

Wednesday

June 14, 1995

Volume XXVIII, Number 26
The Oakland Sail, Inc.

Opinion

Student wants to see
power put behind words
in OU's equal opportuni-
ty amend-
ment.
See Page 4

ORIENTATION TIME

New and incoming students are back
once again to learn the rules and ropes
of OU.

See FEATURES page 5



The Oakland Post

Board argues CULTURAL DIVERSITY fund spending

By SALLY TATO
News Editor

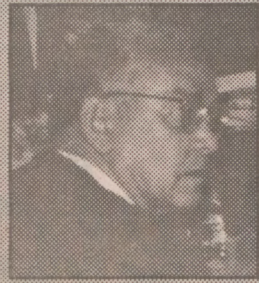
After almost an entire hour of tossing ideas back and forth to each other, Trustees James Sharp Jr. and Howard Sims persuaded their colleagues to solicit from the entire community entrepreneurial plans to improve multiculturalism on campus beginning in the 1996-97 academic year using the Trustees Academic Success Fund.

In a gesture of compromise the two trustees allowed the status quo plan—to have the Interim President and the director of the Office of Equity use the money for scholarships, a graduate assistant and peer mentors—for the upcoming academic year.

However, under Sharp and Sims' entrepreneurial plan anyone on campus can propose a project

"Year after year we
have heard things that
haven't achieved
success..."

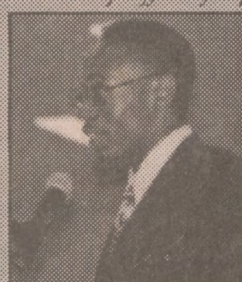
—Trustee Howard Sims



Post file photo

"Our ideas are all
new for OU. They
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other universities, but
not at Oakland..."

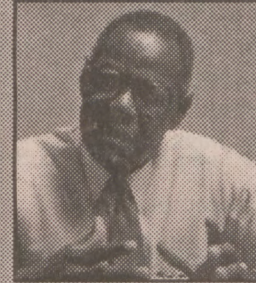
—Glenn McIntosh
Director of Office of Equity



Post photo/Nelson May

"In all areas we are
going backwards, we
have to change, we
have to change..."

—Trustee James Sharp, Jr.



Post file photo

or idea directly to the board and seek funding from the Trustees Fund.

The Fund has a principal totaling more than \$3 million, which is earmarked solely to increase cultural awareness and diversity at OU. The board's approved spending policy only allows five percent of the fund earnings to be spent annually, making \$177,000 available for the '95-'96 school year.

The issue, among board members, however, was deciding the best way to spend the money to accomplish the cultural diversity goal.

Trustee Howard Sims, feels that the main cause of disagreement is tenure among the trustees. "We (the board) have been thinking about it for three years, and the trustees are coming from different places and not all of

See FUNDS page 2

Big Top Under the

By HEIDI HEDQUIST
Assistant Features Editor

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls if you will turn your attention to the Adams' and Walton corner of campus you will see an amazing sight, the Big Apple Circus has come to town for your enjoyment.

Be prepared for acrobats, clowns and for once, the ability to see the whole show without missing a beat.

The Big Apple Circus boasts of their one ring show performed in a 1972 seat, air conditioned big top. Each spectator is seated no more than 50 ft. from the action. This will allow the audience a chance to really be a part of the action.

Although the circus is smaller than a three ring circus



Post photo/Ian Houston

CAGED HORSES AWAIT: Two saddlebreds, nine arabians and one miniature horse will entertain crowds under the big top.

the troupe is confident that it is just as good, "Although we have some of the worst equipment around, we definitely have the best show," said Dan Le Blanc who has several jobs in setting up the show. Tom Larson, Assistant Performance Director for the circus, added "We go for the art rather than the spectacle."

The circus will be running at Meadow Brook June 16-27. Tickets range in prices from \$12-\$25. Children under 12 receive a \$3 discount.

The Big Apple is a non profit organization that only gets 80 percent of their funds from ticket sales. They rely heavily on donations from outside sources.

The circus was founded in 1977 by Paul Binder, the ring master of the show.

The troupe help those in need by providing free tickets to shows.

They also run the 'Clown Care Unit'. This program is made up of 'Doctor' clowns who administer such cures as chocolate milk transfusions and red nose transplants. The 'Clown Care Unit' serves six hospitals in the New York area and makes more than 50,000 bedside visits annually.

Each August, the Big Apple changes its acts to form a completely new show.

The theme for this year's show is "Grandma meets Mummenschanz". It will center around the beloved clown, Grandma, and her encounters with the masqueraders of the mystical Mummenschanz.



Photo courtesy/ Big Apple Circus

See CIRCUS page 2

But what do they do with the animal's...

The Big Apple Circus brings with them 26 animals which will be performing in the show.

The animals are housed on campus at the site of the show. Their trainers feed them and bathe them each day.

In the 10 days they'll be here, the 12 horses will go through almost 1,000 bales of hay and 25 lbs. of grain; the four pigs will go through 200 lbs of pig chow and three bales of hay and the eight ducks will go through 25 lbs. of duck chow.

These animals plus the two elephants will produce enough waste in a week to fill a large garbage dumpster.

AND IN THE CENTER RING: The Big Apple Circus comes to town this week bringing tigers, horses and Grandma (Barry Lubin). The Circus can be seen on OU's campus until June 27.

Board okays rec center bonds

By CHRIS TAIT
Sports Editor

THE MONEY AND THE ARCHITECTS



Bissonette

The first time that OU considered building a new athletic facility to update the aging Lepley Sports Center Ronald

Reagan was president of the United States. That was 1982.

Last week, a little more than 13 years later, the Board of Trustees approved the sale of \$37 million in tax-free municipal bonds at the June 8 meeting.

The board also selected TMP Associates Inc. of Bloomfield Hills as the lead architectural firm. Its lead designer, David Larson, recently designed the Central Michigan

Student Activity Center.

TMP Associates is the local firm which will be responsible for final plans and will be the firm on site.

The lead firm chose Cannon-Parkin Architects of Los Angeles as the recreational sports programming and planning experts for the project.

Cannon-Parkin is a national firm whose lead designer, David Body, designed buildings for the University

See REC CENTER page 7

Dorm Contract Talks End

Students must leave down payment with signature

By SALLY TATO
News Editor

Students choosing to live in OU's residence halls next year will be faced with a new \$100 down payment fee upon signing their contracts.

The down payment, similar to those charged at other Michigan universities, was approved by the Board of Trustees at its June meeting last Thursday and will go into effect for the 1996-97 school year.

Under the old policy, students who signed a contract during the early registration period, in March, had until June 1 to cancel without penalty, said Eleanor Reynolds, Residence Halls Director. To avoid a penalty fee after that date, however, students had to apply for a contract release with a documented cause.

"If there is a family emergency or uncontrollable change in family circumstances, like a death, illness or lay-off; that the student could not have been aware of when they signed the contract, and they can document that emergency, then the university releases them without the penalty and they pay a \$45 fee," said Reynolds.

Students who could not show a documented emergency were released from their contracts but had to pay 25% of their remaining contract, plus a per-diem rate, for days they had already lived in the hall.

The new residence contract basically omits the requirement of cause from the release agreement and instead requires a down payment and charges a penalty fee for breaches in contracts.

"We changed (the contract agreement) because we were having to require students to give us personal information about family matters and that is legally okay for getting out of a contract, but its better not to have to get involved," said Reynolds.

Under the new guidelines,

See DORMS page 2

COMPARING OU'S CONTRACT

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WMU requires a \$175 contract down-payment and has a \$100 penalty for cancellation.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

CMU charges a \$400 contract down-payment and also has a \$100 penalty fee.

EMU

EMU has a \$100 contract-down payment fee and a penalty charge of \$450.

Oakland University

OU has a \$100 down payment and \$100 penalty.

-all fees for cancellation prior to contract period

Price tags higher than expected for OU searches

By HEIDI HEDQUIST
Assistant Features Editor

Despite the early termination of the presidential search, OU will still pay search firm Spencer Stuart half of its allotted salary. Originally, the contract,

between OU and the firm, price-tagged the search at \$40,000. According to General Counsel, Susan Gerrits, however, they will still receive \$20,000—half the contract amount.

"Of their portion of the work, maybe more than half was done," said Board Chair David Fischer. "I'm not concerned with that investment at all. I feel more than comfortable paying them that amount."

The search firm had not yet compiled a list of candidates for the job when it was dismissed.

The board terminated the search May 22, after Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Gene Schnelz ruled that the search committee had violated the Open Meetings Act by closing its initial meeting and its plans to close future ones. The

See PRICES page 2

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Presidential search firm Spencer Stuart received \$20,000 after search terminated.

Carrington & Carrington, search firm for a dean for the College of Arts and Sciences was paid \$55,955.

SBA hired MacNaughton & Assoc. to search for dean at a cost of \$27,500.

Funds

Continued from page 1

them have been here from the beginning," said Sims.

One of Trustee Sharp's main concerns was that the monies would be controlled by a sole department. "There should be access to the funds to provide the money for good ideas that lead to improving the racial climate and cultural diversity," said Sharp.

He and Sims both oppose using the monies for attempts that have been tried, they argue unsuccessfully, before.

Sims, after hearing Office of Equity Director Glenn McIntosh's ideas for the monies use, shook his head and observed it was more of the same type of plans that had been unsuccessful in the past.

The Office of Equity, this year, began a recruitment pilot program funded by the OU Foundation. With the \$58,000 that the foundation allotted the program, recruiters from the Office of Equity were able to bring in a combined number of 30 high achievement African Americans and Latinos to the campus, said Glenn McIntosh, Director of the Office of Equity.

"These are traditionally the underrepresented groups on college campuses," said McIntosh defending his plans for the money.

Twenty-nine of the new students were then offered scholarships that were renewable, depending on their academic achievement. The monies from the OU Foundation, however, were not renewable, said McIntosh.

McIntosh, who pleaded the Office of Equity's case at the meeting, would like to see all of the \$177,000 used for continuing current scholarships and creating new ones. Additionally, McIntosh said portions of the fund would be used in programs to increase cultural diversity awareness.

Trustee Louis Ross also sees the plans for the monies in this light. "To achieve the object of increased minorities on campus is less of a problem then keeping them in school," said Ross, in regards to financial or family problems that may occur. Ross would like to focus more on maintaining minorities at OU, after they have been recruited.

Sharp opposes these plans, stating that they are not headed in the right direction. "In all areas we are going backwards, we have to change, we have to do things differently," Sharp said during the meeting.

Sharp believes opening the process to anyone with a good idea for bringing cultural diversity to the campus can be successful. "It may be belts and suspenders...but let's wear them," Sharp told fellow Trustee Ross who chairs the University Affairs Committee of the board. Ross raised several objections about administration to counter Sharp and Sims proposals.

"People are thinking it's not their responsibility and that it's the responsibility of them (the Office of Equity). We need to spread responsibility with the resources and not just leave it on one office," Sharp said.

However, Ross questions whether the Trustees should have to handle the monies and decide whether each idea presented should be granted funds. "The discussion at the Board meeting bordered on how much the Trustees can do and whether University Affairs or other offices should handle it," he said.

Sims disagrees that the ideas presented will attain the university's goals. "Year after year we have heard things that haven't achieved success," he said.

According to McIntosh, however, the ideas presented by the Office of Equity are not recycled. "Our ideas are all new for OU. They may have been tried at other universities but not at Oakland," he said. McIntosh added that specifically recruiting African Americans and Latinos has not been done at OU.

Advocating McIntosh's ideas is Interim-President Gary Russi. "I support the Director of Office of Equity in hope to apply funds for recruitment and retention of a diverse student body and for staffing and programming to enrich multicultural sensitivity and understanding in students, staff and faculty," said Russi.

Prices

Continued from page 1

board appealed the decision to a higher court.

Additionally, the university is also paying two other firms for dean searches for the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education and Human Services and the School of Business Administration.

The firm Carrington and Carrington received \$55,955 for identifying minority candidates in the search for a Dean of the College and SEHS, according to Gerrits. They were originally contracted for \$50,000 plus expenses.

Additionally, MacNaughton and Associates, the search firm hired for the School of Business Administration, has already received \$10,000 of its contracted \$27,500.

Circus

Continued from page 1

The Big Apple tells the story through amazing circus acts from around the world. "It is a European circus in flavor," said Tom Larson, assistant performance director. "It's an international community with people from all over the world living and working together," Larson said.

One of the most exciting acts is the Russian Egorov Troupe. In this act performers fly through the air exhibiting amazing stunts in aerial acrobatics. Another popular act is the comedy set between American Ben Williams and his side kick Ned, a 5000 pound pachyderm.

Gary L. Wasserman, President of Allied Metals and Chairman of the International Freedom Festival is responsible for bringing the Big Apple to Detroit. Wasserman is very excited about this year's theme, "Audiences of all ages are captivated by this unique blend of poetry and excitement, nostalgia and innovative theatre all wrapped up in fun and laughter," said Wasserman.

Dorms

Contined from page 1

students who sign early contract agreements have until June 15 to cancel without penalty. If students cancel between June 15 and the start of the Fall semester, however, they will forfeit their \$100 down payment and owe an additional \$100.

And students who back out of their contract in mid-semester must forfeit their \$100 down payment, pay a \$200 penalty fee, plus pay the days they resided in the halls; approximately \$20 a day, said Reynolds.

Graduate and former Residents Hall Council President, Ju Wiegand has mixed feelings about the new contract. "It sounds like tougher. I don't know all the details (about the contract) but I knew a few students every year who left for family emergencies, and when you have a family emergency, money is usually pretty tight."

Reynolds said that approximately 150 students each year apply contract releases, with cause, and of those, about a dozen file an appeal. Under old contract guidelines, students could appeal. Reynold's decision that their cases did not qualify as emergencies, to the Dean of Students and then to the Vice President of Student Affairs. An appeal process is not included in the new contract.

"I would probably say that there is comparability (between the old contracts) in the long run," said Jean Ann Miller, Assistant Director of Student Development in Residence Halls. "The hassles of going through this existing procedure will cease because they know up front what the cost is and they should know the time frame in order to do without paying extra costs."

Without a definite appeal process under the new contract, however, Wiegand is still concerned about special situations. "They (Reynolds and Miller) have been really sympathetic with students in the past,

Welcome New Students & Parents!! The Orientation Staff:

Sara

Gabe

David

Lawrence

Garrick

Jessica

Bonnie

Melissa

Marilyn

Tony

Kelly

Christine

Andrea

Tierra

Beth

Charneise

Christian

Carla

Bridget

Micki

Wednesday

June 14, 1995

Volume XXVIII, Number 26

The Oakland Sail, Inc.

Campus News



Kendzier

LIAISONS

OU's two new student liaisons keep the Board and students connected



Landsberg

By JILL ROBINSON
Staff Writer

In an attempt to fill the communication void between OU students and the hierarchy of the university, two student liaisons were added to the university's Board of Trustees last week.

This decision follows two years of lobbying and effort by former Student Congress President, Amy Rickstad who graduated this month.

Rickstad brought the idea of student liaisons to the board in Fall, 1993 and has seen her idea to fruition. "I'm very happy that I was finally able to see it in place while I was still a student at OU," she said.

Systems Engineering Senior Garrick Landsberg and Elementary Education Junior Margo Kendzier, were selected last week by

Interim President Gary Russi to keep trustees abreast of student opinion at Board and committee meetings.

"I think they are going to set an example for



Post photo Ian Houston

NEW KIDS ON THE BOARD: Seniors Margo Kendzier and Garrick Landsberg took their places as student liaisons to the Board of Trustees.

the position," said Rickstad. "They are very intelligent and professional and will represent the students well."

Board Chair David Fischer agrees. "One of the reasons they are in place is because we are interested with what is going on with all the constituents of the university," he said. "I think they are going to be a great addition and I welcome them."

This is the first year that OU will be using student liaisons, a challenge that Kendzier is excited to try and meet. "We have to do something to try and get this thing going, we can't just sit there," she said.

The liaisons will be issued board packets and agendas before each meeting so they can brief students on upcoming issues, but most of their

See LIAISONS page 6

Two year tuition increase approved

By DIANA PLETZ
Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees voted Wednesday to increase tuition by 5.9 percent for the next two years, holding out a glimmer of hope that if state appropriations to OU increase, the second year hike will be reduced.

The tuition hike is OU's only option as a result of a low appropriation proposal of three percent by the state, according to Vice President of Finance and Administration Paul Bissonnette.

He promised the board that if the state increases the 1995-96 appropriation by an amount greater than three percent, the tuition and fees increase for 1996-97 will be adjusted to reflect the improved budget.

The increase is essential to keep the university running at par with yearly inflationary costs and the necessary advancements in technology, according to an information given to trustees in their meeting agenda.

The boost will affect students who register for 12 or more credit hours beginning this fall. Tuition and fees will raise \$150 for freshmen and sophomores the first year, and \$156 the second year.

For juniors and seniors the cost will jump to \$182 the first year and \$174 the second year.

Ten-year Strategic Plan in place

By ERICA BLAKE
Editor-in-Chief

Chances are for most people the next ten-years are somewhat bleak, just think about a decade ago, however, OU won't need to face that future without a plan.

The ten-year strategic plan was approved with a full vote at last Thursday's Board of Trustees meeting finalizing the University's future agenda until

the year 2005.

"What this plan does is set some specific direction for us," said Library Dean Suzanne Frankie, chair of the Strategic Plan steering committee. "We recommended things that are needed for us to be a quality and competitive institution."

Included in the plan are the findings of the 167 people assigned into eight task forces who assessed the needs and goals of the University and its constituencies. The project, which was begun by former president Sandra Packard in late 1992, spanned two years of research, interviews, recommendations and consultations before it finally left the Board June 8.

"This is just the first important step," Frankie said. "Now all processes, steps and procedures lead to the implementation of our plans."

Although finally approved, the University's work is far from over. Interim President Gary Russi, who organized the presentation of the plan to the Board, is now charged with the task of putting actions behind those words.

"This plan evolved out of the work of numerous task forces who spent numerous amounts of hours," Russi said. "Now it's time to implement the plan."

The central focus of the plan was not on raising money, although Frankie admits significant additional funding is a major component of the plan's success, rather the group zeroed in on the "means to an end."

See PLAN page 6

OU's Equal Opportunity Policy Amended

Sexual orientation included

By SALLY TATO
News Editor

The decision could have been based on the six OU anti-gay incidents reported by GALA in the last two years, or maybe the anti-gay graffiti in the Oakland Center's men's room, or it could have even been the statistics released last March by the Metropolitan Detroit Triangle Foundation that crimes against homosexuals rose by 24 per cent since last year.

Whatever the reason, the results at the June 8 Board of Trustees meeting made many, in the modest audience happy, some even applauded.

Following two years of student and staff effort, the Board of Trustees in a five-two vote, with one abstention, finally approved an equal opportunity amendment that prohibits unlawful discrimination against any person on the basis of sexual orientation. Height, weight and familial status were also added.

Formerly, the Equal Opportunity Policy only covered the categories: race, sex, age, handicap, color, religion, creed, national ori-

gin or ancestry, marital status, or veteran status.

"I'm glad this finally happened so that the student body can get along with other business and particularly GALA can get on

with dedicating its time to educational issues on campus," said Shae Howell, GALA's advisor. "I think GALA was able to make a strong case that this was in the entire interest of the university."

Trustees Ann Nicholson, Louis Ross, David Fischer, Howard Sims and David Handleman again voted yes, their support strengthened by the affirmation vote of Sims and Handleman, who were absent at the April meeting, where this amendment was originally overruled. Rex Schlaybaugh and David Doyle continued their opposition.

James Sharp, who opposed the same amendment in April, said "I believe this is a proliferation. Every student's rights are covered." He then abstained from voting.

The approval came after a controversial three to three vote at the April 6 meeting, when the measure failed. The board cited the need for continued discussion and further research.

See EQUAL page 6

"What has passed right now is just words; it does not affect housing and health insurance. We want to put power behind those words."

--Jackie O'Connor
GALA member



when the measure failed. The board cited the need for continued discussion and further research.

Connellan named Acting Vice President for Academic Administration

By ERICA BLAKE
Editor-in-Chief

Along with the announcement of the terminated presidential search came the realization that Interim President Gary Russi would not be able to continue the dual role as Vice President of Academic Affairs and acting president. That's where Dr. William Connellan steps in.

Connellan was named acting Vice President of Academic Administration at the June 8 Board of Trustees meeting, effective immediately.

"The key is to keep things moving during this interim period," explained Connellan, who will take over some but not all of the Russi's former duties. "A lot of things are happening, we have to make sure things are moving forward."

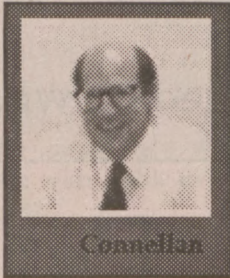
An OU employee for the past 25 years, Connellan originally came to campus as an undergraduate majoring in History and Political Science, with year as Editor-in-Chief of the school paper, then called The Oakland Observer. Returning in 1974 as a Lecturer in Journalism, Connellan worked his way up to the position of Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs where he served until his recent appointment.

"I understand full well that I'm doing this on a temporary basis," Connellan said, who admitted he realized the probable appointment after the Board terminated the presidential search last month. "The Board's original goal was to have a president in place by fall. When that didn't happen, changes had to be made."

As it stands, Connellan will not take over every aspect of Russi's position, however, not all the details have been worked out.

"We still have to work out all the details as to who is doing what," Russi said.

"I will still be dealing with the same people that I have been," Connellan said. "It's the reporting lines that are going to be changing for some."



Connellan

June 7 - 2:09 p.m. Upon returning to her office after being away for approximately five minutes, a woman saw a black male rummaging through her papers and the file cabinet where her purse was kept was open. After inquiring what the suspect was doing there, the woman pulled the door shut and started yelling for help. The suspect forced the door open and fled the office after repeatedly slamming the woman into a wall. The woman noticed her purse was missing but it was recovered in the hall when a fellow staff member tackled the fleeing suspect. A beeper, not belonging to the woman, was also found.

June 8 - between 6 - 10 p.m. A woman stated she parked her car in the NW lots around 6 p.m. and when she came back to the vehicle around 10 p.m., she discovered that her left tail light was broken. It is unsure as to where the accident occurred because the officer was not able to locate any tail light glass where the car was parked.

June 10- 5:59 p.m. A woman filed a report stating that she had been followed repeatedly by a white man in his mid twenties while on campus. On the first encounter with the alleged stalker, the woman was asked for help by a man in the library who than surprised her on campus nine days later. The woman asked the man to leave but before doing so, the man asked her where she had purchased her T-shirt and later acquired her home phone number from the shop. The woman encountered the man four days later when he followed her out to her car saying that he wanted to give her a book. On the date of filing her report, the woman was confronted by the man again who said he just wanted to talk to her. The woman admits that she is now afraid of this man who has also called her home at least four times. It is unknown what the man will do next or if he has the woman's home address.

CRIME WATCH

Full View of OU

WXOU antenna engineer, Mike LaBond braves height and wind to position the station's new antenna on its location on Bald Mountain. The station is expected to hit the FM airwaves (88.3) in July and will then adopt the call letters WXOU.



Photo courtesy Laura Hofmeyer

Front entrance complete Interim-President Gary Russi (left), Auburn Hills Mayor James D. McDonald (middle) and Board Chair David Fischer officially christened OU's new

entrance at its ribbon-cutting last Friday. Work began in Nov. and was price-tagged at over \$180,000 by OU's senior architect

Khales Dahr.



Post photo Ian Houston

The Oakland Post

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EDITOR'S VIEW

Stagnant Board bounces back

After months of arguments, indecisiveness and stalled decisions, the June 8 Board of Trustees meeting resulted in a surprisingly upbeat and productive gathering. Following an agenda which spanned across all boundaries of campus life, the trustees (all, remarkably, present for the second consecutive meeting) were finally able to move onwards passed the issues which had been bogging them and the University community down for the past six months.

- With a four to two vote (excluding Trustee James Sharp's abstention), GALA finally succeeded in convincing the Board that equality is an area which should not be restricted. The move remains a small one for words are powerless without actions to stand behind them, however, the Board has finally done its job in helping to create a more accepting and welcoming campus. Although the fight is not over, a pivotal battle has been won.

- Since the January 10 resignation of Sandra Packard, Interim President Gary Russi has been juggling his former position as Vice President of Academic Affairs and OU's acting President. As the search sits at a standstill and the Board's goal of naming a president by Fall disintegrated, Dr. William Connellan, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, stepped up to help Russi into the newly created position of V.P. of Academic Administration. Although the details have not yet been worked out, the players are at least in place.

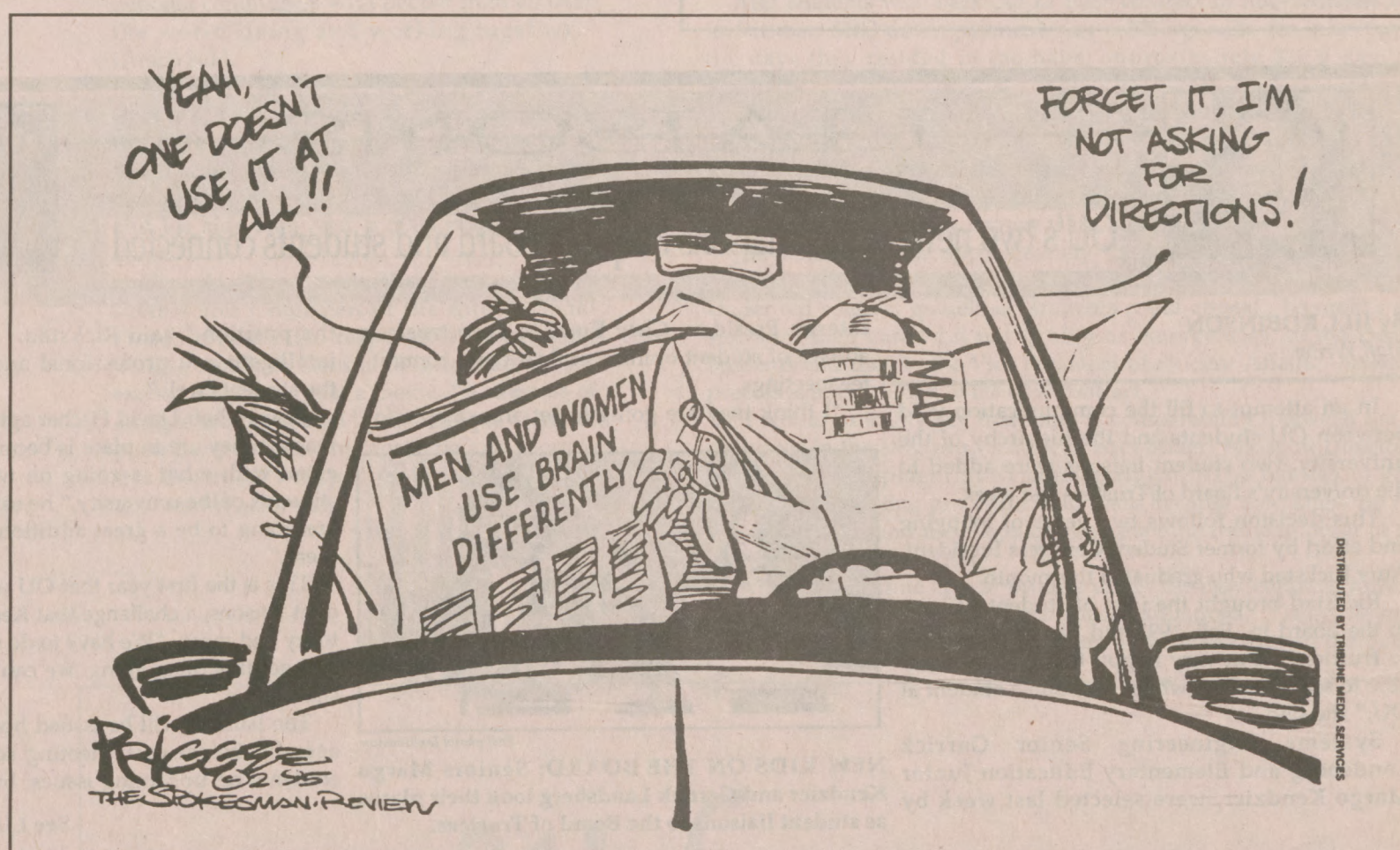
- Although most currently enrolled students will not be around to see it, the Rec Center is becoming more and more a reality. The past year has seen talks and visions but not until the dollars get committed do people start believing what they hear. The Board gave the go ahead to selling bonds to raise the \$37 million needed to build the estimated 139,000 square foot addition. It's time to start believing.

- They finally made it. After two years of trying, beginning with the fight started by graduated senior Amy Rickstad during her Congress presidency in '93-'94, student liaisons to the Board took their seats (outside the circle) and spoke their minds. Seniors Margo Kendzier and Garrick Landsberg were rewarded with the landmark positions as student advocates and watchdogs. They are in for a long year.

- Among the accomplishments, also came the approval for tuition hikes and residence halls down-payments. Voting "yes" to a 5.9 percent tuition increase, the trustees proved once again that amid the pleasantries, cash is the underlying factor.

While there still remains two sides of the fence on which opinions may fall, for the first time in a long time a fence seems to be being built, and gate even open.

Opinion



Letters to the Editor

"... in the name of equality"

Dear Editor,

Equality achieved?

On June 8, 1995 the Board of Trustees, finally, decided that the words "sexual orientation" should be included in the Equal Opportunity Policy. I feel that this was long over due, and a first step towards an acceptance for the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community on campus.

I think it is amazing what this fight for equality has created over the past three years. It banded together the gay community on campus and also off campus, and it proved that there is tremendous support for gay, lesbian and bisexuals among the students, faculty, and staff of Oakland University. It challenged and questioned homophobic thinking in the University, and brought it to the attention of the public. It proved to me that persistence can pay off.

It has also opened many eyes, including

mine. I believed, before, that this fight for equality would be over once the Board of Trustees voted to include the words "sexual orientation" in the Equal Opportunity Policy, but it has not ended. It has, in fact, only begun in my eyes. I would like to see, one day, those mere words having power behind them. I would like to see gay married couples accepted in married housing, getting health insurance for their children, not being discriminated against from the "religious" groups on campus, and not having those basic human rights labeled as "special" rights by those who condemn us. I believe that when this finally happens, I will be able to truly celebrate a victory fought in the name of equality.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline O'Connor
Sociology
Junior

"It challenged and questioned homophobic thinking in the University, and brought it to the attention of the public."

There's a whole new gang

Meet the new members of

The Oakland Post:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|
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Keep an eye out for the next issue of *The Oakland Post*. Summer issues will be on the stands in August.

Features

New recruits on campus

By DIANA PLETZ
Staff Writer

It's Sara's first day of class as a college freshman. She knows no one and is unfamiliar with the area because she is from the other side of Michigan. She just missed her first Rhetoric class because she couldn't find 112 North Foundation, or was that South Foundation?

At lunch she ate by herself and spent the afternoon talking to no one. What would two strangers have to talk about their first day? At least she made it to her French 214 class on time.

What? I'm really supposed to be in French 114? What's the difference?

Finally, she hoped to find an organization to suit her but what do ASME, CARE, GALA, CHI UPSILON mean and what is a Leibowicz?

MOM! I WANT TO GO HOME!

This is only a collection of fears the Orientation Group Leaders (OGLs) had before they began their freshman year at OU. It is not a true story.

The OGLs, a group of 12 trained student leaders devoting their summer to Freshman Orientation, recall these fears and anticipate most incoming freshmen will have the same. According to junior, Jessica Forbes, Orientation Assistant, none of her fears ever came true.



Thanks to the two days of an event filled orientation and the OGL's help the above nightmare will probably never become real for freshmen. "We're going to hopefully take those (fears) away before they come back in the fall," said OGL sophomore, Andrea Macklem.

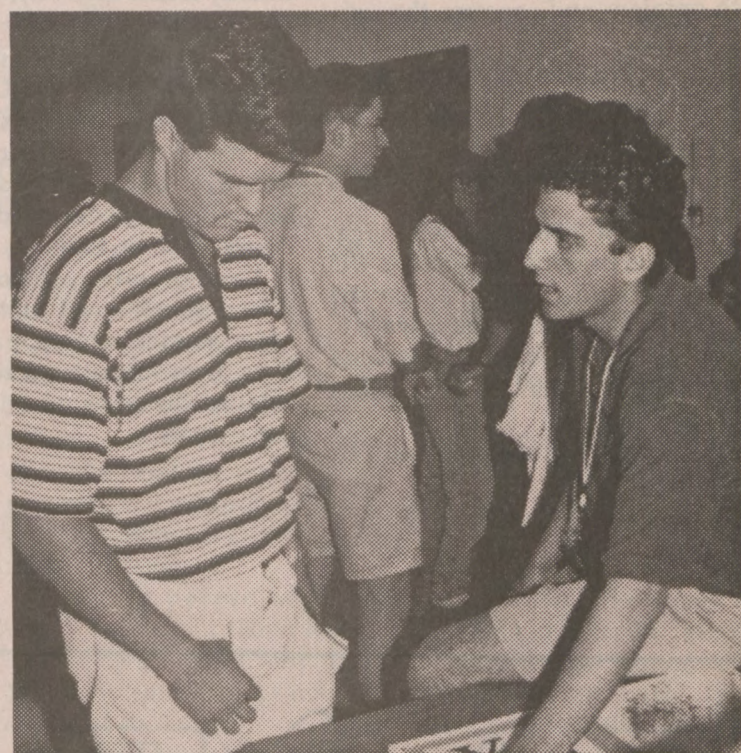
Orientations for first year students are held from the middle of June through the middle of July. All new students are required to attend orientation prior to their first registration.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS:
Orientation brings in orientees and OGL's to explore Oakland's campus and to allow the freshmen and transfer students to get acquainted before the Fall semester begins.

Day number one for an orientee consists of time spent as a group to get to know each other, placement testing, lunch, a tour of the campus and a scavenger hunt as a group.

There will be a skit by the OGLs and sessions with speakers discussing campus life and activities. They will meet their advisor for the first time, in small groups and learn how to register.

Organization Night is planned for the evening, when



LENDING A HELPING HAND: Mark Maltesse, sophomore, business talks to a freshmen about Oakland and what it has to offer new students.

many student organizations set up tables to advertise. A pizza party will follow, and for many freshmen, their first chance to spend the night in a residence hall.

See ORIENTATION page 6

Relaxing in the Summer Sun



KICKING BACK: Liz Hohauser, pre-med and Bob Nancarrow, pre physical therapy, enjoy the weather while studying for an exam, while Ruby the dog checks out the campus.

Seniors in the Spotlight

By HEIDI HEDQUIST
Assistant Features Editor

Three cheers and congratulations go out to this year's winners of the top awards for OU graduates.

The Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson awards were presented to Amy Rickstad and James Haviland. The Human Relations award was presented to CaTina Mitchell. The awards were given to them at the June

8 board meeting.

"The Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson awards are presented annually to an Oakland University senior man and woman who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community," said interim President Gary Russi at the board meeting.

Rickstad showed these qualities through her work to get a student

presence on the Board of Trustees. She also was a member of student government, an orientation leader and an Orientation Administrative Assistant. Rickstad said she was overwhelmed and honored by the award. "It was a wonderful way to bring closure to my time at Oakland. It was so much attention, it almost feels like it didn't happen," said Rickstad.

Haviland was a four year member of See AWARDS page 6

The Great Mysteries of Life....

By SUE KING and
HEIDI HEDQUIST
Special Writers

The great mysteries of life always seem to invade your head at the most inopportune moments. For us these moments came all too often while trying to get this issue out.

For instance, why is the Chef's salad in JW's called an Oakland Chef Salad and none of the other salads are Oakland Salads?

Also, why does the vending machine in the lower level of the Oakland Center still have Christmas style Pepsi cans? And while we are on the subject of Pepsi is it really the choice of a New Generation?

Next question. Why did they put up the sand volleyball nets after everyone moved out of the dorms?

Have you ever wondered,

why if say 7-11 or Meijers is open 24-hours do they have locks on the doors?

Is it just us, or have you ever thought that it was kinda strange that, they have never found Jimmy Hoffa? Think about it.. maybe he's really alive and well and living with Elvis on some Caribbean island?

We want to know who ever came up with the idea that women are terrible drivers? (Heidi's accident last year not included, a woman hit her!)

What is with the resurgence of Swedish bands? Wasn't ABBA enough?

And if that isn't bad enough what about, Congo? I mean what's up with that? Michael Crichton what were you thinking when you let that be made into a movie?

And seeing we had a complaint about women why is it that

men always think they are bigger than they actually are? (You Perverts we're talking about their muscles!!!)

O.K. I guess you knew this one was coming, why do fools fall in love anyway? It would seem that if they were fools they wouldn't be able to figure that one out.

Who told the Duracell people that those android commercials would be funny? It would be great if the Energizer bunny would come along and beat them to death with his drumsticks.

Why do we all know the words to every song ever made, but when it comes time to take that exam we can't remember a thing?

We don't know if we are the only ones who sit around and think of these stupid questions or if everyone is just as demented as us. Somehow the latter is what we are hoping.

Are you interested in Fun, Music and the Great Outdoors???

By SUE KING
Features Editor

Are you bored with the clubs, sick of getting burned while sitting on the beach, or tired of staying at home vegging out in front of the T.V.?

If this sounds all too familiar, there is a world of fun and excitement out there to liven up your summer at Pine Knob, Meadow Brook, Chene Park or Hart Plaza.

Now most people know about Pine Knob and some have even heard of Meadow Brook (the theatre on campus, for those of you that don't) but Chene Park and Hart Plaza may be new to some of you.

What do all of these places have to do with making your summer more exciting? You can get outside and enjoy the summer sun and listen to some great concerts as these are the area's best places for outdoor concerts.

OK so you're probably asking yourself who is going to be at these places that I would want to see. There is someone for everyone to enjoy at these locations.

If funds are low and you can't really afford to go to Pine Knob or Meadow Brook and pay ten dollars or more to see a concert, check out Chene Park or Hart Plaza. They both offer free concerts throughout the summer.

June

- 15- Seal w/ Des'ree at Pine Knob
- 16- Ted Nugent w/Bad Company at Pine Knob
- 16- Stephen Stills at Meadow Brook
- 23- Legends of Motown at Pine Knob
- 24- Luther Vandross at Pine Knob
- 25- Little River Band w/ ELO at Pine Knob
- 28- Jodeci at Chene Park
- 29- George Clinton at Chene Park
- 30- Vince Gill at Pine Knob

July

- 1- Lynyrd Skynyrd w/Tesla at Pine Knob
- 1- Sarah McLachlan at Meadow Brook
- 2- Eddie Money at Pine Knob
- 2- Barenaked Ladies at Meadow Brook
- 3- Foreigner at Pine Knob
- 4- Reggae Sunsplash at Meadow Brook
- 4- Black Sabbath w/ Motorhead
- 7- Boyz II Men at Pine Knob
- 9- Amy Grant at Pine Knob
- 11- Pat Metheny at Meadow Brook
- 11- Michael Bolton at Pine Knob
- 14- Brooks and Dunn at Pine Knob
- 19- 20- Lollapalooza at Pine Knob
- 21- Steve Miller w/ The Doobie Brothers at Pine Knob

- 21- 23- Detroit Symphony Orchestra
- 21- 23- Afro-American Music Fest at Hart Plaza
- 26- Earth, Wind and Fire at Pine Knob
- 28- The Village People w/ K.C. and the Sunshine Band at Pine Knob
- 30- Gospel in the Park at Chene Park

August

- 1- Van Halen at Pine Knob
- 5- REO Speedwagon, Fleetwood Mac w/ Pat Benatar at Pine Knob
- 9- Hootie and the Blow Fish at Pine Knob
- 10- Carly Simon w/ Hall and Oates at Pine Knob
- 12- Peabo Bryson at Chene Park
- 12- Barry Manilow at Meadow Brook
- 14-15- Jimmy Buffet at Pine Knob
- 16- The Cranberries w/ Toad The Wet Sprocket at Pine Knob
- 18- Isley Brothers at Chene Park
- 18- Chicago at Pine Knob
- 20- H.O.R.D.E. Festival at Pine Knob
- 29- Neville Brothers at Meadow Brook

September

- 1- Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers at Pine Knob
- 2- Joan Baez at Meadow Brook
- 3- Live w/ P.J. Harvey at Pine Knob
- 1-4- Montreaux Jazz Festival at Hart Plaza

Liaisons

Continued from page 3

actual speeches will be impromptu. Kendzier and Landsberg attended their first board meeting last Thursday and spoke on the Equal Opportunity Policy. Although they will not have a vote at meetings, both want to become a constant presence, that students feel they can come to with opinions and concerns throughout the year.

"I think this is a great opportunity to provide a positive service for OU," said Kendzier. "I was very encouraged just talking to the trustees on Thursday."

To acquaint themselves with organizations on campus, the liaisons will work with student groups over the summer and offer ways to contact them. Kendzier hopes to set up a location within CIPO to collect student input.

Additionally, Landsberg will be

attending Finance and Personnel meetings in the fall. "Obviously, the board wants us there to offer a student perspective on policies," said Landsberg. "I think we can make changes and temper their decisions."

"I'm hoping we have more of an impact than just random people stepping up to the podium," said Kendzier. She stressed that liaisons are the voice of students, so the material brought to the board will not necessarily reflect their own views.

To help in the selection of the liaisons, a committee made up of Rickstad; student Jim Ureel; CIPO Director Maura Selahowski; Assistant Dean of Students Nancy Schmitz; Vice-President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder; and Sociology Professor Kevin Early.

The committee formed in the Winter semester and whittled down a list of students to submit to Russi. Russi then submitted a report which detailed the steps used in the selection process.

Equal

Continued from page 3

GALA member, Jackie O'Connor who is satisfied with the recent amendment approval, still thinks the decision should have been made at the original presentation. "I'm happy that it passed, but it was long overdue and needed to be done," she said.

At the board's request, Mary Beth Snyder, Vice President for Student Affairs prepared a report on the concerns of gay and lesbian students and how the university has addressed them.

Information on anti-gay incidents was then requested from: the Office of Equal Opportunity, Department of Public Safety and Police, Employee Relations, the Dean of Students, Residence Halls, GALA and the Triangle Foundation.

Most of the reported incidents involved graffiti in restrooms and on sidewalks, poster vandalism and anonymous harassing phone messages directed at openly gay students.

Armed with these findings, Snyder reported, "While the 1980's were a time when students from different racial backgrounds were often the target of epithets and harassment, today, it is the gay and lesbian population on campuses, more than any other group, which bears the brunt of such attacks."

Trustee Doyle, who voted against the change in both April and June, doesn't agree that the amended policy is the answer to this problem. "The incidents that were mentioned were reprehensible. I don't think anyone should be treated poorly. There are individual acts that occur and if those people are caught then they should be removed from the university," said Doyle.

Plan

Continued from page 3

"We concentrated on what it is we want to be, what it is we want to achieve, and what it is we want to offer. Not so much the how but the what," Frankie said. "Now that we know what we want to be . . . , we can figure out how we want to do it."

After years of developing, the university community now stands with the vision which states: "... Oakland University will further its commitment to its constituencies through excellence in teaching, learning, research, and service; it will create a climate which encourages and supports human diversity and development . . ."

Awards


Continued from page 5

the Men's Cross Country team and was captain for one year. He served as president of West Vandenberg Hall Council and as a representative to the Residence Halls Council. He is also a member of the Residence Halls Honorary and is a tutor in the Academic Skills Center.

Haviland was also very proud to receive the award, "I was very honored and really excited," he said.

The Human Relations award is awarded annually to a senior who has contributed to intergroup relations on campus. "Recipients must demonstrate commitment to social justice and multi-cultural understanding," said Russi.

Mitchell was chosen because of her participation in various university functions, her work in engineering student organizations and work as a tutor in the Academic Skills Center. Mitchell has successfully worked to help people of different races and backgrounds develop an understanding in which we are all interdependent.



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Orientation

Continued from page 5

Because of the amount of activities and time spent together there are sure to be some bonds formed between either freshmen or the freshmen and OGLs. "When you come back to school in the fall you'll still see the orientees. They'll come up to you and talk because you're a face they know," said Forbes, who was an OGL last year. "Some of them (the people that meet in orientation) are still together. It depends on the dynamics of the group," said Forbes.

"Most of my fears diminish in orientation," said Macklem, "I met a couple of people from high school and met others in my group. Others didn't know anyone either."

Carla Sabbagh, a sophomore OGL thought that she wasn't going to be able to talk to anyone in her group as an orientee because she didn't know anything about them. She ended up finding people right away. Now, going on her second year, when she's asked what she is a pro at, the answer is, "When I meet people, I am able to find something that we both have in common."

Forbes' biggest fear was scheduling. Now, she considers class scheduling, calling offices and making appointments with administration and faculty something she's a pro at.

Excited to become a pro in college life, Nicole Wallace, a graduate of Waterford Mott plans to attend the June 28-29 orientation. Although she is rooming with a friend in the fall she admits to being nervous about meeting people. "What if my suitemates are weird," said Wallace, "or they could be just like me and Laura (her roommate) and never get out of the bathroom."

Although Wallace has visited OU's campus before she still finds it confusing. "I'm nervous about finding my way around. I get lost anywhere," said Wallace. But, with these fears she still claims her confidence level is high. "I'm excited. I've been ready to go to college for a couple of years now."

Laura Wark, also a graduate of Waterford Mott and Wallace's roommate has similar fears. "I don't know if I'm really going to like this (college). I have no idea what to expect. I hear of classes being cancelled and everyone gets to pick classes before you," said Wark. It is the uncertainty that scares her. "I'll have to develop a new pattern. Because right now (for 18 years) I've had a pattern at my house of things I do each day," said Wark.

"Not knowing always puts a person on guard and clams them up. We want to take them off that guard so they can open up a little bit," Landsberg said.

Orientation is a freshman's formal introduction to university life so that you will not end up as Sara.

CIPO's June/July Patio Concerts

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
On The Oakland Center Patio
(Inside the Hot Shoppe Dining Area if Weather is Inclement)

Date

June 14
June 21
June 28
July 5
July 12
July 19
July 26

Performer

Brindisi String Quartet
John Paul White - Opera
Scot Petersen - Afram Jazz
Classical Guitar
The Detroit Gents (Blues)
Brass Ensemble
Onita Sander's Harp

Guest Chefs

Deborah Wade and Vicki Billington
Tony Delarosa and Karl Boelter
Tom LeMarbe and Lee Anderson
TBA
Jeff Kowakle and Jayne Hoskin
Jocelyn Wooten
Janet Seigle

A grilled lunch will be available at a reasonable price served by Oakland University Guest Chefs.
CIPO would like to thank the Student Activities Funding Board, the Oakland Center, and Marriott Food Service for making the Patio concerts such an enjoyable Oakland University tradition.

Sports

Search nears completion

Bissonnette to select athletic director from panel's final three

By KEN FILLMORE
Sports Writer

After over six months of interviewing and evaluating, the search committee for a new athletic director has made its final cutdown of candidates for the position.

Now, it is up to Vice President of Finance and Administration Paul Bissonnette to approve the list of the three surviving applicants and choose one of them to run OU's athletic program.

The individuals the committee recommended to Bissonnette to replace Paul Hartman, who retired on April 20, 1994, for health reasons, are John J. McDonald, the former

University of Denver Athletic Director who is currently serving in an executive capacity with the U.S. Olympic Festival taking place in Denver this summer, Mansfield University (Pa.) Athletic Director Roger N. Maisner, and Jack Mehl, the Business and Marketing Manager for the Rose Bowl who was the AD at Florida Atlantic University for 12 years.

They remain on a list that peaked over 100 applicants at one point during the search.

That list shrunk to 14 when the committee met on March 29, and later fell to nine at its meeting on April 20.

According to political science and AD search committee chair William Macauley, one of the

nine candidates pulled out of the running when he took an administrative position elsewhere.

Of the remaining eight, Macauley said that one came from a Division III school, another came from an NAIA institution, and the rest came from either Division I or II schools, each carrying unique qualities.

"All have had broad experience in athletic administration and had some fundraising experience," Macauley said.

Seven of the eight candidates were interviewed in what Macauley called an "airport-like" manner, flying them in for a week-end to conduct two-hour interviews on campus.

The final interview was completed with the use of television and videotape last Wednesday.

Macauley said the search, validated by the Office of Equal Opportunity, has gone as smooth as it can possibly can

go despite the important procedures of surgery and child birth, not to mention the delays caused by schedule conflict.

Committee member Al Sera, a supporter of athletics, underwent heart bypass surgery and is no longer on the committee. Fellow member Felicia Bumpus, coordinator of the intercultural program for campus information programs, is currently on maternity leave.

"Getting people here has been a hassle, but Karen Kukuk has done an excellent job," Macauley said of Bissonnette's executive secretary.

"We've had delays, but in a search of this magnitude it's inevitable," he added. "To see the end, that's comforting."

Three weeks ago, Bissonnette estimated that the search could be completed in August, but with his intention to get it done as soon as possible, the new athletic director may be selected sooner if schedules do not collide.

"It will function on how soon people can get on campus," Bissonnette said, noting that the trio will visit with Interim President Gary Russi and interested Board of Trustees members who will provide input in his final decision.



Macauley

PIONEERS reach 30-win plateau with strong pitching, defense



The baseball team followed up a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title in 1994 with a second place finish this spring, sporting the league's top pitching staff and defense.

OU was two and one-half games behind league champion Saginaw Valley State University

with an 18-9 record.

Overall, the Pioneer hurlers, led by junior right-hander Tim Hellebuyck (lower left) at 7-3 with a 1.98 earned run average, were the keys to OU's fifth 30-win season in the school's 26-year baseball history at 30-21. The team ERA was among the leaders in

the leaders in Division II at 3.32, 2.71 in GLIAC play. The Pioneers held opponents to a batting average of .235.

Defensively, OU had a fielding percentage of .954 in GLIAC play and .943 overall. It committed 92 errors in its 51 games played.

1995 Oakland Pioneers Final Batting Statistics

| Player | BA | G/GS | AB | R | H | HR | RBI | SB/SBA | GWH |
|-------------------|------|-------|-----|----|----|----|-----|--------|-----|
| Dan Schmitzer** | .349 | 44/43 | 129 | 25 | 45 | 3 | 31 | 2/4 | 3 |
| Jeff Harwood | .343 | 26/25 | 70 | 14 | 24 | 1 | 9 | 11/12 | 1 |
| Jason Paul | .331 | 49/49 | 136 | 27 | 45 | 4 | 26 | 7/12 | 6 |
| Mike Armstrong** | .325 | 50/50 | 166 | 43 | 54 | 0 | 14 | 33/38 | 1 |
| Derrick Ross** | .323 | 50/49 | 161 | 36 | 52 | 4 | 28 | 10/13 | 4 |
| Jeff Lindsey | .316 | 50/50 | 136 | 17 | 43 | 1 | 22 | 5/8 | 1 |
| Tom Long | .284 | 43/39 | 134 | 24 | 38 | 2 | 22 | 14/17 | 4 |
| Ryan Snodsmith**# | .263 | 41/35 | 118 | 14 | 31 | 2 | 24 | 2/3 | 0 |
| Aaron Carpenter | .239 | 22/11 | 46 | 8 | 11 | 1 | 9 | 3/3 | 0 |
| Charlie Winstel | .235 | 16/8 | 34 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 1/3 | 0 |
| Brian Lemons | .226 | 25/17 | 53 | 9 | 12 | 0 | 5 | 3/6 | 0 |
| Ted Vlaz | .225 | 16/14 | 40 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 1/1 | 0 |
| Ted Allesieff | .211 | 48/48 | 147 | 21 | 31 | 1 | 19 | 3/4 | 4 |
| Tim Schornak | .193 | 30/17 | 57 | 6 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 1/1 | 0 |
| Matt Stratton | .158 | 12/4 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0/0 | 0 |
| Aaron Phillips | .000 | 2/0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 |

1995 Oakland Pioneers Final Pitching Statistics

| Player | W | L | G/GS | CG | IP | R | H | ER | SO | BB | SHO | ERA |
|-----------------|---|---|-------|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|
| Tim Hellebuyck* | 7 | 3 | 15/11 | 4 | 77.3 | 26 | 54 | 17 | 60 | 29 | 1 | 1.98 |
| Aaron Phillips | 3 | 1 | 22/0 | 0 | 25.3 | 16 | 20 | 6 | 28 | 17 | 0 | 2.13 |
| Matt McClellan | 4 | 2 | 14/9 | 3 | 56.0 | 17 | 38 | 15 | 60 | 37 | 0 | 2.41 |
| Fritz Coyro# | 2 | 1 | 13/2 | 0 | 35.0 | 21 | 27 | 11 | 17 | 15 | 0 | 2.83 |
| Jeff Plank | 5 | 4 | 14/11 | 2 | 60.0 | 32 | 56 | 22 | 53 | 25 | 1 | 3.30 |
| Jason Edwards | 6 | 2 | 12/9 | 6 | 60.7 | 27 | 49 | 23 | 51 | 13 | 2 | 3.41 |
| Jason Muxlow | 1 | 1 | 7/1 | 0 | 10.0 | 10 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 6.30 |
| Brian Downs# | 1 | 6 | 13/8 | 1 | 34.0 | 36 | 48 | 25 | 24 | 19 | 1 | 6.62 |
| Scott Simmons | 1 | 0 | 9/0 | 0 | 6.3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 9.95 |
| Eric Carlson | 0 | 1 | 1/0 | 0 | .7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13.50 |
| Ryan Snodsmith | 0 | 0 | 1/0 | 0 | .3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 27.00 |

SAVES: Phillips (6), Hellebuyck (1) NO-HITTER: Plank
*1st-team All-GLIAC **2nd-team All-GLIAC #GLIAC All-Academic
Information compiled by Andy Claitz, Sports Information Director

Rec Center: Selected firm listens to students' ideas about the new sports center

Continued from page 1

of Arizona, Arizona State, University of Georgia and the recently completed facility at the University of California at San Diego.

"All the firms had a local and a national component. You want a local architect that's going to be able to be on site and spend a lot of time on the project. And you want a top national designer which will give you a state of the art facility," Dean of Students David Herman said.

TMP grabbed the same man who designed the olympic pool used in the Los Angeles Olympic Games to design OU's new olympic-sized pool.

Herman explained that groups like TMP come in as teams and the student affairs division interviewed six teams.

"There were 13 teams that submitted proposals and 12 met our requirements. There was a panel and we narrowed it to three and the board of trustees narrowed it to one," Herman said.

He continued to say that one of the things that impressed the panel about this particular firm was that they talked about integrating the building into the playing fields.

Herman talked about creating a

lake there with jogging trails and sand volleyball courts.

"We've had students involved in the whole process and we plan on taking a trip to Eastern this year," Herman added.

Rayissa Slywka, student body president and member of a focus group, said that one of the things that she hoped that the architects would keep in mind is the landscape and to find a way to incorporate it into the building.

Slywka said that the TMP Associates and Parkin-Gannon Architects team was the one team that focused on the students.

"All three firms were open to the student's suggestions and one went to far as to focus on the students. They really had it together. They knew what Oakland wanted and they had their idea, but they didn't let their idea eclipse what Oakland's needs were or what it wanted," Slywka said.

Sara Thomas was also a focus group member and helped to distribute the surveys to new students during orientations.

"We had an overwhelming response which is good because they're the ones that'll be using it," Thomas said.

"I tried to make students aware that, believe it or not, building this facility will make OU a better place," Thomas said.

"They incorporated a Green Campus which is where they use recycled objects in building the facility and I thought that was really good because

we're saving money and not abusing the environment," Slywka said.

"They just had an answer for everything. Anytime the board asked them a question they knew what they were talking about. They just gave the impression that they were confident and very sure of themselves."

"The input I gave during the research phase asked for the building to be nice to look at and at the same time be a place the students would want to go, not just an ugly cold building," Slywka added.

"I'm just glad we're finally getting one."

"The bonds being approved is very important because you need that initial out of money to pay for the design and begin construction," Herman said.

THE PROJECT

The student affairs board and several students started taking trips three years ago. They headed to other campuses in the area like Bowling Green, University of Toledo, CMU and Eastern Michigan.

Then OU had a consultant conduct a feasibility study which when it was all said and done took about a year.

"The feasibility study surveyed both our current and our new students to find out what they would like to see in a facility. What they're priorities would be for the use of space. Would they prefer racquetball over tennis, or would they like ping pong over

swimming," Herman said.

The setup of the questionnaire categorized allowed the results to be cross-referenced with age, sex, class standing and a variety of subcategories of interest.

Based on that study a list was generated that ranked, according to priority, what students would like to see in the recreational part of the building.

Dreams, visions, ideas and plans are one thing if cost is no concern, but as it stands cost is a very big concern.

Thomas said that a lot of the new students wanted to know why OU needed a new facility.

"We took the cost and said how many of these things can we get for a building for this amount of money. So at some point you have to say well its more important to have a pool than a tennis court," Herman said.

That report was given to the architects.

A sample of students were given a questionnaire asking to select from three choices how much they would be willing to pay and they selected the middle amount.

The building was then designed to fit that cost structure.

The project includes the renovation of the existing Lepley Sports Center and the addition of a new student recreation and fitness center.

Plans call for the new sports center to house a 3,500 seat arena for athletic and special events. This new addition will cover 139,000 Gross Square Feet

and the entire project will cover roughly 210,100 GSF.

Herman said that the first two attempts back in the 80s ran into financial problems because the University didn't want to go for a rec center at the same time they were going for a new science building.

However, as soon as the science building was approved by the state, the focus moved to the rec center.

"Interim President Gary Russi and all the new vice-presidents thought that it was a good idea. Former athletic director Paul Hartman had really been pushing for it and the acting Athletic Director, Greg Kampe has really been involved throughout the project," Herman said.

The design stage is just beginning and it is expected to take a good part of a year. During this stage, Larson and Body will design the facility and decide what pieces are going where.

The design stage precedes the construction stage which will take about two years, leaving completion about three years away.

"This is the key to developing a more exciting campus life. It will be seen as a major focus area not only with varsity games but with the recreational facilities as well. Hopefully, it will become a hub of campus life," said Herman.

Proposed site of OU's new Rec Center, behind Lepley Sports Center.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENT CONGRESS

19 Oakland Center (across from the Bookcenter)

370-4290

OUSC MEETINGS

for Spring/Summer Semesters will be:

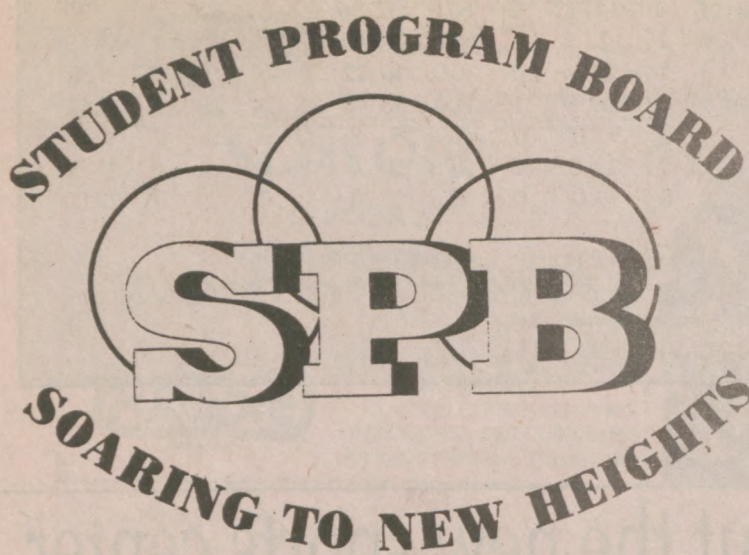
Monday, June 19th 6:00pm (Annex II, OC)

Monday, July 17th 6:00pm (Oakland Room, OC)

Monday, August 21st 6:00pm (Oakland Room, OC)

For questions and comments please call 370-4290.

Weekly OUSC meetings for the Fall Semester will begin on Monday, September 11th in the OC from 4:00-6:00pm.



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