Transferrable courses continue to increase

By Henry Gann

The number of transferrable courses at Oklahoma colleges and universities has been nearly doubled as part of Oklahoma higher education’s ongoing efforts to ease student transfers among the state’s higher education institutions.

In action taken recently, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved 1,594 transferrable courses, bringing the total to 2,875 courses, in 20 disciplines. Most of the courses are at the freshman and sophomore level; however, some upper division courses are included.

The information is being placed in a course matrix which will be distributed within the next several weeks to colleges and universities for use by students, advisors, counselors, faculty and administrators.

It also will be available over OnNet, the state’s communications and information system for government and education, and through electronic student information centers, planned for several campuses.

Copies also are available by calling the State Regents Academic Affairs division at (405) 924-9170.

“Easing transfer procedures is one of many student success initiatives that the State Regents have implemented over the past 20 years. By smoothing the transfer process, we are helping students to fulfill their educational goals more easily and economically,” said Chancellor Herschel Brack.

State Regents’ action follows the work of 500 Oklahoma college and university faculty who met in the fall of 1996 to review the 1,594 course equivalencies they had presented to the State Regents in March 1996, and to identify additional transferable courses.

Plans call for faculty to meet each fall in an ongoing effort to expand the number of courses, when possible.

Initiatives undertaken by Oklahoma higher education to ease student transfers include guaranteeing that an associate in arts or associate in science degree (two-year degrees) satisfies all freshman and sophomore general requirements, ensuring a student who transfers to another college before completing an associate degree, receives general education credit for courses matching those at the college to which the student transfers; and establishing 37 hours of required basic courses for all students, except those seeking associate of applied science degrees.
O.J. verdict disturbing
New century holds problems

By James O'Neal

As of Friday, Feb. 14, there are only 993 days left until the dawn of the 21st century. It will be a time when a "new millennium" will occur. It is more definitively a great privilege for me to view the coming of the new century. However, there are going to be some problems that will face all of us. Many historians state that history will repeat itself during the coming centuries of the 21st century. Something vast has occurred to the human race, technology and physically.

It also is greatly speculated that the computer era may come because of what is a simple case of human error. It is an error that computer technicians are desperately trying to fix, in what limited time that they have.

The error is that they are trying to fix is simply placed as possible, a problem with the internal calendars of the computers.

When computers were first invited, the dated involved the new system.

The year only involved the last two digits, because it was much more cost effective and less time consuming to program into the computer’s system. This was never thought to cause problems later in the history of computer systems.

In the coming of the new century, the year will register as 2000, which will confuse the computer and very possibly create chaos in the system. This will then lead to breakdown. Every computer will then become useless, and unable to process information as it was designed to. Computer files will become erased, and virtually all information stored in computers will no longer exist, because the computer will believe them to not have occurred as of yet.

In a desperate attempt, many companies are investing in trying to fix the ever-increasing problem. They are hiring people in the computer programming profession to try to fix the inevitable outcome of the computer revolution coming to a halt because of a simple problem that the computer program gives new meaning to the saying "it make ride, man can’t fix it."

If you think about it, everything we do now is somehow connected with a computer. The possibilities of us not being associated with a computer are that of the possibility of Ross Perot getting our next president.

We use computers for a large number of things. They range from storing top secret government documents, to something as simple as ordering a hamburger for lunch.

The problem with the anticipated computer crash seems to be something that could only happen in the "Twilight Zone" or one of the old movies of the 50’s and 60’s that focused on the computer world.

This problem, however, will not go away by simply changing the channel or turning off the television. This problem is very real. It is somewhat of an apprehensive subject to discuss, but the menacing problem is fast approaching.

Another fear is that on May 5, 2000, all of the planets in our solar system will align and, according to astrologists around the world, will cause chaotic events.

The astrologists conclude that when the planets align, such catastrophes will occur, that the planet as we know it will no longer be the same. There will supposedly be great earthquakes, floods, and storm activity, all because of the immense gravitational collisions that will occur when the planets align.

It is also believed that the earth’s general poles will switch, causing an enormous switch in temperature around the world. Basically, the earth’s poles will be reversed, where it will be that the planet is to lay on its side.

This is a very difficult topic for many of us to think about, because it is rooted deep inside of us that we do not want to die, much less think about it.

It seems even more absurd about what our existence will end abruptly and horribly as it is prophesied to be.

It is impossible that the inevitable will occur. However, scientists and astrologers speculate that an alignment of planets may have occurred at least twice before.

Now, it seems, that it is more than possible that the dinosaurs became extinct when that phenomenon occurred. Another reason for the catastrophes to come is that the Mayan Indians of Central America believed and documented the coming of a new era.

The phenomenon may be possible, it is proven that the Mayans were far advanced in technology than other tribes around them.

It all comes down to the basic belief of a superior being. I guess this is the way God has the only opportunity to press the "reset" button.

The American people were faced with a dilemma last week when President Clinton’s State of the Union Address was interrupted by the verdict from the ongoing O.J. Simpson trial.

There is something wrong with this picture. Maybe someone justifies a celebrity trial as being more important than that of what our country is going to face in the next two years. If you are that person, something is seriously wrong with you, and you need to be one of those "talking doctors". I feel bad very important, as a journalist to cover all aspects of news. It is my responsibility to be a sort of gatekeeper, and to give you that information in order of importance.

To me, something such as the national deficit or bi-partisan politics is much more important than a trial that is considered important because it involves a celebrity.

There will come a time when all of us have to enter into an I.D. card and number just to watch the television if the rating system continues as it has in the past few months.

As you all have probably noticed, a small, yet noticeable square is appearing on the upper left-hand corner of your screen before a program begins. The system operates somewhat like that of a movie, as it considers the context of the show, and is labeled accordingly.

How can a network consider what is suitable for children or adults. Each individual person of perspective of what is considered suitable varies greatly. In most cases, the television networks are doing somewhat of a proper coverage of their material.

I believe that the television networks will soon take advantage of the ratings system. They will raise the standards of what is considered suitable for certain audiences.

Soon after the change television programs will be able to show content material more graphic in nature.

My perceptions have been somewhat proven in the movie industry. Take for example, the fact that about five years ago, a movie that was released may have been rated R because of foul language. Now such a movie passes by with a lesser PG-13 rating.

Yes, I agree that trends are changing, and that standards change as well. However, we cannot allow the television networks to tell us what is suitable for younger viewers.

The head of the family should be in charge of that aspect of the television viewing.

The raising of standards of what is considered vulgar on a television show have in my opinion, already abused. Many of the talk shows get away with a gener al audience rating. It is my speculation that there is hardly ever a topic that is not just plain rated PG-13 just simply not allow the program to air, or place it at a time slot that is more appropriate for a more mature audience.

This story is the technology of the V chip. The chip is now planned to be installed in all of the televisions that are to be manufactured in the future. The chip will allow the leader of the household to block out certain channels or programs themselves, instead of relying on the television networks to do this for them.

The time to act is now. We cannot simply complain that the television networks to tell us what we can watch. We need to turn off the television, get up off of our lazy boy, dust the week old potato chip crumbs off our lap and say something about this injustice that has been given to us.

Rating system questionable

If the television executives believe that a certain program is unsuitable for younger graphics or provokes emotions that a young child should not be exposed to.

When I was a child, the only television rating system that was used was the channel changer or the power button. It was up to my parents to decide what I was able to watch or not. I am taking this for granted, because I see the results of where the situation is in the exact opposite.

The rating system is useless if the television executives do not use it as it should be used. The next thing you know "V, Police" will show up at your door, demanding that you watch only certain channels or programs. This is not the Soviet Union, nor is it a Communist country. However, it seems that the way things are, someone who controls what is on television is going to have all of the rights in the world to tell us what is suitable to view.

If the television executives believe that a certain program is unsuitable for younger graphics or provokes emotions that a young child should not be exposed to, just simply not allow the program to air, or place it at a time slot that is more appropriate for a more mature audience.

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By James O’Neal

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Published every Thursday, except on holidays, at Northeastern Alabama College, Mainsville, Alabama, 35542. The Norse Wind office is located in room 204 of Oyer Hall.

Three classes paid post at Miami, Alabama. Members of the Kansa College Press Association.
Interactive TV courses arrive

For years, sitting in front of a TV set has been mostly a leisure activity. Now, thanks to the technology of interactive television, students hundreds of miles away from the instructor can talk in a "face to face" manner with their teacher and see live demonstration of instructional material.

Interactive television is a concept that has been around for several years, but is now just beginning to capitalize on the new fiber optic technology, making it one of the hottest trends in transmitting information to far away destinations.

NEO is taking this new technology and using it to transmit college classes to students who would normally not have access to particular courses. According to Tom Bain, director of the NEO Learning Resource Center, interactive television is utilizing the OneNet fiber optic system to connect educational institutions across the state.

"Many public schools in remote locations, such as the Oklahoma panhandle, have been using a similar system for years, which enabled schools to share instruction and save money in their budgets," Bain said.

"Let's say, for example, three schools all use the same foreign language instructor, thus saving the small rural schools money to separate instructors." The new statewide fiber optic communications system is now readily available to most colleges across Oklahoma.

NEO is using this system in cooperation with Redlands Community College in El Reno and Northern Oklahoma in Tonkawa to transmit agricultural courses to their students. Because neither RCC or NOC have enough agronomy instructors for their students, NEO instructors are teaching classes via the interactive TV system, that will provide those students with the credits they need to graduate from their respective institutions.

Currently, Dr. Pete Smith, NEO agriculture instructor, is teaching a soil science and management via the Internet. NEO is making plans for expanding the number and variety of offerings in the future.

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Currently, Dr. Pete Smith, NEO agriculture instructor, is teaching a soil science and management via the Internet. NEO is making plans for expanding the number and variety of offerings in the future. "Along with the courses NEO is transmitting, there will be opportunities in the future for NEO to receive classes from other institutions, including graduate courses from OU or OSU," Bain said.

The NEO Distance Learning, located on the second floor of the administration building, utilizes state-of-the-art equipment, which allows the instructor to show live demonstrations or computer illustrations that can be seen by the remote locations. The technology allows those students to ask questions and interact with the instructor or the students sitting in the studio classroom.

"The use of this technology and this room are endless as more and more subjects are being put on the "information superhighway," Bain said.

Bain added the uses for this technology are not limited to educational institutions. Many businesses and industries will find the center helpful for things such as safety seminars or video conferences their employees can attend without having to travel great distances."
**Ladies sustain league losses**

By Zach Hoffman
Sports Editor

Entering the final two weeks of conference play, the Lady Norse are locked in a battle for one of four post-season playoff spots. Monday, the Lady Norse will travel to Warner for a rematch with third-ranked Cowgirls of Conners State College.

NEO returns home Thursday for a 6 p.m. game with Westark in the NEO Fieldhouse.

Eastern 61-NEO 46
Continuing to be plagued by poor shooting from the field, the Lady Norse suffered their third straight loss at the hands of the Lady Mountaineers for Eastern Oklahoma College, last Thursday night in Wilburton.

Five straight points by sophomore forward Tasha Barnett, along with field goals by J'Shawna Smith and Tina Clendinning, gave the Lady Norse a 9-4 lead in the first five minutes of the opening half.

Two straight 3-point field goals by Sara Wolfe Crase lifted the Lady Mountaineers to a 10-6 lead with 14:56 until halftime.

Over the next 11 minutes, the lead changed hands eight times, before a putback basket by Clendinning provided the Norse a 21-20 lead with 6:08 until halftime.

Eight minutes into the second half, the Norse took the lead for good when Barnett hit the team’s 20th field goal of the half on a 3-point free throw.

Clevelin was the only Lady Norse to score in double figures, with 14 total points and 18 rebounds.

Scott paced Eastern with 18 points, while Kennedy scored 15 and Zika added 13 points.

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