



Senator John McCain holds town  
hall meeting on Oakland's campus

page 8

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

May 14, 2008

Volume 33, Number 59

## SUMMER IN MICHIGAN

**HOW STUDENTS  
ARE PASSING TIME**

**GETTING A TAN**

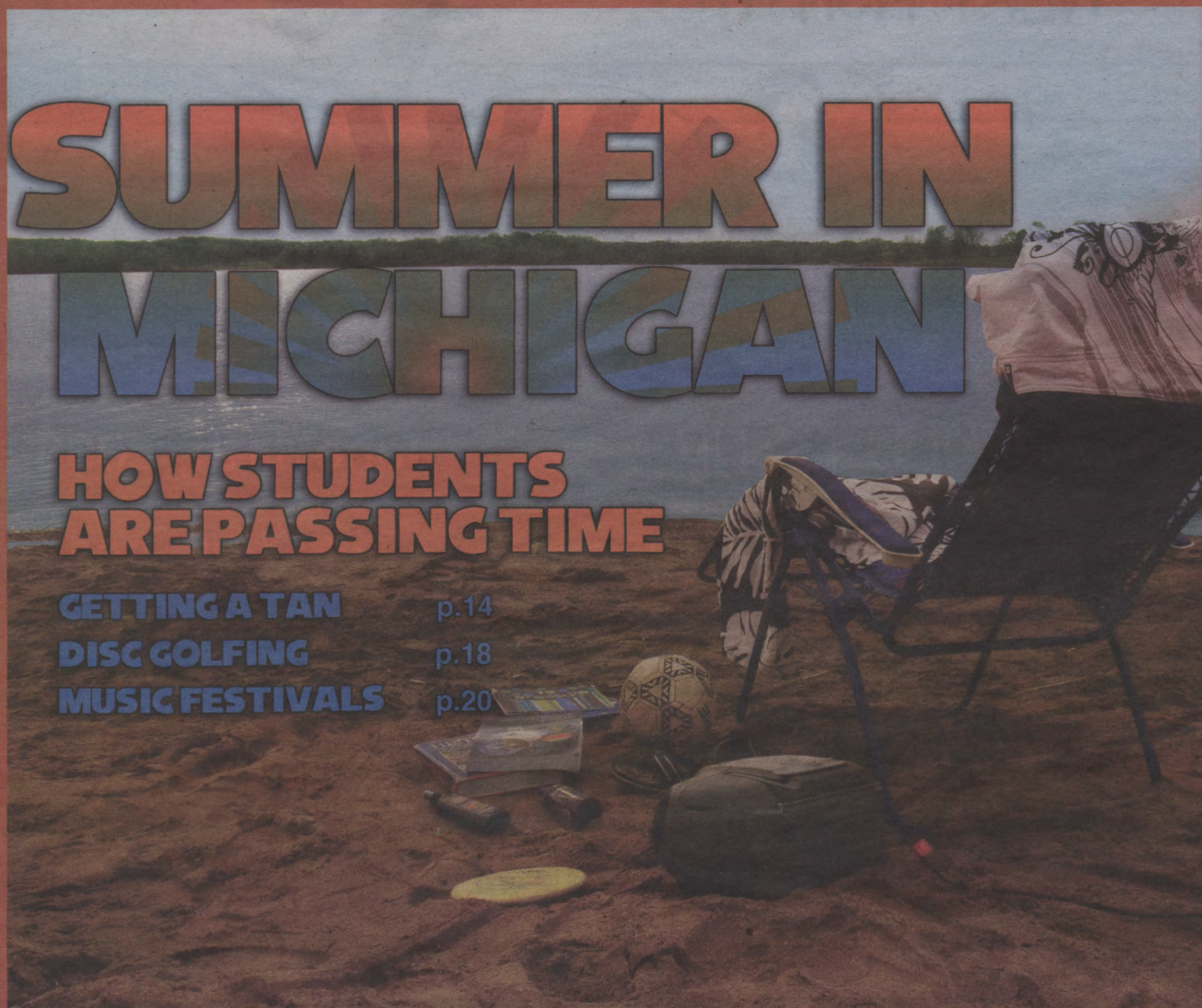
p.14

**DISC GOLFING**

p.18

**MUSIC FESTIVALS**

p.20



Cover photo by Dustin Alexander



# THE OAKLAND POST

## summer schedule:

### NEXT MONTH!



THE FOOD ISSUE:

June 11th, 2008

THE TRAVEL ISSUE:

July 16th, 2008

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# THIS WEEK 5.14.08



## Perspectives page 4

Steve Clark, OU's new student body president, writes his first editorial for The Oakland Post.



## Local page 6

A guide to area parks to keep enjoy this summer. And, a state-wide smoking ban aims to keep Michigan healthy.



## Campus page 8

The Board of Trustees votes to eliminate non-mandatory fees by moving them into tuition. Plus, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee speaks at OU.



## The Mix page 12

Find out what OU students have planned for their summer in Michigan, regardless of the high gas prices.



## you page 14

Looking to get a sun-kissed look? Find out what students are doing to get a perfect tan. Also, why students are hitting the books this summer.



## Sports page 16

As OU's softball team wraps up a confusing season, coach Glenn MacDonald look's ahead to next year. Plus, Michigan's under-the-radar summer sports.



## the Scene page 20

Rock out at summer music festivals for every taste. Plus, check out the wild rides at the state's only theme park, Michigan Adventure.



## MOUTHING OFF page 22

"Sorry officer, here's my textbook money." Alex Cherup devises a plan to fight a traffic ticket. Plus, sports editor Tim Rath talks about the mother of all topics — his mom.



## Nation | World page 24

The death toll continues to climb in the wake of massive earthquake in China.

THE OAKLAND POST  
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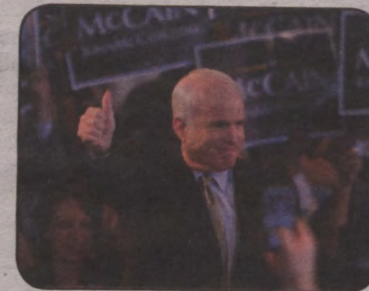
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John McCain's visit to campus  
coverage on page 8



# Perspectives

4

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May 14, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

## Gas tax holiday no picnic for consumers

Summer draws nigh and gas prices are at a record high. Sigh.

To ease our pain at the pumps, political opponents John McCain and Hillary Clinton have a plan. They are proposing a bill that would decrease the sky's-the-limit gas prices by 18 cents during the summer months.

It's hard to see what the problem is with lower gas prices.

But, guess what?

Not only is it too little and too late, it's a scam. And it should worry you.

The gas tax holiday bill would temporarily suspend the federal tax on gas, which is 18.4 cents per gallon for unleaded gasoline, from Memorial Day to Labor Day (May 26 to Sept. 1). But this tax break would be to the gas companies and there is no guarantee that the gas companies would pass on the profits to consumers.

Also, economists project that this tax break would deny the U.S. government \$10 billion of lost tax revenue — money that would have been used on federal roads and highways.

Clinton proposes offsetting this loss by imposing a windfall-profits tax on the oil companies and McCain would offset this loss by diverting funds from other projects.

However, will all this really benefit the American consumers that much?

No, it won't.

Many economists estimate that if the gas tax holiday proposal was passed, the average American driver would save only about \$30 during this three-month period.

Clinton and McCain accused presidential candidate Barack Obama of being "out of touch" with the needs of Americans for denouncing this proposal. But is thinking that \$30 will help American drivers really being "in touch" with them?

Economists estimate that this proposal, if passed, would be much more beneficial to the big oil companies than the American consumers.

McCain and Hillary's support for this proposal is especially perplexing, given that it comes at a time when most environmentalists, economists and politicians, including McCain and Clinton, are trying to encourage lowering oil consumption and U.S.'s energy dependence.

Furthermore, some argue that rather than lowering the price of gas, it may increase it, as lowered price leads to increased demand, and increased demand with the same amount of supply usually leads to an increase in price.

Economists have almost unanimously rejected the proposal as a viable long-term solution. According to CNN, McCain even admitted to this being only a small, temporary measure, saying that "drivers would have a little money left over, maybe to buy a better meal, maybe to buy something for their kids."

If that's the most that this proposal can do for Americans, why are they still promoting this?

Most likely, this is a political gimmick intended to garner more votes from voters who are tired of paying an arm and a leg for gas.

Fortunately, the gas tax holiday proposal isn't likely to pass, as many politicians are opposed to it.

However, even if the proposal does not pass, McCain and Clinton could appear like candidates who are dedicated to the plight of the common people, but only to people who are not looking at the situation closely.

It's hard to see what the problem is with lower gas prices.

Consumers should not fall prey to the ploys of these politicians. The price of gas being lowered 18 cents per gallon for three months might sound great at first, but in the end, you would only save enough money to be able to have a night out at a nice restaurant or buy three complete albums of music from the iTunes store.



TAB, The Calgary Sun/Cagle Cartoons

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

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— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States



# No more non-mandatory fees, but there's a catch

*Newly elected student president Steve Clark sounds off on the tuition increase in his first guest column for The Oakland Post*



At 8:30 in the morning I sat in the student affairs office wide eyed and full of coffee for a meeting on non-mandatory student fees. I was quite interested in the prospect of eliminating any fee that I would have to pay.

Examples of non-mandatory would include the graduation fee, transcript fee, applied music fee, orientating fee and many others. Eliminating these fees sounds like a great idea for a number of reasons.

First, it will increase financial aid for students who apply by rolling the non-mandatory fees into the cost of tuition. By doing this it allows financial aid to cover these fees because they are rolled into tuition.

The most promising effect of having no fees is that Oakland will be the only university in the state of Michigan with no student fees. This gives Oakland several advantages in the competitive market of higher education.

Application fees can cost a lot, especially if you are

**"As your student body president, if you disagree with me, please come to my office ... You won't hurt my feelings."**

applying to more than one school. Having no application fee also provides relief for students who have a hard time finding the extra money to apply and could potentially boost enrollment.

Non-mandatory fees also just piss people off. The graduation fee, which currently is \$35, is almost a slap in the face after paying 30 to \$40,000 for a

bachelor's degree. As a college student who is paying for my own education, I know how much fees are unexpected and often expensive.

So what's the catch? Well, if it sounds too good to be true than it probably is — that's at least what I've been told. The catch is that tuition will be raised by one percent to make up for the elimination of non-mandatory fees.

Apparently these non-mandatory fees are more mandatory than the name implies because \$1.4 million is generated in income from these fees. For many, the words "tuition increase" are filthy and nasty.

You can package paying for higher education many ways but it's still paying for education. Whether you call it a fee, non-mandatory fee or tuition, students like you and me are going to have to pay for higher education.

I'm sure many people do not support an increase in tuition for whatever reason. As your student body president, if you disagree with me, please come to my office located in Oakland University Student Congress, in the basement of the Oakland Center. You won't hurt my feelings.

## Public ban on smoking leaves many out in the cold



For the last six months or so, I have been struggling to quit smoking cold turkey. It would be a logical assumption to say that someone in my position would be for the likely ban of smoking in bars and restaurants, once the Michigan State Senate-approved bill is passed by the House.

The only likely sticking point at this juncture would be disagreement on the possibility of exemptions for casinos and bingo halls.

But in the event that the state of Michigan joins the likes of New York and Maine, I can say whole-heartedly that I will not be smiling.

While no longer being able to smoke in my favorite bars and restaurants may help my attempt to quit in the long run, I do not like the idea of legislators deciding how people should live their lives.

Believe me, I know there are many more valid reasons to support a ban rather than reject it. It seems to be

universally agreed that second-hand smoke is harmful to everyone. I can also empathise with non-smokers who would rather not deal with the smell of smoke on their clothes and in their noses while they eat.

But I still oppose a public ban on smoking and that, naturally, makes me self-centered.

I will agree to this because the argument against this ban is a relatively egotistical one something along the lines of "I thought this was America?"

However, I feel that in a place that essentially satisfies the vice, whether it's overeating or drinking, there should be an anything goes mentality. My vice happens to be smoking so, naturally, I feel I have the right to light up as I relax in the company of friends in a public venue.

Smoking is dangerous and I in no way condone the activity, but we should carefully view the segregational implications of sending the smokers outside.

Like the two sides of fish bowl glass, a literal barrier will be created between

smoker and non-smoker. The unhealthy, smelly people can kill themselves outside while everyone else seated comfortably can grip tightly to their barley and hops that are slowly killing them inside.

There is a double standard here. And, ultimately, isn't everything killing us anyway?

In my lifetime I can venture to guess that eggs have gone from healthy to not healthy, and back again, at least seven or eight times. Not that I would necessarily compare smoking's risk of lung cancer to an egg's risk of high cholesterol, but you are not any more dead from one than the other if it finally catches up to you.

We make a lot of destructive decisions in our lives for no other reason than, well, we can. We live in a country where pushing the envelope is accepted and, often times, this rebellion is inspired by our personal agendas.

However, many will argue that my agenda to smoke around others is not only destructive to me. Again, second-hand smoke is dangerous and my bad habit is technically affecting the health

of others.

It is not my goal to hurt others when I light up and, like I said, I'm really trying to quit.

But perhaps there is a more-imminent threat at the local watering hole, namely the ex-body builder sitting next to you who had one too many Jagerbombs.

My second-hand smoke is affecting your health slowly while one wrong look at Baby Huey over there will negatively affect your immediate health.

The affects of excessive alcohol consumption are just as dangerous and include both a long and short term impact — whether it's cirrhosis of the liver or a car accident caused by an impaired driver.

Individuals who cannot keep their drinking under control are as much of a threat to those around them as they are to themselves. Drinking is also more widely accepted than smoking, especially in the last few years.

Again, a double standard.

One day, in what will hopefully be the not-too-distant future, I will no longer consider myself a smoker and a public ban on the habit will not apply to me. But I will still harbor bitterness at the fact that if I wanted to smoke in public, I couldn't.

**"...we should carefully view the segregational implications of sending the smokers outside."**



## Summer beyond the backyard

*Local parks have plenty to offer those seeking summertime entertainment*

Lina Ament/The Oakland Post

By KATHLEEN QUANDT  
Staff Intern

Parks in and around the Rochester Hills area have a lot to offer the public this summer. With activities ranging from hiking and bicycling to baseball and soccer, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the fresh air of the season.

Rochester Hills has 14 parks that total over 900 acres and feature tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball fields, trails and picnic areas among other things.

Emily Olson, a park attendant at Thelma G. Spencer Park said that the park is frequently visited during the warmer months.

"Before Memorial Day most people are fishing and after Memorial Day there are families with kids here for the beach — people rent boats," Olson said.

Spencer Park is wooded with many picnic tables and grills on the grass next to the beach with is a volleyball net. The park also has a colorful play area for kids and a beach house.

"There are three miles of trails," Olson said. "One trail goes around the beach, the other goes into the wooded areas. The trails are dirt and cedar and are mostly for jogging and walking."

"The beach isn't open until Memorial Day, that's when it gets busy," Olson said. "But people do come to the beach before it's open. Almost every weekend we're busy but holidays are busier."

Olson also said that most visitors should bring towels, blankets, lunches and food to grill with them.

Spencer Park also has rowboat and paddleboat rentals, a handicap-accessible fishing pier, boat launch and beach, tennis courts, horseshoe pits and multipurpose sports fields. According to [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org), park hours are from 10 a.m. to dusk and is located at 3701 John R Road in Rochester Hills.

Earl E. Borden Park is made up of mostly playing fields with bleachers and picnic tables. This sports complex offers four lit ball fields, five full-size soccer fields (including one lighted World Cup field), four tennis courts, three basketball courts, a seven-station batting cage, two roller-hockey rinks, a playground and 30 acres of wooded wetlands and nature areas.

Borden Park is home of the Festival of the Hills and fireworks, a Fourth of July celebration. According to [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) park hours are from 8 a.m. to dusk and the night game curfew is 11:30 p.m. and is

located at 1400 E. Hamlin in Rochester Hills.

Bloomer Park has several play areas in the grass with picnic tables and grills. The park offers mountain biking, fishing, hiking, nature paths, volleyball and a multipurpose sports field.

The park is the home of the Mike Walden Velodrome, the only velodrome in Michigan. This one-eighth mile bike track is the fastest in the country. Park hours are 8 a.m. to dusk and is located at 45 John R Road in Rochester Hills according to [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org).

Addison Oaks County Park is located nine miles north of Rochester in Leonard and has a scenic willow tree lined drive that leads to the park area. This park has two lakes and spring fed ponds.

Jan Pung of the communications marketing office at the Oakland County Parks and Forestry Office said that the park sees a high number of visitors once the heart of summer arrives.

"As soon as the weather is good, Addison definitely gets an uptick in visitors until Memorial Day when people start camping in large numbers," Pung said.

Activities at Addison Oaks include swimming, boat-

ing, picnicking, fishing, hiking, mountain biking and special events including the annual Addison Oaks Mountain Bike and Hand Cycle Challenge.

"I would say that the primary [programs] are the mountain bike races in the spring and fall," Pung said. "The campground recreation program is entertainment, various types of bands, activities for kids. The big event is the Fourth of July fireworks that draws thousands of people."

Camping is also available on 174 modern sites with six group-camping areas. Park hours are from 8 a.m. to sunset and located at 1480 West Romeo Road in Leonard according to [www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com).

Located in Shelby Township, Stoney Creek's is a long, hilly drive through the woods with several picnic areas off to the sides. There is a trail on the side of the road where people walk, jog and rollerblade.

Rachel East, a receptionist at Stony Creek, said there are a variety of events that people enjoy at the park.

"There's a lot of family reunions and picnics, company picnics and school groups," East said.

Amenities at the park include a nature center, a hike/bike trail, beaches surrounding a 500-acre lake, an 18-hole golf course, boat launch facilities and a disc golf course. Park hours from May 1 - Sept. 30 are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Oct. 1 - April 30 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Those who attend the park can pay a \$4 fee for a day pass or \$20 for an annual sticker according and is located at to [www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com). The park is located at 4300 Main Park Road.

Metro Beach is located in Mt. Clemens on Lake St. Clair and features a one-mile shoreline and 1,600-foot boardwalk. This recreational facility is fun for boaters, swimmers and anglers.

"We have a large clientele that bring their boats in," said Jeff Linn, who is the assistant park superintendent at Metro Beach. "We have a par-three golf course and a lot of picnics also. Right now, just at Metro Beach, we're at 1.5 million visitors annually."

The marsh area is a top bird watching site where there are plenty of waterfowl. Park features also include a swimming pool, spray park, marinas, nature center, adventure golf and picnic areas. Park hours are May 1 - Sept. 30 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Oct. 1 - April 30 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. according to [www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com) and is located at 31300 Metro Parkway.

"We're open every day of the year, but certainly our most busiest times are April through November," Linn said.



LINA AMENT/The Oakland Post

Stoney Creek beach is one of many park beaches in the area that is open for public enjoyment.



# Michigan Senate OKs smoking ban

By **DAVID EGGERT**  
Associated Press Writer

An anti-smoking bill that appeared to be going nowhere took a surprise turn Thursday in the Senate when 25 lawmakers voted for a ban on smoking in Michigan's bars, restaurants and workplaces.

The bill returns to the House, which has been waiting since December for the Senate to act. The House could send the bill as early as next week to Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who backs the smoking prohibition in part because it could have a positive influence on youngsters. Studies have shown teenagers are less likely to take up smoking in communities with bans.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, who allowed the Senate to vote despite personally opposing the measure, called it a "blatant overreach" of government into private affairs.

"When will it stop? How much control do you want? And when will people have to stop thinking for themselves entirely?" asked Bishop, a Rochester Republican who was one of a dozen

senators to vote against the proposal.

Sen. Raymond Basham, a Taylor Democrat and longtime backer of a smoking ban, said the measure was necessary because — while customers may avoid smoky taverns and restaurants — bartenders, waitresses and other employees still have to work in them.

The U.S. Surgeon General in 2006 reported that breathing any amount of secondhand smoke harms nonsmokers, and called for making buildings and public places completely smoke free.

More than 30 states outlaw smoking in public or work places, according to supporters. Some bans don't apply to restaurants and bars, though, while others make exceptions for casinos and other buildings.

The bill that passed the House five months ago would have exempted casinos, bingo halls, horse tracks, cigar bars and smoke shops from the ban. The Senate stripped those provisions in favor of banning smoking in all workplaces — though American Indian casinos likely would be exempt because many state laws don't apply there because of tribal sovereignty.

Special exemptions for casinos and other buildings were needed to get the bill through the House the first time around.

The Michigan Licensed Beverage Association criticized Thursday's vote, saying it could hurt the customer base of Michigan's hospitality industry. Bars and restaurants should be allowed to set their own policies based on what customers want, according to the group and the Michigan Restaurant Association.

More than 5,000 of the roughly 16,000 bars and restaurants in Michigan already ban smoking, up from around 2,200 in 1998.

Supporters of the legislation said studies show that smoking bans in other states didn't have any net economic impact on bars and restaurants. They applauded Bishop for allowing a vote despite his opposition to the bill. Legislative efforts to enact a ban date back nearly a decade.

"It shows that he has heard our concerns about the greater good for all Michigan residents," said Judy Stewart, spokeswoman for the Campaign for Smokefree Air.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Southfield Mayor announces bid for Oakland County Exec.

Brenda Lawrence, the mayor of Southfield, held a press conference at Oakland University Friday to announce her candidacy for Oakland County Executive. Lawrence will run on a platform that pushes mass transit and ending urban sprawl. "This campaign will cost over a million dollars," Lawrence said. The current Oakland County Executive is L. Brooks Patterson.

— Rory McCarty, Senior Reporter

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## Presidential nominee John McCain visits OU



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Arizona Sen. John McCain fielded questions from the audience on topics ranging from the war to the auto industry in Michigan.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

McCain and his wife, Cindy, met with supporters Wednesday.

*Republican primary winner holds town hall meeting on campus, addresses 2008 election and Michigan specific issues*

By PAUL GULLY  
Special Projects Editor

"Great" was the word Oakland University political science professor David Dulio used and repeated when asked about presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain's town hall meeting held on the university's campus.

"It was great for OU," said Dulio, who invited his class to the event. "It's great to have a presidential candidate come here."

McCain's May 7 visit, to what he called a "wonderful institution," marked the first time since 2002, when President George W. Bush spoke at an event on the campus of OU, that the university has played host to a politician of such stature.

"It was a great opportunity for [my students], and for those who disagree with Sen. McCain, to come out and hear what he had to say. It was great he took so many questions from those who challenged his viewpoints," added Dulio, who has been featured as a correspondent on Fox News.

The standing ovation McCain received as a welcome from the several hundred in attendance was tinged with only a smattering of boos.

The Arizona Senator focused on what he called "serious issues and challenges that face this nation" — human trafficking, religious freedom and Internet-related child sex crimes.

"Accepting the degradation of values we believe are universal is to relinquish some of our own humanity. America was founded on the belief in the inherent dignity of all human life, that this dignity can only be preserved through shared respect and shared responsibility," McCain said.

For approximately the an hour, McCain fielded questions from those in attendance during the town-hall-meeting portion of the event.

The Q&A began with a question posed by a 14-year-old female, sporting an anti-McCain T-shirt, who had interrupted him during his opening speech.

In all, McCain took 15 questions ranging in topics from the local auto industry, to the war in Iraq and even his alleged temper.

Regarding what he considers the "great debate" of the upcoming election — the war — McCain said that it has "been badly mishandled for nearly four years."

"But we are succeeding. ... As the Iraqi military takes over more responsibility and Americans begin to withdraw, I'll bring [our troops] home — I'll bring them home with honor," he added.

McCain made it clear, several times throughout the event, that eliminating U.S. dependency on foreign oil is vital not only to stabilize the economy, but also to improving the environment. McCain favors nuclear power development.

When questioned about his alleged temper, McCain jokingly responded by

saying, "How dare you ask that question?" a response that garnered laughter from those in attendance.

McCain went on to cite the many Democratic senators he had worked with throughout his tenure in the office as evidence that his temper is not an issue.

"I have worked across the aisle more than any other senator that I know of, recently," he said. "If the problem is such as been described, I wouldn't have been able to work with Joe Lieberman and Russ Feingold and Ted Kennedy, and all the many other senators on the other side of the aisle."

McCain also answered questions pertaining to issues specific to Michigan, including several questions posed about the auto industry. McCain held strong to his advocacy of improved fuel economy standards for automobiles, which opponents claim has hampered the U.S. auto industry.

However, McCain did say that the "automotive industry in this state is not finished" and said he believed it could be revitalized by focusing on new innovation and technology.

"The technology is here ... in the great state of Michigan, the birthplace of the automotive industry," he said. "But, we've got to retrain and reeducate workers to take advantage of the opportunities."

When focus shifted to the topic of the Great Lakes' water, McCain said that he would "never agree to any proposal" to divert water from the Great Lakes to

dry states, which received a favorable response.

Following the event, McCain shook hands and met with audience members.

"I didn't used to be an avid supporter of McCain before today, but I am one now," said Karen Bush, of Rochester. "I agree with his viewpoints on states' rights and this is something that hasn't been talked about much before."

John Fich, the father of an OU student, is a Barack Obama supporter but took time off work to see McCain speak.

"I wanted to come see what he said in person rather than in the media," Fich said. "I wanted to get his opinion on the war and economy and the energy crisis."

Prior to the event, a group of approximately 30 sign-waving protesters demonstrated in front of the venue's main parking entrance.

"I love the idea of the town hall meeting, but we wanted to show that McCain is not welcomed by everyone here."

There's a significant portion of the student body who doesn't support him," said Michael Westphal, an OU student and head of the school's chapter of Students for a democratic Society (SdS).

This was McCain's first trip to Michigan since the Jan. 15 primary, which he lost to Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

McCain, 71, has had the GOP nomination wrapped up since March 4 after opponents Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney dropped out of the race.



# Non-mandatory fees moved to tuition

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

The Board of Trustees passed a proposal with a vote of 7-1 last Wednesday to restructure the non-mandatory student fees so that fees for orientation, transcript, graduation, applied music courses, physical therapy courses, education courses and nursing assessment will be rolled in the tuition. Also, students applying to Oakland University will no longer have to pay the application fee.

This new tuition program will begin to be implemented beginning in June, and will also apply for students attending orientation beginning in June 2008. To offset the loss of revenue from the non-mandatory student fees, the tuition will be increased by 1 percent starting in the fall 2008 semester, on top of any other increases that might take place due to other reasons.

The tuition increase will affect all students, regardless of whether or not they will use services such as orientation, transcripts, take courses in physical therapy or education, for example.

Michelle Moser, Assistant Director of Media Relations, said that the tuition increase will not be individualized for each student, and that "all students in a given division (lower, upper, graduate) will pay the same amount per credit hour, regardless of their program or major."

She said that this will create "administrative efficiencies by eliminating the arduous and time-consuming processing and reconciliation of these fees."

The elimination of the application fee will make OU the only university in Michigan that will not charge prospective students for applying.

According to an article on the OU News Web site, Mary Beth Snyder, Vice President for Student Affairs, expects that this will increase the number of applications received to the university, which will allow for a more diverse student population.

Moser said that another positive aspect of this new tuition restructuring is that some students may be eligible for more financial aid, because the non-mandatory student fees, which were previously not allowed to be included in the calculation of financial aid awards, will now be allowed to be so, because they will be part of the tuition.

Cindy Hermesen, Director of Financial Aid, estimated that about 75 percent of OU students will receive financial aid in 2008-2009. She also said that the "simplicity of understanding one tuition rate with no additional hidden costs (except behavioral fees such as late payment penalties)" and being able to predict full costs will be beneficial to all students.

"Previously students were surprised when charged additional fees related to their education," Hermesen said.

Student Body President Steve Clark and Student Liaisons to the Board of Trustees Samir Hanna and Aaron Kochenderfer agreed that the elimination of the application fee will benefit the university and that the possibility of being eligible for more financial aid will be good for the students.

"Tuition increase is something I'll never be in favor of, but the money lost by the eliminated fees has to come from somewhere," Clark said.

Kochenderfer said, "I think Oakland University will do a good job in explaining this to students, and when students hear the explanation, they'll see that they won't be paying any more than they are already; it will just be easier to pay. Overall, I think this is a good thing."

"Overall, this will be better for most students and the overall university community," Hanna said.

Michelle Moser said that the new tuition program was proposed because "the administration felt it was in the best interest of students and the entire university to discontinue all fees."

The Board of Trustees also approved proposals of new degree programs. These degree programs are a bachelor of arts and minor in writing and rhetoric, a bachelor of arts in Japanese, and a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering.

## Midwest addresses stem cell research

*Region-wide conference held at Oakland University attempts to shed light on the misconceptions, issues of using human embryos in science*

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

Hundreds of researchers, professors, students and the general public attended the First Midwest Conference on Stem Cell Biology and Therapy last Friday and Saturday.

The conference brought together researchers and clinicians from all over the U.S. and around the world to share the latest developments in stem cell research.

Jointly sponsored by Oakland University and Beaumont Hospitals in cooperation with St. John Providence Hospital, seemed to have come at an opportune time for proponents of stem cell research. The Stem Cell Research Ballot Question Committee, directed by Mark Burton, is trying to gather signatures to get a petition on the ballot that would overturn a Michigan law that restricts researchers from deriving their own stem cell lines from human embryos.

Michigan Senator Carl Levin supported this campaign in the keynote speech

he gave on Friday evening, at the opening session of the conference.

"Stem cell research is promising, and embryonic stem cell research is the most promising type, and it is this type that is prohibited in Michigan," Levin said. "There is no guarantee that stem cell research will find cures for diseases, but there is great potential for it."

Human embryonic stem cell research is controversial, as it requires the embryo to be destroyed. But Levin contended that even people opposed to embryo destruction should be in support of this campaign because the only embryos that are on the petition are the ones that will be destroyed by the fertility clinics, even if they weren't used for research.

"If they're going to be destroyed anyway, why not give them a life-giving purpose?" Levin asked.

G. Rasul Chaudhry, Chair of the Organization Committee of the conference and a professor of biological sciences at OU, said that he hoped this conference helped to clear up misconceptions held by the public of stem cell research.

"The conference provided an excel-

lent opportunity to showcase Oakland University, its research facilities, and its talented faculty to leaders in stem cell research," Chaudhry said. "The conference was a tremendous success and brought a greater visibility to Oakland University, as well as to southeast Michigan."

On Saturday, there were two separate sessions going on at the same time in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms. In the Biology sessions, presenters shared the latest general research done on stem cells and in the Therapy sessions, presenters shared the latest methods of clinical applications derived from stem cell research.

There was also a panel on ethics surrounding stem cell research and its political implications on Saturday. One of the panelists, Christine Gorka of Providence Hospital, spoke about several of the dilemmas and prejudices surrounding stem cell research. She said that wealthy people are much more likely to benefit from stem cell research, as the stem cell therapy technology is fairly new and very expensive.

Gorka also said that is because scientists are less likely to research ailments that are present in only minority populations like Native Americans, because it would be too expensive. "This strategy leaves ethnic minorities behind and perpetuates inequities," she said.

Andras Nagy of Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Ontario, gave a keynote speech about his work in mouse genetics. He said that he worked mostly with mouse developmental genetics so far and that he recently moved on to human embryonics. "Our understanding of mouse stem cells is being fed into human stem cell applications," he said.

Nagy agreed with the enthusiasm of other attendee, saying, "it was nice to see the local enthusiasm and the progress shown by the speakers."

Nicholas Collins, an OU freshman, said, "this was a great experience for me, especially watching these professionals asking questions and exchanging ideas. I think that it will help spawn the progression of stem cell research greatly."



# Festival celebrates European writing, film

By RORY McCARTY  
Senior Reporter

The "Absinthe Festival of New European Film and Writing" was held in the Oakland Center Friday and Saturday. Absinthe, a biannual magazine that publishes works by European authors, co-sponsored the event with Oakland University.

"The primary goal of the festival was to introduce students and the community at large to important European films and filmmakers and European writers that they might not have had exposure to previously," managing editor of Absinthe, Dwayne Hayes.

The Friday night itinerary included poetry readings by the authors. Irish poet Eamonn Wall read a selection of poems from his books, topics ranging from his childhood in Ireland to his children's love of fast food. Next, Belarusian poet Valzhyna Mort read from her poetry collection, "Factory of Tears." Speaking with great fervor and intensity, Mort read poems about the communist past of in Belarus. The readings were followed by a screening of a series of short films by OU students.

Saturday's events included more book readings and feature films. Among them were "Yella," a film about an East German woman who tries to start a new life in West Germany after escaping her ex-husband's attempts to kill her. Also being shown were "The Island," about a WWII veteran who tries to atone for his war crimes, and "How I Spent The End Of The World," the story of Romanian children during the rule of a dictator.

"The response we received from festival attendees was overwhelmingly positive and if Oakland University is interested in doing another festival in 2009 we would like to do one," Hayes said.



JEFF SIMMS/The Oakland Post  
Eamon Wall, born in Ireland, read on of his poems recently published in the year.

## Calling on all 'Angels'

*Film documents therapist's excursion to Africa*

BY RORY McCARTY  
Senior Reporter

Oakland University's Wellness Health Promotion program will be showing the film "Angels in the Dust" on May 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center. The film was also shown earlier on April 28.

"Angels in the Dust" is the story of a therapist, Marion Cloete, who leaves a comfortable life to help underprivileged children living in Africa. Her mission was to start a village named Botshabelo where she could help the children by providing them with food and shelter, as well as acting as their mother and teacher.

The film begins by talking about how Cloete and the children nurse elephants back to health after they have been abandoned or made parentless and left to die in the wilderness. From there, the film segues into the stories of some of the over 500 children living in the Botshabelo orphanage.

"The film shows the influence of the orphanage on the children it cares for, while also including the heart-wrench-

ing stories of a few of the orphans," said event organizer Kelly Kosek.

The children are either afflicted with AIDS themselves or have been left without families due to the AIDS pandemic. Some of them were abused in their homes or simply abandoned by parents who couldn't care for them.

That's not the only effort to raise AIDS awareness going on either. Oakland professor Dr. Stafford Rorke will be participating in an ultra-marathon, that is a 56 mile marathon, the Comrades, to raise \$3,000 for the Starfish Greathearts Foundation.

The Starfish Greathearts Foundation helps orphanages like the one in "Angels in the Dust," Kosek said. Not only is Rorke running the marathon, but it's his 16th time doing so. Kosek said, "For the past few years, he's done it in about ten hours."

Rorke runs marathons and does weight training to prepare himself for running the Comrades. He hopes to raise awareness among Oakland University staff and students to the South African HIV/AIDS problem.

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# Humanitarian for the voiceless

*Nobel Peace Prize Nominee outlines her career in providing aid around the world*

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Baroness Caroline Cox was presented the Nightingale Award for Nursing by the Oakland University School of Nursing last Friday after giving a lecture at Meadow Brook Theatre May 9.

In her presentation entitled "Sharp Compassion: Humanitarian Aid for Forgotten People," Cox described the humanitarian work she has done throughout her life in various regions of the world, as well as her current projects.

She said that the title comes from a line from the T.S. Eliot poem "East Coker," and that it has a two-pronged explanation.

"Our compassion needs to be sharp," she said. "We can't give anything less than our best. We should also be sharp toward ourselves, be critical of ourselves, and make sure that our approaches and efforts to help people are the right ones."

Cox, 70, has received numerous

awards for her humanitarian efforts, including the International Mother Theresa Award. She also holds positions in numerous organizations, including Vice President of the Royal College of Nursing and trustee of the Medical Emergency Relief International. She is also a member of Christian Solidarity International.

But Cox said that most of her current efforts are as Chief Executive of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), an organization she founded in 2003 to "be a voice for the voiceless and help forgotten people in forgotten lands."

She said that these people are usually "unreached, unhelped and unheard."

During her presentation, she recounted several memories of crossing borders illegally to give aid to people in need, in places like Burma (now Myanmar) and Sudan.

"I'm not ashamed of breaking international laws to reach the people who need help," she said. "I follow a higher law that calls for compassion first."

She spoke about her first big project,

helping to transform the Soviet Union's foster family care system.

"The real heroes are the local people," she said. "[HART] just lend a helping hand and our local partners take it from there and do most of the work."

At the reception held in Lady Cox's honor in Meadow Brook Hall after the lecture, Dean of the Nursing School Linda Adams said that Cox's life and work upholds what she believes about the nursing profession.

"It's not just diseases we try to heal," Adams said. "We try to heal communities, too. I believe that [Cox] embodies that."

Several students at the reception said that they were inspired by the lecture.

Matthew Hamper, a nursing major at OU, said, "Having traveled abroad and seeing different areas of despair myself, it was inspiring to see what one nurse can do... Hearing her talk changed how I think about nursing, because as nursing students, we think that it's about caring for patients at the bedside, but we can do more."



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post  
Baroness Caroline Cox spoke at a lecture presented by the OU School of Nursing, where she addressed the topic of humanitarian work and aid.

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## POLICEFILES

Two BB pistols were confiscated from a residence in the student apartments May 6. Officers were called to the apartment when a student found what appeared to be two handguns belonging to her roommate. The owner of the weapons explained to police that she did not know that she wasn't allowed to have the guns on campus.

Police were called to investigate a possible larceny that occurred in the OU INCubator during John McCain's campaign visit May 7. Workers from the company Ajlsoft were asked to vacate their offices during the town hall meeting and when they returned they found some of their computer equipment missing and broken, despite being left in locked offices.

Police investigated an assault and battery claim from a person who attended John McCain's May 7 town hall meeting at Oakland University. The victim claimed that he was involved in a physical altercation after a political discussion with another member of the crowd became heated.

A backpack was stolen from Kresge library May 7. Arriving on the scene, police were informed that the student had left his backpack at a table while he went to retrieve some materials, upon returning he realized his backpack, containing credit cards and a cell phone, was missing. Another student sitting in the area witnessed nothing suspicious in the time the student was gone.



## What are you most excited for this summer in Michigan?



"On my birthday, I'm going to the Kanye West/Rihanna concert. I'm so excited, second row!"

Christina Rita Abro  
Senior, Business



"I'm going to a Kenny Chesney concert August 2, but that's pretty much it. Nothing too exciting."

Sarah Stavale  
Junior, Nursing

The Michigan unleaded average of regular gas reached its highest recorded price of \$3.85 on Tuesday, May 13. Only, every day seems to bring a new "highest recorded price."

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## Is the price of gas ruining your summer?



"Me and my friend car pool 45 minutes every day. It is pretty much where my paycheck goes every week."

Maggie Arlington  
Junior, Nursing



"Put it this way, I put \$15 in my tank yesterday, and I had to put \$20 more in this morning."

Vicky Arefi  
Senior, Nursing



"I have to start putting all my gas on credit cards, so now I have even more debt."

Mariam Farida  
Junior, Nursing



"Bull Within The Bullseye" - The Distillers

"Powiedz Stary Gdźi" - Czerwone Gitary

"Fluorescent Adolescent" - Arctic Monkeys

"Not A Crime" - Gogol Bordello

"The Trooper" - Iron Maiden

"Iron Man" - Black Sabbath

"Television, Television" - OK Go

"Beer" - Reel Big Fish

"Under My Voo Doo" - Sublime

"Aveda" - Hot Hot Heat

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# Golden skinned grizzlies

*Oakland students find ways to get the perfect summer tan*

By LINA AMENT  
Staff Intern

The snow has melted and the sun is shining. With warm weather quickly approaching, students at Oakland University are leaving their sweatshirts at the bottom of their closets and grabbing flip-flops and shades.

On the brink of summer, minds turn to fun in the sun. To many, an essential part of summer is getting that golden-brown tan. Seasoned tanners have many reasons why they choose to hit the pool or go under the bulb.

"I think I look healthier when I'm tan," said junior Deanna Kossaras.

Others say that tanning not only makes them look better (by clearing up their skin) but it also makes them feel better.

Donielle Salazer says she tans to lift her mood.

"Tanning helps raise serotonin levels, which makes you happier," Salazer said.

WebMD researchers have reported that sun exposure can reduce signs of stress and depression. It can also help boost metabolism.

Researchers also found that, regardless of the season, the turnover of serotonin in the brain was affected by the amount of sunlight on any given day.

## ON A BEACH OR IN A BOX?

Tanning is a common element of summer, whether you are playing an outdoor sport or relaxing by the pool. However, these days you can get a tan year round thanks to accessible and inexpensive tanning salons.

Trendy salons such as Golden Sun Tanning and The Sun Oasis — both located in Rochester Hills — are favorites of many OU Students.

Opinions differ as to whether outdoor tanning is better than indoor tanning. Some say they prefer indoor tanning because it is

more efficient and a tan is more quickly achieved.

"Tanning indoors is all about results," said OU junior Steve Johnson. "It only takes about 20 minutes to get color so you can still look good when you have a busy life."

Still some enjoy tanning the old fashioned way by laying out under the sun.

"Tanning outdoors has its perks because you can go to the beach and enjoy beautiful scenery. It's a great way to de-stress," Kossaras said.

## TAKING CARE

Soaking up the sun is a priority for many, but what about skin care? Effects of exposure to the sun, such as skin aging and cancer, have become commonly known.

Senior Dan Trudeau has a job that keeps him primarily outdoors and he always makes sure to protect his skin.

"I don't use tanning beds because I work outdoors and get plenty of sun that way," said Trudeau. "I always wear sunscreen to protect my skin."

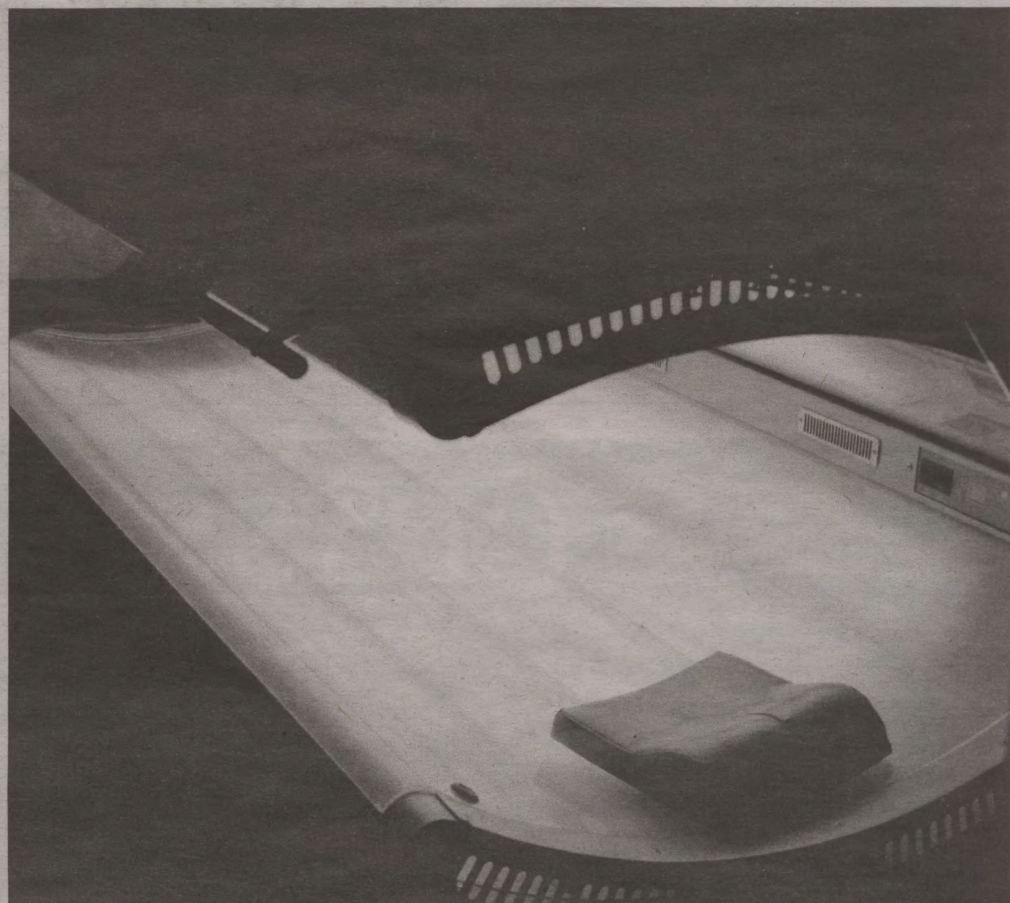
However, there are many people who go tanning that don't properly protect their skin their skin with a UVA/UVB protecting sunscreen.

Mike Heuninckx is a pre-medical student at OU and feels that skin protection is essential.

"I protect my skin and more people should," Heuninckx said. "The sun damage you get as a child and a young adult will affect your skin in the future."

Shannon Truesdale, a senior, said she thinks twice before leaving the house without sunscreen.

"I worry about both wrinkles and cancer," Truesdale said.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post  
Oakland University students take advantage of an array of tanning techniques ranging from laying under the sun or using tanning booths (above) at local tanning salons.

## SHEDDING LIGHT ON TANNING

\* Tanning is the body's natural response to ultraviolet light exposure.

\* Your skin is divided into three layers: Epidermis, dermis and subcutaneous.

\* Despite the urban myth, ultraviolet light cannot penetrate any deeper than the epidermis.

\* Melanocytes are pigment cells that help the skin tan.

\* Your skin is the largest organ of your body.

\* Sunlight is composed of three rays: UVA, UVB and UVC.

— www.funtan.com



# Sunscreen, towel, textbooks?

## Why students take summer classes and why it is recommended

By DAVID SANDERS  
Contributing Reporter

Toward the climax of the winter semester, the minds of many are focused on entering the doors of spring and summer classes rather than being welcomed by the start of another outdoor summer vacation. It is a route that is common among a number of students. Still, what really pushes a student to enroll for spring and summer courses?

One of the most popular answers given by students is that they take summer courses in the hopes of reaching the glory of graduation as soon as they can. It should not be much of a surprise that seniors hoping to graduate soon are the largest group of students that are dedicating their summer to taking classes according to official enrollment files.

The file records show that from 2003 to 2007, seniors consistently have the highest rate for enrolling in spring and summer classes followed by juniors, then sophomores, with guest students

and freshmen rounding out the list. The files also indicate that enrollment as of the first day of classes for the combined summer semester this year is 12,008, which is about even to last year's total of 11,998.

Corey Schmidt is a 20-year-old junior looking to graduate on time.

"The main reason why I decided to take summer classes is to graduate exactly in four years," Schmidt said.

Carmen Etienne, the academic advisor for the school of engineering and computer science and the chair of the Professional Advisors Council said that the main motivation for students who take summer classes is to help them stay on course for graduation.

"If students feel they are behind in credits, taking a summer class could be an option," Etienne said.

Yet, the faster pace of the courses may not be the best option according to Etienne.

"I believe summer classes are not for everyone," said Etienne. "Some like the

speed, so they should take it. It may be too fast for some and some may need a break."

Lorin Wright a college of arts and science advisor, suggests a way for students to handle the faster pace of the summer courses.

"I advise some not to [take summer courses] because of the fast pace," said Wright. "But they could concentrate on one course."

Along with graduation, many students are remaining in classes during the summer to meet course requirements.

Shawn Kilpatrick is a junior english major juggling his American literature class while having a job stamping books and handling government documents at the Kresge Library.

"I have to take summer classes it's a requirement for my job at the Library," Kilpatrick said.

Meeting pre-requisite requirements is on the minds of summer students as well.

Sophomore Hamlin resident Christina

Droscha is currently taking calculus I to meet pre-requisite goals for her future career in environmental science.

"Taking summer classes gives me a chance to be on campus when it's not snowing," Droscha said. "Because I live on campus, I can take summer classes."

Schmidt resides in the same dormitory as Droscha and both are taking advantage of studying in the summer to remain occupied due to its location on campus.

"Summer classes help me stay on track," Schmidt said. "I have a job where I live on campus where it's convenient enough for me to take summer course."

Sophomore Daniel Taubman is not only taking classes for a pre-requisite, but also to keep busy during the leisure summer.

"Having summer courses gives me something to do during the summer," Taubman said.

# Summer offers many fitness options

By LINA AMENT  
Staff Intern

It's time to lace up the tennis shoes and grab an iPod because the sun is out and so are people looking to get fit this summer.

Wintertime in Michigan can be harsh and many people use indoor gyms and workout facilities to stay in shape. However, when snow melts away, many choose to hit the outdoors for a change of scenery.

Exercising outdoors has many positive effects. When you are outside, you can enjoy the sun and experience nature.

For many, the summertime includes softball leagues, tennis matches and beach volleyball as a means of getting in shape. Others prefer to utilize the parks in our area.

The municipal park in downtown Rochester is an excellent spot to get in shape. Its winding paths and hills line a tranquil creek that gives a refreshing vibe.

The Paint Creek Trail is a feature that is great for hiking, jogging or biking. What used to be a railroad is now a smooth dirt path that starts in downtown Rochester and goes all the way to Lake Orion. Whether it's walking the dog or pushing a stroller, people are doing whatever they can to get outside and in shape.

Stony Creek is also an ideal location for exercise. The park stretches approximately six miles and contains paths for biking, jogging

and walking.

An asset unique to Stony Creek is its fitness trail. The trail stretches about two miles and is set for you to walk, jog, run and sprint.

Along the fitness trail are stops, which indicate specific workouts such as stretching and workouts for your legs, arms and abdomen. The stops have a level for regular fitness and a level for advanced methods for those training for sports and marathons.

Races of many different distances are held all over the state and many people spend their summer training for and participating in these races.

If there isn't time to make it out to a park, there are Web sites available like [www.mapmyrun.com](http://www.mapmyrun.com) where runners and walkers can map their own running routes in their area.

Kristen Majeske, a student at OU, is among the many who are training for the Brooksie Way Half Marathon hosted by OU on Oct. 5. Majeske said she works out regularly in the winter, but now that summer has arrived, she is taking it up a notch.

"I plan to do a 20-week program," Majeske said. "It will start out small and get progressive over time. Right now I can run three miles. The marathon is 13 miles so that is my goal."

To find registration information for half marathons and other races happening this summer in Michigan, visit [www.halfmarathons.net](http://www.halfmarathons.net) or [www.runmichigan.net](http://www.runmichigan.net).



LINA AMENT/The Oakland Post  
The multiple signs along the fitness trail at Stony Creek offer tips to runners and walkers to help maximize their workouts and stretches.



## Unfinished Grizzz-ness

*Grizzlies fail to qualify for tournament; MacDonald: "Next year is ours"*

By TIM RATH  
Sports Editor

It's only 10 a.m., but Oakland University softball coach Glenn MacDonald is looking forward to a new day.

As he sat down on a cloudy Friday morning to discuss the 2008 season, MacDonald could not hide his disappointment. Although tabbed for a fifth-place finish in a preseason poll by his peers, MacDonald had much greater plans for the Golden Grizzlies.

"We reached our goal last year, which was to make the conference tournament," MacDonald said in an interview last February. "This year, we'd like to be the team that wins the championship trophy."

The Grizzlies fell short of that expectation, finishing with a 15-28 record and failing to qualify for post-season play.

After opening the year on February 23 in the Georgia Southern Eagle Classic with five straight losses, the Grizzlies ripped off a five-game winning streak that brought their record back to .500.

From there, a month of inconsistent play and even more inconsistent weather forced the cancellation of 19 regular season games, grinding the Grizzlies' record down to 13-17 after a victory at SDSU on April 18.

The Grizzlies then closed out the season on a 2-11 skid that ended with a regular season finale victory against IPFW.

MacDonald could fill a book with excuses for the Grizzlies' decline from the 2007 Summit League Championship Tournament season to following the tournament online, but he doesn't. Instead, he pins the blame on the shoulders of himself and the team.

"Don't get me wrong," MacDonald said. "It's our fault we didn't make [the tournament]."

However, even MacDonald's peers would be hard-pressed to deny the Grizzlies' tough-luck spring.

"This was the most difficult season that we've had in the seven years that I've been here," MacDonald said of a

historically long winter season that stretched well into April. "I don't think that we lost 19 games in the previous six years added up."

"We probably had three or four practices outside all year... if we cancel a game, we're back (indoors), and you don't see the ball as well. The outfielders don't react as well... it's tough," he continued.

In addition, a lack of support for work-horse junior pitcher Jessica Granger plagued the Grizzlies for a second straight season.

"We had games in which we would knock the cover off the ball, and then in the next game, it was like, 'Where did our bats go?'" MacDonald said. "There were times that Jess would get in trouble... I'd need to make a pitching change, but I didn't have anyone to do it that I felt comfortable with until the end of the year."

MacDonald went further, explaining that Granger's worth to the team was more than her 3.11 ERA and 10-19 record would indicate.

"She kept us in games, time after time," MacDonald said. "I tell the younger players, 'If you want to be successful, watch Jess. Her, Julie Owen and Caitlin Lynch will be our captains next year, and you couldn't ask for better senior leadership than those three.'"

Owen, a junior second baseman, was named to the All-Summit League second team for a season in which she hit .297 and scored 18 runs.

Lynch, a junior third baseman, led the team with 24 RBI and 73 assists, while batting .314 and slugging .500 for the year.

The other half of the battery served the Grizzlies just as well, as sophomore catcher Angela Righetti joined Owen on the All-Summit League second team. Righetti led the team in batting at .368, and on-base percentage at .414.

"She was my best hitter this year," MacDonald said of Righetti. "It takes time to adapt to this caliber of pitching, and for her to do so well in her second year is just amazing."



Dustin Alexander/OAKLAND POST  
Caitlin Lynch (background) throws from second base as pitcher Jessica Granger looks on. Both players will be senior captains for the Grizzlies' softball team next year.

### QUICK HITS

#### Making up for lost time

The Grizzlies scored more runs (156) and hit more homers (17) this season in 14 fewer games (43) than they played in 2007.

#### Big shoes to fill

Alex Perrino, a four-year starter at first base, graduates having played in 178 games, accumulating 21 hits, and knocking in 47 RBI.

#### Sweet sorrow

Seniors Brittany West and Sam Rhein graduate having seen action in 55 and 40 games, respectively.

See Softball on Page 19



# OU pushing for postseason

*Grizzlies baseball fights through challenges, stays competitive*

## COLUMN

By **ANDREW GRIEVE**  
Contributing Reporter

The Oakland University baseball team can cancel any theme park-road trip plans they may have had.

The Grizzlies have been riding a roller coaster since the season started.

However, unlike a theme park's, the Grizzlies roller coaster has featured victories, defeats, and everything in between this season.

Instead of looking forward to getting off, the Grizzlies are looking forward to extending their ride, in hopes of winning in the Summit League Championship Tournament on May 22.

However, the team won't be taking a breather anytime soon, as they've been working very hard during their series of doubleheaders with IPFW, reigning victorious in three out of four contests.

The midcons haven't stopped there, either, as they have been currently facing off against Oral Roberts in a Summit League series in Tulsa, Okla.

Previous to the Tulsa trip, the team faced Toledo on May 7 in a one-off

game originally meant as a doubleheader (cancelled due to rain) at home and ran into a brick wall, losing out to the away team by a score of 19-4.

The brick walls became even thicker as the team entered the Oral Roberts series on Friday. The Grizzlies lost the first game by a score of 7-2, despite a 2-2 day from freshman catcher Ryan Waldhart. When the doubleheader came in on Saturday, the team fared only as well as they did the first time around, losing both games to ORU. The Grizzlies failed in their quest to split the series, dropping the final game to the Golden Eagles by a score of 11-0.

After this set of games, the team will play a one-off game against Eastern Michigan, at the OU Baseball field May 13, then play the team's final series before the Summit League tournament opener on May 22 against Southern Utah. This time, home field advantage is on their side.

Meanwhile, junior Rob Merkle recently received the honor of being named to ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA's Academic All-District Team, for his strong presence in the classroom and on the diamond.



Dustin Alexander/OAKLAND POST

Grizzlies' second baseman Rob Merkle is batting .333 on the season, with 23 RBI and and three home runs. He was recently named to the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District first team.

# Soccer looks to build upon past victories

## COLUMN

By **ANDREW GRIEVE**  
Contributing Reporter

The Oakland University women's soccer team's 2008 season will begin Aug. 22, when they face Michigan State. Judging from their recent history, they'll have a lot to live up to.

Taking a look back at their fantastic 2007 season, the Grizzlies were quite successful. They won their sixth Summit League Championship in nine seasons with a victory against Western Illinois at the OU Soccer Field to earn an invite to the NCAA Championship Tournament for the fifth time.

Unfortunately for the Grizzlies, they faltered in their first round game against No. 8 Purdue, losing by a 4-0 score, but getting to the NCAA tournament is nothing to sneeze at by any means.

The Grizzlies played a strong first period against the Boilermakers and went into halftime scoreless, but couldn't stop Purdue from scoring in the second half.

The prestige mounted further as senior forward Kristi Tomczyk received the honor of being on the Soccer Buzz All-Region third team, sharing the honor with only one other player from the Summit League, Western Illinois' Ashley Hoch.

As the team played a small group of spring games against the likes of teams such as Eastern Michigan, Michigan State, Bowling Green and Kent State they left with positive hopes for the fall.

The spring practice games in particular extremely helped coach Nick O'Shea pick out the new team's weaknesses, as well as figuring out their strengths. The team played against schools that they will be facing very early on in the season, such as Michigan State, whom they will face first, and Bowling Green, their third opposing team.

Eight new players will be making their appearance during this new season, to replace many of the graduated players in the midfield, backfield, and attacking positions.

The girls will start their 2008 season with an exhibition game at home against Northern Illinois on August 15th.

## NEW RECRUITS

- **Deanna Colarossi**  
Notre Dame Catholic SS (Burlington, Ont.)
- **Jessica Conrad**  
Prince Andrew High School (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia)
- **Shannon Doyle**  
Lake Orion High School
- **Leanne Fomenko**  
Courtice SS (Courtice, Ont.)
- **Sarah Lynch**  
St. Martin High School (Mississauga, Ont.)
- **Rachel Reed**  
Bishop Foley High School
- **Kenzie Timm**  
Saginaw Heritage High School
- **Amy Trandell**  
Stevenson High School



# Active tips for creative folks

*Off-the-beaten path ideas for those seeking summer sporting thrills in Michigan*

By **TIM RATH**  
Sports Editor

Summer sports in Michigan could be thought of as more repetitive than reruns on television.

For those with a taste for the outdoors, Michigan is well known as a summertime hunting, fishing and boating hot-spot. If those three aren't to your taste, well, enjoy playing basketball in 85 percent humidity.

People that prefer to watch other people do the exercise seem to have the Detroit Tigers as the be-all, end-all for summer spectating fun. Those that are sick of the "Bless You Boys" can normally be found counting down the days until the Lions kick off, which can be a pretty tragic endeavor.

However, there are many options for who that wish to stray off the beaten path. From spectator fun to extreme sports, Michigan has something for everyone.

For those exhausted of the million-dollar contracts and extreme disappointments that have plagued Comerica Park this season, there remain many other options to catch a live baseball game.

A ride to Lansing (an hour and a half drive from OU) to watch the Class A Midwest League Lansing Lugnuts is an enjoyable day-trip at an affordable price.

Only slightly out of the state, traveling to Toledo, Ohio to watch the Mud Hens play at Fifth Third Field can prove a nostalgic experience for fans old enough to remember Tiger Stadium. The home of the AAA affiliate to the Tigers features an overhang roof section of the stands that will inspire memories of the past while you watch future Tigers on the field.

If baseball isn't your cup of beer, perhaps you have a need for speed. The Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn hosts three different NASCAR Cup Series races all throughout the summer from the scenic Irish Hills.

For racing closer to home, Belle Isle's



Dustin Alexander/OAKLAND POST

Disc golf at the Auburn Hills Civic Center is a great way to kill time in between classes, or on a summer afternoon. Here, an OU student throws for par.

annual Grand Prix takes place this year from Aug. 28 to 31 and features both "the high tech cars of the American Le Mans Series and the high-speed stars of the IndyCar Series," according to [www.TellUsDetroit.com](http://www.TellUsDetroit.com).

For those who do not consider the summer to have truly arrived until they've nearly passed out from dehydration, there are plenty of lesser-known options to leave them bathed in sweat just the same.

Disc golf is an easy and fun choice that enjoys the distinction of being available nearby campus. Just take a walk to the Auburn Hills Civic Center Park near the corner of University and Squirrel Road. You're in for nine holes of frisbee-tossing goodness. They even sell discs inside the

civic center, too.

However, the extremist in us may not be content to fling rubber all summer. When the urge strikes to do something a little crazy, take a trip to one of the five Great Lakes that surround Michigan. Not just to swim or boat, mind you, but to surf! Unbeknownst to many, surfing is a prevalent activity for many in every Great Lake, however, it should be known in advance that Lakes Superior and Michigan offer the best waves, by far.

Aside from surfing, the waters of Lake Superior offer a perfect environment for paddle sports such as canoeing and kayaking. In addition to getting an excellent workout, you're guaranteed to catch a terrific mountain view or end up underneath a waterfall.

Finally, for those of us that prefer reading about sports to participating in them, the Class of 2008 of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame includes Detroit Red Wings legend Steve Yzerman, WJR broadcaster Frank Beckmann and University of Michigan football player Desmond Howard. Cheer on these sporting heroes at [www.MichiganSportsHOF.com](http://www.MichiganSportsHOF.com).

Whatever your game, it's clear that Michigan has something for every athlete's taste. For those athletes that get by on their taste alone, Pastrami Joe's World Reuben Eating Contest in Marshall on July 19 is an ultimate celebration of gluttony that is sure to amuse the average spectator, if not horrify them.

## By the Numbers:

**SUMMER  
EDITION**

**10**

Average cost, in dollars, of a ticket to a Lansing Lugnuts game

**8**

Minutes it took Mark "The Human Vacuum" Lyle to eat 3 3/4 Reuben sandwiches in the 2006 Pastrami Joe's World Reuben Eating Contest.

**5**

As in, last place in the Central Division, which the Tigers currently stand in despite their \$137 million payroll.



# The times a-changin'

## Track teams set new records



BOB KNOSKA/Oakland Post  
Record-breaker Zack Jones competes in the EMU Invitational on April 20.

By **LINDSEY HOUSER**  
Contributing Reporter

A trail of broken records lines the track en route to the Summit League Outdoor Championships.

On April 25, the Oakland University track team headed to Hillsdale, Mich. to compete in the Gina Relays.

On the first day, both men and women showed a good performance in the 3000 meter steeplechase races. Sophomore Mike Craze and junior Leslie Schachinger both set school records and finished their race in third. Among the 11 additions to the top-10 list, the Grizzlies broke five more school records.

Craze broke the record set by Paul Kulisek in 2006 by running a time of nine minutes and 33 seconds. In addition, sophomore Adam Grubuis and

freshman Anthony Halfmann set new records for the hammer and shot put. Grubuis tossed the hammer 133-11, while Halfmann tossed the hammer 45-4.

May 3 brought the Grizzlies to Ohio for the Toledo Invitational. New men's school records were set in javelin and shot put, while new women's records were set in the 200 meter dash and javelin. Halfmann set the school record for shot put and javelin. In javelin, he tossed 160-11, which broke the school record by almost 13 feet. Freshman Marissa Nay threw the javelin 95-4, which broke a school record.

The Golden Grizzlies track teams will be traveling to the campus of Western Illinois to compete in the Summit League Outdoor Championship from May 15 to 17.

Junior distance specialist Eric Nowicki said that not only does the track team understand the magnitude of competing at Western Illinois, they expound sweat by the bucketload with the Championship in mind.

"This is the biggest race of the year," he said. "You train for it all year 'round."

Of all the athletes tearing up the track, sophomore Zack Jones may be one to watch more than any other.

He broke his own record in the 5,000 meter run with a time of 14:46.60 at the Eastern Michigan Invitational on April 20, and will be looking to set more records in Macomb.

"When Zack breaks a record, he breaks the school record as well as his own. He's the fastest in the indoor league," Nowicki said.



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics  
Alex Perrino is one of three departing seniors.

continued from Page 16

## SOFTBALL

The Grizzlies said goodbye to seniors Brittany West, Sam Rhein, and Alex Perrino with a final victory over IUPUI May 3.

Perrino, a four-year starter at first base who batted in the five-slot, is expected to be particularly missed as MacDonald prepares his lineup for next year. She hit .244 on the season, with 13 RBI and 21 hits in 37 games played.

However, MacDonald is not short on options to replace her or the other departing seniors. Recruits he will welcome into the fold next season include pitchers Brittany Doyle and Kylie Schalz, first baseman Leh DiCristofaro, third baseman Dani Dulberg and outfielder Ashley Dyson.

"I have almost a whole starting team back next year, plus, five new recruits. That's the fun part of it," MacDonald said.

MacDonald is also taking steps to ensure that the Grizzlies' course won't be as strongly dictated by the weather.

"We'll be playing in September," MacDonald said. "There'll be a couple of junior colleges and local schools that we'll play, so our players will see different pitching than ours. [September] will give me a better chance to see what the kids can do, as opposed to starting the season in the spring, when [the score] counts on your record."

It's going to be a long, hard summer for the softball team, as they'll have plenty of time to consider what might have been with a little help. However, MacDonald is content with them carrying that chip on their shoulder all the way to next season.

"Next year is our year," MacDonald said. "Another winter like this... hopefully we won't see it again."

## GRIZZ OF THE WEEK



### Rob Merkle

Baseball

**Year: Junior**  
**Major: Mechanical Engineering**

Merkle was named to the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District first team, while batting .333 on the year with 23 RBI.

Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

2008-2009

# The Oakland Post

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# The Scene

20

www.oaklandpostonline.com

May 14, 2008

## Tune out the summer semester

*Be a volunteer or VIP at these 'hot' summer festivals*

By LINDSEY HOUSER  
Contributing Reporter

Summer in Michigan means different things to different people. For some, the season brings all-day music festivals that any fan of music can appreciate.

The ROTHBURY festival consists of over 70 artists. It will place July 3 to 6 in Rothbury, Mich. at the Double JJ Ranch. The Dave Matthews Band, John Mayer, 311, Snoop Dogg, Colbie Caillat, Modest Mouse, Atmosphere, The Disco Biscuits, Primus, The Greyboy Allstars, DJ Rootz, Brother Ali, Tea Leaf Green and many more will be featured at the festival. Two stages will be provided for the artists to perform.

Rothbury not only offers music, but a circus and theatre as well. Names involved in this area of the festival include: Amanda Palmer, Trixie Little and the Evil Hate Monkey, Reggie Watts and Gravity Plays Favorites.

There are many different ticket packages for this event including weekend tickets, VIP weekend tickets, "Good Life" lodging packages and RV passes.

The weekend tickets come with a wristband for the whole weekend and free parking Thursday through Sunday. VIP weekend tickets include free parking and camping Thursday through Sunday. They also include access to VIP viewing areas at ROTHBURY's two main-stages. The VIP camping areas offer air-conditioned bathrooms and showers and an advantage in location to the festival venue.

The "Good Life" lodging package includes a choice between staying in log homes, log cabins or RVs. There is also a ranch that is available for lodging with friends. The RV passes provide separate areas for RVs of ticket holders to park.

For more information go to [www.rothburyfestival.com](http://www.rothburyfestival.com).

**Movement:** Detroit's Electronic Music Festival will take place Memorial Day weekend, May 24 to 26. The festival will be held at Detroit's Hart Plaza, from noon to midnight each day the event takes place.



The Dave Matthews band will be promoting their sixth studio album, "Stand Up" at this year's ROTHBURY Festival.

Photo courtesy [www.rothburyfestival.com](http://www.rothburyfestival.com)

Some artists that are going to be at the festival are Moby, Benny Benassi, Carl Craig, Richie Hawtin, Dubfire, James Zabiela, Alex Smoke, Cassy, Kevin Saunderson, Half Hawaii, Terrence Parker, The Cool Kids and Heartthrob.

Volunteer positions allow anyone to help out at the festival. Volunteers receive free admission to the event, free meals for each shift that is volunteered for and a volunteer event T-shirt. The positions include: general volunteer work areas, artist relations/credentials, airport pickup, media, photo, production and promotion. To be a volunteer you have to be at least 18 years old and attend at least one of the two meetings held on Saturdays between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., where you will meet other festival staff, learn about your responsibilities as a volunteer and be assigned to your position.

Tickets are on sale and two packages are available. Weekend packages that are \$40 per person and VIP weekend passes that are \$175 per person.

For more information about the festival, tickets and volunteering go

to [www.myspace.com/detroitmusicfest](http://www.myspace.com/detroitmusicfest).

The Rock City Music Festival presented by Detour, a digital magazine based in Royal Oak, will be held at The Majestic Theatre Center in Detroit on June 12 through 14. Bands include Sloan, the Von Bondies, Thunderbirds are Now!, VHS or Beta, Juiceboxxx, Lee Marvin Computer Arm, Champions of Breakfast, Marco Polio and the New Vaccines, The Frustrations, and many more.

Each night, the festival will consume The Majestic Theatre, Magic Stick and Garden Bowl. Also, the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit will host a barbecue in its courtyard with another full lineup of music on the Saturday afternoon of the festival.

Tickets are available on the event's Web site. A weekend pass is only \$30 and includes full access to all the venues each night of the festival. A Thursday, Friday and Saturday pass is \$20 and grants access to all venues, but on only one night of the festival.

For more information, go to [detour-mag.com/rockcity](http://detour-mag.com/rockcity).

Is the price of gas getting you down?

*Look into these low cost and conveniently located festivals.*

**WHAT:** The Vans Warped Tour

**WHO:** Story of the Year, The Academy Is, Relient K, From First To Last, Say Anything, As I Lay Dying, Against Me, The Devil Wears Prada, Just Surrender, Every Time I Die, Alesana and many more.

**WHERE:** Comerica Park, only 33 miles from Oakland University.

**WHEN:** Friday July 18

**HOW MUCH:** \$28.50

The Warped Tour is giving the fans a chance to become a Warped Tour Reporter. If selected, the reporter will be able to hang back stage and meet the bands. Ten reporters will be selected for each tour date.

To find out more go to [www.warpedreporter.com](http://www.warpedreporter.com).

**WHAT:** The Thrive Fest

**WHO:** Against The Fire, Uncalled For, Monkey Jacket, Consider It Done, Life Without Us, Special Delivery, Storms In May, One Room Apartment, Strength in Numbers and a lot more.

**WHERE:** Founders Sports Park in Farmington Hills, only 30 miles from Oakland University

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 7

**HOW MUCH:** Adults and teens are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Ages 6 to 12 are \$5 and anyone under the age of 5 is free.

The festival will hold four stages: main, punk, local, and family.

There are a lot of fun activities to do at this festival, including open ice skating, inflatable games, a climbing wall, skateboarding, sand volleyball, dodge ball, disc golf, movie in the park and more.

Visit the festival's Web site at [www.thrivefest.com](http://www.thrivefest.com).



# Ride the waves and coasters at Michigan's Adventure

By AMANDA MEADE  
Scene/Mix Editor

While the price of gas might be ruining most of our summers, we cannot let it ruin having a good time. Michigan's Adventure, located in Muskegon, might be a 200-mile trip from Oakland University, but the time you'll have there will be completely worth it.

The park is split into two parks, altogether holding over 50 rides. Guests get two theme parks for only \$25.

If you are planning on going, here is a suggested itinerary for a day to spend at the park.

Arrive at 11 a.m. Hop into your swimsuit, and head over to WildWater Adventure, the water park.

## 11:30 a.m. - Boogie Beach

The most intense of the three wave pools, Boogie Beach will knock park guests around with aggressive waves and a water depth of 7 feet.

## 12 p.m. - Funnel of Fear

Keep the intensity strong with this ride, where groups of up to four riders travel down an enclosed tube and are pushed into a giant funnel, colored bright pink and yellow.

## 12:30 p.m. - Lazy River

Take a break from the craziness with this relaxing ride. Park guests can float on tubes around a portion of the waterpark.

## 1:15 p.m. - Grand Rapids

Nine passengers can fit into a raft and be sent through a series of rapids and waterfalls, leaving all of the riders drenched by the end.

## 1:45 p.m. - Snakepit

Kick up the adrenaline again with this ride, where you choose between three dark, enclosed tube slides to shoot down.

## 2:15 p.m. - Logger's Run

Finish off your time in the water park side of Michigan's Adventure with this ride, where you are shot through a chute in a hollowed log and the ride ends with a splash.

Head over to the other side of the park, where there are many rides for thrill seekers to choose from. When you're there, stop for lunch at one of the park's many vendors.

## 3 p.m. - Flying Trapeze

Start off slow and swing on free-hanging swings from an elevated, turning, slanted tower.

## 3:30 p.m. - Mad Mouse

Here, participants sit in a colorful mouse and race in all directions.

## 4 p.m. - RipCord

On this ride you'll be put in a harness with two other people and lifted 183 feet, then released and swung in all directions.

## 4:45 p.m. - Shivering Timbers

Be prepared to be sent for a thrill with this ride. This wooden coaster contains over a mile of hills and drops of 125, 105 and 95 feet, with speeds of at least 65 mph.

## 5:15 p.m. - Wolverine Wildcat

Continue with the park's original wooden roller coaster. Riders are dropped from 85 feet into a series of hills.



Photo courtesy of www.miadventure.com

New for 2008 is the Thunderhawk, the state's first suspended roller coaster.

## 6 p.m. - Thunderhawk

Finish off your day with the park's new addition for 2008, which is the first and only suspended roller coaster in Michigan. The coaster begins with a 86-foot drop and goes through five inversions at 50 mph.

For park hours and info visit [www.miadventure.com](http://www.miadventure.com).

# GTA returns to Liberty City; new graphics, same game play

By RORY McCARTY  
Senior Reporter

For many years now, the Grand Theft Auto series has been an ever-flowing spigot of controversy for mainstream media and politicians looking for a quick way to become relevant.

At last, Rockstar, the company that pioneered open-ended "sandbox" game play, has released the long-expected sequel to the M-rated game franchise with "Grand Theft Auto IV" for the Xbox 360 and Playstation 3 consoles. But in all the years GTA has been around, aside from the graphical upgrades, little has changed.

"GTA IV" lets players return to a redesigned Liberty City, the setting of "Grand Theft Auto III," and take on the role of Serbian immigrant Niko Bellic.

Although the numeric title would lead you to believe that this game is the first true sequel the series has seen since "GTA III," it would be impossible to ignore the last console title in the series, "GTA: San Andreas," which was set in three cities spread across an entire

state. "GTA IV" scales back the experience to a single large, yet detailed, city. Given the amount of detail in Liberty City this time around, it's easy to let that slide.

But a huge number of other features from "GTA: San Andreas" have been either removed or drastically scaled back. There are fewer guns to find, less character customizing, no stats to build, no planes or bikes to steal, no parachutes, no assets to buy and you can't binge on cheeseburgers to turn Niko into a chubby, waddling hit man. While none of these things are integral to the experience, their removal does seem like a step backwards.

The main game is polished but mostly unchanged. The car handling is more



Amazon.com

realistic and the guns are much easier to aim. The graphics are good but not great; they do not approach the quality of something like "Gears of War." Little details, like drivers flashing their bright lights at you to get you to turn on your headlights, give the city a level of life it lacked before. But missions frequently fall into the same "drive to X location, kill person X, escape police" pattern that the series has done all along.

It is also disappointing to see that problems, which have long plagued the series, have not been addressed. The camera is as twitchy as ever, especially inside buildings. Objects still suddenly pop into existence as you approach them. Most annoyingly, despite the painstakingly

designed city the characters inhabit, 99 percent of your interactions with people involve throwing them out of cars or killing them.

The online mode is one thing that truly sets this game apart from its predecessors. For the first time in GTA, you can raise havoc in Liberty City with a maximum of 15 of your online friends. Aimlessly running around and killing each other will get old eventually, so it's good that Rockstar included multi player modes like "cops versus crooks" and city-wide gang wars.

On the controversy front, the game cannot offer anything of the magnitude that the "GTA: San Andreas" Hot Coffee scandal provided. However, a new drunk driving mini game will certainly get the attention of MADD members and Joseph Liebermans alike.

If you've played any previous GTA games, you already know what to expect here. If you're a hardcore series fan or you've somehow avoided being exposed to GTA, you'll want to pick this up. But everyone else, move along, there's nothing new to see here.



# MOUTHING OFF

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

22

www.oaklandpostonline.com

May 14, 2008

## Nothing fine about traffic fines

By ALEX CHERUP  
Mouthing Off Editor

"Officer, I am graduating college soon." I thought it would get me out of a ticket, considering my very modest cleavage.

On April 23, 2008, I was given a traffic violation ticket.

It wasn't serious enough for the serious news to cover.

Interestingly, if the ticket had been given to Lindsay Lohan or Paris Hilton, it would have been the news obsession of the week.

Apparently, Mouthing Off Editor, two semesters running doesn't make an individual important enough to have one's driving habits newsworthy.

It also shows an egotistical desire of mine — to be so famous that someone would care about a cop pulling me over or to be so famous that a magazine would want to photograph the cellulite on my legs, and people would want to guess who the aforementioned cellulite belonged to.

Nonetheless, I was given a ticket. The court date is in a month and I am already composing a argumentative treatise detailing the concerns and worries a mind with a bachelor's degree in philosophy has regarding the legal system.

I'll give you a summary — cops are pigs.

But, of course, there is much more. I will also offer a personalized complaint about the complete structure of the entire legal system.

Bluntly, the traffic violation system is biased against the poor college student.

As a philosophy graduate, I pay to study with the experts in the world in the subject of morality, make a traffic error and get dealt a \$100-plus traffic ticket, which, in turn, destroys my world.

Let me put this into perspective

— I would have to Mouth Off at least five times as much a month to pay off this hefty fine. Even to the experienced Mouthing Off-er, this is a lot of Mouthing Off.

A billionaire rich man, however, who commits the same traffic sin, can merely throw this "change" at the cop and continue speeding on down the road past the stop sign and into the construction worker.

To the billionaire, it is just a "speeding toll," a "stop-sign toll" and a "injure-a-construction-worker toll."

There are already signs that put a price tag on the construction worker's life.

I wonder if there is a discount if you hit them in bulk.

Needless to say, to the rich, the fines are more like a toll — a sort of perverted free market system where anything goes if the dough is put out.

I have even heard that during the holiday season some park in handicap spaces for the proximity when parking at "Oakland University is bad" and pay the fine, as if it is a "parking charge."

If you have enough money, you can be above the law.

You can even shoot someone in the face (read: Cheney).

With enough money, the punishment turns into merely a price.

As a college student, however, I do not have this luxury.

The punishment is not equivalent — my life is altered while Halliburton's CEO is parked closest to the door.

I can't afford to speed.

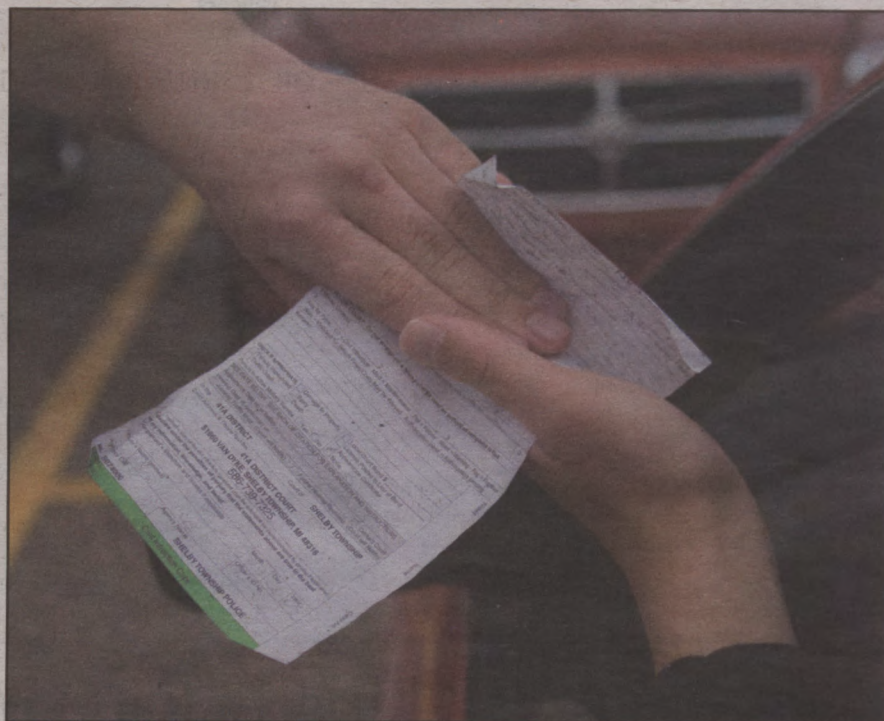
I can't afford to run stop signs.

I can't afford to injure construction workers.

Why can't the punishment be equally inconvenient for all social classes?

The violation is the same; but the reprimand is varied.

Perhaps, rather than a monetary fine,



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

In a world with traffic citations, a poor college student lacks the advantages of a rich CEO.

we could explore other techniques.

For instance, a certain amount of community service — there is no way to buy one's way out of a program of this nature.

Five miles over the limit — rake Mrs. Wilson's leaves.

Jaywalking — walk for a cause.

Shoot someone in the face — become vice president.

At least the punishment will be a bit more consistent.

Of course, the "important rich" will complain that their time is much more valuable than someone who reads Plato and edits the crap you are reading. This procedure would discriminate against

these individuals, the rich peanut gallery yells.

Naturally, this is already discriminating against me or any other non-wealthy position.

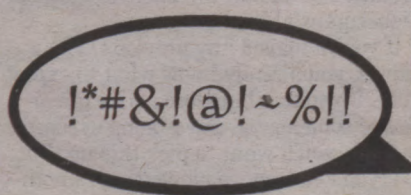
Essentially, a world with no dishwashers is a world with dirty dishes.

A world without rich CEOs is a world without blatant economic inequality within the same corporation — and a world of clean dishes.

So, there you have it.

The gist of what I plan to tell the Troy City judge.

Either that, or "I'm sorry, thought it was a yellow light."



## GOT A BIG MOUTH? SOUND OFF IN THE OAKLAND POST.

SUBMIT YOUR COLUMN FOR "MOUTHING OFF" TO  
THEOAKLANDPOST@GMAIL.COM.



# Mama, you've been on my mind

By TIM RATH  
Sports Editor

Whenever I have the urge to complain about the conspiracy that the big man upstairs is obviously plotting, I try to remember those whom have it worse off.

Doomed children in third world countries are infrequently brought up. I say a little prayer for forgotten veterans of foreign wars.

Rejected "Flavor of Love" contestants are a popular bet, but mothers typically are not.

Regardless of where we live, we all come from a woman that carries us in her belly for nine months, cleans up our puke and worries about us even if we're just reading the paper.

Doesn't seem like a fair reward for someone so righteous.

My mom is great.

As I grew up, she knew when to lay down the law and when to let me discover consequences on my own.

She worked endlessly to instill me with her values and wasn't upset when I rejected some of them.

Somehow, she found enough time to cook, clean, work and teach.

Somehow, the only thing I ever taught her was how much one diaper could really hold.

She taught me about Motown, The Beatles and Memphis.

She taught me how to swim, how to dance and how to shoot a jump shot.

She taught me how to fry an egg, how

ricular activities in my youth, defending my honor against the school bully's parents or explaining why aliens weren't going to snatch me up in my sleep in my hormone-ravaged adolescence.

True indeed, I was a pretty weird kid, but never weird enough to freak her out. My mom is ridiculously accepting like

then I couldn't brag about his automatic jump shot."

If you're like me, you don't live with your mom any more.

If you're a lot like me, you're also as broke as a joke.

And if we're really, truly one and the same, you've spent a lot of time longingly browsing [www.tiffany.com](http://www.tiffany.com) for the first time in your life, wishing that you could afford to FedEx your mom the diamond necklace that she deserves.

Hopefully this column from her slacker son who should've gone into law school (so says dad) will be a suitable thank-you even if it's being published four days after Mother's Day.

If you're like me, you've been weighed down with problems nearly tough enough to have forgotten Sunday, the 11th.

Hopefully, this column will remind you to consider those that have it worse off.

And don't forget the other mothers!

Everyone from grandmas and Mother Earth, to Mother Goose and "Yo Mama" jokes deserve extra love. So get to it, no matter how late you are.

"Hopefully this column from her slacker son that should've gone into law school ... will be a suitable thank-you even if it's being published four days after Mother's Day."

to play the clarinet and she did it without the benefit of a single college class.

As a testament to my respect for her teaching methods, I have spent four years and thousands of dollars at college and still can only retain these simple skills.

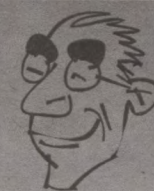
Life as a single mother is tough, but I've never heard my mom cry about it. She was always too busy to. Whether it was driving me to countless extracur-

ricular activities in my youth, defending my honor against the school bully's parents or explaining why aliens weren't going to snatch me up in my sleep in my hormone-ravaged adolescence.

I'm sure that there are times that she flips through the Post and wonders why her son couldn't have been Mouthing Off editor Alex Cherup instead, but just like me, she sees the brighter side: "Because



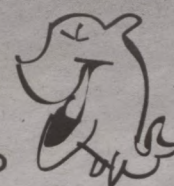
## Like Mouthing Off?



Are you a lifetime subscriber to MAD magazine? Do you have something to say?

Do others politely ask you to calm down or to be quiet?

Have you ever consumed more than 9 cups of coffee in 1 day?



Are you still out of work because of the writers strike?

Is the world really run by reptiles? Have any super powers?

## ...Got what it takes?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, we're looking for you!

The Post is currently seeking a new Mouthing Off Editor and if you've got what it takes:

Contact us at: [oakposteditor@gmail.com](mailto:oakposteditor@gmail.com)



## Earthquake toll climbs in China

By AUDRA ANG  
Associated Press Writer

MIANYANG, China — Soldiers hiking over landslide-blocked roads reached the epicenter of China's devastating earthquake Tuesday, pulling bodies and a few survivors from collapsed buildings. The death toll of more than 12,000 is certain to rise as the buried are found.

Rescuers worked through a steady rain as they searched wrecked towns across hilly stretches of Sichuan province that were stricken by Monday's magnitude-7.9 quake, China's deadliest in three decades. Tens of thousands of homeless spent a second night outdoors, some sleeping under plastic sheeting, others bused to a stadium in the city of Mianyang, on the edge of the disaster area.

Street lamps were switched on in

Mianyang on Tuesday night, but all the buildings were dark and deserted after the government ordered people out of them for fear of aftershocks. Security guards were posted at apartment blocks to keep people out.

The industrial city of 700,000 people — home to the headquarters of China's nuclear weapons design industry — was turned into a thronging refugee camp, with residents sleeping outdoors.

"I'm cold. I don't dare to sleep, and I'm worried a building is going to fall down on me," said Tang Ling, a 20-year-old waitress wrapped in a borrowed pink down jacket and camped outside the Juyuan restaurant with three co-workers. "What's happened is so cruel. In one minute to have so many people die is too tragic."

As night fell, a first wave of 200 troops entered the town of Wenchuan, near

the epicenter, trudging across ruptured roads and mudslides, state television said. Initial reports from soldiers said one nearby town could account for only 2,300 survivors out of 9,000 people, China Central Television said.

At least 12,012 deaths occurred in Sichuan alone while another 323 died in five other provinces and the metropolis of Chongqing, state media reported. That toll seemed likely to jump sharply as rescue teams reached hard-hit towns.

Buses carried survivors away from Beichuan, which was flattened — a few buildings standing amid piles of rubble in a narrow valley, according to CCTV video.

In the provincial capital of Chengdu, FM-91.4 all-traffic radio station operated around the clock, reading text messages sent by survivors of stricken areas to let relatives know they are alive.



PIER PAOLO CITO/The Associated Press  
Former New England Patriots football video assistant Matt Walsh shakes hands with Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., after a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington May 13.

## Walsh provides more information in 'spygate' probe

By RACHEL COHEN  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A murmur rippled across the room as the NFL revealed the tapes provided by former Patriots video assistant Matt Walsh.

The cause was not some new revelation of wrongdoing by New England, which was caught last September recording opposing coaches' signals in violation of league rules.

No, the most scandalous tidbit that emerged Tuesday after Walsh spent more than six hours meeting separately with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and Sen. Arlen Specter? A snippet of tape that showed not football but close-ups of San Diego Chargers cheerleaders performing during a 2002 game.

Otherwise, little fresh information surfaced. Asked if he considered the Spygate investigation closed, Goodell said, "As I stand before you today, and having met with Matt Walsh and more than 50 other people, I don't know where else I would turn."

No new fireworks came from Specter, the senior Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, who has criticized the league's handling of the case. When his afternoon meeting with Walsh in Washington ran long, he postponed his news conference until Wednesday.

Walsh did not comment after his morning meeting with Goodell and left through a different exit to avoid the media gathered outside his session with Specter.

"For the past three-and-a-half months, we have been defending ourselves against assumptions made based on an unsubstantiated report rather than on facts or evidence," the Patriots said in a statement.

## NIW BRIEFS

**5-09** | Eastern Sri Lanka holds its first major democratic election despite rebel attacks that killed 11 people.

**5-10** | Barack Obama takes the lead in superdelegate endorsements for the first time in the Democratic primaries. | U.S. inspector leaves North Korea with documents on North Korea's nuclear reactor program after months of the government's refusal to disclose information on its nuclear programs..

**5-11** | President Bush attends his daughter Jenna's wedding in Waco, Texas.

**5-12** | The military government of Myanmar allows relief supplies sent to aid the victims of Cyclone Nargis to reach those in need, after a week of blocking shipments. | NBC appoints Jimmy Fallon to replace Conan O'Brien on Late Night.

**5-13** | Dead Sea Scrolls of the Book of Isaiah is put on display in a museum in Jerusalem. It is the only complete biblical book among the Dead Sea Scrolls.

## Florida wild fires rage



The Associated Press

Firefighters battle a fire at the Babcock road in Palm Bay, FL, Tuesday, May 13, 2008. Investigators searched for one or more arsonists believed to have started nine wildfires that have destroyed or damaged about 100 homes on Florida's Atlantic coast, and crews continued to battle the blazes.

## Police report 60 killed by bombs in western India

By MATTHEW ROSENBERG  
AP Sports Writer

NEW DELHI — A series of bombs exploded across the ancient city of Jaipur on Tuesday, killing at least 60 people and transforming busy markets, a jewelry bazaar and a Hindu temple into scenes of carnage.

All seven blasts were within the old walls of the western city known for its pink-hued palaces, and suspicion quickly fell on Islamic militant groups blamed for a string of attacks in India in recent years. Police said an eighth bomb was

found and defused by police.

"Obviously, it's a terrorist" attack, said A.S. Gill, the police chief of Rajasthan, the state where Jaipur is located. "The way it has been done, the attempt was to cause the maximum damage to human life."

The explosions began around 7:30 p.m. One went off at a market near a temple dedicated to the Hindu monkey god Hanuman. Tuesday is the day of worship set aside for Hanuman, and the temple was crowded with people offering prayers on the way home from work.

Another bomb detonated near the Johari Bazaar, the city's jewelry market

that is a popular destination for tourists. The tourist season ended in March, however, and there were no immediate indication that foreigners had been caught in any of the explosions.

Parikshit Bhandari, who saw the attack near the jewelry market, said there was "blood all around and wounded people crawling on the ground."

Jaiswal refused to say if he was talking about Pakistan. But he suggested the bombings were connected to previous attacks on India, saying that "the blasts are part of a big conspiracy."