GONE...
But not forgotten

By Jon Owens
Editor

Preservation of an old historical building led to destruction on Wednesday, Sept. 20, as N.E.O.'s Music Hall/Intramural gym was destroyed by flames. The building was built back in the mid-1920's and is the second oldest building on campus.

Part of the campus renovations including reinforcing the walls to the gym.

Miami Fire Chief Keith Marion said sparks from a welding torch are credited with causing the fire that apparently started in the old gymnasium's bleachers.

The worker extinguished the fire with water and then continued their work outside the building.

“When they went back in, they found out they had not put the fire completely out,” said Marion.

911 received the phone call at 3:30 p.m. and immediately dispatched the fire department.

According to college president Dr. Glenn Maye, the construction started approximately six weeks ago by Croaland Construction of Columbus, Kan.

The building housed intramural sports, athletic practice, and other events and rooms used for music classes.

Along with Skipley Hall which started out as the administration/ classroom building, the old gym was the only other building throughout the decade of the 20's.

“Over the years, the building had many memories,” said Dr. Maye.

The building was left with heavy smoke and water damage.

“Still, we were able to hit hard enough to stop there,” Marion said.

The building is considered a total loss, according to Marion. "The building was attacked with three interior fires and spread way too fast for the firefighters to do anything more. I had to pull some men from the attack," Marion said.

"When I called in, I dispatched all firefighters on duty."

By the time the fire truck arrived on campus, he said more people were needed. When it was all said and done four fire trucks and 25 firefighters arrived at the scene. Marion called in off-duty firefighters to help.

"We smoke finally cleared Marion's men advanced into the building to extinguish the remaining fire. The roof collapsed and Marion pulled all of his men out of the building."

At that point he said firefighters put all effort into controlling the fire "defensively" and keep it from spreading into the north section of the building.

"The fire was a no fault situation," he said, "It was just bad timing."

"The building is currently under 24 hour watch to keep people away from possible falling bricks with a barrier surrounding the building."

FIRE DESTROY: S LANDMARK
A student walks in front of the intramural gymnasium in this photograph taken in 1974. The gym, which housed intramural sports and the music department, was destroyed by fire last Wednesday.
(Top) OFFICIAL CONFERENCE—Dr. Glenn Mayle (far right) discuses the outcome of the fire at the intramural gym with Miami Fire Chief Keith Munson and other officials.

(Center) POURING ON THE WATER—Two members of the Miami Fire Department attack the blaze on the east side of the gymnasium.

(Right) FROM ABOVE—Using a ladder truck, a member of the Miami Fire Department douses the fire on top of the building.

(Bottom) HEAVY SMOKE—Black smoke filled the sky and was visible from as far away as Quapaw.

PHOTOS BY RANDY PETERSON AND ETHEL MAYLE
Spectators watch fire consume gymnasium

By Tyler Warden

The news spread through the campus almost as fast as the smoke did. Wednesday evening before dinner, that the gymnasium and music building was on fire.

"I was standing in front of the Student Union when I just saw black smoke fill the air," said Kyle Shap, a 21-year-old student from Dallas, Texas.

That was around 3:45 p.m. about the time the fire was first called into the Miami Fire Department. The fire was still not under control by 5 o'clock that evening.

Many unconfirmed reports have said that workers were welding on the roof when a few stray sparks fell on the wooden bleachers inside the building and it started burning. Ash and debris were everywhere by the time it was all over.

Luckily no one was hurt.

While the firemen were busy trying to put out the fire, several students and faculty members scrambled to save whatever equipment they could from the burning building.

They eventually were able to save an electronic keyboard, lots of TV and music equipment, a Baldwin grand piano, and some computers. Despite their best efforts, two more grand pianos, and five wooden panes never made it out.

The firefighters efforts caused water pressure around the campus to be extremely low for the next few hours, a grim reminder of the tragedy that took place.

According to Miami Fire Chief Keith Mannon, a much bigger disaster was averted even before the fire department arrived.

"Donnie Fields, a member of the college maintenance department and building equipment mechanic, dashed into the burning gym and shut off the gas line to the boiler in the lockeroom," Mannon said.

"If he hadn't cut off the gas supply when he did, there would have been a huge explosion and certain injury. We weren't aware that there was a boiler in the building."

Charred embers from the burning building were blown as far away as Dyre Hall because of a stiff wind out of the north.
Norse stymie Rangers

The win improves the Norsemen’s record to 2-1 overall, and 1-0 in the conference. Ranger dropped to 0-4 overall and 0-1 in the conference.

“It’s always good to get that first conference victory under your belt,” Norsemen coach said. “We had some key players back in the lineup and that helped us put together a solid performance.”

The Norsemen capitalized on Ranger’s turnovers to score 14 points off the turnovers. Norsemen quarterback Matt Dutton connected with wide receiver Jeff McGary on a 40-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to take a 14-0 lead. Dutton also ran for a touchdown later in the quarter.

Dutton completed 15 of 28 passes for 226 yards and two touchdowns. Norsemen running back Mario Henley added 105 yards on 14 carries. The Norsemen defense held the Rangers to 206 yards of total offense, allowing just 117 yards passing and 99 yards rushing.

Dutton said the Norsemen focused on improving their defense, which allowed them to gain a 21-point lead. “We worked hard on our defense this week and it paid off,” Dutton said. “We were able to put pressure on the quarterback and force turnovers.”

The Norsemen’s next game is a homecoming matchup against the Crimson Tide on Saturday, October 9. Dutton and the Norsemen will be looking to continue their winning streak as they aim for a successful season.
Ladies extend streak
Volleyball team rolls

By J.R. Ross

Freshman Paula Castro scored eight service aces to lead the Lady Norse in a three-game sweep of a match with Allen Community College, Monday night, in the NEO Fieldhouse.

Prior to matches at Latette College in Parsons, Kan., on Tuesday, and Redlands College in Miami on Thursday, the Lady Norse stood 16-1 on the season.

The Lady Norse travel to Warner on Tuesday for a 6 p.m. Bi-State Athletic Conference match with Colmar College.

Castro, 5-7 from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, recorded three service aces as the Lady Norse won the first four games against Allen County by a 15-9 score. During a 15-5 victory in the second game, Castro recorded two service aces before picking up three aces in a 15-4 win in the third game.

“Paula was really spotting the ball well. Her serves were sinking fast and Allen County was having a tough time picking the ball up. As a team we made up with 16 service aces in three games which is very good,” said Kare.

Independence, Kan.

Reeling off a three-game sweep in the best-of-five match, the Lady Norse cruised past Independence (Kan.) Community College, last Thursday in the NEO Fieldhouse.

Against the Independence Lady Pirates, the Lady Norse built a 13-4 cushion enroute to a 15-3 win in the first game. Strong, accurate serving carried the Lady Norse to a 15-3 victory in the second game before NEO captured the match with a 15-6 win in the third game.

Traveling to Broken Arrow last Tuesday night the Lady Norse won two matches. Facing Central College of McPherson, Kan., the Lady Norse won by 15-5 and 16-14 scores. Scoring off against host Rhema Bible College, the Lady Norse posted 15-4 and 15-6 victories.

Rodeo team opens season

By Carolyn Ross

Thirty-three members of the college rodeo team participated in the Colby Community College Invitational Rodeo last weekend in Colby, Kan.

Under the direction of first-year coach Troy Callaway, the team competed against 16 other teams from colleges and universities from Oklahoma and Kansas as part of the Central Plains Region. The process of competition in a National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association sanctioned event consists of a long-go and a short-go. Competitors in a long-go represent both two and four-year colleges and universities. The top 10 in each event come back to compete in the short-go. The highest score or the best time on their two runs determines the average winner.

The top four in the long-go, short-go, and the average competitions each receive prize money as well as points for their team.

NEO’s G.J. Osborne, a freshman from Carthage, Mo., and Robert Kelly, a freshman from Nacoma Park, both qualified for the short-go in steer wrestling. Osborne was fourth and Kelly fifth after the long-go. Osborne placed fifth in the short-go, qualifying him third in the average.

Osborne also qualified for the short-go in team roping after placing fourth. Osborne finished fourth in the short-go as well as fourth in average.

Freshmen Wendell Stanley, of Rose, Okla., and Heath Nolte, from South Coffeyville, Okla., placed seventh in team roping.

The Stanley/Nolte duo won the short-go and average in team roping. Stanley also made in back to the short go in the team roping with Cody Barlow, a freshman from Dewey, finishing ninth.

Competing in the Central Plains Region, the Golden Norsemen will participate in 10 sanctioned rodeos throughout the year.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

Nov. 24-25—Southwestern State
Feb. 23-24—Kansas State
March 9-11—Fort Scott, Kan.
April 6-8—Parkland State
April 12-14—Garden City, Kan.
April 19-21—Southwestern State
April 27-28—Fort Hayes, Kan.
May 4-6—Dodge City, Kan.

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OPINION

Major league baseball needs changes

By Tyler Ward

I love the game of baseball. I always have and probably always will. But I've noticed a couple of remarkably disgusting changes in the game of today versus, say, the game the way it was five-hundred twenty years ago. Hitters are becoming more a lot better at doing what they do. Nowadays, a guy hitting 450 or more home runs in a season is considered average. Everyday players are expected to hit 300 or else they're taking off the starting roster. In short, it's becoming much more of an offensive game.

I remember when your regular everyday games had scores of something like 4-2, 1-0, occasionally the 5-3. Now, scores of 15-10 don't raise any eyebrows. That's what people expect top see when they turn to the sports page. No pitcher is safe. Baseball was once a game that was about as perfectly balanced as games get, pitcher versus batter—may the better man win.

Who do we have to thank for this new trend in baseball, ladies and gentlemen? None other than the man who started the whole Offensive explosion by belting 70 home runs one year and shattering the single season home run record.

That's right, Friendly Old Mark McGwire. He's not doing it anymore (thank God), but he and vice president Sosa held themselves out one season as the all-time home run champs. Therefore, they are now liable for the death of baseball. They want the record, they can have it, and everything, good and bad, that goes with it.

Don't get me wrong. After the player's strike a few years ago, I like what they did for the popularity of the game. But it was a quick fix that will eventually kill the game down the road. They led the home run charge, so they're so they're responsible for it in the end.

Baseball has always been America's pastime because it was well balanced and fun to play. Winning is not the only thing that matters. There are people out there who believe that winning is all that matters. Remember: IT'S A GAME! Games are fun. Baseball is supposed to be fun, when you win or when you lose.

It is just a game, but when we pay athletes $2.5 million a year to mash home runs at an earth-shattering pace, it becomes more than a game. Mark, Sammy, Chipper, Jeter, they all play the game for the paycheck, and they're making a beautiful game ugly at the same time.

Piercing has meaning

By Brenda Alford

In today's world, many people are piercing just about any place they can.

The most common piercing are: Ear piercing, Tongue piercing, Nose piercing, Eyebrow piercing, Lip piercing, Nipple piercing, Male piercing, Female piercing, Unusual piercing, and Piercing.

Nipple piercing a known to have been made by the Romans, to show a sign of bravery and functional as a means of stashing drinks.

The Carifa Indium of South America wear a thin case in the lower lip denotes one being in the prime of their life.

So for some cultures, piercing means something to them.

In America we just seem to like filling our bodies full of holes.

Yes, some are i look at or play with, but even though it is not wrong in a religious sense it can be a moral issue.

What I mean by this is having every kind of piercing on your body known to man today. Too much. I mean really why would one person want to spend all the time clearing all those holes to prevent infection.

Not to mention depending on what type of piercing you get you risk the chance of catching on something and ripping it out.

It is my opinion that having three of these different kinds of piercing is alright.

There are all the students, faculty, staff or administrators at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. All letters to the editor are approved by the editorial board. Opinions expressed in the by-line letter are those of the individual writer. All submitted letters must be signed. The staff reserves the right to edit all copy to conform to standards.

Published every Friday, except on holidays, at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami, Oklahoma, 74354. The Norse Wind office is located in room 204 of Dyer Hall.

The class postage paid at Miami, Oklahoma. Members of the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association.

STREET TALK

Who will you vote for in the November Presidential elections?

Hank Molby-freshman
Yale, Oklahoma

"I really don't have a choice yet because I'm still studying the candidates."

"I'll vote for George W. Bush because of his views on education."

Jenk Cofran-freshman
Tulsa, Oklahoma

"My choice is Al Gore because his views are more in line with mine."

Cathryn Todd-sophomore
Grand Lake, Oklahoma

"I'm voting for George W. Bush because he is a Christian and against abortion."
The Norsewind – the NEO A&M College Newspaper

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