

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

September 23, 2009

Volume 36, Number 7



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He brings a knowledge and enthusiasm for the science of cooking and a humorous approach to his shows. *Bon Appétit* magazine named him Cooking Teacher of the Year in 2004, and he was named Best Food Guru by *Atlanta* magazine in 2005. *Good Eats* was awarded the Best T.V. Food Journalism Award by the James Beard Foundation in 2000, and the show was also awarded a Peabody Award in 2006.

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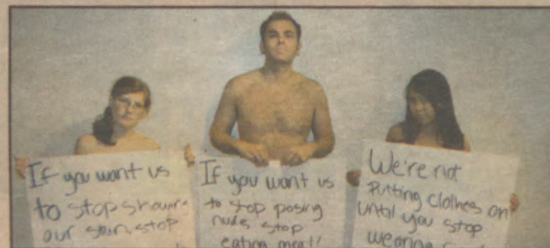
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THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives

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September 23, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

Wishing you could find a spot

Oakland University's parking can kiss our asphalt.

It's an epic tale; The Oakland Post, and just about everybody else, gripes about it semester after semester. It just keeps getting worse.

There were 18,169 students enrolled last fall, and while the numbers aren't in yet, it certainly seems like the administration got its anticipated 1 percent enrollment increase for this year. That's an extra 181 students crowding not only the parking lots, but the university roadways.

Barely any additional parking has been made available since 2002 when the three-story parking structure opened. Then, there were 2,000 fewer students.

In 2012, when today's freshmen will be seniors, the five-story Human Health Building is scheduled to open. It will eventually occupy upwards of 400 students in just its classrooms alone, not including hundreds more in labs, offices and the auditorium.

The approved design of the building shows its placement will be between lot one and three (the main lot and the "overflow" lot at the corner of Squirrel and Walton). So the users of that building will most likely devour the spots in what is now the undesired, but vital

lot for students who are on the verge of turning around and going home.

The Post suggests that the design of the Human Health Building include a parking garage or deck or both to accommodate students attending classes in the building. Heck, what's another few million when you're already spending \$62 million?

With the new medical school on the horizon, those admitted into the program will also be competing for the not-so-prime parking realty.

While OU denied a Freedom Of Information Act request filed by The Post for information on the med school, we imagine they could find a way to accommodate those students' parking needs without taking away from ours. Despite the fact students of the "private" institution will be parking their Hondas in partially-state funded lots, OU is claiming the med school's plans aren't our business. (See page 7)

We do know, however, that OU "eliminated" fees (er, rolled them in if you ask us) for its undergraduate and graduate students. OU's website claims the fee is traditionally \$100 for parking at other universities.

In 1975, OU had a system where students, faculty and visitors were charged for parking. The more often you came

to campus, the more you paid. This was when parking lot maintenance was not part of the general budget.

So if we instituted something similar, even on a much simpler scale, we could potentially continually improve parking without affecting the university's supposed tight budget.

We're willing to bet some students would pay an extra \$100 for a guaranteed parking spot. Perhaps there could be a few spots in each lot available for purchase, first come first serve, or a new garage could be built and the university could eventually make its money back in permits.

It would cost less to pay for a spot than to pay for multiple \$20 parking tickets, the extra gas and stress of missing the first part of class.

Or maybe the next tuition increase could consider our dire parking situation. A new shuttle program could also be implemented on campus and surrounding areas.

If OU wants to really shed its small school image for a more prestigious one, the first way to do it is to allow for growth.

This includes better parking.

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BLUNDERGRADS

by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)



CORRECTIONS CORNER

• In last week's "Greek Speak" the glossary incorrectly states that women go through rush to join a sorority. They go through recruitment.

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

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

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Student body president addresses constituents



Kristin A. Dayag
student body president

As I enter the Student Congress office I've known for the past two years of my college career, I realize that I am entering it with an entirely different perspective given this

new and unexplored position that I'm now in. Feelings of anticipation, excitement, and mostly hope rush through me.

It has been almost three weeks since we have officially started our classes. Already we, as a student body, have been faced with some tough challenges such as the 9 percent tuition increase and the faculty job action. We also have been graced with some additions such as the disc golf course in the upper fields that is open to the entire community.

Last March I ran with my student body vice president, Saman Waquad, with a specific plan. Our platform included many broad and important issues including: promoting educational success, developing stronger student

leaders, endorsing Oakland University pride, working toward an all inclusive campus community, improving the standard of campus life, effectively listening to and addressing student concerns, and strengthening the foundation of Student Congress.

We recognize that this list is a very general one given our open ended jobs with boundless opportunities, but still I am confident that by the end of this year we will be able to cover all of those aspects of student life.

Saman and I had the privilege of spending a couple days with the former President of India while he was in town last week (thanks to Provost Dr. Virinder Moudgil). We expressed to His Excellency that we were fearful we would not be able to complete all the objectives stated in our platform within the next year. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam responded that "a year is a time with endless possibilities. After all, the earth revolves around the moon in that exact same time and we can only imagine how much power that moment has in itself."

Saman and I refused to go through this election with the typical empty promises that many people make when running

for an elected position. What we do promise is that we have the experience, the skills, and the passion in order to better impact this school with good intentions.

Student Congress as a whole will give nothing short of its best when representing the entire student body and addressing your needs and concerns. We are here in these elected and appointed positions to help increase the quality of our educational experiences here at OU. As long as we share that same vision and strive for those same goals, I am confident that the legacy of our administration will be seen as successful.

The tuition increase and faculty strike are only a few issues we will most likely be facing as students this year. I encourage all of you to continue to be proactive in these endeavors and to try your best to stay involved. In any case, what you give is what you get. One person can make all the difference in the world, but imagine what we can do as a collective body of this university.

Quite a few students have come to me after the campaign results were in, expressing their newfound inspiration to run for student body president. I assume

it is because my student body vice president and I have been the first ticket consisting of both female and ethnic candidates. This is the same year that President Obama won his presidency and I'm thankful that we are in a time when people challenge themselves to open up their minds and hearts to diversity. I am very flattered to be a motivating factor in peoples' lives. I will continue to do my best in giving the students what they want, and I too may inspire myself to run again next year in hopes of accomplishing much more.

Classes have finally started and I wish you all great luck for this upcoming year. I strongly believe that these four years in college can be the best years of your life no matter what university you attend. Take advantage of all the opportunities that our school has to offer. Go to games, join an organization, and be a part of change. It is important that we all steer clear of student apathy and make sure we are getting out of college everything we've ever wanted from it. I have the utmost faith in our student body that together we can make a difference. Stay motivated, study hard, but most of all have fun!

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Watch out: OUPD's watching

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

The police will be watching the roads near Oakland University entrances extra closely for the next few Wednesdays.

OU Police Department and Auburn Hills Police Department are teaming up to try to "Stop Accidents From Escalating" with the program S.A.F.E. Streets, by specifically targeting and ticketing drivers who speed, follow other drivers too closely, fail to stop at stop signs and yield at yield signs.

AHPD will be monitoring various locations in Auburn Hills. And AHPD and OUPD will collaborate on monitoring University Drive between Pontiac Road and OU's main entrance, and Squirrel Road between Cross Creek Parkway and Walton Boulevard. OU's entrance on Walton Boulevard is not targeted for this program.

They will watch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 23, Oct. 7 and Oct. 21, which are all Wednesdays.

The first day of the program was Sept. 16, and they ticketed 15 drivers within that four-hour period, said OUPD Captain Mark Gordon.

Gordon said S.A.F.E. Streets is a nation-wide program, and AHPD started it locally in 2005. In April



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
Blue light emergency poles around campus can now work as loudspeakers in cases of emergencies.

2008, AHPD started collaborating with OUPD to cover areas near the university.

Gordon said in three days that month, they gave out 23 tickets. He said this amount, as well as the 15 tickets last Wednesday, is far higher than the amount of tickets that would be typically given during that period on normal days.

"We're trying to make a difference in traffic viola-

tions," Gordon said.

OUPD's website (www.police.oakland.edu) said this educational program "has led to a significant reduction of traffic crashes throughout our community."

OUPD also started a campus-wide outdoor live audio announcement broadcasting system this semester.

The older blue light emergency phones located around campus were replaced with newer ones, with the added ability to work as loudspeakers in cases of emergencies, Gordon said.

People can still use the phones to be call OUPD emergency dispatch center.

The outdoor broadcasting system was funded by a grant OUPD received in 2008 from Emergency Management for Higher Education, a government-sponsored program.

OUPD also urges students, faculty and staff to sign up for its cell phone emergency alert system at its website, which sends text messages and/or voice messages to registered phones in cases of emergency.

This system was implemented fall 2008, and used to inform people in several cases, most notably during a bomb scare in April 2009.

During an emergency, call OUPD at (248)-370-3331 or text/email 911@oakland.edu.

Grizzly Oaks course challenges newbies and professionals alike

By COLLEEN J. MILLER
Editor in Chief

For local disc golfers, the courses at Stony Creek Metro Park and River Bends are often at the top of the rotation. But now, there's one more to add to that list — Grizzly Oaks on the campus of Oakland University.

Originally expected to open around Thanksgiving 2008, its grand opening celebration Sept. 10 was much anticipated, especially with the wet summer that plagued River Bend's with mosquitoes and the new \$2 entry fee at Stony.

The course is sure to attract the sharks, with its tight corners, narrow fairways, abundant landscaping obstacles and rough terrain. It's not an easy course whatsoever, and good sneakers are a must.

The tee pads are rubber, set on wood platforms. Almost every one of the 18 holes has an obstruction in front of the basket, usually a bush or cluster of bushes.

The rough is rough and the fairways



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post
It might be a good idea for first time course players to use a disc or free Frisbee, as the new course at Oakland University requires accuracy and it's easy to lose them.

are well-groomed, much like Stony. But if there was one word to describe this course, it would be variety.

There's an extra element of class —

with well-defined walking paths, painted rocks indicating the direction and the cross country trail winding throughout the course. Even better, there's also a

feeling of venturing through uncharted territory in some of the wooded holes. In particular, hole 12 appears to be more of a hiking trail than a fairway. Some spots, like hole 2, are ridden with thorny apple trees that serve as death traps for high-flying discs.

The course requires a degree of accuracy, but it will likely wear down within a year or two. The on-campus location will surely attract newcomers — as evident by the hundreds of Frisbee-style discs that were handed out by the Student Congress at the course opening — they are clearly not suitable for competitive play. I would recommend that first timers use a disc or free Frisbee of sorts that you're not worried about losing.

The first tee is located off the upper athletic field, and ample parking is usually available in parking lot 11. There are many things that set this course apart from others in the area, most of them good. However, two of the common things associated with throwing disc, drinking and dogs, are not allowed on the course.

Med school postponed until 2011

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

The opening of the Beaumont medical school at Oakland University has been postponed for one year.

The inaugural class of 50 students was planned to start in fall 2010, but this August OU announced that the class is now planned to start in fall 2011.

In a recent interview, Robert Folberg, the founding dean of the upcoming OU William Beaumont School of Medicine, said this was done to benefit medical school students and the medical school.

"We could've cut corners to meet an arbitrary goal," Folberg said. "Or we could've followed president [Gary] Russi's goals and my goals."

Plans for the school, a private allopathic medical school in collaboration with OU and Beaumont Hospitals, were announced in August 2008.

Although some medical school classes and offices are on OU's campus, officials said the school is to be a funded not through state/taxpayer money or from tuition of the regular students at OU administration, but through private donations, medical school student tuition and the school's intellectual property, such as research.

The medical school is currently in its second step of being fully accredited,

because this August was filed a 850-page accreditation application to the Liaison Council for Medical Education, the organization whose accreditation is needed to teach students and grant degrees.

This application includes information such as the budget, funds, faculty hired and a detailed curriculum description.

"There are about 800 instructional hours ... every hour is mapped out," Folberg said. "The reason is because the patient is at the other end of it."

If LCME feels the application qualifies, its representatives will make a site visit, which will be on OU and Beaumont locations. If the visit goes well, LCME will give the school preliminary accreditation, which will allow it to recruit and accept applicants and enroll the inaugural class.

The school originally planned to file the application earlier and have preliminary accreditation status by this summer, but later "decided to file the application when we were ready," Folberg said.

He didn't like the term "delay because it makes it seem like something went wrong ... Nothing is wrong."

He said at the current rate, the med school could start accepting student applications in October 2010, but it would get fewer applicants if it did so because students usually start applying in May. So they'd rather wait until next season and get a full batch of applicants.

OU officials said they expect this school will create hundreds of jobs, bring hundreds of millions of dollars to the region and help with the predicted upcoming doctor shortage.

OU's faculty union and The Oakland Post filed separate Freedom Of Information Act requests to OU for the application the medical school filed in August. The FOIA requests were denied last week because the requested documents were "exempted from disclosure" because they contain private individual information, trade secrets and financial information and other data used to administer a license, public employment and academic examination, said Jayson Hall, OU's FOIA coordinator.

The union said it wanted the information because it suspects the school may be partially funded by public money. But OU officials have denied this claim.

Kay Nguyen, campus editor of The Post, said it was a "point of interest" to see if the union's accusations are right.

Lizabeth Barclay, the union's grievance officer, said it's considering whether to appeal to OU President Gary Russi or to seek judicial review, which were the two options given in the denial letter.

Folberg said applications are usually not released while LCME review is going on, but some medical schools release it a couple years after they get accredited.

Honors College names new interim director

By JENNIFER WOOD
Staff Reporter

Late this summer, Oakland University's Honors College announced that it would be headed by a "new" face beginning in the 2009-10 school year.

Barbara Mabee, who has been an OU faculty for 20 years, was promoted late this summer to the position of Interim Director of the Honors College.

"Professor Mabee is a lifetime employee of Oakland University, a distinguished teacher and scholar of German language and culture," said Niels Herold, a member of the Honors College Council.

The Honors College, whose mission is to "provide highly motivated students an intellectually stimulating community," welcomed over 150 new freshmen to the program this year, the largest incoming class in history.

"It is a pleasure and privilege to work with so many bright and curious students and to play a role in shaping their college careers," said Mabee in an interview with OU spokesperson Eric Reikowski.

"We are fortunate to have her guidance of this outstanding college at OU until a search committee can identify a permanent director," said Herold.

For information on the Honors College, visit www.oakland.edu/hc

OU faculty strike impacts other universities

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

The faculty strike at Oakland University affected not only OU, but also other universities in Michigan, and in the nation.

The work stoppage from Sept. 3 to Sept. 9 that canceled the first four days of classes was covered by local media and national media. News also spread through word of mouth.

The strike was called because the contracts of about 600 faculty members represented by OU's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (not including special lecturers) expired this summer, and although OU and AAUP had been collectively bargaining since May, they didn't reach an agreement in time.

During the strike, representatives of faculty unions at some universities, including Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University, came to the rallies and picket lines at OU to support OU's faculty.

Joel Russell, president of OU's AAUP and chemistry professor, said he was very appreciative of the support from the other unions.

Howard Bunsis, EMU professor of accounting and chair of EMU's AAUP bargaining team, came to OU during the strike.

He said he was encouraged "mostly because the faculty at OU stood up for quality education, stood up for students, and insisted that the administration hire quality faculty, insisted the administration devote [a

larger portion of its] budget to academics."

He said he is also glad they were able to reach a compromise on health care, and that it was a "huge victory" that OU's AAUP was able to guarantee hiring tenure-track faculty instead of adjunct instructors.

EMU's AAUP is getting ready to go into bargaining because its contract expires in summer 2010.

He said OU's faculty strike and the subsequent tentative agreement not only had an impact on EMU and other regional schools, but also had a national impact.

"It shows the faculty can stand up for principles even in these tough economic times," Bunsis said. "We were proud of our OU colleagues, of how they stood up to the administration, stood up for the students ... and of how strong the student support was."

On its website, EMU's AAUP said university administrations are using the financial exigency as a way to limit faculty rights, governance and cutting programs without faculty input.

For contract negotiations at EMU next year, Bunsis said he'd like to "make sure the administration is dedicated to the core mission of the university."

Jeff Lee, executive director of the Michigan Conference of AAUP, said he was encouraged that OU's faculty stuck together, and disappointed that OU's administration let it go so far that classes had to be canceled.

He said the only public universities in Michigan whose faculty aren't unionized are University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Michigan

Tech University. He said most faculty unions in Michigan were formed in the 1970s, and didn't know why the three universities didn't pursue it.

"Faculty unions usually come about when the administration does dreadful things," Russell said, adding that he thinks the administrations in MSU and UM are more appreciative of its faculty.

Russell said that OU's faculty union tentatively agreeing on a zero percent raise this year showed that faculty governance and academics were the issues they were holding out for, and not money.

In comparison, Northern Michigan University and WSU, whose faculty unions bargained contracts this summer, both got a 2 percent raise.

OU's AAUP said the tentative agreement gives a 1 percent raise in 2010 and a 3 percent raise in 2011.

OU administration declined to confirm or deny the details released by AAUP because the contract hasn't been voted on or ratified by the faculty yet.

AAUP held a meeting Monday, Sept. 21 to inform the faculty of the changes in the tentative agreement, and will hold another at noon Thursday in the Oakland Center's Gold Rooms. After that, a vote will be called, but not for at least another seven days.

"We cannot hold the election until we receive the current faculty list from the administration," said grievance officer of OU's AAUP and management professor Lizabeth Barclay. "We should receive this list on September 30. If we get it on time, we'll be able to schedule the election early in October."

Month-long celebration of Hispanic culture seeks to raise student awareness and entertain

By **BRAD SLAZINSKI**
Staff Reporter

A celebration of Latin American culture comes to Oakland University in the form of events ranging from a fiesta to honoring the Mexican Independence Day.

Hispanic Celebration 2009 began with a speech by Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil in the Fireside Lounge on Sept. 14.

The keynote speaker was Martina Guzman, a Detroit based award-winning journalist. She also discussed her trip to the Mexican state of Guanajuato to visit their famous mummies.

The main focus of her speech was on the mummies of Guanajuato. Guzman said she received an invitation from the Detroit Science Center to make a film about them. Guzman described how Guanajuato had helped make Spain, and most of Europe, wealthy.

The mummies of Guanajuato are 36 corpses that were buried and found intact after they were dug up. Researchers believe that area's hot weather climate had dried out the bodies before they decomposed.

Students found the speech informative and talked about Guzman's storytelling.

"We attended because our professor took us down here. It was good and it was informative," said junior Ryan Smith.

"I thought it was interesting. I liked the way she told her story," said freshman Julie Kowalski.

The Detroit Science Center had to compete with museums in Argentina, China, France, Chicago, and Los Angeles for the mummies. The exhibit will be making its world debut, leaving Mexico for the first time.

The exhibit is set to make its debut at the Detroit Science Center on Friday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox will be the guest of honor at the event.

Guzman said the Mexican government worried about the state of the mummies and would rather they remain in Mexico. Prior to arriving to Detroit the mummies had never left Mexico.

"I thought it would be a simple trip, where I would go and make sure everything was in order," said Guzman.

"The mummies would get on this special plane that they were assigned, I would meet them in Detroit and everything was fine," said Guzman.

"When they told me that they weren't going to go, I was devastated," she said.

Guzman had to convince several members of Mexico's government to let them go.

"I refused to take no without a fight, and it worked. I was able to convince a lot of people that this exhibit was important," said Guzman.

Ron Rapin, a Spanish professor and a co-chair for the

planning committee for Hispanic celebration 2009 said the Hispanic Celebration began about 10 years ago.

"Ever since, this is typical of what we do every year. We bring music in, art, culture, and educate the students about different political situations in Latin America," Rapin said.

"We've opened it up so all different countries are here. On our last day [Oct. 2] we will be having a fiesta with people from Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina you name it. They will be there with tables talking about their countries," said Rapin.

Hispanic Celebration Events

Hispanic Celebration will hold its closing ceremony in the Fireside Lounge from noon to 1 p.m. on Oct. 2 featuring music and a fiesta.

The next event — a mock Quincenera co-sponsored by the Spanish club and Oakland University Student Congress — will be Thursday, Sept. 24 in the Expansion Food Court in the Oakland Center from 5 to 7 p.m.

On Sept. 28, students who studied abroad in Latin America during the summer will be holding a panel in the Fireside Lounge from noon to 1 p.m.



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POLICE FILES

On Sept. 13, OUPD pulled over a driver who failed to stop at a stop sign. The driver had a suspended license, a previous driving while license suspended conviction, and multiple warrants out from OUPD and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. He was arrested and his car was turned over to one of his friends. OUPD released the suspect's son, who was in the car with him, to his grandmother's custody. The suspect released after posting a \$500 bond.

On Sept. 16, OUPD went to a West Vandenberg Hall dorm room after being called by residence employees. Officers found empty bottles of alcohol, and upon administering preliminary breath tests, discovered that two underage students had above-acceptable blood alcohol content levels. They were given minor in possession of alcohol citations. Another student who did not look intoxicated and said she did not drink was allowed to leave.

On Sept. 16, a student told OUPD that part of her weatherstripping around both of her side rear windows of her car was removed, in an attempt to enter it. The car was still locked, no permanent damage was done and nothing was missing.

On Sept. 19, OUPD responded to a smoke alarm in a South Hamlin Hall room. A resident said she burned popcorn in her microwave. Auburn Hills Fire Department came and reported no damage.

—Compiled by senior reporter Masudur Rahman, from Oakland University Police Department's media logs

Varnerstock 09

Concert to be held for late music instructor

By **MIKE SANDULA**
Staff Reporter

The Association for Music Students at Oakland University will be hosting a free night of music Saturday, Sept. 26 to honor the late Danny Jordan, department of music, theatre and dance professor. Varnerstock 09, which will run from 7 to 11 p.m. at Varner Recital Hall, was created with the hope of raising money for the Danny Jordan Endowment Fund.

James Talbot, vice president of the association and a sophomore in OU's music education program, said the association wanted to do something in Jordan's honor. He said creating a fund in his name for future music students was "the least we can do for him after all he's done for us."

The fund aims to raise \$25,000 in donations through various events, including Varnerfest 09, over the next year or two.

Jordan created the jazz program at OU, served as the director of jazz studies and directed several jazz bands.

He graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Music degree with Highest Distinction.

Jordan died in May of 2009, following a long illness. He was 64.

"The music department had to hire six sets of hands to do what his two could do on piano," Talbot said.

Varnerstock 09 has five participating bands that all feature OU alumni and students, though not necessarily music students.

Mirage, a pop-rock cover band, is composed of OU students. The Groo Grux Kings, a Dave Matthews tribute band, is made entirely of OU alumni.

Solo singer-songwriter Courtney Robb is a current OU student. Country-western swing band Dandylyon Whine features OU student Jeremy Otto. The final act, It's Our First Day, is a Flight of the Conchords tribute band.

Tickets are available through the Varner Box Office from 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, beginning Sept. 22 and one hour before performances.

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Competing with the best

Coaches discuss a bold move made by the university a decade ago

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

On any given day, the south wing of Oakland University's Recreation and Athletic Center is likely to be brimming with students galloping around the indoor track, pumping iron in the expansive weight room or shaking their groove thang in one of the many private fitness rooms. In the north wing, student-athletes, smaller in number but larger in stature, are most certainly dropping countless beads of sweat and expanding their lungs like Homer Simpson stretches a 32-inch waist band. They're working to meet the labor demands of competing at the highest level of collegiate athletics.

However, if it weren't for a decision made by the OU athletics department in the late 90s, all of these students would likely be elsewhere at this precise moment. The RAC is just one of the benefits OU students have reaped in the first decade since the Pioneers became the Golden Grizzlies and jumped from Division II of the National Collegiate Athletics Association to Division I.

The move

Prior to making the move to Division I, the OU athletics program was enjoying a great deal of success in Division II. A member of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, along with notable state institutions like Grand Valley State, Wayne State and Ferris State, OU was consistently competing for conference titles in men's and women's basketball, and among the Division II superpowers in men's soccer and swimming and diving.

Yet, something was missing. In spite of their success, the Pioneers, as they were then nicknamed, weren't blazing much of a trail in terms of marketing. When coaches went to recruit outside of their familiar Southeastern Michigan market, they were often met with quizzical looks and questions such as, "Where is Oakland? I've never heard of it," and "Why would I want to go to California to run track?"

Athletic Director Tracy Huth suggested to the administration, desperate to generate buzz about the university in order to create growth, that a move to the prominence of Division I athletics was wise. He believed that an OU presence on ESPN's score ticker and possibly March Madness brackets filled out by millions each year would do more for the university than any number of Division II national championships.

"It was clear to us that, in spite of all the successes we had at Division II, we were not serving the marketing function to the university that we needed to," Huth said.

"This was definitely not a decision that was made hastily," Huth said. "It was thought out very thoroughly, so I think there was a great framework and support



Photos courtesy of OU Athletic Communications
Basketball coaches Greg Kampe (pictured left) and Beckie Francis (right) are entering their 26th and 10th seasons, respectively, behind the benches at Oakland, and were both around for the transition to Division I.

network. You never know exactly what to expect, but that piece of the puzzle made the transition much more plausible."

The transition demanded that the university make a greater commitment to upgrading its training facilities and academic support services in order to compete with other programs in Division I.

Paul Rice, who coaches cross country and track and field for both men and women, was a 1992 cross country All-American and remembers OU athletics as a much more modest entity than it currently is.

"There was no recreation center at all," Rice recalled. "When I think of what we have today, it seems really odd that we went through what we did when I was running."

Women's basketball coach Beckie Francis came to OU in 1997 from Stony Brook University in upstate New York while Oakland was making a serious effort to move up to Division I. The DII to DI transition was nothing new to Francis. She had already guided Stony Brook through the same process and was an assistant coach at the University of Buffalo when it stepped up

to the highest level. To Francis, the ascent to the most competitive division was a stimulating challenge that she was eager to try for the third time.

"I was extremely excited," Francis said. "One of the main reasons I took the OU job was because of the Division I move. I interviewed in 1997, and saw tremendous potential. I bought into it from day one."

Other coaches, however, were not quite as enthusiastic about the move. Greg Kampe, leader of the flagship men's basketball program, said he was deeply concerned about entering the "shark-infested waters" of Division I. He feared that the pressures of winning might dictate him to compromise his principles in order to win enough to stay on OU payroll.

"From a selfish point of view I was kind of against it, because I had known a number of basketball coaches and programs who had ventured out into Division I and had gotten beaten up pretty bad," Kampe said. "At the time, we were a Division II power, we were beating everybody, our kids were all graduating, I never had any kids getting into trouble. When you make that move you always worry about the risks you take."

A successful transition

The Golden Grizzlies didn't have to wait long to enjoy a respectable degree of success in Division I.

OU spent its first two years as a "transitional" Division I program, playing a Mid-Continent Conference schedule, but not eligible for any postseason action.

Since being eligible for postseason competition, OU's men's and women's swimming and diving programs, coached by Pete Hovland, have won the Mid-Continent Conference or the Summit League, as it was renamed in 2007, every season.

Prior to moving up to Division I, the swim teams had established themselves as the dominant men's program, winning four consecutive national titles. The women's program, coached by Huth prior to its joining Division I, had also established itself as a national power.

For Hovland, the trade-off of national championships for the opportunity to compete against the best, where OU has established itself as a top 30 program, is a challenge that has carried mixed blessings.

"We had become the best in our trade at Division II, and we knew that wouldn't be the case any more moving forward," Hovland said. "I get asked if I prefer winning all the time or competing with the best, and that's a tough question to answer. Of course, I loved taking a whole team full of guys to nationals every year, but at the same time, it's pretty neat to be on the deck for the Division I finals, which most people say is the fastest swim meet in the world top to bottom."

Other programs enjoyed a measure of immediate success as well.

The women's basketball program finished 13-3 in their first season of Mid-Continent play. The men's soccer squad had very high winning percentages in each of their first four seasons in Division I. The men's basketball program provided one of OU athletics' hallmark moments in its second season in 2000, defeating a rebuilding University of Michigan squad.

Francis said the camaraderie of the athletic department as a whole was the main reason for these programs' initial and sustained success.

"The previous coach before me, Bob Taylor, left the cupboards loaded," Francis said. "I had great coaches around me like Pete Hovland, Tracy Huth, Greg Kampe ... I leaned on their wisdom."

Room for improvement

Of course, as is the case with most athletics departments, the successes of some programs have been balanced by mediocrity in others. Since the move to Division I, the volleyball program has never won more than eight matches out of roughly 30 in a season, and the baseball program has never finished above .500.

Huth said a big part of the athletic department's plan is to get those struggling programs to catch up with their more successful peers.

"I think that's an avenue where some of those programs that have been very successful are starting to help us," Huth said. "We have good people associated with some of those sports, and I think you are going to start to see some of those sports improve."

Kampe now says that, despite his initial discontent, the jump to Division I has done wonders for OU.

"I decided at the time it might not be the best thing for me personally because of how hard it was, but it was the best thing for the university," Kampe said. "I thought that Dr. [Gary] Russi was very ahead of his time in his thinking and was very wise to push forward with this, and as you can see now, it has turned out tremendous."

Rice concurred with Kampe's sentiment, saying that to see the impact the jump has made for the university, one doesn't need to look any further than the building in which his office is located.

"The Rec Center is a real testament to what this move has meant for Oakland University."



Photo courtesy of OU Athletic Communications
The men's basketball team's 2005 appearance in the NCAA Tournament is perhaps the biggest highlight of the decade. Pierre Dukes' game-winning shot against Oral Roberts (pictured above) sent Oakland to its first and only appearance in "March Madness," the holy grail of sporting events.

OUPD vs. REC CENTER STAFF

On Friday, Sept. 18., the Recreation Center staff defeated Lucido's Law Dawgs (pictured below), a team made up of members of the Oakland University Police Department, 13-7 in a friendly softball game.

Officers Nicole Thompson and Chris Roscano collaborated with Dan Bettmann, coordinator of intramural club sports, to organize the event, at the Civic Center on Squirrel Road, across the street from OU.

—Daud Yar, Contributing Reporter



Photo courtesy of OUPD



Photo courtesy of OU Athletics

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

Stefan St. Louis

Men's soccer

Year: Senior

St. Louis scored two goals, including the game-winner, in Sunday's win over Milwaukee. He now leads his team in goals and shots this season, and was named as the Summit League Offensive Player of the Week.

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Hockey team hoping to rebound

New head coach is working to instill a new winning attitude

By KYLE BAUER
Contributing Reporter

SEASON PREVIEW

Underachievement is something that can be often noted or quietly swept under the rug. When a team is a perennial loser, a lackluster season may go unnoticed. But when you've won three national titles in five years, underachievement is glaring — a painful light that can be so blinding, you can't help but notice.

That was the 2008-09 season for the Oakland University hockey club. The team finished with a 13-17-4 record last year, and failed to qualify for the Collegiate Hockey Association Division I national tournament for the first time in nine seasons.

A new coach has entered, preaching a new attitude at the Onyx Ice Arena in Rochester. Long-time assistant and former Lake Superior State Captain, Jeremy Bachusz has taken over head coaching duties, after Sean Hogan resigned in the spring.

The new coach comes in with a respectable resume. Bachusz carries five years of Division I collegiate hockey experience as well as two years of professional experience in the East Coast Hockey League. In his final year with the Lakers, he was the only senior, with the challenge of looking after a young team — something that Bachusz will again have to face as head coach for the Grizzlies.

One of the first priorities for Bachusz has been pinpointing what went wrong in last year's surprisingly bad season.

"The players' chemistry is the first thing that needs to change. A lot of that was lack of maturity but we've grown. Chemistry will get you a long way," Bachusz said.

Chemistry seemed to be a buzzword in OU's training camp. Not only did coach Bachusz cite what was going on behind the scenes, assistant coach Gordie Sheaffler also saw it as an issue.

"There were a lot of new faces. Guys were losing the message as a whole and some were getting clicky," Sheaffler said.

Senior forward Brett Haugh, who has been there through the good and bad years in the program, noticed

the changes from the championship years to last year.

"We tried to go out and do stuff together as a team and not everyone was into it. Not everyone was into the team concept. But I think Bachusz will straighten that out," Haugh said.

Oakland not only has a new coach this season but almost an entirely new regime in place.

Will McMahon will serve as the new general manager for the club. McMahon is more than a familiar face in the organization. He is the all-time leading scorer and was an important player in all three Oakland championship teams. His younger brother Kyle is a senior on the squad.

"It's a tough transition, I obviously want to be on the ice but I love being in the atmosphere," McMahon said about moving upstairs. "Basically I handle the budget and set up road trips and fundraising."

His duties cannot be underestimated, as making sure the players come into an opposing arena with the right mindset is crucial. But McMahon hopes to use his influence to bring in the right in game mindset.

"The teams I was on knew how to win. I'm hoping to bring that character back and help any way possible."

McMahon plans on taking a step back in what happens on the ice but is always willing to add his two cents. "When Jeremy [Bachusz] needs any input, I would be happy to give it."

McMahon's teammate on the championship Oakland teams, Jon-Paul Ferrari, has joined as a new addition to the coaching staff. The former OU defenseman is hoping to cast a positive influence.

"I know what it takes on ice and off to win, and balance school and hockey together for six months to get a championship."

The Grizzlies will be returning a healthy amount of players. OU's leading scorer from a year ago, Kevin Kranker, returns for his junior season. He recorded a team high 14 goals and 20 assists last season.

Also returning are Jesse Worrell and Cody Austin, who each contributed 13 goals in 2008-09.

Sophomores Brandon Johnson and Jordan MacDonald will look to improve upon promising glimpses shown in their freshmen campaigns.

Sheaffler had praise for McDonald at the pre-season camp.

"Jordan slimmed down and will be able to get to the

net a lot better. It really is noticeable out there," he said.

Sheffler also mentioned Jon Connors, a transfer from Salem State, as a player with a lot of potential.

"He's a big body who will add a scoring threat, along with playing physical."

Defensively the Grizzlies will look to be stronger and quicker in front of their net. Sheaffler, who mainly works with the defensemen, noted the impact of conditioning.

"Being in better shape will help them make better decisions," he said. "Colin Ronayne got stronger and worked on his skating. Dennis Capa was always fast but he's in better shape now and will be a lot faster. The improvement in conditioning will help them handle wear and tear."

Last season was a shaky year for goaltending. Colin Chase, a junior goalie who was in net for Oakland's last championship, quit the team midway through the season after a rough start.

First-year netminder Alex Pikunas stepped in and showed much promise as an exciting, dependable goalie, and was named as the team's newcomer of the year.

Coach Bachusz emphasized that the starting position is up for grabs with two new goaltenders in the system.

"Goaltending has already improved," Bachusz said. "All three are good goalies. We have Matt Toter who is a transfer from Liberty University and also Trevor McDougall who played a bit last year and looked good in camp. I'm not just going to give it to Pikanus to start. All three will be competing."

Despite the disappointment of last season, the bar has not been lowered. This is a team with 15 returning players, and three transfers. The new assistant coach and general manager, Ferrari and McMahon, wear multiple championship rings on their fingers. Sheaffler, the returning assistant coach, is one whom the players respect and understand.

Most important is their new head coach Bachusz, who general manager McMahon described as "someone who brings intensity and commands respect from players and coaches alike. He's played at a high level, he knows the game in and out. Everybody listens to him."

Oakland will open the season with a pair of games against a tough, high-scoring University of Michigan-Dearborn squad Sept. 25 and 26.

Coming attractions

GAME SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 23-29

MEN'S SOCCER

9/25 vs. Oral Roberts 4 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

SVSU Cardinal Invitational in Saginaw

MEN'S GOLF

9/28 - 9/29 Cleveland State Invitational in Euclid, Ohio

VOLLEYBALL

9/25 at Centenary
9/26 at Oral Roberts

WOMEN'S GOLF

9/27 - 9/28 Cincinnati Fall Classic in Batavia, Ohio

SOFTBALL

9/26 vs. Michigan-Dearborn 1 p.m.
*doubleheader at home
9/27 vs. Hillsdale 2 p.m.
9/27 vs. Saginaw Valley State
4 p.m. in Ann Arbor

Sharing some hoop love

By MELISSA BUKOWSKI
Contributing Reporter

All around Oakland University there are student organizations that some may consider sort of strange or unusual.

Junior Olivia Pizzo has another idea for an odd student organization: a hula hooping club — not just around-the-waist hula hooping, but hooping with multiple hoops using knees, chest and hands. Pizzo, a Spanish major, wants to teach others some of these nifty tricks.

The 19-year-old never intended on becoming a professional hula hooper.

"I started hooping a couple summers ago when I saw some girls doing it at a festival," she said. "I was heavily into photography, but when all \$2,500 of my equipment got stolen from my car, hooping turned into my new thing."

Pizzo started school at Oakland Community College and transferred to OU. With her minor in business, her goal is to become an interpreter.

Although she enjoys hooping, Pizzo says that she would like it to continue doing it as a side job to her future occupation as an interpreter. She would love to travel to Latin American countries, "and spread hoop love there!"

Pizzo said that at first, she struggled to learn hula hooping and was sore much of the time. Even today, she still gets bruises from hooping.

It took her about a year to get down many of the

tricks and to become confident enough in her ability to start performing at events. Some of her tricks include hula hooping three hoops simultaneously on different body parts and jumping through the hoop while it's spinning.

Pizzo does many gigs around the Detroit area and was one of the attractions at the opening of **FreeFoodAtOU.com** in downtown Pontiac last month. She hoops at clubs, weddings and festivals to spread more "hoop love," as she calls it. She also uses hula hoops with fire coming out of them and hoops with LED lights inside the tubing.

She started doing gigs last March, when she realized that her love for this aerobic workout could potentially earn her some extra cash. Ever since then, Pizzo has been looking for opportunities to show off her beautiful and unusual talent.

She was just hired to be the fire hooper in this year's Theatre Bizarre Halloween Show, which she says is an amazing job for her to land. She describes Theatre Bizarre as "a rustic sideshow circus with various extremely unusually talented people." Tickets to the event are sold out.

Pizzo said that she aspires to become a professional Cirque du Soleil performer. Cirque du Soleil is a performing style composed of a mix of circus, dance and street acts that was originally based in Canada and is now popular all over the world.

Along with hooping, Pizzo also spins poi. Poi, an art that involves swinging balls on string, has become popular in many clubs, where the balls are lit up or set on fire. Pizzo says that she is not quite ready for fire poi yet but is working on it.

One day, Pizzo said, she would like to advance to working with fire as either a fire dancer or doing tricks including fire eating and fire breathing.

Pizzo's business, Harmonic Hoops, makes handmade, custom hula hoops out of irrigation tubing and tape and sells them at art festivals and online. She also sells accessories for hooping (such as hula hoop bags) and is planning on teaching classes soon. Pizzo is working to become a hula hoop fitness instructor.

She said she has gained a lot of confidence through hooping and hopes to teach others the art of creative hula hooping.

"Currently at the Rec Center I can't teach because I am not certified, and there are liability issues," she said. But once she finishes certification, she plans to offer hooping courses for students for a small fee at the Rec Center on



Photo Courtesy of John Bigtacion

Pizzo practices using both fire hoops and hoops with LED lights. She hopes to work more with both in the near future.



Photo Courtesy of KARPOV aka Kenny Corbin

Olivia Pizzo demonstrates some of her unusual hula hooping talents, including spinning hoops on her arms and torso

campus.

She said students have no reason to fear trying hooping or learning new tricks. Hula hoops have different diameters and different tubing. She said that light tubing and smaller diameters are usually for more advanced hoopers, and beginners should start out using heavy hula hoops with large diameters.

Pizzo is interested in starting a related student organization, but needs more students to become involved.

"I would love to start up a hooping club or organization at the school by this time next year."

For anyone who would like to help start this organization, Pizzo says to contact her on Facebook. She also has some advice for people intending to become a hooper — learn to go with the flow.

"Hooping is all about flow. If you can find your flow and inner rhythm, you won't even need to think about the tricks you are doing; they'll all come naturally," she said.



ALEXIS CHINONIS-TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
Anthony Malec (left), a Hamlin resident, and Benjamin Lemon (right), his resident assistant, hang out in their dorm.

TRACKING LIFE IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

"My favorite part of living in the residence hall is my resident assistant, Ben; he always has events planned for us. My least favorite part is swiping my card every night."

Anthony Malec
Freshman, business



ALEXIS CHINONIS-TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
Abby Alexander, after getting a bite to eat in the cafeteria.

"My favorite part of living in the residence halls is having access to so many social opportunities and the experience of living with so many people."

Abby Alexander
Sophomore, theatre



ALEXIS CHINONIS-TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
From left: Freshmen residents Derek Sulpizio, Don Lawrence, Ryan Dixon and Zach Guida chow down in Vandenburg cafeteria. Meal plans allow residents to pick from a variety of selections at either the cafeteria or the Oakland Center.



ALEXIS CHINONIS-TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
Benjamin Lemon, a sophomore sociology major and resident assistant at Hamlin Hall, makes banners in the resident hall programming room.

The Scene

September 23, 2009

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Howl at the Wolfman

A new season of "Chiller Drive-In" begins

By ALEXIS CHINONIS-TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

Good afternoon, dear hearts. A new host is resurrecting the horror airwaves, succeeding the ghoulish Detroit television host of the past, Sir Graves Ghastly. His name is Wolfman Mac, a guy known as Mac Kelly in the daylight.

Saturday, Sept. 19, began the second season of his television show, "Wolfman Mac's Chiller Drive-In."

Broadcast on My TV20 Detroit Saturdays at midnight, the Chiller Drive-In plays long forgotten "B" horror and sci-fi movies. Mac unearths them from the dusty film vault and perks them up; adding between portions of the movie skits performed by his creepy cast, retro commercials, music videos and various submissions by Wolfman fans.

Chiller Drive-In was formerly known as "Nightmare Sinema," and was originally produced in Warren, Michigan. Now that the Wolfman has grown to become a Halloween household name, Mac and the crew have moved their studios to Erebus Haunted House in Pontiac.

Filming at "the world's largest walk-thru haunted house" gives them more space and access to elaborate their props and set. Mac said to expect "new set designs with more monsters and more cobwebs" in a "creepier" second season. This season they will also be featuring local bands, who will play on set in their newly-built nightclub called, "Zombie a Go Go."

On Saturday, Sept. 26, Chiller Drive-In is playing "Zontar: The Thing from Venus." It is a 1966 made-for-television movie about an alien from Venus, named Zontar, who comes to Earth for world domination. It is a remake of the Roger Corman film, "It Conquered the World."

In May 2009 Real Detroit Weekly named Chiller Drive-In "Best 'retro' local TV program" and it was also named "Best local television show" by the MetroTimes in 2008.

Since moving to TV20 in March 2008, the Wolfman reaches 1.9 million view-

ers in the metro Detroit area. Of the 800,000 people watching television Saturdays at midnight, 25 percent are tuned into Chiller Drive-In, Mac said.

In a description of the show, Mac said, "Our horror television show is a cross between 'The Munsters,' any sitcom on TV right now and the old horror host flavor." A cast of zany characters joins him every Saturday. The show is geared toward the featured movie, but in breaks between the movie, a second sub-plot is played out in campy skits by the cast.

Some of the characters in the show are: "Boney Bob," Mac's skeletal sidekick with a quick tongue; "Professor M. Balmer," a mad scientist responsible for some of the "gone-wrong" cast creations like "Sheldon the Monster"; "Rubella," a self-described "50s-sex-kitten-Lady Frankenstein" and "Morbidity Melvin," a big kid at heart known for his signature outfit of suspenders, a bowtie and a propeller hat.

The original bare-bones cast was formed after Mac posted an ad on Craig's List seeking people to star in his new show concept. The group that turned out was an eccentric bunch without professional acting experience, just a love for the horror way.

Morbidity Melvin, played by Adam Showers, thinks working on the show is great. His 2-year-old son even has his own propeller hat.

"One day he'll show the show off to his friends or I'll blackmail him with it," Showers said.

Mac first dreamt up the show as a little boy. He grew up watching "Sir Graves Ghastly" and "The Ghoul" and decided he wanted a similar show. Years later, he turned his childhood dream into a living nightmare by starting the show with no money or equipment in July 2007.

The show's popularity has grown so much within the last two years that Wolfman Mac and the cast are in popular demand for appearances in the Detroit area.

He will be at the opening of Erebus Haunted House Friday, Sept. 25. On Halloween night, Saturday, Oct. 31, Wolfman Mac is standing in as



From left to right: Wolfman Mac, Rubella and Boney Bob. Rubella was chosen for the show for her likeness to pin-up girl, Bettie Page.



The inside of the Wolfman Mac taping studios. Featured here is the creepy concession stand.

Reverend Wolfman Mac as he officiates the unholy matrimony of seven couples at Erebus.

Afterward, he is hosting the Crofoot's "Creepy Cheapy Halloween Treat" at the Crofoot Ballroom at 8 p.m. There

will be music by bands like the Von Bondies, Prussia, the Javelins and more. Admission is \$5 and patrons are encouraged to wear a costume for the "God-Awful" costume contest. For information go to nightmaresinema.com

Catwalk copycats from NYFW

By ALEXIS CHINONIS-TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

COLUMN

The most high-profile seven days of the year are over. New York Fashion Week is gone, tucked away working toward next year's reinvention. Sept. 10-17 came in a clash of prints, studs and exotic styles; offering up only a handful of stand-out collections.

The recession was evident in the mood of the event and reflected in the toned-down designs of the collections. Shopping bags stood more as props, rather than functional objects meant to hold clothing purchases this year.

Even the man known as the definitive in Americana fashion, disappointed in his literal design interpretation of these American financial times. Ralph Lauren's "hard times" look, which stood as homage to the Great Depression, used flimsy-looking fabrics for liberty dresses and coal-miner jeans.

On a less drab note, these changing times have lit new paths for the creation process. We are seeing implementations of the "green" variety as designers try their hands in using alternative, eco-friendly fabrics and new methods of dyeing. The effects are clothes that hang loosely and comfortably, and are subtly colorful.

This unconfined mobility was most apparent in Phillip Lim's sprightly springtime collection. Delicate,

romantic textures swayed the clothing in a timeless swagger of nonchalant style.

A few tents over were Anna Sui's spring 2010 looks. Clashing, fantastical pieces worked together in bizarre harmony, like a little kid's collage. Her work paid off in young, dramatic black and bright looks that were signature Sui.

And now, a fashion interruption. The newcomer of NYFW turned out to be a surprising guest ... Snuggies. The awkward commercial brand unleashed its new zebra print, leopard print and tie-dye Snuggies this year. Because when we think couture, we think Snuggies. Now that they've hit the catwalk, watch out for a new species of people in printed, body-devouring blankets roaming the streets at night.

Other trends during the week were the loud, neon colors of Marc Jacob's 80s aboriginal-looking pieces. Contrasting tribal prints competed for eye-room with fluorescent greens and yellows.

Most everything seen at this year's fashion week is fairly achievable from your closet. As an accessory trend, go for mismatched bracelets. Now, there's no way to mess up this one. They can be studded, woven, beaded or braided. No matter what they are, they can make any outfit go just a little crazy.

For a more cohesive look, many designers are taking dainty looks like floral-print dresses and bringing out the biker in them with paired leather jackets and spiked detailing.



Photo courtesy of Anna Sui for Target

Anna Sui's collection for Target.

For shopping, affordable mimics are coming out this fall from designers Rachel Roy, Christian Siriano and Anna Sui. Roy has created a new line called "Rachel Rachel Roy" with high-end looks in the \$40-\$299 range. "Project Runway" designer, Christian Siriano debuts this month at Payless. His has a collection of booties and sandaled heels in the \$25-\$45 market. However, the best of the three, is Anna Sui for Target. She's designed a "Gossip Girl"-inspired collection. The clothes look well-made, fresh and offbeat, with enough selections to live vicariously through Blair Waldorf the entire fall season.

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FALL CAREER FAIR

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For Business and Liberal Arts Students and Alumni.

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Oktoberfest arrives in Rochester

By ANNIE STODOLA
Local/You Editor

An annual German tradition is coming to Rochester this weekend.

Rochester Mills Beer Co. is hosting its ninth annual Oktoberfest Friday - Saturday, Sept. 25-26.

"The original Oktoberfest has been going on in Munich since 1810," Eric Briggeman, brewer at Rochester Mills, said. "It started as a celebration of a wedding and has transformed essentially into the world's biggest beer party."

During the Munich event, the city estimates about six million liters of beer are sold over the course of two weeks.

Briggeman mentioned that many people are not aware that Oktoberfest is also a type of beer.

"The Oktoberfest beer has an auburn or orange hue and has six percent alcohol, making it slightly more alcoholic than other beers," Briggeman said. "It has a really smooth taste."

Other beer selections in the tent include the Water Street Wheat, a

German-style beer, and the Harvest Lite, an American light brew.

Although the brewery does serve plenty of beer at Oktoberfest, they said they also try to maintain a family-friendly environment.

"We offer children's activities, including pony rides, moonwalks, face painting and more," Briggeman said. "Our event is a fall celebration, not just a big beer party."

In addition to the Oktoberfest beer and the brewery's usual beer selection, they plan to serve a full menu and non-alcoholic drinks.

Other activities include eating contests and live entertainment.

"We're going to have a couple of eating contests for sauerkraut and bratwurst," Briggeman said. "The first six people who get to the stage can compete for free. We also have an apple-bobbing contest for kids, which should be pretty entertaining."

Traditional German entertainment is scheduled. From 6-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Enzian, an "oompah" band,

will perform. Another band performing German music, The Vagabonds, will play Saturday from 1-4 p.m. Dancers from the Carpathia Club, who perform traditional Bavarian Schuhplattler dancing, will take the stage during set breaks.

Starting at 10 p.m., entertainment inside the bar is scheduled as well.

Admission to Oktoberfest is \$5. Rochester Mills is located at 400 Water Street. For information, call (248)-650-5080.



Photo courtesy of Eric Briggeman
A children's dance group performs traditional German dances at last year's Oktoberfest event at Rochester Mills.

Local news briefs: vaccination plan, marijuana harvesting

GM investing \$21 million in Flint Assembly plant

FLINT — General Motors Co. said it plans to invest more than \$21 million in its Flint Assembly plant to build the 2011 Chevrolet light-duty crew cab truck.

Detroit-based GM said in a statement Monday the renovations and new machinery will make the plant more flexible and allow heavy- and light-duty trucks to be built on the same line.

GM Flint Assembly is the company's sole producer of GM's heavy-duty crew cab trucks, the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra. Flint Assembly also makes the heavy-duty regular cab Silverado GMC Sierra.

Construction at Flint Assembly is set to start in the fourth quarter, and production is to begin in July. The plant now employs 1,767 hourly and salaried workers on two shifts.

Detroit unveils vaccination plan for swine flu

City and state health officials have released a plan to prevent and control swine flu in Michigan's largest city.

Detroit is expected to get a limited supply of the H1N1 virus vaccine in October.

Authorities say the first round of vaccine will go to pregnant women, children between 6 months and 4 years old, and their caregivers, parents and siblings. It also will go to anyone between 5 and 18 with underlying illnesses.

Clinics will be held in Detroit Public Schools for students in that group.

Immunizations will be expanded to other populations in the following two phases of the city's vaccination plan.

The city says 62 H1N1 cases and one death were reported this year through August.

Census report shows recession hammers Michigan

A new U.S. Census Bureau report says Michigan's already dire economic plight got worse as the nationwide recession kicked in.

Figures released Monday show Michigan was one of five states where median household incomes fell between 2007 and 2008.

Michigan's median income dropped from \$49,807 to \$48,591 during that period, good for a national ranking of 31st among all states.

The report also says the value of Michigan's median owner-occupied home dropped \$7,700 between 2007 and 2008.

University of Michigan researcher Don Grimes said many economists predict the recession will bottom out within the next year. But he said it will take considerably longer for things to turn around in Michigan because of its reliance on the ailing auto industry.

Government seeks help watching for marijuana harvesting

LANSING — Law enforcement officials want outdoor enthusiasts in Michigan to be alert for possible marijuana growing and harvesting operations this fall.

The Michigan Domestic Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Program says fall hunting seasons bring more people into the woods, making it more likely someone will spot marijuana being grown or harvested.

Officials say to watch for unusual amounts of traffic; use of camping equipment or recreational vehicles on wooded property with no evidence of recreational activities; and patrolled or guarded woods or swamps.

Other signs include large amounts of PVC piping, irrigation hoses or plastic planters in heavily wooded areas.

Telephone tips can be left anonymously at 800-235-HEMP (4367).

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Mideast summit unlikely to spur peace talks

By AMY TEIBEL AND KARIN LAUB
Associated Press Reporters

NEW YORK — The Israeli and Palestinian leaders shook hands at the start of their first face-to-face meeting Tuesday, hosted by President Barack Obama, but the small gesture was unlikely to translate into a quick resumption of peace talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas remain far apart on key issues, including Israeli settlement expansion and the agenda of future talks.

Obama said at the start of the trilateral talks that the sides have made some progress, but have much further to go. He told both leaders it's time to find a way to break the deadlock. "There is a powerful sense of urgency," he said.

Obama's Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, is to return to the Middle East for another round of mediation next week, and Israeli and Palestinian envoys are to come to Washington. Obama said he expects a progress report in mid-October.

The leaders went into the meeting with entrenched positions, and it was not clear whether the deadlock can be broken.

Abbas has said he won't renew negotiations without an Israeli settlement freeze, as sought by the U.S. and mandated by a U.S.-backed peace plan. Netanyahu insists there's no way he will halt construction in Israeli enclaves on land the Palestinians want for their state.

An Abbas aide, Yasser Abed Raddo,

said that in the trilateral meeting Abbas restated his demand for a complete Israeli settlement freeze. Netanyahu, in turn, demanded that the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state, Abed Raddo said. Abbas responded by saying that both sides should keep their commitments. The Palestinians argue that under previous understandings they are not required to do that.

Beyond the dispute over settlements, the two leaders are deadlocked on a more fundamental issue — the agenda of future peace talks.

The Palestinians want negotiations to resume on the same terms as last year's round between Abbas and Netanyahu's more pragmatic predecessor, Ehud Olmert. In those talks, which ended in late 2008, Israel agreed to discuss all so-called core issues, including the partition of Jerusalem. Netanyahu, a hardliner who came to power in March, insists Jerusalem is not up for discussion.

The wide gaps between Abbas and Netanyahu became only more apparent in last week's mediation mission by Mitchell, who held six meetings over four days with the two leaders.

Even though Mitchell returned to Washington empty-handed, Obama summoned Abbas and Netanyahu for a trilateral meeting Tuesday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly.

Obama first met separately with Netanyahu and Abbas, before hosting trilateral talks. Abbas and Netanyahu shook hands at the start.

In his meeting with Obama, Netanyahu said he wishes to cooperate with the U.S. in its effort to resume peace talks, an Israeli official said. He

spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with Israeli briefing regulations.

In agreeing to meet with Netanyahu, Abbas opened himself to criticism from hardliners at home, particularly his Islamic militant Hamas rivals.

Hamas leaders have derided Abbas' efforts to negotiate a peace deal, promptly alleged he had buckled under American pressure.

"The meeting between Obama, Abbas and Netanyahu harms Palestinian interests," said Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri, speaking in Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Israeli officials didn't make it any easier for Abbas. Netanyahu's media adviser, Nir Hefetz, told Israel Army Radio on Monday that Netanyahu considers the settlers his brothers.

"You have never heard the prime minister say that he will freeze settlements. The opposite is true," Hefetz said.

Abbas' aides emphasized before Tuesday's talks that in meeting with Netanyahu, the Palestinian leader is not diluting his positions on resuming negotiations.

"This is not a meeting on declaring a resumption of peace talks. We will not see this," said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. He said Obama was expected to make a statement at the summit, encouraging the parties to persevere.

With a relaunch of peace talks under the old format seen as difficult, alternatives have been floated.

Israeli President Shimon Peres reportedly proposed that talks resume with a limited agenda, and focus on issues where some progress has already been made, such as the future borders between Israel and a Palestinian state.

In last year's negotiations, the two sides agreed on the idea of a land swap — Israel would compensate the Palestinians with some of its territory for any land it wants to annex in the West Bank — but disagreed on the amount to be exchanged.

Last month, Palestinian President Salam Fayyad presented a plan to build the institutions of a Palestinian state within two years, independent of what happens in the peace talks. Fayyad has argued that with peace efforts on hold, the Palestinians must move forward on their own.

Donor countries have funneled huge sums to the Palestinians in recent years, including nearly \$3 billion for 2008 and 2009, to prop up Fayyad's government, revive the battered economy and fund development projects.

Top donor representatives were meeting in New York on Tuesday to review the aid program.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have urged Israel to do more to relax restrictions on Palestinian trade and movement, in order to sustain this year's modest growth in the West Bank. The mild upturn of the battered Palestinian economy was sparked by the removal of some Israeli roadblocks in the West Bank, along with continued foreign aid and growing investor confidence, economists said.

However, Israel continues to enforce a tight blockade of Hamas-ruled Gaza and hampers Palestinian exports from the West Bank with cumbersome security controls. Sustained growth is only possible if trade restrictions are lifted, international economists said.

Nation | World briefs: stun gun, nude arrest

Source: The Associated Press

California cops use stun gun twice on unarmed amputee

MERCED, Calif. — A California man whose legs are amputated says police used a stun gun on him twice and violently manhandled him even though he was unarmed. Internal affairs investigators say they're looking into the complaint by 40-year-old Gregory Williams, who was arrested Sept. 11 on suspicion of domestic violence and resisting arrest.

Williams and witnesses say officers tasered the wheelchair-bound man twice, then left him handcuffed with his pants down on the sidewalk in broad daylight. Williams spent six days in jail before prosecutors said they lacked evidence to charge him.

Merced officers said in a police report that Williams was uncooperative and refused to give his 2-year-old daughter to Child Protective Services. The police department has declined further comment, pending the internal investigation.

Naked Gun: 91-year-old nude Florida man makes arrest

LAKE WORTH, Fla. — Authorities say a 91-year-old South Florida man jumped out of bed naked and held an intruder at gunpoint until deputies arrived.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said Robert E. Thompson woke up Saturday morning after a would-be burglar climbed his backyard fence and was met by his charging dog, Rett, a Rottweiler and Doberman pinscher mix. Thompson heard the commotion, grabbed his .38-caliber revolver and phoned police without ever getting dressed.

Deputies say Thompson fired a warning shot as 26-year-old Jose Pasqual started to come toward him. Thompson kept his gun trained on Pasqual until deputies arrived. Pasqual was booked in the Palm Beach County Jail on a burglary charge and did not immediately have an attorney.

MOUTHING OFF

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

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

September 23, 2009

Reporter's got beef with PETA

The Post's resident vegan has a big mouthful about meat-free tactics

Dear People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals,

You're doing it wrong. Your "Cash for Cluckers" program is a clucking disaster.

Emulating a car company's last-ditch effort to get people to buy new cars is probably not the smartest way to get people to stop eating chicken. This, along with most of your tactics, have been finger-lickin' bad.

Sure, you get a lot of press, but as someone who works in the media I can tell you it's the same kind of press we give the crazy guy caught running naked across the freeway in the middle of the night. You just give out press packets.

The Cluckers program goes as follows: Purchase some vegan-friendly faux chicken, send in the receipt to PETA, and in the mail you will get a \$1 rebate and a vegetarian starter kit.

You're telling us that if non-vegetarians buy a pack of fake-chicken and prove to PETA they bought it, all they will get is a \$1 coupon and some vegan recipes?

Seriously? \$1 and a copy of "How to make broccoli not suck?"

This is how you're going to lure in current meat-eaters? You know what else you can get with a dollar: a Slim Jim.

That doesn't appeal to me, and I'm a vegan for crying out loud. I'm that guy who asks for Boca burgers at the company picnic and eats only deep-fried cauliflower while everyone else enjoys pizza from Buddy's.

Nonvegetarians that I know are more apt to use that faux chicken to bait animals for hunting, rather than get \$1 and literature full of guilt trips and vegan recipes, which they might use as toilet paper on that same hunting trip.

And this stupid program is only for the first 5,000 people who enter?

Another "Cash for" incentive program you have is Cash for Cows, where you want people to turn in their shoes made from "the skins of dead, abused animals" for a \$10 coupon to buy vegan friendly sneakers made by MooShoes. Never mind the child laborer killing themselves for pennies a day to make shoes, it's the dead skin that we should worry about. Good luck getting my editor Dan Simons' leather work boots away from him. They're steel-toed, so watch out when he



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

This is how you stop animal cruelty: Keep posting nude pics of ugly, repulsive people like the ones above, until animal product consumption goes down.

tries to "kick their hippie asses."

What you need to do immediately is fire your marketing department, and hire me as a consultant.

As a sampler, here are some of the ideas I'd give you that would help your cause to turn more omnivores into herbivores so that less animals are killed or treated cruelly.

First of all, get rid of the feather-brained "Cash for Cluckers" program. It won't work, and even if you were to offer more cash rewards to give people more of an incentive, you would run out of money quicker than the government did.

Secondly, while the "I'd rather go naked than wear fur" campaign was an interesting idea, it was a TERRIBLE idea! You went about it completely wrong.

When you show those commercials or posters of naked women with meat-free diets, here is what people think: "Hmm, because I am eating so much meat, these lovely ladies are posing nude?" And why will this make me want to stop eating meat? So they'll put their clothes back on? I don't think so.

Hello, have any of you taken Psycholo-

gy 101? You don't reward people for their bad behavior! You punish them for bad actions, and reward them for good ones.

What you should do is start a campaign called "We're keeping our clothes on until animals are treated better," where attractive male and female celebrities will show minimum skin until a goal is reached.

For a set goal, use a ratio of numbers like animal products bought, animals used in entertainment, leather or fur clothing items bought and animals used in scientific experiments.

Say that unless this ratio drops by maybe 10 or 25 percent, you won't get to see any of these celebrities' naughty parts. Trust me, you will see animal products unsold and piling up on the shelf. Sure, it's basically pornography, but if anyone is willing to do something like this, it's you, PETA.

But some people don't work well with positive incentives; for them, negative incentives are more effective.

So for them, you need to start a supplementary campaign called "We're staying nude until animals are treated better," where the world's most unattractive peo-

ple, like those pictured above, pose nude, until the animal cruelty ratio drops.

If the sight of the naked bodies of repulsive men and women don't deter people from eating meat and treating animals cruelly, I don't know what will. Get Rush Limbaugh and Oprah Winfrey to pose naked and people will eat soy to put clothes back on them.

And if you must have some sort of subsidization program, I suppose you could give money back to people who buy pleather shoes and belts. Those things are expensive, and the professional workers are expected to wear something that looks like leather. Why, I don't know. Because cruelty is in fashion, I suppose.

By the way, this sampler marketing consulting wasn't free. I'll expect a check in the mail. And none of this rebate crap.

Signed,

Masudur Rahman
Senior Reporter and dirty vegan hippie
with help from Dan Simons
Mouthing Off Editor and bloodthirsty
carnivore