most honorable ways to give back to the community around you.

Donation advice given

Before donating donors should:
• Eat well, try to always include iron-rich foods in your diet. These foods include: beef, pork, poultry (chicken, turkey), fish, lamb, clams, oysters, nuts, raisins, peas, spinach and other dark, leafy greens.
• Get a good night’s sleep.
• Drink plenty of fluids.

—www.obi.org
GRANT VANWINKLE
News Writing Student

About 200 people showed up to participate in the Harlem Shake video March 6 on the plaza between the library and the Main building.

The turnout was better than expected since only 100 had registered, said Lisa Lasater, Student Program leader.

The Harlem Shake is a YouTube sensation of 2013. It consists of a masked person dancing in a group.

The song is taken from the American music producer Baauer. When the music hits the climax, it turns into a wild free-for-all of all dancing styles.

Ali Nixon, 19, a diversified studies major, played the central character. He said he felt privileged when Lasater asked him to be the masked dancer for the video. He also said it was an electric feel being on set.

When the music climaxes, the people in the regular group change clothes and usually don a mask and costume for the final frenzy.

The student costumes consisted of animal masks, superheroes, various fruits, and spandex onesies.

Nixon said it made him feel good to see the students come together and wishes they would do more events like that.

He said his dancing background consists of two years of dancing which he started his sophomore year at Harding Preparatory High School. He said his family always praised him for dancing. To him it is a way of life.

Lasater said Kevin Hernandez was the one who had the idea to shoot the video.

Video Production Specialist Robert Lane was the man behind the scenes shooting the video with a Nikon DSLR. Lane works in video production services for OCCC.

He said he has been working in the video business for 22 years.
Tourney seeks fans of disc golf

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC is offering a disc golf tournament for students, faculty and staff this April.

Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright said he is trying to add some individual sports for those who don’t have a team or know others to play with.

“Disc golf is a growing sport,” Wright said. “It seems pretty popular to me. There are three disc golf courses in Oklahoma City and several in Moore and Norman,” Wright said.

Disc golf is the same concept as regular golf: You try to get the ball in the hole, or in this case a disc into a basket. In disc golf you throw a disc into a basket with a suspended chain, the chain stops the disc from going further when scoring.

There are many different sizes of discs, but if you don’t have a disc for the sport, you can use a regular Frisbee, Wright said.

“The tournament is set for April 12 and 13. It will depend on how many people sign up whether we have it both days or just one,” Wright said. “The course and times for the event have not been decided at this time.”

Many students said they have played disc golf before.

“A friend invited me to play at one of the courses in Norman,” Student Catlyn McCarthy said. “I was awful at it but it was a lot of fun.

“I think it is really cool the college gives us opportunities like that.”

To sign up for the disc golf tournament, visit www.imleagues.com/occc, create an account and when it asks for a team name just use your name, Wright said. Once signed up, Wright said, he can communicate the time and place for the tournament by email.

Wright said the incentive for students to sign up is to have fun, meet new people and learn a new sport.

Business major Jazquiuton Stone said he saw some people playing disc golf at Will Rogers Park in Oklahoma City and he wondered what they were doing. Stone said he later found out it was called disc golf.

Depending on the turnout, Wright said they might do a tournament each year or semester.

All intramurals are free to all students, faculty and staff. Those who sign up need to bring a disc or Frisbee and students need to bring their student ID.

“My main thing for intramural sports is for people to come out have some fun, maybe find something they like to do and meet new people,” Wright said.

For more information, email Wright at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu.

For more information on disc golf or the Oklahoma City Disc Golf Association, visit www.discgolfscene.com, www.dsicgolfcourses.org or www.okcdga.com.

Both new and used discs can be purchased locally at Play It Again Sports. Frisbee brand putters and driver kits are also available at Walmart supercenter.

Disc golf is a growing sport, it seems pretty popular to me. There are three courses in Oklahoma City and several in Moore and Norman.”

—MATTHEW WRIGHT
Intramural Sports Assistant

To view more news stories, blogs and multimedia from News Writing students or Pioneer staff, visit www.occc.edu/pioneer.
Student threat reported to campus cops, authorities

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
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A student in a physics course made a threatening statement about shooting everyone in the class, according to a campus crime report received by the Pioneer on March 29.

Four students in the class contacted campus police at 4:10 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, to report that a student, Tyler J. Harris, 20, made the statements after becoming angry while in class the previous Thursday, March 7. The Pioneer was able to reach one of the students who reported Harris’ threatening statements. She said she didn’t want to be identified and didn’t want to talk about the incident.

“She is a really nice guy and I don’t want to cause him any problems.”

Several attempts were made to contact Harris for a statement but the person answering the phone at the number Harris gave police said he was unavailable for comment.

OCCC Police Chief James Fitzpatrick said whenever a threat has been communicated on campus, the Campus Police immediately begin investigating the matter.

“We have to look at intent and the totality of the situation,” Fitzpatrick said.

“We look at everything from all sides.”

One of the factors investigated is the potential for the threat to be enacted, he said. Fitzpatrick said it depends on the nature of the threat whether a student will face both criminal charges and breach of code of conduct rules or face only code of conduct repercussions.

Students who make threats on campus may breach the college’s code of conduct rules, he said, but not necessarily rise to the level of criminal prosecution.

Learning Support Specialist Mary Turner said students who make threats, even idle threats, are sure to face consequences. She said students must be sensitive with how they make jokes and how they express their frustrations, even if they are with a group of friends who understand their manner of expression.

She said OCCC is a public space where people might overhear things being said and not know if the speaker is joking or serious.

Turner also is a member of the OCCC CARE — Campus Assessment Response and Evaluation — team.

She said the team was put together in response to the Virginia Tech shooting on April 16, 2007. On that day, Seung-Hui Cho, a senior at the college, shot and killed 32 people and wounded 17 others before committing suicide.

The OCCC CARE team of five has received training to handle these types of situations and make decisions regarding all angles of the threat, Turner said.

“Our team comes together whenever there is a notification of concern on campus,” she said.

Turner said when a student makes a threat, an investigation is initiated. The student can be suspended from campus for a few days up to even a few years depending on the outcome of the investigation. If investigators conclude the student poses no danger, the student will be allowed back on campus.

Turner said for this reason students need to be careful about the way they express frustration in a classroom. Any student who is feeling stressed — whether normal stresses or something serious — is urged to visit the Student Support Services Office located on the first floor of the Main Building in 1F8.

“Several of our staff … have counseling backgrounds and there are even licensed counselors on staff,” Turner said. “We are a fair and balanced team, and we are going to work to figure out what is going on and connect individuals to resources.”

Considering the severe consequences for words possibly spoken in frustration, Turner advised students to seek an outlet at Student Support Services, instead of blowing off steam in less acceptable ways.

Turner said students also need to be aware of how they are treating others. In almost every situation, a mean comment or teasing is all it takes to escalate a situation, she said.

“Our services in Student Support are confidential,” Turner said.

She said an investigation has been initiated into this instance.

Turner said how campus officials respond to a threat depends on the specifics of the situation. But she said anyone who hears a threat should report it.

“It depends on the nature of the comment,” she said. “If it is a direct threat, it needs to be reported to the campus police whether it is a student or an employee. The campus police are the ones who have the authority to act on that.

“If it is not a direct threat, then speak with a faculty member or come to our office.”

Student Life Director Erin Logan had no comment on the incident nor would she say if Harris is still attending classes.

Physics professor Ivana Pavic also was listed on the crime report but failed to respond to inquiries about the incident.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-7872. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

To contact Student Support Services, call 405-682-7520.

Police investigate several reports week of March 11

BUFFIE RICHARDSON BROWN
Police Reporter
seniorwriter@occc.edu

A concern about possible identity theft, a report of a suspicious person, and a missing SD card top police reports for the week of March 11.

On Monday, March 11, Amandra Kayleen Bannister reported to Officer Tim Harris that she was concerned about identity theft. Bannister said Trans Union Credit contacted her about an individual who applied for employment at OCCC using Bannister’s Social Security number. Harris advised Bannister to make a report with the Oklahoma City Police Department.

On March 14 Harris contacted OCCC Human Resources to research the matter. It was then discovered Bannister had a profile on the OCCC website that she had not created. No other information was available. Harris contacted Bannister with the information he had obtained and reassured her that her Social Security number was not being improperly used.

About 12:12 p.m. March 12, OCCC Coffee Shop employee Jayme Gaiser reported a suspicious person to the campus police. Gaiser said while she was working at the coffee shop Monday, March 11, she noticed a white male watching her. Gaiser said the male watched her for a couple of hours and then, as she was closing the shop around 8:30 p.m., spoke to her.

Before Gaiser and her student co-worker Genesis Cadena finished closing the coffee shop, Gaiser said she spoke briefly with the man. After closing the shop, Gaiser and Cadena went to the campus police department to request escorts to their vehicles. The campus police are investigating the incident at this time.

On Friday, March 15, Joshua Poole, a visitor to the OCCC campus, reported a lost or missing cell phone to Officer Patrick Martino.

Poole said he left his cell phone on a table at the coffee shop around 9:30 a.m. The phone was turned in to the campus police about 23 minutes later by an unidentified man who said he found it in the men’s bathroom. Poole reclaimed the cell phone later that afternoon and upon using it, noticed the memory card containing all of his personal information was missing.

Martino advised Poole to file a report with the Oklahoma City Police Department and also also call the major credit agencies to establish a fraud alert. No further information was gained from reviewing camera footage.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-7872. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

Enrollment: Numbers down

Continued from page 1

more selective institutions.

He said the economy affects the number of older students attending OCCC.

“Some of our adult enrollments are down which is a good indicator, too, because what happens is people still want to go to school but they will cut back their hours.”

Harvey said the final enrollment numbers are still subject to change so the current numbers are estimations at this point of the semester.

To see the college’s planning and research reports, visit www.occc.edu/planning/research.

For more information, call Harvey at 405-682-7849 or email sharvey@occc.edu.
**TEDx talk saw ‘little’ focus**

**REYNA OTERO**
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

English professor Stephen Morrow spoke at the most recent TEDx talk about the tendency to discount small objects in relation to oneself.

Physics professor Tad Thurston concentrated on the tiny particles that exist in physics.

"This time I dove way down deep, down beyond the scale of cells and into molecules and atoms and down to electrons and so on," said Thurston.

The TEDx talk took place March 27 in CU3. Morrow and Thurston both spoke for a total of 20 minutes each.

Thurston said there was a total of 10 students who attended and some faculty and staff as well.

Thurston said the first time he gave a talk for the TEDx talk series, he talked about the large scale of the solar system and how much bigger things there are than people.

For this particular TEDx talk, he said he decided to go the other direction.

"There are things in the universe that are really, really tiny," he said.

"[Students seemed] to dig the idea of all the stuff that is there that [as humans] we cannot see or just do not want to appreciate because it is either too big or too small.

"There is so much going on that [people] just are not aware of," Thurston said.

Thurston said Morrow's talk was more of a philosophical talk.

The talk was followed by a discussion. Thurston said students asked really good questions. An example he gave was of one student who asked about the asteroid that will be coming toward earth in a few years.

"I related it more to what the first speech was about, the scale of the solar system," Thurston said.

The TEDx talks are being offered once per month for the Spring semester, Thurston said. There has been one in February and March. The next TEDx talk is scheduled at noon, April 24.

"What [Steve and I] are intending is getting to try and get together and talk and maybe do something together, maybe sort of a joint thing or both talk about, maybe the same thing but just from different angles," Thurston said.

Thurston said he hopes more student, staff, and faculty become interested in being involved in the TEDx talks.

"TEDx talks are created in the spirit of TED's mission, 'ideas worth spreading. The TEDx program is designed to give communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like experiences at the local level,'" Thurston said.

TEDx, the x marking an independently organized talk, events are fully planned and coordinated independently, on a community-by-community basis, according to ted.com.

For more information, suggestions, questions, or concerns, contact the Student Life Office at 405-682-7523, or email studentlife@occc.edu.
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. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

FOR SALE: Limited edition wakeboard, still packaged: $100; new, limited edition Jim Beam bean bag/cornhole toss game, $100. 405-815-0083.

FOR SALE: English Comp. $35; TI-83 Plus, $30. Call 405-209-0308.


FOR RENT: $450/mo. Bills included. 3-bedroom room located near OCCC. Males only. One friendly dog already, no more pets. No smoking preferred. Call/text Reginald at 405-249-4550.

FOR RENT: 7 N Broadway, Room 129

LOOKING FOR A ROOM/HOME TO RENT: Will share all bills. Call Quinton at 443-812-0917 or email qmmountain@yahoo.com.


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LOOKING FOR RIDE: Need ride from Norman to OCCC. Legally blind student. Will pay for gasoline. Classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call: 405-598-5052 or 405-395-2779.

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Music fans treated to a master

Singer and composer Jimmy Webb

Singer and composer Jimmy Webb spoke of the hardships of being a song-writer in today's music business during a master class March 26 at the Rodeo Opry in the Oklahoma City stockyards.

When the cyber storage world replaced vinyl records and audiotapes, music artists found it harder to collect a paycheck, Webb said.

"If you want to be a creator, you have to be a warrior," he said after explaining that songwriters are the "nice guys."

He referred to songwriting as an "important job" and said he believes that in today's society you have to fight to get what you deserve for your creation.

Webb said music sites such as Pandora or iTunes do not allow artists to get what they deserve out of their songs.

Webb talked of returning to some kind of system that informs songwriters of how much they have earned off their songs.

He said it's up to songwriters to establish a strong judicial presence by putting pressure on Congress to enforce copyright laws.

Entitled "A Conversation with Jimmy Webb," the free master class was held before Webb's sold-out concert that same night in the Bruce Owen Theater at OCCC.

The performance closed out the 2012-2013 Cultural Arts Series.

Webb, an Oklahoma native, has composed and performed timeless pop, country and rock classics such as "The Highwayman," "Wichita Lineman," "Galveston" and many more.

His hits have been performed by Glen Campbell, Keith Urban, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Carly Simon and others.

Webb's accomplishments include Grammy Awards for music, lyrics and orchestration and induction into the National Academy of Popular Music Songwriter's Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriter's Hall of Fame.

Many of his songs have been top hits such as "By The Time I Get To Phoenix," which was the third-most-performed song from the '60s until 1990 according to Broadcast Music Inc.

At the end of the night, Webb opened the floor for audience questions, then ended the class so he could prepare for the night's performance at OCCC.

Like-minded students form OCCC cyber security club

When computer hackers can break into the New York Times data systems, and the attack seems to come from a military installation in China, it tells students in the Cyber Security program that their skills will be needed in the workplace — by some of the country's most prestigious companies.

Those students have united to form a campus club with like-minded individuals who are committed to repelling online security threats by practicing their skills in real life settings and in game settings, said Jonah McPhaul, club president and cyber security major.

The cyber security club is giving students an opportunity to learn from guest speakers who are professionals in the field as well as get hands-on experience through game-playing, McPhaul said.

The other goal of the club is to give students a chance to take what they have learned in class and use it in real situations.

One of the ways they plan on doing this is by having Capture the Flag matches where one team tries to break into a network while the other tries to prevent that from happening.

This will not only allow them to sharpen their skills but also it will provide some friendly competition, McPhaul said.

"We are at a perfect time to get this club started," he said.

"We're going to prepare our members — once they leave the school — to be ready for that industry out there, if they all stay actively involved with the plans that we have for the club," he said.

The club is open to all, McPhaul said.

"Cyber security is for everyone," he said.

The club meetings are from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month in room 401 of the library.

The cyber security club has also been invited to hear expert Kevin Mitnick, one of the first hackers, speak from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 12, in the Tom Steed auditorium at Rose State College.

For more information, contact Jonah McPhaul at 405-443-4007 or at jonah.t.mcphaul@my.occc.edu.