Auditors find college not at fault

By Casey Adkins

Auditors investigating alleged impropriety in relation to the school's athletic depart- ment travel funds, reported they were unable to deter- mine the validity of the charges.

The auditors' findings included $700 from the football team's travel fund that could not be accounted for. They were unable to determine the cause of alleged docing of receipts and invoices.

Tim Ingram, public information director, remarked, "There were four claims in question, two amounted to $50 each and two for $20. One $50 and one $20 claim have been explained, which leaves $70 that nobody has a record on how the money was spent. We are talking about a program that over two years has travel expenses amounting to $11,000."

"We were confident from the start that no purposeful wrongdoing would be found, and we were also confident that the auditors would show that it is a small amount of money that is in question. We ran a rigorous audit and it comes to spending money for travel and other necessary expenses. We make it a point to ensure travel funds are always accounted for."

Ingram's auditors included the documenting of a fast food restaurant's handwritten invoice from a road game in Kilgore, Texas, last October. The invoice's "in the amount of $280.10" was submitted by a coach to clear a travel advance. At a later date, the restaurant contacted the college that $239.10 was the cor- rect amount of the food charges, according to the auditor's report.

Lair also indicated in his report that the invoice for McDonald's of Henderson, Jacksonville and Kilgore, Texas, the number eight in $280.10 had been changed from a three. Lair alleged that someone traced over the three to make it eight, and the copy of the invoice indicates the numbers had been traced.

The $20 question comes from a handwritten receipt for a hotel and restaurant which "appears to have been changed from $507.97 to $587 with no indication as to the reason for the change," according to the auditor's report. The coach's handwritten receipt and the handwritten receipt were marked up and crossed out, with the signature of another restaurant owner signed beside the crossed out change on the receipt, the report states.

A 5th claim alleged that a receipt for an entertainment event had been changed by marking through the notation for the manager's signature. Ingram said the fee for the movie was a flat $50, regardless of how many players or coaches attended.

The theatre manager charged $100. Patterson told the auditors, "Some of the coaches were there and some were not.

The team and coaches were included in the $100. On the receipt the word "coach" was stricken out to show that their admission was included in the $100. The foot- ball squad and coaches were the only ones present in the theatre as this was a special showing for them at the cost of $150. The football squad and coaches were the only ones present in the theatre as the only ones present in the theatre as this was a special showing for them at the cost of $150. The football squad and coaches were the only ones present in the theatre as this was a special showing for them at the cost of $150. The football squad and coaches were the only ones present in the theatre as this was a special showing for them at the cost of $150."

The college has already set in motion some revised and updated policies and pro- ceedures that everyone will follow in the near future," said Ingram.

Dormitory fire put out

By Casey Adkins

Smoke filled the halls on Feb. 13 as a room on second floor Vann Hall caught on fire. A fire alarm was activated in Vann Hall and the Fire Department responded in a short period of time to the call.

Frenmen addressed the incident of being an electric fire caused by electric musical instruments in the room of two resident students.

"The fireman assumed total responsibility for cleaning out the dormitory and set about the professional way to contain and extinguish the fire and smoke danger," said Dr. Jerry Carroll, NOC president.

"The final analysis resulted in a dangerous situation being contained and students allowed to re-enter the building that was cleared of smoke and fire danger," Carroll said.
Euthanasia causes moral dilemma

By James O'Neal

Euthanasia is misunderstood

Many people who back the teaching of Euthanasia believe that if the language is taught, we could better understand the African-American sub-

Lingual, it is commonly understood that English

be taught in the school systems.

Economics is a science, but the language, but the style, and history of the African-Americans themselves. It is the truth that we should most definitely learn their history.

I believe that the language is definitely important to our society. However, I believe that there should be an equilibrium between Economics and other languages that are introduced into this society.

The time has arrived when the choice to live or die lies upon the shoulders of the person who wishes to be considered for the procedure of induced death to be placed upon them.

In today's society, most people are becoming ignorant of the facts. When one takes a life, it is considered murder. It does not matter how or when that life is taken.

Keorokkan has faced many murder trials in his time of performing euthanasia. However, he has not had to serve any time in prison. He found a way to jump through the loopholes of the law and have a written consent form.

In every case, the patient is in no condition to sign a paper of such importance. The patients are under such emotional stress, that they can no longer make the most important decision of their lives.

In some cases, Dr. Keorokkan has supposed taken on the patients are dying of a terminal disease or suffer-

ing from inhuman pain. Still, it is not justifiable for someone, particularly a doctor, to end their lives. As the role of a doc-
tor, they should instead try to find a cure for their patients.

The act of withholding giving permission to end your life is not righteous. It is not justified by anyone or for anything.

The idea did not begin with this man, however. It seems shocking that one of our forefathers is still living for the process. Benjamin Franklin was that person. It was so high in favor of the process that he wished to be added to the Constitution. He believed that the wish to end your own life was one of your basic freedoms.

The idea was, of course, rejected by others in the con-

vention. It was rejected because the very idea of the subject manner was morally wrong.

The process of euthanasia seems to me what they do to prisoners on death row. The basic "methods" that Dr. Keorokkan uses are either injecting you with lethal chemi-
cals or exposing you to carbon monoxide gas. Would you wish someone to die like a prisoner who has been treated such a monstrous manner?

Euthanasia is basically fun-

ning death for a religious aspect. It is true that most religion-
als believe that murder is a sin. It is, in fact, against the will of God to take another human life. I see no angle of which this is considered to be morally right.

We, as a society, need to take a serious look at our morals. If we allow the unjust murder of someone who is not, our morals are certainly tar-

brushed.

By James O'Neal

Higher ed and DHS combine efforts

By Henry Gamm Editor

Preparing welfare recipients for a life of work is under way at a partnership entered into recently by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS).

The $4,000,000, six-month contract will enable Oklahoma two-year colleges and technical branches to offer job preparation programs and services to eligible recipients under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Job prepara-
tion programs will be selected and funded on a competitive basis.

Selected colleges and technical branches, area DHS offices and community business leaders will jointly iden-
tify job needs in each commu-

nity. Colleges and technical branches will then create or modify job training offerings to prepare recipients to meet the employment needs of the local economy.

Area DHS offices will select the TANF recipients who will participate in a minimum of 30 hours of program activities each week and who must complete the program within 12 months.

Federal block grants will provide 80 percent of the pro-

gram funding, and participating colleges and technical branches will provide the remaining 20 percent.

"This program will make the most of taxpayers' dollars by carefully matching the ser-

vices provided by our colleges with the employment needs of local communities, individuals who need jobs and their families will receive the edu-
cation needed to secure meaningful employment," Chancellor Herb Brooks said.

"This program is a win for taxpayers, a win for Oklahoma communities and, most of all, a win for Oklahoma who want to bet-

therm selves and their chil-

drren," Brooks said.

Six Oklahoma two-year colleges currently participate in a similar program under the Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. Federal legis-

lation signed into law in August 1996, combines fund-

ing from those two programs and Emergency Assistance into the newly created TANF program.

The six colleges participating in the current program will continue their work until June 30, when the contract signed recently also expires. Plans call for DHS and the State Regents to reconvene a 12-

month contract at that time.

Although they expressed support for the TANF pro-

gram, State Regents also expressed concern that new legislation limits educational activities to a 12-month period and systems to work with Congress to modify the new legislation to allow selected recipients to pursue associate (two-year) and bachelor degrees.

"We support this new legis-

lation that attempts to help welfare recipients more effi-
ciently prepare for and find meaningful employment," said State Regents' Chairman, Anne F. Morgan. "However, after careful selection, individ-

uals with the ability and desire to continue to pursue careers requiring a college degree that should be given the opportunity to do so.

We will help current recipi-

ents pursue opportunities the new legislation presents. But, we will also attempt to remove barriers that prevent others from preparing for careers that would enable them to contribute more fully to their communities, while raising the standard of living for their fam-

ilies," Morgan said.

Colleges currently offering job preparation under the AFDC program are Rogers University at Claremore; Tulsa Community College, Tulsa; Northeastern A&M College, Miami; Redlands Community College, El Reno; Oklahoma State University-Technical Branch, Oklahoma City; and Eastern State College, Wilburton.

Established July 1992, Oklahoma colleges have served 3,212 recipients through the JOBS program.

Norse Wind

Casey Atkins

Managing Editor

James O'Neal

Executive Editor

Bill Bouy

Intern Editor

Henry Gann

Features Editor

Monty Franks

Advisor

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Baseball season opener delayed

Heavy rains forced postponement of the scheduled season opener Thursday of the Golden Norsemen baseball program. The Norsemen were slated to host Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College in a doubleheader at Homer Thomas Field. The twin bill will be made up March 18.

Rushing downs provide a catalyst as the Golden Norse baseball squad concluded pre-season drills.

Coach Rick Ritches's Golden Norsemen are scheduled to open the regular season Thursday when former player and now assistant coach at Coffeyville Community College, Stephen L. Stephenson, will pitch for the visiting Alcorn State University.

"These rains the past couple of weeks have kind of wetted our appetites to get out and start playing ball. We need to have some live action on the field to get a feel for where we are as a team," Ritches said.

Last year under Ritches' tutelage the Norsemen compiled a 24-25 overall record while advancing to the nation's bracket tournament Region II Tournament. During Ritches's two-year tenure as head coach, the Norsemen finished 158-153 overall.

"Right now this is our main strength because we've got six sophomore pitchers and three of them are throwing extremely well," Ritches said.

Timmerman is throwing a consistent strikeout rate, Ritches said. Cole Stephens was 1-0 with a 1.50 ERA in 17 innings pitched. Cole Stephens pitched 1-0 with a 1.50 ERA in 17 innings pitched.

"Although Timmerman is a freshman in eligibility, the Skalasko team set out last year with a shoulder problem. Timmerman has already signed with the University of Arkansas.

Riley, a lefthander from Lamesa, Kan., transferred to NEO after spending his freshman season with the University of Arkansas.

Rutgers, a righthander from Tulia East Central, appeared as a freshman with a 4-7 record and 6.31 ERA in 22 innings. Buckingham was 6-10 with a 3.42 ERA in 20 innings. Buckingham was 6-10 with a 3.42 ERA in 20 innings.

"Not only are we strong on the mound, but we have possibly the best defensive catcherc� on the region which makes us very solid up the middle. Not only does Derrick (Roberts) have a strong, accurate arm, but he has really improved as a hitter," Ritches said.

"Roberts, a righthanded hitter from Broken Arrow, returns at catcher along with freshmen John Chadwick of Brank leve, Ontario, Canada and Michael Robinson of Muskogee. As a freshman Roberts hit .314 in 20 games including 12 hits and nine runs batted in."

Handing the chores at first base for the Norsemen is sophomore Damon Eiden of Snyder, Okla. Last year Eiden hit .268 in 37 games with 27 hits which included eight doubles and three home runs. Eiden also collected 26 RBI and 21 runs scored.

Sophomore Matt Beeler of Coweta returns at second base after missing several games last year with an injury. Beeler collected one hit in six at bats while stealing one base.

"Veteran Jason Koss returns at shortstop along with freshman Zach Hoffman of Mustang, Okla. Koss of Tulia East Central, hit .343 in 143 at bats as a freshman with 10 doubles, four home runs, 39 runs scored and 34 runs batted in. Koss also recorded 12 stolen bases."

"We've got one of the most demanding schedules we've had in a long time because of the variety of teams that we're playing early. We don't want to get into regional play, if you can't get out of this region you've got a chance to do well in the world series," said Ritches.

The Norse season opener will be March 8 with a doubleheader against Seminole.

Football recruiting reaps benefits

By Josh Masson

Several players were among the 30 high school athletes to sign football letters-of-intent with the Golden Norsemen, according to head coach Dale Patterson.

"We really had a good overall signing day," Patterson said. "Our priority was to go out and get some big offensive and defensive players and we did that. Then, we wanted to replenish our running back positions and we accomplished that, too."

Joining the Golden Norse at quarterback is Sherrard Putte (6-1, 200) from Tulia Union.

Joining the Golden Norse were Kevin Prossen (6-1, 195), Aurora, Colo.; and Eddie Cook (6-0, 190), Richmond, Va.

Joining the Golden Norsemen as receivers were Cory Heinricke (6-5, 215), Edmond Santa Fe; Shawn Seng (5-10, 170), Oklahoma City Millwood; Harold Smith (6-3, 190), Oklahoma City Star Spencer; Brian Blackwood (6-1, 205), Tulia Union; and Paul Jones (6-1, 185), Enid.

"We knew that we had to go out and get some offensive linemen that were big and quick. We were able to accomplish that and more, we think," Patterson said.

Offensive line signing with the Golden Norsemen were Jeremiah Adams (6-4, 310), Atlin; Cameron Brashoda (6-5, 265, Coweta); Dusty Yochum (6-3, 250), Coweta; Rocky MeNeil (6-5, 260, Duncan); Josh Brown (6-6, 275, Skiatook); and Jimmy Castleberry (6-4, 300, Windham, Ark.).

Joining the Norsemen as defensive linemen were Ramon Richardson (6-1, 250, Broken Arrow); Simon Cobert (6-3, 240, El Reno); Kevin Woods (6-1, 300, Hominy); Damin Brown (6-3, 260, Tulia Rogers); Brandon Washington (5-11, 240, Seminole); and Juxtha Thomas (5-11, 230, Houston, Texas).

"We have to wait on a couple of these kids because of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, and Texas are in on a few of them," said Patterson. "Linebackers signing with the Golden Norsemen were Jason Harding (6-5, 230, Tulia); Tanuj Williams (6-2, 200, Oklahoma City Millwood); and Collis Jones III (6-3, 205, Okmulgee)."

Defensive linemen were Cooper (5-10, 170), Oklahoma City Millwood was signed as either a defensive back or a wide receiver.

"The biggest deficiency is the lack of depth, both on the infield and in the outfield. If someone goes down on the right side of the infield, we will be in a world of hurt. We just don't have the numbers to go with we our quality," said Ritches.

"Batting for the starting job in fielding will be junior Stephen Carver, senior Michael Wilson of Lawton and Alex Schneider of Tulsa Edison."

Freshmen Tyson Edison, younger brother of Damon and Gary Mitchum of Muskogee will battle for the starting position. "Tyson is a lefthander that not only will start in center, but he also has the ability to become a starting pitcher," Ritches said.

"Sophomore Gary Stoten of Coweta returns inrightfield along with freshman J.W. McPhail of Enid, Stoten, an Oklahoma wrestling state champion in high school, 300-pounder as a freshman with five doubles, one home run, 23 runs scored and 21 RBI. Stoten also played in 43 innings with a 2.33 ERA and 4.93 earned run average."

"We got one of the most demanding schedules we've had in a long time because of the variety of teams that we're playing early. Then, when we don't get into regional play, if you can't get out of this region you've got a chance to do well in the world series," said Ritches.

The Norse season opener will be March 8 with a doubleheader against Seminole.

Sophomores gridders sign with universities

By Zach Hoffman

Twenty sophomore members of the 206 Golden Norse football squad have signed letters-of-intent with four-year universities around the country.

After finishing 5-4 in their first year as a member of the Southwest Junior College Football Conference, Coach Dale Patterson's Norsemen were 20 of 25 signees on the four-year level.

Gale Galloway (5-10, 220) from White Oak established both a single-season rushing record and an all-time rushing record during two years with the Golden Norsemen.

"With Andy (Collins) coming back, we feel we've got a player guiding our offense," Putte, has potential to be a starting quarterback and is an all-around player, Patterson said.

"Want a tough one to find a replacement for all-time leading rusher Reggie Skinner at running back, the Golden Norsemen received commitments from Jason Crawford (5-10, 195), Clinton; Brett Wille (6-1, 185), Edmond Santa Fe; Marcus Long (5-1, 190), Perry; Roderick Buskie (5-10, 180), Pugam; and Ramon Bates (6-1, 200), Oklahoma City Star Spencer.

Transferring to Langston University was linebacker Curkey Green (5-10, 240), Coremore.

Veteran tailback Rich Gutshall (5-10, 195, Jenks) transferred to Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Joining the Lions of Missouri Southern State College in Joplin were nose guard Kevin Scroggins (6-1, 247, Wagoner) and defensive end Garey Willis (6-4, 258, Coffeyville)."

Sophomore center Steve Farmer (6-2, 280, Coweta) signed with Illinois State University, while starting back Mitch Minick (6-3, 306, Coweta) signed with Missouri State University in Springfield.

Starting offensive tackle Chad Felt (6-5, 256, Pryor) signed with Louisiana Tech.

Veteran wide receiver University of Texas at Tyler. "We have a couple of these kids because of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, and Texas are in on a few of them," said Patterson. Linebackers signing with the Golden Norsemen were Jason Harding (6-5, 235, Tulia); Tanuj Williams (6-2, 200, Oklahoma City Millwood); and Collis Jones III (6-3, 205, Okmulgee).

Defensive linemen were Cooper (5-10, 170), Oklahoma City Millwood was signed as either a defensive back or a wide receiver.

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Men suffer loss to Vikings

By Billy Bury

Entering the final week of the regular season, coach Lonnie Spencer's Golden Norsemen host Eastern Oklahoma College on Saturday in the Bi-State Athletic Conference and 17-9 in the season.

Carl Albert 90-NEO 78

Unable to overcome two technical fouls and three players fouling out, the Norsemen suffered a 90-78 loss to the Carl Albert Vikings in a key Bi-State Eastern Athletic

Conference. During the first 10 minutes of the opening half the Vikings constructed a 29-18 lead behind timely threes and conventional two's. Attempting to close the game, Johnny Mitchell was called for a technical foul, allowing the Norsemen to try to catch up.

Following the foul, the Vikings built their lead to 29-18 with 8:10 left in the opening half. The Norsemen tried to make a comeback, trailing by 25-12, but with only 12 minutes remaining in the game. Johnny Mitchell and Bill Stone were called for technical fouls, allowing the Vikings to build a 53-48 lead at the 9:06 mark in the contest.

Not to be denied, Nathan Brumby added a basket and converted a free throw, along with a basket by Smith, the Norsemen rallied to take the deficit to 66-65 with 4:49 left in the game. After a 13-3 run by the Vikings, Smith scored five straight points, along with buckets by Mitchell and Brumby to pull NEO to an 83-76 deficit with 2:26 left on the clock.

That would be the last time the Norsemen would score, as the Vikings went on a seven point run to end the game. Along with Smith's 22 points and 14 rebounds, Brumby chipped in 19 to lead all NEO scorers.

NEO 77 - Bacon 75

With Smith and Mitchell leading the way, the Norsemen cruised past Bacon by a 29-25 lead with 6:03 before halftime. Four points by Johnny Mitchell, along with a tie by Williams and field goals by Smith, Porter, and Crenshaw enabled NEO to maintain a 43-35 cushion at the intermission.

Mitchell and Smith combined for three points each, as the Golden Norsemen built a 48-35 lead with 17:17 left in the game. After a 26-15 run in 12 minutes, the Warriors trimmed the deficit to two points as the Norsemen led 63-61 with 5:11 left on the clock. The points by Mitchell and field goals by Turner, Smith, and a three-pointer by Williams gave NEO a 76-69 lead with 1:42 left in the contest.

After Williams sank just one of four free throws in the closing seconds, the Norsemen missed a last second shot that would have sent the game to overtime.

Leading the Norse in scoring was Mitchell with 17, while Turner scored 13 points and Brumby added 12 points.

Women cruise past Vikings

By Josh Mason

Trying to stay alive in a race for the playoffs, the Lady Norse remain at home Monday for a 6 p.m. first round contest with Eastern State College. Coach Eidson's Lady Norse stand at 14-9 and 3-3 in the Bi-State eastern College, suffering a 94-77 defeat at the hands of Conners State on Monday night.

The Lady Norse will close out the 96-97 schedule next Thursday when they visit the Bacon Lady Warriors. Lady Norse 76, Carl Albert 64

The Lady Norse got hot first half shooting propelling the Lady Norse to a 76-64 Bi-State, Eastern Conference victory over Carl Albert in Pawhuska.

The Lady Norse went on an 80-32 run behind consecutive field goals by Marshia Burtner, Ashley Smith, Dedra Ray, and Brooke Carter for a 16-10 lead in the first half.

Carl Albert cut the deficit to 25-27 behind baskets from Amy Newton, Summer Hall, Dee Benton, Jenny Garza and two free throws from Jashia Benge at the 4:47 mark of the first half.

The Lady Norse went into halftime with a 41-24 lead on three points from Ray and four points each from Ashley Smith, Clendening, Burtner, Smith and Carter. Barnett scored five straight points, as Clendening and Burtner added six points apiece and Ray added two points for a 56-43 advantage with 11 minutes and 11 seconds showing on the clock.

Smith nailed a trey while Barnett tallied a two-point field goal, scoring two points to give the Lady Norse a 17-point cushion at 67-50 with 5:08 left in the game.

Jashia Benge scored five consecutive points and Barnett, Burtner, and Clendening added buckets to finish off the Lady Vikings.

Ray led four double digit scorers for the Lady Norse with 15 points on 11 points while both Burtner and Clendening added 14 points each while Barnett chipped in with 11.

Burtner and Clendening knocked down 13 rebounds while Van vectors grabbed 11 boards to lead the Lady Norse who held a 45-28 advantage on the boards.

NEO 84 - Bacon 29

Allowing the Lady Warriors to score only 14 first half and 15 second half points, the Lady Norse cruised to an 84-29 victory over Bacon.

"We did some very positive things against Bacono that if we can build on them, we could make some waves in the divisional race," said Eidson.

The Lady Norse never let up continuing to pound the ball inside.

Four points each by Ashley Smith, Ray, Burtner, and Clendening along with three points from Carter increased the Lady Norse lead to 57-17 with 11:49 remaining.

Forcing turnovers in the backcourt allowed Smith to score six straight points along with baskets by Clendening, Ray and Dee Dee Holmes to closeout the game.

Clendening paced the Lady Norse with 16 total points while Ray scored 15, Smith 13 and Carter 12 points.

Ladies cruise past Vikings
The Norsewind – the NEO A&M College Newspaper

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