

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

July 15, 2009

Volume 36, Number 3

## EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

### Cover Story:

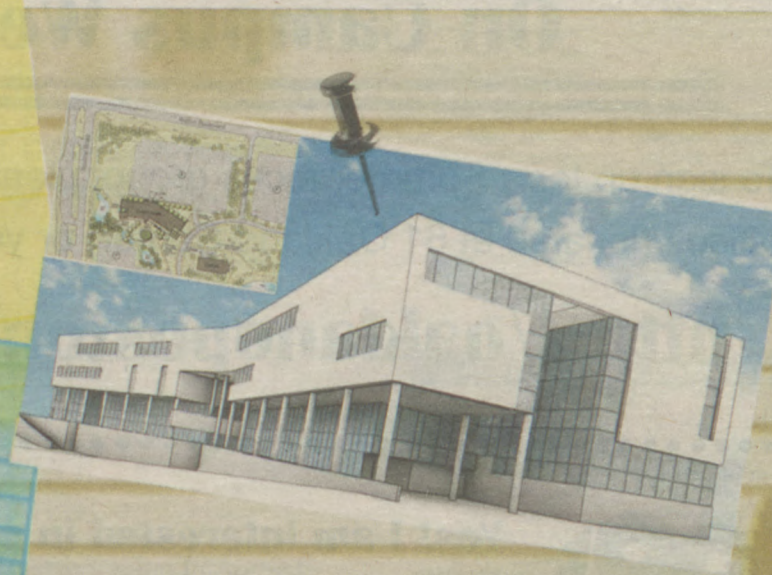
Executives freeze own salaries,  
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BOARD APPROVES MEDICAL  
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THE OAKLAND POST  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# Perspectives

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July 15, 2009

## STAFF EDITORIAL



There's no doubt that Oakland University's campus is continually improving. It's evident in the reduced number of potholes. In the parking lots, the new tiles in O'Dowd Hall, and the new Human Health Building coming to accommodate the new medical school.

We appreciate these upgrades, as most of them lend to the quality of our educational experience. But there are still so many issues that we wish would be addressed, and many of them would have budgets that pale in comparison to what's being done now. These changes wouldn't cost the university very much, and would make an improvement.

Take for example the cement steps leading out of the lower level patio off the Oakland Center. They look like ancient ruins, yet the sidewalk leading up to the pedestrian bridge that just got a face lift had no apparent safety issues. And there's a handicap ramp going into O'Dowd that doesn't seem to be a part of the massive re-pavement project, but there's a piece of lumber being used to keep wheel chairs from flipping over when making the descent.

The new tiling in O'Dowd Hall really freshens up the otherwise decrepit building, but there are gaps in the drywall around the elevator controls big enough to house a fat gerbil in there.

Ceiling panels seem to be an issue as well, as there's been one apparently on

back order for Vandenberg for quite some time now.

It appears that the university is trying to look more presentable for prospective students, but anybody who takes a closer look might wonder if it's all just a thick layer of concealer. Then again OU is not heavily recruiting unemployed building inspectors.

We are sure that those making the decisions mean well, but they should realize that they're maybe not the most informed people on the topic of what would make a difference in the day-to-day of campus life.

We think that the university should make more of an effort to take into consideration the suggestions that students might have. After all, we're the ones walking from the far reaches of parking lot one, developing arthritis of the spine from the seating in Varner hall, and peeing in bathroom stalls with toilet paper jammed in the latch hole.

Accommodations are much nicer in the executive wing, and with their own parking spots cozied up to Wilson Hall, we don't imagine the administration gets out and about quite as much as the rest of us.

For more photos of problem areas on campus, click on the Perspectives tab on [Oaklandpostonline.com](http://Oaklandpostonline.com).

Submit your own suggestions and photos to [oakposteditor@gmail.com](mailto:oakposteditor@gmail.com).

## NEW FDA APPROVED CIGARETTE PACKAGING



RJ MATSON/Roll Call, Cagle Cartoons

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*— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*



# Four on Four

four panelists share their take on four topics



**Ryan Zdonkiewoz**  
Senior, Communication



**Amecia Neal**  
Senior, Pre-Med, Biology



**Antoine Byse**  
Junior, Nursing



**Chris Darin**  
Senior, Integrative Studies

## What do you think of the campus construction and repairs that are taking place?

"I think the construction is good but I think it's taking too long. I've been on campus now for a few weeks and it's just always there and I'm just waiting for it to end ... I think once it's done it's going to look real nice."

"When I first got on campus I was heartbroken to see that I couldn't drive right on to campus and that I had to drive all the way around ... But, considering the potholes that we had last year, I think it's a good job they're fixing them."

"I think they should have focused more on building the new medical building that we need or more apartments or more dorms. I don't think construction on the sidewalk is all that important right now."

"It seems to me like they keep constructing the same things every single summer that I've been here. It's always the same things being closed, like the road to the apartments ... I think it's kind of bull crap."

## What's one thing you'd like to see the university spend money on?

"Better restaurants. All we have is sub-way. We have a pizza place. We only have, like, four different restaurants. So I think they should spend a little bit more money on the food."

"Some of the bathrooms could use an upgrade. Especially some of the ones in Hannah Hall. I feel like they've been like that for years. The doors are kind of falling off. Some bricks are chipping in the walls."

"A new medical building for pre-med students."

"I think the problem with the university is not something that can be solved with money. If anything, I think the problem with the university is that it spends too much money on really weird things that aren't very necessary. I think what the student body needs more than anything is transparency and openness from its administration."

## Are you interested in the decisions the administration makes? If not, what could be done to make you more inclined to care?

"No, I'm not really interested in that."

"Yes, most of my money goes into the school. Either polls done, asking students what they'd like to see done on campus, meetings with the administration ... involving the student body ... just any type of way there's communication."

"Yes I'm interested but I'm not too aware of them and also I'm not that for them ... Some of the decisions they make are kind of iffy. Ask our part before they make decisions, ask the students. It's for the students, so why make decisions before you ask?"

"Very interested. In fact I wish that we had more access to that kind of stuff."

## Do you know what Gary Russi's salary is? Do you agree with the university's statement that his 40 percent raise was necessary, due to the fact that with a \$250,000 salary he was being "grossly underpaid"?

"I don't know what his salary is. No, I don't think he should have gotten a 40 percent raise."

"No I don't. Forty percent raise, huh? I don't know about a 40 percent raise, especially considering that our economy is about to be going through some big deficit ... our whole country? I don't see how a 40 percent raise could even be possible."

"No. No not for \$250,000."

"I heard there was an increase. He was being grossly underpaid for what? He works a lot, don't get me wrong, but a lot of people work a lot."

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Dear The Oakland Post:



# Announced salary freeze sparks debate about negotiation tactics

By SEAN GARNER AND  
MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporters

Oakland University administrators say they are making concessions necessary to preserve the quality of education for students, but some university employees are critical of their motivations.

On June 22, OU released a statement announcing it would freeze salaries of all administrative personnel and other employees not represented by a union, preventing about 500 staff from receiving further raises this year. In the press release, OU President Gary Russi said the move was intended strictly to prevent further increases in the cost of education.

"We at Oakland University have taken pride in preserving and enhancing the quality of our educational programs while using lean and efficient cost management practices to keep tuition as affordable as possible," Russi said. "After years of funding cuts and rising costs, the ongoing sacrifices we'll have to make to maintain this approach will become increasingly painful. We will continue making necessary sacrifices, however. Whatever the challenges, we remain committed to our core mission of keeping a distinctive educational experience accessible to as many students as possible."

In spite of Russi's statement, some within the university said OU's official reasoning is simply a façade concealing the real reason for the pay freezes. Three unions currently negotiating contracts for OU employees said that the administration is trying to get union members to take similar sacrifices in their new contracts, which last three years.

## President's previous raise

Three labor unions representing OU employees — the American Association of University Professors, OU Professional Support Association and OU Campus Maintenance and Trade are currently negotiating new contracts with the university. OUPSA and OUCMT have been working on day-to-day contract extensions since their contracts expired last July, and the AAUP's current contract is set to expire Aug. 14.

The leaders for each of these groups took offense with the pay freeze, claiming it was simply a bargaining tactic.

"They were making it public so that if we don't take a zero percent increase, it would make us look bad as we continue

bargaining," said Sandy Gabert, president of OUPSA, which represents staff.

"It was absolutely a bargaining ploy," said Jan Shelito of the Michigan Education Association, and one of the chief negotiators for OUPSA and OUCMT. "It was not by coincidence that it happened at the moment it happened."

Further furling the brows of the union representatives was the fact that the board of trustees, at the July 2008 meeting, approved a 40 percent salary increase for Russi — from \$250,000 to \$350,000. Other high-ranking OU administrators also received generous raises. To raise awareness of the pay increases, the unions produced and distributed safety buttons that read, "40%" and in fine print, "Labor Donated." The AAUP also distributed a press release pointing out Russi's recent salary increase, relating it to the current union negotiations and prompted attention from local media.

"If you gave me a 40 percent raise, you could freeze my salary for years," said Chris Turkopp, president of OUCMT, which represents custodial staff.

OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery said the unions are attempting to exert pressure on the university by declaring their grievances with the media, and that the administration will not indulge their wishes for a public debate.

"Clearly this is a ploy by the AAUP to negotiate through the media. We will not bargain in the media," Montgomery

said. "It [the announced salary freeze] is not a bargaining strategy. It is a budget balancing strategy."

Montgomery said Russi's raise was driven by market factors making his salary competitive with other university presidents across the state.

"President Russi received a raise last year that finally brought him in line with other university presidents in Michigan with similar records of tremendous accomplishment and length of service. The return on the university's investment in President Russi is incalculable."

Sean Moran, an associate professor of history who once served the AAUP as a chief negotiator, said the president and other top administrators' pay and raises were "substantial ... some might say obscenely high."

"The union has made major concessions on faculty pay and benefits at several points in negotiations from 2000 onward and the administration has continued on its merry way, contemptuous of those who deliver the only true essential service of the university," Moran said.

## Union accuses OU admin

Joel Russell, president of OU's AAUP chapter, which represents about 600 faculty members, said "the wage freeze could be a negotiation strategy" and that it's "quite common ... it has been used several times in the past," as recently as 2008.

Russell said the administrative personnel and other non-unionized employees typically get their yearly raises during summer, when their new fiscal year starts. During some summer union contract negotiations, the administration holds the raises until the negotiations conclude in an effort to minimize raises.

For the 2008-09 year, the non-union employees got their raises in January 2009, and the raises were made retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year in summer 2008.

Russell said this was because several unions were bargaining for new contracts in summer 2008, like OUCMT, OUPSA, Police Officers Association of Michigan and Police Officers Labor Council. POAM and POLC respectively represent OU Police Department's patrol officers and sergeants.

OUCMT and OUPSA are currently working with expired contracts while their new contracts are negotiated. POAM and POLC worked with expired contracts until their new contracts were agreed upon.

The non-union members' raises were given while the OUCMT, OUPSA, POAM and POLC contracts were still being negotiated.

In February 2009, POLC reached a contract agreement and received a retroactive 3 percent raise for last year, with a salary freeze for the next two years. In June 2009, POAM reached a contract agreement and will receive the same conditions. Montgomery said the POAM and POLC salary freezes were not related to the non-union salary freeze.

Russell and some other AAUP members took the delayed raise of non-union staff as a bargaining strategy, and implied that it could happen again; OU might give non-union staff raises later, after the new upcoming AAUP contract is signed.

"If they [the administration] gave themselves a 3 percent raise now, they know we [the faculty] wouldn't settle for anything less than 3 percent either," Russell said.

The OU administration denied the accusations that the 2008-09 delayed wage raises were a bargaining strategy.

"The decision on when to release [non-union staff's] merit raises was a budget management related to observing enrollment and state funding levels," Montgomery said.

## What presidents are making in 2009-10 at other public Michigan universities:

NMU, Wong 5 years in office \$194, 225	CMU, Wilbur Interim (since July 1) \$230,000	Gary Russi 13 years in office \$350,000
SVSU, Gilbertson 20 years in office \$210,315	Michigan Tech, Mroz 5 years in office \$269,000	Western Michigan, Dunn 2 years in office \$355,350
GVSU, Haas 3 years in office \$225,000	EMU, Martin 1 year in office \$285,000	MSU, Simon 4 years in office \$520,000 (2007-08)

U of M, Ferris and Wayne media relations were tried, but did not return calls as of press time.

See Debate on page 7



# Insider discloses discussion topics

*While items on the table during the bargaining for union contracts are not customarily circulated as public information, one AAUP insider shares the information on the condition of anonymity.*

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

With less than two months remaining before the 2009-10 academic year starts on Sept. 3, Oakland University personnel are negotiating the 2009-12 contracts for faculty so that classrooms will have instructors inside them.

Details about the status of the negotiations are scarce because both sides are supposed to keep tight-lipped to the media and public, but one insider source agreed to reveal some information.

The faculty union — OU's chapter of American Association of University Professors — that is bargaining for the contracts of 600 faculty members, keeps a "bargaining diary" at [www.oaklandaaup.org](http://www.oaklandaaup.org), but that diary only lists the topics discussed without disseminating any further details.

Joel Russell, president of OU's AAUP chapter and a chemistry professor, declined to elaborate on those topics. And OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery said the OU administration also declined to comment. Ron Sudol, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is part of the bargaining team on the OU administration's side, and said only that he hopes "we get it signed by midnight the day before the first day of school starts."

But one AAUP insider source familiar with the negotiations agreed to give further details about what is being discussed, but only on the condition of anonymity.

The source said that so far there has only been a few minor changes made in the contract language to make it read better. While they're discussing issues like health care, same-sex partnership benefits, graduate assistants teaching classes, tenure process, summer classes and a few other things, there's no talk

about any monetary issues yet — and there may not be until well into August.

"The money issues are fairly well-defined and there are people on both sides of the table who can assess any economic proposals efficiently," the source said. "The challenge, as always, will be to convince the administration that the support of the faculty is where money must be spent to build a stronger Oakland University."

Sean Moran, an associate professor of history who once served the AAUP as a chief negotiator, said AAUP has been making "major concessions" on faculty pay and benefits while the top administrators have been getting better compensation.

"Students should make sure that those who teach get adequate compensation while expressing their outrage over the lavish rewards to the club administration," Moran said.

Even though tentative agreements may be reached on some issues, none of the agreements will be final until the whole contract is agreed upon and signed.

## Same-sex health care

A recent Michigan law prohibits public institutions — like OU — from providing benefits to their employees' same-sex domestic partners. But several universities, like University of Michigan and OU, offer those benefits through loopholes.

When the faculty contract expires Aug. 14, the same-sex benefits will no longer be provided, unless put in the new contract in a legally acceptable way to Michigan laws. Russell and others said they're looking to employ language similar to "an other qualified adult" like U-M does to provide the partner benefits and health care providers who will allow it.

"To date we've discovered that two of

the plans we currently have will allow them," said the AAUP insider.

"Other health insurance issues include new directions the administration wants us to go to reduce costs, such as new carriers and to adopt plans that would enhance benefits if faculty submit to regular checkups and to work on unhealthy behaviors," said the source.

Russell said that OU is looking to give incentives to employees who take efforts to make themselves healthier, like quitting smoking and exercising.

## Grad assistant lecturing

The two sides have come to a tentative agreement and will allow graduate assistants to teach courses, said the source, but only in a very restricted way.

"As you know, at Oakland University we are very proud, and advertise the fact that the vast majority of classes are taught by real, full-time, tenure-track faculty and not grad students."

## Summer classes

The source said that OU is trying to add more summer classes and make the curriculum and schedule equivalent to fall and winter to generate more revenue, but that there may be problems with doing so.

"Students may like the opportunity to take more classes and finish sooner, but are probably reluctant or financially unable to attend classes year-round," the source said. "Most faculty spend the summer months in intensive research, and use the time especially in traveling in pursuit of their research. A lot of things would have to change to make this a viable option, and we've not even begun to discuss them in detail."

## Tenure changes

The faculty and the administration are also discussing ways to streamline the tenure review process.

"Faculty and the administration both spend a great deal of time reviewing faculty, and both sides have an interest in reducing the amount of time spent on routine cases," the source said.

While wanting to make the tenure review process faster, the administration also wants to hire less tenure or tenure-track faculty, the source said.

"The administration would like to hire faculty that are not tenure-track, that is, faculty who would work on fixed contracts for a couple of years at a time," the source said. "This would give the administration more flexibility, allow them to hire and fire at will instead of making long-term commitments to faculty, and be able to move quickly into and out of new or old academic areas."

Although to some this may sound financially desirable in a tough economy, the source said this can be problematic and hurt the academics.

"Faculty must have the freedom to follow knowledge in their field and to teach it in ways that might not be popular or pleasing to the administration. Shared governance, where faculty have a say in academic decisions and the direction of the university, is a cornerstone of a modern, progressive university," the source said. "Tenure is essential to allow the faculty to teach and speak freely, without fear of being fired for unpopular or contrary views. Non-tenure-track, contract faculty would have no such protections or freedoms."

## Other issues

AAUP is also trying to get OU to provide more academic technological support — especially in online classes — and to streamline the software purchasing process, which many agree is often a lengthy process.

"The final contract will be built of many, many small agreements," the source said. "When we run out of things to talk about, either because we agree or because the proposals are withdrawn, the contract is finished."

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## DEBATE

Continued from page 6

## Non-union salaries also frozen

The top level administrators are not the only ones affected by the newest sal-

ary freeze — it affects about 500 other OU employees who aren't represented by a union.

Joni Hubred-Golden is one of those 500. She is the publicist of the department of music, theatre and dance.

Hubred-Golden said she remembered a delayed salary increase and the retroactive payment in January 2009. She said she hasn't spoken much to people about the fact that employees like her

will get no raises this year, "although I know some are very upset."

"I came out of the newspaper industry about five years ago, and now many of my close friends have lost their jobs or are living with the fear of losing their jobs, so I really can't complain about a salary freeze," she said.

Russell said that although AAUP "has no opinion" about these employees not getting a raise because AAUP only nego-

tiates for faculty and not for the non-union employees, "we would encourage those people to have a union."

Hubred-Golden wasn't sure.

"I am a strong supporter of unions in general, but I don't think having one would have changed what happened," she said. "Other than that, I don't think I've been here long enough to speak to whether [the administrative personnel] should have a union."



## Board approves design

By DAUD YAR  
Contributing Reporter

The Oakland University board of trustees unanimously approved plans for erecting the new Human Health Building between parking lots P1 and P3 across from Graham Health Center at a formal meeting after the Finance, Audit and Investment Committee met July 2.

The design will now be sent to the Michigan Department of Management and Budget and the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee for approval.

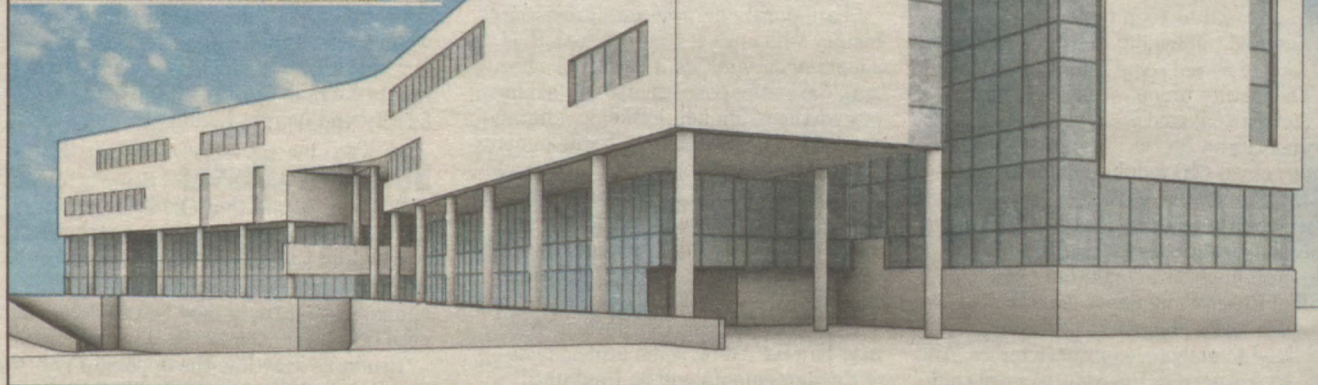
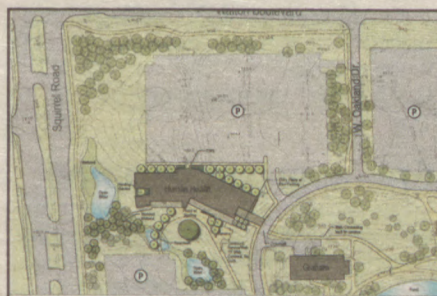
"This building is sorely needed at Oakland University," said trustee Dennis Pawley, who acted as the presiding chair during the meeting. "I think the architects did an outstanding job. This will be a world-class building that will go up in that prime spot."

The present plans cover 160,260 gross square feet of the space between the parking lots.

"We've been able to keep the size of the building down and allow it to be built within the budget," said a representative from SmithGroup, the company who designed the building. "All this is targeting occupancy [of the building] in 2012 with groundbreak early next year."

The State of Michigan will contribute \$40 million of the \$62 million needed to pay for the new building if the plans are approved by the DMB and JCOS. The remaining costs will be financed through the issuance of university general revenue bonds.

"In fact, it is our opinion that you could



The new Human Health Building will be located between parking lots P1 and P3 near the intersection of Walton and Squirrel as seen in the upper left corner. The board of trustees approved schematic designs, which were presented at the meeting.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SMITHGROUP

borrow up to 50 million and still be a comfortable range from a debt capacity standpoint," said Catherine Vaughn, financial adviser to OU, who was hired through TAKTIX Solutions. "As your adviser, I would say that this is a very comfortable and manageable size of borrowing for the university."

A policy within the resolution, passed

by the board, gave key roles of the project to the OU finance department.

"We authorize the president and the vice president of finance to select the other members of the financing system, such as the underwriter, the trustee, etc.," said Robert Schwartz, an attorney at Butzel Long, who is serving as bond counsel for the university. Schwartz

has been an attorney for 30 years and is recognized as an expert in federal tax aspects of municipal bonds.

"We're looking to accommodate 20,000 students soon," replied Pawley when asked about the effects of the loan on student tuition. "We don't have enough room. It's not that we should do this, but we have to do this."

## Legal issue ongoing in the RCJ department split

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

A final ruling has been made in the Oakland University administration's favor regarding the grievance claim the faculty union filed against the administration. The ruling denied the grievance, meaning OU didn't break procedural rules in dividing the department of rhetoric, communication and journalism.

Meanwhile, another legal matter the union filed against OU is still ongoing. The union won a ruling in its favor regarding the unfair labor practice lawsuit against the administration, but OU appealed that decision.

On April 6, an arbitrator heard both sides of the dispute and on June 22 ruled that the grievance was denied. Joel Russell, president of OU's chapter of AAUP, said AAUP will not appeal the ruling of the grievance claim.

This grievance suit came about because Ron Sudol, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, decided to split rhetoric, communication and journalism into two departments: writing and rhetoric, and communication and journalism, in spring 2008.

AAUP said Sudol did so in violation of OU constitution because he did not take adequate faculty input.

But Sudol said that he did have enough input and the grievance lacked merit, which was clearly shown by the

ruling. The minutes of a College of Arts and Sciences assembly showed that he did announce the split and the new writing major.

"I asked [at the hearing] give me one person who will say I didn't do that, and they couldn't produce a single one," Sudol said.

Sudol and Russell said the arbitrator took the lack of discussion — although assembly members could have chosen to discuss it then — about the split at that assembly as evidence that there was no objection to it, meaning Sudol was justified in splitting the department.

See Legal Issue on page 9



# Juggling club practices on campus

By RORY MCCARTY  
Senior Reporter

A flurry of colorful spinning clubs fly back and forth amongst four people as the jugglers of the Motor City Juggling Club practice at Oakland University, where they come Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. inside Pawley Hall or outside of Varner Hall when the weather is nice.

The club invites jugglers from many backgrounds — from professionals to beginners — to come and practice club passing with a partner or get some tips from more experienced jugglers.

The MC Juggling Club has been around since 1991, when it was known as the Mount Clemens Juggling Club. Member John Stamey said he first joined the juggling club in 1997.

"I bought one of those 'Juggling for the Complete Klutz' books," Stamey said.

Stamey started out learning the "three ball cascade," the most basic juggling pattern. He said after you master that, you can try to juggle more objects, different objects like clubs or put tricks into the patterns.

"The patterns can get as complicated as you want to make them," he said.

The jugglers all say that the most important thing about learning to juggle is perseverance.

Juggling can also involve telling jokes like Jim Oakley does. He said he comes to the juggling club to help keep him sharp in his juggling, which he does as part of a show he does for activities like corporate events.

In his act, Oakley juggles some very unusual objects, including a soccer ball, a plunger and an axe with a loosely attached axe head.

"The whole thing, including threaten-

ing the audience, takes about 45 minutes," Oakley said.

Oakley's been coming to the Motor City Juggling Club since January, but he used to have his own juggling club in Troy 27 years ago.

"It's the best job in the world," he said. He promotes his act through his website, [www.jimoakley.com](http://www.jimoakley.com).

But as long as Oakley has been juggling, he said he's still impressed by 14-year-old Justin Finkel, who has been juggling for four years and coming to the Motor City Juggling Club for about two.

Finkel's time at the juggling club was spent practicing seven-ball cascades, mid-throw pirouettes and difficult club juggling, which involved passing a club under either leg as he hopped from one foot to the other.

Finkel is currently performing with his juggling mentor, but he said he doesn't think he'll make a career out of it.

"It started with his 4th grade teacher," said David Finkel, Finkel's father.

He said that there was a demonstration in his class one day about juggling. "Justin just picked it up and ran with it,"

Though he doesn't juggle himself, David Finkel said that juggling is wonderful exercise and great for conditioning concentration. He can do a three-ball cascade, which he said just proves that anyone can do it.

But mostly, he said he enjoys watching the jugglers when he brings his son to the juggling club meetings.

On the other end of the spectrum, 73-year-old Peter Valente is just beginning to learn juggling.

"I've read a lot of articles on juggling on the Internet, and they say that older people that start juggling develop more neurons than young people," Valente



Photo courtesy of Eric Sunshine/ The Motor City Juggling Club  
Justin Finkel (left) practices club passing with Chris Allington, another member of the Motor City Juggling Club, at one of the club's meetings at Oakland University.

said.

Valente, who has been going to the MC Juggling Club for a couple of weeks, is learning to do his three-ball cascade, and Oakley said he's seen improvement in his juggling even over such a short time.

Valente has another reason for learning to juggle as well: He has grandkids. He said when he gets better at it, he plans to put on a show for them and impress them.

"Come and see me in about a month. I'll be very pro-ish," he said.

One reason many jugglers come to the juggling club is because they can practice maneuvers like club passing, where two

or more jugglers throw clubs back and forth to each other.

Phil Atkins practiced a four person club pass, as well as a "takeout," where someone will stand in the middle of a club pass, grab a club out of mid-air and hand it to the proper juggler. One of the more complicated takeout patterns the members did was called "Train to Nowhere."

"It's all about flying objects and head injuries," Atkins joked.

The club invited anyone interested in improving his or her juggling, or curious about it to come and join. For more information, visit [www.mcjugglers.org](http://www.mcjugglers.org).

Continued from page 8

## LEGAL ISSUE

"[Sudol] still should have announced a discussion, but instead he just announced it will happen," Russell said.

"All the faculty wanted the split — I know because I'm the dean," Sudol said. No one denied that he had the power to split the departments.

"All of the faculty within the department were in support of this separation as we thought it would be best for all programs," said Sharon Howell, professor of communication and chair of the department of communication and journalism.

"But being in favor of the separation, and for that matter acknowledging the right of the administration to make such decisions, does not mean I supported the process by which this was done. I believe the actions of the administration to defend and support this lack of consultation contribute to what is one of my major concerns with this bargaining round — faculty governance."

Sudol said the AAUP and the media — including The Oakland Post — took an "uncontroversial" matter and "made a mountain out of a molehill."

"The graphics, headline and the story [entitled 'Lack of faculty input prompts lawsuit' in the April 9 issue of The Oakland Post] made it seem like the university was doing something terrible," he said.

An unfair labor practice lawsuit was ruled in the union's favor, but the OU administration is appealing that decision.

Russell said that he was told by OU's lawyer that if OU lost this appeal, it would appeal again.

OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery declined to comment because it's an ongoing litigation.

Both Russell and Sudol said that this is an important issue, but each side accused the other of wasting taxpayer and student tuition money.

This suit came about after OU first defended itself against the grievance claim by saying this was a government issue, not a labor contract issue.

Then, AAUP presented OU administrators with a copy of a grievance settlement in 1999, signed by OU President Gary Russi, that promised OU would not use this defense again.

Russell said the administration's next response was saying that Russi did not have the authority to sign this agreement because it was not signed by the board of trustees afterward, and that AAUP accepted at its peril that whoever signed that agreement had the authority to do so.

Russell said it's ridiculous that OU is basically "arguing that the president of the university doesn't have the authority to do his job."

Sudol said that this clearly is a governance matter and not a labor agreement matter.

"The unfair labor suit is in the same category as if I hired 14-year-olds as factory workers," he said.

Sudol said he is not directly involved with this lawsuit because it's not an academic matter, and the college assembly has authority only in academic issues.

"If it didn't like the new writing major, it could've voted it down, for example," he said. "Departments are not negotiated — just created."

But AAUP said this is a larger matter than just the splitting of one department into two. Russell said some faculty are worried about the validity and insurance of any agreement signed by OU administrators that is not signed by the board of trustees as well.



# OC Patio Concert series features alumni

By MIKE SANDULA  
Staff Reporter

Oakland University alumna Yuki Mack performed with special guest Xiao Dong for the second of three concerts in the OC Patio Concert series Wednesday, July 8.

"We try to have a theme every year," said Paul Franklin, coordinator of campus programs. "This year's theme was alumni."

The hour-long performance featured Mack, who graduated from OU with a Bachelor of Music in 1994, on piano and Dong on erhu, a two-stringed, bowed instrument with a hollow sound box.

Erhu is known as a Chinese instrument, but originated in Mongolia, said Dong, who's played it for over 30 years.

The hour-long performance covered many moods and tempos, with song titles like "Meditation" and "Horse Racing."

Dong mostly played from memory, only using sheet music for a newly learned piece, "Love's Joy - Love's Sorrow" by Austrian composer Fritz Kreisler, which they're preparing for their July 31 perfor-

mance at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Mack usually performs with her sister, Tomoko, who also plays piano and graduated with Mack. They either duel on separate pianos or share one. The sisters have released three CDs.

But Mack said she likes to collaborate with other musicians when she has the free time, which she has the most of during the summer when her schedule is a bit lighter.

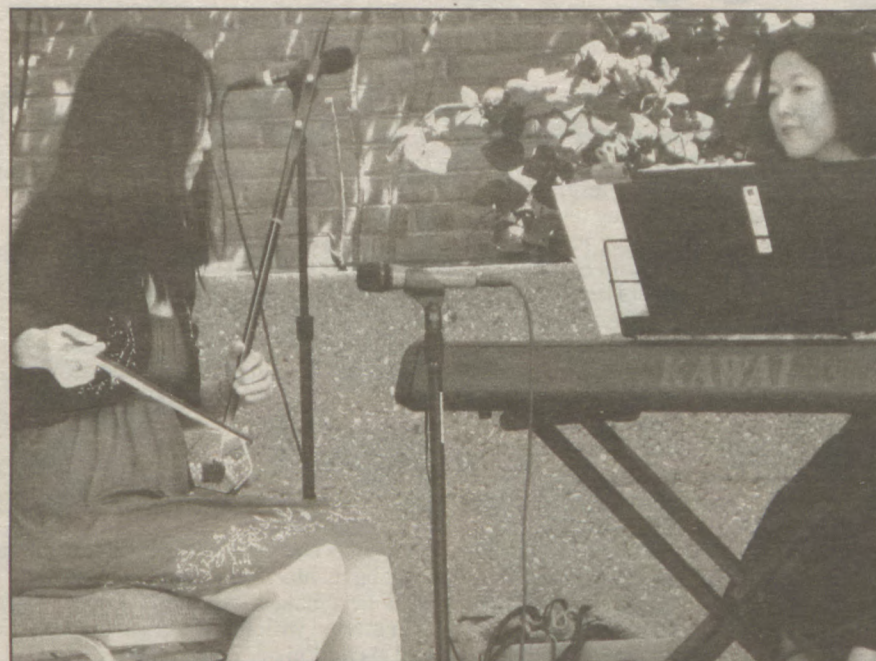
She met Dong about two years ago and they decided to play together. Dong said the two "hit it off," and they like to get together to practice, perform and cook food.

"I was eager to meet classical musicians I can play with," said Dong, who's in a pop rock band called Madame XD.

Mack and Dong said they were going to record a CD in China last year, but their plans fell through.

"Next year for sure," Dong said.

The final OC patio concert of the year will showcase The Continuum Jazz Ensemble, Wednesday, Aug. 5 from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Keeping with the alumni theme, the quartet includes Keith Gamble on saxophone.



ANGELA JACKMAN/The Oakland Post

The second performance of the OC Patio Concert series featured alumna Yuki Mack and Xiao Dong. An acoustic performance on June 10 by alumnus Tom Butwin, who performed at Rothbury earlier this year, was the first performance of the series, which has an alumni theme.

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Come check out the calendar!

## CIBRE hosts conversations

By MELANIE ZYNEL  
Staff Intern

The Center for Integrated Business Research and Education at Oakland University's School of Business Administration is hosting a series of informal conversations focused on examining and cultivating professional needs and opportunities in Michigan's economy.

These discussions, held two Saturdays a month from 10 a.m. to noon in Elliott Hall, will give participants an opportunity to connect with the dean of the School of Business Administration, Mohan Tanniru, faculty, and other career professionals.

According to Tanniru, these conversations seek to fill the need for a personal setting where professionals can share their unique experiences and receive advice.

"The CIBRE conversations allow for an informal gathering of laid off/early retired white collar workers or those seeking to change their careers, so they can share their interests, get to know a few others and explore opportunities in their current or alternate careers," said Tanniru.

Tanniru noted that, as these conversations are a new venture, the focus lays heavily on listening to the needs of participants and developing effective strategies to handle those needs. He said he hopes that networking opportunities will increase with the growth of the program.

"We need to let Michigan talent transform Michigan, and universities and governments have to create an environment to support such transformation with as little bureaucracy as possible," Tanniru said. "If the OU business school can help start this process and play a role in some way, then CIBRE conversations would have met their objective."

Each conversation will focus on a different industry, including business entrepreneurship and the health care, financial, energy, manufacturing and service sectors.

The next conversation is scheduled for Saturday, July 25, and will center on business entrepreneurship.



Check out The Oakland Post's website for web exclusives.



# CAMPUS BRIEFS

## New global arts major for fall 2011 to be proposed

The Center for International Programs is preparing a proposal to create a new global arts or art-based international studies major available to students by fall 2011. The proposed global arts major would involve a variety of both required and elective courses in theater, dance, studio art, literature and musical traditions. Currently, the idea is still in the planning stages; however, the department hopes to begin presenting it to faculty committees this coming year.

"The idea for a global arts major is to have a humanities counterpart to the international relations major that internationally-oriented students interested in art, literature, music, theater and dance might find to be an attractive option," said Peter Bertocci, director of CIP.

— Annie Stodola, Staff Reporter

## Administration to take over Wilson Hall

Wilson Hall will become the home to more administrative offices. Some of the relocations have already taken place.

Departments that are currently based in Wilson will be moved into O'Dowd Hall, except the communication and journalism, and art and art history departments.

Ted Montgomery, director of media relations at OU, stated in an e-mail that the writing and rhetoric department and the English department moved out in December 2008 to O'Dowd Hall. The modern language department is planning a move into O'Dowd in December 2009.

In addition, administrative offices will be moving into Wilson from North Foundation and O'Dowd halls. This move is being done in order to centralize administrative functions. The departments moving into O'Dowd are doing so to support academic collaboration.

The new space that will open in North Foundation Hall will make room for Career Services, which is currently in Vandenberg Hall. This move was student supported and is set to happen in August 2010.

— Brad Slazinski, Staff Reporter

## Athletics budget approved after much debate

At a recent board of trustees meeting, Oakland University announced its athletics budget for the fiscal year 2010. The budget calls for a total expense of \$5,685,560, about a 9.1 percent increase from the budget of 2009.

Athletics department revenue is expected to exceed costs by \$15,834. Last year, the proposed budget projected a profit of \$7,333, but instead lost \$63,076, according to estimations.

The approval of the 2010 budget comes after two initial proposed budgets were tabled by the board, one at a regular trustees meeting and the other at a special meeting to discuss the athletics budget. The board tabled both proposals because of ambiguity about where the money would go, not because of specific figures.

Athletic director Tracy Huth said he was understanding of the board's grievances with the earlier proposals and expressed no bitterness over the protracted process.

"I do not consider the board of trustees to have dragged out the budget process," he said. "The information provided in the board-approved format that we use for budget presentation did not provide enough information for them. It was a matter of working with them until the information they needed to make a decision was present."

The next Finance, Audit and Investment Committee meeting is July 24 at 10 a.m. followed by a formal BOT meeting on July 29 at 2 p.m.

— Sean Garner, Senior Reporter

## Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance honors Big Three

Concours d'Elegance, a car show known for hosting elegant cars and rare models, will hold its 30th anniversary show at Meadowbrook Hall Aug. 2.

The show, which began in 1970, is celebrating a tribute to Detroit this year in honor of the engineering and design practices of the Big Three automakers, who have been supporters of this event. Cars on display this year include a 1967 Ferrari, 1960 Ferrari, 1953 Fiat, 1966 Ghia, 1954 Jaguar and 1953 Cisitalia.

"In our first year, we had about 98 cars on display. The most we've had was 330, but usually we have around 200 cars," said Don Sommer, the founder of the event. Sommer said that he couldn't imagine the event becoming as big as it has, and that it has been successful beyond his wildest dreams.

Oakland University's Formula Society of Automotive Engineers student group will also be participating in Concours d'Elegance, displaying its car at the event. Admission for the Concours d'Elegance is \$25 for adults. Children 12 and under get in free. For more information, visit [www.mbhconcours.org](http://www.mbhconcours.org).

— Brad Slazinski, Staff Reporter

# POLICEFILES

On July 8, a student met with an officer in the OUPD lobby to discuss an incident that happened July 4 in her North Hamlin room.

She stated that when her boyfriend, a former OU student, punched her left leg, she told him to leave. She said he refused and held her on the ground where she hit her head. She also said he punched her in her right shoulder three times, but she does not have any injuries and did not get medical attention. She wanted the incident on record, but did not want to press charges.

On June 29, a student reported that his vehicle had been keyed on the passenger side while it was parked in P2. He stated that just before his meeting in the OC, he bumped into a student he recently kicked out of his fraternity. He said that while he

did not witness the student keying his vehicle, he believes he is capable of causing the damage.

On June 22, a maintenance employee reported that 10 mirrors from 10 different piano music rooms were torn down on the third floor of Varner Hall. Some of the mirrors were broken, and the 10 damaged mirrors resulted in about \$150 worth of damage.

On June 15, OUPD went to Hill House to talk to a housing employee who stated that a woman told him she was sexually assaulted. The victim said she was hanging out in a room in Hill House with several people. When she and a man left the room, he forced himself on her. When he stopped, she left the room.

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## What do you think about the administration taking over Wilson Hall?



"I think it would be fine as long as they put the teachers in nice offices elsewhere."

**Steve Zielinski**  
Junior, engineering/physics

"It's like Roswell-type stuff. You might have to do a retina scan to get in."

**Jarrel Lowan**  
Junior, sociology

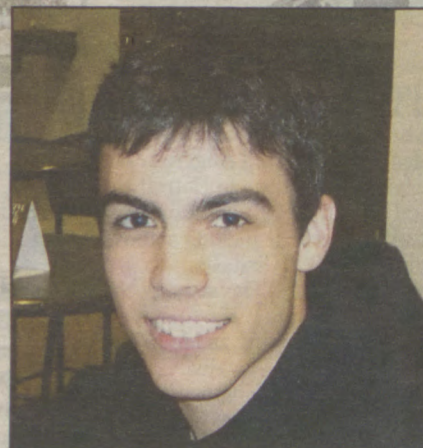


"The hall could be used for student activities, instead of the administration taking over."

**Malinda Killu**  
Sophomore, pre-med, biochemistry

"It's a power trip. It's infringing on the students' freedom."

**Brian Panfalone**  
Sophomore, biology



According to Ted Montgomery, OU spokesperson, administrative offices will move into Wilson Hall to centralize operations throughout 2010. College of Arts and Sciences departments will move out to "support academic collaboration."

### Already moved

#### **Into Wilson:**

- Office of Grants and Contacts
- Institutional Research

#### **Into O'Dowd:**

- Writing and rhetoric department
- English department

Stay posted for more coverage of the Wilson Hall moves.



# The Scene

July 15, 2009

www.oaklandpostonline.com

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## Mitten Movie projects local talent

*Local group showcases indie films by young filmmakers*

By ANNIE STODOLA  
Staff Reporter

In the metro Detroit area, a group of individuals are trying to simultaneously boost the economy and make the community more aware of local happenings.

The Mitten Movie Project shows short movies made by independent filmmakers at the Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak on the first Tuesday of each month.

"The original intention of the project was to showcase independent movies and filmmaking," curator Connie Mangilin said.

Mangilin said the project started in late 2005; however she took it over in 2007. Each month, the project receives about eight to 12 submissions from filmmakers all over Michigan, as well as from other states, including California, Iowa, New York and Colorado.

Once she receives the submissions, Mangilin decides which films will make the final cut. She said the average crowd at The Mitten Movie Project each month is about 150 people. At the end of the night, audience members vote for their favorite, and the Audience Choice Award winner is featured on the Mitten Movie Show on public access television in Oakland County.

"We really try to give young filmmakers a place to show their movies and let them get real bonafide feedback from an audience of people they don't necessarily know," Mangilin said.

Sarah Babila, a filmmaker who screened the trailer for her film, "It Came from Detroit," at the July event, is one of those filmmakers seeking feedback at The Mitten Movie Project.

"It's also good as a filmmaker to know that there are other people in the area making movies too," Babila said. "It can feel like we're all secluded on our own islands sometimes so it's nice to meet other people working in the area."

Babila's film focuses on the rock scene in Detroit in the late 90s and early 2000s.

"People in the suburbs are sometimes unaware of all of the awesome music being made in Detroit," Babila said. "The great thing that we wanted to show is that there is always some new and excit-



Left to right: Peter Dean, director of July's headliner "Thank you for the music", Tomie Green, director of "Literally" and Mike Zawacki, director of "Detroit Mob Wars", stand outside the Main Art Theatre.

ing culture emerging."

Jeffrey White, one of the organizers of The Mitten Movie Project, agrees the project is important to helping young filmmakers with their careers.

"We give new filmmakers an opportunity to start perfecting their craft by receiving feedback and criticism," White said. "It's also a great opportunity for them to potentially be featured on our show, which means their work is broadcast to 140,000 households."

Other young filmmakers featured at the July event included brothers Drew and Brett Pierce, who screened the trailer for their feature, "Dead Heads," which they describe as a "zombie-buddy road trip film."

The brothers grew up in the Royal Oak area; they now live in California. Prior to moving to California, they screened films at the Main Art and will return in October to premiere "Dead Heads," which was filmed entirely in Michigan.

Diane Frkan, a 2001 Oakland University graduate, got involved with the project a number of years ago when working on "InZerO," a science fiction series that aired an episode each month over the course of a year at The Mitten Movie Project. Frkan started as a set director for the first five episodes, but then advanced to art director for the remaining episodes.

"The Mitten Movie Project started before 'InZerO' did, but it really kicked into high gear when we started airing episodes there," Frkan said. "People had to come back each month to see what happened next."

Another goal of the event is to get filmmakers who are filming in Michigan and taking advantage of the film tax incentive to use Michigan crews.

"We need to build the film industry in Detroit," White said. "We need to get local talent to work on projects. We have very broad talent, but it isn't as deep as

it could be."

Frkan said she sees the importance of classroom education and workshops regarding film production, however she thinks Michigan students interested in film should focus on getting real experience instead.

"The No Worker Left Behind program is helping displaced workers get retrained to work on film sets," Frkan said. "A lot of that education is free. People can also look on Craig's List or Mandy.com to find cast or crew positions, whether they're paid or not, for films in the area. Film experience is an absolute necessity for people wanting to break into this industry."

Aspiring filmmakers can submit their short films for consideration to The Mitten Movie Project's Myspace address at [myspace.com/mittenmovieproject](http://myspace.com/mittenmovieproject) or at Mitten Movie Project, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit, MI 48202. Filmmakers can also submit their films on Mitten screening nights. Whether or not projects are chosen for the monthly event, Mangilin still returns feedback to the filmmakers. Submissions are due two weeks before film night.

The Mitten Movie Show airs on Comcast channel 52 and Wide Open West on Wednesdays at 11 p.m. and Saturdays at midnight in Oakland County.

Tickets for the Tuesday night showcase are \$8 presale and \$10 at the door. The next Mitten Movie night will take place 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4.

A pre-screening reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Art lobby will offer a chance to talk with filmmakers, press and film professionals.

After the show, moviegoers are encouraged to interact with filmmakers in a Q&A session, time permitting. Immediately following the close, attendees can head to an afterglow party featured in various downtown Royal Oak locations.

For more information on the Mitten Movie Project, ticket sales and afterglow locations visit [myspace.com/mittenmovieproject](http://myspace.com/mittenmovieproject). Lineups are released two weeks prior to the date.

The Main Art Theatre is located at 118 N. Main St. in Royal Oak. Call them directly at (248) 263-2111.



**We're taking August  
off, but check back  
September 2 for our  
Welcome Back issue!**



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# Gaming news

*One gamer comments on the booming, but  
bizarre world of video game news*

By **CHRIS DARIN**  
Contributing Reporter

## REVIEW

Despite the Chicken Little-like cries from the stuffy suits claiming Internet pirating is killing their industry, the game biz is booming. With interest increasing in the gaming world, more tales come of the weird, the legal and the controversial.

And no, this isn't just referring to the "World of Warcraft's" deal with Mountain Dew to sell "Gamer Fuel" with theoretically attractive "night elf" women on the can.

Video games encompass a lot more than the Nintendo (what grandparents call every video game console) and "World of Warcraft." All those facebook widgets and whatsits like myFarm, Friends for Sale and Chain Rxn are drastically increasing the number of "gamers" out there (though they're called "casual gamers" by the Funyun-eating, Final Fantasy-loving lot).

Among these games, "Mafia Wars" recently made obscure headlines for hitting four million daily users, a feat accomplished by aggressive inbox spam. Game studio Zynga, who holds six slots in the Top 25 Facebook "games of the month" chart, revealed that "Mafia Wars" makes up approximately one-third of their traffic.

When talking about the success of the game in a GameSutra interview, Zynga's executive producer Bill Mooney said, "Mafia Wars" is on its way to becoming a cult classic." Interesting, a "cult classic" with four million daily users.

It is rare when these social games cross over into the real world, but in China social gaming recently sent the government into frenzy. Controversy spread quickly over a virtual currency called QQ coins, made by company Tencent Holdings, and used for their virtual universe of social, casual and non-casual games.

QQ coins were originally intended for purchasing ringtones, fancy armor and weapons for games and virtual gifts for instant messaging. The coins are bought using real money, however; a variety of other outlets began accepting them in place of money.

Many fear QQ coins may topple the Yuan, their other, less interesting currency. Even women, colloquially known as "QQ girls," were offering "intimate" chats in exchange for the coins. Things got even more complicated when people started dodging anti-gambling laws by gambling using the fake money, then converting it into real cash.

So what is a heavily-regulated, strictly-enforced communist country to do in such a crisis? Why, heavily regulate and strictly enforce those regulations, of course!

In the past few months they've been creating new regulations, making it more difficult to trade QQ coins. While this has raised their scarcity and sent their price up 70 percent, the virtual currency is still functioning strong.

In other gaming news, a Swedish court recently sent the creators of popular Internet torrent website, The Pirate Bay (a haven for illegal downloading) to jail for a year with fines nearing \$900,000 each. Don't fret though; the tale does not end there. In "Bay's" darkest hour, game networking company Global Gaming Factor purchased the website for \$7.8 million.

While the website won't be used for illegal downloading anymore, the purchase will bring the creators into the green. In a press release, Global Gaming Factory stated it intends on monetizing The Pirate Bay in a way "that benefits everyone."

According to GGF CEO Hans Pandeya, they plan on "introducing models" that will ensure "providers and copyright owners get paid for the content that is downloaded on the site."

Pandeya also said, "... GGF will have a strategic position [in file sharing] ... The Pirate Bay has a global brand and holds a key position with over 20 million visitors and over one billion page views per month." Right, because Napster was so popular after it was bought out.

Not everyone downloads games though. In fact, video game sales have experienced little decline. After only four days on the market, "Wii Sports Resort" has become the third-fastest selling Wii game in Japan, trailing behind obvious hits "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" and "Mario Kart." It still has a long way to go if it's going to overthrow international hit, "Wii Fit."

Brian Crecente, managing editor of game blog Kotaku, wrote, "What Nintendo did is they tapped into that desire people have to be healthier ... everyone wants to work out, but nobody really wants to put the effort into it." True that.

Speaking of the Wii, it has recently been getting buzz due to the rise in the number of its female gamers.

Console sales have risen around 5 percent, and many are attributing it to the console's attractive, non-intimidating design. Seems fairly accurate, considering the PS3 looks like a small, demonic fridge unit.

**For more game news visit:**

GameDaily.com  
GameDev.net  
N4G.net  
GayGamer.net  
TIGSource.com



## Bicycling around Detroit

*Wheelhouse offers a unique view of the rebounding city*

By JENNIFER WOOD  
Staff reporter

With inhabitants dwindling at less than half of peak population, the city of Detroit may not seem like a favorable place for new independent businesses.

The empty storefronts and deserted streets bear little resemblance to the booming metropolis that once was.

Despite the current recession and instability over Detroit's future, Kelli Kavanaugh and Karen Gage of Wheelhouse Detroit are halfway through their second season as Detroit business owners.

Wheelhouse Detroit, located on River Walk in downtown Detroit, offers the public bike rental, guided tours, repairs and retail. One hour rentals start at \$10 per hour.

As Detroit natives Kavanaugh and Gage are well aware of Detroit's potential and feel that independent businesses could play a significant role in restoring the city.

"Not just the Wheelhouse, but we really feel strongly that small businesses are a major key to reviving Detroit. Our friends like Liz at Canine to Five, Joe at Mezzanine, Shawn and Kevin at Pure Detroit, Torya at Good Girls Crepes and Claire at Bureau are our constant inspiration and support network," said Kavanaugh.

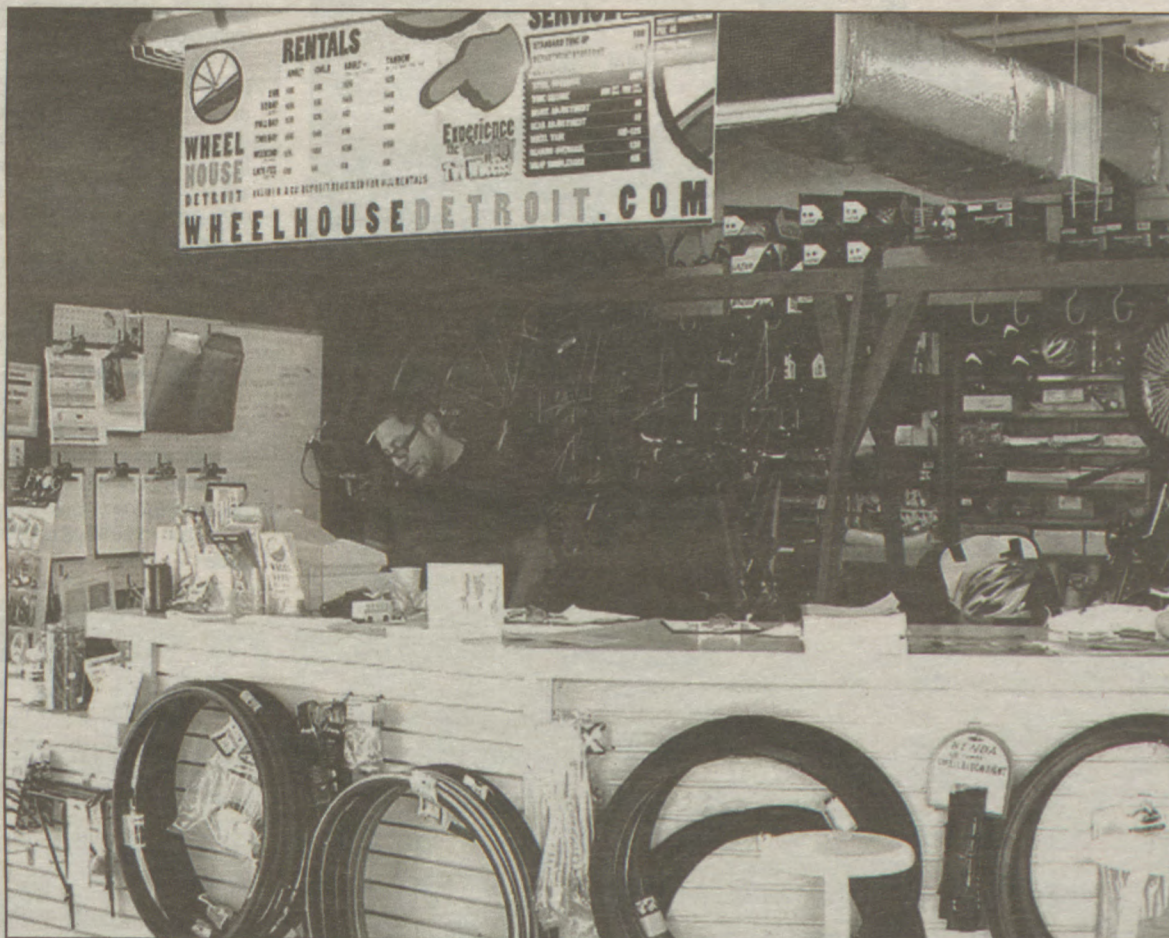
Teaming up with local organizations including Hamtramck's Preserve our Parks, Creekside Community Development Corporation and Greater Corktown Development Corporation, Wheelhouse aims to give customers a never before seen view of the city, designed by those who know it best.

These collaborations are beneficial not only to Wheelhouse, but also to Detroit and surrounding neighborhoods.

"Karen and I both feel strongly that these organizations are responsible for much of the good that has happened and is happening in Detroit and this is a way of us supporting them while exposing people to their community.

"On the flip side, they know their neighborhoods better than anyone, so we are making sure that riders are getting really insider information. It's a classic win-win," Kavanaugh said.

Wheelhouse returns half of the proceeds from the price of the tours back to the neighborhoods they visit and arranges stops at local restaurants and stores for cyclists to stop and check out.



Between minor bicycle repairs, Alex Aranda works the counter at Wheelhouse Detroit. Wheelhouse is one of the small businesses, which part owner Kelli Kavanaugh said are key to reviving the city through collaborations and as a network of support.

### Something to see:

On Saturday, Aug. 29, Wheelhouse will be exploring the Southwest Detroit/Fort Wayne area, winding through the shops on Vernor Highway, Woodmere Cemetery and Mexicantown.

For \$25, riders will be able to get a new take on the cultural center of the city, which Gage and Kavanaugh see as an essential part of rebuilding Detroit.

"People who haven't spent much time in the city lately will be pleasantly surprised as to how much is going on in the greater downtown area," Gage said.



Dozens of bicycles sit outside Wheelhouse Detroit, ready for somebody to rent them for a scenic ride through the city.



# Local news briefs:



THOMAS MARCETTI/Associated Press

## HILLSDALE: Family fights to save rock near airport

A massive rock near the Hillsdale Municipal Airport is like an anchor to Janis Roberts' ancestors who took pictures with it as far back as 1908. The rock, which is roughly 6 feet around, sits in the southeast corner of the airport property. Airport Manager James Scheibner said he took an immediate interest in preserving the rock during the airport's expansion when Roberts approached him.

Roberts said as her family returned to the rock throughout the years they began to call it the Idaho potato. Scheibner said he would like to preserve it and use it as a marker near the relocated terminal when the expansion is complete. Photographed is Anna and Joseph Schreiber.

—THOMAS MARCETTI, Hillsdale Daily News (AP)

## Federal stimulus expected to boost Mich. research

Michigan is expecting more than \$17 million from the federal stimulus package for biomedical research and research training.

The money from the National Institutes of Health was announced Monday by Michigan's U.S. senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow.

About 70 different projects at universities and other organizations are in line for the grants to promote medical research and technology.

More than \$800,000 will go to a University of Michigan project to improve asthma treatment through cultural competence training for doctors. More than \$600,000 will support a human laboratory model of cocaine treatment at Wayne State University. More than \$500,000 will support breast cancer research at Wayne State.

## Obama says new jobs will require greater training

President Barack Obama says lost auto industry jobs in states such as Michigan will not come back and new jobs will require greater training and post-high school education to achieve a higher skilled work force.

Obama was scheduled to deliver a speech at Macomb Community College in Warren, Mich., Tuesday calling for an infusion of money to community colleges. The administration hopes to assist 5 million Americans earn degrees and certificates over the next 10 years.

In excerpts released by the White House before the speech, Obama said jobs requiring at least an associate degree are expected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college.

Obama is proposing a \$12 billion effort to help the two-year institutions teach and train more people for "jobs of the future."

## Granholm closes Dept. of History, Arts & Libraries

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has closed the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

The department's functions will be handled by other state departments under an executive order the Democratic governor signed Monday. She announced her plan to close the department in her February budget proposal.

Michigan now has 17 state departments.

Source: Associated Press

## Classifieds

NOW OFFERING ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS:  
www.oaklandpostonline.com

### Ride needed

Fall semester, Tuesday afternoons.  
Pickup before 2:30, return at 9 p.m.  
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Must be reliable, will share costs.  
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\$450.00 per month/includes water,  
400 sq. ft., 2nd floor, gated parking,  
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20 min. from OU, sorry no pets.  
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Oakland University; two bedrooms,  
two full baths, two car garage,  
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student or staff. Close to Stoney Creek,  
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248 651 4291 Ask for Joanne.



## Recruiting for the future

*Oakland's volleyball coach discusses his team's offseason changes*

By MIKE SANDULA  
Staff Reporter

After making statistical improvements over the last two years, Rob Beam, head coach of Oakland University's women's volleyball team, said he's looking for the team to "take it to the next step." Helping to take that step is a recruiting class that, for the second consecutive year, was listed by **PrepVolleyball.com** as an honorable mention.

"We're looking to make a transcendental jump and start really putting our name and our brand forward," Beam said.

The incoming class features a group of high school standouts, including some that Beam said he's had his eye on for a while.

Alli Kirk, out of Bloomington, Ill., was one of the top 26 liberos in her class. Beam coached her when she was on the Illini Elite Volleyball Club and said she's a positive force who "brings skill and a chemistry-building personality to the program."

"I know what she can do for teams," said Beam.

At 6 feet 1 inch, Brittany Holbrook, a middle hitter who graduated from John Glenn High School, adds physicality to the Grizzlies' lineup.

"She has a good jump, hits hard," Beam said.

"She's a perfect fit for us."

Outside hitter Meghan Bray out of Naperville, Ill., was selected as one of the Top 250 Senior "Aces" in the country by **PrepVolleyball.com**.

Beam said Bray, who has won state and national championships, has a well-rounded game and raises the level of expectations by having been there in big moments.

Beam said he'd been recruiting Amber Miehle, an outside hitter from Lake Zurich, Ill., for a long time. He said Miehle is a very competitive person who's always taking extra lessons and looking to improve her game.

"She loves to compete, loves to play, loves to win," said Beam. "She's a kind of engine that drives the team."

The final recruit Beam discussed is defense specialist Jillian Kulka from Grosse Pointe, Mich. Beam said that he met her at OU's summer camp last year and said he was drawn to her attitude and love of the game.

Oakland lost five seniors to graduation this spring, but Beam said his remaining veterans are "hungry" and looking to improve this season.

"They're a great, young, energetic, athletic group," Beam said.

Junior Brittany Dunn will be replacing Lauren Duquette, who graduated last year, at libero.

"I'm hoping to fill her shoes," said Dunn, noting that Duquette "did a lot to help the team."

Dunn was voted in as captain by her peers for the spring season and Beam expects she'll be a captain in the fall.

"As a junior, I think that's impressive to have earned that respect," Beam said.

Beam also said senior Adrienne Leone is poised to have a "breakout season" and become a dominant outside hitter.

Leone said she has a personal goal of breaking the OU record for career kills and spikes and would also like to see the team win more than eight games, which she's confident they will.

The spring season provided needed experience for players who didn't get a lot of playing time last fall. Though no official records are kept for the spring, Beam said he's happy with the way his team performed.

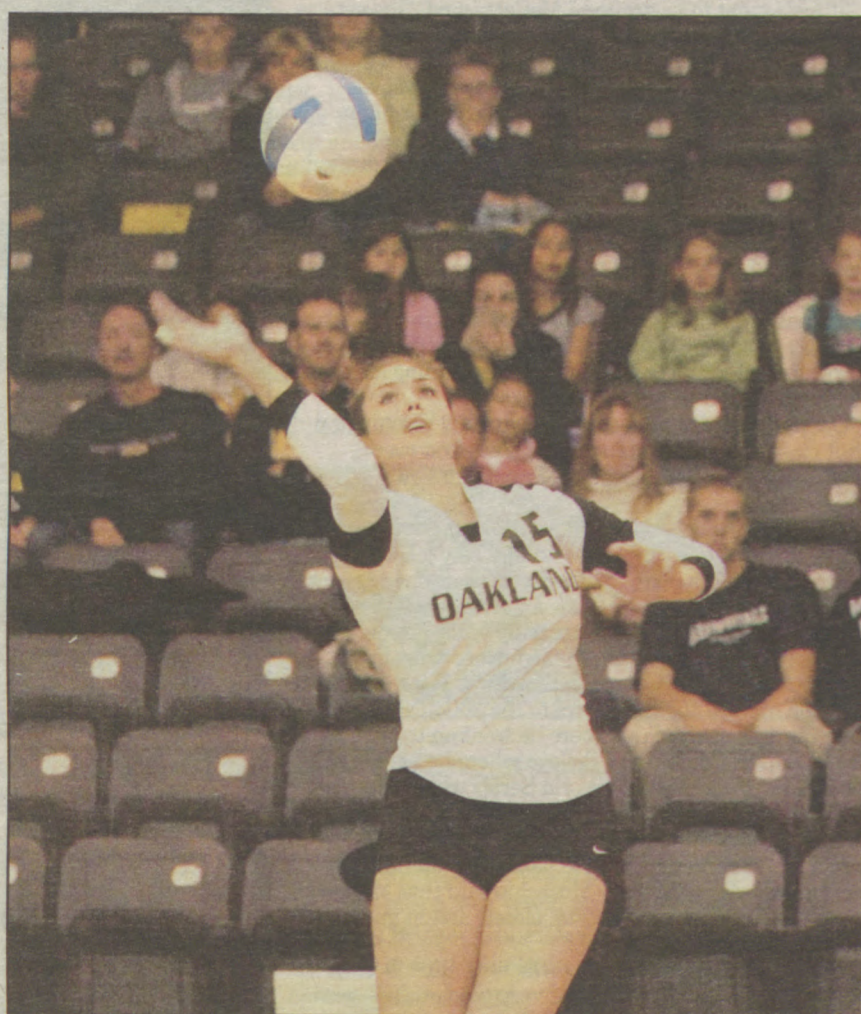
"We had a tremendous progression from the first to third game," said Beam.

Leone said after losing five seniors it was good to see the incoming players come in and perform.

"We actually did really well," said Leone.

Fans will get to see the team in action at the Black and Gold Scrimmage Aug. 22. The scrimmage is a tradition that Beam brought over from his days at Illinois State, where he coached for two seasons before coming to OU in 2007.

"It's our dress rehearsal," said Beam, adding that it's a chance for everyone to "put on a jersey and get their first match nerves out."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post  
Adrienne Leone, a redshirt senior led the team in kills in 2008, averaging 2.53 per set. Head coach Rob Beam said she will be relied upon heavily as one of the most experienced players on the team.

For the summer, strength and conditioning coach Todd Wohlfeil has the team on a six-week workout program that, whether on or off campus, the girls are completing.

"We'll be hitting the ground running in August instead of playing catch-up," said Beam. The team reconvenes Aug. 10 for their first practice.

Oakland finished 8-21 last season with a 5-11 record in the Summit League.

And after adding a strong recruiting class to a group of veteran returnees, Dunn said she thinks qualifying for the Summit League conference tournament is a "very realistic goal."



Head coach Rob Beam



# McCatty chosen in amateur draft

By DAN GLIOT  
Contributing Reporter

Every high school and college baseball player has one dream when they are playing — a chance to play in the major leagues. Since only about 16,000 baseball players have ever made it to the major league level, the chances are slim that a person will make it to the big time. However, one member of the Oakland's 2009 team is one step closer.

Senior pitcher Shane McCatty was drafted in June's MLB amateur draft by the Washington Nationals. He was selected in the 34th round.

"It feels great to be drafted," McCatty said. "I'm getting the opportunity to play professionally and it's what I've worked for throughout my entire life."

McCatty got the call that he was drafted while at lunch with his mom. "I was waiting to get on a flight to Syracuse when the scouting director called me," McCatty said. "He said congratulations on being drafted by the Nats and everything. My mom started to tear up right at the table."

Oakland's head baseball coach John Musachio said he and his staff were thrilled to hear the news.

"We are very excited for Shane and his opportunity to play at the professional level," Musachio said. "Each success our current and former players experience is a brick added to the foundation we are building as a program."

The right-handed pitcher was a part of a Washington draft class that included highly coveted, first overall pick Steven Strausberg from San Diego State University.

"It kind of sucks being in the same draft class because I have to compete with him," said McCatty jokingly. "But seriously, it's really cool being in the same organization as a pitcher of his caliber and it will be interesting to watch the start of a potentially great career."

McCatty attended Lutheran High Northwest in Rochester where he was a two-time First Team all-state selection and led the Crusaders to the 2004 Division IV state championship. From there he went on to pitch at Grand Rapids Community College where he helped the Raiders get to the NJCAA World Series where they lost in the championship game.

McCatty joined the Golden Grizzlies in fall 2007, posting a 2-3 career record. He pitched 28 innings last season, recording one save. Musachio said that McCatty spent time as a starting pitcher, closer, and in middle relief during his years at OU.

"When [McCatty] was on, he was very difficult to hit," Musachio said. "He flashed very good stuff — good slider, good curveball and a good change-up, along with a fastball in the upper 80s."

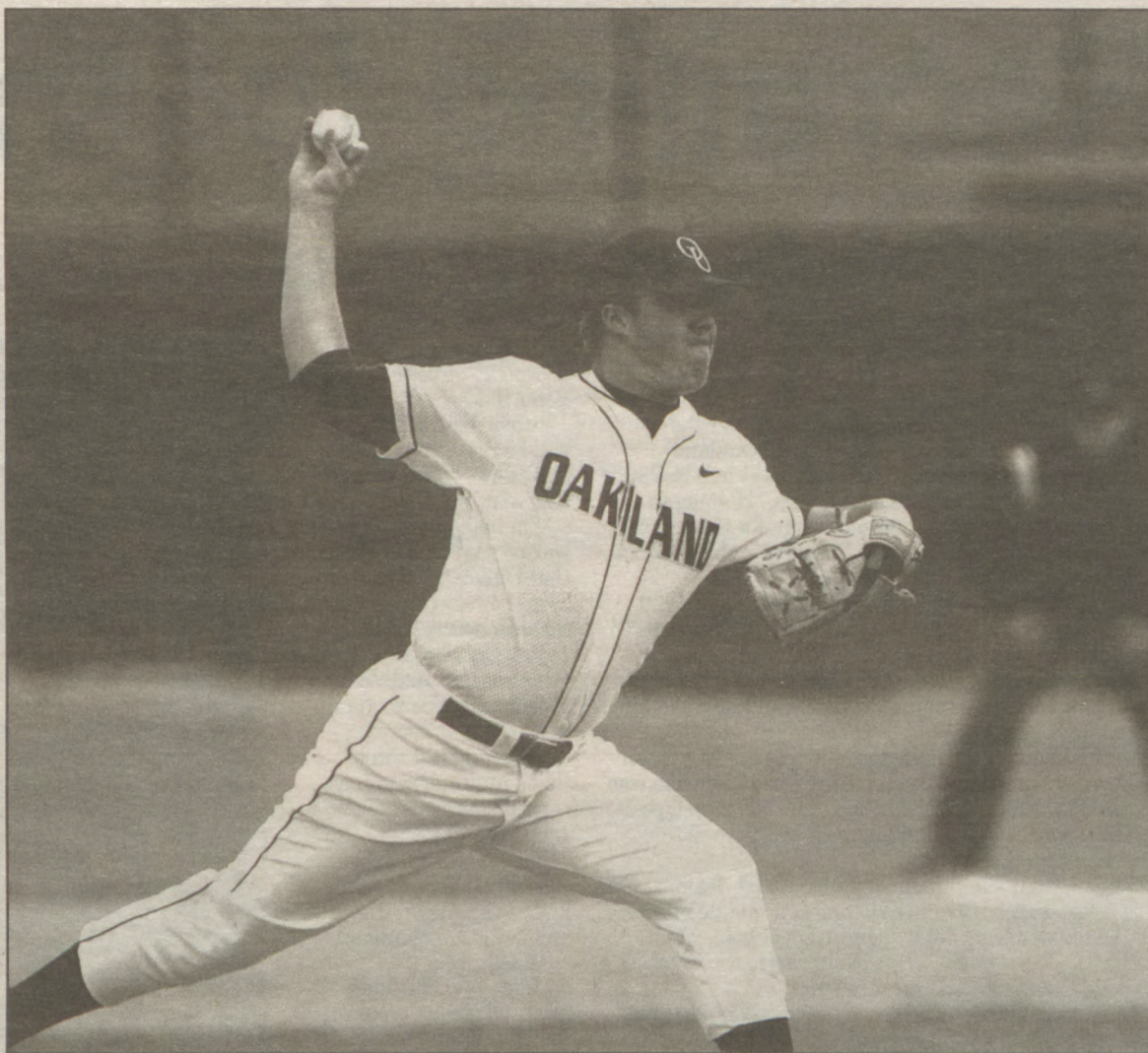
Prior to McCatty, the last OU player to be selected in the draft came in 2007 when infielder Kevin Carkeek was taken by the Houston Astros in the 25th round.

McCatty is the thirteenth Golden Grizzlies player to be drafted since 1978.

Still unsure of exactly where he'll be playing baseball next season, McCatty speculated that he could be sent to play with the Vermont Lake Monsters, a minor league affiliate of the Nationals.

"I can't wait to get wherever they want me to go and start throwing," McCatty said. "I just want to give it my best shot and the Good Lord willing, things will work out."

— Dan Fenner contributed to this report.



Shane McCatty was taken in the 34th round by the Washington Nationals. He is the son of former big league pitcher Steve McCatty, who now serves as the pitching coach for the Nationals. Photo by Jose Juarez

## Golden Grizzlies' players turned pro

- Only one former baseball player from Oakland University has ever reached the major leagues. Don Kirkwood, who played at OU in the early 1970s, pitched professionally from 1974 to 1978.

For his career, he compiled an 18-23 record with a 4.37 ERA in 120 games with three big league teams — the California Angels, Chicago White Sox and Toronto Blue Jays.

- Over a dozen Golden Grizzlies have been selected in the MLB Amateur Draft in the last 30 years, with many more who went on to play professionally in the minor leagues.

Source: [www.ougrizzlies.com](http://www.ougrizzlies.com)

2007 - Kevin Carkeek, 25th round, Houston Astros  
2005 - Paul Phillips, 9th round, Toronto Blue Jays  
2004 - Kyle Boehm, 17th round, Baltimore Orioles  
2004 - Dominic Carmosino, 27th round, Detroit Tigers  
2004 - Brad Morenko, 40th round, Cincinnati Reds  
2003 - Brent Brown, 22nd round, Anaheim Angels  
2002 - David Viane, 20th round, Seattle Mariners  
2002 - Jared Thomas, 11th round, Seattle Mariners  
2001 - Adam Sokoll, 21st round, Atlanta Braves  
2000 - Erick Swanson, 12th round, Seattle Mariners  
1997 - Matt McClellan, 7th round, Toronto Blue Jays  
1987 - Jim Kosnk, 32nd round, Kansas City Royals  
1978 - Jim Dieters, 32nd round, St. Louis Cardinals



# New-look Pistons fail to inspire

By ZACH HALLMAN  
Staff Intern

## COLUMN

Detroit Pistons fans have been hoping to avoid this feeling for eight years. Ever since the Pistons won 50 games under Rick Carlisle in 2001-02, watching the Pistons play has felt a bit too much like a dream.

For eight years the Pistons have been among the NBA's elite. We have been witnesses to perhaps the NBA's unlikely MVP candidate, Ben Wallace, as he won four Defensive Player of the Year Awards. We adored a journeyman, Chauncey Billups, and lifted him up as our leader for seven seasons. We even related to the temperamental Rasheed Wallace, yelling his name in unison and approved as he picked up technical foul after technical foul, as if we knew how he felt and his anger was justified. That era, however, has officially ended.

When Rasheed Wallace signed with the Boston Celtics earlier this month, that feeling Pistons fans had been fortunate to avoid for eight years hit like a ton

of bricks. Mediocrity is setting in.

Growing up watching the Pistons taught me a few things. Grant Hill was going to be better than Michael Jordan until injuries set in. Doug Collins was simply strange, and above all else, the Pistons were mediocre.

These past weeks have served as a harsh reminder of the realities of being a Pistons fan.

John Kuester (rhymes with rooster) was chosen as head coach, replacing Michael Curry. Kuester was a part of the 2004 title team, serving as an assistant coach to Larry Brown. Shades of Brown's coaching style can easily be seen in the new coach. Almost every quote Kuester gives contains at least one mention of defense, an emphasis on trust, and an insistence on "playing the right way."

Last week the Pistons signed Ben Gordon to a five-year deal. Gordon has proven to be an electrifying offensive player capable of taking over a game as he did with some regularity during his tenure with the Chicago Bulls. Signing him, however, can mean one of only two things. The first is that Gordon, a shoot-first guard from UConn, is here

to replace Hamilton, also a shoot-first guard from UConn. The second option is that Hamilton is not leaving this season, which would mean that Kuester would have to find a way to utilize two shooting guards (Gordon and Hamilton) and Rodney Stuckey, who may or may not be suited to play point guard, on the floor at the same time. Sounds oddly familiar to last season's debacle.

The Pistons also brought in Charlie Villanueva, a player who has never been to the playoffs, plays suspect defense, and seems to have an aversion to rebounding. Villanueva was also signed to a five-year deal.

These are the Pistons that you may recall from your younger days.

Questions concerning Kuester's ability to perform as a head coach will undoubtedly surface during low points of the season. This is, after all, Kuester's first head-coaching job and because of last season's disaster, Pistons fans get queasy when they hear the words "first-time head coach." However, it would be unfair to throw the man in the water and cast this season in the tank (as many fans already have) for many reasons.

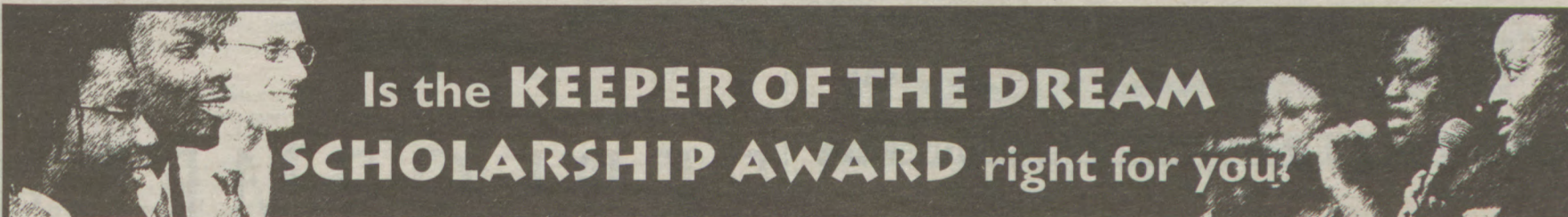
Comparing any coach with any sort of track record to the awkward way in which Michael Curry attempted to coach the Pistons is unfair. And despite this being his first attempt at a head-coaching gig, Kuester has been a good NBA assistant for the last thirteen years. Kuester's most recent gig was honing the offense of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Thinking about the future, we'll wonder how long Kuester will last and if there are any Pistons' guards who can play defense.

We should also recall the highlights of the past eight years.

We remember Tayshaun Prince's magical block on Reggie Miller in the 2003-04 playoffs. We remember wondering if Billups was even capable of showing emotion as he hit shot after shot, each one more significant than the last. We remember that a guaranteed victory did not necessarily make it happen, but to "Guaran'Sheed" it made its occurrence undeniable.

If all of this were actually a dream, then Pistons fans were fortunate to ever be a part of it, because the future doesn't look bright.



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Applications will be available beginning September 2. To learn more, visit [www.oakland.edu/kod](http://www.oakland.edu/kod) or e-mail Bridget Green, Assistant Director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, at [bgreen@oakland.edu](mailto:bgreen@oakland.edu).

All applicants must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA at the time of application. Undergraduates must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits each term for fall 2010 and winter 2011; Graduate students must be enrolled for eight (8) credits during the same terms.





# Soccer season rapidly approaching

By SAIF FINDAKLY  
Contributing Reporter

The offseason is a time for Oakland University's women's soccer team to restock their roster and get ready for the new season.

The team finished the 2008 season with an overall record of 9-9-2. The coaching staff, lead by head coach Nick O'Shea, has been hard at work during the offseason as they look to improve on last season's record.

"Our expectations are similar to what they always are," said O'Shea. "We want to win at least one regular season championship, or league tournament championship which gets us into the NCAA tournament."

"From a developmental standpoint, [the goal] is just to continue to be a more sophisticated team, technically and tactically, so we improve our style of play and our understanding of the game," O'Shea said.

For the past two years, Jessica Boyle was the most dominant player on the team. She led the team with 10 goals and nine assists last season, and was the Summit League's Offensive Player of the Year in 2008. Last year was Boyle's final season as a member of the team before she graduated.

As the senior class departs, the coaching staff has been working to develop new players to replace talent like Boyle. O'Shea said this can sometimes prove to be a challenging task.

"Every year you miss significant players, anybody

that's been with you for four years, they become people you rely on because of their senior leadership," O'Shea said. "Sometimes even players that aren't your big goal-scorers are the ones you miss the most, just for the little things they do on their daily basis."

During the offseason, O'Shea and the rest of the coaching staff go around the region to scout for new players to add to the team and fill in the missing pieces that the team needs in order to succeed.

"We're traveling on the road to find players for the future seasons," O'Shea said. "We've been going a lot into Canada ... and then the state [of Michigan], into Ohio and Indiana. We've been talking to people overseas as well for future recruits. We have people from Norway coming in this year, from Australia the following year, and possibly some players from Scotland."

The team has selected Lindsay Blair to be the newest team captain for the 2009 season.

"One player that you don't notice on a daily basis because she doesn't show up on the stats a lot, is Lindsay Blair," O'Shea said. "She's been a key contribu-

tor from her freshman year. She's just a hardworking midfielder [who does] so many little things, gets some goals and some assists. We can't do without her in the midfield."

With last season's starter having moved on, the team will rely on netminder Shannon Coley this season to provide steady play in goal.

Many members of the team have taken part in a summer soccer league. The league practices twice a week and plays games on Friday nights.

The soccer program also added a new full time athletic trainer to help the players get stronger in the offseason.

"Oakland has hired a fulltime strength and conditioning coach, Todd [Wohlfeil], so we're hoping that pays for some dividends," said O'Shea. "Though he can't work with them unless they voluntarily come in."

As the offseason nears its end, O'Shea said he hopes to go into the fall season with a team that is stronger and better than the 2008 team.

The Grizzlies will kick off their new season Aug. 12, when they travel to Ohio to play Akron in an exhibition event. The home opener is Aug. 21 at the OU soccer field against Grand Valley State.



Photo courtesy of OU Athletics  
Nick O'Shea is in his 15th season as the women's soccer head coach at Oakland University.

## Coming attractions

### GOLDEN GRIZZLIES' GAME SCHEDULE

#### Women's Soccer

8/12 at Akron 3 p.m.  
8/15 at Toledo 2 p.m.  
8/21 vs. Grand Valley State 5 p.m.  
8/26 at Michigan State 5 p.m.  
8/30 vs. St. Bonaventure 1 p.m.

#### Men's Soccer

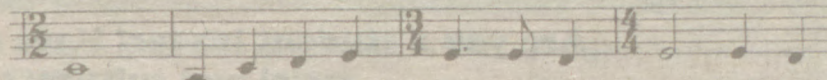
8/19 vs. Xavier 3 p.m.  
8/24 vs. Western Michigan 3 p.m.  
8/28 at Loyola Chicago 6:30 p.m.

#### Volleyball

8/22 Black and Gold Scrimmage 7 p.m.  
8/28 - 8/29 West Virginia University Classic

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## PERFORMER?



## INTERESTED IN EXPOSURE?

Amy Ring, Legislative Affairs Director of Student Congress is searching for any talent to perform in the Welcome Week event, "ROCK4RIGHTS." This event will showcase performances that are rights-related or have a positive theme. If you are interested, you can e-mail Amy at [arring@oakland.edu](mailto:arring@oakland.edu)

Large prizes awarded to the top performers!!

Event Details: Tuesday, September 8th from 7-10 p.m.

Oakland Center Banquet Rooms



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your health )

# Summer Intern Pool:



## STUDENTS GET REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE IN THEIR FIELD

By ANNIE STODOLA  
Staff Reporter

*Editor's note: This article is part of a series that will look at the experiences gained by students as they fill their summers with internships to fulfill their degree requirements and make themselves more desirable to employers.*

Denise Stinson and Eric Antonich, both seniors at Oakland University, are not spending this summer just sitting around. Instead, they're completing internships to help them gain real workplace experience to build their resumes and help with their future careers.

### Working out creatively

Stinson, a wellness and health promotion student, is working at the Judson Center, a nonprofit social service agency that provides assistance in counties across Michigan.

Some of Stinson's responsibilities at the Judson Center include organizing an employee wellness event, advising the director on the existing wellness program, revising company health education, and coming up with education assemblies.

"I've always worked at corporations, so it's interesting to see the different perspectives at a nonprofit organization," Stinson said. "Because it isn't a business that makes money, they can't afford to spend a lot of money on exercise classes or things like that. It's interesting and challenging to find low cost or free options for them."

Stinson said this has ultimately been the most challenging portion of her jobs, as it forces her to be as creative as possible.

"One idea I had was rather than having someone come to the facility for an exercise class, instead we solicited employees for their exercise videos and eventually created an exercise video library," Stinson said.

### Auditing his options

Antonich was hired as an intern at Dynamic Advisory Solutions after he responded to a posting on OU's Career Link website. Antonich is an accounting major with a Japanese minor. After a phone interview, an office interview, and a background check, he was hired as one of three interns for the company this summer.

At DAS, he assists with research, mar-

keting functions, conducting client audits and looking into the feasibility of social networking pages for the firm, including Facebook and Twitter.

Additionally, as the only intern of the three at DAS this summer who has previous auditing experience, he gets to assist with tackling certain auditing assignments.

While Antonich does consider his work rewarding, especially when he is able to complete valuable and challenging work, some parts of the job like having to rework some of his papers can be frustrating.

"Although it may cause my stress level to rocket, I realize character is being developed in me for when I enter the workforce upon my graduation," Antonich said.

### Taking advantage

Both interns are grateful for their experiences and think internships are an important part of the curriculum in their programs. Additionally, Dr. Stafford Rorke, internship coordinator for the wellness and health promotion program, said he believes strongly in the benefits students can gain from an internship.

"Our students develop generic 'real-

world' skills, and as a result, are highly sought after by employers because the graduates can hit the ground running and require less preliminary on-the-job training," said Rorke. "Workplace internships are an invaluable component of the undergraduate experience and, in my opinion, should be required in all undergraduate degree programs."

Antonich stresses the importance of being a well-rounded individual when seeking an internship, including never discounting any work experience as all positions foster skills employers may find valuable. He also suggests getting involved in student organizations on campus to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

"Take advantage of the many networking events held on campus," said Antonich. "You never know who you may meet who may be interested in what you have to offer."

Stinson said she thinks it is most important to stretch yourself when considering internship possibilities.

"The most important thing is to encourage yourself to step out of your comfort zone," Stinson said. "Work with new people, get into situations you've never been exposed to before, and that's where you can really learn."

### Unpaid internships now available to OU students through OU Career Link:

Provisions, LLC — Accounting/Finance, Marketing, Public Relations, Event Planning, Graphic Design, Website Manager; Older Persons Commission — Art and Program Departments; Detroit Denby Tech — Athletic Trainer; Petrous Media — Photojournalists, Sports Writers, Photographers; Campbell-Ewald — Broadcast Production; CBS Radio — Promotions/Event Team; FormTech Industries — Engineering, HR; Farm Sanctuary; Canterbury on the Lake — Group Exercise Instructor; McCann-Erickson — Help Desk; KLAS Management — Hospitality, Legal, HR, Library Science; ; Great Expressions Dental Center — HR; Detroit Zoological Society — HR; Michigan Republican Party intern; Clear Channel Radio; Your Backlot — Internet Marketing; Michigan House of Representatives; Palace Sports & Entertainment; Dynamics Advisory Solutions — Junior Consultant; The Motion Picture Institute of Michigan — Marketing; US Baseball Info — Programmer; AECC Linenes — Wedding Event Industry ... and more



# MOUTHING OFF

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## TV preview should cancel itself

*How a promising night of fun ended up being a total scam and mockery*

By COLLEEN J. MILLER  
Editor in Chief

They didn't use my credit cards to buy plane tickets, they didn't post my face on somebody else's naked body all over the Internet, and they didn't con me into sending thousands of dollars overseas as a wise investment plan.

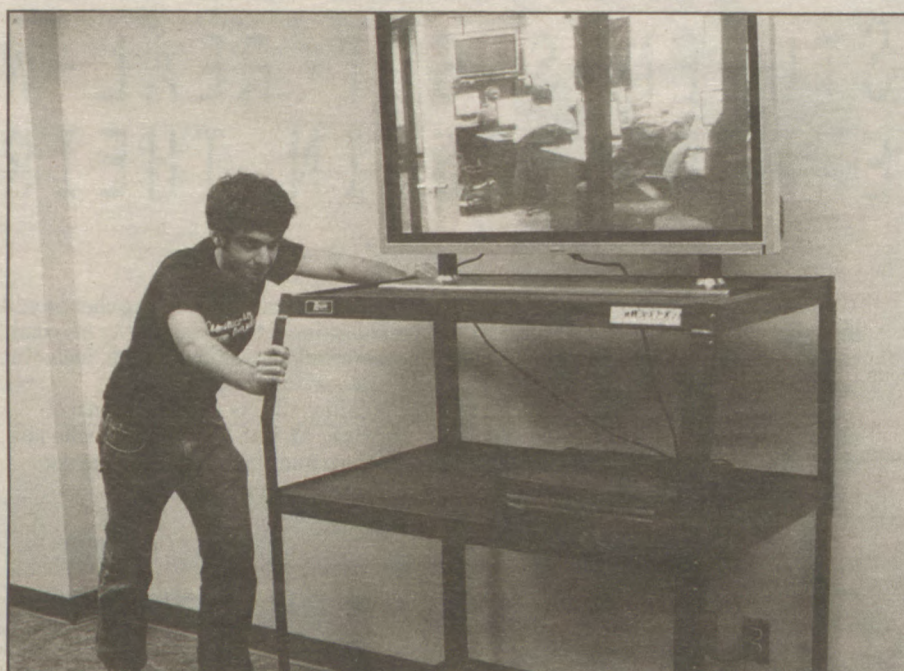
Instead, they lured me and three of my friends into what seemed like a recession-friendly night out just to insult our intelligence. It happened like this: Four tickets came in the mail, it sounded fun enough, we thought it might be entertaining, so we went. The tickets came from Television Preview with a letter explaining the event. Their website gives the same information:

"You do something almost everyone does at one time or another; watch TV. You get a chance to express your opinions about what you see in a way that will actually be listened to by people involved with television. Additionally, if the material you evaluate is later telecast, you can rightly conclude that your opinion was considered before that decision was made.

"We show pre-recorded 1/2 hour segments of television material, including commercials. We collect opinions, reactions, and input from a large body of people from across the country. Once evaluated, we pass the data along to producers, directors, and those involved in making airing decisions."

These two paragraphs, now that I re-read them, are like those optical illusions where most people see one image, but after somebody tells you there's something else there and you give it a good stare, you see a different image. Most people read those paragraphs and assume they will be shown current TV pilots and asked for their opinions.

But clearly, the two programs shown



Television Preview took a page out of the AV club's book when they made the decision to use TVs on carts for the audience's viewing "pleasure."

at the screening event were never making it to prime time. One starred **Rue McClanahan**, probably filmed in between episodes of being Blanche the tramp on "The Golden Girls" and a guest appearance on "Boy Meets World" in its heyday on TGIF. The other show, the host said, starred **Kim Raver** who was "currently starring in 'Lipstick Jungle' as Nico Reilly." Need I remind

anybody that the series she referenced as current has already been canceled?

In a quick Google search, I found a guy who was sent one of the same invitations, he saw "Dads" with Blanche in it. This was in 2004,

but of course I didn't realize Television Preview was such a

well-known scam on the web. We started to figure out what we were in for when we saw the row of 27" TVs on the wheeled devices the AV geeks used

to roll down the halls in high school. In a facility with drop-down screens and projectors, it was pretty obvious that they were compensating for some poor video quality. It would be torturous to watch an old show like "Dinosaurs" that was taped onto VHS on a big screen, so at least we were spared the eyesore.

After circling 20 pages worth of pictorial questions about our favorite toilet paper, toothpaste and diaper rash products and harassing the loner kid next to us, we got to watch the first show, with commercials of course, then filled out another questionnaire. This time the survey was more of a molestation of my private life, asking everything but how many sexual partners I've had. There was one page of lame questions about how steamy the chemistry was between the main characters, in both their past and present lives. Then it went on for several more pages about my favorite household products, many of which were advertised during the show.

The Better Business Bureau states the nature of the company as "providing TV pilots for review and critiquing," which is

extremely misleading because even though

you provide one page of review on the storyline, the other 20 or so pages are based on the advertising. But I still can't figure out how this is a successful marketing campaign, when there are going to be people in the audience like me circling every generic brand and claiming to make more money a year than Oakland University's president Gary Russi (see page 6). And really, not everybody needs to buy the necessities like Nicotene patches and toilet paper.

Among the commercials shown as part of the ruse to get opinions on what were actually failed TV pilots, was one for **Chantix**, a smoking cessation pill. Hopefully this isn't Pfizer's idea of fulfilling its FDA mandated study to investigate about 37 suicides and over 400 reports of suicidal

behavior in connection with the drug, as reported by the Associated Press. It's no laughing matter, but the only time the audience actually laughed in unison was after the reading of Chantix's possible side effects, oddly enough a much longer list than the consequences of smoking two packs of Lucky's and a blunt a day.

I guess we really didn't expect the evening to be anything more than a funny story, and that it was.



**CHANTIX**  
(varenicline) TABLETS





# Etiquette for smoking, even if it kills you

By CURTISS GULASH  
Guest Columnist

Raise your hand, or better yet, your cigarette, if you're a smoker.

Now, to all of the smokers out there, when you raised that cigarette up, did smoke drift into the face of any nearby non-smokers? Burning their eyes and making their noses scrunch up? But not like a cute little bunny — more like a vampire bat ready to lunge for your throat? And did you apologize? It doesn't matter if you were both in the Smoker's Cave outside South Foundation Hall. And it doesn't matter if they happened to be walking past you as you were exhaling, because no matter what the circumstances were, you're to blame. And there's a chance that they didn't appreciate your smoke going into their faces. Maybe the hacking cough is an indication.

## Filthy litterbugs

Another thing the non-smokers don't appreciate is seeing your cigarette butts on the ground. The nasty brown and yellow remnants of your habit dotting the paths they walk on. But maybe you were just leaving a trail of cigarette butts so you'd be able to find your way back to where you came from, like a cancerous Hansel and Gretel.

Recently I was walking to the Oakland Center with a friend, a smoker, and after taking a final drag on her cigarette, she threw it down onto the sidewalk. She slowed up just for a second to snuff the still-smoking butt out with the toe of her shoe, and then quickened her pace to catch up with me. I asked her why she didn't pick up the butt, her butt, to throw it in the ashtray outside the doors of the OC, and her response was simply, "Cigarette butts are gross!" Apparently, not gross enough to keep her from putting them in her mouth and then littering the ground with them, but gross enough to not want to touch them once she's done smoking.

What am I getting at, you ask?

What I'm getting at is this: Smokers, you're a bunch of rude jerks! (And if a vampire bat did decide to chomp down on your throat, you probably deserved it.)

Now, let me make something clear, this is not an anti-smoking rant. This is not a "cigarettes are icky and are responsible for black lungs and for X-amount of deaths and illnesses and secondhand smoke pollutes the air around us and makes our clothes smell, etc." diatribe. You get the picture. You see, I'm a smoker. Mea culpa, I'm guilty. And on behalf of my fellow smokers, the ones who exhaled smoke in your face, the ones who are puffing away as you walk past them on your way to class, who throw cigarette butts on the ground, and whose smoke drifts into your nostrils as you take that first saliva-filled bite into your Jimmy John's: We're sorry.

## Our apologies

We are sorry that as we were walking across campus, we exhaled smoke that drifted into your face as you were walking behind us, sitting on a bench, or riding by on your bike.

We are sorry that we were huddled around the door puffing away, creating a noxious cloud that you had to walk through to get into the building.

"We are sorry that when it was raining, windy, snowing or below zero degrees we lit a cigarette just inside the door of a building, before stepping outside to power-drag it down to the filter, so we could quickly get back inside and out of the nasty weather."

We are sorry that we continually throw cigarette butts on the ground, sometimes within inches of a trash can or ashtray.

We are sorry that while sitting at the table next to you, we chain-smoked while cramming for an exam, and didn't hear you coughing and sneezing as you worked on your trig homework.

We are sorry that when it was raining, windy, snowing or below zero degrees we lit a cigarette just inside the door of a building, before stepping outside to power-drag it down to the filter, so we could quickly get back inside and out of the nasty weather.

## A new promise

We, the undersigned, do solemnly swear to:

- Look around before we exhale. (This includes when we're smoking, as we're running to class, to take an exam that began five minutes ago.)
- Take a few steps back before lighting a cigarette

whenever talking to a potential non-smoker. (Despite the fact that the cigarette and lighter in our hand made it more than apparent that we were going to be smoking. And even though they could just as easily move.)

• Walk the extra three feet to a trash can or ashtray and deposit our cigarette butt there, when we could just as easily throw it on the ground, and we might even pick up some of the cigarette butts scattered on the pavement. (Just because part of our tuition goes toward groundskeeping and trash removal doesn't give us the right

to litter.)

• Urge our fellow smokers to take into consideration the smoke clouds and cigarette butts that linger around them when they're smoking, and try and get them to think before they smoke. (My favorite analogy involves "The Bros" who fog themselves in Axe Body Spray before getting out of their car before class. And how they, like all of us smokers, don't notice the chemical cloud that follows them.)

• All in all, be more courteous and responsible for our habit and for the breathing room of non-smokers because we know that as of July 1, 2009, there are over 305 100 percent smoke-free college campuses in the U.S., including seven in Michigan, and OU could easily become one of them, causing us to have to leave campus to smoke.

Again, we're sorry. (And we might even try to quit.)  
Sincerely,  
The Smokers



ALEXIS CHINONIS-TOMRELL/The Oakland Post  
During a stressful production day at the paper, Editor in Chief Colleen J Miller thought a cigarette might be the cure. Managing Editor Katie Wolf went outside for the fresh air and was left unhappy with her surroundings.



## Baby cut from womb turns one

By DAN NEPHIN  
Associated Press Writers

McKEESPORT, Pa. — Terrell Kian Johnson is turning one on Wednesday. It's also the first anniversary of the day his mother died — when she was kidnapped and bound with duct tape and Terrell sliced from her womb.

Now the woman's father, 47-year-old Eric Johnson, is raising Terrell and trying to plan his first birthday party, complete with cake and maybe a clown, but also a day for profound grief.

Kia Johnson was 18 years old and 36 weeks pregnant when authorities say 40-year-old Andrea Curry-Demus abducted her.

The two met at the Allegheny County jail, where Johnson was visiting her baby's father and Curry-Demus was visiting another inmate. Prosecutors say

Curry-Demus somehow lured the young woman to her suburban Pittsburgh apartment to steal the baby, then tried to pass off Johnson's son as her own, according to authorities.

It wasn't the first time Curry-Demus allegedly tried to take a baby. She's being held in a state mental hospital until a judge decides whether she can become competent to stand trial.

While Johnson waits for justice for his daughter, he tries to focus on his grandson.

"I can't wait till I can take him fishing, do the camping thing. I just wish my daughter was here to share that with us," Johnson said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

"I don't have it no more ... took the whole world out of me," he said, acknowledging that having Terrell around sometimes takes the edge off the pain.

"He's the happiest little baby; he just laughs all the time. There ain't nothing but Jesus flowing through him," Johnson said, fighting back tears.

Johnson recalled his daughter as mature, kind and generous. She volunteered with him at the local Salvation Army feeding the homeless and worked as candy striper at the local hospital.

Curry-Demus was found to have major depression and a mixed personality disorder following two other criminal cases involving acquiring babies.

At his daughter's funeral, Johnson and his ex-wife said they forgave Curry-Demus. Now, he's less certain.

"God says to forgive, but wow," he said. "They say God does everything for a reason. Maybe God needed another angel," he said. "That's how I look at that, because that's the only place she could have went."



RICH PEDRONCELLI/Associated Press  
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger talks with reporters during a break in budget meeting with legislative leaders at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Friday, July 10, 2009.

## Calif. lawmakers: Budget elusive despite progress

By SAMANTHA YOUNG  
Associated Press Writers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's legislative leaders are reporting progress with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on a deal to close the state's \$26.3 billion budget shortfall, expressing hope for agreement by the end of the week.

Lawmakers from both parties said Sunday that they had made headway after a weekend of closed-door meetings at the Capitol, but acknowledged a deal remained elusive. It was unclear when legislative leaders would reconvene for talks.

"We have several more days to go," said state Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles. "I think what's most important is the talks have not broken down."

The possibility of a long sought-after budget deal comes after two weeks of acrimony and partisan infighting that had temporarily derailed budget negotiations.

Thousands of state contractors and suppliers have begun receiving IOUs as the state tries to preserve cash, and state workers have been told to take three days off a month without a pay.

Lawmakers remained at odds over how to close the budget shortfall despite a consensus that severe spending cuts were inevitable.

The \$26 billion deficit represents more than one-quarter of California's general fund spending.

## NIW BRIEFS

— A Southern prison official says correctional leaders from more than two dozen states have signed a petition asking permission to jam cell phone signals inside state penitentiaries and thwart inmates' forbidden phone calls. Under current law, however, the FCC can only allow federal agencies permission to jam cell phone signals.

— Three men were discovered missing Sunday morning July 12, from the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Ind., apparently escaping through underground tunnels and pipes. One of the men has been caught, while the other two are still on the loose.

— A New York art gallery has temporarily removed an Andy Warhol portrait of Michael Jackson from the auction block. The 30-by-26-inch painting shows a smiling Jackson in a red jacket from his "Thriller" days. Pre-sale estimates ranged anywhere from \$1 million to \$10 million. — SOURCE: AP

## Russian president visits Georgia



RIA NOVOSTI, VLADIMIR RODIONOV, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/Associated Press  
Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev, right, listens to Eduard Kokoity, the leader of the breakaway Georgian region of South Ossetia, left, during a visit to the region's capital Tskinkhvali, Monday, July 13. Medvedev visited South Ossetia on Monday in a trip apparently designed to assert Russia's ties to the region and dash Georgia's hopes of regaining sovereignty over it.

## Report: N. Korea's leader has pancreatic cancer

By HYUNG-JIN KIM  
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's authoritarian leader Kim Jong Il is suffering from pancreatic cancer and is not expected to live more than five years, a news report said Monday.

Analysts, however, were skeptical, saying Kim's increasing appearances in public this year suggest that he is unlikely to be suffering from cancer.

South Korea's YTN television reported that the 67-year-old strongman was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer around the time he collapsed due to a purported stroke — reportedly in

August last year.

YTN quoted unidentified intelligence officials in South Korea and China as saying the disease is "threatening" Kim's life. Details were few, however, and the report offered no information on why the sources think Kim has cancer.

North Korea's closed nature and its state-controlled media make it all but impossible to verify reports about Kim's health.

Kim's physical condition has been the focus of intense media speculation due to concerns about a possible political power struggle in the North if he were to die without naming a successor.

North Korea watchers in Seoul, how-

ever, were skeptical of the YTN report.

"I saw the North's state TV repeatedly showing Kim's appearance at the memorial," said Kim Yong-hyun, a professor at Seoul's Dongguk University. "If they weren't confident of his health, they couldn't do it."

Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies, said he also doubts the YTN report about pancreatic cancer because the number of Kim's "field-guidance" trips to workplaces has increased significantly this year.

"Would he be able to carry out such brisk activity while having pancreatic cancer?" Yang said.