

Inside July 9, 2007
This Week Vol. 35 No. 38

- Lottery failed education, editorial, p. 2.
- Summer jobs still exist, p. 7.
- Wet weather dampens fun, sports, p. 8.
- GSA joins parade, clubs, p. 10.

Oklahoma City Community College

PIONEER

www.occc.edu/pioneer

10 • PIONEER • July 9, 2007

Gay Straight Alliance celebrates

By Morgan Ray
News Writing Student

On June 16 and 17, OCCC's Gay Straight Alliance club participated in the Gay Pride Festival of Oklahoma for the first time.

Neill Spurgin, club president, said the parade was a way of celebrating a generation that came out of oppression, one that is "more open."

He said the parade, celebrating its 20th year, involved participants from businesses and school organization to families and friends. Spurgin said his son, who is 20, marched at the parade with his girlfriend.

Spurgin said 145 booths were set up during the parade and includes groups such as Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oklahoma Gay Rodeo Associa-

"I want to try and create a summit that brings the information and truth out."
—Neill Spurgin
OCCC Gay Straight Alliance Club President

tion, Planned Parenthood and the Gay Alliance for Tolerance and Equality.

OKC Pride Inc., who put on the parade, includes 10 board members, including Co-Chairman Paul Thompson and Co-Chairwoman Gloria Moore.

Spurgin said the Gay Straight Alliance meets at 4:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. The group also has T-shirts and fliers informing others about the group.

The club has more community involvement plans for the fall semester.

"I want to try and create a summit that brings the information and truth out," Spurgin said.

He said the club, which is less than a year old, is about equality and understanding.

"The main goal for me is that I want people to be who they truly are."

For more information about the Gay Straight Alliance club, e-mail Spurgin at neillspurgin@cox.net.

**Have club news?
Share it with the Pioneer!
Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7410
or e-mail StaffWriter2@occc.edu.**