Have you ever received a Valentine’s Day gift and thought, “Wow! This is the best Valentine’s Day gift ever,” and possibly felt like that was the best day of your life? Or have you ever received a really bad Valentine’s Day gift and thought, “Whoa! This is the worst gift ever,” but yet you continue smiling and thank that person for the gift any way? Here are some good and bad Valentine’s Day gifts that some SWOSU students were willing to share.

“One on Valentine’s, I got flowers from a boy that I dated for a week in the fifth grade. He stole them off a cemetery grave!” said Jessica Key.

“The best and worst Valentine’s gift was the exact same gift. My senior year, my boyfriend of three years got me these huge helium balloons that said ‘I Love You’ and ‘My Valentine,’ along with a pail full of candy with roses and a set of my favorite kind of perfume and had it all sent to my school—the cutest thing. But being as bashful as he decided to be that day, he had me meet him in the hallway so that he could give me my gift, instead of it being brought to me in class, and then he had me take it and hide it in my car so that his friends would not do their typical joking,” laughs Angelica Ortiz.

(Continued on page 5)

Visitor recalls Dr. King’s Speech

By Teresa Villa
At the age of seventeen, Stan Bus attended the famous speech of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial.

On January 21st, following the Presidential Inauguration, which brought back so many memories of Dr. King, Mrs. Haught’s 9 a.m. Comp Class enjoyed hearing Stan Buss speak about this momentous occasion.

At that historical time, Stan lived in a little rural area in Indiana. Some locals were taking the trip to hear King speak. Stan heard there was some extra room if he would like to join. Not thinking of the significance of the trip, his only thoughts were “Road trip.” When he arrived in D.C., he thought maybe the rally was a bust. Not very many people were there. As the morning progressed, though, more and more continued to show up in cars, on buses, and even on foot. The local newspaper reported that from 9:30 to 9:45 that morning, the number of people rose from ten thousand to twenty-five thousand.

Stan and his group found a spot by the Reflecting Pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial. The feeling was somber. There was no rallying. There was no uplifting. People were gathering peacefully. The only signals of protest were signs calling for equality.

Stan remembers hearing rumors that King was told by local police not to rally the crowd too much. So, as King started his speech, it seemed very low-key. Noticing the crowd’s lack of enthusiasm, a friend of King’s told him to preach a little louder. Not noticing the crowd’s lack of enthusiasm, a friend of King’s told him to preach on. That was the beginning of what we now recognize as the “I Have a Dream” speech.

(Continued on page 5)
Lit Club Chooses Time Travel Book

By Sharon Adiar

Its time again to get our minds into reading again. So when you need a break, travel to a different time or place and just read a good book. Come join in reading The Time Traveler’s Wife by Audrey Niffenegger. It is a love story involving librarian Henry De-Tamble who time travels. The book can be bought at several different web-based book stores. The price of the book is $10.82 and takes a few days to come in. The first meeting was Friday, January the 23rd. There are drinks and goodies to eat and people can sign up to bring snacks also.

So come join the fun every Friday at noon in the Lit Pit in southeastern end of Mackey Hall. The book club is come-and-go and usually lasts around 45 minutes. All are welcome.

There is Help for Dating Violence

By Ashley Dunn

Dating violence can range from verbal abuse, to stalking, to sexual assault. According to the NCADV, an estimated 4,806 Oklahoma College and University females experience rape each year.

Effects for these women include increased likelihood of suicide, substance abuse, and falling into depression. All cases of rape and abuse must be reported to the local authorities. Many people are too embarrassed, or scared to tell the cops, but it is important. They can help put an end to the violence.

Be Aware of the Date Rape Drug

In many cases, the date rape drug Rohypnol is used, known to most people as Roofies. This date rape drug is a very potent tranquilizer similar to valium, but much stronger. Effects from the drug occur 20-30 minutes after ingesting and can last for several hours. Roofies come in pill form that dissolves in liquids. Most pills are little, white, and round, others are oval and a greenish color. The drug is easily masked with dark beverages where the color and taste of the pill is hard to detect. Roofies are generally inexpensive; they are sold on the streets for as little as $2-$4 a pill. Most women are only concerned about the initial problem with Roofies, rape. Actually, the drug can have some other major health risks. When mixed with alcohol the drug can lead to respiratory depression, aspiration, and even death. When taken repeatedly, it can lead to physical and psychic dependence. These risks only increase with the amount ingested and duration of use. An amnesiaproducing effect of Roofies may prevent users from remembering how or why they took the drug or even that they were given any. This makes investigation of sexually related or other offenses very difficult and may account for repeated reports of date rapes involving the use of the drug.

Women and men that have been affected by domestic violence have many options when it comes to seeking help. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is a great program available for help. They can be reached 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

SWOSU also offers help for students and their families. The program is called VIPER, Violence Intervention, Prevention, and Early Response; it is located on the Weatherford campus. VIPER is designed to minimize the incidence of violent relational crime such as stalking, sexual assault, intimate partner violence or other major health risks.

Statistics

- In America, one in five women and one in 33 men have experienced and attempted or completed rape.
- ~72% of victims are sexually assaulted by someone they know.
- ~Nearly 20% of Oklahoma high school students have reported to physically being hurt by their girlfriend or boyfriend; compared to 9% nationwide.
- ~1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime.
- ~76% of homicide victims had been stalked by the person who killed them.
- ~Oklahoma ranks 10th nationally for the number of females murdered by males.

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Computer Club

SWOSU Sayre computer club is currently in a rebuilding season. No regular meeting times have been set nor have any activities been planned due to lack of participants; however, if you would like to join, President Brandon Raliegh and Vice-President Lendell Jones are open to new members.

National Domestic Violence HOTLINE

Call: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
Or (580) 774-3111

Viper@swosu.edu
Textbook Buy-Back Seems Unfair

By Carrie Myers

Many students have experienced problems with purchasing textbooks. I recently spoke with Jolene Bales, bookstore manager, and asked, "Why are our books not being bought back?"

Bales explained there are many reasons why we have such problems. One reason is books are revised often. If books are revised, then the old books, if bought back, sit on the shelf and the bookstore loses money. Another reason would be if the instructor changes books, which is rare, but it does happen.

Textbook makers don’t want students selling and re-using old books. They don’t make any money that way. So they quit making the old book, and they add to or change it and then make only the new edition available to the book store. Instructors are forced to go to the new edition when they can no longer get enough of the old edition for their classes. They hate it too, because they don’t like to change their syllabus all the time.

While there is no solution to the problem, students can wait until they have the opportunity to speak to their instructors. If they are using the same book as last semester (or if the instructor thinks they can still use the old edition despite the change in page numbers), then they can buy books from other students.

And The Winner Is...............

By Carrie Myers

Newspaper sponsor Mrs. Terry Ford held the annual Fall Awards Ceremony to honor newspaper students for their work on The Watchdog during last semester. The Watchdog published eight issues with eight different editors. Needless to say, students were busy.

The winners were as follows:
Ben Mauldin- Annual Headphones Award, Best Historical News Feature
Carrie Myers - Mirror—Coming & Going, Best in-depth news/feature story, Certificate of Appreciation for imbedded coverage of Spanish Trip, Portfolio of Work.
Candise Warren - SGA Kleenix Award—Coverage of Club News, Best Research: On-Campus Issues
Cheryl Irwin - Bunny for “Best Gopher” Award
Katie Gatlin - pre-stamped postcard—Just Mail It In, and Best Personal Opinion: Off-Campus Issues.
Michelle Butcher - Magic Wand Award
Nicole Smith - Lazy Cat bookmark, Underachievers Award, Third Timers Award
Sarah Stephens 3rd Timers Award, Best News Writing, Best Entertainment Review
Shannon Eisinger - Best Coverage of Panorama Events, Best Color Photo Story
Sharon Adair - “Grin and Bear It” and Best Single Feature Color Photo, Best Graphics for Feature Story
Tiffany Hollingsworth - Certificate for “How-to Articles”
Tom Warren - Best “RATtitude,” Best Column Writing

Congratulations to the winners from last semester.

Did You Ever Wonder Why

By Tom Warren

Did you ever wonder why, when you go to bed, some one tells you “sleep tight”? I think everyone has heard that term at one time or another. It originated back many, many years ago when a bed was made of a wooden frame. It had a rope lattice strung across it. The mattress was placed on top of the rope. When the rope started to sag, it would get really tight. Therefore, “sleep tight” came to mean to sleep comfortably on a tight or firm bed. So, now you know the story behind the saying.
Photographer Sam Hagen visits campus

By Kayla York

On Friday, January 16, Western Oklahoma’s famous photographer Sam Hagen visited our campus and library.

Hagen, from Erick, was selling a newly-published book of his favorite photographs. He also stamped and autographed each one that was purchased.

Thanks to the librarians, April Howenstein and Dianna Mosburg, people enjoyed a nice reception with punch, cookies and brownies.

Hagen spoke to the newspaper class, with several faculty members listening in, and explained how to take better pictures.

Sam used examples in his book, and talked about the natural light. He mentioned that he does not use filters, but he’s just in the right place at the right time. He arrives at his destination before dawn, or he’ll get there and be ready by dusk. He stressed the importance of placing things in the foreground as well as background to give a picture depth.

Sam told the students to be ready with a camera, visualize what could be, and make it happen.

One of Sam’s most famous photographs is called “First Light” and is his best seller. It has been honored by being placed on display in the State Capitol Building.

Sam treated his listeners to stories of how he waited breathlessly, hoping the beautiful white horse would come down for a drink at the pond, and suddenly—in one-eighth of a second—the horse drank just as it was bathed in the pink light of early morning.

SGA raffling a dinner; selling goodies

By Rayburn Ritchie

Watch for signs on campus concerning an upcoming raffle. Your SGA representatives will be selling chances for a free romantic dinner-for-two. Chances are only $1.00. You have until Feb. 16th to make your purchases.

SGA has provided many services already in the spring semester of 2009.

Refreshments have been provided regularly through bake sales. SGA President, Candice Warren, has proven herself to be very worthy of her position and may often be seen on campus lending a helping hand in any situation, whether it be numerous algebra tutoring sessions throughout the day or providing her services selling goodies at the bake sale.

Mrs. Warren has worked hard hours on and off campus to provide our students with a comforting and enjoyable experience during the school day.
Best/Worst Valentines, cont’d…

(Continued from page 1)

“I don’t remember any Valentine’s gifts I’ve given, but I do remember the best one I received,” stated Marvin Savy. “It was Valentine’s day in 2002, my wife and I had been married for about a year. I had come home from work, and she had left a card and some baby booties on the table. I guess you could say it was a gift for both of us because that was the day we found out that she was pregnant with our first child.”

“The worst Valentine’s Day ever was when I bought my girlfriend flowers and candy and she was out with another guy,” told one student, who, as you can imagine, withheld his name!

One anonymous student wrote, “I think the best Valentine’s gift would be just whatever he thought was the best and he actually put his heart into.Maybe even if it’s just a letter or poem or song he wrote. The worst thing I think is to get a huge stuffed animal that is bigger than you are and you have nothing you can do with it. I would rather have a little stuffed animal that I could cuddle with every night.” So there you go, guys. That’s what one woman wants, anyway.

“My worst Valentine gift would have to have been when I got a comic-style rendition of myself. It’s the thought that counts, right?” said a freshman from Dill City.

“In the seventh grade, a boy named Jimmy gave me a box of chocolates that was taped shut and had a chocolate eaten out of it! I loved it!” recalls Cindel Fish

Dr. King’s Speech, continued from page one

Have a Dream” speech. Even as the crowd began to liven up, there was still a fear of punishment. The overwhelming mass of supporters there for King did, however, stop any opposing forces from disrupting the rally.

Stan tells of his little rural town not being violent in 1963, like what was often seen in the news. His community was mostly white. There was another community about fifteen minutes away that was mostly black. Segregation in that area was mostly done on a volunteer basis. Each community would speak to each other. Some were even pleasant. The two schools would play sports against each other. No violence. Stan remembers mostly the jokes that each school would say about the other.

I began thinking of what life would have been like here in Oklahoma at that time. Most of us are too young to know. I asked someone who would know, a black man named Eddie Bagby, of Elk City. When it came time to go to school, Eddie went to Lincoln, the other school in Elk City.

Eddie remembers when he first attended Elk City High School as a junior. Things weren’t so bad. Once again, the students would self-segregate, except on the playing fields. There, blacks and whites played on the same team. Eddie even excelled on the high school baseball team, taking that team to win State his senior year. To celebrate, the team’s coach took all the players out for a steak dinner in OKC. The manager of the restaurant told the coach that the team could eat, but they would have to sit behind the kitchen because Eddie was with them. The coach agreed. To retaliate, though, the entire team left without paying. That same year, Eddie received an invitation to try out for Minor League Baseball. Back then, there was no “going straight to the Majors.” Players went to the Minors to fine tune their talents, then play in the Majors. Eddie didn’t go. His father wouldn’t let him. His father was scared of what white people would do to his son.

Times sure have changed. Stan Buss recalls newspapers costing a nickel. Shirts cost $2.99. Neither Stan nor Eddie ever thought there would be a President like Obama. It only took forty years.

Black History Month, cont’d…

(Continued from page 1)

1943-Selma Hortense Burke created a portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt which is used on U.S. dimes. She shares this credit with Isaac Hathaway, who, in 1946, was the first African-American to be specifically commissioned to design a coin for the United States Mint.

1980-Jean-Michel Basquiat created works of art influenced by graffiti art, which were exhibited for the first time. His works began to capture attention throughout the U.S., Africa and Europe, and he became regarded as a leading American artist.

This graffiti version of the Mona Lisa is one by famed New York street artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, who catapulted to fame in his 20’s, but died by the tender age of 27.

Volume 4, Issue 8
Tattooing: Choose Your Artist Wisely

By Tiffiny Holloway

Now that tattooing is legal in the state of Oklahoma, many people will notice others going to some random tattoo shop for a tattoo. This is the worst decision anyone could make. A person should NEVER pick a random place to get a tattoo. Here are a few useful hints to choosing a good tattoo shop and a good artist.

Check out many different shops. The first thing you should notice is if the floor is clean. It may sound pointless at first, but if the floor is clean, then chances are everything else is too. A good artist will make sure that his/her shop is in top condition at all times.

Some shops will hire random “artists” to come in and tattoo people. They never keep a steady artist on hand. If you find a shop like this, avoid it. The so-called artists that are hired to do work like this are usually going to be bad tattoo artists who just need money. Remember, this tattoo will be permanent. You don’t want someone who doesn’t know what they’re doing messing it up for you.

Once you’ve found the shop you want to use, get to know the artist. A good tattoo artist will be able to tell you what a tattoo will look like in ten years, whether it is good or bad. You may not want to hear someone tell you that your idea for a tattoo isn’t the best, but it’s better than someone simply saying okay to your demands. After all, the tattoo may seem awesome now, but in ten years, when sunlight has caused it to fade and your skin doesn’t have that elasticity that it does now, you will wish you had listened.

The artist you choose should be able to free hand a design for you. If they can’t do that or if they try to draw it and it looks horrible, RUN AWAY. Don’t be afraid or angry if the artist tells you they want to modify the idea you have presented to them. The chances are, they will come up with something a lot better than what you had originally brought them.

Half the artists today will have their previous work in a portfolio in their shop for you to look at. If they don’t have a portfolio around that you can see, ask them for one. Also, a lot of artists today are posting their previous work on myspace. If you know the artist well enough and the people he/she has tattooed, then you will know these tattoos are genuine. Always check out the artist and the shop before you get a tattoo. After all, you need to make sure you are getting what you’re paying for.

Timed W.A.R.P planned for Feb 24

By Matthew Mauldin

This year’s Timed W.A.R.P. will be on Tuesday February 24. Timed W.A.R.P. stands for Timed Writing and Research Project.

The project coordinator is Judy Haught. It is open to area high school students to participate in a research paper writing contest. Students are giving time to research a contest topic in the morning, and then write the essay in the afternoon. A panel of judges from SWOSU select the winners. The prizes will be scholarships to SWOSU at Sayre.

Participating teachers can earn Continuing Education points by attending Mrs. Deborah Carpenter’s seminar entitled “Chocolate & Learning,” which includes cross-curriculum lesson plans that include—what else? Chocolate!

Teachers will have chances at winning door prizes, and contestants, too, can participate in games and win prizes. All will receive goodie bags and lunch at the Bulldog Café.

SWOSU students interested in volunteering to help with Timed WARP need to contact Mrs. Haught or Mrs. Ford.
A young married couple's purchase of a yellow lab brings forth many headaches, as well as many exciting and memorable times. Starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston, *Marley and Me* is an instant family film. This movie was light hearted, humorous, and fun. For all who own a dog know the troubles and the laughs a dog can bring. Owen Wilson writes for a newspaper and starts to write the life and growing up of Marley. Marley is a fun-loving dog with a rascal-like personality and is always into everything. Though both work, Jennifer Aniston wants to be a mother and as the family grows, the couple struggles with raising three children and Marley. *Marley and Me* is a fun movie for the whole family.

**Bedtime Stories**

Another good family movie with the audience being children, although adults as well were entertained. Adam Sandler is a worker for a hotel who's owner is very wealthy with a voluptuous daughter. Sandler gets the job of babysitting his niece and nephew while trying to find ways to entertain them. Every night Sandler, along with his goofy friend, tells the children a bedtime story in which the kids help develop the story. Consequently, Sandler's stories spawn events in his life that are derived from his bedtime stories. *Bedtime Stories* is an entertaining movie for the all ages, although children may like it a little better.

**Gran Torino**

This story takes place in a Midwestern neighborhood where Clint Eastwood, just widowed, tries to live his simple life, but the world in which he believes has faded away. Being a Korean war veteran and of an older generation, Eastwood is not tolerable of most of the people in his neighborhood. This is especially true of his Asian neighbors. Eastwood, nearly having his 1972 Ford Grand Torino stolen, is even more resentful to others. His family treats him like most children treat their elderly parents, in the sense that he is too old to be on his own. Eastwood befriends his neighbors and is in the middle of a gang war. I’m not going to give away the story, so you will have to go see it for yourself. I highly recommend this movie, but for adults only, as it is rated R. This was, in my opinion, one of Eastwood’s best performances.
By Dee Dee Owens

Every February, we start to think about cards, candy, and flowers. SWOSU student Melissa Gilliland said, “When I think of Valentine’s Day, I think about hearts, flowers, candy, big balloons, and cute little stuffed animals. I enjoy picking out gifts for my children.”

Another student, Katherine Banks, said, “I think Valentine’s Day is a Hallmark holiday, but a great excuse when in grade school to have a party.”

So why do we celebrate this holiday? Who is this mysterious St. Valentine?

One legend says that Valentine was a Catholic priest in Rome. When the Emperor, Claudius II, decided that single men made better soldiers, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine thought the law was unjust, and he continued to perform marriages secretly. When he was discovered, he was ordered to be executed.

Another legend states that Valentine sent the first “valentine” card himself. It is believed that when St. Valentine was in prison, he fell in love with a girl, who may have been the jailor’s daughter. It is said that he wrote her a letter before he was executed and signed it, “Your Valentine.” On February 14, 270 A.D., St. Valentine was put to death.

Even though the legend of Valentine’s Day is not clear, it is one of the most popular holidays. Valentine’s Day is second largest card-giving holiday of the year. Whatever you choose to believe, this is part of the history behind the mystery of Valentine’s Day.

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By Carrie Myers

In America we like to send flowers and cards. If one is special, one may receive jewelry; if one is real special, one may receive a proposal. Have you ever thought about how the rest of the world celebrates Valentines?

According to Taiwan tradition, the color and number of roses hold much significance. For example, one rose means “an only love,” eleven roses means “a favorite,” ninety-nine roses means “forever” and one 108 roses means “Marry me.”

Australian valentines were made of satin cushions, perfumed and decorated with flowers and shells. Some have a taxidermy’s humming bird or bird of paradise, which are highly valued and extremely expensive.

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By Marisol Lopez

According to the dictionary, chocolate is merely a preparation of the seeds of cacao, roasted, husked, and ground, often sweetened and flavored, as with vanilla. So what is it about chocolate that makes people go insane? Could it be the way it melts in our mouth just as soon as it touches our lips? Could it be the taste and the way it makes us feel?

There are many different reasons why people like chocolate. Teachers often use chocolate to reward their students for good behavior or just simply getting an answer to a question right. People in love use chocolate as a way of saying “I Love You,” and then sometimes people eat chocolate just for the fun of it. According to Ezine@rticles, “Chocolate affects us both negatively and positively. Some people, when they are sad or depressed, experience a craving for chocolate. On eating chocolate, they report that their mood is elevated and they feel better. This elevation in mood is temporary, though, and when this effect wears off, they again revert to their previous state of mind.” People often use chocolate as a comfort food, especially whenever they find their significant other doing something that they should not be doing, or they use chocolate as a way of making themselves feel better.

In a way chocolate is kind of like love. When we aren’t in love, our hearts seem to feel empty, and when we find it, we seem to find comfort and happiness and it makes us feel better. Then when we lose those “love” feelings, we end up back at square one with an empty heart. The same thing happens with chocolate. We feel all sad and depressed, so then we turn to chocolate and then whenever we are at the highest point that we can reach, it ends, and we are feeling depressed at the bottom of an empty package of M&Ms. Again there are many reasons why we turn to chocolate. Just beware of chocolate’s many invisible powers!

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The History behind the Mysterious St. Valentine

Valentine’s Around the World

By Carrie Myers

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