SGA Plans Fall Festival

By Ashley Brewer

Time to pick out your alter-ego for the annual Fall Festival, as this year’s contest will feature five cash prizes for best costumes, according to SGA President Coleen Taylor.

Additionally, hypnotist Mike Reeves has been booked for the Festival. “Mr. Hypnosis” promises to amaze, impress and entertain the audience as they watch Mike create the finest comedy show using the power of hypnosis to create hilarious skits and situations. Volunteers from the audience become the stars of the show, which makes every show unique. (For more info, see related story, page 10.)

This year’s Fall Festival will be held on Friday, October 28, 2011.

The best costume contest will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cash prizes will

(Continued on page 10)

Sherron Manning Named Interim Dean of Sayre

Sherron Manning has been named the interim dean of the College of Associate and Applied Sciences on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre campus.

Manning has been serving as the director of counseling and assessment at the Sayre campus since 2004. Prior to her employment at SWOSU, she was a science teacher (biology, chemistry, physics, computer science) at Erick High School for 10 years and a science teacher at Altus Junior High School for one year.

Manning has both a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Natural Science Education and a Master of Education in School Counseling from SWOSU.

She replaces Dr. Jim James, who retired earlier this semester. Dr. Blake Sonobe, senior vice president and provost at SWOSU, said Manning brings a wealth of educational and administrative experience to the position.

Sherron Manning

Mr. Hypnosis, Mike Reeves, will dazzle the crowd with his ability to have volunteers do the silliest things.

Last year’s winner Robbie “Taco” Sanchez won money for his creativity.
Retirement Reception held for Dr. James

By Ashley Brewer

A Retirement Reception was held September 29, 2011, for Dr. Jim James, who retired Wednesday, August 31st as Dean of the College of Associate and Applied Sciences on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre campus. Dr. James had been dean at Sayre since 2002.

The reception was held at the Bulldog Cafe at 2 p.m. Many community members and former SWOSU employees joined with current faculty, staff, and students in wishing Dr. James a happy retirement. He and his wife Peggy make their home in Norman, Oklahoma.

SWOSU President Randy Beutler awarded Dr. James with a commemorative clock. Dr. Blake Sonobe, senior vice president and provost at SWOSU, gave him an OU sweatshirt.

The faculty and staff provided several gifts: Sharon Manning, counselor, presented a plaque and card for Dr. James, as well as a gift for Peggy, and Holly Hernandez presented a plant in a basket, photo book of Dr. James, and gift certificate from the Sooner Store.

A beautiful spread of fruit, cheese, sweets, and meats was prepared by our chef, Bill D’Alessandro, the head of Sayre’s Hospitality, Restaurant & Gaming Management program.

Upcoming Event: The Buried Life

By Alyssa Brandon

The next Panorama Series will feature the guys from the MTV hit show The Buried Life. The show is about a group of friends (Ben Nemtin, Dave Lingwood, Duncan Penn, and Jonnie Penn) who attempt to complete a list of “100 things we want to do before we die.”

As they travel across the U.S. in their old purple RV named “Penelope” trying to mark off items on their list, they also help someone achieve one of their dreams. The show is meant to encourage others to make their own lists, and to mark the items off one at a time.

The guys will be speaking on the Weatherford campus in the Auditorium of the Fine Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, 2011.

Tickets are available in the SWOSU business office in the Administration Building. Tickets can also be paid for with a credit card by calling (580)-774-3019. The price is $5 for students, faculty/staff, and emeriti with a valid I.D. and pre-purchased. For all others who pre-purchase their tickets, it will be $10. All tickets bought at the door will be $20. The show will go on for two hours.

If anyone needs further information Brian Adler is available by phone at (580)-774-3063.
Earl Bales Is Recognized for His 10 Years at SWOSU

By Alyssa Brandon

Mr. Earl Bales was honored recently at Weatherford for 10 years of service. He has served as a computer science instructor and technical handy-man at South Western for ten years. During those years, he has taught a variety of computer and software based classes including Java, Visual Basic Programming, Computer/Information Access, Networking, and Computer Science. Out of the several, his favorite class has been Networking because of its complexity.

One could consider Earl Bales as a technical guru. He does it all, from installing new software to working on a fax machine. He has greatly assisted with the interactive, off-campus classes by running all of the wires necessary. As some students have already noticed, we have Office 2010 on several of the computers in the labs. We can thank Mr. Bales for that, as well. On the Sayre campus, 200 computers are available for student use. At the end of every semester, he cleans the computers in the labs by erasing all viruses, games, and saved documents.

“I guess you could say every student gets a new computer every semester,” he said. When asked what he enjoys most about his work here at SWOSU, he replied, “it’s never the same every day. Each day brings a new problem to solve.” That is what intrigues Earl the most; solving challenges. He won’t stop until he’s figured out what the problem is and how to fix it. His main pastime is spent talking to his connections in Cuba via Ham Radio. This is wireless communication using radio frequencies. Ham radio can be used to reach others in a different city, state, country, or even continent. It is apparent that the technology Bales has been using for classes has changed significantly during the past ten years. He can remember buying a computer having only a ¼ gig for $80. Now he says he has a computer that can store 4 gigs of memory that he purchased for only $60. Students and staff would like to again congratulate and thank Mr. Earl Bales for his 10 years of service here at SWOSU.

Scholarship Available for Undergraduate Women

By Kaci Taylor

The Weatherford Chapter of AAUW is soliciting nominations of worthy undergraduate women who will graduate in 2012 (spring, summer, or fall) to be considered for the AAUW Scholarship. Each nominee should meet the listed criteria. Persons already holding a bachelor's degree are not eligible for this scholarship. The completed scholarship application form and all references must be submitted no later than October 19, 2011, at noon. A maximum of two applicants per department may be submitted.

The AAUW Scholarship Committee will select a recipient, and she will be notified by November 11, 2011. The recipient will be recognized in a scholarship presentation at the Weatherford AAUW branch. If you have questions, please call Lori at ext. 7010 or Darla at ext. 3071 or email Lori at lori.gwyn@swosu.edu or Darla at darla.davenport@swosu.edu.

Please mail application and references to: Dr. Lori Gwyn, Office of Sponsored Programs, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, 100 Campus Dr., Administration Building Room 201, Weatherford, OK 73096-3098. (580) 774-7010

AAUW supports education and equity for all women. In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.
SWOSU Named One of America’s Coolest

By Rebecca Clanahan

Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford has been dubbed the “coolest” university in the state of Oklahoma. The Sierra—the magazine of the Sierra Club, which is the oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States—has put SWOSU in its rankings for some of the best environmental goals and achievements.

SWOSU is the only Oklahoma university to make the top 120 rankings this year. More than 2,000 four-year colleges and universities exist in the United States.

Schools were ranked on 10 factors: efficiency, energy, food, academics, purchasing, transportation, waste management, administration, financial investments, and other investments.

The rankings act as a guide for prospective students who seek a way to compare universities based on commitment and environmentalism and to also spur competition, create inspirational standards, and publicly reward the institutions that work hard to protect the planet.

“This is a nice surprise,” SWOSU President Randy Beutler said. “We realize that we have a lot of work to do in this area, but the rankings will give us guidance for future projects.”

READ Posters Will Star Faculty and Staff

By Zack White

Have you ever seen your favorite star holding his or her favorite book? If so you have seen the American Library Association’s READ Campaign. Since 1993, the popular posters have featured television, movie, and sports stars holding their favorite reads to encourage youngsters to look inside a book.

Stars have been as varied as Daniel Radcliffe, Julia Stiles, Kelly Ripa, Orlando Bloom, Drew Brees, George Lopez, Barack Obama, and many, many more. Nearly two years ago, a librarian from Weatherford’s Al Harris Library invited the Sayre staff and faculty to join Hollywood’s favorite stars to have their very own READ posters. Several showed up for the photo sessions with their favorite books to help encourage all to read, and finally, they are in!

“I was very excited to bring attention to my favorite book, Facing the Lion,” stated SWOSU English instructor Terry Ford. “It is an amazing true story of a young girl’s strength and courage in the face of Nazi oppression, and I’d recommend it to everyone. I have always been a fan of the READ posters, and must admit, I am excited at the prospect of hanging on the wall between the likes of Sean Connery and Alec Baldwin.”

If you would like to see the posters, they will be hanging in the O. H. McMahan library at Sayre or on walls around campus.

October 17-23rd is Teen Read Week, featuring the theme “Books with Beat.” Check out the campus library today!
Meet Brandon Miller, one of our more unusual students here at SWOSU. Brandon is currently a reporter for The Watchdawg and earns a little extra cash as a teacher’s aid. Brandon attended the Pagan Pride festival in Oklahoma City on Saturday, September 17, 2011. As a practicing Wiccan and Thelemite with an unusual blend of beliefs that span the vast cultures of the world, Brandon is aware that some people may be intimidated by rumors about his non-mainstream beliefs. He agreed to do an interview for the school paper and set the record straight.

Q: So, Wiccan? Thelemite? What does that mean?
A: Well, Wicca is an Old English word that is commonly defined as a male magician or witch, but its origins stem back to Gaelic, in the time of the Celts and Druids. In that society, it generally had a denotation that simply meant “wise one” and was typically given to the tribal shaman-priest/ess. Wicca is a very Nature-based religion that is about recognizing and appreciating nature, and learning to work with the elements in order to take your proper place within Her. Thelema is a Greek word meaning Will.

Q: Ok, so what does that mean in terms of belief? Are you monotheistic, polytheistic, or atheist?
A: Yes. Well, I do believe that the Source of all things, the Ultimate Consciousness, the Creator (call it what you want) is a single unit. So, in that regard, I am monotheistic. However, from that Original Consciousness sprang the Supernal Triad, and from there filtered its light down through various channels which gave life to all rank and manner of sentient beings and matter, both above and below humanity. So, in that regard, I am polytheistic. I am also a firm believer in personal responsibility for one’s own attainment of the consciousness of God, and that it cannot be done for you. So, in that regard, I am atheistic.

Q: Explain.
A: Well first of all, I view the Bible as a very allegorical book of parables, metaphors, and Kabalistic anagrams that has been horribly misinterpreted, mistranslated, misunderstood, and cast in a shamefully superstitious manner throughout the ages. That being said, it is a wonderful source of wisdom when examined in the proper light. The story of creation found in Hebrew mythology is actually one subject to Kabalistic interpretation. The Supernal Triad is viewed thusly: In the beginning the All became conscious of I AM, and in doing so, became three. By the same virtue, the observer of this phenomenon was born, and two became three. Thus I AM that I AM, with the original being ineffable. From there, all frequencies of energy in the Universe vibrated (like vocal chords) and were filtered down through a cosmic prism across a vast ocean, or abyss which gave rise to matter and an endless number of individual consciousnesses.

Q: I can agree that there has been much hypocrisy in Christianity down through the ages, but do you enjoy the teachings of Jesus?
A: Certainly. Y H S h V H (Jesus) has many gems of brilliant wisdom. I must admit though, I hold him no higher than I do Buddha, Krishna, Lao Tzu, Socrates, Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle, Thoth.

(Continued on page 6)
Meet This BullDawg, continued

(Continued from page 5)

Mohammad, Jung, Crowley . . . and many other prophets and philosophers.

Q: So, what do you do?
A: I devote myself to achieving a unified consciousness with the Universe through various methods of meditation, ritual, study, and action.

Q: Do you cast spells and place curses?

Q: Does “will” mean do what you want?
A: Absolutely not. Will implies one’s True Will, which also relates to one’s place within Nature. A common axiom among those like myself is, “every man, woman, and child is a star.”

The implication here can be observed in the cosmos. The celestial bodies all orbit a star, or group of stars, or super massive black hole. Every star seems to orbit in its own particular pattern without interfering with the orbit of another in any manner other than the interrelated nature of one to another as a whole universe. In the same manner, we can learn our True Will, or path, or purpose, and execute it perfectly without ever interfering with another’s Will. In fact, that practice of interfering with the Will of others by means of force, coercion, or deception, or doing any act of magick whatsoever that is not in alignment with your own True Will, is exactly the definition of Black Magick. I see many people today—including even some politicians and preachers—who attempt to assert power over the beliefs of others for selfish gain, and to hate those who are different, and I call that Black Magick.

Q: I see. So, no curses then?
A: No. That being said, I do strengthen my own chi, if anyone ever seriously thought I was responsible for a negative thing happening to them, a deep search inward would more likely reveal the malefic culprit.

Q: Do you believe in or worship a Goddess?
A: I worship life itself, the essence of life, the source of life and consciousness. I deny no deity their existence, I don’t believe any Deity will condemn me eternally for not offering devotion to one particular archetype.

That concept seems very “mortal” to me.

Q: Well, Brandon, I’m glad to know you won’t cast a spell on me if this interview doesn’t meet your expectations. I appreciate your openness to share your beliefs and to allow me to share mine with you, as we have done in the past. I have been asked why I hired you as my work study, and I say that one time last semester when you were under tremendous pressure, you got upset with me for not letting you re-take a test that you missed (and you missed it for a very good reason). Later you apologized to me, and I call that very “Christ-like.” Does that offend you?
A: No, not at all. As I said earlier, Jesus is one of my many heroes.

Q: What would you say to SWOSU students in closing?
A: I would say to not fall prey to superstition, and do not let the folly of ignorance close your mind to having an everlasting curiosity, like a child. I would say do not fear me, or anything else. I am a perfectly approachable person and those that know me will no doubt confirm. Anyone who may be curious about anything here is free to ask. I have nothing to hide. I would say, “Do What Thou Will Shall be the Whole of the Law. Love is the Law, Love Under Will.”

Fall: Time to Revisit Campus Drinking Issues

By Rebecca Clanahan

For many students, heading back to college is a great time for connecting with old friends and making new ones, a time for making memories that will last a lifetime, and a time of new experiences. Unfortunately, for some students, these new experiences include excessive drinking and dealing with the fall-out because of it. The consequences of drinking can be date rape, violence, and academic failure.

According to research summarized in a College Task Force report to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the consequences of excessive drinking by college students are more significant, more destructive, and more costly than many students realize. Evidence suggests that the most critical time in a first year student’s path to success is during the first 6 weeks. A rapid increase in drinking over a short time contributes to a difficult time adjusting to college life, and about one-third of students will not enroll for a second year.

To find an interactive diagram of the human body and the effects that alcohol can have, as well as an interactive alcohol cost calculator, visit collegedrinkingreven- non.gov. SWOSU also offers students free counseling at the Wellness Center. Call Kim Liebscher at 580-774-3776 if stress is getting to you and you need someone to help you or a friend.
New Display for the Art Case

By Liz Terry

Native American art is now on display in the Mackey Hall art case.

This semester’s featured artist is Poferio Tirador “Gopher” Armstrong, of the Cheyenne-Caddo tribe, 1935-2010.

The display includes a picture of the artist that was contributed by an individual who visited Gopher on a regular basis at the Veteran’s Home in Clinton, OK. The back of the painting has “Tirador Gopher Armstrong” written in cursive, and he is listed in *Lester’s Biographical Directory of Native American Painters* as “Tirador,” but those who knew him remember that Gopher always said his name was Theodore.

The collection of dream catchers and the rain stick belongs to SWOSU-Sayre Computer Instructor, Debbie Carpenter. Her husband, Scott Carpenter, purchased these art pieces from Gopher before his death. Sadly, Gopher passed away on March 17th, 2010, at the Veteran’s Home in Clinton, OK.

The arrowheads were donated by Terry Ford from her personal collection.

If you have a personal art collection you would like to share with the campus, notify Mrs. Terry Ford. She will be happy to schedule a time to set up the display.

In Mackey Hall, instructor Deborah Carpenter loans her collection of Native American art for the display case.

*Photo by Kaci Taylor*

Tuition Increases—Is College Worth It?

Is a college degree the ticket to a bright future—or to a lifetime of debt?

All over the globe the tuition and mandatory fees at Oklahoma’s public colleges and universities has increased by an average of 5.9 percent this school year for undergraduate students.

That’s an average increase of $224 for in-state students who take 30 credit hours. The State Regents for Higher Education voted 8-1 to approve the increases, which ranges anywhere from 3.2 to 8.3 percent.

The increase has many wondering if it is worth it, especially since 2/3 of college grads start out $24,000 in debt, and statistics show some have owed as much as $100,000, according to *NBC Nightly News*.

Many college graduates have to move home after college and can’t find work in their chosen field. Is college really a good investment?

Consider these points:

Nationwide, unemployment figures show that 9.1 percent of the population is out of work, but for college grads, the figure is less than half, with only 4.3 percent unemployed.

Also, remember that Federal Student Loans are capped based on income, family size and other matters, and after 25 years, any unpaid sum is forgiven.

While some job markets are flooded, others are in desperate need of employees, so check to see the job-availability predictions in your chosen field to determine if it is worth it.

The overall statistics show that people with college degrees are better off in the long run, earning more money in a lifetime than those without.
Feeding on the Fear

By: B.K. Miller

It was a nice temperate morning. I was up early that morning, still instinctively up with the sun from the dose of brainwashing received in boot camp. I watched T.V. all day that day, eyes glued to the images with an intense feeling of disgust in my gut. I remember the anger. I remember foolishly hoping that I would get my chance to kill anyone involved with such an appalling act against humanity. In the years that followed, I slowly learned the tragic history and chain of events that led to 9-11. I watched the world around me descend further and further into chaos while chasing a phantom enemy called terror in the name of order. An enemy to whom more and more identifying elements were continually added, and of which I saw no objective means by which to confront. (Now, I know any war veteran or survivor of those attacks will be hasty to remind me that those planes were no phantoms, nor were the brown faces wrapped in cloth which stood on the receiving end of an American bullet any sort of invisible adversary. I grieve for the loss that day ten years ago, and I in no way whatsoever wish to diminish the bravery and honor of those truly deserving, but let me ask you this: If our nation were invaded by a foreign country tomorrow, on the grounds that they suspected us to be responsible for an atrocious act, would you not take up arms and fight to the death for your land, family, and freedom, whether or not you had anything to do with the original reason for invasion? This may in fact be a difference of circumstance due to religious views and socio-economic status of that region, or some political agenda in the Middle East, but I contest, as evidenced by the current uprisings in that region, that the vast majority of those people are also just people who would gladly embrace freedom, even if only on their own terms.)

I remember wondering if I would soon be labeled a terrorist simply for refusing to digest the intellectual food being fed to me by a strangely silent government. I watched the American people, my people; lose more freedom, little by little, in the name of freedom. I watched them slip deeper into a state of fear; fear of this enemy for which no substantial evidence seemed to be provided. A fear perpetuated more by our own sovereigns than the enemy we fought; this all in the name of “national security.” Ten years later, I cannot help but think, “What a sad state of affairs we live in.”

The “Land of the Free” seems to have given up its chief value in exchange for this specter called “security,” and his twin brother “safety.” It seems these ghosts are nothing more than words used to grow trees of fear from the seeds planted on that fateful day; another form of control which has brought a proud people to its knees.

I do know this: on that day, the American people were not afraid, but rather angry.

I have watched politicians, businessmen, and all manner of cunning parasites feed on the fear of our people. More laws that restrict our freedom have been passed in the last decade than in the century that came before, including an unprecedented number of laws that seem to justify the suspension of and infringement on basic constitutional rights of our own people. I see people, regular, working, taxpaying people, who are suffering from economically troubled times being more harassed by a police force that seems to have plenty of money, is larger and more equipped than ever, and seems now to resemble a military force rather than keepers of the peace who genuinely “protect and serve” the innocent and defenseless. There are no doubt exceptions, remnants of good character among them, but some seem to be composed of power-hungry troglodytes content to feed off of the proverbial scraps from the power table. I have doubts as to who is really winning this ambiguous war, and I cannot help but wonder if the culprits behind this fiasco, who ever they may be, have, in reality, gained the upper hand.

Security and safety, the cowardly twin ghosts of slavery, should be laid back on the altar of freedom, and we, the American people, should cease this cowardly existence, and turn again to one of the only true virtues of Mankind. Her Icon still stands in our harbor and...
Editorial, continued

any human worthy of life will surely embrace Lady Liberty again, and, in the true spirit of our people, take destiny back into their own hands. That being said, life is balance. Let us pray that men and women with courage and honor can help restore that balance; for, the road to tyranny is always paved with justifications of security and patriotism. It is never okay to harm the innocent. No reason on earth is profound enough to justify any terrorist anywhere, or anytime. The solution to this problem will not be found in a sacrificial offering by the American people of their own freedom. It will not be found in a larger police force, military, or government agency. The solution and the cure for this destructive ideology will be discovered at the roots of the psychological issues that drive it.

We can pull a weed from a garden. We can cut down all the weeds with impressive machinery, but unless we cut out the roots, the weeds will just grow back again. Let us also hope then, that in this quest for a cure we do not also cross the fine line from retaliatory force to initiatory force. We must be mindful so that the very people who set out on a quest to slay the monster have not and do not become the monster. The “war” against terror must be fought in the hearts and minds of every individual on earth. It is a contest of will more than one of ideology, and if we cherish fear more than freedom; if we lavish ourselves with safety and hide from the world; if we become slaves to it and lose our way of life, then 9-11 was a success for those who conspired against freedom. I, however, do not believe that that dream is ever truly forgotten, merely ignored for a time while suffering delusions and distractions; a blissful sleep that ends in tragedy for those who fail to wake in time.

Let us endeavor to not let our Empire’s hard lessons be in vain. Let us not forget why we exist here, now. To LIVE this life is our chief purpose, and freedom, our chief value enables that end. Each and every man, woman, and child in this world must stand firm against any and all who may threaten that. Those who would sacrifice freedom for security, deserve neither.

Campus e-mail may be down over Fall Break

Southwestern Oklahoma State University’s student email system will be upgraded to the Live@Edu service during the 2011 Fall Break.

Fall break will be the long weekend of October 20-23.

The student email system will be unavailable for periods of time during the upgrade. Faculty and Staff email will NOT be affected, and there will be NO change to any student’s email address.

Students have been sent an email about the upgrade and will be provided information about the new email system on SWOSU’s web site.

Note: SWOSU will NEVER ask for anyone’s username and password via an email. All emails which ask for username and password are thieves trying to steal your information, and should be deleted immediately. 
go to the top five costumes. 1st place prize will be a $100.00, 2nd place is $75.00, 3rd place is $50.00, 4th place is $30.00, and 5th place will be $20.00.

Free food and drinks will be available. Contest judging will be held at 1 p.m. To participate in the contest, students must be signed up before noon. Look for flyers on campus for more information and instructions on how to win your share of the cash.

(Continued from page 1)

By Katie Currell

You are starting to feel sleepy!

These are words you may hear during a comedy hypnosis show at the Patterson Field house (gym) at SWOSU—Sayre on Friday October 28, at 11 a.m.

“The first person that I hypnotized was at the age of 12. “I surprised myself on how fast I was able to hypnotize him. It was probably a little more frightening than interesting,” says Mike Reeves.

According to Reeves, that first time hypnotizing someone increased his interest in hypnosis and helped him realize that he had a talent that was unique as well as fun for him and all of his friends.

Hypnosis comes second nature to Reeves. His grandmother learned hypnosis at the University of Oklahoma for a varsity show. His father and his uncle first learned about hypnosis techniques from her, and passed the techniques on to him.

Reeves has an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Tulsa. With more than 20 years experience, Reeves has hypnotized more than 100,000 volunteers. Reeves travels at least two weekends per month and some weekdays. He performs shows at high schools, proms, parties for universities, fraternities and sororities, sports teams, charity organizations, corporate parties, clubs and many other venues.

During the show, volunteers will become famous people, movie stars, singers, presidents, etc.

And the laughter doesn’t stop there. Some of the volunteers may become a Hawaiian king or queen who teach other participants the hula and how to surf.

“We will have people lose names, numbers, bellybuttons and other things,” said Reeves. “They may become very warm or very cold. They will ‘sleep’ on command and will feel great after the show.”

Of the volunteers that participate, Reeves says that half of them will remember everything they had done and the other half will recall what they have done about a half an hour after the show.

Come early for the best seat, and volunteer to be part of the show.

Remember, classes are not canceled for Fall Festivities, so fit in the show as your own schedule allows.

Comedy Hypnotist Mike Reeves slated Oct. 28