The WATCHDAWG

For April 16 . . .
Woodstock Fun Day

By Lauren Tatum

Peace, love and rock-and-roll! This motto of the Sixties will be portrayed here on campus on Friday, April 16th for “the day that rocked the campus!”

Games, free food and a live band will all be available! A costume contest is being held for whoever can dress up as the best hippie for the day (clothes are required). The winner will receive an iPod with a $50.00 iTunes card.

Games will include a drum circle, hacky sack and tug-o-war. A drawing will be held for a free two-night stay at either the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tulsa or at the Comfort Inn in Dallas.

The SGA members are selling t-shirts for $10. To see the designs for shirts, see the posters hanging throughout the halls. Order yours in the Financial Aid office with Ron or Nancy today!

So those who want to feel the groove, come right ahead. Enjoy a truly “far out” day.

By Becca Sims

This semester at SWOSU has seen the largest golf class enrollment that we have ever had—and the coolest weather! Last Monday the class had their first meeting. For many, it was the first time they had ever had anything to do with golf. Nine of the 13 enrolled are beginners. Despite the cold weather, everyone was more than willing to start learning all they could about this interesting sport. The class meets every Monday to start preparing for their final, the scramble. The class will be divided into teams that will play each other. Everyone is looking forward to a warm spring filled with the most playing time possible. It is going to be an exciting semester for Mrs. Connell’s golf students!

At left, Aaron Fultz displays his beginning golf form.

Golf is too cool for school

SGA Vice-President Lauren Tatum checks out some fringed leather hippie boots for the costume contest. Photo by Chris Hooks.
April Fool’s Day celebrates Tom-foolery

By Robyn Hudson

The history of April Fool’s Day began around 1582 in France with the change of the calendar under Charles IX. The Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year’s Day was moved from March 25 - April 1 (new year’s week) to January 1. Communication had traveled slowly in those days and some people were only informed of the change several years later. Others who were more rebellious refused to acknowledge the change and continued to celebrate on the last day of the former celebration, April 1. These people were labeled “fools” and were subject to ridicule and sent on “fool errands,” sent invitations to nonexistent parties and had other practical jokes played upon them. The butts of these pranks became known as a “poisson d’avril” or “April fish” because a young naive fish is easily caught.

In addition, one common practice was to hook a paper fish on the back of someone as a joke. This harassment evolved over time and a custom of prank-playing. This tradition eventually spread elsewhere, like to Britain and Scotland, in the 18th century and was introduced to the American colonies by the English and the French. Because this spread to other countries, April Fool’s Day has taken on an international flavor with each country celebrating the holiday in its own way.

In Scotland, for instance, April Fool’s Day is devoted to spoofs involving the buttocks and as such is called Taily Day. The victims of these jokes are known as April “Gowk,” another name for cuckoo bird. The origins of the “Kick Me” sign can be traced back to the Scottish observance. In England, jokes are played only in the morning. Fools are called “gobs” or “gobby” and the victim of a joke is called a “noodle.” It was considered bad luck to play a practical joke on someone after noon. In Rome, the holiday is known as Festival of Hilaria, celebrating the resurrection of the god Attis on March 25 and is also referred to as “Roman Laughing Day.” In Portugal, April Fool’s Day falls on the Sunday and Monday before lent. In this celebration, many people throw flour at their friends. The Huli Festival is celebrated on March 31 in India. People play jokes on one another and smear colors on one another, celebrating the arrival of Spring. So, no matter where you happen to be in the world on April 1, don’t be surprised if April fools fall playfully upon you.
“Feel Proud. Give Blood” was theme for Drive

By Aaron Fultz

On March 29, a blood drive was held which was sponsored by the Radiology Department. The Oklahoma Blood Institute goal was 69 units. Sixty-two people showed up to the blood drive and 57 units of acceptable blood were donated, according to Chris Stufflebean, Director of the Radiologic Technology program at the Sayre campus.

Book Club selects last book for the term

By Dee Dee Owens

The new book for lit club is in, and chosen was Shutter Island by Dennis Lehane. You can purchase the books for $6.50 from Mrs. Haught. U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels has come to Shutter Island, home of Ashecliffe Hospital for the Criminally Insane. Along with his partner, Chuck Aule, he sets out to find an escaped patient, a murderess named Rachel Solando, as a hurricane bears down upon them. But nothing at Ashecliffe Hospital is what it seems. And neither is Teddy Daniels. Is he there to find a missing patient? Or has he been sent to look into rumors of Ashecliffe’s radical approach to psychiatry? An approach that may include drug experimentation, hideous surgical trials, and lethal counter-moves in the shadow war against Soviet brainwashing. . . . Or is there another, more personal reason why he has come there?

This is the last book for book club this semester. There are three ways to join Literary Club. You can go to the meetings and discuss the book, or print the questions on line by going to the following links: swosu.edu, Sayre, Current Students, Literary Club. The third and newest way to get bonus points is by signing up to participate in Discussion Board on Desire2Learn.

Oklahoma tornado season approaches

By Katie O’Neal

As any Oklahoma resident should know, spring means wild winds and possible tornadoes. What procedures and precautions will you take during a tornado?

We all know that driving or any outdoor activity during a storm isn't the ideal place to be. Don't try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle; just leave it and find a flat, low location. Find the place with the most coverage no matter where you may be at the time. Often tornadoes occur in the late afternoon, around 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It could be likely that you will be at work or school during this time period. Always find the lowest level in any building where you may be located. Never take cover in a hallway or opening to the south or west. Put as many walls between you and the twister as possible. Be aware of debris; people often worry more of the tornado when debris causes the majority of injuries.

If you are here at the Sayre campus during a tornado, there are several safety plans for you. In each building there is a tornado safe spot in case of an emergency. Posted yellow signs show you where the safest place to take cover is, and where you can find shelter in that particular building. Restrooms in the campus buildings are the best places to be, because they are small interior rooms. Interior halls are also a good option if you aren't close to a restroom, as long as the hall isn't close to windows.

Stay safe during these Oklahoma storms that can sneak up. Always be prepared, always stay calm, and use your brain during any storm hazard.
President Randy Beutler attends SGA meeting

By Lauren Tatum

The Sayre Student Government Association was thrilled to have a guest at their meeting last Friday. SWOSU President Randy Beutler traveled over from Weatherford to attend the monthly meeting.

SGA President Carrie Meyers opened the meeting and discussed the upcoming Woodstock Day and plans for naming a room after the late Ronald Duffield (which is pending review and if approved by the RUSO Board of Regents) and presenting a plaque to his family during this year’s commencement ceremony (which is pending approval of the Commencement Agenda by SWOSU Sayre Administration.) Under “New Business” the group discussed items of concern with Randy Beutler, including ways for students to address any complaints, suggestions and concerns. He explained the proper channels for that. Also discussed was the need for an auditorium for the Sayre campus. Meyers explained that SGA hosts many functions and guest speakers, and the only place large enough is the gymnasium, which echoes and makes it difficult to hear. Also of concern is the condition of the older buildings and classrooms, the lack of art on campus, the need for ATM machines on campus, in the Bulldog Cafe and the Business Office. One student suggested automatic doors for handicapped students be installed in the Bulldog Café.

Beutler then addressed the group, speaking of the current budget crunch, but assuring them that students and teachers were his main priority.

“President Beutler made me feel so good about the campus,” stated Ron Kistler, SGA advisor. “He wants to do a long range plan for building up the Sayre campus so we will have something to look forward to.”

Pizza was served, and Beutler “broke bread” with the group.

Graduation Time! Get ready . . .

By Cindel Fish

It’s hard to believe, but graduation is almost here! The convocation exercise will be held on Friday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sayre Schools Auditorium (two blocks north of the college campus).

There will be graduation practice Wednesday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the auditorium.

Caps and gowns may be picked up in the Bookstore after April 1. Graduation announcements may be purchased in the Bookstore.

Blunck’s Photography Studio will be at the graduation exercises to take individual pictures of each student receiving a degree. The proofs will be mailed to the student’s home address and the ordering is up to each person.

If for any reason a graduate will not be able to attend the graduation, the student must obtain permission from Dr. Jim James to graduate in absentia. This must be taken care of prior to the graduation date.

There will be a reception held at the Southwestern Student Union immediately following the graduation exercises.

Plan to attend and invite family and friends.

More detailed graduation instructions will be mailed to graduates at a later date.

If anyone should have any questions please contact Kim Seymour, Registrar.
Sports Update

By James Racadio

The SWOSU Men’s basketball season is officially over as they dropped their first round game of the LSC tournament against Midwestern State 77-65. They had an overall record of 14-17 this season.

The SWOSU baseball team is at an impressive 17-14 record. The SWOSU softball squad is at a 16-8 record.

James Anderson of the Oklahoma State Cowboys has declared for the 2010 NBA draft, which is terrible news. He just finished his junior year at OSU, in which he was voted unanimously the Big 12 Player of the Year. His 22.3 points per game average led the Cowboys to a 22-11 record and a spot in the NCAA tournament.

UFC live was an entertaining event as up and comer Junior Dos Santos, heavyweight, put a quick end to Gabriel Gonzaga’s night with a counter left hook. Jonny “Bones” Jones also solidified his status in the Light heavyweight division as he landed a VICIOUS elbow on Brandon Vera in his guard.

Final Fantasy: The Thirteenth Review

By Danny Lee Trevino

In this installment, we’re reviewing Final Fantasy XIII. I would easily recommend getting the game on the PS3. The XBox 360 disk can’t compact all the information, so it is made into two discs, thus more work—and we’re all lazy. The games flows very nicely, especially with the new Paradigm System. The Paradigm System lets you control only one character at a time during the encounter, while having the ability to preset moves and set lists to your own preference. They’ll fight independently and react to different situations according to your encounter (Battle).

There are so many customizations to each character. Even with no leveling up, it all chalks up to the Sphere Grid. This Sphere Grid is essentially a carbon copy of Final Fantasy X, with all the moves ranging from High Wind all the way to Sovereign Fist. The enemies are the same, they just tend to change in color as they get tougher, although there is a wide array of bosses vastly more powerful than your character. That’s where grinding comes in. You can go the whole game without playing a single enemy other than the enemies that have story lines in the game, or you can fight every buffoon that decides to get in the way of your destiny.

Watch out for the giant turtles (aka the Adamantoise) they have uber amounts of health and strength. Their damage is off the charts, and their health is almost unlimited. The turtle is not an enemy that has to be fought, but if encountered, then God help you run away! You can have up to six main characters and can have up to three characters in your party at one time. Each excels at different roles, but if put in enough time, anybody can have anybody’s role.

The game might be beat without power leveling in thirty five hours, or if you want to destroy all in your wake, probably forty-five to however many hours you want to put in. This game is not for the everyday gamer. You have to be a true nerd to even think about touching this game. All in all the whole game is coveted as one of the best RPG’s out there. With sleek visceral graphics, monstrous hours of game play, large variety in options, and non-stop action this game has it all. I give this game the most prestigious of rankings: a 10 out of 10.
Meet Louis B. Sims
Another small town kid who made a big time career...

By Brian Cushman
Edited by Terry Ford

I was on my way to meet a legendary Oklahoman—a man who was in the Secret Service during the tumultuous Nixon years and during Kennedy’s assassination and the aftermath that followed. For many of the most important moments in history, Louis Sims had a front row seat. As for being around the so-called movers and shakers, he was there at the exhilarating Seat of Government. From a humble upbringing in Hobart, OK, to serving in the U.S. Army, to being a member of the Secret Service under six U.S. Presidents, to his employment with Pennzoil Co., Mr. Sims has traveled the world and back.

Upon arriving at his home in Southwestern Oklahoma, I was greeted with a hospitable smile, a hearty “Good morning!” and a friendly handshake by a well-built, distinguished white-haired gentleman doing yard work. I was led through the back gate to the pool house, and when I commented on the immaculate yard and flower beds with an assuming, “Wow, you sure have a green thumb,” Mr. Sims replied with a humble, “Oh, no. My wife tells me what to do, and I do it!” At 75 years old (but looking a full decade younger), Mr. Sims’ secret to longevity is, “If I know something isn’t good for me, I just don’t do it.”

Louis Barton Sims is practically a walking history book. “The historical events that stand out in my mind,” writes Sims, “include but are not limited to the first and every assignment protecting the President; after the Kennedy assassination, working the funeral the next four days in Washington, D.C.; The Warren Commission Study/Hearings/Recommendations for the Secret Service; three trips to South Vietnam during the war setting up security for Secret Service protectees; the many anti-war demonstrations in front of the White House, Lafayette Park, Ellipse, and the Mall during the Vietnam War. The assassination of Presidential candidate Robert Kennedy and the Secret Service being assigned the responsibility of protecting Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates beginning almost immediately; President Johnson’s announcement that ‘I will not seek nor will I accept my party’s nomination for President of the United States’; The Watergate Break-in and my subsequent testifying in Federal Court before Judge John Sirica.”

Louis B. Sims may be from a small town in Oklahoma, but there is nothing small about his role in history.

As part of our Heritage Series, another interesting Western Oklahoman is honored on these pages.

The newspaper staff and even some Comp. II students are researching our Oklahoma heroes, possibly for inclusion in a book.

Serving under six different U.S. Presidents would give a person volumes of stories to tell. But Sims takes seriously the “secret” aspect of his Secret Service. He vows never to reveal private moments or to expose foibles of the men he served with his life. And it didn’t matter whether the President was Republican or Democrat.

“I was completely void of politics in my job,” Sims stated. “I purposely had no feeling one way or the other. The President is the President and that was always the way I looked at my job.”

One of five siblings, Sims was born July 9, 1934, to Bryan and Evelyn Sims in Hobart, Oklahoma. Louis enjoyed a humble childhood in a two story house on the west edge of Hobart. Having played sports during high school, upon graduating, Louis was offered a partial scholarship in sports at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where he attended for two years. After two years at SWOSU, Louis caught the eye of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, which offered him a full ride scholarship, also in sports. He completed his college education there, having majored in Business and minored in Science. In April of 1957, after graduating college, and following his fiancée graduation one month later, Louis took full advantage of an often rare opportunity and married his high school sweetheart Gwen Jones, with whom he shares the joy of five children; four girls, and one boy. This union has resulted in 52 years of marital bliss.

Just prior to marriage and immediately after completing college, Louis was drafted into the Army in January of 1957. Louis served from 1957-1960. During basic training, the Army learned of Louis’ college education, and offered him an opportunity to test for Army Intelligence. Having done well on the test, he went straight from boot-camp to Baltimore, MD, for Army Intelligence School, after which he became a Special Agent for Army Intelligence. During an investigation in Kansas City, Louis had the fortune of interviewing former President Harry Truman.

After the interview, Louis asked President (Continued on page 7)
Truman if he would mind him asking a few questions.

President Truman said, “No, be my guest.”

“Mr. President,” Louis began, “I’m seriously considering applying for the Secret Service, and I would like to know what you think about the Secret Service as a career?”

President Truman replied, “Anyone that can be that close to me and stay out of my hair is a pretty good outfit.”

Just before being discharged from the military, Louis did in fact, apply for the Secret Service. Was it a difficult decision? What would his family think?

“When I decided to apply for the U.S. Secret Service, I did not feel the need to consult anyone other than my wife. I did not keep it a secret but just went forward in a very routine manner. My family was always supportive in whatever I did, and it was not in their nature to express to me concern in any way. I knew they were there if I needed them and I never wanted to disappoint them.”

Not knowing when or if the Secret Service might call, Louis and his wife moved to Lawton, Oklahoma, where Louis, following in his father’s footsteps, went to work for Great Southern Life Insurance. The Secret Service did eventually call, and in April of 1961, shortly after President Kennedy’s Inauguration, Louis was hired as a special agent for the United States Secret Service. Now he embarked upon a dangerous occupation.

“The historical events that stand out in my mind include... after the Kennedy assassination, working the funeral the next four days in Washington...”

“My wife Gwen was always concerned, but never made it an issue. It was not often that I talked about my day-to-day work at home,” Sims said. Mrs. Sims deserves a great deal of respect and recognition as well for her commitment to her husband and family, as well as her commitment to education, as she is now a retired educator. Behind every great man is often the love of an amazing woman.

For the first three years, he was stationed in Chicago, IL. Meanwhile, he was back and forth from Chicago to Washington D.C. for Secret Service training. It was during graduation exercises in D.C. that President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, TX. Louis had both the honor and the unfortunate duty of working President Kennedy’s funeral for the next four days.

How must it have felt to be a part of what so many of us watched on television?

“As I went through my career with the Secret Service, I was very much aware that I was part of the national news as it pertained to our Government; in many instances, I was either close by or there. This was not anything special with me; it is just the way it was almost every day. I was quite aware of the importance and historical significance at the time, however, I was so occupied in doing my job that I never thought twice about it, just put everything I could possibly put into it to do the best job I could do. It took all of that every day, both on the job and with the family.”

Not long after returning to Chicago, Louis received orders to transfer to Washington, D.C. for permanent assignment. During his tenure in the Secret Service, Louis served in many capacities including: Chicago and Washington Field Offices Assistant in Charge of Intelligence Division, and then Special Agent in Charge of Liaison Division, and later the Technical Security Division at the White House, which was during the Nixon Administration and the infamous Watergate scandal. Since Louis had possession of all the White House Watergate Tapes, he was called to testify in U.S. District Court, in Washington, D.C. during the Watergate Hearings before Judge John Sirica. Louis described the court room as being packed and the jury box completely filled with news media. No cameras were allowed, so the whisper of the pencil on canvas as the media artists sketched what they were witnessing and reporters frantically scratched notes in shorthand—it all made for an interesting and very unusual day!

While the pervading mood in the country was one of shock, disillusionment, and embarrassment over the Watergate scandal that cost Nixon his Presidency, Sims said he simply continued to do his job.

“Watergate did not affect me one way or the other,” Sims said stoically. “I was in no way embarrassed. I simply testified in Federal Court of what I knew and that was it. Emotion was very seldom involved in my work or my decisions.”

Following the resignation of President Nixon, President Ford was sworn to office and shortly thereafter, Louis was promoted to the position of Chief of International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for the United States in which capacity, he served for four and a half years, working daily with the INTERPOL Headquarters in Paris, France, as well as with another 135 member countries.

After INTERPOL, Louis was transferred to the Office of Inspection of Secret Service,
“Some young people may feel ‘stuck’ in a small town or hindered by being from western Oklahoma, but Sims says he never felt that way.”

He feels that growing up in a small town (Hobart’s population of around 6,000) was important to developing the person he became. He called it the “broadest preparation anyone could receive for any career.” He had to take responsibility for the farm animals daily and to pull his load at home in a family of six, and he learned that “one has to work if one is to succeed.”

“The Western Oklahoma” values that helped me greatly in my developmental years included but were not limited to having very little and working hard for what you had, being given responsibility at an early age, learning to respect others, yet having enough confidence to speak up in the right way when it was appropriate, and being part of not only your family, but an active part of helping the community,” said Sims.

Louis and Gwen Sims are very proud Oklahomans who spend their years in retirement striving to maintain and prosper their beloved town of Hobart—and Western Oklahoma. Both are extremely proud of their home and heritage. Gwen served many years on the Chamber of Commerce, Quartz Mountain Arts & Conference Center Board, Civic Clubs and now the Library Board among many other ventures, while Louis serves on Hobart Economic Development Authority, the Kiowa County Industrial Authority, Hobart Main Street Board, General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum Board Chairman, Oklahoma Space Authority Board, and OSU Dean’s Advisory Committee. They are very active in raising funds for various functions. Louis has helped in the development of two senior living centers and is presently working on an assisted living center for Hobart, as well as other needs of the community. Their service to the community is unparalleled in that they work diligently to conserve the history of their hometown. Mr. Sims worked very closely with General Tommy Franks (retired) and other leaders in Hobart in the establishment of the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum in Hobart. Mr. and Mrs. Sims’ community service is too lengthy to mention them all, but rest assured, while they may be retired, retired is only a relative term.

Sims loves to speak to young people, and has been invited to be the commencement speaker for the SWOSU-Sayre 2010 graduation this May.

“The advice that I give to young people each year in our schools and in other groups is to live their life, starting immediately, as though they were the employer looking for a person who is honest and trustworthy, uses good judgment, has applied oneself in school and is prepared and ready to accept responsibility both on and off the job, plus will work hard,” said Sims. “I also caution each one of them to ‘just say no’ to drugs and not to do anything outside the law. The reason? Most worthwhile employment conducts a background investigation and eliminates those applicants who have not followed these written or unwritten rules of life.”

Some young people may feel “stuck” in a small town or hindered by being from western Oklahoma, but Sims says he never felt that way.

“For me, I never thought twice about it, just went with a very positive attitude that I could go anywhere or do anything that anyone else could. After you have spent your career doing all of those things and being in all of those places, it is absolutely wonderful to return to your roots and give back to your community. Very rewarding!”

“Have a vision beyond ‘your little world,’ then do not be afraid to ‘Go For It.’”

President Gerald Ford