



# HORIZON LEAGUE

# MOVIN' ON UP

Oakland University makes  
the jump to the Horizon League

**PAGE 8 & 9**



## END OF AN ERA

VP of Student Affairs  
Mary Beth Snyder  
announces retirement

**PAGE 4**



## THE SEARCH IS OVER

The new provost  
is Jim Lentini of  
Miami of Ohio

**PAGE 6**



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**"THE WEIRDEST CITY I'VE EVER BEEN TO"** // Comedian Bo Burnham performed on Mother's Day at the Royal Oak Music Theatre in Royal Oak, Michigan. After various random non-sequitor-shouting hecklers, Burnham paused and said, "Royal Oak, you are by far the weirdest city I've ever been to," put his fist up, and said, "more power to ya." More coverage of the event can be found on page 15. *DYLAN DULBERG // The Oakland Post*

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## POLL OF THE WEEK

Which part of Oakland University's new membership in the Horizon League are you most excited for?

- A** Local rivalry with UDM
- B** ESPNu/HLN TV coverage
- C** Closer away games
- D** Wait, we're in the Horizon League now?

Vote at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

## LAST WEEK'S POLL

How long has it taken you to complete a bachelor's degree, or long do you think it will take?

**A** Less than four years

7 votes | 7%

**B** Four years

38 votes | 37%

**C** Five years

30 votes | 29%

**D** More than five years

27 votes | 26%

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### MAY 12, 1961

During a heavy rainfall, the ground breaking ceremony and subsequent construction occurs for what is now Fitzgerald Hall.

### MAY 24, 1995

Indications appear that students will face a 5.9 percent boost in tuition beginning in the Fall 1995 semester.

### MAY 11, 2011

A beautification project was enacted to take place outside Elliott Hall over the summer. The project was completed by the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester.



5

### CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Spread all around Oakland University, a carillon tower, a new housing facility, and a new engineering facility are all in various stages of construction.



10

### OU BASEBALL PLAYER ON ESPN

Sophomore Robbie Enslin of Oakland University's Men's Baseball Team appeared on the Sports Center Top 10 for a diving catch on the May 10 game against Omaha.



13

### THE GREAT GATSBY

Baz Luhrmann's version of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic tale, "The Great Gatsby," appeared in theaters last week. Read Managing Editor Dylan Dulberg's review on page 13.

**BY THE NUMBERS**  
THE HORIZON LEAGUE

32

minutes driving time from OU to UDM

19

number of sports offered

\$7million

estimated revenue for the 2012 fiscal year

1979

year the Horizon League was established

9

number of competing schools

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Moving to Horizon: What it means for OU

**O**akland University will join the Horizon League on July 1. We think it's a fantastic move.

Making the switch from the Summit League to the Horizon League means that the Golden Grizzlies will be competing against more local opponents and fans will finally have a chance to experience a real rivalry.

Of course, the cost of the transition isn't cheap. It will cost \$250,000 to exit the Summit League and \$882,000 to join the Horizon League.

The Horizon League also requires that its member arenas are able to seat at least 5,000 spectators. Unfortunately, the O'rena doesn't fulfill these requirements, meaning we will either have to expand the O'rena or rent the Palace for some home games.

The Horizon League offers much tougher competition, as well. Pat Caputo, a columnist for The Oakland Press, put it best when he said "I viewed the Summit League as NCAA Division I's version of plankton. It's definitely at the bottom of the food chain."

Naturally, there will be more competitive rivalries, reduced travel time and better recruitment opportunities.

As Oakland University Athletic Director Tracy Huth said

"We really don't see a downside to this."

Gone are the days where the Golden Grizzlies didn't have a local rival. Inevitably, there will be a spirited rivalry with the University of Detroit Mercy Titans.

This is great for both schools. Let's face it, Oakland students are mostly commuters who are severely lacking in the school spirit department. Having more local games is not only great because the teams will travel less, but the students will be much more likely to follow the team on the road.

In fact, a simple Google search reveals that OU is only 32.5 miles away from UDM. That ends up being about a 35 minute drive, which is even shorter than the drive many of our commuters have.

OU basketball is scheduled to play UDM twice, which means that at least twice a year, there will be a game that the communities of Detroit and Rochester will actually want to get involved in. It's the classic battle of city vs. suburbia.

According to ESPN, "Oakland has always wanted to join the Horizon League, but UDM was against the idea. Former Detroit athletic director Brad Kinsman acknowledged last year that his school didn't want to share the Detroit market

with another school in the same conference. He's not sure if Detroit still feels the same."

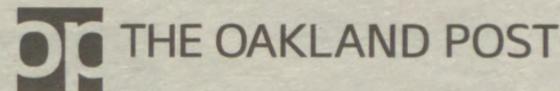
That is enough to start a rivalry for some of our hot-blooded students. UDM didn't want to share the Detroit area with another school? Perhaps they should change their name from the Titans to the Chickens.

As for the expenses to make the transition, OU is looking at spending roughly \$1 million. OU has spent much more money on much worse. Traveling less will save money as well.

OU won The Summit League men's basketball tournament three times in six years, bringing in publicity and big money from the NCAA. Imagine what it will be like when we win in the Horizon League. It seems intimidating now, but the Golden Grizzlies have already made more NCAA appearances than most of the schools in the Horizon League.

In other words, the Golden Grizzlies aren't going to be swimming with the sharks yet, but we're at least expanding our... Horizons.

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



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### Letters to the Editor

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



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# Mary Beth Snyder announces retirement

By Kevin Graham  
Senior Reporter

Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Mary Beth Snyder announced her retirement April 29 after nearly two decades at OU.

She has been replaced on an interim basis by Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh.

During her time as vice president, several new student programs and services were created. The Oakland Center has also seen expansion, and, most recently, she was involved in the planning for both the new residence hall and Elliot Carillon Tower.

## Change is good

With Snyder's departure, her position is the second highest ranking administrative job, which is now open. The other is the Dean of the School of Business Administration.

"I'm a person who is very comfortable with change. I think it's always good for some change to go on," Snyder said. "I think with the right hires in some of the vacant positions, you're going to bring fresh ideas, fresh eyes."

She feels OU is on the brink of several improvements. Parking remains an issue, however.

"You're going to see a very different campus environment two years from now," she said. "In the meantime, I and all my colleagues know that parking needs to be improved. We continue to need to make sure that the Oakland experience is convenient for the types of students that come to Oakland."

She also mentioned ongoing improvement of faculty and academic resources.

## An engaged leader

McIntosh said Snyder knew how to get the most out of people.

"She is such a dynamic person and leader that inspires people to be the very best," McIntosh said. "I think as a result of that she has been able to really create a team within the division of student affairs that she has led to accomplish so many things at Oakland University from new facilities, renovation of facilities, to new programs and services, all with the goal of better serving students."

Director of Undergraduate Admissions Eleanor Reynolds said the students always came first for Snyder. "In all the things that we did, there was just a sense that we needed to be positive and always represent the most positive faith and make sure that what we were doing was going to be in the best interest of the student," she said.



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

Mary Beth Snyder speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new housing building

Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees Robbie Williford said Snyder tried to involve students in the decision-making process.

"There are things, I guess you could say privileged information, that administrators don't have to share with students, for example, the preliminary designs for the housing building," he said. "She let (student leaders) be a part of all the design meetings. We all got to meet with the design firm. They got to pick our brains. That's something that you don't normally get to see."

## Creating a community

Snyder said she's proud of the amount of pride students take in OU despite the lack of a football team.

"It's easy to create that warm, fuzzy feeling in your alma mater when every

Saturday everyone goes out to a big football game," she said. "We've been able to do that with our alums absent that kind of experience that you find at a Michigan State or a Michigan."

She said the school spirit is the result of students taking full advantage of everything OU has to offer.

"I think our student leaders over and over have demonstrated that they get it early on in their freshman years, sophomore years in some cases," Snyder said. "This is just a cornucopia of opportunities to learn something about themselves and make them stronger and better prepared for life and their careers."

You can contact Staff Reporter Kevin Graham at [kpgraham@oakland.edu](mailto:kpgraham@oakland.edu), or follow him @kevingraham88

## SNYDER'S TIME AS A GRIZZLY

'94

Started at OU

'02

Won the Phyllis Goo-gasian award for the advancement of women in higher education

'07

Won the NASPA Distinguished Service award

'10

Won the Pillar of Profession honor

'12

Won the Burnstein Clinic Esteemed Women of Michigan Award

19

Years spent as Vice President of student affairs

May 28

Will be honored with a reception in the OC at 2 p.m.



# Rising action

Construction projects underway as Oakland rolls through the summer semester

JON DAVIS / The Oakland Post

The lot of the new engineering building being constructed to the left of Elliot Hall. The site for Carillon Tower is fenced off, waiting to be razed.

By Jon Davis  
Reporter

As the summer semesters move on, so does construction at Oakland University. Five major construction projects look to completely change the landscape of OU's 1,143-acre campus, including a new bell tower, athletic complex, housing facility and engineering building slated to open fall 2014.

## Engineering Building

The summer budget continues to grow for the new engineering building next to Kresge Library. The original budget was projected at \$4,495,680, but has grown to \$5,546,462.

Susan Riley, the university project manager for the engineering building spoke on the expectations for the project over the next few months and gave insight on the recent budget jump.

"The goal is to be enclosed by the end of the year," Riley said. "We're moving north to south and are just getting structures and framework up. We had a little problem in the beginning with the foundation, but that was to be expected."

Riley said large construction projects like this tend to fluctuate in budget, as it's hard to predict what measures will need to be taken in the coming months.

"You have weather issues, foundation problems, but all of that was expected," Riley said. "The contractor is more concerned than I am."

John Begley, the site manager for the engineering building, spoke on his enthusiasm for the crew and his outlook on the project.

"We have 50 plus men working through the summer, we're right on track," Begley said. "Other than working in the heat, there are really no issues that could hold

us back. Right now, we're laying the frame work, and it all looks pretty good."

The total budget is now set at \$75 million, and according to Riley, the summer budget isn't likely to change anytime soon.

"Everything has been going very smoothly," Riley said. "There haven't been any major changes to the project, and I don't see any coming up anytime soon. We're on track, moving forward, and we're going to be on time."

## Recreation and Athletic Complex

Construction is also underway for the new athletic complex, looking to be finished much earlier than the other construction projects on campus.

The facilities will accommodate NCAA Division I athletic events and a variety of fitness and recreational activities, as well as having an open tennis court.

Katie Howard, a junior majoring in design, expressed her excitement for OU's upcoming additions, specifically for the recreation and athletic complex.

"I think it's great that we're not only expanding our opportunities in club sports, but we're expanding students, as well," Howard said. "Me and my friends are always running out of things to do on campus, and this should fix that. It's great that I now have more of an option for exercise."

The complex is set to open later on this year and will be available to all OU students.

## Parking Structure

Possibly the most anticipated project for the summer, the second parking structure to open on OU grounds is on track to be completed with all other construction projects in 2014.

"I like the thought of having a new ath-

letic center, a new housing complex, but I'd much rather have some new parking on campus," senior Eric Biessener said. "That's what most people complain about anyways — that they have nowhere to park, that it makes them late and they hate walking. I think this project is a long time coming."

The structure will include four levels for parking, providing almost 1,000 new spaces for OU students. The structure will also be located near seven academic buildings and is projected to boost available parking on campus by 10 percent.

## Elliot Carillon Tower

Construction has yet to start for the 151-foot tower to be erected next to Kresge Library.

Carillon Tower is scheduled to finish alongside most of OU's other construction projects in September of 2014, and will cost \$6.5 million, donated by the Hugh and Nancy Elliot.

The perimeter of the tower is currently blocked off, obscuring several walkways previously accessible to students. Construction on the base is set to begin over the summer semester.

"I think this project will bring a lot of hope to the students," junior and vocal performance major Kimberly Marie said. "I think it'll definitely raise spirits, and it proves that someone cares about us. Someone has hope in this university."

Nick Straub, a sophomore majoring in communications, spoke on his experience coming in to OU, and how that might change for future students.

"I remember thinking that the university was big, but there wasn't any one thing that really wowed me about it. I think that everyone coming in is going to look at it and think that this is the real deal," Straub said.

## Student Housing Complex

Construction on the new student complex is booming and looks to be on track for its opening in 2014.

The complex, set to house 500 residents, is in the early stages of development. Associate Vice President to Facilities Management Terry Stollsteimer recently spoke on his optimism for the complex.

"We're happy to be accommodating the students with something that was in such high demand," Stollsteimer said. "The project really speaks to the growth of the university, as well as it's hopes for the future."

The groundbreaking for the building commenced April 16 with little construction work following. According to Stollsteimer, construction right now is preliminary and major structures won't be going up until the fall.

"The construction right now looks to be running smoothly, and is just setting the ground work for the new building," Stollsteimer said. "Getting the base ready hasn't proved to be tricky so far, but with the hot months coming, the weather might turn into a problem."

The student voice on the project has been mixed with a clear concern about how the project will affect parking.

"You would think that because it's the summer, parking wouldn't be as bad," Lexy Schubert, a sophomore minoring in nursing, said. "But because of the new housing building, I have to fight for a parking spot every day."

Schubert said that on average she spends 15 minutes searching for a spot, reflective of her average time of 20 minutes in the fall and winter semesters.

The project is estimated to cost \$30 million. The summer budget is set at \$2 million.

# James P. Lentini is named new Oakland University provost

By Brian Johnston  
Managing Content Editor

After nearly a year of searching, Oakland University announced Dr. James P. Lentini from Miami University in Ohio as the new senior vice president of academic affairs and provost.

The decision by President Russi and the Provost Search Committee was announced in an email Monday, May 13 by Russi.

Lentini will assume the role of provost July 8 "pending approval by the Oakland University Board of Trustees," according to the email sent by Russi.

### Past experience

The incoming provost, who is currently the Dean of Creative Arts for Miami University in Ohio, has taught at the College of New Jersey and Wayne State University. He has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California.

"Professor Lentini was very favorably viewed by everybody on the committee," said Search Committee Chair and Political Science Professor David Dulio. "There was never a question that he was going to be one of those advanced to the president by the committee."

### Russi's decision

The provost decision ultimately fell into President Russi's hands, according to Dulio. "Our report to the president said, 'We are going to forward these candidates. Here are strengths and weaknesses about them,'" Dulio said.

Samantha Wolf, OU Student Congress legislator and member of the Provost Search Committee, said the decision was ultimately in Russi's hands because the provost is essentially the president's second in command.

"(The president) needs to be able to work with the person. But he definitely listened to what the committee recommended, and everything we had to say about every candidate," Wolf said.

"I think he brings a number of things to OU," Dulio said. "I think his personality will be a big benefit. He has a number of experiences. I think he brings great experience as a dean."

As for his qualifications, Dulio said, "One of the bonuses to hiring him is that he is from Miami of Ohio. It's a great institution. I think they do a number of things Oakland would like to emulate. And I think he can help us advance the institution on a number of fronts."

### Unique background

Of the four finalists for provost, Lentini was the only one with a background in



Courtesy of Jeff Sabo, IT Services Miami University

arts and humanities, against three with backgrounds in sciences. Wolf said that didn't matter as much as Lentini's qualifications.

"When you get to provost level, you are not the chief academic for just music,"

Wolf said. "You are the chief academic officer for every area. You need to be able to deal with every area in OU. And I think he's the best fit for OU."

## Classifieds

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## Biology prof awarded \$1.8 million grant

*National Eye Institute backs Susmit Suvas to study new treatments*

By Kevin Graham  
Reporter

Professor Susmit Suvas was awarded a five-year \$1.8 million grant from the National Eye Institute at the Institutes of Health to study a new treatment for herpetic stromal keratitis.

Suvas, who teaches immunology in the department of biological sciences, was previously awarded a two-year grant to gather preliminary data on the effect of neuropeptide treatments which led to this grant.

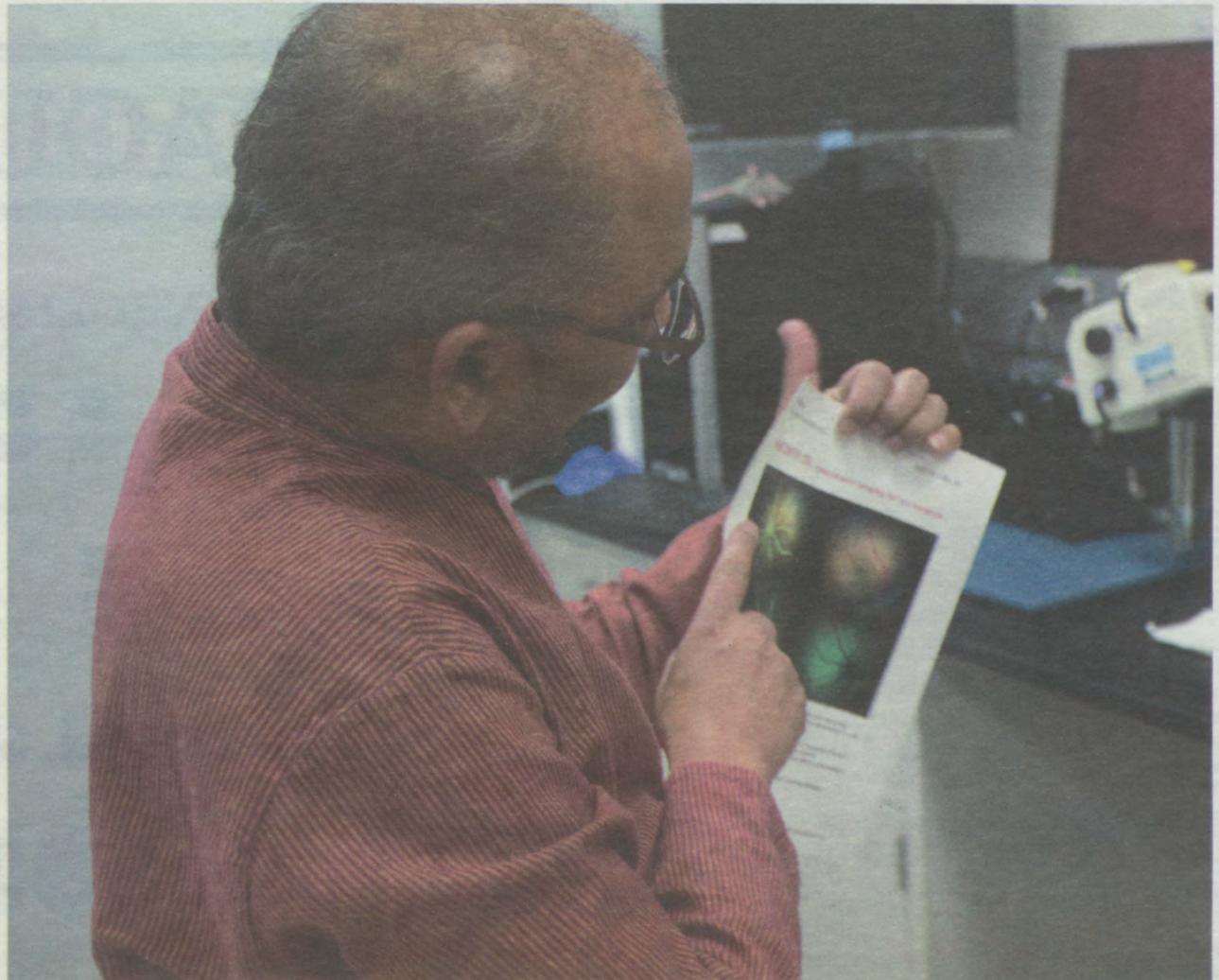
Herpetic stromal keratitis is caused by herpes simplex virus type I (HSV-1) known to most people as the virus that causes cold sores. Suvas said however that since the virus stays in the ganglion, an area underneath the brain, it can affect three different branches of the body.

"When we get a cold sore, then the virus is coming out of sleep in the ganglion and travels to that branch, that's the one that comes to the face, called the maxillary branch," he said. "If the virus takes another path, the path that comes to the cornea, it will start causing inflammation."

If the virus makes its way to the eye three or four times, it can start to cause chronic inflammation and blindness. The very cells intended to fight infection turn on the body.

"What was known in the field is that the virus comes into the cornea, causes damage to the cornea and brings in the immune cells, the cells that fight off infection," Suvas said. "They come into the cornea and cause corneal tissue damage. A normal cornea is clear- light can pass through the cornea, strike the retina and we see it. After the inflammation, the cornea becomes opaque. It's cloudy."

According to the National Institutes of Health, there are approximately 1.5 million cases of HSV-induced keratitis



BRIAN JOHNSTON / The Oakland Post

Biology professor Susmit Suvas shows a diagram of a retina being affected by herpetic stromal keratitis, a disease based on cold sores.

worldwide with 40,000 new cases of visual impairment or blindness in one eye each year.

The current treatment for this disease is a cortical steroid. However, used continually, the treatment has side effects.

Suvas plans to use an antagonist of Substance P, a key controller of inflammation in the body, to bring the infection under control.

Although the treatment could eventually be delivered by eyedrops, the treatment is currently being tested in mice.

### Tiny test subjects

Shravan Chintala, an associate professor of biomedical sciences at the

Eye Research Institute, said the identical eye structure makes mice ideal test subjects.

"The only difference between mice and humans is that mice are nocturnal," Chintala said.

A special microscope enables researchers to see to the back of the mouse's eye.

All animal research must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). There is an animal care facility on campus.

Chintala breeds mice with glaucoma for his research on potential cures. He explained glaucoma is caused by a buildup of pressure in the eye.

"The disease occurs because the

pressure in the eye actually increases because there is a fluid every day that is produced, but it doesn't leave the eye," he said. "There is a plumbing system which actually takes care of that fluid, but in some people it doesn't happen."

Chintala has identified a key protein associated with the vision impairing disease.

"There is a protein called SARM1, because of the pressure this SARM1 protein grows up in the retinas and this SARM1 protein actually kills (retinas)," Chintala said.

Contact Staff Reporter Kevin Graham at [kprgraham@oakland.edu](mailto:kprgraham@oakland.edu) or follow him on Twitter @kevingraham88

# ON THE HORIZ

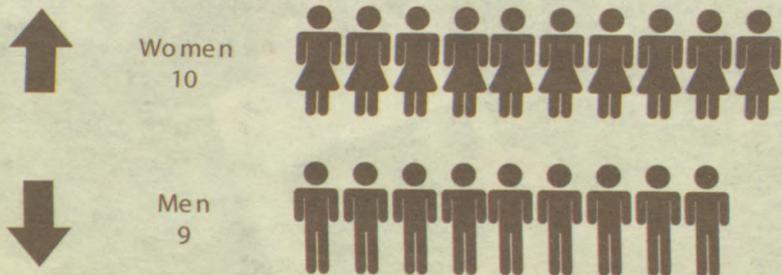
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## HORIZON LEAGUE

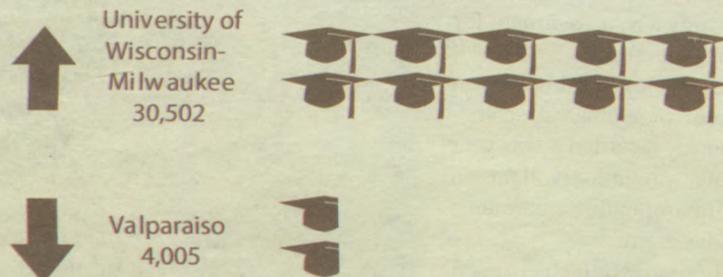
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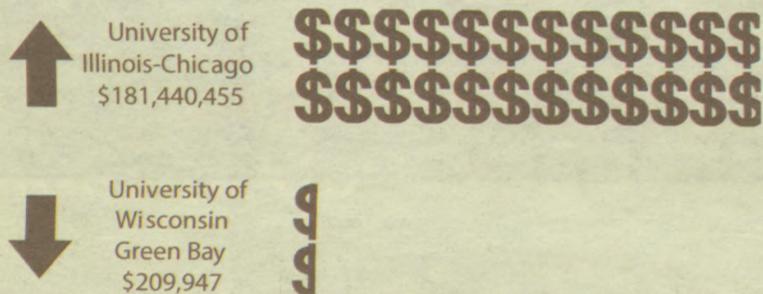
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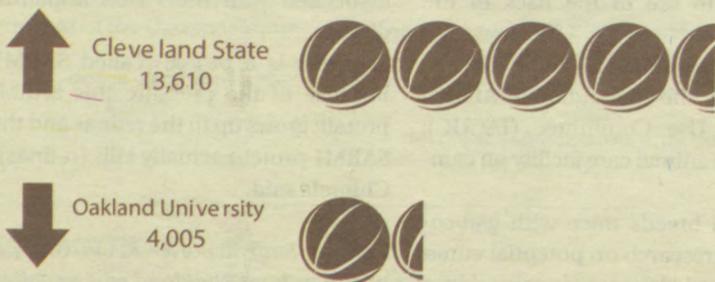
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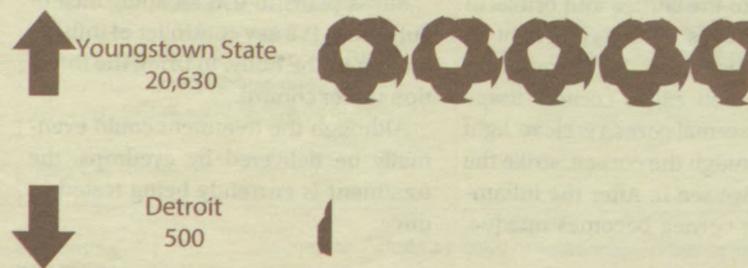
### BASEBALL SEATING



### BASKETBALL SEATING



### SOCCER SEATING



# ZON

Compiled by Dylan Dulberg  
Designed by Frank Lepkowski

## ING THE DISTANCE

HORIZON VS. SUMMIT

### HORIZON LEAGUE



**MINIMUM DRIVING DISTANCE/TIME**  
26.3 miles / 32 minutes

**MAXIMUM DRIVING DISTANCE/TIME**  
497 miles / 7 hours 40 minutes

**AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE/TIME**  
299 miles / 4 hours 15 minutes

**TOTAL DRIVING DISTANCE/TIME**  
5389 miles / 3 days and 5 hours

### SUMMIT LEAGUE



**MINIMUM DRIVING DISTANCE/TIME**  
190 miles / 14 hours 6 minutes

**MAXIMUM DRIVING DISTANCE/TIME**  
934 miles / 3 hours 3 minutes

**AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE/TIME**  
568 miles / 9 hours 53 minutes

**TOTAL DRIVING DISTANCE/TIME**  
9088 miles / 6 days and 12 hours

**HORIZON**  
LEAGUE



Youngstown State University



Valparaiso University



University of Illinois at Chicago



Wright State University



University of Detroit Mercy



Cleveland State University



University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

# AROUND THE DIAMOND

**BASEBALL**

**Sportscenter Top 10**

Sophomore outfielder Robby Enslin made a diving catch Friday, May 10 against Omaha. The webgem landed him number four on SportsCenter's Top 10 plays of the day on ESPN. The Grizzlies split the doubleheader with Omaha, losing 8-2 in extra innings in game one and winning 3-0 in game two.



ENSLIN

Junior right handed pitcher Tim Koons went six scoreless innings in the first game of the doubleheader. It wasn't until the 7th inning when Omaha scored two runs, giving Koons the no decision. Junior left handed pitcher Jason Hager pitched his first complete game shutout of the season, striking out five batters and allowed four hits in game two's victory.

**Summit League honors**

Hager was named the Summit League Pitcher of the Week, announced by the league office May 13. This is the Swartz Creek, Mich., native's first career pitcher of the week award.

Hager ranks fifth in the league with 58 strikeouts. He has a 3.63 earned run average. Hager has started 12 games for the Grizzlies this season with 79.1 innings pitched.

**UPCOMING GAMES**

**May 16** vs. Western Illinois  
3:00 p.m.

**May 17** vs. Western Illinois  
12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

**May 18** vs. Western Illinois  
1:00 p.m.

**SOFTBALL**

**Senior Day**

The Golden Grizzlies lost their final game of the season against Omaha 4-0 on Senior Day May 4. The majority of the game was a pitchers' duel, with Oakland's freshman Erin Kownacki and Omaha's sophomore Dana Elsasser each did not give up a run through five complete innings. They combined to give up only four hits in that duration. Omaha broke up the scoreless tie in the sixth inning with an RBI single and a two-run double. The Grizzlies finished the game with four hits.

**All-Conference second team**

Junior catcher Erika Polidori was named to the Madness 2013 Summit League All-Conference second team, announced by CollegeSportsMadness.com May 13.



POLIDORI

The Brantford, Ontario, Canada native finished the season with a team-high .306 batting average. She also led the team in hits (30), runs (16), RBI (12), walks (10), on-base percentage (.387) and slugging percentage (.459). In January, Polidori was named the CollegeSportsMadness.com Preseason Player of the Year.

**Grizzly seniors**

Five seniors who played their last game for Oakland May 4:

- Third baseman Dani Dulberg
- Outfielder Alivia Nikolaus
- Pitcher Abbie Richardson
- Infielder Erin Galloway
- Utility player Kylie Schalz

— Compiled by Lindsay Beaver,  
Sports Editor

# ON THE TRACK

Oakland men's and women's track and field concluded The Summit League Outdoor Track and Field Championships May 11 hosted by IPFW in Muncie, Indiana.

The men's team finished sixth overall with 35 points. North Dakota State took first place with 249 points. The women's team ended the competition in sixth place overall with 29 points. North Dakota State also won the women's team title with 241.5 points.



ARIRGUZO

Freshman sprinter Jeff Arirguzo earned two runner-up finishes for the men while senior Breanna Peabody recorded a second place finish in the 400m hurdles.

Peabody's 59.42 time in the 400m hurdles would have set a league record. Arirguzo finished the 100m dash with a time of 10.81 and the 200m dash with a 21.51.

Head coach Paul Rice acknowledged Oakland's last appearance in The Summit League Championships after the announcement of its move to the Horizon League, said, "I want to pay tribute to all of our seniors that competed for the last time today. I also want to say thank you to The Summit League for being such a big part of my life for 13 years. We have had great experiences in our eight years competing in The Summit League Championships."

The Golden Grizzlies will be back on the track when they compete in the NCAA preliminary meet hosted by North Carolina AT&T State May 23-25.

— Compiled by Lindsay Beaver,  
Sports Editor

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# ACROSS THE TWITTERVERSE

*Social media has given a different connection between players and fans*

By **Tim Pontzer**  
Contributing Reporter

Less than 10 years ago, the 'holy grail' for many sports fans was to acquire the signature of their favorite player. Supporters would wait in long lines at shows, camp out at team hotels, or lean over railings and security to try and garner that personal connection with a star athlete.

Now, in today's digital age, fans still chase after that with sports stars, but do so behind their keyboard. A retweet or mention on Twitter has become this generation's version of an autograph. While a star player's John Hancock will still fetch a pretty penny on eBay, the advent of social media has created the idea that a personal connection between a fan and player can forever be immortalized by a single click, negating the actual need for a face-to-face encounter.

## On a college level

Twitter has successfully allowed for fans and players to share an unprecedented level of communication. For college athletes, this new platform has proven to be both a valuable tool and potential hazard as supporters are now given a whole new level of access to these amateurs.

Neal Ruhl is the Social Media Coordinator of the Oakland University Athletic Department. His position did not even exist three years ago, but it is quickly becoming a necessity. As many Grizzlies are becoming more accessible to their fan base, Ruhl is responsible for monitoring those interactions and making sure that everything runs smoothly.

"The Oakland's men's basketball team is very involved in social media, as are a great number of athletes at Oakland University," Ruhl said. "The impact is very positive in a multitude of ways. The use of social media allows the players to reach a broader audience. Twitter is a tool that can raise awareness not only of their game as individuals, but also promote the Oakland brand."

Ruhl also serves on the play-by-play crew at both the men's and women's basketball games, giving live updates and observations courtside from his personal account. In addition to following everything that OU players say on the social media sites, he has helped various members of the athletic staff become active in the latest form of communication.

"I am expected to give Oakland Athlet-



Photo Illustration by Dylan Dulberg/The Oakland Post

Many fans use Twitter to communicate and engage with their favorite athletes, using a tweet, retweet or favorite as a technological autograph.

"Twitter is a tool that can raise awareness not only of their game as individuals, but also promote the Oakland brand."

Neal Ruhl,  
Social Media Coordinator of the OU  
Athletic Department

ics a presence in the social media landscape. I monitor the tweets of everybody we follow, with players, media, and sponsors," Ruhl said. "I have to keep my thumb on the pulse of everything that is affiliated with Oakland. I try to make Oakland a destination in the ever changing climate of social media."

One player that Ruhl follows is Oakland star Travis Bader. The junior guard led the nation in three pointers this season, and he also is one of the leading tweeters on the basketball team.

"I usually like to go on (Twitter) after a game and just thank everyone for their support," Bader said. "I like to show that I am thankful and appreciate them. I find that it is really cool that they take the time to do that."

## Keeping it positive

The challenge for Ruhl is not what Bader, or any other Oakland athlete might say when thanking fans after a win. Problems can arise when athletes vent anger at coaches, fans, or teammates that can reflect poorly on the team, or even worse, when an athlete might say something controversial or use inappropriate language.

"I tell them to treat their social media like their own personal brand," Ruhl said. "Be engaging, be funny if possible. Try to keep it positive if you can. Above all, remember that you represent Oakland University both on and off the field or court. Take that responsibility seriously."

Being a relatively new form of communication, there are not many examples of a firm code of ethics to regulate the world of social media, especially on the college level.

While Oakland does not have a specific set of rules regarding social media, Ruhl addresses all of the players before the season, preaching common sense and to always think before pressing the send button. Ruhl discourages messages that are detrimental to the school and program, and injury information is also advised not to be shared.

"We hear the basic stuff, especially the things to not put on there," Bader said. "It really is common knowledge, but it doesn't restrict me in anyway. I still have fun being able to talk to fans."

Bader's teammate, redshirt junior Duke Mondy agreed. The point guard said that he loves to use his account to interact with his fans, but he makes sure to be careful with his profile.

"You definitely have to watch what you say, because really anybody can see that, and you never know who may be looking at any time," Mondy said. "Once you put it out there, it is online forever, and you never know if a kid may be looking up to you."

While several incidents have resulted in college athletes being suspended

around the country, Ruhl is very thankful to report that no problems have arisen with an Oakland player.

"The athletes here at Oakland have done a terrific job," Ruhl said. "They take their role as a student-athlete very seriously and recognize the fact they can use social media to promote not only themselves, but the university as well."

## Changing times

While most members of the Oakland athletic department have been on Twitter for a while, one of the last holdouts to jump on Twitter was men's head basketball coach Greg Kampe.

In his 29th season, Kampe finds Twitter to be a necessary evil in today's world. He tells his players that they should always think about the fans that follow them, and to never use words that are regrettable. For the longest time, the coach said he would never have one, but he recently caved and joined the site.

"I want the players to understand that they are directly marketing themselves with everything they say," Kampe said.

While his Michigan State Spartan counterpart, Tom Izzo, views Twitter as a distraction, @KampeOU is simply trying to keep up with the times.

"I don't see it as a distraction, I see it as the year 2013," Kampe said. "It is a changing world, but this is how the kids want to talk to each other now."

Contact Contributing Reporter Tim Pontzer via email at [tpontzer7@gmail.com](mailto:tpontzer7@gmail.com)

# Oakland rugby suits up for Sevens

*Men's and women's rugby prepare for summer competitions*

By Lilly Reid  
Staff Reporter

Rugby's Summer Sevens are a staple here at Oakland University. Known as "Oakland's closest thing to football," the team is more than ready to deliver.

## A look into the Sevens

The Sevens have a few different regulations than the regular 15's played in the fall and winter months. Generally instead of having 15 to a side it is changed to seven, giving it its name.

"Playing the Sevens is very different than any other season," OU men's rugby team president, Ted Tansley said. "There is only seven positions and it goes prop, hooker, prop, scrum-half, fly-half, center and winger. Then one of those positions acts as a full-back and gets any breakaways that happen."

The changed regulations include seven minute halves and a minute and a half of half time. With less people on the field, there is more ground that needs to be covered. However, this also allows for each player to have more contact with the ball. Due to the smaller team size, the number of technical offenses decreases. On the other

hand, it allows for faster game play and easier flow.

## Back to the basics

Due to the lack of coverage in the Sevens, players focus and rely on their basic rugby skills to lead them to victory. These include running, stamina, tackling, speed and decision making. There are different skills that are more important in the Sevens than in the 15's including footwork, greater perception of where the other team is and knowing if a player is covered. The lack of coverage allows for a greater chance of a tackle and opposition. Although the Sevens allows for individual players to shine, the game cannot be won without a team effort. When everyone on the team contributes to the effort, the game can be won much easier.

## Summer at OU

With the summer months quickly approaching, the men's team is doing everything they can to prepare. The main focus is improving skills and running plays. The easiest way to do that is just by playing a game of Sevens.

"We pretty much spend all of practice playing Sevens," Tansley said. "We also do a ton of running, which I love."

This allows the team to not only improve on their game play, but to work on their mindset, as well.

"This is a game all about speed," Tansley said. "And when keeping that

in mind along with maintaining a defense that doesn't allow a player to break away, then you have a successful team."

## Keeping the team together

With most students only attending OU in the fall and winter semesters, the team tends to lose members over the summer.

"We only need seven guys and we expect a good amount to drop out from 15's due to their home location and being a position that has difficulty playing Sevens," Tansley said. "So the guys who are in the area tend to be the ones playing Sevens with us."

"It's nice to be part of a sport where no gender bias is holding women back from their full potential"

Katie Wright,  
President of women's rugby team

## Not just a man's world

The women's rugby team gained their official club sport status at the beginning of the spring semester.

"The men have had their team at OU since '05, and there has always been interest in starting a women's team, but nobody was really willing to do the ground work for it till now," women's rugby team president, Katie

Wright said. "It's nice to be a part of a sport where no gender bias is holding women back from their full potential."

The Sevens are also planning on becoming a staple for the women's team, as well.

"The rules for men's and women's are exactly the same," Wright said. "We also practice and train the same hours as they do."

"Almost all of the girls that have come out this year have never even heard of the sport, let alone played it," Wright said. "The men's team was extremely helpful in teaching all of us the rules and fundamentals of the game. We encourage everyone, men and women, of any skill level to come out for our summer Sevens season or fall 15's season."

## Side by Side

The men's team has helped the women's team off the ground.

"We (the women's team) could not be more grateful for all the time and energy the men have put into teaching and training us," Wright said. The teams are still recruiting players and are encouraging students, regardless of skill level, to come out in either the summer for the Sevens or in the fall for 15's.

Contact Staff Reporter Lilly Reid via email at [lareid@oakland.edu](mailto:lareid@oakland.edu)

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## “Gatsby” redefines the word, “Great”

Baz Luhrmann  
reinvents F. Scott  
Fitzgerald's classic novel

By Dylan Dulberg  
Managing Visual Editor

It is an incredibly rare occurrence for a movie based on a book to even be able to hold a candle to the original novel. The norm for these kinds of movies, or as I call it, the “book-to-film adaptation rule” is a generally negative reaction, an onslaught of comments like, “The book was better,” and a slew of movie critics dismissing it as an attempt to ride on the book's coattails.

### Interpretation = 3 out of 4 stars

The original, “The Great Gatsby,” was a novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1925. The 2013 film remake, directed by Baz Luhrmann and starring Tobey Maguire, Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan, is one of those rare exceptions to the rule.

Much like his 1996 gangland version of “Romeo and Juliet,” Luhrmann's “Gatsby” is a mixed drink with a base of a classic tale, mixed with a modernist perspective, topped with perfect casting, extremely convincing acting and a soundtrack that screams “Oscar-worthy,” and dusted with, albeit repetitive, beautiful cinematography.

The film opens as the novel does. Nick Carraway, the optimistic, conflicted, innocent protagonist and narrator played by Tobey Maguire, reflects on his life, writing, “In my younger and more vulnerable years, my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.” Periodically throughout the film, Luhrmann returns to the text of Fitzgerald's original novel, providing authenticity to his unique interpretation of the novel.

### Acting = 4 out of 4 stars

Maguire's portrayal of Nick Carraway is unique. Maguire portrays the first half of Carraway, the shy, out-of-place newcomer, with an understanding that can only come from extensive study of the novel. His portrayal of the risk-taking side of Carraway is made to appear that Maguire himself is afraid of what Carraway is becoming, which adds to the emotion of the film. Title character Jay Gatsby, the eccentric, selfish, morally questionable, naïve helpless romantic, is played by Leonardo DiCaprio in one of his most complex roles



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio) at the end of a key scene at his mansion during the first of his many parties that Nick Carraway attends.

to date. When you think of a movie starring DiCaprio, you do not picture a character with zero lines of dialogue for about a quarter of the film. But, staying true to the novel, DiCaprio's dialogue starts late in the movie, with aloof one-liners overpowering the few profound conversations he has. But, over time he becomes the DiCaprio you expect, with powerful emotional spouts, and an expertly displayed understanding of a troubled, emotionally damaged man. Carey Mulligan, as the shallow, malleable cynic Daisy Buchanan, along with her adulterer husband Tom, played by Joel Edgerton, steal the screen without a question.

Mulligan, who starred in the 2011 film “Drive,” speaks the lines from the book as if they were from her own mind, musing, “... that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool,” sending shivers down your spine as the camera focuses in on her deep but distant eyes, gazing straight through the other characters and on past the set as if she actually were Daisy Buchanan.

Edgerton matches DiCaprio's intensity and rage as Tom Buchanan, almost as if he were still on the set of his 2011 film, “The Warrior.” As the film progresses and Luhrmann's direction of the movie's pace jumps faster and faster, Edgerton does not miss a beat, following DiCaprio's strong lead.

### Sound/Score = 4 out of 4 stars

An important thing of note in the film is the emotional contribution of the score. Luhrmann's blending of diegetic and non-diegetic sound can only be described as ingenious. His daring choice of, among others, Jay-Z, Florence and the Machine and Jack White, demonstrates a strong vision for the pace and speed of his “Gatsby” to be the hare to the tortoise of Fitzgerald's original version. In one particularly strong scene, where Carraway first attends a party at Gatsby's mansion, lies a perfect example of Luhrmann's understanding and appreciation of the auditory component of an award-winning film. A jazz band plays a classic roaring 20's party tune, while the score of an orchestral version of “Crazy in Love” fades in and out over the music, blending the visual component of the roaring 20's with the sound of house music in a club in downtown Manhattan.

### Camerawork = 3 out of 4 stars

The cinematography of the film bears a huge positive and a slight negative. The creative long zoom shots and the sharp jump cuts are extremely well done, the ultra-wide tracking shots are tastefully pulled off, and Luhrmann's utilization of empty space and symmetry is admirable. But, it gets old after a while. I'm not saying that you grow to

become annoyed of these shots, but Luhrmann could have varied a little by the end.

### Casting = 3.5 out of 4 stars

The casting of this film, especially of the main quartet, is all but perfect. DiCaprio, Maguire, Mulligan and Edgerton do not simply play their roles in, “The Great Gatsby.” As long as you sit in that theater, they become their roles. The acting, the pacing and the soundtrack of the film serve to complement Luhrmann's revolutionary diegesis of a classic tale.

### Total Score = 3.5 out of 4 stars

Just as Carraway refers to Gatsby's smile as the kind of smile one only sees a few times in life, Luhrmann's “The Great Gatsby” is the kind of film adaptation you only see a few times in life. The original novel poses questions of the validity and reality of “The American Dream.” While I can't answer that question, I can say this: I won't sleep or dream about a thing until I go see this movie again. And you should join me.

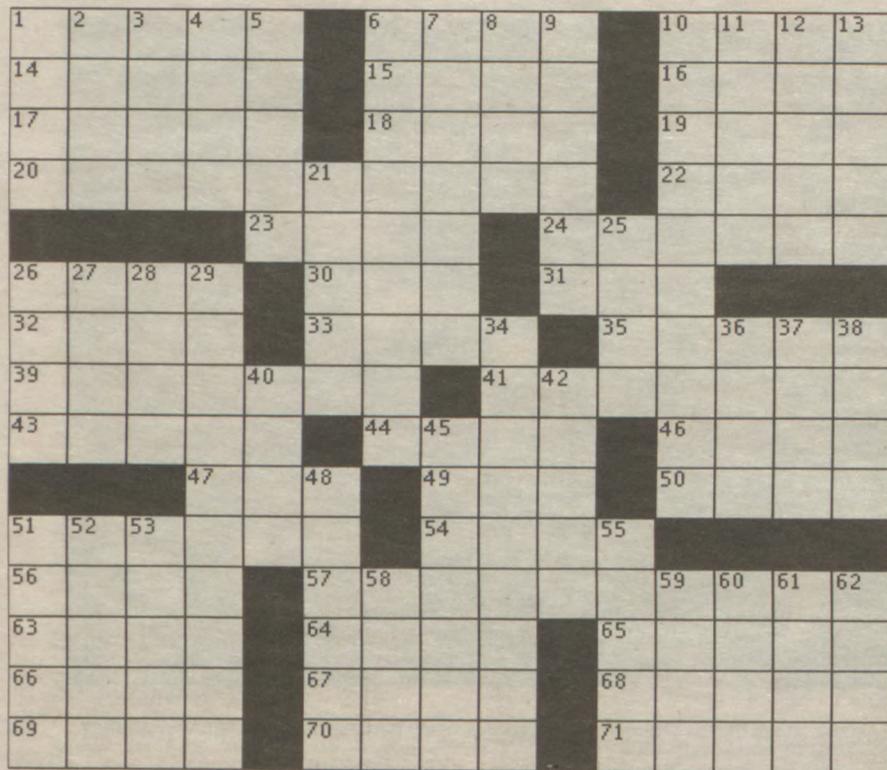
“The Great Gatsby” is rated PG-13 and runs for two hours and 10 minutes, and receives three and a half stars.

You can contact Managing Visual Editor Dylan Dulberg at [dsdulber@oakland.edu](mailto:dsdulber@oakland.edu), or follow him on Twitter at [dyldude64](https://twitter.com/dyldude64)

# Puzzles

## WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers are available online at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



### ACROSS

- 1. \_\_\_ runner
- 6. Dutch cheese
- 10. Young women coming out
- 14. Adores
- 15. Lima-November connector
- 16. Symbol
- 17. Double-reed instruments
- 18. Eager
- 19. Skid
- 20. Deign
- 22. Shopping event
- 23. Bete-\_\_\_
- 24. Hang around
- 26. Religious order
- 30. Jet \_\_\_
- 31. Shade tree
- 32. Farmer's unit
- 33. Thing
- 35. Yugoslavian money
- 39. It can go off
- 41. Subjugate
- 43. Blue stuff for Elvis
- 44. Hamlet, e.g.
- 46. Over
- 47. Period

### DOWN

- 49. \_\_\_ Headroom
- 50. Spats
- 51. Famous hunter
- 54. Chills and fever
- 56. Like some exams
- 57. Is possible to prove
- 63. Annul
- 64. Standard partner
- 65. Takes on
- 66. Not in favor
- 67. Singer Amos
- 68. Light bulbs in comic books
- 69. Neat-o
- 70. Certain infection
- 71. Affirmative reply

### DOWN

- 1. Alliance of countries
- 2. Wolf south of the border
- 3. Will's river
- 4. Action
- 5. Industrial center of the Ruhr
- 6. Thin
- 7. Draw apart
- 8. Alike
- 9. Intrude

### DOWN

- 10. Not 8 down
- 11. Enthusiastic approval
- 12. Ball in France
- 13. Look of contempt
- 21. Three-dimensional
- 25. Cutlass maker
- 26. Droops
- 27. Very light brown
- 28. Algonquian
- 29. Pricy meat cut
- 34. A collection
- 36. Western alliance
- 37. Swear
- 38. Business guys. for short
- 40. Dynamic opening
- 42. Connected series
- 45. Romantic
- 48. Gets used to
- 51. Actress, Kim
- 52. Goodnight \_\_\_ (Leadbelly song)
- 53. Gaucho's tea
- 55. Value system
- 58. Blow
- 59. Famous opera
- 60. WWII submachine gun
- 61. A detective wants one
- 62. Exxon, formerly

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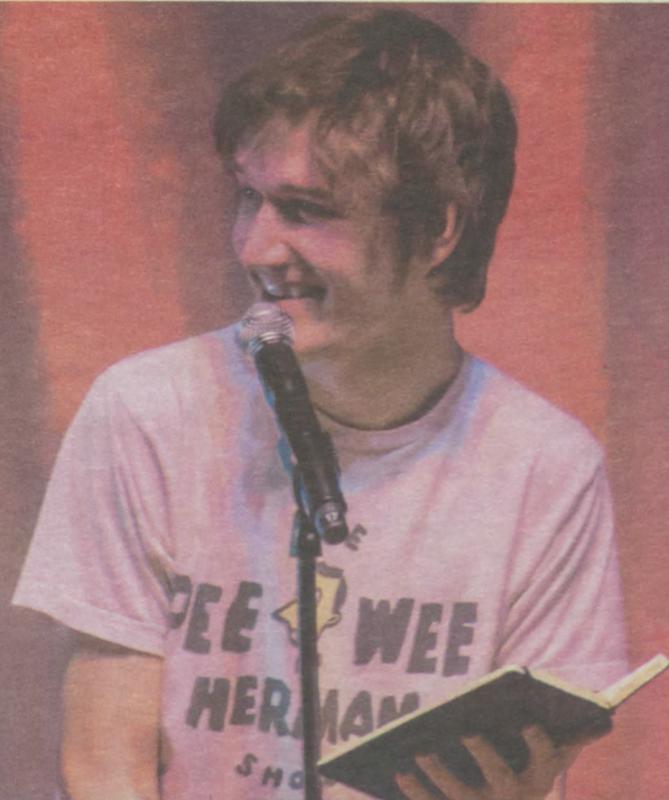
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## Bo Burnham's Untraditional Comedy



*Royal Oak Music Theatre  
hosts comedian for  
second time in a year*

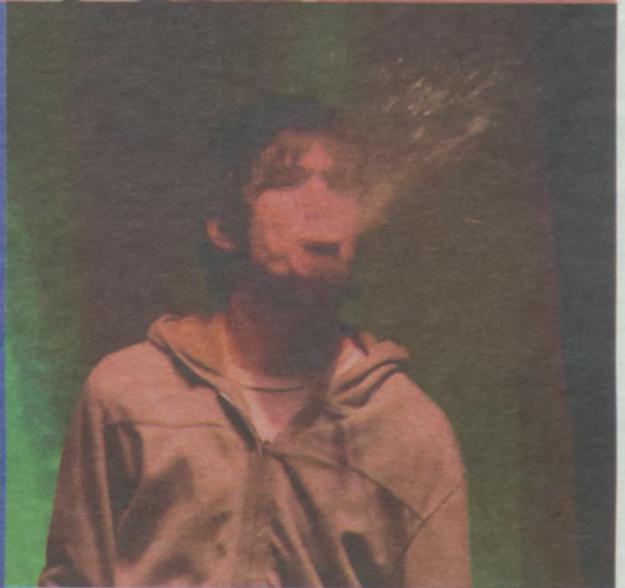
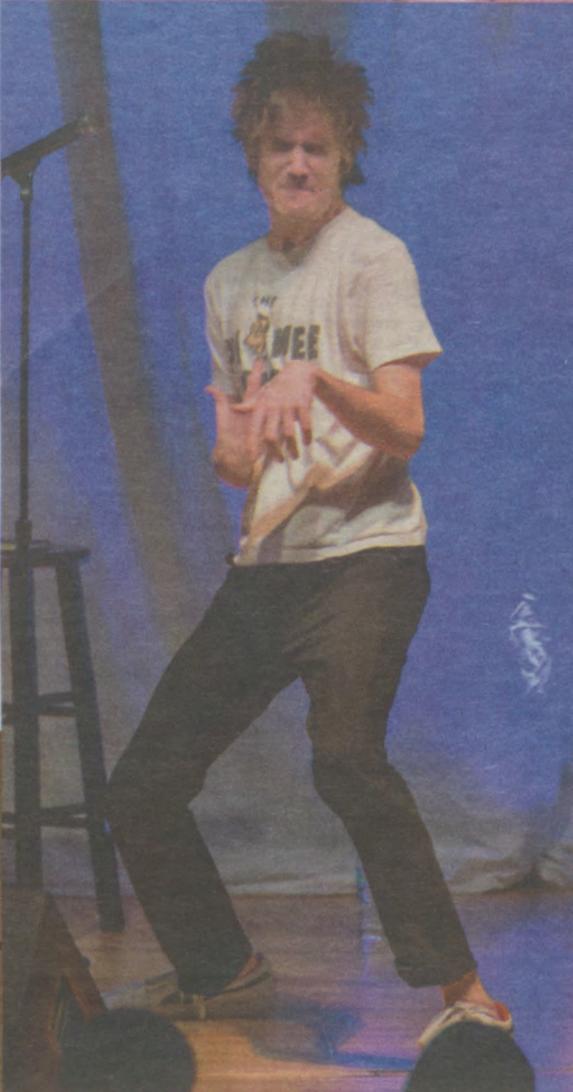
**By Dylan Dulberg**  
*Managing Visual Editor*

Almost a year after his latest local appearance, comedian Bo Burnham appeared at the Royal Oak Music Theatre in Royal Oak for a night of his unique blend of comedy.

Burnham delivered his usual style of unusual comedy, from poetry to visual comedy to musical comedy to long periods of, "Intense uninterrupted eye contact" with those who sat front and center.

By the end of the night, sides hurting from laughing, the crowded theater emptied, hoping Burnham would return soon.

You can contact Managing Visual Editor Dylan Dulberg at [dsdulber@oakland.edu](mailto:dsdulber@oakland.edu) or follow him on Twitter @ [dyldude64](https://twitter.com/dyldude64).



**TOP** For a brief period of time, Burnham sat on a stool and told quick one-liners out of a notebook. He eventually showed that the notebook was completely blank.

**ABOVE** At the start of his show, Burnham mimed drinking a cup of water and actually spit water out of his mouth onto the unsuspecting people in the front row.

**FAR LEFT** As Burnham spoke about his strong support of using cameras during his show, he looked up from the keyboard to look straight into lens for more of his "intense uninterrupted eye contact."

**LEFT** Burnham sang about how annoying and difficult life would be if he were a Tyrannosaurus Rex. He later remarked, "What a stupid song."

SATIRE

## Defending Detroit

By Brian Figurski  
Copy Editor/Juggalo

I'm sure this has happened to you before: you're on vacation, somebody asks "Where are you from?" and you naturally respond, "Detroit," because nobody knows what a Rochester Hills is.

Then the conversant gasps and runs away like you're packing heat and getting ready for some straight up 1-8-7.

A great majority of the world still thinks Detroit is a terrifying place and its residents are nothing but low-life thugs. There's really no reason to be afraid of me, or any other Metro Detroit resident. I'm from the suburbs and I pooped my pants during the scary parts of "The Brave Little Toaster." I'm not very intimidating.

I might have found it fun to play along with Detroit stereotypes when I was younger and more naïve, but I've

been a resident around here for long enough to see the positive changes. It's time the world realizes Detroit isn't the dystopian city of rubble full of hardened criminals.

Sure, Detroit has spawned some terrible figures – Jack Kevorkian, Kwame Kilpatrick, Insane Clown Posse (whoop whoop,) and Kid Rock, but those are just a smattering of the people that have come from the area.

While I don't ever want to admit to agreeing with a man who blatantly threatens the life of a president, I have to side with Ted Nugent, who said over the weekend, "There is no better place for the X Games" than Detroit.

Then the Internet exploded with terrible concepts from all 17 people who care about what Ted Nugent says.

The crazy fool has a point though—Detroit is doing its best to make a comeback, and the X Games would



Photo Illustration by Dylan Dulberg/The Oakland Post

"Sure, I'm homeless, but at least I'm in Detroit, the greatest city on Earth!" - Homeless Copy Editor Brian Figurski.

certainly help.

Look at all the other events Detroit is home to each year. Millions of people flock to the North American International Auto Show. The electronic music Movement festival has been growing rapidly for about ten years now. Belle Isle secured a three-year deal with Metallica's Orion Music and More festival. Sure the festival will spur some riots, but they will be controlled riots, fueled by

The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.

violent music about smashing things and faces.

This place isn't the same Detroit depicted in "The Crow" where every other building is perpetually on fire. Downtown is a great, developed place, and the people of the city are terribly kind. I get a "thank you" from homeless beggars even when I don't give them the change that they can clearly hear jingling in my pocket.

Every major city in America has its rundown locations. No town is an exception, including Detroit.

A lot of out-of-towners come to this city and leave with their lives, wallets and pride. Let's stop scoffing at the notion of this place becoming a top 10 U.S. market again like it's impossible. Let's show the world we aren't burning ourselves to the ground from the inside out.

Plus, wouldn't the X Games be more exciting if you have to dodge bullets on a BMX bike? Sounds extreme enough to me.

You can contact Copy Editor Brian Figurski at [bdfigurs@oakland.edu](mailto:bdfigurs@oakland.edu)

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