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BeaconOU

April 2004 Edition 18

John 12:46 "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."



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GAY MARRIAGE CIVIL RIGHT?

Sergio Cantu

Gay Marriage Civil Right?

During the twentieth century, Americans of different classes fought boldly to overcome prejudice, hate, and discrimination in their struggle to obtain the blessings and freedoms guaranteed them by the Constitution. These blessings are called civil rights, and in the past many were denied them based on race and sex- facts that those discriminated against could not change. Within the last year, gay marriage has slowly and inevitably

come to the forefront of public, national debate, and has become a key issue for the 2004 Presidential elections. In November of 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled in favor of seven same-sex couples seeking marriage rights, outraging and angering many. Indeed, it is widely claimed that marriage is a civil right, and the gay community has likened its struggle to obtain it to the black civil rights movement. Many, including some civil

rights leaders, have risen in support and argue the position, but what the majority fail to see is that gay marriage is not a civil rights issue as much as it is a moral-societal issue for the nation. Therefore, gay marriage should not be considered a civil right because it addresses an issue of approval or disapproval of a behavior rather than of unjust discrimination based on a genetic, innate condition.

Continued pg. 5

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LOTTERY

Kevin Gerber

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LOTTERY

Oklahoma lawmakers have decided to allow the state of Oklahoma to vote on whether to allow a state run lottery to operate in Oklahoma to fund education. Christians and non-Christians should oppose the establishment of a state run lottery in Oklahoma. Christians should oppose gambling because it goes against many biblical principles. Furthermore, the financial and social costs to this state if a lottery becomes reality are too great to allow this industry to operate.

Lotteries are founded on greed and the get rich quick idea. However, the Bible instructs against greed. A stark warning is given in 1 Timothy 6:9-10: "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." Jesus instructs against greed in Luke 12:15 and Proverbs 15:27 tells what will happen to greedy people. God clearly shows us that greed is dangerous to the Christian life. Because those who play the lottery are motivated by greed, and greed is wrong for the Christian, then we as Christians should not allow the lottery to spread into Oklahoma.

Secondly, the lottery prizes come from the money of others. Since those who play the lottery want to win the prize, they are coveting what someone else has. The Tenth Commandment (Exodus 20:17) forbids the Christian from coveting another's possessions.



Thirdly, Jesus tells us that the second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). However, in order for one to win lottery prizes, many others must lose their possessions. When we wish pain and suffering and loss on others then we are violating this command.

Fourthly, Christians are to be responsible with how they use their money. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells the parable of talents, with the lesson being that we are to be wise in how we invest. Often times, the money that is spent buying lotto tickets is money that should have been used to buy essential items for the family. Also, one has a better chance of being struck by lightning (1 in 2 million) than winning the lottery (1 in 54 million). Thus, a person who buys a lotto ticket is almost certainly going to lose the money God entrusted them with. 2 Corinthians 5:10 tells us that we

Continued pg. 5

EVEN



ODD

P2

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Editor's choice Websites

Do you have a desire to know more about God, grow in your relationship with Christ, or learn more about what Christians believe? The Bible is the primary source to turn to. Here are some favorite internet links of mine that may help in your personal studies. I may not agree with the full content of the web-sites, but they have some awesome free resources that I believe would benefit everyone. I know that you will be amazed by the content of www.christiananswers.com which has more resources than I could ever list and they include a lot of videos on-line.

www.icr.org, www.ou.edu/css, and www.drdino.com include a lot of evolution and creation research.

www.biblegateway.com is a searchable Bible on-line with a concordance and many translations available.

www.crossministry.org is a ministry that reaches out to those struggling with temptations of homosexuality.

www.cbn.com www.agapepress.org www.worthynews.com are Christian Perspective world news web-sites.

www.worshipguitarclass.com www.waterdeep.com great guitar music.

www.livingwaters.com includes Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort, ministry stuff, videos, and audio links.

www.wallbuilders.com, www.reclaimamerica.org, and www.presidentialprayerteam.org has some great stuff about America's Godly heritage.

www.higherpraise.com has early church writings for free on-line. You can get a free CD with church reformers writings at this ministry's website: www.FreeBibleSoftware.com or by calling 1-866-66-BIBLE.

www.ou.edu/beaconou has all of the past editions of the BeaconOU on-line, information about future events, and web links to other campus ministries. May Truth Increase!!!

Letters to the Editor



Okay, if you haven't been to our web-site, you need to check it out. It has a ton of resources to campus ministries and more information about us, www.ou.edu/beaconou. All of the past issues of the BeaconOU are there plus some information about future events we plan to have on campus. Send us your letters. We invite the good and the bad comments. We love to hear from our readers. Remember, all letters to the Editor may be re-printed in a latter editon of the BeaconOU unless specific request is made by the sender not to publish their letter. If you believe there are contradictions in the Bible or have questions about it, send them to us. We will try to provide some answers. Let your opinion be heard. We are currently looking for people to help with funding, writing, distribution, and advertising. We get an information table in the Union twice a week. If you would like to speak with someone personally, we are there or send your letters to beaconou@ou.edu

Ricky Thomas, Editor.

Beacon Staff,

I work at the OU Baptist Student Union, and I have a story you might want to consider in one of your upcoming issues.

Max Barnett has been the Director of the BSU since January 1967. For the past 37 years, he has grown the ministry here into one of world influence. Thousands of men and women who have come to OU have been directly and indirectly influenced by this man of single passion and vision for the Lord.

He is not one to toot his own horn. Actually, he hates any attention given to him since he only sees it as his God-given mission in life.

He is simply obeying what God has told him to do and doesn't think it is any more special that you or I doing the same.

But we love Max and know he is special. He is a man of passion, vision, and leadership. This year he is retiring. On June 1st, he will be handing over the reigns to John Kelsey, OU BSU alum and associate director for the past five years. Of course, this is huge news for our ministry. Although Max and the staff are 100% behind John Kelsey as director, we love Max and will miss seeing him daily and gleaming wisdom from him.

Max will be honored in a retirement celebration on June 6th at the Oklahoma Memorial Ballroom on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. And although this is one thing planned to honor him, he deserves so much more. I wanted to let your staff know about this event, and I think it would be a great story. His life is truly one that can say, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ."

Thank you!

Blessings, Holly Kimbrough

Response:

Thanks for the information, Holly. Max will be missed. We will have an article in the next edition with comments from many students, past and present in honor of Max's service to the lives of college students. His obedience to God in making disciples and always being consistent has been inspiring to me. John Kelsey is a great servant of Christ as well and I am sure he will be faithful to what God has intrusted him with. When I first came to OU, I was lost and I didn't know anyone. John and Jennifer helped me

Please see...Letters Cont. on P9

EVEN



ODD



Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the University of Oklahoma or its student body. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from or with a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the "Truth" with the world. Our source of funding is God, "Jehovah Jireh". His Holy Spirit moves on His people's hearts to give financially in order to support printing. We hope to get 15 more people who will make a dedication to give \$10 per edition. There are 8 editions per school year. If this is you, send an e-mail to beaconou@ou.edu with your intentions. If you have an upcoming event that you think we might be interested in, send us some details. If you have any questions, suggestions, or opinions for the editor about any articles, you can contact us at beaconou@ou.edu. Visit our web-site at www.ou.edu/beaconou. It includes information about our organization, upcoming plans to show spiritually educational films, and all of the past editions on-line. We will not print vulgar articles. We are an open forum to discuss how Christianity fits within our world today. Send us your articles. President: Ricky Thomas. Vice- President: Chase Parsons. Secretary: Ashley Gibson. Treasurer: James Wickett. All articles and content Copyright 2004 held by individual authors, news sources, or otherwise the BeaconOU. The printing of this edition is funded by the UOSA.



Salvation of a Thief

The Roman guard pushed me again from behind and this time I fell. The weight of the large wooden cross was tremendous. The guards seemed to be in a hurry. ‘Why didn’t they just kill me by the sword’ I wondered, for I was just a thief and not a very good one. My partner and I had been caught stealing from a prominent Roman citizen. He was behind me, carrying a cross also. They were not leading us to the traditional place of crucifixion, but rather to the Skull, Golgotha. This rocky hill was usually reserved for men who had committed bad crimes. A place the Romans used for *special* crucifixions, for public spectacle. And we were not carrying the usual cross beam to be attached to another section. We were carrying, or dragging, the whole wooden apparatus. My body was bloody and there was much pain from the whipping they gave me. I was horrified at the thought of what was about to take place. I never dreamed I would some day die like this.

One of the guards had to help me carry the cross up the hill; I could not do it alone. I was weak and thirsty. Once at the top of the hill, they wasted no time in further dealing out my punishment. They dropped the cross on the ground, then spun me around and pushed me down on my back on top of it. There was no use in fighting, and I had not the strength to do it. One guard grabbed one of my arms and another grabbed the other arm. They both stretched my arms out flat on the cross beam. A third Roman, who hovered over me, took off his helmet and wiped the perspiration from his forehead. He put his helmet back on and picked up the metal stake and mallet lying next to me. He never looked me in the eye. He proceeded on with his duty. It was so routine, so emotionless...

As he pounded the stake into my wrist, I let out a scream. He never flinched, just kept hammering. The pain was excruciating. There was warmth flowing down my arm. He immediately went to my other side. I tried to pull up that arm but couldn’t because it was being held down. A stake then entered my left wrist with velocity. Pain struck from that side now, my body lurched. The Roman kept pounding. The whole thing was so fast and so routine. The other two then bent my knees slightly and held my feet together flat on the base of the cross, one on top of each other. A piercing pain shot through my body once again from my feet. I screamed and everything went dark for a moment. A wave of nausea came over me. There was more hammering. I then felt my body being tilted up from the ground. I heard loud voices. I felt the rags that were my clothing rip off of my body. My wrists were now numb, it was hard to breathe. There was a scream from below, no doubt my friend as I heard the sound of metal on metal. Something popped in my back as they dropped me and the tool of my death into the hole they had dug. Suddenly I could not breathe at all... now darkness.

There were labored gasps and groans in my ears and I realized it was myself trying to breathe. I opened my eyes and could see once again. Being stretched out in this way made it impossible to breathe. I pulled up with my arms and pushed down with my legs so that I could get a breath of air. As I did, pain shot through my body from all of my wounds. I kept doing it though, slowly, methodically, every time I would take in a breath of air. The price for precious air was much pain. I was finally able to breathe like this but I knew I wasn’t going to last long. I would rather suffocate than do this for very

long. I looked over at my friend to the right of me. He was up on his cross too. I heard him gasping for air, but I knew he would figure out how to do it himself. The wood of my cross was scraping my already raw back. There was much more pain. This is what the Romans felt was a fitting death for thieves. I was going to die when I could no longer pull myself up for air. As terrified as I was of death, I only wished it would happen soon. The sun was hot on my face and my throat was dry and sore. I did not care that I was naked to the world; it didn’t matter. The guards had already left the hill. Their duty was done. We were left there alone, left to die.

I must have blacked out again. As I was coming to I could hear voices. I turned to my right and watched my friend hanging there, grimacing. We hadn’t said anything to each other; it would be hard to speak. I couldn’t even swallow. And what was there to say? The pain of my body was constant and excruciating. The voices were getting closer, it sounded like a crowd approaching. I looked down in the direction of the sound as several Roman guards topped the hill. There was a man behind them carrying a cross like ours.¹ More guards came over the edge of the hill. As I watched, my eyes were drawn to an appalling sight. A man was slowly staggering up the slope between the guards, he had been badly beaten, his face and beard covered with blood, his clothes shredded and stained.² He could barely walk.

There was some kind of thorny apparatus stuck on his head. ‘My God what could this man have done to deserve this?’ I thought. There was a small crowd of people walking behind him. I could hear some of them shouting insults. As they came closer, two of the guards pulled the cross off of the first man and shoved him aside. He stumbled and ran off. He had been carrying the cross for the other man. The crowd of people had all come over the top of the hill now. Some appeared to be angry and others, including some women, appeared to be very distressed.³ There must have been thirty guards. Some were gathered around the beaten man and others were holding the crowd back, they stood facing the people with their spears held out in front of them.

I turned to my right to look at my friend. He was looking at me; his expression was that of bewilderment. Then he turned and looked down at the commotion below. My arms and legs ached. Every time I moved, even slightly, the pain charged through my body as if to remind me that it wasn’t going away until I died. I hung there contemplating death, and not wanting to watch them nail what was left of that man to his cross. I closed my eyes and tried to shut out what was happening. ‘Crucify him!’ rang out from below. I looked down at the crowd that was being held back. Several angry men were shouting but at the same time I could hear sobbing. Why was this person drawing so much attention? I wondered. I looked at the man again being held by a centurion. At that moment it occurred to me who this was they were killing. This must have been the one some were calling the king of the Jews. Jesus was his name; he had been in the city for some time and had caused quite a stir among the people in power. Some of the Jews were claiming him the son of God himself. Others were calling him a fraud and a blasphemer. I closed my eyes and rested my head against the wooden beam that was killing me. The crowd of spectators suddenly grew quiet, and I heard the sound of metal on metal.

Some time passed, I was fading in and out of consciousness; all I could think about was dying. Even though I was

so very hot, my body was trembling. I was so thirsty, so very miserable. The sound of labored breathing interrupted my thoughts. It was close to me. I opened my eyes and turned my head to the right and there was the man Jesus, hanging on his cross. They had placed him between my friend and me.⁴

He was no more than ten feet from me. He was covered with blood, but still alive. As I was watching him, I heard him say out loud, “... *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*” (Luke 23:34).

I was in total awe. Why was this man forgiving these people after what they had done to him? And who was he talking to? Father? A strange feeling came over me. I just hung there staring at him. Most of the crowd had moved on now but several men were still passing by looking up at Jesus and yelling insults at him and mocking him.⁴

After some time the people had all gone away except for several women who were huddled together on the ground at a distance and one guard who was placed there to watch over us. The sun was high in the sky; its heat was burning my tortured body. My thoughts of death and my misery had now turned to wonderment and immense curiosity over this person who was hanging next to me. It was silent now; nothing could be heard but the breeze blowing through the small trees that surrounded the hill, and the sounds of three men in pain desperately trying to breathe.

The silence was suddenly broken by a growling sound that came from my friend. I looked over at him and he was leaning toward Jesus and me. He was desperately trying to say something. He coughed and spit and tried again, “...*Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!*” (Luke 23:39).

I couldn’t believe what I had heard. He was hanging there snarling at Jesus for no reason. I suddenly felt compelled to defend this stranger. I attempted to clear my throat then spoke the first words since being hung up there, “...*Don’t you fear God,*” ... “...*since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.*” (Luke 23:40-41). Jesus slowly turned his bloodied head and looked at me. He said nothing. He had a warm and reassuring look on his face. I wasn’t sure how I knew, but suddenly I realized that this was not merely a man hanging there. He was something very special. He was here for a reason, one that I had no understanding of. I was sure he was the son of God, The God of Israel, the one and only God. Why was I hanging on a cross dying next to the son of the Almighty? What purpose could this possibly serve?

I felt sudden courage to address him as who he was and said, “...*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*” (Luke 23:42). Still looking at me he replied in a soft voice, “...*I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.*” (Luke 23:43). A smile slowly came across my parched lips. Jesus turned his head and looked to the sky. Even as it was mid day, darkness began to cover the hill.⁵ I was no longer afraid.

I was surely ready to die now.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him *Continued P10*

EVEN



ODD



Homosexuality is a behavior. It differs from race or sex in that these are genetically predetermined. They cannot be changed (naturally). Homosexuality is a behavior and lifestyle in which a person chooses to participate. One is not born gay, nor is there a gay gene. Genes do not determine sexual orientation, neither is gayness hereditary. All studies to date have shown that homosexuality develops due to the influence of social, biological and psychological factors, the environment-as with any other behavior- showing to play an important role. Simon LeVay, a gay scientist whose study of homosexual and heterosexual male brains is often cited as support for the idea that homosexuality is biologically determined, has of his research said, "It's important to stress what I didn't find. I did not prove that homosexuality is genetic, or find a genetic cause for being gay" [1]. Other such

researchers have also failed to find a genetic/biological cause.

Furthermore, homosexuality, like any behavior, is mutable. In one survey, conducted by the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), of 882 dissatisfied homosexuals who sought conversion therapy, 45.4% of the 67% of whom were at one time exclusively or almost exclusively homosexual had experienced change in their orientation [2], a significant amount. Change is possible. In the political arena and in the media, this and other reports of change are rarely disclosed, as it would lose gays public sympathy and undermine their forged image as a minority, oppressed class, which demographics and history reveal they are not.

Civil rights are meant to protect the basic freedoms of the individual. The right to vote, equal protection under the laws, and equal access honor the national

precept, as articulated in the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Homosexuals already have all these freedoms, all these rights, and when denied them, as they have been in the past, it is unacceptable, and their grievances must be addressed. Marriage is not a civil right. It is not a basic freedom, but a fundamental institution of society, not the law. As such, it is defined by society. Marriage has been defined as the union between one man and one woman. Government regulates it and provides benefits to married couples because society, through the government that represents it, wants to encourage and support the formation of families and the rearing of children in faithful, monogamous, heterosexual households, which time and study have shown to be the best and most stable environments for children. Marriage, then, implies

family, and the stability of the household will determine the same for society. Homosexuals (who cannot procreate), polygamists, polyandrists, polyamorists, cousins and other relatives are barred from marrying because the environments they create, whether socially or biologically, somehow compromise the development and whole growth of a child. This is not discrimination. It is protecting children and the institution that most benefits them.

In the words of the Massachusetts High Court that ruled in favor of gay couples, marriage is "one of [the] community's most rewarding and cherished institutions" [3]. Society bestows upon it immense value and respect. Homosexuals want marriage because they want society to accept and look favorably upon their lifestyles, as if it were as equal, normal and valid as heterosexuality, a sort of "moral equality". They claim gay marriage is a civil right, but what

they truly seek is a special right, and it is that that is denied them when they are forbidden participation in this institution. Civil or religious, marriage is marriage, and until society decides it will redefine marriage to include homosexuals, they cannot partake, and the courts have no place redefining it for all.

1 The Innate-Immutable Argument Finds No Basis in Science, In Their Own Words: Gay Activists Speak About Science, Morality and Philosophy

<<http://www.narth.com/docs/innate.html>>

2 NARTH Research Studies Published <<http://www.narth.com/docs/published.html>>

3 Mass. High Court Rules for Gay Marriage

<http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20040204/ap_on_re_us/gay_marriage_7>

EVEN



Cont. from p1, "THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LOTTERY"

will give an account to God of all that we did, so we should make wise decisions with our finances.

Finally, gambling, which is what the lottery is, denigrates the work ethic. It implies that one can get something for nothing. In fact, an advertisement in Massachusetts has the slogan that "work is nothing but heart attack-inducing drudgery." Yet that is not how God views work. Proverbs 12:11 states "He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment" and Proverbs 28:19 says "He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty." These are just two verses where God explicitly warns against chasing fantasies (like winning the lottery) and instead tells us of the great rewards of a strong work ethic.

As if these biblical principles are not enough to dissuade one from playing the lottery, there are many financial and social costs that come with the lottery. To begin with, lottery revenue is not a sound source funding for the

state. Studies have shown that lottery ticket sales drop in states after a brief honeymoon period in which sales are high. Consequently, the programs that expect to receive this revenue, end up having to cut their budgets. Proponents of the lot-



tery often cite the case of Georgia the HOPE scholarship to support how lotteries can benefit others. HOPE scholarships were created to be financed by the Georgia lottery to provide free tuition to Georgia students. However, a study conducted by William Anderson and reported by the Oklahoma Council for Public Affairs, found that George lottery earnings peaked many years ago. Because Georgia made a commitment to fund these scholarships, they must dip into the general fund to add more money so enough money

will be available for every student. This takes away from other programs and agencies that are funded by taxpayer money. It would seem that from the experiences of Georgia and many other states, that while the lottery may provide additional money to begin with, people will soon tire of playing, placing certain programs in dire funding straits.

Lotteries are also dangerous to societies. Numerous studies have shown that lotteries target those who can least afford to play. A study published in the scholarly journal *Public Finance Review* showed that the Texas lottery targets those who are poor. Even more startling, is that this study found that minorities are targeted by the lottery. African-Americans and Hispanics play the lottery more frequently and heavily than

other groups. The Bible exhorts us to care for the poor and needy (Proverbs 14:21, 14:31, 22:16). Supporting an industry that so clearly targets the poor goes against Scripture.

Gambling is also addictive. Researchers studied the lottery in the United Kingdom and found that "when average spending on gambling was



doubled by the introduction of a national lottery, there was four-fold increase in the proportion of households where gambling expenditure was excessive." The researchers also noted that in North America, pathological gambling has risen with increase

in state lotteries. Pathological and problem gamblers are more likely to be on welfare, declare bankruptcy or be arrested. The Gambling Impact and Behavior Study estimates that gamblers cost the United States \$5 billion per year in various programs and creditor losses. This does not take into account the familial costs when divorces or other family disruptions occur because of the strain addiction places on the family. This should be a stark warning to all Oklahomans when they think of whether to support the lottery.

Oklahomans and Christians should consider the information above when formulating their opinions on the lottery. The violation of biblical principles is something that all Christians must seriously contemplate. Furthermore, Christians and non-Christians alike should be concerned with the financial strain, and social costs that the lottery will bring to the state. We should put what is best for all Oklahomans ahead of our own entertainment and potential financial reward.

ODD



Weekly and Special Events

For accommodations on the basis of disability, please call Rick 325-9790

Monday

- ▶ **OU Christian Faculty and Staff LUNCH- For Faculty and Staff only, every other Monday, 12:00 pm**, Alma Wilson Rm., OMU and prayer in the weeks between the discussion meetings. For info. contact kstephenson@ou.edu www.ou.edu/faculty/organizations/ouchrfas/

▶ ISF- International Student Friendship

Meets at 7:30 PM at Rome XII in Stubbeman Village Mall For info. Wayne 413-3713 <http://www.ou.edu/student/isf>

Tuesday

- ▶ **Chi Alpha XA** XALive meets at **8:00-9:30P.M.** at Rome XII above Papa John's in Stubbeman Village Mall. Come check it out! For info. 325-1377 OUXA@aol.com, www.romexii.com Greg & Susan Tiffany OU XA Campus Pastors

▶ Wesley Foundation:

Meeting time: Vespers - **8:00PM**
Web site: www.wesleyou.org
Info. Rev. Brad Humphrey 321-6266 wesley@wesleyou.org
Bible Studies: 15 different opportunities. Mission opportunities throughout the semester. Frosh Fellowship Sundays 6:30PM

- ▶ **Christ On Campus:** meets at **8:00PM** here at the house at 824 Elm Ave. Contact number is 364-2703 - Todd or Tonya.

- ▶ **CRU:** Meets at **9:00PM** at Common Ground (Main St. & University) Info. 473-1387 www.oucru.com shawn.mcgrath@uscm.org.

Wednesday

- ▶ **R.U.F.- Reformed University Fellowship** meets at **9:15PM** Dale Hall Tower Lounge, 9th floor Teaching this semester is on Word & Deed: Jesus' Parables & Miracles. Contact Doug www.ouruf.org

Thursday

- ▶ **Sooners For Christ** meets at **8:00PM** for Worship Service 1001 Elm Ave. (405) 321-4474 www.soonersforchrist.org

▶ Baptist Student Union:

Vespers meets at **7:00PM** at 435 W. Boyd For info. (405) 321-2810 www.oubsu.org mailbox@oubsu.org

▶ Jacob's Ladder Bible Study:

"The Gospel according to Moses."
A Messianic Bible Study in the Book of Genesis meets from **7:30-8:30PM** at 1311 Jenkins Ave. on the corner of Lindsey and Jenkins under Padthai.

- ▶ **LifeStream** meets **9:00PM** at Journey Church which is the old Buy for Less building on 12th and Alameda St. Info. Brad Baker- College Pastor 217-8700 Brad@journeyonline.tv www.oulifestream.com

Friday

- ▶ **African Christian Fellowship** meets at **7:30-9:30PM** in the Henderson Tolson Cultural Center. We invite anybody to come and worship with us. Info. tititeriba@yahoo.com

- ▶ **Riley Armstrong LIVE and FREE concert. Tuesday, March 30th 8:00PM with pre-festivities at 7:00 PM on Campus at the Rock Garden by the Cate dorms.**

- ▶ *Would you like to see the recent film of the Gospel of John shown on campus? If so, e-mail beaconou@ou.edu and let us know.*



- ▶ **Intelligent Design Evolution Awareness I.D.E.A. club** For more information contact. ideclub@ou.edu or www.ou.edu/css



Doug Serven, Campus Pastor of RUF- Reformed University Fellowship, has written a book called *TwentySomeone*. Read the first chapter online at

Twentysomeone.org



EVEN

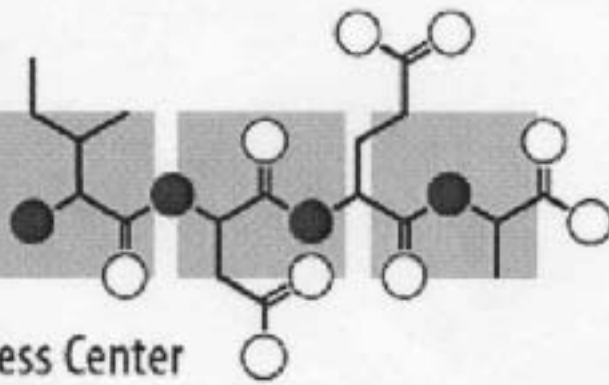


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IDEA

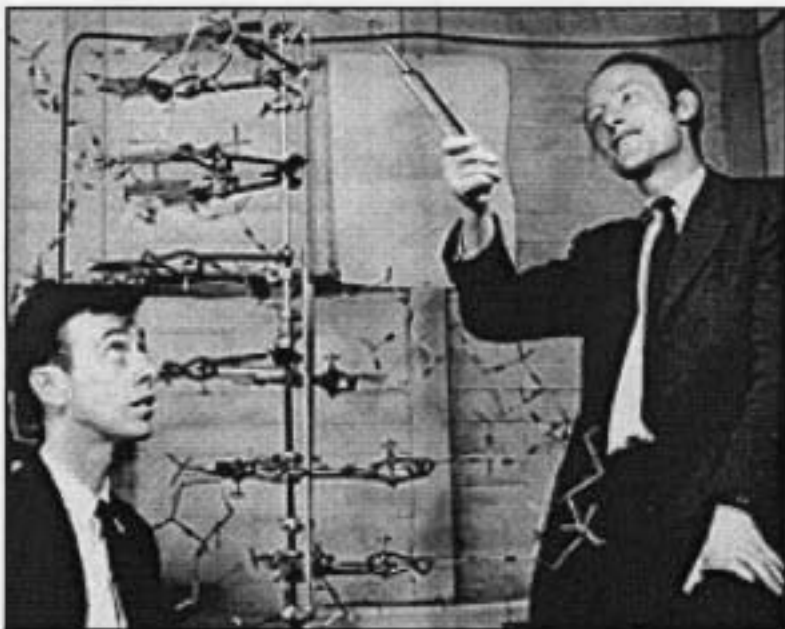
Intelligent Design and Evolution Awareness Center



DNA

BY DESIGN

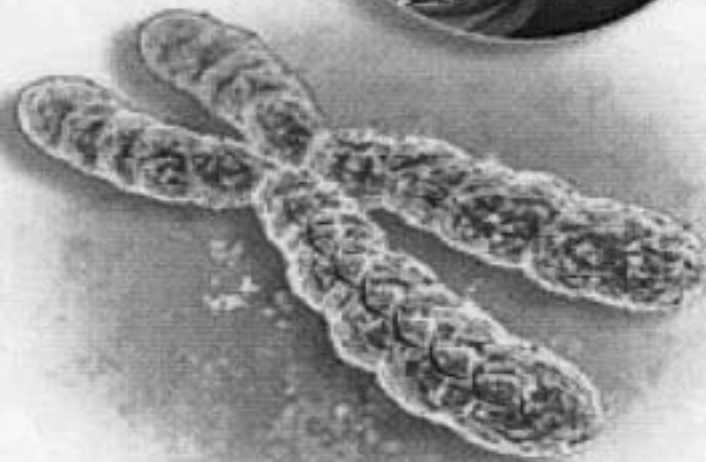
Is Intelligent Design the Best Explanation for the Origin of Biological Information?



Wed. March 31 7:30pm
Dale Hall Room 125

Since the late 1950's and 1960's, origin of life researchers have increasingly recognized the complex and specific nature of unicellular life and the biomacromolecules on which such systems depend. This lecture will evaluate the efficacy of competing explanations for the origin of biological information and argue that the present status of scientific knowledge and the knowledge of causal power, suggests intelligent design as the most causally adequate explanation for the origin of the specified complexity/ biological information present in large biomacromolecules such as DNA, RNA, and proteins.

For more information please e-mail
ideaclub@ou.edu



P 7

ARE
YOU
TIRED
OF
THE
"THEORY"
OF
EVOLUTION
BEING
TAUGHT
AS
A
FACT?

THERE
ARE
OTHER
THEORIES
THAT
ARE
AS
SCIENTIFIC
AS
THE
THEORY
OF
EVOLUTION

DISCOVER
WHAT
YOUR
OPTIONS
ARE
WEDS.
MARCH
31ST.

DALE
HALL
ROOM
125
7:30 PM

EVEN



ODD

Christians in today's schools are being punished for their actions. The world is promoting anti-family values, homosexuals and evolution in schools today. Why do they do that?

A young boy in a Saint Louis, Missouri school cafeteria prayed silently before he ate his lunch, and he was put in detention for a week and the school told him to eat by himself. Is there not a right to Freedom of Speech in the Constitution? The poor child didn't even say anything out loud. The school should give him a break.

The world is fearful of what Christians have, and the world tries to prohibit it.

In Texas and Illinois, some prayer groups assembled at the See You at the Poles Day when students in Texas were told to take their prayer elsewhere while in Illinois the police broke up the prayer groups and arrested two students.

The world will not break the spirit of young people who love God! You can set all the restrictions you want, but the students will keep worshiping. With God's help ("Nothing is impossible with God," Luke 1:37 NIV) we will help revive this corrupt world we live in today.

Man fails to better himself without God. He tries everything from money, drugs, sex, possessions and all types of other stuff. But, "Only God can save. Man cannot

Is Christianity a Crime?

save himself ("...Who then can be saved?"..."With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible," Matt. 19:25-26 NIV).

Christians are given rules to follow because of the stubbornness of mankind. There is an old saying that man needs to listen to. "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." Man can fight Christians for a million years, and he will get nowhere. Once man joins the side of God, man's potential is limitless. Until then man will live in the depths of shame as he tries to defeat God. Man can't fight the battles of life alone, so how is he going to defeat God? It is IMPOSSIBLE!

It is a Christian's duty to minister to those who don't know God. Christians are to evangelize the world (Matt. 28:18-19; Ps. 22:17). Don't be afraid to do the work of God because it is your duty as a Christian to draw others closer to the cross. You don't even have to minister with words. Actions speak louder than words. Let people see your love for Christ in your actions. They will ask you, "Why are you being so nice to me?" You can respond, "Because I have Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior." When they see Christ in you they will want to be like you because of the way you treat your fellow man.

Source: www.carm.org contributed to this article.

Falling Off of The Pedestal

Aaron Adair

It is coincidental in the last issue I wrote an article titled "They're Watchin' You" and the situation with the baseball players using steroids has come up. This being a main topic on many shows today bears evidence it must be a nationwide frenzy. Athletes today think they are invincible and can do anything. They can demand nine figure contracts, and the owners willingly pay them.

Athletes live in their own world where they are god. They think they can control the earth, and they do. Younger athletes look towards Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield and Jason Giambi (a few of the named players in the Balco steroid distribution) for guidance in their careers, and the younger athletes do whatever the pros do. Now these men are black listed for their actions of receiving steroids. They may not have used steroids, but they are guilty by association. The younger athletes put these players on pedestals as their heroes, but not anymore. Kids used to pretend to be like these players. One young man, Taylor Hooten did follow in the ways of professional players. Taylor wanted to be the best player he could be in his high school team in Plano, Texas. So to be the best you have to act like the best. What did Taylor do? He turned to steroids just like his major league idols. How did he pay for all the drugs? He had to steal from his family and friends for his addiction that cost him hundreds of dollars a month. He began to bulk up in the weight room, and he had large mood swings, which lead him to depression. His temper got him in trouble, and that lead to the end of his participation in high school baseball. When Taylor's parents grounded him, he went into his room and hung himself.

When these pro athletes stand before the Almighty and He asks them why HE should let them into Heaven, where will they stand? They lead their younger followers to death as their followers tried to imitate them. These athletes only play a stupid game; it's not a matter of life and death. Why would you put your eternal soul in jeopardy for a simple game? These athletes don't see the big picture in life.

The pro athletes are a horrible influence on the youth of today. Where do they stand with Christ? There are a good number of pro athletes who think they don't need Christ because they have everything under control. When they look at their life and all their success, they don't feel empty. Who do you turn to when everything comes tumbling down to you, your agent? What do you do when all your lies catch up with you? Why not turn to Christ for guidance in your time of need for your mistakes? You can fight and cover up all you want to, but you will get nowhere without Christ. If you don't have God, you're going to be alone.

Athletes have to realize everyone wants to be like them. If athletes are like Christ, then mankind is ok. But if they put their focus on themselves, then the world is in trouble.

World-wide Persecution

Aaron Adair

When you listen to the National Anthem, the closing words are "for the land of the free and the home of the brave." Those words do not fit many countries. We take our religious freedom for granted as Americans have freedom to worship as they wish, but many countries don't have that luxury.

The Indonesian government is trying to pass a "religious tolerance bill" that will prohibit anyone to change from the Muslim faith, and restrict any new Christian churches from being built.

Churches have been forced to close because of the Muslim activists who attack Christian churches. The government has also shut down Christian churches to have Muslim supremacy against the Christian minority.

In Vietnam, the believers could not be identified for fear of their lives. The numbers of believers are small but dedicated. Many people want to believe in Christ, but the fear to confess their faith is strong due to persecution from the government. Christians don't get the benefits the rest of the Vietnamese citizens get. Missionaries have to sneak around to avoid being caught by police.

North Korea is under the dictatorship of Kim Jong Il. He restricts religious freedom, and he cracks down on Christians.

According to a North Korean refugee, some older Christians were martyrs for Christ because they didn't renounce their faith. Former North Korean citizens and prisoners, like Soon-Ok Lee, said that Christians are jailed and treated worse than other prisoners. The government built a fake church right outside of North Korea in China, and the police arrested all North Korean refugees and sent them to be interrogated. Those who admitted to have been in contact with missionaries were condemned to death. Since communists took

over China in 1953, it's said there have been about 300,000 Christians, priests and nuns who have lost their life because of their faith.

In China, a church house leader, Chu Wei, is on the run from the Chinese Security Bureau for worshiping God. He and some of his members were tortured and interrogated and told to renounce their faith because Christianity was an "evil cult". Wei's wife was told to not talk about Christ in her own home. Wei is on the run because the government wants to put him in a slave labor camp to re-educate him.

In Egypt, religious freedom is stated in the constitution, but it is not followed. Muslims who convert to Christianity are deprived of their rights. Christian converts are arrested because the government doesn't like people who leave the Muslim faith. There is great tension between the Christians and Muslims in Egypt. A Muslim man killed two Christians with an ax because his donkey slipped on the road near a Christian's home.

Why would a Christian endure such hardships? Because they've found a cause worth dying for: the salvation of the world. The love of God, of something real, not just a set of rules to follow and hope to be good enough to gain salvation, but gaining salvation by simply believing Jesus took your sins away and making you holy before God. The Apostles knew it. If their claims about what Jesus preached and who he was were false, they wouldn't have put up with the hardships they did.

People today can know Jesus is real simply by their own experiences in how God has taken care of them financially and physically when they follow Him in faith. Ask a strong Christian why he or she believes in Jesus and they will tell you a very interesting story that's only theirs. Every Christian has a story about why they believe in God. What's yours? Why do you not believe?

EVEN



ODD



get into a tri-suite in the dorms. I was very grateful to meet other students who knew Jesus and were not afraid to share Him with others.

Rick,

I just wanted to say that I am praying for a successful outcome from the Lawsuit. Its kind of sad for me to see a Christian Organization have to fight the university over something that is protected constitutionally, free speech. The UOSA has become something vastly different than what it was empanelled to do, represent the students. It seems that now every form of speech (including topless women to protest U.S. led action to take out regimes that harm their people) is tolerable unless you are a Christian. The university is clearly in the wrong here and sadly it will take a lawyer and a judge to make them realize the error of their ways. I am praying for you and for the Beacon (unfortunately I don't have any money or I would send some of that your way) and encourage you to remain strong in the Lord. The Beacon is one of the few publications I read the moment it comes out. You, as editor, have done a wonderful job. Keep up the Good Work.

David Stone

Response:

Thanks sharing your word of encouragement, David. I'm not worried about the Lawsuit. I know that the Rosenberger '95 Supreme Court case has already settled the issue. Most e-mails that I have received about our case have been encouraging. The two that have been negative, only knew few of the details. I feel like a parrot answering questions about it, so I placed all of the information on our web-site. Concerning the UOSA, I don't believe that we should ever give up on them. No one is perfect. It takes a great time commitment to be part of student government. I appreciate those who are willing and available to give their time and experience in helping the student body as a whole. It is a great way to gain experience and build your resume. I regret not being a part of it. My Tuesday night was always filled. I was planning to run for Graduate Student Senate, but I didn't get accepted into the Law School. I am very excited about graduating this May. The last two years as the Editor of the BeaconOU has been very educational. The newspaper is almost to the level that I wanted it to be at before I graduate. The next edition will be my last, but I am sure that the light of the BeaconOU will continue to shine.

Hey Beacon people,

When and where can I pick up my prize for finishing the crossword puzzle?

Response:

@%? the translation is what are you talking about? The prize was for the first person who completed it. If you come by the Beacon table in the Union though, I will hook you up with a sampler CD. Doh! There is no crossword puzzle in this edition. We are really running tight on space. It is a good thing. You can never have too many articles.

MY TWO CENTS

PRESIDENT BUSH: "Marriage is one man and one woman."

John Kerry: The Bible has scriptures which swings both ways. Oh John, the only thing that swings both ways, is your senate voting record.



*The morning was dawning on that fateful day
Stunned silence, no words could they find to say
For was rolled aside, the heavy gray stone
An empty tomb they were now being shown*

*The first rays of sun that fell upon the cave
Revealed not the One to the world came to save
They entered the place where the Savior was laid
Two days before, a great debt He had paid*

*Amidst blood stained linens, their sorrow was great
His body was gone, and they knew not His fate
Sadness and mourning now turned into fright
For standing among them two men clothed in white*

*They bowed down in fear then one of the men said
Why do you look for the living among the dead?
Into the hands of sinful men the Son of Man was given
He was crucified, dead, but now He is risen!*

*Joy replaced fear as they ran from that place
Knowing that soon they would see His face
The good news was spread by His followers then
The birth of the church was now to begin*

*From the depths of that tomb so moist and so cold
Came the good news of life for which we are told
Christ Jesus did come here to show us the way
"Follow me" is what He tells us today*

BY SMW



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ODD

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P10 Claims of anti-Semitism in *The Passion*: a Reflection of the Historical Church

Matthew Moynihan

For months before the opening of *The Passion of the Christ*, Mel Gibson's film found itself in a firestorm of criticism concerning the anti-Semitic portrayal of the Jews in the movie. Isolating the movie from past events, and viewing it entirely from the perspective of determining its conformity with scripture, one finds that this film can in no wise be seen as anti-Semitic. To a very large degree, Gibson was successful at producing a film that is true to the biblical account and which very clearly portrays Jesus as a Jew, mercilessly being beaten by Romans. However, it is impossible to isolate any work of art or any action from history; and when we see this film from that context; it is with shame that we must admit that the fears of strong anti-Semitic reaction and the criticisms against the film are well founded and true.

What then is this historical context, which is so embarrassing to us as Christians? For the past 1900 years, essentially since the turn of the second century up until this century, a strong strain of anti-Semitism has existed within the church. It has manifested itself in various forms throughout history. Its more virulent expressions are well known to you: the Spanish Inquisition, the Holocaust, the Pogroms of Russia and Eastern Europe. Although these atrocities were terrible and inexcusable, it is of the quiet doctrine of hatred, which resulted in those atrocities that we should be most ashamed. If we indeed are the followers and disciples of Christ, then how can we possibly express to the world Christ's message of love when the world only knows us for our hatred?

We now live in a world that rightfully associates anti-Semitism with Nazism and Holocaust, and thus deems it unpopular. But this attitude is changing; the world is forgetting and anti-Semitism is returning. The duty now falls to us to address our past. Unless we, this present generation, choose to make a stand, the attitudes and actions of our forefathers will befall us also. A choice of inaction will result in a similar hatred. To make this change, there are several things we can do.

First, we as a church must firmly set the scriptures as the sole authority and the primary criteria for our doctrine. We must recognize the bible as the only definite source of absolute truth and seek to follow it as nearly as we can.

Secondly, we must seek to eliminate the barriers and divisions that we place between ourselves. "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26-28). This freedom from division can only be achieved through faith in Christ, by having love one for another.

Thirdly, we absolutely must reconcile ourselves with the present Jewish community. We have to recognize the hatred and abuse that previous generations have exhibited to the Jews and we must seek forgiveness from them on behalf of the church and ourselves. If the world rejects the church for our hatred then we can only prove ourselves disciples of Christ by our love: "By this all men will know that you are My Disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35).

Salvation Cont. from P4

to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:8-11)

¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). (Mark 15:21-22)

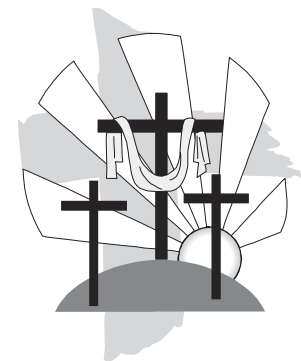
² I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6)

³ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. (Luke 23:27)

⁴ Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. (Matthew 27:38)

⁵ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:39-40)

⁶ From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. (Matthew 27:45)



"At the foot of this cross, I found myself." Love me today.

EVEN



What People Need

Aaron Adair

In my most recent speaking engagements, I received feedback from questionnaires I passed out to the audience. I am incorporating the feedback into this article.

People in general take life for granted. They think life will always be there for them. When someone comes and talks to them regarding death, it shakes their life up. People realize their problems are not as big as they think they are. Here are some anonymous reactions from my motivational presentation "From Death to Victory"

"It made me realize how fortunate I am."

"No matter how bad the situation, man needs to look to God for help."

"You made me realize how really lucky I am."

"You made me see God in a whole new way."

The people I talk to realize how passionate I am about helping people with my story.

For the low point in my presentation, one person said, "The low point was not hearing you sooner."

It gives me great satisfaction to make such an impact on the lives of people. There was one student right in my sight who was so interested with my presentation; he never lost eye contact with me. He displayed his astonishment with his mouth open to the floor in bewilderment.

People need an impact in their life, and my responses say that is what I do. Some people don't like the way I start my program, and may say it "really caught me off guard." You have to have something to keep their attention and interest them to want to know more. Certain people don't like challenges in their life, but when it comes to a challenge about life and death you can "get busy living or get busy dying," says Ryan Richardson, former OU baseball player. People need to see death is a real thing and you have to confront it. All man faces in relationship with Christ, is a physical death. In Christ alone man is blessed with an eternity in paradise with God.

ODD



Cont. from P12 www.scottandgary.com

Scott is an alumnus of the 2002-03 President's Leadership Class, a member of Beta Upsilon Chi fraternity. Scott is a very active member of OU's Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is involved with OU freshmen initiatives. In the fall of 2003, Scott was chosen as a teacher's assistant for college Gateway classes here at OU working closely with University College.

Actively involved in the OU Athletic Department, Scott is entering his second season as the voice of OU Baseball and just completed his first season as the voice of OU Women's Volleyball.

A student pilot and active with the OU Aviation program, he is a national member of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). Scott enjoys golfing and watching baseball. He attends Journey Church in Norman.

Scott is a regular OU student with Real World Leadership and Real Word Experience to take our university to heights it has never seen.

Gary Tsai is a sophomore currently majoring in biochemistry with a pre-med option. Gary is from Oklahoma City, where he went to high school at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM).

At OU Gary is currently vice-chair of the UOSA Sooner Sense Committee. The committee's purpose is to extend the use of Sooner Sense to places such as Campus Corner, Lindsey Street, and eventually to the restaurants on ed Noble Parkway. Last semester Gary was also involved as an opinion columnist for The Oklahoma Daily.

Academically, one of Gary's major accomplishments was doing research in organic chemistry and publishing a paper in the Journal of Organic Chemistry titled "Efficient Synthesis of Sterically Constrained Symmetrically, -disubstituted- amino acids under Operationally Convenient Conditions." Currently, Gary is working on another project, this time in biochemistry.

Gary is active with Journey Church and attends Lifestream on Thursday nights.

Gary's favorite past times are basketball, soccer, and golf. E-mail him for a round of golf and he'll love to play with you. He also loves playing a mean game of spades. You will often see Gary in the library studying; it is currently his second home.



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Scott Mason is a Political Science major from Cordell, OK

Scott grew up in the hospitality industry—working summers at his granddad’s hotel and farming on his family’s farm. In the summer of 2003, Scott took over as general manager of granddad’s hotel. Taking on this task, Scott had to work closely with regional planners and corporate leaders through the hotel chain’s world headquarters in Phoenix, AZ. On a daily basis, Scott was in charge of thirty employees and controlled all budget operations for the hotel and restaurant, marketing as well as personal interaction with travelers from all over the world. Scott dealt with international television networks and American magazines on publicity as well as developed relationships within the community to establish good public relations.

In the fall of 2002, Scott was the youngest intern ever selected by the United States Marshals Service. His duties were to provide a link between the Deputy U.S. Marshals and the Federal Judges offices and assist marshals in manhunts and warrants via special radio communications.

Scott was cited for his community service efforts working with the mayor’s office, the police department and FEMA in the aftermath of the 2001 Cordell Tornado, by then-governor Frank Keating and the Oklahoma Legislature.

On campus, Scott has played a vital role in leadership and involvement. *Continue on P10*

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