A Look Back At The Oklahoma City Bombing

By Brittany Shears

Last Monday was the 15th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. At 9:02 AM on April 19, 1995, a truck bomb went off in Oklahoma City killing 168 people. Among those killed there were 19 children and one rescue team member. Added to the 168 killed, 850 were injured, 30 children were orphaned, 462 people were homeless and 7,000 were left without a workplace. The buildings hit included the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, Journal Record Building, YMCA building, Water Resources and the Athenian Building. The Oklahoma City bombing was the most destructive act of terrorism in the United States up until the attack in 2001 on the World Trade Centers. When asked about what they remembered about the day of the bombing, there was common feeling of disbelief among those answering. Laura Hays remembers being horrified that something like that nature and magnitude could happen in the U.S. “I was at work and I was listening to a talk show on AM Radio when they broke in and started talking about it. [My first reaction] horror, that something like this could happen in the U.S., as more details came in, the more apparent it was that it was a deliberate attack.” Dara Short was getting ready for school when her parents called to her to look and see what was happening. Bre nda Schilling had been coming back from a computer class and was in disbelief as she walked into the building and it was all anyone was talking about, not having heard what had happened. The impact of the Oklahoma City bombing affected the lives of all Americans, be it directly or indirectly. New laws were made for security purposes and many Americans realized that we are never completely safe. An outside memorial was erected on the Alfred Murrah Building site and a 30,000 square foot museum was built dedicated to its memory. Also the creation of the MITF, Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism was a result of the bombing’s impact. The task force put these three things together with a purpose and thought in mind. “We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever.”

Remembering Virginia Tech

Remembrance Day, the students of the school came together to remember those who died during the incident and simply be there for each other.

One survivor of the shooting, Amber Deangelo, wonders if students who came to the school after the shooting really understand the implications of the Remembrance Day. “I don’t feel like the incoming people understand what we went through as freshmen being here, and that maybe they just think of it as another day off as opposed to a day of remembering things,” says Deangelo. Another survivor, Shaddie Tanius, talks about how the tragedy also brought many of the students closer together. “All of us that were here when it happened still feel more tightly knit because we’re the only ones that were here for it. But of course, there’s plenty of professors, graduate students, things like that that will remain here,” she says.

I hope that there will be those who remember that incidents like Virginia Tech can happen. As soon as we all forget, it will happen again. Like the old saying goes, “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Maybe this is more than a cliché. Maybe it has stuck with us. As we all come together with a purpose and thought in mind, “We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever.”
Campus Quotes

“What Age Would You Be For A Week?”

Quinton Jones
“22 because it’s been the most fun I’ve had in my life.”

Dyran Wright
“21 because you can do pretty much everything.”

Zinnia Salinas
“23 because I’ve just always wanted to be that age.”

Katy Tuttle
“5 because I wouldn’t have a care in the world.”

Christian Legal Society v. Martinez In Supreme Court

By Ryan Bramblett

When does standing up for what you believe in turn into discrimination? The Supreme Court may decide that in the case of Christian Legal Society v. Martinez. The argument behind the case is actually quite simple. The branch of the Christian Legal Society at the University of California’s Hastings College of Law does not want to admit students who are homosexual or non-Christian into their group; however, the rules of Hastings College require that, in order to receive funding from the school, a group must accept any applicant. Here’s what confuses me. There are over seventy student organizations on the campus of Hastings, so why would a non-Christian want to join a group whose core beliefs clash with theirs? Moreover, it seems that no non-believers had even tried to join the group, but the school still threatened to cut the group’s funding. The Christian Legal Society sued the school, and, long story short, they are now taking it to the Supreme Court. It seems like a drastic measure for something that seems to have been a non-factor. On the other hand, both the school and the organization are standing up for what they believe in. It is just unfortunate that those beliefs clash. The school wants equal treatment for everyone, but the CLS wants the right to spend time with their fellow Christians. Who’s right in this argument? Apparently it will be up to the Supreme Court to decide.

Enrollment Reminder

By Brittany Shears

This past Friday was an enrollment day at OPSU. Approximately 80 future students enrolled for classes for the upcoming fall semester. While there was a little bit of every major, there were significant amounts of students signing up for AG and education majors. If you haven’t enrolled yet, it is advised to do so to help insure you get into the classes you want or need.

Higher Learning Commission

OPSU will have its site visit by the Higher Learning Commission review team on November 8, 9, and 10 of 2010. The team will be evaluating OPSU on the Criteria listed below. Please review them and feel free to contact any of the steering committee members (Kathy Turner- HLC Coordinator, Wayne Manning, Kirstan Neukam, Bobby Jenkins, Jessica Lofland) or any criterion committee member if you have questions before the meetings.

Fall 2010 to discuss the criteria and how OPSU meets them. The Criteria for HLC Accreditation are listed below. Please review them and feel free to contact any of the steering committee members (Kathy Turner- HLC Coordinator, Wayne Manning, Kirstan Neukam, Bobby Jenkins, Jessica Lofland) or any criterion committee member if you have questions before the meetings.
By Ryan Bramblett
On Monday, April 19, OPSU was lucky enough to be visited by the Manhattan Piano Trio. I’m not exactly the kind of guy who listens to a lot of classical music, but even I enjoyed the group. The trio of musicians featured Milana Strezeva on piano, Wayne Lee on violin and Dmitry Kouzov on cello. Throughout the evening, the group performed music by such famous composers as Mozart, Chopin, Handel, and Brahms. Before each piece, the group would take time to give the audience facts about the music that they were playing.

What really surprised me was the turnout. In an age where the phrase “pop music” seems to be synonymous with “No talent,” it was refreshing to see a pretty good turnout at an event featuring classical music. While I’m sure some only went for extra credit in one class or another, most seemed to enjoy the music.

I guess that even in this age of crappy pop and mindless rap music, there are at least a few people who would rather listen to real music. It helps that we had three people who knew how to play real music.

Student Nurses Provide Community Service

By Dawn Hemphill
On Friday, March 26, the 2nd Annual Blue Ribbon Tree Ceremony was held in Guymon in order to kick off the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event was held in front of the Texas County Court House, with a sizeable crowd attending. Mayor Larry Stump presented the Proclamation declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month. District Attorney Mike Boring also made a brief statement.

The Student Nursing Association (SNA) from the OPSU campus assisted children from Carrier School in Guymon with putting ribbons on the large cedar tree in front of the courthouse. A number of SNA members also donated time assembling goodie bags for the children in area schools and cutting the blue ribbons in preparation for the tree.

Other community service activities that the SNA has been, or will be involved in this spring include helping with the OPSU Blood Drives, hosting a health education booth for 5th and 6th graders in an upcoming Children’s Health Fair and wrapping up their pill bottle recycling project to assist medical missionaries in Africa and the Ukraine. The SNA at OPSU is committed to giving back to the community and using their nursing knowledge to help improve the quality of life for others. All OPSU nursing students or pre-nursing students are welcome to join the SNA organization. For more information, contact the faculty advisor, Dawn Hemphill, at dhemphill@opsu.edu or ext. 1430.
Commencement Cometh

The 2010 OPSU Commencement Exercises loom on the horizon. Rehearsal for commencement will occur at 5:00 p.m. in the Oscar Williams Field House gymnasium on Friday, May 14. At this rehearsal, students will learn about the senior line-up and entry, complete exit OPSU documents, and walk through the receiving line. Rehearsals usually last from 60 to 90 minutes depending on the cooperation of the graduates.

Commencement itself occurs at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 15 in the Oscar Williams Field House. Seniors should arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. and proceed immediately to the location of their entry line-up. The ceremony itself may last 90 minutes during which time approximately 200 graduates will receive their diploma covers. Dr. Glen Johnson, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

Commencement is a time of celebration, but it must be tempered with dignity, an important element of the ceremony. Commencement is the outward recognition of a graduate’s academic accomplishment and is to be shared with family members and friends of the seniors and of OPSU. Students should understand that this very public event has a two-fold purpose: first to honor graduates and second to honor OPSU. Therefore, students should remember that commencement is a solemn and dignified event and that celebrations should occur only outside the gym after commencement ends. Academic regalia is worn at all commencement exercises, and its roots are shrouded in deep medieval, European, scholarly traditions. None of it should be altered for the event. Nothing should occur during commencement to detract from the ceremony itself—no tossed beach balls, no blaring air horns, no shooting silly string to pose problems, embarrassment, and hazards for guests, seniors, or OPSU. Students may throw confetti or streamers, but care should be given even with those merrymakers.

Students unable to attend commencement should inform the Office of Academic Affairs in writing about their intentions before Friday, May 7. Please note that students cannot reserve seating for guests prior to the ceremony. Seating for guests with disabilities will be provided on the gym floor.

Questions about rehearsal and commencement should be directed to Bobby Jenkins (bjenkins@opsu.edu, 580.349.1376, or Sewell 131), Sara Jane Richter (saraj@opsu.edu, 580.349.1472, 580.349.2357, 580.651.7357, or Hughes-Strong Hall 109) or Tito Aznar (taznar@opsu.edu, 580.349.1418, or Hughes-Strong Hall 113).

Accepting Applications for Fall 2010

The Collegian is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Editor
- Sports Editor
- Writers

Email lola@opsu.edu for an application or stop by the Communications office in Muller Hall. No phone calls please.

Student Senate

The Student Senate of OPSU will have a new filing period for the 2010/2011 Student Association Executive Council positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. This will be re-opened on Monday April 19, 2010, at 8:00 A.M. and will close Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 4:30 P.M.. Anyone who is interested in applying for these positions can pick up an application in the Student Association office. They shall be returned to J.B. Test by the following Monday, April 26, 2010. His cell is 806-339-6226. Thank you and I apologize for any inconvenience.

An amendment to the OPSU Constitution has also been proposed making changes to election procedures.

Kydndall Ewing
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OPSU Student Association
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