

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER

3

— 2014 —

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What happens when you drink coffee and take a nap immediately after? Good things, apparently.

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OU has struggled with transparency regarding the newest student worker regulations. Read more about the changes and what students and staff have to say.

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LOL - League of Laughter, that is. Read about OU's very own version of "Whose Line is it Anyway?"

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PARKING PARADISE

OU's newest structure pushes to placate parking protestation PAGE 8

Photo by Shannon Wilson/The Oakland Post

thisweek

September 3, 2014 // Volume 40. Issue 33



ontheweb

Enjoying the Oak View view? Check out more pictures on our website!
www.oaklandpostonline.com.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

FOR OU THE BELL TOLLS// The clock tower is one of more notable construction projects on campus this semester. The tower was donated to Oakland University by Hugh and Nancy Elliott. In addition to traditional quarter chimes, the bells can be played live on special occasions. Read more on page 12.

Photo by Danielle Cojocari/The Oakland Post

Submit a photo to photos@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

What are you most excited for this fall semester?

- A** Group projects, duh!
- B** I-G-G-Y, baby! "Work" is my anthem.
- C** Making more Golden Grizzly pals and memories.
- D** Being one semester closer to graduation.

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

How do you feel about coming back to school?

- A)** So excited! Can't wait to sit in the front row!

36.8%

- B)** Eh, it's part of life.

36.8%

- C)** I am really going to miss summer.

15.8%

- D)** When does that start again?

10.6%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

September 4, 1994

Oakland University offers 0.1 percent professor salary raise, despite staff seeking an increase of 3.5 percent.

September 12, 2007

The new, revamped mascot of Oakland University is revealed at Welcome Week.

September 11, 1989

New, stricter alcohol consumption policies are enforced by OUPD, sending students into an uproar.

-Compiled by Nicolette Brikho, Copy Editor



7

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

Oak View has officially welcomed new OU students - and some old ones too - into its doors. Read more about this massive new dorm.



14

STAYING ACTIVE AND INVOLVED

There are quite a few club sport options for students looking to stay in shape and get involved on campus - read about a few of them here.



19

ICE, ICE, BABY

The ALS ice bucket challenge has taken over social media by a storm, but is taking the plunge actually doing any good?

BY THE NUMBERS

Elliott Clock Tower edition

151

The new clock tower is measured 151 feet tall

4

OU is the fourth Michigan university to have a carillon tower

49

There are 49 bells and keyboards cast for the bell tower

20,000

The pointed copper top alone weighs 20,000 pounds

1

Time capsule hidden in the tower's walls

Perspectives

STAFF EDITORIAL

What will yOU do?

As P1 parking spaces become as rare as a short Subway line and the bookstore is mobbed by last-minute purchases, the fall semester has descended on Oakland University, bringing with it another crop of eager freshmen crowding campus maps, new buildings to be lost in, and, of course, everyone's favorite: the push for student involvement.

On Tuesday, September 2, cries of "Sweet, free stuff" echoed through the Involvement Fair tent as nearly 2,700 new students assessed OU's 280 student clubs and organizations, signing up for mailing lists and learning about the school's student groups.

While the event served as a prime opportunity to acquire a complimentary t-shirt or the ever-popular free fanny pack, we at *The Oakland Post* would like to encourage all students, new and returning, to take the free Frisbee a step further and take the time to learn more and become involved with student organizations on campus.

On a campus where 84 percent of students commute to school, it is no

secret that university engagement can be difficult. Many students' schedules are filled with work, internships, and outside commitments, oftentimes putting additional trips to school for university involvement on the back burner, if on the stove at all.

However, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), "student success is directly related to student involvement....Students who are involved devote more time and energy to academics, spend more time on campus, while participating actively in student organizations, and having more positive interactions with faculty and staff."

According to the NSSE, not only does involvement in student activity enhance academic performance, but it has also been shown to improve students' social lives and connection to their campus. After all, who doesn't want to spend time with new friends found through the common interest of a club or sport?

Improved campus connection and social life creates a culture of campus pride and loyalty, and,

according to the NSSE, "it is vital for an institution to create a culture, not just a campus."

Newly-appointed President George Hynd agrees: "One thing that I think is really critical in helping students, particularly on a commuter campus, to understand, is this is their new community," he told the Post last week. "Anything that we're doing on campus to create a sense of identity and loyalty is a good thing."

While as a student organization, we may be a bit biased, we at *The Oakland Post* have also been in the shoes of the uninvolved. Try clubs, attend meetings, join a team. The worst that can happen is that you find something you do not like, in which case, maybe you discover something new about yourself, because in the end, isn't that what college is about?

The ball of campus involvement is in your hands, OU, so why not take the shot?

The staff editorial is written by the members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.

Corrections Corner

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

Letters to the Editor

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.



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Coffee naps: when opposites attract

Oakland Post Staff Reporter *Kaleigh Jerzykowski* discusses the benefits of taking a quick nap right after a dose of coffee

Kaleigh Jerzykowski
Staff Reporter

Twenty minutes ago I drank a large iced coffee from Tim Horton's, just the way I like it—lots of ice, and a dash of heavy cream.

Twenty minutes ago, I fell asleep.

Now, I sit here at my computer, realizing that I just did a very strange thing, albeit by accident: I took a "coffee nap," something that I inadvertently stumbled across during a late night maraud of the Internet.

And how do I feel? Pretty great, actually, and even though it's a concept that's stranger than strange, borderline bonkers, and maybe counterproductive sounding, let me (and some scientists) try to convince you that it might not be as crazy as it seems, especially for students.

So how does one take a coffee nap, you might ask? It's super simple.

"Drink a cup of coffee quickly in order to maximize your sleep time, then try for a 20-minute nap or rather slip into a half-asleep state," says Emily Arata of Elitedaily.com, where I first read about coffee naps.

Arata says that the brain doesn't have enough time to fall into a deep sleep in 20 minutes, so fear not - these coffee naps won't disrupt your precious sleep cycle.

According to the American Chemical Society, caffeine molecules fit nicely inside our brain's neurological receptors for a chemical called adenosine. However, in order for us to feel that caffeine buzz, our brains need to be free of adenosine, so caffeine can latch on and take effect.

Coincidentally, adenosine is a product of neurological activity, meaning that when we sleep, our adenosine levels decrease, allowing caffeine to take center stage.

See where this is going? So in theory, we should be able to drink a caffeinated beverage, chill out for just 20 minutes, either deep breathing, meditating, or actually falling asleep, and wake up feeling refreshed, focused, and ready to rock.

So the next time you make a fresh pot of pre-all-nighter coffee, give the next eight hours of painful, forced, zombie-like consciousness a second thought.

Opt for a 20-minute coffee nap after you slug that cuppa, and try it out for yourself.

Contact Kaleigh Jerzykowski at krjerzyk@oakland.edu.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Do you know a student or professor with a story that should be told?

The Oakland Post is in search of extraordinary stories about people that are intriguing, inspiring and informing

Contact us at features@oaklandpostonline.com

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The Links at Crystal Lake (Pontiac) is looking for college students who are interested in a part-time job. Job details include acting as a starter or ranger, cleaning golf carts, and being an overall team player. If interested, please email rparker@tlaci.com

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Text "LYFT" to 248.830.6897 to receive a link for a free ride up to \$25. Lyft is a friendly and affordable ride sharing service. First time users only. Restrictions apply.

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Grizzlies on the Prowl:

"What is your advice for incoming freshmen?"



Kristiana Hila, junior, nursing

"Join as many orgs as you can and get to know your professors - it will benefit you so much."



Lily Albanese, junior, radiologic technology

"Make as many friends as you can, get involved in student activities and pay attention in class."



Amber Hillman, sophomore, nursing

"Don't skip class no matter how early the class is."



Kiara Goddard, sophomore, health science

"Time management is the key to success."



Autmn Sobleski, sophomore, psychology

"Use your free time wisely, and do the work as soon as you get it."



Alwin Nicholas, sophomore, undecided

"There's a time to study and there's a time to party; choose wisely."

— Compiled by Shannon Ashley,
Photographer

POLICE FILES

Underage drinking at Hill House

Officers were dispatched to Hillhouse for a report of underage drinking August 31 at 11:40 p.m.

In the lobby they spoke to the student who denied drinking any alcohol. She offered to take a breathalyzer test. The officers stated that they could smell alcohol on her breath.

She blew 0.021 on the breathalyzer test.

OUPD issued the student a citation for underage drinking.

Suspicious circumstances

OUPD recieved a call that there were golfers on the lawn north of the Oakland Center August 31 at 4:08 p.m.

Officers checked the area but did not see the golfers.

They believe that the caller may have been referring to the OU Dragon Warriors Club who were jousting on the lawn.

Larceny at Recreation and Athletic Center

OUPD recived a call about larceny at the Recreation and Athletic Center August 26 at 1:20 p.m.

The caller said she had parked and locked her bike outside of the RAC approximately one month ago. When she returned August 26, she noticed that her bicycle was missing.

She described her bike as a blue Schwinn mountain bike with a black cable and a combination lock.

The bike remains missing.

— Compiled by Haley Kotwicki
Chief Copy Editor

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One ticket per valid ID card. These will be checked at the CSA Service Window. Students are only allowed to bring up to a max of five (5) valid ID cards to purchase tickets with. Prices increase for public. Questions? Contact SPB@oakland.edu



1. The Honors College has found a new home in Oakview. Before, it was in a small corner in the lower level of Vandenberg Hall.

2. New study areas and lounges boast high glass ceilings which overlook other dorms on Pioneer Drive, the woods and Vandenberg Hall.

3. Oakview includes an updated laundry facility for resident students to use at their leisure.

Photos by Katherine Cagle//
The Oakland Post

LIVING IN THE LAP OF LUXURY

Oakview Hall opens this semester with updated dorms, bigger Honors College

Jasmine French
Staff Reporter

One of the many Oakland University construction projects is impacting student on-campus experiences like never before - Oakland's Oak View Hall and Honors College is now up and running. Official freshman move-in

date was August 29; however, there are students who had already moved in, as the building was completed August 14. At 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20, there will be an official open house held for the facility. Graeme Harper, Dean of The Honors College, said that Oak View features a range of social space. "There are meeting rooms

with kitchens and meeting rooms without," he said. "The skybox has study rooms that are two stories high and you can see over the entire campus." Harper added that the Honors College wasn't really fit for Vandenberg Hall, when it was attached to the end of the hall in 1997. The former Honors College in Vandenberg is now a sitting area for students. OU freshman nursing student and cross country member Zach Chodniki moved into Hamlin Hall Aug. 12, but Oak View became his new home Aug. 21. "I really like that we have a fridge and microwave al-

ready in our dorms," Chodniki said. "It feels as if I have more room. Living in Oak View, I can be more organized." The 164,724 square-foot project cost nearly \$30,000,000. There will be over 500 new beds. Each room will house two students and will also have private bathrooms. The dorms feature a small kitchen area with a sink, counter tops, cabinets and a microwave. It will also include a small refrigerator and freezer. The freshman units include one large bedroom, whereas the sophomore units have two individual bedrooms. Entering the building, there

is a large sitting area with a café where students can buy snacks. The new housing gives OU's student population around a two percent boost. "It's a nice collaboration between Honors College and the dormitory," Harper said. "Oak View is not just a building, but a design concept. It looks out and embraces the whole university." For more information on Oak View, visit www.oakland.edu/housing/residencehalls.
Contact Staff Reporter Jasmine French at oakland.edu.

OU parking reaches the next level

New four-story deck adds 1,240 spots, decreases traffic congestion

Kaleigh Jerzykowski
Staff Reporter

Backpacks and schedules are full, books have been purchased, and yes, the Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Latte is back. Its early September, and classes are officially in session.

Whether students are making a 30-minute commute to campus or a taking a 30-second walk from dorm room to classroom, there's one thing that Grizzlies just can't ignore—OU's immediate shortage of parking spaces.

For both residents and commuters alike, many wishes have been granted in the form of the four-story, 1,240 space parking deck located in P-32, which will open for the upcoming fall semester.

Perks on new parking

More spaces and less stress for students—these are the goals of the parking structure in P-32, here to provide incoming freshman and upperclassmen alike with ample parking to alleviate some of the tension felt for years over OU's lack of parking spots.

Even though parking in favorite lots P-1 and P-2 may seem like the most convenient choice, Student Body President Annie Meinberg and Vice President Liz Iwanski beg to differ.

"Students are going to save time parking in the structure rather than searching for an empty spot in P-1," Iwanski said. "You will probably actually save time by not patrolling P-1 to look for a space [and] you will arrive to class far less stressed and ready to learn."

Location, location, location

Not only does the new parking structure boast four levels and a slew of new spaces, but it's also located on prime real estate—close to many of OU's most popular buildings. These buildings usually hold general education classes, lower level classes and classes for majors in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"[The structure] is very close to Kresge Library, the new Engineering Center, Elliot Hall and the surrounding academic buildings," Iwanski said. "When students park in P-32, this clears up spots for P-1 and P-2."

This is great news for those who do still need to park in P-1 or P-2, as the new structure will hopefully alleviate



Shannon Ashley / The Oakland Post

P-32 is located south on Library Drive, which connects to Pioneer Drive.

some of the strain put onto two of OU's most popular lots. Students can now both save time and end frustration.

Bear bus love

With more spots available and the potential lessening the need for traversing large distances across campus, will students still need assistance across campus from the Bear Bus?

Iwanski said that's a yes—now more than ever.

"The Bear Bus will be essential for students, especially residents," she said, "since this year there will be a 24-hour route from the parking structures to the residence halls."

The Bear Bus will continue to service all students, commuters and those living on campus as a major part of the university's transportation system.

Words of wisdom

Meinberg leaves freshmen, transfer students and returning students with a helpful piece of advice as they trek across OU's campus for the first time today.

"Don't get in the habit of parking in the same spot every time," she urged, "and with so many new and exciting implements to campus this year, there's more reason than ever before to park somewhere new and explore."

LOCATING P-32

WHAT BUILDINGS ARE NEAR P-32?

- Kresge Library
- Elliot Hall
- Varner Hall
- NEW Engineering Center
- Dodge Hall
- Pawley Hall

ANNIE MEINBURG AND LIZ IWANSKI'S PARKING TIPS

- Commuters—leave early!
- DON'T park in the same place every day
- DO explore campus by parking in different areas
- Enjoy a leisurely walk to class
- If you arrive to campus early, visit Café O'Bears or Einstein Bagels in the new Engineering Center



Annie Meinberg, Student Body President, shares some parking tips

FAST FACTS

WHO Oakland University students and staff

WHAT P-32 parking lot

WHEN Fall semester 2014

WHERE South side of campus by Squirrel Road entrance.



PARTY WITH THE POST!

The Oakland Post is hosting a party on Monday, September 8 from 1 to 3p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. There will be food, drinks, and other free things - plus, you can enter a drawing for four tickets to the Iggy Azalea and MAGIC! concert at Meadow Brook Music Festival on September 12.

op

Music will be courtesy of:

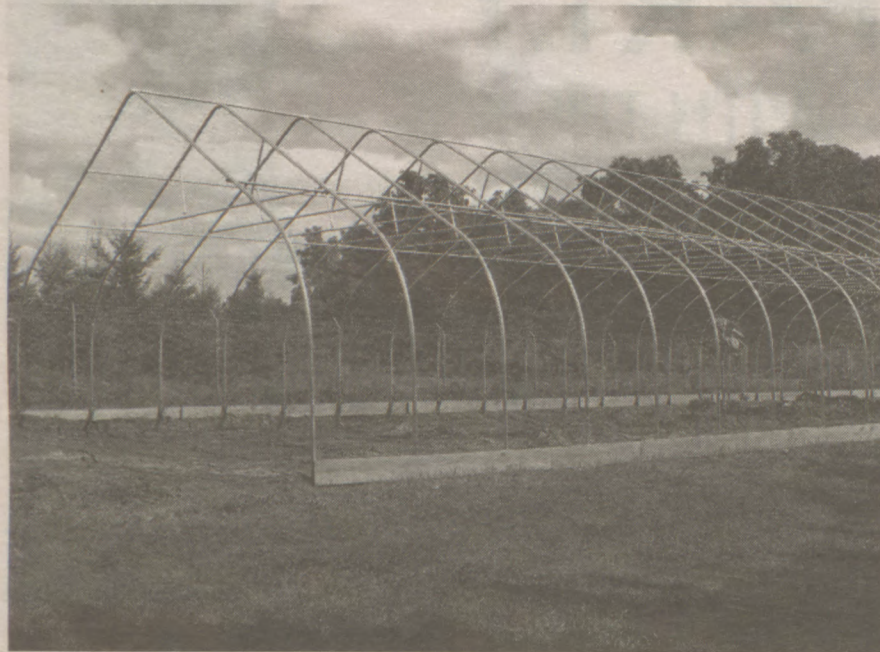
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Campus

The vegetables aren't the only things growing



Selah Fischer/The Oakland Post

The steel hoop house is supposedly able to help extend the growing season by four months.

Student Organic Farm program receives new steel hoop house, extends growing season to 10 months

Selah Fischer
Staff Reporter

The Student Organic Farm program is finally getting the hoop house it has wanted since it has started.

Although this large new addition to the farm is not finished yet, plans for unveiling the final product are set for next month. The event will be a potluck and will take place on Friday, Sept. 26.

"Having a hoop house is really essential to having a fiscally sustainable farm because it allows for season extension," said Dr. Fay Hansen, a professor at Oakland University. "Also, since we are an educational farm as well as a production farm, we wanted to give our students a four season experience in organic farming."

This steel hoop house is said to expand the growing season by four months. This means, instead of having only six months to grow its fresh crops, the club will now have the opportunity to grow 10 months out of the year.

"We will not be able to grow in December and January, but come February we will plant the seeds for the following months," said Drake Mullett, e-board member of the Student Organic Farm program.

Although planting isn't possible in December and January, crops are still in

production through these harsh winter months. This way, when February rolls around they will begin growing again. The house's passive solar heating helps the frozen crops revive.

The hoop house has taken around two months to build. It could have been completed in August, but by slowing down the process it allowed more students to be involved. Two OU classes and over 20 volunteers have had hands-on experience in the building process during phase I, which consisted of erecting the steel support system of the house.

As for phase II, beginning in the second week of the semester, at least four different OU classes have signed up to participate.

During phase II of the building process, students and volunteers will be installing the non-metal parts, including the end walls, doors and vents. They will then cover the entire thing with two huge pieces of plastic.

"Putting the final plastic sheets on is very festive because it involves a lot of people lined up on each side," Hansen said.

The club hopes to have some of the hoop house crops available at the October farm stand and for their special Thanksgiving sale.

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A matter of transparency: the Affordable Care Act and the student employees of OU

The maximum hours student employees can work at OU have gone up and down, leaving students and staff confused as to why exactly those numbers are changing

By Ali DeRees

Campus & Administration
Editor

Oakland University students are back on campus and ready to start their school years filled with classes, clubs, and work. But 12 days ago, an email from financial aid put many student employees and employers into a state of temporary panic.

On August 22, student employee supervisors were abruptly notified by email that student employees would only be allowed to work a maximum of 20 hours instead of 25, leaving many employees and supervisors puzzle and frustrated.

The *Oakland Post* published an editorial five days later (in its August 27 issue) asking for transparency from the university when it comes to such important decisions regarding student employees.

The next day, August 28, the decision was reversed.

Students voice concerns

Many student employees enjoy the convenience of working for the university, but when working hours were suddenly reduced, this presented many different financial and scheduling problems for students. Such was the case for junior James Buzzo.

Buzzo works for the Resident Housing Association and as a Program Assistant of Fitness at the Campus Recreation Center. Working for two different employers on campus, Buzzo has had to manage his time and schedules very carefully.

Like many others, Buzzo was not pleased after hearing of the initial reduction of hours.

"I thought it was very abrupt," said Buzzo. "It didn't seem planned out or have a student perspective."

Adjusting to regulations

All of these changes were made to stay in accordance to the Affordable Care Act, according to Associate Vice President of Human Resources Ron Watson and Director of Financial Aid Cindy Hermesen.

"We just want to make sure we are doing it correctly," said Watson.

Both Watson and Hermesen said they had taken part in meetings with outside consultants and general council to get a better understanding of what changes will be made to employment at the university.

"What this really means is that we have to track hours across campus," said Watson. "We have to be able to track it because the government considers full time employees anyone on average who works over 30 hours a week."

Benefits are not currently offered to students, casuals, temporaries, adjuncts, and graduate assistants, according to Watson.

With these new employment requirements put in place by the Affordable Care Act, the university is now obligated to do several things, Watson said.

Watson described the threshold of employment at Oakland University, stating that 95 percent of employees are considered full-time; 5 percent are not.

If someone within that 5 percent works over 30 hours per week and does not receive benefits, they are eligible to purchase health insurance through the government exchange. If the individual qualifies for an exchange but can't afford it, the university could be taxed up to \$2,000 per individual, Watson said.

If more than 5 percent of the employees are eligible for full benefits and are going to the exchange or marketplace to purchase health insurance, the university could be taxed for

every employee on campus, which could add up to be a few million dollars, according to Watson.

Exemptions for some

Measures are being taken by the government and other groups to exclude students from these government regulations.

In May, the government excluded federally funded work-study students excluded from tracking, according to Watson.

"We have about 150 of those students, so those students are completely excluded from the Affordable Health Care provisions," said Hermesen.

But regular student employees are not excluded by these regulations, according to Watson. However, he pointed out that a bill titled "Student Worker Exemption Act of 2014," has been submitted to Congress to exempt student workers from the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Demand for change

Senior Vice President of the American Council on Education (ACE) Terry W. Hartle expressed his concern in a letter to Congressman Mark Meadows, a Republican from North Carolina in support of the bill, he states the biggest concern he and others have if students were not exempt from this legislation.

"As a result the mandate could force institutions to choose between ensuring that some needy students have sufficient work opportunities to pay for school versus limiting student work hours to avoid additional health insurance costs," Hartle wrote.

ACE Public Affairs Associate Kelli Meyer wrote in an email that ACE was included in a group of seven higher education associations involved in the letter. They include: the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Asso-

ciation of State Colleges and Universities, the Association of American Universities, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Watson said it would be difficult, seeing that many students have more than one job on campus and that averages will have to be calculated.

"It's been a challenge in getting us to make sure we have all the reporting capabilities," said Watson. However, he said that financial aid will be working to communicate the changes effectively to students. "Hindsight is twenty-twenty. Next time we will try to be better on the communication."

Students with questions regarding their financial aid or employment hours can visit <http://www.oakland.edu/financialservices> for more information.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

AUGUST 22, 2014:

The initial email was sent Nancy Fetzer, the associate director of Financial Aid, to OU student employee supervisors stating that student employees can work a maximum of 20 hours instead of 25.

AUGUST 28, 2014:

A second email was sent by Fetzer to student employee supervisors stating that student workers may once again work up to 25 hours.

AUGUST 29, 2014:

The *Oakland Post* sits down with Ron Watson, associate vice president of Human Resources, and Cindy Hermesen, director of Financial Aid, to gain clarification on the changes of student workers' pay.

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CENTER OF ATTENTION:

THE ELLIOTT TOWER STANDS TALL ON CAMPUS

Story by: Jasmine E. French
Photo by: Shannon Wilson
Design by: Kelly Lara

Every fifteen minutes, Oakland University's newest icon resonates across campus. Faculty, students and alumni will gather at Elliott Tower Friday, September 19th, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. for its grand opening. Nancy and R. Hugh Elliott, honorary School of Business Administration alumni, will be in attendance to share a few words.

Located just north of Kresge Library, the tower will be the fourteenth carillon tower in Michigan. The project was designated in 2012 and OU broke ground Friday, April 19, 2013. Nancy Elliott implemented the offer of the gift to OU.

"The idea came about as I was following my son, who played golf for Oakland University. We were at Grand Valley listening to their clock tower chime away, and I said Oakland University has to have one." Elliott added that the tower is in fact the center of campus.

\$6.7 million was funded toward the Elliott Tower project and it is one of the tallest towers in the U.S. measuring 151 feet tall. According to John Harmala, project manager, about 20 construction workers were assigned to construct the tower.

"Compared to the Human Health Building, this project had a lack of space. Elliott Tower is a lot more challenging because of where it is located on campus and a lot of precautions had to be taken."

The weather also contributed to the complexity of the project. "The whole job would be shut down due to bad weather, including the heavy snow days last winter and amount of rainfall we've had this spring," he said. Despite the stormy skies, Harmala added that the project is "still following program because scheduling was adjusted with the contractors to work Saturdays."

The complementary water piece at the base of the fountain is designed by WET, a company located in California known for designing the Bellagio fountains in Las Vegas. According to Harmala, the fountain and tower are estimated to be finished by the end of the first week of the fall semester.

While the tower and fountain will be completely finished for the dedication event, Harmala added that the landscaping around the tower will be completed toward the end of October.

ed toward the end of October.

Designed by Niagara Murano LLC, the Elliott tower is small inside, with around 78 stairs, with one way up and one way down. There will be 49 bells, weighing a total 30,000 pounds. The largest bell, engraved with "The true net worth of a person is what he does for others," weighs 5,000 pounds.

Purchased through the Verdin Company in the Netherlands by Royal Bell foundry Petit & Fritsen, on May 9, 2014, the bells arrived on campus and the final pieces were lifted into chamber on May 14, 2014. There is a carillon instrument inside the tower, in which any musical arrangement can be played hands-on. Twenty five of the tower's bells have the capability to play routinely.

R. Hugh Elliott is the president and CEO for Elliott Group International founded in 1974 and Nancy Elliott a retired teacher for the Utica Public School System. Nancy said the university has played a significant part of their family's history: Nancy's mother used to play with Frances Dodge, daughter of OU's founder, Matilda Dodge, at Meadow Brook Hall, and also spent weekends at the mansion. Hugh and Nancy's son, Chad, played golf for the Golden Grizzlies from 2004 to 2007.

Nancy said that the Elliots have been supportive of OU since the early 1990s, when Mr. Elliott was first introduced to Grizzly athletics. The Nancy and Hugh Elliott Endowed Scholarship was established in 2000 presented to OU student athletes. Oakland University named the Hugh and Nancy Elliott Room in the Athletics Center O'rena in their honor.

A gift of \$2 million was given from the family to the School of Business Administration and because of their support, Oakland University opened Nancy and Hugh Elliott Hall on Friday, September 22, 2000. "The tower signifies my family made an impact," Nancy said. "It'll also be a beautiful gathering place for students to enjoy by the fountain."

Find more at oakland.edu/elliott-tower.

The construction of the Elliott Tower has been a point of interest for many students, including those who started this parody Twitter account, @OUClocktower, in July. Here are screenshots of just a few of this account's teasing tweets:

OU Clocktower @OUClocktower · Aug 3

Sweet Carillon! (Bah bah bahhh) Good times never seemed so good (so good, so good, so dingin' good) ...wait..it's Caroline? Ohhh...#ThisIsOU

Behold! My crown! I am king of the Clocktowers! #longliyetheking #GameOfClocktowers



Welcome to the club

Oakland University offers several club sport choices for students

Scott Davis
Staff Reporter

A number of OU club sports are gearing up for another season of play this upcoming fall. Whether it be the relatively new football team, the men's Division I ice hockey team, or even the ballroom dance club, there are plenty of options for students to either participate in or watch.

The purpose of these club sports at OU is to provide members of the campus community the opportunity to participate in sports and activities that promote socialization, physical activity and lifetime fitness and wellness practices.

There are numerous ways to joining club sports, and most of the information can be found through Grizzzorgs. Ted Tansley, program assistant for club sports and president of the Rugby club, says the best way for students to see if they want to join a club is to go to a practice or meeting.

"Any student on the edge of joining a club sport or any student organization should go to a practice or meeting," Tansley said. "Do not just watch the club from the outside and make your judgments if it is right for you."

Along with playing in different club sports, students also have an opportunity to be an officer within a club sport. This gives students the opportunity to develop leadership, organizational and administrative skills. The four areas require for every club include president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Club sports are open to all current Oakland University undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in at least one credit. Non-students, employees or alumni are also able to join various club sports but must be 18 years of age, and for clubs that utilize the Recrea-



Scott Davis / The Oakland Post

There are several ways for students to get involved with club sports, including playing and being an officer.

tion Center, they must purchase a semester membership.

The number of club sports has continued to grow over the last several years, as four brand new clubs have opened in the last two years alone. A club that has garnered a lot of attention is the football club. Entering its second year, Tansley thinks that the new club draws people attention to club sports in general.

"It really brings an eye to club sports as a whole and I feel people know more about the department as a result. It's exciting to see a sport come to campus that has been denied to us for over 50 years," he said.

Many of the club sports, including football, will have access to the new outdoor complex opening in October, which will be a great draw for students and athletes alike.

For more information on any of the club sports at OU, students can go to oakland.edu/campusrec/clubs or their respective Grizzzorgs website.

Contact Staff Reporter Scott Davis at sddavis@oakland.edu.

Upcoming club sports events

Football club: Away at Concordia (Concordia University, Ann Arbor), Sept. 7, 3 p.m.

Football club: Black & Gold Scrimmages (Auburn Hills Civic Center Park, Auburn Hills), Sept. 13
Scrimmage is open to the public

Homecoming Game, Home against Milwaukee Panthers (Auburn Hills)

THE SPORTING BLITZ

Cross Country

Oakland's Andrew Bowman won the men's 6K title with a 18:40.0 time at the 14th annual Golden Grizzly Open. In the women's 4K, OU's Ashley Burr finished second with a time of 14:40.2. Eight women's Golden Grizzly runners placed in the top 11 to claim the women's team title. OU cross country next event is Sept. 6 at the UDM Invite at the University of Detroit.

Women's golf

Oakland women's golf opens the season Sept. 7-8 against Illinois State at the Redbird Invitational in Normal, Ill.

Men's soccer

The OU men's soccer team dropped their season opener to No. 15 Penn State 1-0 at Jeffery Field. Oakland goalkeeper Elliot Tarney made eight saves and forward Gerald Ben had two shots on goal. The Nittany Lions outshot the Golden Grizzlies 20-9.

Volleyball

OU volleyball left the season-opening Western Michigan Tournament with a 2-2 record. The Golden Grizzlies defeated Louisiana Tech 3-0 then fell to Western Michigan 3-2 the first day of tournament.

The next day, Oakland lost to Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne 3-1 before rebounding with a 3-1 over Saint Francis University. OU middle hitter Amanda Baker earned all-tournament team honors and finished with 11 kills and a .435 attack percentage in the victory. Golden Grizzly setter Ciara Schultz posted a double-double with 37 points and 13 digs. Outside hitter Taylor Humm had a game-high 18 digs.

-Compiled by Jake Alsko

Sports

"See the bear, be the bear"

New athletic director Jeff Konya aims to create new attitude for OU athletics

Jackson Gilbert
Sports Editor

On Friday, August 29, the Oakland University athletic director, Jeff Konya, announced a new branding and marketing campaign for the university's athletic program. The emphasis of the campaign is to enhance name recognition for the school and includes the new slogan, "See the Bear, Be the Bear, Wear the Bear."

Konya told Jake Alsko of the Oakland Post in a recent interview that OU's name presents an identity challenge.

"If you told someone on the West Coast about Oakland University, they wouldn't necessarily place that school in Michigan," Konya said.

Part of the goal of the new campaign is to make sure people know that Oakland is in Michigan.

According to the press release issued by Assistant Athletic Director, Scott McDonald, OU is creating a coordinated campaign in which everyone is on the same page to push the Oakland brand.

"We have a strong logo and we want to take ownership over that inherent strength," Konya was quoted as saying in the release. "From there we want to hit on multilevel platforms, social media, print, traditional advertising, television and radio broadcasts. Everybody has to have the same talking points. This has to be coordinated."

The release also noted that students would notice the large-scale facility upgrades going on around campus including the new outdoor athletic complex and the lower fields athletic dome.

On top of that, last week the university launched a poll on its Facebook page encouraging students and staff to vote on new basketball court designs. The options for the new court include a classic court design, a contemporary design, and a new school blacktop design. According to the athletic department website, the voting will close January 1 of next year and the design will be implemented for the 2015-16 season.

The OU athletics website will be moved to goldengrizzlies.com in order to push continuity in brand awareness, according to the press release.

"We are Oakland and the Golden Grizzlies, not Oakland Grizzlies," Konya said.

The OU community is meeting the changes being implemented in the athletic department with open arms. Luke Fleer, the regional director of development at Oakland University, is very happy with new campaign.

"The new campaign is great because it works on collaboration and getting everyone to wear the same thing and say the same thing," Fleer said.

Fleer also noted the emphasis that the new athletic director has placed on communication and openness.

"The community input, voting online for the new basketball court, Konya is bringing a lot of excitement to the university."

Stefen Welch, a former student at OU and currently the assistant director of corporate philanthropy at Wayne State, says he's very excited for the possibilities that Konya brings.

"This is an awesome opportunity for Oakland University, Konya's new court is going to add attendance and increase the campus appeal."

Both of them suggested that the new floor of the O'rena feature Greg Kampe's name.

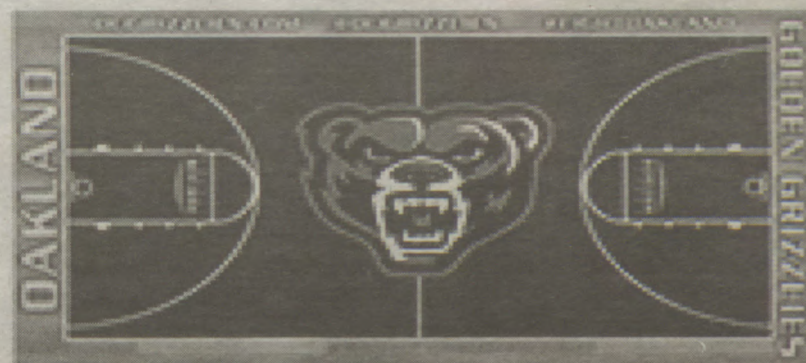
"He deserves it" Fleer said.

Contact Sports Editor Jackson Gilbert at jgilber@oakland.edu.



Katherine Cagle/The Oakland Post

OU athletics is also changing its brand, and hopes to implement a new attitude.



Courtesy of OUGrizzlies.com

Go to OUGrizzlies.com to vote for your favorite choice for the new O'rena court look.



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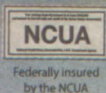
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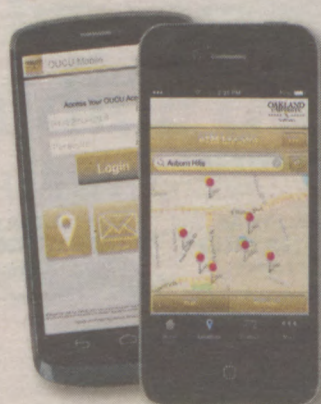


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The Oakland Post

Katrina Stencel, defender, prepares to kick the ball back onto the field November 2013.

Men's soccer flounders, women's scores stay steady

Grizzlies carry home a mixed bag of wins, losses

Joseph Bach
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University men's soccer team spent last week on an East Coast road trip against two powerhouse programs.

In a nail-biting match in Happy Valley Aug. 29 against Penn State, Oakland dropped the game 1-0 at the foot of Penn State forward Connor Maloney in the 51st minute from 13 meters out. The Grizzly goalkeeper, Elliot Tarney, made eight saves in the match, but received no help from the offense as they only posted three shots on goal in the defeat.

Two days later, Oakland lost 4-1 two West Virginia in Morgantown. Oakland got off to a hot start when Gavin Hoy found the back of the net in the 14th minute. After a 25th minute goal by West Virginia's Jad Arslan the teams entered half-time knotted up in a 1-1 tie.

Early in the second half, West Virginia pulled away with a flurry of goals in the 50th, 53rd and 54th minutes by Andy Bevin, Jamie Merriam and Arslan, respectively. The Golden Grizzlies man-

age just six shots on net in the second half but no goals to pull closer.

Oakland's next matchup is Sept. 5 against Marshall on our very own pitch at 7 p.m.

Womens soccer

The women's soccer team was just as busy this week, hosting Saginaw Valley State on Aug. 28 and Illinois on the 31st.

In an explosive showing of offensive capabilities, the lady Golden Grizzlies blew out Saginaw Valley 4-0. After a slow start, Kendra Prince put Oakland on the board with a goal from five meters out in the 32nd minute.

Out of the half, Jenna Taylor seized a 2-0 lead with her goal in the 49th minute. After a brief goal drought, Kyla Kellermann scored in the 62nd minute and Vlad Gurovski in the 73rd.

The women dropped a devastatingly close game to Illinois that saw the end of regulation as a tie. Illinois' Amy Feher scored in the 97th minute of the game to clench the victory. It was a solid performance by Oakland goal keeper Alison Holland as she made 10 saves but the goalie can only do so much.

You can see the women's soccer team play Sept. 2 at home against Michigan State at 7 p.m.

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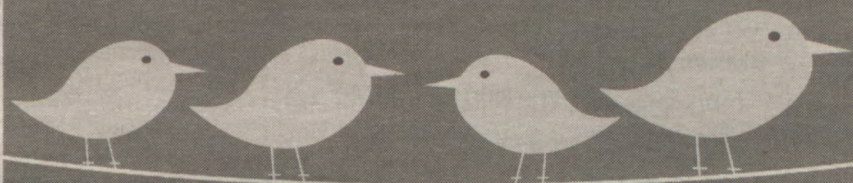


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Selah Fischer / The Oakland Post

Organizations such as PATH were created to assist the homeless.

Organizations ask for help in aiding the homeless

PATH encourages student awareness for homeless

Selah Fischer
Staff Reporter

Homeless men and women can be found in all areas, including those near Oakland University, and knowing how to help and react when crossing their paths can be beneficial.

With the possibility of people living on the streets in the area, and OU having such a large population, it's not uncommon for a student to come across a homeless person.

"We have come across several individuals who were homeless in Rochester," Mellena Martinez, community programs manager at Community Housing Network and Projects Assistance for Transition from Homelessness (PATH) team member, said.

Organizations such as the PATH program were created to assist the homeless. Today, there are over 480 local organizations that receive PATH funds.

The local PATH team is located in Oakland County and works with Community Housing Network (CHN). They spend every

Monday through Friday venturing out into the community in search of people who don't have a home. The team members are equipped with water, bus tickets, blankets, socks and hygiene products.

"We go out in the community early," said Martinez. "Individuals usually leave their street homes in the morning to panhandle, find work or get to drop-in centers, so the earlier the better."

Those who are not part of these programs can help as well. Members of these teams provide helpful tips for those who are not trained to deal with people who are homeless.

Assistive team members are trained to deal with individuals experiencing homelessness. However, if a student comes across one of these people, they are not recommended to approach them if they are sleeping under a bridge, in a park or behind a building. This is the person's "street home," and for safety reasons one should not approach them.

Coming in contact with these individuals can be an uncomfortable situation if one is not sure how to react.

"I once came across a person who was homeless in the area," Chantel Lohmann, a student at

Oakland University, said. "They approached me asking for money and I wasn't sure if I should give in or keep walking."

Martinez explains that some panhandlers on the streets may not even be homeless. Sometimes they are just in need of money. However, this is not always the case.

"Giving individuals who are experiencing homelessness that are panhandling a few dollars is only a Band-Aid," Martinez said.

Getting these people further help has a better chance of getting them off the streets completely. If and when someone comes across a person who is homeless, it is beneficial to call CHN.

By giving these individuals access to resources and service agencies, it can help them significantly. PATH team members also encourage students to donate items such as socks, blankets, water and easy-to-eat foods, such as peanut butter and chewy granola bars.

For more information about PATH, visit its website at path-program.samhsa.gov. For more on the Community Housing Network, go to www.communityhousingnetwork.org.

Contact Staff Reporter Selah Fischer at scfische@oakland.edu.

League of Laughter promises lots of "lol's"

Small beginnings of OUTV's comic improv show expands rapidly

Scott Davis
Staff Reporter

There will be plenty of laughter coming from the Varner building this fall as the "League of Laughter" returns for its second year.

OUTV's relatively new improv show, "League of Laughter" (L.O.L.), is gearing up for its second season.

The show is in the same vein as "Whose Line is it Anyway?", where four contestants participate in small improvisation games in front of an audience.

The audience also participates by giving the host certain suggestions for the actors to perform.

Different games include Party Quirks, World's Worst, and Hollywood Director. All of the games showcase the actors' ability to be funny while also being able to think on their feet.

A co-producer and one of the actors of the show, Edd Bunch, says that chemistry is also a key component to putting on a good show.

"Everyone was always really open to everyone else's ideas, so there wasn't any stomping of creativity which is important when you're doing improv comedy," says Bunch.

The show started out small,

but gained popularity as time has gone on. Due to the rapid expansion they experienced last year, there might even be a venue change sometime this fall if the audience continues to grow. Bunch is excited about this growth as he believes it leads to a better show for everyone.

"One day, it just kind of exploded," explains Bunch. "From then on we would have these huge crowds, which is really nice because it lets the actors feed on the laughter and excitement of the audience and it pushes them up to that next level creativity-wise."

Not only do students have the opportunity to be a part of the audience, but there will also be tryouts for anyone who is interested. Tryouts will be held on Sept. 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Oakland Center.

Anyone who is interested in working behind the scenes with the crew or the booth is encouraged to join the Student Video Productions.

The staff has yet to decide when the show will start this year, but the episodes will probably start filming within the month.

Dates will be posted on the League of Laughter group on Facebook.

Students can also find past episodes of "League of Laughter" on the Student Video Productions Oakland University YouTube page.



Danielle G. Gosselin / The Oakland Post

Tryouts for OU's version of "Whose Line is it Anyway?" will be held Sept. 8 in the Oakland Center.

GSC receives a special note

President Obama surprises Oakland University's Gender and Sexuality Center with an authentic letter

Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

It's pretty neat. It's been a very surreal day." That's what Grace Wojcik, coordinator of the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) at Oakland University, said of opening her mail to find a letter from President Barack Obama commending her organization.

It happened on Friday, August 29, a day that started like any other. Wojcik was working in her office behind the GSC lounge and went up to the front in search of a random office supply. One of the student workers was going through the mail and said, "Oh, Grace, a package came for you."

Wojcik took a look, noticed the White House listed as the return ad-

dress, and thought, "Okay, that's pretty weird."

"I open it and it's got this letter to explain the message," Wojcik said. "And it's got the actual message and then it has an 8 by 10 of the president... it looks like he actually signed it - it bleeds through. So that's pretty cool!"

This is her fourth school year working at the GSC, and Wojcik said this is the first time she thinks the organization has received anything like this in its 9 years of existence.

The letter, dated August 20, opens with a greeting to observers of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Awareness Day on Sept. 15.

"For decades, LGBT community centers have been at the forefront of expanding opportunity and increasing

support for LGBT Americans," the letter says. "By providing a broad range of important resources - from cultural and educational programs to social and health services - these centers improve lives and remind us of the ability we have to realize the future we seek. Centers like yours help us become not only more accepting, but more equal as well."

Center Awareness Day, according to Wojcik, is hosted by CenterLink, a national organization that provides resources for LGBT community centers. The GSC will participate with an open house and giveaways, tours and more. It's the GSC's first year taking part, "and that's why we're getting the letter, I believe."

The GSC will also be hosting a welcome reception with more giveaways

and free food on Sept. 18, which it is co-hosting with the Gay-Straight Alliance and the LGBT Employee Resource Group.

"I think that it's an incredibly engaging organization. You meet a lot of very nice people here," said Billy McLain, a sophomore who enjoys spending time in the GSC lounge. He said they will be showing *The Birdcage* in honor of Robin Williams, a major advocate for LGBT rights, on September 24 at 6 p.m.

"Anybody's welcome to join the center and just come and hang out," said Wojcik. "We are the LGBT resource center as well as the women's resource center... if you're just wanting to learn or hang out and meet people, this is the place to do it."

To read the letter or learn more about the GSC visit oakland.edu/gsc.

ALS ice bucket challenge takes the social media world by storm

Jessie DiBattista
Staff Reporter

The four words, "I was nominated by..." have taken the social media world by storm. Thousands of people have taken the time to pour buckets of ice-cold water on their heads and post the proof online, all to raise awareness for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

But it doesn't stop there; millions of dollars have been donated to the ALS Association, an organization dedicated solely to ALS research.

What exactly is the disease that inspires the money, the ice, and the people?

ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, targets nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord called motor neurons. As time goes on, the motor neurons start to degenerate and die off, shutting down muscle movement. As a result, ALS patients slowly become paralyzed and die.

According to alsa.org, ALS

affects 5,600 people in the U.S. each year - there are currently 30,000 patients in the U.S.

Most patients are diagnosed between the ages of 40 and 70, but some can be diagnosed in their 20s and 30s. Although recent studies have been done, there are no exact risk factors linked to the diagnosis of ALS; however, some studies have shown that genetics may play a role. After being diagnosed, patients typically only have three to four years left to live.

With the cloudiness surrounding ALS, and the relatively small amount of people diagnosed each year, some feel that medical companies do not pay enough attention.

"There isn't much incentive for pharmaceutical companies to invest the billions of dollars it takes to develop a drug because I'm not profitable, I'm not worth saving," said ALS patient Anthony Carbajal, who is 26.

Thanks to the Ice Bucket Challenge, the ALS Asso-

"I promise your newsfeed will go back to cat videos and 'Let It Go' covers - but right now, the ALS community has the main spotlight."

Anthony Carbajal
ALS patient

ciation is reporting that it has raised over \$5.5 million in the last month, and \$88.7 million since 2013. All of this goes toward researching a cure for the disease.

The challenge is simple. One person states his or her name, nominator and his or her own chosen nominees into a video camera before being drenched in an icy bath. Those nominated typically have 24 hours to follow suit, or must donate \$100 to the cause. Being a hot trend within the social media world, many people already know what the challenge is about.



Danielle Cojocari / The Oakland Post

Those who complete the challenge are only asked to donate \$10 to ALS, instead of the \$100 that those who don't complete it are asked.

It has also caught the attention of some of the bigger names in society. Celebrities such as Justin Timberlake, Steven Spielberg and many others have responded to the challenge by dumping ice water onto themselves and donating hundreds and thousands of dollars in the process.

"I promise your newsfeed will go back to cat videos and 'Let It Go' covers," Carbajal said. "But right now, the ALS community has the main spotlight, and for once in my entire life, I've seen it in the forefront." Amy Phillips, a student who lost her father to ALS, said she has taken some comfort in the awareness that the new trend is bringing. "Please, everybody, please keep pouring buckets of ice over your heads. Please keep donating money. Please keep talking about this."



The novella follows a mystic hermit during the time of Adam and Eve.

Photo courtesy of Doris Plantus

'The Hermit' debuts in public

Special lecturer Doris Plantus publishes novella based on Romanian folklore

Andrew Wernette
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Doris Plantus, a special lecturer in the Department of English, is publishing her first novella "Sihastrul" this year.

The title translates to "The Hermit" from Romanian, as the work was originally written in Romanian by Plantus. She translated the story herself for an English-speaking crowd.

"Sihastrul" began as a Romanian poem, originally, then became a novella.

In "Sihastrul," Plantus tells the tale of a mystic hermit who is around during the Garden of Eden. While it plays with folklore, she said that it is not a religious work. Rather, it is an exploration of the bounds of language and how it is connected to the human experience. Time travel, or perhaps timelessness, also plays into the plot

to give what Plantus calls an "apocryphal" feel.

She uses prose, poetry, and even invented forms of written language to tell the story from different angles, making it a complex work.

She said that she does not expect everyone to get her book, but there are those who will.

"This novella has been a dream of mine for a long, long time," she said.

Plantus grew up in Detroit as the product of two immigrants from Romania. She remembered hearing only Romanian spoken in her household, and it was through neighbors and friends that she gradually learned English. As a result, she has been bilingual for most of her life.

"It's very hard to think in another language," said Plantus. But, she added, "I think in two languages."

However, Plantus said that she never had access to Romanian writ-

ing as a child. This sparked a lifelong curiosity toward written work in her cultural tongue, even as she pursued studies in English.

"It was hard for me to make my niche," Plantus said of English scholarly scene. "I had to think about where I could be without all the distraction and all the competition."

Her bilingual mind proved to be her unique contribution. For her doctoral dissertation, she translated a classic Romanian novel into English.

Since there was not much scholarly interest in Romanian literature in the United States, she decided to send it to a literary journal in Romania, where it was published. After that, Plantus decided to try submitting her story here in English.

"You find many more things in translation," she said, explaining that words suddenly take on new levels of meaning when they cross languages.

Plantus discovered Lilac Publishing, a fledgling publishing house, in an OU Magazine advertisement. She sent the manuscript to its owner, Rebecca Vigus, who liked it immediately.

"I didn't change a thing," said Vigus of the manuscript. "That's saying a lot."

Vigus, like Plantus, is an OU alum.

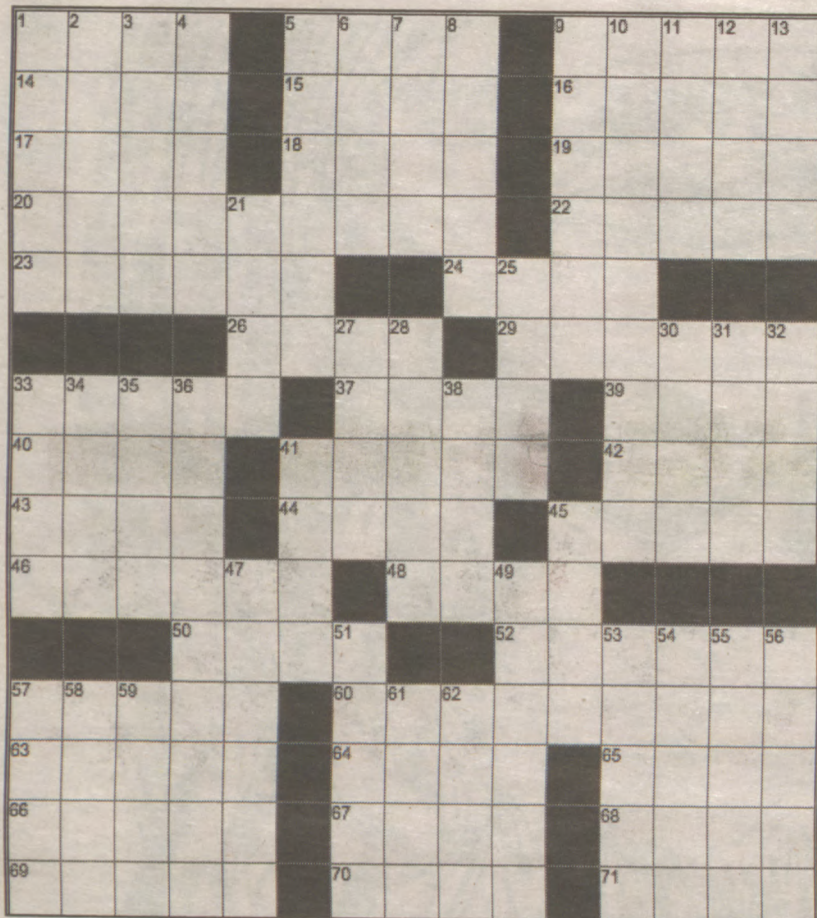
She said she was drawn to the work because of its Romanian folklore roots, which give it a different perspective from other stories.

"We'll come out with the English version in October," Vigus said, adding that she also plans on publishing the original Romanian version later on.

For more information on Sihastrul, visit its webpage at <http://sihastrul.bucovinamica.net>. To view more of Doris Plantus's various work, go to her website at <http://bucovinamica.net>.

For more on Lilac Publishing, visit its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LilacPublishing>.

Puzzles



Across

- 1: ___ fiber (flax, hemp, ramie, or jute)
 5: Crescent-shaped mountain range
 9: Scour
 14: Get all stirred up
 15: Bounder
 16: TV drama or its incorrigible leading character
 17: Grad
 18: Dawn and on
 19: Sneaky stratagems
 20: Souvenirs
 22: Slow to act
 23: Circulated, in a way
 24: Silly pair?
 26: Money rolls
 29: Warnings
 33: Lots, sometimes
 37: Resistance units
 39: Secular
 40: Cajun cooking thing
 41: Blackthorn shrubs
 42: Gumbo vegetable
 43: Morse's creation
 44: Parcel of land
 45: Less constrained
 46: Breastbones
 48: Flipped fish fancier
 50: They often clog the

major arteries

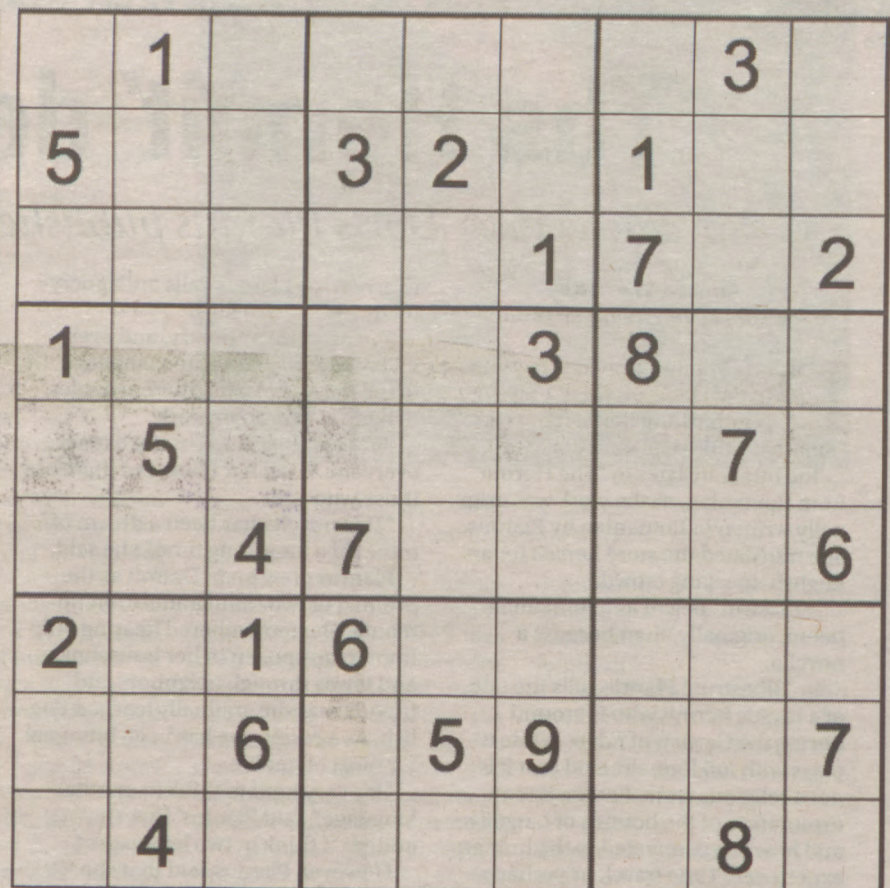
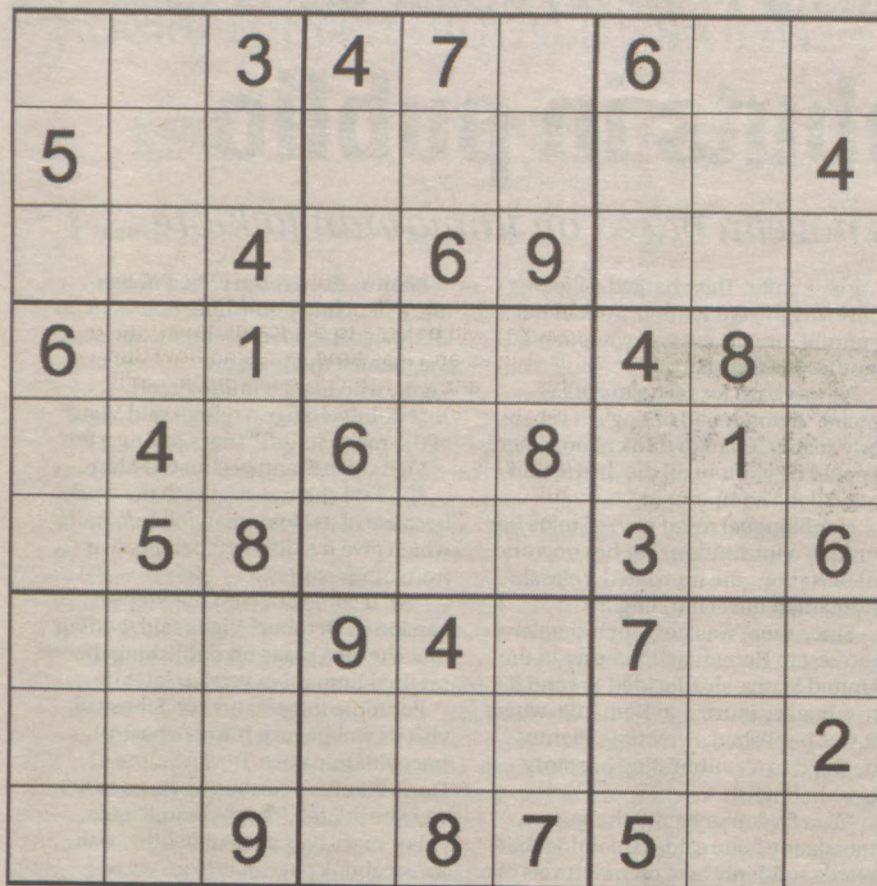
- 52: Put it in reverse
 57: Certificate
 60: Determine
 63: Bullwinkle, for one
 64: Temper
 65: Fossey's focus
 66: Yellowish brown pigment
 67: Fibula or femur
 68: Low-quality diamond
 69: Loquacious, in slang
 70: Way off
 71: Goes downhill fast?

Down

- 1: Try to avoid accident
 2: Had a virus, say
 3: Turned on an axis
 4: Musical speeds
 5: Fleet defeated in 1588
 6: 'Get a load of that!'
 7: Contaminant-free
 8: Vague perception
 9: Like a rebel yell
 10: Adviser
 11: Artifice
 12: One working with Linux, e.g.
 13: Gold medal-winning
 21: What Wendy does to reattach Peter's shadow

25: Glasgow girl

- 27: Raggedy Ann or Raggedy Andy
 28: Chases away
 30: Autumn tool
 31: Word before irons
 32: Feature of Karloff's Frankenstein monster
 33: Circle sections
 34: Diving bird
 35: Obnoxious
 36: Flashcards, example
 38: Dole (out)
 41: Train for a title fight
 45: Not having enough carbonation
 47: Table linens
 49: One who waits
 51: Ballroom dance of Brazil
 53: Grouses
 54: Stuffing stuff
 55: Holding areas for newcomers?
 56: Annoying ones
 57: Extremely confident
 58: State of unconsciousness
 59: Pulls a heist
 61: Hit the ___ (get mad)
 62: ___ fide



SATIRE

Friends aren't forever

Josh Soltman

Copy Editor/Professional Hater

As the summer winds down and we all start to settle in to yet another year of scholarly fun, I find myself far from excited. About 20,400 students are projected to attend our institution, with 2,569 of those being freshman. Maybe I'm a little jaded since I've been attending this establishment longer than some of you have been born, but I always find it hilarious when I see all those young, smiling freshman faces, so full of life and ready to tame this beast we call Oakland University. They are ready for new opportunities, new experiences and most of all, new friends.

Let me give you freshman the wisest piece of advice you could ever obtain: you won't make any friends, and you're a fool for trying.

OK, maybe you wouldn't be a fool for trying, but the first part is true. You are doomed here.

Welcome to college. Now, you may be thinking that I'm friendless because I am a narcissist who's in a constant whirlwind of depression and self-loathing (a quick glance at any of my previous etchings for this humble publication would corroborate the fact that I am a pathetic worm), but I can only work with what I know. With all my time spent not hanging out with friends I have been able to figure some stuff out.

Let's back up a little bit. Remember high school? That glorious place where everything's made up and the points don't matter? If you are anything like me, you probably thought that your high school friends you'd been hanging out with for years would still be around once you enter the real world, but chances are they will disappear.

According to a survey that I made up, 100 percent of your high school friends will



Katherine Cagle/Oakland Post

A friendless Josh Soltman sits alone and eats his lunch while pondering the great questions of human existence.

abandon you for more interesting and attractive specimens. My friends scattered to the corners of the globe almost immediately after we received our diplomas.

Even if you soon find your real-life friends list diminishing quickly, there are still a lot of neat things coming up on the horizon: another year of waiting in line at Subway for an hour just to spend 10 dollars on two pieces of bread with mechanically processed meat and veggies inside; another year of trolling the pavement warriors who stalk students just trying to find their vehicles; not to mention all the free scantrons

that make the yearly tuition hike and having no friends all the more worth it.

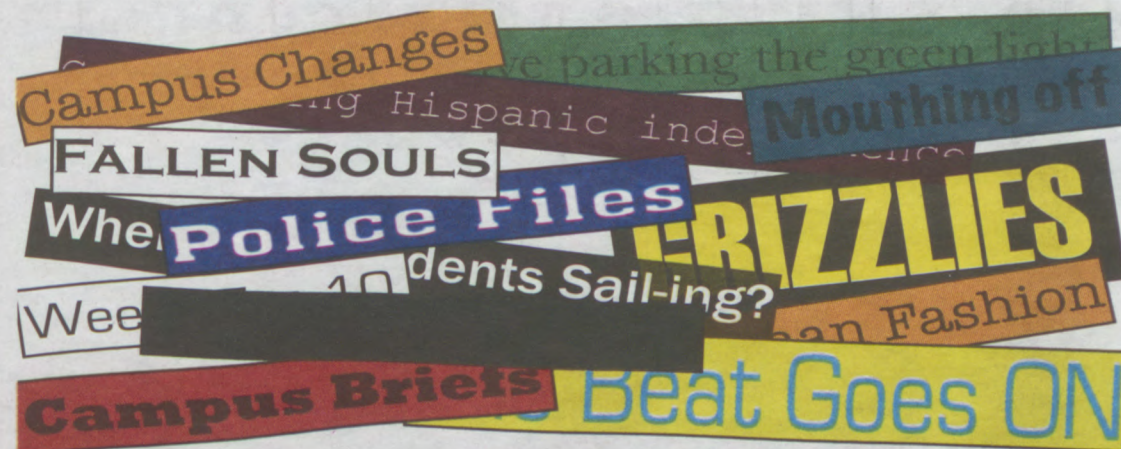
But don't worry guys, just because everyone in your life will probably leave you, that doesn't mean that you can't still find a way to wade through the school year. Luckily, some poor, lonely sap formulated ideas for things like Netflix, Nick at Nite and bottomless chips and salsa at Chili's.

Thankfully, we live in the most egocentric nation on the planet so it is fairly easy to find ways to occupy the time all by your lonesome.

Being alone does have its advantages too, you know. You will be able to dedicate more time to your studies and less time to seeing how Bud Lights you and your buddies can guzzle while throwing a ping pong ball around like a child. You can learn to be independent, doing things on your own instead of relying on your pals to lend a hand.

Unfortunately, it can have some disadvantages, as well. Spending too much time in isolation with no one to talk to, no one to argue or laugh with, can drive a person to become an insane sycophant who secretly believes he is better than everyone else; i.e. me.

So, here's a warm welcome to all you incoming freshman who are ready to start the next phase of your lives. You guys can either listen to my advice or call me an idiot: both are pretty much the right thing to do. But before you judge me too harshly, remember that in five years it could be you sitting in this chair and writing about how everything sucks; and when that happens, I will be laughing at you all the way from my mom's basement.



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