

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

September 2, 2009

Volume 36, Number 4

WELCOME BACK
2009 - 2010

The main cover image is a complex abstract composition of overlapping geometric shapes. The color palette includes teal, red, yellow, blue, and black. The shapes are primarily circular and semi-circular, creating a sense of depth and movement. A diagonal banner with the text 'WELCOME BACK 2009 - 2010' is superimposed over the central part of the artwork.

2009-10 Lecture Series

Presented by OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S Student Life Lecture Board



ALTON BROWN

An American food personality, cinematographer, author and actor, Alton Brown is the creator and host of the Food Network television show *Good Eats* as well the miniseries *Feasting on Asphalt* and *Feasting on Waves*. In addition to being the main commentator on *Iron Chef America*, Brown is also the author of several books on cooking and a regular contributor to *Bon Appétit* and *Men's Journal* magazines.

He brings a knowledge and enthusiasm for the science of cooking and a humorous approach to his shows. *Bon Appétit* magazine named him Cooking Teacher of the Year in 2004, and he was named Best Food Guru by *Atlanta* magazine in 2005. *Good Eats* was awarded the Best T.V. Food Journalism Award by the James Beard Foundation in 2000, and the show was also awarded a Peabody Award in 2006.

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Cover design by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

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THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives

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September 2, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

OU can't afford its 'affordability'

If you're just joining us, Oakland University's "You can afford this" campaign quickly became the biggest joke on campus this summer.

We published a Mousing Off column roasting the slogan. Student liaison to the OU board of trustees, Tawnee Milko, mentioned the "infamous" billboards at one of the July board meetings where a tuition increase was decided on. She recommended that there be no tuition increase, but if the board passed the increase, then they should reconsider the contradictory slogan. Neither suggestions were acted upon, and the 2010 budget was passed with a 9 percent undergraduate and 3 percent graduate tuition increase, as well as an "across-the-board" salary freeze.

The marketing campaign is really just a convenient example of the odd logic associated with the budget. The OU community wants to know how the university can claim affordability when it keeps raising rates. After all, tuition went up 6.3 percent last year and 13.9 percent in 2007.

Let us explain how this tuition increase is really working. The budget has essentially turned the university into a socialist organization in order to pay for its "affordable" initiatives. This concept is confusing, but tuition is being increased because it's too high for most students to afford.

According to university documents, 55 percent of students will be receiving aid, on average almost \$500 more than last year. Not even included in that average is the new freshmen guarantee, where some incoming freshmen will only have to pay their expected family contribution (as determined by FAFSA). The rest will be covered by the inflated tuition and the raises the employees didn't receive.

The administration and board are pushing to bring the quality of an OU education on par with the likes of MSU and U of M. But a pay freeze for the staff and

faculty responsible for delivering that education is counterproductive to that goal.

The least the university can do is give those footing the bill a pat on the back for not only struggling to get their own degree, but for helping others get one.

Roughly speaking, the average student paying the full rate for 16 credits will have to work an extra three and a half hours per week at \$8/hour take-home to make up the difference from last year's tuition. That's for upper level, in-state undergraduate students. The cost difference for freshmen and sophomores is \$388 (still over three more hours of work per week). Those unfortunate enough to earn junior class standing this year, the difference is \$820 (almost seven more hours of work per week, bye-bye study days).

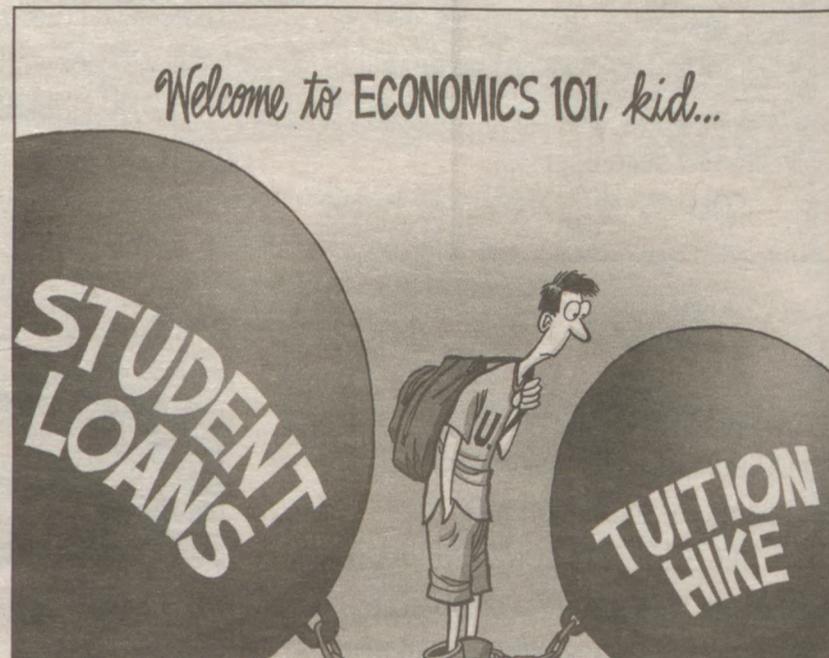
Despite the enormous sacrifices, it's not that we completely oppose a system that allows more people to attend college for less money. We oppose the illusion that a tuition increase and salary freeze were the only options to go about it. Especially when only a few ridiculous options were presented to the board as alternatives: cutting jobs, eliminating the option to pay for housing and tuition with credit cards, no more new maintenance or upgrade projects.

Why not a voluntary pay cut for the administrators who received generous, "unrelated" pay increases a year before the mandatory salary freeze on all employees? If the rest of us have to pitch in for the common good, so should they. Or instead of increasing tuition to pay for increased aid, in turn exhausting the financial aid department and anybody who tries to understand the concept, just keep tuition affordable for everybody. If they're not going to do that, then please just change the slogan, so our experience at OU is a little less patronizing.

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PARKER/Florida Today, Cagle Cartoons

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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

Prestige isn't all that it's cracked up to be

Brad Slazinski
staff reporter

Amidst all the outcries against the tuition hike, I am surprised that students have not taken offense at board member Dennis Pawley. During a board of trustees meeting, Pawley said that if he were to compare two

resumes, one from Oakland University and one from another college, the one from OU would not be as highly regarded. It's as if we're being told that we wasted four or more years at a university that isn't named Michigan State or the University of Michigan. It's as if we're being told that we went to an inferior university and that we wasted our time for doing so.

His anecdote reminds me of Patrick Bateman, the main character in the novel and movie "American Psycho." Bateman was someone who engaged in conspicuous consumerism and was proud of it. Bateman could point out what type of clothes a person was wearing by looking at someone. He would proceed to criticize the person if he felt his clothing was inferior to what he was wearing. Sadly, it seems that we're getting to the point that what college we're attending is becoming a point of fashion and not about the education.

In 2006, TIME magazine had an article titled "Who Needs Harvard". The article discussed how students were opting to go for lesser-known universities over the bigger ones. One part of the article quoted a guidance counselor, who said that there is a line of thinking that going to a brand name college is the best security; and that it needs to be changed to finding a college that is right for the student.

That same article cited a Quarterly Journal of Economics study in 2002 showing that students who were accepted by top schools but went to less selective ones were doing as well as the students who went to more prestigious schools. In the article, one student chose not to go to one of the Ivy League schools because of the hypercompetitiveness and the feeling of a seek and destroy mentality that he felt when he was in high school.

Freshman Clint Grunalt said he chose Oakland University because it was close to home and because of its nursing program, despite being accepted by two other schools.

"I only live a half an hour away. It's not the most expensive school but it still costs money. I was accepted into Adrian and Albion. I heard Oakland has a really good nursing program and that's what I am going into," said Grunalt.

That is good reasoning. The quality of programs OU offers matters more than having a prestigious name.

I chose OU as it was close to home, had small class sizes, and at the suggestion of a cousin of mine. I also talked to friends who were attending various colleges

and in the end the ones attending OU convinced me. There is also a professor teaching at this university who works for the Wall Street Journal. He attended OU, which suggests that prestige isn't everything.

If OU is desperate to improve their reputation, let the programs do the talking and not advertising campaigns such as the "You can afford this" campaign that is often mocked by students. The nursing program mentioned by Grunalt is a good example.

The Oakland Post took third place for in-depth reporting and third for best all-around non-daily newspaper in our region from the Society of Professional Journalism. The radio station, WXOU along with Student Video Productions won three awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Annual High School and College Broadcast Excellence Awards. WXOU's Matthew Pocket took first place in sports play by play. Why isn't OU trying to use those examples as a way to enhance our reputation instead of using advertising campaigns, which are mocked by the student body? OU should be using those awards that those respective programs have won as a way to convince students to attend OU.

We should not be so concerned about our prestige at the moment. What we put on our resume isn't limited to what university we attended but other factors. While having a prestigious name on your resume may give a nice "wow" factor, it's what you've also done in addition to attending that university. But that's not what Pawley thinks is on employers' minds when looking at resumes.



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Kids and teens need a **clear** message about **sex**



Katie Wolf
managing editor

Has anyone noticed how much sex is in advertising? More specifically, sex in advertising geared toward the young? I know, I know: Our nation is sex obsessed. But there are a few stipulations to our sex obsession, and with kids it's complicated.

The Candie's Foundation has a new slogan. It's paired with

a T-shirt for young women. The shirt says, emblazoned across the woman's breasts: "I'm sexy enough ... to keep you waiting."

Recently Kmart came out with a new commercial for the back-to-school season. It's set in a classroom, composed of students who, I would guess, are around 12 or 13 years old. The teacher gives a vocabulary word to a boy. The word is "rock stare." The class proceeds to give him examples of how one would use the word rock stare. Some of the phrases include "You put the rock in rock stare" and "I could rock stare at those jeans all day." The camera pans over the students wearing Kmart clothes, including a close-up on the rear ends of multiple girls. It ends with a girl checking out a boy. He says to her, "Are you rock staring at me?" She smiles and looks down.

What's the problem with Candie's and Kmart? They're selling sex to an age group that our nation (publicly, at least) expects to be abstaining from sex. What a mixed message!

Until recently, many schools taught abstinence-only sex education in schools. It was mandated under the Bush administration. Obama's proposed 2010 budget has taken out the abstinence-only education funding, but until these changes are implemented, students are still going by the old rules.

By emphasizing the idea of abstinence but allowing sexual content in ads, TV and movies aimed at pre-teens and teenagers, adults and advertisers are sending a mixed message.

What kind of statement does the Candie's T-shirt really make? "Yes, look at how sexy I am! I'm embracing my sexuality! But as soon as I actually do something with it, I'm going to be in trouble ..." Whoops.

If the message they want to send involves not caving in to peer pressure by engaging in sexual activity, there are plenty of other ways to say it: "I'm confident enough to wait," "I'm strong enough to wait," or most simply put: "I want to wait," would work just fine.

I'm confused as to why a woman needs to be sexy to turn down sex. I'm also confused as to why a woman has to "keep" a man from doing anything — hence the dropping of the word in my alternative slogans. These

"I'm confused as to why a woman needs to be sexy to turn down sex."

shirts are produced for women, without any mention of men. I had no idea that it was a woman's job and hers alone to be responsible about sex. It does take

two, after all, to engage in consensual sex. Where do men come into the picture? None of the responsibility is shifted onto them. What a lesson for teenagers: Women are the only ones who have a decision to make when it comes to sex. It seems to clash with Candie's plans for "educating and challenging America's youth to make healthy decisions about sex," as their website claims.

What is Kmart telling the audience? "Children just hitting puberty are getting in touch with their sexuality. And they like it!" But what comes after the vocabulary lesson? Their abstinence-only "sex education" class? Please. I wouldn't blame kids for being so confused about what's expected of them. On top of the obvious mixed message, Kmart is also exploiting these children in the worst way. I've watched enough episodes of "Law & Order SVU" to know that this is the kind of commercial that would satisfy a pedophile.

There are many things that can be done to help fix this situation, but the two most obvious things are this: 1) Advertisers need to tone down on the sex when it comes to products for adolescents. 2) We need to acknowledge that some adolescents engage in sexual behavior. Then we can give them the knowledge and the tools they need to behave safely and responsibly, and take true ownership of their actions.

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Breaking down the budget

By COLLEEN J. MILLER
Editor in Chief

Every year, Oakland University's board of trustees must approve the general fund budget. In order to balance that budget, tuition almost always increases.

The 2009-10 fiscal year budget is no exception. Vice President of Finance and Administration John Beaghan presented a budget containing an 11 percent undergraduate tuition increase at the July 24 meeting, but the board couldn't reach a consensus.

Five days later, the board met in front of a packed auditorium in Elliott Hall to revisit the budget. After hearing from several students, the board passed the budget with an amendment lowering the increase to 9 percent, and with a resolution to revisit the budget mid-semester if needed.

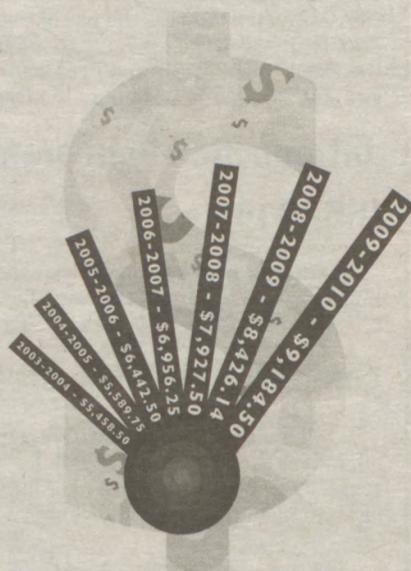
The highest undergraduate percentage increase in the state, along with a 3 percent graduate tuition increase, is making up for a nearly 30 percent increase in financial aid, a decrease in state appropriations, and a projected enrollment increase.

Increased expenses include adding to the library collections, wireless upgrades, and the salary of a project manager to oversee the build of the Human Health Building. Despite three unions still negotiating contracts, the budget does not leave room for any salary increases.

State Funding

Much of the increase was caused by a decrease in state appropriations. In a slide shown to the board, a graph illustrates how state funding has practically flip flopped since 1972 when 71 percent of the budget was from the state, 26 percent from tuition.

In 2009, almost three quarters of the budget is tuition.



Rates are for full-time, undergraduate, in-state residents.

Jason Willis/The Oakland Post

"If you give us an extra \$5,000 per student from the state, I bet you we could probably do without a tuition increase," Beaghan said.

OU Vice President of Government Relations Rochelle Black said that, while the state appropriations does not appropriate on a per student basis, she wishes they would.

Black said the current procedure for funding discriminates against rapidly growing universities.

"If you were to look at a chart that showed per student funding amount, the schools that have had the greatest enrollment increase over the last five to 10 years are the ones that are lagging at the bottom," Black said.

Black also indicated that if tuition were to consistently rise to compensate for decreasing state appropriations, the fiscal consequences could be significant.

Financial Aid

The 29 percent increase in financial aid accounts for half of the tuition increase. This includes the guarantee to incoming freshmen that they will not have to pay for more than their expected family contribution (as determined by FAFSA).

Take away any scholarships and grants from the cost of tuition and the EFC and that is what the university will spot all incoming freshmen. Except the university is getting that money by raising tuition.

"That freshmen guarantee is only one part of our financial aid strategy. Several years ago we used to give freshmen only one time financial aid. Now those financial aid packages stay with you as long as you maintain your GPA," Beaghan said. According to another slide shown to the board, 55 percent of OU students receive some sort of financial aid.

"The other 45 percent are paying full load and that's because they didn't have a need calculated or they didn't get any merit money," Beaghan said. "We looked at what our students express as what they want, it tends to be aid. And where do you get aid, where do you get anything on this campus ... well, appropriations and tuition. So the only way to provide the aid, the 20 or 30 percent increase in financial aid, yeah that's built into the tuition rates."

Beaghan said there's all sorts of "cost sharing" from what a student's major is to what opportunities and resources they take advantage of on campus.

"To a certain extent, everybody's paying for somebody else. For instance, it costs a whole lot more to educate a nursing student and an engineering student than it does a journalism student ... We don't have that kind of differential tuition here ... You're all paying for the complete experience here no matter how much experience you're getting."

Salaries

Many have called into question the recent executive raises at a time when the budget calls for salary freezes across the board and a tuition increase at a higher percentage than any other university in the state.

"The way we built the budget is nobody gets a raise even though we have three contracts yet to finish bargaining," Beaghan said.

In July 2008, the board approved a 40 percent raise for President Gary Russi. This raise was given a year prior to the July 1, 2009 salary freeze, but only weeks before a 6.29 percent undergraduate tuition increase and 5 percent graduate tuition increase for the 2008-09 school year.

Other executives also received raises in April 2008.

Beaghan said the raises and the salary freeze are unrelated, but that tuition is definitely related to salary increases and freezes.

"Seventy percent of our general fund budget is compensation, salaries and benefits."

Because the board didn't approve the full 11 percent suggested, possible employee cuts may need to be made. About 11 positions were cited as a way to make up for part of the increase.

"We're going to have to go scrub the budget now and come up with the two percent," Beaghan said. "I think if one of two things happens we'll be back discussing budget again in the middle of the year, potentially another tuition increase: if the state does a further reduction beyond what we projected or if enrollment doesn't come in at what we projected — that could also be a budget challenge for us."

For previous coverage of the tuition increase, visit oaklandpostonline.com

By the numbers: What the tuition increase means

- 9** percent undergraduate tuition increase
- 4** percent increase in expenses (may change)
- 1** percent projected enrollment increase
- 3** percent increase in graduate tuition
- 29** percent increase in financial aid
- 0** percent increase in all salaries
- 3** percent decrease in state funding

AAUP to hold event

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Faculty members at Oakland University will likely begin the new year with expired contracts when classes start Thursday, Sept. 3.

Joel Russell, president of OU's chapter of Association of American University Professors, the union that represents OU's faculty, said AAUP members will decide what to do if the contract isn't signed at a members-only meeting on Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

According to an email sent to faculty Tuesday night, "there is an increasing probability that ... the team will request authority to call for faculty to withhold their services" if necessary.

AAUP and the OU administration have been negotiating a new contract because the 2006-09 faculty contract expired this summer.

"We wish they would bargain with us," he said, adding that the administration hasn't budged from their viewpoints since the beginning of negotiations.

The OU administration does not comment on ongoing contract negotiations as a policy.

According to Russell and AAUP's

website www.oaklandaaup.org, the administration offered the faculty no raises for the next three years, a decrease in payment for teaching summer classes, less health care benefits than what is currently offered, no increases in money for research and travels to professional conferences, and from now on hiring fixed-term faculty instead of tenure-track faculty.

Russell said the last item is the worst. "They can be terminated at the will of the administration at any time," he said. "But the biggest downside to this is we can't compete in the national market for [quality] faculty."

From noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday in 201 Dodge Hall, the AAUP is having a public event to show what they believe is the true state of the financial well being of OU. Russell said he and some other AAUP members believe the only reason the tuition is being increased and cuts are being made to faculty benefits is because the money will be used for the upcoming OU William Beaumont School of Medicine.

However, OU said the medical school is a private school and will not use taxpayer money from the state or the regular OU student tuition money.

New courses added

Although the Cinema Studies program is one of the major add-ons to Oakland academics this fall, students can also find new class opportunities in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering and Computer Sciences, and the School of Nursing. A variety of classes have been added to the Oakland course catalog. A few examples of new classes running this fall include:

Graphic Design I (DES 230)

The introductory class addresses the creative and technical aspects of graphic design. Students can expect to become well versed in both two and three-dimensional design as well as the use of color, type, line and art in visual communication. DES 230 is the first step to the new Graphic Design minor offered through the Department of Art and Art History this fall. For more information on a Graphic Design minor contact the Department of Art and Art History.

Introduction to Hebrew Language and Culture (HBR 114)

The first class of a two-part sequence, students will learn both the Hebrew language and culture in the same format as other language classes offered at Oakland. The second class, HBR 115, will be offered this coming winter.

Computer-based Music (MUS 220)

The "hands-on study of creative computer music composition" class will be offered for the first time this fall. In the class students will learn to use different types of composing software in order to better understand computer composition of multiple music styles and genres.

— Jennifer Wood, Staff Reporter

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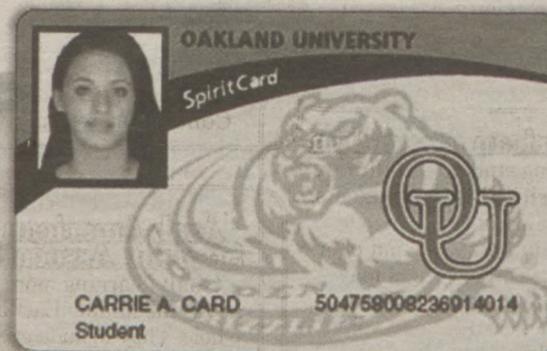
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Forum for American Political Enlightenment

Goal: To enlighten students on issues affecting American politics today

Activities: Provide a way to present academic and constructive data/evidence and discussions to provide solutions to modern political issues

Meetings: 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of every month, and again on the second and fourth Friday of every month

Contact: ledesant@oakland.edu

US Campaign for Burma

Goal: Promote a grassroots awareness on campus about the human rights and humanitarian crisis going on in the military ruled South East Asian nation of Burma (Myanmar). Secondly, the club will also try to work on making students on campus aware about human rights all over the world.

Activities: Plan events such as movie screenings and fundraisers, work with other clubs/organizations on and off campus, including the U.S. Campaign for Burma in Washington, D.C. and other non-governmental organizations like Amnesty International to increase awareness of Burma's situation.

Meetings: No regular meetings set up yet

Contact: svmyint@oakland.edu

Asian-American Association

Goal: Connecting students culturally, hanging out, showing people our talents, or experiencing new things

Activities: Main event is to put on a talent/culture show; other events may range from going to movies, dining out, putting up a show, social mixers, volunteering opportunities, etc.

Meetings: General meeting Sept. 17 from noon-3 p.m.

Contact: asianamericanassoc@gmail.com

Culture

Below is a selection of various student organizations at OU related to topics ranging from politics, media, culture, and religion. It is only a small sampling of the numerous organizations that OU has to offer. To learn more about other campus organizations, attend Grizzfest on Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Oakland Center, or go online to the Oakland Post website. Grizzfest is an annual student and Greek organizations fair that takes place during Welcome Week at OU.

— Brad Slazinski, Masudur Rahman, and Zachary Hallman contributed to this report.

WXOU Radio Station "The Grizz"

Goal: OU's student-run radio station on campus provides news, commentary and music.

Activities: Students, faculty and staff can volunteer as a DJ, which allows them to have and host their own radio shows.

Contact: wxou@wxou.org, 69 Oakland Center

MEDIA

Student Video Productions

Goal: Provide members with the knowledge of all the different facets of television production

Activities: Produce programs for OU's television channel, OUTV; members can write, produce, direct and edit television shows, as producers, actors, hosts and/or reporters

Meetings: The next one is Sept. 15

Contact: www.ousvp.com

French Club

Goal: Give students the chance to share their interest in France and the French culture and the opportunity to socialize with other students who share this interest

Activities: They plan on having meetings and French tables around the OC for members to communicate and share their love of French culture, visiting museums and French cafes to better understand French culture

Meetings: To be announced

Contact: <http://twitter.com/OUFrenchClub>

Language

German Club

Goal: Celebrating everything German — the food, the culture, the language, etc.

Activities: Meetings every other week where we speak German, watch German movies, play German games and have a big event each semester.

Contact: merowlan@oakland.edu

Arab-American Student Association

Goal: Learning more about the Middle East as a whole. They include every Middle Eastern country and we are very open to learning. You don't have to be Middle Eastern to join AASO.

Activities: Plan another Middle Eastern Festival for this semester; maybe a movie night or other events.

Contact: mmrabah@oakland.edu

Muslim Student Association

Goal: Increasing the understanding of Islam culture and Muslims on campus

Activities: Fast-a-thons, Islam Awareness Week, Game Night, Q and A Sessions, organizing potential MSA T-shirts, movie nights and more

Meetings: Prayer every Friday at the Oakland Center, room 125, 1:30 p.m.

Contact: aasiddiq@oakland.edu

Tau Kappa Epsilon

Goals: A fraternity formed last fall, Tau Kappa Epsilon is looking to recruit new members. Anyone who joins TKE before they have 35 members will be considered a founder.

Activities: A pizza picnic will be held between North and South Foundation Halls on Friday in order to

recruit new members. Radio station 89X will be playing music and giving away free prizes.

Contact: President Matthew Mulka, mjmulka@oakland.edu

Greek

OU Gold Vibrations

Goal: New coed a cappella group on campus singing all kinds of popular music aims to be completely student-run by arranging its own music, organizing concerts, student-run rehearsals, etc.

Activities: They plan on having rehearsals two times a week, prepare for concerts, community events, and someday hopefully to compete in the International A Cappella Competition

Contact: ougoldvibrations@gmail.com

ARTS

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Goal: Create a welcoming, vibrant community for students, faculty and staff in which Christ followers and God seekers alike can experience personal growth through fellowship, prayer events, Bible studies and service opportunities

Activities: Bible studies and weekly meetings with worship and dynamic speakers, service opportunities, conferences in and out of state, and many special events throughout the year

Meetings: Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m. Large Group Worship and Fellowship Meeting

Contact: lemonroe@oakland.edu,

Religion

Kresge events bring poetry to OU

By MIKE SCUSSEL
Staff Reporter

In a fast-paced world of text messages and mass communication, words may lose some of their elegance.

Poetry events at Kresge Library are striving to refine written and spoken word once again.

A poetry group at Kresge was started after Frank Lepkowski, interim associate dean of the library, teamed with Anne Switzer in the winter of 2007 to organize the first poetry slam hosted by the library.

As an undergraduate at Cornell University, Lepkowski had attended weekly readings at a campus coffeehouse called "The Temple of Zeus."

After the slam, they began a monthly group that meets the first Thursday of every month at noon in the front lobby of the library.

The meetings — which follow the same "Temple of Zeus" format — give students the opportunity to bring their poems to life in a relaxed setting.

"We live in a culture saturated with media, with visual imagery and with

words—advertising is at the heart of that," said Jim Perkinson, poet and Oakland University special lecturer. "Most of the language that hits us every day is not innocent; it's not neutral."

Perkinson believes that words are beginning to take on a less adventurous, more sterile function as mere tools being used to keep society operating smoothly.

He also says that thousands of commercials hit the average person every day, every one of which is designed to shape that person and make them into the adjunct of a corporation.

"Poetry is not about that," Perkinson said. "It's about trying to surprise and using words in an unusual way, so people have to ask, what was that? What did my body just experience? I don't understand the meanings ... the meanings don't go together ... but my body is responding; what is going on in me?"

He usually shows up with a manila folder crammed full of original works, and reads at the monthly meetings in Kresge.

Poetry slams are judged performances that take place in November and April, where students come to compete in areas

that take into account delivery, content, originality and style. The first prize is usually \$100 cash, and \$50 goes to the runner-up.

"A lot of people get intimidated," Perkinson said, "But if they see other people do it — all of it can be encouraging. Potentially, it could become a kind of community where people don't just compete with each other, they encourage each other."

All of this is different from what he does in the classroom, where he says he's concentrating on communicating to students and getting ideas across clearly.

"Poetry," he said, "Is not letting language run away with me ... my poetry is not just about the units of meaning that are associated with words, but letting the words have play with me sonically...one word suggesting another because of its sound value, not just its meaning value, not being so concerned about clarified communication, but more with creative expression. The way you perform that through your body is as much a part of the meaning as the actual conventional meanings of the words."

Perkinson said he has been affected

by some of the poetry read by Oakland University students at the monthly meetings, when he sees people wrestling honestly with questions in their lives, with their own struggles, and they manage to bring that into their poetry in one way or another.

"There has always been a fair number of people who have come who just listen," Lepkowski said, "I think the experience of hearing good poetry being read is its own reward."

Interestingly, he said, sometimes people who come from unexpected backgrounds are very creative, like the Nobel Prize winning chemist named Roald Hoffman who also used to read at "The Temple of Zeus."

"[Different people] may have their own tools for perceiving and analyzing reality based on their science; hearing how a poet perceives and relates to reality and points things out could open some doors for them and give them a whole new perspective," said Lepkowski.

All students are welcome to attend Poetry @ Kresge in the lobby of the library at noon on the first Thursday of every month.



Is the **KEEPER OF THE DREAM** SCHOLARSHIP AWARD right for you?

Are you a student leader? Have you contributed to breaking down racial and cultural stereotypes? Not sure?

Have you been a member of student organizations such as the University Student Congress, SPEAK, the Student Program Board, Habitat for Humanity, the Association of Black Students, International Allies, Students Toward Understanding Disabilities, the Future Alumni Network, the Grizz Dance Film Festival ... or any of the 170 student groups on campus?

Have you been a Resident Assistant?
An Orientation Group Leader? A Peer Mentor?
A SAFE Ally?

Have you volunteered? Have you made a difference?

Do you have a cumulative 3.0 GPA?

Would \$2,500 assist you in achieving your academic goals?

If so, you're qualified to apply for the Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award, presented each January in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Applications are available beginning September 2. To learn more, visit oakland.edu/kod or e-mail Bridget Green, assistant director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, at bgreen@oakland.edu.

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

KEEPER OF THE DREAM
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CELEBRATION

POLICE FILES

On July 27, a vehicle entered the campus very quickly via the traffic circle off of University Drive and struck a curb and island in the traffic circle. OUPD was called and had discovered the vehicle in Parking Lot 1. The driver of the car was administered a sobriety test and was then arrested for operating while intoxicated. The driver had a recent alcohol violation on his driving record.

On July 30, a student walking near the University Student Apartments heard a pop and then felt something strike him on his head. Auburn Hills Fire Department was dispatched to treat the affected student. A search of the area yielded no results, though one witness did not report seeing or hearing anything suspicious.

On August 8, a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Walton Boulevard was pulled over east of Adams Road. The driver told the officer that he did not have a good driving record. After a sobriety test was administered, the driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated and was issued a speeding citation.

STOP PAYING FOR FOOD.
FREEFOODATOU.COM

By MALLORY LAPANOWSKI
Asst. Ads Manager

Saturday marked the official launch of www.freefoodatou.com, a new online resource designed to provide up-to-date information on events that provide free food on campus.

The Workfly studios, a community business incubator located in downtown Pontiac, held a free public launch party Saturday night for the website which provided free food and drinks.

The event showcased live art and music from Oakland University talent like Natalie Myzuik, Robo Robb, DJ Bassyk, and Olivia Pizzo from Harmonic Hoops, who performed hooping stunts throughout the night.

Creator, marketing major Steve St. Germain, provided the dot com for students to go to get up-to-date information on where they can find free food on campus. The original concept and website started as a side project at Workfly.

Free Food at OU brings its content to multiple online platforms including Facebook and Twitter, and a mobile site

for cell phones. Students can also start receiving "Free Food" updates in their Facebook news feed by texting "fan freefoodatou" to 32665, and additionally can opt in for text message updates for every event posted.

"It's not just about the website or the dot com, it's about the accessibility," St. Germain said. "It is important that students can access our content at any time, whether they are hanging out at home, stuck in class, or somewhere in between."

St. Germain is also working toward being able to provide visitors with menus from the free events to students.

Student organizations can also benefit from the system and are encouraged to use it as a social media marketing tool to reach Oakland University students on a more personal level.

The website aims at becoming a long-term resource for OU students, and because it's entirely student run, student funded and student supported, the site is always looking for contributions. Those interested can e-mail freefoodatou@gmail.com to get involved.

HELLO
my name is



Fall 2009

Friday, September 11
4th Annual SPB & SAFB Carnival
P11 parking lot
7pm-Midnight

Friday, September 18
80's Dance with Delta Sigma Theta
Gold Rooms
9pm-1:00am

Wednesday, September 30
Alton Brown Lecture with SLLB
7pm
O'Rena

Wednesday, October 15
Annual Talent Show with Greek Council
Banquet Rooms
8pm-11pm

Friday, October 16
Midnight Madness
Block Party 8:30pm-10:00pm
P16 parking lot
Midnight Madness 10pm-11pm
Orena

Saturday, October 17
Halloweenkends at Cedar Point

Thursday, October 22
Laugh-a-Palooza Top 5 Finalists
Vandenberg Cafeteria
8pm-10pm

Friday, October 23
Drive In Movie: The Ring
P3 Parking Lot
8pm

Friday, October 30
Murder Mystery
Meadowbrook Hall
8pm

Thursday, November 5-
Sunday, November 8
New York City!
10pm Thursday - 11pm Sunday

Friday, November 20
Laugh-a-Palooza featuring
Finesse Mitchell
Meadowbrook Theatre
7pm-11pm

Tuesday, December 1
ROUGE 2 with Red Cow
Featuring Gravity
8pm-11pm
Banquet Rooms

A Name You Won't Forget...

you

(your stories
your words
your style
your health)

Not the average break

Faculty conduct unusual field research activities in summer

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

While some university students took the summer off to work, do internships, or, actually, just relaxed, others continued their education by taking summer classes.

Similarly, few university faculty members could take summer off just to relax — most continued to work in some capacity: research for the university, a fellowship, taking an overseas trip or working in another profession. And of course, there were the faculty members who taught summer classes.

Most Oakland University faculty members said that even though many faculty may not teach classes during the summer, they usually do things that are required by their contracts, like writing books or doing academic research for publication. Many also take advantage of different opportunities around the world and bringing their experiences back to OU.

Here is how three OU faculty members spent this summer.

Susan Evans, art

Susan Evans is an associate professor of art, with a specialty in photography and new media.

She lived in a teepee in Dundee, New York, from May 21 to Aug. 2.

She didn't do this to be one with nature. It was part of a fellowship she got through OU to study two old methods of photography — tintype and ambrotype.

She learned under John Coffey, who she said lives in a rural area and "chooses to abandon all modern technology," including electricity, phones and running water. During her stay, she had to sleep in a teepee, and she did farmwork, gardened, pitched hay, logged wood and cooked over open fires.

"It was difficult. Everything is slowed down," she said.

She said she chose Coffey because he's one of the people who has been doing these two types of photography the longest and because with others, she could only do a couple workshops. Whereas with Coffey she took over two months.

"It was hard work, but I learned a lot."

Tintype and ambrotype photography are two of the oldest forms of photography. They were popular from the 1850s to 1890s, but is making a resurgence now, she said.

Ambrotype puts glass piece covered in a gel, and tintype puts a metal tin piece, inside the camera, and instead of taking the picture on a film negative or as a digital file, the photo is directly imprinted on the glass or on the tin.

"The purity is cleaner. You can't get more perfect," she said.

"There are no copies of this — only one original."

"This is making subjective an objective medium in a similar way a painting could have subjectivity," she said, because things like the texture of the glass or tin makes the artwork different. "There is evidence of the artist's hand in this."

She said after her experience, she hopes to help foster and build a network for these types of photography like they had in the old days. She said she also hopes to have workshops at OU demonstrating tintype and ambrotype photography this semester.

Anne Switzer, library

Anne Switzer is an associate professor of library and information services and outreach librarian at OU's Kresge Library.

During the regular school year, other than doing her share of manning the reference desk, she said she also

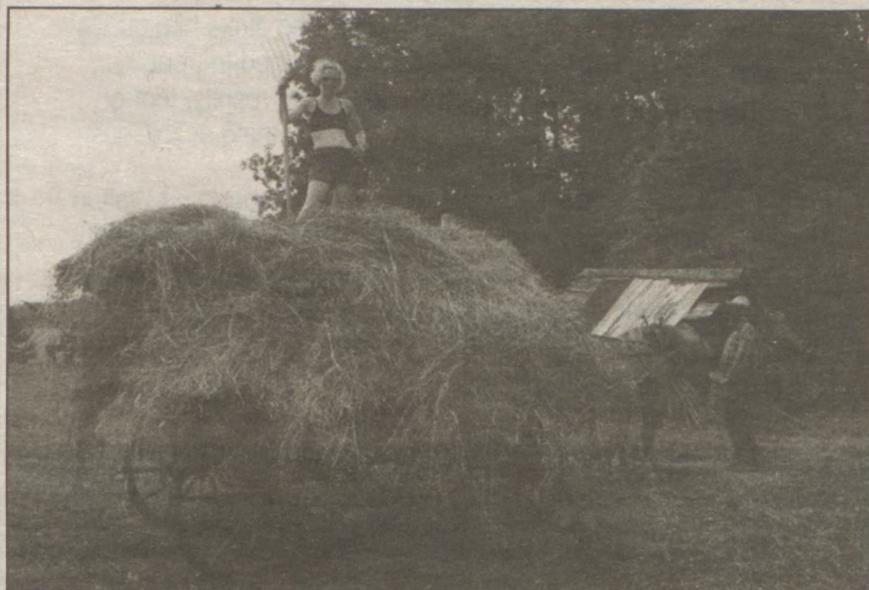


Photo Courtesy of Susan Evans
Art History professor Susan Evans bails hay during her summer in upstate New York.

teaches library instruction to students in Writing 160, develops library collections and does outreach programs.

As the library liaison to the School of Education and Human Services, she teaches library instruction to their masters and doctoral students, and orders books and electronic resources for the school of education.

She also said each of the 12 library faculty members have a different focus.

"Mine is outreach activities," she said. Her tasks include organizing things like poetry slam, a writers' group and book clubs.

The 12 librarians, like most faculty, work on an eight-month contract, meaning they teach classes and physically work in the library for eight months, she said. They take a semester off each year on a rotating basis, and because the workload is lighter during the summer than during the fall and winter, there are usually only five of them then.

"I can't take fall or winter off because of all the outreach events," Switzer said.

During her semester off, she is still busy with work, because like most faculty members on the tenure-track, she's

required to do research and publish in professional journals.

"If you don't do research and parts of tenure, you can't keep your job," she said. She will know in 2012 if she'll be a tenured faculty member at OU.

She said she is currently working on an article on library services available to alumni and another on masters and doctorate students using resources like the writing center.

She said currently the only connection with OU's library to alumni is a book-to-movie club, but she heard of other services different universities give them, like online resources.

"It would be too expensive to offer [alumni] the same thing" as current students, she said. So she wants to do a survey to "see if there's a demand, make sure it's not a waste" and publish her findings.

The other article she's writing is on a workshop OU's writing center did in January 2009, offered not just to undergraduate students, but also to graduate and doctorate students. The writing center is located inside the library.

She said because of her business, she hasn't gone anywhere far away this summer.

"Untenured people generally don't go anywhere. Some tenured people do," she said. Lizabeth Barclay, for example, a tenured professor of management took a two-week safari to Tanzania this summer.

Kerry Knox, theatre

Kerry Knox is an associate professor of theater, with a specialty in theater set design.

Typically, he doesn't teach during the summer, but has done the summer Greek theater study abroad program in Greece with generally one to six other OU students. This year was the first year the program didn't have any students sign up, which he thinks is related to the economic and political situation.

Instead, this summer he took two OU students with him to Ukraine for two weeks to study and teach theater design. Later in the summer, he took a trip to Indonesia, where he took in some local theater.

Knox was a keynote speaker in the First Transatlantic Ukrainian-American Seminar on Theatre Arts, which Pavlo Bosyy, a former OU faculty, put together in June in Lviv, Ukraine.

Knox said he spoke on lighting on alternative theatre spaces and also demonstrated it to the conference by doing the lighting on the plays "Counting Iceberg" and "Medea," which the OU students helped with. He said he used

specific lighting to help show the mood, like using stark light to show tragedy, warm to show happiness and weird to show magic.

"In Eastern Europe lighting design is at its infancy," Knox said.

He said he looked at theaters in Lviv, Kirovgrad and Kiev, and performed "Medea" several times.

"As a designer, any place I go, I'm looking at how they do it," he said. "I'm always doing research, no matter where I go."

The Ukraine trip was officially academic, but the Indonesia trip was personal.

"The university didn't pay for this research," he said.

It started as a two-and-a-half week scuba diving trip in Indonesia, and after the scuba crew left, he said he stayed there an extra five days and took in some more local theater, mostly in Bali.

"Balinese theater, or all Asian theater, integrates music, theater, dance and poetry," Knox said. "There is no separation of arts there."

He said because he was at a tourist location, parts of the plays were in English, although most was in the local language, so he had a little difficulty understanding the words. But he didn't mind that much "because its movement oriented. All of it is told through movement. The text is nice, but I'm happy to let the action tell the story."

He said these out-of-the-classroom experiences are not only nice for the faculty to do, but also essential for the



Photo Courtesy of Susan Evans
An example of the photography work Evans completed this summer.

students.

"Everyone thinks you got an easy job — teach eight months, take four months off. But if you're not advancing in these four months, you're not doing your job," he said. "Seeing what's out there in the world and bringing it to your students is pretty essential."

He said using summers and sabbaticals to travel and get these experiences

"Everyone thinks you got an easy job — teach eight months, take four months off. But if you're not advancing in these four months, you're not doing your job."

— Kerry Knox

Associate Professor of Theater

or working professionally is important particularly for arts and theater faculty members so they can know what it's like in the working world and bring it into the classroom.

"We're training them to go into a profession, and if we lose track of what's out there, we can't give them what they need," he said.

Another theater professor, Karen Sheridan, directed a play in Wisconsin.

"It's one thing to do one conference, but theater performances is so hard to do in the academic year," Knox said. "Summer allows that to happen."

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THE LIFE OF THE MIND

How professors spent their summer vacations

Terry Herald (pictured above right) backpacked on Isle Royale, a remote island in Lake Superior, for seven days at the end of July. He and his son (left) carried their supplies in 45 pound packs and traveled five to nine miles each day over the unspoiled environment.

Terry Herald is a technical coordinator in the department of music, theatre and dance at Oakland University. He also teaches courses in the department.



Jo Reger (at left) spent her summer teaching an online feminist theory class, working on the Women and Gender Studies program and writing her book on contemporary feminism. She also found time to take a trip to Cape Cod (in the photo at right) with her daughter. Director of the Women and Gender Studies program, Reger is also a sociology and anthropology professor.

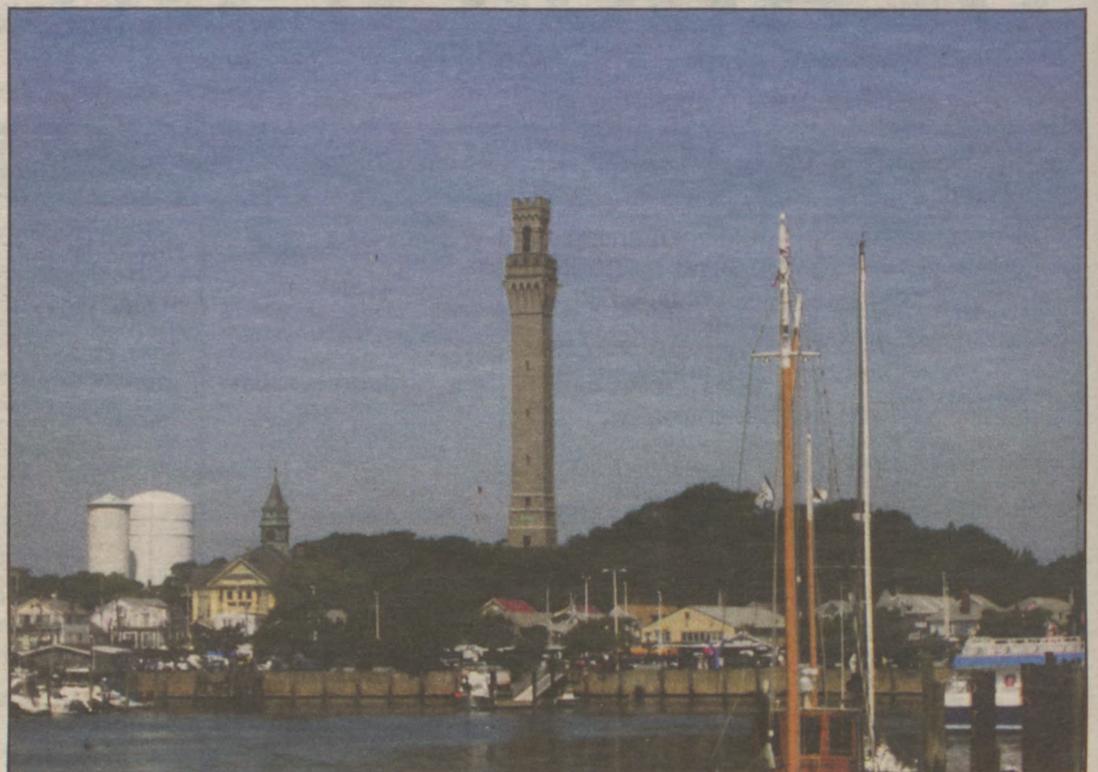




Photo courtesy of Joshua Yumibe

Joshua Yumibe (pictured above) spent his summer presenting at two cinema studies conferences in England. In between he took a trip to Amsterdam to do research at the Netherlands Filmmuseum.

Yumibe is an assistant professor in the cinema studies and English department.

American Marketing Association
Presents...

Meet &
Greet

FREE FOOD

Why You Should
Come?...

Learn more about the **American Marketing Association** at OU. Meet the new Executive Board. Build new networks, find potential jobs/internships.

When: Tuesday, September 8th

Time: 5:00— 6:00pm

Place: Room 90, Lake Huron (basement of the OC)

**Free event & open to all OU students of all majors

ATTENTION OU STUDENTS!

The Mix documents candid student life on and off campus. Submit your best Welcome Week or move-in photos for our Mix photo contest.

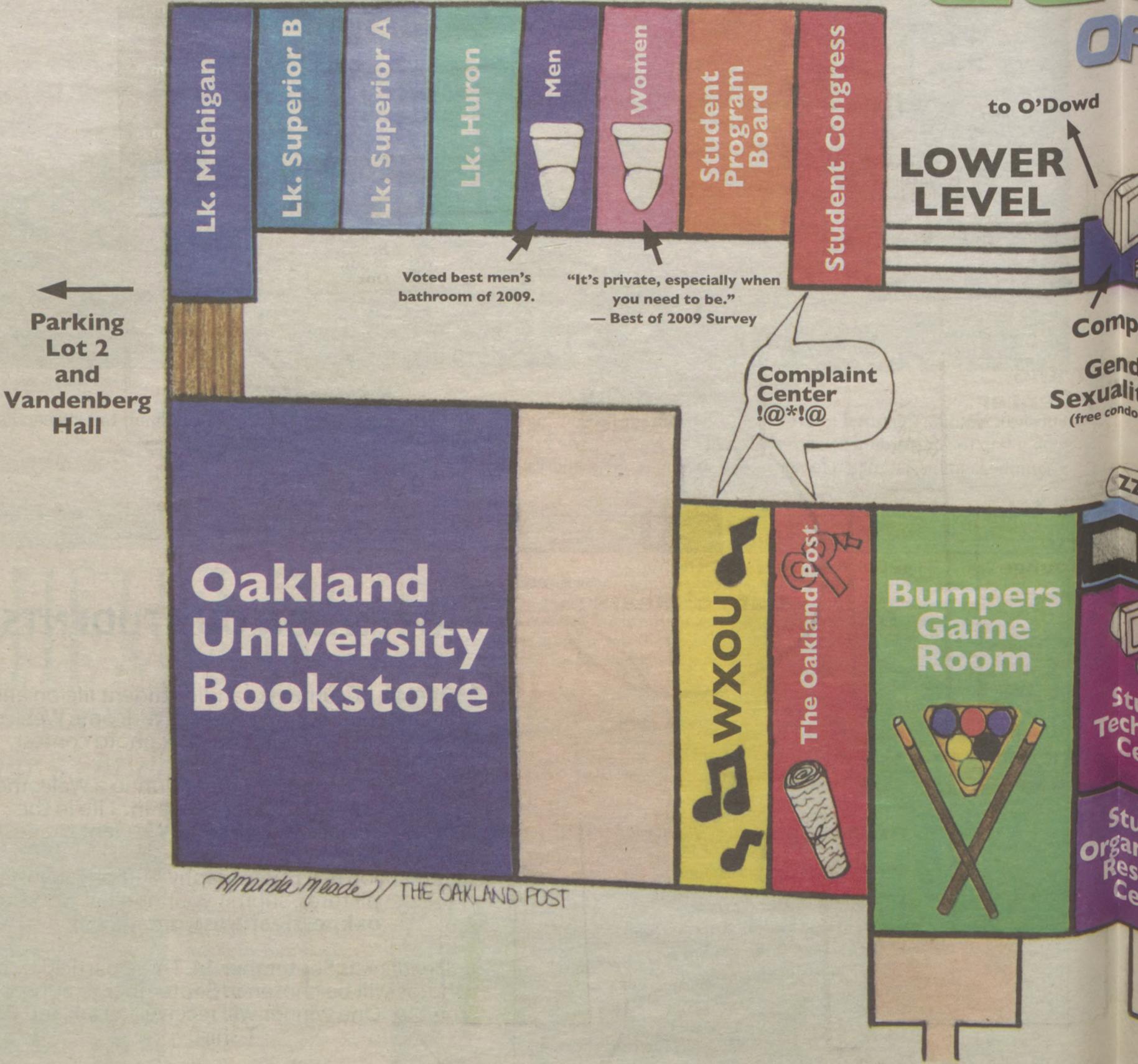
Captured a funny moment during a Welcome Week event? Chaotic move-in? Life in the residence halls? Greek rush? We want to see it!

Whether you're a photography buff or you just like to take pictures, submit your original works to oakpostfeatures@gmail.com.

Deadline is September 14. Three participants' photos will be chosen in September to appear in The Mix. One winner will receive an Oakland Post T-shirt.

Student's photos will also appear on our website, www.oaklandpostonline.com.

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OF



LEMENTS OF THE OC

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Computer Lab

Gender and Quality Center (condoms and candy)

TV Lounge

Student Technology Center

Student Organization Resource Center

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MAIN LEVEL

Food Court Annex

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Chartwell's

Credit Union One

Gold Room C

Gold Room B

Gold Room A

Lake Ontario

Lk. St. Clair

OC Administration and Reservations

Fireside Lounge

Id Card Office

ATM

Men

Women

Men

Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Voted best women's bathroom of 2009.

UPPER LEVEL

Banquet Room A

Banquet Room B

Comerica offers College Night

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

In an effort to increase college attendance at Detroit Tigers games, the franchise is offering special college night games throughout September.

Students can attend specific games for \$15. Ticket price includes a pavilion ticket and a College Night T-shirt.

"It's an idea that a number of teams have been doing for years, but it's a new initiative for us," said Steve Harms, vice president of corporate partnerships and ticket sales. "It's a way for us to connect with a segment of the fan base that wasn't necessarily getting as much attention and it's something we're glad to offer."

Harms said the response for the August College Nights was excellent, and he only expects things to get better as the semester starts. He also expects to see a large number of fraternities, sororities, and other student organizations taking advantage of the offer.

"The pavilion is a great place to sit and we're hoping we'll keep winning and staying in the hunt for the pennant," Harms said.

Christen Oliveto, a recent Grand Valley State graduate and current media relations intern with the Tigers, said the nights are designed as an affordable way for college students to enjoy a baseball game.

"We want College Night to be THE night for college students to attend a Tigers game," Oliveto said. "It's so they can enjoy an inexpensive night at the ballpark with a group of friends in a section with other college-aged baseball fans."

Game nights are Sept. 2 against the Cleveland Indians, Sept. 16 against the Kansas City Royals, and Sept. 30 against the Minnesota Twins. For tickets, visit tigers.com/college or call 866-66-TIGER. Groups of 15 or more can call 313-471-BALL to order tickets without online fees. These groups will also receive recognition on the scoreboard.



JENNIFER WOOD/The Oakland Post

The Detroit Tigers sponsor College Night at Comerica Park on Wednesdays through September.

"I hope OU students will come down, enjoy this opportunity, and watch the Tigers race to the playoffs," said Harms.

"It's going to be an exciting and special September, and I hope a lot of students will get involved with it."

Man decries deportation case linked to WWII

BY MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press Writer

TROY — Crying on his front porch, an 88-year-old man targeted for deportation firmly denied shooting anyone when he was a member of a Nazi-controlled police force during World War II.

John Kalymon was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 2007. Now the U.S. Justice Department wants him kicked out of the country, a process that could take years.

"I love this country because it's my country. I'm going to die here," Kalymon, a retired auto engineer, told The Associated Press on Monday. "They want to remove me, an old man. I never was arrested, pay my taxes. I don't know anyone as honest as me."

But U.S. authorities say Kalymon shot Jews while serving in the Nazi-sponsored Ukrainian Auxiliary Police in what is now the city of Lviv. It was part of Poland until 1939.

The government recently served Kalymon with a deportation notice. His first hearing in immigration court in

Detroit is scheduled for Oct. 13.

"With the active assistance of collaborators like John Kalymon, the Nazis annihilated some 100,000 innocent Jewish men, women and children in Lviv," said Eli Rosenbaum, who leads the Justice Department's effort to find and deport former Nazis and their helpers.

"Participants in such crimes have forfeited any right to enjoy the precious privilege of U.S. citizenship or to continue residing in the United States," he said in a statement.

The government says it has records showing Kalymon personally reported killing a Jew and firing many shots in 1942.

Kalymon was asked during an interview with the AP whether he had shot anyone.

"No," he replied firmly.

"I'm a sick man," he said, referring to prostate cancer. "How can you penalize a common man this way?"

The U.S. government became aware of Kalymon after the fall of the Soviet

Union in 1991. World War II-era archives that had been inaccessible revealed people who may have concealed their Axis allegiance when they entered the United States decades ago.

In 2007, after a civil trial, a federal judge in Detroit stripped Kalymon of his citizenship, saying his two years with the Ukrainian police resulted in the persecution of civilians.

The government produced a handwritten document in which "Iv Kalymun" reported firing four shots, killing one Jew and injuring another. Kalymon admits he spelled his last name both ways when he was a young man but says he did not go by "Kalymun" when he was a Ukrainian officer.

Kalymon has insisted he was guarding coal from looters while working as a policeman and had no role in persecuting Jews.

"Why is the Department of Justice doing this? I personally think resources can be expended in much wiser ways," his lawyer, Elias Xenos, said.

He said the government is relying on

forged handwriting that doesn't belong to Kalymon.

Kalymon arrived in the United States in 1949, became a naturalized citizen six years later and went on to work at Chrysler. He has acknowledged lying about his police job on his application as a displaced person but only because he feared being sent to the Soviet Union.

In May, U.S. authorities deported John Demjanjuk from Cleveland, sending him to Germany to face trial as an accused accessory to the murder of 27,900 people at the Sobibor death camp.

That same month, the Justice Department disclosed that Poland's Commission for Prosecution of Crimes Against the Polish Nation wanted U.S. prosecutors to interview Kalymon.

It's not clear where Kalymon would go if he is deported. The government at this stage is not required to disclose a country.

Associated Press writer Devlin Barrett in Washington contributed to this report.

ECOs seeks student volunteers

By ANNIE STODOLA
Local/You Editor

One local environmental group needs a few dedicated volunteers.

The Rochester ECOs group, whose name comes from the word ecological and stands for "eco-minded" people, is part of the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program. They work to promote environmental causes in Rochester and surrounding cities in Oakland County.

"We discuss and promote several environmental causes, although our main focus is water quality and protecting the great lakes," said Italia Millan, chair of the Rochester ECOs.

The club has several upcoming opportunities for students interested in volunteering for environmentally related projects. They just held their summer storm drain stenciling event, and another is planned for the fall. Millan said they will choose a date for the next stenciling at their Tuesday, Sept. 1 meeting.

"We paint 'Dump No Waste, Drains to River' with a fish shape by storm drains in city neighborhoods and educate people about water quality and watershed protection," Millan said.

Rochester ECOs is participating in the

Saturday, Sept. 26 Clinton Clean-up, an event to help clean the river and riverbanks. Other volunteer opportunities include environmental movie screenings, and environmental lectures. The group will also have a booth at Arts, Beats & Eats Festival in Pontiac on Sept. 4-7.

Millan said working with the ECOs can offer benefits to students and also improve the quality of life in the area.

"Students can further develop skills that can help them in their careers and lives, such as organizational skills, public speaking, PR and leadership skills," Millan said. "Raising awareness about water-related issues and empowering people to take simple steps at home or get more deeply involved to protect and conserve our water is especially important in Michigan as we are the 'Great Lakes State.' Our actions have a direct impact on our drinking water quality and the health of our rivers and lakes."

Recent Oakland University graduate, Curtis Childs, was involved with ECOs while he was a student. After getting involved with the group during a capstone course, Childs worked on projects including drain stenciling, collecting water bugs from Paint Creek, and giving ecological presentations.



Photo Courtesy of Italia Millan

Sierra Club volunteers participated in a drain stenciling event on Aug. 20.

"Groups like ECOs are so important because while lots of people like nature, to really save what's around us, it takes people who are willing to take that extra step and give time, energy and heart to making things happen," Childs said.

"You get a rich variety of experience, you get to work with great people, and you get to learn more about the complex

environmental issues we all face," Childs said. "To have young people who are willing to get behind this thing and are willing to give their energy and creativity makes all the difference in the world."

More information about volunteering at Rochester ECOs activities is available at meetup.com/rochesterecos or by emailing rochesterecos@gmail.com

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Local News Briefs:

Mich., Wis. governors to hold clean energy forum

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle will be in Saginaw Wednesday for a clean energy forum. Also attending the meeting will be Ed Montgomery, the White House's auto communities and workers czar; U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke; and Assistant Energy Secretary David Sandalow.

Local and regional groups and individuals involved or interested in developing technologies that will cut pollution while producing alternative energy will be in the audience. The invitation-only event will be held at 1 p.m. at the Dow Event Center in downtown Saginaw. The governors will speak with reporters after the event.

Detroit-area speed limits may be raised to 70 mph

DETROIT — Drivers accustomed to zipping along Detroit-area highways may soon get a break from law enforcement officials.

Lt. Gary Megge, a Michigan State Police speed law expert, said police and the Michigan Department of Transportation likely will raise speed limits to 70 mph on some highway stretches, including Detroit, where the maximum speed is currently 55 mph.

The Detroit Free Press said the effort is aimed at getting drivers to move at more uniform speeds to reduce crashes and improve traffic flow.

Most rural and suburban highways across the state are set at 70 mph.

Mich. gov candidate revises college tuition plan

LANSING, Mich. — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Alma Wheeler Smith has revised a plan to raise Michigan income taxes and use the money to cover tuition for college students and preschool for all 4-year-olds.

The state representative from Washtenaw County's Salem Township said Monday her bills now make all taxpayers eligible for full tuition reimbursement through a tax credit. An earlier plan had limited full reimbursement to those making \$107,000 or less.

The bills now also require community service from those getting the tuition coverage. Democratic Rep. Rebekah Warren of Ann Arbor has introduced the preschool bill.

The plan would raise about \$2 billion by increasing the state income tax rate from 4.35 percent to 5.5 percent.

It would cost a household earning \$50,000 about \$524 more a year before deductions.

Monroe, Mich. soldier, 19, killed in Afghanistan

MONROE, Mich. — A Michigan soldier has been killed in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense announced Monday that 19-year-old Army Pfc. Eric Hario of Monroe died Saturday in Paktika province, Afghanistan.

Hario was an Army Ranger assigned to 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga.

Also killed was 29-year-old Staff Sgt. Jason Dahlke of Orlando, Fla. The Pentagon said they were shot Friday in combat.

Hario's remains arrived early Monday at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Becky Hario told The Monroe Evening News she last spoke to her son a day or two before the battle that took his life.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Mich. man gets 14 months for 2 stabbings at wake

HART, Mich. — A Michigan man has been sentenced to at least 14 months in prison for stabbing two people at a wake for a man who died from drinking poisonous moonshine. Oceana County Circuit Judge Terrence Thomas on Monday sentenced 33-year-old Dennis Jerome Foust of Montague to 14 months to four years in prison.

Foust pleaded no contest to charges of aggravated assault and assault with a deadly weapon. A no-contest plea is not an admission of guilt but is treated as one at sentencing.

Police say Foust stabbed two men during a fight Jan. 9 at a wake for 39-year-old Shawn Davila, who died Jan. 1 from methanol alcohol poisoning after drinking homemade moonshine. The stabbing victims survived.

Defense attorney Tim Hayes says Foust has "no hard feelings toward the victims."

Source: Associated Press

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21



Burning questions for Alexisonfire

By AMANDA MEADE
Assistant Ads Manager

The melodic hardcore band, Alexisonfire, from St. Catherines, Ontario released "Old Crows/Young Cardinals" on June 23, their fourth studio album since their formation in 2001.

Members Wade MacNeil and George Pettit sat down with The Oakland Post after their performance at this year's Warped Tour.

The Oakland Post: How is "Old Crows/Young Cardinals" different from prior Alexisonfire albums?

Wade MacNeil: I think when we got off the road from touring "Crisis," we weren't exactly sure what we wanted the album to sound like a hundred percent. We definitely knew what we didn't want it to sound like and that definitely came from a lot of contempt for what screamo has turned into and hardcore and punk and everything, the state of it these days. The new record is definitely a reaction to that.

The Post: What do you say to fans that dislike the different sound of your new album?

MacNeil: I think at the end of the day you have to make music that means a lot to you, that you're passionate about. Obviously we're not trying to alienate our fans by doing something. The bands we love the most are bands that grow and change and try and push the limits of what they do. We have no interest in remaking the same record.

The Post: Alexisonfire has been referred to as emo. What are your thoughts on this?

MacNeil: I don't know. I mean people like to put tag words on your record, they need to describe it in some way. I think our music is emotional. I think all good music is emotional.

George Pettit: Emo is one of those words that punk rockers and metal heads and hardcore kids use to describe anything that isn't punk, hardcore or metal. In our minds we have a very distinct idea of what emo is and I don't think that we necessarily sound like that.

The Post: What advice would you offer to anyone pursuing a career in music?

MacNeil: Just break up. Don't do it.

Pettit: If you're pursuing a career in music, break up immediately. If you love playing music, you should love playing music, it's not about being famous or trying to get big. Just do what you love doing and make it a hobby. If you get big, you get big.

Pettit: Here's one. Listen to lots of music too. Don't be like, yeah I don't know. Go to your local independent record store and meet some kid that kind of looks like you and communicate. Get involved in the local music scene.

MacNeil: See each other at Tantum Records. Start nodding at one another. See George in the pit, moshing for your old band, Plan 9. Invite him to a house party when your mum's out of town. And then, years later, start a melodic hardcore band with George. And he says, "I don't know how to sing" and I said, "I don't know just do something." And that's it. That's how you do it, step by step specific instructions on how to become a band.

The Post: Where do you hope to be in five years?

MacNeil: I think we'll have definitely been around the world twice by then. We've



AMANDA MEADE/The Oakland Post
Lead guitarist Wade MacNeil and lead singer George Pettit pose for the camera at the July 31 Warped Tour in Comerica Park.

talked about maybe trying to collect and put together a book of like old photography, something like that. That's kind of an idea in the back of our heads. To maybe culminate with the tenth anniversary of the band which is coming up in a couple years. Probably writing a new record or touring another record.

The Post: Thoughts on illegal downloading?

MacNeil: I don't mind it at all. I think it's great.

Pettit: Yeah I read online today that another court case against pirating has just gone through and basically they lost, and some 25-year-old student out there... it was something between \$700 and \$25,000 per song downloaded that he's gonna have to pay. And that is such an ugly thing to do to someone. You read about all these things like some mother of four gets busted because she downloaded a couple songs and because they were file shared and all this stuff. The RIAA as far as I'm concerned is a criminal organization. I think they're doing worse than what illegal downloading is doing. Small bands benefit from it, and the big bands, they're a bunch of rich people. This is the smallest violin playing for f---ing Metallica. Lars Ulrich is selling his \$20 million paintings.

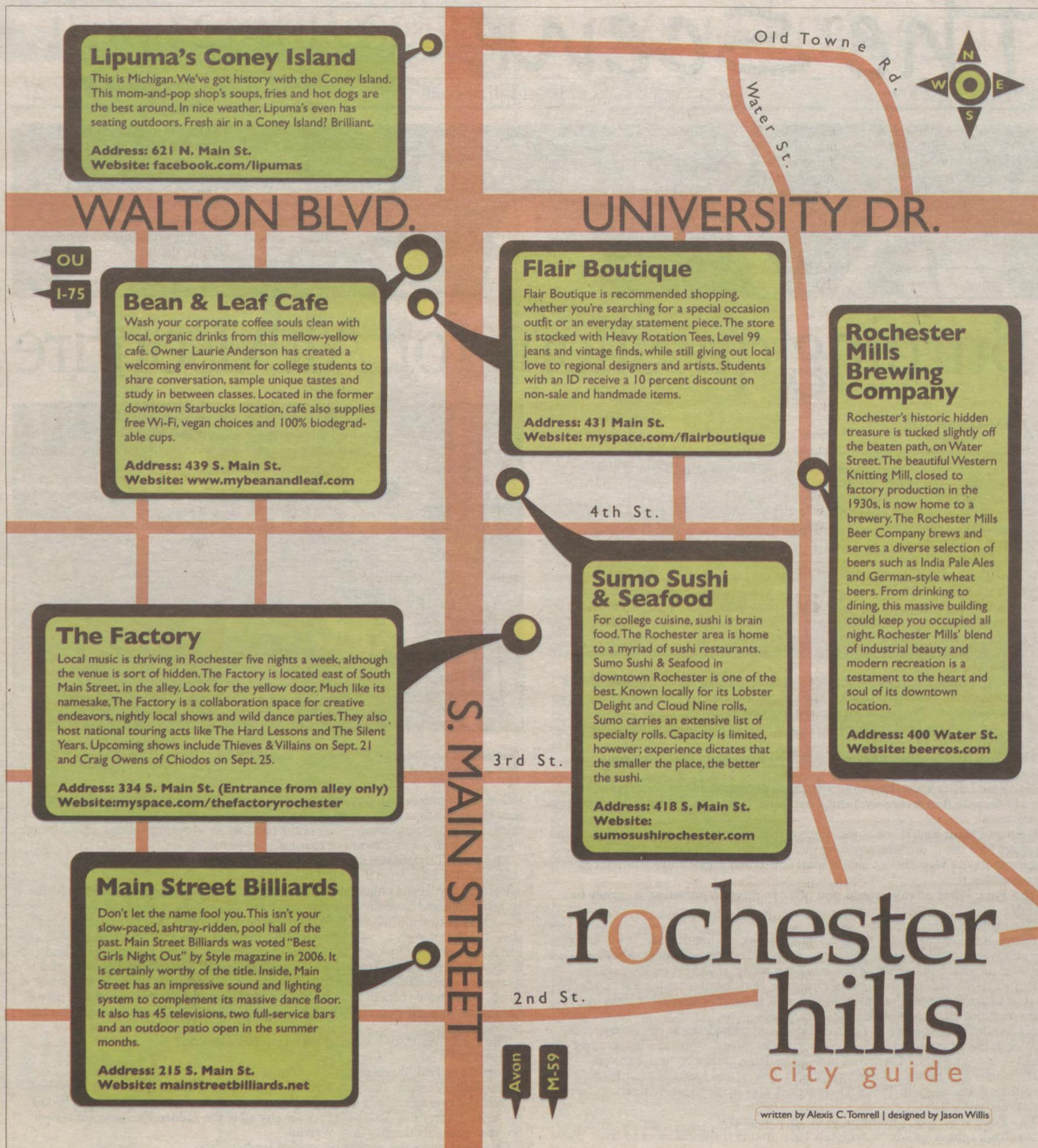
The Post: What '80s hair band would you have been in?

MacNeil: Who sang "Cherry pie?"

Pettit: Oh, God, Warrant.

MacNeil: Warrant. That guy actually wants to hang himself. I saw an interview with him where he's like "I take myself as a serious musician then the label makes me write 'Cherry Pie.' I'm the cherry pie guy all of the sudden I want to kill myself." So, yeah probably the guy from Warrant.

Check out myspace.com/alexisonfire for more info.



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Address: 439 S. Main St.
Website: www.mybeanandleaf.com

Flair Boutique
 Flair Boutique is recommended shopping, whether you're searching for a special occasion outfit or an everyday statement piece. The store is stocked with Heavy Rotation Tees, Level 99 jeans and vintage finds, while still giving out local love to regional designers and artists. Students with an ID receive a 10 percent discount on non-sale and handmade items.
Address: 431 Main St.
Website: mspace.com/flairboutique

Rochester Mills Brewing Company
 Rochester's historic hidden treasure is tucked slightly off the beaten path, on Water Street. The beautiful Western Knitting Mill, closed to factory production in the 1930s, is now home to a brewery. The Rochester Mills Beer Company brews and serves a diverse selection of beers such as India Pale Ales and German-style wheat beers. From drinking to dining, this massive building could keep you occupied all night. Rochester Mills' blend of industrial beauty and modern recreation is a testament to the heart and soul of its downtown location.
Address: 400 Water St.
Website: beercos.com

The Factory
 Local music is thriving in Rochester five nights a week, although the venue is sort of hidden. The Factory is located east of South Main Street, in the alley. Look for the yellow door. Much like its namesake, The Factory is a collaboration space for creative endeavors, nightly local shows and wild dance parties. They also host national touring acts like The Hard Lessons and The Silent Years. Upcoming shows include Thieves & Villains on Sept. 21 and Craig Owens of Chiodos on Sept. 25.
Address: 334 S. Main St. (Entrance from alley only)
Website: mspace.com/thefactoryrochester

4th St.
Sumo Sushi & Seafood
 For college cuisine, sushi is brain food. The Rochester area is home to a myriad of sushi restaurants. Sumo Sushi & Seafood in downtown Rochester is one of the best. Known locally for its Lobster Delight and Cloud Nine rolls, Sumo carries an extensive list of specialty rolls. Capacity is limited, however; experience dictates that the smaller the place, the better the sushi.
Address: 418 S. Main St.
Website: sumosushirochester.com

Main Street Billiards
 Don't let the name fool you. This isn't your slow-paced, ashtray-ridden, pool hall of the past. Main Street Billiards was voted "Best Girls Night Out" by Style magazine in 2006. It is certainly worthy of the title. Inside, Main Street has an impressive sound and lighting system to complement its massive dance floor. It also has 45 televisions, two full-service bars and an outdoor patio open in the summer months.
Address: 215 S. Main St.
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written by Alexis C. Torrell | designed by Jason Willis

Game challenge encourages indie spirit

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

The video game industry is one of the hardest for fledgling game developers to break into. As a result, creativity is often squandered in favor of the next big selling title. It can be as if a solid wall prevents new ideas from being adopted. The Indie Game Challenge hopes to put a dent in that wall.

GameStop, the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences and the Guildhall Game Programming School have teamed up to create the Indie Game Challenge. Independent game developers can enter their game projects for the chance to win up to \$100,000 in cash and a full scholarship to Guildhall.

Guildhall is part of Southern Methodist University in Dallas and is providing technical support to game developers entered into the contest.

Ron Jenkins is the deputy director of development and external affairs at Guildhall. Jenkins is encouraging prospective game makers to take a chance and put forth the time and effort developing a game for the contest.

"We're trying to model this like the Sundance Film Festival," Jenkins said. "We want this to be a life changing event."

Games entered into the contest are separated into two categories: professional and non-professional. The professional category is for developers who already have experience with a game company but want to put out an independent project.

"It's very difficult to get a game commissioned today within the top publishers," said Joseph Olin, president of the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences. "But on the other side of the coin, the Internet is flooded with free, independently made games."

Olin said the competition hopes to attract young game developers, even those still attending high school or college, as well as professional game developers with ideas that are too unique or different to be backed by a major publisher.

The Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences, a non-profit organization that hosts the yearly Interactive Achievement Awards, will do the judging in the competition.

The two winners in the professional and non-professional categories will receive \$100,000 prizes, with additional scholarships going to the non-professional winners.

Additionally, games within those categories are divided into three categories: core games, which would be full-game experiences such as a role-playing game or first-person shooter; casual games, which could be as simple as an innovative iPhone application; and cause-related games, which have a message such as "stop smoking."

One bonus prize of the contest is that the 12 finalists will have their games viewed by representatives from top publishers including Microsoft, Sony, Nintendo, EA, Capcom and Ubisoft. "It's obviously a big opportunity to meet with the heads of the industry," said GameStop spokesman Charles Hodges.

But what is GameStop's goal in helping to promote the Indie Game Challenge? Hodges said the answer is simple.

"Anything that's good for the industry is good for us," he said. "It's about supporting the games industry in general."

All entrees are required to submit a workable demo of their game as well as a "game pitch video." Games entered into other contests can be entered as well.

GameStop plans to have the pitch videos of the 12 finalists available for viewing on Gamestop.com and GameStop TV, for voting in the People's Choice Award, which are separate from the main contest. Winners of the People's Choice contest can win additional prize money.

Potential game developers currently have until Oct. 31 to submit their entry into the Indie Game Challenge. Finalists will be flown to Las Vegas and winners will be announced following Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences's annual Design, Innovate, Communicate, Entertain summit.

All three organizations, who worked for a year to develop the challenge, are very enthusiastic about bringing new ideas to the game industry. "We think a lot of new ideas need to come from new game developers," Jenkins said.

"This is the life blood of this industry," Hodges said. "This is how we celebrate this independent spirit of game development," Olin said.

Those interested in entering the contest can find more information at indiegamechallenge.com.

BIGWORDS mean cheap books

By ALEXIS CHINONIS-TOMRELL
Scene/Mix editor

Textbook depression: A common malady among college students. Occurs when high textbook prices compile over the first five days known as Welcome Week.

Buying textbooks may not be this clinical, but it's not uncommon to walk out of the bookstore twitching. However, with the development of new technology comes alternative options. Or perhaps a cure.

BIGWORDS.com is a free service devoted to fighting the textbook blues. The website's staff spends laborious hours searching book merchants and comparing prices to present college students with the lowest prices on the market.

Jeff Sherwood, CEO of BIGWORDS and a former textbook retailer himself, said, "BIGWORDS is not here to find you a Harry Potter book. We cater to the college buyer who needs books immediately, in good condition and in the right edition."

In most textbook purchases, students make hasty buying decisions without first comparing prices, owing it to the quick marriage of homework and course books. BIGWORDS understands this rush and allows buyers to pick their delivery date. Along with providing them with a variety of other options, like choosing to rent your books and offering e-books.

Through their multi-item price optimization feature, BIGWORDS has become a kind of Internet celebrity. This technology scans all possible merchants through a complex calculation of coupon and promotion loopholes to direct you to the lowest possible price for all books. The average student saves around \$225 per semester using BIGWORDS.

Just recently, BIGWORDS released a textbook comparison application for our iPhone'd friends. "The iPhone application takes the best parts of **BIGWORDS.com**. It is also the only textbook comparison app out there," Sherwood said. Bloggers and students are raving about the application because of its easy to use format. The New York Times just named it "App of the Week" and the social media guide **Mashable.com** awarded it one of the top 10 iPhone apps for students.

The theme of today's class: Textbooks aren't going away soon, but they can be bought with compassion for your wallet.

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Soccer season kicks off

By ZACH HALLMAN
Staff Intern

After watching the Oakland University men's soccer team play its home exhibition matches last month, it's immediately apparent that this is a very different team than the one that won the Summit League a year ago.

Finding the players who had a regular role on the 2008 team is much easier than counting all the new faces. You can even count the number of returning starters on one hand.

For the first time in 28 years, three-time Summit league coach of the year Gary Parsons will not be patrolling the sidelines. Taking his place is former OU assistant coach Eric Pogue. This will be Pogue's first year as head coach but his eighth with the program.

Pogue has had the task of replacing what was by all accounts the team's greatest strength — a record-setting defense.

Last year's team featured the past two Summit League Defensive Player of the Year Award winners: goalie Steve Clark (2008) and defender Ian Daniel (2007). Both players have since moved on, along with defender Stew Givens, also a Summit League First Team selection in past seasons.

The team allowed just 11 goals in 20 games for the season in 2008.

As impressive as the awards and the national rankings were, Pogue is fully confident in this year's defense.

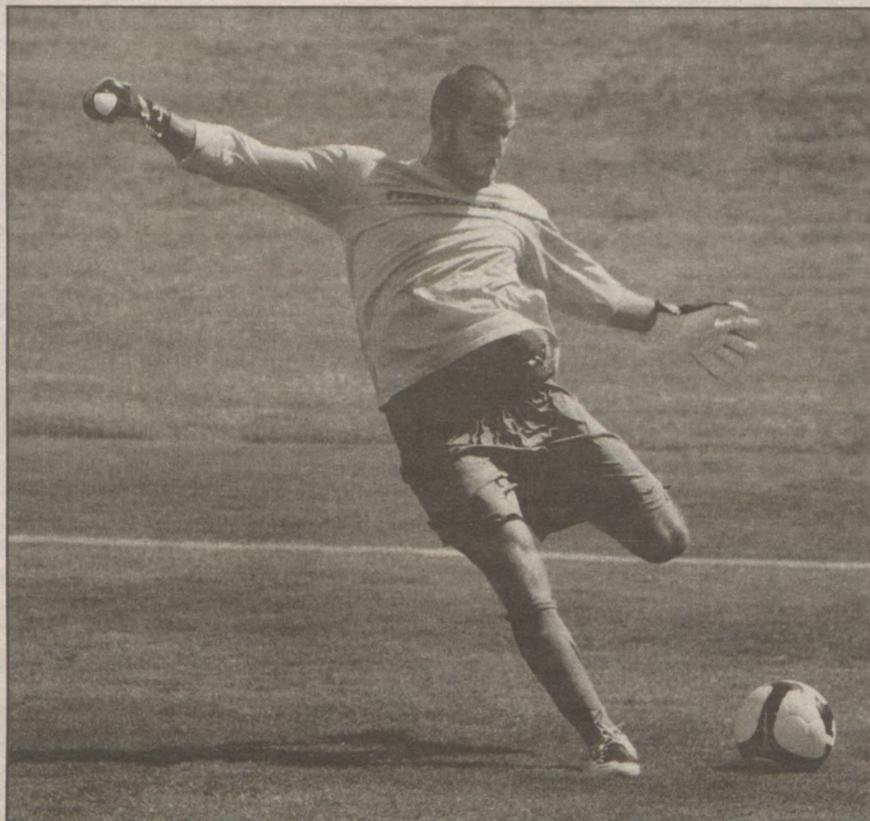
Perhaps the most noticeable difference this season will be in the net, where Mitch Hildebrandt has taken over for Clark, the team's vocal leader from last season.

Hildebrandt said that although Clark and his leadership will be missed, this year's team features a number of players who provide leadership in their own ways.

A redshirt sophomore from Livonia, Hildebrandt will be taking on the full-time starting role for the first time in his career at Oakland and said he is fully prepared to handle the task of shoring up the last line of Oakland's traditionally strong defense.

Though he won't have to do it all by himself.

Anchoring Oakland's defense is senior co-captain Machel James, a 2008 second team All Summit League selection



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Goaltender Mitch Hildebrandt gained valuable game experience in the exhibition matches in August. Having appeared in just two games last season, he takes over as the starting netminder this fall.

despite playing in only 14 games due to an injury.

The Grizzlies will be counting on a big year from the versatile James, who said he'd be ready. His play in the exhibition season was characterized by near-constant movement and energy, may end up playing multiple positions on the field this season.

"Coach calls me 'the plugger,' because I can be plugged in anywhere [in the lineup]," James said.

Whether you call him "plugger" like Coach Pogue or Jombo (James' nickname from his mother), just know that James said he's been motivated for this season since last year ended in defeat on penalty kicks in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Oddly enough, a shootout was also the way Oakland lost the Summit League Championship game to the University of Missouri-Kansas City last year.

"I think about it every day, and I cannot wait to play UKMC again," James

said. "This is also my senior year too, so I am very motivated."

Helping James on defense will be Winston Henderson, Vuk Popovik and James Leutzinger.

There is something to be gained and lost in Oakland's midfield and offensive attack. In the midfield, Oakland lost a lot of skill and leadership to graduation, but several younger players demonstrated an ability to take on their roles in the exhibition schedule. Daiki Mori and Jeff Cheslik have both seen significant time as support midfielders, constantly moving and making themselves available for their teammates.

While a number of other players should see significant time in the midfield this season, perhaps the most interesting player to watch will be Leshorn Woods-Henry. A true freshman, Woods-Henry has the speed and skill to cause real problems for opposing defenses.

At the point of attack, the Grizzlies will be without center forward Sebastian

Harris, another First-Team All Summit League selection from last year's squad. Harris' position will be filled this season by another true freshman, Shane Lyons.

Lyons has impressed his coach and teammates with his play up front so far and provided the winning goal in the Aug. 24 exhibition game against Western Michigan. He will need to make his impact felt this year as the Summit League competition will most likely key in on senior captain Stefan St. Louis, the only returning First Team All-Summit League player.

As Oakland's leading goal scorer from a year ago, St. Louis knows he will be a marked man this season, but is welcoming the challenge.

"Other teams know what we will try to do [on the attack], but that is why there are 10 other guys out here with me," St. Louis said.

Oakland's offense this season will likely center on St. Louis and coach Pogue believes that it should.

"Stefan is one of the most talented players around. His blend of speed and strength makes him very difficult to stop," Pogue said. "This season we will focus on getting behind the opposing team's defense."

Junior Makesi Lewis will join St. Louis and Lyons up front. Lewis, along with James and St. Louis are the only three returning starters. Lewis was a member of the All-Summit League Newcomer Team last season and has looked very comfortable out on the field in a very productive exhibition season.

Oakland was recently ranked second in the preseason Summit League poll. When asked how much stock he put into that ranking, Pogue said not very much.

"We don't care where we start, just where we finish," he said.

The players, however, may have a slightly different opinion.

"It's motivating for me," James said.

Regardless of who ultimately ends up filling the many roles left up for grabs this season, Pogue said he has full trust in their ability.

"Judging from where we are right now, we are further along than I thought," Pogue said. "Our defense, led by Machel James, has looked solid. We are replacing a lot of key guys, but a lot of guys have stepped up. We are a blue collar program who just wants to compete with the very best teams in the country."

Grizzlies victorious in home opener

By BRAD SLAZINSKI
Staff Reporter

Oakland University women's soccer team began the 2009 season with a strong showing in front of their home crowd on Sunday, defeating St. Bonaventure, 2-1.

For much of the second half, it looked like the game was set to end in a draw until the last 10 minutes of the game when OU started pressing the St. Bonaventure defense.

But the game took a decisive turn in the 84th minute when two quick passes from Melissa Hartwig and Nicole Deluca reached midfielder Sarah Lynch, who fired a one-time shot into the net for the game-winning goal.

"It was the perfect ball by Nicole Deluca and all I had to do was tap it in," said Lynch after the match.

Head coach Nick O'Shea said that the goal was scored somewhat by design.

"We've been working on taking our time out wide," he said. "We had three players on that goal that could've scored it but it was Lynch that got to it first."

Oakland got on the scoreboard first at the 22 minute mark, when Deanna Colarossi found herself in a one-on-one situation and scored the first goal of the game for OU.

The Grizzlies narrowly missed another goal at the end of the first half when Deluca's shot hit the crossbar.

Early in the second half, St. Bonaventure tied the game when Anna Cunningham's shot from six yards went into the net.

Oakland fired 12 shots in the game, with six of them on net.

Oakland had to re-group right before the start of the match, as sophomore goalie Shannon Coley was a late scratch from the lineup after injuring herself in the pre-game warm-up.

Taking Coley's place in net was true freshman Whitney Sarkis, a new recruit from West Bloomfield.

It was Sarkis' first career start for the Grizzlies. She made four saves during the match.

O'Shea said he was very pleased with Sarkis' performance.

"Whitney did a great job. It's good to know that we are confident in two goalies right now," said O'Shea.

The team was picked as the preseason favorite in the Summit League for a fourth consecutive season. The poll is based on votes from the nine head coaches in the conference.

Oakland's next game is against Northern Arizona in Flagstaff, Ariz., on Friday, Sept. 4.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Midfielder Sarah Lynch scored the game winning goal late in the second half to secure a victory in Oakland's first home game of the fall.

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Scrimmage gives new players needed experience

By MIKE SANDULA
Staff Reporter

After competing against each other in the Black and Gold Scrimmage on Aug. 22 at the O'Rena, the women's volleyball team feels ready for the season ahead.

"It really helps to kick off the year," said sophomore Jenna Lange.

The team split into a Black team and a Gold team and went head to head in a simulated match, complete with a referee, an announcer and a crowd of friends and family.

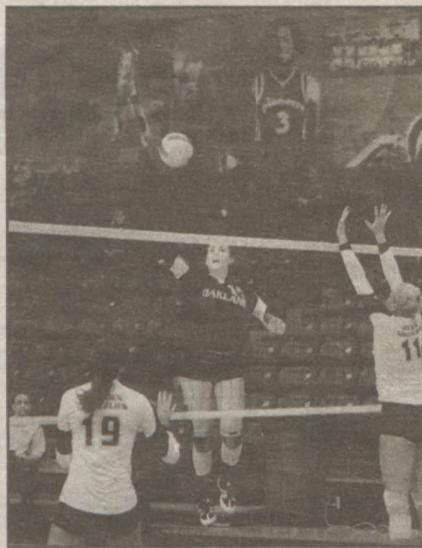
"It's as close to a game environment as possible without another team being here," said head coach Rob Beam.

Beam, who's entering his third year as head coach at OU, said this was the most competitive scrimmage he's seen. When picking teams, he said his only method was making the two teams as even as possible.

The Black team won the scrimmage, 2-1, but the match was very close and competitive throughout.

Samantha Filipek, a redshirt junior, said it was great to see the "strong incoming class" showing off their skills.

Freshman Alli Kirk, who played for the



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Senior Adrienne Leone of the Black team.

Gold team, led all players with 19 digs.

Lange said that freshmen Meghan Bray, whose 11 kills led the Gold team, "really shined" and that the recruits are "meshing together well" with the rest of the team.

This year's team features eight returning members and seven newcomers.

Junior Brittany Dunn took over as primary libero for a few games last year when Lauren Duquette, who has since graduated, was injured.

Beam said that he expects senior Adrienne Leone to have a breakout season at the outside hitter position. Filipek had double-digit assists in 23 of last year's 29 matches as a setter and Lange started all last year as a middle hitter.

Beam said there isn't an official starting lineup or depth chart for the season yet, but he's playing with a few concepts and that there's still some competition at a few spots.

"We have a very deep team, with so many players able to make a contribution," Beam said.

Joining the team this year is Ashley Nevelle, from Caledonia, Mich. The 5-foot-11 inch setter transferred from Cincinnati at the semester.

"When I heard that she's available and looking to transfer, I got in touch with her and her coaches," said Beam, who had worked with Nevelle before. Beam said she's tall and athletic and will "make a very big impact."

OU was picked to finish eighth in the Summit League's preseason poll, which Filipek said should "push us to prove the conference wrong."

Beam attributed the low rank to their large incoming class, which he said is "talented, but unknown."

Citing that they've played on the biggest stages of club and high school-level volleyball, Beam said this year's recruits will learn quickly and he expects his team to be in the race late in the season "when our freshmen won't be freshmen anymore."

"No question we can compete for a berth in the Summit League Tournament," Beam said.

Hoping to improve on OU's 8-21 record—5-11 in the Summit League—last year, Lange said, "We had too many ups and downs last year. We need to be more consistent."

Before beginning conference play, OU will play host to Wright State, North Texas and Canisius at the Golden Grizzly Invitational Saturday and Sunday. The event is free to the public.

"We won our tournament in '07, which upped our confidence," said Beam. OU did not host the invitational last year.

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MEN'S SOCCER

9/4 at SIU Edwardsville
9/6 vs. Dayton (Ultimate Soccer
Arena in Pontiac) 7 p.m.

Coming attractions

GAME SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2-8



Check out our Michigan Sports blog at
www.oaklandpostonline.com
for updates during the week.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Northern Arizona Tournament
9/4 at Northern Arizona
9/6 vs. New Mexico

MEN'S GOLF

9/6 - 9/7 Turning Stone Tiger
Intercollegiate in Verona, NY

VOLLEYBALL

Golden Grizzly Invitational
(at the O'Rena)
9/5 vs. Wright State 7 p.m.
9/6 vs. North Texas noon
9/6 vs. Canisius 6 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

9/5 Golden Grizzly Open 10 a.m.
(on campus)

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Photo courtesy of OU Athletics

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

Adrienne Leone

Volleyball

Year: Senior

Leone was named Tournament MVP at the West Virginia Classic last weekend, as Oakland won all three of its matches to kick off the season.



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September 2, 2009

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The new semester shakedown

One reporter explores the annual first day rituals and phenomena

By DAN SIMONS
Mouting Off Editor

As the new semester kills off the summer, students gather mournfully and prepare themselves for another go at academia. With the start of every new semester, there comes an odd and unique phenomenon that occurs with the return to school.

I call it the new semester shakedown.

It starts the minute you leave your house for school. This semester, you tell yourself, I'm going to get there 15 minutes early and get a decent parking spot.

So did the other hundreds of students who got there before you did, and now you begin the hike to class. Sucks to be you.

When you find your class and open the door, this is when the NSS takes full effect.

If the professor isn't already in the class, then everyone in the room will stop what they are doing and look at you to see if you are the professor.

For a split second, an entire classroom of people politely glare at you. We need that first visual of a new professor to properly create false assumptions and faulty impressions. We need to see if what was said on ratemyprofessor.com matches what the professor looks like.

For the most part, people can tell that you aren't the professor, and they go back to awkwardly looking at something else before class begins. Unless, of course, you're that one older student in every class who has gone back to college later in life, or you're the person pretentious enough to bring a briefcase to school. Then the class watches you and waits for you to choose either the teachers desk or a normal desk.

Oh, the desks. After the burn of all the class looking at you wears off, you need to chose a desk. Most professors will tell you seating doesn't matter, but we all know the seat you choose on the first day will be yours the rest of the semester.

The first thing you do is look for someone you know. Congratulations if you find a friend. Otherwise, it's your turn for the stare down.

Look around. Do you sit next to the kid who came to class extra early with the textbook on the first day? Or sit



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Thoughts: Back row: "What is he wearing?" Middle row: "Please, please don't sit next to me." Front row, left: "I bet he'll be the class loudmouth. Not if I can help it." Front, right: "He looks like every kid I beat up in middle school." Standing, foreground: "Which one of these computers is best for games..."

behind the person with a laptop, so you can watch them play games online when class gets boring? Do you go the full creeper and sit close, but not too close, to the most attractive person in class?

If you are anything like me, you go right for the back, or near a wall, somewhere to lean against because school desks are designed to be as uncomfortable as possible. If the classroom is a computer lab, I choose from whatever computer the professor is least likely to catch me updating my Facebook.

The shakedown doesn't stop here. If the class doesn't relate to your degree, you look for that kid who is clearly majoring in this subject. Get to know them. Become friendly. Some day, they may academically save your ass when you have no idea what the professor is talking about, and they've known all about this stuff since middle school.

Find the person who is always bringing food to class. Sit right next to them. One day they won't be able to finish all their crackers and will offer you some. Score! Free snacks.

When the professor finally gets into

the classroom, a silence falls over the room and everyone gives them their full attention, probably for the last time that semester.

I feel bad for professors on the first day, I really do. All they really have time for is to give everyone a run down of the syllabus. This means tell us all their rules (no texting, no skipping, no cheating — we get it) and then tell us all about the colossal projects and papers we have to do.

By the end of the first day, we've developed a handful of things we're going to hate, dread and despise about the class.

We spend most of the time in class thinking about how we are going to plan our route from this class to the next one. Should I walk from Vandenberg to Pawley or risk life and limb trying to find a new parking spot? Would it be worth my time to cut through the OC? And where exactly am I going to hang out after class?

By the time you leave class, you tell yourself that this is the semester you're really going to do well. No more slacking off, skipping, late night cramming, you're going to give this semester your all.

Yeah. Good luck with that. I give it about a month before you "forget" that one assignment and the rest of the semester goes downhill.

After the first week of classes, you'll settle in. You'll find someone who is in more than one class with you and become friends and homework buddies. You'll pick out the people in class to avoid, like the opinionated loudmouth, the guy who bathes in cologne, the guy who hasn't touched a bottle of hygienic product in weeks, or that one person who will skip four days in a row and then ask what they missed.

So enjoy the shakedown while it lasts. When else do you get to completely and totally judge people without remorse and it's totally fine? Let the professor give their talk about why you actually do need to buy this textbook so you can laugh about it when you return it unopened and for a fraction of the cost. This is going to be a good semester, take it in while you can.

Oh, but next semester, I'm totally going to give it my all. I promise.

Looking back at last season in a summer daze

Go away, autumn: A last glimpse of summer through the eyes of one lazy student

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

While some of the more studious among us are spending the summer taking general education classes or working to build resumes at internships, the rest of us are too busy living our lives to even think about those things. We've got sleeping in to do, blockbuster movies to watch, barbecues to sit around, and procrastinating to get done.

But even with such a busy schedule, there's always a chance to fit in some fun activities to fill the slower parts of the season. That "Real Housewives of New Jersey" marathon isn't going to watch itself.

In the hot summer, a favorite activity of many a bored vacationer is swimming. And for the great majority of us who have no access to a swimming pool, lake or flooded drainage ditch to swim in, your community center has you covered.

A trip to the public swimming pool can be fun and easy. It's just a simple matter of getting in your car, driving to the pool,

buying a tag or wristband to get into the pool, changing in the locker room in front of strangers, taking a shower (to be certain not get the pool dirty), finding a place to hide your wallet where no one will take it, walking to the pool ladder and finally praying that no one pees in the pool while you are swimming in it.

You've got about 40 minutes before the octogenarian synchronized swimming club takes control of the pool, so why not play some pool games?

A popular one is Marco Polo, so named for the inventor of water polo, who was known for being blind and yelling at his friends. Originally devised as a way to grope strangers at pool parties, Marco Polo grew in popularity when President James Polk described the United States Manifest Destiny as being "like a young man wading through the water, swinging his arms frantically."

If you want to see a better reflection of your summer, there's no place better to go to than the zoo. Only there can you pay \$20 to see a wide assortment of exotic animals from around the world, all

of which are at least as bored as you are.

You can see a Bengal tiger lounge on a rock for hours on end, a hippopotamus stew in its own filth, or a penguin stand in one place and clean itself. And you can do it all while walking around in the hot sun with the potpourri of animal dung filling the air.

After walking around the entire park and seeing every family of animals sit around and stare at you indifferently, you'll feel incredibly productive by comparison.

At the movies, it was the season of the blockbuster, and people came out in droves to see films like "Transformers 2: The Rise of the Franchise." You can kill hours at the theater if you know what you're doing; it's just a matter of coming prepared.

Theaters survive in this economy based largely on getting people to pay \$8 to see a robot hump Megan Fox's leg, and thus operate outside the realm of logic. Because of this, they can charge four times the normal price for low-volume, high-cholesterol concession food.

To circumvent this, smuggle your personal supply of popcorn, soda and Sour Patch Kids inside whichever pockets you have available. When the usher asks why you're wearing a winter parka in July, just say that you have the 24-hour Ebola virus. See if anyone touches you then.

If you're desperate, you could look for a summer job. Or, to simulate the job hunting experience in the current economy, you could walk around town for three hours and ask someone to punch you in the stomach at each street corner.

Which still beats going back to school.

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- 15 Marketing Yourself**
Fireside Lounge, OC
5pm-6:30pm
- 22 Tech x 2 Career Expo: Engineering and Computer Science***
Banquet Rooms, OC
10am-1pm
- 23 Fall Career Fair: Business and Liberal Arts***
Banquet Rooms, OC
Noon-3pm
- Resume Critiquing Tables:**
Noon-1pm, OC
September 14 & 21

October

- 2 Mock Interviews**
275 W. Vandenberg
9am-4pm
- 6 Professional/Graduate School Fair***
Banquet Room A, OC
4pm-7pm
- 7 Washington DC & Beyond: Building a Career in Government**
Fireside Lounge, OC
Noon-1pm
- 13 Careers in Government**
Gold Room C, OC
5pm-6pm
- 20 Internship Insider**
Fireside Lounge, OC
Noon-1pm
- 29 Disney Presentation**
Rooms 128-130, OC
Noon-1pm & 5pm-6pm

November

- 3&4 Graduation Fair: Celebration and resources for grads**
OU Bookstore, OC
10am-6pm
 - 5 The Hidden Job Market-Job Search Strategies**
Gold Rooms A,B & C, OC
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Same-sex marriages begin in Vermont

By JOHN CURRAN
Associated Press Writer

DUXBURY, Vt. — After 17 years together, Bill Slimback and Bob Sullivan couldn't wait another minute to get married. So they didn't.

With Vermont's new law allowing same-sex marriage only a minute old, they tied the knot in a midnight ceremony at a rustic Vermont lodge, becoming one of the first couples to legally wed under a law that took effect at midnight Tuesday.

Dressed in suits, saying their vows under a large wall-mounted moose head, the two Whitehall, N.Y., men promised their love, exchanged rings and held hands during a modest 17-minute ceremony.

"It feels wonderful," said Slimback, 38, an out-of-work Teamster who is taking Sullivan's last name as his own. "It's a day I've been long waiting for, and a day I truly honestly thought would never come."

Slimback said he and Sullivan, 41, have long wanted to cement their relationship with a wedding, but since they couldn't legally marry in New York they chose to wed even before Vermont's gay marriage era officially dawned.

Vermont is one of five states that now allow same-sex couples to marry. Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire

and Iowa are the others.

Vermont, which invented civil unions in 2000 after a same-sex couple challenged the inequality of state marriage statutes, was a mecca for gay couples who to that point had no way to officially recognize their relationships.

Since then, other states have allowed gay marriage, as did Vermont, which in April became the first state to legalize gay marriage through a legislative decree and not a court case.

Some couples — including many who obtained civil unions in Vermont — plan to return to the state to get married. But most are in no rush. City and town officials say only a handful of licenses had been issued to same-sex couples in anticipation of Tuesday's start.

"We've waited a long time to do this — basically, our whole lives," Slimback said Monday. "We've been waiting for a chance to actually solidify it," he said. He and Sullivan said they never wanted to obtain a civil union because they believe that's a kind of second-class recognition.

Gay people aren't the only ones taking note of Vermont's addition to the list of states that allow same-sex unions.

Westboro Baptist Church, an anti-gay group that claims U.S. combat deaths are God's punishment for America's tolerance of homosexuality, planned to picket in Montpelier, Vermont's capital.

Madonna wraps up tour in Israel

By KARIN LAUB
Associated Press Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel — Madonna was bringing her mix of provocative music and spirituality to the Holy Land with a concert Tuesday in front of 50,000 fans who have endured a 16-year wait since the pop icon's last gig in Israel.

Madonna wraps up her worldwide "Sticky & Sweet" tour with two concerts this week in a country whose place at the heart of the Mideast conflict has made it more of a magnet for diplomats than big-name performers.

The 51-year-old entertainer claims a special bond with the Jewish state.

She's been dabbling in Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism, for more than a decade and has taken on a Hebrew name, Esther. She's gone on private pilgrimages in the past, and has visited the Jewish holy site at the Western Wall in Jerusalem since arriving in Israel on Sunday.

Madonna last performed in Israel in 1993 but came on private pilgrimages in 2004 and 2007 along with other Kabbalah devotees.

Her previous two stops on the current tour, in Romania and Bulgaria, were marred by controversy.

In Bulgaria, Orthodox Church officials accused the singer of showing disrespect for Christianity. In Romania, she was booed during her concert for criticizing widespread discrimination against eastern Europe's Gypsies, also known as Roma.

Still, Madonna's fans are happy she's in Israel. Her first show sold out quickly, and a second was added.

After years of concerns over political tensions and violence, more world artists are performing to Israel.

David Brinn, a music critic for The Jerusalem Post, said Madonna's performances are a sign that Israel is becoming more attractive as a concert venue. The Pet Shop Boys played Israel in July, pop sensation Lady Gaga was here last month, the rock band Faith No More is playing Tel Aviv on Tuesday night, and the iconic songwriter Leonard Cohen is to perform later this month.

"For a long time, it was security-related, and artists and managers didn't want to take a chance," he said of the dry spell in concerts. "They realized it is safe in comparison to other countries, and it is viable for artists to come here."

Schools look to teacher furloughs to trim budgets

By DORIE TURNER
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — High school librarian Melissa Payne is starting her new school year with \$1,000 less in her paycheck and three days that she'll be forced to stay home from her job.

It's a similar story across the country, where teachers — once among the groups exempted from furlough days — are being forced to take unpaid days off amid massive state budget cuts.

Georgia is the only state so far to have imposed statewide furloughs for educators this fiscal year, although some states are considering it. But furloughs are happening in individual districts in other states, said Ed Muir, deputy director of research and information services for the American Federation of Teachers.

For teachers like Payne, the furloughs hurt a salary that already stretches thin most months.

"I went with this job because, even though it was less money, I thought it would be a better opportunity. And now it's even less money," Payne said.

School districts are facing historic cuts amid the worst economic decline in decades. But even if a district manages to avoid layoffs, teachers still are having to take furloughs on days when they would typically be planning lessons, going to conferences and meeting with other educators.

It will only become more common as districts struggle to keep up with dwin-

ding state funding and lagging local property tax revenues, Muir predicted.

"I think we're looking at more trouble ahead, and unless we find new money, that's going to lead to both furloughs and layoffs," he said.

Georgia is already \$900 million in the red this fiscal year, which began July 1. The furloughs for all state employees — which includes teachers for the first time in more than 25 years — will save about \$135 million, the majority of which is made up by teacher salaries for 128,000 educators.

By and large, it's up to the local school boards in each state whether to furlough teachers because educators are on contract with districts rather than with the state. And many are unionized, which means district administrators must head to the negotiating table with teachers' unions before furloughs can be enacted.

But in Georgia, the state simply withheld three days' worth of money for teacher salaries and benefits, forcing districts to turn to furloughs.

In years past, states have largely exempted teachers when it comes to layoffs, furloughs and other pay cuts, but the recession has gotten so bad that states can no longer ignore such a large sector of the taxpayer-funded work force.

Teacher organizations say the furlough days mean less time for educators to study the latest teaching strategies or take a college class to sharpen their skills in whatever subject they teach.

"We are no longer in days where you

can plan one lesson and feel pretty confident it's going to suit everybody's needs," Strickland said. "Doing lesson plans in the afternoon or in the evening or during a 30-minute planning time just doesn't quite give you time you need to do that."

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has paved the way for up to five furlough days for school districts as part of the state's massive budget cuts approved this summer. It's up to districts to decide whether to use the unpaid leave.

Hit hardest by the nation's foundering economy, California this year has cut \$18 billion in funding for its K-12 schools and community colleges starting in February to address an unprecedented \$60 billion two-year budget deficit.

The state laid off 17,000 teachers in the spring after notifying nearly 30,000 that they could be cut. The state has more than 300,000 educators.

In Georgia, the governor has said furloughs throughout most of Georgia's 180 school districts is the best way to keep from laying off thousands of educators.

For parents, furloughs are troubling because they mean less time for teachers to get ready for class and the ever growing pressure of improving student performance on standardized tests. Still, Nancy Turner, of Lilburn, Ga., who has kids going into sixth and third grades, said furloughs are better than the alternative.

"I think it's better than having to lay off teachers and make classroom sizes bigger," Turner said.

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- Private Entrance
- Washer and dryer
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Dishwasher
- Cozy fireplace
- Cathedral Ceilings
- Large walk-out patio or deck
- Air conditioning
- Loft-style townhomes available
- Walk-in storage available

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Scenic views
- Pond and elegant fountain
- Walking trails
- Carports included
- Sparkling pool
- Sundeck and lounge chairs
- Community fitness room
- Excellent locations
- Professionally landscaped
- Friendly on-site management
- Pet friendly community 

Leases start as low as \$549

248.377.2680

Auburn Ridge
TOWNHOMES