Both cage coaches resign

Both Northeastern A&M basketball programs lost their head coaches over Spring Break.

After guiding the Lady Norse to a second place finish in the NCCAA National Tournament, B.J. Smith stepped down to become head coach at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

"This is a dream come true for me. Like every coach you want to get to the highest level you can in coaching and see how you compare to other coaches around the country," said Smith. During his three years as head coach the Lady Norse program compiled a 99-6 overall record and guided the team to two appearances in the national tournament.

Following a 97-80 loss to Seward County, Kan., in the NCCAA finals on Saturday, Smith announced that he would accept the Southeast Missouri position.

The Lady Norse won 35 straight games before losing in the finals.

Smith came to NEO following one year at North Arkansas Community College in Harrison.

His coaching career began at Arkansas City, Kan., High School in 1990.

Lonnie Spencer, head coach of the Norsemen's basketball team, resigned his position effective immediately, according to Lon Lantz, vice president for student affairs at NEO.

"My resignation is in the best interest of the program. Over the last 14 years NEO has been very good to me and my family and I feel like this decision is in the best interest for everyone concerned," said Spencer.

"NEDO has been a great opportunity for me and I will always cherish the friendships and the times I've had here. But, sometimes things end and it's time to move on."

"I certainly would like to thank Dr. Mayle (Dr. Glenn Mayle, NEO president) for all of his support over the year. He has been a constant source of encouragement and support. Whether I be through phone calls or a card," Spencer said.

"I also sincerely appreciate the Miami community and everything they have done over the years. Everybody, from the players, assistant coaches, faculty, staff and administration have given me their best."

"I'm proud of the fact that we've graduated 87 percent of our players, primarily because of the cooperation of our faculty. I'm very proud that we have produced three academic all-Americans and that we've placed more than 70 kids at the next level," said Spencer.

"There are a lot of things I'm proud of as a head coach and these are just a few of them."

His 11 years as head coach of the Norsemen Spencer compiled a 205-148 overall record. His team finished 10-30 overall in the Bi-State Athletic Conference with a 6-10 record and a 15-18 season mark. He guided the Norsemen to the semifinals of the Region II Tournament in each of the past two years.

Spencer began his coaching career at NEO as an assistant under Larry Gipson in the 1988-89 season and helped guide the Norsemen to their only National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship and a 36-4 record.

During his first two years as head coach, Spencer led the Norse to back-to-back Region II titles and the national tournament.

Along with his coaching responsibilities, Spencer is also a member of the NEO counseling staff and a class room teacher.

"You are not going to find a man with more character and integrity that Lonnie. He was a great ambassador for NEO, plus he continued NEO's winning tradition," said Lantz.

His coaching career began in 1976 at Broken Arrow High School. He also served as head coach at both Tulsa Rogers and Manfred.

Two years ago Spencer served as an administrative assistant for coach Leonard Hamilton at Oklahoma State University and later as a graduate assistant for coach J.D. Barnett at the University of Tulsa.

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**Honors banquet tomorrow**

Students that qualified for either the President's or Dean's Honor Rolls are invited to attend the annual Honors Banquet, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union Ballroom.

"Honor students should receive complimentary tickets for the banquet from their academic advisor," said Dr. Bill Able, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Anyone wanting to attend the banquet may purchase a ticket for $10 per person from Peggy Rhine in the president's office located in the Dayle Crenshaw Administration building.

The meal will consist of fillet mignon with mushroom sauce, baked potato, green beans, tossed salad, cherry cheese cake, hot rolls, beverage and a relish dish.

Dr. Able will serve as master of ceremonies.

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**What's inside**

Students capture national award.

Twenty-five students named Who's Who. See page 3.

Math instructor wins award.

Alan Rust named Teacher of the Week. See page 4.

Seward County wins title.

Lady Norse suffer first loss in national championship game. See page 6.

A Student Newspaper Serving the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Community
Underage alcohol drinkers reach epidemic levels

By Danielle Boyd
Managing Editor

Nearly a third of high school students say they binge drink at least once a month, according to a report that says underage drinkers now account for 25 percent of the alcohol consumed in this country.

"Underage drinking has reached epidemic proportions in America," said Joseph Califano Jr., president of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, which issued the report on Feb. 26, 2002.

The report, which analyzes two years' research, is a call for national mobilization to curb underage drinking, said Califano, a former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Some of the report's findings:

- Eighty-seven percent of adults who drink had their first drink before the age of 21.

The gender gap for drinking is disappearing. Female ninth-graders were just as likely to be drinkers as male ninth-graders.

- Eighty-one percent of high school students have consumed alcohol, compared with 70 percent who have smoked cigarettes and 47 percent who have used marijuana.

Most teens who experiment with alcohol, 91.5 percent, still were drinking in 12th grade.

The percentage of teens who drink on binges -31 percent of among high school students was obtained by using the Youth Risk Behavior Survey of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, published in 2000.

The conclusion that underage drinkers accounted for 25 percent of alcohol consumption was based on the 1998 National household Survey on Drug Abuse.

The number of drinks consumed by underage drinkers in a month was divided by the total number of drinks in the same period for the sample.

"Alcohol is far and away the top drug of abuse for American kids," said Susan Foret, the center's vice president and director of policy research and analysis.

"The college binge-drinking problem starts with children and teens, and that's where our prevention and education efforts must be focused."

A spokesman for the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States called the group's analysis "flat-out wrong."

"Under its flawed interpretation, each American teen-ager and young adult was illegally drinking alcohol would have to consume 120 drinks per month," to make up the 25 percent consumption figure, said spokesman Frank Coleman.

Phil Lynch, a spokesman for Brown-Forman Corp., whose products include Jack Daniel's Tennessee whiskey, said, "It looks like Mr. Califano and CASA have adopted Eminem's accounting practices."

Binge drinking often is described as four consecutive drinks for a female or five drinks for a male.

According to an American Medical Association survey last year, binge drinking is among parents' top worries.

Around 44 percent of college-admit to binge drinking, and nearly a fourth of those binge frequently.

Underage drinking crosses social dynamics as well.

President Bush's twin daughters, Jenna and Barbara, have gotten in trouble for underage drinking.

Too often, teens have no access to alcohol, the report says.

One-third of sixth and ninth graders get alcohol from their owned homes, and children cite other people's homes as the most common setting for drinking.

The report also complains that the entertainment industry has glamorized alcohol and rarely shows its ill effects.

It noted that NBC television recently announced it would start accepting commercials for distilled beverages, breaking a long tradition of refusing such ads.

"There has been almost no discussion of the consequences of underage drinking with chil-
dren but also recommends that policy-makers step up enforcement of underage drinking laws and finance additional treat-
ment programs for adolescents," the report said.

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy also should be broadened to include alcohol in its media campaigns and other activities, the report said.

Norse Wind

By Jerry Williams
Editorial Editor

This is to serve notice to advertisers that there are certain products I will not buy, period.

I will not buy these products for the sole reason that the commercials touting these products either tick me off, rile me up, or make me want to throw up.

First on the list is the Dell computer commercials with that wacky guy named Stephen. He reminds me of another sports fan on TV: Eddie Haskell was the obnoxious neighbor on "Leave It to Beaver."

The producers of that show should make Eddie Haskell oblivious on purpose. Did Dell make Stephen oblivious on purpose? Why?

To the advertisers at Dell: I won't even consider buying a Dell computer until you apologize.

Neither will I buy a product featured on commercials that make men look like idiots.

They don't want to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. They don't have any problem with tapping off its legs and arms, plucking all its feathers and cutting out its tongue as long as it keeps laying those eggs.

That, in a nutshell, is the situation with local and state government's hypochondriacal posturing on the tobacco issue.

Government officials, like they have always done, are attempting to create the appearance that they really care about our health and the health of our children.

They really do want to shelter our children, they claim, from those evil, nasty cigarettes manufactured by those terrible, greedy big tobacco companies.

In reality though, the polls are just doing what they do best: smile and mirrors.

They don't want anybody to quit smoking. There's way too much money to be made by ever-increasing regulation and taxation.

With all that money pouring into the government coffers, the power and influence of incumbent politicians is naturally going to increase.

Every piece of pork barrel legislation financed by taxes on big tobacco will translate into more votes and greater job security for our local back slappers and baby kissers.

If I don't understand, my cigarette, are nasty and I don't like burning the smoke anybody more than anyone else.

Neither do I like the hypocrisy of government strong arm tactics against a perfectly legal product.

If the politicians are truly concerned about our health and the health of our children, they should show a little backbone and take out of tobacco and Limit the only moral and ethical stance on the issue, assuming tobacco is a bad product and the dangerous, defective substance it's claimed to be, is total prohibition.

If they don't have the courage to act on their convictions, maybe they're the wrong people for the job.

Advertisers should avoid certain topics

By Jerry Williams
Editorial Editor

I know, I know, a lot of us are irate but we don't like to see our laundry in public. It's a guy thing.

Never, never, never will I buy anything whose commercial has the word priceless in it. Never having to watch another commer-
cial with the word priceless is priceless.

Don't expect me to buy any-
thing from any company whose commercials feature five-year old girls singing like they're 25.

Precious may sell to some people but it will never sell any-
thing to me.

Car dealers, listen and learn.

If you sit on top of flag-
poles or yell or talk so fast I can't understand you, I won't buy your product.

Last but not least, I will not buy anything that is being issued in commercials by professional wonders.

If they think wrestling is a good thing, I would have a hard time believing anything else they say.
Students receive honor

By Kristen Bradley

Twenty-five college students have been nominated to be recognized for the 2002 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. Nominated students are as follows:

Laurel Boldt of Miami, is an agriculture communications major. She is active in several campus organizations including Phi Theta Kappa, Student Body Government, Aggie Society, and Livestock Judging Team.

Amber Cockrell of College Station, is an early childhood education major. She is active in the Student Body Government, Phi Theta Kappa, and the HONORS Program. Cockrell is also an active member of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

Tiffiny Crafton of Portland, is majoring in business administration. Crafton is an active participant in Business Leaders of Tomorrow and the MU Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

Michelle Zimny of Miami, is majoring in early childhood education and general education. She is active in the Student Body Government, Phi Theta Kappa, and the HONORS Program and the cheerleading squad.

Jessica Hoff of Fortuna, is majoring in business administration. She is active in the Student Body Government, Phi Theta Kappa, and the HONORS Program and the President’s Cabinet.

Howard of Fairland, is majoring in business administration. She is active in the Student Body Government, Phi Theta Kappa, and the HONORS Program and the President’s Cabinet.

Robert Jackson of Fairland, is majoring in television. His activities include the Engineers Club, Phi Theta Kappa, National Honors Society, Native American Student Association, Chi Alpha, college honors program.

Nichole Warner of Kansas, is majoring in pre-engineering. She is a member of the Engineers Club, Phi Theta Kappa, National Honors Society, and the college Honors Program.

Joshua Huber of Kansas City, is majoring in pre-engineering. He is active in the Student Body Government, Phi Theta Kappa, and the college Honors Program.

Angela Phillips of Fairland, is majoring in criminal justice and English. She is active in the Students of Phi Theta Kappa, National Honors Society, and the college Honors Program.

Teresa Muehlbauer of Kansas, is majoring in criminal justice and English. She is active in the Students of Phi Theta Kappa, National Honors Society, and the college Honors Program.

Angela Schutz of Kansas, is majoring in criminal justice and English. She is active in the Students of Phi Theta Kappa, National Honors Society, and the college Honors Program.

FAN SUPPORT

Three fans cheer on the Lady Nane during the NCAA National Basketball Tournament last weekend in Salina, Kan.
Town struggles to survive

By Jerry Williams

Picher, a small town in the northeast corner of Oklahoma has been attracting a lot of attention lately. Recently, officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and observers from the army Corps of Engineers were in the area. Accompanying them were chiefs of local Indian tribes and the Secretary of Environment for the state of Oklahoma.

The reason for all these high-powered officials descending on Picher was to get a first hand look at the most polluted superfund site in the United States. Shortly after this fact-finding mission, Picher gained additional national exposure when ABC Nightline, with Ted Koppel, featured the town and its problems in a segment titled Our Town.

Nightline reporter John Doman was dispatched to do a story on Picher when the plight of the community was brought to the show’s attention by Eric Schroeder of station KODE in Joplin, Mo. Picher is the focus of all this attention because of its proximity to the Tar Creek Superfund site.

Decades of lead and zinc mining in the area resulted in mountains of mine tailings, or chat piles, which contain dangerously high levels of lead. Abandoned mines in the area have contaminated the water table which in turn has severely polluted Tar Creek.

Picher’s problem, indeed the Oklahoma and the nation’s problem, is what to do about it.

Over the past 15 years upwards of $90 million has been spent by the EPA in an effort to minimize the effects of the contamination on the local population.

Tainted topsoil in the town has been stripped off and replaced, but lead levels in the blood of area children haven’t shown much improvement. Graft and corruption on the part of contractors have only added to the problem.

Remedies abound but have so far been halted by the courts. Remedy number one would be to keep on doing what they’ve been doing—hauling off all the chat and plugging the holes left behind by the mining operations.

This option would be extremely costly and time-consuming. According to one environmental official on Nightline, “If you took a train a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, in 25 years this (chat) would not all be gone.”

Remedy number two, put forth by the Kopping administration, allocates a government buy-out of all contaminated property.

The towns of Picher and Cardin would be relocated and the area would be flooded, creating a vast wetland ecosystem.

Picher, as shown on Nightline, is a town divided.

Some residents, such as John Sparkman, a local landowner, support the government buy-out and the relocation of the town. “People won’t want to raise their kids in this environment now that they’re aware of the health hazards. The population has already started to divide,” he said.

When questioned by Doman whether anyone would buy a house in Picher, knowing what the conditions were, Sparkman replied, “Would you? Would you raise your kids in this environment?”

Commenting on the choice facing residents, Sparkman, who was born and raised in Picher and whose great grandfather was a miner, said, “They (the government) can either spend the billions of dollars it’s going to take to make this place safe and livable or, they can get on the hell out here.”

Not every one in Picher supports the buy-out and relocation. Malinman Nick Corrns painted a big sign on his house protesting the buy-out plan. “I want to show that not everybody is for the relocation idea,” he said. “I’m not convinced this is the best thing for the community and I really don’t believe it’s the best thing for my family.”

Bill Lake, a truck driver who was born, raised and still lives in Picher, has a love affair with the area, particularly with the chat piles.

His many photographs of the piles reveal an aspect that not many are aware of. “They are beautiful,” he claims. “The chat piles mean home to me. All my memories are here.”

Lake disagrees with Sparkman that the only recourse is to move the town.

While acknowledging that there are real health issues involved, he feels it may still be worth staying to save Picher by cleaning it up instead of giving up on it.

“We have a heritage here,” he said, “and we have a legacy. You’ve seen the legacy, but have you seen the heritage?”

The heritage he refers to are the photographs of all the mining history of Picher are contained at the local museum.

“If we throw all that away,” said Lake, “and build a wetland on it, and Picher never existed anymore, to be wiped off the face of the earth, I can’t do that.”

Lake admits it will be an uphill battle to save the town but he wants to try.

“When an outsider sees the copper of a community,” Doman said, “Lake still hears a beating heart.”

If the town does eventually get torn down and the residents have to rebuild, will the population hold together long enough to retain a viable community? Can the town survive somewhere else?

According to Picher school principal, Kimberly Pace, “More than likely the town will not survive the move.”

The town is caught between a rock and a hard place.

According to John Sparkman the town will more than likely divide and die if it doesn’t move.

In the opinion of Lake and Pace, Picher will probably not survive relocation.

“In the end,” said Pace, “it’s the people that make the community.”

This is the story of Picher, Oklahoma. The ending is not known but it will either be “Picher, not in peace,” or “Picher to be continued.”
Baseball team builds steam

Wins seven games over Spring Break

Coach Roger Ward's Norsemen are 16-9 on the season prior to a scheduled double-header with Longview, Mo. on Tuesday in Miami.

The Golden Norse travel to Florida on Thursday for a 1 p.m. double-header sweep with Northern Oklahoma College before hosting Crowder College in a 1 p.m. nine-inning game on Saturday. Warming four of five games played during a three day stretch, the Golden Norse went 1-2 and 9-6 double-header sweep over Des Moines (Iowa) Area Community College during spring break at Homa Thomas Field.

Hosting the Mountaineers of Eastern Oklahoma College in a Bi-State Athletic Conference double-header recently, the Norsemen posted a 4-2 victory in the first game before suffering a 10-9 shutout in the nightcap.

NEO started the three-day whirlwind with a 5-4 victory in nine innings over Marshalltown, Iowa, to start spring break.

Norse 7-9, Des Moines 2-0

Winning 2-0 through five innings of the first game with the Des Moines Bears, the Golden Norse sent 13 batters to the plate during a seven-run second inning.

Freshman right fielder Cory Stann delivered two singles during the marathon inning. Joe Antonich, Aaron Kaminski, pinch-hitter Rory Corker, and Mike Cox added singles in the rally. Kaminski, Antonich, Michael Glenn, Derek Guillett and Carlos Garcia each collected two hits for the Norsemen.

Norse 4-6, Eastern 2-1

Against Eastern in the Bi-State double-header, the Golden Norsemen received a two-run double by Kaminski in the fourth inning and single runs in the sixth and seventh to post a 4-2 win in the first game.

Nate Griffin collected two of the nine total Norse hits. Rory Corker pitched a complete game giving up a two-run homer to Dan Adams in the top of the eighth inning of the nine-inning game.

Copping struck out 11 and gave up four hits.

The only run of the game in the nightcap came in the top of the third inning for the Mountaineers on walks to Tim Bowen and Eric Keller and a fielder's choice by Nick Macalrand.

NEO left seven base runners including runners at first and third with one out in the bottom of the seventh.

Copping was thrown out trying to steal and Bobby Mosby struck out to end the game.

Norse 5, Marshalltown 4

Winning 4-3 going into the bottom of the ninth inning with Marshalltown, the Norsemen rallied as pinch-hitter Garcia was hit-by-a-pitch to start the inning.

Josh Gibson followed with a single.

Both runners scored a Mosby singled to right-center with two outs.

Mosby collected three of the 10 Golden Norse hits while Josh Gibson, Cox and Alden added two hits each.

Norse 8-2, Fort Scott 9-0

After allowing the winning run to score on a wild pitch in the 9-8 loss in 10 innings, the Norse received a two-hit shutout by Mosby en route to a 2-0 split with Fort Scott (Ky.) Community College, recently at Homa Thomas Field.

Mosby collected three of the 12 Golden Norse hits in the first game while Gibson, Griffin and Cox added two hits each.

Greg Adler and Scott Gilbert both had a double as the Greyhounds managed only five total hits.

Against Fort Scott in the second game Mosby limited the Greyhounds to a double by Harvey in the first inning and one by Sean McNabb in the third inning. Mosby recorded one strike out and three walks in seven innings of work.

Josh Gibson and Griffin collected the only two hits for the Norsemen.

Rose State 6-7, Norse 3-5

A three-run homer by Logan Wempen in the bottom of the third inning and a two-run triple by Mike Slutes in the bottom of the fourth sparked Rose State to a 6-3 win in the first game at Midwest City.

Golden Norse second baseman Joe Antonich collected two of the three NEO RBIs with a sacrifice fly in the second inning and a double in the sixth.

The other Norse run came in the fifth inning on a RBI single by Kaminski. All three NEO base runners had walked.

Cox had two of the six total hits by the Norsemen.

Carrying a 2-2 lead into the bottom of the sixth inning of the second game, the Golden Norsemen allowed five runs in five hits with two outs. The key blow was a two-run homer by Aaron Scott.

Griffin had three singles and two runs batted in to lead the Norse eight-hit attack.

Gibson added two singles.
Seward upsets Lady Norse

Unable to maintain a 10-point lead in the first five minutes of the second half, the number one ranked Lady Norse were upset by third-ranked Seward County Community College, 87-80, Saturday night, in the finals of the NJCAA National Tournament at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan.

With the loss the Lady Norse finish 35-1 on the season while the Seward County Lady Saints finished a perfect 38-0 on the year.

"We struggled the whole tournament trying to figure out what was a foul and what wasn’t," said coach B.J. Smith.

"Obviously, this game was the same way. We didn’t do a very good job. I don’t think the kids got outplayed, we might have gotten out-coached.

All-American guard Kim Ortego kept the Lady Norse off balance all night as she established a new NCAA single game record by hitting 19 of 25 free throws. Ortego, 5-9 from Longdale, Okla., scored seven of her Lady Norse high-35 total points in the final 3:06 of the game. Her performance earned her Tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

After trailing 46-36 with 14:51 left in the game, the Lady Saints grabbed a 70-68 lead which they never relinquished on two free throws by Tracy Wynn with 5:43 left. NEO battled back from a 10-point deficit to start the game to grab a 39-34 lead at halftime.

Maria Villarreal and Carina Souza represented the Lady Norse on the 12-player All Tournament team.

Villarreal led NEO with 16 points while Souza scored 15 and La Silva added 10 points. Along with Ortego’s 35 points, Seward County received 19 from Wynn and 13 from Maria Dykes.

NEO received 31 total fouls compared to only 14 levied against the Lady Saints.

Seward County by 37 of 47 free throws while the Lady Norse sank 15 of 17 at the line.

NEO outscored Seward 33-6 from 3-point range.

Ladies capture Kansas classic

Battling sharply dropping temperatures and a steady drizzle all day, the Lady Norse defeated 12th-ranked Indian Hills, Iowa 6-2 to win the Johnson County Community College Classic last weekend in Overland Park, Kan.

Coach Eric Iverson’s Lady Norse are scheduled to host Independence, Kan., today in a 1 o’clock makeup double-header that was rained out on March 3.

Prior to a double-header with Northern Oklahoma-Tonkawa on Tuesday, the Lady Norse were 14-1 in the season.

NEO will travel to Mid- west City on Thursday for a 1 p.m. twirler with Rose State.

Lady Norse vs-Indian Hills 2

Trailing 2-0 in the top of the sixth inning, the Lady Norse scored six runs on six hits to win the Johnson County Classic last Sunday in Overland Park.

Host Johnson County’s game with Kemperwood, Mo., was cancelled because of ice on the field. NEO finished the classic with a 5-0 record

while Johnson County was 4-0.

Sara Campbell paced the eight-bit Lady Norse attack with two singles and two RBI.

Lady Norse vs-Iowa Western 0

Staci Whittaker had two singles and four runs batted in while Jennifer Clemens added two singles as the Lady Norse shutout 14th-ranked Iowa Western in pool play at Johnson County.

Lady Norse vs-Labette County 2

Scoring five runs on six hits, the Lady Norse defeated the Lady Cardinals 14-2 in pool play at Johnson County.

Lady Norse vs-Cady 0

Ashley Epperson tossed a two-hitter as the Lady Norse opened the Johnson County Classic with a shutout.

Rachel Wulfmeyer and Meredith McCarthy had two hits each.
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.