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THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

September 6, 2006

www.theoaklandpost.com

50 cents

Here comes the Grizz

By PAUL GULLY
Senior Reporter

After several years of waiting, the much anticipated unveiling of the Grizz statue is finally here. Today, at noon, the Grizz statue will be revealed outside the main entrance of the O'rena. The event, which will feature

refreshments, music, athlete and coach appearances, and speeches, is open to the entire university. The Oakland University Cheer Team, Images Dance Team, OU Pep Band and the Grizz Mascot will all be performing at the event. The road to the O'rena will be blocked off to accommodate the occasion.

"We're hoping to get at least 1,000 people at the event," said Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities. "It will be a great day to hang out, enjoy food, music and more," she said. The idea for the statue was initiated by a group of OU students who wanted the university's mascot displayed on campus to boost school

spirit, according to Mary Beth Snyder, OU's vice president of Student Affairs. After tossing around various ideas, it was decided that Istava'n Ma'te and Lantos Gyorgyi, the parents of a former Grizzly swimmer, Humor Ma'te, would take on the task of sculpting the statue. The Hungarian sculptors are world-

renowned and have several of their pieces displayed in the Vatican. Ma'te and Gyorgyi based their work on a replica, a much smaller statue located in the Student Affairs Office. The life-size Grizz statue is sculpted out of bronze, stands at around eight feet tall and weighs over a ton.

Please see GRIZZ/A2

Wooten bounces out

OU's leading scorer ineligible to play



By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

The regular season doesn't kick off until Nov. 1, but the Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team is already off to a rocky start. Senior Cal Wooten will not be able to suit up for OU for failing to achieve the NCAA's academic standards by way of GPA. "He had every standard with the exception of GPA," head coach Greg Kampe

Please see WOOTEN/A2

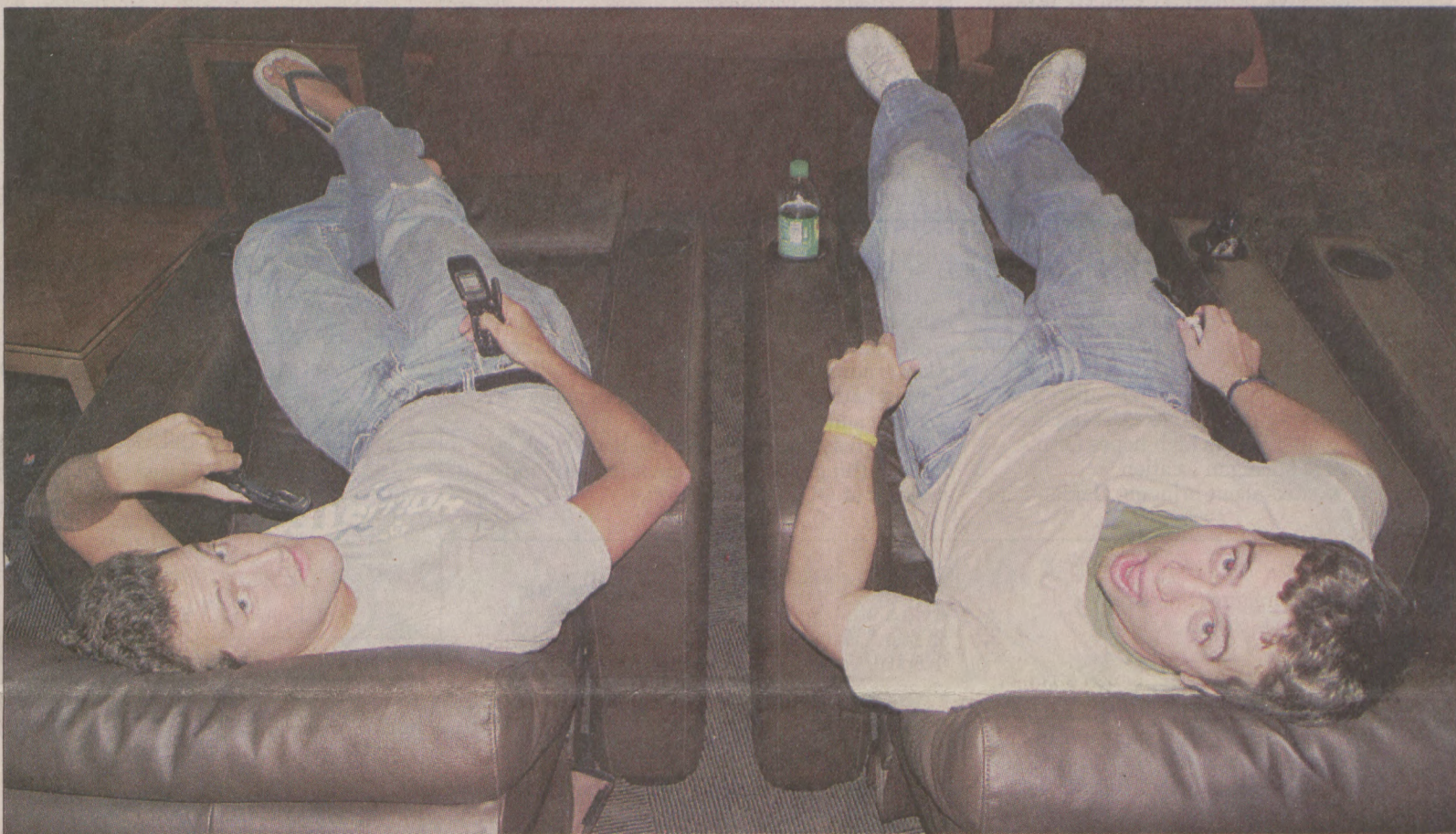


Photo illustration by DAN WILKINSON of The Oakland Post
Students relax on the new recliners in the lower level of the Oakland Center.

After a four-page exam ... or a class from 6:30-9:30 ... or a vigorous workout ...

You may just want to

Kick back and relax

OC gets new look, new nook, new food

By PAUL GULLY
Senior Reporter

When Peter Jankowiak left OU, there wasn't a place on campus where he could watch a big-screen television while seated on a brown, comfortable recliner. But times have since changed, and so has the furniture in the lower level of the Oakland Center. New for this fall, 11 new brown leather recliners were added to the TV Lounge in the bottom floor of the OC. "The new recliners are way more comfortable than the old couches they had in here before," said Jankowiak, who recently transferred back to OU. According to Richard Fekel, director of the Oakland Center, the furniture that was replaced in the lounge was around 15 years old.

"It was time for an update," Fekel said. "The new recliners are definitely more comfortable and better looking." Besides the recliners, new tables and chairs were also added to the lounge area. The idea for the makeover was that of Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of Student Affairs. "I felt that since students were always using the area to study and hang out, that they deserved a friendlier, more relaxing environment," she said. The new furniture was purchased through KI, formerly known as Krueger International, who specialize in office and university furniture. "I think the recliners are excellent," said sophomore Shayna Waldman. "They're very relaxing and a nice place to take a break between classes." However, not everyone was thrilled about the update in the lounge. "I think the recliners themselves are great, but they were a terrible idea," said junior Nicole Spezia. "They're so comfortable that they're going to make me fall asleep and miss class."

Famous Famiglia Pizzeria makes appearance
OU students can now get a taste of the "official pizza of the New York Yankees." This fall, Famous Famiglia Pizzeria was added to the Pioneer Food Court in the Oakland Center. Chartwells Dining Services, who provides most of Oakland University's campus dining, chose to replace Noble Roman's Pizza with New York's award-winning pizzeria. According to Andrew Willows, resident district manager for Chartwells, the change was made because Famous Famiglia had done well at other Chartwells locations. "Famiglia focuses on a high-quality product with great customer service," Willows said. "All of Famous Famiglia pizzas are hand-tossed and are made from the finest ingredients," he added. "Famous Famiglia brings a whole different concept than Noble Roman's. Famiglia's emphasizes quality customer service, where there is face-to-face contact with customers," said Tracy Johnston, retail director for Chartwells OU. Besides the traditional kinds of pizza,

Please see OC/A2

Scholarship awarded to incoming students

By JESSE DUNSMORE
Contributing Reporter

Four future educators are receiving some help with their own education at OU. The Student Leader Success Scholarship will provide \$5,000 per year for five years to four students majoring in elementary education. The scholarship, funded by various donors, was designed and implemented by a committee including representatives from the Dean's Office, the Office of Admissions, the Charter Schools Office, a science education professor, a special education professor and others. Lisa Reeves, assistant dean of Education and Human Services, served as the chairperson of the committee. "The goal here is to retain (the students) so they can graduate," Reeves said in an interview last week. She added that the program is designed to help with the transition from high school and to give the students a very broad experience.

Please see AWARDS/A2

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Open House Raffle Winner: Chelsy Parcelis

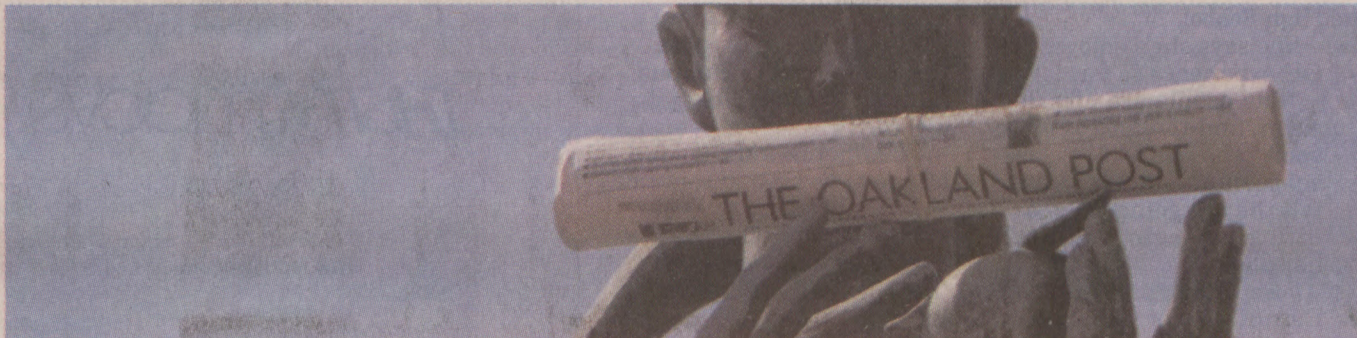


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■ Pondering what to do with your free time? Pick up an issue of The Oakland Post and see what it has to offer

GRIZZ

Cont. from A1

"The statue definitely evokes school spirit and gets you excited to be a Golden Grizzly," said Michael McGuinness, former student body president, one of the few who has already seen the statue. "It's very impressive, to say the least," he said.

The estimated price to do the work was \$750,000, but Ma'te and Gyorgyi agreed to donate their time as long OU paid for the materials and shipping.

"The Ma'te's donation of their artistic skills was a show of appreciation to OU, and particularly the swim team, for welcoming and caring for their son," Miller said.

The estimated cost to the university was around \$1,500 to ship the sculpture from Hungary, and around \$2,000 for materials, which was covered by the Oakland University Student Congress, OU President's Office, Division of Student Affairs and Department of Athletics.

OC

Cont. from A1

Famous Famiglia's will offer several authentic, specialty types of pizza-pie. The "V.I.P." is a stuffed pizza with ham, salami, pepperoni, capicola, onions, peppers and cheese.

For vegetarians, Famiglia's offers a "Pizza Fresca" and a "Primavera" vegetarian pizza, topped with mozzarella cheese, peppers, onions, mushrooms, broccoli, spinach and tomatoes.

Strombolis, calzones, "Golden Grizzly" garlic knots and a variety of salads are offered in addition to pizza.

Sophomore Ryan Guzall, one of the first to try the new pizzeria, said he was impressed. "The staff was great; they very high energy, and the pizza was amazing."

Famous Famiglia was first opened in the Upper Westside of Manhattan by the Italian Kolaj family in 1986. Over the next decade, several more locations were opened throughout New York City.

Over the years, Famous Famiglia earned the title of "New York's favorite pizza."

The pizzeria has appeared on television shows such as The David Letterman Show, The Conan O'Brien Show, The Today Show and Good Morning America.

Famiglia also boasts that it has served pizza to the likes of Adam Sandler, Al Pacino, Bill Cosby and Ray Romano.

Giorgio Kolaj, co-founder and executive vice president of Corporate Business Development for Famous Famiglia, has high hopes for his franchise's first Michigan location.

"I'm very excited about bringing Oakland

According to Snyder, another \$100,000 was spent for the statue's base, benches and surrounding landscaping done around the site.

The university is currently seeking donations to help with the costs.

"It's been a long time coming, but OU will finally have its beautiful Golden Grizzly on display for generations of students to enjoy," Snyder said.

Prior to the statue's unveiling, a ribbon cutting for the new Grizzly Center For Athletes And Champions will be taking place in the Athletics Center at 11:30 a.m.

The center, which will be run by the Student Athletes Support Services, will be open to OU athletes and will provide academic counseling, tutoring, study sessions, a computer lab and other accommodations to ensure academic success.

After the event, the OU community is invited to join in and form a giant "50" to be photographed on the hill across from the Recreation Center. The photo will be used for OU's 50th anniversary celebration that begins in January.

University our authentic New York City brand and quality of pizza."

Bookstore extends services

The Oakland University Bookstore has extended its services with the addition of the Book Nook, located on the first floor of the Oakland Center.

The Book Nook is the result of a service extension agreement that OU has with Barnes and Noble.

According to Debbie Ogg, OU Bookstore manager, the Book Nook will carry exam supplies, pens and pencils, scantrons, magazines and OU clothing.

Due to the lack of actual books at the "Book" Nook, a name change is being contemplated. "We don't want to be misleading with the store's name," Fekel said.

"We're probably going to put a different spin on it, but, as of now, we don't have anything in mind," he said.

The Book Nook will also be a second place where OU students will be able to sell back their books at the end of semesters, which should be a welcomed accommodation.

"It will be nice to have another location for buybacks. Hopefully the lines won't be as long with a second location," said sophomore Lisa Egle.

The new location will also hold the Grad Fair, where graduating OU students can purchase class rings and diploma frames, among other graduation souvenirs.

Store hours will exceed those of the bookstore for added convenience.

"The whole reason behind the Book Nook is to make things more convenient for staff and students at OU," Ogg said.

"I think we're going to have to adjust our style a bit, be a bit more methodical on offense," Kampe said. "I think that Shawn (Hopes), Vova (Severovas) and Rick Billings are going to have to share that scoring load."

OU took off on a Canadian tour last Saturday, and, according to Kampe, "a lot's going to be told there."

"We're going to get some ideas on how we're going to substitute and who's going to be the leading candidate to start that position," he said.

Among the names thrown around were sophomore guard Keith Mackenzie and freshman Jonathon Jones, but Kampe is more focused on getting the team to work as a unit, rather than worrying about a vacant starting role.

"Their names may be on the back of the jersey, but the front of the jersey says 'Oakland,'" he said. "We're going to put five guys out there, and it's a shame that Cal can't be with us. But we're going to move on, and we plan on having a very good year."

In show business, it is said that "the show must go on," and even with Wooten out of the lineup, Kampe is ready for his players to be in the spotlight.

"The strength of our team is going to be depth," he said. "I think we're going to go 10 to 11 players deep and be able to rotate people in and out. But our players are going to have to buy into the fact that we're going to do this by committee."

"I think in the long run we'll be fine. In the short run, it may hurt us a bit, but in the long run we'll be okay."

WOOTEN

Cont. from A1

said. "It's not a matter of him not being able to get it done, because he's four classes away from graduation. NCAA rules are tough, and you have to follow them."

Being a transfer student from Rutgers last season, this year would have been Wooten's last season of eligibility.

Wooten, who led OU with 19.2 points per game last season, played a key role in the Golden Grizzlies' offense and was the Mid-Con Newcomer of the Year.

Wooten also made history when he dropped 40 points against Valparaiso last season, which were the highest amount of points scored by a Golden Grizzly in a game since 2001, when Mark Helms raked in 45.

Though Wooten will no longer be wearing OU black and gold, basketball still looks to be in his future.

"He's very close to getting his degree," Kampe said. "What we're working on is getting him to Europe this year, so he can play in Europe, then come back next spring and we can try and help him finish up."

"Obviously it's not great that he isn't going to be able to play, but more importantly, he's got to get that degree so we'll do everything we can to help."

With their leading scorer gone, the Golden Grizzlies now need to take a second look at their playbook.

AWARDS

Cont. from A1

The scholarship can be used to pay for any of the students' school-related expenses, she said.

According to Reeves, applications for the scholarship were made available to incoming freshmen from local urban high schools who had specified elementary education as their major.

The applicants were judged by several criteria, including high school GPA, volunteer service, their answers to essay questions and their references.

The four recipients of the scholarship are Chelsea Davis of Heritage High School in Saginaw, and Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences graduates Akosua Johnson, Dominique Joseph and Allisia Posey.

Davis worked in a classroom of developmentally delayed children at Arrowhead Elementary.

She led the children in a variety of activities designed to aid in their physical and emotional development, including a singing and

movement class.

"I loved it there," she said.

Chelsea described the last hour of each day with the children as "playtime," and said that was when she was really able to connect with the kids.

"I can't believe how much my heart opened up with them," she said.

Johnson was also recognized for her work with young people. For two years, she worked with children at her church, Christian Tabernacle, in Southfield.

It was "kind of like a babysitting job," she said.

Akosua also participated in a reading program at the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences Elementary School, and served as a life guard assistant at Henry Ford High School.

She says she's enjoyed her OU experience so far.

"The people are nice, it's clean, and the food is good," she said. "(My classes) seem OK so far. I can tell they're going to be a little challenging, but I can handle it."

Joseph took part in Detroit's Motor City

Makeover program.

In addition to cleaning city parks in March, April and June, she also did volunteer work at nursing homes, day-care centers and recreation centers. "I always wanted to work with kids," she said, adding that she regularly babysat her nieces and nephews.

Dominique, who is taking classes five days a week, said she was excited but also described her experience at Oakland so far as "a little scary."

"I'm not used to the big class atmosphere," she said.

Posey served as National Honor Society secretary and vice president of her graduating class.

She hopes to stay just as busy in college.

She said she wants to join a choir, play a sport, involve herself in campus ministry and possibly join a sorority.

"I really like kids. It's fun for me to be around someone who wants to learn," Posey said, explaining her interest in elementary education. "It's about giving back to others."

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AAUP: Strike's out for now

By JEFF KRANTZ
Managing Editor

Oakland University students narrowly avoided an extended summer vacation last week when the faculty — organized under the American Association for University Professors — and the administration reached a tentative deal for a new collective bargaining agreement.

A deal was made late last Tuesday evening — the day

before the start of fall classes — following an informational picket at the New Student Convocation that took place in the afternoon.

Professor Elizabeth Barclay, a member of the AAUP Bargaining Forum, told The Post that the union will have two membership meetings to discuss the changes before voting to ratify the agreement.

Barclay said those meetings will likely take place later this month, and that the AAUP's

Web site, www.oaklandaaup.org, will be updated as new information develops.

"If we ratify, then the board of trustees will take it up, we're hoping, at the October meeting," Barclay said Tuesday.

The most recent contract expired on Aug. 14, and both sides had been heavily engaged in discussion to get the issue resolved before the start of classes.

Revisions to the review procedure had been at the forefront of

the argument, according to Barclay.

The professors were approved for a three-year deal, with most of them receiving a raise of 3 percent.

A further summary of the agreement can be found at the union's Web site.

"The membership will indicate their satisfaction by voting yes or no," Barclay said. "I believe it is a fair agreement."

The university administration was not available for comment.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"I learned three important things in college — to use a library, to memorize quickly and visually, to drop asleep at any time given a horizontal surface and fifteen minutes."

Martin H. Fischer (1879-1962)
German-born physician and author

WORD ON THE STREET

mouse potato (n.): a person who spends a great deal of time using a computer (This word will be added to the 2006 edition of Merriam Webster.)

If you haven't already ...

It's a good time to get booked

By ERIN MALLARD
Features Editor

Fall is near, which means leaves are falling from trees and money is falling from your pockets.

The OU Financial Aid Web site estimates the average cost of books and supplies per semester for a full-time undergraduate student at \$517.50. Ouch.

This semester, as you make your important fall purchases — gel pens for love note doodling, the latest iPod for droning profs, etc. — ease your sticker-shock agony with these textbook buying tips.

The best time to buy textbooks is before the semester begins.

However, if you were hoping the professors' strike would shut down the school, or were waiting to see if you could share a book with your cute lab partner, it's still not too late to visit the campus bookstore.

"The earlier the better, because used books go fast," said Debbie Ogg, campus bookstore manager.

Used books at the campus bookstore, which is a division of Barnes and Noble, usually cost around 25 percent less than new books.

Ogg also recommends ordering your books from the store online, at www.whyywaitforbooks.com, to avoid fall rush altogether.

They can then be picked up at the store or shipped to you — for an extra \$6.95 for one book, \$1.95 for each additional book.

Alternative shopping

A popular alternative to the campus bookstore is Textbook Outlet, a "Got Used" bookstore, located in the plaza with Buddy's Pizza on the corner of Walton and Squirrel. According to the "Got Used" Web site, www.gotused.com, "since each store is independent, they're not under the control of The Man like your campus bookstore might be."

According to the store's key accounting person, Tom Korotko, used books at Textbook Outlet usually cost 70 to 75 percent less than new books.

Currently, books can't be purchased from Textbook Outlet online, but according to Korotko, this service could become available next semester.

"We're in the process of putting up a Web site corporate wide," he said.

Students can also come in before the start of the semester and request books to ensure that used copies are available.

Korotko encourages new students to ask for help when visiting the bookstore, as they have a tendency to pick up the wrong books.

Even if the employees look swamped, "we'd rather sell the right book first, even if it takes longer," he said.

Comparison shopping

Both Textbook Outlet and the campus bookstore will match their competitor's prices, although Ogg explained that this does not include online competitors.

If you think you may have seen a book cheaper at another store, they will call that store to verify the price and sell it to you at the discounted price.

Comparison shopping will help you get the most books for your buck.

For example, one of the required texts for English 386, Creative Non-Fiction workshop, is a novel called Angela's Ashes.

The book is available at both the

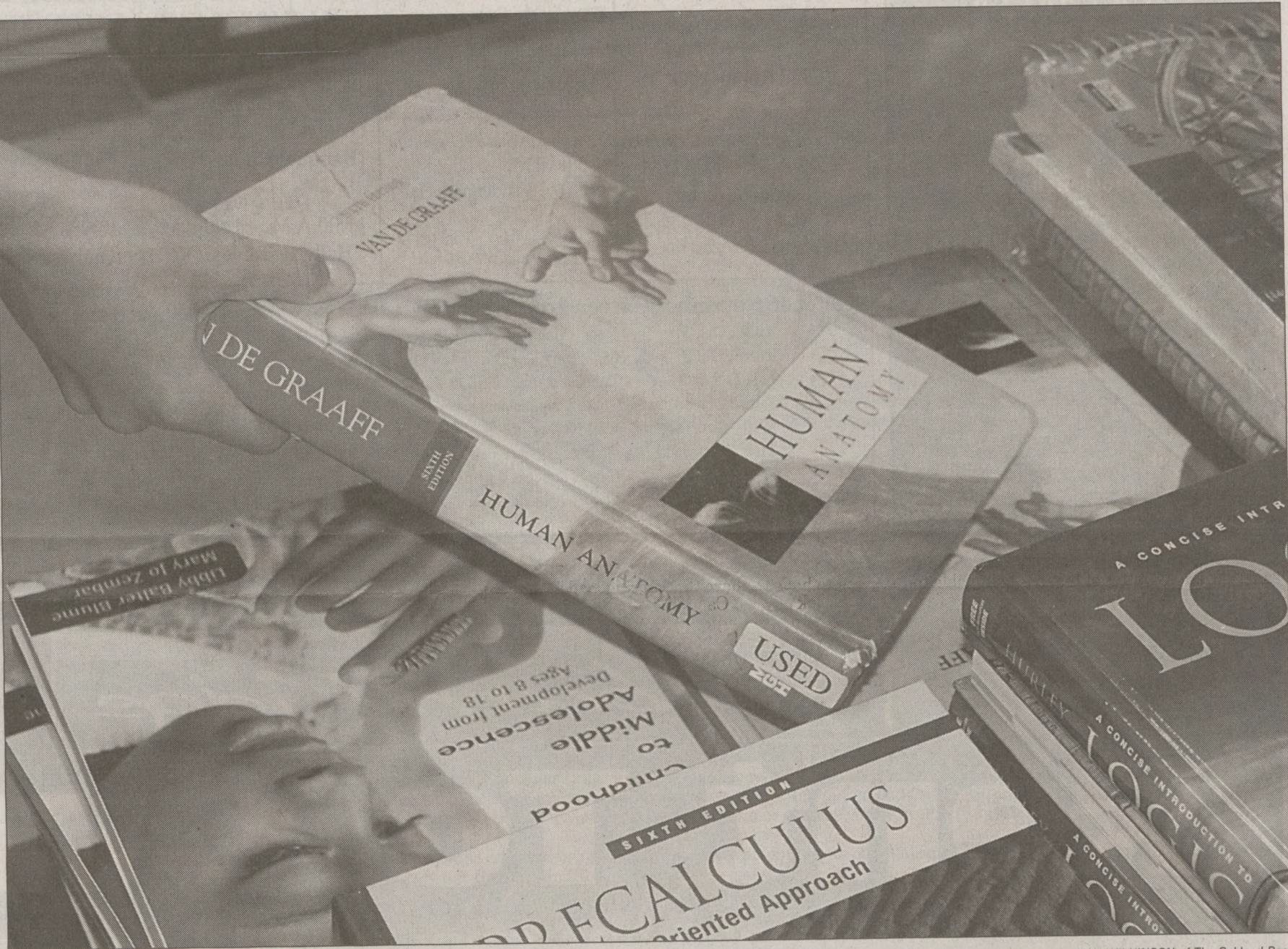


Photo illustration by DAN WILKINSON of The Oakland Post

campus bookstore and Textbook Outlet.

At Textbook Outlet, the book can be purchased for \$15.25 new, or \$12 used.

At the campus bookstore, the book costs less: \$14.95 for a new copy, \$11.25 used.

Compared to the new price of \$15.25, \$11.25 sounds like a steal.

Don't be fooled, it's not.

Welcome to the 21st century, folks, and the World Wide Web.

A "used-like new" copy of Angela's Ashes can be purchased on Amazon.com starting at \$0.01. That's right, a penny.

Can you even buy gum for a penny anymore?

Shipping for the book is \$3.49, which is still significantly cheaper than the new price at Textbook Outlet.

Sophomore Tanisha Campbell bought most of her books at the campus bookstore, which cost her about \$285.

She bought one book online from Amazon.com because it was cheaper, and recommends that other students buy them this way.

"Almost 90 percent of my books were bought online," said senior Joe Hadad.

His thermodynamics book cost \$150 at the bookstore; he bought the same book online, in good condition, for \$64.

Hadad also tries to sell his books online.

"You can get more than you bought it for," he said.

You get the point.

While taking your class schedule into the bookstore and picking up a

copy of every book you need may be convenient, Internet shopping is still the cheapest way to go.

Unfortunately, there are some risks to Internet shopping.

Ogg explained that the campus bookstore communicates with the professors to find the correct editions of textbooks, which are not always posted online.

Students may also unknowingly buy

"International Editions" online, or books bearing the label "Not For Sale in the United States," which are actually illegal and can't be bought back by the bookstore.

"They need to really do their research if they're going to do an online thing," Ogg said.

Student Melissa Teague bought some of her books for fall semester at the campus bookstore.

"Honestly, they're about the same price," she says of her experience with the competing bookstores.

"But (Textbook Outlet) usually gives me a better price on my buy-

backs."

She has also noticed that Textbook Outlet will sometimes buy back books that the campus bookstore won't take.

Buyback

Reselling your books, also called buyback, is another way to ease the sting of expensive textbooks, which may never become more than expensive pillows.

Both the campus bookstore and Textbook Outlet will buy your books, no

matter where you bought them, as long as professors have requested them for the next semester.

According to the "Got Used" Web site, book buyback at Textbook Outlet is held during exam week at the end of each semester.

Book buyback at Textbook Outlet for the fall semester was Aug. 7-16.

The amount of cash you will receive back for your books is "truly variable," said Korotko.

Students often expect to receive 50 percent of the price of the new book.

However, since the book is now used, store policy is to return 50 per-

Reselling your books, also called buyback, is another way to ease the sting of expensive textbooks, which may never become more than expensive pillows.

OUSC approves fall budget: The Oakland University Student Congress unanimously approved the fall 2007 budget and accepted the resignations of three legislators — Catherine DiPonio, Jen Fox and Naasshon Phifer — at the Tuesday meeting.
— Ian Hines, Contributing reporter

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September 2006

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
September 11 Career Experience Information Session 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. (158 W. Vandenberg Hall) 	September 12 Career Services Open House 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Fireside Lounge, OC) 	September 13 Info Table 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Oakland Center) Career Experience Information Session 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. (158 VBH West)	September 7 Info Table 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Oakland Center) September 14 Interview Practice Clinic 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. (158 VBH West) Pre-registration required Call: 248-370-3250	September 15 Leap into your future! Nursing Career Exploration Day 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. (Recreation Center)
September 18 Senior Job Search Seminar Noon – 1:00 P.M. (158 W. Vandenberg Hall) 	September 19 Resume Writing - by Comerica Noon – 1:00 P.M. (Rooms 128 – 130, OC) Info Table/Resume Critiques 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Oakland Center) CE Info Session 3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. (158 VBH West)	September 20 Interview Practice Clinic 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Rooms 128 – 130, OC) Pre-registration required Call: 248-370-3250 Behavioral Interviewing - by DaimlerChrysler 5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. (Gold Room C, OC)	September 21 Dress for Success - by Parisian 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Fireside Lounge, OC) Info Table/Resume Critiques 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Oakland Center)	September 22 Mock Behavioral Interviews 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Career Services Recruiting Suite (158 W. Vandenberg Hall) Pre-registration required through OUCareerLink.com
September 25 Marketing Yourself Seminar Noon – 1:00 P.M. (Gold Room A, OC) Info Table/Resume Critiques 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Oakland Center)	September 26 Career Experience Information Session Noon-1:00 P.M. (158 W. Vandenberg Hall) Senior Job Search Seminar 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. (158 W. Vandenberg Hall)	September 27 FALL CAREER FAIR Engineering, Technical, Health & Science Candidates 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. (Banquet Rooms, OC) Info Table 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Hallway Tables, OC)	September 28 FALL CAREER FAIR Business and Liberal Arts Candidates 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. (Banquet Rooms, OC) Info Table 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (Hallway Tables, OC)	September 29

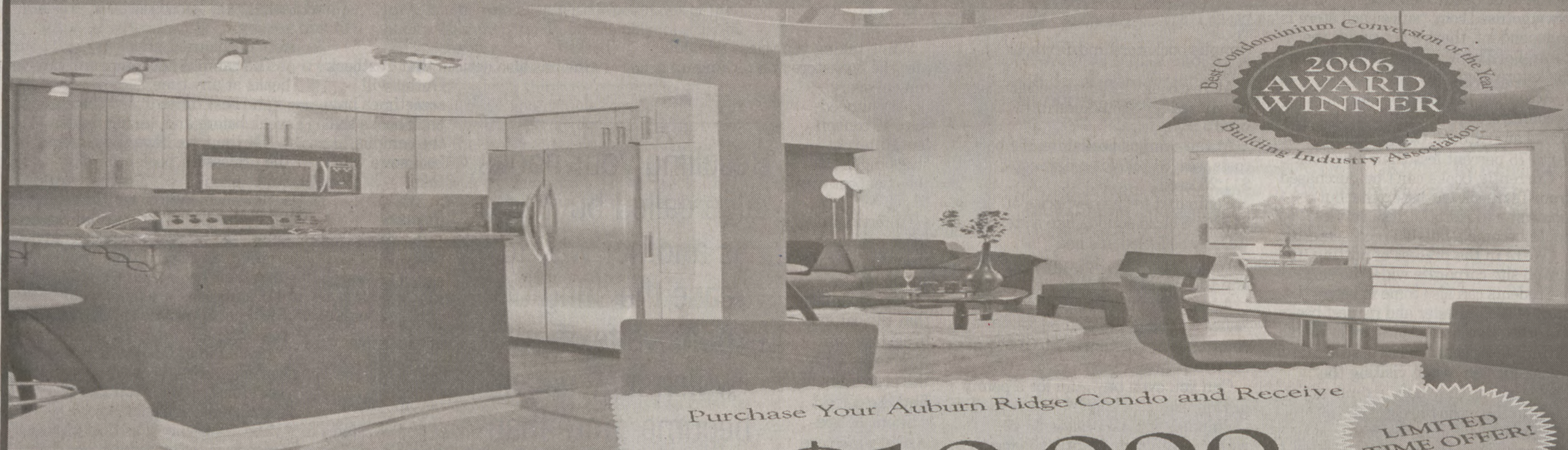
October/November Career Prep Month Events: (Note: all events take place at the Oakland Center)

- Tues., Oct. 3: Beta Alpha Psi – Annual Recruiter Reception, 5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M., (Banquet Room A)
- Thur., Oct. 5: Marketing Your Passion – Entrepreneurial Seminar, Noon – 1:00 P.M., (Oakland Room)
- Fri., Oct. 6: Future Potential in IT, 8:30 A.M. – Noon, (Banquet Rooms) Sponsored by Microsoft, SIM, and OU
- Tues., Oct. 10: The Multiple Generational Work Place – From Ricky & Lucy to Beavis and Butthead, Noon – 1:30 P.M., (Gold Room B & C)
- Wed., Oct. 18: Cast Networking Reception, 5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M., (Gold Rooms)
- Thur., Oct. 19: Graduate School Fair, 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M., (Fireside Lounge)
- Wed., Oct. 25: Career Success for English, Comm., & Journalism Majors, Noon – 1:00 P.M., (Fireside Lounge)
- Thur., Oct. 26: Disney Presentations, 12:00 P.M.-1:00 P.M. (Lake Michigan Room) or 5:00 – 6:00 P.M. (Lake Superior B Room)
- Thur., Nov. 9: Seniors: Set Your Sails! An Alumni Panel Discussing School to Work Transition Issues, Noon – 1:30 P.M., (Gold Room A)

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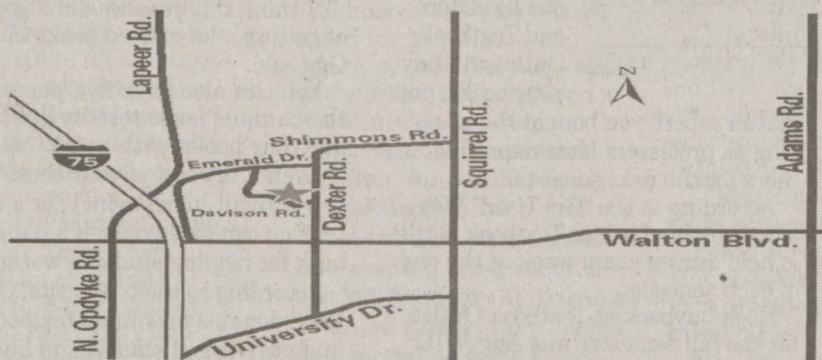
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EDITORIAL

We love OU, warts and all

What an exciting time to be part of the campus community at Oakland University.

Campus life is brimming with all sorts of new growth and development. In a 10-year span we've leapfrogged from a comprehensive university into a doctoral research university, added 40 new degree programs and seen the construction of nine new buildings.

In 1997 we moved from NCAA Division II to NCAA Division I-AAA affiliation and joined the Mid-Continent Conference in 1998-99.

All of these wonderful happenings provide The Post with plenty of material to cover, but what kind of newspaper would we be if we didn't stir the pot and address some of the controversies that trouble student life?

A faculty strike was avoided last week, but several faculty members did gather for an informational picket outside of the Recreation Center during the New Student Convocation the day before the tentative settlement was reached.

Incoming students and their families who attended were greeted by a dozen or so of their future instructors holding picket signs and requesting that students NOT come to class in the event of a strike.

Quite a memorable way to begin one's collegiate career.

Mention the parking situation to any returning OU student and you'll get a look of disgust.

To be fair, OU is distinctively different from other large universities in that it offers unrestricted and unpaid parking to students. As of Jan. 3, 2006, there are 7,532 total spaces, according to the Oakland University Police Department — enough to handle everyone's parking needs.

Perhaps we're just spoiled and the parking problem on campus is actually just a walking problem.

However, there are circumstances that lead some OU students to believe they are entitled to a free and convenient parking system.

"They (students at other colleges) have bus systems," said junior Jenny Kuznicki. "And most of them live on or close to campus."

"My biggest issue is why they put the parking garage over by the Rec. Center — it's a terrible location and I've never seen it full," said senior Kimberly Miller.

Rivaling the parking situation

as the most nagging concern of OU students recently has been dealing with the Financial Aid Office.

Both students and the Financial Aid staff have collectively shared the blame. Many students run into problems filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and submitting all the necessary tax documents that must accompany the application.

Long waits at campus and on telephone lines have made the experience extremely frustrating for students trying to work out their problems. If tuition balances are not paid on time, registration holds can be placed on accounts.

Junior Elizabeth Kotulis told The Post about a friend who was unable to graduate on time because a bogus hold — the result of a processing error — was placed on her student account.

"She couldn't enroll for her senior English classes because they wouldn't lift the hold," Kotulis said. "She wound up spending an extra semester here."

Kotulis also said that despite problems in the past, she received outstanding service this year even though she applied late.

It seems like we've covered everything ... oh, wait. Where would this editorial be without mention of the well-oiled machine that works so hard to represent the needs and concerns of the student body? Four words: Oakland University Student Congress.

Post readers know that OUSC gets a lot of coverage.

They're an interesting bunch of passionate and politically diverse young adults who have been known to provide some serious fireworks during their weekly meetings in the Oakland Center.

In all seriousness, despite the occasional shouting matches, emotional outbursts, walkouts and charges of verbal assault, OUSC has gotten involved and succeeded in creating a great deal of positive change for OU.

And let's end on that note: positive change. Institutions as large as OU are bound to run into a case of the hiccups from time to time.

While it is necessary (and a little fun) to identify such problems, let us not detract from the quality of service and education we receive here at OU.

This is an exciting time for OU, and we should all consider ourselves fortunate to be a part of it.

— THE OAKLAND POST

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We must act to save the 'glory days of baseball'

To whom it may concern,
There is a baseball landmark (that most of the hall of famers played at) that's going to fall under the wrecking ball if nothing is done.

I'm talking about Tiger Stadium. Everybody these days is talking about "old school" and the "glory days of baseball."

Here's our chance, are we going to let it be torn down like so many things in our "disposable" society?

Are we going to let it happen or not? Why is it that we're always looking back with 20/20 hindsight vision and regretting our inactivity?

Sincerely,
Christopher Hebert, Essexville, Mich.

The opinions expressed on this page are solely those of the writers and not of The Oakland Post or Oakland Post staff. The voice of The Oakland Post is expressed in the editorial and is signed "The Oakland Post."

IT TURNS OUT THAT KATIE COURIC MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE FIRST CBS NEWS STAR WHOSE PUBLICITY PHOTOS WERE TOUCHED UP...



Sean Otuathal: Observations from the ant farm

A Christian country — act the part! The politics of love

Right now, there is enough wealth in the world to end poverty everywhere. Forever.

Right now, the only reason there are people suffering from hunger, lack of access to medical care and lack of education is because we turn a blind eye.

It could be different here in America. It could be different everywhere in the world. Right now.

Our generation could be the generation that changes the world. Or, we can be the one that says, "I got mine, screw you."

History is holding its breath — while millions of people are taking their last. Millions lift their eyes to us and wait for the help our president promised years ago and has not given.

While every three seconds kill another child, we crowd into shopping malls, overeat, buy bigger vehicles to accommodate our girth and our acquisitions, and jam more things into houses that could shelter small villages — houses we often cannot afford.

Shame on us. Shame on us for being so distracted by what Brittany and Tom and JZ have. Shame on us for buying into the idea we need to compare with them.

Shame on us for shaming those who do not, cannot, compare with us.

Everyday we hear it professed that this is a country founded on Christian principles. Then we see those principles used to ostracize, to accuse, to judge and condemn, to insulate one group from another and justify denying others basic rights, basic access to resources we say we offer everyone, basic status as human beings.

Christ's words have been bastardized to the point that he would find them unrecognizable.

Please understand I am not for or

against preaching religion.

I am tired of looking like hypocrites to the rest of the world.

If Christians want to claim the moral high ground and claim this country wants to — ought to — solely embrace their values, then I invite them to act the part.

In all the talk about Christian values, I cannot find this simple promise being realized: what you do to the least of my brethren you do to me.

Christ could not have been clearer about what he expected. I fail to understand where the confusion lies.

Fighting over school funding to ensure that wealthy systems get more money than poorer ones, instead of an equal share, is not caring for the least of us.

Pimping adequate medical care off to the highest bidder is spitting into Lazarus's face as he begs for crumbs from our table.

Likewise, how we treat those in need worldwide makes us hypocrites to our professed creed.

Economist Jeffery Sachs has detailed a plan in which the richest nations of the world can redistribute a small portion of their profits and put an end to poverty, ignorance and the genocide of disease in our lifetime.

You and I can do this; we can realize paradise — paradise for everyone — not merely for a select few.

It need not come with fire and destruction. It can come in a whisper. It can come with the gentleness we are told to admire and emulate in the person of the Christian Christ.

Not only that, we could make a lot of friends in the world. We could redeem a bit of our reputation. We could save some of the wounds we have opened, deepened and poured salt into.

Our share would be a small fraction of what we have spent to antagonize. Best yet, we don't even have to do the heavy work.

There are already legitimate organizations in place which have done the studies, written the policies and created the

networks to ensure the monies would go to the hands of those working for justice.

This is an issue above and beyond morality. This is an issue of justice. We are not all Christian in America, or in the world, but we are all human.

Let us be human; let us be humane in our application of justice.

If we believe what we say we do — that everyone is equal, that everyone deserves basic rights, basic needs met. We cannot then turn round and say: But we didn't mean you.

The Gates Foundation, The ONE Campaign, DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa and/or Democracy, Accountability, Transparency in Africa): these are some of the front-runners in the movement to make justice just.

We have the wealth, we have the know-how; we have a just cause.

The only thing standing in our way is our own selfishness and apathy — those are the labels we will bear for all time if we do not turn belief into action.

In the technology age, it has never been easier: write your congressperson, write your friends, write the CEOs who decide the fate of the world and let them know you know we can do better.

In this age, we can realize human rights for all.

If peace is truly our goal, if bringing in the age of compassion is truly what we claim to work for, to pray for, we can do it now.

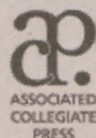
We can live up to our supposed standards — no matter our faith — we can do it now.

End extreme global poverty now. Demand global human rights. Join WWW.one.org

— Sean Otuathal is a guest editorialist, a poet, fiction writer, high school English teacher and master's candidate at Oakland University. She asks her readers not to make assumptions about her own religion based upon this article, and reserves the right to keep her personal faith, personal.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



The Oakland Post is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press.

Rogaya Eshamawi
Editor in Chief
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Jeff Kranitz
Managing Editor
managing@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-2537

Mark Goethals
Lead Ads Manager/Mix Editor
advertising@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4269

Kara O'Connell
Designer/Senior Reporter
photo@oakpostonline.com
web@oakpostonline.com

Dan Wilkinson
Photo Editor/Editorials Editor
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4266

Erin Mallard
Features Editor
local@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-2848

Crystal Nelson
Ads Manager/Mix Editor
advertising@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Chris Goeth
Marketing Director
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Holly Gilbert
Advisor
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4138

Senior Reporters
Paul Gully
Michael Sheldan
Jamie Waugh

Contributing Reporters
Andrea Dickson
Kim Yonick

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Send your comments to The Oakland Post.

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Letter to the Editor
The Oakland Post
61 Oakland Center
Rochester, MI 48309

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail editor@oakpostonline.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

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WELCOME WEEK AT OU

Go long, sing a song, maybe even take a **PLUNGE**



Students gather to take part in the activities offered by Welcome Week at OU. The activities included playing ball, a performance by Tom Butwin (far left) and bungee jumping.

Photos by
DAN WILKINSON
of The Oakland Post

Students gear up for another semester

By ERIN MALLARD
Features Editor

What better way to kick off a new semester than with the staple of college existence: free stuff.

Welcome Week, which began on Aug. 29 and continues through Friday, was filled with opportunities for student organizations to entice new and returning students with flyers, free food and entertainment.

For those of you who decided to extend your summer vacations, here are a few of the highlights.

Students were greeted on the first day of school by comfortable fall weather and two welcome back picnics sponsored by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and the Association of Black Students.

There were many new faces, free food and games like football and Catchphrase at the IV picnic, which was held on the lawn between the OC and the lake.

Lois Miller, IV advisor, said the goal of IV's Welcome Week activities is "to try to reach out to new students and get to know them, invite them to be part of our community."

"We want to be a group that's welcoming to any new student," she said.

On Thursday, the Association of Black Students held an open house.

"It was a successful event and the membership showed up to support the organization," said Omar Brown-El, ABS faculty advisor.

Even though he was only at the open house for a short period, Brown-El said he noticed that "there was excitement about the organization."

"With the new executive board, it definitely gives a new energy to the organization, and they're off to a positive start," he said.

The Greek community of OU put on the Greek Carnival on Thursday, with more free food, a dunk tank, a rock climbing wall and other free entertainment.

"The turn out was great," said Cressie Smith, the coordinator of Student Organizations and Greek Life.

"We anticipated approximately 1,000 students to attend, and we hit our goal," she said, adding that "the Greeks worked extremely hard all summer long planning for this event."

The "Drive in Theater," sponsored by Student Program Board and Greek Life, was also held on Thursday.

On Friday, students could pick up free food and find out how to get involved in several campus organizations, including WXOU, Student Program Board, Student Congress and The Oakland Post, at the OC Lower Level Open House.

"There's been a lot of people interested in getting involved," Student Body President Madalyn Miller said at the Open House.

Student musician Tom Butwin serenaded students enjoying free food from the open house or relaxing between classes on the OC patio with original songs and covers.

"It's always nice to be back and play at Oakland," Butwin said to the audience. "I go here, but I played at a lot of unfamiliar places this summer."

Students could sign up for a mailing list or pick up a free CD at the concert.

The Campus Ministries Fair, Reception and Concert was also held on Friday.

The concert consisted of different ministries presenting their own unique styles of worship.

"My favorite thing about it was that various different denominations, various different ministries, could come together and show their unity in Christ," said junior Brandon Svenson.

Upcoming Welcome Week events include "Rock da Rec!" tonight at 6:30.

The event is sponsored by the Association of Black Students and will include a staff versus students basketball game, as well as free food, activities and entertainment.

On Friday, Aug. 12, the Annual Sigma Pi Pig Roast and first ever MegaFest Carnival, sponsored by several student organizations, will be held simultaneously from 8 p.m. to 11:59 pm at the Upper Athletic Fields.

And in case you haven't had enough, more free food and entertainment, including carnival rides will be provided.

Also on Friday, the Association of Black Students Icebreaker Dance, the first dance of the Fall 2006 semester, will be held from 9 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms.



CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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CSA SERVICE WINDOW EVENTS

Discount tickets for the following shows and events are available to the Oakland University community. You can purchase tickets or pick up a detailed schedule of dates, times and prices at the CSA Service Window, 49 OC.

- Michigan Renaissance Festival
- The Rat Pack is Back! In the Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey & Dean
- Royal Winnipeg Ballet's "Dracula"
- Porgy and Bess
- Moving Out
- The Barber of Seville
- Irving Berlin's White Christmas
- Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker
- Joffrey Ballet's "The Nutcracker"

Friday, September 8, is the registration deadline for Student & Greek Organizations.

Saturday, September 9, is Student & Greek Organizations Officers Training, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Banquet Rooms, OC. Sign up to attend in the CSA Office.

OU STUDENTS WELCOME TO OU & THE CSA OFFICE

The CSA Office
Student Resource Center
Gender & Sexuality Center

In honor of the 5th Anniversary of 9-11

OU's September 11 Remembrance Programs

Memorial Ceremony
Remarks by President Gary D. Russi
8:46 a.m., Steps of Kresge Library

Remembering 9-11 Open Forum
Moderated by Mike Lewis,
Assistant Professor of Journalism
Noon-1:00 p.m., Fireside Lounge, OC

Showing of the film
United 93
9:00 p.m., Fireside Lounge, OC
Sponsored by Student Program Board

WELCOME WEEK @ OU August 28-September 8, 2006

Wednesday, September 6

School of Education: Open House for Education Majors 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Pawley Hall

Grand Opening of the Grizzly Center for Graduates and Champions 11:30 a.m., Recreation & Athletics Center
OU Pep Rally & Unveiling of "The Grizz" Statue Noon-1:00 p.m., Outdoors, Recreation & Athletics Center
ABS: "Rock da Rec" 6:30 p.m., Campus Recreation Center

Thursday, September 7

CSA: Volunteer Fair 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Fireside Lounge & Main Hallway, Oakland Center
School of Education: Open House for Education Majors 4:30-6:00 p.m., Pawley Hall

Friday, September 8

SPIN's Garden Party 1:00-6:00 p.m., Outdoors, Between Dodge and Hannah Halls
Friday Night Live: Kivi Rogers 7:00-8:00 p.m., Vandenberg Dining Center, Vandenberg Hall
SAFB MegaFest & Sigma Pi 12th Annual Pig Roast 8:00 p.m.-Midnight, Upper Fields
ABS Icebreaker Dance (Cost for Guests) 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., Gold Rooms, Oakland Center

Check out OU's tuition refund policy

Fall 2006

**The last day to drop a course
or withdraw from the semester
and receive a 100% tuition refund
is Wednesday, September 13.
Beginning September 14
no refunds will be given.**

If you decide to drop a course or withdraw from the semester, it is recommended that you use the SAIL Web system at www.oakland.edu. If you choose to drop or withdraw in person, by fax or by mail, requests must be received and processed by the Registrar's Office, 100 O'Dowd Hall, by 4 p.m. Wednesday, September 13 to be eligible for a 100% refund. You can view and print your current class schedule on SAIL.

Financial aid recipients should note that financial aid is based on the number of registered credits as of 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13. Credits added after this time will not be considered for financial aid, scholarships and grants. Questions about the effect of dropping classes on financial aid should be directed to the Office of Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550.

If you have questions about Oakland's tuition refund policy, dropping a course, withdrawing from the semester or deadline dates, contact the Registrar's Office at (248) 370-3450 or the Office of Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550.

Important dates to keep in mind

August 30 - September 13	Late registration: instructor's signature required to register or add class(es)
September 13	Last day 100% tuition refund Financial aid recipients: Financial aid is based on the number of registered credits as of 11:59 p.m. Credits added after this time will not be considered for financial aid
September 14	First day 0% tuition refund



Features

April 12, 2006

www.theoaklandpost.com

B3

CAMPUS CALENDAR

- Today**
11:30 a.m. — Grizz sculpture unveiling outside the O'Rena
Noon-1:00 — Golden Grizzly pep rally outside the O'Rena
8:00 p.m. — Meadowbrook Festival presents Hootie and the Blowfish
- Thursday, Sept. 7**
11:00 a.m. — CSA Volunteer Fair, Fireside Lounge
7:00 p.m. — Gospel Choir open house, OC Gold Room A
11:45 p.m. — Premiere of "The Rapid Path to Success" presented by OU Filmmaker's Guild, Clarkston Union
- Friday, Sept. 8**
8-11:59 p.m. — 12th annual Sigma Pi Pig Roast and Mega-Fest Carnival, upper athletic fields
9-11:59 p.m. — ABS presents "Rock da Rec" at the Recreation Center
8 p.m. — Meadowbrook Music Festival presents Rocky Horror Picture Show
- Monday, Sept. 11**
8:46 a.m. — Sept. 11 Remembrance Program at Kresge Library
Noon — Sept. 11 Remembrance Program open forum, Fireside Lounge
- Tuesday, Sept. 12**
11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Career Services Open House, Fireside Lounge
- Is there an event on campus you would like to inform the student body about? E-mail us at editor@oakpostonline.com with "Event on campus" in the subject of the e-mail.

Local Events

- Arts & Apples Festival** - Sept. 8 - 10
artsandapplesfestival.com
- Dally in the Alley** - Sept. 9
dallyinthealley.com
- Michigan Renaissance Festival**
Weekends through Oct. 1
michrenfest.com
- Oakland County Farmers Market**
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
oakgov.com/omarket

Take a trip to the east side — of campus

By JAMIE WAUGH
Senior Reporter

For senior Marsela Hyska, downtime doesn't exist — she simply doesn't have it because of her heavy workload.

It's true, when classes start, things can get busy and a bit chaotic. Some students may be looking for something to offer some relaxation to help maintain a piece of mind without having to drive to the middle of nowhere and waste precious gas money.

Lucky for students that this option is only minutes away from their classrooms.

In fact, they don't even have to leave campus.

According to junior Virginia Hickcox, East Campus has many different opportunities for students to take a load off from their hectic and demanding schedules.

"Students need to see what exactly our campus is about, and where OU came from," Hickcox said.

It offers historical buildings as well as other things to do on a day off.

The first option on East Campus is Meadow Brook Hall.

OU's founders Matilda Dodge Wilson and Alfred G. Wilson built the mansion from 1926 to 1929.

According to OU's Web site, the couple left the mansion to what would later become Oakland University in 1957.

The hall has been open to the public since 1971, and offers guided tours of the house and surrounding gardens.

And the best part about it for students is that it's free. All they need to do is show their Grizzly ID card.

Hickcox said Meadow Brook Hall offers a chance to learn about the history of the university's founders, and it also houses an interesting collection of art and furnishings from around the world.

"Meadow Brook has a lot of cool stuff," Hickcox said. "It teaches you about the history and how the campus came to be."

According to Kim Zelinski, associate director for Meadow Brook Hall,



OU's founders Matilda Dodge Wilson and Alfred G. Wilson built this mansion from 1926 to 1929.

DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post

the staff tries to have the hall as accessible as possible to students.

In addition to the free tours, Meadow Brook Hall also has many other activities for students, she said.

They offer classes for students, employ interns in the art and art history departments, and employ students as tour guides, caterers and for special events.

They also host an event for students twice a year called the Meadow Brook Ball, an event that Matilda Dodge Wilson began in the late 1950s.

"We love having the students here," Zelinski said. "We try to keep in touch with the traditions that Matilda had."

Zelinski said many of the original buildings such as the John Dodge House and the greenhouse are still in use.

"The greenhouse is Matilda's original greenhouse. It's still used today to grow the plants that are used on campus," she said.

East Campus also has other buildings of interest such as the Shotwell-

Gustafson Pavilion and the Baldwin Memorial Pavilion.

The Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion is used as a banquet hall, and also offers meeting and conference room space.

The Baldwin Memorial Pavilion is used for the Meadow Brook Music Festival as well as commencement ceremonies.

According to OU's Web site, Matilda Dodge Wilson's daughter, Frances, originally used the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion as an equestrian arena.

At that time, those stables and arena were considered among the finest in the country.

If architecture and history don't sound appealing, East Campus also has two golf courses that are open from March through early December.

At Katke-Cousins Golf Course, full-time students can play nine holes for \$13 and \$14 for 18 holes on a week-day.

And it's only a couple of dollars more to play on the weekends.

R & S Sharf Golf Course also has

much more to offer than simply a convenient location.

The Detroit News ranked it one of the top 10 courses in the state.

These courses also give individual lessons for those who are interested in taking the game a little more seriously.

"Even though OU is a commuter college, people are missing a lot of the great things that the campus has to offer," Hyska said.

Even though she hasn't been there yet, she said she sees the importance of East Campus.

"I have heard great things about East Campus, and would really like to be a part of it," she said.

And the best part for students is that they won't have to break the bank to have a good time.

For more information on Meadow Brook Hall, call (248) 364-6200.

For OU's Golf courses, contact The Golf and Learning Center at (248) 364-6300.

You can also visit <http://www.meadowbrookhall.org>.

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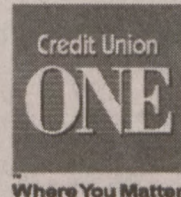
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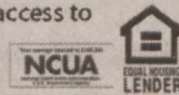
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OU SPORTS SHORTS

This week, the OU men's basketball team swept their three games in the Canadian tournament they played in this weekend.

Oakland 88-Sheridan College 60
Oakland 75-University of Toronto 62
Oakland 84-Western Ontario 68

Detroit Tigers' Magglio Ordonez, right, is congratulated by Craig Monroe, left, after his two-run home run, in the first inning of their baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Monday. DUANE BURLINSON/The Associated Press



STAFF COLUMN

Hail to the victors?

By MIKE SHELDON
Staff Columnist

Last year, Michigan was besieged with almost every problem in the book. Injuries, quarterback inexperience, failure to capitalize on presented opportunities, but, most importantly of all, failure to establish a running game and a horrendous red-zone scoring ratio. All of these things hit Michigan at the same time.

Lloyd Carr is a great asset to any football program...but the question is, is he really that good for Michigan? The Wolverines have four goals every season: beat Michigan State and Ohio State, win the Big 10 and win the national championship.

Putting Michigan State and the Big 10 aside, with the exception of one national championship (with a team he did not recruit and soured by clouded-and-overly-sentimental coaches giving Nebraska a share of the title) and one victory over Tressel to the sweater vest's four, Carr has come up short.

Michigan gets little championship hype while Carr has consistently been unable to defeat Tressel.

Failing in the title race year after year is something Wolverine fans can live with; there is too much talent nationally. Not on top of losing to their biggest rival, Michigan-Ohio State is a rivalry second only to Red Sox-Yankees. As such, at Michigan you can not continually lose to Ohio State.

The 2006 season is the litmus test for Lloyd Carr and the team. With sweeping changes at coordinator, "bad coaching" excuses are gone. Now is the time for them all to answer the lingering questions of Wolverine fans everywhere.

Will Chad Henne shake off the sophomore slump? Will Mike Hart avoid injury? Will Steve Breaston tap his potential?

Most importantly, will the Michigan Wolverines regain their luster?

My season predictions: We saw Vanderbilt lose, and Central Michigan has no hope either. What I believe to be their toughest test of the year comes up third in the season, as



CARLOS OSORIO/The Associated Press

Michigan receiver Mario Manningham (86) pulls in a 27-yard touchdown during the fourth quarter in a college football game against Vanderbilt at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, Mich. earlier this month. Michigan defeated Vanderbilt 27-7.

Michigan travels to South Bend to face the Fighting Irish. My heart says Michigan can and will pull it out, but my head says no way. Michigan will lose to Notre Dame one last time.

Any questions following the loss will be answered by back-to-back revenge wins over Wisconsin and Minnesota to begin Big 10 play. Michigan State does not fare well in the Big House, and will lose as well.

The next, albeit weakest of the three, tests comes as Michigan heads into a fired-up Happy Valley to face Penn State. I see Penn State as weak-

er than last year, so Michigan will win here. Iowa presents a challenge, but it is in Ann Arbor, so Michigan should win that one as well.

Following this are three creampuff opponents in Northwestern, Ball State and Indiana. Then it is the big game. Michigan-Ohio State.

The incredibly hyped Buckeyes will fall in the Horseshoe, leading Michigan to a one-loss season and a bowl game officiated by real referees and not neanderthalic Sun Belt minor leaguers. The phantoms of last season will be swept away.

GUEST COLUMN

Tiger frenzy runs in family

Dear Dad,

I finally have my Tigers story. You reared me on tales of '68 and '84, of how crazy this town gets about winning baseball. As a child, I was enthralled and enchanted. I had never personally experienced a winner.

I grew up with my team, through the loss of Travis Fryman to the Indians, the Damian Easley years and a 113-loss season, and I grew frustrated. By age 21, you had already experienced one World Series team and the embryonic stages of another. By the dawn of my 21st year, I hadn't seen a winning season since I was fresh out of the second grade. You had your stars: Kaline, McClain, Morris and Trammel.

I've got Pudge, Verlander and Ordonez. You had a team oddball in Norm Cash; I've got Nate Robertson and his wad of gum. You had a freak athlete in Kirk Gibson, I've got Brandon Inge.

But, Dad, this team is uniquely mine. This team has been a season-long climax, one walk-off home run after another, fueled by resolute pitching performances and catches that defy explanation. The old cliché "there's always next year" has finally come to fruition.

A vibrant collection of talents and personalities have been stirred into a bowl to create a dish fit to serve October taste buds. From country Kenny Rogers (the pitcher, mind you), to the shaggy Venezuelan victory-maker Ordonez, to big time balla' extraordinaire Craig Monroe, this team definitely has its own distinct flavor. Even the television analysts have added a

very special element to this team.

Commentator Rod Allen has endeared himself and his sayings to the fans because of his trademark exuberance. Allen's nicknames are a treat in and of themselves, C-Mo (Monroe), Robby (Robertson) and B-I-N-G-E (Inge) just to name a few, add an "our team" feel to the 2006 experience.

Dad, this letter isn't trying to be contentious, it's not saying the current team is any better than either of yours; they certainly haven't won anything yet. What it is expressing is a proclamation that my generation finally has a team to call its own. For those who don't remember '84, or the close-call in '87, this team is a symbol.

It's a symbol of our generation, of our triumphs and our strife. This team also connects us to our past. It bridges generations of baseball fans around one team. The fans of '68 and '84 can rally around us and our club. People my age will finally be able to engage in serious baseball conversation and actually understand the feeling of rooting for a winner.

So dad, don't stop telling me stories of the old teams, of the characters and athletes that they were built around. Don't think I don't want to hear about Morris's no-no or McClain dropping the F-bomb on live T.V. I love that stuff. Just understand that I finally have a team to call my own, that I'm getting to see a winner and hear about it.

And finally, Dad, I want to share this team with you because you're the reason I love them in the first place.

— By Kyle Magin

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