Music festivals held next week

By Jon Owens
Feature Editor

Many students are glad to hear they are being released from class as the high school musicians come to take their place for the annual music festival scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 16.

High school instrumentalists from Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri will come to the festival to perform and receive a rating.

This year's event, held at the Festival Auditorium, will feature the high school band, the high school choir, and the high school orchestra.

The festival will be divided into two sections: the instrumental section and the vocal section.

The instrumental section will feature performances by the high school bands, choirs, and orchestras from Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri.

The vocal section will feature performances by the high school choirs and orchestras from Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri.

The state championships will be held on Thursday, Feb. 17, at the Festival Auditorium.

Nominations available

By Sara Livingston
Managing Editor

Students that wish to be considered for the Who's Who Among American Junior College Students award can pick up the application form from any faculty member or in the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs located in the Dave Czech Library. The deadline for submission is Friday, Feb. 17.

This year's award is a prestigious award presented to the top students in over 1,000 colleges, said Bruce Hauck, chair of the Who's Who committee.

The awards are offered to all second semester sophomores who have 45 credit hours or more.

The awards are offered on the basis of scholarship, leadership, service, loyalty, and character, as well as how they participate in and out of class activities.

Phi Theta Kappa slates orientation

By Sara Livingston
Managing Editor

Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society will hold an orientation session on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 12:15 p.m. in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union Ballroom.

Students that are interested in joining Phi Theta Kappa must have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better with the completion of 12 credit hours.

The MU Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is ranked in the top 100 chapters out of 1,200 competing chapters throughout the nation.

Last year we received our highest ranking ever," said Kendra Grover, co-president of the group.

Induction ceremonies will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22 in the union ballroom. The festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a meal.

Prospective members must dress formally. Faculty members and friends of the inductees may attend.

Refreshments will also be provided," Grover said.

"There are many opportunities available when students become a member of Phi Theta Kappa and receive their membership card," Grover said.

They can purchase books, clothing, and supplies and have 10 percent taken off of their purchases at the campus bookstore," said Grover.

TRY TO RELAX

An undersigned code tries to relax as a lab technician from the Red Cross Bloodmobile searches for a vein during the bi-annual visit last week of the Bloodmobile in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union.
McCain runs for presidency

By John Colby

The state primaries are underway. Presidential candidates are working hard to win votes and secure their place in the race. On the Internet, there are many sites from all of the candidates telling what they are about, what they stand for, and what they plan to do. My favorite site is Senator John McCain's. That site goes into detail about McCain's history and political aspirations. For people who want to know about McCain's history and political aspirations, it is a great resource. For people who want to know who he is, go to the CNN homepage.

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儿田评论

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Advertisements

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State adopts
10 easy steps
for financial aid

Oklahoma students can better their chances of receiving financial aid for college by following 10 easy steps, according to Oklahoma College and University officials.

Dr. Hans Brisch noted that in 1996-97 state colleges and universities distributed $250,970 financial aid awards and loans valued at more than $417,418 to 106,225 students or 50.1 percent of all Oklahoma students attending college, the largest percentage ever of Oklahoma college students receiving aid.

To help students take advantage of financial aid opportunities this year, higher education officials offer the following guide to applying for state and financial aid.  

1. Determine which colleges and universities to apply to and request their admission and financial aid information.

2. Request necessary application forms from colleges and universities, counselors, and organizations offering scholarships or grant opportunities.

3. Complete the free application for Federal Student Aid. Copies of the form are available from a high school counselor or the college or university the student plans to attend. Copies are also available online at www.fafsa.gov. The FAFSA will help determine financial aid need and eligibility for both state and federal programs.

4. Apply early by submitting all applications as soon as possible after January 1. More grant money is available to early applicants, and early applications will enable the financial aid office to have the financial aid award and in place when the student actually begins classes.

5. Read the instruction forms on the financial aid package forms carefully and fill them out as neatly and accurately as possible. Send applications promptly and keep a copy.

6. Know the differences between the types of financial aid. College funding from grants, scholarships and work-study programs do not have to be repaid. Most student loans require cash repayment, although some types allow repayment through services such as employment after graduation.

7. Complete admissions forms required by the college or university the student plans to attend.

8. Review the Student Aid Report, a response letter that the government sends an application after receiving a FAFSA form. It will outline all information submitted on the FAFSA. Verify that the information is correct and submit it to the financial aid office at the college or university where the student is applying.

9. To reduce delays, always respond promptly to requests for information from the financial aid office.

10. Review all award letters received from each institution and accept or reject their offers.
Lover’s celebratory special day

By Mandy Fleming

It will probably surprise you, but Valentine’s Day, though relatively unknown, is not an ancient secular holiday. Far from secular, the origin of Valentine’s Day comes from the same sources as many other non-biblical, pre-Christian observances, such as Christmas, New Year’s Day, Easter, and Halloween. It can be traced directly to earliest pagan history.

What was Valentine’s Day originally? The original name for Valentine’s Day was the holiday called Lupercalia. It was celebrated thousands of years before there were even such people known as Christians or so.

Some of the modern customs associated with Valentine’s Day, for example, exchanging cards, were once practiced in honor of Lupercalia. The Lupercalia were celebrated in the month of February (on the evening of the 14th and the day of the 15th), when young women were put into a box and drawn by lot as chances directed, states the Encyclopedia Americana.

This festival was also dedicated to the goddess Venus and observed as a “festive” celebration in the later Roman period by winter revelry and unbridled freedom... According to Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, James Hastings, Vol. III, p. 220.

In Roman mythology, the goddess of sexual immorality had been called “cupid’s,” who attended her on this festival. They were believed to cause love and also make it come to a sort of lust potion, according to Roman Antiquities, Alexander Adam.

Other names for Lupercalia by the name of “Pan,” the conical called Pan “Bacchus,” according to classical dictionaries. Bacchus, mentioned so often in the Bible, was nearly another name for Nero, “the gentle hunter.” So the hunter Neron was the original Luperca, or wolf hunter, of the Romans who setaside Valentine’s Day in his honor. Another name for the child Neron was Cupid, meaning “true” Encyclopedia Britannica, article “Cupid.” It is said that when Neron’s mother saw him, the last of his son, after he had been, then called him, and her name became Neron and her name was Cupid and her name was called “Cupid,” who attended her on this festival. They were believed to cause love and also make it come a sort of lust potion, according to Roman Antiquities, Alexander Adam.

Another custom associated with Valentine’s Day (the Lupercalia) was the ancient ceremony performed by a pagan priestess known as the Luperci. As the festival began, the Luperci priests sacrificed goats and a dog. Afterwards, two of the Luperci went out to the altar, their foreheads touched with a bloody towel, and the blood wiped off with wool dipped in milk. Then the ritual required that the two young men should laugh.

The meaning of the forehead with blood profusely refers to human sacrifice originally practiced at the festival.

The sacrifice is followed, after which the Luperci cut the people from the ends of the sacrificial victims and ran in two hands round the walls of the Luperci, the blood of which was marked with lines, striking the people who crowded near. A blow from the thong alleged to “purify” similarly in women.

These things were called Fibius, the festival, February, and the day, also Fibiusos, which means “purify” in Latin, hence the name of the month February, originally the last of the old Roman year.

The object of the festival was, by exorcism and purification, to secure the fruitfulness of the whole people, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition, article “Lupercalia.”
NORSE WIND
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SPORTS

Ladies extend streak

With just two weeks left in the regular season coach B. J. Smith's Lady Norse have a chance to set another school record when they host Comets State College, Monday at 6 p.m.

Prior to Thursday's game with Carl Albert and Saturday afternoon's contest at Western Oklahoma in Altus, the third ranked Lady Norse had a perfect 24-0 season record.

The NEO school record for most consecutive wins is 26 set by the 1990-91 Lady Norse that posted a 36-2 overall mark.

After hosting Comets on Monday, the Lady Norse will travel to Fort Smith, Ark., Saturday, to face WestArk at 6 p.m.

The Lady Norse will conclude the regular season by traveling to Nortark on Monday, Feb. 21, and hosting Bacon, Thursday, Feb. 24.

Lady Norse 86-Bacon 73
Sophomore guard Rosalind Smith marked her own school record with seven 3-point field goals and 27 total points to lead the Lady Norse to a 86-73 victory over Bacon College, Monday night in the Bacon Fieldhouse at Muskogee.

Rosa (5'4 from Milwaukee, Wis.) connected on 7 of 9 from 3-point range and 6 of 6 from the free throw line to go with one regular field goal for a season-high 27 total points.

The current NEO school record of seven 3-point field goals was established by Ross on Dec. 12, 1998 against Crowder, Mo.

"This was a tough game for us to play because of the atmosphere and the fact that they were ranked in the top 25," said Smith.

An indication of the closeness of the two teams was the fact that the lead changed hands 15 times during the first half.

With the score tied at 34-all the Lady Norse received two free throws from Ross and both of those were by Kenja White and Lashanta White to carry a 40-34 lead to the locker room at halftime.

Ross continued her torrid assault from 3-point range by canning three consecutive tries to start the second half and give NED a 49-34 cushion with 16 minutes left.

Along with the 27 points from Ross the Lady Norse received 14 points from Lashanta White and 10 points from Crystal Bennett.

Erica Vincent lead all scorers with 28 points while Erika Ramee scored 16 and Selena Barboza added 11 points.

Lady Norse 85-Semissle 53
Shaving off a second-half rally by Seminole State College, the Lady Norse gained a 65-53 victory over the Belles last Saturday in the NEO Fieldhouse.

Lisa Song, Ross and Lashanta White each scored 14 points to share the Lady Norse scoring lead. April Peons contributed 10 points.

Lady Norse 96-North Ark 60

Unleashing an offensive barrage that produced 30 points from the 3-point area, the Lady Norse cruised past North Arkansas College, 94-60, last week in the NEO Fieldhouse.

"Once again, we had people step up and make shots that they haven't made thus far this year. This was another one of those games where we appeared to be flat in the first 15 minutes and then we took the game to another level," Smith said.

Song led all scorers with a career-high 22 total points while Ross scored 20, Kenja White 16 and Stephanie Auky 13 points.

Teresa Williams paced the Lady Pioneers with 16 points while Saradin Wolfe added 13 points.

Warriors scalp Norse

Returning home to face arch rivals Comets State at 8 p.m. Monday, coach Lonnie Spencer's Norse are turning up for the Region II playoffs.

Bacon 58-Norsemen 57
Suffering through another second-half collapse, the Golden Norsemen dropped a 17-20 decision to the Bacon College Warriors, Monday night at the Palmer Center in Muskogee.

"We played a very good first half of basketball against Bacon. We really brought a lot of energy to the game. But we came out flat in the second half and it cost us," said Spencer.

Veteran center Bryant Mitchell rattled the Norsemen with four straight points and Jarrett Love added a 3-pointer along with field goals by Antonio Anderson and Jon Bell to create a 20-17 NEO lead with 9:17 until halftime.

A 3-pointer by Anderson along with six points by Jon Robinson and four by Bruce Jolly enabled the Golden Norse to maintain a 34-25 margin at the 4:52 juncture of the first half.

Three point field goals by Love, Belt, Mike Van Woudenberg and Scott Johnson along with four points by Mitchell propelled the Norsemen to a 55-37 halftime lead.

The Warriors responded by netting 10 straight points to start the second half and cut the deficit to 50-47 with 16:33 left in the game.

Over the next 13 minutes the lead changed hands eight times with the Warriors grabbing a 77-74 lead.

A field goal and two free throws by Robinson gave the Norsemen a 78-77 lead with 1:27 left in the game.

"We came back late again like we did at Comets and the outcome came down to one possession and we had a chance to win it. But, they hit a bucket and came in on their free throws in the final minute which made the difference in the game," Spencer said.

Mitchell led the Norse in scoring with 15 total points while Belt scored 12, Robinson 11 and July 14 points.

Norsemen 75-Semissle 62
Booker Warren scored 26 total points to lead the Warriors while Gingerick added 18, Gwen 17 and Allen 11 points.

With five players scoring in double figures, the Norsemen averaged a loss earlier in the season by gaining a 75-62 victory over Seminole State College last Saturday in the NEO Fieldhouse.

In 10 Notes and Michel each scored 11 points to lead the Norse in scoring while Mark El üzerine, Robinson and Van Woudenberg scored 10 points each.

Spencer McLoud led all scorers with 26 points while Gingerick scored 13, Tymara Brown 11 and Ryan Williams 10 points.

Norsemen 98-North Ark 60
Snapping a three-game losing streak, the Norse rolled past North Arkansas College, 95-68, last week in a 8-State Athletic Conference Eastern Division game in the NEO Fieldhouse.

Robinson and Mitchell combined for 17 points each to lead NEO.

STICK THE SHOT
Photo by DeAnne Mincher

Freshman forward Mark Eleshire (00) go up for a shot over the pressure applied by two Seminole State College defenders.
Veterans pitchers provide depth as baseball team opens in Texas

Blending a group of 13 returning sophomores with a crop of 12 freshmen, the Golden Norse baseball squad opened the season Thursday by participating in the Tyler Junior College Classic at Tyler, Texas.

Coach Roger Ward’s Norsemen faced Westark Community College in a nine-inning contest at 4 p.m. on Thursday. The Golden Norse play the host Tyler Apaches at 4 p.m. on Friday before concluding the round-robin tournament at 11 a.m. on Saturday by facing defending national champion Grayson County, Texas.

“I don’t really like having to travel 360 miles to open the season against one of our own conference teams, but we think Tyler has put together a very competitive tournament and we’ll get to see where we’re right off the bat,” said Ward.

During his senior season as head coach Ward guided the Golden Norsemen to a 34-23 overall record and a 13-10 mark in the Bi-State Athletic Conference.

“We’re going into the season with a very strong sophomore-dominated pitching staff and I think we’re really going to be a good offensive baseball team. Even though our strength is one of our biggest deficiencies is our lack of depth on the pitching staff,” Ward said.

“Our depth at pitching might be a little thin, but we’ve got a couple of position players that can be counted on to see some time at the mound. We’re probably going to have to have a lot of guys this year split time between being a position player and pitching a few innings.”

Returning to the lineup, at the mound, are veterans left-handers Brian Haskell (6-2), Stewart Swavey (5-9), Ryan Kuenning (5-11, North Vancouver, Canada), and Chucky Lanter (6-1, Providence, Minn.).

Haskell, the teams leading hitter as a freshman and all-conference selection, worked 46 innings as a freshman with a 5.74 earned run average and a 4-3 record.

He recorded 32 strikeouts in 46 innings. Haskell will also start in the Golden Norse outfield.

Swavey appeared in one game as a freshman while Kuenning will also start in the Golden Norse outfield.

Freshman leftybrder Brad Cook (6-0, Texarkana, Texas) will also see considerable playing time.

Returning batters from the right side are Darion Chese (5-3, Seattle, Wash.), Adam Howthorne (6-2, Altoona), Josh Mills (5-11, Pascagoula), Ryan North (6-5, Osawatomie), Spencer Skipworth (6-4, Riverside, Calif.), and Brian Doley (6-5, Blue Springs, Mo.).

Olsen posted a 1.00 record with two saves in 11.2 innings of work. He recorded 10 strikeouts and three walks with a 4.50 ERA.

Howthorne pitched nine innings with a 2-2 record and a 3.89 earned run average with nine strikeouts.

Wills worked 33 innings and compiled a 2-6 record with a 4.67 ERA while recording 31 strikeouts.

Shipwrecked one save with 12 strikeouts in 11 innings of work while Boley posted a 3-1 record in 18 innings with 19 strikeouts.

North will start at base and could also see considerable playing time as a catcher.

Batties for the Norsemen with the versatile French and freshman outfielder Danny Langdon (6-1, Blackwell) providing depth at third.

“Now we’re in a situation and have worked real hard during the fall to convert him to third base. He is a professional-type hitter that can really handle the bat and we need him in our lineup everyday,” Ward said.

Experience abounds for the Norsemen in the outfield with veteran pitcher Kuenning starting in left, Stewart Swavey in center and Jessee French in right.

Kuenning led the team with seven home runs while hitting .384 in 332 at-bats. He was also selected first team All-Conference.

North, who transferred from Oral Roberts University, will start at first base with sophomores Zdovak and Jessee French (6-0, Jenkins) serving as backups, French, who also plays in the outfield, hit .372 in 132 at-bats last year with five doubles, five home runs, 35 runs scored and 41 hits batted in.

“With predominantly a Sophomore lineup, we should have a couple of guys that we can count on to hit .300, .310 and .320. Even though the lineup isn’t set in stone, we’ve got several guys that can take the ball out of the yard with some consistency. We’re got about seven guys that will start everyday that might hit more than 100 home runs each,” said Ward.

Handling the second base responsibilities will be freshmen Brett Hunker (5-8, Benton, Ark.) and Keith Stephauer (6-1, Seminole, Fla.). Hunker could also play catcher while Stephauer will see considerable playing time at shortstop.

Zdovak and Stephauer will be interchangeable at shortstop, according to Ward.

“If we have a weakness it might be our lack of depth at the middle infield positions. We only have three players to fill second and short, so we’re working hard to develop a couple other freshmen to fill in if we get in that situation,” Ward said.

Freshman Beau Blacker (6-2, Lake Stevens, Wash.) will start at third base for the Norse with the versatile French and freshman outfielder Danny Langdon (6-1, Blackwell) providing depth at third.

At the mound, the Norsemen with a combination of returning arms and the addition of a few freshmen are proving to be a tough team to run on. Freshman pitcher Zdovak and Jessee French (6-0, Jenkins) have combined for 17 more than and seven walks.

Sophomore Steve Williams (5-1, Tampa, Fla.) and freshman Justin Small (6-1, Albion) will also see playing time in left field. Williams batted .400 with six home runs, two triples and eight doubles in 109 at-bats. He scored 25 runs with 44 RBIs.

Freshman Scott Berry (5-9, Mountain Home, Ark.) and Langdon could play any of the outfield positions.

Prep football standouts sign intent letters with Norsemen

Attesting to fill some specific needs on both sides of the ball, Golden Norse head coach Dale Patterson signed 37 high school prospects during last Wednesday’s national signing day.

“We had certain areas that we feel need immediate attention after graduation and we’ve pretty hard on both sides of the ball. We feel like we had one of our better recruiting classes and we’re still wanting to find out about nine or 10 more,” Patterson said.

“Our immediate concerns were at running back, receivers, offensive line and defensive line. We think from the commitments we’ve received that those needs are pretty well met. Only time will tell for sure,” said Patterson.

“The running back we got out of Kena, Texas (Terrell Harris, 6-6, 220) is one of the most sought-after prospects in that state.”

“Add to the fact that all of our recruits except for two came from the state of Oklahoma, and you can see why we’re so excited about the quality of players we’ve got coming in,” Patterson said.
The Norsewind – the NEO A&M College Newspaper

Digital copies of The Norsewind, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College's student newspaper, are available in .pdf format on the NEO website for non-commercial purposes only. Scans were created using the best available editions through the assistance of the Oklahoma Higher Education Historical Society from microfilmed images. Where stains, color-fading, contributed marks or ripped pages were visible on the original, they also appear in the digital copy. NEO newspaper editions that do not appear on the website are not part of the collection at present. If you would like to donate a missing, damaged or incomplete copy of The Norsewind, please contact the NEO Library.