Recent downpours evoke campus flood memories

Improvements are helping to ensure OKCCC is flood proof

By Becky Gerred
Staff Writer

Recent rains have done more than over-saturate the ground. They have evoked a flood of memories for at least one OKCCC employee.

Keith Bourque, campus coordinator of safety and security, said, with the onslaught Mother Nature has delivered lately, he can’t help but recall the Mother’s Day flood that occurred on OKCCC’s campus May 8, 1993.

“I’m not sure how high it got but I do know it was an inch over the theater stage,” Bourque said.

The actual reported rainfall that weekend was 7.32 inches.

The ground floors of the west and north ends of the college were flooded.

The water, ranging from ankle-deep to several feet deep, covered 161,400 square feet.

Could it happen again?

“We are self-insured at replacement value with a $15,000 deduction,” Coffey said. “Total replacement value is in excess of $56 million.”

A bigger concern now is the parking areas.

Just recently, on June 23, safety and security personnel blocked off the loop road between parking lots G and E.

Bourque said high water in the road created the need to block it as a safety precaution.

“We didn’t want anyone to drive off into the deep water there,” he said.

“It is a low spot on campus and always seems to flood.”

He said an area neighborhood is partly to blame.

“When the housing development was built behind the college, the builders built the neighborhood to slope at an angle toward the college, so we get run off from the neighborhood.”

—Keith Bourque
Campus Coordinator of Safety and Security

OKCCC Coordinator of Risk Management Bill Coffey feels confident the campus will not flood again. But if it does, he said, the college is well insured.

“A work of art: Part-time professor Denise Gleason guides Drawing I student Nejah Malekzadeh during a portrait exercise. Malekzadeh is a visual arts major working toward a degree in oil painting.

Gravel parking lot to be paved smooth by fall

By Melissa Guice
Editor

OKCCC’s gravel pits are about to receive a smooth finish soon.

The gravel portion of parking lot G at the south side of the campus will be paved once the rain lets up, said John Knight, OKCCC physical plant director.

“The construction was supposed to have already been started,” Knight said. “Right now, we’re just waiting for the ground to dry up enough to start the process.”

Knight said the project should be finished by Aug. 15.

There are several steps in the construction of the parking lot.

See “Water,” page 8

See “Parking,” page 8
No more for the road

Last semester I heard about a stupid tradition that I was totally unaware existed. It seems that some adult wanna-bees on their 21st birthday drink 21 shots of liquor to prove they have arrived. Arrived where, I do not know.

Is this a rite of passage to adulthood? I would think it would be far more proof of their adulthood to just say no to the booze. Why would a person want to put himself in a dangerous, offensive or obnoxious situation?

It not only creates a problem for that person but for everyone around him. First, someone has to take the responsibility to ensure the drinker does not drive drunk. The slogan “friends don’t let friends drive drunk,” should say “friends don’t get drunk so their friends have to babysit them while they are slopping up the booze.”

How boring an evening can that be? Frankly, I would rather watch something exciting, like a snail race. And there are also the related problems that go hand-in-hand with drinking. According to the State Health Department’s web page, “research shows that drinking is associated with severe negative health consequences, such as motor vehicle crashes, unintended pregnancies and transmitted diseases.”

This health department web page did not even address the social problems that the lovers of booze bring with their obsession.

In 1995, the Harvard School of Public Health sent numerous questionnaires out to college students around the nation and received 17,592 responses to questions about college drinking. The study found that 84 percent of all students drank during the school year. Nearly half (44 percent) of all students were binge drinkers. Binge drinking is defined by five or more drinks in a row, one or more times during a two-week period for men and four or more drinks in a row, one or more times during the same period for women.

The researchers found it takes fewer drinks for women to run into serious health and behavior problems than it does for men. “I was having a great night. I drank at least 15 beers,” wrote one responder. “Then I blanked out. This is not unusual for me. Another time, I became violent, smashed bottles, pushed (resident assistants) and got in tons of trouble.” Behavior problems can range from arguments, fights to unplanned sex to children being neglected.

Seems there is a lesson to be learned here.

Little kids are trained to just say “NO” to drugs. Maybe it’s time everyone just said “NO” to alcohol as well.

—Becky Gerred
Staff Writer
Make memories, light the corners of your mind

A little girl asks a friend’s mother to drop her off several blocks from her own home and pretends to walk up the drive to a beautiful house with a manicured lawn.

The mother drives on and the little girl turns to walk several blocks to her own home.

Shirley Dobson, co-author of “Let’s Make a Memory,” tells about her childhood of shame and embarrassment growing up poor and with an alcoholic father.

There were no traditions and few happy memories for her to recall about her childhood.

On the other hand, Gloria Gaither talks about her childhood and the loving family she grew up in, where making memories was planned and cherished as part of their memories.

The book focuses on making memories that will carry people through the golden years of their lives. The suggestions are simple and not necessarily expensive or time consuming.

Many people are looking for ways to spend quality time with their children and this book offers many ideas that have been tried and tested.

One suggestion was to take a walk with your entire family around your neighborhood and toss a penny at each intersection.

Heads you go right, tails you go left.

Sometimes the simplest things can create the sweetest memories.

I recommend the book “Let’s Make a Memory,” by Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson.

It’s written to build family traditions that could be carried on for generation after generation.

—Becky Gerred
Staff Writer

Time for a Petty break

All right, it’s summer, it’s hot, there’s nothing to do so it’s just time to relax.

So, you’ve taken up some shade under an old umbrella. You’ve poured your homemade attempt at a margarita and you start to turn the dial on your radio in search of the perfect station.

Ah, all’s well.

Then you realize you can’t find that perfect station. Every song you pass sounds like someone’s dying.

You’re just looking for something a little old, a little new and a little mellow.

Instead, you notice your margarita’s starting to melt and you can’t even drink it because you’re too busy twisting the knob on the radio.

Then, the umbrella falls over and you don’t even notice because, again, you’re too busy twisting the knob on the radio.

Have no fear. Give up on the radio and pop in a CD.

My recommendations? “Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers Greatest Hits.”

The music is just cool enough for the hot July days.

The whole CD’s got this easy-going feeling. There’s even an acoustic guitar in the mix.

It’s not too boring — but not too busy either.

There are 18 tracks on this little CD. Gotta love it. It’s got everything.

It’s got the group’s older, harder songs like “Refugee,” “I Need to Know,” and “American Girl.”

It’s also got the newer, softer ones like “Into the Great Wide Open,” “Mary Jane’s Last Dance,” and “Free Fallin’.”

It’s even got pictures of Petty enclosed in the CD — without wrinkles!

If you like the old days when the band was just getting started, you’ll love this CD.

If you like the most recent days when the band’s cumulative salary could purchase a small third world country and the people inhabiting it, then this CD just may be the one for you.

So, pour the tequila, get comfortable, don’t forget the sunblock and don’t forget the Petty.

—Melissa Guice
Editor

Sam’s summer is a real bummer

All I can say is that I didn’t have to pay to see “Summer of Sam,” but I want my money back anyway.

In an attempt to exhume the story of Son of Sam, Spike Lee has made this movie.

“Summer of Sam” is a pitiful retelling of the true story of a psycho who terrorized the streets of New York City in the 1970s.

David Berkowitz who called himself “Son of Sam,” was the guy who, once he was finally caught, blamed the murders on a 2000-year-old dog.

The dog was the best actor.

Mira Sorvino plays in the movie. She’s such a gifted actress, really. I was starting to think she wrote the lines on her hands, but then, the delivery would have been somewhat better.

John Leguizamo also played in the movie. He’s really such a gifted actor. I was starting to think he wrote the lines on his special not-so-special place, it was just hanging out there in the open so much.

There was so much sex, foul language and violence in this movie, I was also starting to think Jerry Springer had taken over the film.

Nevertheless, the movie tried to emulate “Natural Born Killers.”

The plot twisted and turned and cut and jumped and moved and shaked and rattled and rolled and essentially, sucked.

“Natural Born Killers,” made some type of sense, I could follow it. This movie — it made no sense.

The camera shook, the scenes were either too close or too far away. It looked like some vocational school student’s attempt at a movie.

Lee’s crack at a movie here was sad.

Lee, of course, played a part in the movie. He usually does. This time, Lee’s a reporter who serves as a transition between shots.

Word to the wise: do not expect the title to have anything to do with the story line. It doesn’t.

Sam takes up a teeny tiny part of the film. The rest is filled with sex, porn flicks, gay bars, the mob, the F-word and a cloud of cocaine.

Skip the movie, buy the soundtrack. It’s got all those songs from the disco and Motown eras. Enter Abba, The Emotions, Chic, Grace Jones and even The Who.

—Melissa Guice
Editor

Got something to say?
Tell us!
Call Mel at:
682-1611, ext. 7675
Rumors have been floating around the OKCCC campus that Coke products will no longer be sold in the student store.

The rumor seems to be grounded in truth, despite the fact that there has been no final verdict rendered.

The student store began carrying Coke products last fall, after all college vending machines converted to Pepsi.

Coordinator of Risk Management and Service Contracts Bill Coffey said nothing is written in stone as to when the Coke will be pulled out of the student store.

As of July 1998, Pepsi has won the vending machine monopoly after entering a bid that far outweighed other vending competition.

“Pepsi agreed to give the college $120,000 guaranteed revenue or 51 percent of gross sales, which ever is higher,” said Coffey.

“The only exclusion to the agreement with Pepsi was the student union.”

Coffey said the bookstore was neither included or excluded because it didn’t offer soft drinks at that time.

“At the time of the bid the student bookstore was not carrying any drinks and was not an issue,” Coffey said.

Pepsi and the college took another look at the student store and decided it was only fair to sell Pepsi in the student store also.

The debate of whether to continue the sale of Coke and place Pepsi products into the student store has been going on for at least 120 days.

“You have to take into consideration that things change on a day to day basis,” said Coffey.

Pepsi Spokesman David Burns is sympathetic to student concerns.

“We plan to offer more products to the students that are not carried in the vending machines such as frappuchino coffees, juices, waters and teas,” he said.

Though it is uncertain when the changes will actually take place, Burns said, the replacement is tentatively scheduled for July 12.

Not all students are happy about the decision.

Physical science lab assistant, B. J. Higgins said she will be unhappy if there is a change.

“I probably won’t be buying any soda [if Coke is not sold on campus],” she said.

Student Karen Gilleland said she prefers the taste of Coke.

“I wouldn’t like it if they stop selling Coke on campus,” said Gilleland.

Student Gary Osburn said he also favored Coke.

“If they stopped selling Coke on the campus altogether,” Osburn said. “I think someone is taking more control than they should.”

But the fact that Coke products are still sold in the student union makes it a little more bearable, Osburn said.

Of course, some students could care less and may even enjoy the water Pepsi will offer in the store.

Student Jason Long said he is not bothered by the Coke or Pepsi debate since he always drinks water.

A spokesperson for food services said the union will continue to sell Coke products.
By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Jerrie "Jai" Gronemeier discovered her love for photography after enrolling in a photography class at OKCCC in fall of 1977. "Photography is my passion," she said. "I've watched it move people's lives."

Gronemeier graduated from OKCCC with an associate degree in broadcast technology in 1981. "I did the degree so I could take the photo classes," she said. At that time, a photography degree was not offered at OKCCC. Gronemeier was able to take photography courses and use them toward the broadcast degree.

With that degree she has worked as a photo consultant, a production photographer for the University of Missouri and an adjunct photography instructor for OKCCC. During that time, she also kept busy earning yet another degree as a registered nurse.

While working toward her RN degree she was still able to enjoy her passion for photography by being the staff photographer for OKCCC's student newspaper, the Pioneer.

Gronemeier now works as a recovery room nurse for Hillcrest hospital and teaches non-credit photography, and black-and-white darkroom courses through OKCCC’s Office of Recreation and Community Services.

She said she is glad the college provides the opportunity for people to take classes such as these.

"The Office of Recreation and Community Services provides a valuable service to the community by focusing in on what the community wants," Gronemeier said. "It allows people a chance to get their feet wet with photography and decide if it is something they want to pursue by taking credit courses at the college."

Gronemeier is also working on a bachelor's degree in visual arts and design from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

She said her goals after graduation include becoming a full-time photography professor at OKCCC and opening her own gallery.

**Photos courtesy of Jai Gronemeier**

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Gronemeier, shown here in the 1980s, worked as Pioneer staff photographer.
Highlights

Aquatic Center turns 10
A 10th birthday celebration for the OKCCC Aquatic Center will be held Sunday, July 25. There will be cake, ice cream, family fun and games. All events will be free including an open swim.

Leisure time enhanced this summer at OKCCC
The Office of Recreation and Community Services is offering dozens of ways for adults to enrich their lives through fun short-term courses.

Photographing Oklahoma City on Location” has participants taking short trips to places of interest around the city, such as the Myriad Botanical Gardens, the State Fairgrounds and the Bricktown Canal to expand their knowledge of photography and the area. Students will learn to compose great shots. They will also learn camera-handling techniques through the use of filters and fixed-length zoom lenses. Participants must bring their own 35 mm camera to class which is held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays and from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays from July 8 to Aug. 19. Cost is $35.

“Travelers Spanish” will teach students the basics of surviving in a Spanish-speaking country. Course content covers everyday situations which would be encountered during travel. Class meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 13 to Aug. 5. Cost is $45.

Learn the basics of “Water Gardening” from the ground down while local professionals teach participants about proper location, basic pond construction, maintenance, pump basics and aquatic life. This one-day seminar will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 20. Cost is $10.

“Scrapbook Techniques” shows participants how to preserve the past, enrich the present and inspire hope for the future. Learn how to organize, document and save family history and stories in keepsake albums. Class meets from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays July 20 and 27. Cost is $10.

For more information about these and other courses, contact Jonie Welle, Community Education Coordinator, at 682-1611 ext. 7205.

Test center to open additional hours
For the remainder of the summer, the test center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The additional hours will be continued until the beginning of the fall semester Aug. 23.

Concurrent enrollment meeting planned
Students, parents, high school counselors and anyone else interested in learning more about OKCCC’s concurrent enrollment program can get all the facts at 7 p.m. July 8 in CU3. Students who plan to concurrently enroll in high school and college for the fall semester should make plans to attend the meeting also. Staff from OKCCC’s offices of Admissions and Records, and Student Development will be there to discuss requirements, procedures and support that is available for concurrently enrolled students. For more information, call 682-7580.

Fall tuition fee waiver applications available
Fall tuition fee waiver applications are available in the student financial aid center located on the first floor of the main building. The deadline to submit applications to the student financial aid center is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6. Fall tuition fee waiver awards will be posted in the student financial aid center on Friday, Aug. 20. For more information, call 682-1611 ext. 7524.

Summer blood drive successful
Twenty-five donors received free T-shirts, juice and cookies

By Darcey Ralls
Staff Writer

Despite having mechanical problems with their van, technicians with the Oklahoma Blood Institute arrived ready and willing to suck the blood out of civic-minded donors.

Jonnell Herrod, Mike Stucki, Angela Longoria and Jackie Norris pricked, poked and prodded people during the summer blood drive on June 30 in the college union at OKCCC.

Several donors thought that this was one of the best groups of technicians to visit the college.

The OBI crew joked around with the donors and with each other.

“We picked him up at the gas station on the way here,” said Longoria of co-worker Herrod.

OKCCC student Amber Steele donated blood for the very first time during the blood drive.

“So far so good,” said Steele as she lay on a table with a needle sticking out of her arm.

Twenty-five units of blood were donated during the blood drive. In return donors received a mini-physical, juice or pop and cookies. They also received a free T-shirt.

Blood donors must be 17 years old and weigh at least 105 pounds. Donors are encouraged to eat well before and after donating blood.

Summer Safari Leadership Experience

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 17
“Rules of the Road — Do’s and Don’ts of P.R. on Campus”
Sign up by calling student life at 682-7523
Classifieds

Pioneer Classified Advertising is free to all currently enrolled OKCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ads must be submitted in writing with ID's supplied or work area and college extension included. Deadline for advertising is 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Call 682-1611, ext. 7674 for more information.

AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE: 89 Honda Accord LXi, automatic, 4 dr., am-fm stereo, A/C. Reliable. Good deal. $4300. Call David or Woody at 525-8359.


FOR SALE: 95 Izuzu Rodeo. 6 cyl, 56K miles, all power, tilt, cruise, alarm, tint, super nice! $13,800 OBO. Call 682-9190.

FOR SALE: 86 Ford, E150 van. Highway miles, runs great. Bivouac Conversion 302, V-8, passenger brakes, steering, windows (FR) and locks. Auxiliary gas tank, front and rear air. $2600 OBO. Call 943-8049 or 682-7561.

FOR SALE: 94 Mitsubishi Galant LS. 79K miles, 4 door, automatic, all power, alarm, tint, spoiler, am-fm stereo, A/C. Very nice car. Asking $9299. OBO. Must see. Please contact Andy at 209-7875.

FOR SALE: 81 Yamaha/Virago, 2100 miles. Burgundy, pretty nice! $1800. Call Professor Summers, 682-1611, ext. 7333 or 232-9402.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: White wedding dress and veil, worn once. $500 OBO. Dress was $900 brand new. Also used cake topper. Please call Christine at 728-5712. Can e-mail pictures.

FOR SALE: King size bed w/mattress, box springs, frame, headboard and 2 bedside tables. $100 OBO. Call 949-2363.


FOR SALE: Queen-size bed with mattress and frame, $150. 9X12 Emerald Green Chinese Rug, $125. 10-drawer dresser/ vanity mirror $100. Call Vickie at 691-2732.

FOR SALE: Notebook, one year old, Pentium Processor w/MMX, Intel inside, high speed CD rom, MS Office 97, Chinese software, $1000. Call Ellen at 686-1542.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Looking for Asian female roommate. NW or near OKCCC. Call Sania 947-7002.

FOR SALE: HP5040 Pavillon, 1.2 MGH, 40 MG RAM, Windows 98, fax-modern, speakers, and monitor, $350. Also, 85 Sony Trinitron 19" color TV, $125. Call 692-1407.

FOR SALE: Truck box. Heavy plastic 'Work Box,' black, locks, 5 ft. across. $25, call 672-6328.

FOR SALE: King-size waterbed; 4-months old with waveless mattress and Blue Magic heater. Etched mirrored glass and glass doors. 6-door pedestal. Asking $250. Call 579-7669.

FOR SALE: Notebook, one year old, Pentium Processor w/MMX, Intel inside, high speed CD rom, MS Office 97, Chinese software, $1000. Call Ellen at 686-1542.


HELP WANTED: Seeking tutor for English-Comp 1. Urgently needed to assist with essays, 3 times a week for up to 2 hours. Pay Rate $5 an hour. Call 946-3681. Leave message on call notes if no answer.

DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS: 5 p.m. each Tuesday for publication in the following issue.

“I don’t do weekends.”

Because working part-time at UPS...I don’t have to. They have five-day schedules that leave your weekends free. That is plenty of time to study or go out with friends. And I make plenty too... almost $10,000 a year working about 4 hours a day. UPS knows students value time as much as money. So if you don’t do weekends, do contact UPS.
Rudy Construction set to pave parking area G

First, eight inches of soil will be dug up. Then, six inches of asphalt will be packed into the lot.

The asphalt is made of two layers — a base course made of type A asphalt and a wear course made of type M asphalt.

Type A is a coarser, rockier type of asphalt while type M is the smoother layer that sits on top of the type A layer.

Next the parking lot will be striped.

The final touches will be the placing of handicapped, and faculty, staff parking space signs.

The lot will have a total of 109 parking spaces. Five of those will be marked handicapped while another 10 will be designated for faculty and staff.

The light pole, currently located on the edge of the gravel parking lot near the road, will be moved to the middle of the lot.

A curb and gutter will also be built around the lot.

Rudy Construction Company will be the contractors for the job.

Rudy was the lowest bidder at $86,950 and came highly recommended, Knight said.

The cities of Oklahoma City, Midwest City, Edmond, Nichols Hills and Yukon recommended the company.

“They do good work,” Knight said.

Once construction begins, the gravel portion of parking lot G will be closed to traffic until mid-August.

Solutions to heavy rain problems in the works

He said the college has a Section 13 account to cover these type of expenses.

He said the plans are still in the talking stages. In the meantime, $49,000 has been spent on improvements including a concrete channel liner and flume that run from the library to the loop road. The money also improved the areas that need it most.

And the rain fell...

OKCCC Students hide under umbrellas from the recent onslaught of heavy rains.