

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

April 13, 2011

[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

Volume 37 // Issue 30

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THE OAKLAND POST'S GUIDE  
TO ALL THINGS LOCAL

*pages 11-17*



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## THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# this issue

April 13 — May 10, 2011



Photo  
of the  
Week

## Unique talent on display // Monday, April 11

NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Riding his unicycle all around campus yesterday, freshman David Rich has only been practicing the technique since last summer. Also featured on the Oakland University Facebook page, Rich had been spotted by students around the Oakland Center, South Foundation Hall, Dodge Hall and in the circle drive entrance into the university.



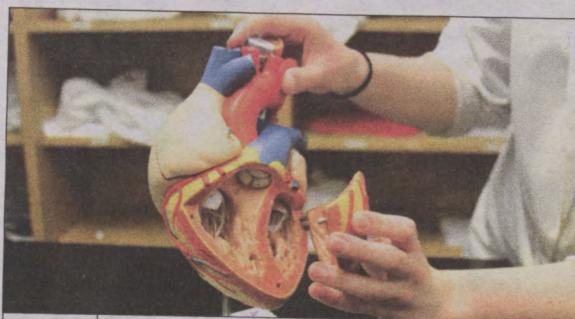
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**CAMPUS //** As part of Oakland University's Greek Week, students are celebrating this week with a carnival, a dance-off and a tailgate.



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**SPORTS //** With the NBA Draft approaching, Oakland's Keith Benson is working hard to impress scouts and improve his draft stock.



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**FEATURES //** Working with the human body, teaching assistant Alison Glinski dissects human cadavers to teach her human anatomy class.



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**THE SCENE //** Oakland University will host the second annual Michigan Pinball Expo from April 14-17. It will feature over 250 machines.



## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Retaining students

As this is our last editorial of the winter semester and 2010-11 school year, it may very well be the last editorial you read as an Oakland University student.

And that doesn't apply only to seniors.

OU's first year retention rate is 76 percent, according to data compiled by the university, meaning approximately one in four current freshmen won't be Golden Grizzlies come this fall.

Why is this happening? One could blame educational quality, but that doesn't seem to be the case for us. It is nearly impossible for students to find a class taught by a graduate assistant or the like, though that is the reality at many large state universities. About 90 percent of Oakland's professors hold doctoral degrees, and most have real-life experience in their field of study.

While the retention rate doesn't fluctuate greatly year to year, the freshman class profile is going up. The average ACT score of incoming freshmen has increased incrementally over the last five years, from 21.6 in 2006 to 22.4 in 2010. At the risk of sounding like an admissions brochure, we must stress that these are simply the facts.

What can bring students to OU and keep them here, though? The school has taken a

step with implementing multiple concurrent enrollment programs with community colleges in the area. A fourth partnership of the sort was announced Friday with Mott Community College.

Does a football program make for a legitimate destination college? That seems to be the case with the top two choices in the state, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

## What can bring students to Oakland University — and keep them here?

However, a school that is consistently named as a dream school by both parents and students in an annual survey done by the Princeton Review is New York University — and the Violets haven't fielded a football team since the 1960s.

What the school does have is an urban campus that provides access to internships and other opportunities in a large city. OU shares that benefit; its location is a huge advantage over schools like Central Michigan University and its Mount Pleasant location, which is comparatively isolated.

At the Creating the Future II summit, President Gary Russi tasked campus and community leaders with coming up with ways to better the school. One of the bigger issues brought up was the recruiting and retention of high school students — of which there will be a smaller pool in coming years — and those who haven't completed their secondary education.

The school has done well in avoiding the "capital arms race" — pooling all assets toward bells and whistles like a football program — that Jeff Williams, a consultant hired by the school for Public Sector Consultants, says is not a good idea. The school should take this advice and focus on assets that "enable students to interact," such as technology and programs that encourage collaboration.

Russi has stressed that OU is still a young school. It is doing all the prescribed things to grow; it is just an issue of time and age when it comes to retention rates.

Enrollment numbers continue to rise — we'll let you decide whether that's a good thing. Regardless, OU should worry less about the quantity of students and more about the quality of students and the education they receive.

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Poll  
- of the -  
Week

4.13.11

## Last Week's Poll

Do you take time to honestly and thoroughly fill out teacher evaluation forms?



- Yes  
34 votes / 83%
- No  
7 votes / 17%

## This Week's Poll

Since enrolling at Oakland University, have you ever considered transferring?

- YES
- NO

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# Take time to practice professional writing

With my time at The Oakland Post finally coming to an end, I thought a retrospective look at my tenure here would be appropriate, considering the effect it has had elsewhere in my life.

For the better portion of 2009 and 2010, this was my only job. Starting off as a staff reporter, I didn't make much money, but looking back, I realize I made something more valuable than money.

I started writing here in October 2009 having never taken a journalism class and not writing journalistically since my senior year of high school. I wasn't even in the journalism school; I graduated with a degree in business management and human resources management.

Writing at The Post, however, developed my critical and creative writing abilities into something that my newest employer, a marketing firm, said was the deciding factor in my hire.

In this age of 140 character Tweets and



**Ryan Hegedus**  
Senior Reporter

instant messages, spelling and grammar skills have deteriorated in an alarming number of students.

Yes, anyone can create and author a blog or write notes on Facebook. Twitter updates are even considered publications now. With the quality editorial staff of The Post, though, you can get real guidance for crafting award-winning articles.

I can only speak from my own perspective as a business major, but I think writing is often something that non-journalists

view as a struggle they'd rather avoid.

Undergraduate students are faced with a challenge once they enter college — writing developed research papers for general education courses while expressing themselves clearly, confidently and concisely for an audience, something they may have never done.

## Spelling and grammar skills have deteriorated in an alarming number of students.

Obviously, there are writing classes available for non-journalism majors, but with The Post being inside the Oakland Center — the hub for student activity — joining the staff here is a cheaper and time-friendly alternative.

Regardless of where you go when you

leave Oakland University, written and verbal communication skills are critical to finding success in the career field.

I have also made connections that I would have never made without writing for the newspaper and interviewed people I could have never met otherwise.

In addition to nearly every head coach and dozens of athletes on campus, I've interviewed Food Network personality Alton Brown, comedian Charlie Murphy and hip hop superstar Lupe Fiasco.

What kind of connections would someone normally need to have to be handed similar opportunities?

With my time at The Oakland Post, I was able to meet them, and even got paid to do it.

While I can't promise you will make money or meet celebrities, I can tell you that writing for The Post will drastically change your job outlook when it comes time to graduate.

# Detroit is on its way back — stay and be a part of it

Growing up, I've sort of always had a desire to move on to the next best thing.

When I was in high school, I couldn't wait to get out of the small town I lived in.

When I was going to school at another university, I couldn't wait to move to Rochester. And up until a few months ago, I could not wait to move out of the metro Detroit area.

Don't get me wrong.

I have had a great experience at Oakland University over the past few years and I love Rochester.

But Detroit has so many negative connotations that I was eager to move on to whatever I considered a "real city" to be, looking exclusively for jobs in places like Nashville or San Diego.

One afternoon, however, I stumbled across a site called I Am Young Detroit.

On this page, there were links to blogs about Detroit's rebirth and information about the work that dozens of young professionals are doing in the city.

Even though I have spent my whole four years in college thinking about how to make a difference after I graduated, I never considered staying in Detroit until reading the stories of these people who were fight-



**Annie Stodola**  
Staff Reporter

ing to give Detroit a second chance.

Unfortunately, I think the attitude I used to have is something that is all too common in college students across Michigan.

Because everything we've heard about the job outlook in Michigan and especially in Detroit is so bleak and discouraging, a lot of people don't even think twice before deciding to move out of state.

As I've considered it more and more, staying in Detroit is a great opportunity — both for young professionals and the city.

Detroit has a lot to offer young people. Even though several neighborhoods may be run down, there's a vibrant visual arts culture in the city that we're lucky to be able to experience.

Detroit has an amazing music scene.

There are nonprofits that work around the clock to make life better for the city's residents.

Perhaps most importantly, however, we have the people of Detroit themselves. While volunteering in Detroit, I have had the opportunity to absorb a wealth of information from older Detroit residents who have been in the city for years.

There's so much we can learn from people who are aware that their city is flawed, and still are so proud of the area and are so determined to restore it.

I'm not saying that Detroit is problem free because it's clear there is a long way to go before Detroit is back in its prime.

But these problems are precisely why we should stay in the area.

Just because a city has problems does not mean it should be abandoned. It won't be easy, but Detroit can get back on its feet and I really believe that it will.

How soon it gets there is up to young professionals, though. The city needs people with fresh ideas.

Every city can make use of talented young people who are full of innovative ideas and we should definitely experience other cities at some point in our lives, but

Detroit needs educated young adults more than ever and they need them right now.

**Detroit has so many negative connotations that I was eager to move onto whatever I considered a 'real city' to be, looking exclusively for jobs in places like Nashville or San Diego.**

Volunteering or working in the city will make a huge difference for individuals and the city as a whole. Even though it may be a challenge, the work we do can lead to Detroit once again being a great place to live and visit.

Finding a job in Detroit will likely be more difficult than finding a job in other metropolitan areas, but it's worth it.

It's worth it to seek out a job that will improve the lives of others and it's worth it to be a part of reviving a city like Detroit, the city that is on the brink of something wonderful.



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# Punditry less a wreck with absence of Beck

By DAUD YAR

Guest Columnist

Have you ever thought about beating foreigners down with shovels? Or hating 9/11 victims because they complain too much?

Don't worry, neither have I. But believe it or not, one man prides himself on answering a strong "yes" to both questions: Glenn Beck.

He may not have had the simplemindedness of Sean Hannity, the uncreative material of Rachel Maddow, the vocabulary of Ketih Olbermann, the loudness of Rush Limbaugh, the rudeness of Bill O'Reilly or the arrogance of Bill Maher. He wasn't charming or good looking. But he had "it" — which in this case being the ability to make everyone else seem normal.

Beck, famous for his conspiracy theories and obscure references — i.e. cutting a rabbit in half with a chainsaw — drew audiences of 3 million people at one point; no doubt due to the political jousting as Democrats sat pretty in both congressional chambers.

Republicans own the house now, and things aren't any different. No wonder Beck lost more than half of his audience over the last year. Hardcore conservatives are learning government affairs will always be a soap opera, as portrayed by the media.

Chuang Tzu, the great Taoist, once said, "Virtue is destroyed by fame and fame is something to beat people down with ... This is simply using other men's bad points

to parade your own excellence."

O'Reilly sums it up rather well: "People get attention for attacking other people."

And he's right. What is more entertaining than meaningless conflict? A little insult here, a dash of hate there and anyone can be the next pundit.

Beck supplied these attitudes and more. Only one man is comfortable with calling President Barack Obama a racist and follow it up with a crying serenade. He is unique, and we loved him for it.

So now that he's been demoted — Beck will still appear on Fox News as a contributor — where will we get our daily dose of "over the top" crazy? I hate to say it, but tuning into "Days of Our Lives" is becoming a real possibility.

We are witnessing the slow death of the political pundit; first Olbermann, now Beck. It's enough already. After almost two decades of polarizing different groups of people, America won't miss them. We'll just find something new drama to fixate on.

We all dig drama — "Jersey Shore," "Real Housewives," "Made." Political talk shows are no different. But maybe it's time for a new beginning; an age when getting along with your fellow man is a priority.

Americans are at a fork in the road. As pundits take their leave, the country is one step closer to a dream; a dream that one day a nation will rise up and cast aside any sentiment of negative feeling toward any fellow man while being videotaped.

Of course, we still have a long way to go, but it's progress.

## CORRECTIONS CORNER

— The sports story "Dance team returns to Disney" incorrectly reported that the team's sixth-place finish this season was its best showing ever at the Universal Dance Association College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championships. The team placed fifth at the competition in 2005.

— Lisa Jacques was misidentified in the cutline accompanying the story "Singing for Sheen a 'losing' feat."

— Beckie Francis' name was misspelled in "Dictated but rigorous schedule."

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail [managing@oakland-postonline.com](mailto:managing@oakland-postonline.com) or call 248.370.2537.

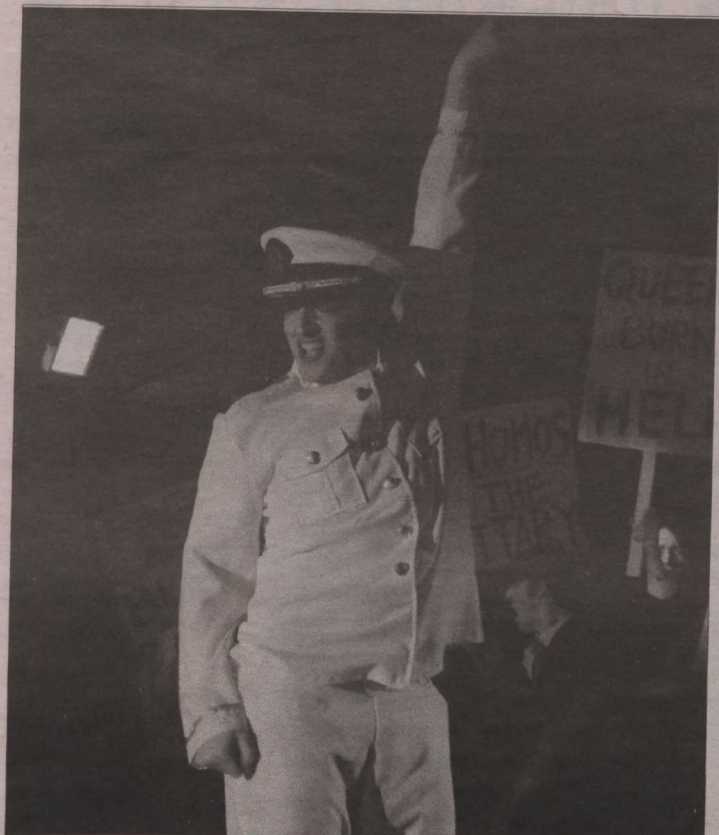
You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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## Anything but ordinary

### GSA presents 8th annual campus drag show



All photos by SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post  
Performers dress in drag for the eighth annual Gay Straight Alliance drag show in the Banquet Rooms of the OC on Thursday.

Nearly 400 people populated the audience at the eighth annual Drag Show on Thursday. The event, put on by the Gay Straight Alliance, was 1920s burlesque-themed and included drag performances from DeAngela Show Shannon, Dashe Rose, Spacey Cadey, Tyiana Hunter and Crystal

Harding.

"It's a very long, tiring process but it always ends up doing very well," said Alexa Van Vliet, president of the GSA. "There's always a lot of dancing."

Many of the performances encouraged audience participation, as attendees clapped along to the

music and were invited onto the stage with the performers.

"It's always nice to see it finally come to fruition. It really is a labor of love for GSA," said James Bialk, vice president of the GSA.

— Paula Andrus and Rhiannon Zielinski contributed to this report.



## police files

### April Fool's joke spurs vandalism

On Tuesday, April 5, OUPD received a report regarding damage to a student's vehicle in P5. Vandalism included broken side mirrors and broken taillights, as well as a broken license plate and cover. The student explained he might know who is responsible for the damage. The student played an April Fool's joke on the possible suspects by writing vulgar language on their vehicles with washable window markers. The two suspects may also be involved with throwing eggs at the student's girlfriend's vehicle as well. The case has been turned over to a detective.

### Four Loko leads to fiasco

On Sunday, April 10, OUPD responded to a call regarding a female student who was possibly having a heart attack. Upon arrival, officers and the Auburn Hills Police Department acted to disperse the crowd, as there was a party taking place at the apartment. The female was carried outside by a friend who informed OUPD that she only had a Four Loko, an alcoholic energy drink, as well as one other mixed drink, but did not know why the female student was acting so strange.

She failed to comply with any requests from officers and was kept in a nearby ambulance until she settled down to answer evaluation questions. The Rochester Hills Fire Department released her from the ambulance where she returned to the apartment. She was issued a misdemeanor citation for disorderly conduct, but the ticket has not been served to her at this time, according to the report.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,  
Local Editor

# Students explore career workshops

By LAURYN ANDREWS  
Staff Reporter

Career Services and the Advising Resource Center sponsored Careers Get Personal on Thursday, April 7 in the Oakland Center.

The workshop focused on helping students find careers that are tailored to their personality traits.

Prior to the workshop, participants took an online assessment, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test used to measure an individual's personality type. The results, which display personal strengths and weaknesses, were given at the workshop. Career Services and the Advising Resource Center uses the MBTI to help students navigate their career searches.

Jenna Barnes, a French and Japanese double major, said the results from her MBTI test were surprising.

"Some of the careers that cropped up on my list surprised me, but a lot confirmed what I already knew about my personality,"

Barnes said.

Carol Anne Ketelsen, a career consultant in the Career Services office said the MBTI test can help a person determine what type of career they would do best in.

"It is important to know your work environment and your task," Ketelsen said.

She said that it is important to ensure that a job placement is a good fit for both parties, the employee and the employer.

"It's not all about the employer, it's also about you, too," Ketelsen said.

Lindsay Zeig, a career and academic adviser from the Advising Resource Center recommends that students utilize the resources available to OU students.

Career Services and the Advising Resource Center both have tools to help students navigate from life as a student to life as a professional.

For those who are undecided or who want to reexamine their major selection, the Advising Resource Center offers academic advising and career counseling. ARC has one-on-one counseling and career and

major exploration workshops for current OU students. Career Services works with students who have already selected their majors as well as OU alumni. They help individuals determine what they want to accomplish with their degrees.

Mock interviews, résumé development and listings of on and off campus jobs are a few of the many services offered.

Career Services can also help students find summer jobs and internships.

For those individuals who are still looking for summer jobs, Ketelsen advises that students keep looking.

"We'll see even companies come in June and say we have got the money and we want to hire someone for June, July and August. You want to not give up hope and keep looking," Ketelsen said.

For more information about the Advising Resource Center, visit their website at [www.oakland.edu/arc](http://www.oakland.edu/arc). To check out OU's Career Link or discover more about Career Services, visit their website at [www.oakland.edu/careerservices](http://www.oakland.edu/careerservices)

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# Greek life continues to expand

By RHIANNON ZIELINSKI

Campus Editor

Greek organizations at Oakland University kicked off the last week of classes for the semester on Monday with a carnival for their third annual Greek Week. The events mark the end of another year of growth for Greek life on campus.

According to Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, there are currently 332 students involved in all Greek chapters on campus as of the Fall semester. Although that is less than the 336 from the year before, the Greek system continues to grow through the addition of new chapters and more activities than previous years.

"This past year has been great," said Tom Cruz, founder of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity on campus. "We got our charter to become an official chapter instead of a colony. Last year in May was our official chartering ceremony. Since then we've just been trying to put on events and make ourselves more known in the Greek community here."

Hannah Smith, president of the Greek Council and scholarship chair of Alpha Delta Pi, works to bring the different organizations together through different events and activities.

"Right now, Greek Week is focusing on unifying and uniting everyone so that it's not just individual organizations, because there's no way that any of us can grow individually unless we all support each other



Members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon play tug-of-war during Greek Week with members of Tau Kappa Epsilon on Tuesday in the upper fields.

NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

and grow as a group," Smith said.

She emphasized that Greek life can be for everyone and that they are not as selective as they might seem.

"You have everyone across the board — a variety of religions, majors, family backgrounds, people who are paying for college in the sorority on their own and then the people who can have their parents pay for it," Smith said.

She said that participating in Greek organizations allows commuter students to become more involved on campus.

"It's making things a little bit more entertaining here on campus," Smith said. "I come to campus for other events, not just Greek events. I'm more likely to come to athletic

events just because it makes you want to be involved at Oakland, which is really nice.

Tyler Glen, president of Tau Kappa Epsilon, urges students to look into Greek organization, even if they don't think it's right for them.

"Even if you are hesitant, just come out to the events and get to know the members," Glen said. "You would be surprised as to how many kids swear they would never go Greek, but in the end make friendships with the members and eventually join."

Greek Week activities continue on Wednesday with a dance-off in the Pioneer Food Court at 8:30 p.m. and a pre-concert tailgate at 7 p.m. on Thursday. For more information, visit [oakland.edu/gogreek](http://oakland.edu/gogreek)

## Clean energy resource center opens

By EMMA CLAUCHERTY

Staff Reporter

The campus celebrated the grand opening of the OU Clean Energy Research center on Thursday, March 31. The goal of the new center is to provide a place for students and faculty to develop clean energy alternatives. Plans for this center, located under the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) as well as in the Shottwell-Gustafson Pavilion, have been in place for years but did not take action until it received proper funding.

"We received an initial grant from the Department of Energy (DOE), and then from the State of Michigan through a private partner that was matched dollar-for-dollar by OU President Gary Rus-si," Dr. Chris Kobus, Director of the Clean Energy Research Center (CERC) said. "Those formed the vast bulk of our initial funding and with that we were able to purchase a substantial amount of equip-

ment that will be needed going forward."

Between 250-300 guests attended the opening of the CERC. Several demonstrations of what the CERC had to offer were available at the event.

"There were several vendors at the opening demonstrating energy efficiency technologies like solid-state lighting, waste heat recovery, hybrid vehicle tech, solar power, biomass and biofuels," Kobus said. "Several of those demonstrations were by vendors that came to the CERC and the OU Incubator for proof-of-concept research and we are going forward with them in that regard."

As of now, three faculty members and two students are involved with the new program. Since the CERC is so new, they expect to add more members soon. They are currently in the process of a few projects.

### campus briefs

#### MOMENTUM senior thesis

Oakland University Art Gallery is featuring senior thesis art projects most days this month. The gallery's regular hours are Tuesday-Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

#### Privacy lecture

The English department is holding its 13th annual Poetry Bash Friday, April 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Lake Superior Room of the Oakland Center. Participants are asked to bring their favorite poems to read. Email Rob Anderson at [r2anders@oakland.edu](mailto:r2anders@oakland.edu) for more information.

#### Harp concert

Georges Lambert and Jung Wha Lee will be holding a harp concert from 8-10 p.m. on Monday, April 18 in Varner Recital Hall. Tickets will be \$7 for students. Contact Gillian Ellis at 248-370-3321 for more information.

#### Guitar Day

Faculty member Brett Hoag will be providing lessons in various guitar skills from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 23. A master class and free concert with Julio Alves will be included. The cost is \$70 and preregistration is required.

#### Indian music and dance

South Indian musicians and dancers the Carnatica Brothers will be giving various concerts and workshops from Friday, May 6 to Sunday, May 8. Concerts will take place in Varner Recital Hall and workshops will be in Room 110. For more information, email Mark Stone at [stone@oakland.edu](mailto:stone@oakland.edu).

— Compiled by Kevin Graham,  
Staff Intern

Continued on page 10



# EMAG/NE

*Imagine Theatres & Star Lanes at  
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Accepting applications for the following:

- ★ **Box Office Cashiers**
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Imagine Royal Oak

308 N Main Street

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(look for the Now Hiring banner)

## OUCARES provides higher 'quality of life'

By SARAH WOJCIK  
Senior Reporter

OUCARES — short for Oakland University Center for Autism Research, Education and Support — is a non-profit organization that has been around for five years.

The center provides not only programs for those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), but also offers master's and certification programs, specifically for teaching students with autism taught by doctors conducting research on ASD.

"Our whole basis for everything that we do with OUCARES is based on providing a quality of life for those children and the families affected by autism," said Kathy Sweeney, director of OUCARES. "We go all the way from the ages of two to young adults 23-24 years old."

OUCARES provides a Master of Education in Special Education, an Autism Spectrum Disorder Teaching Endorsement, and they also partner with other universities to offer an online endorsement program, Autism Collaborative Endorsement (ACE), and an Interdisciplinary Certificate in Autism (ICA).

Oakland University professors Janet Graetz and Darlene Groomes — and a visiting professor Luke Tsai are currently doing research projects for OUCARES, according to Sweeney.

The center offers a variety of programs including art, baseball, basketball, martial arts, music, science, soccer, social skills, social outings and yoga.

"We actually structure them depending on age groups," said Christy Lee, the program coordinator. "Depending on their age, they're at certain development levels, so we want to group them with their peers."

Basketball and outdoor soccer, two of the most popular programs, are held on Friday and Saturday nights, respectively.

The programs aren't only for children.

"We do have some adult programs," Lee said. "We have an after-hours adult program that is held on Monday nights that usually takes place in Bumper's Game Room. It's an opportunity for them to come together in a safe environment where we structure it specifically around their needs."

OUCARES is largely dependent on their volunteers. Over 300 volunteers are catalogued in the database, according to Sweeney.

"We just had a family fun day and it couldn't have been successful without the volunteers," Lee said. "We're always looking for volunteers."

Overall, Sweeney estimated that there is somewhere around 700 families that OUCARES reaches.

Right now, OUCARES is working on developing their summer camps. They offer a summer camp for children ages 6-13 and, new this year, a pee-wee summer camp for children ages 3-5.

"The research is really letting us know that the earlier a child is diagnosed with autism and gets into programs, the more likely it is for an improved quality of life, not just for them but also for their families," Sweeney said.

In August, OUCARES is excited to present their film camp. Directed by Hollywood director Joey Travolta — John Travolta's younger brother — children are able to come up with the idea for films and help with costumes and the script.

"OUCARES is really an incredible treasure inside Oakland University," Sweeney said. "We have (passion for) making a difference not only for those families with children with autism, but making a difference in your life so that you understand what this is and not that these people are strange, but they're special and they are coming to the table with skills many of us never have."

## CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH

continued from page 9

"Right now we are busy installing our equipment into the Pavilion, including a biomass system that will heat the building, a biomass densification system for manufacturing our own fuel pellets, and working with several vendors in performing some proof-of-concept studies," Kobus said. "On the education side, we just completed our first certificate course in energy management with the idea that this will become a graduate program under the engineering management umbrella in partnership with the School of Business Administration."

The program plans on instituting a major over the next few years, as well as becoming an asset for the community.

"The public launch and what we are currently working on is just a start to what I hope will be a very fruitful endeavor for OU and the tri-county metro area," Kobus said. "It is in need of energy management in order to gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace."



# out & about

12-13 // Eats & Treats

14-15 // Fun & Cheers

16-17 // Shop & Style

**WRITTEN BY:** Lauryn Andrews,  
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Semeraz & Jason Willis

**DESIGNED BY:** Jason Willis

## TINY PLACE, BIG TASTE

**TOWER PIZZA //** Tower Pizza, located in historic Downtown Rochester, is a combination of many things that are great about pizza. The decor makes it feel like you are eating in Italy. The prompt take-out style and hot pizza is similar to the famous take-out eateries of Chicago and New York. What Tower lacks in the size of the establishment, they make up for in the quality of the food and service. The pizza is "real" with a homemade feel, not processed like the big chain restaurants. The Christmas lights that hang year-round make Tower feel even more inviting. For quality pizza and friendly service, Tower Pizza is a place to consider when you're hungry in Downtown Rochester.

334 S. Main St., Rochester





## CRAVINGS FOR CUPCAKES

**ROCKIN' CUPCAKES** // Since opening last fall, Rockin' Cupcakes owners Jim and Mary Ohngren have made rock and roll themed cupcakes fresh daily for their Rochester fanbase. Favorite cupcake flavors include The White Stripes a red velvet cupcake with red and white cream cheese frosting and the Yellow Submarine a lemon cupcake with lemon curd filling and topped with lemon buttercream frosting as well as a "pupcake" for patrons' pets.

[www.rockincupcakesrochester.com](http://www.rockincupcakesrochester.com) // 6930 N. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills



**RANGOLI INDIAN** // Rangoli Indian offers authentic food in a sophisticated environment. The name of the restaurant comes from the tradition of decorating the walls of houses and places of worship. The restaurant also features live Indian musical performances every Friday night.

[www.detroitrangoli.com](http://www.detroitrangoli.com)  
3055 E. Walton Blvd.  
Auburn Hills



**SANDER'S CANDY AND DESSERTS** // Recently merging with Morley's Candy, Sanders in downtown Rochester is a tasty hotspot for those with a refined sweet tooth. Described as the "fine chocoaltiers," the shop offers chocolate, coffee and cocoa, Morley's treats and more, seven days a week.

[www.sanderscandy.com](http://www.sanderscandy.com)  
436 S. Main St., Rochester



**DESSERT OASIS** // If you are looking for a coffee house with a unique twist, stop by Dessert Oasis in downtown Rochester. The café features live music every evening, Thursday through Saturday. Customers can enjoy delectable desserts, coffee creations and a variety of breakfast and lunch items.

[www.dessertoasis.net](http://www.dessertoasis.net)  
205 S. Main St., Rochester



**O'BRIEN'S CRABHOUSE** // Located in the Auburn Hills Shopping Plaza on Opdyke Road, O'Brien's Crabhouse has been serving the community for over 20 years. O'Brien's dinner menu includes their famous crab cakes and crab imperial, along with many other fresh seafood options. Looking for a good drink to go with dinner? O'Brien's offers a great selection of wine and a fully-stocked bar.

[www.obrienscrabhouse.com](http://www.obrienscrabhouse.com) // 621 S. Opdyke Road, Auburn Hills



**BEYOND JUICE** // Touting unique concoctions like "Skinny Dip," "Ultimate Buzz" and "Tahitian Tease," Beyond Juice offers delicious drinks that also meet two-thirds of the daily recommendation of fruit and vegetables, and with less than 1 gram of fat. Breakfast, salads, sandwiches and dessert items are also available. Whether you're looking to recover from a night out or boost your memory before a big test, Beyond Juice has you covered.

[www.beyondjuicerochester.com](http://www.beyondjuicerochester.com) // 120 E. Fourth St., Rochester



**1) PACIUO GELATO CAFFE** // Customers craving a taste of Italy can go to Paciuo for a taste of handmade gelato. Every day, a new batch of flavors are offered, from the daring Raspberry Pomegranate Chocolate Chip to a new twist on originals like Vanilla Lavender. Too cold? Try the affogato with a choice of flavored gelato mixed with warm espresso.

[www.paciugo.com](http://www.paciugo.com)  
1198 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills

**2) RED KNAPP'S** // Located in the heart of downtown Rochester, Red Knapp's Dairy Bar takes you back to the '50s. Their menu features a wide range of desserts and American classics like cheeseburgers and fried pickles. Famous for their milkshakes and malts, the dairy bar features everything from hand-dipped ice cream to supreme sundaes. All burgers are a half-pound and served on freshly baked buns.

304 S. Main St., Rochester

**3) SUMO SUSHI** // Tucked in downtown Rochester, Sumo Sushi offers a trendy atmosphere, while serving up a large variety of fresh sushi rolls. If raw fish isn't your thing, they also have an array of vegetarian and cooked rolls. In addition to sushi, Sumo offers a large menu of Japanese-style entrées.

[www.sumosushirochester.com](http://www.sumosushirochester.com)  
418 S. Main St., Rochester

**4) NANA'S CAFE** // Full of homemade pillowmellows, vegan chili, gelato, coffee and other treats, Nana's World Café is known for its vegan, kosher, organic, eco-friendly, fair trade and halal tendencies. Visitors of the world café are also treated to a colorful atmosphere, free WiFi and music from around the world.

[www.nanasgourmet.com/cafe](http://www.nanasgourmet.com/cafe)  
3395 Auburn Road, Auburn Hills



# eats & treats

We've covered all ends of the spectrum with this city guide. We're featuring everything from fine food to delectable desserts in surrounding communities. Staff favorites are denoted with an editor's pick badge.

**1) LIPUMA'S CONEY ISLAND //** Voted one of the best places to eat a coney dog, Lipuma's Coney Island is located right next to the Paint Creek Trail in downtown Rochester. Popular for their coney dogs and chili fries, Lipuma's also offers Chicago, Russian and New York style hot dogs. On nice days, the line can wrap around the building. Don't let that dissuade you, though. The cooks on the line are definitely efficient. They have an outdoor patio with seating located next to the Clinton River. Accepting cash only, their service bell rings loud and proud when a tip is received.  
**621 N. Main St., Rochester**

**2) MAKIMOTO SUSHI //** Voted "Best Sushi" by The Oakland Press, Makimoto gives customers a taste of Asia. The menu has a wide variety from sushi like the raw rendezvous roll with different types of fish to dishes from Korea, China and Japan.  
**[www.makimotorestaurant.com](http://www.makimotorestaurant.com)  
2741 University Drive, Auburn Hills**

**3) HOME BAKERY //** Although times, tastes and owners have changed, Home Bakery has remained one of the more popular corner bakeries in the downtown Rochester area. Home Bakery has been making custom, creatively decorated cakes in all shapes and sizes for a number of years. From brownies and fruit tarts to cookies and other individual treats, the bakers will be sure to satisfy your sweet tooth.  
**300 S. Main St., Rochester**

**4) GEORGIO'S PIZZA & PASTA //** You don't need to go to New York for a hand-tossed brick oven pizza. Georgio's Pizza & Pasta, with pizzas like Susie's Brooklyn Special, in downtown Rochester has you covered. With a clear view of the kitchen, you can watch your pizza be tossed and topped while you wait.  
**[www.georgiospizzaandpasta.com](http://www.georgiospizzaandpasta.com) // 117 S. Main St., Rochester**



**BEAN & LEAF CAFE //** The Bean & Leaf Café stands on the corner of Rochester Road and Walton Blvd., at the home of a former Starbucks coffee shop. The new occupant welcomes visitors away from the chain store feel and into a relaxing atmosphere for java — served in a biodegradable Eco-Cup — or a snack. Specialty menu items have drawn locals into this growing downtown hotspot.

**[www.mybeanandleaf.com](http://www.mybeanandleaf.com)  
439 S. Main St., Rochester**



**KNAPP'S DONUTS //** Simple and near perfect is this family-owned operation in downtown Rochester known as Knapp's Donuts. Knapp's classic small breakfast bar look, great prices and even better treats beat the chain places. With a large window that overlooks the downtown area, Knapp's wide variety of donuts are a must-have to any newcomer.

**[www.knappsdonuts.com](http://www.knappsdonuts.com)  
500 N. Main St., Rochester**



**MIGUEL'S CANTINA //** Eager to provide its customers an authentic experience, Miguel's Cantina offers a large selection of Mexican fare in a bright, lively setting. Every meal starts off with fresh salsa that's made right at your tableside, and the food is all homemade from scratch. The restaurant offers margarita specials as well, making it ideal for either dinner with the family or a night out with friends.

**[www.eatatmiguel.com](http://www.eatatmiguel.com)  
870 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills**





**EMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT** // Housed in what used to be affectionately known as "Star Rochester," this Emagine location takes moviegoing to a whole new level. The comfortable chairs and great selection of munchies — think pizza from Crust and olive oil popcorn — combined with student discounts makes the theater a destination. You also can't forget the full bar.

[www.emagine-entertainment.com](http://www.emagine-entertainment.com)  
200 Barclay Circle, Rochester Hills



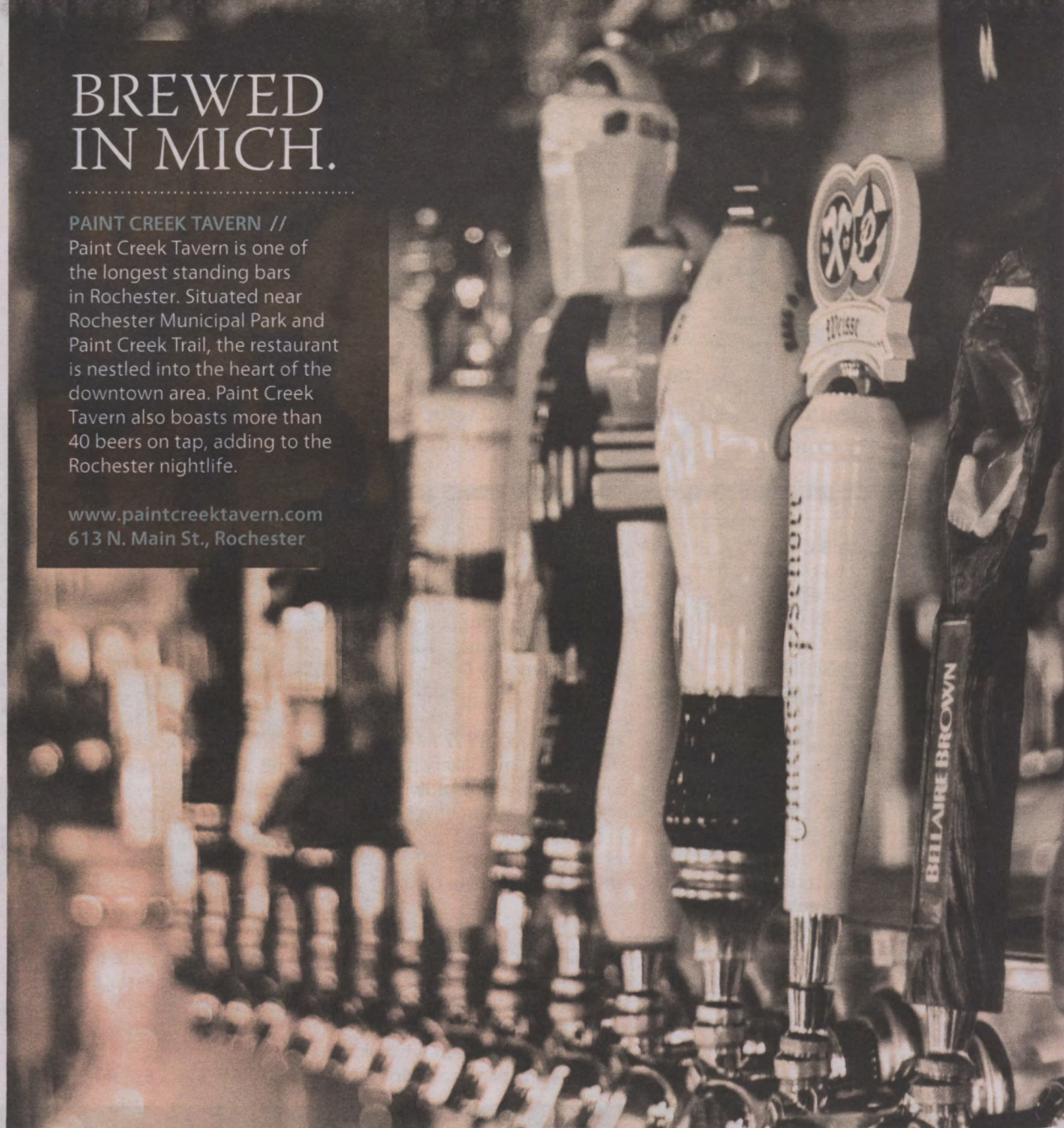
**PAINT CREEK TRAIL** // Open to the public since 1983, the Paint Creek Trail is ideal for a walk, jog or bike ride. The trail runs for 8.9 miles through Rochester, Rochester Hills and other surrounding communities and is a great venue in which to simply relax and enjoy nature.

Located in northeast Oakland County,  
runs from Rochester Hills to Lake Orion

## BREWED IN MICH.

**PAINT CREEK TAVERN** // Paint Creek Tavern is one of the longest standing bars in Rochester. Situated near Rochester Municipal Park and Paint Creek Trail, the restaurant is nestled into the heart of the downtown area. Paint Creek Tavern also boasts more than 40 beers on tap, adding to the Rochester nightlife.

[www.paintcreektavern.com](http://www.paintcreektavern.com)  
613 N. Main St., Rochester



**1) O'CONNORS PUBLIC HOUSE** // Gus or no Gus, O'Connors is one of those places where everyone knows your name. Replete with standard Irish bar fare, O'Connors is also home of "the perfect pour," with an ample selection of beer and liquor. The atmosphere is casual with a touch of sophistication. Rotating nightly entertainment options include trivia, video DJs and live acts.

[www.oconnorspublichouse.us](http://www.oconnorspublichouse.us) // 324 Main St., Rochester



**2) ROCHESTER MILLS BEER COMPANY** // This knitting-mill turned brewery is a hot spot for anyone looking for a locally-brewed beer, eclectic cuisine or a place to shoot pool. From their popular Lazy Daze Lager to the stronger Cornerstone IPA, the selection at Rochester Mills aims to please even the most discerning taste buds. Stop by on Fridays or Saturdays for live music starting at 10 p.m. and never any cover charge.

[www.beercos.com](http://www.beercos.com) // 400 Water St., Rochester

**3) KRUSE AND MUER** // What began as a friendship between Chuck Muer and Bill Kruse turned into multiple business ventures that include Rochester Chop House, Kabin Kruser's Oyster Bar and several others, but Kruse & Muer has been a popular establishment for years. Featuring various dishes of different tastes, their pasta and seafood dishes really stand out among the best in downtown Rochester.

[www.kruseandmuerrestaurants.com](http://www.kruseandmuerrestaurants.com)  
327 S. Main St., Rochester; 134 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills



# fun & cheers

////////////////////

No college town can be complete without a few choice hangout spots. Whether you're looking for a relaxing afternoon or a night out on the town, there is a variety of things to do around OU. Students can head to hot spots in Rochester, Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills and Pontiac to have a drink, visit a gallery or see a show.



**1) PENNY BLACK //** A new venture from the owners of The Hills, Penny Black serves traditional Tex-Mex food and tapas, small plates of various Mexican specialties. Located in the building that once housed the original Rochester post office, the bar also offers dancing on Friday and Saturday nights.

[www.pb-rochester.com](http://www.pb-rochester.com) // 124 W. 4th St., Rochester

**2) TOBY KEITH'S I LOVE THIS BAR & GRILL //** Named after the singer, Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill at Great Lakes Crossing is the perfect place to go for fans of good food and country music. Thursday night is college night, which features \$1 beers from 8-10 p.m. until the keg is empty and free mechanical bull rides with a student I.D. Live music is featured on weekends.

[www.tobykeithsbar.com](http://www.tobykeithsbar.com)  
4698 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills

**3) DUFFY'S PUB //** Duffy's Pub is an old-fashioned Irish pub in downtown Auburn Hills. With \$1 specials Monday through Thursday, Duffy's also has half-priced appetizers during Sunday night games. The menu offers everything from classic fish and chips to build your own burger. They also feature live entertainment on weekends and an annual St. Patty's Day celebration.

3320 Auburn Road, Auburn Hills



**THE HILLS //** The Hills offers gourmet bar fare in a casual atmosphere that sets it apart from other downtown bars. Regulars frequent the bar for its nightly drink specials and cozy tables by the fireside. As a bonus, the kitchen stays open until 2 a.m., meaning you can enjoy your plate of pizza sticks or sandwich melt right until closing time.

[www.website.com](http://www.website.com)  
12345 Main St. Rochester



**PAINT CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS //** While the OUAG offers unique exhibits, Paint Creek allows art enthusiasts to get involved. In addition to their art exhibitions and displays, the Center also provides outreach programs for children and studio art classes. They also support the Arts and Apples Festival in Rochester each year.

[www.pccart.org](http://www.pccart.org)  
407 Pine St., Rochester



**JD'S KEY CLUB //** Different from the ordinary piano club, JD's Key Club in Pontiac is composed of two dueling pianos, a drum set and exuberant hosts that like to get visitors involved (just ask Managing Editor Mike Sandula). Wednesday night is Ladies Night, and women 21+ are admitted for free until 10 p.m. and get \$1 drinks until 10:30 p.m.

[www.jdskeyclub.com](http://www.jdskeyclub.com)  
1 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac



**CLUTCH CARGO'S //** In what was originally a church, this venue houses some of the most popular tours to pass through Michigan, while serving as one of the busiest nightclubs in Pontiac. Upcoming events include Breath Carolina on May 3 and Arctic Monkeys on May 26, as well as \$1 cocktails and beers and free cover every Saturday until 11 p.m.

[www.clutchcargos.com](http://www.clutchcargos.com)  
65 E. Huron St., Pontiac



**TONIC //** A night club of choice by Channel 955, Tonic balances pumping music and rave-style lighting on multiple floors of the building. With a new theme each night ranging from Sexy Sundays to ladies night on Saturday, Tonic DJs mix up the best dance music every night. Events are usually 18+, but check the site before you venture out without a vertical drivers license.

[www.tonicdetroit.com](http://www.tonicdetroit.com)  
29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac



**THE CROFOOT BALLROOM //** A popular concert venue, The Crofoot Ballroom in Pontiac hosts many different concerts and can be rented for weddings and events. The largest space in the complex, the room has three service bars, wireless Internet, a private balcony, stage and second floor. Free tickets are randomly given to Facebook users who "like" their page.

[www.thecrofoot.com](http://www.thecrofoot.com)  
1 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac





1



2



3



4

**1) GREEN'S ART SUPPLY** // From ceramic tools to charcoal pencils, Green's Art Supply has everything an artist needs. Serving the community since 1953, Green's is a local landmark. Their friendly staff is happy to help you create a custom frame for your favorite picture or find the perfect tool for your next project.  
[www.greensartsupply.com](http://www.greensartsupply.com)  
429 S. Main St., Rochester

**2) FLIRTY FASHION** // Serving to formal occasions, Flirty Fashions offers a wide selection of modern formal dresses, jewelry and hair accessories. The store welcomes its guests with bride-worthy dressing rooms and availability for alterations. Catering to a variety of female customers, the shop also offers a smaller selection of daytime wear.  
[www.myflirtyfashions.com](http://www.myflirtyfashions.com)  
314 S. Main St., Rochester

**3) ROCHESTER BIKE SHOP** // Serving the cycling community in downtown Rochester, the Rochester Bike Shop is an excellent place to purchase a new bike, equipment and accessories. The shop has a full service and repair department for those in need of a tune up. Their service experts fix all bike models and guarantee that repairs will be completed in 24-48 hours.  
[www.rochesterbikeshop.com](http://www.rochesterbikeshop.com)  
426 S. Main St., Rochester

**4) SOUTH STREET SKATE SHOP** // This is the place to go for all your skateboarding needs. The shop features boards along with equipment and apparel from all the top brands, including Element, Zero and Blind. Once you've got your gear, test it out at the skate park, located just south of downtown on South Street.  
[www.southstreetskatepark.com](http://www.southstreetskatepark.com)  
410 Main St., Rochester

# shop & style

London, Paris and Milan are some known shopping destinations, but the Rochester area is also home to many distinctive boutiques and beauty salons. Check out a few places, many of which offer discounts to OU students.



1



2



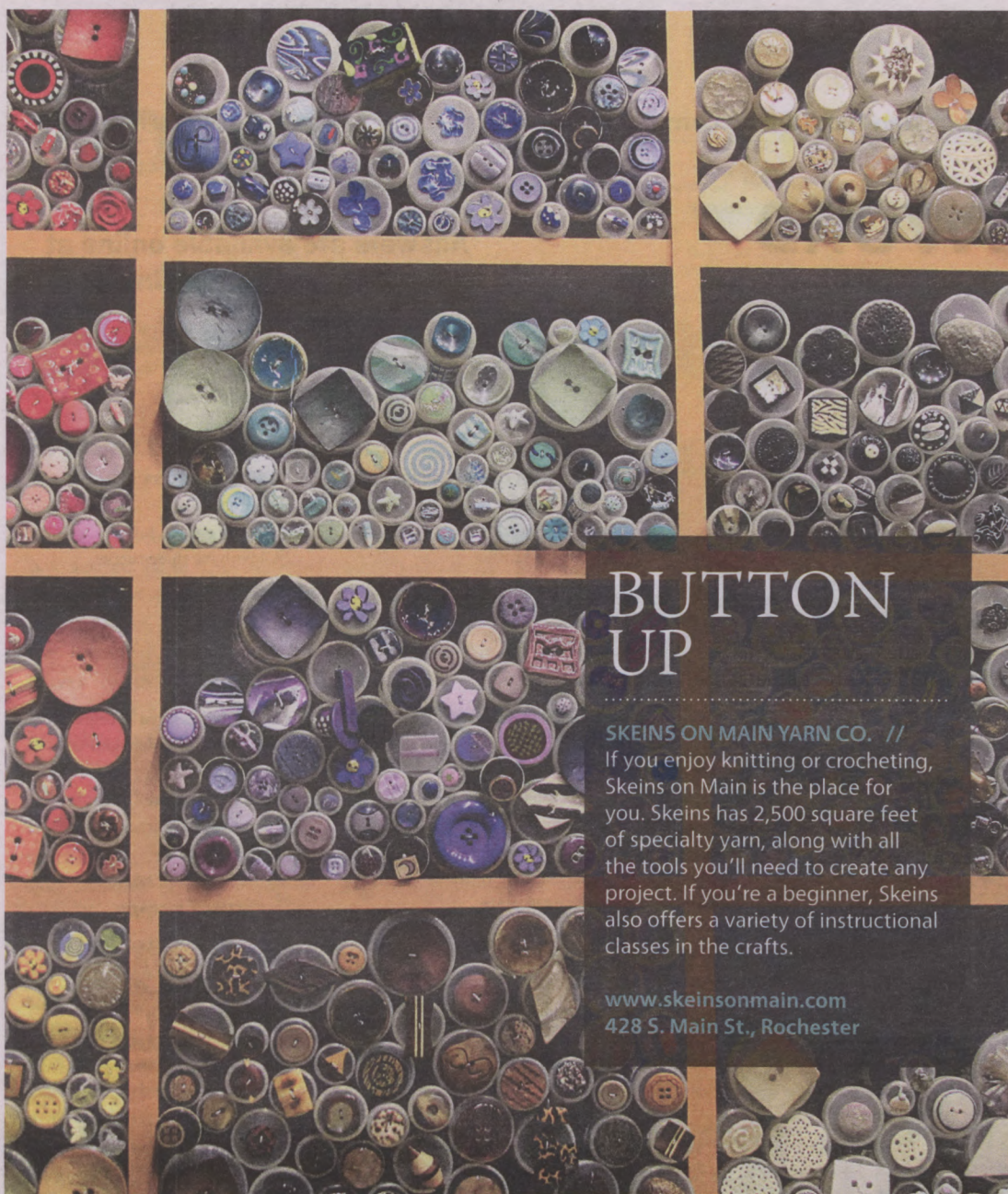
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**1) CATCHING FIREFLIES** // What was once an old train depot was transformed and turned into a gift shop of all sorts. Located in downtown Rochester, the unique blue store is home to many different children's games and toys, handmade purses and jewelry, crafted signs for the home, wind chimes, bird houses and many other "whimsical" gifts. A perfect place to shop for unique gifts, the store has so many different things to look at. Friendly store owners will assist you in purchasing gifts for even the hardest people to shop for. If you can't make it to either of the stores, their website offers merchandise online with complementary in store pickup. A branch of the original store in Berkley, the Rochester location has been around since the summer of 2004.  
[www.catchingfireflies.com](http://www.catchingfireflies.com)  
203 E. University Drive, Rochester

**2) FRANCESCA'S COLLECTIONS** // A newer addition to The Village's fashion offerings, Francesca's lends its boutique feel to the outdoor mall. Breaking from the usual big-brand selection offered by other retailers, the store offers eclectic women's clothing, accessories and whimsical gifts.  
[www.francescascollections.com](http://www.francescascollections.com)  
160 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills

**3) LA DOLCE VITA SPA** // La Dolce Vita can be a bit pricey for those on a tight budget, but the relaxation and service is worth every penny. The spa, which is nestled inside an old Victorian home, caters to those who want old school glamour. Reward yourself or a significant other with a gift certificate and be sure to check out the boutique as well.  
[www.ldvspa.com](http://www.ldvspa.com)  
302 W. University Dr., Rochester





## BUTTON UP

**SKEINS ON MAIN YARN CO. //** If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, Skeins on Main is the place for you. Skeins has 2,500 square feet of specialty yarn, along with all the tools you'll need to create any project. If you're a beginner, Skeins also offers a variety of instructional classes in the crafts.

[www.skeinsonmain.com](http://www.skeinsonmain.com)  
428 S. Main St., Rochester



### SOLE SISTERS SHOES //

This boutique offers ample choices for women: a jewelry collection ranging from edgy to classic, trendy clothing, purses and other accessories. As the name promises, there is also a fantastic collection of shoes (think Chinese Laundry, Big Buddha). One of four sites, the Rochester store offers all this with friendly accommodations at a prime location on Main St.

329 S. Main St., Rochester



### FARMER'S MARKET //

To welcome in the season, the downtown Rochester Farmer's Market will open Saturday, May 7, operating from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The weekly outdoor expo of flowers, produce and Michigan products will run until October 29. A complete guide to the market's local vendors can be found online.

[www.downtownrochestermarket.com/events/farmers-market](http://www.downtownrochestermarket.com/events/farmers-market)  
SW corner of E. Third and Water Street; Rochester



### VILLAGE LAMP SHOP INC. //

Founded in 1908, the Village Lamp Shop is known for creating lampshades out of any material. From common to exotic and modern to retro, they have it all. They also carry a variety of antique oil lamps. The shop employs local artists and each piece is unique. It's the perfect place for that extra something on an empty table.

[www.lampshadelounge.com](http://www.lampshadelounge.com)  
139 Romeo Rd., Rochester



**1) BEAUTYFIRST //** Though Beautyfirst is a national chain, the salon at its location in The Village of Rochester Hills offers discounts for OU students. The beauty store has a wide variety of products to select from. Also, we know for a fact that OU President Gary Russi has gotten his hair cut here.

[www.beautyfirst.com](http://www.beautyfirst.com) // 96 N. Adams Rd., Rochester Hills

**2) MS. ESTHETICIAN //** Ms. Esthetician specializes in waxing and offers services for guys and gals. Tiffany is a friendly face that is the counterbalance to what can often be an uncomfortable time. Tucked away inside Rochester Esthetics, it can be a bit difficult to find Tiffany through anything but referral. She offers great service and discounts to college students, though.

[www.msestheticianwaxing.com](http://www.msestheticianwaxing.com) // 414 S. Main St., Rochester

**3) THE PAINTED POT //** The Painted Pot is the perfect place for a quiet day of making art - minus the mess. Patrons can pick out a pre-made pot to paint, with help from employees. Those who are more ambitious may opt to take a class to produce their own pottery.

[www.thepaintedpot.com](http://www.thepaintedpot.com)  
421 Walnut Blvd., Rochester



For more photos of these locations, please visit our Flickr page at [flickr.com/theoaklandpost](http://flickr.com/theoaklandpost)

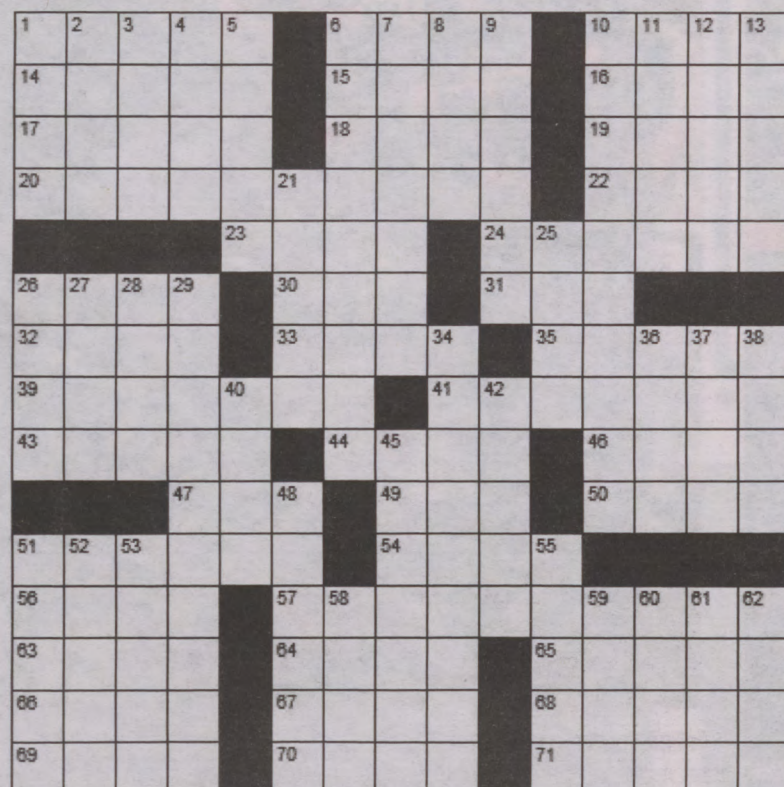




# WEEKLY CROSSWORD

To sponsor our weekly crossword, contact us at [ads@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:ads@oaklandpostonline.com)

Answers are available online at  
[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



## ACROSS

1. Not sit
6. A young lady
10. Sail holder
14. Hue
15. Initial wager
16. Countertenor
17. Quarrel
18. Russian emperor
19. Midday
20. Write out from speech
22. Auth. unknown
23. Dispatch
24. Fret
26. Harbor
30. French for "Friend"
31. French for "Summer"
32. Winged
33. Fizzy drink
35. Artist's workstand
39. Plan
41. A horse's leap
43. Australian "bear"
44. Tall story
46. Italian resort
47. Back then
49. Dowel

50. Ancient Biblical kingdom
51. A medicine that induces vomiting
54. "S.O.S.!"
56. A few
57. A type of cooking utensil
63. Fly high
64. Fail to win
65. Moses' brother
66. Largest continent
67. Chief Norse god
68. Homeric epic
69. Scream
70. Nipple
71. League members

## DOWN

1. Leave in a hurry
2. A unit of pressure
3. Seaweed
4. Person, place or thing
5. Put on clothes
6. Wedlock
7. Flavorless
8. Pierce
9. Peaceful
10. Possible
11. Beside
12. A simple seat
13. 1000 kilograms
21. Pursue
25. Detail
26. Nature preserve
27. Margarine
28. Indian music
29. Involving three parties
34. Accord
36. Expressed
37. Cocoyam
38. Weaving machine
40. Wise men
42. This is measured in degrees
45. Inability to understand language
48. Leopardlike cat
51. An analytic literary composition
52. Bullwinkle for example
53. Electronic messages
55. Braid
58. Connecting point
59. Corduroy feature
60. Operatic solo
61. Wander
62. Concludes

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## Benson prepares for NBA

By EMMY LUCAS  
Contributing Reporter

The celebration confetti has settled from the Summit League Championship and trip to the NCAA Tournament, but the two-time Summit League Player of the Year, Oakland University's Keith Benson, has his sights set on a new objective — the NBA.

Rumors have been swarming and agents have been calling since his junior year, but Benson said he's not getting ahead of himself.

"I still have a long way to go; it's not guaranteed," Benson said.

Benson said it was during his first season as a member of the Grizzlies when scouts began noticing him, but it wasn't until his sophomore year, when he had a breakout game against Michigan, that he saw his own potential.

He scored 23 points to go with 11 rebounds against the Wolverines that day.

"That's when I started to see that if I can do this against the Big Ten, then I can do it against anybody," Benson said. "I got a lot of confidence that game and carried that forward."

Benson would go on to lead the Grizzlies to back-to-back Summit League championships and consecutive appearances at the NCAA Tournament during his junior and senior seasons. He finished his career at Oakland as the Summit League's all-time leader in blocked shots with 371.

Although his career at OU has come to an end and his locker has since been cleaned out, Benson still continues to shoot around in the O'rena to improve his game.

On most days, it's hard to miss

Benson as he saunters across campus. The 6-foot-11 Benson said he is often greeted with waves, hugs, high-fives from friends and fans of the team.

Benson is often referred to as "Kito," a nickname he said his parents gave him when he was a kid.

"When I was young my mom wanted to call me something to tell the difference between me and my dad (Keith Benson Sr.)," Benson said. "I didn't like it for a while, but it caught on when I played at (Birmingham Detroit) Country Day, and just stuck."

And now, the name is stuck to him in more ways than one.

Benson has the nickname tattooed inside a basketball hoop on one arm and the words "killa instinct" on the other. The "killa instinct" is all about basketball, Benson said.

"You have to have the 'killa instinct' to defeat your opponent, not just play to play," Benson said. "You have to cut them off and win."

Two weeks after the Grizzlies lost to Texas in the NCAA Tournament, Benson and the team met to play a pickup game in the O'rena.

On his way to the court, Benson passed through the glass-paned door of the O'rena that boasts a life-size decal of him.

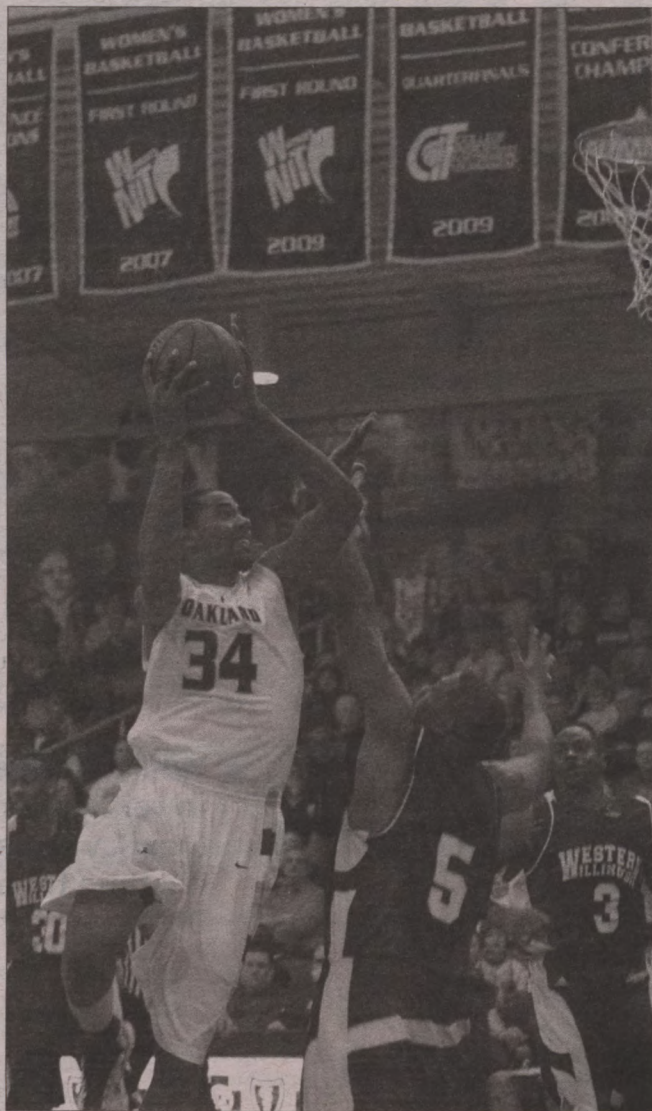
Benson said he has waited a long time to see his picture there, but despite the hard work and waiting, he's not satisfied.

"I don't really like my picture," Benson said with a shrug.

During breaks in the game, Benson stayed on the court, practicing jump shots and free throws.

"I pretty much do something every day, whether it's playing at the gym, working out or shooting," Benson said.

So far, the work has paid off



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post  
Keith Benson became just the second player in Summit League history to surpass 1,500 career points and 1,000 rebounds. He was named Summit League Player of the Year in 2010 and 2011.

as Benson has been sought after by professional teams and has played several of his college games in front of NBA scouts. The Portland Trailblazers, Charlotte Bobcats and New Orleans Hornets are just some of the teams that have come to see him play, according to Benson.

"I don't let it affect my game, but it's always in the back of my head, but I try not to think about it and just play," Benson said.

One would think that someone on the brink of signing a contract that is guaranteed to be worth nearly \$400,000 and a future in the spotlight would be bursting at the seams with excitement.

But if you ask Keith Benson, "Do you know how cool it is that you're going into the NBA?"

A coy smile and a bobbing nod of the head is all that he will reply with.

## Lacrosse upsets Michigan State

When Towbey Kassa, coach of the Oakland University women's lacrosse team, learned that his starting goalie and another player were involved in a traffic accident the day before the game and would be unable to play, he didn't panic.

He simply called on sophomore Reanna Douglas.

With Douglas starting her first game of the year in net, the Lady Grizzlies (10-3, No. 12 Div. II) defeated the Michigan State Spartans 8-7 on Thursday night at Troy High School.

Junior Desiree Messina scored the game-winning goal with just 10.1 seconds left giving the Lady Grizzlies their second straight victory against MSU. Oakland also upset the Spartans last year, 13-10.

Douglas made many key saves in the opening half to swing momentum toward the Lady Grizzlies, and she knew that she had to play well for the team to have a chance to win.

"I kind of got thrown on the spot," Douglas said. "I heard the unfortunate news that they had got in the car accident and knew that I had to step it up. I knew what I had to do, thought about it all night and all day, got mentally prepared and came here to play."

After OU took a 6-3 lead, Michigan State stormed back to take a 7-6 lead with just over nine minutes left. Senior Ashley Krisfalusi scored the equalizer with 5:35 left to set up Messina's final tally.

After the game, Kassa was quick to give plenty of praise to Douglas.

"You have a girl that hasn't suited up in net at all, just a couple of times in practice," Kassa said. "She played awesome and the defense helped her out big-time."

Kassa said both players involved in the accident should be okay for the upcoming Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League Conference Playoffs. Top-seeded Oakland will play Augustana in the quarterfinals.

— By Shawn Minnix, Copy Editor





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# Tigers' slow start is a cause for concern

## COLUMN

I hate to do it. I really do.

I've never been an alarmist when it comes to sports, especially with any of my hometown teams. I've always preferred to let them play the games and then make a judgment call.

With the way that the Detroit Tigers have opened their 2011 season, however, my transformation into a Major League Baseball version of Chicken Little is definitely a possibility.

Don't get me wrong — 10 games out of 162 is a terribly small sample size to be critiquing.

Regardless, some serious problems plague these Tigers in the early part of the season.

Besides star first baseman Miguel Cabrera — who is leading the team in batting average, home runs, runs batted in, on-base percentage, and total hits — and prized free agent acquisition Victor Martinez, I would be hard-pressed to tell you other players that have really impressed me.

### While all Tigers fans love to remember those exciting playoff games in 2006, it's time to move back into 2011.

Both at the plate and on the mound, head coach Jim Leyland's squad will need some serious adjustments to salvage this first month of baseball in the Motor City.

Statistics don't tell the whole story, but taking a look at the batting totals for Detroit isn't a pretty sight.

Just four players are hitting above .250, and four other hitters are either under .200 or hovering dangerously close to it.

While batting averages rise and fall like a Michigander's thermometer in late April, several of the sub-.250 hitters are notoriously average hitters. A recovery from mediocrity is a prayer, at best.

Another major problem for Detroit thus far has been an inability to manufacture runs.

With just four total stolen bases, I'm not sure if it's inability by the players or unwillingness by Leyland to try and move runners around on the base paths.

Relief pitching, unlike most of the starting pitching, has been shaky at best thus far for the Tigers.

Once a starter begins to labor in the sixth



**Ryan Hegedus**  
 Senior Reporter

or seventh inning, any relief brought into the game is anything but.

The seventh inning has been particularly troublesome for the Tigers this season. Enrique Gonzalez and Brad Thomas, among others, have struggled to bridge the gap to Joaquin Benoit and Jose Valverde.

Walks are a big part of the struggles, but leaving pitches over the plate in good hitter's counts are also contributing to the poor pitching performances.

For a team already struggling with injuries to key relievers Joel Zumaya and Ryan Perry, that doesn't leave many options if a starter can't stay in a game very long.

Who would have thought that I might start wishing for the likes of Jamie Walker, Brandon Lyon and Bobby Seay?

The lack of progression from several key youngsters is also troubling, and could be a sign that they need more work at Triple-A Toledo.

Centerfielder Austin Jackson currently has more strikeouts than total bases while batting just north of .200; second baseman Will Rhymes has provided sufficient defense, but sports a .182 batting average; and starting pitcher Rick Porcello has not been able to regain his 2009 breakout form, when he went 14-9.

Obviously, young players need time to develop and learn the intricacies of the major league game.

After team management decided to largely stick with the current roster, and not make moves at key positions this past offseason, however, it's hard not to be upset as a fan.

The "same old team" approach will not work for much longer in Detroit. While all Tigers fans love to remember those exciting playoff games of 2006, it's time to move back into 2011.

With the way that Detroit has painfully faltered in the second half of past seasons — "three game lead with four games left," anyone? — a poor start in April could essentially turn 2011 into a wasted season.

For this Tigers fan's sanity, I really hope I'm wrong.



## Becoming the Green Living Festival



Photo courtesy of the Michigan Green Team

Local vendors like Rochester Mills are preparing their booths for this year's Earth Day Expo in downtown Rochester that will now be called the Green Living Festival. Taking place May 13-15, the festival will feature local businesses and organizations geared for creating a greener community. This annual event will have more than 200 exhibits as well as food and local products for purchase. The event originated on Oakland University's campus in 2006.

## police blotter

### Troy

#### AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT:

On April 10, Troy officers responded to the report of an aircraft accident at Industrial Row Drive. The pilot, a 61-year-old male resident of Clawson, reported that a crosswind caught his 1976 Cessna during landing.

The plane exited the runway and entered a grassy ditch. His plane flipped over, but the pilot was able to exit the aircraft unharmed.

#### LARCENY FROM AUTO:

On April 9, Troy officers responded to a suspicious persons report at McCormick & Schmick Seafood Restaurant on Coolidge Highway. Witnesses reported that two individuals were attempting to gain entry to vehicles in the parking lot. When approached by the restaurant manager, the two subjects fled the area in a white cargo van.

The description of the vehicle matched that given during recent incidents of larceny from autos at Big Beaver Tavern, Hooters and Kona Grill. Officers patrolled in search of the suspect vehicle and found it located near Big Beaver Tavern. Within minutes, the Troy dispatch notified officers that patrons of Bahama Breeze restaurant heard glass breaking and observed one subject in the parking lot.

Officers confronted the suspect who denied shattering the glass on six employees' vehicles in the

lot. Investigation determined that the suspect was in possession of an employee's iPod and debit card.

Property belonging to other employees was located in and around a dumpster, a portable toilet unit and the shrubbery.

The 22-year-old male resident of Clarkston was arrested and charged with six counts of larceny from an automobile.

A second individual, a 31-year-old male resident of Clarkston was found hiding in the suspect vehicle. A search of the individual located contraband and he was arrested for possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

### Rochester

#### MARIJUANA POSSESSION:

On April 5, Rochester officers stopped a vehicle in the area of Main and University for a traffic infraction. As the officer was investigating the driver, he smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

A quantity of marijuana was found in the vehicle and the driver was arrested for possession of marijuana. The vehicle was impounded. The driver was booked and later released.

— Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor

## Local Briefs

#### Mind Body & Spirits in Rochester closes

The downtown Rochester eco-conscious restaurant, which closed for the winter, recently reported that it will not reopen this season. Plans for the company to utilize its resources for a business expansion throughout Michigan and nationwide is the leading reason behind the shuttering of the local spot.

#### 'Bride's Day, Bride's Way'

On Monday, April 16 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. what is being called a 'bridal stroll' will take place in downtown Rochester. The free event will host 20 local businesses as well as free limo service to Meadow Brook Hall and prizes to win. All future brides are advised to register at Fieldstone Winery before 1:30 p.m. to receive the Bride's Day program and maps. Grooms are also invited to stop in at Penny Black to enjoy specials as well. Visit [www.downtownrochestermi.com](http://www.downtownrochestermi.com) for more information.

#### Renewable energy career network event

During the Michigan Green Living Festival in downtown Rochester beginning Saturday, May 12 at 3:30 p.m., visitors will have a chance to network with local alternative and renewable energy firms. Universities including OU, Lawrence Technological University and more encourage all to attend as "meeting, interviewing and recruiting talented prospective employees couldn't be easier," according to the site. For more information, call 248-204-3140 or email [ltuocs@ltu.edu](mailto:ltuocs@ltu.edu).

#### First Green Hall of Fame ceremony in Michigan

On May 12 from 7-9 p.m., the first MI Green Hall of Fame ceremony will recognize a handful of the state's green leaders. Awards categories include business, education, government, community, individual and student achievements. The location was originally set for Mind Body & Spirits but is subject to change. For more information on how to nominate a company or individual for an award, visit [www.migreenteam.com](http://www.migreenteam.com). Nominations will be accepted through Friday, April 15.

#### Detroit Zoo walk to support those with arthritis

On May 14, the Detroit Zoo will host a fundraising walk to focus on arthritis. From 7-8:30 a.m., participants can choose from a one, two or four mile route through the zoo. Registration for the walk includes an all-day pass to the zoo.

— Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor



## OU has heart — and brains

### Cadaver lab TA loves job

By **EMILY RICHARD**  
Contributing Reporter

Most people would be squeamish about holding a human heart or brain in their hands. Alison Glinski is not one of those people.

As a teacher's assistant for Biology 206, a human anatomy course, Glinski is responsible for teaching her class about the insides of the human body. Taught in Oakland University's cadaver lab, which is located on the bottom floor of the Science and Engineering Building, all of the cadaver's bodies are donated.

"Cadavers come from people who have dedicated their bodies to science, and in one way or another, make their way to large medical institutions that then distribute the bodies to other institutions like OU," Glinski said. "After the semester ends and we are done using the cadavers, we send the bodies back from the institution from which they came. Many of OU's cadavers came to us from U-M."

The identities of the cadavers are kept anonymous.

"The only information about each individual body that we provide our students with is the cadaver's sex, age of death and cause of death," she said. "We make sure to keep the identity of our cadavers anonymous and always cover their faces."

The students in Glinski's class don't actually do the dissecting, though. Glinski gets to do that part.

"Groups of teacher's assistants meet on the weekends to make sure that the areas of the body that will be discussed in class during the upcoming week are clean and visible to students," Glinski said. "In order to dissect, TAs wear lab coats and gloves and use tools like scalpels, medical scissors and tweezers."

The students study and observe the cadavers after Glinski and her fellow TAs have dissected them.

Glinski also works to maintain the physical characteristics of the cadavers. She said upkeep is important to keep the cadavers in good condition for the entire semester.

"The main concern with our cadavers is that they will dry out and that the muscle tissue will start to shred," Glinski said.



Photos by NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Different from most jobs on campus, teaching assistant Alison Glinski spends her time teaching a class about the insides of the human body through the use of human cadavers. Glinski thoroughly enjoys her job and isn't afraid to handle any body parts.

"To prevent this, TAs spray the bodies down with a preservative called formalin and pack them with formalin-doused paper towels."

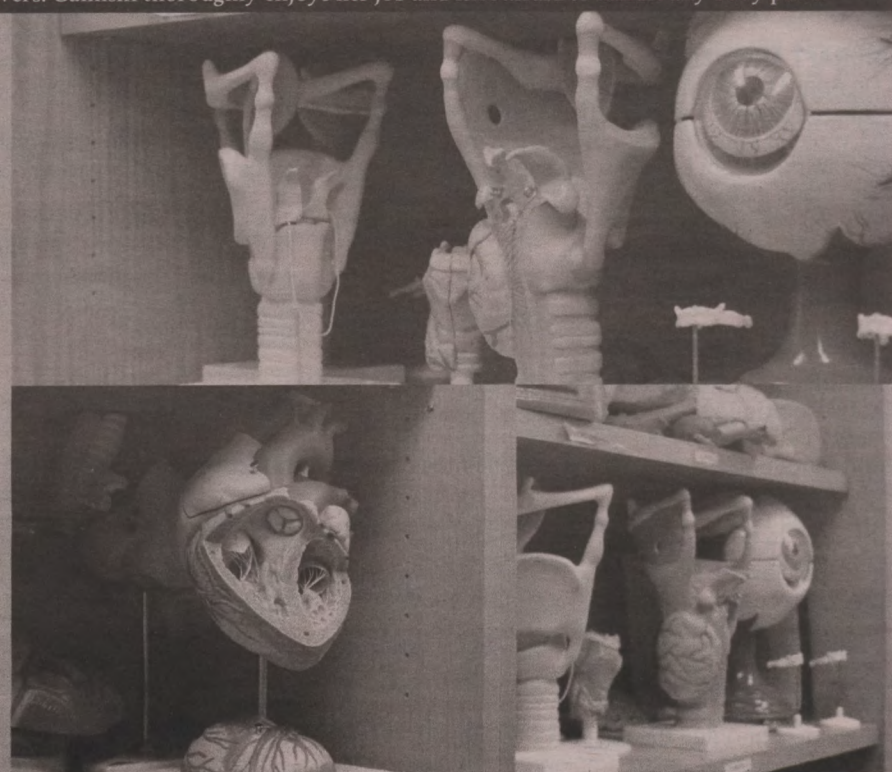
According to Glinski, the cadavers are kept in body bags and stored in a cool room to preserve their tissues and organs.

Glinski enjoys her work as a TA, considering it a great learning experience.

"I've gained a powerful appreciation for the intricacies of the human body," Glinski said. "Working with cadavers has further magnified my appreciation for the value of human life and makes me excited to attain a career in medicine where I will continually learn new things about the human body each day."

Glinski said that holding a human brain and a human heart are two of her favorite moments.

"When we think of our hearts, we picture a red, cartoonish image," she said. "A real human heart is so intricate, well-constructed and beefy. I also held a human brain. How many people can say they've done that?"







As part of the job, Oakland University Police Department cadets help students jump cars, give half a gallon of gas if they run out and do routine building checks every hour. Junior Shannon Barry has been a cadet since Fall 2010.

NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

# Patrolling the campus

By **EMILY RICHARD**  
and **NICHOLE SEGUIN**  
Contributing Reporter  
and Features Editor

You might have seen her driving around campus in a marked police vehicle. Or maybe she's helped you jump your car when the battery died. Shannon Barry isn't a police officer, though. She's a student police cadet.

Barry, an Oakland University junior majoring in health science, is responsible for taking care of non-emergency police services all around campus.

The OU Police Department has officers on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Even though the officers are constantly present, they rely on cadets to help them out. Barry is one of three current police cadets.

"There is always a cadet on duty Monday through Friday, doing their job to be the eyes and ears of the campus," Barry said. "We work with the OUPD officers very closely."

OUPD Captain Mark Gordon, who oversees the cadet program, said the cadets are vital to campus safety.

"(The cadets) provide the necessary support to the police department that allows us to provide quicker, non-emergency services to the OU community," Gordon said. "OUPD

## unique university jobs

started the cadet program to provide additional staffing so that certain police services could be delivered in a timelier manner."

Some of Barry's duties include jump-starting vehicles, checking campus buildings, working special events and maintaining barricades and orange cones. Barry and other cadets will also jump-start cars for free and give students a half gallon of gas to get their cars going if they need it.

"I think the student body should be aware about campus safety," Barry said. "We have the emergency notification text messaging system, blue lights and the loud speaker system."

According to Barry, OUPD has a response time of less than two minutes.

Barry also encourages students to sign up for the emergency text messaging system and places an emphasis on safety education.

"I think students should have the OUPD number (248-370-3333) in

their phones in case of an emergency," Barry said. "Students should also know how to use the Blue-Light system properly."

The job, which is offered on the career link website, is open to students of any majors. Cadets work for the entire year, making \$8 an hour. They are also able to drive the OUPD truck they call EMVET all over campus and on off-campus errands that include picking the officer's uniforms up from the cleaners. When things are slower, they will wash the truck and fill it up at the gas pumps behind the station and patrol the roads around campus.

"I like mostly everything about my job," Barry said. "I get to interact with not just students, but I get to go on detail assignments to parts of campus I have not gone to before. I get to meet head faculty members that most students don't have the opportunity to meet."

For Gordon, the opportunity to be a police cadet is a great job for any students interested in law enforcement careers.

"Many cadets have gone on to successful police careers at the federal, state and local levels," Gordon said. "It is simply a good learning experience and may help create a more attractive résumé for students interested in this line of work."

## PROFESSOR PROFILE

### Richard Stamps Associate Professor, Anthropology

Professor Richard Stamps, who is planning to retire next year, has been teaching at Oakland University since 1974.

Born and raised in California, Stamps received his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and later went on to get his master's from Michigan State University.

For Stamps, speaking the Chinese language is something he can do well. After spending several years in the country, he became fluent.

"In Chinese culture it is considered arrogant and self-boasting for me to flaunt my ability to speak their language, so I am humble about it," he said.

Also trained to be a field archeologist, Stamps knows how to survive in the field while out digging.

Outside of the classroom, Stamps is involved in the local historic preservation movement where he and the rest of the committee work to save historic buildings and homes. He is also a member of the Rochester Hills Historic Committee and the Sequel Centennial Civil War.

In his free time, Stamps spends a lot of time with his family. Recently, he went to North Carolina to watch his one of his grandsons perform in a play and another get baptized.

However, what sets Stamps apart from some other professors is his ability to make his students feel like his family, too.

Stamps recently travelled with students to Tulsa, Okla., to watch some of his students play in the NCAA Tournament.

Stamps feels like learning more about his students will allow him to create his activities in class to be more suitable to who his students are.

"Professor Stamps is a very supportive professor," said Stacey Farrell, a 2010 OU alumna. "As a former member of the OU women's basketball team, we could always count on him to be at our games, which meant a lot to us."

Stamps enjoys his job and is always willing to do things for students.

"If you love your work it's not work," Stamps said. "Grading papers, that's work."

— Breann Dotstry, Contributing Reporter



# Higher Education is at risk.

**The institutions that protect it are being challenged.  
The progress that our parents and grandparents fought for  
cannot be taken for granted.**

Leaders from the American Association of University Professors,  
the Michigan Education Association, The National Education Association,  
and the American Federation of Teachers are launching a campaign  
to advance Higher Education in public culture.

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## **April 13 is National Action Day for the Campaign for Higher Education**

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- Higher Education should be inclusive, available, and affordable.
- Our curriculum must be broad, creative, and diverse.
- Our technologies should expand opportunity and maintain quality.
- We are beyond the Information age – the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a conceptual age. Vision and creativity are paramount to our futures.
- We must invest wisely in hard-working, committed faculty who have academic freedom, fair terms of employment and the institutional support to do state-of-the-art work.
- Investment in real efficiencies must outweigh false economies.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> century will require more public investment in Higher Education.

**This is a grassroots movement.  
Grow with us, and cultivate change.**



## A variety of final theses, projects

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY  
and ALI ARMSTRONG

Scene Editor and Staff Reporter

During their time at Oakland University, music, dance, theatre and art students produce countless pieces, performances and choreographed numbers, often times critiqued by their professors and student peers.

As senior year comes to a close, each of the seniors participate in one final project or performance at OU — one they won't likely forget any time soon.

### Music

Senior music projects differ from major to major, since there are many different individual instrumental, vocal performers, orchestras and ensembles.

Alex Carter, a trumpet performance major, was involved in the North American Brass Band Association Championships this past weekend where he and the rest of the OU Brass Band participated in the Honors section.

This marks Carter's final performance with an ensemble. He also had a Wind Symphony concert and a jazz band concert in March.

"Having my final performances with these ensembles was a bit emotional, but I realize that my time at Oakland is coming to an end and it is time for one of the younger students to step into the leadership roles and play parts that I have performed over the last four years," he said.

Carter will continue his career at the University of Michigan, where he was accepted as a Fellowship recipient. While there, he will be concentrating on fine-tuning his orchestral sound.

Brittney Brewster, a music education major who plays violin, has a senior recital in May, which she said she considers her final project. She has participated in her final performances for the Oakland Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra.

She said she plans to seek out a teaching position either in Michigan or out of state and also hopes to work and audition for community orchestras. Once in an established teaching job, she plans to return for a master's in violin performance.

### Dance

The senior performance for the dance department includes all the seniors who are receiving their bachelor of fine arts degree or those who want to participate just for fun.

Kristen Manor, a dance major, said seniors are required to choreograph a group

piece and perform a solo. When the show was performed in March, she said the group was pleased to see how successful it was.

"It was such a relief during the show that as each piece was on stage, all our hard work was paying off in front of our eyes," she said.

Manor admits her dance and choreography style has changed through her time at Oakland and finds it enlightening to look back at earlier projects.

Manor plans on auditioning for companies after graduation, and as of next fall, she will be apprenticing with the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble. She hopes to eventually return to become a physical therapist to help dancers with injuries, but is happy to be done with school for now.

"I'm just letting my life unfold and will continue to audition just to see what could happen next," Manor said.

### Theatre

Theatre and musical theatre majors will have a chance to perform for casting directors, agents, producers, directors and other working professionals at this year's Senior Showcase.

It will highlight the work of 12 musical theatre and theatre students in a 46-minute program of song, dance and scene.

The Senior Showcase of New Talent supports the building of new careers, giving graduating students the opportunity to meet agents, casting directors, producers, directors, designers, playwrights and other established working professionals.

The showcase is only held once every two years, and this year, the seniors will travel to New York City to perform their showcase in New York.

"We're really happy that our class has gotten an opportunity to do this. I've never been, so I'm really excited to go," senior Peter Giessler said.

The students, under the director of Fred Love, created the work in the showcase.

All of the student performances are different. Some of the students will be singing songs and others reading monologues or acting out a scene. Giessler will be reading a monologue from the movie "Garden State," and doing a scene from the play "Romance In D" with fellow senior, Kryssy Becker.

Giessler said it has been nice working with his fellow seniors for the showcase.

"The theatre department is kind of like a little family, we've all known each other and have been really good friends for the past four years," Giessler said.

The Senior Showcase of New Talent will be held on Friday, April 29 at 8p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.



Photo courtesy of Alex Carter

Alex Carter's five years at OU have helped develop his ability to be a versatile musician.



Photo courtesy of  
Cody Vanderkaay

This piece, produced by studio art major Katherine Rabette, will be one of many on display at the senior thesis exhibit, MOMENTUM, starting this Friday at the Oakland University Art Gallery.

### Studio Art

Each year, the OU Art Gallery presents an exhibit full of pieces from the graduating studio art majors.

This year's showcase, MOMENTUM, will highlight over 60 artworks produced by 18 students specializing in drawing, painting, photography and new media.

The students also write a thesis paper relating to their piece. According to Cody Vanderkaay, faculty coordinator of the event, the paper addresses their personal vision and conceptual intent while making relevant historic, artistic, social, theoretical and philosophical connections.

Kim Lambert, a studio art new media major, said she has been planning her piece, "A Place to Hide," for about a year.

Lambert said she uses a variety of materials and mediums for her pieces, more than the common materials that fall under the

"New Media umbrella." Her piece for the exhibit is no different.

"My piece is a video/audio installation," Lambert said. "A 10-1/2 foot column with an accompanying audio piece encases the video component of the work, which involves dark and romantic representations of themes such as depression and anxiety."

Lambert plans to begin working as a freelance artist and designer after graduation and is also considering working for a master's in Film Studies out of state.

"Leaving OU and the art department is bittersweet but I'm ready for whatever else life has in store," she said. "I have developed a personal style and technique during my time here and am excited to see how it evolves in the future."

For more information on the respective projects and students featured, visit [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



# Old-school makes a comeback

By JOMAR MABBORANG  
Staff Intern

Clink. Ding. Honk. To some, these are random sounds that may annoy, but to others it means the Michigan Pinball Expo is in town.

Located on campus in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center, the second annual Pinball Expo is presented by family-owned company Environment by Design. The Expo will be held April 14-17 and goes from 8 a.m. to midnight on Thursday-Saturday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The owner of the company and creator of the expo is John Kosmal. He had hoped last year would be a hit and that they would be able to put on a second expo this year. Now that he has accomplished that goal, he now aims to promote the expo as an "event the community would look forward to every year."

Expected attendance is about 2,500 students — last year clocked in at 1,000 — and if all goes accordingly, the Expo will possibly expand to the whole Oakland Center next year.

Kosmal said he wants to expose the student body to pinball and appreciate the games. A fan and collector, he said playing pinball is a fun way to relieve stress and a great hobby since the game stays "fresh" with a cutting edge every time.

Today, he is still an avid fan for the machine and other games. He can often be found hooking up a new machine in the Bumpers Game Room, which is planning to receive new machines in the near future.

The idea for the expo was first generated by Kosmal with the thought that the younger or next generation don't go to arcades anymore. With console games on the rise, not many people go out to spend quarters in machines at local malls or shops anymore.

New to this year's expo is a flat screen television pinball machine. It may seem

like a video game version of pinball, but if last year's Elvis pinball machine controlled by a Guitar Hero guitar was any indication of what it will be, then the surprise will be worth the wait.

The Expo is offering all sorts of new and different things to the community. The banquet rooms will be lined with 250 machines from the past, present and possibly what the machines will be like in the future.

Like last year, there will be tournaments held every day for novices to professionals offering cash and prizes totalled to over \$10,000. Being introduced this year is Pinbrawl X, a team competition. This is the world's first tournament to feature such rules and it features a grand prize of a brand new, in box pinball machine.

A self-proclaimed avid gamer who is entering her junior year, Yasmin Nguyen said she is excited to visit the Expo on Thursday.

She said she is expecting to try a new format of gaming, one she has experienced once before, resulting in an "epic fail."

She said she believes pinball games are good for beginners and enjoys seeing this type of old-school gaming has lasted through the years.

Paramount Pictures and Marvel will be hosting a booth on Saturday showing off upcoming projects, as well as posters and T-shirts. They will even giving be out passes to an early screening of the film "Thor."

During the week, there will be pinball machines in the foyer of the banquet rooms featuring some machines at the Expo to tease the student population to check out the events.

A day pass for a student is \$10 while a full, four-day event pass is \$25. Those wanting to buy tickets now can go to the CSA office to snatch one up, or listen to WRIF-FM (101.1), who will be giving out free passes to the event.



Photo courtesy John Kosmal

250 pinball machines will line the walls and fill the Banquet Rooms beginning April 14.

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### The brief history and workings of a pinball machine

Pinball machines operate with the player flinging a ball into play using a plunger and from then on trying to keep the ball in play using the buttons on the side of the machine which control the flippers. The high score is the goal, and the ball can rack up points by hitting many different switches, ramps, lights and objects. This organized chaos has come a long way from the past, where the use of spokes, small holes and a manual reset were required to operate the machine. Today's pinball machines have gone through a drastic change with the use of flippers, video screens and a complicated system of gadgets. Players can also receive more balls, extra lives or a bonus multiplier. The whole machine, which started out as an easy-to-put-together instruction, now takes a team of people such as artists, metal workers, routers, designers and other crews to complete. Developers are even designing new ways of how the machine is played.



# Guitar Day shows sharps, flats of a music degree

By **ANDREW CRAIG**  
Staff Reporter

Students must navigate the College of Arts and Sciences, both figuratively and literally, throughout the years of their education at Oakland University. Since the visibility of individual departmental offerings can become clouded, some OU students and faculty members are actively working to increase the presence and popularity of the music program through guitar.

On April 23, OU's first ever Guitar Day invites prospective students to take a closer look inside the music program at OU. Bret Hoag, applied instructor in guitar, jazz guitar, guitar ensemble and methods in the music department, is heading the event, which provides an interactive experience for those contemplating a major in music.

Before teaching at Oakland, Hoag had worked at a handful of schools and ran the guitar program at IUPUI. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and performing experience, providing opportunities to engage in discussion and observe demonstration during the six-hour session. Central

aspects of the Saturday workshop include music reading and improvisational skills.

"It gives students a look at what it takes to earn a music degree, because a lot of kids don't know," Hoag said.

OU sophomore and guitar enthusiast Mike Size admittedly falls into that category.

"I didn't know OU even offered courses in guitar," Size said. "I'm somewhat familiar with our music department, but I didn't think courses were offered strictly for that instrument. Guitar Day is a great idea though, especially if it spreads awareness about the kinds of music programs that are offered here."

Students majoring in any instrument must first audition with the department to be accepted into the program. According to Hoag, a primary focus of Guitar Day is to help incoming students with preparation for an audition.

"We'll talk about and practice technique, because some (techniques) are often overlooked," Hoag said. "Some students, for example, have experience with rock music, but know nothing about classical or jazz."

Guitar Day helps them out so they don't show up without knowing what to expect at an audition."

Junior Ken Brooks acknowledged the benefit of an event like Guitar Day, even though it had not yet been created in his first year at OU. Brooks suggests that working with Hoag has helped him and could aid others in their musical pursuits as well.

"It's definitely helpful for students coming in," Brooks said. "I'm glad I met with Hoag, personally. If I had just auditioned, it would have been a nightmare. He helped me set goals and learn what to expect. When I'm ready (to audition), I can go for it."

Brooks serves as president of the guitar club, the Real Guitar Heroes at Oakland University. Through the club, students meet weekly in Varner Hall, practicing with others and experimenting with new sounds.

Brooks expressed hope that the club, like Guitar Day, will also heighten the interest in music across campus. Within the next year, he plans to expand club activities and

get more students involved.

"The club is made up of various skill levels — anyone is welcome," Brooks said. "We work on being comfortable playing. I'd actually like to get something together where we can play in the OC. Playing in front of people builds confidence, but it gets them involved too, and that's really important."

Through efforts from students like Brooks and faculty members like Hoag, the appeal of guitar and related university programs continues to grow. Hoag is optimistic that the inaugural Guitar Day will evolve into an annual event.

"Guitar Day is a brand new thing at OU, but I want it to continue and to be a bigger event next year," Hoag said. "I'd like to see it grow and become something more."

According to both student and professor, the key to that growth is student interest and involvement.

"Music is great, and we want to get more people into music," Brooks said. "It's something that I really love. I want the club to keep growing because I want to give that to other people."

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## Sequester me from summer sequels

By **BRIAN FIGURSKI**

Guest Columnist/ mad at movies

Summer is back again, Grizzlies, and I couldn't be more ecstatic!

Warm days and cool nights — the perfect summer for me to spend inside the Rochester Emagine theater getting plastered on \$9 Long Island Iced Teas.

I am completely out of the loop in terms of what fantastic films are coming to the dark, cavernous theaters this year. Curious to know what will be distracting me from contracting skin cancer on the beach and shortening my life span, I scanned the Internet for answers.

Almost to my surprise, I have been daftly disappointed.

All I see is a slew of sequels that render my face red and prompt me to attack yet another media outlet.

Does Hollywood even have creativity anymore? I don't want anyone in a lofty office over on the West Coast getting an aneurysm overworking his or her brain thinking to create fourth "Scream." The title

alone forces me to shril in sheer terror. I'm over you Courtney Cox; just let the Ghostface Killer gut you already.

I skimmed the lineup of movies making their theater debuts this year.

At current count, 27 sequels, three-sequels, spin-offs, reboots or worse are being dropped like plagues on the masses for the calendar year of 2011.

Someone call Guinness Book: I've found a feat worthy of winning a record for the biggest pile of crap.

As I type this, right on cue a "Fast and the Furious 5" ad glows from the TV screen, sending me into my own personal fit of fury that ended up with a shattered plasma and broken window. Vin Diesel makes me want to slap my mother out of petulance. It still baffles me that these senseless fanatics are even interested in seeing the same washed-up story lines and flatlining characters.

The industry is the laziest pile of compost in recent history, regurgitating and nearly drowning movie buffs with stale cinema. That old adage "if it isn't broke, don't fix it" does not apply in many of these situations.

The original "Paranormal Activity," for example, was a great independent movie, but does its financial success deem it worthy of being ruined by rehashed clones?

A trailer of the third installation advertises a ghost wearing a white sheet, for crying out loud. That's horrifying in its own right.

**I will be boycotting all of these senseless summer sequels. You should, too.**

At least some of these films are getting proper taglines to correlate with the timelessness of these movies. The few examples I can really recall are: "Transformer 3: Funding Michael Bay's New Island,"

"Harry Potter and the Senior Center of Dementia," "Final Destination 5: Die Already" and "The Hangover Part II: We're Drunk Again."

I'm doing my best to cope with this netlesome situation, but even the animated studios succeed in upsetting me endlessly.

"Cars 2?" "Kung Fu Panda 2?"

I had respect for and enjoyed the original movies, but now I'm hoping they combine these two ideas and Panda Po gets struck by a sports car. The animated panda, not a real one, animal rights activists.

Did anyone even watch the first two "Big Mommas Houses?" What would prompt some tool in a snazzy green suit to think creating a third one would be a financial and valuable success? I'm sick of seeing actors play out their fantasies of husky housewives on camera.

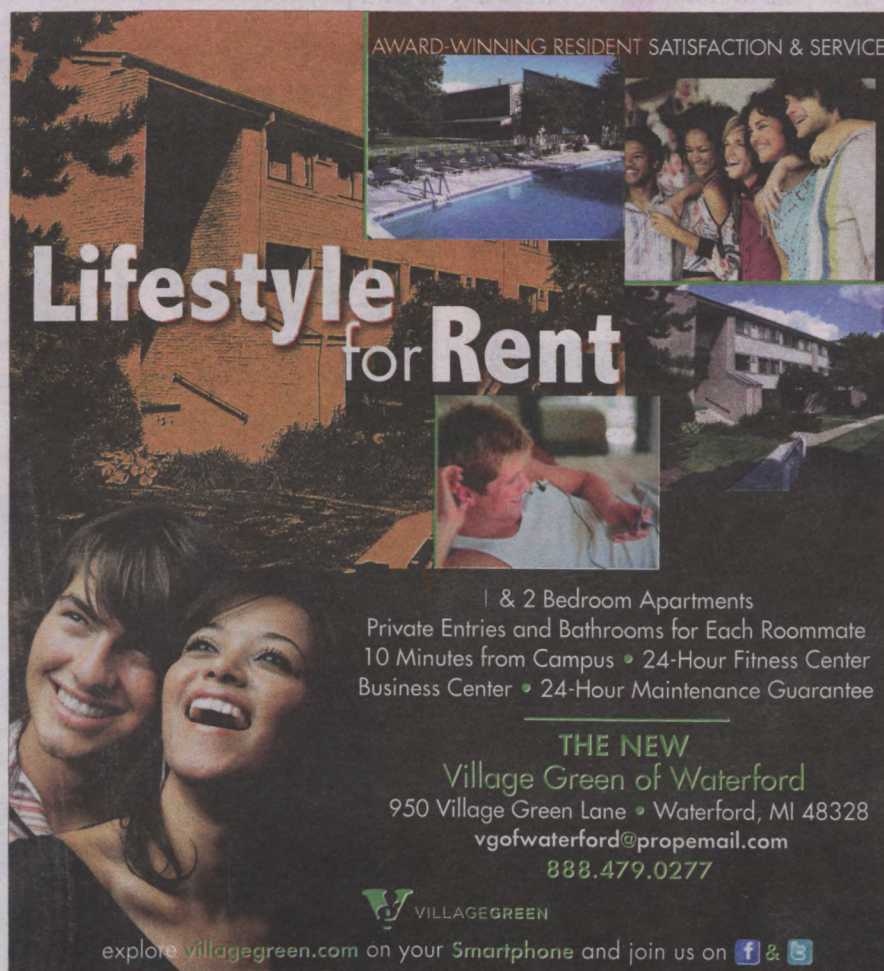
If my math is all accurate, just slightly south of 20 percent of the pictures released this year are drawn-out-of-the-hat movies.

Why is the world making it so easy for the people of Hollywood to do their jobs?

As I am not a mindless sheep, I will be boycotting these flagrant films this summer season, and I encourage you to not pump your funds into these movies either.

Looks like I'll be working on my farmer's tan this year after all, and I am going to need to quadruple my intake of Long Island Iced Teas.

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