



Tuesday, October 14, 2003

WOCOU kick-off rocks Oakland Center

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The ninth annual **Week of Champions at Oakland University** (WOCOU) got off to a rocking start on Oct. 13, with a birthday celebration, giveaways, and live music in the Oakland Center's Pioneer Food Court. The kick-off for Oakland's annual fall festival is one of many fun-filled events leading up to the fifth annual Midnight Madness on Friday, Oct. 17.

The food court was jammed with students, faculty and staff who sampled free cake and ice cream in honor of OU founder Matilda Wilson's 120th birthday. Students quickly grabbed up WOCOU giveaways such as fold-up Frisbees and bandannas, and a drawing was held for stuffed OU Grizz bears. The Future Alumni Network, a student organization launched by the **Oakland University Alumni Association**, also was on hand offering membership information and student discount directories.

"WOCOU is a great event to bring excitement to the campus," said Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh, who was among the crowd enjoying the festivities. "The turnout for WOCOU events is getting better every year – there's been a dramatic increase in participation. I think Mrs. Wilson would be very excited to know that the students had a big part in making this event happen, and to see how far OU has come since she made her generous donation to found the university. I can't wait for Midnight Madness."

What really got the place rocking was **Poor Boy Music**, a seven-piece local band with a sound they describe as "upbeat, horn-powered rock with pop and punk overtones and humor-based lyrics." The band, which recently returned from a tour of the United Kingdom, features OU student Nate Castle on guitar and lead vocals.

"WOCOU is festive and lots of fun," said junior English major Elizabeth Gerhart, who was also among the attendees. "It's definitely something to shake up your normal studying routine. It's a great way to generate OU spirit, especially on a commuter campus. It's great to see a lot of students watching the band, sampling the food and getting into the spirit of WOCOU."

Check out the **complete WOCOU schedule** online or pick up one at the **Center for Student Activities**, 49 Oakland Center. For more information, contact the Center for Students Activities at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu.

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