

Brawl breaks out at Nite Lite

1 student off team,
probe continues

By **NORTHWESTERN NEWS**
STAFF

A fight broke out and left one man in the hospital, one dismissed from the football team and posts that made their way on Facebook.

The incident ocured late Saturday night at the Nite Lite, an 18-and older club, located at 1220 Lane St., that cators to the university crowd Thursday through Saturday nights.

Steve Valencia, vice president of University Relations, said, “We have an ongoing investigation that we are conducting.”

When asked about what kind of investigation the school was doing, Valencia said administrators are conducting interviews with students and looking at videos that have been posted on social media.

The only action the university has taken is to dismiss one student-athlete from the football team, but Valencia declined to name the student.



Photo by Montana McCullough
Campus officials are investigating a brawl at the Nite Lite club on Saturday night. One football player was suspended from the team for his involvement.

Football players said coaches told them to not talk about the incident or go to the Nite Lite for the remainder of the year. Other campus coaches have also put the Nite Lite off limits for their players, particularly during their seasons.

The concerned mother of Garrett Lagan, Denise Lagan of Enid, posted on Facebook about the altercation. “My son tried to do what he thought was right,” she wrote, “And help break up the fight consisting of nine individuals beating

up on one.”

Lagan wrote that her son was just trying to protect another young man who was taking a brutal beating. No information was available about the identity or condition of this victim.

“My son had to be transported by ambulance to the hospital, where he had to have a CT scan of his head and x-ray of his knees,” Lagan wrote. In her post Lagan also wrote that it took a highway patrolman with a baton to end the fight. “This was not a good’ olé boy bar fight,” she wrote.

Under-Sheriff Keith Dale said the sheriff’s office has jurisdiction over the case. The Nite Lite is located on the edge of the city and both city and county officers responded.

Officers are working with campus officials to identify those who were involved. Dale said he cannot confirm or deny whether or not the people involved were students or members of the community.

Dale was not present for the incident. The office has only the video surveillance from the Nite Lite and videos that were posted to social media.

Dale said he expects criminal charges to be filed with the district attorney’s office in the future of the investigation. The investigation is still undergoing.

According to former employee of the Nite Lite Montana McCullough, only two or three big fights occur a semester, depending on the size of the crowd.

Usually fights were broken up easily by either people in the crowd or the bouncers, she said. When she worked there, she said the bouncers were just able to pull the people involved in the fight apart in almost all cases.

If any one of the employees saw something about to happen they could step in and talk to them or kick them out of the bar, in order to prevent anyone from getting hurt McCullough said. Also usually at least one cop is around at closing time to make sure everyone is safe and to stop any potential fights.

Mark Bellah, who owns the club, did not return messages for a comment.

(Montana McCullough, Nick Perkins, Capri Gahr and Deitra Wedd contributed to this report.)

NWOSU sees big drop in state funding

By **SAMI MCGUIRE**
Staff Reporter

Throughout the last four years, funding of higher education from the Oklahoma government has dramatically dropped. Only 30 percent of Northwestern Oklahoma State University funding is from the state of Oklahoma.

Northwestern president, Janet Cunningham, said: “We need more bachelor degree holders in the state. We are below the national average; almost all jobs coming in the next three to five years require at least some college. The funding cuts we have experienced have really made that difficult. Over the last three years we have lost over 20 employees. We have tried to protect our faculty positions, because they deal directly with students, but there are a lot of staff positions that we no longer have.”

While it is something Northwestern staff and faculty

have shown concern about, no students have approached our district representative of Oklahoma with any concerns.

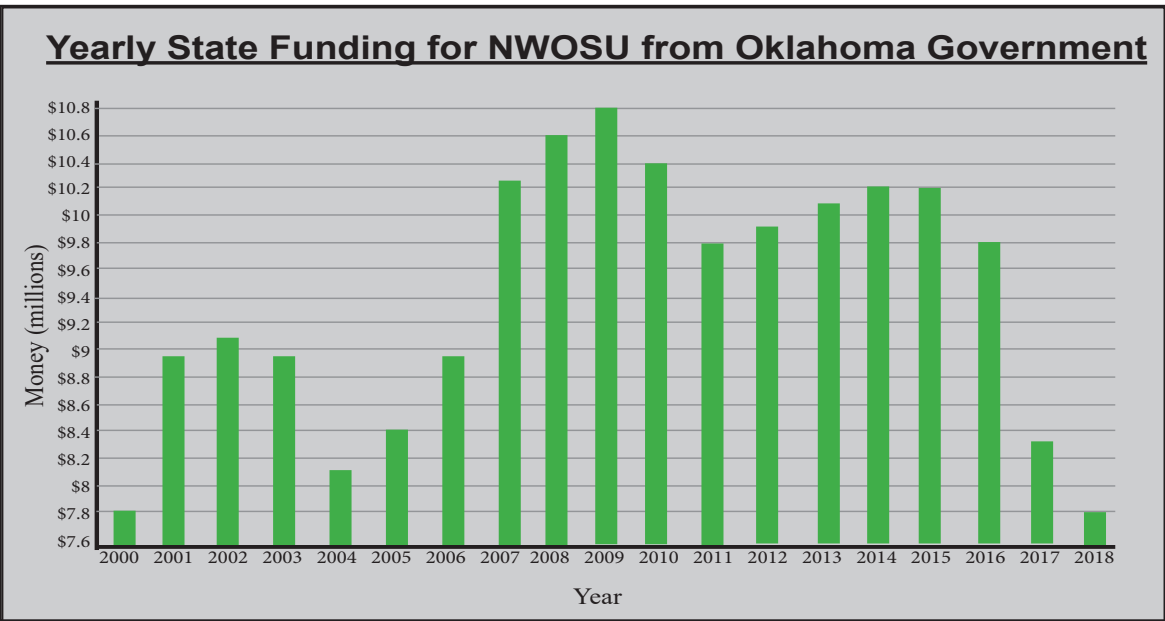
Carl Newton is District 58’s representative in the Oklahoma House. District 58 covers counties Alfalfa, Major, Woods and Woodward.

Newton said of the few people that have approached him about the issue it have been faculty of Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

But why haven’t students at Northwestern asked? It impacts the students, just as much if not more, than the faculty and staff.

Over the last few years tuition rates have risen. Classes have been cut; there haven’t been improvements to many facilities. Professors have had to take on extra work because Northwestern couldn’t afford to fill positions. Financial aid hasn’t been able to keep up with rising costs. All this effects students, and yet no students here have raised their voices about it, or asked why.

Oklahoma isn’t the only



state that has been affected by decreased state funding for higher education. At one college students are even protesting the lack of funds from the government. Iowa State started a protest/campaign called #NoFundingNoFuture to try to bring awareness to their government that they aren’t going to sit idly by why the state

takes away their funding.

“I think students should be informed, just like other citizens of the state,” Cunningham said. “If they feel passionately about a subject they should contact their legislator.

Increases in tuition on the horizon should definitely be something they should be interested in, and should speak

out about.”

There are ways to get the government’s attention. The #NoFundingNoFuture is a start, but students and the community can still do more. Newton had several ideas on how to make a real impact.

“Honestly people need to be

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