

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

September 21, 2011

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Volume 38 // Issue 7

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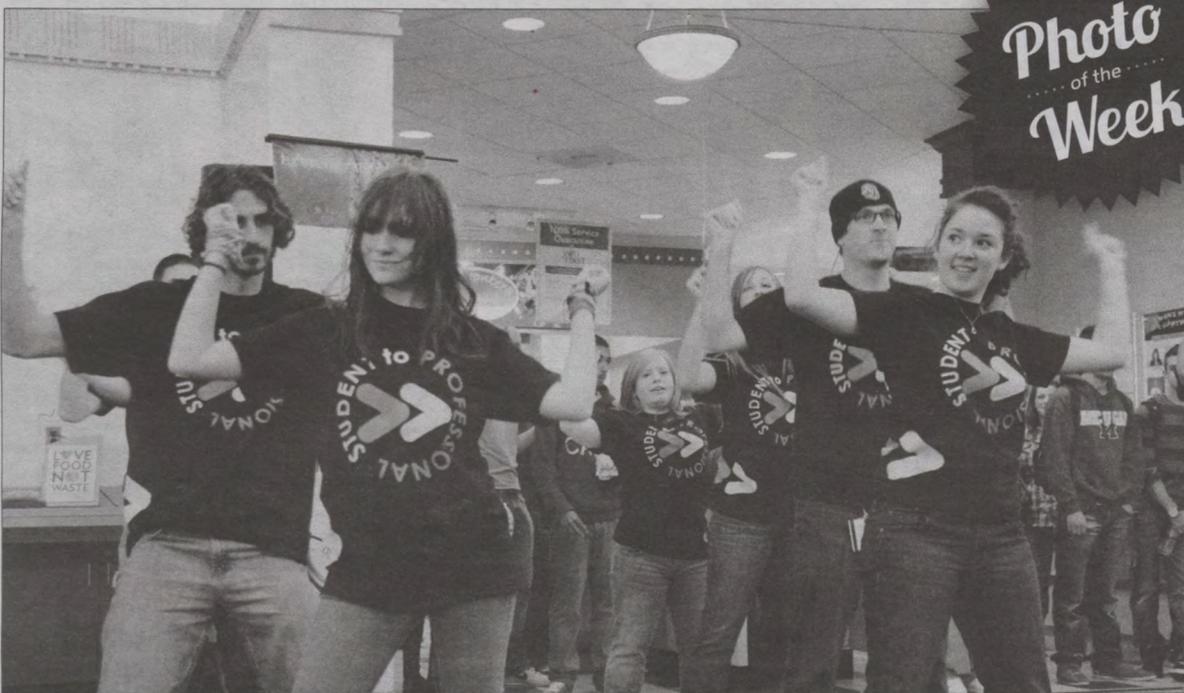
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NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

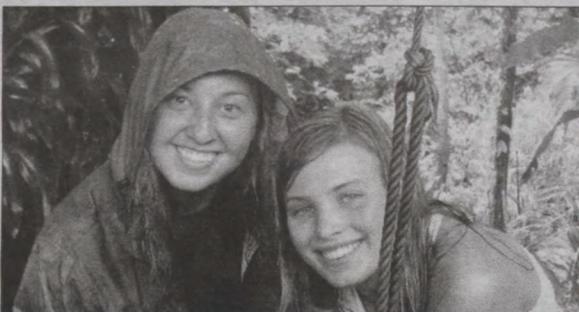
The Student to Professional Association entertained students in the Pioneer Food Court Tuesday as they spontaneously performed a flash mob dance routine during lunch. The routine, which they practiced four times prior to the flash mob, included a visit from Grizz and roughly 40 dancers.



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THE OAKLAND POST
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Cover Illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

STAFF EDITORIAL

Chartwells offers up cuts

Orgs should move focus to more campus events

Recently, Oakland University's primary food service provider, Chartwells, lowered the prices for catering to student organizations by up to 70 percent.

The prices were calculated based off of a retail price survey completed by Oakland University Student Congress members and the Center for Student Activities that compared the prices and portion sizes of food to other local grocery stores and restaurants.

The change only reduced the price of the most commonly purchased items as opposed to the whole menu though, and it doesn't apply to any on campus departments.

While we do commend Chartwells for acknowledging their overpriced goods and cutting their costs, we encourage student organizations to use their extra influx of funds because of these reductions to increase the overall quality of their programming instead of spending more on food.

In an article The Oakland Post published on March 15, it was discovered that most students only attend events because of the added bonus of free food.

Organizations shouldn't use food as the

only tool to draw students in because, as it was also discovered, most of the students who do stop by the events usually eat and then leave shortly after. It somewhat helps foster campus involvement, but organizations should seize new opportunities presented by the lowered catering prices.

According to Brandon Hanna, student activities funding board chair, student organizations spent about \$130,000-\$150,000 of it's allotted \$260,000 yearly budget on food last year, leaving less than half of the budget available for campus events.

Though food may be enticing, it shouldn't be the focal point of an organization, which is partially funded by the activities fee that is taken out of each student's tuition payments.

Since food costs are now lower, at least for hot-ticket items like pizza and chicken tenders, student organizations should remember the main task at hand; student involvement.

Organizations should enhance student life and provide events that enrich in a way that's more than nutritional.

Again, we bring about the common

complaint that is what we've dubbed "the commuter conflict" — the phenomena of a campus of about 20,000 students rarely contributing to the campus community, save for attending classes.

The school is starting to shed that image, but students must contribute to the effort.

The editorial board recently sat down with OU President Gary Russi's cabinet to discuss a myriad of topics, including on campus involvement.

Mentions of a new dorm building because of the increased demand in student housing have brought to our attention a vested interest in living on campus.

People are becoming interested in staying on campus for reasons other than the availability of copious amounts of free food.

We've observed lines that extend past our office for the Student Program Board's trip to Boston, OUSC's Postsecret event and for last year's Meadow Brook Ball, which sold out in record time.

All of these large-scale events are put on by campus organizations and a whole cadre of similar events could be created if money were less frequently spent on food.

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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 clarity, length and grammar.

WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

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

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

— In last week's article, "Helping Jews in metro Detroit," it was incorrectly reported that Alyssa McMillan was a board member of the Jewish Community Relations Council. She is an administrative assistant for the JCRC. Her Hebrew name was also incorrectly spelled. It is "Bracha." McMillan's mother's occupation is that of journeyman electrician, not a general engineer. She will be competing in the Miss Michigan USA pageant, not the Miss Michigan competition.

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

If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.4268.

Student pushes for fully-staffed Gender and Sexuality Center

GUEST COLUMN

It's time to see some action around here and the students are ready to bring the heat.

On Aug. 2, I spoke at the Board of Trustees meeting about the need for a fully staffed Gender and Sexuality Center.

The Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) is our campus' resource center for women's and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer/Questioning (LGBTIQ) issues.

It provides programming, advocacy and referrals for these core areas. In addition, the GSC provides literature and programming on healthy sexual well-being.

Most other public Michigan universities have a separate women's center and LGBTIQ center, with at least one full-time employee for each.

Why do they get these resources and the OU students don't? We deserve these. So much for being a competitive university, right?

We currently have one person, who works 20 hours a week, who is supposed to do all of that by herself.

She also has to work on developing relationships with all the other campus offices, restarting the LGBT Peer Mentor program, training 10 to 15 volunteers who can help run the GSC each semester, facilitating S.A.F.E. trainings both on and off campus, heading the schedule for all of Women's History Month, creating trusting relationships with all types of students and also restarting the GSC Advisory Board.

All types of students, but especially survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault and LGBTIQ students, need this affirming, safe space so as to be the most successful as they can.

In order for the GSC to create the most accepting and safe of an atmosphere as possible, we need a full-time coordinator who can fulfill all the demands of both the administration and students.

Student leaders are launching a public campaign to demonstrate to the administration how much the entire community



Alexa Van Vliet
President, Gay/Straight Alliance

supports having a fully staffed GSC.

It's a multi-faceted approach that includes collecting signatures, writing articles in the newspaper, gathering stories from OU students about safety on campus and more.

We're going to present the postcards at the next Board of Trustees meeting on Oct. 31, where the Board will decide the future of GSC.

We've been told "no" enough times from the administration to make a Justin Bieber-like "Baby" song. It just fuels us even more. We need your help.

Here's your opportunity to, legitimately, make OU a better place. Activism has never been so easy to find.

If not to advocate for the safety, education and acceptance of all students, at least help us so as to be part of something bigger that will improve the place you spend so much money on.

It's our duty to be involved since we pay \$20,000 a year to go here. Might as well get your money's worth! And having a full-time coordinator wouldn't even make your tuition go up by a dollar.

Send me an email at apvanvli@oakland.edu, stop by the GSC at room 49 D in the basement of the Oakland Center by the Center for Student Activities service window or find us tabling by the Food Court to sign a postcard. Have your friends sign them too.

You can also write a "letter to the editor" to this newspaper to show your support.

Finally, you can follow our campaign on Facebook (Fully Staffed GSC at OU Campaign), our Twitter and Blogger.

Letters to the Editor

The Oakland Post gladly accepts letter submissions. The views expressed are of their respective writers and do not necessarily reflect those of The Oakland Post.

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

Smoking ban would be 'mean'

Full disclosure: I'm a former smoker.

The staff editorial advocates a complete ban on smoking. I wonder on what grounds. If it's based on public health and air quality, can I suggest that we also ban driving around for 30 minutes looking for a "good" parking space?

I'm not saying second hand smoke isn't harmful. I know it is. However, the often-cited 1993 EPA study involved spouses of smokers and indoors conditions. The results can hardly be applied to smoking outside.

A 2007 study on outdoor second hand smoke by Stanford researchers found that if you sit within less than two feet, downwind from a smoker, for an hour, assuming that smoker smokes two cigarettes during that hour, there could be harmful effects. Quite a few variables, I wonder if these conditions

are ever met. The effect of walking through a group of even three dozen smokers—a trip taking all of 15 seconds—is negligible.

Finally, The Michigan Cigarette Tax, at \$2, is the 10th highest in the nation. It accounts for over 4.5 percent of Michigan's total tax revenue, over \$1 billion dollars annually. Over \$400 million of that goes into the School Aid Fund. Cigarettes fund public education.

If OU's campus were enclosed is some sort of dome where the air were constantly recirculated, then it would be analogous to peeing in a pool. It isn't, so it's not. Considering all these facts, it seems like trying to ban smoking on campus is just plain selfish and mean.

— Corey D. Williams
Junior, Sociology/Anthropology

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Chartwells prices lowered

By KAY NGUYEN
Editor-in-Chief

Food prices have long been an issue at Oakland University, but student organizations will now see lower prices when they order Chartwells catering on campus.

"The idea behind (pushing for lower prices) now was the number of student concerns regarding food prices began to climb at a rate that could not be ignored," said Brett McIsaac, current OU Student Congress student services director. "Also, being in an office with Brandon Hanna, the (Student Activities Funding Board) chair, it was clear to see that too much of our budgets were being spent on food."

SAFB provides funding to more than 200 students organizations on campus.

Food is a mainstay of many events held on campus and Hanna said that almost all food requests from student organizations are for Chartwells catering.

Hanna, based on funding allocation requests he received, estimates that at least \$130,000 was spent on Chartwells food last year by student organizations.

"With a virtual monopoly over the Oakland Center, Chartwells enjoys the freedom of charging student organizations much more

than competing catering businesses," Hanna said.

Hanna and McIsaac collaborated on a report that assessed the cost of foods most commonly ordered by student organizations — sandwiches, pizza, chicken tenders and other staples — and found that most were available at area grocery stores for less than what Chartwells was charging.

"The biggest challenge was compiling all of the information," McIsaac said. "Brandon Hanna and the (Center for Student Activities) did most of that work and did an excellent job doing it."

From there, McIsaac and Hanna met with Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh, Oakland Center Director Richard Fekel and Chartwells Resident District Manager Gerald Gatto to voice their concerns and about how the SAFB budget could be helped.

The process has been ongoing since fall of 2008.

In a column published in The Oakland Post, Dan Evola, former student body president who was then serving as vice president, asked students to bring their "proverbial pitchforks and torches" to an Oakland University student congress meeting where Chartwells representatives would be present.

In February 2009, Andrew

Bashi, then OUSC student services director, began working with students and the campus food service provider to find solutions to complaints about Chartwells.

A focus group comprised of students was created, which spawned changes to the menu offerings and prices offered up by mid-April of that year.

That was the last time price changes were made to the student organizations catering menu.

Three summer meetings with Chartwells resulted in drastic changes, especially for cheaper items like drinks. Gatto, Chartwells' on-campus representative, had to contact Andrew Willows, a district manager for the Compass Group, a company of which Chartwells is a subsidiary.

Because Compass Group is a London-based venture, approval of the new prices had to come from across the pond.

Since Chartwells is the sole provider of all catering in the Oakland Center, a popular venue for student events, the new pricing will give considerable savings to student organizations.

"If I had to give an estimate, I would say that we've saved at least \$5,000 this semester," Hanna said of the new menu prices.

Gay/Straight Alliance treasurer Mark Martinez handles the order-



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Food prices for Chartwells catering have dropped for student organizations, with some items being offered at a significant discount.

ing of food for the organization and estimates that he's already spent about \$600 on food this semester.

He sees the lowered student organization pricing as a step in a positive direction, but the sophomore linguistics and biology major said that feels like organizations are "against a wall" when it comes to catering options.

"It's just a way to pacify us," said Martinez of the price changes. "We're not content and don't think the food is worth as much as what we're spending."

According to Evola's column, lemonade cost \$12.95 per gallon during the 2008-09 school year. It was lowered to \$9 during the April 2009 price reductions.

The new round of adjustments means that lemonade now costs

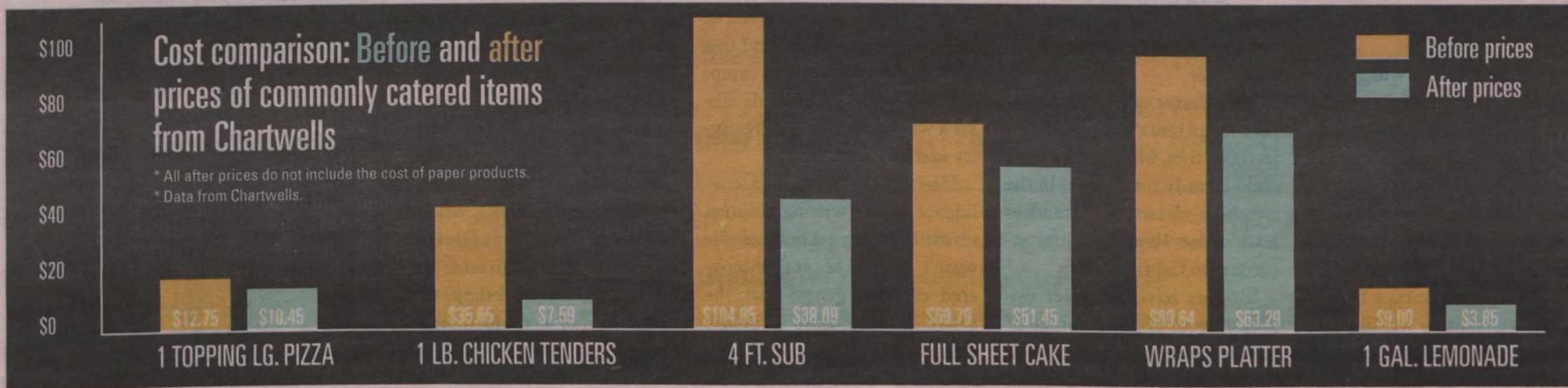
\$3.85 for a gallon. That's a reduction of over 70 percent in less than three years.

As of press time, no response had been received from Chartwells.

The prices and discounts are currently in effect for student organizations that order food and have been since Aug. 6.

There are also different pricing options for organizations that choose to pick up their own food instead of having it delivered and for paper product packages.

"There's no telling exactly how much SAFB has potentially saved," Hanna said. "Our main goal was to be able to give more student organizations funding for food without having to go over our budget, and we were able to accomplish that."



OU promotes diversity

By **RAYMOND ANDRE**
Senior Reporter

The Center for Multicultural Initiatives is hosting its 13th Annual Hispanic Celebration Month, and Oakland University students are celebrating the diversity by indulging in authentic Hispanic foods, crafts, music and dance.

Nicole Luccio, retention coordinator for the CMI, said the event she most anticipated was the Independence Day Celebration, which took place Sept. 15.

That day, Hispanic nations including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua — declared independence from Spain.

"We are trying to establish a tradition with our Independence Day Celebration," Luccio said.

This is the second time the university has celebrated the Hispanic Independence Day.

Luccio, who has organized the Hispanic Celebration Month committee for three years, said that this year the attention will be drawn back from Mexico. The events will focus on celebrating the many other Spanish-speaking states "while still celebrating Mexico."

The Independence Day Celebration brought attention to Peru.

The event began with an art ritual, the Kolla Raymi, in which the four cherished elements — earth, fire, water and wind — of the Andean Cosmovision are utilized channel a connection between nature and spirit.

Students were treated to Peruvian cuisine, like empanada de carne and chicken satay, craft-work items from local producers, an informative slideshow of Peruvian history, and invited to join OU's Spanish Club.

There was also a performance of many different Mexican folk dances, along with performances of the Peruvian dances Mari-nera, Festejo and Huayano.

Lisa Vecchio, a political science major, attended celebration.

"I stopped by to get a taste of other cultures, and the food, of course," she said.

Vecchio, the administrative assistant for OUSC, helped organize the opening ceremony.

Attendees could pick up fair-trade product samples like organic chocolate and hear a speech from professor Alan Epstein about the policies of that economic movement, the shared social and commercial benefits of non-exploitative trade practices between developed and developing nations.

The celebration month also includes community service.

"This year we'll be going to the Hispanic Outreach Center of Pontiac," Luccio said.

The tradition of student charity began last year with work on the center's community garden, which will be continued this year, and will be expanded with tutoring students learning English.

CMI peer mentors, Brandon Lanyon, Cecile Le, Angela Yee and Bani Bordoloi are among the many students and faculty that helped to organize and promote the events.

The work is intensive and comprehensive, the members said.

"There's a lot of Facebook, e-mail banners ... and the website," Lanyon said.

They agreed that the work has generated a successful turnout for the events.

Upcoming events include Salsa dance lessons, an opportunity to paint with the artist Nora Chapa Mendoza, a trip to Mexican-Town and the Detroit Institute of Art.

The celebration will culminate in an event called Cafe Bohemia, Sept. 29, where OU students will gather and share literary work they have composed in Spanish.

"I'm really looking forward to all of the events," Luccio said. "The council really put together a great calendar this year."

Students can find more information and follow events at oakland.edu/hcm

campus briefs

Art exposition: The Many Faces of Nora Mendoza

Continuing with the Hispanic Celebration Month, artist Nora Mendoza will be presenting her artwork on On Sept. 21 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in Fireside Lounge. The event is free and open to the public.

Additional pieces by Peruvian artist Enrique Aramburu will be on display.

Trip to Detroit

The Student Program Board is hosting a trip to the Eastern Market, Detroit Institute of Arts and Mexicantown on Sept. 24 as a part of Hispanic Celebration Month. OU students can get free bus transportation to and from OU. The bus will leave at 9 a.m. and return at 6 p.m.

Student to Professional Conference

In order to make the transition to professional life, students are welcome to join a conference that teaches you how to get a job. On Oct. 1, students will be able to participate in interactive session on how to network, negotiate salaries, brand yourself and other skills. The conference will be held in Gold rooms A, B and C from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Leadership Boot Camp

On Oct. 8, students are invited to participate in different sessions to help them build their leadership skills. Skills being taught include team building, interpersonal relationships, trust and understanding.

The event is hosted by the Student Veterans Association and is only open to the first 120 OU students. Lunch will be provided and supplemented with healthy eating tips. The event is will be held in the rec center from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

— Compiled by Megan Semeraz,
Assistant Campus Editor

Meadow Brook hosts writing workshops

By **MEGAN SEMERAZ**
Assistant Campus Editor

Gearing up for the Halloween season, the Meadow Brook Writing Project is offering half day youth writing workshops on topics such as "ghost story writing" and "horror story writing," are held in the Meadow Brook Hall library.

The seminars, which are available for youth in grades 2-12, are taught by actual Oakland University professors like Laura Gabrion and Christina Hall, both special lecturers in the department of writing and rhetoric. Classes offered include historic writing, science fiction, poetry and fantasy writing.

"I teach workshops on various genres and to different age

groups," Hall said. "In our writing workshops, we learn about historical fiction, science fiction, mystery writing, poetry and more. This year I will be working with kids in second through eighth grade on ghost story writing and science fiction. We have a lot of fun using writing prompts and sharing them with each other."

The classes are an opportunity for parents to use OU as a learning tool, even before their child is ready for college. In the two hour classes, the attendees learn a lot about writing, according to Gabrion.

"Parents have a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the university, as well as one of America's most beautiful estates

(Meadow Brook Hall)," Gabrion said. "The expertise and support of the teachers creates a wonderful atmosphere ... in a short period of time — the kids grow as writers."

Sharon Altman is a parent who has sent her eight-year-old daughter, Lena, to seven of the writing workshops and to a Meadow Brook writing camp. She wanted to give her daughter a way to express her creativity and love for writing.

"She (Lena) has gained confidence in her writing abilities, learned writing techniques she wasn't aware of and discovered different genres that she didn't have exposure to before attending the workshops," Altman said. "She also found the

experience of being on a college campus to be enjoyable and has already expressed an interest in OU at age eight."

Altman likes that OU offers these courses because they are a fun learning experience for her daughter.

"As a parent, I truly appreciate that this opportunity exists for my children with ... technology in use today ... the art of writing has faded into the background and these workshops offer a wonderful experience for the kids to learn about writing in way that is fun and entertaining for them," Altman said.

The half-day workshops cost \$20 each. For a complete list of classes and more information, visit oakland.edu/mbwp

Trustee Henry Baskin faces adultery accusation

By **ANDREW CRAIG**
Campus Editor

Henry Baskin, chairman of Oakland University's Board of Trustees and prominent Detroit-area attorney, is under fire for allegedly having a sexual relationship with one of his former clients.

The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission, which investigates conduct-related inquiries regarding attorneys of Michigan, filed charges against Baskin in April.

According to the Attorney Discipline Board's formal complaint against him, Baskin allegedly "violated the standards or rules of professional conduct adopted by the supreme court" while representing a client from 1999 to 2004. Additionally, the complaint states that Baskin "engaged in conduct that is contrary to justice, ethics, honesty or good morals."

Robert Edick, deputy administrator of the Attorney Grievance Commission, issued the formal complaint against Baskin on April 11 of this year.

In the complaint, Baskin is accused of

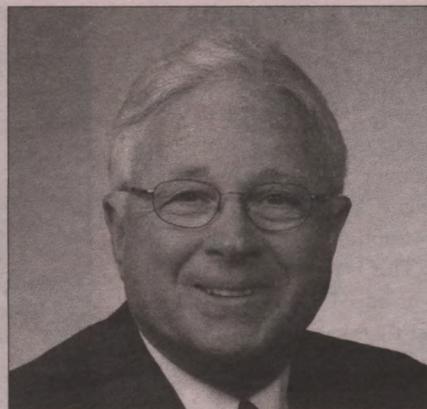
committing adultery, a punishable criminal offense in the state of Michigan, although rarely enforced.

The complaint states that Baskin, while serving a female client throughout her divorce proceedings, had a sexual relationship with her. However, the felony of committing adultery has a one year statute of limitations in Michigan, so Baskin will not be subject to punishment as rendered by state law.

If found guilty, Baskin could still face consequences within the professional realm. According to Susan Evans, attorney and OU professor, those consequences could include probation or revocation of his licence, although the latter is unlikely.

The commission's report also alleged that Baskin took advantage of his client while she was in a vulnerable state.

Baskin's lawyer, Kenneth Mogill, agreed with the grievance commission that it is improper for an attorney to take advantage of a client in any way. However, he believes Baskin did not. Mogill also denies that



Courtesy OU Communications
Henry Baskin, chairman of OU's Board of Trustees, was recently accused of adultery.

Baskin breached the standards of professional conduct. In fact, Mogill suggests that the complaint against Baskin brings forth important issue with the system itself.

"This case raises fundamental questions of fairness in the attorney disciplinary system," Mogill said. "Substantively, the grievance commission is trying to change rules

on what is permissible private personal conduct for an attorney, and that is not acceptable. Procedurally, they're trying to ask individuals to recreate what did or did not occur over twelve years ago, and that is procedurally inappropriate as well."

Despite Edick's claim, Mogill said that the notion of Baskin being accused of adultery is both unfair and inaccurate.

"Michigan rules do not prohibit an attorney and client from developing a legitimate, intimate relationship," Mogill said. "The commission is trying to change that retroactively."

Mogill will make a motion to have the complaint dismissed by the Attorney Discipline Board this month. A legal committee will begin hearing information on the case during the month of October.

Ted Montgomery, OU's media relations director, declined comment on the case, citing "This is a personal matter, it would be inappropriate for the university to comment." Robert Edick was unavailable for comment.

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New hires at OU

[Hunter Vaughan]
Assistant Professor, English and
Cinema Studies



Courses this year:

CIN 150 — Introduction to Film
CIN 315 — Film Theory and
Criticism

— Taught film history, aesthetics and theory at Oxford Brookes University, Georgia Perimeter College and Washington University in St. Louis.

— Received his Ph.D. in Modern Languages from the University of Oxford.

Work:

Vaughan has publications which include articles and book chapters on French and American cinemas, film theory and philosophy. He is currently finishing his first book project: "Where Film Meets Philosophy: Godard, Resnais and Experiments in Cinematic Thinking."

"I was looking for the right fit and when they offered me this job (at Oakland University), it seemed perfect."

Personal:

Aside from teaching, Vaughan has been involved in screenwriting and film-making. He also worked briefly at 20th Century Fox while in college, and has worked on many film projects. He recently worked on a film project which is a documentary film on St. Louis music, which he is currently in the process of editing.

— By Ali Armstrong,
Local Editor

OU students united by ancestry

By STEPH PREWEDA
Staff Intern

This year several OU Ukrainian-American students are teaming up to create the first ever Ukrainian Student Organization at Oakland University.

This is a chance for students who have Ukrainian heritage to get together and not only meet other Ukrainians, but to share and honor the heritage's traditions, language, and history.

By creating this group, Bohdan Boyko, a senior majoring in accounting; Nadiya Sorych, a junior majoring in Biology; and special lecturer Donna Voronovich, hope to maintain Ukrainian culture and traditions.

"It's our time, as a young generation of Ukrainians, to share what Ukrainians went through and what our ancestors went through. One goal of ours is to educate."

— Nadiya Sorych,
Member of Ukrainian Student
Organization

Boyko, the organization's president, has been working with Sorych to create events to bring more students together.

One upcoming event will feature Ukrainian literature.



Photo courtesy of Ukrainian Student Organization

Sorych, Voronovich, and Boyko are pushing to get Ukrainian students more involved at OU.

The book "Western Ukrainian Nationalist Movement during WWII" will be featured and will be translated into English. It is a recollection of a Ukrainian Nationalist who fought in WWII to help regain Ukrainian independence.

Another event in the works will host a Ukrainian tradition, pysanky, where students can decorate eggs. The word 'pysanky' comes from the verb 'pysaty' which means "to write."

While many people draw and color eggs during Easter time

for fun, few people know that the idea originally came from Ukraine. With this event, the group hopes to share the meaning and history of the event.

The Ukrainian Student Organization hopes to share these traditions and educate people about Ukraine's rich history.

"We want to engage with the larger community to realize as Ukrainian-Americans, we have something unique to offer and bring to the university community," Voronovich said. "To reach out to the university com-

munity and other students."

For their biggest event, the group plans on inviting students to the movie *Holodomor*, produced by Marta Tomkiw. The movie showing will coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Holodomor, the Ukraine genocide of 1932-1933.

"To educate people about our cultural and history, especially *Holodomor* because it's really not known," Sorych said. "It's our time, as a young generation of Ukrainians, to share what Ukrainians went through and what our ancestors went through. One goal of ours is to educate."

The new student organization is attempting to unite people of a common ancestry through historical awareness and culturally rooted events. It provides a way to stay in touch with and meet people who share the same traditions.

"It's a way to keep Ukrainians together," Sorych said.

In the future, Boyko hopes to reach out to other universities like Wayne State and the University of Michigan which have similar organization to unite more Ukrainian students.

"We encourage (students) to join, even if your a third, fourth, or fifth generation," said Voronovich.

Creative Writing major submits request to add faculty

By NICHOLE SEGUIN
Managing Content Editor

The creative writing major has been approved and passed through the Board of Trustees this past summer and students have begun being accepted into the major.

According to Ed Haworth Hoepfner, director of the new major, students who have already declared the major will not have to take the 200-level

required poetry/fiction workshop, but will still need to take the same amount of writing credits to graduate.

Haworth Hoepfner said that he's almost 100 percent certain that the 200-level workshop in poetry/fiction will be offered in Winter 2012.

Christina MacDaniel, a sophomore majoring in English, was excited when BOT passed the major and was there when Susan Hawkins, chair of the

English department, presented the proposal for a final consideration.

"This now means that Oakland University is a viable place for me to pursue my greatest passion," she said. "However, I was also ambivalent about what the new major would do to the small, but already strong creative writing department ... I hope that OU will build on what they have and make the most out of their current faculty

(and courses) before adding new members, rather than tearing down the program and starting over from scratch — there is already so much greatness in the creative writing department."

In addition to the courses, Haworth Hoepfner has put in a position request with the CAS department to add new faculty for the major, which if approved, will aid in the creation of a television/screenwriting major for Fall 2012.

Students show off at talent show audition

By ALI ARMSTRONG
Local Editor

Oakland University students tested their talents Monday and Tuesday night at the OU's Got Talent auditions in the Oakland Center.

Students gathered to audition before a panel of judges, hoping to move forward to compete at the OU's Got Talent show on Oct. 12.

The talent show is sponsored by the Student Program Board and is a part of a long-standing OU tradition, the Week of Champions. Students showcased abilities with acts featuring everything from street magic to singing and dancing. Judges from SPB evaluated each audition.

Senior Ivan Bimbelov performed a magic act that featured basic card magic, disappearing and vanishing acts and mentalism.

"I am going to make an illusion that I am pretty sure that nobody, not even any of the professionals, have ever done before. It's a combination of three allusions ... I'm hoping I can pull it off. All I know is the theory," Bimbelov said.

Bimbelov practices magic in his free time, traveling to local clubs to perform his act. But his only other performance was at a talent show in high school.

Kirsite Smith performed a rendition of One Republic's hit song, Secrets. She did not follow sheet music to the song and created the entire chorus herself by ear.

"One of my hobbies is taking songs that people know and arranging them myself," Smith said.

Smith decided to audition because of a love for performance.

"I'm actually looking to major in piano," Smith said. "I've been playing for ... years and this is pretty

much all I do. I love performing."

Tarmell Arnold, also known as Tea The Monster, performed his first single, "3 Stripes," off of his debut album which is set to be released Nov. 7. The single is dedicated to Arnold's love of Adidas.

"This isn't my first time performing at all, I just try and get in where I can with my talent to display to everybody," Arnold said. "Three Stripes is a hip-hop song. I don't curse in any of my music, so I hope it has a nice up-tempo beat that everyone can kind of nod their heads to."

If accepted to perform at the talent show, Arnold says he won't change his act much, but he will take the judges' critiques into consideration.

"I'm hoping the judges are easy, but at the same time will critique me on things that I can work on," Arnold said. "If I don't pass the au-



CHELSEA BISTUE/The Oakland Post

Students performed for judges at Tuesday night's talent auditions.

ditions there are no hard feelings."

Sophomore Kimani Troup, also known as Smoov Muke, performed a singing and dancing act to Chris Brown's Glow In The Dark for the judges.

"I'm kind of nervous because this is my first time performing in front of anybody," Troup said. "I'm just going to go ahead and show off a little of talent because

nobody really knows how to sing and dance."

Feelings were mixed as students prepared to perform in front of the judges. Some were cool and confident, while others had pre-performance jitters.

The WOCOU Talent Show: OU's Got Talent, will be held Tuesday, Oct. 12 at Meadow Brook Theatre from 8-11 p.m.

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Loss brings golf team closer

By **MICHAEL HORAN**
Sports Editor

When she was 12 years old, her dad asked her all the time, "just come to one lesson."

"I didn't want to for the longest time and my dad was like come to one lesson, come to one lesson," junior Mara Kovac said. "So he got me to go to a lesson and I really enjoyed it."

From that lesson on, Kovac and her father spent an endless amount of time together on the golf course, between lessons, rounds and going to the range, all the way up until she made the Oakland University-women's golf team.

"He brought me to every tournament, he signed me up for all the tournaments, he would bring me to weekly lessons, we'd go golfing, we would go to the range," Kovac said. "He spent a lot of time with me."

On Sunday, Sept. 4, Kovac's father unexpectedly passed away due to what doctor's expected as an embolism in his lung that caused a heart attack.

With her father gone, Kovac turned to

her golf team for support.

"It's one of those things where you'd never expect anything to happen. Just to know that you have the support and that group behind you no matter what, it's a great feeling," she said. "If I wasn't on the golf team I wouldn't have that support, I'd have a few friends, but it wouldn't be a huge chunk of people that really showed that they cared."

"He's with me no matter what now ... It's one of those things where I'm playing for him now, I'm not playing for myself."

-Mara Kovac
OU Women's Golfer

Throughout the grieving process, the golf team has been there for Kovac, showing their support in her time of need.

"I think the biggest thing was all the five incoming freshman who have only known her for a couple weeks, along with all the returning players showed up to the funeral, that was pretty good support," Russ Cunningham, women's golf coach, said. "Plus,

the day that it happened, all the team drove from school over to her house to see her."

Although golf is the girl's focus, Cunningham believes life lessons can be taken out of the situation and golf isn't everything.

"I think it can help show everybody that there is a lot more things more important than golf, it is just a game and there's other things that are a priority," he said. "If you're a good golfer and you put the time in, the game will take care of itself, but more importantly you need to look at just life in general and the opportunities that are there and take advantage of those."

Although the loss of her father dwells on Kovac she knows her father is still with her.

"He's with me no matter what now and he's not going to let anything bad happen to me," she said. "My dad got me into the game of golf and was really the one who wanted me to be great at it. It's one of those things where I'm playing for him now, I'm not playing for myself."

Kovac and the golf team will play in the Cleveland State Invitational this weekend in Hinckley, Ohio.



Photo Courtesy of OU Athletic Communications
Mara Kovac prepares to putt at an event. Kovac's father recently passed away.

Minor league systems could help with issues

COLUMN

"If they say it's not about the money, then it's only about the money."

Professional or collegiate, the sports world revolves around that almighty Dollar. Just take a look at the University of Miami scandal, where booster Nevin Shapiro gave truckloads of benefits to student-athletes at Miami. Coincidentally, Paul Dee, the chairman of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Committee of Infractions who scolded Southern California for player scandals, was Miami Athletic Director during Shapiro's misadventures.

Dee also uttered the laughable line, "High-profile players demand high-profile compliance," which



Matt Pocket
Columnist

sounds odd from a man who ignored the blasphemy in his own house before having been anointed exorcist of the college game.

Typically, booster issues rise from collegiate football and basketball. Rarely do we hear of rogue boosters tossing coin at golf, cross country or tennis programs.

I'll use hockey and baseball as the foundation for my solution to "Boostermania" because they both

have effective minor league systems. The minors allow young talent to continue honing skills while stuffing wallets with enough cash to party like a semi-pro.

Meanwhile, the NCAA flaunts the importance of higher education to pro-ready football and basketball talents, who then register for "Catching 100." Basketball requires one year out of high school, but for some, like O.J. Mayo, it's another year of not making bank.

As for international leagues, none offer the exposure like the NCAA Tournament. As for money, boosters can easily slip a player cash that the kid feels entitled to or simply needs. Then when the kid skips town, the train skips the rails, and USC results from the carnage that follows.

Just look at Arizona State's baseball scandal, as the coaching staff ran amok with wrongdoings, before the NCAA lowered the boom on the Sun Devils and forced ASU to vacate the 2007 College World Series season. But college athletics' judicial system was designed to go after misbehaving university officials, not stalk every alumnus who attends a game.

So how does the NCAA get back to a spirit of compliance?

For one, if paying student-athletes isn't an option, as NCAA President Mark Emmert has stated, then make paying impressionable youths a criminal offense. Fear of prosecution will curb reckless booster spending quickly.

But why not institute an efficient semi-pro system? Minor

league baseball and hockey aren't televised in big markets, yet they're viable. Why not work with the NFL and NBA to create a system that helps the kids and keeps schools in line?

The answer, sadly, is because big-time programs lose. And as long as those delicious booster dollars keeps pouring in, and young athletes yearn for the chance to make some money doing what they love, big time players at big-time programs will never have big-time compliance.

— Matt Pocket is the Sports Director at 88.3 FM WXOU, the lead play-by-play broadcaster for OU men's and women's basketball, and the host of The Corner Pocket every Friday from 3-5 pm.

Hamilton, Valentine have major surgery

By **MIKE HORAN**
Sports Editor

With practice about a month away, it's possible the OUs men's basketball team could be without two of their biggest stars.

Guard Reggie Hamilton and forward Drew Valentine both had recent surgery, which could put them out for a significant amount of time.

Hamilton, who was named to the All-Summit League first team last year, had a lump removed from his chest by his hometown doctor in Chicago.

"Reggie had a lump on his chest and basically there's a history of breast cancer in his family and they didn't want to take any chances," Greg Kampe, head coach, said. "He had the surgery, and if everything's good, which they think it is, he'll

be out three weeks. If everything's bad then they'll take the next step, they think everything's great, but you never know, they go in and they take a look at it."

Valentine, who stepped up in place of Blake Cushingberry when he went out with an injury last year, was hurt during the 10 days of recent practice in OU's second game when he went up for a dunk.

"He got knocked to the ground and he struggled to get up, but he finished it out," Kampe said. "About a week after that game as over, he was still experiencing pain, so he went in for a MRI and he's got a significant tear in his knee."

According to Kampe, a significant amount of cartilage, a little larger than a quarter, tore away from Valentine's knee cap and

there were three options to treat the injury: Remove the cartilage, sew it back up or have micro-fracture surgery which more than likely would have ended Valentine's career.

"They did what they did and they're hoping in six to eight weeks he'll be okay," Kampe said, "but it's going to be a slow process."

Kampe also stated doctor's took a culture of cartilage from the knee and after his career, doctor's will go back in and try to regrow the cartilage.

With Hamilton and Valentine out for now, Kampe is looking for an OU player to step up and become the next star.

"It is what it is, we've had lots of injuries over the years we're still going to play the games," Kampe said. "We have a lot of really good players and we ex-



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Reggie Hamilton, who lead the team last year, recently had a lump removed from his chest. He has a family history of breast cancer.

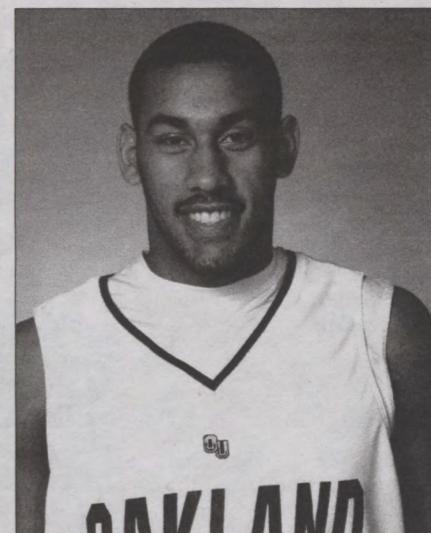


Photo courtesy of OU Athletic Communications
Drew Valentine, forward, tore his knee during pre-season practice. He is expected to be recovering from surgery for six to eight weeks.

pect the next guy to step in and be the star. You hate to see it happen, but if it hap-

pens you have to continue to play the games." Oakland will play their

first game against Spring Arbor at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 at home.

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V-ball wins season opener

By **SETH WALKER**
Staff Intern

The Golden Grizzlies defeated IPFW, last season's Summit League regular season champion, in four sets winning their opening Summit League match on Sept. 17.

Rob Beam, head coach, said that this was "a big win" for the team against a quality opponent.

"Every match in the Summit League is important, but getting a win against IPFW on the road on opening night makes it a little bit bigger, maybe a little bit more special," Beam said.

Oakland University now has two straight wins against IPFW after losing a five-set heartbreaker in Fort Wayne last year.

"I think this is rewarding for all of us," Beam said, "IPFW along with North Dakota State have been the standard bearers in our

league, (but) the last three times we've played those teams, we're 3-0."

Senior setter, Ashley Nevelle, returned to the lineup and recorded 40 assists and 14 digs — both team highs.

"I think that Ashley does a lot of things well," Beam said. "She came up with some really key plays at big times."

In addition to Nevelle's 14 digs, Allie Kirk had 12, while Jillian Kulka had 10.

OU's front row was also very active, offensively and defensively.

Meghan Bray lead the Golden Grizzlies with 15 kills, while Brittany Holbrook had 12, Katie Horling had 10. Jenna Lange led the team with seven total blocks while Holbrook had five.

"This particular lineup when we're playing well and (are) ball-control solid just makes us very versatile,

it puts a lot of different hitters in different zones along the net and it makes a team very hard to block and defend," Beam said. "We had a lot of players going, and when that happens, I think we are very hard to beat."

Now that the Grizzlies have begun league play, all of their remaining matches, except for one, will be against future Summit League opponents.

Only the top four teams in the league will qualify for the Summit League championship tournament that takes place in November.

The Grizzlies will be looking to make it to the tournament for the first time in program history after back-to-back fifth place finishes.

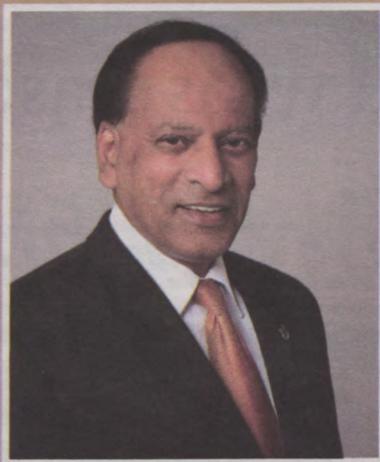
The Grizzlies will return home to the Athletics Center O'Rena to play North Dakota State Friday, and South Dakota State Saturday at 7 p.m.



All the President's men (and women)

The faces of President Gary Russi's cabinet

They all meet regularly with the president of the university, Gary Russi. Their unique jobs are mutually intertwined and each helps keep the campus running. You might have seen them attending various campus events or recognize their names. The Oakland Post explores what exactly each of these administrators do. **BY KAY NGUYEN/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**



Vrindir Moudgil

Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, \$216,400

Job Description - I am the guardian of academic programs at Oakland University. That involves responsibilities of teaching, instruction, research and any academic engagement. Anything to do with teaching or learning — that's what the university is all about.

Campus Issue: Academic Experiences - This is a global experience for students: that's an undergraduate degree. We provide you with opportunity. We have a lot of undergraduate research. It's not limited to science, but it's in every discipline. The cultural issues, the language, the manner-

isms, the work ethic, we want to have our students exposed to all of this in the global workplace. Graduation rates and retention rates are important, but our goal is for our students to be a leader in whatever field they go into.

Suits - 8-10 in rotation



Mary Beth Snyder

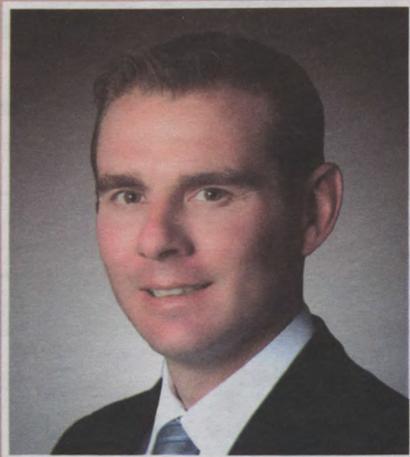
Vice President, Student Affairs, \$163,000

Job Description - Student affairs is the set of facilities and programs that are complimentary to the academic programs that get students engaged and help them succeed.

Campus Issue: Housing - We need another residence hall on campus. We are working very hard to get a document prepared to solicit bids for new housing, but it's not a sure thing. We're working with our board to get ready to seek proposals.

We have a plan for a complex directly across from Vandenberg Hall. It's a good problem to have because it shows that we're doing a lot of things right: we're making it a lot more affordable to live on campus. It is the No. 1 issue right now.

Suits - Likes her separates



Eric Barritt
Vice President,
Community Engagement
New Hire

Job Description - We build relations with the community and alumni, but also work closely with the student affairs office to build the culture of philanthropy with students from the time they start to the time they leave.

Campus Issue: Fundraising - Both need and merit-based scholarships are a priority for this campus. We need to add more scholarships as tuition has continued to rise at all universities. That way, we can continue to recruit students. As the state has continued to cut higher education budgets, philanthropy is critical to the success of this university going forward for research and scholarships and facilities as we talk about potential new construction. Alumni giving is also a contributor to the student experience and adds to the quality of the degree. We can do a better job of getting our alumni back to campus so they can participate with that philanthropy.

Suits - 8-10 in rotation



John Beaghan
Vice President, Finance
and Administration
\$189,550

Job Description - All my responsibilities revolve around serving the rest of the campus. You can't have academics without having a building and without a payroll office paying the faculty and staff. I've got responsibility for all the financial affairs of the university, facilities, human resources, the golf courses and all sorts of things — all the things you have to have in order to have an academic enterprise.

Campus Issue: Tuition - You get what you pay for. We think that we're offering a quality product. It costs a lot of money to offer that high quality product. We also try to be competitive and we do a lot of comparing ourselves with those who we compete with. We're fairly priced right in the middle, which is right where we want to be. We've done a lot with managing how we charge. We've gotten rid of fees, which a lot of institutions still do. We think that we have a very competitive pricing strategy.

Suits - 7-8 in rotation



Rochelle Black
Vice President,
Government Relations
\$125,000

Job Description - I am the university's chief administrative liaison at the local, county, state, national and community levels. Specific external duties and functions include, but are not limited to promoting and protecting the university's mission and interests, and the coordination of legislative, congressional and community events and activities.

Campus Issue: Higher education and government funding - There has been a very troubling trend in recent years connected to term limits and the budget crisis combined. A lot of people are searching for solutions to problems that don't exist. Every year, there's more amendments attached to bills related to higher education funding. There's overreaching in terms of telling universities of what to do, when to do it and how — topics where we used to have autonomy as universities. The budget issue really limits us too.

Suits - Unknown

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Stores help to restore Detroit pride

By SARAH HUNTON
Staff Reporter

During a speech made on Labor Day, President Obama said the following of Detroit: "This is a city where people, brave and bold, courageous and clever, are dreaming up ways to prove the skeptics wrong and write the next proud chapter in our history."

Local stores are aiming to renew Detroit pride through a variety of Detroit merchandise and apparel. Down With Detroit, Made in Detroit and The Detroit Shoppe are three area businesses that are doing just that.

Down With Detroit was founded by childhood friends Patrick Duggan and Matthew Zebari in 2006 when the duo returned to the city after attending school in Chicago. Both men grew up in Farmington.

When they returned to Michigan, the pair had a renewed sense of pride in Detroit. Duggan and Zebari decided to create their own business that sold what they had been missing in Illinois.

"We wanted to give people another outlet to represent the city they love," Duggan said. "We didn't want to just stamp a logo, or 'Detroit' on shirts we kind of wanted to give people something they could grab a hold of more."

The store is currently completely online and the designs incorporate aspects of Detroit culture and Michigan

culture in order to give the consumers something to connect with.

Duggan was also tired of the negative images often associated with Detroit. Although it would be easy to make a few bucks off of the violent images linked to the city, he believes that keeping attitudes positive is more important.

"I think it's important to the community that the perception is changed and that we're kind of out there putting a positive light on Detroit rather than making a few jokes," Duggan said.

For more information on Down with Detroit visit their website www.down-withdetroit.com

Another local business striving to keep the spirit of Detroit alive is Made in Detroit.

The company was started in 1991, but revived in 2005 after Kid Rock purchased the design rights of the then bankrupt company.

"As (Kid Rock) was coming up in the early '90s he always wore Made in Detroit," Thomas Dubak, vice president of the company, said. "His fear was that someone would buy it, bastardize it and kind of ruin something that was so near and dear to his heart."

Dubak believes that Made in Detroit clothing offers comfort to natives who have had to leave Michigan.

"We do a huge internet business and it's mostly transplants looking for a little taste of home," Dubak said.



SIERRA SOLEIMANI/The Oakland Post

The Detroit Shoppe, located at Somerset Collection, is a local business that is hoping to re-establish Detroit pride through lines of clothing like the Made in Detroit brand.

Made in Detroit merchandise is available in almost 50 stores in metro-Detroit or online at www.madeindetroit.com

The Detroit Shoppe at the Somerset Collection is also proof that people in the metro-Detroit area are looking to more positive ways to consider the city.

The Detroit Shoppe was originally slated to stay open only until the close of the 2010 holiday season, but customers of the store fought to keep the business open.

The store is also different in that it has

a museum in it. The museum contains Bobolo memorabilia, Tiger Stadium remnants, and items from the old downtown Hudson's.

The store is also completely non-profit. All proceeds from the shop are donated to Detroit area charities.

"Our goal is to really revive the city of Detroit," Breckenridge said.

The Detroit Shoppe is located at the Sommerset Collection-North. For more information call (248) 816-5470.

Flash mob surfaces through performance at local mall

By SHELBY REYNOLDS
Staff Intern

An unsuspecting passerby might have been taken by surprise when 68 dancers flooded parts of downtown Rochester at the Village in a dance flash mob organized by Talmer Bank & Trust on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Abrupt displays of grooving seem to be popping up at events and public places all throughout the Detroit area lately.

Flash mobs have made appearances at places like Tiger Stadium, the downtown Hoedown and Rogue Park in Detroit, as well as the Plymouth Ice Festival.

Talmer Bank & Trust is one

of several groups that has found dance to be a relevant and effective way to bring people together.

Lee Davey, manager of Talmer Shelby Township branch, said what inspired him to organize a flash mob was his experience with dance and having seen first-hand its ability to build relationships among people of all backgrounds and age groups.

"One of our core values is community," Davey said.

The flash mob made their first public performance at the Village of Rochester Hills when they surprised visitors with a choreographed dance routine of the cha-cha.

"Don't tango with your bank

... cha-cha with Talmer!" read the dancers' shirts.

Darren Pierson, choreographer for the flash mob, likened the particular style of dancing to "working together."

The participants ranged in age from 25 to 83, and also came from a variety of career backgrounds and life experiences.

The flash mob featured employees from the Talmer Bank & Trust as well as 50 dancers from the Hooked on Country Dancin line dancing studio in Davidson.

"It went a lot smoother than I had imagined ... it was a really good mix," Pierson said.

The collection of performers had to learn to merge two seem-

ingly opposite styles of dance: country line and ballroom.

But they had one thing in common a connection and appreciation for dance.

Members shared the parts of their lives that brought them to this particular form of art, and soon it became about much more than just the cha cha.

Beverly Barra said that combined with a love for dance, her motivation for participating was involvement with substance abuse prevention.

"I like seeing the community come together for positive things," she said.

Kathy Dula, a dance instructor with Hooked on Country Dancin'

said, "the practice was just as much fun as the flash mob itself...the best part was getting to know people."

Looking at the positive feedback from participants and spectators, Talmer Bank and Trust might not be finished with dancing just yet.

Although Davey was a little elusive with regard to future mobbing plans, he encouraged community members to talk to him if they are interested.

Dula spoke positively about future performances and wanted to incorporate more people into the group.

"It's a lot of fun," she said, "you should do it."

NEWS BRIEFS

A look at significant current news events from around the globe:

1. United States

The Republican legislature of Michigan plans to take action Wednesday regarding bills that would implement a ban on what democrats and other opposing forces call, "partial-birth abortion."

Lawmakers in Michigan have tried to create a state-level ban on this procedure in recent years, but none were successful, due to vetoes from then-Governor Jennifer Granholm and previous court rulings.

2. Libya

With newfound freedom, Libyans are taking the streets and expressing themselves through art. Several Libyan graffiti artists have made art that mocks the former Libyan leader.

One artist took Gadhafi's oft-repeated phrase, calling himself the "king of kings of Africa," and added a twist of parody to it, calling him the "monkey of monkeys of Africa." Another drawing depicts Youssef Shakhir, Gadhafi's public relations officer with the tail of a rat.

For 42 years, Gadhafi banned writing and drawing on public walls.

3. Afghanistan

A suicide bomber killed four men, including former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani, a prominent figure who made attempts at ending a decade-long war.

Current Afghan president Hamid Karazi, who was visit-



ing the United Nations, called for Afghans to remain united in the face of what Karazi called, "Rabbani's martyrdom."

The assassination comes days after the U.S. Embassy and NATO Headquarters were attacked by insurgents.

NATO released a statement, saying that the two suicide bombers linked to Rabbani's assassination had pretended to seek reconciliation with the Afghan government.

Afghan officials insist that there was only one who attacked and an emergency Cabinet meeting will take place Wednesday.

4. Mexico

Saul Solis Solis, a major figure in the drug cartel, has been detained in his home state of Michoacan without incident by the Mexican army. Solis was an important figure in the Knights of Templar, serving as one of the principal lieutenants.

Solis is accused of carrying out assaults on military and federal police personnel, including one in 2007 that took the lives of one officer and four soldiers. In addition, he is suspected of planting and harvesting drugs, as well as manufacturing synthetic drugs and ordering attacks on police facilities.

5. Romania

Romania is an aging country in terms of the population, and cremation is considered scarce. Coffins are an integral business in the Romanian economy. As the recession hits the world hard, people need to find ways to decrease their spending. Ilie Trocana wants to help those who are grieving over the loss of loved ones, by offering coffins that cost €100 (\$136).

— Compiled from AP Reports by Justin Colman, Copy Editor

Postal Service woes spell trouble

Commentary

By SHEZA MANSOOR
Staff Intern

The Postal Service of the United States has been around for over 200 years.

In fact, it has been around for so long that we tend to think that it will perhaps stay in business forever — not knowing that it may soon be out of business.

However, the time for the United States Postal Service to ask for help has arrived.

The agency, being low on cash, is now completely dependable on the Congress to take immediate action and the entire Postal Service could possibly run out of business within a matter of a year.

"Everything is electronic now. Bills are

paid online and people don't send letters, instead they text each other," said a first year student, Stephanie Jacks. "If the U.S. Postal Service does run out of service it will be devastating, because more people will become unemployed.

Also, it will be much harder for the college students to adjust because they rely so much on ordering their books online and receiving their books by the UPS to their front doors."

As technology takes its lead, people are connecting through Facebook and texting. In addition, we are all wrapped around this Internet generation.

When was the last time you mailed a letter to a friend who lives in a different State?

The postal service recently announced that it is considering closing 3,653 post offic-

es due to the decreasing of people that have stopped sending and receiving mail. They saying "keep in touch" has lost its novelty in the modern days.

Today, when such phrases are used it is often understood that it means to keep in touch via e-mail, texting, or Facebooking one another.

Communicating through letters is beyond question now in this society.

It is important to realize that we live in a society where we can't have reliable privacy on the internet, so it is imperative that we keep the Postal Service up and running," said associate professor from the English Department, Gladys Cardiff.

The U.S. Postal Service has also stayed buoyant by borrowing money from the government for the past couple of years.

However, this year it will reach the absolute debt limit, causing the entire agency to collapse.

Afraid of what might be the end of this catastrophe, Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe told the New York Times in a recent interview, "Our situation is extremely serious. If Congress doesn't act, we will default."

Moreover, we hope to see Congress take urgent action soon before it is too late for the U.S. Postal Service to survive this chaotic mess.

"This is about one of America's oldest institutions," said the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Frederic V. Rolando. "It survived the telegraph, it survived the telephone, and we have to do everything we can to preserve it and adapt."

The skirmish of the seasons

By **HALEY JONNA**
Staff reporter

It's that time of year again when the weather begins to change and the days begin to shrink. Say goodbye to the warm sun shining through your drapes notifying you that the day has begun, and say hello to a screaming alarm clock that seems to shriek before the sun has risen.

Say goodbye to the empty Oakland Center parking lot that you have enjoyed throughout the summer semester, and say hello to angry students who honk their horns obnoxiously to grab a closer spot.

Summer is ending, fall is coming, and I am beginning to

remember all of the reasons as to why Michigan is a less than desirable place to live – for two out of the four seasons anyways. Summer months of bliss, life, happiness, and sun allowed me to let go of the troubles that autumn and winter bring and embrace Michigan.

Now, as the weather changes, all of those feelings of despising the cold are rushing back. I have compiled a list of grievances declaring the many ways that summer beats out autumn.

First, the summer weather makes life so much worthier of living. Do not bother grabbing a jacket as you run out the door because the weather permits for light casual wear. No need

to wrap yourself in layers that still fail you when exposed to Michigan's wind chill, and then leave you sweating once you're indoors. A bathing suit and flip-flops will suffice.

Secondly, living in Michigan, a state with over 11,000 lakes, you'd assume we would have more than a few months to enjoy them. Summer months allow for water sports, boating, and sunbathing. Then, the desolate autumn season brings emptiness to the waters - the waters that once had children splashing, boats cruising, and skiers skiing. Autumn leaves the lakes empty of energy, lonely of fun.

I understand that people with busy schedules may find

delightful weather to be a tease, but I would rather be greeted by warm weather at the end of a long day then pouring rain. Plus, even though summertime for college students is filled with internships, classes, and minimum wage jobs, it's also filled with friends, parties, and memories we'll remember forever.

Also, I petition the runners and workout fanatics among you to join Team Summer. I know I do not have to say much to gain your support. Picture yourself waking up in the morning to a beautiful day, strapping on your tennis shoes, and running underneath the hot sun. Now picture a dark sunrise, a gloomy day, and streets filled with leaves.

Time to transfer your workout from outdoors to the Recreation Center, and instead of enjoying Earth's landscape, you are stuck staring at a blank wall inside a sweaty room.

If you still have not been convinced that summer beats autumn, let me assure you that if fall was the better season then Bryan Adams would have a famous hit called "The Autumn of '69" and Kid Rock's ode to his favorite season would be called "All Autumn Long." Thankfully, Bryan Adams and Kid Rock have better taste than that, so we all jam to "The Summer of '69" and "All Summer Long." Summer, you will always hold the number one place in our hearts.

Summer Seekers



Sam Rautio

"Summer (is best) because you can go to the beach, go swimming and have fun."



Anthony Geragosian

"I definitely like summer because you're off of school and you can do things with your friends from other colleges without having to worry about classes."

Autumn Advocates



Richard Schuster

"(I prefer) fall, because during the summer it's so hot to where you need to use the A/C, but in the fall, the temperature is cooler ..."



Artem Gazaryants

"I'd rather have fall because there won't be as much traffic."

Justin Colman contributed to this report.

By **BRIAN FIGURSKI**
Staff reporter

I know a lot of my peers are high on summer sunshine, but debating is futile – Fall is the perfect season.

The pure sensual aesthetic of the season is enough. A crisp, cool breeze beats out a blistering swarm of warm heat blowing on your red sweating face. The greens transition into an array of colors of auburn and yellow, and the crunching of the leaves under hoof is a sure sign of no ninja-ry occurring. Fall fanatics don't have to fret about getting heat strokes.

Summer lovers are hypocrites. I would expect nothing less of you than to be ecstatic like an ecstasy binger when

Michigan gets 110 degree flesh-melting day, frolicking in fields.

Nope. You converted your house into a walk-in freezer, shivering in a parka, watching judge shows all afternoon.

Baseball caps and hoodies are dominant on campus, giving students a chance to flash some style over summer's theme of less is more, which in many cases is utterly atrocious.

Please put your clothes back on, sir.

The return of the best things in life roll when Fall comes in. Football returns, promoting bratwurst, buffalo wing and beer consumption to maximum sustainable level every Sunday, starting at high noon.

The beer, oh the beer selection! Forget the lemonade

infused Summer Shandy's, Oktoberfest brings to the forefront some of the world's most delectable selection of tasteful and hoppy brews.

If beer had a longer shelf life, I'd buy Pumpkin Spiced Ale by the gallons and stock them in the basement, although I could definitely see myself reigniting my alcoholism with so much in supply.

Autumn's real ace-in-the-hole is by far, the best, most entertaining and creative holiday of the year – Halloween. Dressing up in ridiculous and scantily-clad costumes (the sole day of the season where less clothing is promoted) is the most engaging time of year, with supporters taking countless hours into preparing their crazy outfits to many spectators' amusement.

Across

- 1. Percussion instrument
- 5. Mariner
- 8. Retail outlet
- 12. Approximately
- 14. In the past
- 15. Ambit
- 16. Measuring instrument
- 17. Guided
- 18. Jury
- 19. Something very ugly and offensive
- 21. Distinguished
- 23. Digit
- 24. Bellow
- 25. Part of a circle
- 28. Heap
- 30. Violent denunciation
- 35. Reflect deeply on a subject
- 37. A small cut
- 39. Claw
- 40. Supplication
- 41. Creep
- 43. Not any
- 44. Depart
- 46. Furnace
- 47. Disasterous destiny
- 48. Short trip to perform a task
- 50. Ring recurrently
- 52. Cook on a surface using fat
- 53. Caprine animal

- 55. Large tub
- 57. Specific kind of something
- 61. Frighten greatly
- 65. Broaden
- 66. Secret agent
- 68. Stringed instrument
- 69. Slant
- 70. Make a mistake
- 71. Part of a church
- 72. Rind
- 73. Also
- 74. Area of cultivated grass

Down

- 1. Amusement or pastime
- 2. Comply
- 3. Short letter
- 4. Invitee
- 5. Story
- 6. Mature
- 7. Exhibition of cowboy skills
- 8. Make a wide sweeping search
- 9. Make perfect or complete
- 10. Overt
- 11. Animal hide
- 13. Cavalry unit
- 15. Supernatural being
- 20. Used to control a horse

- 22. Floor covering
- 24. Acknowledgement of payment
- 25. Copious
- 26. Measuring stick
- 27. Accurately stated or described
- 29. Part of a chain
- 31. South African currency
- 32. Distant in manner
- 33. Benefactor
- 34. Foe
- 36. Molten volcanic rock
- 38. Hardy cabbage
- 42. Jack in a deck of cards
- 45. Machine
- 49. Female deer
- 51. Immature form before metamorphosis
- 54. Useful or valuable quality
- 56. Warble
- 57. Exchange
- 58. Languish
- 59. Slight competitive advantage
- 60. Cubicle
- 61. Novice
- 62. 9th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 63. Defect
- 64. Thread
- 67. In favor of

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Adventuring into the wild

Sisters volunteer abroad in South Africa and Costa Rica

By **NICHOLE SEQUIN**
Managing Content Editor

Relinquishing their familial bond, two Oakland University sisters' paths diverged when their dream destinations brought them to different hemispheres.

Carly and Katie Zacharis both chose to take advantage of the International Student Volunteers Program that is offered each year to anyone interested.

The non-profit benefit corporation gives volunteers eight choices for the trip, including South Africa, Costa Rica, Eastern Europe, Thailand, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Australia and New Zealand, which they rate on a scale of 1-8, depending on interest. Volunteers then select how long they will travel for, which can be from two weeks to three months.

The volunteer projects — which include sea turtle conservation, teaching English to children, home and community building, rainforest regeneration and elephant conservation projects, among other things — are aimed to teach students how to make a difference by getting a local and first-person feel of different countries.

Students spend the first two weeks of their trip completing these projects and academic credit can be earned doing so.

Carly, a junior majoring in English, went to South Africa for a total of four weeks and teamed up with 14 other volunteers to work in a cheetah sanctuary for the first part of her program.

With her group she worked for two weeks making the animals more comfortable by feeding and grooming them as well as weeding their enclosures. They also disinfected the cats and transported them around the facility.

"(ISV) is the coolest thing ever," Carly said. "I'm trying to tell people how amazing it is, but I can't do it justice. It's the best



Photo courtesy of Katie Zacharis
Karly Zacharis, a senior majoring in nursing, spent a month in Costa Rica doing research on dolphins. She and Carly financed their \$4,500 trips by fundraising and asking family for donations.

experience I've ever had and the best thing I've ever done and ever will do."

Katie, a senior majoring in nursing, also went on a trip with ISV but to a different location. Katie spent two weeks in Costa Rica helping a local family do research on dolphins and lived with the other volunteers in a bungalow with a host family.

"We spent about six hours a day, every day on a boat, searching the bay for dolphins," Katie said. "We'd find pods of dolphins and track their behavior, and then we'd record the information."

After completing their projects, volunteers use the last two weeks to explore the country on an "Ad-

venture Tour," which can include many different activities.

"My group from the cheetah center teamed up with the other community projects," Carly said. "All 40 of us joined together and did a lot. We had surf lessons, went snorkeling, sea kayaking, mountain climbing, koofing (canoeing/white water rafting), horseback riding, adventuring and we went to a geothermic hot pool ... every day we did something fun."

Though the trip can cost around \$4,500 including flight, Carly and Katie both fundraised and asked family members and friends to donate so they could attend the trip.



Photo courtesy of Carly Zacharis
Carly Zacharis, a junior majoring in English, traveled to Africa to work in a cheetah sanctuary. Besides volunteering, participants also take an "Adventure Tour," which include many activities.

"It's expensive, but ISV helps you a lot with fundraising and gives you ideas (to raise money)," Carly said. "It's very possible."

Now student representatives for the company, both Carly and Katie hope to attend the program again next year, at different locations. Though they initially planned on going on a trip together, both said they enjoyed going alone.

"Carly and I originally planned on going together, but neither of us wanted to budge about which country we were going to," Katie said. "I liked going separate where you're forced to meet other people. I made a lot of great friends."

Katie and Carly are hoping to make ISV an on-campus organization, and plan on hosting meetings and informational sessions for those who'd like to get involved.

The duo is having their first informational meeting on Thursday, Sept. 22 in Lake Superior Room A from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. every hour on the hour for interested students.

The meeting will discuss the details of the program as well as their experiences.

For more information or to get involved, email Carly at crzachar@oakland.edu, attend the meeting or check out www.isvolunteers.org

Waits harbors passion for children

OU student works with autistic children in local public school

By **JUSTIN COLMAN**
Copy Editor

Catherine Waits walks into a fourth grade classroom. She is drawn to a child having a meltdown. The teacher is not trained to handle a situation such as this, so Catherine walks to the child, sits down next to him and negotiates with him. After talking to Waits, the boy stands up and returns to his normal activities. As Waits gets up, the teachers stand aside themselves, baffled.

What they could not do, Catherine could.

Waits, a senior pursuing an early childhood degree, works at West Bloomfield Public Schools, helping children who suffer from Autism Spectrum Disorder. Catherine works with children from preschool to fifth grade, offering assistance to help them get through their days.

"She has a great sense of commitment toward her children and it can be seen by others," said Amanda Segal, a Doherty Elementary School teacher and a co-worker of Catherine. "She (Catherine) is a natural when it comes to working with kids. She loves them and they love her."

Waits became involved in the autism field through an internship that was required for her early childhood degree.

Waits took up the suggestion of her boss, which was to work with a child (who was believed to have autism) that required 1-on-1 attention. For Catherine, there was a learning curve.

"One of the difficulties I learned at first was that I didn't know what I was learning," Waits said. "I watched the children, studied them and asked questions to people who had more experience with children with autism (than myself)."

By asking questions, Waits was able to find out a common issue that children with autism have.

"General autism has a lot of sensory issues," Waits said. "Like a child taking his or her shoe off, parents don't understand why they're doing it, they just think that they're being bad kids."

Sensory issues vary by the person. For instance, a child might not like loud noise so he or she covers their ears to reduce the volume.

Another example is if a child's eyes are sensitive to light, a child might wear a pair of sunglasses or protective eye wear to possibly reduce the brightness emitted from the light.

Waits was also able to learn the social disadvantages children with autism have.

"A lot of the negative in autism stems

from the lack of social skills," Waits said. "The children that I work with, because of their age, do not know social cues."

Segal said she notices the special attention that could be needed for children with autism.

"I've had a child with autism in my class," Segal said. "He had difficulty with the class routine, making appropriate decisions and interacting with his peers."

Some children who have autism prefer to explain their feelings and requests through pointing at pictures rather than explaining themselves verbally.

Catherine was influenced to work in the autism field because of the progress she saw in a boy who preferred explaining himself through pointing and pictures.

"At the beginning of the year he had to have his notebook, and would cry," Waits said. "By the end of the year, he was able to interact with his peers and say what he needed or where he needed to go. He was happy."

Now with experience, Waits believes that people with autism have an important role in society.

"The way people with autism see the world is so different from how we see it," Waits said. "They look at the world so uniquely and differently... they're going to be the ones that come up with cures for all of the ailments someday."

Children that have autism, have specific interests in which they like to study more about. "I can go into a car and they can tell me what pieces go into the car," Waits said.

Taking four courses this semester while holding a career, Waits said that this would not be possible without an understanding employer.

"My boss is willing to work around my schedule and gives me Tuesday and Thursday off," Waits said. "I work on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday."

At first, Waits said she was a judgmental person who would look at people and say, "what is wrong with that person."

Today, with the knowledge of autism, Waits said she believes that people should not be quick to judge others like she was before.

"They're not bad kids," Waits said. "When you're out somewhere and you see someone acting different, don't say, 'what is wrong with that kid,' wonder if the child is alright."

ASD affects one in every 110 children born. The ratio continues to shrink and while there is no cure, treatments and therapy exist. To learn more about ASD and those it affects, visit

www.autismspeaks.org



JESSICA CARMICHAEL/The Oakland Post

Catherine Waits, a senior majoring in early childhood, is a full-time student at OU and also holds a career at West Bloomfield Public schools, helping children with Autism Spectrum Disorder transition into a more normative lifestyle.

Continuing a tradition

Student organizations contribute to start yearly Hispanic celebration

By ISABELLA SHAYA
Staff Intern

It has become an annual tradition at Oakland University for students to celebrate Hispanic heritage during National Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of events sponsored by groups on campus.

"This is a long-standing tradition at OU and this year we had one of the highest turnouts in all the years past. It has been a very successful event so far," Emilia Allen, Director of Multicultural Affairs said.

Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend many different activities from September 12-29th, some of which included guest speaker Professor Alan Epstein's look at fair trade, a Zumba Party in the Rec Center, and community service at the Hispanic Outreach center in Pontiac.

The Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI), Center for Student Activities (CSA), Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Campus Recreation, Student Congress, School of Nursing, Spanish Club, Spanish Grammar Club, and the Student Program Board (SPB) sponsored the celebrations this year.

"The theme of this year is 'Viva el Arte,' meaning, 'long live the arts,'" Allen said. "We wanted to focus on different types of multimedia art out there, such as poetry and crafts that people may not know much about."

On September 21st, OU groups and sponsors have invited nationally and internationally known artist Nora Chapa Mendoza to the fireside lounge on campus to present her artwork.

Mendoza's 25 pieces on display, along with 6 pieces by Peruvian Artist Enrique Aramburu, is intended to reflect and depict Hispanic culture.

"We really tried to focus on the art aspect of Hispanic heritage



Photos by SIERRA SOLEIMANI / The Oakland Post

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, an exhibition of salsa dancing by the Rochester Ballroom instructors followed by free salsa lessons was presented in the Banquet Room in the Oakland Center.

this year. We had many events that focused on performance art, and this exposition is meant to bring more traditional art to the celebration," Nicole Lucio, CMI representative said.

Following the art exposition is a workshop where students get the opportunity to create a painting with Mendoza using her unique artistic style.

"Mendoza will run a workshop to teach the students her own techniques, and then the students will complete one piece with her," Lucio said.

If you did not get the chance

to view Mendoza's artwork, it will be on display in the Oakland Center through September 28th.

Students are still welcome to take part in the festivities on September 24th by attending a trip to the Eastern Market, Detroit Institute of Arts, and Mexicantown.

The Student Program Board put together this event for OU students to not only learn, but feel a part of Hispanic heritage.

"We want authenticity, and Mexicantown offers that. The Eastern Market offers a little bit of everything. It is almost like a



Professional salsa instructors taught OU students the art of the dance on Tuesday night following an exhibition performance.

huge farmers market," Jean Ann Miller, CSA Director said.

There is also a visit to the Detroit Institute of Arts specifically to view the artwork of Hispanic artist, Diego Rivera, whose work connects with students both internationally and locally.

"Students tend to focus on Hispanic culture around the world, but Detroit is so rich in this culture," Allen said. "Diego's work symbolizes ties Hispanic culture to the city of Detroit, especially all the paintings of factory workers."

"This year we are trying to expand the typical 'Hispanic culture.' My goal this year is to make a lasting Hispanic impression."

— Emilia Allen
Multicultural
Affairs Director

This trip not only teaches students about the many Hispanic traditions, it also connects them with their home town.

"How many students are aware of these treasures in Detroit?"

Miller said. "Going on this trip is an easy way to get exposed to the Hispanic culture and learn more about the city we live in."

SPB continues to organize this event every year because it is also a way for students to meet one another and make new friends.

"We are mainly going on this trip for fun. This trip is mainly for international students who may not know many people or anything about the city of Detroit," sophomore, SPB, and international relations major, Jibrán Ahmed said.

The cost of entrance and transportation is free, besides any food or souvenirs you choose to purchase. Students can reserve their spot by picking up a ticket at the CSA office window, 49 Oakland Center.

"This year we are trying to expand the typical 'Hispanic culture,'" Allen said. "My goal this year is to make a lasting Hispanic impression."

The many activities put on by SPB and the other sponsors give OU students the opportunity to not only learn about Hispanic culture, but also to be emerged in a heritage that they may have previously known nothing about.



Photo Courtesy of Gillian Ellis/MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE
Miles Brown, Carl Cafagna, Vincent Chandler, and Sean Dobbins are performing at Varner Hall on Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. Admission is whatever guests choose to donate.

Department instructors perform at Varner Hall

By **MISHA MAYHAND**
Staff Intern

The department of Music Theatre and Dance kicks off its inaugural season of Arts-After-Work, which will happen twice a month throughout the year.

The first show, a faculty jazz concert, will take place on Thursday, Sept. 22.

Gillian Ellis, assistant publicist at MTD she says she hopes that the Arts-After-Work series will bring more people to MTD. She also hopes it will broaden their audience by attracting those that are not from the Oakland University community.

"Our aim was to try to showcase all of the varieties of performances and disciplines that we have within the department" says Ellis.

Expected to perform at the show are department instructors Miles Brown, Carl Cafagna, Vincent Chandler, Sean Dobbins, Kris Johnson, Mark Kieme, Mark Stone and Tad Weed.

Ellis expresses that they want the com-

munity involved, and hopes the "pay-as-you-wish" tickets will make the performances more accessible and encourage a larger audience.

The seating is general seating on a first come, first serve basis. Appetizers are optional and will be available before the show in the Mezzanine for an extra fee. The show will run from 6-7:00 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall.

General admission tickets are available via telephone from the Varner Box Office at (248) 370-3013 during regular box office hours, or in person. The box office is open Tuesday-Friday, from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. and one hour before performances. No service fees for box office orders are charged. General admission tickets can also be purchased online from Star Tickets at startickets.com using VISA, MasterCard, AmEx or Discover. Also, when purchasing online you are able to enter the price you would like to pay.

For more information, visit www.oakland.edu/mtd

Next Event:

Kenneth Kroesche, Euphonium on Sept. 23 at 8:00 p.m. Varner Hall. Tickets available at Varner Box Office.

records & reels

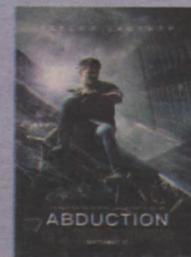


MONEYBALL // 133 min. // PG-13

Based on the real story of MLB general manager Billy Bean's attempt to man a formidable sports franchise in spite of mounting money issues. Brad Pitt stars along with Phillip Seymour-Hoffman and Jonah Hill, who adapts well to a role outside of his comfort zone, this sports drama should attract baseball fanatics and general filmgoers alike.

ABDUCTION // 106 min. // PG-13

Twilight's tween wooing werewolf Taylor Lautner makes his first big screen break outside of the vampire saga. Centered around a young man who finds a baby photograph of himself on a missing persons website and attempts to discover the secrets behind his life. As he delves in deeper into his past, secret agents close in to take him out.



PRIMUS // "Green Naugahyde"

Les Claypool's band of weirdoes is back with their first album of the 2000s. Led by wild bass lines and vocals sounding more like the telling of campfire stories than singing. Green Naugahyde is no exception; front man Claypool in the foreground for the mix of the album, breaking off into proggy jams several times as well.

CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH // "HYSTERICAL"

The indie quartet returns with their third album aimed at winning back fans lost after 2007's sophomore blunder, 'Some Loud Thunder.' The group has produced a CD worthy of evoking an array of emotions, from the danceable opening track 'Same Mistake' to the melancholy 'Misspent Youth.' Whether old admirers give Clap Your Hands the patience to check out their revival remains to be certain, but the group has definitely put their time into crafting their comeback record, assuring their will be fans at their shows doing copious amounts of hand-clapping and yeah-saying.



KASABIAN // "Velociraptor"

The U.K. band's bass lines and orchestral string arrangements make a prominent comeback while synthesizers are less overbearing, mixing good song writing with their continuous history of groovy psychedelic outbursts. Kasabian have never been shy to try combining everything into something new, and Velociraptor! may be an exception only in terms of success.

— Compiled by Brian Figurski, Staff Reporter

Check out the
Music Guy Blog
 at oaklandpostonline.com
 for this and other content:



Photo by CHELSEA BISTUE

Flint native and former lead singer of Chiodos, Craig Owens performed an acoustic set in Borden Park with New Jersey artist, Amanda Hyrns.

Craig Owens in Borden Park

On Sept. 20, 2011, Craig Owens, formerly of Flint-based Chiodos, currently the lead singer of post-hardcore D.R.U.G.S performed a free acoustic set in Borden Park in Rochester Hills, MI after sending out a message from his twitter saying "Ready?! @AmandaHyrns @RussVanderhoof & I will be playing ! Borden Park in Rochester, MI @ 4:30 today. TIP US via guitar case like hobos." A photo of the event is to the left.

Interview with MUTEMATH

Last week, the Oakland Post interviewed Darren King, one of the co-founding members of progressive-rock band MUTEMATH to talk about the beginning of the band along with their newest release "Odd Soul" which is set to hit stores on Oct. 4, 2011.



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Fans: worse than fumbled plays

By **BRIAN FIGURSKI**
Staff Reporter

I can't believe what I'm seeing these past two weeks. My favorite sports team to berate and hate is making my leisurely activities very difficult, and I don't know how I can function without absolute disdain for something.

The Lions have won their first two games. For those who don't give a flying fap about sports, this is a reality! The Lions are actually positive on the leaderboard!

Fortunately, this surprising twists of luck for the sports franchise has given me a new reason to gripe — you, the fans.

I've never been a real big Lions fan. Not enough to say I ever hated them, but I would normally continue to bet my hard-earned money against them.

Most of you would have agreed with me a calendar ago, but oh my how times have changed.

Everyone is hopping on the Lions' back,

suddenly proud to be associated with the consistently terrible squad, after all two regular season games. Statistically speaking, I'm talking the print record, not these preseason games.

Detroit is being deemed Hockeytown for years now, with the most likely conclusion that the Red Wings are actually a constantly good team.

Now that the Lions are on the rise to an 'elite franchise,' can we become Roartown in honor of our Honolulu blue feline friends? When the annual failure occurs we can change our slogan to Pussyville (because of the cat reference, dummy).

Now after 120 minutes of play, talk is being spread on all mediums, including radio and television critics and all the self-induced football experts on my Facebook, that we'll have an MVP in Stafford. Better yet, get your champagne ready, the Lions are headed to the damn Super Bowl!

Say wha-wha-what? How can these bandwagon Lions fans, who dreaded the

oncoming seasons for decades as tradition passed down from their fathers and grandfathers, jump to ridiculous conclusions two weeks into a five-month schedule?

The team is flourishing and doing decently for once, smashing in the faces of the Chiefs and making Tampa Bay suckle their own mothers. But let's be frank, these are our Lions. We've rallied behind them before, only to witness the team in dismay with no coordination and direction.

Lions fans are the worst when it comes to these accidents. We build the team at exponential rates when they have a 'hot streak', which for them could be getting to practice on time, and next, tear them down even faster when their ass gets handed to them by last year's Super Bowl champs.

When they fail, and trust me, they will disappoint sooner or later, the so-called fans will roast them worse than Charlie Sheen got railed the other night.

I agree the Lions do look on top of their game this season, improving on nearly all

fronts from compared to 2010's season, but I don't think two games is really a good baseline for 15 more weeks of a grueling contact sport where injuries run amuck and things literally change within a moment.

I wish them the best in spite of my pessimistic outlook for two reasons — one, my Guinness Book streak of me being wrong will go unscathed, and two, we truly will be able to say we have a vastly improved, semi-successful football team in our town.

Just don't go around jinxing the Lions. Be a fan, but not a fanatic, which I think comes from the term 'lunatic'.

Watch the games and cheer them on and eat your fatty hot wings, but don't cry like a five-year-old or throw a beer bottle at the TV when a pass is dropped or a defender breaks through the offensive line. That's expected from these guys.

It's what the Lions have gotten to be the best at — fan despondency. Good thing I'm half way there, so when 2-14 hits I'll find other reasons to whine.

you can feel better about
the way it ended

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