

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

May 16, 2007

Volume 33, Number 27

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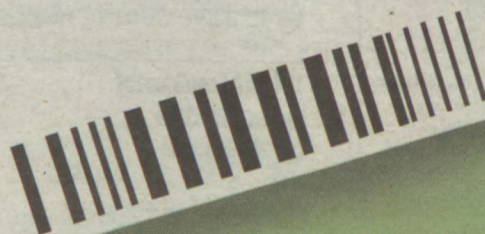
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The summer issue!



*Having so much fun!
Wish you could be
here!*



CHECK OUT OUR BACK COVER
FOR THE OAKLAND POST'S
SUMMER TO-DO LIST

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At the CSA Service Window

Romeo and Juliet at the Detroit Opera House on Wednesday, June 6 and Friday, June 8 for \$30 (reg. \$65.00). Both these performances begin at 7:30 p.m. The deadline date to make your reservations is May 25.

Gounod's penchant for voluptuous harmonies suited the legend of **Romeo & Juliet**. From the balcony scene to the crypt, the lovers entwine themselves in a string of star-crossed duets.

Sung in French with English supertitles.

Disney's High School Musical at the Fisher Theatre on Tuesday June 26 (opening night) at 7:30 pm. Disney Theatrical Productions, the producers of **THE LION KING** and **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**, have created an exciting stage version of the phenomenal Disney's **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL**. It's the irresistible story of two teenagers - Troy Bolton, super-popular captain of the basketball team, and Gabriella Montez, super-smart transfer student and a genius in science class - who try to navigate the tricky currents of peer pressure to follow their dream and score the leads in the big school show. The production will include all of the favorite characters and songs from the movie, plus two new songs written especially for the stage. All this combines to make **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL** a top-drawer Disney production, and a must-see for every fan of the movie and theatre-goer alike.

Main Floor and Mezzanine: \$57.50 (reg. \$63.00)

Balcony Rows J-O: \$39.50 (reg. \$43.00)

Balcony rows P-U: \$21 (\$25.50).

There are no large tickets reserved since they were the same price as the Main FL and Mezzanine. Because of a very limited run we have to close this show on May 17. Please order promptly if interested.

Detroit Tigers Baseball

CSA Service Window will have tickets to two Detroit Tiger games, both Fridays which means terrific fireworks following the game. All tickets are \$10 each which is the regular price.

July 20 against Kansas City @ 7:05 p.m.

August 10 against Oakland @ 7:05 p.m.

Please order early as we have to close the blocks a month in advance. We will not be able to accept any late orders.

Detroit Renaissance Festival tickets for this season will be available at the end of July. This year's festival will be open weekends starting August 18 to September 30.

The CSA Service window accepts cash, check and Spirit Cash as payment. There is a \$2.00 per ticket service charge for all shows and events in the discount ticket program.

Looking ahead to the Fall of 2007, The CSA Service Window will have tickets for:

The 25th Annual Spelling Bee for October performances

Twelve Angry Men for November performances

The Lion King for performances in November, December and January.

Oakland University June Blood Drive

Oakland University will be holding its June 2007 Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 12. It will be held in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. To make an appointment:

- 1) Online at www.givelife.org. The site will prompt for some information and then ask for the drive location and sponsor code. The Drive location is Oakland University and the sponsor code is **oublood**. The site will allow the person making the appointment to choose a day and time that is open and convenient to the donor.
- 2) Call the Center for Student Activities at (248) 370-2400. We will take down some basic information and then enter it into the computer for you.

Together we can make a difference. For each pint of blood collected, three lives can be saved.

WATCH OUT! The Oakland Post is putting out monthly issues all spring and summer. Look for the Post on campus June 13, July 18 and August 15.

We're online!

www.oaklandpostonline.com

Check out the latest on our Web site. We include stories from our print editions AND new content created exclusively for the Web. You can comment on stories, e-mail editors and get the most recent news in all the sections you've come to love in our print issues.

Oakland University

Center for Multicultural Initiatives

Vision: To promote a campus climate that is both open and receptive to multicultural initiatives by educating faculty, staff, and students and empowering students with strong academic and leadership skills.

Co-sponsoring: African American Celebration, Cultural Heritage Awareness Week, Hispanic Celebration, Welcome Week, and much more.

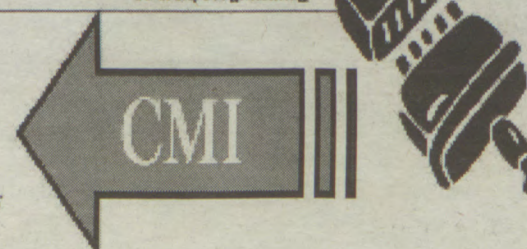
Scholarships & Services

- Keeper of the Dream
- OU Trustee Academic Success Scholarship
- Emergency Scholarships, Loans and Book Vouchers
- Counseling
- Peer Mentors
- Leadership Training
- Students First
- Diversity Programming

Get Connected!!!

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Perspectives page 4

Is Kalamazoo setting the tone for educational finance? Is proposed legislation compromising Constitutional rights?



Campus page 6

OUSC announces big plans for the future and students tell us about their favorite ways to get some summer in the classroom



you page 9

The "You" guide to summer fun, complete with trail and beach ratings, the how-tos of scuba certification and tips for the wakeboarding enthusiast



The Mix page 12

What looks are the ladies of OU sporting at the pool? Plus seven reasons why you know it's summertime on campus



Local page 14

Find out what's so funny about local comedy clubs and get the latest on crafty entrepreneurs in the urban market



Sports page 16

The Post offers its favorite sportsbar picks, OU softball calls it a season and Red Wings hockey struggles to maintain its fanbase



the Scene page 20

A movie guide to pack your summer nights with, concert listings to fit everyone's playlists and a festival schedule for the locals



MOUTHING OFF page 22

Old school rockers prove that a great show comes with age, and gas prices inspire columnist Jesse Dunsmore to take a closer look at consumerism

The Post is now looking to fill positions for the 2007-2008 school year. The following staff positions are available:

- Senior Reporters
- Campus News Editor
- Web Editor

e-mail
oakpostmanaging@gmail.com
to inquire and/or apply

Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

May 16, 2007

STAFF EDITORIAL

Private sector needs to step up on behalf of public education

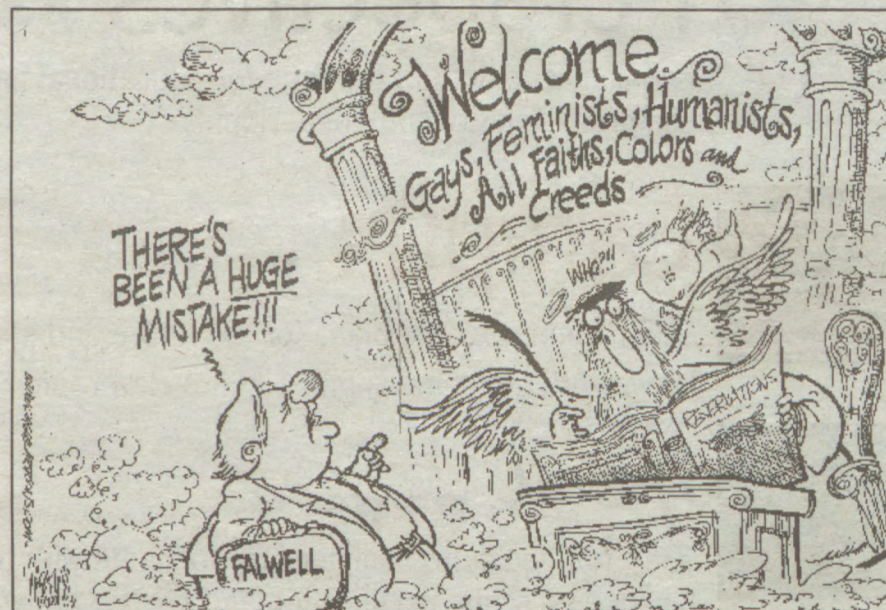
"Education is the future," is a cliché that every politician ever to run for an elected office, ever again, will use. People have heard the term so many times they seem to forget just how important it is, disregarding it as politico-speak. But, education is the future; just look west to Kalamazoo to find a promised answer to Michigan's decline.

The city is in the midst of a modern-day renaissance because of the Kalamazoo Promise, a grant from anonymous, private donors that promises free tuition to any in-state college to any graduate of the city's public school system. The Promise is already benefiting the kids of Kalamazoo, who have for years grappled with poverty and an inability to get into college. It's also having a windfall benefit on Kalamazoo's economy, which is raking in cash from upwards of \$10 million in new housing investments and one of the few housing markets in the state where a homeowner can actually expect to sell. The city is the perfect example of "education is the future," in action. It shows a belief in that ethos and a return on investment is already presenting itself only a year later.

In the next few days, politicians in Lansing need to settle a \$4 billion budget deficit, and education is expected to

suffer cuts of anywhere from \$36 to \$122 per pupil in the upcoming year. This is a sign that we can no longer look to Lansing for help in funding our schools. It's time to follow the lead of Kalamazoo and take the future of our state into our own hands. Appeal to your local representative to oppose school cuts at any cost, whether that means driving on worse than usually roads (lets be honest, they can't really get any worse) or spending less to fight a losing battle against drugs, we need education now more than ever. Michigan could face crippling circumstances decades from now if we don't have a well-educated workforce, one that can meet the needs of a global economy and attract employers to our state.

If the Promise has shown us anything, it's that an investment in education actually pays off. And, if at all possible, Michigan residents should ask why doesn't the whole state receive a public promise grant? I'm no economist and fully understand that the investment would take a sum of money that I can't even fathom, but wouldn't it be worth it? Nothing will bring the auto industry back to its old prominence, short of a miracle. But, Michigan could attract employers with an educated workforce, something that could stop the brain



Believers: Be careful when interpreting your Higher Power's will in absolute and finite terms. There might be unknown repercussions.

drain out of the state and keep Michigan kids close to home.

The problem right now is that the economy demands an educated workforce, and without actually making college affordable, many Michigan residents are effectively being priced out of a future. It is our responsibility to make sure that all of our residents at least have the option to pursue a college education, instead of limiting it to a few or leaving a student with thousands of dollars of debt right after graduation.

The corollary to something like this is increased taxes. You have to "pay the piper" if you want to dance. As nice as it would be, we can't expect a grant similar to Kalamazoo's for the whole state, it just isn't feasible for that much money to come from private donors. But,

with a mix of public funds and private money, we could make an investment in this state's future that will pay off for the long run. If Oakland University can get its upcoming medical school entirely funded by private benefactors, you think we can't get education funded if everyone works together?

So push for a Michigan Promise, and be glad to open up your wallet and pay for it. Shelling out a few dollars extra now could earn you thousands in return when you sell your house or get hired into a firm willing to move to Michigan for the talent.

—The Oakland Post

What do you think? Have a news tip? Send your comments to The Oakland Post.

By e-mail:
editor@oakpostonline.com
By mail:
Letter to the Editor
The Oakland Post
61 Oakland Center
Rochester, MI 48309

CORRECTIONS CORNER

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail editor@oakpostonline.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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

A new beginning for student congress

By JAMEELAH MUHAMMAD
Student Congress Vice President

I must admit, I was one of those students who quite honestly did not know who or what Student Congress was, and pretty much thought that the extent of their work included providing free Scantrons. However, for the past year I have had the opportunity to not only see exactly what services OUSC has to offer, but I was also able to see the unlocked potential to be of great service to students on campus that existed within the organization. A lot of people have asked me, why, after reaching my senior year, did I decide to become involved with the organization? There were many reasons, but the reason I hope to share with the readers of this article, I think is the most relevant at this time for all Oakland University Students.

Ever since I can remember coming to campus OUSC has had its share of scandal, politics, and extreme criticism. Because many of these events occurred

prior to my involvement I could not even share the details, and I am not here to dispute what is and isn't true. What I can say, is that for

the most part, many students were displeased with the organization as a whole. Now, I'm not going to say that I have never complained about something, but quite honestly I was starting to get tired of all the negative energy and opinions that discussion topics related to Student



IN SESSION

with your student congress

Congress would generate. And although I knew of peers who were willing to become involved in order to create some change, there was still a lot of spite and

vengeance behind these aims. So I decided that instead of being that person who sits around and com-

plains about how horrible something is or how they really want something to change, I took the next step and actually decided to join the organization in order to see what positive energy and work I could hopefully contribute.

Gandhi once said, "You must be the

change you want to see in the world". With that being said, I challenge my peers to try and be involved with OUSC this upcoming school semester in some capacity. There are numerous opportunities for involvement including joining the Student Services Committee, Publicity Committee, Legislative and Multicultural Affairs Committee, SAFB Board, University Senate Committees, becoming a legislator or simply supporting some of the amazing events we will have going on in the Fall. I think students will be surprised about exactly what and how they can help and the great positive change they may be able to create.

For more information about OUSC or how to get involved, please feel free to contact me at jmmuhamm@oakland.edu, or Student Body President Rob Meyer at rjmeyer@oakland.edu.

Have a great summer!

Christian leader Dobson needs to open his narrow mind - or shut his mouth

By PAUL GULLY
Mouthing Off Editor

Apparently Christian leader and Focus on the Family founder James C. Dobson hasn't made it a "red letter day" in a while—nor cracked open the Good Book in some time.

Earlier this week, Mr. Dobson felt compelled to share his thoughts on the newly proposed hate-crime law, which if passed, will extend hate-crime protection to, among others, homosexuals.

On May 1 Dobson warned listeners of his national radio show about the dangers the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

"There's a vote coming up on some insidious legislation in the United States Congress that could silence and punish Christians for their moral beliefs," he said. "That means that as a Christian — if you read the Bible a certain way with regard to morality — you may be guilty of committing a 'thought crime.'"

Dobson went on to say that "this legislation could pave the way for religious

persecution in this country" and that the true intent of the proposed law is "to muzzle people of faith who dare to express their moral and biblical concerns about homosexuality."

The proposed law covers hate-crimes—violent acts such as murder, kidnapping or sexual assault. The bill does not discuss or include prejudice in hiring practices, hate speech or anything of that nature. So unless Mr. Dobson or his fellow Christian brethren are planning on committing violent crimes against homosexuals, the law in no way is punishing them for their moral beliefs.

The bill explicitly guards against any perceived limitations of free speech or First Amendment rights. Section 8 of the proposed law states:

"Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to prohibit any expressive conduct protected from legal prohibition by, or any activities protected by the free speech or free exercise clauses of, the First Amendment of the Constitution."

How Dobson believes that this law

is attempting to silence Christians is beyond me.

Suggesting the law will open the doors to "thought crimes" for reading the Bible is just plain ludicrous and ignorant.

And here's some info for those who feel adding sexual orientation to the current hate-crime law is a bad idea: sexual orientation bias accounted for 14 percent of those incidents—second only to religious bias, which accounted for 17 percent, according to FBI statistics that have been compiled on hate-crimes since 1991.

There are those such as Rep. Don Hastings (R-Wash) who made a somewhat valid argument, recently saying, "If someone commits a crime, they should be punished for that crime. Period. Today the Democratic majority has chosen to end equality under the law."

However, I don't see him, nor any other opponent of the LLEHCPA, including Mr. Dobson, speaking out against the current hate-crime law that protects against violent acts against people on the basis of race or religion.

The law is not asking opponents to

accept homosexuality, or even trying to keep them from expressing their beliefs or opinions. The bill is merely imposing stiff sentencing for violent acts motivated by biases. So feel free to criticize and denounce homosexuality as you wish, Mr. Dobson.

It is irresponsible and unacceptable for a man of Dobson's stature—dubbed "America's most influential evangelical leader" by Slate online magazine—to make such careless comments.

I understand that some Christians view homosexuals as a threat and believe that homosexuals are living a sinful lifestyle.

But was it not Jesus himself who once said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-40) and something along the lines of "he who is without sin shall cast the first stone"?

The homosexual debate has no relevance to this Act. The proposed law is protecting against acts of hate. Regardless of sexual orientation, would God ever condone hate towards another individual?

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

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

OUSC takes action

By **JEFF KRANTZ**
Former Editor in chief

With many Oakland University students enjoying some time off from academic responsibilities, the campus might seem to be in a state of hiatus as well.

Student Congress is one organization putting that assumption to bed.

As OUSC attempts to make strides early in the terms of its new leaders, potentially big changes are surfacing at the group's meetings.

PRINCETON REVIEW partnership

Students looking for assistance in preparing for standardized tests like the GRE, GMAT and LSAT may soon have multiple options at Oakland University through a potential partnership with the Princeton Review.

The Princeton Review, a for-profit educational preparation company, has proposed to partner with OU to offer test preparation for students looking to attend a graduate program. OU currently works with Kaplan Inc. in a similar capacity.

The costs for these services run high, starting at \$1,099 for the GRE partnership and as much as \$1,699 for the MCAT.

The benefits can be substantial though, said David Bunn, a Princeton Review representative who spoke during Monday's student congress meeting.

According to Bunn, students from universities who partner with the organization, on average, see a 10-point increase in LSAT scores and up to a 14-point difference on their MCATS. That much of a difference — say between 156 and 166 — could be the determining factor in attending an Ivy League school, Bunn said.

In order to qualify, Princeton Review teachers must place in the ninety-fifth percentile of national average test scores. Additionally, they are also put through rigorous training that prepares them to make the classroom experience more exciting and less tedious.

The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University, but was founded in 1982 by Princeton alumnus John Katzman.

STATE FUNDING for OU

Oakland University Student Congress displayed unanimous consensus for supporting the efforts of OU and nine other Michigan universities looking to equalize funding between all of the state's 15 publicly funded universities.

OU President Gary Russi has been traveling back and forth between Rochester and Lansing since March to lobby on OU's behalf.

Student Legislator Aaron Kochenderfer proposed sending a large group of student congress members to publicly lobby on the steps of the state capitol during Monday's meeting. Kochenderfer said that students from other schools outside of "the big three" (University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University) were planning similar action.

"We need to make a big showing," Kochenderfer said. "They (state politicians) expect the university president to be there, but we need to let our voices be heard as well."

U-M, MSU and WSU currently receive 57 percent of state funding, while the remaining 43 percent is divvied up between the 12 remaining schools, including OU.

A bill to separate the funding for "the big three" from that of the other 12 schools has passed in the state House and is about to be introduced in the Senate.

Critics of the bill, including Russi, contend that separating the funding will create an unequal atmosphere that could unfairly benefit "the big three" by leaving the door open for budget increases strictly in their favor.

CHECK OUT Perspectives on pages 4 & 5 to read the OUSC column, written this month by student body vice president Jameelah Muhammad. For more information about OUSC visit the student congress office in 62 Oakland Center.

Donations fuel OU's growth

By **KYLE MAGIN**
Special Projects Reporter

Over the last two years, Oakland University raised \$76.5 million towards its "Innovation and Opportunity" fund, mainly due to the generosity of private donors. To put that in perspective; your tuition, room and board if you lived on campus this year cost \$17,276 if you were a junior or senior, according to OU's Web site. You could attend school here at that price for roughly the next 4,428 years on the money raised from the campaign.

With a privately funded medical school on the way, Oakland will rely heavily on donations in the coming years.

Those sorts of numbers raise a question: where does all that cash come from?

"Often times our most supportive donors are people who are already inte-

grally involved with us — serving on advisory boards, the board of trustees, and alumni who volunteer their time with our students and programs," said Tracy Utech, assistant vice-president for development, university relations.

One of those donors, Adam Kochenderfer, agreed to share about his donation experience and the importance of donating with the Post. A 2002 grad of the political science program, Kochenderfer started a \$25,000 scholarship fund for poli-sci majors, which pays out \$1,000 per year to an exemplary student.

"I wanted to do something that gave back to the school that gave so much to me," Kochenderfer said. "Things that I learned at Oakland I still use constantly, like on a day to day basis. I think Oakland offers so much support to

students, whether it's the top-flight professors or any of the student programs, Oakland had a huge impact on me. It doesn't really pay back everything I got out of the place, but at least it's a start."

Kochenderfer's donation followed the path of many other donors to Oakland University.

Someone wishing to give a gift gets in contact or is contacted by Utech's department.

"A development officer from one of our units may help create a formal gift agreement that outlines the parameters of their gift. Or, donors can choose to leave their gift "undesigned," which allows the university to direct the gift to the area(s) of campus with the greatest need," Utech said.

Kochenderfer found the process to be fairly painless.

"They made it really easy. We kind of worked on the parameters of the gift and I got quite a bit of say in how it is disbursed," he said.

Kochenderfer sits on the Oakland University Alumni Association board and stressed the importance for students to give back after they graduate.

"There are so many needs, and the capital funds campaign has been successful so far, but what we really need are ambassadors to spread the word about Oakland," Kochenderfer said. "There are so many needs that the University has because of the state of Michigan's economy. Revenues from the state are going down and we're entering a period when we can no longer rely on state appropriations. If we want the university to succeed, we as donors need to take a greater role in the future."

Spring brings the same old shade of orange to OU's campus



KEVIN ALFORD/The Oakland Post



KEVIN ALFORD/The Oakland Post

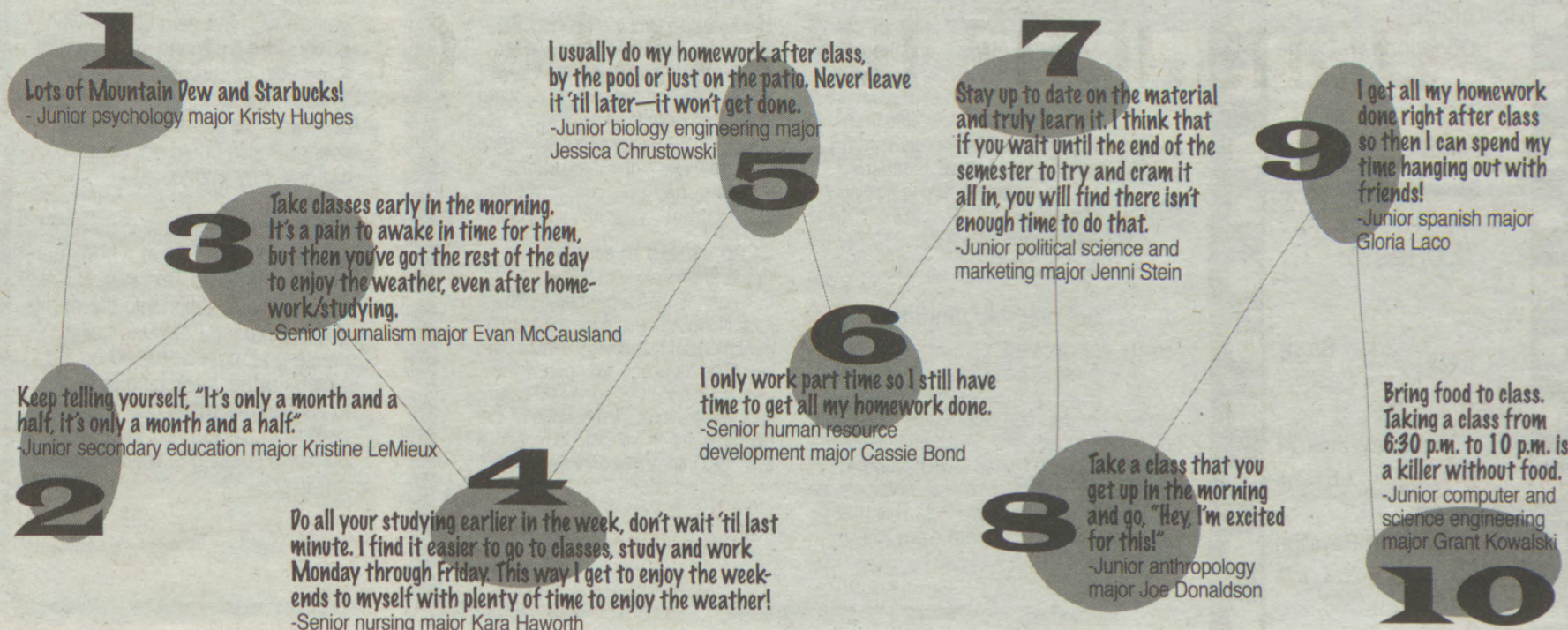


KEVIN ALFORD/The Oakland Post

Construction continues on Oakland University's campus, bringing the bright ambiance of orange cones and plastic fencing to the scenery marked in these photos by piles of dirt and broken concrete. Watch out for continued work around Kresge Library (above), South Foundation Hall, the Oakland Center (top and bottom right) and in various parking lots.

How to pass class without passing on summer

So, you're stuck in the classroom while your friends are heading to the beach this summer. See what Oakland University students suggest to help you survive your spring and summer classes while everyone else is catching the rays.



The Arts at OU

THEATER

"A Year with Frog and Toad"

Where:

Varner Studio Theater

When:

May 16 - June 1

How much:

\$12 General admission

\$6 Students

\$6 All matinees

ART

"Senior Thesis in Studio Art"

Where:

OU art gallery

When:

Through May 18

How much:

Donations welcome

MUSIC

"Lonestar"

Where:

Meadow Brook
Music Festival

When:

Friday, July 13
8 p.m.

How much:

\$38.50 Pavillion

\$20 Lawn

Career Services staff waits for new leadership

By SHAQUIRA TINSLEY
Contributing Reporter

Typically, the goal of students attending a university is to eventually secure a job in the "real world."

Although Michigan's economy fails to encourage the current student body hoping to one day be employed, Oakland University offers resources to ease the burden of the search.

Career Services is one such resource.

According to the Career Services Web site, "The mission of Career Services is to provide students, alumni and employers comprehensive employment resources including advising, training, employer relations, job development and technology resulting in paid experiential and professional employment opportunities."

With the former Career Services Director Bob Thomas no longer in office, the department itself awaits new permanent leadership.

Wayne Thibodeau, interim director

for the Career Services office, said he is unsure of how long his current position will last. He is also unsure about the specific characteristics and experiences one must possess to qualify as the new director.

Linda Harding, administrative assistant for student affairs said a committee board has not yet been developed to gather a potential candidate pool. She is also unsure of when such a committee will be developed.

While the office is not-so-prominently located in Vandenberg Hall, its presence on campus marks a valuable resource for students.

"I think most people are unaware of the office because it isn't in the middle of campus and the office isn't very out in the open," said junior journalism major Amanda Adwell. "There is a sign on Vandenberg, but they don't advertise anything going on and the office isn't visible once you walk in the building."

Adwell said that is the reason she does not frequent the office. She also

suggested increased advertising of the office to enhance students' use of it.

"Most students probably don't think they need to go there or use their services until they graduate," said Adwell. "That is when they will be looking for a career. If they advertised how important it is to get a head start in there, more people might do it."

With little information available about a new Career Services director, a few questions remain. What is in the future for the Career Services office? Who will take over the permanent position as the new director? What can students expect in the mean time? Legitimate questions that must wait for an answer.

For more information about Career Services e-mail careers@oakland.edu or stop by 275 W. Vandenberg Hall.

Visit www.oaklandpostonline.com for updates on the position waiting to be filled.

NEWSBRIEFS

Science and engineering

OU's Formula SAE team will compete between today and the 20th of May at the Ford Proving Grounds in Romeo, MI. The SAE team created a car that accelerates from 0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds, and will race it against student-teams from around the world. OU is hosting the competition and all work done to the vehicles will take place at Oakland's garage.

Scholarship funding approved

On May 2, the Oakland University Board of Trustees approved funding for the 2008 OU Trustee Academic Success fund. The fund approved \$280,000, used towards funding 110 scholarships and two initiatives for student mentoring. This year, 19 students received an OUTAS scholarship.

Plant sale

The Meadow Brook greenhouse will hold their annual plant sale May 17-19 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Flowers for gardens and pots will be featured along with large tropical plants. Among those available will be ferns, arborcola, peace lilies and rubber plants.

OU partners in exhibit

Oakland University and Beaumont have announced a partnership to form North America's largest permanent medical technology exhibit gallery. The attraction will open at the Detroit Science Center in 2009 and take visitors through the world of the human body. It will include more than 120 interactive exhibits.

POLICEFILES

■ A student struck a parked vehicle with her own vehicle while pulling into a parking spot on May 9, resulting in bumper damage. There were no injuries. The accident was not investigated at the scene. Police could not contact the driver by phone.

■ A student found a suicide note dated October 2006 in a book purchased from The Textbook Outlet May 9. Investigation into the name on the note led OUPD to call a house no longer occupied by the writer. Further searching led police to believe the writer now attends college in California. Police are currently seeking to reach her university.

you

(your stories
your words
your style
your health)

THE "YOU" GUIDE
TO SUMMER FUN
(PAGES 9-11)

May 16, 2007

www.oaklandpostonline.com

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Underwater summer classes

Scuba diving lessons offered locally and at OU

By JESSE DUNSMORE
Senior Reporter

Some spend summer absorbing the sun on the beach, listening to waves at a comfortable distance. Others like to spend the hottest months of the year under those waves.

Recent Oakland University graduate Adela Knedlik plans to scuba dive with her boyfriend on a trip to Mexico this July.

"While diving I hope to sight-see and just immerse myself with the whole experience," Knedlik said. "I hear it's like nothing else on earth."

Bud Uren, owner of US Scuba Center in downtown Rochester, would agree. Talking about underwater "critter life" near Indonesia, long-time diver Uren said he surfaced from that dive wondering, "What planet are we on?"

Uren began scuba diving in 1970, inspired by Jacques Cousteau's explorations and Lloyd Bridges' show "Sea Hunt." A few years later, he began instructing other would-be divers.

"It's always neat to see somebody that may be a little bit afraid of the water all of the sudden realize that scuba diving's so easy that they get this big grin on their face and they're just so excited about diving," said Uren.

"The reason I wanted to take scuba lessons is that I have always had a fear of open water, and slowly throughout my life I have worked on getting over that fear," said junior Frank Johnston, who trained at US Scuba. "So I thought that the scuba classes would help me feel more comfortable and be able to get under the water so I will be able to see and understand what it is I fear about water."

Johnston, a public administration major, plans to dive in Michigan as well as the Red Sea in Israel, seeking shipwrecks and archeological sites.

"I am not into the tourist-type sites," he said.

But diving doesn't have to be international to be interesting.

"The Great Lakes have the best shipwreck diving in the world, bar none," said Uren, because the fresh water and relative lack of harmful organisms make for well-preserved wrecks.

US Scuba instructor Jim Bambard, who has been diving since 1967, said, "I love (having) the ability to drop down on something that hasn't been exposed to anybody else for over a hundred years."

Bambard advises new divers to buy their own equipment. "They're going to be more comfortable; more comfort means less air consumption; less air consumption, more underwater time."

Essential gear includes a wet suit, air tank, regulator (mouthpiece), vest to hold the tank and control buoyancy, gauges, fins, mask and snorkel. Gear can cost anywhere from "\$1500 to sky's the limit," Uren said.

Before you can explore the uncharted depths with that equipment, or even get an air tank filled by a dealer, you need to be trained and certified. Scuba certification can be given by several associations, each with their own style, but with a similar core curriculum. For example, Uren's store is affiliated with Scuba Schools International.

"The instructors make sure that each student is comfortable with all the lessons taught," said Johnston, "and not just telling you and showing you once."

Andy Lyzen, a freshman mathematical teaching major, was certified in Ontario by another association, the Professional Association of Diving Instructors.

"The classes were nice, but got to the point," said Lyzen.

Knedlik is taking classes right at the OU Rec Center. The classes are taught by instructors from Great Lakes Divecenter in Shelby Township, affiliated with PADI. Classes are typically offered every month. The full course is only two days, 12 hours per day.

For more information on certification at OU, contact Mike Rossi at (248) 370-4534. US Scuba Center can be reached at (248) 650-9500.



Photo courtesy of Samantha Aldrich
Samantha Aldrich, sophomore medical laboratory science major, scuba dives 100 feet underwater in the Caribbean. Scuba diving certification courses are offered locally at US Scuba Center in Rochester and at the OU Rec Center. Certification is required for equipment rental and air tank filling.

US Scuba Center

Location: Downtown Rochester

Basic scuba class: \$300

Includes: Pool time and classroom sessions, scuba equipment rental

You provide: Mask, fins, boots, snorkel and log book

Classes: One or two nights a week for six sessions

Other perks: \$30 coupon good for purchase of some equipment at US Scuba Center

Certification at OU

Location: Oakland University RAC

Basic scuba class: OU Student - \$169

DCR Member - \$199

Non-Member - \$209

Classes: Two 12-hour sessions

Get your fill of dirt and gears

A guide to local mountain bike trails

By **VICKY LEFEBVRE**
Contributing Reporter

Michigan offers a number of scenic and challenging mountain biking trails, many with a short drive — or ride — of Oakland University.

Avoca Trail Avoca, Mich.

The Avoca Trail, an old railroad track-turned-biking trail, extends from Wadhams Road to Avoca Road in St. Clair County. The path consists of three sections: gravel, pavement and crushed limestone. The path is about 10 miles long, but is very flat, so it's nice for working up endurance. There are some trees,

but for the most part is open. Because it's an old railroad track, there are parts that cross some of the back roads in Avoca. The highlight of this ride is the 640-foot-long trestle 60

feet above Mill Creek. This makes for a nice view, especially in the fall when the leaves begin to change, but watch out — wasps and bees are also fond of the trestle and can at times be an overwhelming presence.

Price: free!

Stony Creek Metro Park Shelby Township, Mich.

Stony Creek offers bike paths for all

skill levels. There is a six-mile long paved track with many hills that circles Stony Creek Lake. There are also dirt trails



that total about 14 miles and range in difficulty from easy to hard, with the single track being mostly wooded and the double track having wide open

parts with little or no shade from foliage.

The trails cross each other, so make sure to get a map from the park office to avoid going on trails that are too advanced for you. Helmets are required on the dirt paths, and there are plenty of opportunities to crash with tight switchbacks and obstacles like tree stumps and log piles to maneuver around.

Price: \$4 daily pass, \$20 annual pass

Addison Oaks Leonard, Mich.

Addison Oaks in Oakland County has hilly, wide tracks that are great for beginning to intermediate riding levels. The track is curvy, with some short uphill and quick downhill. It's a good



Photo courtesy of Vicky Lefebvre
The author stands on the trestle at 10-mile long Avoca Trail in Avoca Michigan. Michigan offers a number of mountain biking trails with varying lengths and levels of difficulty.

challenge for a beginner and a confidence builder for the intermediate rider. The trail is about seven miles long and makes for a scenic ride, with plenty of trees and greenery to enjoy.

Some of the path is shared with equestrians, so watch out for them and remember that horses and hikers always have the right of way.

Price: \$7 daily for Oakland County residents, \$12 for

non-county. Annual pass \$30, \$46 for non-residents.

Trail difficulty level



T-shirt



Wicking tank top



Just the bike shorts

BEACH GUIDE

Sand + water = happiness

By **LINDSEY WOJCIK**
Contributing Reporter

Going to the beach is a summertime favorite of most, whether you enjoy soaking up some sun, swimming, playing sports in the sand or getting some exercise on a trail, there are many local hot

spots for any beach bum to enjoy.

Thelma G. Spencer Park: 3701 John R, Rochester Hills, Mich.

Thelma G. Spencer Park is located within 10 miles of Oakland University. Equipped with a 38-acre lake, perfect to take a dip in after basking in the sun,

Thelma G. Spencer also offers row boat and pedal boat rentals for \$4 per hour, available from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Park hours are 10 a.m. to dusk and the daily parking permit is \$10 or \$5 for residents.



Stony Creek Metropark: 4300 Main Park Rd., Shelby Twp., Mich.

The best park for sports recreations, Stony Creek has an 18 hole golf course, a 24 hole disc golf course and a 6.2 mile paved bike and inline skating trail. Bike rentals are available for \$3 per hour,

along with rowboat, paddleboat, canoe and kayak rentals.

Visitors can also choose from two beaches to relax on: Baypoint and Eastwood, which are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the summer.

Stony Creek Metropark is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and a daily parking permit costs \$4.



Pontiac Lake Recreation Area: 7800 Gale Rd., Waterford, Mich.

Pack your tents and sleeping bags. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area offers three campgrounds with playgrounds.

The Modern campground costs \$16 per night has 176 sites with electricity, toilet and shower facilities, and picnic tables. The Equestrian campground costs \$17 per night and is a more rustic site offering 24 sites, vault toilets and a hand pump well for water. An organization campground is also available for groups.

If camping is not your thing, head to the beautiful beach area or peddle your way around the 11 mile bike trail that has been ranked as one of the "Top Michigan Trails" by the trail overview Web site www.trails.com. Summer hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the daily parking permit is \$6.

Metro Beach: 31000 Metropolitan Parkway, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Visitors have two options for swimming at Metro Beach: one mile of Lake St. Clair shoreline or an Olympic-size swimming pool. If you don't mind some weeds, take a dip in the lake, otherwise pay the \$2 pool fee to soak up the sun lounging on one of the poolside chairs or plunge down the water slide.

Metro Beach also has a free kids splash area with water fountains and sprinklers. Run through them and cool down for free after a game of beach volleyball.

Metro Beach is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and a daily parking permit costs \$4.



Park Perks Key



golf



boat rental



picnic area



horseback riding trails



bike trails



camping



Photo courtesy Bryan Singelyn, Graduate, Biology
Graduate student Bryan Singelyn has been wakeboarding for seven years. The fastest growing watersport in the world, wakeboarding is popular in Michigan and among OU students.

Conquer the wake

Local clinic can show how to spend your summer getting air

By ERIN MALLARD
You Editor

Forget sun bathing, video games and chick lit. This summer, you could learn to fly.

Okay, so maybe you'll never break through the atmosphere, or even graze

a cloud, but for a few sweet seconds, you will definitely feel like you're flying.

Once considered an obscure addition to the water sports family, wakeboarding is now considered the fastest growing in the world, according to www.usawaterski.org. And with a lake around seemingly every corner in Michigan, it's gained a

strong following in the state.

Many Oakland University students dedicate their summers to perfecting their 180's, Supermans, or just trying to clear the blasted wake without biting the waves.

"It's an escape from reality for me," said senior biology major Kelly Quin, "a time to let loose and just enjoy myself and my friends and not worry about a thing for a few hours."

If the thought of hanging out behind a boat all day with something like a snowboard strapped to your feet excites you, but you don't happen to own a boat or know anyone who does, give Brian Snabes a call.

Snabes owns The Wakeboard Clinic, which offers day camps, private and group wakeboard lessons on Elizabeth Lake in Waterford and Deer Lake at Boyne Mountain.

"If you've never been before it's really good to get out and watch some people before you go, or get a video, or take lesson," said Snabes.

Within an hour of instruction, most students begin to get the hang of it, said Snabes. But don't get frustrated if you're not ready for the X Games by the end of the summer.

"You want to set goals and you want to try to attain those goals, but you've got to be realistic," he said.

Snabes recommends starting small and gradually building up a repertoire of tricks.

"Once you've got all of the spins, you've got a really solid foundation for using all of your edges," he said.

For those who've already discovered the joys of completing your first successful toe-side grab, but are waiting for the water to heat up just a little more, Snabes recommends staying in shape with cardio activities like running, which will work the muscles in your thighs and hamstrings. He also recommends working out your back with a rowing machine

or resistance bands.

For more information on Snabes's clinic, visit www.wakeboardclinic.com.

If you're interested in buying equipment, it's important that you talk to someone familiar with the sport, since most places don't allow you to demo items before you purchase them. Snabes recommends TWC Surf and Sport in Keego Harbor (www.twcsurfsports.com).

For profiles of OU students who wakeboard, visit www.oaklandpostonline.com.

Lessons at The Wakeboard Clinic

Group Sessions

Four days of progressive group sessions for first timers through riders training for competition.

Private Lessons

Lessons are available for those who prefer the one on one learning experience. Private lessons are based on hourly rates.

Home Instruction/Events

They also offer private home instruction if you choose to use your own boat. They will send a professional rider and or boat driver to your home to teach your family, friends, party or event.

Dates and Times

First week of Camp: June 11-14 day camps run through the last week of August

1/2 day, group sessions:
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Full day, group sessions:
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Bring a lunch!)

Store bought Popsicle or Mom and Pop?



"I just like the plain soft serve from Dairy Queen."

TOM DZIURMAN

Sophomore, Undecided



"Nestle Drumsticks. The tip of the cone is a chocolate delight."

ADAM LUCK

Sophomore, Biology



"Regular popsicles. I like the fruity stuff."

JESSICA BOYLE

Junior, MLS



all photos by Dustin Alexander

"Ray's ice cream. Cookies 'n' cream in a waffle cone."

PATRICK SNOW

Senior, Finance

JUNIOR NURSING MAJOR,
VANESSA PAGE
 THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE
BLACK ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP



1. Beyonce - "Irreplaceable"
2. Ciara - "Like A Boy"
3. Fergie - "Glam orous"
4. Lloyd - "Get it Shorty"
5. Justin Timberlake - "What Goes Around... Comes Around"
6. Kelly Roland - "Like This"
7. Ciara - "Prom ise"
8. Keyshia Cole & Diddy - "Last Night"
9. Michael Jackson - "PYT"
10. Beyonce - "Upgraded"

bagels • sandwiches • salads • soup

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\$1.00 off any lunch sandwich

BRUEGGER'S

Piece by piece

BATHING SUITS YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT PAYING BY THE YARD FOR



"A yellow floral pattern with beads."

Erin Toth
Sophomore, Marketing



"A white bandeau halter from J.Crew"

April Nason



"It's a black halter top from Target."

Amanda Reichenbach
Sophomore, Science



all photos by Dustin Alexander

"It's a white one piece with the sides cut out so that it looks like a two piece from the back."

Mike Harris
Sophomore, English



SPIRITCASH...

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Stop by the ID Office, 112 Oakland Center, to deposit SpiritCash on your SpiritCard or for more information!

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work and play.

oakpostfeatures@gmail.com

IT'S SUMMERTIME ON CAMPUS WHEN ...

1. You have to drag yourself off of your pool noodle to make it to the 6:30 night classes
2. You can gauge how far along you are in the semester by how tan your classmates are
3. Instead of hat hair from winter apparel, everyone has crazy hair from having the car windows open
4. The classroom window has never been so looked at
5. You hope your camp site has wifi so you can access Moodle
6. If you're hungry on campus, you suggest Subway, Subway, Subway or Subway
7. You're the only one at the pool reading classic literature ...

7
select

Local art extravaganza

Indie crafters to sell goods in Royal Oak

By WENDY LYONS
Contributing Reporter

Whether you're looking for a trendy art item to add to your dorm or a new career path, the Michigan Indie Crafters of Etsy Craft Extravaganza might have just what you're looking for.

The Michigan Independent Crafters of Etsy, M.I.C.E. for short, is holding its debut show noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 19 at the Main Art Theater, located at 118 North Main St. in Royal Oak.

But this isn't your grandmother's craft show.

The extravaganza will feature 34 local artists who sell their wares on Etsy, the burgeoning handmade online marketplace.

A range of handmade items will be for sale including "funky reconstructed vintage" T-shirts, sterling silver jewelry, ceramics, glass, paintings, photographs, "kitschy" greeting cards and more.

Resembling products you would expect to see for sale at Urban Outfitters or The Museum of Modern Art, these handmade objects are not only unique but also in-step with current trends.

At the extravaganza, local artists will get the chance to meet their customers and promote a company that has made it possible for some artists to support themselves through their art.

"If it weren't for the site," Royal Oak artist Danielle Maveal said, "I would be miserable and still working for someone else for minimum wage — but even worse, not living fully as an artist."

Customers are urged to go early because M.I.C.E. is giving away goody bags to the first 100 people.

If you're an artsy person searching for a new direction, you might want to stop by the Etsy booth to talk to company representatives from New York who are there to support and promote M.I.C.E.

Etsy, a nonsense word from Federico Fellini's 1963 movie "8 1/2," is the brainchild of a group of guys ranging in age from their early twenties to early thirties.

According to Matt Stinchcomb, vice president of marketing, everyone that works at Etsy is an artist.

Stinchcomb himself is an artist, musician and graduate of Oberlin College, Ohio, where he majored in art history and minored in visual art — a combination that would strike terror in the hearts of most parents.

But Etsy wants to change that.

"Our main objective with the company is to allow as many people as possible to make a living making things

because that's all we've ever wanted to do," he said.

And Etsy wants to reach out to college students, too. This fall, Etsy will begin campus tours to provide college students with alternatives to mass-produced dorm décor.

"We want to actually come and bring just tons of hand-made goods for the dorm like screen-printed posters, pillows, sheets, furniture, clothing — everything you could want," Stinchcomb said.

But Etsy's college tours aren't just about sales. Etsy wants to offer college students an opportunity to make their talents pay off.

"We are also creating a kind of a charter club kit for groups on school to start up their own crafting groups," Stinchcomb said. And soon Etsy will be offering college scholarships, too.

For college students, "It's a great way to make money on the side," Stinchcomb said.

"They're getting work and jobs out of school off of Etsy because people are seeing their work. There're tons of offline shops just using Etsy to source stuff for their stores, so it's a great opportunity to just be discovered by buyers for shops and galleries, and it's fun," he said.

This June, Etsy will celebrate its second anniversary and the growth has been remarkable.

"One year ago, we had 9,712 sellers, and currently we have 50,634 sellers," Stinchcomb said.

In the past year alone, Etsy went from five employees to 22, and the number of members, buyers and sellers, went from 14,000 to almost 300,000, Stinchcomb said.

"The amount of recognition that Etsy gets is pretty impressive," said College for Creative Studies graduate Heidi Muszall, of Ferndale, who joined Etsy in January 2007.

"I've had a fair amount of success with sales online. I've also been picked up by a store in Boston called Magpie that is carrying my cat toys.

"Etsy is a great jumping off point for people to start getting noticed and start getting some publicity and getting out there," said Muszall, who works full-time as an interior designer.

"Etsy is a community not just a Web site," Maveal said. "The administration really does so much to promote independence for artists.

"I am helping organize this craft show to give something back to Etsy.com. Since I signed up a year ago, I have sold nearly 700 handmade pieces and now support myself with my craft," she said. "They are doing all they can to support buying handmade so that more of us can make a living being creative."

Maveal is not the only artist whose life has found a new direction thanks to Etsy.

"Every day we get messages from people who quit their day jobs and are just supporting themselves on Etsy," Stinchcomb said.

Etsy's name may be nonsensical, but the opportunity to make a living doing what you love makes perfect sense.



WENDY LYONS/The Oakland Post

The Michigan Indie Crafters of Etsy (M.I.C.E.) will hold its debut craft extravaganza Saturday, May 19 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Main Art Theater located in downtown Royal Oak.

Check out www.etsy.com
to shop or sell.

For more information on the
Royal Oak Craft Extravaganza, visit
<http://www.myspace.com/micetsy>

Laughing summer blues away

Comedy clubs a fun option for students

By PAUL GULLY
Mouthing Off Editor

Laughing until you're about to wet yourself usually isn't the way to spend a night on the town. But that's what you should expect when visiting one of Metro Detroit's comedy clubs.

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle has a deep history in Detroit's comedy scene and is regarded by many in the industry as one of the top comedy clubs in the country.

Tim Allen and Dave Coulier, both of whom are Michigan natives, were regular performers at Ridley's in the 1980s. Allen got his start performing at the Comedy Castle's Open Mike Nights.

Upon entering the doors at Ridley's, autographed black and white photos fill the lobby wall providing an abbreviated history of the countless stars that have taken the stage. Since it opened in 1979, Ridley's has featured such comedians as Jerry Seinfeld, Jim Carrey, Gary Shandling and Jay Leno.

"Ridley's is by far the best comedy club in the area," said Oakland University philosophy and communication double-major Alex Cherup, who has performed his stand-up act in many of the local bars, clubs and coffee shops.

"The comedians are great and the atmosphere is awesome," he said.

"Ridley's is the Taj Mahal of comedy clubs. It doesn't get any better when it comes to clubs in Michigan," said Erica Lynn, member of the Womyn's Komedy Network.

Wednesday nights at Ridley's are Open Mike Nights, which feature up-and-coming and aspiring comedians.

Admission is only \$2.

Every Thursday through Saturday headline acts perform at the Comedy Castle.

Taking the stage at Ridley's from May 17-20 will be Kathleen Madigan, finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing" in 2004. Voted Best Female Stand-Up at the American Comedy Awards, Madigan has appeared on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "The Conan O'Brien Show." Madigan has also starred in a "HBO Half-Hour Comedy Special" and a "Comedy Central Presents" special.

Dave Landau will be performing at Ridley's from July 19-21. Landau has performed his act at some of the country's top clubs and has worked with the likes of Dave Chappelle, Coulier and Steven Wright. Landau was a semi-finalist on "Last Comic Standing" in 2006.

Ridley's also offers a course in stand-up comedy where students learn joke-writing, stage performance and other valuable skills.

"The class destroys a lot of misconceptions about stand-up comedy and teaches you what it's really about," Cherup said.

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle is located at 269 E. Fourth St. in downtown Royal Oak. For a complete list of upcoming shows or for more information on their comedy classes, visit www.comedycastle.com or call (248) 542-9900.

For your chance to win free tickets to upcoming shows, join Ridley's e-mail newsletter.

The Second City Detroit provides a slightly different type of show for those looking for more of a Saturday-Night-Live-type comedy.

Dubbed the "Temple of Satire" by Time Magazine, The Second City features improv and sketch comedy acts, rather than stand-up routines.

"The Second City is kind of a final training ground for stars of the future," said Nate DuFort, producing artistic director for The Second City Detroit. "Many Second City cast members go on to act, produce and direct."

Since opening in 1993, Second City Detroit has created 29 original revues and has helped develop some of Detroit's best comic talent. Larry Joe Campbell of "According to Jim," Keegan Michael Key of "MADtv" and "SNL" cast member Jerry C. Minor are all former Second City Detroit members.

The Second City Detroit is currently in its 29th revue, entitled "Michigan Impossible: All Laid Off & No Place to Go." The show, which is running through June 17, is a satirical take on Michigan's economy.

Following its final showing, the cast will begin working on material for the 30th revue, which is slated to begin on Aug. 15.

"Michigan Impossible" is shown five nights per week from Wednesday through Sunday, with two performances on Friday and Saturday.

Second City Detroit also features a few alternative program shows including a multicultural, satirical show which features a cast comprised of Chaldean, Indian and African members.

A Best-Of Second City Detroit show will begin in early June, which will feature the most memorable sketches from the 29 Second City Detroit revues. Also, beginning in the fall, a gay, lesbian and transgender show will be starting up.

From beginners looking to pick up a new hobby to aspiring professional comics, The Second City offers improv classes for most age groups and experience levels. In addition, sketch comedy writing classes are available.

Located in Novi, The Second City is ideal for a night on the town, according to DuFort.

"We really encourage people to come out and make a night of it," DuFort said. "We have an Andiamo below us and a Dirty Martini above us, so it makes for a great experience."

For more information on The Second City Detroit show schedule or their improv classes, visit www.secondcity.com or call (248) 348-4448.

SUMMER IN DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER

Whether you're taking summer classes or just living in the area, be sure to check out downtown Rochester this summer for a variety of events and festivals.

From getting fresh produce at the Farmers' Market, to enjoying music at the park, to picking up deals at the sidewalk sales, there's something for everyone.

For more details on these events and more, visit their Web site at: www.downtown-rochestermi.com

May

17 : Girls Night Out

19, 26 : Farmers' Market

26-27 : Heritage Festival



June

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 : Farmers' Market

9 : River Day 2007

9 : 2007 Soap Box Derby

21, 28 : Music in the Park

24 : Leader Dogs for the Blind and SEMVMA 4th Annual Walk-a-Thon



July

5, 12, 19, 26 : Music in the Park

7, 14, 21, 28 : Farmers' Market

7, 14, 21, 28 : Movies in the Moonlight

12-14 : "Christmas in July" Sidewalk Sales



Bored with the same old sports bar?

The Post serves up new ideas for game night

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

Let's be honest—is there really any better time to be a Detroit sports fan than right in the heart of May? With the Pistons and Red Wings dominating in their playoff runs and the Tigers off to a phenomenal start, there's no better way to celebrate than with friends, food and a plasma TV (or 12).

But also during this time of year, sports fans fall victim to a common slump, a sad case known as sports bar boredom. Symptoms can include monotonous menu memorization, a sore neck from craning to watch the same TV screen time and time again and dulled taste buds from sipping the same old brewsky.

Don't be a statistic. The Oakland Post is here to help you break the cycle with some new watering holes to get your game on. After all, you can only go to Buffalo Wild Wings and Mr. B's so many times.

Malone's Tavern 3235 Van Dyke in Warren

Surrounded by chain restaurants such as Chili's and La Shish, it's initially easy to drive past this little establishment. But once you walk inside, you get the impression of an intimate Irish pub where, as the song goes, "everybody knows your name." Malone's is great place to bring a group, with large booths, a well-stocked bar and plenty of TVs both indoors and out in the enclosed patio. But what really makes this place stand out is the food. This is clearly not your typical sub-par bar grub, as they serve up a menu complete with delicious steak, ribs, big burgers and a great order of fries. Malone's is also priced just right, with entrées costing anywhere from \$6 to \$15 dollars. For more information, give them a call at (586) 978-0055.

Champp's Americana 301 W. Big Beaver in Troy

You want to watch the big game tonight, but your significant other would rather enjoy some fine dining. There's no need to get into an argument because Champp's can give you the best of both worlds. Picture a fine dining restaurant, complete with a fireplace and soft lighting...all with large TVs posted on the walls. Champp's has fantastic food and fairly good service but the downside is that the menu isn't the most college-friendly, with meals costing well into the double-digits. But if you're the kind of person who watches their sports with a glass of red wine, then you've come to the right place. They also have locations in Utica and West Bloomfield. Call (248) 526-0333 for more information.

O'Toole's 205 W. Fifth Street in Royal Oak

Huge plasma screens? Check. Good burgers? Check. Weekly drink specials? Are we there yet? O'Toole's, also located in Novi, is a great place to bring the gang to grab a few cold ones and cheer on your favorite teams. Come halftime or intermission, you can pass the time by playing a game of pool or darts. The atmosphere is also very open, with plenty of windows and good lighting. In addition, the drink specials are easy on a college student's budget. For more information, call (248) 591-9226.

Hockeytown Café 2301 Woodward in Detroit

This is the granddaddy of all sports bars. Located in the heart of the Motor City, this two-storied sports haven has a comfortable atmosphere and fans will drool over the memorabilia plastered all over the place. Hockeytown Café boasts having 63-inch plasma screen TVs and plenty of places to watch them. Just don't expect to come here every time, as the money factor might make you think twice about frequent trips. With appetizers alone costing as much as \$11 and a steak coming in at \$23, consider this place a special occasion hangout, especially since you have to pay to park at the Fox Theatre parking structure. For more information, call (313) 965-9500.



SAMANTHA FRANZ/The Oakland Post
Boasting 25 TV screens and a great menu to boot, Malone's Tavern in Warren is an ideal place to get the gang together and cheer on your favorite Detroit teams.

Shear Madness



Photo courtesy of Derick Nelson
Yet another example of why you should never be the gambling type. Head basketball coach Greg Kampe lost a bet with player Derick Nelson after he warned Nelson he would shave his head if he couldn't reach a certain GPA. Well, not only did he make the needed GPA, but he also got to shave off Kampe's trademark curls. When asked how it felt to be shorn, Kampe said, "It feels weird."

Softball takes second place honors

By **ROB TATE**
Senior Reporter

Success can be a funny thing when not expected. The Oakland University softball team traveled down to Shreveport, La. last week for the Mid-Con Softball Tournament and came home with second place, but not after some thrilling moments.

Oakland was unsuccessful in winning the championship, but they proved their critics wrong by advancing to the championship game after receiving a preseason ranking of a sixth place finish in the Mid-Con poll and no chance at making the post season tournament. "I think we surprised a lot of people," said Head Coach Glenn MacDonald.

Oakland dropped the first game of the double elimination tournament, losing to Southern Utah on Friday but quickly bounced back later that day by eliminating host school Centenary by a score of 1-0.

Oakland got things started right on day two of the tournament Saturday by defeating Western Illinois with a walk-off homerun by senior Kate Jones in the 10th inning to reach the championship game.

Sophomore pitching ace and Mid-Con first team member Jessica Granger squeezed Oakland out of a bad situation in the top of the ninth inning. Western Illinois loaded up the bases, but Granger showed grit and struck out two batters, causing a pop-out to get out

of the jam.

"She's a great kid," MacDonald said of Granger. "She's a leader, a strong pitcher and I think she just had a ball this year."

Next time you are picking lottery numbers, keep MacDonald in mind. He felt very strongly in the 10th inning that either Jones or junior Alex Perrino would come up with the big hit.

"I kind of had a premonition that I had Alex Perrino coming up and Kate Jones and I thought that one of them was going to hit a home run," MacDonald said.

Jones hit a shot that cleared the right-center fence that sent Oakland to a 3-2 victory over the Westerwinds and earned a re-match later that day with Southern Utah for the championship.

"Kate came through. She has a big bat and she was hitting very well and hitting it at people and she just hit that ball to right center it just kept going and cleared that fence," MacDonald said. "That was just a huge, huge hit."

The homer was Jones' second of the season.

"The unfortunate thing was we were playing in 90 degree weather and it was 10 innings. I don't want to take anything away from Southern Utah because they are a very fine team, but we were turning around and playing again (right away) and that was a little tough," MacDonald added.

The Golden Grizzlies got on the board first in the

championship game. Freshman Angela Righetti brought in freshman Katie Dreyer on a fielders choice.

Oakland, however, simply just ran out of gas. Granger got knocked around in the fifth inning, giving up five earned runs. Southern Utah won 5-1.

Southern Utah will face Arizona State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Oakland ends the year 21-36 overall.

Golden Grizzlies on All-Tournament Team

Kate Jones, SR - .231 batting average, 1 home run, 1 RBI, 2 runs

Jessica Granger, SO - 16 strikeouts

Tosha Hodgkinson, SR - .286 batting average

Sarah Clark, SO - .467 batting average, 1 run

Top finishers for OU

Sara Gerhardt; 10,000 Meter Run--
40:52.83

Second place (in a field of eight)

Erica D'Angelo; 5000 Meter Run--
18:41.30

Seventh place (in a field of 20)

Kevin Luce; 100/110 Meter Hurdles--
15.18

Third place (in a field of eight)

Mike Craze; 3000 Meter
Steeplechase--9:39.25

Third place (in a field of 15)

Jason Bigelow; 1500 Meter Run--
4:00.46

Seventh place (in a field of 20)

Zack Jones; 5000 Meter Run
14:54.98

Third place (in a field of 23)

For complete results, visit
www.ougrizzlies.com.

Mid-Con no more Conference to have new name

By **ROB TATE**
Senior Reporter

The Mid-Con Conference will have a new name to go by starting June 1. Oakland University athletics will now compete in The Summit League starting with the opening of the fall season in 2007.

With the addition of three new schools to the conference this season, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), North Dakota State and South Dakota State, and the subtraction of Valparaiso who moved to The Horizon League, the conference felt that it was time for a new identity.

The Summit Plan was started in May when the Mid-Con Presidents Council came up with a strategic plan and a renewed emphasis on improving academic and athletic performances of all student-athletes. The committee chose the term "Summit" because it's a word associated with "aspirations of greatness," "provides a sense of movement forward," and it, "embraces the potential of a vibrant future."

"We are extremely pleased with our new name and logo," said Dr. Al Goldfarb in a league statement. "We look forward

with anticipation to continued successes in our league as we reach higher with the implementation of the Summit Plan."

The conference, which has been in existence since 1982, was first known as The Association of Mid-Continent Universities. In 1989, the name was shortened to The Mid-Con Conference.

"The Summit League provides a mental image to reach for the top, both academically and athletically," said Commissioner Tom Douple in a statement.

The league name can also be shortened for easier use by being simply known as The Summit.



Courtesy of Oakland University Athletics
The Mid-Con conference will become The Summit League as of June 1.

Back of the pack Track finishes sixth in finals

By **SAMANTHA FRANZ**
Sports Editor

Some say age isn't anything but a number. But in the case of the Golden Grizzlies track team, age could be the very reason why both the men's and women's teams didn't finish higher than sixth place at the 2007 Mid-Con Outdoor Track Championships.

Only two years old, the Oakland University track team sent their limited roster out to the fields of UMKC from May 10-12 to compete against the other seven teams in the conference.

The Thunderbirds of Southern Utah took top honors in the meet, with the women's team edging out the home team of UMKC and the men winning their fourth consecutive Mid-Con title, becoming the first team to win four in a row since Eastern Illinois in the 1980s.

OU Hockey Files

By **BRITTANY OCHTINSKY**
Contributing Reporter

Will McMahon collects Player of the Year awards like some people collect...well, insert your hobby of choice here. For the fourth consecutive year, the American Collegiate Hockey Association has chosen McMahon as the recipient of its greatest honor. That's in addition to the Tournament MVP and 1st Team All-American accolades he's earned this season.

McMahon finished the 2006-2007 campaign tied with University of Michigan-Dearborn's Steve Rademacher for first in the league in goals (47), though McMahon reached that mark in four fewer games. He ranked second in points (76) behind Kent State University's Jason O'Bannon (84).

McMahon also finished atop the Grizzlies in goals, points and penalty minutes (98), while tying Brent Cooper for the team lead in assists (29). He finished his career, spanning five seasons, with 238 goals and 149 assists (387 points) in 177 games, where he holds the record in all three categories.

While the ACHA limits players' careers to four seasons, McMahon was granted an additional year of eligibility as the Grizzlies moved from Division 2 to Division 1 prior to the start of the '06-'07 season. He then led the team to the National Championship, where the Grizzlies defeated top-ranked Penn State for the title, becoming the first team in ACHA history to win back-to-back championships in two divisions.

In two games against Penn State, to close out the regular season and again to win the championship, McMahon tallied a combined seven goals and one assist, including four goals and an assist in the championship game.

He ended his career as a four-time player of the year, four-time member of the 1st Team All-American, as well as ACHA Rookie of the Year in his freshman campaign. He was a member of three championship teams, and the Grizzlies finished runner-up to Michigan State in 2004.

McMahon was also one of three Grizzlies to be named as one of the ACHA's All-Americans. He was the lone representative on the 1st team, while Cooper and defenseman Adam Chornoby were honored as part of the 2nd team.

Cooper was second to McMahon in goals (31) and points (60) and tied Ryan Hawthorne of Oswego State University for 9th in goals scored and was 12th overall in points in the ACHA.

Chornoby, the team's captain, led all Grizzly defensemen with 29 points (4 goals, 25 assists) and had the fewest penalty minutes (12) of all Oakland skaters.



PAUL SAKUMA/The Associated Press
Detroit Red Wings right wing Mikael Samuelsson, is congratulated by defenseman Danny Markov and Chris Chelios after scoring against the San Jose Sharks in the first period of Game 6 of their second-round NHL hockey playoff series against San Jose.

Still 'Hockeytown'?

By **ERIK WESTFALL**
Contributing Reporter

Detroit is well known for its moniker "Hockeytown." It's had that title since the team declared it in 1996 as part of a marketing campaign and confirmed by the NHL commissioner after the Red Wings won the Stanley Cup back in 1997.

Games would be packed full all season long and playoff games sold out without a second thought. Life was good in Detroit for their storied hockey franchise.

However, in recent months, events have happened that make me wonder what's happened since we earned that title more than 10 years ago.

Red Wings fans across the state have been showing signs of wavering interest and it's mighty disheartening. For the first time I can remember, the Red Wings haven't sold out big playoff games.

At the first two games of the recent Red Wings and Sharks first round series there were visibly empty seats at Joe Louis Arena. The numbers came back that the game did not show a sellout.

This unusual sight became even more awkward during game two of that same series. Detroit fans were booing the Red Wings within the first 10 minutes of the game. While this attitude changed as the game progressed, the impact was not lost on those who would say Detroit doesn't deserve the "Hockeytown" moni-

ker anymore.

Hockey in general has been losing popularity and it's a depressing sight to see. As proof of that, ESPN dropped their coverage of the NHL in light of the 2004-2005 lockout. Hockey gets roughly half to a quarter the coverage the other sports get on ESPN's SportsCenter, even being this deep into the playoffs.

We, as Detroiters and Red Wings fans, must step up and remind the rest of the country why hockey is such an integral sport.

The Red Wings have been home to two of the greatest players to ever play the game in Gordie Howe and Steve Yzerman. They've been part of possibly the greatest rivalry in the last 25 years with the

Colorado Avalanche. The city of Detroit itself had amazing celebrations when the Red Wings won their Stanley Cups in 1997, 1998 and 2002.

But what is it about hockey that brings the fans in? Is it the end-to-end play of the games? Is it the speed of the game? Maybe it's the hitting or the fighting.

Hockey brings so much to the table and sadly, it's often lost amongst the "Big Three" of baseball, football and basketball.

Detroit earned the title of "Hockeytown" years ago by having some of the most enthusiastic, die-hard fans in the nation. This is a sentiment we must return to so we can continue to show the rest of the country why hockey is such a great pastime.

SPORTS RANT

Psst! Hey!

Hey Post reader, we're talking to you!

We want to hear about your workout routine. How do you stay in shape, besides the standard run and weight room visit?

Drop us a line at
oakpostsports@gmail.com

Hot n' sporty fun in the sun

Post staffers try out some fun ways to pass the time

Driving Range

By **ROB TATE**
Senior Reporter

With summertime upon us and everybody trying to find something to do to fill the void of having no classes (or at least a lack of classes), why not go outside and enjoy the beautiful weather by hitting a few golf balls around?

There are many great driving ranges in the area including the one right here on campus to practice one of the world's toughest sports.

Let's face it, none of us will ever be as good as Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Arnold Palmer or Byron Nelson, but with enough practice, you could get good enough to at least win your buddy's money out on the course or in a driving contest.

A great place to get those clubs out and hack away is at The Royal Oak Golf Center, located at Coolidge Highway and 13 Mile Road in Royal Oak. The range has been open since 1950 and has plenty of tees to swing at.

With a tough economy and job market, golf can be an expensive sport, but practicing doesn't cost too much at The Royal Oak Golf Center.

There are four different sized buckets to fill with Top Flite golf balls, a small bucket costs \$4.75, a medium bucket costs \$6.50, a large bucket costs \$9 and a super jumbo bucket runs at \$14. The large and up are a really good value if you are looking to shape your game or to kill a lot of time.

The driving range is always a good place to work on your form, swing, exercise some core muscles, work up a thirst and get some swing advice from some random old man who probably golfed when they kept score on stone tablets.

If you are a big golf enthusiast and you like the newer golf technologies, The Royal Oak Golf Center, during various times, will have demo days where golfers can try out the newest drivers and irons.

If you're the type of golfer who isn't concerned about the long ball and like to putt and chip, The Royal Oak Golf Center can cater to you, too.

There is a putting green and place to chip for those want to improve their short game. Also on site is an 18-hole mini-golf course.

One negative aspect of The Royal Oak Golf Center is noise. Golf is a game of concentration and with a hospital down the road and kids playing mini-golf behind you, it can be hard to think straight. If you can clear your conscience like Happy Gilmore, then you will probably be fine with the noise.

The Royal Oak Golf Center isn't just open during the summertime. The facility features about 15 covered tees that have heating for people who are dreaming of Augusta while it snows here in Michigan.

Once you feel you are ready to play 18 holes, The Royal Oak Golf Center has a pro shop with everything you need for a day on the course.

The Royal Oak Golf Center is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Batting Cage

By **KYLE MAGIN**
Special Projects Reporter

For an afternoon of summer fun, nothing quite compares to a little time at the Willow Creek Golf batting cages. With the purchase of a \$2 token, one receives 20 pitches from one of five variable-setting pitching machines. Two machines are constantly malfunctioning and the attendants feign concern as they pretend to fix them, so count on only three working machines.

The machines require three things; one token, limitless patience and a free-swinging mentality. Pitches can be designated on the machine's control panel by three categories, speed: with 50, 60 and 70 mph settings; height, with a high and low setting and your choice of baseball or softball.

The pitches come in at varying speeds and angles despite whatever you might ask of the control panel. It's best to stand back and let the first pitch whiz by, as it may either hit you in the head or bounce off the ground three feet in front of you. Expect this for the remainder of the session and go into the experience willing to swing at pitches apparently intended for Goliath or Mini-Me.

Willow Creek offers a wonderful ambiance to accompany your batting session. The cages are tucked under a bevy of trees, which is to the batter's advantage because the sun stays off of you to protect against overheating.

Usually, as you are hunkering down in anticipation of a 70 mph fastball, a small child will scream in delight because he or she engineered a miraculous shot. The bats provided by management are mostly rusted, and your blood will pump with excitement while you wonder if the next swing could send shards of aluminum shrapnel into your arms and legs.

A fun game to play at the cages involves redirecting balls at the attendant. The machines are positioned about 50 feet from the batter, with a green roof over top of them and long nets draping to the floor of the cages to protect the machines.

Behind the net sits the attendant, usually a tattooed fellow in his late teens or early twenties. He is invariably taking a smoking break between pretending to fix the two broken machines. It's fun to try to line baseballs off the back of the far screen and into his sitting area. Note: He will not find this nearly as funny as you do, but hey, you're the customer right?

A day at the cages is a great way to spend an afternoon, but remember to bring a few things if you want to hit at Willow Creek. Bring your own bat, and if you choose to swing wood, make sure you tape the barrel of the bat. Balls used at batting cages are not standard baseballs and will ruin the exterior of a nice wooden bat. Now just bring enough money for a couple of sessions and enjoy a little batting fun in the sun!

Golf sound like your kind of thing?

For more information, you can give the
Royal Oak Golf Center a call at
(248) 549-4653
or visit their Web site at
<http://fourseasonsgolfcenter.com/rogc>

Feel like swinging a bat today?

For more information, you can give
Willow Creek Golf a call at
(248) 393-2800
or look them up online at
www.golfcourseportal.com

The Scene

20

www.oaklandpostonline.com

May 16, 2007

Summer blockbusters

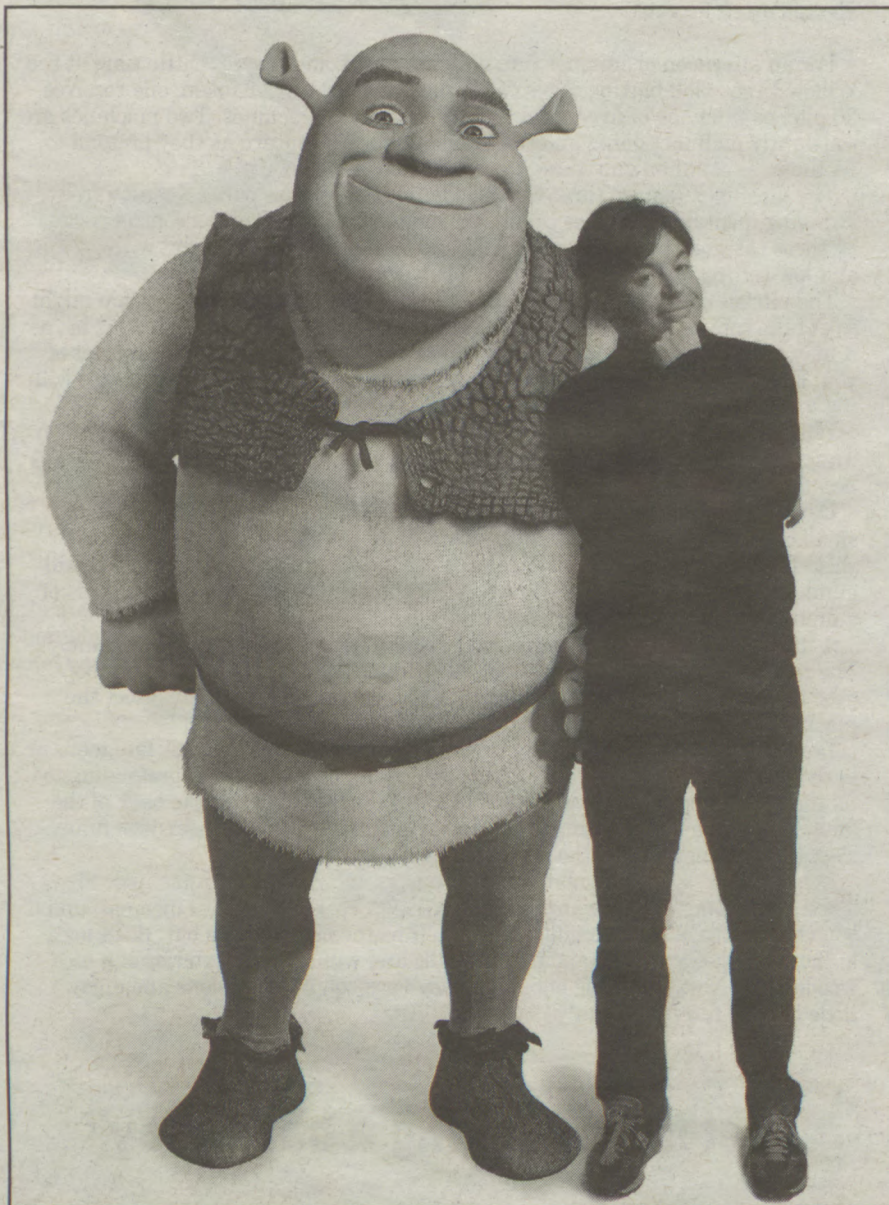


Photo courtesy of Dream Works Animation
Mike Meyers buddies up with Shrek in preparation for round three, coming this summer

By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Contributing Reporter

Moviegoers will be seeing "threes" this summer as the blockbusters roll into theaters. Just off the record-breaking success of "Spiderman 3," other movie franchises like "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Shrek" and "Ocean's," will release the third installments of their movies. Check

out the Post's guide to the big threes and other anticipated summer blockbusters.

"Shrek the Third" (May 18): It's a fairy tale paradise in the third installment of "Shrek." When Shrek's father-in-law, King Harold becomes ill, Shrek is the candidate to heir the throne. With the help of Donkey and Puss in Boots, Shrek searches for someone else to take the crown. Justin Timberlake lends his voice

as Fiona's cousin Artie, the most suitable candidate for King.

"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" (May 25): Picking up where "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Mans Chest," left off, Will Turner (Orlando Bloom), Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightly) and Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) are on a journey to find Captain Jack Sparrow, (Johnny Depp's revived character) in the third and final voyage.

"Ocean's 13" (June 8): Returning A-Listers George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Don Cheadle and Bernie Mac are back for a third heist. Al Pacino joins the star studded cast as casino owner, Willie Banks.

"Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer" (June 17): Reed Richards (Ioan Gruffudd), Susan Storm (Jessica Alba), Johnny Storm (Chris Evans) and Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis) bring back their super powers in the sequel to the 2005 movie. The fantastic four use their powers in the battle against the Silver Surfer who is out to destroy planet Earth.

"Transformers" (July 4): Anyone who grew up in the '80s and loved the animated cartoon will be thrilled to see the movie transform into real life. The battle between the Autobots and Decepticons brings destruction down to planet Earth in this live action packed movie.

"Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix" (July 13): Six years have passed since the first movie was released and the much older, mature Daniel Radcliffe returns as Harry Potter in the fifth installment. With the threat of Voldermort returning, Harry and Dumbledore (Michael Gambon) must brace Hogwarts for the return, only to be targeted by the Wizard authorities.

The Simpsons Movie (July 27): Homer and the gang finally hit the silver screen, after 18 years on television. The humorous animated series is still a staple of Fox's Sunday night line-up and the cast joins Simpsons' director David Silverman in the family's first big screen adventure.



CONCERT LISTINGS

What's coming your way

5/21 - Bright Eyes @ The Royal Oak Music Theater
5/24 - Bone Thugs & Harmony @ St. Andrews
5/25 - Fall Out Boy @ DTE Energy Music Theater
6/1 - Gwen Stefani @ The Palace

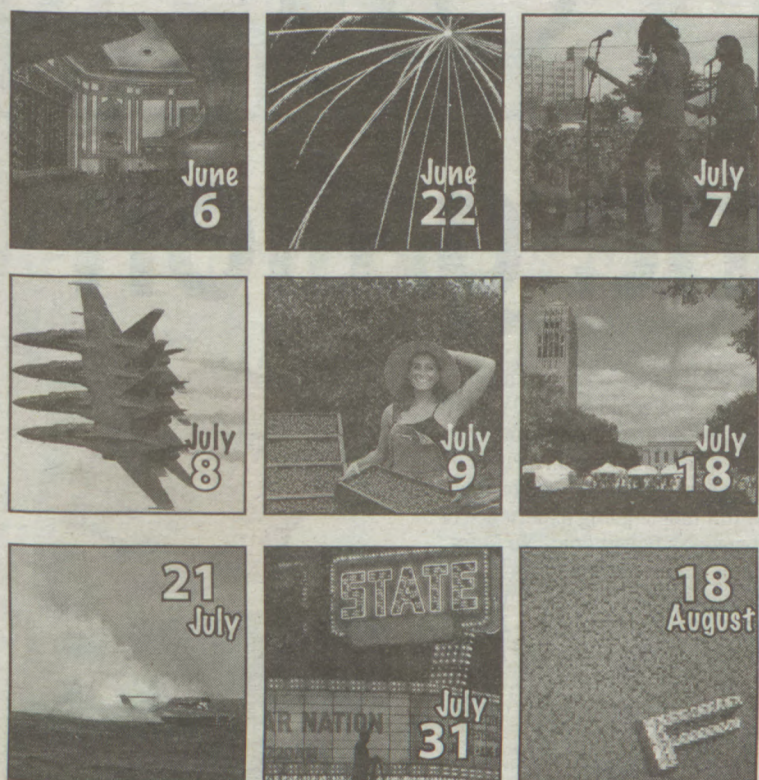


6/2 - Montgomery Gentry @ DTE
6/8 - Foreigner @ DTE
6/11 - Nelly Furtado @ The Detroit Opera House
6/11 - Fountains of Wayne @ St. Andrews
6/14 - The Doobie Brothers with Peter Frampton @ DTE
6/15 - The Barenaked Ladies @ DTE



6/15 - Straylight Run @ St. Andrews
6/16 - The Fray with OK Go and Mae @ DTE
6/27 - Bowling for Soup @ St. Andrews
6/22 - Ted Nugent @ DTE
7/3 - Tool @ DTE
7/5 - Toby Keith @ DTE
7/5 - John Mayer @ The Palace
7/11 - Tim McGraw & Faith Hill @ The Palace
7/13 - Lonestar @ Meadowbrook Music Festival
7/16 - Built to Spill @ St. Andrews
7/17 - The Police @ The Palace
7/26 - Incubus @ DTE





Make it a festive summer

Downtown Hoedown
May 18 - 20

www.americajr.com/

Detroit Electronic Music Festival

May 26 - 28

www.demf.com

Detroit Festival of the Arts

June 8 - 10

www.detroitfestival.com

Detroit Film Theater Film Festival June 6

- July 29

www.dia.org/dft

Detroit River Days

June 22 - 27

www.detroitriverdays.com

Ferndale Pride Fest

June 29 & 30

www.motorcitypride.com

Tastefest/Comerica City Fest

July 7 & 8

www.newcenter.com

Thunder Over Michigan

July 7 & 8

www.yankeearmuseum.org/airshow/

Traverse City Cherry Festival

July 7 - July 14

www.cherryfestival.org

Oakland County 4H Fair

July 9 - 15

www.oakfair.org

Ann Arbor Art Fair

July 18 - 21

www.artfair.org

Quake on the Lake

July 21 & 22

www.quakeonthelake.org

Traverse City Film Festival

July 31 - Aug. 5

www.traversecityfilmfest.org

Woodward Dream Cruise

Aug. 18

www.woodwarddreamcruise.com

Michigan State Fair

Aug. 22 - Sept. 3

www.michigan.gov/mistatefair

Arts Beats & Eats

Aug. 31 - Sept. 3

www.artsbeatseats.com/

Detroit Jazz Festival

Aug. 31 - Sept. 3

www.detroitjazzfest.com/

the EX



By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Contributing Reporter

Originally set to hit theaters earlier this year under the title, "Fast Track," "The Ex" is almost too much like a sitcom for the big screen, but the right cast is enough to make audiences laugh out loud.

While the film's comedy may not be side-splitting, Zach Braff, Amanda Peet and Jason Bateman, who have all had stints on assorted sitcoms, give great comedic performances. The supporting cast, Charles Grodin, Mia Farrow, Donal Logue, Amy Poehler and a brief appearance from Paul Rudd, help complete the comedic team.

Tom (played by Braff, a New York City chef who loses his job just before his wife Sophia (Peet) gives birth to their first child. Since Sophia has made the decision to be a stay at home mom, Tom must provide for the family and decides to take an advertising job in Ohio with his father-in-law, Bob (Grodin).

Awaiting their Ohio arrival is wheelchair-bound Chip (Bateman), Tom's mentor at the ad agency and Sophia's ex-fling from high school, who has retained a creepy crush on her.

Chip, still yearning for Sophia, is out to sabotage Tom at the office in any way possible while trying to come off as a saint. When Tom discovers that Chip is out to destroy him, he goes out of his way to reveal Chip's schemes.

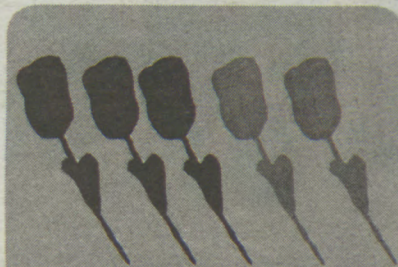
The film does a tasteful job of taking

stabs at the physically disabled, Chip. The scene in which Tom throws Chip down a flight of stairs in an attempt to prove Chip isn't disabled is hysterical.

Most laughs come from Tom's humiliation, but the physical comedy Braff brings to the screen, particularly while trying to ride a mountain bike, is enough to cause an uproar of laughter. Braff and Bateman's chemistry as on-screen rival, is unstoppable.

Peet gets lost in the translation of the Braff/Bateman rivalry, but not before making her mark as a hilarious stay-at-home mom who gets sucked into a wacky neighborhood mother's group.

If you're a fan of sitcoms like Braff's "Scrubs" or Bateman's "Arrested Development," then chances are you will be entertained by "The Ex."



Chick-flick rating system:

3 ROSES OUT OF 5

MOUTHING OFF

22

www.oaklandpostonline.com

May 16, 2007

Rip-offs by the gallon

Road trip in jeopardy because of gas prices? Cut back on the Aquafina

By JESSE DUNSMORE
Senior Reporter

If I read the e-mail chain letter correctly, May 15 was national gas-out day, when we were all supposed to shun the petroleum peddlers, having already filled our tanks to a comfortable level at the exact same price the day before. I was also supposed to forward the letter to 10 people in the next 10 minutes or I would never find true love and would die by midnight.

I've always been one for "sticking it to the man," so to speak (Warning: street cred is now at dangerously low levels), whether "the man" be baby-kicking, puppy-devouring oil executives, or that old lady trying to get to the good parking spot before me. And I do think that gas prices are out of control when

they actually force me to choose between fueling up and eating something that isn't a family pet.

But please, let's get real.

The question of whether a "gas-out" can actually make a difference has been asked plenty of times before, so I won't try to answer that question ("no") in this column. Instead, I think we should focus on the slight possibility that while grotesquely obese barons of black gold deeply inhale premium ganja through rolled-up \$1000 bill doobies and jack up our prices at the pump, we aren't exactly wisely spending the 15-percent of our money not allocated for fuel.

This has been said before, but it bears repeating. Bottled water is a scam—a brilliantly marketed and executed business plan, but a scam

mean "kind of" too much. I mean about \$18 per gallon. You could buy a DVD and have enough left over to get microwave popcorn and a bottle of your favorite carbonated beverage. Of course you'd be denied the full movie-going experience of hearing someone's polyphonic "No More Mr. Nice Guy" ringtone three times, a small child kicking the back of your seat in beat to the soundtrack and the infuriating crinkle of teenagers passing around a large bag of chips they snuck in, extra infuriating because you got yours confiscated by the usher.

Maybe I'm getting a little abstract, but a four-ounce bottle of body spray at \$5.09 works out to about \$160 per gallon. True, you would probably never use it all up — you could bequeath it to your grandkids.

What I mean to say there is you *should* never use it all up. I tried to increase my "hunk quotient" for my significant female with a couple spurts of the stuff. The "Axe effect" was immediate, and lasted about five minutes, during which time I thought she was choking on a large rodent. If you ever used enough of that stuff to make a dent in a gallon-sized vat of it, all life on the planet would end in a noxiously fragrant apocalypse. Actually, "Apocalypse" sounds like a fragrance of body spray — brimstone maybe, with just a nuance of burning money.

But nothing can hold a candle — or wad of burning cash — to the *other* black

(and yellow and magenta and cyan) gold: printer ink. A toner cartridge for your standard desktop Inkjet printer holds about 30 milliliters, and can vary in price by a wide mar-

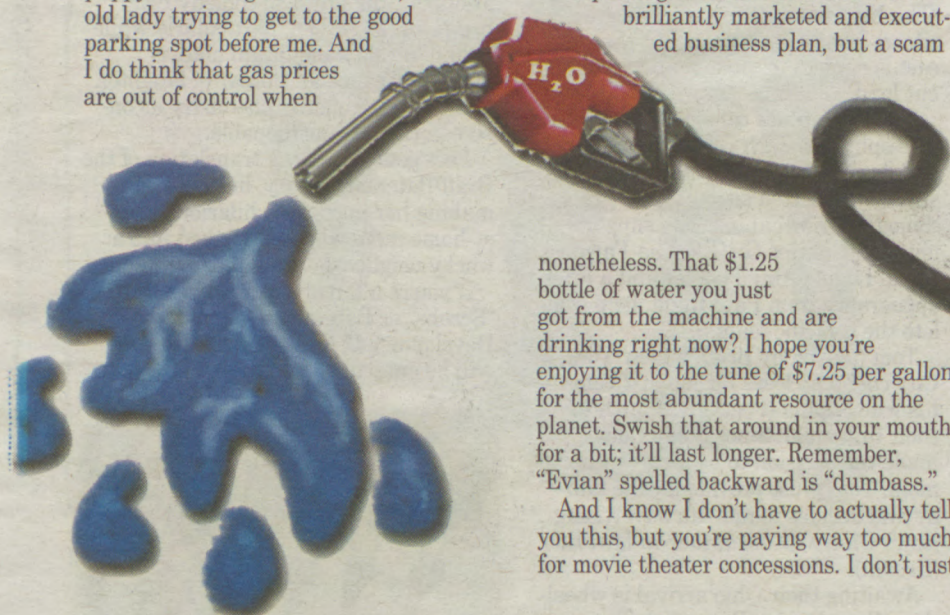


Illustrations by Celeste Filiatrault/The Oakland Post

gin. Let's say you pay \$20 for a cartridge, then you've got yourself a liquid that sells at \$2500 per gallon. This makes a strong case for writing everything in pencil, or even blood, at least until the Red Cross starts paying me. Unless you can get an Inkjet printer that convincingly duplicates hundred-dollar bills, it's going to take a while for the price of toner to seem worth it to me.

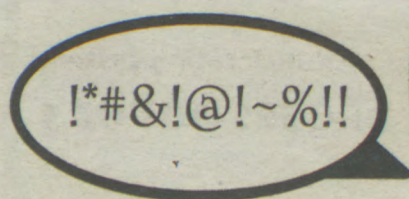
And all conversion factors aside, how in the world do you justify buying sandals priced as much as full shoes, hoodies that only cover your upper torso (which you don't zip up) and jeans that cost extra for the factory-added holes? Wait, don't answer that until you buy this \$400 birthday suit from me.

That should just about cover my drive home.



nonetheless. That \$1.25 bottle of water you just got from the machine and are drinking right now? I hope you're enjoying it to the tune of \$7.25 per gallon for the most abundant resource on the planet. Swish that around in your mouth for a bit; it'll last longer. Remember, "Evian" spelled backward is "dumbass."

And I know I don't have to actually tell you this, but you're paying way too much for movie theater concessions. I don't just



GOT A BIG MOUTH?
WE'LL STUFF IT WITH \$20.

SUBMIT YOUR COLUMN FOR "MOUTHING OFF" TO
THEOAKLANDPOST@GMAIL.COM AND SCORE 20 BUCKS IF IT PRINTS.

Wrinkles don't stop rockers

Recent concerts will prove age discrimination in rock 'n' roll music is ridiculous

By ALEX CHERUP
Guest Columnist

Michigan summers are defined by a few key things: mosquitoes, humidity and of course, great outdoor music concerts. The roster of performers this season is solid — I recommend everyone get out and see at least one show.

This year, we even have a special guest who has not been in the area during the summer months for some time.

They call him a poet, a singer, a prophet. They've dubbed him the voice of a generation, the Archbishop of Anarchy, the High Priest of Protest, the Big Bubba of Rebellion.

He calls himself a song and dance man.

Bob Dylan will celebrate the first anniversary of senior citizenship on the 24th of this month when he turns 66.

Rather than lounge around in idle retirement, however, Mr. Dylan has remained active, releasing an album last year (which reached Number 1 on the Billboard charts), hosting a weekly radio show on XM radio and continuing his now 18-year-old "Never Ending Tour." During this time, he has performed live in front of such distinguished individuals as Bill Clinton, Frank Sinatra and the late pope John Paul II (at the pope's request). He is embodying his words from over 40 years ago: "He not busy being born is busy dying."

Dylan will be playing Sterling Height's Freedom Hill Amphitheatre this summer, on July 9. The pope will not be present, but nonetheless, it is worth attending.

Of course, with Dylan's concert approaching, along with other aging rockers such as the Moody Blues, it raises the question — can "rock star" and "AARP magazine subscriber" be merged as one?

"They're too old!" the critics scream in unison. Apparently, some feel grandpar-

ents should not sing about sex, drugs 'n' rock and roll.

I do not concur. I have seen the old-timers — and there is no comparison to the young hipsters of today. These elder statesmen know how the song is sung. In the past couple of years, I've seen Eric Clapton, age 62, Paul McCartney, 64, Neil Young, 61 and the Rolling Stones, combined age of 250, and the performances are great; well-seasoned with timeless songs and superb musicians. Sexagenarians can rock.

Take Iggy and the Stooges, who performed last month at the Fox Theatre. Iggy turned 60 shortly after the gig. He is still the obnoxious, topless, ripped *Godfather* of Punk, one of the last bastions of veracious integrity in the music industry.

The show was a chaotic pandemonium of raw power and festering genius, with the Ann Arbor native in immaculate form. The audience of freaks, fanatics and 55-year-olds were in a heavenly "Fun House" as the Rock Iguana pranced to and fro across the stage.

With the combination of energy, profanity and *ass cleavage*, no one would guess the legend has been on the planet for six decades.

So this begs the question, why can't grandparents rock?

Especially when these grandparents have had more sex, *taken more drugs* and played more rock 'n' roll than any "young" group. They are the real deal — the imitated rather than the imitators. Bands like the Stooges and artists like

Dylan are the caffeinated, regular Coca-Cola. Those that follow can only aspire to be "Diet." And Kelly Clarkson — she's that new "Zero."

As Iggy says, "Rock 'n' roll's old, and rock 'n' roll's young at the same time. The only reason it's getting old is that you got a bunch of greedy little pricks pillaging other people's hooks and other



Mark Seliger/The Associated Press

Even at the combined age of 250 years old, the Rolling Stones have still gathered no moss. With Charlie Watts, age 65, Keith Richards, 63, Mick Jagger, 63, and Ron Wood, 59, the Stones continue to rock during their golden years.

people's riffs because they're too damn lazy and well-represented legally to bother to do their homework — they just want the money. If only there were more pure souls, like ourselves, who really needed desperately to be good, rock 'n' roll would still be young."

The Stooges are the epitome of this youthful rock, regardless of physical age. They are infinitely young at heart with charisma, material, energy and power of performance. Once this is coupled with experience and influence, the formula is complete. The outcome is an incomparable show nothing less than historical. No modern group can come remotely close.

With such a result, I'd much rather see these veterans on stage than playing bingo. And I'm sure Iggy enjoys the frenzied cheers of his multigenerational fan base over "N — 41, N — 41."

Like B.B. King, John Lee Hooker and other bluesmen before them, rock stars like Iggy, Eric Clapton and the Stones make this a lifestyle. Music is most important to these rockers, whether geriatric or teenaged. It is more than just "rock 'n' roll" — it is their way of existence. It is like breathing, inhaling and exhaling — although substantially more inhaling.

As far as the upcoming show, Dylan also does even more — he refuses to

allow his time on stage to catch nostalgia. His shows are alive and pulsating, as he continues to challenge himself as an artist. Because of this, his act sounds nothing like the albums, as it constantly shifts and transforms.

Dylan tells Rolling Stone Editor Jann Wenner in his latest interview for the magazine, "I like the originality of being on the road. It's real life, in real time."

Later, when asked about song rearrangements, Dylan added: "You know it's not rearranged. There's a different dynamic. The dynamic on all of those songs can change from night to night ..."

Always moving, becoming and changing with the ebb and flow of Kerouacian "the road is life" wisdom, a Dylan show is a *grand musical journey* with an artist in touch with truth and dignity.

And Dylan's opinion on aging? Look no further than "Spirit on the Water," a song off his latest record, "Modern Times":

"You think I'm over the hill
You think I'm past my prime
Let me see what you got
We can have a whoppin' good time."

As always, no one can say it better than Bob.

So get out this summer and see the true master.



Your summer at-a-glance

...as suggested by the Post staff

1. Go to a an outdoor concert
2. Experiment with grilled cuisine
3. Venture out with a new sport
4. Hit a nature trail
5. Drink Slurpees
6. Plan a road trip
7. Visit a national landmark
8. Check out a local festival
9. Paint something
10. Take advantage of the Great Lakes

