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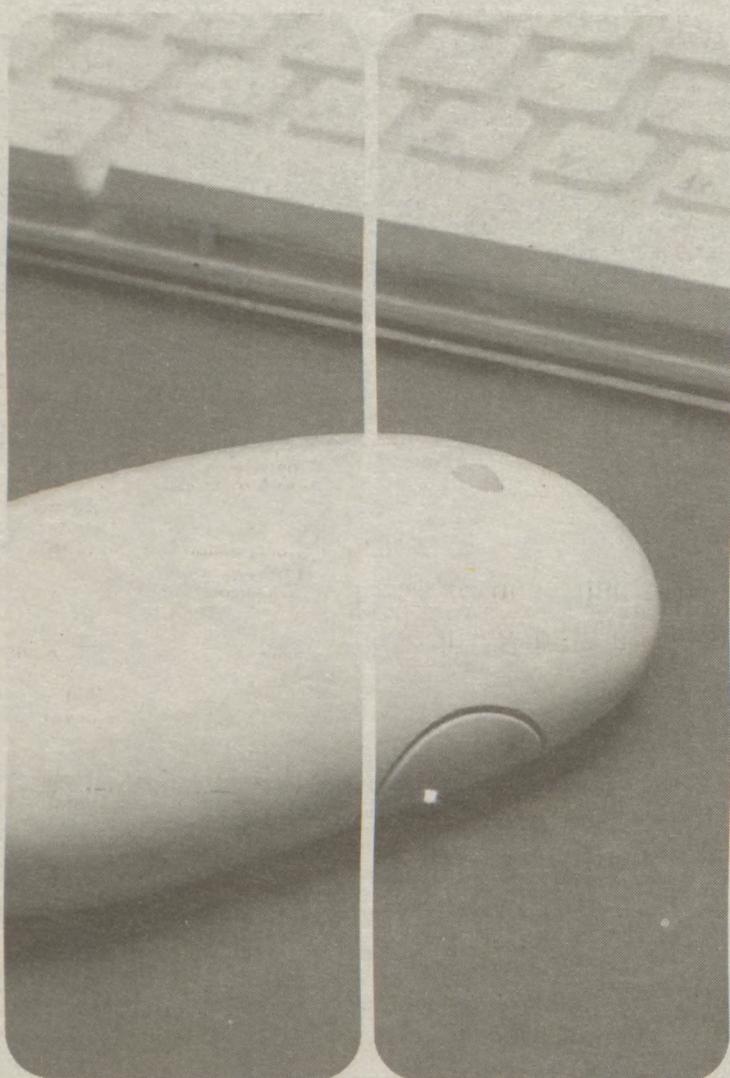
The International Issue

BIG NEWS ON CAMPUS

**Tuition increase at OU
inspires protests,
complaints and
concern for the future**

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EDITORIAL

Kelly Kozlowski
Editor in Chief/Campus Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-4268

Paul Gully
Managing Editor
oakpostmanaging@gmail.com
(248) 370-2537

Dustin Alexander
Photo Editor
oakpostphoto@gmail.com
(248) 370-4266

Alex Cherup
Mouthing Off Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-4267

Kara O'Connell
The Mix/Scene Editor
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

Celeste Filiatrault
Graphics/Web master
oakpostphoto@gmail.com
(248) 370-4266

Lindsey Wojcik
Local/You Editor
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

SENIOR REPORTERS
Jesse Dunsmore
C.M. Graski
(Sr. Photographer)
Rob Tate
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2849

Samantha Franz
Sports Editor
oakpostsports@gmail.com
(248) 370-2849

Wendy Lyons
Copy Editor
oakpostlocal@gmail.com
(248) 370-4268

ADVISOR
Holly Gilbert
Dept. of Journalism
(248) 370-4268
shreve@oakland.edu

ADVERTISING

Crystal Nelson
Lead Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Owen Sexton
Marketing Director
oakpostmarketing@gmail.com
(248) 370-4266

Celeste Filiatrault
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Maria Vitale
Asst. Ads Manger
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269



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What should we, as Americans, strive for each day? Also, senior reporter Charles Graski challenges all to sift through war-time rhetoric.



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July 18, 2007

STAFF EDITORIAL

The pursuit of life, liberty and happiness is a never-ending journey

"If your time to you is worth savin'
Then you better start swimmin' or
sink like a stone,
For the times they are a-changin'."

— Bob Dylan

Nothing remains constant. America has understood this throughout its brief history, with a consistent pursuit to fulfill the idealistic qualities of equality and liberty.

Although much has changed since 1776, the core principles have remained the same. In the past few centuries, a struggle to please these values has continually taken place. This ardent undertaking has seen many faces — Martin Luther King, Henry David Thoreau, Abraham Lincoln, all of whom took the issue by the horns and demanded the country's soul be truthful.

It is this devotion that led to the foundation of the nation.

America may never reach the perfection that Jefferson, Franklin, or Madison envisioned, however this is no reason to jettison the attempt. Our founding fathers should be the prime example of the fortitude needed to take life by the horns and demand for the right to say "no." This is what it means to be American. It goes beyond flag waving, apple pie and fireworks.

It goes beyond politics and government. It is based in the individual first. If you want progress, the folks in Washington are not the start. Those on capital hill are only tools for maintaining America. It is the people who make the difference. Stand up for what you believe, and play a Tom Petty on everyone. Don't back down.

If the laws and leaders move contrary

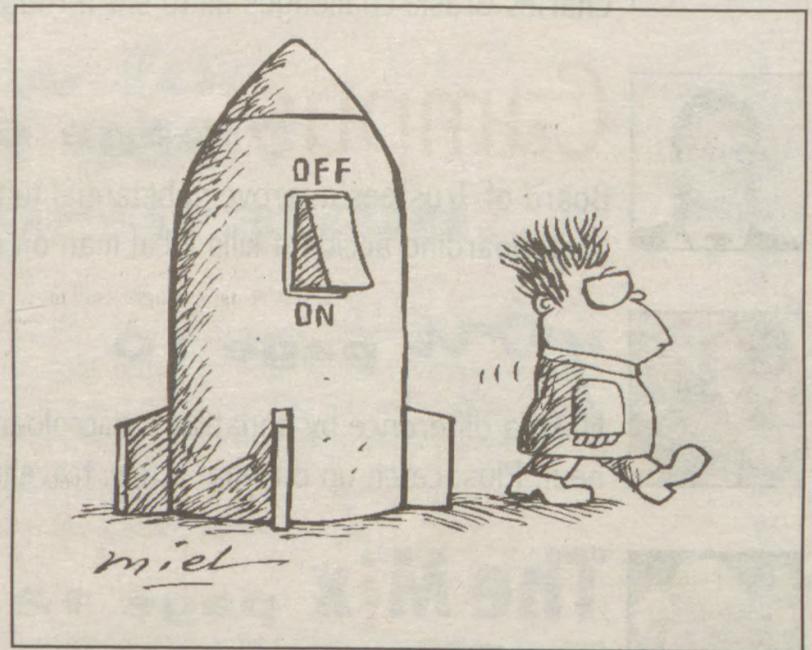
to "we the people," it is within the hands of us the people. We cannot sit dormant waiting for Godot to make it right. It is our job. It is our duty. If the system fails, then we have failed — that is, failed to change it.

Start swimming, no matter how far from shore. The underdog does not fail because he is the underdog, he fails because he believes he is the underdog. There is no underdog when truth is on your side.

These actions, although labeled as political, have nothing to do with politics. It is more of an organic ritual at the foundation of freedom and equality. Equality, liberty, peace and justice are not political, just like breathing and eating are not political. It is part of the experience of life.

Of course, many shrug and favor the road of indifference. "Too utopian," too little, too late" or "too much work" are constant pessimistic and at times realistic excuses for the alternative. Regardless of the validity of these criticisms, these reasons fail to realize that all groundbreaking changes have met the same heckles. These complaints are the justification for the action, and why we grab the bull by the horns.

Demanding success is beyond the point. It is about the action of preservation and upholding progress. Results are secondary. All you can do is control your actions, and fight for your results. All the vagabonds of veracity had no idea if the fight they fought was or is a success. What matters more is the fact it was done and attempted. So start swimming — don't sink like a stone. If America is to be respected, this is the reason.



Deng Coy Miel, Singapore

North Korea to consider halting its nuclear research program ...

What do you think? Have a news tip?

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The Oakland Post
61 Oakland Center
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Letter Policy: 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.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Beyond the rhetoric

By C.M. GRASKI
Senior Reporter

"Political language ... is designed to make lies sound truthful and a murder respectful, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

— George Orwell

War. What runs through your mind when you hear the word? Thoughts, conjecture, and, perhaps, some musing at a favorite battle depiction glorified by Hollywood to maximize profits likely intended to run through your mind.

Is that all that happens?

Do you *feel* anything?

Do you get disoriented?

Are you utterly torn to bits, as tradition, sentimentality, fear and pride tear you apart as your attention splinters into scenes from "The Deer Hunter," "Platoon," "Saving Private Ryan," or dare I invoke it, "Starship Troopers?"

For the majority of us, this is all we have. This, and what the news media shows us and tells us, is all we have. War is an enigma, and it has no universal reality.

What we citizens have on the home front is alienation and rhetoric.

It's us versus them. Good versus evil.

The body count streams through our skulls on radio waves throughout the day, and confronts on the evening news as we ease into our recliners. For these brief moments, we're vaguely aware that in another part of the world, there's a war going on. Soldiers are forever on edge, civilians never cease to shudder

or jump at the occurrence of anything slightly unexpected.

In another part of the world, people don't have a chance to get up and turn that reality off.

In another part of the world, hell on earth is the only reality there is.

There is no way to share the same reality of war as the soldiers that spill their blood in them. There is no way to share in the horror of the defenseless civilians that end up in collateral damage or blowback reports. There's no way to know a reality other than the one you experience everyday.

And what is this reality?

What runs through your mind when you hear "totalitarian," "democracy," "terrorism," "insurgent," "patriotic," "freedom," "weapons of mass destruction"?

They're the most popular words in the lexicon of wartime rhetoric, and we often encounter them between advertisements for such creature comforts as personal automobiles, blockbuster movies, chocolate sundaes, roller coasters and sales on food by the pound at the local supermarket.

Those words are projected out as if shards of shrapnel, piercing the mind with stories with headlines like: "Republican rebellion on Iraq," "Military sees drop in black recruits," "Brutal new tactics in Iraq," "Terror threat a source of concern," "Iraq: Future looks dreary without American troops," "Suicide attack: bomb kills 70 in Pakistan," "UK: More must be done to fight terrorists," "U.S. deaths in war now exceeds 9/11

deaths," and most importantly "Troops and families battle Iraq fatigue."

Every headline but the final one smacks of politicizing war for the agendas of a fractured and systemically balkanized American public.

All of them are distorted abstractions and mutations of formerly intelligible, properly used vocabulary.

What war tactics are not brutal?

Is there a threshold of brutality that must be breached before the tactics can be labeled as such, as with genocide?

Of course terror is a concern, but when isn't it?

Most of us can sleep soundly because we know a greater terror will arise if we don't get our beauty rest. Breath like mustard gas will follow the sleepless terrified wherever they go and will make conducting business very difficult.

Such headlines and stories are purposely spun, poorly named, distractions. They vaguely describe, but never intimate, citizens with war. It's a leftover firecracker heard detonated in the middle of the night in late August.

"Troops and their families" must cope with "Iraq fatigue" alone. There is no brief and aggravating "crackle, pop, crackle, crackle" in the middle of the night, followed by silence. The tension of being intimately linked to war by blood knows no abatement, no reassuring silence.

There's nothing brief for our troops and their families.

So, as we enter into the third week of July with memories of Fourth of July fireworks and celebrations fading as we

slide back into our light-hearted treks through the remaining midsummer days, let us not forget what we are isolated from.

Let us not forget that the fireworks we so passively enjoy in complacent wonderment are symbolic of the cannon fire, M-60 sprays, carpet bombs, atom bomb detonations and napalm of war.

Fireworks are symbolic of the lives that have been fragmented into oblivion.

We are never serenaded as we drift into lethargy and, ultimately, sleep by an orchestra of war machines.

We are never kept awake by the terrible screams of the mortally wounded and the shrieks of civilians caught in the crossfire.

We are never to know the racking trauma of war as our soldiers do.

We are never to know the horrible reality of war if we simply continue to consider the circumstances of war as good vs. evil.

We should learn to empathize, and not blindly follow blanket terminology which serves its subjects with poor representation and offers an elusive and fictitious truth.

We shouldn't blame the soldiers or their enemies on the battlefield. We shouldn't blame the enemies of the state.

We shouldn't blame civilians for being at the wrong place at the wrong time. In war, it's either kill or be killed, but one belief we should all agree with is this:

Every life is valuable.

Every death is horrible.

Student Congress to continue protests to Lansing

Guest Column

Rob Meyer
Student Body
President



Food: \$100. Gas: \$150. Rent: \$400. Books: \$800. TUITION: \$Unaffordable. That is how students are now going to feel after last Wednesday's Board of Trustees meeting in which a 13.96% tuition increase was approved. I feel that the increase in tuition is completely absurd. Since funding from the state level has been dwindling over the past

few years, the school has found it necessary to steadily raise tuition for us. But raising tuition should be the last resort for the university officials.

As I mentioned in my statement at the Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday, here at Oakland University, we, the students, are the customers of this university. It is rare that you see companies raise costs for their customers in the corporate world. Costs should be cut elsewhere. There are always better ways to budget your money rather than passing the "buck" onto the students.

Since the damage has already been done at Oakland University, the only next step to take is to let the state know how we are being affected by their unreasonable funding cuts. I have

decided that our Student Congress will now be making monthly trips to Lansing, and everyone, even if not part of Student Congress is encouraged to tag along. The most efficient way for our governor and state officials to realize how they are affecting the state's 15 public universities is to see us protesting first hand.

These trips will be on the third Wednesday of each month, starting in August. For more information regarding these trips, please check out our Web site at www.oakland.edu/ousc as well as visiting us in our office in the lower level of the Oakland Center.

Be on the lookout for other happenings on campus as well. This coming fall, the lower level of the Oakland Center will be repainted, but not with

your typical paint job. A mural of different pictures of students in action, sporting events, the history of OU and many other pictures will be placed directly on the walls of the Oakland Center basement, near the Student Congress offices. This will reflect much of the same design that is currently in the O'Rena. Student Video Productions will also be placing new plasma screen televisions throughout the Oakland Center. OUTV will be playing on these TV sets 24-7.

Here within Student Congress, we are working for you, the student. Please address any concerns with tuition or any other matter to my e-mail address, rjmeyer@oakland.edu or share them in person at our office. OUSC looks forward to serving you, this coming new and exciting school year.

Tuition jumps 13.9 percent

By KELLY KOZLOWSKI & PAUL GULLY
Editor in Chief and Managing Editor

One of the main draws of Oakland University has been its affordable cost. Compared to other universities in the state, Oakland has offered a relatively low cost of tuition while still providing renowned education programs.

However, since last week's Board of Trustees meeting, this may no longer be the case. In a unanimous vote taken Wednesday, July 11, board members chose to raise the university's tuition costs by 13.9 percent, equating to a \$971 per year increase for the average full-time student.

The money per student breaks down to around \$600 covering the lack of state funds available to OU and roughly \$300 going toward university operating fees.

While the trustees ended the meeting in agreement on the issue, it was not until after much discussion and debate regarding the necessity of such an increase that they came to a consensus.

Many trustees, most notably Henry Baskin, raised objections and questioned the proposed increase in the midst of multiple references to statistics from other universities that proved OU is not alone in its tuition increase.

"It doesn't matter what the other schools are doing," Baskin said. "Let's talk about us."

But some students think paying attention to competition is vital to OU's continued success.

Oakland University Student Council President Rob Meyer addressed Baskin's comment, saying that "staying competitive will continue to make OU the best among all [Michigan] universities."

Its reputation for providing a quality education at a cost affordable to the average working college student is what often separates OU from the rest.

"[My parents and I] picked OU because it was one of the cheaper schools that I could go to," said education major Angela Logan. "We're barely affording it as it is."

The financial strain that an extra \$1000 in tuition fees annually will add to the already strenuous student workload was a key point made by OUSC representatives at the board meeting.

Both President Meyer and Vice President Jameelah Muhammad offered scenarios of students having to sacrifice devotion to their studies for obligation to the jobs that buy their books, which rang all too familiar

for many working students in the crowd.

"As painful as it was to raise tuition, it was an absolutely necessary move," said Provost Virinder Moudgil. "State funding for Michigan universities has dropped 9.2 percent [since 2001], and only five other states have experienced a bigger reduction in state funds."

"Even worse, when you compare state support in terms of pure dollars, Michigan ranks dead last for

few in attendance.

A silent protest staged at the Board of Trustees meeting was also sparsely attended. However, those in attendance spent the entire two and a half hours holding up posters challenging the board to find better alternatives.

Meyer attributes a lack of general awareness and activism regarding the issue to the board's timing.

According to Meyer, OUSC did not receive notification of the proposal until the Monday prior to the meeting during which the decision would be made.

According to Meyer, with only 48 hours to draft statements, student congress had little time to motivate action among the student body in an effective manner.

While trustees commended the students for their passion and rhetorical eloquence, their efforts were defeated, leaving trustees and protesters alike feeling frustrated by the financial challenges facing OU in the future.

"I don't mind cutting to the bone to save a business," said trustee chair Dennis Pawley, "but you don't cut to the marrow, and that's where we're at. It's time to fix this university."

Trustee Monica Emerson added, "I think it would be more harmful to not [raise tuition] and compromise the level of education."

Ultimately, that proved to be the opinion of the board as a whole.

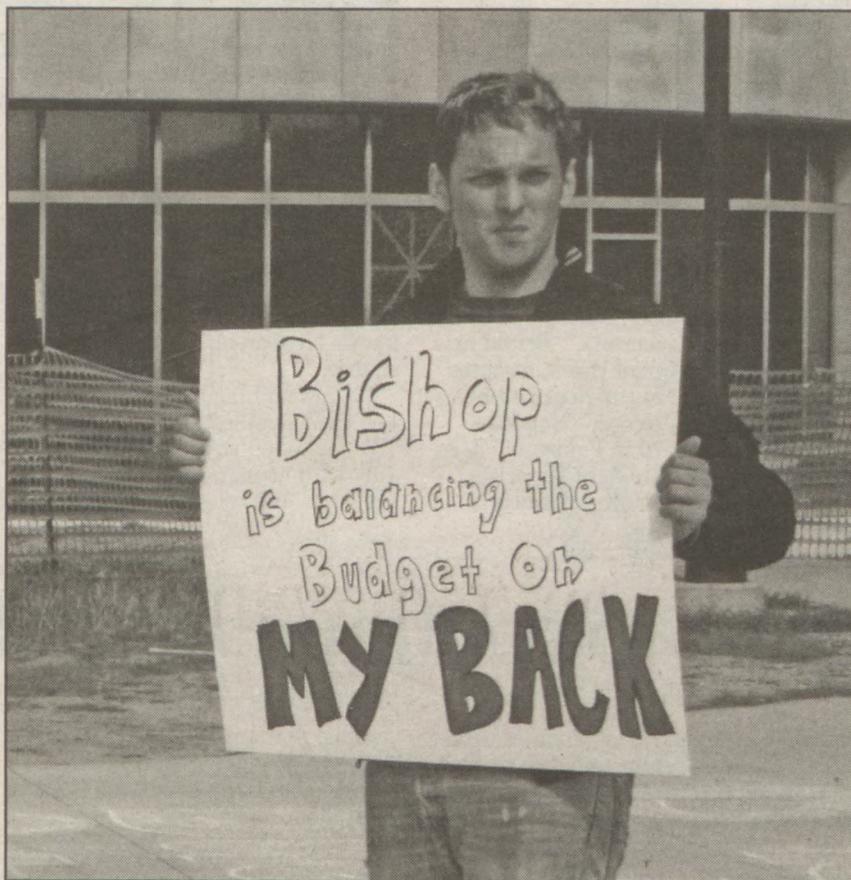
"In the past decade we've made cost reductions of \$28 million in permanent and one-time savings," Moudgil said. "We've eliminated positions, deferred needed maintenance projects, outsourced some services [and] eliminated redundant or underperforming program offerings. We are operating as efficiently as possible."

"By cutting so deeply over a period of time, the challenge then becomes to ensure that the quality of our education remains at the highest level."

And the benefits of Oakland's continuing growth do not go unnoticed. "Where else are you going to go and be able to use a cadaver lab?" said junior pre-med student Alex Colen. "Plus you get more one-on-one with the professors."

While some students understand the need to maintain a standard of excellence, few will escape the effects of the increase.

"I understand why they're doing it," said junior Kyle Donnelly, "to promote growth in the school. But it sucks."



Junior Brett Nicholson, 19, protests the lack of state funding for education in front of the Oakland Center Monday, July 16.

C.M. GRASKI/The Oakland Post

that same period," said Moudgil. "Michigan needs to make a stronger commitment to supporting higher education, especially when you look at what most states are doing in that regard."

Around campus, many students were unaware of the tuition increase, as was evident in failed attempts to organize protests.

A planned protest in front of the Oakland Center, Monday, July 16, failed to garner much support. In the end, event organizers and several reporters were the

Local man dies in skateboard accident on OU campus

By PAUL GULLY
Managing Editor

A skateboarding accident on the campus of Oakland University took the life of Joshua Taylor, a 27-year-old Royal Oak resident and expecting father, early Father's Day morning.

Taylor and close friend Nathan Bloyer, of Troy, were skateboarding near the Pawley Hall parking lot at approximately 1:30 a.m., June 17.

According to the police report, Bloyer saw Taylor fall backward and hit his head on the concrete while attempting to skateboard down a paved downspout near the staircase between the lot and the parking structure across the street. Taylor was not wearing a helmet.

Bloyer immediately placed an emergency 9-1-1 call.

According to Oakland University Police Chief Sam Lucido, Taylor was unconscious when responding officers arrived at the scene.

Taylor was transferred to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital by paramedics, where he was listed in critical condition. Taylor was placed on life support and died Sunday afternoon, with his family at his side.

Taylor's wife, Natalie, who is expecting their first child in October, was in Florida, visiting a sister, at the time of the incident. However, she was able to make it home before he died, according to sources close with the family.

"This was a tragic accident. [Taylor] was a fine young man from a good family," Lucido said. "The family is just devastated."

Taylor's death was ruled accidental by a medical examiner. A toxic screening revealed that neither drugs nor alcohol were present in his



Photo Courtesy of Melissa Seligman
Joshua Taylor poses on his wedding day. Taylor, a resident of Royal Oak, Mich. was 27.

system at the time of the accident, according to OUPD's follow-up report.

Five of Taylor's organs were donated to potential recipients. People close to Taylor said the organ donation exemplified the kind of person he was.

According to friends of the family, Taylor was active in charity work and was always willing to help others in need.

In 2003, Taylor bicycled 3,900 miles across the

U.S., raising money for the Star Commonwealth Boarding School.

"Josh was a high-spirited, very lov-

ing man. [He] was the type of guy that everyone wanted to be friends with," said Melissa Seligman, who was the Taylors' wedding photographer.

According to Lucido, Taylor had no affiliation with OU. This was the first time he and Bloyer had been skateboarding on campus.

While the university has no ordinance prohibiting skateboarding on campus, OUPD tries to discourage it as much as possible.

According to Lucido, the majority of skateboarding incidents on campus involve middle- or high-schoolers who are asked to leave and almost always comply.

"To my knowledge, there have not been any other serious skateboarding-related accidents on campus," Lucido said.

With the opening of the Auburn Hills Skate Park, the number of skateboarders on campus has declined.

"If anything can be learned from this tragedy, it's that skateboarding, and those types of activities, should be done at places designed for that activity, and with the proper protective gear," Lucido said. "University campuses are not designed for skateboarding."

Students reach out to community through free enterprise

International student organization promotes student involvement

By CRYSTAL NELSON
Lead Ads Manager

Students In Free Enterprise, or SIFE, has been an organization at Oakland University for the last five years. The international program is found in over 40 countries and focuses on working with businesses and higher education.

Student teams are established on university campuses and led by faculty advisors to develop community outreach projects.

With a motto that aims at "changing the world," SIFE focuses on market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and business ethics.

Working to help people in the sur-

rounding communities, SIFE has left its mark on many organizations.

According to Renee Blackburn, anthropology and French major at Oakland and president of SIFE, "we work with local students at two Pontiac high schools, a Pontiac middle school and also other community outreach programs."

Blackburn continues, "We also have a retail operation — we sell products in Walgreen stores."

SIFE is currently in the process of choosing products for next year.

Oakland's SIFE just completed its Entrepreneurship Summer Camp, where high school juniors are invited to live on campus for a week. Students participate in classes and work in

groups to create a product and a business plan, and present their ideas to a panel of judges.

"All students receive a \$500 scholarship for completing the camp and the winning teams at the camp also receive additional scholarships," Blackburn said.

"We are helping those in our community like some of the other student organizations, but since SIFE is an international organization, there are many opportunities for SIFE students beyond just helping the community.

"SIFE offers scholarships, and the sponsor companies of SIFE specifically look for SIFE members because they know that we have the leadership skills they are looking for."

Some of the current sponsors of the team are Comerica Bank, Charter One Bank, Walgreen's Pharmacy, Credit Union One and Bottle Crew.

There are currently 42 registered members in the program at Oakland University, and SIFE wants to recruit more members for the upcoming school year.

"We have some great programs, but we don't have the people to help us," Blackburn said. "Once we start to get more members, we can expand our programs."

If you are interested in joining SIFE, contact Renee at rblackb@oakland.edu.

What's your politic?

OU professors discuss government

By C.M. GRASKI
Senior Reporter/Photographer

The phrase "the personal is political" manifested within the women's liberation movement in the 1960s and 1970s.

It called attention to the fact that an individual's feelings, potential and personality were not simply products of an autonomous development. Those aspects of an individual's identity were in fact defined and limited by politics and political structures.

According to a University of Michigan report conducted in 2006, voter turnout that year was a record high, at 53.8 percent.

Where are the other 47.2 percent?

According to some political science professors at Oakland University, low voter turnout is due, in part at least, to apathy held by constituents for the voting process, and for politics in general.

Professors Vincent Khapoya, Paul Kubicek and John Klemanski concur that the most common misconception they encounter among their students is that politics is a dirty and corrupt game that should be left alone for the sinister politicians to play at.

Politics is no game.

According to professor Khapoya, politics is the means by which people in a community make collective decisions about the distribution of resources, which affect every element that comprise ourselves and our lives.

"The political process can be a means of conflict resolution and a solution to a problem," professor Klemanski said.

As citizens of a democratic republic, we have the ability to influence politics, and ultimately our own lives, through participation.

"Removing yourself from the political process is not a solution. By refusing to participate, you are forfeiting the role you play in steering the country in a direction you would prefer it to go and ultimately the direction you would like to take in your own life," Khapoya said.

With President Bush's approval rating at an all-time low of 37 percent, and a 69 percent disapproval rating for the direct icon of the country reported by a CBS News Poll, it seems that voter turnout should be higher. However, turnout continues to be slightly over 50 percent, and the statistics were quite similar back in November.

The United States is an undeniable force on the world stage, but some OU professors find that forcefulness might not be the best posture for the country at the moment.

"The US expected to be the sole superpower, and extend values of freedom

and democracy throughout the world," Khapoya said.

"The administration thought the goal would be easily obtained, but it's not," Khapoya said. "The administration must learn to recognize, as they are obligated to do as diplomats and one state out of hundreds, the difference between being a leader and being a bully."

According to professor Kubicek, it is clear that the US is a leading state in international affairs, which allows the country to do a lot of things, but many states still resent American power, or in the case of Darfur, wish the US would do more.

The professors' concerns are relevant, and as citizens of this democratic republic, being aware of issues at home and abroad are vital, and we are all essential in creating a palpable world we feel comfortable to live and thrive in.

Local politics is just as important as national politics.

"At least participate in local politics," Khapoya said. "Local and state governments are where the majority of your tax dollars are paid and spent, so I would encourage active participation on a level that most noticeably and actively affects your life."

Quality of life is essential, so make voting essential.

While professors Kubicek, Khapoya and Klemanski raise issues about our current administration and political system, they remain active participants in the systems they have available to them.

If a political system worked as well in theory as it did in practice, they all are in agreement that a system free of the suppression of individual development and expression is of the utmost importance.

"I prefer a system that respects 1st Amendment rights. Those are like God's Ten Commandments to me," Khapoya said. "I would also like there to be transparency in everything the state does, nothing done in secret."

While professor Kubicek admires the communist system in theory, he would prefer to live in a small democratic state with a great deal of personal freedom and decentralization.

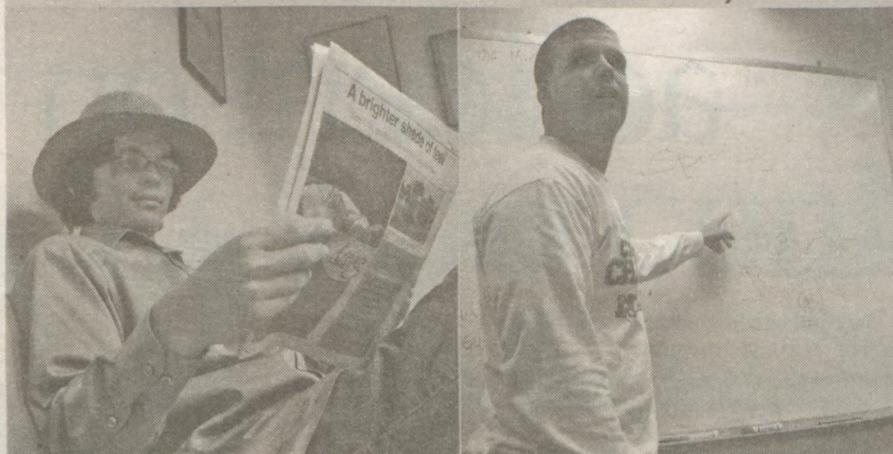
"I want my voice to matter more in government," Kubicek said.

According to professor Klemanski, "nothing beats the good old USA as a place to live."

The ability to freely travel and fulfill your own ambitions has not been extremely restrained the professors point out, and this ability is due in part to public participation in the political system.

The personal will continue to be political.

The Oakland Post is now hiring for the 2007-2008 school year.



The following paid staff positions are available:

Managing Editor - Always dreamed of being number 2? Run the show when the editor isn't looking.

Campus News Editor - Be the first to know about the latest on-campus news! Assign stories and design pages.

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Senior Reporters - Does your name look good in print? Pitch, write and read at least two of your stories weekly.

Photographers - Ready, Set, Shoot! Take photos as needed, hone your skills and have some fun.

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POLICEFILES

■ Multiple thefts from the Recreation and Athletic Center were reported to the OUPD the night of June 23. One person reported his wallet missing from the unlocked men's locker where he had left it. The wallet was later recovered by police in the garbage outside the RAC lobby restroom. The owner said \$21 cash and a gift card were missing from the wallet. Another man said his cell phone was missing from his bag, which he had left by the basketball court while refereeing a game. A third man also said he left his duffel bag on the sidelines while he refereed a game and saw a male standing by the bag. Later, when the bag went missing, he located the male in a restroom and noticed his own bag in the male's larger duffel bag. Police questioned the suspect and arrested him after finding five cell phones, \$68 cash and three credit cards bearing the victim's name in the suspect's duffel bag.

■ An actor reported the theft of a sign-in book from Varner Hall June 17. As of June 26, police had received multiple calls from the suspect saying that he knew where the book was but didn't take it, he knew nothing about the book, he was owed \$1000 by the theater, he owned patents on all parts of the play so it all belonged to him anyway, the theater had never returned the "flying harness" he'd rented them and that everyone in the area was too busy to have seen who took the book. He also repeatedly reminded police he had an attorney who would contact them.

■ A student may have been struck by lightning June 27. The student reported he was walking by Elliott Hall around 2:40 p.m. when he felt a very painful shock. He was then observed looking confused and disoriented by another student walking by Varner Hall. The second student led the first student to Dodge Hall where Auburn Hills Rescue arrived and examined him. The father of the student was contacted and took the student to see a doctor. Police reported that the student was conscious and alert enough to answer all their questions before medical help arrived.

■ An OUPD police vehicle was damaged July 10 when the driver struck a dumpster. The driver was backing out of the loading dock area of the Recreation and Athletic Center and accidentally struck a dumpster that had been temporarily placed on a sidewalk "almost into the road," according to the police report. The vehicle's rear panel was damaged.

Warm welcomes and cold shoulders meet international students at OU

By **JESSE DUNSMORE**
Senior Reporter

According to statistics from the International Students and Scholars Office, Oakland University is currently educating 358 international students and scholars from 60 countries, including Nigeria, Tanzania and Kazakhstan. Some seek out OU specifically for a degree; others are part of a student exchange program OU has with several universities around the world. All probably hope to feel comfortable here.

OU does have several organizations for students interested in celebrating their heritage beyond the borders of this country like the China Club and the Chaldean American Student Organization. Groups like these also try to educate American students to promote cultural understanding.

And some international students do feel welcome.

Chetan Yeole, a graduate student from India, hasn't had any problems with American students because of his nationality. "I observed here that people over here are very courteous to others. I never had any trouble regarding this." Yeole, who is majoring in computer science and engineering, came to the United States in January this year and has attended OU for six months.

But other students have had to deal with intolerance.

Jayantha Hewage, a graduate student and teaching assistant in the department of mathematics and statistics, has been studying at OU since early 2004. "I have seen in both places there are good people as well as bad people," Hewage said. "Being a foreigner, the attitude of stu-

dents in my classes was not good towards me. But most of my classmates were good, even though they are not helpful as friends in our country. Yes, there were few people [who] have been rude and unkind towards us, but there are a lot of good people."

"[There are] people that have been very rude to me," said psychology major Gladys Herrera, who came from Venezuela seven years ago with her aunt. "I think many people do not understand that it is hard to write, read and speak in another language." Herrera hopes to be sponsored by a company so she can stay in the United States to work after graduation.

Mechanical engineering graduate student Amro Zaki, who came to OU because of the local automotive industry, said one similarity between his home in the United Kingdom and here "is that people are not open to making friends; everyone is self-centered." While no one has openly expressed dislike to Zaki because of his nationality, he said, "You see it in their eyes, but nobody was rude enough to say it."

Not all "culture clashes" are so subtle.

One student, who asked not to be identified, said he had been spit on "for no reason" by another student, had his accent mocked and was assaulted by a group of the other student's friends. "Things are not always smooth (for an international student) because some people have extreme hate against foreign people or against everyone who is different," the student said, adding that he does have some good friends at OU.

Rami Haddad, a graduate student, stressed that he doesn't believe negative things about Americans in general.

"Honestly, I found both types of people; some are nice and support my nationality," said Haddad, who founded the Lebanese Club in the fall of 2006 to share Lebanese culture with OU students. "However, most of the students have a lack of education about other countries and treat others rudely because of what they see and hear on TV or because they do not know [about foreigners] other than stereotyping."

Graduate student Paula De Lima said some people have been impatient with her Brazilian accent, but she believes confidence is key in international student/American relations.

"The secret to all international students and foreigners in general is to be confident about their knowledge when interacting with Americans," De Lima said, "knowing that cultural differences are normal and we should be proud of it."

Administrative Assistant for the International Students and Scholars Office Bonnie Koch said any international student who feels harassed because of his or her nationality should seek help from the ISSO.

American students interested in learning more about the cultures of students from other countries can keep up on events with the ISSO newsletter in the office in North Foundation Hall or on the ISSO page on OU's Web site. The office also offers the OU International Allies program, which matches up one domestic and one international student to hang out socially.

OU students looking for information about studying abroad can visit OU's international education Web site at www2.oakland.edu/ie.

OU staff members making headlines

OU professor receives grant

Oakland University professor Frank Giblin received a five-year, \$2 million dollar grant from the National Eye Institute to help further his research of studying proteins and oxygen levels in the lens of the eye relating to age-related cataracts.

Giblin, a biomedical science professor and director of the Eye Research Institute at Oakland University, will use the grant in studying the possible role of oxidative and free radical processes in the nuclear cataract. The nuclear cataract is a common type of maturity-onset that can result in blindness.

Giblin will be assisted by research associate Dr. Francis Simpanya and research technician Victor Leverenz as

well as other surgeons and experts in cataracts.

According to reports, two million people per year are blinded by eye cataracts.

OU instructor receives award

The Michigan Safety Conference awarded Oakland University instructor Darryl Hill with the Distinguished Services to Safety award. Hill is an adjunct professor of Occupational Safety and Health in the School of Health Sciences.

In 2006, Hill served as the president of the Michigan Safety Conference. Previously, Hill was on the executive board amongst other positions in the Michigan Safety Conference.

Hill has been a adjunct professor at Oakland for more than 10 years where

he has taught classes in construction safety, safety training methods as well as a graduate level course in loss control. According to Hill, occupational safety and health has been a growing industry with various opportunities for graduates in the program.

Hill became interested in occupational safety while taking an elective course in the subject at Iowa State University.

"We want to promote overall safety awareness in the state of Michigan. While we communicate through press releases, our Web site and other promotional venues, the primary objective is education and training," Hill said.

—Brittany Ochtinsky
Contributing reporter

you

(your stories
your words
your style
your health)

Small loans that make a big difference

By WENDY LYONS
Copy Editor

Cynthia Muregi lives in poverty with her seven children in Kenya. As a single mother, she struggles to meet her family's basic needs. If she could only expand and diversify her small business selling cereals in the marketplace, they might escape poverty.

With a loan of \$350, she thinks she could do it.

But there's a problem.

Poor people, like Muregi, can't qualify for loans from traditional banks, and moneylenders charge exorbitant rates of interest, sometimes up to 1,000 percent.

Jo Reger, professor of sociology and director of women's studies at Oakland University, knows how hard it is for single moms – she's one herself.

So when Reger read about Muregi, she wanted to help. She loaned Muregi \$50.

These small loans, called microloans, have helped millions across the globe start or expand small businesses and pull themselves out of poverty.

And with as little as \$10 to spare, you, too, can become a banker to the poorest of the world's poor.

"I gave up \$50. Honestly, that's a nice dinner," Reger said. "That's really not a huge sacrifice for me ... when the payoff can be so incredible in another part of the world."

Fighting poverty through microloans began in the 1970s in Bangladesh.

On a fieldtrip to an impoverished village, rural-economics professor Muhammad Yunus and his students interviewed a businesswoman who made

bamboo stools.

Despite her hard work, she was trapped in poverty due to the usurious interest rates charged by her only source of funds – the local moneylender.

Yunus decided to help the poor gain access to fair loans. Out of his own pocket, he lent \$27 to 42 basket weavers.

His successful experiment burgeoned into the Grameen Bank, which now serves over 7 million borrowers – 97 percent women – in 78,101 villages in Bangladesh with a repayment rate of over 98 percent.

"It is absolutely wrong of the financial institutions to reject the poor by assuming that they are not creditworthy," Yunus said in his acceptance speech for the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his pioneering work in microfinance.

"We have demonstrated umpteen times that not only they are creditworthy, in many countries, they are more creditworthy than the rich."

Grameen Bank is now the model for microlending organizations across the globe.

One of the newest microlenders to the poor is Kiva, a Swahili word meaning unity.

Kiva put a twist on the typical Grameen model in which people donate money to a microlending institution, which then makes all investment decisions.

Kiva is described as microfinance meets Match.com.

At Kiva.org, lenders browse an online photo gallery of borrowers, which details each person's business and their financial needs.



Photo courtesy of Kiva.org

Cynthia Muregi, mother of seven, supports her family selling cereals from her stall at the marketplace in Kenya. Muregi received a \$350 microloan from Kiva to help expand and diversify her stall.

Lenders pick an entrepreneur to partner with based on personal preferences like type of business, location or whether the borrower is male or female.

Reger had a specific type of person in mind to partner with.

"I wanted to help a single mother who has several children who is trying, basically, to get her kids to school," Reger said.

Fundamental to Yunus' Grameen model is the belief that poverty is not created by the poor. Rather, it's created by social institutions and policies. Nor is charity, which can cause dependency and destroy initiative, the answer.

Grameen believes that loans spur the poor to utilize their skills and ingenuity to lift themselves out of poverty with dignity.

"I like the fact that these aren't just handouts," Reger said. "I think it's a great way of empowering people."

With Kiva, the minimum loan amount is \$25. But other microlenders, such as the worldwide Grameen Foundation, have a minimum online donation of only \$10.

Kiva's borrowers receive 100 percent of lenders' funds, and repayment is usually made in 6-12 months. Loan disbursement and repayment is made via PayPal without fees.

According to Kiva.org, since its 2005 inception, the repayment rate is 99.78%. Kiva's Web site enables lenders to fol-

low their borrower's progress via online journals and payment tracking systems.

Following the Grameen model, Kiva contracts with field partners who work on location approving loan applications, distributing funds and collecting payments.

All borrower's pay 16-percent interest, which goes exclusively to Kiva's field partners to cover administration costs. Neither lenders nor Kiva.org receive any interest.

If a loan of \$25 seems too insignificant to make an impact, consider this: According to 2001 World Bank studies, 18 percent of the world's population live on less than \$1 per day.

"I think we lose perspective on what true poverty is in this world," Reger said.

"You've only got 20 bucks in your wallet and you think, 'Well, I don't have any money; I wish I had more money.'"

"You've got, basically, like the monthly income of some other family in the world."

Reger lent Muregi the equivalent of a nice dinner at a restaurant. And with additional microloans from five other people, Muregi received her \$350 loan and her family is one step closer to escaping poverty.

"I have been able to use this loan to put up a proper stall. This has helped me to diversify my products," Muregi posted to her online journal. "I am happy that life for me is now getting better."

TO BECOME A MICROLENDER TO THE POOR,
GO TO:

WWW.KIVA.ORG

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GRAMEEN BANK IN
BANGLADESH, GO TO:

[HTTP://WWW.GRAMEEN-INFO.ORG/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.GRAMEEN-INFO.ORG/INDEX.HTML)

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MUHAMMAD YUNUS,
READ HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY,
"BANKER TO THE POOR."

OU students pack their suitcases

By **JESSE DUNSMORE**

Senior Reporter

What draws a college-aged American away from the familiarity and relative comfort of his or her life in the United States? For each person who feels called overseas, the answer is different. Oakland University students Angie Walentovic and Frank Johnston, along with OU alumni Dan Wilkinson explain what attracted them overseas.

Angie Walentovic, Senior, English major

Where: University of Oxford, England

When: July 2007 — just one month. "The program is short, which is good for people like me who have never been away from home for very long before but would like to get a feel for it."

Why: After working on the program in the fall for an internship, she decided to check out the alma mater of Oscar Wilde and Jonathan Swift for herself. "I thought, what better place to study English literature than here?"

How is it? In her spare time, she's gone punting (boating), played croquet and visited Stratford and Salisbury Cathedral. During the weekdays, she sometimes reads in the park and hangs out at night in one of the area's "multitude of pubs."

"I've heard people who have gone abroad say they've been treated in a not-so-friendly way because they were American, but here that is absolutely not the case."

Advice for other students: "A big reason for going abroad is to get a taste of a different culture. You're not going to get that if you stay indoors reading all day. See all the sights. Go to the pub. Go shopping. Meet people."

*Angie Walentovic visited the historic Stonehenge in England. Photo courtesy of Angie Walentovic.



Frank Johnston, Junior, Public Administration major

Where: Israel

When: February-March 2007

Why: Johnston was offered a trip to Israel by a program called Birthright Israel. "The purpose of birthright is to give young Jews a chance to see their homeland at least once in their lives as well as to give Jews the chance to meet other Jews from the U.S., Israel and around the world."

How was it? "Israel is a very green country," said Johnston, describing the fruit trees he first saw after getting off the plane.

Prices of products are comparable to the United States.

He said the climate in Israel has been changed since the 1940s — there's actually snowfall.

He plans to go back for four months this winter to work and serve on an Israeli air force base.

Advice for other visitors: "If someone who was Jewish wanted to go," advises Johnston, "contact any of the many Jewish organizations because most will get you the information you need as well as help you out on the trip."

*Frank Johnston poses in front of a flagpole while on his trip to Israel. Photo courtesy of Frank Johnston.

Dan Wilkinson, 2006 grad, B.A., English major

Where: Everywhere (Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Zimbabwe, England, Scotland, South Korea and Japan— not including layovers and quick stops)

Why: His parents were church planters in Papua New Guinea so traveling is "in my blood... After a few years, it just feels like it's time to go somewhere new."

He wants to be a freelance photographer and writer to put focus on world suffering. "I don't want to forget these people and their needs ... their story needs to be known, because they're valuable."

How is it? "If you throw yourself into another country ... you have to adapt or die—it's kind of exciting."

Only Bangladesh made him feel culture shock because of the poverty, which "is really in your face" and the traffic ("I'm gonna die!"). "At the end of the day, the things I enjoy about traveling far outweigh the things I miss when I'm gone."

Advice for other nomads: "Talk to the people and watch the people to know what to do ... that's where the real culture is ... It's not at the tourist attractions or hotels."

*Dan Wilkinson drank out of a coconut while riding a train in Bangladesh. Photo courtesy of Dan Wilkinson.



Favorite Foreign Flicks

and the kids who love them



"Seven Samurai"



"Pan's labryinth"



"Run Lola Run"



"One of the best martial arts films I've ever seen..."

Name Miya Perkins, senior
Major Women's Studies



"It's a very imaginative and moving film"

Name Angela Logan, Sophomore
Major Secondary Education



"It's very different and very artistic. Plus, the soundtrack is very moving"

Name Kai Schmidt, Senior
Major Biology

10 job suggestions for the modern day wanderer

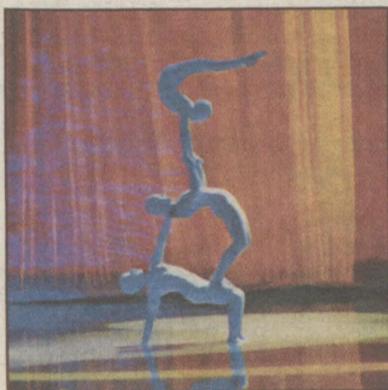
Bored with the average job opportunities? Check out these unusual picks for the adventurer at heart looking for a paycheck.

By Alex Cherup
Mouthing Off Editor

There are not as many hitchhikers as there used to be – hobo spirits of the transient. However, there are still those among us who are the wanderin' type. So grab your backpack, passport and resume - here is a concise list of some jobs for those travelers at heart.

Cirque du Soliel Performer

Travel the world on a tight rope. This is the ultimate job for the wandering performer or athlete. Dance, song and physical acrobatics are some of the possible resources to become the definitive carnie. Fill out an application online and submit a video or audio tape of



your unique abilities for review by talent scouts. Click on the "Casting" option on www.cirquedusoliel.com and find out if you have what it takes to run away and join the circus!

Intern at the Travel Channel:

The obvious winner. What better way to wander than with the actual wandering channel? Travel with the professionals who get paid for taping their vacations. The Travel Channel is owned by Discovery Communications, which can be accessed at <http://corporate.discovery.com>. Check for details on both the Travel Channel and employment opportunities.

Cruise Ship Art Auctioneer

Going once, going twice... hired! Sell Van Goghs and Picassos (if you're lucky) to a literally captive audience! With commission adding to your \$3,700 to \$7,000 a month salary, you're bound to find treasure on the seas! A true traveler's job, sign on with a four month minimum contract with the Cruise Ship Employment Agency on www.cruiseshipjob.com.

Harvest Fisherman

Get ready to brag about your catch. All around the world, fish are important foodstuff. Tuna, salmon and crab do not just appear in the grocery store. A harvest fisherman is an offshore deckhand,

often paid based on amount of catch, and in rare cases can accrue up to \$20,000 in a month. Why not wander onto a fishing ship in Norway or Japan? Or even start off in Alaska, with alaskajobfinder.com, to learn more about the possibilities in this arena. Perhaps even upgrade next summer from bluegill to marlin.

Peace Corps Humanitarian

Forget about monetary rewards and help humanity. Sure, you may be volunteering, but it will feel like a job. And the rewards will be even better. Work experience in agriculture, business management or a skilled trade is a must. Or, join after you graduate (college degree allows admittance). Perhaps you can teach of AIDS awareness in Africa. Follow in Mother Theresa's footsteps on www.peacecorps.gov for further details.

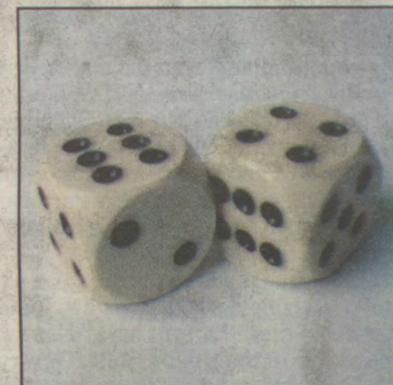


Roadie for Willie Nelson (or anyone else on tour)

Do you enjoy hearing the same song over and over again? Check into www.roadcrewstouring.com/HowToBecomeARoadie.html, for direct instructions on the details of the trade. Some elements of the gig include odd hours, physical labor and ability to listen to "On the Road" numerous times in a month without loosing it. The job requires you to start small and work your way upwards. The most positive element is you tour the world.

Professional Gambler

Is 21 your lucky number? Or do you feel you have an eye for horses? No need to deal with bosses or applications; just catch a flight to Vegas or any other casino in the world. Of course, you must be 21 (although I won't turn you in). Check out professionalgambler.com for information on guessing the winning team or check Amazon.com for the best books on the tricks of the trade and getting your luck off to a good start.



Greyhound Bus Driver

Basically, paid rides with your Uncle Jed's best friends and other rambling folks. For more information, check out the Web site www.greyhound.com/company/careers.shtml. You must have a driver's license and be 22 years of age. After the seven week training program, it's off to Jackson.

Mystery Shopper

For the first time in your life, your shopping addiction will put money in your wallet or purse. A mystery shopper goes incognito to a business and critiques their service. Make anywhere from \$5 to \$75, and provide a report of your experience. Join the other 155,000 registered shoppers in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom on mysteryshopper.net and start shopping all the way to the bank!

Stand-up comedian

Are you constantly complaining about your family or the world around you? Well, give your family and friends a break, and start making money! You will travel from club to club making people (hopefully) laugh. It's as easy as set-up, punchline! Write some material, and sign up for open-mic nights at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle to get discovered! Check out comedycastle.com for more details.

*A NOTE FROM THE OAKLAND POST
Jobs listed are not necessarily recommended as career choices. Students should research options thoroughly before committing to a position.

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Golden Grizzly coaches share insight on recruiting athletes internationally

By SAMANTHA FRANZ & ROB TATE
Sports Editor and Senior Reporter

If you log on Oakland University's official athletics Web site (www.ougrizzlies.com) and check out the rosters, you'll see some familiar places that you can probably, like a true Michigander, point out on your hand:

Center Line, Royal Oak, Rochester, Detroit, Farmington Hills.

If you continue to scroll down and read more, you'll also come across some hometowns with a slightly different locale:

Helsinki, Finland; Djursholm, Sweden; Gliwice, Poland; Chaguanas, Trinidad; Wollongong, Australia.

In order to deepen their rosters and boost their talent, Oakland University will frequently look outside of their own backyard and recruit athletes on an international scale, which, according to Gary Parsons, head coach of Oakland's men's soccer team, is actually easier than recruiting athletes domestically.

"If you find a player that's a good player in other countries, chances are that not one hundred coaches know about him," Parsons said. "Now, you find that same player in the United States—everybody's seeing him. There will be 100-200 coaches on the sidelines watching his games."

Women's soccer head coach Nick O'Shea echoed Parsons' sentiment.

"They don't even really try to recruit (overseas)," O'Shea said of the bigger schools.

Recruiting an international athlete, however, is just a matter of lining up the academics and the finances.

"The athlete may have contact with about two or three coaches at other colleges, and usually it's a matter of who gets there first or makes the best offer finan-

cially," Parsons said.

But how does a coach get a player to come play for their school? Well, that depends on who you ask.

Kick up your feet and wait

If your name is Pete Hovland and you happen to be the head coach of the frequent Mid-Con champion Golden Grizzly swimming and diving team, it's no wonder you don't have to take a proactive role in recruiting athletes.

"Most of the kids that we do talk to have contacted us first in almost, I'd say, 98 percent of the cases," Hovland said.

The Internet has been a key tool in bringing many of Hovland's swimmers and divers overseas.

"The world's a lot smaller now than what it was a couple of years ago," he said. "I probably get about a half dozen e-mails a week from kids from all over the world."

"When they send me a letter, all they have to do is include their times. The times can tell us a lot right off the bat and if they're good, I'll e-mail them back as soon as I'm done reading it and hope I am the first person to contact them so they see Oakland University first and foremost before some of my competitors do."

But what keeps the droves of international athletes coming to Oakland's swimming and diving program each year? Hovland credits word-of-mouth.

"When you get (a recruit) that really enjoys themselves, they go back home and tell their friends: 'Oakland's a wonderful place; they have great facilities; I get along well with the coaches and staff; I'm getting a great degree,'" Hovland said. "If they're comfortable here, they become our best recruiters."

Going global

Other coaches, however, are of the jet-setting type, particularly in the Golden Grizzly soccer program. Unlike individual sports, like swimming, where all a coach needs is an e-mail with times in it, a soccer coach needs to watch an athlete play to gauge their potential.

"There are agencies now that will promote players and you will get that through e-mail," Parson said. "Those are a little spotty because they're pushing players."

"Every once in a while, we'll get contacted by a player and that's spotty as well because that's just self-promotion, so they could be no good. We have to do some backtracking if we get leads that way."

Parsons and O'Shea travel to the likes of Norway, England, South Africa and Barbados to check out what the world offers across the Atlantic by watching prospective Golden Grizzlies play in tournaments.

O'Shea has a steady flow of athletes from Norway in his career at OU. One of the ways O'Shea has solidified the recruiting pipeline to Norway has been making contact with potential recruits who attend sports schools in the city of Oslo as well as making other contacts that O'Shea and his staff have built over the years.

According to O'Shea, when it comes to himself personally scouting Norwegian soccer players, he said that they have a choice of either staying home or coming to Oakland. O'Shea said that he is usually the only one going to Norway to recruit some of these athletes.

"I'm just trying to convince them to leave Norway and come to the U.S.," O'Shea said.

Once a coach has a lock on an athlete they want and have expressed interest in having them, it's time to make a deal so they will come play for their college. Most of the time, it's a smooth process. But if there's competition with another school, it's time to up the

ante.

"Sometimes, you have to overspend to get a player, which you try not to do, but it depends on how desperate you are to get a player," Parsons said.

A prime example of this is when Parsons recruited three players from Trinidad— Makesi Lewis, Stefan St. Louis and Zico Henry.

"I was at a tournament in Barbados, and they were lighting it up. They were the best players on the field. We had to make a significant offer to get those guys and packaged the three together. That was exciting for them to come together to the same place," Parsons said.

Lost in translation

Once an athlete has committed to OU and the jet lag from their flight has passed, it's time to adjust to American culture.

For some athletes, it's been a slippery slope. Just ask O'Shea.

When Kaja Lund joined the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies women's soccer team back in 1997, the only thing that the newly recruited Norwegian needed to learn was some of the lingo that head coach Nick O'Shea was using during her first practices with the team.

This led to a slight misunderstanding during a warm-up scrimmage.

One of the on-the-field terminologies O'Shea uses when he doesn't want one of his players to go after a ball that is coming their direction is to shout "Dummy!" and the player knows to stand their ground and not react to the ball.

Unfortunately, Lund had only known the term to be a negative word that most people define as to be slow or

not bright.

"As the ball was rolling to her, I shouted 'Dummy! Dummy!' and all of the sudden, later that day, she was (looking) a little down," O'Shea said. "So I went up to her and said 'Kaja, what's the problem?' and she said, 'You called me a dummy!'"

Language isn't the only hurdle international athletes need to clear. Playing styles also vary greatly from Europe to America.

"They play the game from the culture they are coming from," Parsons said. "They have to get used to different players, a different style of play and inconsistent referees. They really struggle with that in the beginning."

When asked how different the playing styles were in other countries compared to here in America, Parsons best explained it this way:

"When you're in Holland, everybody pretty much plays the same way," he said. "When you're in Norway, pretty much everybody plays the same way. When you're in England, everybody pretty much plays the same way."

"When you're over here, everybody plays different. One coach might teach the game totally different from another coach 40 miles away. The concepts are all over the board."

Nothing to lose

Despite language barriers and adapting to American culture, Golden Grizzly coaches say that international athletes, for the most-part, have no trouble adjusting to our college curriculum.

"I don't know if the way their high school system is laid out provides for that, but our international students tend to be some of the highest grade point averages on

our team on a regular basis, so it seems like they're pretty well prepared," said Hovland.

But why?

"It might be because a certain kind of person wants to go half way across the world to go to school, so you're probably getting either a very bright or determined person," Parsons said.

Hovland echoed his colleague's sentiments.

"Maybe it's because they're so focused and so serious—that this opportunity means so much more to them that they don't take it lightly," he said. "They know there's a lot at stake and no room for error. They only play for four years, but they definitely want their degree in that time and definitely do not want to go home without it."

Enjoying the melting pot

For Hovland, having international athletes on his roster, in addition to helping his team win title after title, has greatly broadened his horizons.

"I enjoy having these kids because it gives me the opportunity to find out a little more about the rest of the world and experience some of their culture," Hovland said.

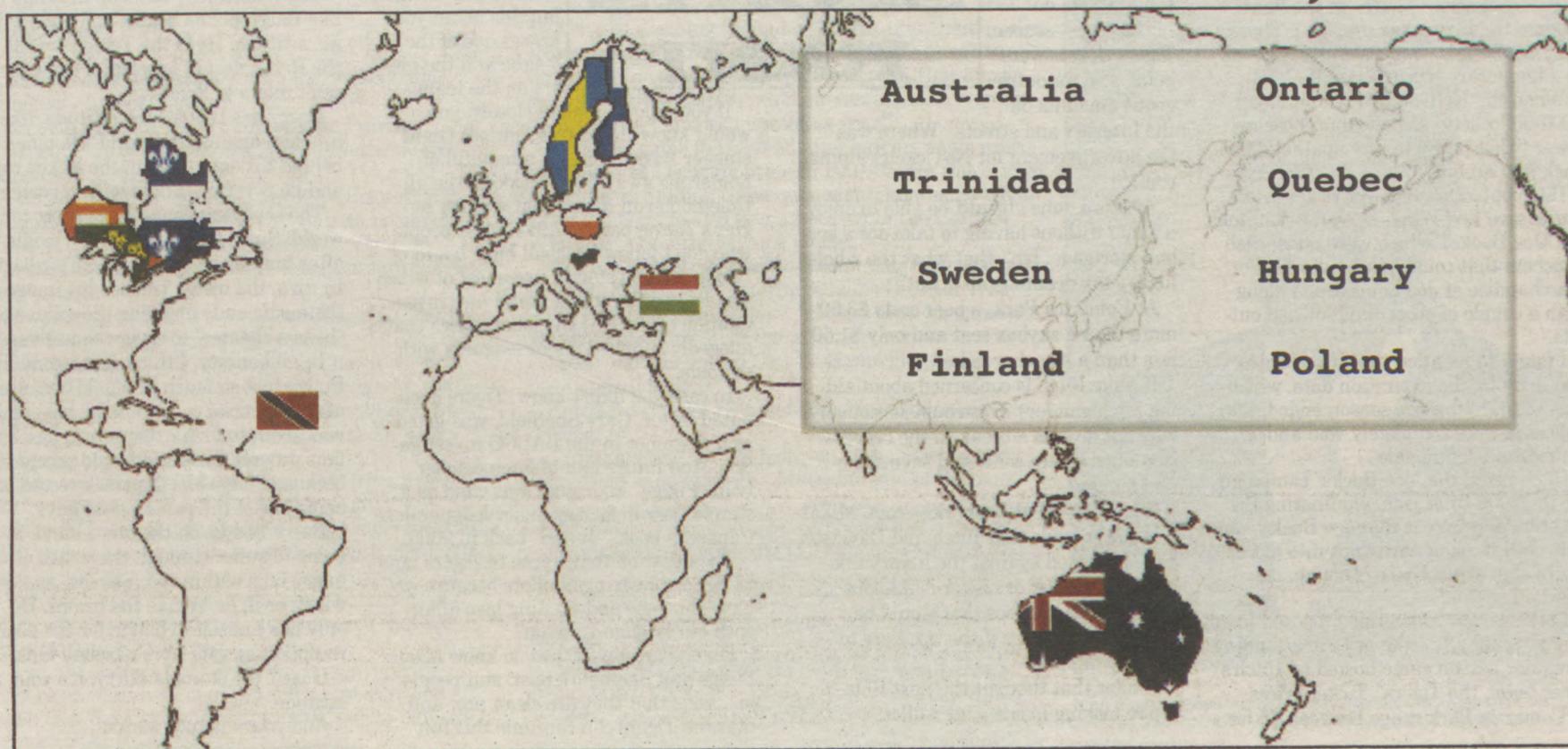
"It's neat because I have a standing invitation in all these countries to go and experience their culture and see how they live."

But more than the personal enlightenment Hovland receives from his international athletes, he admires how much they grow during their stay in the United States.

"They've all been outstanding athletes, outstanding students and outstanding citizens," he said. "They really have appreciated what's been provided for them and have really taken advantage of it."

Going Global

Check out where our international athletes hail from



Dollars, not sense

Mike Ilitch's protest to ticket tax not in the fans' best interest

By **BRIAN BLEAU**
Contributing Reporter

OK, I'll admit it.

When I first heard about the state of Michigan's proposal to slap a 6-percent luxury tax onto concert, show, movie and professional sporting event tickets to help boost Michigan's economy, I got angry—just like the billboard at Comerica Park told me to.

Voicing my displeasure with this proposed "\$100 million tax" that I knew nothing about, I booed vehemently with 40,000 of my closest friends as Bobb Vergiels, the Detroit Tigers public address announcer, directed fans to www.notickettax.com.

After examining just how much—correction—how little this proposed luxury tax would affect the average person, I started wondering what the motive behind this organized campaign against the tax really was.

Red Wings, Tigers and Fox Theater owner, Mike Ilitch, along with Bill Davidson who owns the Pistons and Shock, along with the DTE Energy and Meadowbrook Music, have been two of the most active figures in the fight against the luxury tax proposal. These long time rivals have seemingly agreed to a temporary truce. But why?

When the NHL returned from its 2004-05 lockout, some teams chose to lower ticket prices to lure apathetic fans back into arenas.

Ilitch opted not to lower ticket prices but to give Red Wings season ticket holders "Joe Bucks," which were quasi-cash vouchers that could be used for food or merchandise at Joe Louis arena along with a couple of other Ilitch-owned outlets.

I forgot to mention that if you didn't use them by the expiration date, which was shortly after the season ended, the vouchers were completely void and, of course, non-refundable.

Ilitch nixed the "Joe Bucks" campaign for the 2006-07 season, eliminating the theoretical price cut that Joe Bucks were supposed to imaginarily put into place.

Enough about hockey though, it's baseball season!

Let's see how much this proposed luxury tax would affect the price of attending a regular season game hosted by Ilitch's other team, the Tigers. Ticket prices at Comerica Park range between \$5 for

skybox seats and \$65 for close-to-the-field seats in the On Deck Circle.

This means that with a 6-percent luxury tax, fans would spend anywhere from an additional \$0.30 to \$3.90 per ticket depending on how much money you shell out on your seats.

If you log on to the Tigers Web site, which no longer goes through Ticketmaster, and buy a \$5 skybox seat to a game, you're charged a \$3.75 convenience before you even make it to the shipping charges page.

Maybe I missed it, but I've never seen an advertisement for NoConvenienceFees.com on the Comerica Park big screen.

If Ilitch is really trying to offer relief to the hardworking citizens of Michigan, why are they being charged a convenience fee that costs almost as much as some tickets do?

Last post-season, Tigers tickets were being sold for outrageous amounts on the Internet and streets. Where was the advertisement for NoTicketScalping.com?

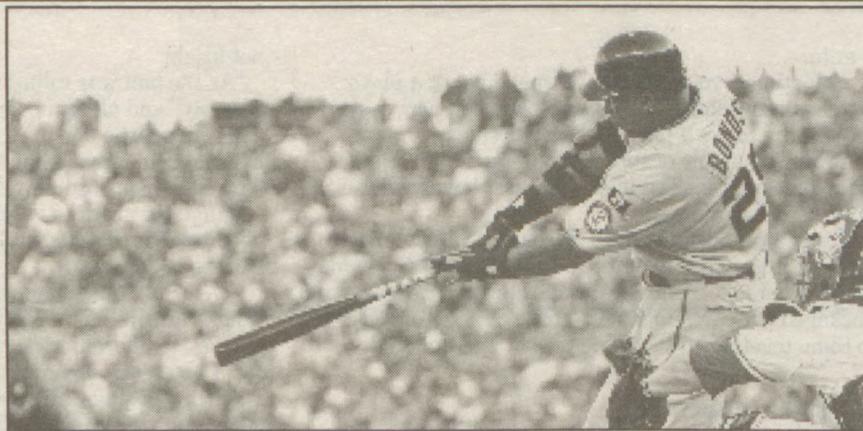
After all, fans **should** be able to enjoy a game without having to take out a second mortgage. Isn't that what the whole luxury tax debate is all about?

At Comerica Park, a beer costs \$3.50 more than a skybox seat and only \$1.50 less than a bleacher ticket.

If Mike Ilitch is concerned about aiding Michiganders in a troubled economy, why not give us a break in the concession lines where we would save some real money?

Where's NoHighBeerPrices.com, Mike? Is the crusade that Ilitch and Davidson have launched against the luxury tax really about you or me, or is it about ticket price increases that would be under a microscope if the tax were to actually happen?

Ponder that thought the next time you're looking inside your wallet.



AL BEHRMAN/The Associated Press

San Francisco Giant Barry Bonds hits a two-run home run off Cincinnati Reds pitcher Aaron Harang in the first inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, July 3, 2007, in Cincinnati. The home run was the 751st of Bonds' career.

Bad news Barry

By **ROB TATE**
Senior Reporter

Who's your Tiger or who's your alleged former steroid user?

With the popularity of the Detroit Tigers exploding since last summer, the area of Oakland University has an influx of brand new baseball fans.

Now, this column isn't about bashing people who jumped on the bandwagon or are a fair-weather fan this about your knowledge of the league and the players on the team.

If you follow baseball closely, you would know that San Francisco Giant slugger Barry Bonds is a handful of homeruns away from breaking the all-time homerun record that was set by Hank Aaron back in 1974. Most people who don't follow baseball have heard of Bonds' alleged steroid use, most of which was leaked through a grand jury investigation of the BALCO laboratories that allegedly supplied major leaguers with steroids.

In case you didn't know, Tigers designated hitter, Gary Sheffield, was listed as a customer in the BALCO investigation. And future hall-of-fame catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez was cited as a steroid user in former major leaguer Jose Canseco's book, "Juiced" back in 2005.

The question that I pose to Tigers fans is: Are we wearing blinders because we have this new and exciting love affair with our hometown team?

For the most part, people know about Pudge and Sheffield's past, and people just hope that they are clean now and that the Tigers can continue this fun

summer of winning and turn it into some October magic.

Are you happy that Barry Bonds is about to break one of baseball's most storied records? If the answer to that is no, I think I understand where you are coming from.

My feeling is that the common baseball fan doesn't care if a baseball player has used steroids in the past. Drug tests are in place now, and, theoretically, all baseball players should be clean. We love Pudge, and we now love Sheffield. They are tremendous ballplayers and for the most part, they seem to have been forgiven for their alleged steroid use in the past.

The reason why baseball fans don't like Barry Bonds begins and ends with his attitude. He is the Terrell Owens and the Ron Artest of baseball. People just can't relate to Bonds.

Barry has this insane attitude, like it is him against the world. He hides behind his entourage in the locker room and he is rarely candid with reporters.

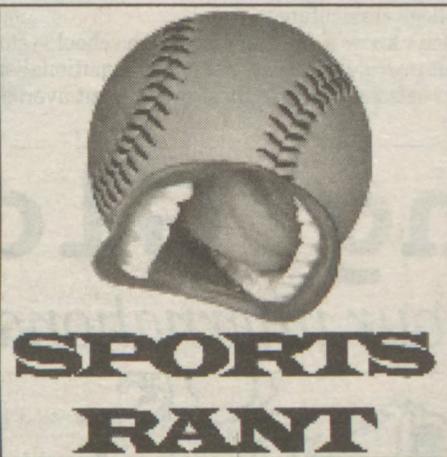
The reporters connect the sport to the world. Since Bonds thinks the media is after him, he treats them like garbage. In turn, the media trashes his image and the media ends up using the excuse of "he is a cheater" to cover themselves.

In all honesty, I think if someone like Pudge (not so much Sheffield because of recent racial comments he has made) was about to break the record, baseball fans around the world would accept it because Pudge has the track record of being one of the game's good guys.

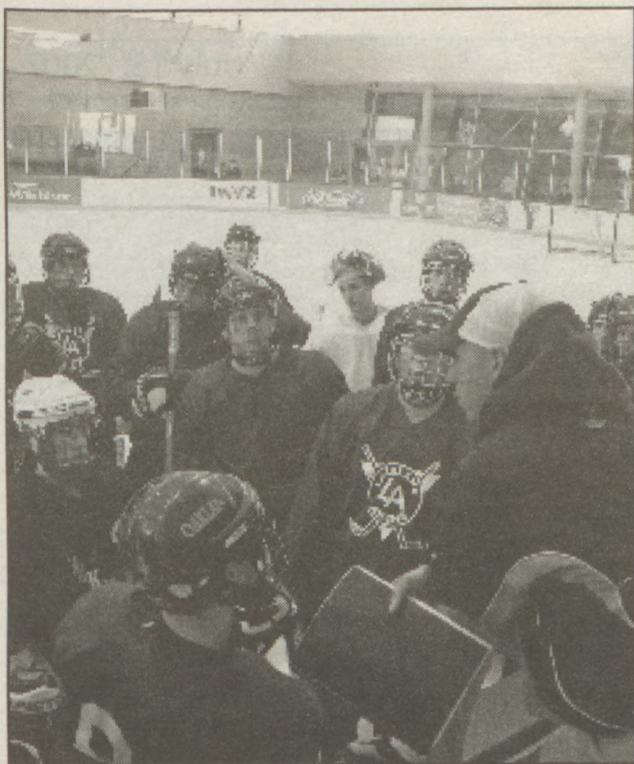
Barry Bonds, on the other hand, is going to suffer through the wrath of angry fans within the next few games when, or if, he breaks the record. He only has himself to blame for the poor reception he gets from baseball fans.

It isn't the steroids Barry, it's your attitude.

And your attitude sucks.



Hockey looks for new Grizzlies



JASON KRAATZ/The Oakland Post

The prospective players gather around the coaching staff for instructions.

By **BRITTANY OCHTINSKY**
Contributing Reporter

Last season, Oakland University's hockey team made winning the national championship look like a piece of cake. This season might not be so easy. But fear not, the coaching staff is already gearing up for the upcoming season.

The team held the first of two prospect camps June 30 and July 1 at the Onyx Ice Arena in Rochester Hills. About 80 potential Golden Grizzlies came to show off their stuff in front of head coach Sean Hogan and assistant coaches JR Dunn and Gordie Schaeffler.

"I think this is the best mini-camp, talent wise, we've ever had," said Hogan.

Due to the team's success in recent years, most notably after capturing the national championship title in the team's first season in the American Collegiate Hockey Association's Division I, Hogan has expanded the process to include two prospect camps before tryouts.

Eleven returning players showed up to the camp and Hogan hopes to fill an additional 13 to 16 roster spots.

Possibly the biggest challenge he faces is finding potential linemates for right wing Brent Cooper, the sole remaining player on the Grizzlies' top line and there has been speculation as to whether or not he can survive without Will McMahon, former Golden Grizzly standout.

"Brent Cooper will be fine without Will, he will

score just as much. A lot of people forget that he is our most experienced player. He played three years of Jr. A hockey with the Texas Tornado and one year of NCAA hockey (at Wisconsin River Falls)," said Hogan.

Another hurdle facing Hogan and his staff is finding players to bulk up the team's physicality.

"We have a defenseman, 6'6" Todd Orlando, coming in. He wasn't at the first camp, but will be at the next one. He will provide a physical presence, along with (returning players) Derek Baker and Steve Piccoli."

Whereas Division II allowed players' eligibility to span five seasons, Division I limits it to four, leaving the returning Grizzly players with no more than two years of experience playing for Oakland's top team. None of this seems to concern Hogan.

"We are getting players with several years of Junior "A" experience, as well as NCAA experience. Our job will be to make sure they mesh as well as teams in the past," Hogan said. "We will have to wait and see, but we are very excited with what we have seen."

Hogan picks some top prospects

- Tony Yarego - Defense - Sarnia Blast (Western Ontario Hockey League, Junior "A")**
7th round pick in the 2004 Ontario Hockey League Draft by the Guelph Storm (124th overall)
- Dan Grzech - Forward - Pembroke Lumber Kings (Central Junior "A" Hockey League)**
14th round pick in the 2004 OHL Draft by the Belleville Bulls (261st overall)

OU baseball welcomes coach

By **ROB TATE**
Senior Reporter

It has been a whirlwind month for the Oakland University baseball team.

Back on June 23, Head Coach Dylan Putnam resigned. Nearly a month later, John Musachio was named as his replacement.

Putnam had been the head coach for the past two seasons and he accumulated a 40-72 with no appearances in the conference tournament.

Musachio served as Putnam's assistant for the past two seasons.

It was somewhat of a surprise to Musachio that his friend Dylan resigned from his position.

"The part of me that was surprised has to do with the fact that I've worked closely with Dylan for the last three years and I know his health has not been well, but I guess the finality of it was when he did resign it was definitely a surprise," Musachio said.

The good thing for the program is they get a new head coach who is familiar with the team.

"It makes a huge difference knowing the student-athletes that you are going to be working with and having worked with them in previous years," Musachio added.

Fortunately for the returning players, they have a coach who knows their ability and a coach that has already earned their trust.

"I've had contact with every one of our returning players as well as all of our incoming recruits and I think that the biggest thing for them was to have closure with the situation," Musachio said.

"There is disappointment with Coach Putnam, that he won't be coaching them, but I think that there is also some excitement with the fact that a coach that has been with the program the last two years, that knows their strengths, that knows their weaknesses, is going to be leading them this upcoming year."

Musachio came to Oakland after serving as an assistant coach at Michigan State in 2004-05. He was a 1996 graduate at Bradley University where he was four-year letter winner. He also spent a season in the Chicago White Sox organization as a pitcher.

"We are very excited to have John take over as our head baseball coach," Interim Athletic Director Tracy Huth said in a press release. "He has done an excellent job as an assistant with the program over the last two seasons and has proven that he is capable of leading our baseball team."

Putnam said that he could help Musachio whenever needed.

"Anything that he can help you with, he would be more than happy to help," Musachio said of Putnam.

Looking for briefs?
Keep up with the OU
sports news at
www.oaklandpostonline.com

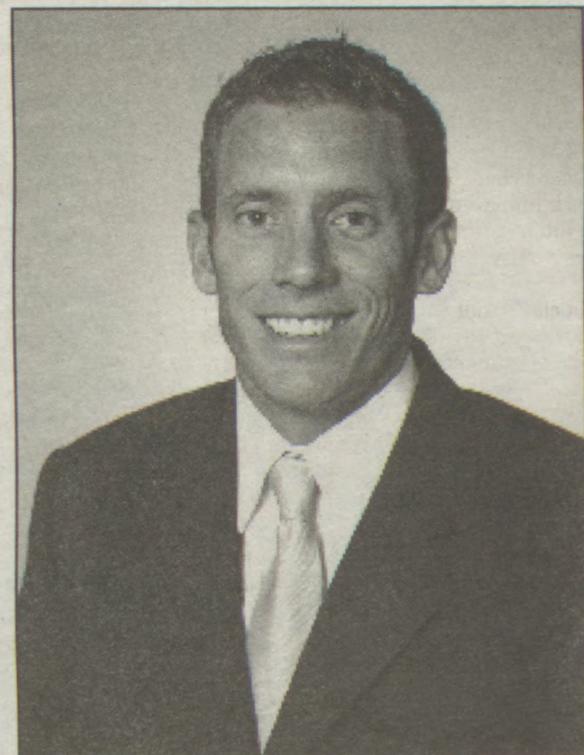


Photo courtesy Oakland University Athletics
John Musachio has recently been appointed head coach of the Golden Grizzlies baseball team after previously serving as an assistant coach.

The Scene

www.oaklandpostonline.com

July 18, 2007

AROUND THE WORLD IN 10 BITES

LOCATIONS

1. **Xochimilco Restaurant** 3409 Bagley St., Detroit
Grab a burrito and a margarita and you can almost feel the sand between your toes.
2. **Noble Fish** 45 E 14 Mile Rd., Clawson
If you can find a seat in this tiny place, chomp on a hand rolled special and sip on green tea from the communal pitcher.
3. **Rangoli** 3055 Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills
If the buffet style lunch is the perfect way to approach Indian cuisine. Try a little of everything to determine what matches up with your tastebuds.
4. **Sangria** 401 S Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak
Be sure to order a house drink and namesake of Sangria. By ordering "sopa" or "sna" plate, it's safe to say that you'll find something enjoyable.
5. **New Hellas Restaurant** 583 Monroe St., Detroit
There's always fits to go around at Hellas. Make sure you keep hair spray in a minimum; on busy days, it seems like there is a constant flame coming from their "Opa" chex.
6. **Giovanni's** 330 Oakwood Blvd., Detroit
It's on the pricy side but the colt is worth it once you keep inside the wry dining room and slurp up the homemade pasta, "Lady and the Tramp" style.
7. **Bahama Breeze** 539 E. Big Beaver, Troy
You won't care that it's a corporation owned chain once you get a taste of the mashed sweet potatoes.
8. **La Shish** 2065 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills
It might be right across the street from OU, but the tastes seem worlds away. Shawarma sandwiches are a deliciously safe bet.
9. **Blue Nile** 545 W 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale
Be sure it's a traditional Ethiopian dining experience. It's sitting on the floor dining where you enjoy an all you can eat cuisine.
10. **Bon Vie** 3055 Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills
If the buffet style lunch is the perfect way to approach Indian cuisine. Try a little of everything to determine what matches up with your tastebuds.

Icky Awesome

White Stripes latest effort is an eclectic, winding joyride for the ears

By NICK DEGEL
Contributing Reporter

Like the messages on T-shirts obnoxiously worn by a number of college students, the White Stripes' music has always been characterized by irony. Unlike the fore-mentioned, however, the no-longer-Detroit natives have remained current—never corny or self-absorbed.

With their new release "Icky Thump," Jack and Meg White have produced a cutting-edge, though confusing, effort.

From front to back, the album jumps all over the place. The duo dabble in Flamenco horns one minute, Americana the next, all after momentarily transforming into Bad Company. One almost expects Jack to begin singing "I feel like makin' love" in the curiously titled "You Don't Know What Love Is (You Just Do As You're Told)".

Long-time fans shan't fear, for "polished" is a word the siblings White continue to omit from their vocabulary. The muddy guitars, ringing crash symbols and miscellaneous squawks and squeals that epitomize the White Stripes' mini-

malist sound are available in droves.

"Rag and Bone" has that quintessential White Stripes rock-steady, garnished with an amusing skit of Jack and Meg scrounging for left-overs. The title track chugs along to the rhythm of Meg's heavy right foot and proudly displays Jack's excellent, yet underrated guitar chops.

"Catch Hell" is the only track on the album containing the slide guitar so prevalent on past records. However, it can easily be said that "Icky Thump" is, in a small way, a return to basics for the band.

Creating modern music on outdated equipment, the garage rock mentality of everything from nothing is alive and well, even if the scene itself rests in shambles.

While the album seems to lack a focus, much like 2005's "Get Behind Me Satan," it is a relief to see that the White Stripes can return to their rudiments without resting on their laurels. "Icky Thump" is anything but redundant, assuring that much life remains in the White family band.



Photo courtesy of radioparadise.com



Photo courtesy of collegeave.colostate.edu

Upcoming Tour Dates

July 22
Portland, Maine

July 23
Boston, Mass.

July 24
New York City,
N.Y.

July 25
Wallingford,
Conn.

July 27
Wilmington, Del.



Photo courtesy of www.tagteammedia.com

Talented, eh?

Canadian songbird Feist "Reminds" the world of her power vocal chops

By CRYSTAL NELSON
Contributing Reporter

Leslie Feist has done it again. Following 2004's "Let It Die," this year's release of "The Reminder" is sure to keep you intrigued.

Going back to the sounds she knows, Feist turns it up a notch with a much more mature sound, a little experimentation and a lot of vocals. Most songs on "The Reminder" were written or co-written by the Canadian songstress when she was on tour.

Bringing more upbeat songs to the album, the CD oozes optimism and feel-good tracks perfect for the drive home or lounging around. "My Moon, My Man" is just one of these tracks. Sounding like a mellower version of Goldfrapp, lyrics like, "Take it slow, take it easy on me, shed some light," bounce with a rhythm that will carry you through the chorus.

"The Reminder's" collection of songs

is cohesive, yet each sounds distinctly different. The beginning of "Brandy Alexander" has a tribal feel to it and is one of the simplest sounding songs on the album. "Honey Honey" is all about experimentation of sounds and is where Feist can showcase her solid control over her vocals.

Several other upbeat songs are scattered throughout the album. The sounds of various guitars in "Past in Present" feel to be reminiscent of Broken Social Scene, which Feist had been a part of.

"Sea Lion Woman" expertly mixes the sound of Deep South gospel with rock 'n roll guitar. Infused with banjos, trumpets and jazzy piano, critics are calling "1234" this year's "Mushaboom."

"The Reminder" is ear candy to anyone who appreciates how music is crafted. Turn up your volume and roll down your windows—Feist will be the perfect end to a long commute.



Photo courtesy of www.tagteammedia.com

Feist will be on tour this summer and will make a stop in New York City on Aug. 29.

Auburn Hills serves up tasty food

Oakland University's Chartwells wins award at the Taste of Auburn Hills

By NICK DEGEL
Contributing Reporter

Had Cathy Sellers, of Warren, known about the selection of food at this year's Taste of Auburn Hills, she probably would have skipped breakfast.

"Everything's so good. I hope I have enough room," Sellers said.

The Taste of Auburn Hills assembled 21 area restaurants to display their culinary tenders at the Auburn Hills Village Center June 28. The event was organized by the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Those in attendance sampled food from the likes of Mountain Jack's Steakhouse, Palace Grille, The Post Bar and many others.

Participants could sit at round picnic tables to eat, listen to a live band and decide which booth served up the best food.

Palace Sports and Entertainment sponsored a silent auction tent where people could bid on concert tickets, gift certificates, exercise equipment and many other prizes.

Oakland University was represented by Chartwells, the food service company that runs the Pioneer Food Court in the Oakland Center as well as resident dining in Vandenberg Hall. According to Jessica Gales, director of catering for Chartwells, this

is the second year that they've been part of the event.

"It's to promote Chartwells as a catering service, and it's also to promote Oakland University as a facility that's available for room rental," Gales said.

For the event, Chartwells served a dry-rubbed beef brisket with miniature rolls and a choice of three sauces—honey mustard, cherry barbeque and horseradish. For dessert, Chartwells offered cheesecake topped with a cherry sauce.

"It's a little bit of an homage to Michigan foods," Gales said.

"The beef was just so tender," said Karen Wills, of Rochester, after she visited the Chartwells booth. "I'm a sucker for cheesecake, too, so I'd say they won me over."

Chefs Gerald Gatto and Peter King served up the food with help from Gales and Assistant Catering Director Catherine Beaubien.

According to Gales, the food served at the booth is representative of what Chartwells serves at catered events. However, students can look forward to the fine food, as well.

"In the food court, we will do similar things since we run the menu-tainment," Gales said. "We have a station that could have the type of items that we're having here."

Richard Fekel and Vanessa Ryan, director and assistant director of the Oakland Center, were pleased with the popularity of the Oakland University booth. "It's great to be in an event like this," Fekel said.

The Oakland University crew was awarded Best Presentation at the end of the festivities. The award recognized both the Chartwells' booth and the overall presentation of the food.

"It was wonderful to realize that, even in the overwhelmingly competitive banquet facilities and catering business, our advance preparation and attention to detail, along with professionalism behind our efforts, impressed the committee and the event patrons and made us stick out," Gales said.

"We certainly felt validated and assured that we have carved out our niche for future endeavors," she said.



Left and center photos courtesy of Jessica Gales. Right photo courtesy of Nick Degel

Catherine Beaubien, Peter King, Gerald Gatto and Jessica Gales from Chartwells represented Oakland University at the Taste of Auburn Hills. (Left) Catherine Beaubien helps Peter King prepare the dry-rubbed brisket. Along with brisket, Chartwells also prepared cheesecake with a cherry sauce. (Center) Chefs Ed Gruzowski and Bill Lineberry from Palace Grille prepare their dish at their booth. (Right)

Ragtime street fair new to Greenfield Village

By SHANEIA CALDWELL
Contributing Reporter

An explosion of music from the early 20th century will echo as live performances take center stage, dance steps are taught and historic food is sold during the Ragtime Street Fair, the new signature event at Greenfield Village.

Main Street at Greenfield Village will transform into the Ragtime Street Fair from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 21 and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 22.

The fair will focus on ragtime music, an African American genre that defined American Culture and paved the way to the 1920s Jazz Age.

"During the Victorian era, there were a lot of rules to dance, but ragtime threw them all out of the window," said James Johnson, senior manager, creative programs, The Henry Ford.

Ragtime, the first American genre before jazz, is described as having melodic accents between beats. It has an uneven or ragged rhythm.

"Ragtime Street Fair is a great fit for the Greenfield Village because it captures the 20th century," Johnson said. "Detroit is a hotbed for people who are descendants of people from ragtime."

On Saturday at 9:30 a.m., begin the day with phonograph demonstrations, then grab a quiet thrill from a silent movie or listen to pianist Taslimah Bey at 10:30 a.m.

Afterward, celebrate the music of George Gershwin

in a 30-minute revue or substitute with sounds of John Remmers.

Some of the era's greatest hits will play at noon.

Stop by the dance booth to learn ragtime-style dances by a group of about 40 dancers and watch a professional duo imitate Vernon and Irene Castle, leading dance couple of the ragtime period.

After grooving to the rhythm, dance over to food vendors or the dining area set up on Main Street to grab a bite to eat.

Snack on fresh fruit or chow down turkey drumsticks, roast corn, classic franks, grilled sausages and apple cider brats with apple kraut. Sip on mint tea, ginger ale or lemonade before tasting elephant ears, fried dough or peach crisp. Before heading back to the activities, top the meal off with Calder's ice cream.

As you eat, watch Model T automobiles and old-fashioned bicycles tour the village.

The Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band will be performing in the Town Hall at 3 p.m. The group began with an ensemble of college friends and evolved into the Dixieland Band.

After rocking with the band, head over to the Piano Cuttin' Contest. Pianists will compete by showing off their talent from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m., learn the cultural and social conditions of America during 1910 through popular tunes performed by River Raisin Ragtime Revue.

Finally, the day will end with the Dixieland Jazz Parade, which will commemorate Ragtime's last stages and the birth of jazz. Participants will march down

Village Green and Main Street led by Tartarsauce's Ron Kischuk.

Many of the programs will run multiple times throughout the day and the same events will occur on Sunday, except the Dixieland Jazz Parade and Piano Cuttin' Contest.

"There will be plenty to see and do," Johnson said. Throughout the day, people working the fair will dress the part.

"We have a really amazing costume studio that will dress 40 to 50 people in 19th through 20th century clothing," Johnson said.

Patrons should be prepared to do an ample amount of walking and bring portable chairs due to limited seating, Johnson said.

COST FOR THE RAGTIME STREET FAIR

Free for members

\$20 for adults

\$19 for seniors

\$14 for children

Free for children under 5

For more information call
313-982-6001 or go online
at www.thehenryford.org.

Celebration ends in shooting at Beacon Hill

By C.M. GRASKI
Senior Reporter

What began as a weekend of celebration for a group of Kettering University students ended abruptly in death.

The fatal shooting of Karl Hansen, 21, took place at approximately 2:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 30, at the Beacon Hill apartment complex on the north side of Walton Road, across from Oakland University's campus.

According to the Auburn Hills Police Department, Marcus Yu, 21, accidentally discharged a round into the head of his friend, Hansen, who was asleep at the time.

The owner of the handgun and the other party attendees were asleep when Yu was handling the firearm.

According to police, Hansen died at the scene.

Yu and Hansen were both engineering students at Kettering, and had been staying at the apartment.

Yu stayed at the scene of the shooting until police arrived, and continues

to cooperate with the authorities, police said.

"Authorities arrived to find Hansen in a bedroom with a single gunshot to his head," said Lieutenant James Manning. "No other injuries were reported."

Rochester Hills' 52-3 District Court charged Yu with involuntary manslaughter and careless discharge of a firearm causing death, on Monday, July 2.

Magistrate Soma set a \$50,000 personal bond for Yu.

The case was reviewed by the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, and a pre-exam conference was held on Thursday, July 11.

Yu currently awaits trial for his felony and misdemeanor charges.

"The families of the victim and suspect have asked for privacy while they deal with this tragedy," Manning said.

Friends of Yu and Hansen are also maintaining their silence as they continue to live in their apartment where the memory of the end of their friend's life still lingers.

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Cultural experiences await in Detroit

Ethnic neighborhoods offer a taste of the world without leaving home

By CRYSTAL NELSON
Lead Ads Manager

Oakland University students looking to experience something cultural this summer don't have to leave the country or even the state.

Get a taste for some of Detroit's ethnic neighborhoods right in your own backyard.

Infused with culture, Greektown, Mexicantown and the new Asian Village stand out as the premiere ethnic neighborhoods in Detroit.



ASIAN VILLAGE



Asian Village, the new addition to Detroit's Riverfront, is located across from the River Walk and east of the Renaissance Center. Street banners naming an assortment of Asian countries hint at the kind of experience customers will get once they enter the village.

The recently opened Polynesian-style Kawaiin Café features a variety of Asian chai, green and bubble teas along with a

variety of exotic coffees.

Fusia, set to open in the near future, will offer a variety of Asian fusion cuisine in an upscale environment.

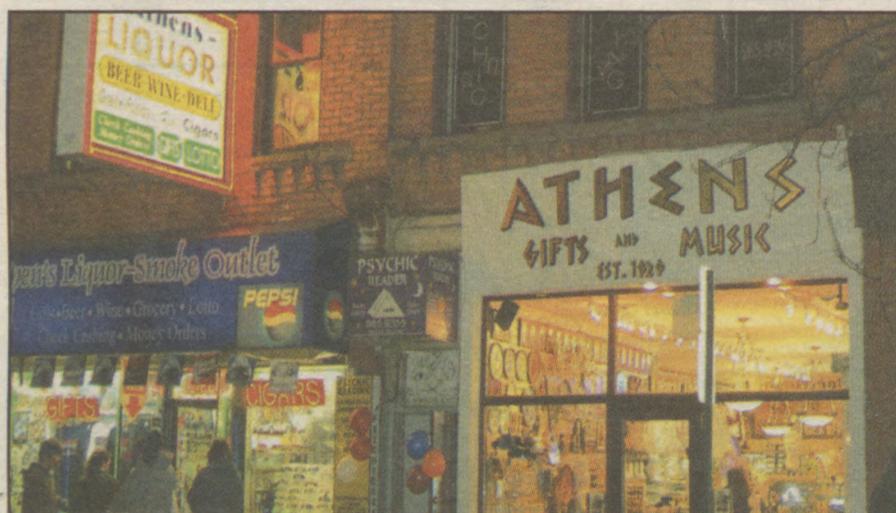
The Asian Market will feature a sushi bar and sell Asian produce, fish and meat.

For more information about Asian Village and opening dates visit www.myasianvillage.com.



CRYSTAL NELSON/The Oakland Post

Colorful banners identify some of the many countries represented in Detroit's own Asian Village.



CRYSTAL NELSON/The Oakland Post

Athens Gifts and Music on Monroe Street sells Greek-inspired paintings, pottery, jewelry and music.



MEXICANTOWN



Detroit's Mexicantown is a cultural center deserving of its name.

Murals, flowers and colorful piñatas adorn the streets and add to the already thematic décor of the local businesses, which are located primarily on Bagley Avenue and Vernor Highway.

Fresh, handmade tortillas can be purchased at various tortilla factories, and La Gloria's bakery offers inexpensive baked goods and pastries, including sugar cookies that look like Mexican flags, flan and more.

The Mexicantown Restaurant boasts a

flaming fajita and a variety of margaritas.

Christina Gallegos, a 24-year-old Detroit and Wayne State grad student, says Mexicantown is "just a really good place to have a beer with your friends and snack on really good food."

Even if you don't have a specific place in mind, just follow the signs advertising fresh tamales, restaurants, specialty grocery stores and shops selling knick-knacks.

For more information visit www.mexicantown.org



GREEKTOWN



"Opa!" can be heard throughout Greektown as passersby watch the flaming cheese burn down.

With neon street signs advertising numerous restaurants and businesses, this historic district, near Monroe and LaFayette, is no less decorative than Mexicantown.

Casino goers have a variety of restaurants and bars to choose from.

New Hella's Café is one of the local businesses to offer Greek cuisine such as lemon chicken soup, flaming cheese and of course, it's own twist on a Greek

salad.

Pegasus Taverna is another Greek restaurant on Monroe.

Fishbone's is a good stop for those who enjoy seafood, steak and sushi as well as live entertainment. Pizza Papalis specializes in Chicago-style deep-dish pizza and is a good bar to get something on tap.

At the Astoria Pastry Shop, employees agree that most customers come in for the baklava, although the patisserie specializes in other European desserts, as well.



CRYSTAL NELSON/The Oakland Post

Los Galane's on Bagley Avenue serve a variety of Mexican foods and beverages. Los Galane's is open Sun. through Thurs. 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MOUTHING OFF

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God bless the universe!

Aliens and Miss Universe are the keys to internationalism

By ALEX CHERUP
Guest columnist

If a flying saucer landed in your backyard, and an alien stepped out and asked, "Tell me about yourself. What are you?" Would you reply:

- a) Michigander
- b) American
- c) Sagittarius
- d) Female
- e) 5'8" with blue eyes and blonde hair who likes long walks on the beach
- f) All of the above (If this is the case, the author would like to meet you and is available most evenings).

Of course, this is a trick question. The correct response is simple: a human being.

Our humanness is the fundamental differentiation between us and an extraterrestrial cognitive creature. The nonhuman intellectual is probably not concerned with your state, nation or astrological sign.

It does not want to hook up with you.

In short, these labels are transcended when we look beyond this conveniently constructed political map we call Earth.

Internationalism's strongest bed-fellow is humanity. We all possess a common bond that we should not fight against or trample over. Alien immigration from an alien world would allow us to recognize our many similarities as humans and unite us — although I'm sure the Minutemen would recommend building a fence around the planet.

The message is basic: We must not ignore our humanness.

To ignore humanness is the equivalent of prominently giving the middle finger to Mother Nature. Valuing arbitrarily built notions and disowning primary identity is missing the bigger picture. Turn to other, dare I say, more primitive life forms for verifiable archetypes — a flower never says it's a flower, but it is one, a rabbit never says it's a rabbit, but it is one, and Rush Limbaugh never says he's a big, fat idiot, but he is one. These entities never say

what they are. They just exist as they are. We are all human beings first and deserve this treatment — whether American, Eskimo or Kenyan.

With this said, however, I am not advocating ignorance toward differences, or even destruction of nationalism. In fact, if an alien culture set foot or tentacle on Earth, internationalism would turn to nationalism. Nationalism as citizens of planet Earth, in respect to the rest of the Milky Way and its suburbs.

We would unite as human beings and, perhaps, even demand that all Martians correctly go through the proper INS procedures. Who knows — the workin' man from Zeta Reticuli might have tuberculosis and leprosy. Interplanetary illegal aliens would be hired by both Americans and Mexican businesses to pick strawberries. And there would be an attempt to get all traffic signs written in Martian. Just think — Lou Dobbs and Vicente Fox can share a plate of the

same xenophobia and wash it down with a bottle of the same jingoism.

So what is nationalism or internationalism?

On a macro scale, by being international, we are being national, and on a micro scale by being national we are not international.

It is all theatrics. We are all, as Bob Dylan says, "masked and anonymous" and 100 years old on Myspace.

Underneath the masks and the Myspace, we are really international nationalists by being human, no matter how hard we try. That is, unless we relate intimately with every atom in the entire universe, which is difficult and takes up too much memory on the cell phone.

Current nationalism, however, appears to be further from the connection, so the larger internationalism is closer to the galactic core of being.

Sorry I'm not getting philosophical enough. Pass the joint, please.

However, after all this contemplation, one can assert that everything is connected. It is all one in the universe. By merely existing, we are



representing the universe. So, whether we like it or not, we are nationalists for the universe. Miss Universe will be the new Uncle Sam. In that case, we should see and hear the

following:

- *God Bless the Universe!
- *You're either with the Universe or with the terrorists.
- *The Universe: Love it or leave it.
- *I stand behind my Universe.
- *Impeach the Universe.
- *Universe '08.

So, Socrates, what is the moral of the story?

Glaucon, it is simplistic. Respect all human beings as human beings. It is the natural order.

From human rights violations in China to the AIDS epidemic in Africa to war deaths rooted in lies by Texan tyrants, humans ignore humanity at an alarming rate. Before partaking in the circus act of nationalism, remember we are all on the same stage, in the same circus. Do not let the elephants and clowns fool you.

If you are a human, be a human and then whatever else you are. Michigander. American. Sagittarius. Female. But don't forget, you are still a human. Alas, even Mr. Limbaugh.





AP Photo/WWE, HO

WWE superstar kills family, then himself

By GREG BLUESTEIN
Associated Press Writer

Pro wrestler Chris Benoit strangled his wife and suffocated his 7-year-old son before hanging himself, authorities said.

The bodies were found Monday, June 25, Benoit's home, about 20 miles south of Atlanta.

A toxicology report, released Tuesday, July 17, revealed that Benoit had steroids and other drugs in his system at the time of the incident.

Benoit's body contained elevated levels of testosterone, which appeared to have been injected, as well as the anti-anxiety drug Xanax and the painkiller hydrocodone, according to a statement from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Benoit's 43-year-old wife was killed Friday in an upstairs family room, her feet and wrists were bound. Daniel was probably killed late Saturday or early Sunday, the body found in his bed, the district attorney said.

Benoit, 40, apparently hanged himself as long as a day later, investigators say. His body was found in a downstairs weight room, hanging from the pulley of a piece of exercise equipment.

Kobayashi defeated!



Seth Wenig/The Associated Press

The world's reigning hot dog eating champion, Takeru Kobayashi, was defeated for the first time in six years at Nathan's Annual Hot Dog Eating Contest. American Joey Chestnut emerged victorious, defeating Kobayashi in a record-setting showdown on July 4. Chestnut finished 66 hot dogs and buns. In the contest's final seconds, Kobayashi suffered "reversal," unable to keep his final hot dogs down.

New seven wonders of the world

LISBON, Portugal (AP) - The Great Wall of China, Rome's Colosseum, India's Taj Mahal and three architectural marvels from Latin America were among the new seven wonders of the world chosen in a global poll released on Saturday, July 7.

Jordan's Petra was the seventh winner. Peru's Machu Picchu, Brazil's Statue of Christ Redeemer and Mexico's Chichen Itza pyramid also made the cut.

About 100 million votes were cast, said New7Wonders, the nonprofit organization that conducted the poll.

The seven beat out 14 other nominated

landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Easter Island in the Pacific, the Statue of Liberty, the Acropolis, Russia's Kremlin and Australia's Sydney Opera House.

The pyramids of Giza, the only surviving structures from the original seven wonders of the ancient world, were assured of retaining their status in addition to the new seven after indignant Egyptian officials said it was a disgrace they had to compete.

The campaign to name new wonders was launched in 1999 by the Swiss adventurer Bernard Weber. Almost 200

nominations came in, and the list was narrowed to the 21 most-voted by the start of 2006. The traditional seven wonders were concentrated in the Mediterranean and Middle East. That list was derived from lists of marvels compiled by ancient Greek observers, the best known being Antipater of Sidon, a writer in the 2nd century B.C.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes and the Pharos lighthouse off Alexandria have all vanished.



Anthony Harvey/The Associated Press

Rockin' for a global concern

Live Earth concert aimed to raise global warming awareness

Over 100 musical acts, including the likes of Madonna, The Smashing Pumpkins, John Mayer, Keith Urban, Kanye West and The Police, took the stage in 11 locations around the world for Live Earth, Saturday, July 7. The worldwide concert attempted to force global warming onto the international political agenda by generating public concern. However, U.S. and British media were skeptical as to whether the concert was successful in doing so.

Blair out of power in Britain, Brown steps in

LONDON (AP) - Gordon Brown ended a decade-long wait to become prime minister of England, stepping from Tony Blair's shadow with a vow to repair divisions over the Iraq war, prolong Britain's historic stretch of prosperity and set a sober new tone at home and overseas, June 27.

Blair departed to applause and some tears from lawmakers. He takes on a role as envoy to the Quartet of Mideast peace mediators after presiding over a decade of rapid social change—and rancor at the Iraq invasion.

Blair, who won three successive elections for his Labour party, was visibly emotional during a final weekly questions session with legislators.

He said he was sorry for the perils faced by British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, but gave no apology for his decisions to back the U.S.

"I wish everyone — friend or foe — well," Blair said before departing the chamber to cheers. "And that is that. The end."

Nation | World New Briefs

World happenings since our last issue

- 6-13 | Shimon Peres is elected as the President of Israel after opponents bow out in the first round of the Israeli presidential elections.
- 6-15 | Bob Barker's last episode of "The Price Is Right" airs, ending his 50-year-long career as a TV game show personality.
- 6-16 | Mike Nifong is disbarred in North Carolina for his role in the prosecution of the 2006 Duke University lacrosse case. | A drag racing car plows into a crowd in Tennessee, killing six people and injuring as many as 20.
- 6-20 | The Special Court for Sierra Leone issues the first ever guilty verdicts by an international court related to the military use of children.
- 6-21 | Japan changes the name of Iwo Jima to its original name Iwo To to reflect the wishes of its original inhabitants.
- 6-23 | Torrential rains in Pakistan, including the city of Karachi, kill 230 people.
- 6-25 | The Central Intelligence Agency releases the "family jewels," secret documents detailing illegal activities, including a plot to hire members of the Mafia to assassinate Fidel Castro.
- 6-27 | Jamaican-born Floridian Barrington Irving becomes the youngest per-

- son, and the first black person, to fly solo around the world.
- 6-28 | A bill to legalize millions of illegal immigrants living in the United States is defeated in the U.S. Senate. | The Bald Eagle is removed from the endangered species list.
- 6-30 | A car on fire crashes into the main terminal building of Glasgow Airport. Two people are arrested at the scene by police, with one man reportedly on fire when arrested.
- 7-2 | U.S. President George W. Bush commutes Scooter Libby's prison sentence with a Grant of Executive Clemency for his role in the Plame Affair.
- 7-5 | Nine people are killed at Culiacán International Airport in the Mexican state of Sinaloa as a cargo aircraft fails to take off and careens across a roadway, hitting several vehicles and business premises.
- 7-6 | Newly declassified French government documents show that as President François Mitterrand knowingly supported the Rwandan Genocide because he believed it would limit "Anglo-Saxon influence."
- 7-9 | Snow falls in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the first time in 89 years and the second time in recorded history. Two people die of exposure in Argentina.
- 7-12 | The government of North Korea may close the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center.