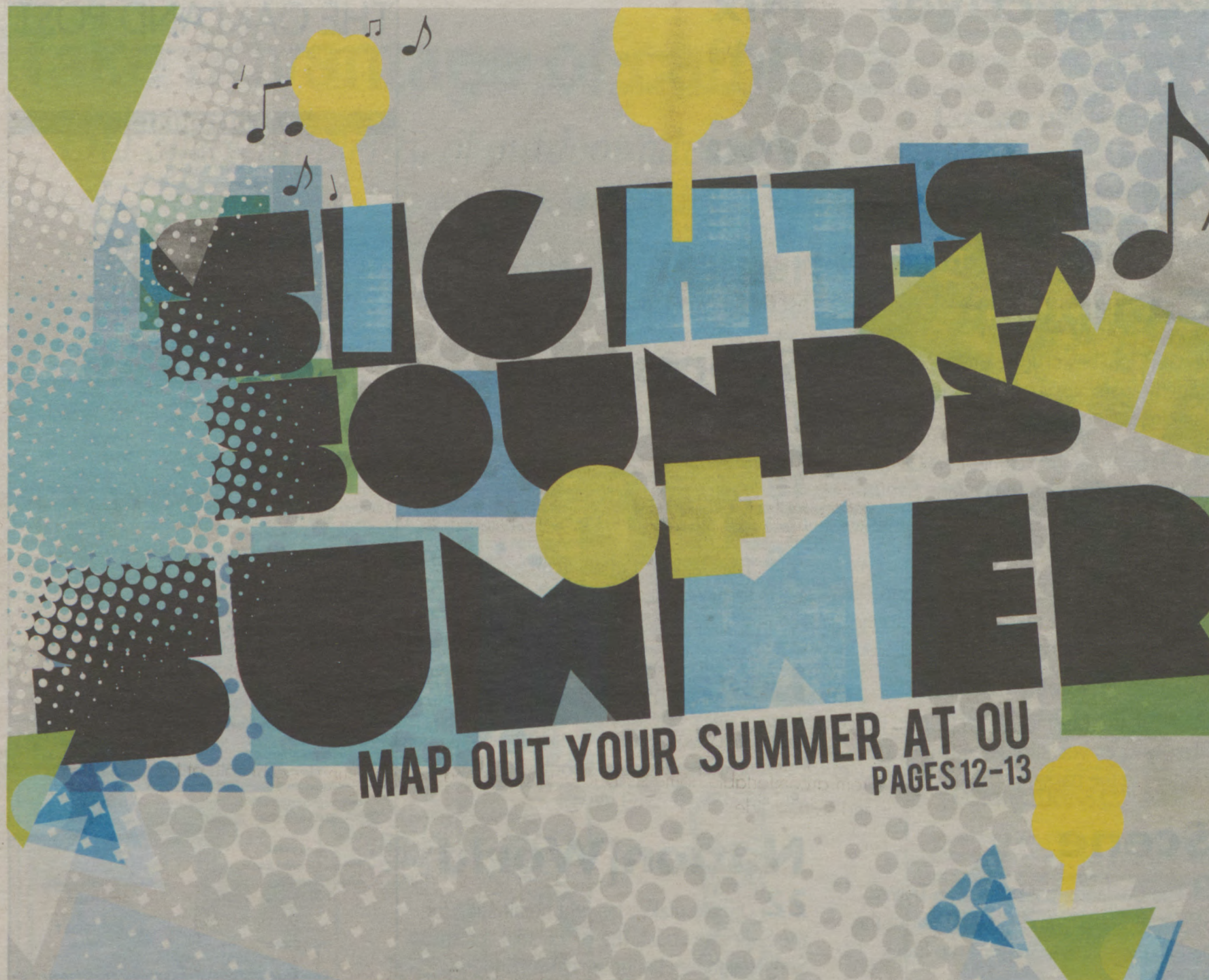


THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

May 12, 2010

Volume 37, Number 1



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Check out additional stories, photos and video on our website at oaklandpostonline.com

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Perspectives

May 12, 2010

www.oaklandpostonline.com

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Take advantage of campus

OU offers up plenty of outdoor adventures

Despite the fact that the university believes that the season begins May 3, summer is just around the corner.

Sorry if this sounds a bit like the recording that plays when Oakland University places a call on hold, but students should come to and from campus in the summer.

This is not a call to attend summer classes or to "Go Summer" at OU. It is a call to arms to enjoy the sporadically nice Michigan weather that spans from somewhere in May to September.

In the last issue of the winter semester, the Mix section of The Oakland Post was aptly named "Outdoors at OU." One of the photographs featured a group of people "gathered to play Frisbee and smoke cigarettes outside the Oakland Center."

Students can find so many more things to do on campus that cost less than the price of a pack of cigarettes.

Think about all of the images used to market the university in the myriad of television commercials and pamphlets.

Bunches of students frolicking and studying on green grass, the fountain in front of Kresge Library actually running and other summer sights are not seen that often.

One staffer described the campus and its residence halls as a "ghost town" during the summer months, but why should students that commute during the unforgiving Michigan winter stop coming to campus when the weather is nice?

Perhaps we at The Oakland Post are being selfish and just want company on campus as we complete our monthly issues, but there are plenty of compelling reasons to come to campus.

There are a plethora of free outdoor activities to partake in ranging from pick-up field games in the upper athletic fields and the Professional Disc Golf Association licensed Grizzly Oaks disc golf course to more relaxing activities like tours of Meadow Brook Hall and its gardens and simply hanging out on one of the benches or picnic tables strewn about campus.

If there is one thing we know about college students, it is that they like free stuff.

If that is not tempting enough, perhaps seeing the fresh, slightly apprehensive faces of new students going through campus with the help of orientation group leaders and their entertaining skits will serve as a cruel form

of entertainment.

While it is not free, students do also get greatly discounted rates for rounds of golf at either of two championship courses on campus.

For those still not convinced, think of it as getting the most out of the tuition check given to the university every semester.

As the OU Student Congress launches newly elected President Brandon Gustafson and Vice President Amy Ring's "outdoor initiative," it will be using some monies derived from the \$25 of the student activities fee taken out of each student's tuition each semester.

They hope to see a student quad area materialize come fall and spoke extensively of plans for this area during their campaign of OUSC executive office.

Plans to add benches and hammocks to improve OU's outdoor life are in store, but it may be a waste of effort and time if more students do not plan on utilizing Gustafson and Ring's initiative for more than the few weeks of nice weather during the fall and winter semesters.

As Gustafson said on the campaign trail: "Who doesn't want to lie on a hammock?"

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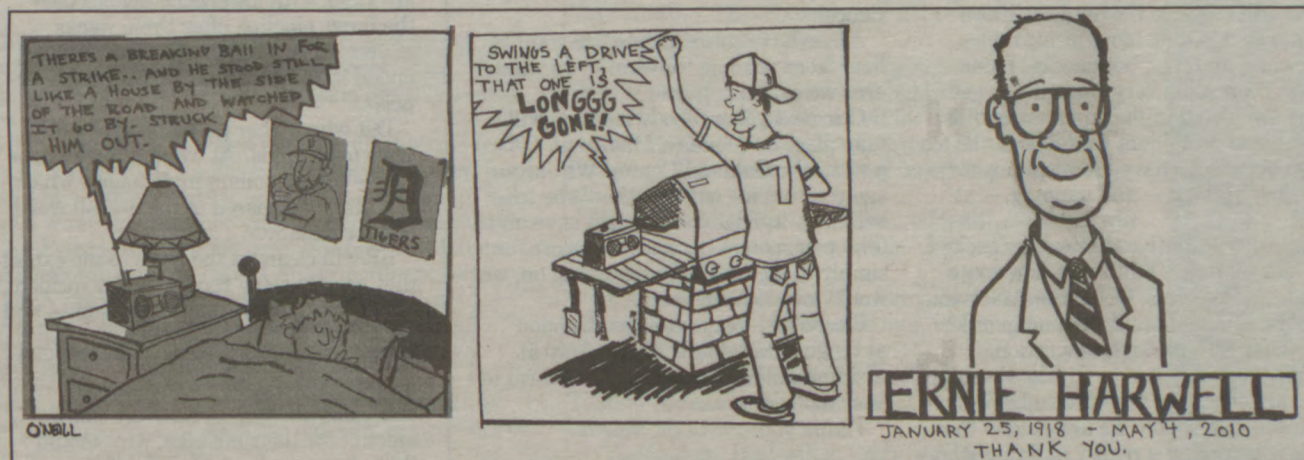
Letter Policy:

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

- Last issue's story "New pres., VP and legislators take their seats," we incorrectly reported that three of the five committee chairs are members of Tau Kappa Epsilon. Two members of TKE were named committee chairs at the Oakland University Student Congress April 12 meeting.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Student Body President, Vice President lay out year's goals, plans in inaugural address

By BRANDON GUSTAFSON and AMY RING

Student Body President and Student Body Vice President

The academic school year has wrapped up, but you wouldn't know it in the Student Congress office.

The summer always means that a new administration has taken over, which means a new executive board and legislature that is busy working for you, the students of Oakland University.

Before we tell you about all of the exciting initiatives we have going on right now, we feel it is important to express our appreciation in being elected into the positions of president and vice president of the student body.

We thank you for your support and votes, and we are honored to be serving you.

Regardless of whether or not you voted, or if you voted for a different ticket, we want you to know that your issues are important to us, that our doors are always open, and that we are continuously striving for improvement.

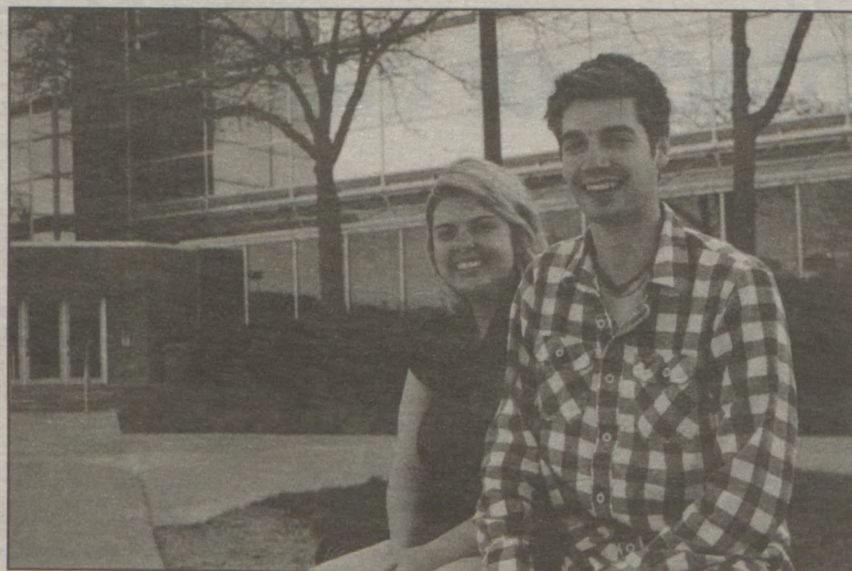
Immediately after being elected, our first priority was to hire an extremely qualified executive board. As president and vice president, our goal is to continuously be seeking out ways to improve your quality of life at OU.

While every member of OUSC holds this overall general goal, each executive board member serves a very specific purpose in serving the students. We have a Legislative Affairs Director, Multicultural Affairs Director, Student Services Director, Administrative Assistant, Public Relations Agent, Financial Affairs Director, Student Program Board Chair, and Student Activities Funding Board Chair (Editor's note: turn to page 14 for full e-board profiles). Each of these positions will be working about 10 hours per week in the summer months and then 20 to 25 hours in the fall and winter semesters.

We will be doing events during the school year, in which you have the opportunity to meet them and become familiar with their positions. As always, we encourage you to come on down to the OUSC office at 62 Oakland Center and meet us and check out what we're working on.

The majority of these positions are also required to have a committee, so if this is something that interests you, feel free to stop by and find out more information about what each specific committee is responsible for.

When we were in the beginning stages of working on a platform to run



Amy Ring and Brandon Gustafson were sworn into office as student body vice president and president April 13.

for office, we knew that we had to make realistic goals that could be accomplished in a short period of time and that the initiatives had to be desirable to the students. One of our goals that we received a large amount of feedback on was expanding the outdoor life at OU.

This has become our main priority in the summer months, simply because it is the best time for construction, and we want students to enjoy these types of things while the weather and campus are the most beautiful.

Along with our Student Services Director, Brett McIsaac, the two of us have been working closely with the administration to draw up a proposal that will enhance the outdoor life on campus, meaning more picnic tables, benches, and, yes, hammocks. Plans have been going very smoothly to get this completed in the summer months, and we are confident that it won't be too long before you have more options for outdoor seating — and napping — at OU.

Another initiative that we are excited to kick off in the Fall is the new route that the Bear Bus, OU's shuttle service, will be taking around campus in order to assist with parking congestion.

We have partnered with the Housing Department, and with the support of the administration, we are excited that this is becoming a reality and that it will in fact help Oakland students when they are having difficulty finding a parking spot near the building they are traveling to.

We will be having a Welcome Week kickoff party in order to promote this

and let students know about the details of how this service will work.

Of course we are placing a strong emphasis on working with OU's incoming freshman class. OUSC has a longstanding relationship with the Office of Orientation and New Student Programs, and we are excited to have the opportunity to make our name known to OU's newest Grizzlies.

We want students to know from the very beginning of their college career what OUSC is, what we do, and how to get involved. We will have representatives of OUSC at all one-day and overnight orientations, which will hopefully encourage students to get involved from the very beginning of the Oakland experience.

As we have stated before, we want to hear from you and we want to do whatever we can to help you.

Our next general body meeting will take place on Monday, May 24 at 4:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center. We encourage you to come out, whether it be to become a legislator — we still have a few open spots — to voice a concern, or simply to see what we're working on, we would love to have you.

Please feel free to contact Brandon at bmgustaf@oakland.edu or Amy at arring@oakland.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Editor's note: Gustafson and Ring will be writing a similar column on a regular basis to keep students updated on their actions in office. For more information on OUSC, visit www.oakland.edu/ousc.

Gulf spill a big problem for BP

By DAUD YAR
Web Copy Editor

A little while back, the Obama administration approved offshore drilling along the U.S. coast.

Less than a week later, an explosion ripped a hole in BP's underwater pipeline endangering large amounts of marine life and Louisiana fishing industries.

Luckily, there is something we all can do: boycott BP by not buying their product. This puts the power in the hands of the consumer, and if consumers do not buy BP gas, BP will either go out of busi-

If BP fails to act quickly in cleaning up the oil spill, "...boycott BP by not buying their product"

ness or change their practices.

Every day, 210,000 gallons — the equivalent of 30 tankers over three weeks — of oil spread into the Gulf.

Progress has been made with the cleanup though, thanks to unemployed Louisiana fishermen providing a solid base for labor. Way to put them to work, BP.

It seems there is a basic part of this operation that has slipped my mind. What could that be? Let me see. Oh, yeah! Stop the oil leak. For more than three weeks, oil has been seeping into the Gulf.

In this day and age, major energy companies do not think about the consequences of their actions or solutions to disaster scenarios.

Thanks to this kind of brain fart, we are stuck with lowering a big box over the burst pipeline after three weeks of problem-solving discussions. And it ended in failure anyways. Surprise, surprise.

But why bother pursuing better solutions to oil spills? At worst, they'll lose a couple billion dollars in damages, which is nothing compared to the overall worth of the company.

BP will clean up the mess to the extent they see fit — the Exxon Valdez incident left 26,000 gallons in Alaska's soil — and move on.

The problem is incentive. If BP can drop 5 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico and pay a relatively small amount for their mistake, why should they change policy?

Policy only changes with consumer action. If the consumer does not buy a company's product, bankruptcy or re-evaluation of procedure follows. So next time you need to fill up your tank, steer clear of the Brits.

Drug bust declares intolerance

OUPD arrests on-campus students for possession of drugs

By KAY NGUYEN
Editor-in-Chief

Oakland University Police Department cruisers surrounded an apartment in the George T. Matthews apartments Wednesday, April 21 after securing a search warrant and arrested two OU students after finding 35.1 grams of marijuana at the residence.

"For what was about a three week period, we were watching," OUPD Captain Mark Gordon said. "So whether or not 35 grams is a lot, the amount of traffic that came in and out in that period of time was enormous."

He said while the amount found in the apartment was relatively small, there could have been any amount of marijuana at any given time.

"They were selling a lot of marijuana," Gordon said.

OUPD officers were tipped off to the activity during routine observations of the campus. They noticed there was a heavy amount of foot traffic to and from the apartment.

"We have no evidence that it was a drug ring," Gordon said of the arrests. "They were selling to what appeared to be both on-campus students and people

coming from off campus."

Rhiannon Zielinski, a senior majoring in journalism and political science, lived next door to the apartment and was in her own residence the day of the drug bust.

Zielinski moved into Matthews Court in January and said she noticed the smell of marijuana emanating from the neighboring apartment her first night there.

"I never knew that they were dealing; It never really came to my mind at all," Zielinski said. "I just thought it was kind of stupid. You're on a college campus and don't want to get in trouble."

Officials have not been able to identify all those that were coming to purchase.

One arrested individual was charged with a three-count felony warrant. The charge came because of the involvement of narcotics and the fact that the individual possessed drugs with the intent to deliver.

This suspect sold narcotics to an undercover officer the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team sent in to purchase marijuana on two different occasions. A leaseholder on the apartment, the same individual sold the officer dime bags of marijuana both times.

The other individual arrested was also a leaseholder on the apartment, but OUPD determined that the indi-

vidual never sold narcotics and had no intent to sell.

"The institution is obviously making a statement that they won't tolerate that type of activity on campus," Gordon said. "He was banned not only from the residence halls but from the entire campus. And at this point, it's permanent."

Gordon added that while he cannot speak for the university on its drug policies, there is generally a zero-tolerance level of drug use and drug possession on campus.

"Any time that the police department is aware of drug activity on campus, we are very proactive," Gordon said.

Gordon said he could only think of two similar events in his 22 years of law enforcement, but the others "did not have as much activity as this."

After three weeks of observing the apartment and gathering evidence, OUPD secured a search warrant and planned the raid.

According to Gordon, OUPD picked a day that had seen a fair amount of activity in the past.

Matthews Court apartments house some campus families and though Zielinski said that her decision to live on campus next year did not change because of the event, but she said she would have been "upset" if she had children living with her.

Summer construction closes Squirrel Road

By MIKE ESPEJO
Multimedia Editor

The big summer talk at OU is all about Squirrel Road. From Walton Blvd. to Featherstone Road., the road will be repaved, with construction possibly extending into the fall semester.

Squirrel Road will be open one-way northbound from May to August. OU's main entrance will be closed until June while northbound Squirrel Road is paved. It will reopen when the southbound side is under construction.

Five Points Drive will be used as a one-way detour route, according to the City of Auburn Hills website.

"There are indications that north and south of University might not be done before school starts," said Facilities Management Vice President Terry Stollsteimer.

The construction, done by the City of Auburn Hills, may pose problems for students entering campus at the start of the fall semester.

Stollsteimer said all OU traffic would be directed to the entrances facing Walton Road rather than the Squirrel Road exits.

"Every summer we do a lot of things," Stollsteimer said. "We try to do things when the majority of students are gone. If something comes up that affects the start-

up of school, we do everything in our power to finish it." Summer construction at OU goes beyond the Squirrel Road revamp. The following is a list of events that are set to begin over the summer.

- Over 400 parking spots will be created in P35, a new lot next to P37; LED lights will light the parking lot.

- Parts of P1 will be fenced off for construction of geothermal heat pumps for the future Human Health Building. This construction will be over by the time school starts in the fall.

- The grounds of the new Human Health Building will be fenced in. Construction will not be finished until the summer of 2012.

- A high temperature water tunnel is being constructed across campus over the summer, affecting access to Wilson Boulevard.

- The elevator in Wilson Hall will be renovated. Though the cab will be the same, the mechanics will be brought up to date.

- Vandenberg Hall will get new windows and a Mongolian-style grill in the cafeteria.

- Roofing projects on three buildings. The Central Heating Plant, O'Dowd and Dodge Halls will have minor roofing repairs.

More information and maps of the Squirrel Road construction can be found at www.auburnhills.org.



BRETT SOCIA/The Oakland Post

On-campus construction will temporarily close surrounding roads as well as sections of the campus parking lots.

Charges deemed false

Campus threat concludes in unfounded claims

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY
Campus Editor

At 7:30 in the morning on April 24, 2010, Oakland University student Jessica Joe was allegedly in the parking lot outside of CVS Pharmacy at Adams and Walton. While not too far from her residence on campus, Joe was pulled into a van parked next to her car by two men. After both of the men pulled off her clothing, one of the men drove around the lot while the other raped her. After an unknown period of time, Joe was pushed out of the van and the attackers fled.

Students may have heard this event reported by Oakland University's emergency services. What students might not be aware of, however, is that the story had been completely falsified.

After an investigation was conducted, detectives from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office in Rochester Hills declared that the report was false. There was no kidnapping. There was no rape. Not even black tire marks left in the CVS parking lot. All that was left behind was an e-mail of warning to Oakland students, as well as a following e-mail to those enrolled in summer courses that the report was made up.

"When someone falsely claims a kidnapping and sexual assault, it makes it that much harder on the real assault victims and wastes precious police resources," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said in a recent press release. "It also strikes fear in the community based on a lie."

According to the crime statistics released each year by the OUPD, hate crimes and criminal offenses committed on-campus, in residence halls, and even on public property adjacent to OU are very few, with the highest numbers in burglary and aggravated assault. There were 13 reports of burglary made in 2006, which remains the highest number over the documented years on OUPD's website.

After the recent drug bust, OUPD said there is generally an intolerance to drug possession and sales on

campus. The numbers of arrests on campus and around campus for drug law violations and liquor law violations are significantly higher than criminal offenses. Consistently each year, alcohol related arrests are nearly triple those of burglaries; in 2008, 66 arrests were made for liquor law violations in comparison to four assault reports.

Since the numbers of sex offenses on the list, both forcible and non-forcible, rarely break half a dozen each year, Joe's report was considered an extreme case. Worse yet was the proximity to campus, which could result in a threat to Oakland students who lived on or around campus. According to the press release, the false report required over 45 hours of "numerous patrol deputies and detectives time, many who were called in on overtime believing two rapists were on the loose."

Joe, charged with Filing a False Report of a Felony, was arraigned before 52-3 District Court Magistrate Marie Soma on Tuesday, May 4, and was released on a \$10,000 personal bond.

Police suspected her integrity as she reported that she struggled and fought to get away from her assailants but showed no signs of marks or bruising on her body. Joe admitted to fabricating the story after detectives checked the store's videotape at the entrance and found that Joe was never seen entering or leaving the store. Employees told the detectives that no one fitting Joe's description had been in the store.

Joe, in a later interview, said that she had never been in the CVS on the day she made the report.

Joe admitted that she filed the report to get attention and support from her boyfriend. The sheriff's department intends to seek reimbursement on behalf of the City of Rochester Hills for all costs incurred for the investigation.

Since the case has been deemed completely false, Oakland students nor residents in the area need have any concern regarding the incident. A full list of OU's crime statistics can be found at police.oakland.edu/statement.

Campus hosts Run for Autism

By JAKE THIELEN
Staff reporter

The second annual Run for Autism will be held on Sunday, May 16 on Oakland University's campus.

"The goal is to raise awareness of autism and raise funds for OUCARES and Homes for Autism," Val Yaros, the Program Coordinator and Interim Director of OUCARES, said. Homes for Autism, a Birmingham-based organization, provides independent living for individuals affected by autism.

Last year's Run had over 700 participants, and Yaros is hoping for a similar turnout this year.

"We hope to have the same crowd as last year," Yaros said. "We're still taking registrations and looking for volunteers."

The event will feature a 5k Fun Walk/Run and a certified 10k Run. The cost of registration is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Registration is free for children seven and under. The price will increase by \$5 for those registering on the day of the event.

The Fun Walk/Run is scheduled to begin at 9:15 a.m. with the 10k run following at 9:45 a.m. Check-in will begin at the Oakland Center at 8 a.m.

Development project manager Avni Dalal said that prizes will be given to the first three finishers in each age category, as well as for the person who raised the most pledges and the person with the largest team.

"You can donate without running; just visit the website," Dalal said.

To register or make donations, visit the Run for Autism website at www.therunforautism.org/.

In addition to the Run for Autism, OUCARES is also hosting the second Autism Symposium: Quality of Life. The event will be held on May 16 and May 17 at the Detroit Marriott Pontiac at Centerpoint.

"The Quality of Life Symposium is for all people with autism, families and educators," Yaros said.

For more information on the Quality of Life Symposium, search "autism" at www.oaklandpostonline.com or visit the OUCARES website at www.oakland.edu/oucares/.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT ORGS

College republicans

BY DAUD YAR
Web Copy Editor

The College Republicans held their first meeting of the summer semester on May 5. The group's monthly meetings consistently feature speakers for the students to learn from. The speakers for last week's meeting included Copper Rizzo and Leon Drolet, who are both running for the Michigan Senate.

"We are very happy to welcome these two politicians to Oakland University," said Tori Rexford, chairman of the College Republicans. Rexford is a senior majoring in political science who has been heading the organization for six months. She, also, works for the Rick Snyder campaign.

Joshua Cline, Co-chair of the College Republicans, sees the organization as a teaching experience for students interested in politics. "There will be two or three events geared toward helping students to get out the vote or teach them to be on campaigns," said Cline. Cline is double-majoring in nursing and political science and spends part of his time as a campaign manager for Michigan senatorial candidate Kim Russell.

Rizzo, 25, is the president and owner of Avon Consulting Group. He is seeking a state senate seat from District 12. He made comments about the current government.

"One of the biggest things people were frustrated with is the inability for their elected leaders to make the tough decisions," said Rizzo.

Rizzo has called for transparency in reporting Michigan expenses by posting a report online. Rizzo said they are spending more than they take in and that makes no sense to him. Some of his other platforms include a part-time legislature, eliminating the Michigan Business Tax surcharge and requiring public employees to pay a percentage of their health insurance costs.

Drolet, 43, served in the state House of Representatives from 2000-2006. After leaving the House, he founded the Michigan Taxpayers Alliance which he still chairs. Drolet addressed the meeting following Rizzo's presentation. Drolet said that Government wages have gone up 11 percent while private sector wages are down 19 percent.

For more information regarding the College Republicans, contact them at collegerepublicansou@gmail.com.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Rec Center offers events for students and faculty

The Oakland University Rec Center will be hosting "National Employee Health and Fitness Day" May 19th. OU Employees will be able to use the Rec Center for free all day. A special presentation titled "Pain Free in the Real World" will take place, as well as a "Refresh and Revive" event. Giveaways and healthy snacks will be available throughout the day. For more information visit www.oakland.edu/reccenter.

Group personal training is also being offered at the Rec Center. A group of four to seven people can join a pace class for walking and jogging. Circuit training will combine and cardio and resistance training. For something a little more fluid, cycling is available. Additionally, a challenging boot camp course which will push your limits outdoors, using hills, stairs and open fields. Cost is \$130 per person for an assessment and 10 sessions. For more information contact Rachelle at rupascua@oakland.edu.

— Staff intern Kyle Bauer

CPE sessions begin June 4 in Elliot Hall

With further knowledge in mind, finance professionals can enroll in Oakland University's Continuing Professional Education (CPE) weekend that will cover courses including accounting, auditing, management, ethics, leadership and tax-based topics.

Full-day sessions, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and evening sessions, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. will be held in Elliott Hall on campus.

Courses begin Friday June 4 and are also offered June 9-12. If participants register before May 14, each session will cost \$45 while every session will cost \$50 if participants to register after the deadline.

Guests must only purchase the sessions in which they wish to attend and there is no separate fee for registration.

Those interested can register online at www.oakland.edu/cpeweekend.

— Staff intern Jen Bucciarelli

Office surplus garage sale to be held on May 20

On the third Thursday of almost every month, The Storage Barn (GUS) in the southwest corner of campus on Lonedale hosts an office surplus garage sale from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"When departments move or when departments upgrade, we get the old stuff," William Neuser, who works with the monthly sale, said.

Office furniture and equipment can be found at the surplus sale and some sample prices include: desks for \$25, tables for \$10 and chairs for \$5.

The next sale will be held on Thursday May 20 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All sales are cash or check with an ID; the Michigan sales tax applies to all purchases.

For more information or for location and directions, please visit www2.oakland.edu/uns/pm_sale.cfm or contact William Neuser at neuser@oakland.edu or by phone at (248) 370-4220, ext. 4220.

— Staff intern Jen Bucciarelli

OU Beaumont School of Medicine now accepting student applications

Applications are now available for the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. The school was granted preliminary accreditation in February.

"We can now move forward with our plans to recruit the best and brightest applicants for our inaugural class, which will begin instruction in August 2011," said Robert Folberg, M.D., founding dean of the medical school.

Curriculum for the medical school will include science and research studies at OU as well as clinical training at Beaumont Hospitals in Royal Oak, Troy and Grosse Pointe.

Applications are accepted starting in June for the inaugural class. The program is accepting 50 students. Interested students must have an undergraduate science GPA of 3.0 and overall GPA of 3.2 or higher. Applicants need to take the MCAT by September.

For information on applying, visit www.oakland.edu/medicine.

— Assistant Campus Editor Annie Stodola

SC2O offers options for St. Clair students

By ANNIE STODOLA
Assistant Campus Editor

Starting this fall, students will have the option to be concurrently enrolled at St. Clair County Community College (SC4) and Oakland University.

The third partnership in the "Community College to Oakland," or "CC2O" program, OU announced their agreement with St. Clair County Community College in late April.

Cheryl Rhodey, coordinator of the Macomb to Oakland partnership with Macomb Community College, is serving as the initial contact for the SC2O program.

"The university's connection to Macomb is so enormous, a lot of the people that go up to SC4 travel from the border of Macomb, right where we are," Rhodey said. "We feel that a lot of those students are coming our way anyway, especially with our location at Macomb

Community College, so it was the next stop on the run."

Students who sign up for the program will take classes at both institutions at the same time and will be considered full-time students by OU as long as they have 12 credits each semester between the two colleges.

"One thing that this program allows, which is unusual, is financial aid," Rhodey said. "Students get full-time financial aid through Oakland University."

Students in the program are also eligible for any of the student services offered at both SC4 and OU, which include advising, student organizations and OU housing.

Incoming freshmen must be accepted to OU first, which requires a 3.2 GPA or above.

Transfer OU or SC4 students are also eligible for the SC2O program. Transfer students must have less than 32 credits,

cannot be a varsity athlete or be seeking a second degree or international students.

"The only problem I see happening is that students will think, 'SC2O, go to St. Clair then Oakland.' And they're St. Clair students with almost an associate's degree thinking this is the program for them," Rhodey said. "Really, this program is for students who have zero to 32 credits. As long as they're signing up by the deadline and have less than 32 credits, they can sign up."

She said the response from students so far, although it's still early, has been excellent. Currently, she said about 20 applications have been turned in. Rhodey expects the program to do well, especially in the current economic state of the area.

"This is a huge opportunity for families in Oakland County and Macomb County to take advantage of higher education," Rhodey said. "The idea is to give stu-

dents a feel for the university, have them fall in love with it as many students do and have a stronger retention, meaning that students will have more of a feeling of a four-year university."

The fall deadline for the program is July 1. For the winter 2011 semester, the deadline is October 1.

Upcoming information sessions on the program are scheduled for May 19, May 20, June 10 and June 23 from 5 - 7 p.m. at OU, SC4 or the University Center at Macomb Community College.

"The program isn't for the benefit of Oakland," Rhodey said. "The benefit of this program is for the student. It's for the benefit of the students and their families. It's a way to show that partnerships are the way of the future. We can create this cocoon to help our students get through their four year degree without being overwhelmed with their finances."

More information is available at www.oakland.edu/SC2O.

INCubator hatches summer projects

By MIKE SANDULA
Managing Editor

Oakland University's SmartZone business incubator, which was formed in 2006 to help nurture startup companies, will be doing some growing of its own this summer.

The INCubator will forge new partnerships with the Rochester Downtown Development Authority and the Pawley Lean Institute while its partner incubator in Macomb acquires a new building.

In addition to outfitting startup companies with advisory boards, student interns and faculty research, the OU INCubator also provides them with financial investments.

OU INCubator, which currently has three on-site clients and a number of would work together with Rochester DDA to provide microloans of up to \$50,000 for small businesses.

"The DDA will be working with the OU Incubator to identify sectors of the retail market that would benefit most from being in our downtown," said Jaymes Vettraino, Rochester city manager.

The two teams are still figuring out the details but expect to begin offering loans in 12 to 18 months. Companies would qualify for a competitive, low interest rate microloan based on their business plan, according to Vettraino.

"We're interested in relatively small amounts that can maybe help give small retail businesses that first step that they need to start," Vettraino said.

With an interest in seeing companies foster in downtown Rochester, the DDA would assist in targeting businesses they deem as a good fit and helping them come up with full business plans.

Vettraino said he'd like to see a continuous cycle where they provide companies



OU's SmartZone INCubator continues to plan new projects set to span across the 2010 summer. BRETT SOCIA/The Oakland Post

with loans in return for economic growth and the DDA would offer a "second round of funding" if necessary.

In 2008, the OU INCubator launched another partner incubator in Sterling Heights with an office at 205 Sterling Ponds Court. Less than two years old, the Macomb-OU Incubator will open up a northern campus in the Plumbrook Technology Park off 18 Mile Road between Mound and Van Dyke roads.

The 36,000 square foot building was donated by Michael Damman of A.J. Damman Co., a commercial developer based in Troy. Formerly a childcare center owned by Ford Motor Company, the building will house laboratories and tenant clients.

Once retrofitted, Stephen Cassin, Macomb County executive director of planning and economic development, said the building should be opened by July 1.

While the OU Incubator is what executive director David Spencer calls a "mixed use incubator," focusing on life

science technology, defense, alternative energy and advanced manufacturing, the Macomb-OU Incubator focuses primarily on defense.

"It's what we do best," Cassin said, who added that since 2000, "nearly 66 percent of all new defense contracts ordered to businesses (in Michigan) went to Macomb (County)."

The Macomb-OU Incubator is one of 15 SmartZones in the state, which means it is technology-based incubator approved by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Cassin said Macomb-OU Incubator has received three earmarks valued at \$282,000, \$384,000 and \$100,000 from the federal government over the last few years. The state of Michigan has also recently committed \$250,000, Cassin added, and he expects to continue getting grants from private agencies as well.

To offer its expertise, the Pawley Lean Institute will be moving to the Macomb-OU Incubator in July.

"In the coming year, the OU INC looks

forward to a new focus in medical technology and health science technology in alignment with the new medical school being launched with Beaumont Hospital and OU," Spencer said. "We also will be working close in Macomb with the OU-Pawley lean institute to develop best practices in lean processing for defense in southeast Michigan."

The Institute, which focuses on lean practices, will have "two and a half" staff members on site, according to director Julianne Leigh: a program coordinator and student intern working full-time and Leigh, who would work part-time while mostly remaining at Oakland's campus.

The program coordinator would set up programs and network with clients and the intern would help throughout the summer and fall, according to Leigh.

She credits Dr. Mary Otto, vice president for Outreach, with spearheading the movement between the Institute and Spencer and the Incubator.

"She's been instrumental in developing this relationship," Leigh said.

All lean faculty would have access to the incubator to conduct lean research and instill lean thinking into their curriculum.

As for what lean is, Leigh said "it's about eliminating waste, really."

"With any industry, it's generally not the people but the process that needs improvement," Leigh said.

The Institute would work with the INCubator's client companies to eliminate their waste and make them more efficient.

"I think this will be wonderful for the Institute and Macomb County and the businesses," Leigh said, calling the move to have a learning institute housed within a business development zone an "exciting natural fit."

POLICE FILES

Assault: On April 20 two students engaged in an argument in a residence hall computer lab that led to a physical altercation involving pushing and wrestling. Another student attempted to intervene in the fight. Nightwatch staff personnel responded to assess the situation, as did two officers. One of the students involved in the argument left the scene prior to the arrival of the OUPD officers. No injuries were reported and no assault charges were pursued. There have been no further incidents between the two students.

Arson: On April 21 an officer responded to a call that there was a fire on the third level of P-29. The Auburn Hills Fire Department responded and put out the fire. The object that was set on fire was later determined to be a desktop. It was reported that two individuals were burning papers an hour prior to the incident on the same level, but suspects are currently unknown.

Warrant Arrest: On April 23 at 7:30 a.m., an officer administered a court-ordered preliminary breath test to a man on campus. Dispatch informed the officer that the man failed to appear for a pretrial hearing in relation to a retail fraud charge filed against him. At the request of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, the OUPD officer placed the man in handcuffs and held him at the booking bench until the Sheriff's Department's warrant division got on duty. The man was then transported to district court.

Stolen Bee Sticks: On April 27 a faculty member reported a larceny to an officer. The faculty member said she had ordered several hundred sticks of bee food. She received confirmation of the delivery of the sticks both to OU and to her department's mailroom on April 1, however she was unable to locate the package containing the sticks when she checked. An inquiry to staff in the building yielded no results. The bee sticks have yet to be recovered.

-Compiled by Annie Stodola and Jen Bucciarelli from OUPD's media logs

The Scene

May 12, 2010

www.oaklandpostonline.com

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Coheed completes the story

Progressive rock band releases prequel, "Year of the Black Rainbow"

By AMANDA MEADE
Staff Reporter

New York based progressive rock band Coheed and Cambria has been going strong for over ten years. Their most recent album, "Year of the Black Rainbow," marks the prequel of the four albums preceding it and completes the story that has been running since the release of "Second Stage Turbine Blade" in 2002.

The band is currently on tour with Circa Survive and Torche to support their new album. When The Oakland Post spoke with guitarist Travis Stever, the guys were headed to New Orleans for a day off before hitting the stage at Warehouse Live in Houston, Texas.

Stever said that his top three favorite songs to play live include two new

songs, "Here We Are Juggernaut" and "World of Lines." He also said he had to add "Welcome Home" into the mix of his favorites because he loves the crowd's reaction when they play it live.

At the end of 2008, Coheed and Cambria performed "Neverender," a four-night series in which the band performed every song from each of their albums, one album per night in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and London. The entire process was recorded from their New York City dates and a CD/DVD was made available on March 24, 2009.

"I don't think that it's out of the question. We had such a good time doing it," Stever said with regard to whether another "Neverender" type tour could be foreseen.

Stever said that the "Neverender" tour and getting the chance to per-

form at the Coachella music festival in Indio, California on April 17 with the University of Southern California marching band were both his most memorable tour moments and proudest accomplishments to date.

"They both go hand in hand in experiences that are really hard to come by in life for most people and I'm proud that I've been able to be a part of something like that," Stever said.

Completing the story

On April 13, "Year of the Black Rainbow" was released in both standard and deluxe edition. The special edition contains a novel written by front man Claudio Sanchez and writer Peter David, "Every End Has A Beginning" DVD with studio and interview footage and a

"Black Card" which allows holders early entry into shows.

As with any progressive band that attempts to change their sound from album to album, "Year of the Black Rainbow" was met with mixed feelings from the band's fan base.

"I'm reading a lot of those comments that after a couple listens they're starting to really love it," Stever said. "That's usually what happens with us every time we change a little bit."

Stever also talked about how many of the songs were laid out prior to their involvement of producer Atticus Ross, whose involvement was a partial reason for some of the negative feelings toward the new album. He said that as Ross had a large contribution of how the new CD turned out, the sound was merely how Coheed and Cambria was progressing.

"That's why you listen to bands. Certain people like different aspects of those bands," Stever said. "We're definitely a band that has all different angles to it, which is what I like."

Stever also mentioned that he attributed the negative comments toward the album to fans fearing dramatic change.

"No album is the same for us and I think that's the way it's supposed to be," Stever said.

The future

Many fans have speculated Coheed and Cambria's future steps now that their story is complete, but Stever assured us that the band isn't stopping anytime soon.

"There's so many different aspects of the story that we could explore. Or we could just record a regular rock record, you never know. But in five years I know we'll be doing something," Stever said.

Stever also expressed his and the band's appreciation to their fans.

"The only reason we're out here is we actually are able to constantly tour the way we do," he said. "We have such an amazing fan base and we do everything we can to try to keep them happy."

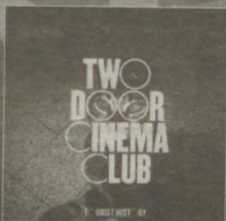
Coheed and Cambria will be playing the Royal Oak Music Theatre May 15.

For more information on Coheed and Cambria and tour information, go to coheedandcambria.com.



Photo courtesy of Davey Wilson

Coheed and Cambria's new album "Year of the Black Rainbow" completes the four album saga started in 2002 with "Second Stage Turbine Blade." The progressive rock band is now touring with Circa Survive and Torche, and they will be coming to the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Saturday, May 15.



music spotlight

B.o.B.

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

If one looks at the current hip-hop scene, there isn't much hope for the future. The genre, once ruled by inventive artists like De La Soul, 2Pac and Notorious B.I.G., has become polluted with one-hit wonders and "ringtone rap" like New Boyz, Hurricane Chris and Soulja Boy.

There is, however, one man who could turn the genre around, returning hip-hop to its roots of true lyricism, rhythm drums, guitars and synthesizers.

That man is Bobby Ray Simmons.

Simmons, widely known as B.o.B., released his debut album, "B.o.B. Presents: The Adventures of Bobby Ray," in late April on Grand Hustle Records, T.I.'s record label.

The album's first single "Nothin' on You" has shot to #1 on the Billboard Top 100 after debuting at #89, to reach platinum status.

The album's release date — originally May 25 — was moved up because of the immediate success of the track, which incorporates the smooth vocals of co-producer Bruno Mars alongside B.o.B.'s rhymes.

The album's second single, "Airplanes," features an unlikely guest vocalist — Hayley Williams of Paramore. Williams sings the chorus vocals in this retrospective look by B.o.B. at his humble beginnings to his current fame.

There is also an "Airplanes, Part II" that features two new verses from Simmons and a cameo by Eminem.

Weezer's Rivers Cuomo sings the chorus in "Magic," a braggadocious number about the duo's ability to "turn that track into gold." Simmons even compares his musical talents to Motown soul legend Aretha Franklin, stating he "sings like Aretha, so

respect me like Caesar."

While boasting is nothing new in hip-hop, Simmons has a unique approach, with the song employing synthesizers and guitars to accompany his swiftly-delivered rhymes and a catchy chorus.

"Don't Let Me Fall" is an inspirational record full of piano keys and intense guitar licks, painting Simmons as a wandering soul just trying to make his way in the universe with a musical purpose.

The album's tenth track "Lovelier Than You" is possibly the greatest showcase of his skills as an all-around musician. The song is an acoustic ballad exposing Simmons' vast vocal range and incredible guitar proficiency.

But, Simmons doesn't ignore his hip-hop roots on "Adventures."

He holds his own lyrically alongside the likes of fellow Atlanta rappers T.I. and Playboy Tre in "Bet I," and Chicago hip-hop artist Lupe Fiasco in "Past My Shades."

His vocal skills have him compared to Andrew 3000 of Outkast (evident in the song "5th Dimension"), but it's truly difficult to compare B.o.B. to other artists, as he plays with influences ranging from '80s rock, rap, techno, funk and even doo-wop.

Is B.o.B.'s debut album perfect? Not entirely, because he doesn't highlight one genre of music.

Will his longtime listeners be pleased at every song on the album? Probably not, since some of the tracks would be more at home on Top 40 radio, rather than a hip-hop station.

However, each song offers something new and B.o.B. takes risks with each one, which is more than most of his hip-hop peers can say.

With the genre-blending experiment that is the "Adventures of Bobby Ray" being such a success, it's easy to see how so many people in the music industry have B.o.B. pegged as one of the brightest young stars in the hip-hop game.

TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Staff Reporter

Two Door Cinema Club, a few guys from Northern Ireland, aren't as recognizable as their tourmates Phoenix, but their electronic pop sound in their first full-length release "Tourist History" will appeal to fans of Bloc Party, MGMT and Neon Trees.

The first track I listened to by them, "I Can Talk," features a catchy chorus, synthesizers, heavy drum beats and vocal effects sampling to formulate a great song from start to finish.

Throughout the record, guitarist Sam Halliday performs simple riffs that complement the rest of the music in each track, without drowning out the other band members' instruments.

It's a welcomed approach with more focus on structure and support in their songs' engineering and mixing.

While most of the album maintains an upbeat tempo, the ballad "Do You Want It All" slows down the pace with vocalist Alex Trimble opting for softer, quiet vocal melodies. Halfway through the song, the tempo rises again with a quick guitar solo and gently ends with Trimble repeating the chorus a cappella.

As good as the guitar and synthesizer work is on "Tourist History," bass is often absent. Bassist Kevin Baird's lacking presence results in some empty-sounding songs.

A perfect example of this inconsistency is heard in "Something Good Can Work," when Baird supplies a booming bassline, but then in "Undercover Martyn," there is no bass depth to support the high-pitched keyboard effects.

Two Door Cinema Club has a knack for making radio-friendly music, but this grows old quickly.

In their next studio album, I'd like to see some departure from their constant pop sound, which keeps most of the tracks similar-sounding. They definitely have the talent to incorporate influences from other genres, but whether they decide to pursue this direction is yet to be seen.

That said, I was still surprised at how good this album was for a first-time release. "Tourist History" is a successful effort altogether, with its breakout hits.

Two Door Cinema Club has great potential, if vocalist, keyboardist and beat supplier Trimble grows with his unique voice.

Although the band is not a groundbreaking act in music, they make quality tunes. Whether you're driving to the beach or partying with some friends, they will make a great addition to your summer music rotation.

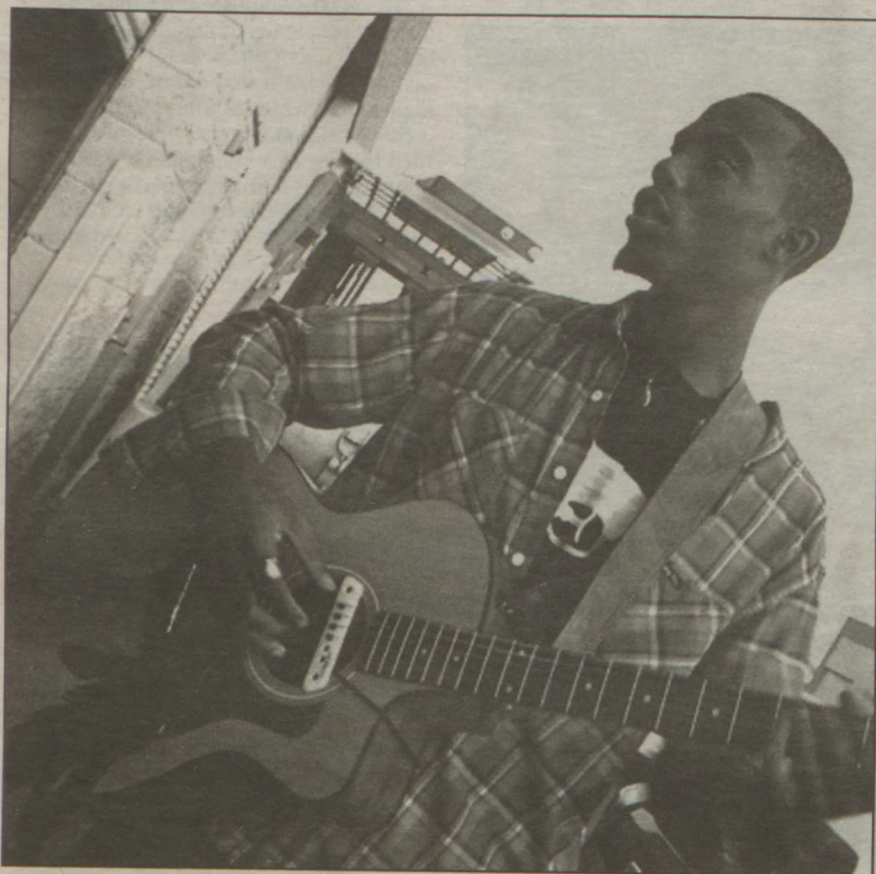


Photo courtesy of bobatl.com

B.o.B.'s new album is gaining notoriety with its genre-bending take on acoustic, techno and hip-hop.

Every Avenue rocks AP Tour

Michigan band makes it big on the open road

By JAMIE GASPER
Staff Reporter

Hometown heroes Every Avenue were one of five bands rounding out the roster for the 2010 AP tour, sponsored by Alternative Press Magazine, RockStar Energy Drink and Wonka Candy.

Other acts on the tour were The Summer Set, The Cab, Hey Monday and headliner, NeverShoutNever. The tour made its way to a sold out show at the Crofoot Ballroom in Pontiac on May 6. In the tour's third year, it's gaining notoriety with each stop, and the tour's spokespeople hope one day it will be bigger than the Van's Warped Tour.

Hailing from the Port Huron area, these guys have made a solid name for themselves across the country in just four short years.

The band's latest album "Picture Perfect" was released Nov. 3, 2009 on Fearless Records.

Prior to the Pontiac show, lead vocalist David Strauchman and lead guitarist Josh Randall of Every Avenue answered a few questions for The Oakland Post.

The Oakland Post: Is this your first time being on the roster for the AP tour?

Dave: Yeah it's the first time being on the tour. We played the Fall Ball last time it was here in Pontiac over at Clutch Cargo's.

The Oakland Post: How does it feel to be on this tour?

Josh: Ecstatic! Very excited, I think we all had subscriptions to AP when we were younger, so we're pretty excited about it.

The Oakland Post: You guys are no stranger to touring life, so what's been your favorite tour so far?

Josh: That's hard to answer. It's funny, like every single tour even dating back to before we were signed and booking our own tours, we have all these crazy memories. I think each tour holds a certain place, it's weird.

The Oakland Post: If you could pick an ultimate tour line-up, what would it be?

Together: Slipknot, BuckCherry, Guns N' Roses, Hinder, Ace of Base, New Kids on the Block, Goo Goo Dolls and Hootie and the Blowfish.

The Oakland Post: What is essential to have on the road?

Dave: Cell phone.

Josh: Yes, cell phone and whiskey.

The Oakland Post: What's the best part of being on the road?

Dave: Just getting to play live every night, being in a different city, seeing people all over the place, hanging out with our friends in other bands and being able to do what we want to do.

Josh: Having really random life experiences.

The Oakland Post: Favorite on the road meal, and favorite home-cooked meal?

Dave: Oh, mama's cooking when I'm home for sure. Whatever she makes I will eat.

Josh: I love my mom's shepherd's pie, it's my favorite. On the road, Chipotle.

Dave: I like it when we get a day off to stop at a restaurant.

Josh: Yeah, it's nice when we can actually sit down and eat and drink margaritas with the boys like Sex and the City.

The Oakland Post: Do you have any shows that stand out?

Josh: There are a lot that stick out. We played the Fillmore in Detroit and that stands out. We just played Bamboozle and that was one of my favorite shows we've ever played.

The Oakland Post: So, bringing it back to the start, how did you guys become Every Avenue?

Dave: It started back in the day at school, just with friends playing music, and eventually our band started playing with members of other bands, and you know, a few member changes over the years, and here we are.

The Oakland Post: You guys are from a pretty rural area. How did you guys manage to get your name not only across the state, but across the country?

Dave: Pretty much did everything we could: Internet, tried to play as many shows, tour as much as we could. Eventually we made a CD, put it up on iTunes and stuff like that. Utilize the Internet!

The Oakland Post: How do you think you've grown and maybe changed from "shh ... just go with it" to "picture perfect?"

Dave: Like everyone says, this CD (titled "Picture Perfect") has more layers than the last one, it's a little more dynamic. I think we just had more time to write it. Some of the songs on the last CD were like four years old and these were all new songs that we wrote and recorded.

The Oakland Post: Have you had

any crazy wild fan encounters? Do you have anyone come up to you in the grocery store or anything random?

Josh: Yeah, we've had people approach us before, but that's not really the weird part. For instance, one time we had played a venue and someone took a picture the previous time of us eating pizza with a friend at a place next door, and the next time we played there they brought it and had me sign it.

Every Avenue's next Michigan show is July 29 at the Mixtape Cafe and Venue in Grand Rapids. Check out Every Avenue on their Web site at myspace.com/everyavenue.



Photo courtesy of Amazon.com
Every Avenue's album "Picture Perfect."



Photo courtesy of Every Avenue
Every Avenue, from the Port Huron area, played the AP tour at the Crofoot Ballroom's sold out show.

GOLF COURSES

Looking to drive into the golf season full swing or just thinking about le the game? Choose from two of Oakland University's on-campus golf co Katke-Cousins Golf Course and R&S Sharf Golf Course this spring summer. For more information, call (248) 364-6300.

Katke-Cousins Golf Course

Full-time students (6 credits during spring/summer for undergrad students and 4 credits for graduate students): Weekdays: \$13 (nine holes) and \$14 (18 holes); Weekends/holidays: \$14 (nine holes) and \$20 (18 holes); Part-time student rates include: Weekdays: \$19 (nine holes) and \$25 (18 holes); Weekends/holidays: \$21 (nine holes) and \$28 (18 holes).

R&S Sharf Golf Course

Students, family and faculty: \$67 (golf cart included) during the week and \$75 (also with golf cart) during weekends and on holidays.

MEADOW BROOK HALL

Looking to explore campus history this spring and summer? Visit Oakland University's own American castle on campus and its several gardens. Until the end of May, tours of Meadow Brook Hall will be held at 1:30 p.m. during the week and 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on weekends. Beginning in June, tours of the hall and Knole Cottage will be held at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. every day. Admission is free to all OU students and children under 12; \$15 for non-student adults. The 14 gardens and 42 urns surrounding Meadow Brook Hall are free to the public and open year-round.

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

MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Check out some of your favorite bands or explore new interests this spring and summer at the many concerts and shows hosted during Oakland University's Meadow Brook Music Festival. Some performances include: Weird Al Yankovic, Demetri Martin, O.A.R., Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Carrot Top, The Rocky Horror Show, a pro MMA (mixed martial arts) extreme cage fight and many others. The event line-up begins May 15 and continues until September.

For more information about the line-up, show dates or to purchase tickets, please visit www.palacenet.com.

GRIZZLY OAKS DISC GOLF

New to campus as of September 2009, Oakland University has a disc golf course for students to enjoy. The course, named Grizzly Oaks, stretches 5,541 feet and has been called an exciting challenge for all disc golfers.

The course is located near the Upper Fields on campus so call a few friends and head over to play 18 holes of disc golf this spring and summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 3 - "WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC
JULY 17 - DEMETRI MARTIN
JULY 18 - O.A.R. & CITIZEN COPE
AUG 15 - PARAMORE, TEGAN & SARA, AND
NEW FOUND GLORY
AUG 20 - JIM GAFFIGAN

OUTSIDE AT OU

SEVEN WAYS TO SPEND YOUR SUMMER ON CAMPUS

WRITTEN BY JEN BUCCIARELLI
DESIGNED BY JASON WILLIS

13

out learning
golf courses:
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(nine holes)
o (18 holes).
and \$25 (18

week and \$72

DAGORHIR

Head outside this spring and summer to check out students, Dagorhir battlers, re-enacting medieval battle scenes, who use foam objects to imitate weapons. These battles take place in the field located between the Oakland Center and Beer Lake. Dagorhir students typically practice at noon on Sundays and possibly Wednesdays in the future. But the battles are not limited to campus, there is a weeklong event called Ragnarok that will take place the week of June 13 in Slippery Rock, PA.

SOCCER FIELDS

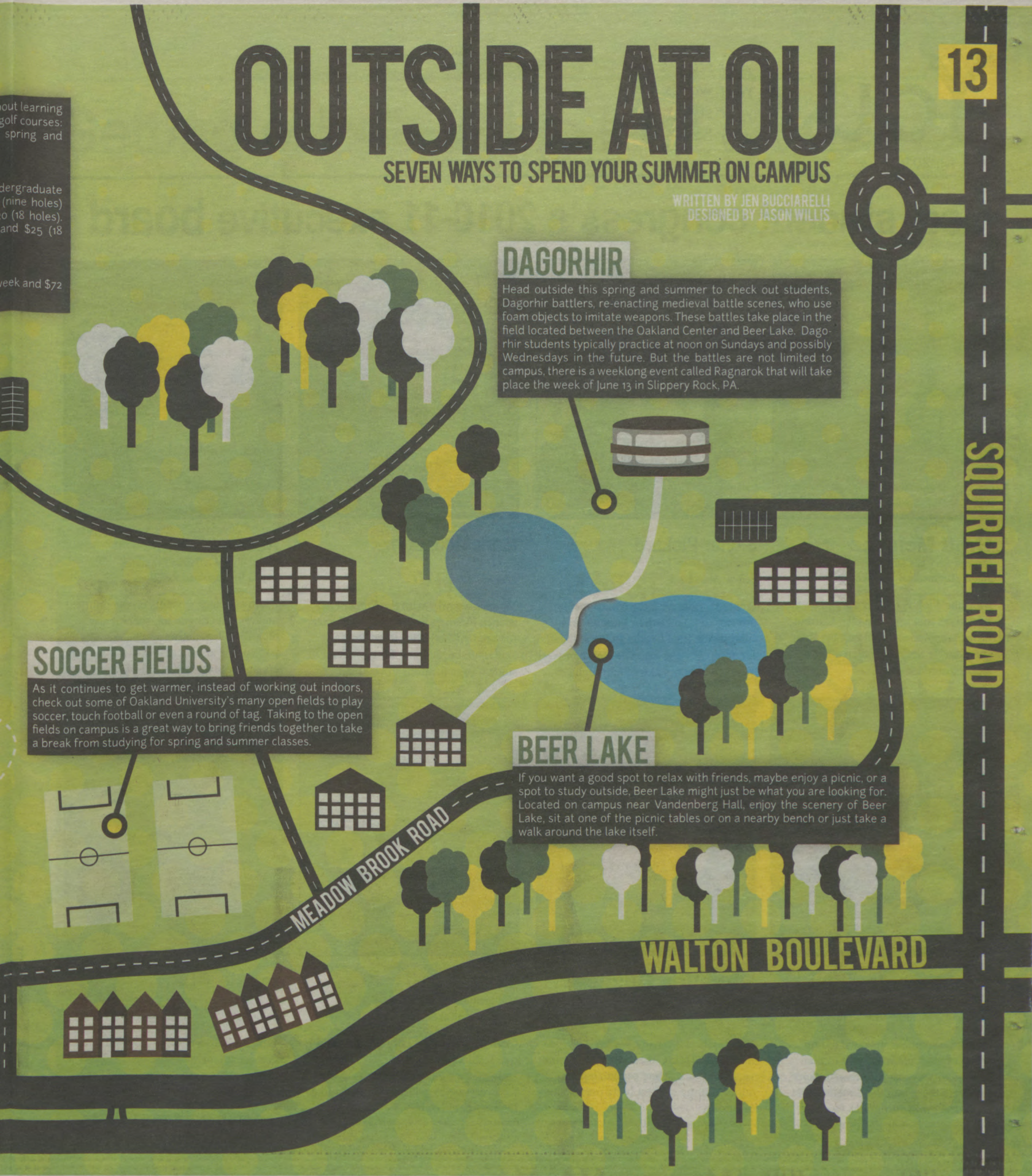
As it continues to get warmer, instead of working out indoors, check out some of Oakland University's many open fields to play soccer, touch football or even a round of tag. Taking to the open fields on campus is a great way to bring friends together to take a break from studying for spring and summer classes.

BEER LAKE

If you want a good spot to relax with friends, maybe enjoy a picnic, or a spot to study outside, Beer Lake might just be what you are looking for. Located on campus near Vandenberg Hall, enjoy the scenery of Beer Lake, sit at one of the picnic tables or on a nearby bench or just take a walk around the lake itself.

SQUIRREL ROAD

WALTON BOULEVARD



Meet student congress's 2010-11 executive board



Brett McIsaac

Student Services Director
Junior, Biomedical Engineering

McIsaac's job is to oversee and create initiatives that improve OU. Current projects include advertising the Bear Bus Shuttle Service and creating a student outdoor plaza.



Skylar Pickard

Financial Affairs Director
Senior, Marketing

Pickard works with the rest of the e-board to finance their budgets and submits the final budget to the legislator for approval. She also takes care of payments to vendors and other purchases.



Mark Medaugh

SAFB Chair
Senior, Biology

Medaugh works with the Student Activities Funding Board and the Center for Student Activities to ensure fair and equitable funding for the over 170 student organizations at Oakland.



Nessma Bashi

Multicultural Affairs Committee
Soph., International Relations

Bashi educates students on the political matters affecting them, specifically in regards to legislative and humanitarian issues. She also interacts with key leaders on the state and federal levels.



Jonathan Jenkins

SPB Chair
Senior, Communication

Jenkins assembles an "outstanding" group of students who want to plan high quality events for other students. He steers them into the direction that is needed for the programs to run.



Christina Quigley

Administrative Assistant
Senior, Secondary Education

Quigley is responsible for taking minutes at OUSC meetings, performing secretarial tasks, and organizing and administering student body presidential elections.



Tom Cruz

Multicultural Affairs Director
Senior, Political Science/History

Cruz promotes diversity in a cooperative fashion throughout OU's campus and creates a welcoming atmosphere for everyone by putting on events like International Night.



Jackie Puuri

Public Relations Agent
Senior, Elementary Education

Puuri's job is to advertise OUSC to the students at Oakland University. She advertises the weekly meetings, events and trips throughout the year.

— Compiled by staff reporter Jake Thielen

Getting orientated to lead students

Oakland orientation group leader shares what it takes to become campus OGL

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY
Campus Editor

After being accepted into Oakland University, students are required to take a day of orientation to the school, including a tour of the campus and important information before classes begin. The first face many Oakland students remember is the one of their Orientation Group Leader.

Amanda Kmetz, a junior majoring in elementary education, is one of the 20 OGLs for the 2010 school year. The selected students are part of the largest OGL group to tour the campus; the past OGL team consisted of 16 students.

After a Saturday group process of observing those interested in the position, Kmetz was called back for an interview, and was eventually informed of her upcoming position.

Before taking students on orientation tours of the campus, OGLs are required to undergo approximately three weeks of training, five days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with only an hour break for lunch each day. Kmetz's first tour will begin the Monday after the OGL training concludes.

During the training sessions, the 2010 OGLs listen to presentations from the organizations such as the

Financial Aid Department and OUPD, and also have lectures on important tour information including safety procedures. OGLs are trained in all aspects of the tour, even on how to deal with a "problem child" in the group.

After a few "boring summers," Kmetz decided to take a break from the ordinary and embark on a new experience. Interested in a summer job that pertained to the school but deviated from her organizations, she applied to be an OGL and fall semester Resident Assistant.

"I remember last summer I did absolutely nothing, so I thought, 'let's change that up a bit,'" says Kmetz. "I know a few friends who have done it and I was really excited to do something other than stuff dedicated to just my group work."

Being an OGL has more perks than knowing the ins-and-outs of the campus. Kmetz benefits from free housing on campus during her time as OGL, a salary, 300 declining points on her Spirit Card and receives free T-shirts, water bottles, and even a personalized bag in which she carries her binder for training.

In addition to her work as an OGL and a future Resident Assistant of the seventh floor of East Vandenberg, Kmetz is Vice President of Circle K International, Teams Captain Chair for Up 'Til Dawn, VP of Membership of the co-ed fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, and is also a member of the Community Service

Council. She is part of the advising unit for OU students, which she feels ties in very well to her elementary education studies.

On weekends and during her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family and her fellow OGLs watching movies and sports games. She has been working on her posters, but mentions that she finds little time in her day after training.

Kmetz said that she will be practicing her time management skills for her upcoming participation at OU. She will begin housing training in mid-August for her role as OGL and will be taking her major classes. For the next few months, however, she will be offering her knowledge of the campus to the students who are in her orientation group.

"You don't realize how much is in a certain building until you have to talk about it. You have to think, did I get everything, every floor, every office?"

Kmetz admits that as she walks around campus, she rehearses the facts of each building and offices inside. She said that training and retaining all of the information is harder than she had thought it would have been. Despite the early mornings and information quizzes, she said she is satisfied with her decision and is excited to bring in the new school year with her orientation students.

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Diamond in the rough

Grizzlies can qualify for postseason tournament with strong finish

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

In a tight race to the postseason, the Oakland University baseball team was able to earn a critical 8-7 win Sunday over conference foe North Dakota State.

After dropping two close decisions to the Bison Saturday by scores of 7-3 and 5-4, the Golden Grizzlies fell behind 5-2 after five innings in Game 1 of the Sunday doubleheader before rallying to take the victory.

In the top of the sixth inning, John Estes, who went 3-for-8, scored on a wild pitch and Nolan Jacoby drove in D.J. Jarrad, closing the gap to 5-4.

The Jacoby-Jarrad duo teamed up once again to tie the game at 5-5 when Jacoby scored Jarrad on a sacrifice-fly to right field.

The Bison wouldn't give up, scoring two runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, but Oakland's offense wasn't done either, though.

After consecutive walks to Tim Ryan and Ryan Waldhart to start the innings, Eric Ogg laid down a bunt to advance both runners. Aaron Cieslak proceeded to single up the middle, clearing the bases and tying the game 7-7.

Aaron Wick came up with the final dagger of the inning, doubling to left field and scoring Cieslak to break the tie.

Oakland starter Connor Mielock gave up eight hits and five runs in seven innings of work, while striking out four. Mark Leichtman, who got the win, and Hayden Fox finished off the last two innings, allowing just two runs and three hits.

In the nightcap of the doubleheader, OU's offense wasn't nearly as potent, as the Grizzlies fell 5-1 and collected just three hits.

Oakland tied the game 1-1 when Brett Geschke hit a groundout that scored Todd Dunham, who had singled, stole second base, and then advanced into scoring position after a wild pitch.

NDSU secured the winning margin in the bottom of the sixth inning, scoring four runs off Wick, who started the game for OU. Wick gave up seven hits, five



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletic Department
Junior infielder D.J. Jarrad and the Grizzlies have a six-game homestand against conference opponents

runs, walked six batters and struck out three in five and two-thirds innings.

"We knew going in that it was going to be a tough series and NDSU is a very competitive club," OU baseball coach John Musachio said. "We played four close games and I think all of them could've gone either way. We just didn't get the break we could've hoped for."

Postseason aspirations

A previous program-record eight-game win streak, which included wins over

Centenary, Central Michigan, Western Illinois, and Olivet, preceded the North Dakota State series. The streak also put Oakland (17-28, 8-11) in a position to make the Summit League Tournament for the first time since 2006.

"It would obviously be a huge accomplishment for the program and it's one of our main goals as a program every year to make the conference tournament," Musachio said. "It's the first time in a few years where we've been in a position to accomplish that this late in the year, so we're excited for that, and it's good

experience for our players. If we go out and play the baseball we're capable of, I think we're going to be in good shape."

The top four teams in the Summit League qualify for the conference tournament, but before the Grizzlies can think of postseason play, they will likely have to win a pair of four-game series versus the Mastodons of IPFW (May 14-16) and the Thunderbirds of Southern Utah (May 20-22). All of the games will be at home.

With IPFW one game behind and Southern Utah one game ahead of OU in the conference standings, the next two weekends of baseball will decide whether Musachio's team will be playing in Tulsa, Okla., at the end of the month.

"We definitely have an understanding of how important the series (with IPFW) is. There's no denying that," Musachio said. "Our goal is to stay focused one game at a time, but looking at the big picture, this is a series that we really want to win and put ourselves in a position to, in the following weekend against Southern Utah, to go out and earn that fourth seed in the conference tournament."

Oakland travels to Eastern Michigan University May 12 for its final non-conference game of the season before starting its crucial home stand.

Upcoming Schedule

5/14 vs. IPFW 3 p.m.

5/15 vs. IPFW 12 p.m.
vs. IPFW 3 p.m.

5/16 vs. IPFW 1 p.m.

5/20 vs. Southern Utah 3 p.m.

5/21 vs. Southern Utah noon
vs. Southern Utah 3 p.m.

5/22 vs. Southern Utah 1 p.m.

Summit League Tournament
begins 5/27

Softball concludes transition season

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

A season of change for the Oakland University softball team ended last weekend when the Golden Grizzlies dropped a pair of games to conference rival IPFW, 8-1 and 4-1.

In the top half of the Sunday double-header, OU's offense was stifled by the Mastodons, who allowed just three hits, including a run-scoring single by Grizzlies senior Erica Lozon in the top of the second inning.

IPFW only had a 4-1 lead after the fourth inning, but their offense put the game out of reach for the Grizzlies with a four-run fifth.

Oakland's offense threatened in the top of the sixth inning, getting runners in scoring position with just one out, but Mastodons starter Courtney Cronin induced a pop up and a groundout to end the inning.

Sophomore Brittany Doyle took the loss after allowing eight runs (six unearned) on 13 hits. She did have four strikeouts, however.

The nightcap of the softball double-header yielded a similar result for OU, as the Grizzlies were once again held to three hits and one run.

OU junior Marisa Everitt struck out six batters and allowed just four runs on four hits, but two of those hits were extremely costly.

Mastodons catcher Kristina Karpun and Cronin both had 2-run home runs, providing all the offense for IPFW.

Much like the first game, OU threat-

ened in its half of the seventh inning.

Senior Katie Dreyer laced a single to score fellow senior Ashley Sullivan with no outs, but IPFW starter Rachel Staschuk struck out the next two batters and forced a pop-up that ended OU's scoring chance.

"Pitching for IPFW was okay, but we have been working on a new style of hitting this year and at times it has really been effective, but it's still a learning process. We're still working on that," interim head coach Jane Zimmerman said. "We did not hit well this weekend, at all. None of the pitchers we faced were overpowering, we just didn't hit well."

Fatigue from travel is another factor that Zimmerman thinks affected her team's chances this past weekend.

"It was a very long weekend... the bus ride down was long and so we had a little bit of jetlag if you will," Zimmerman said. "We were tired; it's been a trying season. We didn't fare too well and we would've rather have done better, but we didn't."

OU finished with a 17-37 record for the 2010 campaign, including a 7-14 conference record. Despite the high number in the team's loss column, Zimmerman saw plenty of positives.

"People are ready to step up — the freshman have gotten their feet wet so they're ready to take a more committed role on the team," Zimmerman said. "The players we have coming in for next year are really bound and determined, and should give those that were starting, the underclassmen, a little competition."

Zimmerman replaced longtime head



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletic Department
Junior pitcher Marisa Everitt will likely become the leader of the Oakland pitching staff next season.

coach Glenn McDonald, the winningest coach in program history, in late March and coached the squad to a 6-16 record, including a trio of series wins over IUPUI, South Dakota State and the University of Detroit.

"With everything that did happen with our team this year, it was trying for everyone and difficult at times, and there was a lot of frustrations for everyone, but we worked above them as best we could,"

Zimmerman said.

An official decision has not been made in regard to who will coach the team next season, but Zimmerman is prepared for the future and has laid the groundwork to ensure the team will be as well.

"There's nothing yet that I will be here next year, but I just prepared the team as best I could," Zimmerman said.

Oakland has 11 recruits already signed to join the team next season.

Lacrosse season ends with a valiant effort

By SHAWN MINNIX
Copy Editor

The Oakland University women's lacrosse team played in the inaugural Division II National Championship held in Scottsdale, Ariz., and even though they came up short, fought until the bitter end — losing three very competitive games.

In the first game against Southern Methodist University, the Golden Grizzlies were defeated 17-16. The Mustangs jumped out to an 11-6 lead late in the first half before OU finally came alive.

The Grizzlies went on a 9-3 run to take a 15-14 lead with 12:04 remaining in the game on a goal by senior captain Haley Noonan.

However, the Mustangs would prove to be too much for the Grizzlies on this sweltering day, as the immense heat took its toll on Oakland. After losing sophomore defender Desiree Messina due to dehydration early in the first half, OU continued to play hard but a three-goal surge from SMU allowed the Mustangs to take a 17-15 lead with 6:46 left to play.

Oakland would go down and score a tying goal in the final minute, but Noonan was called for a crease violation and the goal was nullified. SMU ran out the clock from there and handed the Grizzlies their second loss of the season.

In the team's second game against the University of North Carolina, Oakland fell to the Tar Heels, 14-9. After starting out slow, OU scored the final seven goals of the first half to take a 7-4 lead at halftime.

But in the second half UNC showed why they were one of the top teams in Division II and scored the first nine goals to put the game out of reach.

In the final game, Oakland was defeated by St. Benedict, 17-12. The Grizzlies ended their season at 16-4.

"The lacrosse gods weren't with us," OU coach Towbey Kassa said. "We had the edge in shots and ball possession but we couldn't put the ball in the net."

Kassa was disappointed with how the season ended, but already the focus is on how to improve and compete against what will be a tough schedule next season.

"Next year, we're going to play more road games,"

Kassa said. "It takes a lot of toll leaving at three in the morning and it took some preparation off."

There were bright spots for the team in Arizona, including the play of junior captain Ashley Krisfalusi, who was named to the all-tournament team. The Grizzlies have the experience of playing on a national stage and it should make them better in the long run.

Oakland comes home disappointed but hopeful for the future that it can build off this season and look to head back to nationals next year. The motivation for the team from losing in Arizona combined with the prospect of winning a fifth straight divisional title is a defining mission for next season.

After winning four straight Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League division titles and two conference championships, recruiting has never been better. Kassa has already confirmed two new players coming from St. John's and Rockford, which will only add to the strong core of the team.

"The girls are really excited for next year," Kassa said. "I think we'll win our division and it will just be how our leadership does with the new girls coming in."

Homeless Cruisers will play games at OU

By ROSS MAGHIELSE
Sports Editor

The 1989 movie "Field of Dreams" is a signature film for the sport of baseball. It is to baseball what "Hoosiers" is to basketball. Moving, encouraging, memorable. The film's famous line, "If you build it, they will come," has become the mantra for grassroots baseball endeavors around the world.

But the Oakland County Cruisers never built it. They tried. They bought land. They made promises. They even sold season ticket packages. Yet, the dream and previously stated reality of a \$9 million baseball stadium and Frontier League baseball team in Waterford Township has disappeared just like Shoeless Joe Jackson into the center field corn stalks in that Kevin Costner classic.

Troubled from the beginning

Now entering their third year of existence, the Oakland County Cruisers are still without a home. In their inaugural season of 2008, the team played all of its games on the road. Last year, the few "home" games they did play were played in Ypsilanti on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. A venue that spectators said drew 40 to 50 people per game, although the official attendance numbers released by

the Cruisers were stated as much higher. This year, with what was supposed to be a stadium still sitting as a vacant parking lot, the team is looking anywhere for a place to call home — including Oakland University.

The Cruisers two-week spring training season began last Friday at the Oakland baseball field and will continue May 13 at 11 a.m. After two exhibition games in Florence, Ky., the team will return to OU to finish spring training May 16-19.

Other venues the Cruisers will call home this year are sites in Ypsilanti, Livonia, and potentially an additional site somewhere in either Oakland or Macomb County. The last three home games of the regular season will be played at OU.

"We've had ongoing discussions with the athletic department and (Oakland baseball coach) John (Musachio) and that was the most natural and most convenient place for us to hold spring training," said Rob Hilliard, president and CEO of Diamond Heroes of Southeast Michigan, Inc. and the Cruisers. "John has cleared dates for the Labor Day weekend series at the end of the season and we're waiting for the paperwork to come through on that."

Oakland is just a temporary stop on the Cruisers' hopeful long-term plan. Hilliard was adamant that the team will not only stay in Oakland County, but will someday play in the proposed new ballpark in Waterford.

"We have a shovel ready project that needs financing. There is no reason for this to move anyplace else because we'd be reinventing the wheel," he said. "All of the work is done. We're ready to build 72 hours after the financing is approved."

"If you build it, they will come." That is the hope for the Cruisers. But right now, the reality is a struggling minor league franchise relegated to an office warehouse in the Summit Place Mall with a chunk of land it cannot afford to build anything on.

Holding out hope

The team said in a recent press release that the prognosis for financing the proposed Diamond at The Summit Outdoor Sports & Entertainment Center is bright, but will take up to another 10 weeks. It is a process that has been underway for nearly two years.

Hopes for financing a stadium are dependent on potential investment money from a Southern California investment group and project development funds from the federal government.

"In February, we were introduced to a (Southern California) based international private lending group and have been working on a construction loan and takeout financing package," Hilliard said. "We lost our funding shortly after it was approved and it's been a battle since. But we're exploring other options. ... We're going to play."

Ernie Harwell leaves behind legacy of respect

By KYLE BAUER
Staff Intern

COLUMN

It was 9:30 on an innocent enough Tuesday night, at a cottage in Gaylord, Mich. My attempt to roast marshmallows was foiled by steady rain, rhythmically pinging off of the roof, splattering and rolling down the window.

Sitting at the table waiting for my girlfriend to finish dinner, I checked my phone for the score of the Red Wings' Game 3 against the San Jose Sharks.

Addicted, I consulted Facebook mobile first. Instead of reading the pending bad news of the hockey game and preempted end to the Wings season, I scrolled through to see expected, but still devastating condolences.

Such as the rain was splattering and rolling down the window, tears began to roll down my cheek, splattering on the screen of my phone.

Ernie Harwell had passed away.

Completely beside myself, I cried in such a way I had not cried since my grandfather passed away seven years ago. Trying to "be a man about it," I wiped my face and held in my tears as my girlfriend turned away from the stove to bring my plate.

Picking at my broccoli, all I could hear

in my head was his voice. All I could hear on the outside were her attempts to make small talk. There was nothing I could say or think of other than Ernie Harwell.

I remained stone-faced, turned down, every muscle in my face clinched. The slightest movement would be like a bulldozer busting through a dam.

Finally she asked me if I was okay. I slowly looked up. She could see what I was trying to contain; the pain was visible on my face.

I let loose and completely broke down. She hugged me but that couldn't do much. She asked me a very valid question; What did he mean to you, to evoke this?

Ernie was a surrogate grandfather to me. He was always there every summer night, from the time I was six until 14. These formative years of my life, were spent in the car or garage with my father, listening to Ernie's warm, gentle southern-drawl, tinged with a bit of a lisp, explain everything that was on the field before him, simultaneously painting a picture to project in my young, squishy mind.

My first hero on the diamond was Cecil Fielder. I always identified with him most because, like myself as a child, he was a fat first baseman.

Upon news of Harwell's death, I

began to think, what if he didn't make listening to Tigers' games so inviting? What if Ernie wasn't there to say, "LOOOOOOOONG GONE!" every time Cecil bounced one off the left field roof of Tiger Stadium? Would I have gotten that excited every time Fielder came up to bat?

I knew every time he came up to bat there was a good chance Ernie would end up yelling his signature phrase. Maybe Ernie was just my favorite and everyone else was there to serve as actors in the play he was narrating.

This made a big enough impact that around the age of eight, I decided I wanted to be a sports broadcaster.

Hey, if I end up becoming the next Cecil Fielder, cool, but I really want to be the next Ernie Harwell. I wanted to paint the picture in everyone else's mind. I wanted to be so powerful that I could enthrall you with just my voice and a bit of ambient sound.

Like Ernie, I wanted to be so natural and personable. It seemed as though you were blind and he was sitting next to you, describing the action as a personal favor, not a job.

On Monday, I went to the Detroit Tigers game against the New York Yankees to, in a sense, pay my final respects. It was the first home game for the Tigers since his passing. Comerica

Park went into a moment of silence (through which I heard heathens still conversing).

They began to raise Harwell's honorary flag, suddenly the relative quiet broke as they played a clip of audio; scripture "Song of Solomon" that Harwell would recite at the beginning of every spring training.

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

Upon hearing his voice, a chill was injected into my spine, raced up back, then exploded through out my body. I held my composure one more time, as the audio faded out.

Ernie Harwell liked referencing turtles. In speeches he would often say, "I'm a turtle on a fence post. You know when you see a turtle on a fence post, he didn't get up there by himself."

When it comes to Ernie and what he meant to me as a broadcaster and person, I like to think of myself as that turtle on the fence post.

I didn't get up there by myself, I got there because listening to him shaped my rabid love for baseball, and my passion to do what he did.

Thank you, Ernie. There is nothing more I can say except, thank you.

Texting ban takes effect

By MACKENZIE ROGER
Staff Intern

The quest to outlaw driving distractions sparked the debate over a text messaging ban while driving in Michigan.

On April 30, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed three bills that banned sending or reading text messages while driving on all Michigan roads, including the Oakland University campus. The laws will take effect on July 1.

"Give driving your full attention because it deserves it," said Oakland University Police Department Captain Mark Gordon.

The bills prohibit motorists from typing, sending or receiving text messages. The first violation will result in a \$100 fine, with each subsequent citation a \$200 fine.

No points will be assessed to the driver's record and violations of the texting law will not be recorded on drivers' master records, according to Senate Bill 468.

OUPD will enforce the legislation as well.

Gordon said he rarely sees drivers texting on campus roads, but often sees other drivers doing it on other roads, although he strongly disapproves of the practice.

"It's easy to lose track of what's going on around you while you're texting and I think most people are aware of that fact," Gordon said. "You're on your way somewhere, driving your vehicle and trying not to hit pedestrians."

Gordon cites the campus speed limits, high volume of pedestrians and quests for parking spaces as reasons why students largely do not send text messages while driving on campus.

Once the laws go into effect, the OUPD must discern between drivers texting or dialing a phone number while driving.

"Dialing itself, the phone, is not going to be an infraction: texting or reading a text message is. The fact that you are dialing your cell phone while driving is not included in the law," Gordon said.

Telling the difference between texting and dialing will have to be a judgment call on officers' part, Gordon said.

Senior Kristen Marshall, a medical laboratory sciences major, believes that officers will have no trouble differentiating between the two.

"The time difference is there," Marshall said. "Typing a text takes way longer than dialing a number."

Junior art history major Jeni Dick supports the law. As someone who used to text while driving, she said she now understands the risks involved.

"I noticed I'd be looking at my phone and I wasn't paying attention," she said. "I just knew this wasn't a good idea."

A 2009 study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute discovered that while texting, the average driver took their eyes off the road for 4.6 seconds in a 6-second interval, equivalent to driving 300 feet at 55

mph without looking at the road.

Additionally, the study found that dialing while driving increases the likelihood of an accident 300 percent.

The Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives took the study into account while debating a potential texting ban last winter.

More extensive laws regarding distracted behavior may be more beneficial.

"We definitely see a lot of texting and a lot of distracted behavior," said Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard. "Making a phone call can be distracting. There's a challenge to enforce it [the texting law]. A better law would have addressed distracted behavior."

According to Bouchard, the financial impact of receiving a citation might halt certain people from texting while driving, although they may continue other detrimental behavior.

"[The law] should have been more specifically distracted driving, not just text messaging," Bouchard said.

Some OU students have doubts the effectiveness of anti-texting laws, and compare it to Michigan's 2008 seatbelt law.

"I think the law will cut down on texting, but I don't think it'll eliminate it," Marshall said. "People are more in a hurry nowadays and don't care. People still don't wear their seatbelts all the time, and there's a law about that, too."

Hookah bars feel the impact of state mandated smoking ban

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Staff Reporter

On May 1, 2010, with the introduction of the "Dr. Ron Davis Smoke Free Air Law," Michigan became the 38th state to implement a public smoking ban.

"It's nice going into a restaurant or bar and not coming out smelling like smoke. It makes me sick to my stomach," junior Chelsea McCulley said.

Some Oakland students who also hold jobs at local bars have emotions favoring the law since it went into effect, regardless of the downturn of business.

"It's a lot easier to work now," said student Kimberly Zuteck, who works at a local establishment. "Once I started working in a smoking environment it affected my health. ... I mean business has been a little bit slower but it's healthier and cleaner, and that makes up for it."

Although opinion on whether the new law is justified has been subject to

debate, the issue just became more complicated.

With the new law, smoking in all public places including bars and restaurants is prohibited throughout the state, except for casinos and cigar bars.

Businesses aren't allowed to serve food and drink and have tobacco products at the same time.

According to ArabDetroit.com, which serves as a resource for information on Arabic culture in the area, there are approximately 300,000 Arabic people living in the Detroit area.

A large part of Arabic culture is to enjoy the smoking of tobacco in large glass pipes called hookahs.

"Every culture has their own customs," said Sam Ahmad of Dearborn's 360 Lounge and Grill. "The tradition originated years ago. Having a meal with friends and smoking hookah afterwards is an important aspect of our culture."

These small businesses face new problems due to the new law and are forced

to decide which part of their heritage to practice and respect. Unfortunately, only serving traditional Arabic food and drink or selling hookah is not as profitable.

"It's like telling an Italian not to have wine with their dinner," says Ahmad.

Many hookah bar owners believe that the line in the Dr. Ron Davis Law that separates casinos from small businesses like their hookah bars is blurred.

"I don't understand why casinos are allowed to operate with people smoking cigarettes and coming into contact with more secondhand smoke than us," Ahmad said.

Residents who are against the new law may argue that people know what they should expect when they enter an establishment like a hookah bar.

"Our business was opened to share a part of culture with the surrounding community. 99.9 percent of people who come in are well aware they are going into a smoke environment," Ahmad said.

"I think if it is part of your culture,

there should be special considerations made. It is unfair to discriminate against a culture's practices," junior Abe Kassa said.

Not all states with smoking bans have the same rules regarding hookah bars.

For example, laws in the state of Washington allow smoking in private clubs like hookah establishments.

While 360 Lounge and Grill, like many other local hookah bars, is complying with the new law, that hasn't stopped them from taking action.

The owner of the 360 Lounge and Grill, Mike Berry, is also president of the National Heritage Association, and they have begun fighting back with legal action to change the law and gain exemption.

"Do I think we are going to win the war? I don't know," Ahmad said. "I believe we should. They tell us that they (lawmakers) aren't targeting certain people, but they aren't making it hard to think otherwise."

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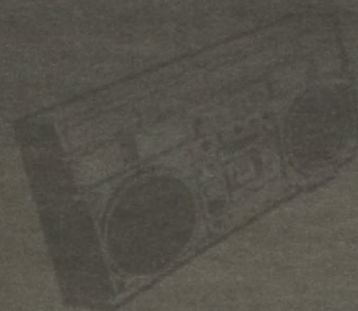
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Senate debates financial reform

By KATIE JACOB
Copy Editor

In the wake of a devastating financial crisis that left the economy close to collapse, the Senate began debate on new financial legislation last week that will put an end to risky business practices on Wall Street and provide oversight to prevent a similar occurrence from happening in the future.

Republican opposition to the debate, based on claims that the Democratic reform bill would prop up banks deemed "too big to fail", dwindled as public anger over Wall Street excesses peaked on the heels of a federal indictment of Goldman Sachs, the giant investment bank, on securities fraud.

The bill, S.3217, Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010 introduced by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT), Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, seeks to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system.

It would try to prevent future taxpayer bailouts and sets up a commission, the Financial Stability Oversight Council, whose duty is to identify risks and respond to threats to financial stability and protect consumers from abusive financial service practices.

Key amendments to the bill are being introduced on the Senate floor.

One by Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont requires an audit of the Federal Reserve System to look at the toxic assets they purchased during the

financial crisis.

Its goal is to let the American people know the names of the recipients of \$2,000,000,000,000 in taxpayer assistance from the Fed.

The amendment had bipartisan support and passed by a vote of 96-0 on Tuesday.

Another important amendment is one introduced by Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Ted Kaufman of Delaware that would limit the size of big financial institutions by placing caps on their deposits and limiting the size of their liabilities. Another by Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas would restrict big banks from doing business in derivatives.

The Merkley-Levin amendment would bar banks from proprietary trading (high-risk betting on exotic financial instruments) and require the biggest nonbank financial institutions to set aside additional capital to decrease the risk posed by speculative trading.

On a conference call with local media last week, Michigan Congressman Gary Peters described how lack of oversight and greed on Wall Street led to the grave economic system situation we face today.

"I think we all agree that Wall Street Reform is absolutely essential to protect families and protect investors. I think that what we have seen is unbridled greed on Wall Street that bought the economy to its knees."

Speaking of the Wall Street bailout he said that he had proposed legisla-

tion in the House to insure that every penny of taxpayer money would be repaid to the treasury by the banks that received it.

When questioned about whether he thought the reforms would be strong enough to reign in banks that are too big to fail, Peters responded that there is a strong resolution authority in the reform bill where if these banks are at a point where they are going to fail, they can be dissolved, their boards fired and the shareholders and creditors will lose their investments.

He described how dangerous Wall Street speculation put the American economy at risk.

"What we've seen is almost a casino-like culture on Wall Street where bets were taken...not just bets on the economy but bets on bets, and then another layer of bets that just increased the volatility of Wall Street and the house of cards fell and it fell with a very large crash."

When asked if the bill goes far enough, Peters said that there are very strong protections in the bill.

He said that lobbyists from the financial industry have descended on Capitol Hill "like locusts" and that they are fighting financial reform with everything they have.

"But," he said, "I guess my answer is...if there weren't very strong protections for taxpayers and investors in the bill you would not see the intensity of the lobbying done by Wall Street lobbyists right now. That should speak volumes for what's in this bill."

Kagan: Obama's next pick for SC

By BEN FELLER
Associated Press Reporter

WASHINGTON — Introducing his Supreme Court nominee to the nation, President Barack Obama on Monday portrayed Elena Kagan as a guiding force for a fractured court and a champion of typical Americans. She would be the youngest justice on the court and give it three women for the first time in history.

Less excited, Republican senators said they would give the nomination a long, hard look in potentially contentious summertime confirmation hearings. One declared he would oppose her, but Democrats hold a strong majority of Senate seats, making eventual approval likely.

In choosing Kagan, the U.S. solicitor general and a former dean of Harvard Law School, Obama sought someone he hopes will seal majority votes on a divided court, as the retiring Justice John Paul Stevens sometimes had the ability to do. The president, who said Kagan has "one of the nation's foremost legal minds," wanted someone who could counter the court's conservative leaders as well as sway votes with her thinking and temperament.

Obama chose a nominee who has never been a judge, a factor the White House said had worked in Kagan's favor, giving her a different perspective from the other justices. The president embraced Kagan's profile: a left-leaning lawyer who has won praise from the right, earned political experience at the White House and on the college campus and cleared one Senate confirmation already.

At 50 years old and with lifetime tenure, Kagan could extend Obama's court legacy by decades. Her vote could be the difference on cases that shape American liberties and the scope of the government's power.

A beaming Kagan shared a handshake and a kiss with Obama, and then she stepped up on a riser to accept the honor. Her comments emphasized a career built on teaching and arguing the law, not the judicial beliefs that she will be closely questioned about by senators.

She said the court allows "all Americans, regardless of their background or their beliefs, to get a fair hearing and an equal chance at justice." That seemingly straightforward line of thinking has enormous weight with Obama, who has grown frustrated with a Supreme Court he says is tilting away from average Americans.

If confirmed, Kagan would not be expected to alter the balance of power.

Spill spreads, execs called before Congress to explain

WASHINGTON — Congress called BP and its drilling partners to account on May 11 for a "cascade of failures" behind the spreading Gulf oil spill, zeroing in on a crucial chain of events at the deep-sea wellhead just before an explosion consumed the rig and set off the catastrophic rupture.

In back-to-back Senate inquiries, executives of the three companies at the heart of the massive spill were chastised by senators over attempts to shift the blame to each other. And they were asked to explain why better preparations had not been made to head off the accident.

"Let me be really clear," Lamar McKay, chairman of BP America, told the hearing. "Liability, blame, fault — put it over here." He said: "Our obligation is to deal with the spill, clean it up and make sure the impacts of that spill are compensated, and we're going to do that."

By "over here," McKay meant the witness table at which

BP, Transocean and Halliburton executives sat shoulder to shoulder. And despite his acknowledgment of responsibility, each company defended its own operations and raised questions about its partners in the project gone awry.

Lawmakers compared the calamity to some of history's most notorious mishaps from sea to space in the first congressional inquiry into the April 20 explosion and so-far unstoppable spill.

In the crowded hearing room, eight young activists sat in quiet protest, with black T-shirts saying, "Energy Shouldn't Cost Lives." Several wore black painted spots near their eyes to symbolize tear drops made from oil.

Meanwhile, days after icelike crystals clogged a four-story, 100-ton box that workers had lowered atop the main leak, BP was considering a new, smaller box in the hope that it would be less likely to be encrusted. Officials said the new box could be in place by midweek.

— AP Report

Mouthing Off

The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Oakland Post

May 12, 2010

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Killing America, one sandwich at a time

For your safety, this Mouthing Off comes with a free prescription for Lipitor

By RORY McCARTY

Mouthing Off editor/ sandwich enthusiast

Contrary to what the media has lead us to believe, we Americans are not the fattest nation in the world. We have long been overtaken by countries like American Samoa, which enjoys over a 90 percent rate of obesity. But the food scientists in the laboratories of KFC and Wendy's work tirelessly to create new food technology to help us win the large, pillowy arms race. I'm sure you've seen the product of their efforts in all the news reels: the suicide sandwich.

The Double Down

The newest model of suicide sandwich has been the subject of much controversy as of late: KFC's Double Down. And I understand the cause for concern: Can we really consider it a sandwich if it has no bread?

To bring everyone up to speed, the Double Down is made of bacon, cheese, and salad dressing and balanced haphazardly between two fried chicken breasts. In other words: fat, fat, and fat nestled between two layers of delicious fried fatty fat fat. Mmmmm... my left arm goes numb just thinking about it.

On the other hand, you can also order an alternate version of the Double Down with grilled chicken breasts instead of fried, since that's so much healthier. To order that version, you have to ask the cashier for "Please Laugh At Me Secretly When You Ring Me Up, And Get Me A Diet Coke Too Because I Have To Watch My Figure."

We've had reports of people eating Doubles Down and experiencing flu-like symptoms: fatigue, fever, nausea. WXOU Fundraising Director Steve Wiseman ate a Double Down and then swore off eating fast food as a result.

I think my biggest problem with the Double Down is its name. I think it must've originally been called the Double Bypass. Or the Double You Have So Much To Live For. But KFC marketing mucked it up when they found that those names "didn't focus test well."

The name still works, in a sense. Double Down is sort of like playing blackjack, which is like gambling, and if you eat one you're gambling with your life. But it's a little bit too much "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon" for me.

Speaking of things named bacon!

Bacon is good for me

Wendy's Baconator! Now there's a sandwich that is honest about its intentions; it sounds like it could genuinely kill you. If I didn't know any better, I'd say it was a pork-fueled death-robot sent through time to kill John Connor.

You can order a single, double, or triple Baconator, which contains three quarters of a pound of beef, as many layers of bacon, mayonnaise, and cheese. And none of those froufrou vegetables getting in the way.

During preliminary testing for the Baconator, 50 per-



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Newly hired Mouthing Off editor Rory McCarty stands patriotically in front of the American flag and salutes the valiant Double Down.

cent of test subjects cowered in fear of it, 20 percent ate half of it and then took a nap, and another 30 percent of them ate the entire sandwich and then cut out their own tongue, knowing that they would never again taste anything so glorious. Future versions of the sandwich were modified to elicit a less drastic response.

It's not publicized widely, but the Baconator also fulfills a requirement in the Reverend Dave Thomas' will. Dave, great humanitarian that he was, dedicated part of his estate to research a more humane way to kill prisoners on death row. In fact, in Texas you can already elect to end your life by lethal injection, electrocution, or Triple Baconator.

It's not our fault you died

Some suicide sandwiches actually dare you to eat them. This appeals to us as Americans in two ways: it indulges our desire to eat too much and our desire to not get sued.

What's that? You say your left ventricle clogged with meat and gave you a stroke and you want us to pay damages for your rehabilitation? Sorry, it's called the Ham and Chili-cheese Donut Hoagie CHALLENGE for a reason. You knew what you were getting into.

(Editor's note: The Oakland Post does not recommend eating any meal that you have to sign a waiver for).

On the other hand, if you finish the meal, you get a

refund, a T-shirt, and maybe a plaque on the wall with your name on it to go with the plaque in your arteries. A pretty sweet deal.

These are the food challenges, like the kind seen on "Man vs. Food." Last year host Adam Richman attempted to eat a Guinness World Record-setting 190-pound burger at a restaurant in Detroit just before, I believe, he exploded.

This is the sort of meal that would make six time competitive eating world champion Takeru Kobayashi weep openly, just after inhaling his 50th hot dog in ten minutes. And as near as we can tell, he has a four-dimensional stomach.

The Food Arms Race

These advances in food technology should poise us to take the number one spot from American Samoa any day now. And new weapons in the fight are being created all the time, like the IHOP Pancake Stacker: A pancake sandwich with cheesecake meat, covered in strawberry syrup and whipped cream.

Suicide sandwiches make your brain happy, but make your body hate you. There's seldom any question what you're getting: a few moments of bliss followed by a lifetime of increased risk of heart failure.

Just remember that the nomenclature can be misleading. That's why I eat exclusively at Fatburger.

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