CAST SELECTED FOR KID’S PLAY

James O'Neal
Managing Editor

Cast members for the children’s production "The Invention has been announced, according to director Brian Hauck.

Director Joy, the narrator of the play is Clay Yose, a freshman from Tahlequah.

Justin Trombley, a sophomore from Webb City, will act as a Director assistant to the play.

Stage Manager for the play will be Annice Selig, a sophomore of Ellsworth, Mo.

Several hundred area school children have been invited to attend the play free of charge.

The play will be open to the public at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

LOAN DEFAULTS CONTINUE DECLINE

James O’Neal
Managing Editor

The 1995 default rate for student loans guaranteed by the Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program (OGSLP) is the lowest in five years, according to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

The default rate of 12.4 percent for loans is down from 18.8 percent in 1991 and from 12.6 percent in 1994.

Loans for higher education post-secondary education in Oklahoma are made to students by private or public lenders and are guaranteed by the federal government through OGSLP. The loans are administered by the State Regents.

As a result, $54.6 million in potential defaults were averted in 1997, up $19.7 million or 76.5 percent from $25.1 million in 1995.

If prevention efforts fail, OGSLP collects loans by bringing litigation against borrowers.

"The decline in the student loan default rate is a result of the policy of the agency," said OGSLP Executive Director Alice Strong-Simmons.

"OGSLP, schools and lending institutions are cooperating more than ever before to prevent defaults on student loans."

"For example, Oklahoma’s colleges and universities, post-secondary schools and private lenders have established default prevention programs to ensure students are aware of their responsibilities when they first apply for student loans and just prior to graduation," Strong-Simmons said.

Strong-Simmons also noted that efficiency has been boosted by expansion of computer capabilities that allow personnel to manage loan cases more efficiently and are able to have more one-on-one contact with student borrowers, lenders, and schools.

Chancellor Hans Birx brought to light the fact that default rates for loans continue to drop despite a 44 percent increase in loan volume in Oklahoma, from $184.9 million in 1989 to $266.6 million in 1995.

When prevention efforts fail, OGSLP collects loans by bringing litigation against borrowers.

The agency is also implementing a legislatively mandated program that will revoke or suspend professional licenses and commercial driver’s licenses of defaulted borrowers who do not have an approved payment plan in place.

"As a result of successful efforts in both default prevention and collections, thousands of student borrowers have been spared the harsh consequences of going into default and taxpayers have recovered millions of dollars invested in student loans," Birx said.

The 1995 default rates reflect the percent of student borrowers who entered into repayment during 1995.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Photo by Lacey Murgatroyd

Desiree Exquelin, a freshman from Edmond, puts the finishing touches on a pottery project.
**Special holiday has real meaning**

**Time to stop and reflect on feelings**

By Lucy Morgan

The turkey is happily dancing a jig right now because people seem to have forgotten all about him and his holiday.

To many people, Thanksgiving is a time of family and togetherness. But to many, it is a time of stress with little work off of work.

It is such a shame that the holiday has been overlooked by so many because it is a holiday rich in history and tradition.

When do we celebrate Thanksgiving? You don't get presents like you do at Christmas. You don't get to blow up things like Independence day, no candy like valentines, halloween, and Easter, or no booze like on St Patrick day.

Maybe because it is about American history and tradition, togetherness and placing differences aside and sitting down together for a short time.

It's about telling someone that you appreciate the help they give you and the little things they do for you.

It's not about having to deal with the in-laws for another day and bugging your tongue as they ask questions about your life.

It's not about having 32 shopping days left at Christmas. If you'll your list and have to see the in-laws again.

I was looking through a department store a few weeks ago and noticed that the Thanksgiving section had been reduced to a small section where Christmas decorations were in the front.

This hurts because we seem to have forgotten what Thanksgiving was. The holiday started as a celebration of the settlers of our country, the bonds they made, the sacrifices that were made, and the hardships they endured.

This holiday has been given little respect in history. It wasn't made a holiday until 1943, almost 200 years after it was first celebrated.

It is as important in our history as Independence Day, the celebration of settling in America, and a coast of things to come.

With each celebration of this holiday, we still overlook it on our way towards Christmas, another holiday that has lost a lot of its meaning.

We should look more favorably towards Thanksgiving. We should use it to remember all that we have to do to get by all the sacrifices we've made and all those people that have come before us have had to go through hardships.

Go celebrate Thanksgiving by sitting down with someone and telling them how much you appreciate them.

President should reflect strong personal and moral character

By Billy Busby

Exactly when did we as U.S. citizens allow an individual with low moral fiber and personal character run this great country.

Yes I am talking about the President. Bill Clinton aka Bubba, or Stick Figure, the pot smoking, non-ethic, draft dodging, women chasing, illegal fund raising leader of the free world.

When did we as citizens and free human beings allow a representation of us, an elected official to embarrass us publicly as Bill Clinton constantly does?

Is any one else embarrassed as I am at the Clinton's constant disregard for the laws and basic human nature, the constant thumping of their noses at the public and the courts.

Why do we constantly put up with this complete waste of human morals and person with garbage and sewage for morals.

When did we agree to allow the president to carry on with his illegal fund raising, ugly daughter, when is it enough, when do we stand up and say no now is the time to pay the piper to answer for all the improprieties and illegal activities, all the cheating and lying.

How can we allow a man to continue to lead this country, a man who avoids governemnt subpoenas and interferes with government investigations.

It doesn't matter how much longer he has left in office, he should be kicked out, even if he has three years left or three days left he needs to be sent packing.

When did we allow the office of the presidency to be vacated by people on the lowest rung of human development.

The office of the presidency once long ago used to be carried out with dignity and prestige, the President one was looked up to and admired, more was expected of the President than most people.

Maybe the office has changed with the times, maybe we see a more accurate representation of our selves to hold office, or maybe we make mistakes and need to fix them.
Four employees receive recognition

Four college employees traveled to the state Capitol last week to receive the coveted Governor's Commendation Award for their participation and efforts adjoining the Quality Oklahoma Project. Steve Keating's Total Quality Management initiative for state agencies to train their employees in basic quality concepts and provide ongoing educational tools employees need to continually improve themselves and their organizations.

Keating feels that participating in the management concept that organizations may improve employee morale, customer satisfaction, efficiency, money management, and increased revenue. More than 24 training were honored at the state Capitol Rotunda Awards were presented by Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin this year.

The project submitted by NEO Learning Center staff Bill Pfennigstiel, Mary Largen, Janet Davis, and Alberta Hutchings.

The project resulted from the LRC offering new Internet services to students and the need for guidelines to ensure the services were available to all users.

The four members of the team followed previous lessons learned in Quality Oklahoma training, to model the guidelines concerning Internet use.

"I was surprised at how well both the problem solving process and four phases of meeting facilitation worked," said Pfennigstiel, reference librarian.

"As a classified staff member, I first became involved with the TQM process when developing the user policy," said fellow team member Janet Davis.

Student art show ends today

James O'Neal, Managing Editor

Those wishing to immerse themselves in a pool of creativity have the chance to broaden their perspectives during the annual NEO art show currently being held in the Art Museum building located just south of the main campus.

Using a variety of materials ranging from oil on canvas to pencil, charcoal, ink and pottery clay, the students put their imagination and talent into works of art.

Twelve students participated in the Art show which contains approximately 100 pieces.

Students involved in the show are as follows:

Sophomore Tony Conder, direction of instructor Kirsten Couch.
Tina Hensley, sophomore Jay, freshman April O'Neal of Mami.
Comet senior Kathy Qualls.
Greg McElheny, freshman of Mami.
Mami sophomore Dwayne Brummet.
Ron Lazen, Mami sophomore.
Mami senior Jason Castoe.
Heather Sigrand, freshman of Mami.
Frisseman Amy Barker, Mami.
Phifer freshman Earnest Burt.
Mary Zyblay, sophomore of Mami.

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Photo by Tim Ingram
Displaying their awards from Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating are, from left, Mary Largen, Alberta Hutchings, Bill Pfennigstiel, and Janet Davis.
STUDENT ART SHOW

AROUND AND AROUND
Melody Jones, a freshman from Commerce, works on a piece of art on the potter’s wheel during the pottery class offered by the college art department. Jones had several pieces entered in the student’s art show.

STILL LIFE ENTRY
Toni Conner, a sophomore from Picher, poses with one of her portrait of her son which was sketched in charcoal and was one of more than 100 entries into the annual student art show.

Photos by Lacey Mangum

TAKING A BREAK
After helping art show coordinator Kristen Couch organize the many displays which appeared in the three-day art show, Tisha Hensley (left), a sophomore from Jay, and Melody Jones, a freshman from Commerce, take a break before putting the finishing touches on entries into the NEO Student Art Show which was held from Wednesday through today in the Art Museum building located just south of the main campus.
Ladies sustain loss at Seminole

Josh Mason
Sport Editor

Loosing their first game of the young season to defending Region II champion Seminole the Lady Norse return home for a 6 p.m. contest with Murray State Saturday night at the NEO fieldhouse. Head coach Randy Gipson's Lady Norse fell to 2-1 on the season and 1-1 in the B-State Athletic Conference. The Lady Norse remain at home on Monday to entertain Cowley County. They travel to the Coffeyville Classic over the weekend.

Seminole 77 - Lady Norse 54

Trailing by only five points at half the Lady Norse were outscored by 16 points in the second half and suffered a 77-54 conference loss.

The Lady Norse improved to 6-2 on the season with the win. Both teams got off to a slow start in the first half, preoccupation by the overtime of Sherrita Vanzant helped get the Belles back in rhythm scoring six of Seminole's first ten points going with buckets from Mary McQueen and Barbra Jeldives.

Two more Vanzant 3-pointers extended the Lady Belles lead. Strong defense and back-to-back treys from sophomore Carla Rogers narrowed the Seminole lead to 20-24 at the half.

NED drew even closer behind three points from Deedra Ray and a field goal from Carolyn Walken to get the Lady Norse within four a 35-32 lead with 12:04 in the game. From that point on the Lady Belles ran away with the game going on a 17-2 run over the next five minutes to build a 31-31 lead.

Vanzant scored 10 points during the stretch while Alasha Meyers added seven points. The Lady Norse were outrebounded 14-12, and Turnover tied 16-16.

Seminole 40 - 32, Deedra Ray led Seminole with 12 points and 10 rebounds. The Lady Norse 4-20, 38 percent shooting. Deedra Ray led the Norse with 32 points and 10 rebounds. Lady Norse 77 - Rose State 49

The Lady Norse took charge from the opening tip and never looked back netting 14 points from both Carolyn Walken and Deedra Ray.

Lady State Rose Radars fell to 1-0 on the season. Six straight points from Kiwana Battle and two points each from Carolyn Walken and Cindy Dowling gave the Lady Norse an early 10-2 lead.

Free throw mare from Walken and Kim Shipman along with free throws from Dowling increased the Lady Norse halftime lead to 35-10.

Using a 35-9 burst in the first nine minutes of the second half the Lady Norse pulled the Lady Raiders.

Opening their largest lead at 71-33 with a 11-5 run with 6:59 left in the game. Ray and Staci Kaletter scored all 11 points during the run.

The Lady Norse sunk 33 of 64 for 52 percent from the field including 11 of 22 from the free throw line.

Lela Deuane led Rose State with seven points as the Lady Raiders managed only 27 percent from the field.

Trice Gaddis pulled down 10 rebounds as the Lady Norse held a 44-40 edge on the boards. Kim Henderson grabbed eight boards for the Lady Raiders.

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Walk-ins welcome
Field goals by Parker and Sooter along with two free throws by Porter and three points by LaCross Lee closed out the scoring for the Golden Norse down the final stretch of the game. Porter led the Norse with 23 points.

Leading the Trojans in scoring was Preewalt with 22, Coffeyville 71- NED 8. Playing their second game of the Coffeyville Classic Tournament against the home team, the Golden Norse were defeated and put out of the tournament.

Leading the Norse in scoring was LaCross Lee who scored 15 points and Beau Wallace who scored 14 points. The Red Ravens leading scorer was Brad Manary who put up 31 points.

NED 83- Seminole 81

Scoring on consecutive 3-point field goals by Rod Sooter along with baskets by Corey Crop and Marion Green lifted the Golden Norse to a 10-4 lead in the first four minutes of the opening half.

With Porter scoring five points and getting field goal support from Parker, Sooter and Stephen Green increased the Norse lead to 21-12 midway through the first half.

Rallying on three points by Tim Garrison along with field goals by Kevin Overton, Jamon Preewalt and Adrian Anderson, the defending Region II champion Seminole came within a 3 point deficit to make the score 24-21 with 7:24 until intermission.

Consecutive baskets by Parker along with field goals by Marion Green, Beau Wallace and Todd Green boosted The Golden Norse to a 41-33 lead at halftime.

With Porter, Sooter, Todd Green, Wallace and Stephen Green fueling a 15-10 run in the first five minutes of the second half the Golden Norse increased their cushion to 56-43.

Countering with their own run, Seminole cut the Golden Norse 15-3 over the next five minutes of the game making the score 59-58 with 10:23 left on the clock.

With 7:42 left in the game the Golden Norse had pulled ahead to 70-63 with Porter scoring seven straight points and Todd Green adding two.

A 3-pointer by Eric Wheseman along with baskets by Overton and Taii Young created a 70-63 tie with 5:50, showing on the clock.

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