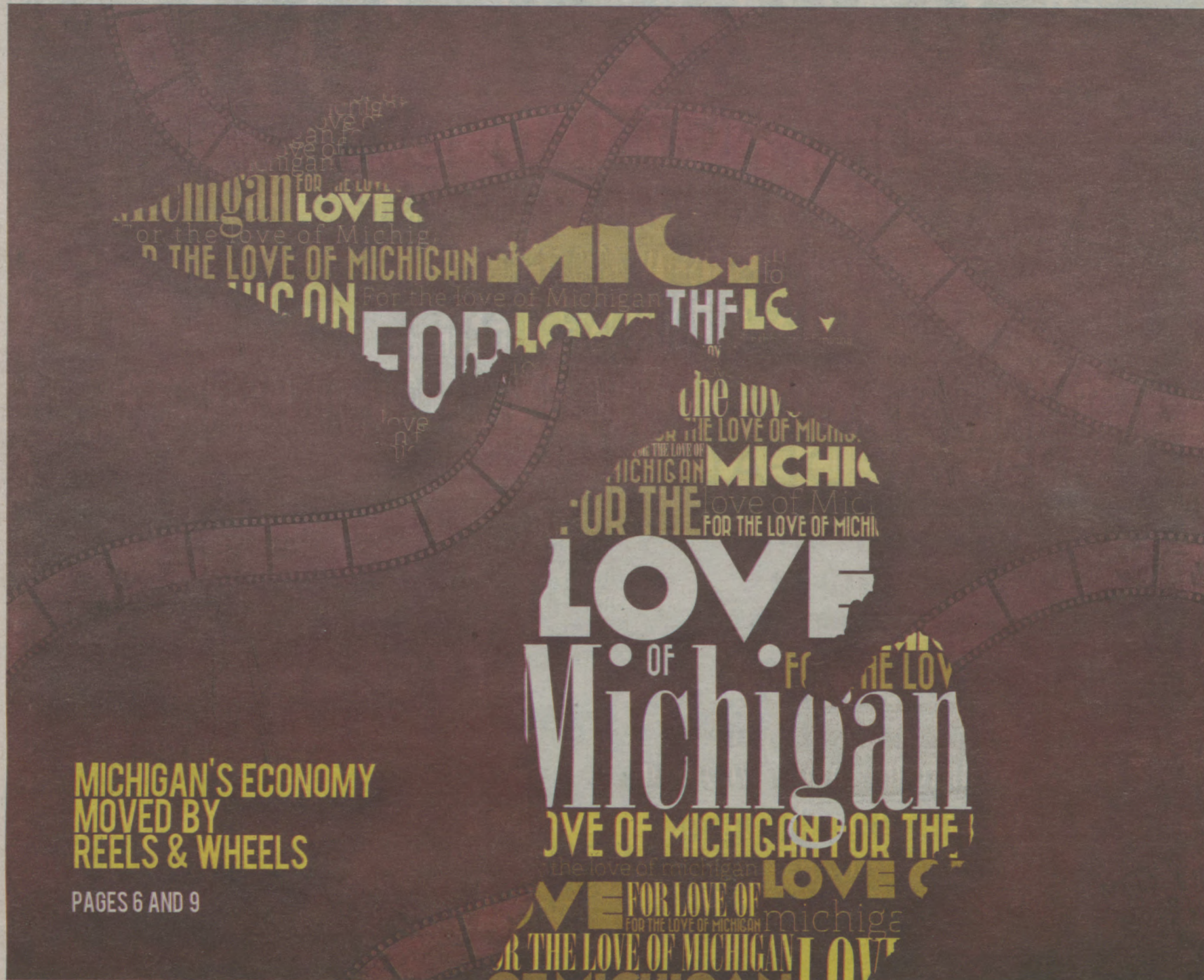


# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

July 14, 2010

Volume 37, Number 3



**MICHIGAN'S ECONOMY  
MOVED BY  
REELS & WHEELS**

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to save it.

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## SPORTS

Soccer breathes  
new life into  
Pontiac Silverdome.

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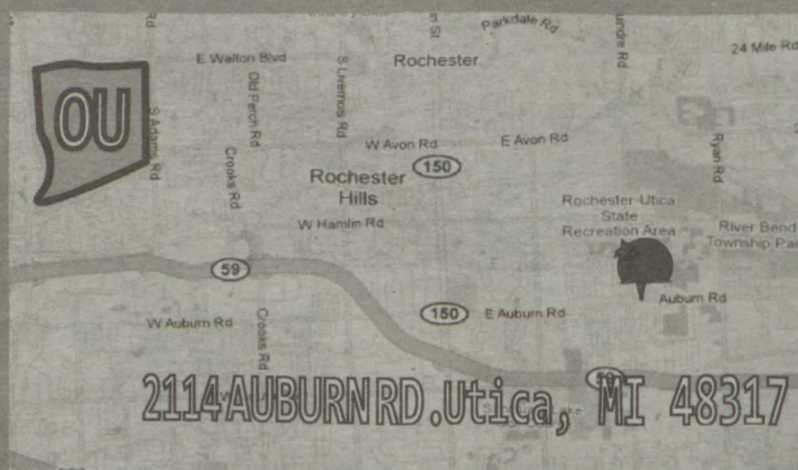
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# Perspectives

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July 14, 2010

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Internships should be free — literally

Unpaid internships are pretty explicit about what they are.

In exchange for no pay, workers will complete tasks that, hopefully, will be beneficial to enhancing their future careers.

In addition to not getting paid, applicants have to compete with other eager college students for the opportunity. People go through all of this trouble just to improve their chances for employment.

Often, no room and board provided, so essentially what happens is that many students end up paying to work for free.

This creates an unlevel playing field in times of financial hardship. One that becomes especially apparent during an economic downturn, where many cannot afford to work for no pay, let alone pay for that experience.

Those who are unable to complete an internship may not be as appealing to employers as those who do.

As a university, that would like to make its graduates as marketable as possible, it's perhaps time for OU to step in and help.

Waive the fee for credits that are required for most unpaid internships so that students can have as much field experience as possible.

According to OU Career Services, "most companies now expect students to have at least one internship experience, preferably two."

Internship coordinators argue that because unpaid internships provide a hands-on skill set not found in a classroom, they are giving away free education.

It becomes far from free when you figure in the amount of money spent on getting to the internship site, not to mention the possible loss of income by those who could be working at paying jobs.

Some internship seekers insist that there is absolutely no place for unpaid internships and that labor laws set in place things like minimum wage and maximum workable hours.

Ironically enough, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics does not have any statistics regarding this type of labor.

The New York Times spoke to people who were asked to complete assignments like cleaning and other tedious tasks that had no relevance to their career path. They felt that it was both a waste of time and resources.

The Times business report explored the ethics of those practices and the legality of them.

States such as Oregon and California have taken steps toward advocating for change and the federal Labor Department is pushing more regulation, The Times reported.

Despite steps in a positive direction when it comes to legality, does that still

make unpaid internships elitist? Certainly.

Maybe you think that people who choose to do this are stupid to do so much for what seems like so little return. Often times, though, it is not a choice.

Unpaid internship sites may offer college credit in exchange for work as an even agreement. However, those credits must be paid for.

For instance, many Oakland University degree programs require an internship be completed as either part of its degree requirements or as a program's single capstone experience.

Programs that require this hands-on experience — or at least practically do — include journalism, elementary and secondary education, environmental science, human resource development and occupational safety and health.

Though there are paying internships out there, most will require previous internship experience.

Those experiences are non-paying and many sites will only give them to those in the position of being able to earn college credits.

So in order to have a competitive resume filled with internships, college students are probably likely to pay money somewhere down the line for it.

While it's the reality of the current job situation, OU should not burden students with additional costs.

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## THE MATCHING SOCKS John O'Neill



## CORRECTIONS CORNER

- In June 16's Campus piece "OUCS starts new campus events, programs," we reported that Brent McIsaac is an OUCS legislator. His actual name and title are Brett McIsaac, student services director.

- The person in the photo that ran with "Soccer player adjusting to life at OU" is incorrectly identified as Vuk Popovic.

- The June 16 cover was not credited. It was designed by Carla Butin and Jason Willis. Photography was done by Brett Socia.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you  
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# It's easy to point fingers at the news media

## *But maybe those fingers should point back on ourselves*

ON SECOND THOUGHT... BY DAUD YAR



Newsflash: Snooki said she voted for McCain — like we were on the edge of our seats — because he was cute.

And who did she tell this information to? Megan McCain, his daughter.

Whoa! Stop the presses. We have a headline for the morning edition: "Snooki confirms McCain is cute."

It is stories like this that give American journalism a bad image, and it is the reaction above that makes reporters weep from the absence of editors' competence.

Lots of stories in the media — liberal, mainstream, yellow, conservative or otherwise — for the past week have exploited subject matter of the ridiculous and weird.

As a matter of principle, a story about Lindsey Lohan's courtroom adventures should be glossed over like a gulf oil spill.

Is it still leaking? Has BP finally paid off enough people to be left alone?

These questions and more will never be answered. But at least one underwater creature has decided to get off its ass and do something.

That's right. Paul the Octopus knows not of the great oil leak of 2010, instead choosing to spend his days predicting the outcomes of World Cup soccer matches.

The creature of the Deep has correctly foreseen all the outcomes of Germany's matches.

So is Paul a prophet? Is it a hoax? Either way, the story has generated a massive following from FIFA fans all around the world.

While I would normally disregard this story like a cheap cologne, anything to keep my focus off Lindsey Lohan is a godsend.

Even ESPN has gone sour.

King LeBron has dominated the SportsCenter airwaves for the past month. James does carry a whole industry anywhere he goes, but isn't there Major League Baseball's Home Run Derby and All-Star Game to worry about?

Fortunately, the media is bound to come back with a punch. What makes me say that? Congress has just come back from their Fourth of July recess.

While the very essence of politics demands a great amount of patience and tolerance for backstabbing procedural rigamarole, the news stories actually matter.

And on the docket: Unemployment. Now that is something everyone can care about.

One may always look to politics for things that matter and, at the same time, carry an obnoxious drama that no writer dares to duplicate.

It is a wonder the media does not focus more energy into this side of society.

### On second thought ...

It may not be the media's fault entirely. After all, they are simply giving us what we want; mindless garbage that helps us escape from our lives.

Reality shows flourish. E! News stays in business and TMZ walks over the rights of any celebrity. We don't care so long as we get to go along for the ride.

None of this would be possible without an audience who constantly craves more.

So for those that curse the media for covering stories about fashion, celebrities or TV stars, brace yourself. There will be plenty more where that came from.

As long as a crowd is interested in the product and there is a means to produce it, expect the more ludicrous and crazy ideas to surface, drowning out the oil-covered surface that's actually worth delving into.

This is just the beginning.

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## Concours returns to MBH

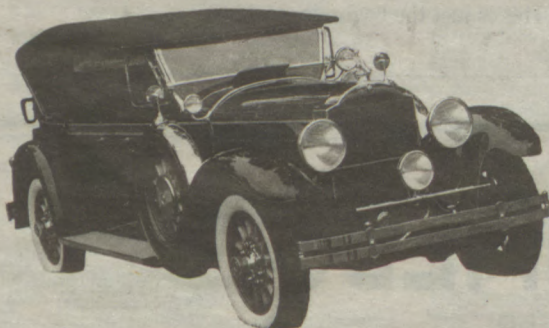
*32nd annual exhibition hopes to breathe new life into Detroit*

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK  
Staff Reporter

On July 25, 2010, the 32nd annual Concours d'Elegance of America automotive exhibition is returning to Meadow Brook Hall.

Although Concours d'Elegance is considered to be one of the world's most prestigious classic automobile and motorcycle exhibitions, the committee running Concours wants success not only for the exhibition, but success and awareness to the Michigan area as well.

"The Detroit automotive industry isn't dead. The great designers are still here. The companies are still here," Chairman of Car Selection Larry Moss said. "More importantly, the people that made the car indus-



KEVIN ROMANCHIK/The Oakland Post  
The exhibit will feature over 200 cars, many of them Detroit-made.

try great are still here."

Over 200 vehicles are being showcased, ranging from the 1915 Mercer Raceabout to the fastest production car to date, the Bugatti Veyron, with 1,001 horsepower and an estimated cost of \$1.3 million.

One particular interest is the Motorama concept car, the 1955 Chevrolet Biscayne, which has only been displayed in its unrestored condition. Collector Joe Bortz, known for his private collection of "dream cars," rescued the Biscayne from the Warhoops salvage yard in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

This year's exhibition will be making automotive history with the unveiling of the fully restored Biscayne here in Michigan at Oakland University.

Along with the Biscayne, four other concept cars from the 1950's Motorama event and Bortz' private collection will be on display.

While most of the people on the board may drive some of the most exotic and vintage rides, they surprisingly maintain approachable personalities and volunteer their time and energy for their passion.

"We are a blue-collar state. We're workers. The guys on the Meadowbrook committee, including myself, are just a bunch of car guys," Moss said, "We don't get paid for this. We just want to put on a great car show and make people happy."

Not only an established car exhibition, the Concours d'Elegance serves as the single largest fundraiser to support the preservation of "America's Castle," Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall. The Concours has raised over \$6 million towards the former residence of Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John



KEVIN ROMANCHIK/The Oakland Post  
Various vintage cars will be available for viewing and purchase.

Dodge.

Highlights of the Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance include Motorama, drag, speedsters, space-age sport coupes, super cars, celebrity owner, vintage and European cars.

"We want to pass around to world, that the fact that Michigan is still the automobile capital of the world," Moss said.

The 32nd Annual Concours d'Elegance of America will open to the public on July 23rd 2010 from 10 am to 4 pm on the grounds of Meadow Brook Hall.

Admission requires tickets, which can be purchased in advance online or at the gate on the day of the event for \$25. Children ages 12 and under can enter for free. VIP tickets are also available for \$125.

## Fialka-Feldman team to be reimbursed

By SHAWN MINNIX  
Copy Editor

The Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service was awarded \$101,676 in legal fees from Oakland University for their representation of former student Micah Fialka-Feldman in his lawsuit. Fialka-Feldman won his suit in the Eastern District Court last December.

However, the battle is far from over as the administration at OU has appealed the verdict to the U.S Court Of Appeals for the Sixth District in Cincinnati.

"I'm not sure why they are trying to keep it going," Fialka-Feldman said. "It's already done; I'm not sure why they are wasting so much tax money."

Representatives from Oakland University declined to comment because it is still pending litigation. It is unknown whether any tax or tuition dollars are actually being used to fund the litigation process.

In the first verdict, it was stated that OU had failed to provide reasonable accommodation to Fialka-Feldman under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. He moved into East Vandenberg Hall in early January, more than a year after the lawsuit was filed, ending his days of taking buses for two hours each way to get to the campus from his Huntington Woods home.

Fialka-Feldman was enrolled in OU's OPTIONS program, a non degree con-

tinuing educational program designed for individuals who have intellectual disabilities that cannot be admitted through the regular admissions process. He has since moved out of the OU dormitories and received his certificate of completion for the program.

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service attorney Chris Davis, who represented Fialka-Feldman, said that an appeal was expected from the university, but is happy with the overall outcome.

"I am obviously pleased with the court's decision," Davis said. "I think it sends a message that when an institution violates a person's civil rights, there is a significant cost for doing so."

While there is no date set for the

appeals hearing in Cincinnati as of yet, Davis estimates that it will likely be between January and March of 2011. He hopes that this will capture more attention and make new possibilities for students like Fialka-Feldman all across the country.

"Perhaps this outcome will raise awareness on this issue and increase opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of campus life at colleges and universities," Davis said.

Fialka-Feldman hopes to see OPTIONS continue next year.

"I just hope the program can keep on going next fall," Fialka-Feldman said. "I hope the school does not close it."



# POLICE FILES

## Larceny

On June 28 it was reported that a business partner from an on-campus office of a local company has been accused of embezzling money. From the months of July 2009 to March 2010, the suspect used company checks totaling more than \$80,000 to pay for vacations and other expenses. The company's locks have been changed and access to company accounts have been limited to specific members.

## Suspicious Circumstances

On June 30, officers were dispatched to what was reported to be a chemical spill near the Central Heating Plant. The chemical, found to be sodium nitrite, had spilled from a 50-gallon drum being rolled into the building at the time. The Auburn Hills Fire Department responded. The worker who was rolling the drum into the building was splashed by the sodium nitrite but was unharmed after rinsing the chemical from his clothing. He did not need medical attention.

## Breaking and Entering

On July 1, it was reported that within the last two months someone has kicked in a window at the Magnetic Lab building to steal three coils of copper wire. The wire is valued between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and belongs to the Physics department. Currently there are no suspects.

## Reckless Driving

On July 11, two individuals reported that on the evening prior, July 10, the two had been biking on Meadowbrook Drive when a vehicle approached a stop sign nearby. Since the bikers were also at the stop sign they continued to cross the street, but the vehicle began moving, forcing the bikers to stop. There was verbal interaction and a reported threat by the driver. There was no physical altercation and the driver denies threatening the bikers with physical harm.

— Compiled by staff intern Jen Bucciarelli from OUPD's media logs

## Student voices join BOT

By NICHOLE SEGUIN  
Senior Reporter

Students can look forward to two new voices making the concerns of the student body heard by Oakland's board of trustees.

Senior Marta Bauer and junior Emily Tissot have been elected as the student liaisons to the BOT for the 2010-12 term, which started in early July.

"I am really excited about the opportunity," Bauer said. "It did not really hit me until the first board meeting I went to, but I cannot wait to be involved in helping continue OU's growth."

The BOT, a group of eight members who are selected by the Governor, and appointed to serve for an eight-year term, works together to govern and supervise the university and its control and direction of the institution's funds. They also appoint the university president, secretary to the board and the treasurer.

Selected from applications and nominations, and picked by a special screening committee advised by the Vice President of Student Affairs, Mary Beth Snyder, Tissot and Bauer are OU students who work with the BOT, providing a voice for the entire student body.

"The liaisons present much needed student viewpoints on pertinent issues," Snyder said. "They frequently ask questions from the student perspective that ultimately help board members share their final decisions."

Created by the board of trustees in 1994 and amended in 1998, the student liaisons are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of the Board and serve for a two-year appointment beginning in July of each year. Liaisons also provide a cross-section of student views and opinions, make periodic reports regarding Board activities to student groups, and participate in an orientation program.

"The liaisons are the student advocates on the BOT, so what I try and accomplish really depends on where the interests of the students lie," Bauer said.

Bauer says she plans on making ground on the issue of a new residence hall, which she says is a major area of interest for many Oakland students. As a resident herself, she admits to a lot of "finger crossing" when room sign-up is involved.

"Students I have talked to agree that the halls are too crowded and they would love a new residence hall to ease the congestion," she said. "New housing on campus is definitely important to a lot of students, and I would love to see plans be approved during my tenure as student liaison."

In order to qualify for the liaison position, students must maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA and have a minimum of 56 credits, 28 of which must be from OU. In addition, students are expected to be willing to give up their elected or appointed leadership positions during the student liaison appointment period, have a record of service to the community, and have no record of disciplinary action at OU or any other university.

"The experience is invaluable to students because of the exposure they get to the broader picture of all the opportunities, problems, decisions and constituents of a complex organization like a university, which gives them a leg up in a future job," Snyder said.

Bauer, an English major with a minor in French literature, plans on getting her master's degree in student affairs and intends on working in higher education.

"The position definitely applies to a career in student affairs," Bauer said. "What better way to prepare to work in a college than to see how colleges run? Along with better understanding, the position gives me the chance to network with people who are already established in a university environment and who can mentor me as I prepare for a career in higher education."

Tissot, an anthropology and Spanish literature major, was named the OU 2010 Student Organization President of the Year for the Spanish club. According to Bauer, she is currently doing an archeological dig in Israel and will be spending five to six weeks in the Dominican Republic.

## OUSC begins outdoor plans

By JAKE THIELEN  
Staff Reporter

Don't be surprised if the area north of Kresge Library looks a little different this fall.

Oakland University's student congress is planning an outdoor initiative for the area, which will include a new 2,300 square foot sidewalk and plaza, complete with picnic tables, benches and hammocks.

The outdoor initiative also calls for an information kiosk near the new plaza and additional hammocks near Bear Lake.

Student body president Brandon Gustafson said that OUSC, a directly-funded student organization, has pledged over \$10,300 of its summer budget to help fund the outdoor initiative program.

Gustafson said that additional funding will come from OU's president, Gary Russi, and vice president for student affairs, Mary Beth Snyder.

Ted Montgomery, director of media relations, said that President Russi has agreed to fund \$13,000 for the sidewalk, plus \$2,871 in contingency. Montgomery said that Dr. Snyder agreed to fund \$1,800 for picnic tables and \$925 for hammocks. OUSC will fund the kiosk and additional hammocks. The unfunded items are the plaza work and benches.

Gustafson plans to meet with university officials later this week to finalize the details of the funding.

The entire project is expected to cost \$43,011.

Gustafson said that despite the project's cost, it's worthwhile because the sidewalk and plaza will be around for a long time.

"It's a big project that costs quite a bit of money, but it's a permanent project," Gustafson said.

Gustafson said that he helped plan the project with the university's grounds department, and that he hopes to have the project completed by the fall.



# Folk dance arrives at OU

By JEN BUCCIARELLI  
Staff Intern

To an onlooker, soft folk music and a handful of smiling dancers can make for an inviting atmosphere, one that welcomes you into the room.

What visitors may not realize is that dance at the International Dance Class, normally held in room 126 of the Oakland Center on Thursday evenings, "is not a spectator sport," Anne Zeilstra said.

Zeilstra is a helping hand for the organization recently founded by Amy Koza, an OU undergraduate student.

The group introduces dance from countries in the Balkans region, including Serbia, Romania and Greece, the Middle East, including Israel and Lebanon and more.

"You can put as much or as little energy into it as you want to," Zeilstra said. Some members choose to go through the motions if they are having an off day, while others add the extra energy to obtain a workout to push oneself to sweat.

The class, sponsored by the International Dance Club, previously known as the OU Folk Dance Club, is free and open to all OU students and staff.

On any given Thursday, Koza said the group will run through roughly six or seven routines that includes a slow walk through of the dance steps and breaking it down into a very basic form for newcomers.

From there, the group will typically practice the dance twice, and then move on to another dance.

The class strives to be as much a social outing, as it is an exercise class and is open to dancers of any level, according to Koza.

Many of the dances practiced required participants to hold hands or even pinky fingers, resulting in a unique way for students to interact.

The group is diverse, Zeilstra said. By having a diverse group of participants, it is helpful because different members bring a variety of traditions to the class. There can be several styles to any given dance, he said, describing it as "grandpa did it this way while Uncle Albert did it this way."

Koza said the group has had anywhere from zero to 11 visitors participate and hopes to have more students get involved once fall semester begins.

Gregory Patterson, the dance program director at OU, said the class would be great for anyone interested in learning about other cultures through movement.

The group plans to host several guest teachers throughout the year as well.

The group will meet in September to discuss funding; Zeilstra hopes to receive funding to include more teachers for the class. Koza also plans to connect with OU's current Lebanese Club on campus as a way to expand awareness of the class.

"But we don't need all that much (money)," he said. There are no necessities involved, such as uniforms, rather just 'drop in and dance.'

For more information, contact Amy Koza at amkoza2@oakland.edu.

# New textbook law works to help students save money

By JAKE THIELEN  
Staff Reporter

With tuition rates expected to rise again, students looking to save some money may receive some help from a new federal law regarding textbooks.

The new law requires universities to provide detailed textbook information to students, allowing them to use that information to search for less expensive textbooks.

Congress passed the Higher Education Opportunity Act in 2008 and it went into effect on July 1, 2010. The law requires bookstores affiliated with universities to disclose the ISBN, or the author, title, publisher, copyright date and the retail price.

Having the ISBN will allow students to check other online retailers in order to get the best price possible.

The law also encourages schools to share information regarding textbook rentals, used textbooks and buy-back programs that will help students save money.

Debbie Ogg, manager of the OU bookstore, said that her store was already compliant with the new law before July 1.

"The only change we've had to do is put the ISBN on the Website," Ogg said. "All of the information was already on there – the author, the title, the edition, the prices and whether it was available in a package separately used or new."

Ogg said that the bookstore has added a textbook rental program for selected books that will be available to students in the fall.

"If you go onto our Website and look up your classes, your book will display whether it's rented, new, used; ISBN, edition, author – any piece of information that you need about your book and class is up for viewing on our Website," Ogg said.

The law does not apply to bookstores that are not directly affiliated with the university, such as the Textbook Outlet. However, the Textbook Outlet's website already lists each book's ISBN, author, price and copyright date.

The law also requires that publishers provide textbook information to faculty before fall registration begins, usually in January or February. With such a long gap in between the time the bookstore receives the information and the start of the semester, Ogg said that there could be some problems with faculty or book changes. However, she said that the bookstore is prepared to deal with any problems that arise.

"If the book does change or the professor changes, we change it in our system and within two days, it's changed on the Website," Ogg said.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Role play therapy course offered through OU

Oakland University is offering a course on the usage of role play in therapy this summer. Participants enrolled in the workshop will study the therapeutic relationship, the role of the parent, strategies for common playroom issues and the symbolic meaning of play in a variety of therapy settings. They will also study bibliotherapy, or the process of using books with children in therapy.

The course meets Thursdays and Fridays from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Management Education Center in Troy. Dates for "Introduction to Role Play Therapy" are July 29 – 31 and Aug. 5 – 7.

Counseling professionals can register for the course until July 23. Cost is \$395 if the participant enrolls as part of non-credit continuing education. Participants can also enroll for graduate credit. For information, visit [www.oakland.edu/playtherapy](http://www.oakland.edu/playtherapy), call 248-370-3033 or e-mail [pdfirst@oakland.edu](mailto:pdfirst@oakland.edu).

### Chief Lucido recognized for achievements

Chief Samuel Lucido of the Oakland University Police Department was honored as the 2010 Outstanding Administrative Professional of the Year at a ceremony in June.

Lucido's honor largely came as a result of his efforts to modernize the department, as well as his ability to oversee large-scale operations.

He has implemented more than a dozen public safety education programs and grants since he joined OUPD in 2002, as well as improvements to the university's emergency response plan. This year, he also oversaw a full-scale emergency training scenario that utilized OU police officers as well as personnel from local, state and federal agencies.

### OU CARES seeks volunteers for film camp

Volunteers are needed for the OUCARES summer film camp with Joey Travolta.

The camp is designed for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder ages 10 to 18. Over the course of the camp, the children will create their own film, which will premiere in October on campus.

Volunteers are needed Aug. 16 – 27 on Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help the children with a variety of tasks.

To volunteer, contact Val Yaros at [yaros@oakland.edu](mailto:yaros@oakland.edu) or 248-370-3068.

### Circle drive pin oaks afflicted with oak wilt

During the weekend of July 10 and 11, the pin oaks on the Circle Drive island at the main entrance to campus were removed. Six of the trees had died due to oak wilt disease and the rest were dying of the disease as well. After a variety of treatments were unsuccessful, the University decided to remove the trees.

New trees will be planted in the circle during the fall.



# Lights, camera, Michigan

By NICHOLE SEGUIN and  
JAMIE GASPER  
Senior Reporter and Staff Intern

With the development of movie studios in Michigan, students who have always wanted to participate in the movie industry are now given the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.

In 2008, a production company tax incentive was created for qualified film or digital media pre-production, production and post-production costs spent in Michigan.

This refund equals 40 percent of qualified production expenditures and is not a credit against taxes owed.

There is also an additional two percent credit in Michigan's core communities. Because of this incentive, production companies have begun to increase rapidly all over Michigan.

"It's definitely benefitting the economy at a time it needs it," Kerro Knox III, associate professor of theater, lighting design and theater director, said. "Not only students, but faculty members are able to get work as well. It's nice because so many theaters are closing these days. There are part time instructors that live in Michigan and several of them have gotten nice roles in films."

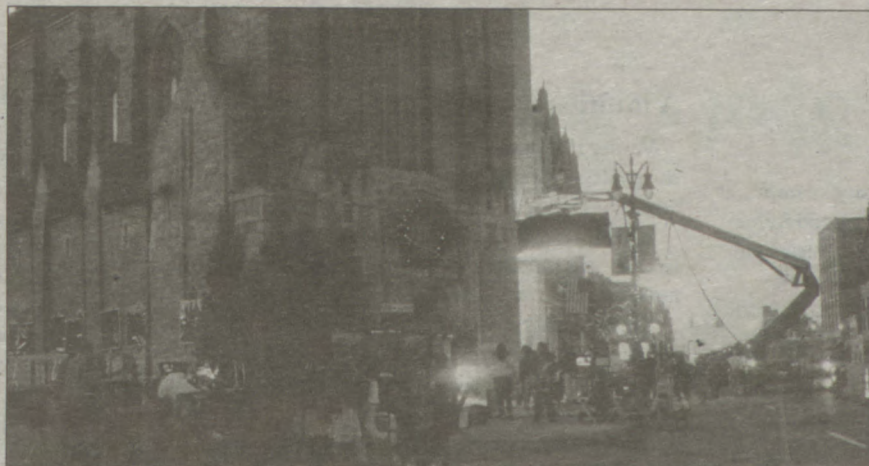
Michigan is home to various production companies that are located all across the state.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for the local talent and the state of Michigan because the incentives aren't just a handout," Karen Sheridan, professor of theater, acting, directing, dialects, movement and acting program coordinator said.

The most notable ones are the Detroit Center Studios, Parliament Studios, Sovereign Creative and RFG Productions, Inc., and these companies are bringing in a lot of aspiring actors from all over the country.

"They bring a lot of people here that would not normally be here. They're filming the fourth installment of the *Scream* series right now, and people are going to Northville to see their favorite people from the movies," Sheridan said.

Michigan actors, filmmakers and producers that have grown up in Michigan and became famous include Michael Moore, Jerry Bruckheimer, Francis Ford Coppola, Jeff Daniels, Tim Allen, Taylor Lautner, Selma Blair, David Spade, Verne Troyer and Robin Williams.



JAMIE GASPER/The Oakland Post  
A scene of "Harold and Kumar 3: Santa's Stash" is filmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit.

"If you're training to be an actor, there's no way to create a medium," Knox said. "If students can get the experience while they're young and involved in the film industry, it's going to be easier to make a living."

There have also been quite a few movies filmed in Michigan, including *Youth in Revolt*, starring Michael Cera, *Gran Torino*, starring Clint Eastwood, parts of the movie *Jumper*, starring Hayden Christensen, *Transformers*, starring Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox, and *8 Mile*, starring rapper Eminem and the late Brittany Murphy.

"I had the opportunity to star in the upcoming movie *Red Dawn*, which is scheduled to release this September," senior Danielle Dewulf said. "I was a cheerleader and friend of the main character (Isabel Lucas). I also worked on a television show called *The Wannabes*. *Red Dawn* was a really awesome experience."

She is scheduled to be an extra in "Real Steel" as well.

For the third consecutive summer since the tax incentive, Hollywood is invading the Metro Detroit area as we speak.

Currently in production are several multi-million dollar pictures that are boosting economic growth for local areas. Films that have been seen shooting in Detroit have been "Harold and Kumar 3" and "Real Steel," while Ann Arbor is the spot for the fourth installment of the "Scream" movies.

"Real Steel," a Dreamworks production starring Hugh Jackman, was spot-

ted filming a scene at the Detroit Fire Department's headquarters - inside the apparatus bay.

The fire house, which is in downtown Detroit, is on the corner of Larned and Washington, directly across from Cobo Center.

The street was blocked off during filming, sparking a crowd to gather around the fire house, renamed "Tallet's Gym," for the duration of the shoot. In the movie, Jackman is a boxing promoter who gets involved with a new fad, robot boxing.

Sara Lowther, who was an extra in the movie, made mention of the active nature of the filming locations and being among Hollywood's elite.

"It's the first movie I can say I've been in, and I'm so excited," she said. "Plus, getting to see Hugh Jackman is a perk."

Students of any major, race, ethnicity and gender are capable of applying for an open casting call, and those selected work for free or a small check.

"Certainly one of the appeals of coming to Michigan is the fact that the state has the opportunity to serve all different kinds of movies and backgrounds," Sheridan said. "It offers a lot of different areas to shoot in for more of a variety. You don't have to drive far in Michigan to see the woods."

Less than a mile and a half from "Real Steel's" boxing gym, another production was underway. Film crews from "Harold and Kumar 3" set up location at the historic Trinity Lutheran Church on Gratiot and Fisher Freeway for a "Midnight Mass" scene.

It was supposed to be Christmas Eve in New York and the entire block was decorated in Christmas lights. Cabs marked "NYC TAXI" cruised by in front of the 160-year-old church. Extras were seen wearing winter fur coats while temperatures boasted nearly 90 degrees as they had to pretend to be cold.

Elyse Foster, a vocal music education major, was able to obtain an extra and a stand-in spot for the Christmas scene.

"I was involved in a scene outside of the church, walking as a pedestrian on the streets," Foster said. "I was also in a scene inside the church, as a church attendee."

She was also chosen to be a stand-in for a minor character because she was similar in build to the actress. Her job was to mimic the character so that certain scenes could be set correctly.

Foster, who applied to be an extra on last year's big budget film, "Red Dawn," has said the experience thus far has been amazing, despite getting paid only \$103 for a 12-hour day.

"It's exciting to work on a film, but a position as an extra lets the students know about the unglamorous parts of being in a movie," Sheridan said. "Film work is more about technical things, and most of the time spent is reshooting shots, not because something was not good enough, but because of other technical things."

Two other big budget films are setting to come to the Motor City area beginning in late summer. "Transformers 3," starring Shia LaBeouf and Josh Duhamel, is set to begin in Michigan in the fall when they finish their current shoot in Chicago. And later this summer, "LOL: Laughing Out Loud," starring Demi Moore and Miley Cyrus will be filming at the University of Detroit Mercy.

"It's so cool that all of this is happening so close to me. I have wanted to do movies all of my life," said Lowther. "I feel like if it weren't so close to home, my dreams would have never become a reality."

All of the movies are scheduled to be released in 2011.

Students interested in auditioning should refer to the Michigan Film Office, Michigan Acting, or the Michigan Film Production websites.

— Editor-in-Chief Kay Nguyen, Copy Editor Katie Jacob and Scene Editor Chris Hagan contributed to this report.



# TEARING DOWN T

## Varner House 'razes' its roof despi

By MIKE SANDULA  
Managing Editor

On the southeast corner of Oakland University's campus, at Avon and Butler roads, stands a decades-old brick and frame building. On Tuesday, a contract was signed that green-lighted its demolition, which is scheduled to begin this week.

### Its current state

Talks to raze the house began several years ago, John Beaghan, vice president of finance and administration, said.

After hearing arguments to preserve the house, OU signed a \$30,000 contract Tuesday with Blue Star, Inc., to raze Varner House and its adjacent garage, which student organization Urban Farming at Oakland University currently uses as a tool shed. The nearby farmhouse and four chicken coops — three of which currently serve as storage — will remain intact and UFAOU will be provided with a new means of storing its tools.

Although Varner House currently sits vacant — for over 10 years now, said Terry Stollsteimer, associate vice president for facilities management — there are some "minor utility costs" in maintaining it, according to Beaghan.

There are also security issues involved, Beaghan said. Because Varner House is far-removed from the main campus, it's difficult to monitor.

Another problem, Ronald Sudol, dean of the college of arts and sciences, said, is that "an abandoned building is a hazard because it invites vandalism and people could get hurt," though he didn't know of any such reported incidents.

### A multi-story house

Varner House was built around 1938 and originally served as the poultry manager's home on the Meadow Brook Farms Estate. The two-story house has since endured several chapters.

In 1959, after \$15,000 worth of remodeling, it became home to Durward B. "Woody" Varner, Oakland's first chancellor — now known as president — and his wife, Paula.

Under Varner, whose name the house then took, the place of residence doubled as a location for visiting dignitaries and professors. After taking a job as chancellor at the University of Nebraska, Varner left OU in 1970.

After sitting vacant again for a few years, in 1974 it was converted into a "Residential Center for Retarded Children and Adolescents."

Approximately 10 children or adolescents, ages 7 to 17, were housed there in its charter year. Community Living Centers, Inc. and the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center leased the building from OU, with \$64,000 in annual funding from the Department of Mental Health.

### Money matters

There have been several attempts over the years to again convert the house for other uses, "but nothing's ever taken hold," Stollsteimer said.

The Athletics Department considered using it for their offices and as for locker rooms for the track team. The Art and Art History Department later made plans to convert it into faculty studio space.

The main snag everyone runs into, according to Stoll-

steimer and others, is the price tag of renovation.

"It's been open to anyone; no one's been willing to pay. ... Everything in there has got problems because it's pretty much been abandoned," Stollsteimer said.

Beaghan said renovating the house would run \$280,000. That estimate does not include parking lot repairs, which would cost an additional \$100,000. Necessary renovations would include plumbing repairs and roof replacement, as well as making the house handicap-accessible to bring it into compliance with the American Disabilities Act.

**"Everything in there has got problems because it's pretty much been abandoned."**

**- Terry Stollsteimer, associate vice president for facilities management**

Stollsteimer said he has mixed feelings on the house; he said he'd like to see it be put to good use, but is yet to see a financially viable way of doing so.

"Someone's got to come up with a need that sticks on this, then it could be saved," Stollsteimer said. "But they've had two years."

Dr. Fay Hansen, associate professor of biology and outgoing chair of the Campus Development and Environment Committee, still sees "huge potential" in the building.

The CDEC is charged with advising "the administrative officers responsible for campus development" in issues like





# THE HOUSE

## ite effort to save it

"maintenance practices." When the possibility of razing Varner House was brought to CDEC's attention last year, Hansen started coming up with other uses for the space.

"It's not a threat, it's not ready to fall down," Hansen said. "Why are we spending \$30,000 on a tight budget to tear down a building?"

Hansen said the house could serve as a "collaborative learning site," where students do the remodeling work themselves to convert the house into a learning space with classrooms and labs.

The main focus, she said, would be on green technology: solar panels, rain-collection, radiant heating, and so on.

"Reuse, recycle, repair: We need to live (by those principles), not just talk them," Hansen said.

Hansen, who is also the faculty advisor for UFAOU, stressed that the area would be open to everyone, not any particular student organization.

"It's just such an excellent resource that it would break my heart to see it go," Hansen said.

### A final effort to sustain it

Students who use the nearby urban garden also had high hopes for the space.

OU Student Congress Student Services Director Brett McIsaac and UFAOU President Jack Cunningham met last week with Glenn McIntosh, dean of students and assistant vice president of student affairs, to present the Varner House Proposal.

Drafted by Cunningham and three other OU students, the 12-page proposal outlined plans wherein students

could volunteer at — or perhaps even live in — Varner House to obtain "hands-on lessons in biology, eco-architecture, green engineering, alternative energy methods, and self-sustainability." It also provided a list of programs and foundations OU could apply for grants from.

**"It's just such an excellent resource that it would break my heart to see it go."**

*- Dr. Fay Hansen, associate professor of biology and outgoing CDEC chair*

The students' main hope was that the administration would issue a stay of execution order, which would have allowed time to form a "Varner House Sustainability Task Force" that would come up with a sustainable, cost-effective use for the building.

"There's no maintenance costs; they actually spend more cutting the grass in front of the house than they do maintaining the house itself," said Cunningham, whose main hope was to buy more time.

McIntosh said he was impressed by the students' efforts to save the house from being razed, but said he supports the administration's decision to proceed with the demolition.

Demolition will begin July 17. Stollsteimer said the house should be down in about two weeks, with the whole project lasting 30 days.

## History of the House

### 1938

Varner house was built and served as the poultry manager's home on the Meadow Brook Farms Estate.

### 1959

After \$15,000 worth of remodeling, it became home to Durward B. "Woody" Varner, Oakland first chancellor - now known as president.

### 1974

After sitting vacant since 1970 when the chancellor left, the house is converted into a Residential Center for Retarded Children and Adolescents.

### 2010

Recent efforts were made to preserve Varner House, but it's set to be demolished on July 17.



photos by Brett Socia  
designed by Jason Willis



## Student volunteers in Haiti

By KAY NGUYEN  
Editor-in-Chief

Saman Waquad did not want to go to Haiti after she saw the devastation caused by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in January.

Rather, she had wanted to go Haiti for four years. After reading "Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World," Waquad began making plans to visit the country.

"The Haitians have struggled through a lot and they are very resilient people," Waquad said. "That's what sparked my interest and that's why I wanted to go."

A senior biology major at Oakland University, Waquad has since then been interested in Partners in Health, an organization co-founded by Farmer.

Her intended trip during OU's spring recess was first made impossible due to the freeze on commercial flights to the country after the earthquake.

Waquad was unable to volunteer her services through medical organizations like PIH because of her lack of advanced medical skills.

After the initial setbacks, Waquad met Christopher Younan, who had been volunteering in Haiti since 2004, through a mutual friend.

She joined him and a group of volunteers from the Metro Detroit area in Haiti from May 19-27.

After flying into Port-au-Prince, Waquad made her way to the small coastal town of Montrouis, which is about 50 miles north of the capital city.

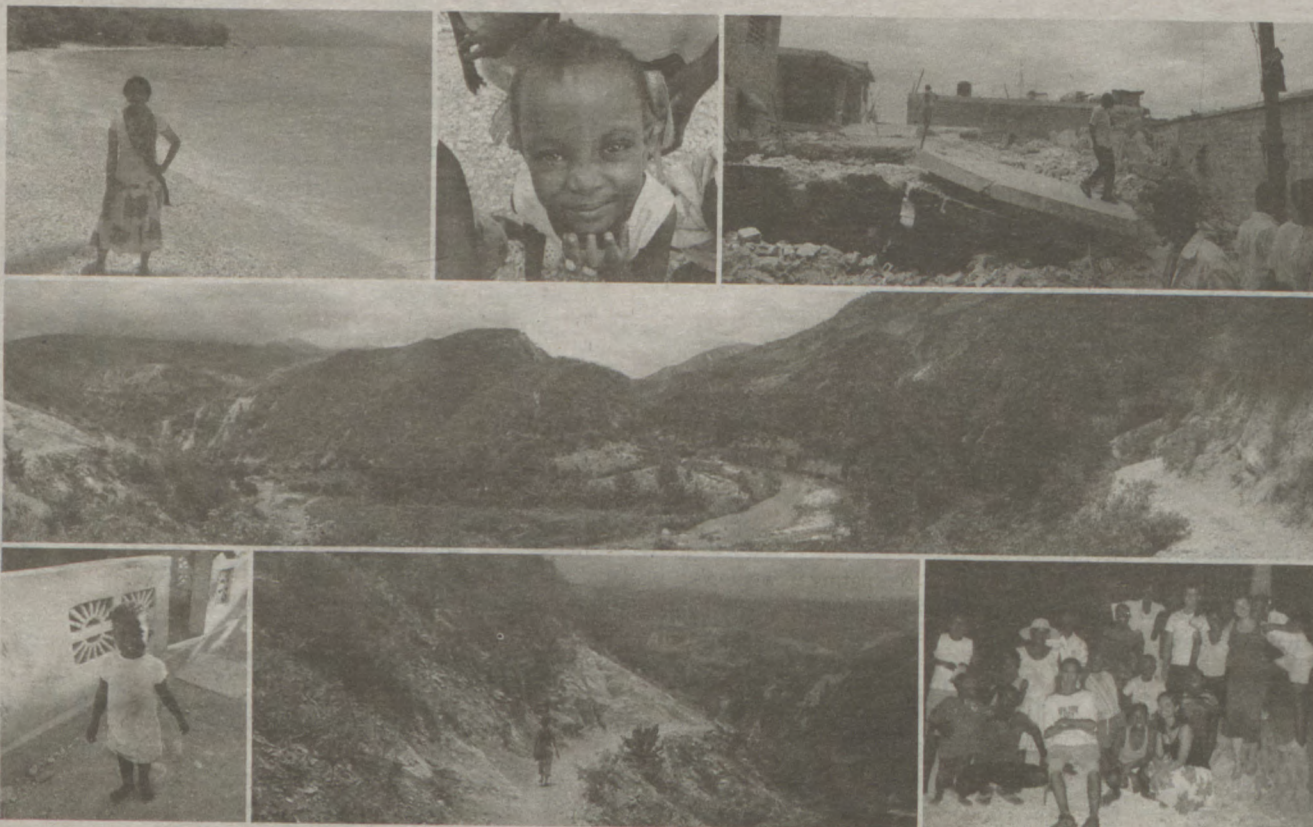
There, she volunteered at an orphanage that had been there well before the earthquake. She stayed at a home with other volunteers.

"(The trip) wasn't necessarily because of the earthquake. This town had 4,000 refugees that spilled in from the earthquake, but they were also affected by a hurricane in 2008," Waquad said. "All their problems are just compounded."

She attempted to gather donations before her trip, but efforts yielded an "unfortunate" turnout.

Instead, Waquad brought her own clothes to give to the children along with practical supplies like soap and plastic grocery bags, which must be purchased in Haiti.

Upon arriving in Haiti, Waquad was "in awe" of the country's "natural beauty."



Former student body vice president Saman Waquad spent six days in Montrouis, Haiti volunteering with other metro Detroiters at an orphanage. Photos courtesy of Saman Waquad.

"The view from the sky was breathtaking, but as we got closer we flew over an area that I thought was a tent camp set up after the earthquake," Waquad said. "But (a fellow traveler) told me that it was the poorest part of Haiti – the slums."

From there, she quickly saw many other disparities between the way the rich and poor citizens of Haiti lived.

Montrouis is a popular tourist destination because of its white sand beaches and was not affected by the earthquake directly.

Waquad saw the differences between the orphanage she volunteered at and its neighboring beach resorts.

Because her trip was an immersion experience as opposed to a mission trip, Waquad was able to see the way the upper class in Haiti, the bourgeoisie, live as well as what conditions were like in earthquake refugee tent camps.

"The poor have seemingly gotten poorer," Waquad said.

Though she felt compassion for every-

one that asked her for money, she found it increasingly difficult to differentiate between who was in need and who was conning her.

"If they didn't know anything else in English, they knew 'one dollar' and 'I love you,'" Waquad said of children begging for money in the streets. "For money, people will do a lot."

Instances included children that claimed to have no parents who later turn up with an adult and a woman who, while buying a beer, offered to give her deceased cousin's daughter up to volunteers because she could not afford the child.

In addition to the supplies she brought, Waquad and the volunteer group bought groceries to stockpile the pantry of the orphanage and paid the tuition fees for a few children, as education is rarely free in Haiti.

She and the group also tried to come up with solutions to make nonprofit organizations in Haiti leaner by noting prices whenever they purchased something.

As a group, the metro Detroiters also began forming a nonprofit of their own that focuses on sustainability and added one more to the hundreds of nonprofits with a presence in Haiti.

"These were people genuinely interested in helping the Haitians and that were interested in coming back and doing this continuously," Waquad said of her volunteer group.

The name of the orphanage will be "Haiti's Orphanage of Love" and is planning to return to Haiti in December.

The organization's aim will be to secure the future of the orphanage.

"Despite all of the misery and disaster, these people still have hope," Waquad said. "They're still making life work: even if it's just one day at a time."

Those interested in volunteering with "Haiti's Orphanage of Love" can contact Waquad at [sfwaquad@oakland.edu](mailto:sfwaquad@oakland.edu).

This story was originally published on [www.theoaklandpress.com](http://www.theoaklandpress.com) on Sunday, July 4.



## Wrestling program to expand

By RYAN HEGEDUS  
Senior Reporter

Dan Sabin and his fiancée have plenty of familiarity with the sport of wrestling, as they were both All-American wrestlers in high school and continued their careers into college.

That mutual love of the sport has evolved into much more for Sabin, and Oakland University's female students are receiving a unique athletic opportunity because of it.

After talking to his fiancée, Cindy, as well as current Oakland men's wrestling coach Kyle Nieporte, the former varsity wrestler at the University of Mary (N.D.) has put together a women's wrestling team at OU.

For now, the squad will compete as a club sport and is scheduled to start competing in the 2010-2011 athletic year, just like the men's team.

Another similarity to the men's squad is the small roster size in the inaugural season of competition.

"We will be small in numbers to start off, but expect to have no less than 15 girls in our second year," Sabin said. "Right now we have two to three girls

who will be attending OU due to the creation of the women's wrestling club. The girls we have planning on wrestling for us are all All-American contenders, and should make some noise in our first year."

The current roster includes Cindy Kaffenberger (from Jamestown College) and Haley Slivensky (Oakland Community College), but has tentative verbal commitments from Kiarra Lane (Muskegon CC), Shannon Carter (Baker College of Flint) and Summer Asbury (Atherton High School).

Sabin knows the challenge of starting up a program in a sport not widely showcased in the college ranks.

"It (scheduling matches) may be difficult as most likely all our events will be away, due to the low number of teams competing in women's wrestling," Sabin said. "However, in future years we hope to host a few meets and maybe have a few Canadian teams come over and compete."

In the Women's College Wrestling Association, there are only 13 colleges in the country that offer women's wrestling as a varsity sport.

While Michigan is one of the top states

when it comes to women's wrestling at the high school level, the state currently has just two schools represented in the WCWA — Marygrove and Northern Michigan University.

In terms of women's wrestling as a club sport, there are 21 colleges in the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Association, although only about half are very active.

"It isn't a very common college sport, but there are new programs started every year (at least two new programs the last two years). The colleges with varsity programs have about 30 women on each team," said Sabin.

Those unfamiliar with women's wrestling may consider it identical to men's. There are similarities, but the differences are equally important.

Training is similar to men's wrestling and some of the same moves that the men use are used by the women.

Women, however, wrestle freestyle — the style used in the Olympics — while collegiate men wrestle Folkstyle.

There are also variations in scoring and overtime procedures between the two sports.

Accumulating over 150 wins in high

school, being a two-time high school All-American, three-time All-State wrestler and three-time state placer in the freestyle/Greco-style makes Sabin qualified as a wrestling coach at this level. The choice of women's wrestling came from his fiancée, who will be attending Oakland in the fall.

"I've always been a large supporter of women's wrestling," he said. "I also operate a website, [www.uswomenswrestling.com](http://www.uswomenswrestling.com), which does rankings, news articles, results and more."

Sabin and his squad will be fundraising throughout the year so that they will be able to travel to the WCWA Nationals, held at Menlo College (Calif.) in January.

They will also compete at the NCWWA Nationals which is held in Philadelphia, Pa., the same location as the men's wrestling nationals.

"It is open to all female students who wish to learn how to wrestle, even if they've never done so before," Sabin said. "It is a great way to stay active, meet friends, lose weight and have fun."

For more information about the team or how to join, visit their website at [www.oaklandwomenswrestling.com](http://www.oaklandwomenswrestling.com).

## Incoming recruits making early impressions

By RYAN HEGEDUS  
Senior Reporter

In a season when his two frontcourt starters are seniors, Oakland University men's basketball coach Greg Kampe may have landed a pair of future replacements with plenty of potential.

Corey Petros, from Utica Eisenhower High School (Shelby Township, Mich.), and Kyle Sikora, of Florida Christian School (Olympia Heights, Fla.), both signed national letters of intent to play for Oakland in the 2010-11 season.

"(Keith) Benson and (Will) Hudson are going to be seniors and Ilija (Milutinovic) is going to be a junior, so this was a very important recruiting class to replenish our bigs," Kampe said. "We feel we got two (recruits) that are going to be really good players."

Petros, a 6-10 forward, committed to OU in the early signing period, while Sikora, a 7-foot center, signed in April.

Kampe believes that both recruits could be redshirted, but not due to a lack of talent or potential.

"The two bigs, you can see the potential dripping from their body. Neither one is ready, but you can see that both of them have a chance to be great players, and I'm excited about that," Kampe said.

"Petros knows that he is going to have a chance to step in and start a year from now. I think he knows that redshirting is a good thing for him and he has a chance to be a four-year starter... (Sikora has) untapped potential because he's only been playing for a few years now. He played at a small high school ... so we think that competition will make him grow and get better."

Replenishing frontcourt depth was key for Kampe and his coaching staff, but the two players are not the only student-athletes headed to Oakland in the fall.

Ryan Bass, out of Dunbar High School (Dayton, Ohio), is a 5-10 point guard and has already impressed his coach with his athletic ability.

"I've never had a guy that little that's as athletic as he is," said Kampe. "I mean, he can jump like (Drew) Maynard, he can really fly. He's different from any kid I've ever had."

Bass will not be redshirted, as the point guard posi-

tion is a bit more fluid since the departure of OU's winningest player, Johnathon Jones.

Bass' potential for defensive prominence will also give him plenty of opportunities to crack the rotation once the Golden Grizzlies begin play this season.

"We're not sure who will be the point guard, so there will be competition for that position," Kampe said. "(Bass) will get some chances early, but it depends on how he develops. It'll also be determined by how well Larry Wright and Reggie Hamilton can play the point."

All of his team's hard work and success over the past few seasons has helped Oakland become a desired destination for recruits both in- and out-of-state.

"It's changing because of the success we've had. People in Ohio and Florida know who we are now because we've been in the (NCAA) Tournament a few times now," said Kampe.

"Our name versus five or six years ago, someone who isn't from Michigan now knows where Oakland (University) is. They don't think we're from California. That's really opening the doors for out-of-state recruiting."



# Silverdome prepares to shine again

By KYLE BAUER  
Staff Intern

After eight years of clinging to life, the Pontiac Silverdome is returning to the sporting world. On August 6, the long-vacant sporting venue will host "Match of the Titans," an exhibition match between European soccer powerhouses AC Milan and Panathinaikos.

This will be the first professional sporting event held at the dome since the Detroit Lions defeated the Dallas Cowboys January 6, 2002. The once mighty venue hosted musical acts such as Michael Jackson, Led Zeppelin, and the Rolling Stones. Other historic events were the 1994 World Cup, Wrestlemania III, Superbowl XVI and a mass for Pope John Paul II.

Despite the clout of former guests and tenants, the Silverdome sat quiet while its bright, white, puffy roof shined off of I-75.

In October, a public auction was held to find an owner for the Silverdome. With a surprise winning bid of only \$550,000 — the Silverdome was built at a price tag of \$57 million in 1975 — Andreas Apostolopoulos, CEO of Toronto-based Triple Properties Inc., took over with the intention of fully reviving the contemporary relic. Apostolopoulos' primary vision for the Silverdome is to turn it into a soccer venue. Kicking off with AC Milan from the elite Italian Serie-A league and Panathinaikos FC of the Greek Super League could be the best start one with such vision could hope for.

Apostolopoulos brought in Roger Faulkner to help facilitate his motives. Faulkner, a former tennis player, came to Detroit from England in 1969. He has since worked diligently to help grow soccer in the United States. He served as the general manager of the Detroit Express of the defunct North American Soccer

League, who played in the Silverdome from 1978 to 1983. He was also on the chair for the USA World Cup Committee in 1994, as well as head of the Michigan Soccer Federation. Faulkner now stands as lead consultant on the project of getting more big soccer matches in Pontiac and possibly an Major League Soccer franchise in the future.

"The MLS will definitely take notice of what we are doing here. It establishes credibility," Faulkner said. "We have had preliminary conversations with the MLS and they are not looking to expand within the next couple years."

This is mainly due to the U.S.-based soccer league already expanding into Portland, Vancouver and Montreal for the 2011 and '12 seasons. A franchise in the Detroit area will remain a possibility, but will likely hinge on the success of international exhibition games held at the Silverdome. Faulkner said they are currently looking into more international games, including a U.S. National Team game sometime next year.

The importance of putting on a good show for a better future is reflected in the focus that the Apostolopoulos ownership has for its unofficial grand opening August 6.

Part of continuing to get big soccer matches, a new franchise, and other events in the dome will be renovation. Sitting practically dormant for eight years has left a lot of operating issues that Silverdome building manager Grant Reeves has had to focus on. The official reopening of the Silverdome came on April 17 for a monster truck rally. The venue itself came with mixed reviews.

"There were some complaints, but I saw it as a huge success. We had 24,000 people," Reeves said.

Many of the criticisms came from concession prices being too high. This was noted by Reeves and said they are working with suppliers to get costs down. Other

issues have come in appearance. Natural deterioration has set in over time.

According to Faulkner, over 43 gallons of fresh paint have been applied to the dome but the renovation process is far from complete.

"The outside has been cleaned up considerably," Faulkner said. "On the inside we renovated ticket booths in the concourse, did work on the roof and the biggest was updating the place electronically. The dome didn't even have internet. It will now be a Wi-Fi hotspot. She's a big girl, there's a lot to do."

Appearance aside, there is the general risk of attempting to revive a large venue by hosting a relatively unpopular sport in the United States. Faulkner believes soccer is just a matter of local perspective.

"I don't think people in this area understand how big it is in North America," he said. "It's already boomed. They sell out in Seattle and Toronto. The viewership for the World Cup doubled Game 6 of the Stanley Cup finals and beat out the World Series, game by game. I believe it has arrived."

AC Milan boasts a proud championship tradition and features a star-studded roster that many casual soccer fans, and even non-sports fans, know. Legendary Brazilian striker Ronaldinho, who was controversially left out of the World Cup, leads the team with tabloid superstar and soccer dignitary David Beckham and United States defender Oguchi Onyewu. More experienced fans will note defender Thiago Silva and forward Alexandre Pato are also on the club.

Come August 6, it will be looking to return to its glory days. It is now under new ownership, while at the same time being born again.

The Silverdome, once a holder of prime events, is looking to contend as a viable top-end venue to hold large events once again.

## Pressure on Tigers to avoid another collapse

By ROSS MAGHILSE  
Sports Editor

### COLUMN

At the All-Star break, the Detroit Tigers find themselves in a good position — just a half game back from a shaky Chicago White Sox team in the race for the American League Central Division.

It is a familiar outlook for the Tigers (48-38) at this time of year. Detroit has made a habit of playing good baseball in the early summer months and putting itself in position to win the division title. However, there is another trend that plays devil's advocate to this team. That is the trend of choking down the stretch and finishing second to an inferior team.

It happened in 2006, 2007 and 2009. Each of those teams was talented. Each of those teams got off to a strong start. Each of those teams gagged in August and September. The only silver lining was that the '06 squad managed to back into the playoffs and eventually reach the World Series — where it crumbled and lost to the mediocre Cardinals.

This team has the resources to be far and away the best team in what is primarily a small-market division.

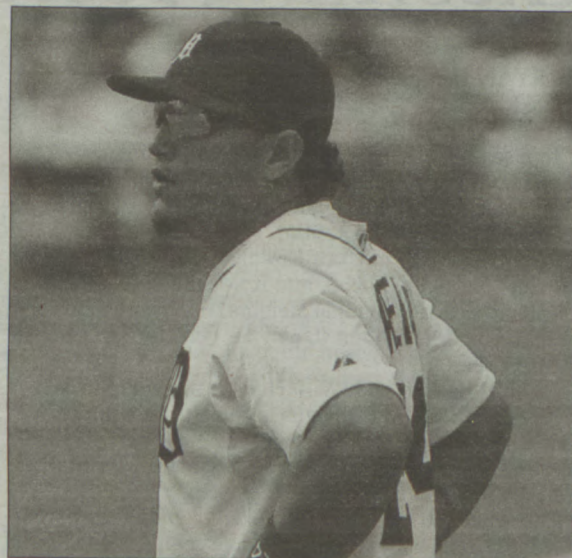
Even after the salary-shredding moves made last offseason, the Detroit's current payroll of \$122,864,928 is still the sixth highest in baseball.

Team owner Mike Ilitch is not willing to pay \$122 million for such mediocrity. Remember what he did to the team in 2003? The Tigers we know and love will be gutted if they can't produce. That said, this team does have the manpower to get the job done.

Cabrera is one of the top three players in baseball. If he wore pinstripes or played first in Fenway, he'd be treated as such. Fellow All-Stars Valverde and Justin Verlander are also among the top in their class. Brennan Boesch will be in competition with teammate Austin Jackson for AL Rookie of the Year.

What this team needs is consistency. Max Scherzer needs to stop mixing 14 strikeouts, 0 run performances with 14 hit, 10 run performances. Armando Galarraga needs to pitch more like the guy who sat down 28 straight batters and less like the guy who can't get through two innings. It would also help if Ryan Raburn could find the guy that wore his jersey in 2009.

The Old English D has become the biggest trend-setting logo in Detroit and the state of Michigan. It's time the Tigers take responsibility for starting another trend in this town — winning when it counts.



BRETT SOCIA/The Oakland Post  
Miguel Cabrera was one of three players to represent the Tigers in this month's all-star game.



# The Scene

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Photo courtesy of Adrenaline PR

Heavy metal rock band from North Carolina, Between the Buried and Me, have been together since 2000. Their unique band name was taken from a song lyric from Counting Crows' hit "Ghost Train."

## Bands to hit Royal Oak

*Underoath and The Cool Tour make their way to local music venue*

By AMANDA MEADE  
Staff Reporter

Every year, lovers of any kind of music genre can look forward to the different concert festivals that occur in the summer.

For heavy metal connoisseurs, The Cool Tour features headliners As I Lay Dying with Underoath, Between the Buried and Me, Blessthefall, The Acacia Strain, Architects, Cancer Bats and War of Ages.

### Underoath

Underoath has been together for over 10 years, although no original member of the band remains. Last April, the final founding member, singer/drummer Aaron Gillespie, parted ways with the band. He was replaced with Daniel Davison, formerly of Norma Jean.

Lead guitarist Tim McTague also said the band was looking forward to many different things that being on The Cool Tour would bring, especially this being the first tour with Davison, the band's new drummer.

"We haven't really come together yet so it's going to be a really fun and interesting time ... really jump back in the swing of it with a bunch of new, excited people and exciting new things," McTague said.

McTague said the band was looking forward to playing a brand new song on the tour, and having a fun show altogether. Later he talked about a goal that the band has that also helps them continue with what they're doing — they want to always be inspirational to some degree.

"We just want people to walk away from a show feeling inspired. Whether that's feeling inspired to change their life ... to turn something around or that they're inspired to go home and write music or create art," McTague said.

In May 2010 the band revealed they were working on their next studio album, which is planned for a late 2010 release.

### As I Lay Dying

Californian metalcore band As I Lay Dying has been rocking since 2000. They could be considered veterans of sorts of the summer concert festivals, having been a part of Ozzfest, Warped Tour and several others.

The guys are headlining the debut run of The Cool Tour, and are just a few months off releasing their latest album, "A Powerless Rise," which was out in May 2010.

Rhythm guitarist Phil Sgroso said the band was anticipating several different aspects of being on this tour. He said the band's latest album is a product of a lot of growth in the band throughout the years.

"We really wanted to progress a lot more," Sgroso said. "In sound it's definitely most similar to our last album, but it kind of continued the maturity and progression of the band."

### Between the Buried and Me

Progressive/metal band Between the Buried and Me hail from Raleigh, North Carolina and grabbed their

band's name from a Counting Crows song, "Ghost Train." Like their tour mates, BTBAM has also been going for 10 years.

The guys have been steadily touring since January, and according to front man Tommy Rogers, they've only had about three weeks off since then. They may be nearing the point of burning themselves out, although Rogers said he and the band were still anticipating this summer tour.

"I think it's going to be very relaxed. There are a lot of very awesome dudes on the tour, it'll be fun," Rogers said. "Chill with them and hang out, and just kind of feel like a summer vacation."

Rogers didn't seem too concerned with any negative reception from the fans there to see the other bands, either. He said that BTBAM had gotten the chance to play with a plethora of different bands, and that he and the band liked playing to diverse crowds.

BTBAM has often been referred to as "the thinking man's band." Rogers said he could understand that title, because of the effort put in to creating their music.

"We like to put so many different things into our music and it's so much thinking it hurts, kind of," Rogers said. "But also you can still sit back and listen rather than just thinking and paying attention to every part."

After The Cool Tour is finished, Rogers said the band was going to be taking some time off from touring and start writing their next album.

The tour kicks off July 12 and will be stopping at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Sunday, July 18. Visit [www.royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://www.royaloakmusictheatre.com) for tickets.



# Tecumseh is home of the free fall

By CHRIS HAGAN  
Scene Editor

It's one of those divisive activities people either can't wait to do or would refuse to do no matter how much money you pay them.

Skydiving is one of the most extreme forms of adrenaline pumping activities modern thrill seekers can find. The act of jumping out of a "perfectly good airplane" boggles the mind of most but seems to find itself on thousands of bucket lists.

Skydive Tecumseh has been in operation for over 45 years in Tecumseh, Mich.

As one approaches Skydive Tecumseh's setup, there's not much to boast about when looking at the buildings. The rusted cockpit of an old plane greets people as they make their way down a skinny one-lane dirt path taking them towards the landing strip.

The rough white metal siding of the main office is the epitome of the saying "don't judge a book by its cover." Inside, technology and fun are melded together as administration staff monitor flights, collect fees and skydivers tighten harnesses on nervous first timers.

Aside from paying \$225 for a three minute experience, the wait is the only other downfall. First time jumpers are told that a three or four hour wait is normal. "Plan for the entire day" the staff tell callers.

Tecumseh uses a PAC 750XL, which is an official label for a single prop plane with a side roll door to fall out of, with a parachute, of course.

Skydive Tecumseh employees are

certified through the United States Parachute Association, and believe in having a good time. They take the nervousness of first timer flyers and magically turn it into excitement.

The experience that begins at 14,000 feet lasts nearly three minutes. There's a 60 second free fall where speeds can exceed 130 mph.

If requested and purchased, a videographer will jump with the tandem team. Attached to the videographer's helmet is a Sony HD camcorder and Canon DSLR camera to ensure the experience is documented in the highest quality.

The jump is documented from take off until the skydiver pulls the ripcord and the parachute ejects from the backpack.

Screams and cheers from most are heard down the runway after the landing, with many yelling "I want to go again." Others, though, find themselves on all fours trying to keep their lunch down.

If someone would like to do a solo skydive their first time, Skydive Tecumseh offers a six hour classroom session to learn the intricacies of the sport, although someone's first tandem jump requires no training.

A video is played, a check list of things is reviewed and they're ready to jump from the plane.

Skydive Tecumseh have built a reputable business allowing several generations of families to "experience human flight," (the tag line printed on nearly all their T-shirts).

To find out more information, visit [www.skydivetecumseh.com](http://www.skydivetecumseh.com).



Photo courtesy of Chris Hagan  
Many may find crossing skydiving off their 'bucket list' is worth the wait and the \$225 price tag.



## music spotlight

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. Mojo

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK  
Staff Reporter

"Mojo" marks the long awaited return by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and ends the eight year drought since their last studio release, 2002's "The Last DJ."

Eight years might curb an artist's talent and result in a lackluster release, but Tom Petty and the rest of his crew knock that notion out of the park.

Mojo for the most part maintains a blues foundation filled with slick grooves, and intuitive depth that shows the creative chemistry between the front man Tom Petty, and his band, rivals that of McCartney and Lennon.

From the opening track "Jefferson Jericho Blues" to the end with "Good

Enough," Petty and the gang move forward like a fine-tuned muscle car, taking pride and exhibiting perfect synchronicity of all its parts.

Also, like an automobile, Petty might have the name recognition; it's the potential of what's under the hood that really takes it off at the light.

Although, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers may have formed in 1976, they still play with excitement.

The 59-year-old Tom Petty sounds like a kid in a candy store with lyrics that accompany the electronic piano and harmonica heavy track so naturally in "Let Yourself Go."

"Running Man's Bible" creates an atmosphere that sounds like if Eric Clapton were surfing cool waves in

Southern California with B.B. King, accompanied by Tom Petty's signature vocal croon.

Even though Tom Petty seems to be favoring the blues, he and the Heartbreakers can still make a good ballad with "No Reason to Cry."

"U.S. 41" takes the musical flow in a different direction for a short time, with a Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues"-like melody that oddly enough does not completely throw Mojo's train off the tracks.

"Lover's Touch" contains slow vocals that creep up on guitar riffs and chords with ease. Overall, the new song can satisfy the regular attendee of the blues bar, while keeping the arena audience member asking for more.

While newer acts like the Black Keys and White Stripes may be gaining popularity by embracing their blues background, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, regardless of age, are still a classic act who maintain staying relevant in today's media.

Their album sales are obvious of that. "Mojo" debuted number 2 on the U.S. Billboard 200 list, selling over 120,000 copies in the first week.

Mojo is a clever gift, in our time in music where everyone is using auto-tune and other obnoxious vocal effects.

Tom Petty proves that, in this case, it's not necessarily constant innovation that sets you apart; it's about exploring and embracing the God-given talent that you already have.





## The Pinball Expo

### Rolls Into

Written by: Rory McCarty

Designed by: Carla Butwin

The Oakland Center's banquet halls were filled with lines of pinball machines ranging from electromechanical machines dating back to the 50s to modern machines based on movies like Lord of the Rings and Iron Man. The sounds of pop bumpers and flippers filled the hall as players young and old enjoyed a classic American pastime throughout the weekend.

Event organizer John Kosmal set up the Michigan Pinball Expo to try and give Michigan fans a taste of the expos that other states have had for years. Kosmal said that he's been to pinball expos for years in other states but there's never been one in Michigan for collectors and players to attend.

"There are other shows across the country and we thought we could do it better than other shows. We're trying to put our best foot forward," Kosmal said.

"Pinball is a different experience. It's 3D, it's live, it's physical."

—John Kosmal, Event Organizer

Kosmal brought five pinball machines from his own collection for players to use at the expo.

Pinball has been a popular American pastime since the early twentieth century, back before flippers were even added to machines. It blossomed between the 70s through the 90s, but currently the only pinball manufacturer left still in business is Stern. Few arcades remain that keep and maintain pinball machines, with a decline in pinball as video games gain popularity.

However, groups of people still collect and play pinball. Kosmal says there's a tactile experience you get from pinball, and a randomness that video games can't duplicate.

"Pinball is a different

Kosmal is a member of the Detroit Pinball League, a metro area group of collectors that gather monthly to play each other's pinball collections. Kosmal himself has over 40 pinball machines and won second place in the 2007 international pinball PAPA tournament. Most of the pins used at the Michigan Pinball Expo were brought by member of the league. Others were exhibited by local pinball sales outfits, like Big Toys.

Event organizer and co-founder of the Detroit Pinball League John White said that they were seeing a higher turnout than they expected at the expo. League members were volunteered at the expo by setting up tournaments and making sure that all the pins were in working order.

The expo attracted pinball veterans and newbies alike, but the hardcore pinball competitors went head to head in the expo tournaments.

There were tournaments set up into amateur and professional divisions, with a \$1,000 prize given to the winner of the main division. The winner of the "Amateur" expo will be back at the expo next year.





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## Gulf waits to see if BP cap will hold

By TOM BREEN and HARRY R. WEBER  
Associated Press Writers

NEW ORLEANS — In a potentially pivotal moment in the Gulf crisis, BP was preparing Tuesday to begin closing valves in a slow and methodical process that could finally choke off the geyser of crude at the bottom of the sea after three gloomy months and up to 180 million gallons spilled.

A new, tighter-fitting cap was lowered over the blown-out well Monday night, designed to be a temporary fix until the well is plugged underground.

The next phase was to shut the openings in the 75-ton metal stack of pipes and valves gradually, one at a time, while watching pressure gauges to see if the cap would hold or any new leaks erupted.

The operation could last anywhere from six to 48 hours. BP first targeted a midday Tuesday start but later said that was overly optimistic and pushed expectations back.

BP and the government's point man on the crisis - the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history and one of the nation's worst environmental disasters - stressed there were no guarantees, and they urged patience from Gulf residents.

"They ought to be interested and concerned, but if they hold their breath, they'll run out of oxygen," retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen told The Associated Press.

If the cap works, it will enable BP to stop the oil from gushing into the sea, by holding the oil inside the well machinery like a stopper or, if the pressure is too great, channeling some through pipes to as many as four collection ships.

Along the Gulf Coast, where the spill has heavily dam-

aged the region's vital tourism and fishing industries, people anxiously awaited the outcome of the painstakingly slow work.

"I don't know what's taking them so long. I just hope they take care of it," said Lanette Eder, a vacationing school nutritionist from Hoschton, Ga., who was walking on the white sand at Pensacola Beach, Fla.

"I can't say that I'm optimistic - It's been, what, 84 days now? - but I'm hopeful," said Nancy LaNasa, 56, who runs a yoga center in Pensacola.

The cap is just a stopgap measure that can't keep the oil in check for all time. To end the leak for good, the well needs to be plugged at the source. BP is drilling two relief wells through the seafloor to reach the broken well, possibly by late July, and jam it permanently with heavy drilling mud and cement. After that, the Gulf Coast faces a long cleanup.

In Washington, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the effort to put the containment cap into operation "represents the best news that we've had in the preceding 85 days."

"We are approaching what we hope is the next phase in the Gulf - understanding that that next phase is likely to take many years," he added.

BP engineers planned to shut off pipes that are already funneling some oil to two ships, to see how the cap handles the pressure of the crude coming up from the ground. Then they planned to close, one by one, three valves that let oil pass through the cap.

Experts said stopping the oil too quickly could blow the cap off or further damage the well.

## Steinbrenner dies, big loss for NYC

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK — He was baseball's bombastic Boss. He rebuilt the New York Yankees dynasty with sky-high payrolls and accepted nothing less than World Series championships. He fired managers. Rehired them. And fired them again.

He butted heads with commissioners and fellow owners, insulted his players and dominated tabloid headlines - even upstaging the All-Star game on the day of his death.

George Michael Steinbrenner III, who both inspired and terrorized the Yankees in more than three decades as owner, died Tuesday of a heart attack at age 80.

"He was and always will be as much of a New York Yankee as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Whitey Ford and all of the other Yankee legends," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said.

Once reviled by fans for his overbearing and tempestuous nature, Steinbrenner mellowed in his final decade and became beloved by employees and rivals alike for his success.

Steinbrenner was taken from his home to St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa, Fla., and died about 6:30 a.m., a person close to the owner told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not disclosed those details.

"George was a fierce competitor who was the perfect fit for the city that never sleeps - colorful, dynamic and always reaching for the stars," former President Bill Clinton said.

Yankees captain Derek Jeter added: "He expected perfection."

In 37 1/2 years as owner, Steinbrenner whipped a moribund \$10 million team into a \$1.6 billion colossus that became the model of a modern franchise, one with its own TV network and ballpark food business.

Under his often brutal but always colorful tactical spending spree, seven World Series Lucchino, president of the rival Boston Sox, to dub Steinbrenner's Yankees the "Evil Empire."

He moved the Yankees from their tradition-rich "House that Ruth Built" into a new \$1.5 billion Yankee Stadium. Call it the "House the Boss Built." He appeared there just four times: the April 2009 opener, the first two games of last year's World Series and this year's home opener.

## Senate has votes to pass Wall Street overhaul

By JIM KUHNHENN  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Tuesday secured the 60 votes into law one vote to pass a sweep-presidency.

With the votes in hand to overcome Republican delaying tactics, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on Tuesday took steps to end debate on the bill Thursday, setting the stage for final passage perhaps later in the day. The House already has passed the bill.

"This reform is good for families, it is good for businesses, it's good for the entire economy," Obama said as he prodded the Senate to act quickly.

Passage would represent a signature achievement for the president just four months after he signed massive health care legislation into law. The final vote comes amid lingering public resentment of Wall Street, but the legislation's sym-

bolic and political impact is likely to be diminished by anxiety across the country over jobs and the economy.

Reid as much as acknowledged that political reality Tuesday, blaming "greed on Wall Street" for the country's economic troubles.

savings and the recession," he said. Support for the bill jumped in the market and after conservative Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska announced he would vote for the bill after raising concerns the previous day.

Obama noted that the bill is getting backing from Republican Sens. Scott Brown of Massachusetts and Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, both of Maine. Snowe and Brown announced their support on Monday.

"Three Republican senators have put politics and partisanship aside to support this reform, and I'm grateful for their decision," Obama said as he announced his nomination of Jacob Lew

to be the new director of the White House budget office.

The 2,300-page bill aims to address regulatory weaknesses blamed for the 2008 financial crisis that fueled the worst recession since the 1930s.

It gives regulators broad authority to rein in banks, limit risk-taking by financial firms and supervise provisions, and it creates a new consumer protection bureau to guard against lending abuses.

While Democrats are ready to cast the GOP as an ally of Wall Street, Republicans have portrayed the bill as government overreach that would make lending more expensive, increase costs for consumers and hurt U.S. businesses. Republicans repeatedly and fruitlessly tried to expand the bill to include changes to government-controlled finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.



# Mouthing Off

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

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## The sun: Life-bringer or homicidal jerk?

By RORY MCCARTY

Mouthing Off editor/combustible person

It's only in summertime that I remember what a jerk the sun is.

"Hold the proverbial phone," you say. "Isn't the sun the only thing that warmed our planet for millions of years? Isn't it one of the primary components of photosynthesis in plants, forming one of the basic structures in the food chain of higher life forms? Isn't it perhaps a proponent of evolution and the only reason that we're sitting here today reading nonsense articles in the student newspaper? Isn't the sun revered by ancient cultures as a god for just these reasons?"

Geez you talk a lot. Yes, I suppose, the sun does all of those things. But let me tell you this: Have you ever paid six bucks for a delicious cup of Dippin' Dots only to have it melt into chocolate slurry before you could finish it? Have you heard of skin cancer? Have you ever seen "Jersey Shore?" Suddenly the scales look a little more even.

Being of Irish descent, the sun poses a greater threat to me. The Irish, like vampires, burst into flames when we

come into contact with direct sunlight. I slather myself daily with SPF 40 and put on my welding equipment before I go out. That gets me at least through the parking lot.

I'm constantly rearranging and updating my list of things to be afraid of, but skin cancer is consistently in the top ten because it's completely unavoidable. It currently falls right between "genetically altered tiger-bear" and "being digested by my own stomach acids" on the primal fear charts.

Some people don't think the sun is giving us cancer quickly enough, so tanning beds were invented to do it more efficiently.

In a recent issue of the journal Dermatological Therapy, a report said that risk of melanoma increases 75 percent when you use a tanning bed. The FDA has recommended that all tanning beds be decommissioned and reclassified as techno-coffins.

Seriously though, if you've ever had a sunburn bad enough where your skin just gives up, dies, and peels off, you know what I'm talking about. The sun can be a bastard. Don't believe me? Go ahead and stare at it for a good five min-

utes. I'll wait.

Are you back? No, because you are now blind. Reading the rest of the paper will be a challenge for you, then.

The worst thing about the sun is that it came with an expiration date when we got it. Scientists say in only five billion years the sun will enter its red giant phase, where it will expand and consume us. Really?! Five billion is all we get? We weren't even around for most of the sun's cuter, younger years. We showed up at right about the mid-life crisis phase, if I have my terminology correct. Scientists say the sun will soon take up new hobbies, like wind surfing, which we have to do our best to tolerate. It will also try to attract younger, hotter stars.

The greatest threat the sun poses to us, however, is roasting us in our own atmosphere. Or drowning us in melted glaciers. Or possibly creating a bunch of hurricanes to wipe us out. It's not totally clear yet. Global warming is bad news anyway.

The earth should have come with a tag or something. "WARNING: Don't make any chlorofluorocarbons in here or we're gonna have a problem. Love, Earth." But they left it up to us to figure it out like

we usually do--by screwing up first.

Are you saying that I can't go hiking with a can of aerosol air freshener in each hand, spraying the outdoors with lemon scent like I like to do? You mean I can't keep my SUV running all night with the headlights on to keep kids away from my Harrison Ford mural? You mean I can't stockpile broken refrigerators in my front yard like a Captain Planet villain? All because of the fear of the sun getting some kind of passive aggressive revenge on me where my hypothetical children boil alive?

The only way to escape the relentless onslaught of the sun is to go inside, close your radiation shutters, and crank the air conditioner. However, my air conditioner has only two settings: "being locked in the walk-in freezer at Dairy Queen" and "off." Either it's broken, or Kenmore is trying to make me crack from thermal shock.

The way I see it, we have two options: Put enough pressure on it so it changes, or simply declare war on the sun.

But since I'm always the diplomat, I've decided to issue a review of the sun for now. I give it "no stars." I recommend that no one go and see it.

## Rory McCarty: The next guber of Michigan, vote Rory in 2010

By RORY MCCARTY AND DAN SIMONS

Mouthing Off editor team ACTIVATE  
shape of a sea cucumber/form of an ice bazooka

Michigan's primary election is in full swing, and you know what that means: Attack ads! While each candidate struggles to say anything meaningful about their own plans for Michigan, it's easy to find mean things to say about the other guys, and somehow that's also way more entertaining. The way the candidates fight within their own parties for a few months and then spend the next few months trying to undo the damage they did is easily the best part about the election. It's enough to compel me to run for the position myself.

Then I found out they stopped taking new entries a couple months back. But, I'm not one to give up on a bad idea just because it became unfeasible. Here are a few of the campaign slogans we came up with:

"As a senator, Pete Hoekstra tweeted his position in Iraq on the Internet for every terrorist in the world to see. Rory McCarty got a Twitter and then quickly forgot about it. Vote for Rory: he's too forgetful to leak government information."

"Darren McCarty used to be on the Red Wings. Rory McCarty is running for governor. ... You like the Red Wings, right? Vote for Rory."

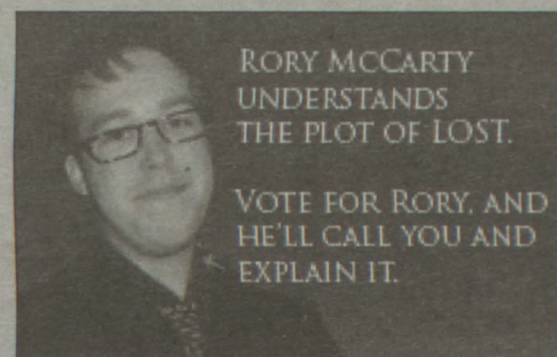
"Do you remember that one thing Granholm did that one time that was so bad? I do. I'll do the opposite of that! Vote Rory McCarty."

"Rory McCarty has gone on record saying that kittens are cute. Andy Dillon has never even mentioned kittens in his campaigns. Vote Rory McCarty: At least we know where he stands on kittens."

Former Mouthing Off editor Dan Simons once stabbed a unicorn. Vote for the only Mouthing Off editor who hasn't stabbed a unicorn. Vote Rory McCarty in 2010.

"Mike Bouchard has been endorsed by Ted Nugent in his campaign. Ted Nugent has been well documented as having 'cat scratch fever,' and by his own admission the sickness is contagious and incurable. Do we want a potentially diseased man for governor? Vote Rory McCarty."

"Rick Snyder says he's 'one tough nerd.' But Rory McCarty was watching the 'Blade Runner' director's cut while Snyder was out 'campaigning.' Vote for , Michigan, and together we will dump Rick Snyder's books."



RORY MCCARTY  
UNDERSTANDS  
THE PLOT OF LOST.

VOTE FOR RORY. AND  
HE'LL CALL YOU AND  
EXPLAIN IT.

"Rory McCarty watched the entire State of the State address without making a fart noise. Vote for integrity. Vote for Rory McCarty."

"The public feels threatened by Mike Cox. They are even ashamed of Mike Cox. Mike Cox has yet to stand up and take charge. Vote for Rory McCarty. He has a name your ten-year old nephew can't make fun of."

We may have the worst economy in the country. So I propose we annex Minnesota. They'll never see it coming. Vote Rory in 2010. We could have West Michigan.



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