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Builders parade their stuff

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Kenna Corley/*Collegian photographer*

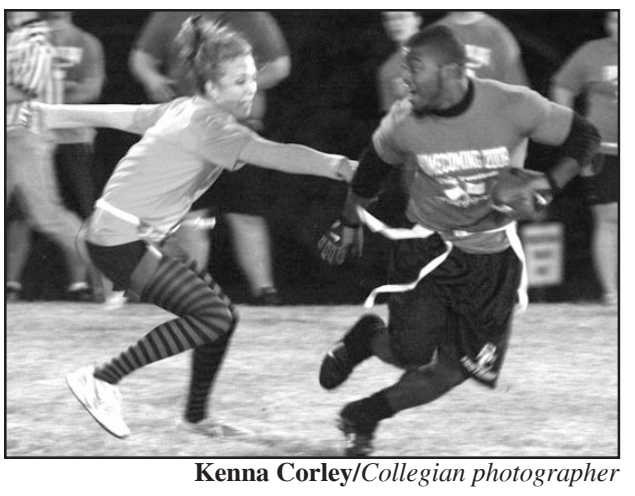
Left: Katy Raybern, biology senior, and Aric Cherry, communication senior, are recognized as Homecoming King and Queen during Saturday's coronation ceremony. They were elected by the student body.
Above: Campus Players present the finale of the Homecoming parade 10 a.m. Saturday morning. The parade journeyed down Main St. with a variety of floats representing campus organizations.

Kenna Corley/*Collegian photographer*

Tag Wall, philosophy and religious studies/history sophomore, serves ice cream floats to students during Builder Floats. Blake Morgan, biochemistry senior, Megan Martin, biology junior, and Melissa Borthwick, biology junior, enjoy the cool treat Thursday afternoon.

Katie Allender/*Collegian photographer*

Leadership members Katie Gomez, communication sophomore, Kate Topham, biology senior, Laura Morgan, history senior, Kari Roth, psychology junior, Rebecca Richmond, nursing senior, and Jennifer Edwards, business administration senior, perform during the skit and dance contest. Leadership won second place.



Kenna Corley/*Collegian photographer*

Brooke Newcomer, nursing junior, attempts to tackle Brendt Winn, business senior, during the annual flag football game. The red team, seniors and sophomores, came out with a victory over the orange team, juniors and freshmen, 5-4. The event took place Oct. 9.

Arkalalah festival brings fun, food for fall

By Katie Gomez
Staff reporter

Between StuFu and StauBau, students have enough problems figuring out what people are talking about. With the coming of fall, they can now add Arkalalah to the list.

Arkalalah is an annual fall festival in Arkansas City during the third week in October.

Events occur all week, including a medallion hunt with daily newspaper clues, a carnival with an all-you-can-ride night, a variety of street games, a two-mile race and a parade down Summit Street.

There is also an Arkalalah coronation for both children and young women. Candidates for the Queen Alalah coronation are nominated by the students and faculty at Cowley College. Children wishing to be named Little Mr. and Miss Alalah sign up and only the top five get nominated.

From crowns and coronations to concessions, Arkalalah could set a record in the amount of food served. There are fried Oreos, Indian tacos, fried green tomatoes, ribs and brisket, German sausage with sauerkraut, buffalo burgers, chocolate covered bananas, foot-long corn dogs, stuffed pretzels and even alligator-on-a-stick. You can also find your basic carnival foods such as roasted corn, nachos, funnel cakes and caramel apples.

Food booths will be located throughout downtown Summit Street beginning Oct. 22.

Arkalalah began in 1928 right before the Great Depression. One afternoon, a group of men were eating at the old Petroleum Club located above Peterson's Drug Store when they decided that something new was needed to raise the morale of the town.

The idea of a fall festival during Halloween quickly caught on and the Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce began preparations.

The committee sponsored a contest offering a cash prize for whoever could come up with the best name. Mrs. J.W. Moore was the recipient of that $15 cash prize when she thought of "Ark" for the town and "alalah" because it meant "good time" in a Native American language.

This is the 77th year for Arkalalah. Members of the executive committee chose "Life is a Highway" as their theme. Because Highway 77 runs straight through Arkansas City, the committee decided to use the Route 66 logo, incorporating the 77.

"You know, with this being the 77th year, it's our only year to use 77 to our advantage. You only get one shot at it," said Kim Voth, executive committee chairman. "There are so many kids that grow up there and go to school there, go to college, and never come back, and we like to think that maybe that highway brings them back."

Adam Hoag, biology sophomore, is from Arkansas City and has been going to the festival for 19 years. "My favorite part would definitely be the food, especially the pork burgers. It's fun, you can go there and hang out with your friends. Since I've graduated now I can catch up with everyone at Arkalalah."

"I love all of the rides. The Kamikaze's my favorite," said Tim Miller, music sophomore. Miller is also from Arkansas City and goes to the festival every year.

All of the preparations for Arkalalah are done completely through community service. Workers volunteer their time to bring the community together during the festival. Businesses and industries from Arkansas City, Winfield and Strother Field donate money and sponsor activities.

The events are free with the exception of the carnival and the coronation on Oct. 25. Tickets are $15 for the carnival and $10 for the coronation.

For a complete schedule of events, brochures can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce in both Arkansas City and Winfield.

Katie Gomez is a sophomore majoring in communication. You may email her at kathryn.gomez@sckans.edu.

Schedule of events for Arkalalah

Oct. 18
9 a.m. Medallion Hunt First Clue - Arkansas City Traveler
Oct. 20
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Habitat for Humanity Dinner - Presbyterian Church
Oct. 21
6 p.m. Union State Bank's 100th Birthday, Blues, & BBQ
Wilson Park
Oct. 22
6 – 10 p.m. All You Can Ride Night
8 p.m. Parade of Lights
Oct. 23
5 p.m. Carnival Opens
7:30 p.m. Café Acoustic featuring Dan Bliss- Brown's
12:30 – 8 p.m. Chamber Refreshment Station - Burford Lobby
Oct. 24
10 a.m. Carnival Opens
11:30 – 1 p.m. Stuff and Strut Concession Marathon
2 p.m. Little Mr. and Miss Coronation - 5th & Summit
3 p.m. Children's Parade - Downtown Summit
8 p.m. Arkalalah Coronation - Brown Theatre
Oct. 25
5:30 – 1 p.m. Kiwanis Pancake Feed
9 a.m. Arkalalah Two Mile Run - Summit & Central
Horseshoe Pitching Tournament - Sixth & Madison
Pit Stop @ The Arts
Arkalalah Craft Show - Arkansas City Recreational Center
10 a.m. Carnival Opens
10:15 a.m. Kid's Fun Run
11 – 1 p.m. United Methodist Church Dinner - 200 E. Washington
11:15 a.m. Street Games - Downtown Summit
12:30 – 6 p.m. Chamber Refreshment Station - Burford Lobby
2 p.m. Arkalalah Big Parade - Downtown Summit
4 p.m. Band & Flag Festival - Curry Field
5 – 7 p.m. Youth Rally - Wilson Park
8:30 p.m.Light Show & Fireworks - Curry Field

Economic crisis affects student loan industry

By Ryan Kane
Staff reporter

While it may be a little early to begin shouting, "The sky is falling," some harsh realities are before us. The student loan industry and bond markets have been affected by the economic crisis.

Legislators are pointing the finger at student loan companies such as Sallie Mae for making high interest loans to at-risk students. The industry is blaming students for defaulting on these loans, and costing them hundreds of millions of dollars.

The impact of all this is that with more scrutiny being put on lending, those students who depend on loans may not be able to get them as easily in the future.

Additionally, colleges may not have immediate access to funds that they depend on to operate. Many students could find themselves in trouble in the coming semesters, whether they're still in college or trying to transition to graduate school.

According to Kelly Field, writer for the Chronicle of Higher Education, financial officers at small private colleges hope to find some financial relief after the president signed into law a $700 billion bailout bill for the financial sector on Oct. 3.

Field said, "The past few months have been stressful ones for the nation's less-wealthy independent colleges, which have seen interest rates on their outstanding debt spiral at the same time that borrowing has become more costly.

Faced with rising debt payments and a higher cost of capital, many colleges have been weighing budget cuts and postponing new construction."

Banks and financial institutions lending capacities have been restricted by a market freeze due to the credit crisis.

Like other participants in the economy, colleges have felt the impact of the market slowdown in the form of reduced access to credit, as well as increases in bond rates.

In addition, institutions are facing difficulties accessing their investments to meet operating costs.

Field said, "Colleges of all sizes got a shock last week, when Wachovia Bank froze the accounts of nearly 1,000 colleges that invest through Commonfund, leaving institutions unable to access billions of dollars in short-term funds they depend on for salaries, campus construction and debt payment."

So the question is, how is Southwestern College administration reacting?

Sheila Krug, vice president for finance and human resources said, "The majority of Southwestern's operating capital comes from student tuition. About 5 percent comes from endowments. We have posed these concerns to our bond people. So far they don't see any issues that would prevent us from receiving our money."

At the moment the only bond projects affected would be planned improvements to the stadium and renovations to Richardson.

Since much of the operating capital comes from student tuition, the fewer students there are, the less capital the institution has. So if a large number of students were unable to receive financial aid, the college as a whole suffers.

Although Southwestern awards a large amount in scholarships and grants, the fact is, many students will continue to depend on both federal and private loans.

Paul Bean, vice president for institutional advancement, said, "We're having discussions and strategizing in the event that the economy is such that people are having difficulty coming to college. We are asking things like, 'What are the funding alternatives and what can we do with packaging of tuition?' All of this is being reviewed in preparation for such an event.

Ryan Kane is a senior majoring in communication. You may e-mail him at ryankane@cox.net.