Accreditation team visits

By Casey Atkins
Managing Editor

The Accreditation review team from the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College will be on campus Monday, Dec. 2 through Wednesday, Dec. 4. The Accreditation team will be reviewing NOA&M and the programs the college offers.

The Accreditation review team is comprised of: Chuck Neal, Dr. M. S. Craig, Tom Poole, vice president for fiscal affairs; Dr. Carol Smith, English instructor; Dr. Doris Snyder, director of assessment, institutional research and special projects; Dr. Sue Stitham, English instructor.

Any interested faculty, professional staff, or student is invited to attend the open meetings at the designated times.

The following is a tentative agenda of the Accreditation visit:

Monday, December 2

7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast (NOA&M cafeteria)
NCA team and NOA&M steering committee meeting.

8:30 a.m. NCA team and NOA&M steering committee meeting.

11:00 a.m. Tour of the campus

Noon: Team members lunch with students.

2:30 p.m. Team members meet with faculty.

Wednesday, December 4

11 a.m. Exit interview with NCA team.

BENEFIT POW-WOW

Majesty Student Association provide drum music for the annual fall benefit Pow-Wow scheduled for Saturday in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union Ballroom.

Costs escalate

Study indicates small increase in college aid

By Janice O'Neil
Managing Editor

According to the college aid, tuition fees, books, and room and board at a public university now take twice the bill from the average budget than 15 years ago.

It is a definite trend that is not expected to end soon.

Financial aid is there for the students who need it, but it comes at a price.

After an inflation adjustment, a 75 percent increase is available. Almost all of the increase is borrowed money, however.

Most of the money is unsubsidized loans, which have a higher cost to the borrower.

Given those circumstances, it is not surprising that students do not choose colleges according to the circumstances that are presented. Admissions officers report that prospective students are more interested in seeking the best financial arrangement.

Oklahomans are able to get a better chance at financial aid. Public institutions offer tuition and fees that are below the national average, in accordance to the private school also being relatively expensive.

A year of undergraduate education, can range from $2,000 to more than $7,000.

Closings highlight holiday

By Henry Gann
Features Editor

Along with turkey and all the trimmings of a traditional Thanksgiving holiday, students will be treated to a four-day break starting at noon, Nov. 27, according to Dr. Jim Lovell, vice president for academic affairs.

The college cafeteria and all residence halls will be closed during the holiday.

Residence halls will close at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27 and reopen at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The food services will be closed and reopen for breakfast on Monday, Dec. 2.

We expect a vast majority of our residents to make alternative plans concerning living accommodations during the break,” said Forbes.

All campus offices and facilities will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29. The offices will resume normal business hours Monday, Dec. 2 at 8 a.m.

Classrooms will also resume at 8 a.m., Monday, Dec. 2.
Thanksgiving meaning gets lost between two holidays

Recently, it came to my attention that something was missing in the battle of today’s society. When I was finally able to place my finger on the fact that no one seems to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, I thought of how ignorant we have become as a society.

Thanksgiving was a day set aside to give thanks for all of the things that we had. It seemed that we could at least stop for a moment and give thanks. I am being proven wrong each year with growing intensity.

I was at a local department store and I had noticed that the Halloween display had been invaded by Santas and mince pie. Only a small area of about eight feet of shelving was dedicated to the Thanksgiving Holiday. It was not even in the middle of November when I met with the barrage of Christmas decorations.

Have we forgotten that Thanksgiving was the first “American” holiday? The first settlers were thankful for the help of the native Americans by helping them survive the harsh winter. If it was not for them, history may have been more tragic for the beginnings of this country we so humbly consider ours. We should continue to be thankful for that fact.

Thanksgiving also is a time for families to gather together and feast. It is a time when one realizes that those around them are truly what they hold dear to them. It is the one day of the year that is set aside to do this. With the ever increasing nonstop society, the holiday should hold much importance.

We, as a society, are slowly losing our values and ethics. Giving thanks to what we have is only the beginning. We should not only realize what we can be thankful for. We should realize the fact that there are many others who are less fortunate than us. People are starving, homeless, and ridden with disease and poverty. We should not only be thankful that we are not one of the less fortunate, but we should not look away, either.

As a society, we should, as the native Americans had done for us, help those who are less fortunate than we are. It may be that what is needed to bring us to realize the fact of how we should be thankful is what we have.

The holiday is considered to be a religious holiday because of the fact that prayer is given before the feast given on that day. Some people say that that in itself is not something everyone agrees on. Neither is the fact that President Clinton is elected for a second term. Many different countries of different religions celebrate the holiday, does that make it unfaithful? I don’t think so.

Basically, all holidays are based on a major event that occurred in the history of the country. Because the tradition of giving thanks is in the form of prayer does not necessarily mean that it is wrong.

If I have my facts straight, Christmas is indeed the celebration of the birth of Christ. Does it make it wrong to celebrate the holiday? I don’t think so. It is not all about giving gifts and Santa.

If the holiday is continuously ignored, it will either be replaced by symbols of the holiday or be forgotten all together. The latter we should be thankful for.

I believe that another reason for the decline of the importance of Thanksgiving is that the society of today has come more towards the negative than the positive things facing us today. We place more emphasis on scandals and war than on the more important facts of, for example, one has friends and family to turn to if they feel the need.

Thanksgiving is truly a time when one can feast on what can truly be called “American” foods. All of the typical foods like turkeys, cranberry sauce, and pumpkins are indeed foods that the native Americans introduced to the early settlers.

In a final point, I urge you to think of what Thanksgiving really means. Each individual has their own interpretation. However, the fact that we should be thankful for what we have should be dominant above all others.

Holiday contains many traditions

By James O’Neil

When we hear the word “Thanksgiving” turkey and pumpkin pie are immediately followed. Thanksgiving is a holiday that involves the festivities and religion to celebrate what is considered the first “American” holiday.

Each individual has their own perception of Thanksgiving. They range from the Pilgrims and Indians feast at Plymouth Rock to family gatherings to Thanksgiving Day parades.

Harvest home festivities and celebrations to gods and found in many cultures. In biblical times, Greeks held festivals for one of the Gods, Demeter. Hebrews held the Feast of Tabernacles and the Romans held a celebration called Coriaria. When European settlers came to the New World in early 1600’s a number of religious and harvest festivities were being celebrated by native Americans that laid the foundation for Thanksgiving as we know it today.

In the fall of 1621, the English settlers held a three-day celebration at Plymouth, Mass. The Plymouth settlers were mostly refugees, known as Separatists, who had rebelled against the rights and discipline of the Church of England.

They believed that the church had not returned since Henry VIII had divided the church of England from the Catholic Church in 1534. In 1607, the Separatists migrated to Holland, where they stayed for 12 years to escape arrest for their beliefs. In 1620, they left for the New World.

The Pilgrims (Separatists) sailed on the Mayflower and landed in Plymouth in December, 1620. The supplies had run low. And they were unable to plant crops because it was winter. Most of the immigrates died. Out of 102 settlers, there was only 55 left when spring arrived.

It was the assistance of the Wampanoag Indians that helped the colonists survive. Thereafter, known as the first Thanksgiving, the settlers gathered in the fall to celebrate the harvest. The Wampanoag invited the Pilgrims to join in the festivities.

This is the feast known to most of us as the first Thanksgiving in America. It was a joyous occasion, featuring games, displays of arms, a bountiful table, and a unity between the settlers and the Wampanoag Indians.

Other early Thanksgiving celebrations included a prayer service that took place in Jamestown, Va. in 1619 and a celebration in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630.

While these celebrations were offerings of giving thanks, the actions did not lead to the declaration of an annual holiday. Over the decades that followed, days of giving thanks became more frequent in Puritan New England, and debate of making a national holiday to give thanks.

Many later colonists believed in the strict division of state and religion. Some of the colonists believed that the found day to declare days of thanksgiving should lie with the church and not the state.

Gradually, the boundary between religious and civil services grew less strict. By the eighteenth century, the governors of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire were proclaiming their own Thanksgiving celebration of prayer and fasting.

With Thanksgiving on the way, we should pause and remember everything that we have to give thanks for. For example, we are able to leave at noon on Nov. 27.

Please have a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.
Norse visit Hutchinson Classic

By Josh Masson
Sports Editor

The Norse were ready to face the challenge of a tough opponent in the form of the Hutchinson Blue Dragons. The Norse put up a fierce fight, but unfortunately fell short in the end, losing 3-0 (25-20, 25-19, 25-23).

Despite the loss, the Norse showed great resilience and determination throughout the match. The game was filled with exciting rallies and intense competition. On the court, the Norse's defense was strong, making it difficult for the Blue Dragons to score. The Norse's attack was also effective, with several powerful shots and well-placed spikes.

The Norse made a strong start in the first set, taking the lead early on. However, the Blue Dragons fought back and took control of the set, winning 25-20. In the second set, the Norse came close to regaining the lead, but the Blue Dragons' experience and skill proved too much, and they took the set 25-19. The third set was a nail-biter, with both teams battling for every point. The Blue Dragons eventually secured the win with a 25-23 triumph.

A word from the Norse's coach:
"Our team didn't give up, they fought hard throughout the game. We need to learn from this loss and prepare for our next match. We will come back stronger and more determined."

Volleyball squad loses in Regional

By Zach Hoffman
Sports Editor

The Norse volleyball team faced tough competition in the Regional Tournament but ultimately fell short, losing 3-0 (25-22, 25-17, 25-15) to Old Dominion.

The Norse had a strong start in the first set, but Old Dominion fought back, taking the set 25-22. In the second set, the Norse fought hard, but Old Dominion's strong serve gave them an edge, winning 25-17. The third set was a battle, but Old Dominion's experience proved too much, with a 25-15 victory.

A word from the Norse's coach:
"We fought hard, but Old Dominion was too strong today. We need to focus on our strengths and work on our weaknesses. We will come back stronger in our next match."

Ladies end streak

By Zach Hoffman
Sports Editor

The Norse women's basketball team faced a tough opponent in the form of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. The Norse put up a good fight, but unfortunately fell short in the end, losing 78-62.

The game started off strong for the Norse, with a few quick baskets giving them a lead. However, Georgia Tech quickly took control, with their strong defense and effective offense. The Norse struggled to keep up, with the Yellow Jackets leading throughout the game.

The Norse's coach said:
"We fought hard, but Georgia Tech was just too strong today. We need to focus on our strengths and work on our weaknesses. We will come back stronger in our next match."

The Norse look to bounce back in their next game, with a renewed focus and determination. Fans are encouraged to support the team and come out to cheer them on to victory.

The next game for the Norse is against the University of Illinois, with a chance to win back the momentum and focus on their season goals.
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