

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

APRIL

1

— 2015 —

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAT.

Meet 'The Mayor'

PAGE 10

FOOLIN'.

The Oakland Roast

PAGE 11

MOTTO.

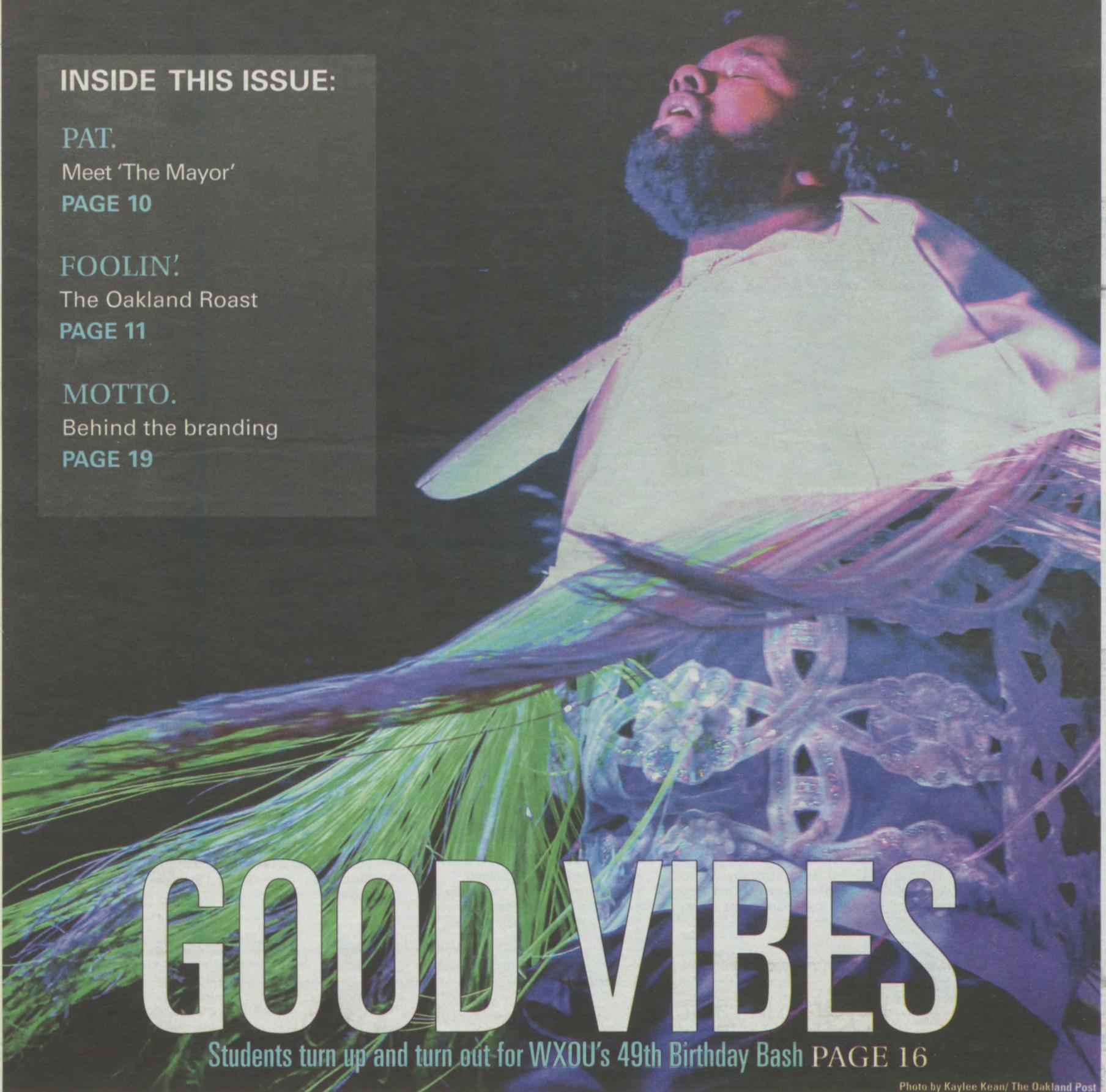
Behind the branding

PAGE 19

GOOD VIBES

Students turn up and turn out for WXOU's 49th Birthday Bash PAGE 16

Photo by Kaylee Kean/The Oakland Post



thisweek

April 1, 2015 // Volume 40, Issue 57



ontheweb

Laugh all you want, but is the selfie stick here to stay? Blogger Jade Vickery breaks down the latest "me culture" accessory for looking fetch on the go, wherever you go. **Read more at www.oaklandpostonline.com/blogs.**



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SHALL WE DANCE? // Members of Oakland University's Albanian American Student Organization perform at International Night on Friday, March 27. The group displayed a traditional Albanian dance before performing a freestyle dance known as *Shota*. Check out the complete photo gallery of the night at oaklandpostonline.com.

Photo by Nowshin Chowdhury/The Oakland Post

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

POLL OF THE WEEK

What is love?

- A** Baby don't hurt me.
- B** A game for two to play.
- C** An open door.
- D** A battlefield.

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What's your go-to ice cream flavor?

- A** Vanilla - plain and simple.
22%
- B** Chocolate. Is this really a question?
22%
- C** Chocolate and vanilla swiirrl...
22.4%
- D** You people are boring. I like fun ice cream.
31.7%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

April 3, 2002

Student apartments, which were currently under construction, faced the possibility of getting cable services after a reworked deal with Comcast and the Board of Trustees.

April 4, 2001

An OU student collapsed from heart failure during her voice training class in Varner Hall. She was 44 and died en route to the hospital.

April 6, 1994

Two indecent exposure incidences occurred at Kresge Library before Easter Weekend. According to an article in the Oakland Post, it was "people who got their jollies out by exposing themselves."

— Compiled by Cheyanne Kramer, staff reporter



7

FALSE ALARM

Police cars swarmed the street in front of Wilson Hall last Wed. to pull over and arrest an armed robbery suspect - only to realize they had the wrong person.



17

JAVA AND JAMS

Cafe O' Bears came alive as local entertainers gathered for strong coffee and smooth tunes at Friday's Acoustic Coffee House.



23

NOT JUST FOR KICKS

Preparation for the fall season continues as the men's soccer team took on the Michigan State Spartans Saturday afternoon under the new Oakland Athletic Dome.

BY THE NUMBERS

April Fool's edition

1996

the year Taco Bell enraged the world by claiming they bought the Liberty Bell

40%

Americans report pulling yearly April Fools pranks

52

most whoopee cushions sat on in 30 seconds, achieved by Japan's Cherry Yoshitake in July 2014

3 min.

length of the spaghetti-tree hoax report, broadcasted by the BBC on April 1, 1957

600+

amount of times OU's 2014 fake announcement of a Post-Apocalyptic Survival Studies major was shared on Facebook

'Meninism' is no joke

By Oona Goodin-Smith
Editor-in-Chief

In the spirit of all things April foolery, there's a lot to laugh about this year: waking up to a fresh blanket of snow in April, Nickelback's newest attempt at a revival, and the possibility of ever finding a legal parking spot in P2.

A little humor never hurt anybody - in fact, according to PBS's "This Emotional Life," laughter may actually be the best medicine, proven to have physical, cognitive, emotional and social benefits, ranging from increased creativity and self-esteem to the reduction of physical pain.

In recent years, Internet humor has become the name of the game, with memes, parody accounts and ironic hashtags popping up to give us that on-line pick-me-up.

One hashtag in particular, #MeninistTwitter, arrived on the Internet scene in late 2013 in the name of funny and has stuck in the name of anti-feminism, spawning the informal movement known as "meninism."

Originating as "men sharing jokes - some of which were criticised [sic] as offensive by feminists," according to Benjamin Zand of the BBC, the movement is one meant to "promote equal rights and gender equality," says The Telegraph.

Often defended as

"good-natured," "meninist" tweets today range from asking "Where's men's history month?" as we close out Women's History Month to questioning other physical and social gender double standards to mimicking anti-rape, abortion and domestic violence ads and campaigns from "the man's perspective," according to BuzzFeed News.

The punchline: the gender gap still exists, even for us millennials, and statistically, women lose almost every time. "Meninism" is not a Twitter movement but the society in which we live.

According to a 2014 report in Forbes, "college-educated women working full time were paid an unexplained 7 percent less than their male counterparts were paid one year after graduation."

Male figures dominate leadership positions, boardrooms and media - a study by the Women's Media Center last year found that a whopping 63 percent of bylines in today's journalism (those controlling our news intake) are owned by men.

While we question the lack of men's history month, let's remember that history was predominately written by white males - it's been less than a century since American women even won the right to vote for our country's leader. A majority of our history is taught through the male lens by

default. Laughing, yet?

It's 2015, and while there's no denying progress has been made, in the words of James Brown, "it's a man's man's world" and when the reality of any marginalized group is belittled and mocked, we are only moving backward in progression and time.

Is misandry or ignoring male inequity the answer? Absolutely not - the world is cruel to all. In fact, a TODAY Show study examining the male body image found nearly two-thirds of American men to be "dissatisfied with looks" or their body - a growing trend often ignored in male culture.

Instead, we must work to build up and support a group's struggle or concern - not belittle them through near-sighted stabs at humor.

At the 26th GLAAD Media Awards on March 21, Scandal actress Kerry Washington may have said it best:

"We can't say that we believe in each other's fundamental humanity and then turn a blind eye to the reality of each others existence and the truth of each other's hearts. We must be allies...to be represented is to be humanized. And as long as anyone, anywhere is being made to feel less human, our very definition of humanity is at stake and we are all vulnerable."

It's the truth, and that's no joke.



THE OAKLAND POST

Address 61 Oakland Center,
Rochester, MI 48306
Phone 248.370.4263
Web www.oaklandpostonline.com
Email editor@oaklandpostonline.com

editorial board

Oona Goodin-Smith
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-4268

Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor
managing@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-2537

Salwan Georges
Photo Editor
photos@oaklandpostonline.com
248-991-7574

sections

Kayla Varicalli Campus &
Administration Editor
campus@oaklandpostonline.com

LeeAnn Brown Life, Arts &
Entertainment Editor
life@oaklandpostonline.com

Jackson Gilbert Sports Editor
sports@oaklandpostonline.com

Sean Gardner Web Editor
web@oaklandpostonline.com

Selah Fischer Blog Editor
scfische@oakland.edu

reporters

Scott Davis Staff Reporter
Kaleigh Jerzykowski Staff Reporter
Melissa Deatsch Staff Reporter
Kevin Teller Staff Reporter
Erica Marracco Staff Reporter
Grace Turner Staff Reporter
Kristen Davis Staff Reporter
Shelby Tankersley Staff Reporter
Cheyenne Kramer Staff Reporter
Shana Bosley Intern
Jimmy Halmhuber Intern
Haylee Sugameli Intern

distribution

Parker Simmons
Distribution Director

Brian Murray Distribution Manager
Jacob Chessrown Senior Distributor
Austin Simmons Distribution
Jessica Peters Distribution
Danya Youssef Distribution
Alicia Pemberton Distribution
Alexis Cantwell Distribution
Christian Hiltz Distribution

advising

Holly Gilbert
Editorial Adviser
248.370.4138

Don Ritenburgh
Business Adviser
248.370.2533

Facebook facebook.com/theoakpost
Twitter @theoaklandpost
YouTube youtube.com/oaklandpostonline
Issuu issue.com/op86

copy & visual

Josh Soltman Chief Copy Editor
Nicolette Brikho Copy Editor
Megan Carson Copy Editor
Morgan Dean Copy Editor
Elena Simovski Copy Editor

Kelly Lara Graphic Designer

Danielle Cojocari Photographer
Nowshin Chowdhury Photographer
Erika Barker Photographer
Dave Jackson Intern

Torri Mathes Videographer

advertising

Hailee Milka
Ads & Promotions Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.2848

Lauren Peralta
Assistant Ads Manager

Kerry Zhu
Administrative Assistant

Enjoy reading The Post?

Why not
Work for The Post?

The Oakland Post is
currently looking for
photographers, reporters
and interns.

Send your resume to
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
for more information.

Corrections Corner

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

Letters to the Editor

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



follow us on Twitter
[@theoaklandpost](https://twitter.com/theoaklandpost)



find us on Facebook
facebook.com/theoakpost

Letter to the Editor: Post headline was offensive

Student 'found the title to be very ignorant and offensive' for last week's Alpha Lambda Delta story

Alexandra Hudas

Health science major, junior

To whom it may concern:
I am currently a full-time student here at Oakland University.

I am writing to you about a recent article I have read in the Oakland Post that was published on March 25, 2014.

This article in question discusses Alpha Lambda Delta, the national collegiate honors society around the country, and how Oakland University's chapter has reached record-breaking membership.

While I applaud Alpha Lambda Delta's achievements and found the article very well-written, I also found the title to be very ignorant and offensive.

Being a Greek-affiliated woman here at OU, I often face deep discrimination around

campus and in society in general.

Greek life is often clouded with the stereotype that all people do is party, participate in illegal drugs and do not care about their studies whatsoever.

While some people, Greek and non-Greek, do participate in these risky behaviors and activities, a very large majority affiliated with a Greek association do not. Though you won't see this often in the news, Greek life, especially here at OU, is extremely passionate about philanthropy and helping out the community. Just take a quick look on facebook or on our social media pages, and you can find us participating in food drives, blood drives, and other charitable events- all while sporting our letters proudly with a smile.

In addition, our academics are

extremely important to us, and many fraternities and sororities have GPA requirements that their members must follow and maintain in order to participate in events.

I am extremely disappointed that the Oakland Post has chosen a title for an article that perpetuates such a false stereotype.

In addition to my sorority, I am also an active member of the OU Honors college and currently working on my senior thesis proposal to graduate. I am also a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and have a higher than average GPA of 3.7 as a Health Science major with a double minor in Exercise Science and Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention. I am also involved in the OU Center for Multicultural Initiatives, working as a Peer Mentor.

I place my academics in high regard and try my best in every class I take. I know many of my sisters, as well as members of other Greek organizations, have a similar work ethic and have the same, if not higher, GPAs. With a statement like "Geek not Greek," how can you expect us to ever gain the respect we deserve?

I am also disappointed in Alpha Lambda Delta for making such shirts. As a member of their organization, the slogan makes me feel isolated and banished from my own academic community. I do not understand why an academic community that prides itself on their increase in membership and service would condone such a such a discriminating slogan.

I know many Greek people who are also members of Alpha Lambda Delta, as well as the

Honors College, who succeed in and out of the classroom in leadership positions.

However, many people who are uneducated about Greek life will probably never know this because of our stereotype in popular media. We deserve respect for our achievements just like our non-Greek peers.

I hope you take this into consideration when writing your next article. This in no way hinders my love of reading the Oakland Post, nor does it hinder my respect for Alpha Lambda Delta.

However, I feel like this is an issue that continues to be downplayed time and time again. I can only hope that one day people will actually take into account the positive service and academic success that Greeks are achieving around the world- not just the negative.

Classifieds

61 Oakland Center, Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48306

Rates:
\$0.35 per word (\$7 min.)
Unlimited Frequency
STUDENT DISCOUNTS!

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Beautiful 1 And 2 Bedroom Apartments Available

- Located 2 Miles From Oakland University
- Rent Includes Water And Parking (1 Bedroom Includes Heat)
- Each Apartment Has Central Air Conditioning
- On-site Laundry
- On The Bus Line

Student Discount Available

www.orchard10.com

Call 248.474.3375 Or Email: mlchudnow@gmail.com



HIRING FULL AND PARTTIME

Classic Lanes in Rochester Hills is hiring for full and part-time positions. Hiring all Positions - to include: Servers, Bartenders, Customer Attendants, Kitchen Help. Experience preferred, but will train the right candidates. Must be self-directed, follow directions well and have a friendly disposition.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS - PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON 2145 Avon Industrial Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309. 248-852-9100
✉ myclassiclanes.com

VALET DRIVERS WANTED

NOW HIRING VALET DRIVERS

Join our team! Car parkers wanted for Oakland, Macomb & Wayne counties.

\$9 an hour with opportunities to advance.

Must have clean driving record and pass background check/drug testing. Have fun while making money! 248-804-9115.

VALET PARKING ATTENDANTS WANTED

Valet parking attendants, must be 21 or older, must know how to drive a stick-shift, must have a clean record (248) 740-0900 or apply online at <http://first-classvalet.com/valet-parking/employment-application/>

Books
Cars
Garage Sales
Rent

Babysitting
Help Wanted
Carpools
Misc., etc.

Request to include a picture or additional formatting as needed!

*All advertising submitted for publication in The Oakland Post is subject to acceptance by the newspaper, and The Oakland Post reserves the right to reject copy at its sole discretion at any time prior to publication.

Madonna's opinion of hometown may be spot on

Growing up in upper class suburbia isn't as peachy as it seems

Recently, pop music star Madonna travelled across the country speaking to national media about her upcoming tour and release of her new studio album, *Rebel Heart*.



Garrett Kolodziej
Communication major, senior

Madonna paid a visit to radio icon Howard Stern's talk program, discussing everything from David Letterman to donuts and even past lovers.

She was also asked to speak on her thoughts about her hometown of Rochester, MI.

While this wasn't the most important question, it became the most controversial portion of the interview causing a social media uproar locally.

People don't seem to think that Madonna has any right to ridicule the place she grew up.

Contrary to popular belief, the pop star exposes a very fatal flaw about the city and region we live in.

Although she attended school at Rochester Adams High, her family lived in Pontiac.

Madonna spent much of her childhood as a free spirit with parents who encouraged her to not be bound by conventional beliefs.

Much of the area that surrounds Pontiac can be characterized as upscale, wealthy white-collar families.

It's also guided by a conservative mind frame suggesting safe neighborhoods and discourages suspicious and urban influences on children.

As a child, I can't fathom the idea of having to channel my beliefs and lifestyle at a school and an area that simply disregards this behavior as reckless and outlandish.

Yet, the entire city of Rochester and Metro Detroit is turning their back simply because she doesn't want to be guided by this false sense of reality.

I do believe that she saw "biased and provincial" thinking when she was a

"It's okay to be critical of outsiders, but to completely disregard one opinion because you don't love the city or understand the person doesn't mean you're wrong."

Garrett Kolodziej
Communication major, senior

child.

She chose not to partake in a frame of mind that has left Rochester/Detroit and the surrounding region the butting joke of America.

Thinking like this has only left Michigan with a slew of political, social and racial problems.

It's okay to be critical of outsiders, but to completely disregard one opinion because you don't love the city or understand the person doesn't mean you're wrong.

It just means the people of Rochester are too naïve to think that all white kids with no harsh upbringing in an upper class environment don't want to be cosmopolitan.

We're all different, and with a culturally diverse region like Metro Detroit, there should be some applauding her.

Not many kids get the opportunity to live a privileged life.

There are many of those kids, like myself, however, that don't care to have material things.

The residents of Rochester want you to think otherwise.

It certainly doesn't help when you have a Mayor publicly bashing someone and feeding into the stereotypes commonly associated with outlying suburban towns like Rochester.

It will take some time for Rochester residents to learn how to think for themselves and not the group.

The digital generation we live in gives us an instant voice, and one that is clearly rescinding any support for the pop star locally.

She will most certainly lose fan support, but I don't think she cares. And neither should you, the audience.

Madonna stirred the pot locally with these comments.

Now it's time for everyone to start eradicating this problem of groupthink and become a better community for all.

APPLY FOR WEST STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.
JUST A PASSION FOR
MAKING THE OAKLAND
EXPERIENCE BETTER.

VISIT OAKLAND.EDU/SPB TO APPLY

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT CURRENT SPB CHAIR
RYLIN PLOE AT 248-370-4296 OR REPLOE@OAKLAND.EDU



WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

Submit an opinion column to
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
and you could see it in print.

Be sure to provide contact information,
class standing and field of study.

Campus

Grizzlies on the Prowl



“What’s your favorite April Fool’s prank?”



Christina Pulidindi, freshman, biomedical sciences

“Last year, me and my friend covered my other friend’s car in colorful post-its. She wasn’t mad, she was kind of expecting it and it was funny.”



Evan Towne, senior, psychology

“A few years ago, I rubber-banded the sink hose and my dad tried to turn the water on and it sprayed all over him. He was kind of mad because it was 6:30 in the morning when he turned it on.”



Hannah Dugan, junior, communication and psychology

“Every year, my friends and I do the same prank on the same friend. We tape the entrance door with newspapers and then when she finally opens the door, crumpled newspapers fall on her. She finds it funny though.”



JoJo Marino, sophomore, business

“The fake sneeze prank when you spray someone with water when they’re not looking and make a sneezing sound.”

— Compiled by Nowshin Chowdhury, photographer

POLICE FILES

Vandenberg employee reports assault and battery

An OUPD officers responded to call reporting an assault on a housing employee in West Vandenberg at about 3:45 a.m. on March 26.

The employee said she had encountered a drunk student rummaging through a trash can in a trash room. She requested his ID and he gave it to her. When she did not give it back, the student became aggressive, grabbing her shoulders and grabbing at her hand for the ID. He shortly gave up and left his ID and the building.

The employee does not want to prosecute the student, but stated that she felt uncomfortable with him being in the same building as her.

Marijuana found in Hamlin Hall

On March 27 around 7 p.m., OUPD officers were dispatched to Hamlin Hall to investigate a complaint of marijuana odor.

After knocking on the door they believed the smell was coming from, the officers were greeted by a student with bloodshot and red, watery eyes. The student and his friend both admitted to having been smoking marijuana. The officers asked if there was any in the room and they replied that there was. In the room, the officers discovered the leftovers of two hand-rolled joints, a marijuana grinder and more marijuana in a duffle bag.

Citations were issued to both students for marijuana use. All evidence was collected by the officers.

Students caught tampering with fire suppression system

A fire systems inspector informed the OUPD that someone had been tampering with the fire suppression system in the Engineering Center March 24.

After viewing surveillance video, OUPD officers located and confronted the suspects. They admitted what they had done but stated that they had no idea the know they had turned was a part of the fire suppression system.

Since there was no damage and no intent to sabotage the system, the students were not criminally charged.

— Compiled by Megan Carson, Copy Editor

Time for a new ride?



Visit OU Credit Union for rates as low as **2.45% APR.**
With our low rates, you’ll save money while upgrading your ride.

www.oucreditunion.org • 248-364-4708



APR is Annual Percentage Rate.
Visit website for details.





Courtesy of The Oakland Post

Multiple police departments responded to a "be on the lookout" (BOL) message on Wednesday, March 25.

False alarm wakes up campus

OUPD responds to call for backup from Auburn Hills police

Kaylee Kean
Staff Reporter

Two people were pulled over on campus Wednesday, March 25 in an investigation on an armed robbery in Pontiac. They were not the suspects.

Around 9:41 a.m. a tan minivan was pulled over outside of Wilson Hall, according to Oakland University Chief of Police Mark Gordon.

Police cars from OU, Oakland County and Auburn Hills departments surrounded the scene as officers handcuffed the male driver of the van.

According to witnesses he was detained for over 15 minutes until police figured out he was not the suspect.

Earlier in the morning an armed robbery had occurred on Perry Street in Pontiac, according to Gordon. The Oakland County Sheriff's Department was investigating and sent out a "be on the lookout" (BOL) alert to other area departments.

The BOL said to watch out for a tan minivan and male driver.

Auburn Hills police saw the

van and followed it to campus, according to Gordon, contacting OUPD for backup and pulling the van over outside on Wilson Blvd.

"The driver matched the description, the vehicle matched the description on the armed robbery," Gordon said.

More cars began to arrive: four from the Auburn Hills department, two from the Oakland County Sheriff's department and two from the OUPD.

"They had him get on his knees and they handcuffed him and put him in a car," said Latasha Curry, accounting clerk in Student Business Services.

She said she was walking to her office in Wilson when she noticed the lights and cars.

"Initially it looked like it was a traffic stop," Curry said. "There was no speeding or anything, no sirens."

But soon officers were using their cruiser doors as shields and had guns drawn as the driver got out of the car. He put his hands up and slowly walked away from the van, according to Curry.

The passenger of the van, a young female, was also asked out of the vehicle and pulled over to speak with officers.

After speaking with the woman, police took the handcuffed man out of the police car and brought him into the entrance

of Wilson, where they spoke for "quite a while."

Precautionary measures

It could have been a potentially dangerous situation, Gordon said, so the highest measures of precaution were taken.

Once officers realized the man was not the suspect, they released him, apologized and thanked them for their cooperation.

"That was it," Gordon said. "It was unfortunate that this happened, it was the wrong person, and as soon as they knew that they had the wrong person they let him go."

Curry said it was a scary and surreal thing to watch.

"You know what's crazy?" she said. "I left because I mentor in high school in Pontiac and I was coming down Perry and that street shut off because they had maybe three cars blocking off."

"You know that (OUPD) is associated with the Auburn Hills Police Department, but you just don't think of anything serious happening on campus."

None of the departments identified the people who were pulled over.

Jackson Gilbert, sports editor, and Salwan Georges, photo editor, contributed to this story.

Culvert report: rebuilding the deteriorating pipe

Construction on new culvert and bridge to begin this summer

Shelby Tankersley
Staff Reporter

Over the last 50 years, a culvert, or pipe, has been slowly deteriorating underneath Meadow Brook Rd. OU plans to do some construction to fix it over the summer.

They were tossing around the idea of just building a bridge across the road, but they decided on building a new culvert to replace the one that is already there. The section that will be under construction is on the hill that leads to the apartments.

"The bridge would be completed by September 2016. The culvert will be completed by October 2015," John Beaghan, vice president for Finance and Administration, said.

In August 2014, the OU made repairs to the culvert, but it appears that the emergency supports won't hold out for another year, so they had to make this decision rather quickly. They also had to take into account what would be best for the students.

Since the bridge won't be completed until September 2016, it will block off a heavily trafficked area of OU's roads. It would particularly inconvenience those who live in the apartments.

On top of that, building a

new culvert is significantly cheaper than a bridge.

"The bridge cost would be approximately \$5.1 million. The culvert cost is approximately \$2.9 million," Beaghan said. "At this cost differential, there is no advantage to building a bridge, which is why the board approved the culvert proposal."

Unfortunately, since the culvert isn't planned to be finished until October, that portion of Meadow Brook Rd. will be closed when students come back to school. For residents who do a lot of driving, this might not be the welcome back they are hoping for.

"I leave campus four or five times a week," sophomore Erin Worman said.

For students who leave campus often for either work or recreational reasons, the new construction may leave them leaving later than they hoped.

"It would make things inconvenient, but I leave during times when it isn't a high traffic area," Worman said. "When classes get out, it will probably make it difficult to leave campus when so many other people are leaving at the same time."

Though it might make driving at the beginning of the school year a hassle, the new construction will ensure that Meadow Brook Rd. remains a safe place to drive. After all, the emergency supports won't hold out forever.



Erika Barker / The Oakland Post

Construction crews working on the new bridge and culvert project should be finished by the start of the fall 2016 semester.

Rochester Hills mayor's open reply to Madonna's hometown jibes goes viral

Kayla Varicalli
Campus & Administration
Editor

From writing a letter to Madonna in his bed to landing a five-minute interview on CNN, Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett quickly found himself — and his letter — in the public eye.

Shortly after the letter went viral, he visited OU's Ethics in the Media class on Thursday, March 26. Students took the opportunity to ask Barnett his motives and effects of his come-back letter to Madonna.

It all began when Madonna originally called residents of her hometown "basic, provincial thinking people" in an interview with Howard Stern.

Her comments didn't sit well with Barnett. On Sunday, March 16, he wrote a letter to explain to Madonna how Rochester Hills is anything but simple-minded.

"I spent about 25 minutes at

home writing this in my boxers," Barnett said. "My goal was to have it run in The Oakland Press as an opinion piece, but then it just blew up."

Barnett wrote the letter with hopes of publishing in three local newspapers and newsletters. Shortly after releasing the letter though, his come-back went viral.

"All you need is one small news outlet to make it a critical news story," OU's media relations director Brian Bierley said.

Within 24 hours, Barnett was interviewed from media outlets across the country. After interviewing with the local television stations, national news picked up the letter within three days, looking to speak with Barnett.

"She is a brilliant publicist and marketer," Barnett said. "As I look back at it, she needed someone like me to write a note because it kept her very relevant last week."

"My goal was to have it run in The Oakland Press as an opinion piece, but then it just blew up."

Bryan Barnett
Mayor of Rochester Hills

With the nation's eyes on Barnett and the city, he used his knowledge in public relations to shed a positive light on Rochester Hills.

Barnett said the letter's large audience brought exposure to Rochester Hill's up-and-coming community and the constructive changes the city has seen since Madonna walked the streets in 1978.

Since the letter came out, there has been a 90 percent increase in traffic on the city's website, Barnett said. Positive feedback has served as 95 per-



Dave Jackson / The Oakland Post

Mayor Bryan Barnett of Rochester Hills' letter to Madonna concerning her jibes at his town, went viral and has brought the city into focus.

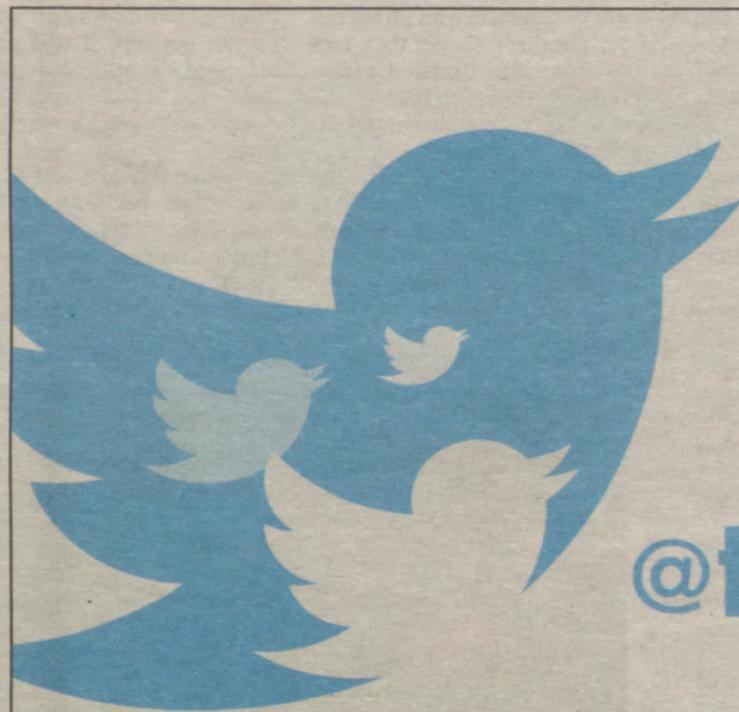
cent of the responses given.

The Rochester Hills' mayor also found a large spotlight on himself. Though he turned most of the attention to this city, Barnett focused on writing a positive letter to Madonna and strongly backing up his decision.

"She's a global superstar who could crush me," he said. "I had one shot at Madonna so I wanted it to be appropriate."

Though Barnett's letter invited the Michigan-native singer back to the city, Madonna has not responded. Even with no celebrity rebuttal, Barnett said he is satisfied with the encouraging publicity.

"The news doesn't generally come to mayors of my size cities and say 'tell us how great our town is,'" he said. "Thanks to Madonna, we got that positive coverage."



Follow us on Twitter!
@theoaklandpost

Paying the ultimate price for cheap oil



Erika Barker / The Oakland Post

Michigan drivers have been enjoying the lower cost of gasoline as average prices dropped.

UCLA professor talks gas, geopolitics at political science lecture

Melissa Deatsch
Staff Reporter

One year ago today the Detroit Metro area was fueling their cars with an average price of gas at about \$3.62. Today Michiganders find themselves with the average price of gas more than a dollar cheaper at \$2.43, according to The Daily Fuel Gauge Report.

This past year has seen a fairly steady decline in gas prices across the country. For car owners, including Oakland's commuter-dominated campus, this has come as a relief after suffering the high prices of 2011-2013.

Across the globe, however, many experts are breathing the same sigh of relief, including professor Michael L. Ross.

Ross is a professor of Political Science at the University of California Los Angeles. His 2012 book, "The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Oil Shapes the Development of Nations," was named an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice Magazine.

The Oakland Political Science department hosted Professor Ross this past Thursday for a lecture on international affairs. Ross spoke on the geopolitics of oil and the global effect of cheaper oil prices.

Professor Matthew Fails, associate professor in the political science department, said the department chose Ross because of his expertise on a unique topic.

"Oil has profound political consequences," Fails said. "We are currently in the midst of historic declines in the price of oil, which presents the possibility that these effects might become magnified."

Ross mentioned that the topic of gas

prices in the United States has become a very sensitive issue—such a sensitive issue that the federal tax on gasoline hasn't been raised since 1993.

Ross, along with many politicians and economists, feels that with gas prices currently so low, now is the time to raise the federal gas tax without causing too much damage to the economy.

"We need to get off fossil fuels. There are no two ways around it," Ross said. Having high oil prices lowers the amount of fossil fuels emitted, and "governments aren't doing what they should be doing and taking into account climate change."

On top of the issue of climate change, Ross sees another main global effect of cheaper oil prices. There can be no discussion on the global effect of oil prices that doesn't address the Middle East.

Before oil was found, most of those countries were so poor they were barely even countries. Their government's control comes from their immense wealth of oil, so when prices fall it means more chaos in the Middle East.

However it may not be all bad, countered Ross. Ross stated in his lecture that lately we have seen most countries attempting to be internationally cooperative, except the key oil exporting countries. The countries dependent on oil imports are very likely to cooperate but the oil exporting countries are the ones with control.

A drop in oil prices may force an increase in cooperation from oil exporting countries.

There is no telling where the price of oil will go next. The price of oil is so sensitive to changes in supply and demand it is almost impossible to forecast. Ross explained that if there's one thing history has told us, it's that oil prices are not likely to stay steady.

"Prices may look low now but what they are, are volatile," Ross said.

IT'S LATE. ← DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR WINGS ARE?

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR

SUNDAY - FRIDAY ★ 9 PM - CLOSE

\$1 OFF ALL TALL DRAFTS

\$2 SELECT SHOTS

\$3 PREMIUM LIQUOR SPECIALS

\$3 SELECT APPETIZERS



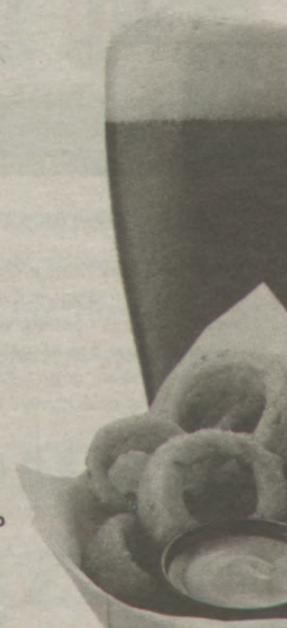
**BUFFALO
WILD
WINGS**
WINGS. KICK. SPORT.

1234 WALTON RD.
ROCHESTER HILLS
248.651.3999

[f/buffalorochesterhills](#)

770 N LAPEER RD
LAKE ORION
248.814.8600

[f/buffalolakeorion](#)



KEEPING YOU POSTED 24/7



follow us on Twitter
[@theoaklandpost](#)



watch us on YouTube
[youtube.com/theoaklandpostonline](#)



find us on Facebook
[facebook.com/theoakpost](#)

[www.oaklandpostonline.com](#)



Photographs courtesy of Anthony Spak

RIGHT Patrick Matz is the unofficial 'Mayor of The Oakland Center'. No matter what is needed, whether it be a fresh garbage bag, directions towards a free scantron, or just a sympathetic ear, The Mayor is always there for OU students.

ABOVE Matz sports a unique OU license plate, highlighting himself as "Mayor".



'The Mayor' tells it like it is

Custodial veteran Patrick Martz is the Oakland Center's unofficial mayor

Anthony Spak
Special to the Post

Be good to The Mayor and The Mayor will be good to you," Luke Philips, a wise former WXOU employee told me on the first day of my new job at the station.

A question arose.

The mayor...of what?

Patrick Martz has been a daytime custodian in the Oakland Center since 2001. However, some of those who know him best refer to him as "The Mayor," or just "Mayor," of the building.

"I was elected by the people," Mayor says with a grin on his face one day as we talk in the WXOU office, referring to the origins of his name.

Mike Parsons, a former assistant program director at WXOU in 2007, remembers giving Martz the nickname during a walk the two shared in the Oakland Center.

"It seemed like he said something to everyone who walked by," Parsons re-

calls. "I turned to him and said, 'What are you? The Mayor of the Oakland Center?'"

Eight years later, students still use the nickname and Mayor is still as friendly as ever.

"Pat knows what's up," student body Vice President Liz Iwanski says, "He has the name 'The Mayor' for a reason."

Mayor cares about the students he serves, just like a city mayor cares for his or her constituents.

When a student needs a Scantron, Mayor points them towards the Student Congress office for a freebie.

When your office is low on hand sanitizer or needs fresh garbage cans, Mayor is already on his way with a fresh bag.

When there is free food floating around, Mayor can usually point you in the right direction.

"It's the little things," Mayor tells me as I follow him out to clean the back porch area. "I care about you kids and try to help you out."

Mayor also offers guidance to stu-

dents in need just as any good public official would, if they're willing to open up. He doesn't need textbooks or Powerpoints to teach students and set them on the right track. His lessons are delivered face-to-face, in layman's terms.

"I tell you like it is. That's how I live," Mayor says, settling into one of the brown leather chairs of the office. "If you do, people will respect you."

In a university full of scholars, professors aren't the only sources of knowledge. Mayor has given me better advice on life, relationships and success than most of the classroom instructors I've had.

I can tell by his dark steel toe Craftsman work boots tapping on the carpet that Mayor doesn't want to get too comfortable during our conversation. He still has another hour and a half left of his shift and the floors aren't as clean as he'd like them to be.

Before we part, he leaves me with another thought to ponder.

"Next time you see someone who needs help, stop and return the favor."

Other notable Michigan mayors



Mayor Mike Duggan
Deroit's sitting mayor accepted the keys to the city on Jan 1, 2014. A University of Michigan graduate, Duggan has

operationhope.org

been involved as an attorney and a businessman in the Detroit area for the last 32 years.

Mayor Hawthorne

This Michigan musician has been creating some of the finest music in the state. Hawthorne hails from in Ann Arbor and remembers growing up on classic Motor City music. After performing and recording as a solo artist for five years, Hawthorne now performs with DJ Jake One under the name Tuxedo.



soultrain.com



Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick
Dubbed "The Hip Hop" mayor by the local news media, Kilpatrick was elected to office in 2002

vibe.com

with street credibility and youthful appeal. A corrupt city government, taxpayer-funded Cadillac Escalades and a dead stripper followed. His term ended with two felony misconduct charges that stemmed from his inappropriate cell phone relationship with Christine Beatty, Kilpatrick's chief of staff.

— Compiled by Anthony Spak,
Special to the Post