

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

September 29, 2010

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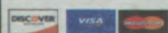
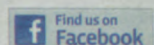
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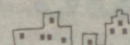
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THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Outsiders invade U.S. elections

Your doctor didn't go to medical school. Don't worry, you can trust her.

Also, the person building your house is not a licensed contractor, but everyone should go to him for any home-building needs.

It's not wrong to want a trained professional building you a safe and comfortable place to live or caring for your health, so why is it so wrong to want a politician with experience to represent your interests in Lansing or Washington, D.C.?

The new en vogue thing in politics seems to be the so-called "outsider" candidate. The phenomenon extends beyond party lines, and seemingly began this year with the surprise win Alvin Greene of South Carolina pulled off in the Senate democratic primary.

Greene was by no means the first non-career politician to win a political race.

Jesse Ventura was a professional wrestler before becoming the governor of Minnesota and Al Franken entertained audiences as an SNL cast member before winning a U.S. Senate seat. Ventura ran as an Independent, while Franken, a Democrat, defeated a Republican incumbent in 2009.

Republicans Ronald Reagan and Arnold Schwarzenegger both made the transition from careers in acting to the California

gubernatorial office.

Greene's win earlier this year catalyzed a new mania sweeping the political landscape of the country, though. Since then, The Tea Party Express has gained momentum and the media is abuzz about Tea Party candidates who have captured primary races or are contenders in upcoming November elections.

Unless you have been hiking in Iraq for the last few weeks, you've probably heard of a certain Senate candidate from Delaware. For those who do not know, Tea Party candidate Christine O'Donnell has been making headlines for many reasons.

Michigan Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Snyder is also touting himself as an "outsider," pitting this label against democratic candidate Virg Bernero's admission that he is a "career politician."

Why would any candidate need to advertise him or herself as an uncorrupted candidate when the rest will be saying the same thing?

It is safe to say advocacy groups and lobbyists will target every politician, and they will succeed with their goal most of the time.

A "career politician" will want to increase his or her chances of re-election, which means catering to the constituency

that would vote for them again.

That being said, why is it so bad to have someone who has trained him or herself to make a living off representing citizens' interests?

While demographic diversity is important, the job of speaking on behalf of an entire constituency is also a matter of great importance.

Supporters of the Tea Party, according to www.teaparty.org, want to uphold "the grand principles set forth in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights."

Those with an understanding of the way government works and the aforementioned documents should be better qualified for the job, in the same way a surgeon with more training or a contractor with more building experience would be better at completing their respective jobs.

According to the Congressional Research Service, 168 members of the House and 57 senators hold law degrees. It is a traditional step for many "career politicians" to do so, as the last four Presidents of the United States did.

It's time to get rid of the notion of the political outsider — the person that will have to eventually become an insider anyway to stay in office to enact the changes they want to see.

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ON SECOND THOUGHT...

Rock music has its limits

Rock 'n' roll has always been about fighting the man. But has the man ever been defeated or influenced by musicians? The answer is no.

Recently, Lady Gaga took to the podium to give her "prime rib of America" address. She spoke on the unfairness of the military policy, "don't ask, don't tell," a policy banning openly gay soldiers from serving in the military.

She argued it undermined the Constitution and called for an immediate repeal so she could enjoy "the best piece of meat America has to offer."

Will the most Google-searched female have a larger effect on Congress than past musicians?

John Lennon's message of worldwide peace was stressed in his solo career with "Imagine" and "Give Peace a Chance." Unfortunately, Lennon's goal must have been too broad and ambitious as the U.S. government failed to take the necessary steps toward his vision.

Aside from mankind's primitive nature, the system that we live in has no room for idealistic ideas of peace. It literally encourages competition and greed, occasionally offering a dash of free speech.



Daud Yar
Copy Editor

Ultimately peace resides where Lennon was and will always be: "Strawberry Fields."

Bob Dylan is worth a mention, but the advocate of protest songs is too controversial. And with little media exposure, the folk singer lacked any decent outlet to influence American politics. He may have inspired a social revolution, but politics and human behavior are completely different.

Dylan didn't give a second thought to optimizing media exposure; undoubtedly the worst choice he ever made. He may have wanted to keep his image or music pure, but passing on an opportunity to change not only society, but also how it is governed, was a big mistake.

Lennon needed to set his sights a little lower. Dylan threw away a chance to speak directly to the American public. Both failed to implement constructive plans and gain

popular support.

But there have been some semisuccessful attempts to awaken the masses and influence politics.

The right to assemble was up for grabs at Kent State in 1970 as students agitated National Guard troops during an anti-Vietnam protest. After a tragic standoff between Ohio National Guard soldiers and students, Neil Young wrote the song, "Ohio," which helped strengthen opposition to the Vietnam War, which President Nixon had pledged to end in 1968. However, it would be another five years until the end of the very bloody conflict.

Young was partially successful because the environment was ideal, with popular anti-war opinion waiting for a spark. All he needed to do was provide the catalyst. But today's political environment is much different from the '60s.

American politics has seen very few instances in history with more partisanship than there is today, causing a demand for a reliable third party.

With such a divided public, any musician planning to rally the American people should give up. In an atmosphere

where any sort of political activism is in the minority, it is best to lay down the axe and fight another day.

Lady Gaga has harnessed the media to her liking and spoken out on an easily changeable policy, but she failed to consider the present political climate. American politicians have other things to worry about, such as the November elections. A little patience would have been virtuous.

It also would be advantageous to research the bill with the "don't ask, don't tell" repeal. The defense bill was not simply addressing that policy, but also showcased provisions on immigration and border control. No wonder Democrats and Republicans could not agree.

Musicians need to wait a for the right opportunity. Pick something small and easy to change. A little media also couldn't hurt.

Things are tough now, but maybe one day a song will be produced or a speech will be given that will stir the souls of the American public.

Don't hold your breath, though; you might have to wait another five years before anything gets done.

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POLL OF THE WEEK

LAST WEEK'S POLL

How many parking tickets have you received at Oakland University?

none — 58 (77%) 1-2 — 12 (16%) 3 or more — 5 (7%)

CURRENT POLL // Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

Do you use a Bridge Card?

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September 30

Choosing your words carefully: The delicate art of interviewing.

It's essential for getting a great story.

Competition to pay \$25K

By **MIKE SANDULA**
Managing Editor

Have an idea you think is worth \$25,000? The Business Accelerator Network for Southeast Michigan will be giving out \$50,000 — including a \$25,000 grand prize — for the top business ideas and concepts in its Accelerate Michigan Student Idea Competition.

"It is the first time something of this magnitude has been done," said Jeff Barry, a consultant with the Macomb-OU INCubator. "I think there are going to be a lot of submissions."

The Business Accelerator Network is a new, region-wide network for building and retaining new business in southeast Michigan. Comprised of Ann Arbor SPARK, Automation Alley, Macomb-OU INCubator, and Tech Town, the Network is supported by a three-year, \$3 million grant

from the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan.

There is also a separate company competition for early-stage businesses that features a \$500,000 grand prize. The student competition is open to any undergraduate or graduate students currently enrolled in two or more classes at a Michigan college or university.

Individuals or teams of any size must submit a one-page business plan by Oct. 22. Lauren Bigelow, a member of Accelerate Michigan's media outreach team and executive director of the competition, said business plans should be concise, tout the advantages of the idea, describe its potential market, and explain how the idea will be put into action.

The ideas submitted must be original.

"The main types of companies we're going to be looking for are scalable companies," Barry said,

meaning they should have opportunity for growth.

Barry said ideas relating to software, technology, and advanced manufacturing are most likely to be strong candidates.

"Less likely are lifestyle businesses like restaurants and cupcakes," he said.

Twenty-five semifinalists will create a three-minute YouTube video that will serve as a visual pitch.

"Entertainment value in some of this is important because when you're out pitching your business idea, being able to communicate that in a short time frame is important," Bigelow said.

Semifinalists will also then select two to three team members to give a 15-minute presentation Dec. 9-10 at the University of Michigan.

Each presentation will be a more detailed pitch, followed by a

round of questions from the judging panel.

An eight to ten-member judging panel will consist of investors, seasoned business people (and members of the Michigan entrepreneurial community, according to Accelerate Michigan's website.

The grand prize winner will receive \$25,000 in cash. The first runner up will be awarded \$15,000 and second runner up gets \$10,000. Winners are free to spend the money as they see fit.

Though submissions that include projected financials and potential for intellectual property protection are at an advantage, Bigelow encourages anyone with ideas of any kind to enter.

"It's not about the plan; for students, it's about the idea," Bigelow said. "You can never tell what ideas are going to be successful."

As an example, she cites Richard Hunts, who made millions off

his invention of the Flowbee, a machine that sucks up hair while cutting it. "His crazy idea made him very wealthy," Bigelow said.

For this reason, Bigelow said the first round was purposely broad and doesn't have "a lot of heavy lifting."

"Part of this is, for the student side, to engage people in the process of entrepreneurship and introduce them to investors (and resources...that students might not be aware of," Bigelow said.

She added that the competition also gives students the opportunity to see what Michigan has to offer — "because there's a lot."

"Give it a shot," Bigelow said. "What have you got to lose?"

To register, submit a business plan or to find out more information about the competition, visit www.acceleratemichigan.org and click on "Student Competition."

Cross country assists in Nike recycling program

By **JEN BUCCIARELLI**
Assistant Campus Editor

Oakland University's cross-country team members are taking great strides in Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program by donating all sorts of used shoes this semester.

After hearing about the program last year, Coach Paul Rice said the runners were interested in participating and planned to join this fall.

Since the university teams wear Nike products and gear, "we thought it was a good fit," Rice said.

The team has set up used running shoe donation boxes in the Oakland Center, as well as the Recreation Center.

In an effort to not overwhelm the recycling process, Nike has requested that donations be limited to 200 shoes at a time. Rice predicts the quota will be met by the end of

this month.

This is the first year that the team has participated in the program, but Rice hopes to make it a yearly tradition as a way to kick off the school year, he said.

The Reuse-A-Shoe program began in 1990 as a way to utilize recycling. The program embraces an unusual form of recycling, taking worn and torn shoes and making them into key ingredient materials for new running track surfaces, as well as for the foundation of basketball courts and tennis courts.

The program has already collected and recycled more than 25 million individual shoes nationwide since it started.

There are many components of the recycled shoes that can be ground into a usable form. Material from the rubber soles will be used to resurface running tracks at high schools and middle schools, the fabric will

be used in the padding layer of basketball courts and the foam material will be utilized in the springy surface of tennis courts, according to the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe website.

The Nike program is not the only community activity OU students are participating in this semester.

OU Student Council will host its first annual, benefit golf outing on Monday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m. Students are required to sign up at the Center for Student Activities window in the basement of the Oakland Center, and the fee is \$55. All proceeds will go to the OU Center for Biomedical Research.

The Greek community will participate in an American Red Cross blood drive this week on Tuesday, Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Oakland Room of the Oakland Center.

For more information, visit the CSA community service page on the OU website.



BRETT SOCIA/The Oakland Post
Bins are set up in the OC to collect shoes.

Conaway accepts early initiation as SPB chair

By JEN BUCCIARELLI
Assistant Campus Editor

The former Golden Events chair for Oakland University's Student Program Board, Jermaine Conaway, is looking forward to the rest of his fall semester as it takes a different direction than he had originally planned.

A junior majoring in marketing, Conaway is the new SPB chair, replacing Jonathan Jenkins.

Jenkins said he chose to shift gears this semester and not continue his position as the SPB chair because most students don't realize the high level of stress that comes with the job, he said.

He originally planned to apply for the position in December for the following year, but accepted the chairmanship on a short notice when Jenkins decided to resign.

"We needed someone to kind of

step up and take on the position and I have the experience," he said. "What better opportunity than to kind of jump in and see what it's like?"

Conaway has been involved with the SPB since his freshman year, participating as Annual Events chair and holding the position of Golden Events chair up until a couple weeks ago.

As SPB chair, Conaway oversees the event planning of other SPB members to ensure that the process is running smoothly, he said.

Conaway said his first week on the job has not been too rough, and is set on finalizing this semester's events by making certain that the financial aspect of each event is taken care of by December.

"My main focus is a strong finish," he said.

Collectively, the Executive

Board members of SPB handle events, and "they get full credit for them," Conaway said, but Conaway will manage the scheduling aspect of each event, ensuring that everything is in on time.

Keeping students informed on what is taking place on campus is also a his responsibility.

Some of the upcoming events that SPB is planning include the WOCOU Talent Show: OU's Got Talent, to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 8 p.m. in Meadow Brook Hall; a trip to Toronto from Nov. 11-14, and a Carrie Underwood concert at The Palace of Auburn Hills with discounted tickets.

Conaway is also a community service chair of the Association of Black Students at OU.

Since SPB occupies a large amount of his time, Conaway said it is hard for him to commit to other organizations. However, he



JEN BUCCIARELLI/ The Oakland Post

Conaway oversees the event planning for SPB and informs students.

said students can always find him at several campus events and that he helps out and supports other groups whenever he can.

The new SPB chair also enjoys playing several sports, including basketball and football but also enjoys swimming when he has time.

"You can find me in the RAC every day," he said.

Conaway hopes to continue his position of SPB chair until graduation. He will have to reapply after this semester comes to a close and would hold the position for a full year term if chosen.

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campus briefs

Text message system test

The OUPD will be testing the text message alert system on Tuesday, Oct. 5. Alerts are broadcast in events of imminent danger or in the event of campuswide closures or cancellations.

Students and employees can register for this free service online at www.oakland.edu/ready. Registrants will need an active Oakland e-mail account and their Grizzly ID to sign up.

Alcohol and drug use survey

OU students fared better than average in a national alcohol and drug use survey that took place last spring.

The survey showed that while marijuana use is below average, rates of alcohol use and binge drinking are each far less than the national average. Regular tobacco fell markedly from 2004.

Dr. David Schwartz, of the OU Counseling Center, stressed fighting misperceptions about the true extent of drug and alcohol use.

Reading program awarded \$4M

OU's School of Education and Human Services will be receiving more than \$4 million over five years to fund the Reading Recovery program, an early literacy intervention program.

The program, which is in its 20th year, provides tutoring in reading for high-needs students.

The funding, which comes from the U.S. Department of Education's Investing in Innovation (i3) initiative, is part of the historic \$10 billion investment for school reform in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by the Obama administration in February 2009.

East German author, dissident visits OU

German author Susanne Schädlich will be visiting OU on Wednesday, Oct. 6th to speak about her life in communist East Germany.

"Immer Wieder Dezember (Always December Again)", her 2009 autobiography, tells of her family's role in East/West gatherings and of the betrayal by her uncle to the Stasi (East German secret police).

Schädlich's visit will consist of readings from her book and a Q-and-A session. The presentation will be from 4-6 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold rooms.

— Peter Behnke, Staff Intern

Director suggests study abroad

By ANNIE STODOLA
Local Editor

Six years ago, Brian Connery decided that as a professor of Irish Literature, he wanted to take a group of students to Ireland. After planning his first study abroad trip for students, he became deeply rooted in the study abroad community at Oakland University.

He is currently serving a one-year term as the director of the Study Abroad office.

"I organized a trip to Ireland and it was a lot of work and really difficult, but once we got there it was really worth it," Connery said. "The payoff was just huge."

At the time of Connery's first Ireland study abroad trip, Margaret Pigott ran OU's study abroad program in the writing and rhetoric department. Each summer, Pigott had organized a student trip to Oxford University in England.

Five years ago, she decided to no longer run this trip and offered it up to Connery, who has taken students to Oxford each summer since.

Currently, OU offers programs to 18 different countries on five different continents. AHA International, a national organization dedicated to creating student programs for studying abroad, sponsors twelve of these trips.

"Students can find programs that I think really suit them," Connery said. "We've got some programs that are a little bit specialized. For example, Vienna is great for musicians; the program includes music lessons in a conservatory. The Australia programs are sort of for everybody. They're a little less structured. At Australia National University, you can take any of their courses. You can find courses that fit your program and your interests. That's true of New Zealand as well."

As part of his plan to get students more involved, he also hopes to address common study abroad concerns.

A primary concern that students have is the cost of a study abroad experience. While he acknowledges that studying abroad is not cheap, he said it's worth the money.

"I've never heard somebody come back and say it wasn't worth it," Connery said. "Yes, it's a large sum of

money but the value of the experience exceeds the money spent."

Additionally, he said by saving money at OU, students might be able to justify the study abroad experience financially.

"Students are saving a lot in a way by going to OU," he said. "Study abroad is what you should spend it on."

Connery also mentioned that scholarships are offered both through OU and through AHA, specifically for programs in Vienna and Italy. Students who have general tuition scholarships may be able to apply that money to tuition in a study abroad program as well.

"You've got a program, you've got a place to stay, for all of the programs there's a site director who's there not really as a parent, but as a go-to person. All of the sites themselves are safe and secure," he said.

Students can get information on regular semester programs and summer programs at www.oakland.edu/ie

Summer programs run from three-and-a-half weeks to five weeks. Semester programs last 13 - 15 weeks.

Senate discusses military policy

By DAUD YAR
Copy Editor

The Oakland University Senate, a legislative body comprised of faculty teachers from all departments and deans of campus colleges, assembled in Gold Rooms A and B on Thursday, Sept. 23, for their first meeting of the semester.

The meeting addressed a key informational item, the Oakland University Military Transfer Policy (OUMTP).

"Being a military friendly school is a testament to the institutional commitment we have made to our veterans and their dependents," said Steven Shablin, OU registrar.

The OUMTP ensures four hours of undesignated free-elective credit to those students who have completed more than one year of continuous active duty in the armed forces or the United States upon application.

The university admitted 240 veterans for the Fall 2010 semester, and three-quarters have registered for classes.

"Oakland has been named, again, a Military Friendly school for 2011 by GI Jobs Magazine," Shablin said. "It only gives designation to about 15 percent of all colleges and universities in the United States."

Michael Brennan, a senior majoring in anthropology, attended the meeting and was pleased with OU's status as a Military Friendly school.

"I've been working on a committee with a couple of the members of the senate and the registrar," Brennan said. "We were planning to put a proposal together to institute it (the OUMTP) and then we found out the senate had already passed a similar proposal in 1973."

Brennan served in the U.S. Army for six years, completing two tours in Iraq.

The policy acknowledges course work completed in the U.S. including the United States Armed Forces Institute.

To get credit, the content of courses must be comparable to those OU normally grants transfer credit. The American Council on Education must recommend the course work, and the head of the appropriate academic unit at OU must approve the granting of transfer credit.

"For a lot of veterans, they have taken courses that are very closely oriented to what they want to do for the rest of their life," Brennan said. "The courses may not mirror, but are very similar to courses that we offer in some subjects here at Oakland."

DVD rental program discussed

By JAKE THIELEN

Staff Reporter

Oakland University student body president Brandon Gustafson announced plans to incorporate a DVD rental program at OU during OUSC's meeting Monday, Sept. 20.

Among the options being discussed are adding a Redbox kiosk or implementing a student-run rental system.

"It's just something that was brought up to Amy (Ring) and myself, and I really, really like the idea," Gustafson said.

Gustafson said other universities, including Michigan State, have successfully implemented on-campus DVD rental systems.

The resident halls association runs the MSU rental system. Gustafson said he spoke to delegates from MSU about the issue at the Student Association of Michigan Conference.

"What they do is they buy all the legal copyrights for the movies in order to rent them out, and that's really expensive," Gustafson said. "We don't really want to do that just because of the expense of it."

Gustafson said he's still trying to figure out a system that would be the most effective both financially and legally. Gustafson said he's most excited about an idea that would involve students donating movies, provided that the system would be legal under copyright laws.

With the current concept, students would donate DVDs at the resident halls desks and OUSC would hold campaigns to help collect movies and build up some stock.

"I think it would be kind of cool too because it would be like older movies that you probably haven't seen, or haven't seen since you were in fifth grade," Gustafson said.

OUSC is working on a plan to keep students accountable for the movies they rent out, which Gustafson said would likely be the students I.D. card.

Gustafson said that Redbox remains an option. Redbox previously had a location in the OC near Café O'Bears, but it was removed.

Kristine Nixon, a biology major, said she would support a DVD rental program if it wasn't too expensive.

"That would be cool because then I wouldn't have to bring back movies from my house all the time," Nixon said.

OUSC golf outing to benefit biomedical research

By RYAN HEGEDUS

Senior Reporter

Oakland University Student Congress is holding their first annual benefit golf outing Oct. 11, 2010.

The event, which starts at 11 a.m., will take place at the Katke-Cousins Golf Course located on the east side of Oakland's campus.

Students who would like to take part in the golf outing should go to the Center for Student Activities office by the Oct. 1 deadline.

For \$55, the day-long outing includes 18 holes of golf with the use of a golf cart. Lunch is also included.

Proceeds from the event will go to OU's Center for Biomedical Research.

The center supports research related to diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, arthritis, AIDS, and heart disease.

"The Center for Biomedical Research strives to support research at Oakland University, but research is expensive and the needs are always greater than the resources," said Brad Roth, director for the CBR. "This fundraiser will allow us to increase our support for important biomedical research."

OUSC student services director and event coordinator Brett McIsaac recognized the need for funding research and decided to donate the money raised to the center.

"I am requesting that the funds go towards student involvement in research," McIsaac said. "Since OU has such diverse research in many different areas, I believe the best use of this money is to bring more students into the world of research and to support those already there."

While the benefit outing is in just its

first year, both McIsaac and Roth share the hope that it would become an annual event.

"This is the first time OUSC has utilized golf as a way to raise funds for contribution to a worthy cause," said McIsaac. "I hope that it can be continued from year to year, though it will be up to that year's Student Congress to give the final call whether to put on the event or not."

For more information, please visit www.oakland.edu/ousc/golfbenefit or visit the CSA office for tickets.



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CAMPUS
ONLINE

• **Board of trustees passes a Charitable Gaming Policy and appoints new Trustee Emeritus Advisor.**

• **OUSC plans focus groups and discusses future plans.**

• **The 23rd annual Maurice Brown Memorial Poetry Reading hosts poet Molly Peacock.**

police files

Burglary at student apartments

On Monday, Sept. 20 it was reported that a home invasion took place two days prior, in the university apartments on campus. The residents reported that the door was locked when they left the apartment but when they returned, there was damage to the door frame. Nothing was taken from the apartment. The OUPD was notified on Monday, once the university housing department had assessed the damage as well as filed a report and repaired the damage.

Destruction of property

On Tuesday, Sept. 21 an OUPD officer noticed two students that were walking through the parking lot at the University Student Apartments who engaged in suspicious behavior. The two students approached a vehicle and proceeded to kick it several times. The officer notified the owner about the property damage. The owner mentioned that the students do not get along. The damage was less than \$1,000 and the owner does not wish to prosecute.

Property damage

On Wednesday, Sept. 22 a student reported property damage to her vehicle while it was parked in parking lot P26 near Varner Hall. When the student returned to her car, there were several key marks on the driver's door. The student reported that when she initially parked her vehicle, upon opening the door, her door hit the car that was parked in the spot next to her. She believes it is a motivation behind the action although there are no suspects at this time.

Physical assault

On Wednesday, Sept. 22 a student reported having been sexually assaulted last fall semester in the University Student Apartments. The student had attended a party in a friend's apartment and consumed alcohol. The student called for a ride home later that evening but was taken to another friend's apartment. When the student became consciously aware of the sexual assault that was taking place, she requested that the other student stop, although the assault continued. The student did not make a police report until now due to fear of receiving a minor in possession violation, as well as several other reasons.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Assistant Campus Editor

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Contest asks students to contemplate future

By JAMIE GASPER
Staff Reporter

What will life be like for today's youth, 40 years from now? That's the question the U.S. congress is looking to answer by turning it into a nationwide contest.

The iOMe Challenge is a national contest to encourage young people to team together to form ideas and plans for the future.

"We hope that the iOMe Challenge starts a much needed discussion among the millennial generation about their future financial security," chairman David Wegge said. "We also want to give college students the opportunity to think in-depth about these issues and provide an outlet for them to express their ideas for how we can assure them a sound financial future."

The 2009 question asked what the financial future held if current retirement policies remain in place. Students from across the country competed with both written

and video entries. They formed teams with the help of an advisor and competed for the grand prize of \$25,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. The winning team was a group of four Michigan natives.

"Though I was proud of our effort and completed project, I didn't really think we had a chance to win, with schools like Harvard participating," winning team member Sam Demorest said.

Participating faculty advisors with the winning team will receive \$2,000.

The question for 2010 asks students to write an essay of no more than 10,000 words that demonstrates and supports three significant differences that will exist in the economy 40 years from today if the U.S. personal saving rate is sustained at 6 percent versus the rate that has prevailed for the past decade. Additionally, all short videos are to be turned in by Nov. 21.

The deadline is Oct. 31. For more information, visit www.iomechallenge.org

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Summit season set to begin

By ROSS MAGHIELSE
Sports Editor

Both the Oakland University men's and women's soccer teams set high expectations coming into this season. The quest to reach those preseason goals, particularly within the Summit League, begins now for both teams.

The OU men played a brutal non-conference schedule, including three teams ranked in the nation's top 25, and started the season 1-5. However, they started the Summit League season off on the right foot with a 4-0 win over IPFW last Friday.

The women's team also got off to a less-than-desirable start, getting shut out in four of its first five matches, but has since rallied to win three in a row and get its record back to the .500 mark, 4-4-1. They begin league play with a pair of home games this weekend — Friday at Ultimate Soccer Arenas against North Dakota State and Sunday at the OU Soccer Field against South Dakota State.

Well tested

"I think when you play a really demanding schedule like we have this year, even though obviously we'd like to get a few more wins and results out of those games, I think it shows that we can play with any team in the country," men's head coach Eric Pogue said. "Right now we've been in every game but we've struggled to score and put the final pieces together. Confidence wise, I think going into conference play we know it's a different season and we're looking for a fresh start."

Prior to the 4-0 defeat of IPFW, the Golden Grizzlies (2-5, 1-0 Summit League) had not scored more than one goal in any game this season. That will have to change if they want to put together enough wins to get a high seed at the con-

ference tournament and potentially qualify for a berth in the NCAA tournament.

"Going into these games with the record that we have has kind of put us in uncharted territory and we're looking to get the monkey off our back," junior goalkeeper and team captain Mitch Hildebrandt said. "We know that the other teams in our conference are going to come out and give us their best game and take their best shot at us because we've got that target after winning the (regular season) league title three years in a row. We're fighting for our lives right now. We need every win we can get because a 2-6 record or whatever isn't going to get us into the NCAA tournament."

On top of its remaining league schedule, Oakland still has a handful of difficult non-conference games left to play.

The Grizzlies' next game is Wednesday, Sept. 29 at Dayton. They also have a home game with No. 1 Akron Oct. 6 and games with University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and Ohio State later in the year. Oakland, however, does have the benefit of hosting the Summit Tournament at the end of the season.

"Right now our goal is to really focus in on these upcoming conference games, get some wins, and get our feet back on track," Pogue said. "I think it's huge for us (to get off to a good start in league play), even though it's early, getting to 1-0, 2-0 and having that early success in the league is important."

While the offense will need to show improvement as the season progresses and the 4-0 win over IPFW was an indication of that, Hildebrandt knows it's his job to focus on the number on the other side of the scoreboard and keep his team in as many games as possible.

"The Oakland history of soccer has always been defensive minded



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Goalkeeper Mitch Hildebrandt (left) was named as Summit League Defensive Player of the Week. Midfielder Marlen Knoph (right) and the OU women's soccer team have won three straight.

and I don't think that's changed at all, even though we've had some offensive guys that have come in and can play," Hildebrandt said. "We're still defense first and I've got to stay back there and continue to make saves so that Vuk (Popovic) and Makesi (Lewis) do their thing up top."

This week Hildebrandt received Summit League Defensive Player of the Week honors for his efforts in the OU net.

OU women on a roll

For the OU women, a recent 2-1 road win over Butler has given the team confidence and momentum heading into the important home-stand this weekend.

"Confidence wise, even more than our record getting back to

.500, that win really gives us a boost and we're trying to stay on this roll heading into conference play," women's soccer coach Nick O'Shea said. "The team is in good spirits right now and we're doing some good things out there both technically and tactically."

Prior to the season, Oakland was picked to finish fourth in the Summit League by league coaches in the preseason poll. The ranking was far lower than OU's typical No. 1 or No. 2 prediction and it was a ranking that didn't sit well with the team. The Golden Grizzlies (4-4-1) are looking to derail the credibility of that preseason poll.

"I definitely think right now the team is doing well enough to be able to take a top spot (in

the standings) but once you get into conference play everything changes," O'Shea said. "The intensity picks up a ton in these games and this is a huge weekend for us. We're happy that we have these teams (North Dakota State and South Dakota State) and home this year instead of having to go on the road against them, but it's definitely going to be a tough weekend."

Oakland is still adjusting to an overhauled roster fused with inexperienced newcomers and a couple of returning players who have missed substantial time due to injuries. But Coach O'Shea feels his players are now getting comfortable with their roles and will be ready once conference play begins this weekend.

Behind the SCENES

Fred Love

Director // Head of Musical Theater



By day, Fred Love is the head of the musical theater program, but by night he is the director of COMPANY.

"We rehearse four nights a week and Friday mornings as well, for a total of about 20 hours a week," Love said.

To describe his role in the production, Love quoted filmmaker Billy Wilder: "A director must be a policeman, a midwife, a psychoanalyst, a sycophant and a bastard."

He enjoys the collaboration between all the various production areas, like lighting, costumes and sound.

"The director may have the final say, but he got there with the help, advice and creative ideas from about 20 other sources," he said.

With the opening just a week away, Love said he hasn't faced any real difficulties, but that a director would always like an extra week. "Someone once said: Opening night is the night before the play is ready to open."

Kerro Knox III

Set Designer



COMPANY takes place in a New York City loft apartment, and it is Professor Kerro Knox's responsibility to design that set.

"It means that I need to read the script and imagine what the world of this play is," said Knox, Associate Professor of Theater, Music and Dance.

"We've done a lot of research into modern New York lofts," he said. "They're rebuilt spaces so it's brick or cinder-block that's been painted and then really nicely carpeted — sort of the old and the new."

The design process began in May and has been a work in progress ever since. The show will be performed in the Studio Theater, which allows for greater flexibility for designing the set: seating can be moved around and the audience is immersed into the action.

"I've got lots of ways for the actors to come onstage through the audience so it becomes like it's in surround sound," Kerro said.

A backstage look at the upcoming student production of "COMPANY"

written by Rhiannon Zielinski and Kaitlyn Chornoby
photos & design by Jason Willis

"COMPANY centers on the life of Bobby, a confirmed bachelor celebrating his 35th birthday with his 10 closest friends, who happen to be five couples. The musical examines marriage and relationships and the reasons people come together, divorce and stay together."

— Fred Love, Director

Nicholas Smith

Robert // The Lead

Because of his interest in Stephen Sondheim musicals and an aspiration to act the part of Bobby, Nicholas Smith said he felt up to the challenge and felt a passion in him as he took on the lead role in COMPANY.

Time, place and relationships between the characters were points to consider as Smith began preparing for his role. He says it can become overwhelming and challenging at times when he is put onstage in an unusual and demanding scene.

Smith said he is constantly striving to put himself into the show and tries not to separate himself from his character. He said he tries to allow his nerves to fuel his performance.

Before his Oakland performances, Smith began singing in the choir in middle school and soon expanded to solos in church, Christian acting, singing competitions and community theater.

Smith said he would like to thank Fred Love, Karen Sheridan, Michael Gillespie, Thomas Suda, Mila Govich, Lynnae Lehfelddt, Alissa Hetzner, Drake Dantzler and his classmates.

Smith plans to pursue acting and hopes to continue doing what he loves, whether onstage or on film.



Justin Colby

Lighting Designer

Responsible for lighting the production, Justin Colby takes into consideration what kind of setting each scene is in and works to set the mood.

In order to position the lights effectively, he sits through several rehearsals and takes script notes to light where characters are standing. He also acknowledges specific cues and where to hang special lights.

Colby works with front, side, back and top lights, special lights, go-betweens and spotlights.

With the lighting crew, Colby will be using robotic lights during the performance to change colors and go-betweens.

With the scenic designer and costume designer going for warmer colors, Colby decided to work with cool and neutral colors.

Colby, who began his involvement with theater in high school, has worked on technical aspects of theater and lit several dance pieces. He was a master electrician in the past, but this is his first design he could call his own.

He hopes to take his paperwork, show shots and plots to present to the American College Theatre Festival for feedback.

Colby is a transfer student from Oakland Community College and is working for his bachelor of the arts.

Alissa Hetzner

Musical Director



As a musical, a great deal of COMPANY's success lies in the hands of Musical Director and Professor Alissa Hetzner, who is the vocal coach for musical theater students at OU.

"I help the students in learning the musical material for the score," she said. "For example, notes, rhythms, style and lyrics phrasing. I also am conductor of the pit orchestra, which is always an adventure."

The show has a 10-piece orchestra consisting of woodwinds, brass, strings and rhythm instruments, featuring musicians from both OU and the metro Detroit area, all playing the music originally written by composer Stephen Sondheim.

"His music is the kind that you can just come in to rehearsal and sight read at the piano. Vocally, it's some of the hardest stuff out there, very classically-based in nature," she said. "Sondheim writes some of the best melody lines. His lyrics are brilliant."

GENERAL INFO

COMPANY

by Stephen Sondheim

DATES & TIMES

Thursday, Oct. 7 - 8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 8 - 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 9 - 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 10 - 2 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 14 - 8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 15 - 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 16 - 2 & 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 17 - 2 p.m.

In the Varner Studio Theater

TICKET INFO

\$17 General, \$9 Students and all 10 a.m. matinee seats

Varner Box Office is open 3-6 p.m. located outside Recital Hall entrance
Tickets can also be purchased by phone: 248-370-3013
Also available online through www.oakland.edu/mtd

Ali Woerner

Choreographer

Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance Ali Woerner is the brains behind the movement for COMPANY's characters.

"There's a handful of numbers within the show that need movement, so I'll come in and choreograph from my point of view, with the idea of what the show is about, and try to make that come to life," she said.

To plan her choreography, Woerner looks to what composer Stephen Sondheim wrote for the music.

"If there's a piece that is a waltz section, I'm not going to do some hip-hop movement," she said. "I keep the comical air as well. In one scene, you've got bodies passed out on the floor, then we're going to waltz stepping over them."

Woerner credits the ease of the process to the quality of the cast. "They're very giving, young performers, so that helps a great deal. They just want to learn."

Mary Geitzen & Evan Heuker

Costumer Designer & Hair and Makeup Artist

As costume designer, Mary Geitzen directs the color and style of the outfits worn by the COMPANY crew.

After researching and meeting with the director, she began work on renderings and searching for fabrics for items to be built. Since COMPANY is set in modern day, Geitzen said many of the items could be purchased.

The designers work with the director to decide on shoes and jewelry for individual characters based on their personality and financial standing.

The research regarding the dynamics between the characters and relationships to the main character is something Geitzen has never experienced in any other show.

Geitzen admits that shopping is one of her favorite and least favorite parts of her work, as it can be difficult to find a specific item.

Geitzen has been involved in costume design since her sophomore year in high school. She is a third year student majoring in theater, design and technology.

After showing potential in a hair and makeup class last semester, Evan Heuker works with the COMPANY cast to ensure makeup needs are met and to keep the actors on task.

Heuker said most of the styling is corrective, as New York residents most likely have money to go out and get professional styling.

"You know you wouldn't have a rich character looking like a bum off the street," he said.

Heuker researches different styles in magazines from beauty salons, online and television shows. He says most of his challenges include depicting each character individually to avoid causing the characters to look dull.

Including an essence of attractiveness was a strong theme for the design, as well as showing the fairness of the skin and how the character is attracted to others.

Heuker said he enjoys experimenting with styles, as the smallest change could be a big deal.

Heuker is a third year student majoring in theater and acting with an English minor.

Grizzlies fall short in comeback bid

GAME OF THE WEEK

By **TOM BARRY**

Staff Reporter

A comeback attempt from the Oakland volleyball team came up short in a loss to Southern Utah Saturday. The Golden Grizzlies came back from a 2-0 deficit, but struggled in the fifth game as the Thunderbirds won, 3-2 (25-17, 25-22, 20-25, 13-25, 15-11).

"Our team has a lot of heart and commitment," Oakland head coach Rob Beam said. "We did some things to affect Southern Utah. But we weren't effective in the fifth game. Southern Utah played really well and our inconsistency was an emotion killer. We need to execute consistency to get momentum."

The first game went back-and-forth, with neither team establishing any momentum early on as Southern Utah (6-8, 4-2 Summit League) took a 6-5 lead. The Thunderbirds proceeded to go on a 12-7 run and the Grizzlies (8-8, 3-2) got no closer than five points the rest of the game.

During the second set, Southern Utah

looked ready to take an easy 2-0 lead as it went ahead, 23-17. Oakland middle hitter Allison Bell converted on a kill to get the Grizzlies within 23-18. Oakland setter Jillian Kulka came in and had two aces and a kill to cut the Thunderbirds' lead down to 23-21.

Southern Utah called a timeout to recuperate, and each team traded points to make it a 24-22 Thunderbirds lead. Oakland then committed an error that secured the game for the Southern Utah.

The third game saw neither team break away, with a kill from Southern Utah outside hitter Jazmine Ma'afala making it a narrow 19-18 Oakland lead. The Golden Grizzlies finished off the game with a 6-2 run, capped off with a kill from middle hitter Jenna Lange.

Oakland dominated the fourth game from the start, beginning on an 8-0 run and preventing Southern Utah from getting any closer than six points.

During the final game, the Thunderbirds opened with a 7-3 lead before the teams traded points to make the score 14-9. The Grizzlies then forced two hitting errors by the Thunderbirds before a Southern Utah

kill ended the match.

Outside hitter Meghan Bray led Oakland with 20 kills and 13 digs, setter Ashley Nevelle had 41 assists and 14 digs, and setter Brittany Dunn added 24 digs for her 15th double-digit game this season.

Bell finished the game with 10 kills and five blocks and freshman outside hitter Audrey Wilson also contributed 10 kills. Kulka ended the game with a kill, two aces and seven digs.

The loss ended a three-match winning streak for Oakland. The Grizzlies defeated UMKC, 3-0, the previous night.

Next for Oakland is a two-match road trip on Oct. 1 and 2, starting in Brookings, S.D. against South Dakota State and ending with North Dakota State in Fargo, N.D.

"This is going to be a tough road trip," Beam said. "The Dakotas are good, tall and athletic. Our best chance of winning will be perfecting our serves and serve receiving."

Oakland and Southern Utah will meet again Nov. 11 in Cedar City, Utah.

Up next for the Grizzlies is a pair of road games against North Dakota State and South Dakota State this weekend.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Outside hitter Audrey Wilson had 10 kills in a loss to Southern Utah Saturday.

Critical offseason decisions looming large for Tigers

COLUMN

With all of the fanfare that comes with the start of the football season, it's easy to forget about the last couple months of baseball's marathon season, especially when the hometown team has fallen out of contention.

Most Tigers fans probably got off the team's bandwagon in mid-August after the team lost 21 of 27 games following the All-Star break. It was just the type of second-half slumber fans have become accustomed to in the Jim Leyland era.

Since that four-week stretch, however, the team quietly fought its way back over .500 and returned a sense of optimism for the future. Take away that lousy month when the team was ravaged by injuries and the Tigers would be 19 games over .500.



Dan Fenner
Senior Editor

With the regular season coming to an end Sunday, it's difficult to assess the team's performance. Fans will be disappointed the Tigers couldn't hang with Minnesota and win their division, but when you consider that a second or third-place finish was the consensus prediction before the season started, should anyone be surprised?

The offseason will undoubtedly bring sweeping change. By the time the Tigers take the field for spring training next March, we

could be looking at a team with a dozen new players. Detroit Tigers General Manager and Team President Dave Dombrowski will have to make several significant personnel decisions as he tries to fill in the many blanks on the lineup card. There's really only three position players that you can say with any certainty will return next season — Austin Jackson, Miguel Cabrera and catcher Alex Avila, if only because of his age and lack of alternatives. The rest is open to discussion.

One of the most difficult aspects of the offseason decision-making process will be whether to re-sign any of its trio of longest-tenured players, namely Magglio Ordonez, Brandon Inge and Jeremy Bonderman. They are among just a handful of holdovers from the 2006 World Series team that reinvigorated the franchise's listless fan

base. If the team does opt to part ways with all three, Justin Verlander could end up being the only integral player from that pennant-winning team that's left by opening day 2011.

The other significant matter of business the Tigers face is less of a problem and more a question of strategy and careful calculation. So long as team owner Mike Ilitch doesn't stray from his vow to continue spending money for the sake of building a winner, the Tigers will be blessed with a budget of as much as \$60 million to spend on new acquisitions — enough money to rival that of the New York Yankees this winter.

Dombrowski will have to be smarter with the budget this time around, however. The criticism heaped upon him for past contract signings is warranted. Only now is the team free from the bur-

den of the bad contracts given to Dontrelle Willis, Nate Robertson and others. It's also imperative that the Tigers avoid giving out contracts based on loyalty. There will be equally effective options to Bonderman, Inge and Ordonez out there that will come at a lesser price.

You'd be surprised how quickly a departed fan favorite player is forgotten when his replacement is leading the team to the postseason, and ultimately that has to be Dombrowski's goal. Detroit still only has one playoff appearance since 1988.

One way or the other, this offseason seems destined to signify the end of an era in Tigers baseball, though hopefully it will usher in a new period of prolonged competitiveness as the team builds around its impressive core of young talent.

Club hockey strives to revive its winning ways

By KYLE BAUER

Staff Intern

Anyone seeing the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies hockey club for the first time this season might be confused. This Oakland hockey club shows little resemblance to the club that took the ice the previous two seasons.

In the 2008-2009 season, Oakland dressed upwards of 13 underclassmen per game. It showed in the results, as Oakland missed the ACHA national tournament — a complete collapse for what at one point was a championship program.

The past three seasons have seen a coaching change and the graduation of the entire roster from the last championship team in 2007.

Throughout this period, excuses have not been made. Work has been done.

The Grizzlies started this new campaign quickly, sweeping the University of Michigan-Dearborn Wolves in their opening series last weekend.

Oakland is continuing the progress it made last season, when it nearly doubled its win total and established two new scoring threats in Adam Novack and Jordan MacDonald. Novack impressed in his freshman year with 36 points in 37 games. MacDonald showed vast improvement during his sophomore season, jumping from 16 to 42 points.

Both played on a line together, centered by leading-scorer senior Kevin Kranker. This line accounted for the top-three returning scorers on the roster, but don't expect to continue seeing them play together this season.

"Our game is similar. We are both finesse guys, goal scorers, so we're looking to break that up to spread out the scoring," MacDonald said.

Head coach Jeremy Bachusz felt splitting up their top line is a compliment to the added depth of the Grizzlies, "We actually added some really good new players who can play strong down low. It's better to have four good lines than one good line," he said.

Kranker will remain on a line with Novack, but sophomore Jon Connors has been inserted as the "power forward" of the line.

"The three of us have a good sense of the game and will be a good line going forward,

offensively and defensively," Kranker said.

The Grizzlies defense returns virtually their entire squad from last season. They also have welcomed new additions Steve Vandenberghe and Brett Hagen, from their rival Davenport Panthers.

"They're chirping him all the time in practice," said Bachusz on Hagen's arrival from Oakland's west-side rival. "We're having a lot of fun with it."

Senior defensemen Dennis Capa is excited about adding Hagen to the unit, Davenport ties or not.

"Hagen brings knowledge and experience which is a plus," Capa said. "He knows what it takes to be a success in this league. I think he is going to surprise a lot of us this year. He has good decision making, is pretty mobile, as well as a left-handed shot, which will balance the back end more."

Oakland returns a strong defensive core and adds a young group consisting of six new forwards looking to make an immediate impact.

A graduate from Oakland's Division III program, Alexander Hoffman, made an immediate impact scoring in the opener against University of Michigan-Dearborn Friday night. Art Dore, a transfer from Becker College, saw time playing with MacDonald in the opening game. Coach Bachusz was also quick to identify Kurtis Anton as a freshman who would stand out this season as well.

Stakes will be raised for OU with the inception of the new Great Lakes Collegiate Hockey League.

This newly formed conference has taken the previously non-conference affiliated Grizzlies, along with rivals Davenport, Michigan-Dearborn, Eastern Michigan, Adrian College and Western Michigan. More importantly, for these programs, it assures automatic bids and seeding into the national tournament.

Oakland hopes this season will be the culmination of the lone rebuilding year the proud program went through in 2008.

Goaltender Alex Pikunas, Kranker, Capa, MacDonald, Jesse Worrell, Jacob DeSano, Collin Ronayne and many more are looking to bring the Grizzlies back to the forefront of the club hockey scene.

The team schedule is available at their website, www.oaklandhockey.org



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Oakland University forward Jon Connors (right) skates behind the net and avoids a Wolves defender in a game against University of Michigan-Dearborn.

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Local Briefs

New church hosts concert in Pontiac

PONTIAC — New Day House of Praise, a new church, is opening in Pontiac Oct. 2.

The church will host a The Lord is Building this House concert on Saturday at 4 p.m. New Day House of Praise is located at 14 Judson Street.

Details are available at www.newdayhop.com
— Annie Stodola, Local Editor

Council removes felony box from applications

DETROIT — The Detroit City Council unanimously approved a city ordinance on Tuesday that is aimed at helping people with criminal records re-enter the work force.

The ordinance requires the removal of any questions regarding prior felonies from city job applications.

In addition to the unanimous vote, the council members expressed a belief that the city of Detroit has plenty of willing potential employees who are being overlooked because of prior indiscretions. They also expressed the hope that this ordinance will help even the playing field.

— Annie Stodola, Local Editor

New budget decreases university funding

LANSING — The Michigan Legislature has approved a budget plan that would cut state aid to universities by about 2.8 percent in the upcoming fiscal year.

The measure was approved by a 31-6 vote Tuesday in the Republican-led Senate and a 61-43 vote in the Democratic-led House.

The Legislature is trying to erase a projected \$484 million budget deficit before the new fiscal year begins Friday.

Much of the spending plan is already in place. But lawmakers still have to finish budgets including those for transportation, human services and a few other departments.

— Associated Press Report

Chrysler fires employees for misconduct

DETROIT — Chrysler Group LLC said it has fired 13 plant workers a Detroit TV station caught drinking alcohol and smoking what appeared to be marijuana during breaks.

The automaker said then that it was suspending the workers. On Monday, Chrysler said it fired the workers who were caught.

In a statement, Chrysler said the workers violated its code of conduct.

Chrysler says two other workers got one-month unpaid layoffs.

— Associated Press Report

Brooksie Way race raises awareness for active lives

By JAMIE GASPER

Staff Reporter

The third annual Brooksie Way Half Marathon is set for Sunday, Oct. 3.

The Brooksie Way Half Marathon is a series of races in different distances, where runners are sponsored.

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson began the Brooksie Way Half Marathon races to promote active lifestyles in the community.

Plans for the first race were announced in 2007, just days before the fatal snowmobile accident of his son, Brooks Stuart Patterson.

The first race was held in October 2008 and was named in honor of the late Brooks Stuart Patterson.

Proceeds from the race support programs that encourage healthy and active lifestyles and are distributed through Brooksie Way MiniGrants.

"The goal of the Brooksie Way Minigrant program is to put money back into Oakland County communities to improve the health and wellness of our residents and we're doing that," Patterson said in a press release. "Through the Brooksie Way Half Marathon and the minigrant program, we're touching thousands of lives and making a real difference."

The course of the races stretches through Rochester and Rochester Hills, and lines both the Clinton River, and Paint Creek trails. The races start



Oakland Post file photo

Runners compete in the inaugural Brooksie Way Half Marathon in 2008. The race, which starts and ends on OU's campus, was created by county executive L. Brooks Patterson.

and end at Oakland University.

To encourage large participation there are multiple routes. The largest half marathon route is a 13.1-mile run that ends at Meadow Brook Hall.

Another race taking place mainly on the campus of OU is the 5K run/walk. This is a 3.1-mile course, designed largely for first-time racers.

The Detroit Pistons are sponsoring a 1-mile family fun run. This track will also cut through the OU campus and

end at Meadow Brook Hall. Families are encouraged to participate together as a part of developing healthy and athletic family habits.

For those looking to help, without actually participating in any of the races, donations can be made, toward the Brooksie Way MiniGrants. All donations are tax-deductible.

The event staff is also looking for volunteers. Information can be found at www.thebrooksieway.com

Uptick of auto sales predicted

DETROIT — The U.S. auto industry is likely to see a bit of a sales rebound in September over figures in August, with an uptick in retail sales to individual drivers, a Barclays Capital analyst said Monday.

Analyst Brian Johnson wrote in a note to investors that stronger retail sales would be offset by weaker sales to fleet buyers such as rental car companies. That's good news for automakers because they make more on

sales to individuals.

But a September increase isn't a sign of an industry rebound. Johnson doesn't expect any big improvement in auto sales soon.

"We continue to expect sales to remain around current levels for the remainder of 2010," he wrote, adding that he is sticking with his forecast of 12 million in sales for next year.

He wrote that the sales rate for September, when projected for a full year and

adjusted for seasonal variations, should be 11.7 million cars and trucks, up slightly from 11.5 million in August.

The seasonally adjusted sales rate for retail sales should be in the mid to upper 9 million range, he wrote. That would make September the best retail month in two years except for August 2009, which was artificially boosted by the government's Cash for Clunkers rebates. All automakers report their U.S.

sales figures on Friday.

The good news for the industry is that the average sales price per vehicle is on the rise, meaning more profits for automakers. It also means consumers are paying more for their vehicles.

Most automakers, with their costs dramatically lower than in previous years, are making money at the current sales levels and are reluctant to offer better deals.

— AP Report

Global News

ON SEPTEMBER 29 IN HISTORY:

1789 — The U.S. Department of War established the first regular army.
1853 — Emigrant ship "Annie Jane" sank off Scotland's coast, drowning 348 people.
1911 — Italy declared war on the Ottoman Empire.
1981 — The U.S. performed a nuclear test at a site in Nevada.
1982 — Cyanide laced Tylenol capsules killed seven people in Chicago.

1 United States

Student Colton Tooley fired shots with an AK-47 assault rifle at the University of Texas on Tuesday. The 19-year-old opened fire in the library at the UT-Austin campus, injuring no one, before he shot himself to death. Those who knew Tooley say he was intelligent and incapable of hurting anyone. A relative said that Tooley's parents are distraught over losing their child and that Tooley was an excellent student who "wouldn't or couldn't hurt a fly."

2 Russia

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has fired Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, who held the post for 18 years. The Kremlin website said that Medvedev signed a decree that relieves the mayor of his duties due to the president's "loss of confidence" in him. Luzhkov received criticism in July when repairs to the main highway leading to Moscow's airport created traffic jams. The final blow came when he criticized the president's decision to suspend building a highway in Moscow.

3 North Korea

North Korea's official news agency reported that leader Kim Jong Il's son has been named to the Central Military Commission of the ruling Worker's Party. Kim Jong Un was named vice chairman of the central military commission. This is the first known political post for Kim Jong Il's youngest son. The announcement paved the way for the family dynasty to pass down to a third generation. Little is known about Kim Jong Un, but he is believed to be 27.

4 Mexico

At least eight are known dead and 100 are reported missing in Mexico after a hillside collapsed on sleeping residents in the rural town of Oaxaca on Tuesday. Donato Vargas, an official, said that the landslide, caused by heavy rains, dragged houses and families 1,300 feet downhill in the mud. Federal officials say rescuers are flying to the scene from Mexico City with search dogs and heavy machinery, but no help had reached the area yet.

5 Nigeria

Nigerian police say kidnappers seized a school bus full of children on Monday. Federal police spokesman Emmanuel Ojukwu said that officers and investigators are on their way to Abia state to look into the attack. He gave no details and said he did not know how many children were aboard the bus. Kidnappings for ransom have grown increasingly common across Nigeria, an oil-rich country where most people live on less than \$1 per day.

6 Iran

An Iranian news website said that a court has sentenced a well-known Canadian-Iranian blogger to more than 19 years in prison. The conservative website, **Mashreghnews.ir**, says Hossein Derakhshan was convicted on charges of cooperation with hostile countries, spreading propaganda against the ruling establishment and insulting Islamic thoughts and religious figures. Derakhshan has been in prison since 2008 and the report says he is allowed to appeal the charge.

— Compiled by Rhiannon Zielinski
from AP Reports

WORLD IN NUMBERS

13

Days that Lindsay Lohan spent in jail this summer.

23

Days that Lindsay Lohan spent in rehab this summer.

33

Days that Lindsay Lohan was free before going back to court for probation violation.

Student stars on the big screen

OU student works with celebrities, OUTV, SVP and has own IMDb page

By ALI ARMSTRONG
Staff Reporter

With a resume including a film with Eminem, training at the Purple Rose Theatre, and awards from Oakland University's short film contest junior Courtney Zimmer is an OU student who plans on making her way to Hollywood.

While her big break was playing alongside Eminem in the MTV short film, "Eminem, Where Have You Been?" Zimmer got her start acting in the fifth grade as the lead in her school's play, "Louis and Clark."

"I really liked doing it," Zimmer said. "It was always really easy for me. I never really got nervous in front of a crowd. But it wasn't until eighth grade that my mom told me I had a real talent for acting."

Zimmer has been working professionally since her debut in the eighth grade, when she started working with her first professional theatre company, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre in West Bloomfield. Her debut play was "Fiddler on the Roof."

"Courtney has a very unique look, strong definitive features, not a 'classic' beauty... better, more character... simply beautiful," Christopher Bondy, Zimmer's acting for the camera teacher at the Dramatic Arts Studio in Michigan and the founder and director of education at the studio, said. "Working with her is a complete joy. She understands the role of the actor and the director, and is completely respectful of that interdependent relationship. She is really easy to direct and is very rewarding in her final performance. On top of all that she is a simply lovely young lady in every way."

A 2008 graduate from West Bloomfield High School, Zimmer was highly involved with her school's drama club program.

Zimmer was also involved

with the International Thespian Society, where she served as an officer her junior and senior years, and worked for her school's film festival. Zimmer worked with the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association as well.

Zimmer's father was also involved with forensics in high school, which encouraged her in her own pursuits.

"I just like to do a bunch of different things and if I fail at it, whatever," Zimmer said.

She has also done film work at OU. She is a member of Student Video Productions and has also done work for the OU television station, OUTV.

Zimmer also competed, and won first place, in last year's first OU YouTube contest. The film, which was by Steve Kanter, won the group a \$500 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.

"When we turned it in, it was so different from everyone else's," Zimmer said. "Everybody else's was more informative and ours was like a little story."

"Courtney is one of those really wonderful young people that always has a smile on her delightful face."

— Christopher Bondy,
Director of education at
the Dramatic Arts Studio

I guess that's the creative risk you take. Winning it was really awesome, though."

She met fellow OU student, Domonique Evan while filming the short movie with Eminem, which was featured on the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards.

"My scene, which is like a second, maybe two, was filmed at 2:30 in the morning," Zimmer said. "It was really fun and since we were the last ones filmed, we



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Courtney Zimmer has been working professionally since the eighth grade. Currently she is working on an admissions video for next year. Zimmer has also worked with Eminem.

got to spend some more time with the director and he was really cool. It was a good experience."

In her first leading role in a feature film, Zimmer starred in "The Jinn." Unfortunately, the film was cut due to a lack of funding. She also starred in the short "Patient 239" and "Red Dawn."

Zimmer's awards include everything from OUs Short Film Contest, a 48-hour film project and multiple awards from the MIFA, one of which took first place.

Right now, Zimmer is involved with three acting agencies. She works with The Eye Group, The Talent Shop, and Charlie's Talent Agency, which are all Screen Actor's Guild franchised.

Zimmer has also trained with a number of acting coaches from all over.

"I've never really studied with one teacher," Zimmer said. "I've

always done different coaches. It's good actually to do that because then you get different perspectives and how other people view what an actor should be like. You learn what to do with that and how to improve."

In addition to her YouTube and Twitter pages, Zimmer has her own Internet movie database page where her resume, as well as some of her short films, is featured.

"Courtney is one of those really wonderful young people who seems to always have a smile on her delightful face," Christopher Bondy said. "As a young actress I am impressed with her confidence to take chances with her performances and her ability to move from a stage performance to a more subtle 'film' performance. It is something that we, as Michigan actors, all need to strive for."

While she has a passion for acting, Zimmer is concerned about her future career as an ac-

tor and her education plans have altered because of that.

Zimmer was a theatre major her first year at OU but changed her major to French with a minor in English after her first year.

"There really is no film acting program here, or anywhere for that matter," Zimmer said. "I still do SVP and OUTV, but I wanted to choose something that was a more stable job, so I went with teaching. I'm majoring in French and minoring in English. I've taken French since high school and I love it."

Right now, Zimmer is just thinking about the future.

"For now, my plan is to graduate with a teaching certificate and then do acting for a couple of years, move to California and audition all the time," Zimmer said.

Zimmer is currently working with media relations assistant director Michelle Moser on an admissions video for next year.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Landolt participated in a panel discussion that talked about immigration on Monday in the Gold rooms of the OC.

Exploring human rights growth

Assistant political science professor travels to Egypt

By **NICHOLE SEGUIN**
Features Editor

While some people spend their summer at the beach or on vacation, others, like associate professor of political science Laura Landolt, spend their summers elsewhere.

During the summer of 2010, Landolt spent her "vacation" in Cairo doing research while teaching her PS 114 introduction to world politics class online.

"I didn't tell them until the end of the class," Landolt said. "One student asked when my office hours were and I offered to meet them via Skype. She didn't have Skype, so I just used it to call her on the phone and then we talked."

In Egypt, the government is very strict. Censorship is rampant and the government watches all types of communication. Phones in Egypt allow the government to listen in to conversations even when they are off.

From monitoring phone calls to cracking Skype, Landolt was forced to be cautious.

"I actually had to go over there on a tourist visa," Landolt said. "My Internet and phone were both bugged so I had to be very careful. I even had to hold one interview with a major activist in Britain until I came back to the (United) States so I could get an accurate response from the person. We didn't need the Egyptian government to listen to the interview."

Since 2007, Landolt has collected a total of 45 open-ended, one-to-two-hour interviews with human rights activists that were in Egypt for the Universal Periodic Review, a process run through the United Nations.

"Every four years, every country in the world is reviewed on human right progression," Landolt said. "I went to interview human rights activists about that process. The non-governmental organizations are more active at the UN, and the Egyptian NGOs presented more information."

While her original research in Egypt was for her dissertation project, she's now continuing her research so she can be published again. Landolt already has three articles published on U.S. foreign policy and Egyptian democratization.

"Laura's field work in Egypt has been a valuable experience," Pete Trumbore, associate professor of political science, said. "It's definitely something she can share with students when working with development and how it is affecting people. Laura brings experience in a perspective that we didn't have in the department."

Landolt has only worked at Oakland University for two years. She picked the school based on its Ph.D. requirement for all professors.

"I was teaching at Virginia Wesleyan College, but I wanted to teach and do research," Landolt said. "Here at OU they want you to do both."

There's also a new international relations program that looked like a good program to do.

In the summer of 2009, Landolt and her husband had their first child. Although it prevented her from traveling and doing research, Landolt used her experiences as a mother in her feminism class the next semester.

"Laura brings a perspective that I find very valuable," Jo Reger, director of the women and gender studies program and associate professor of sociology, said. "She taught a course in women's studies last fall and she had the class focus on feminist theory and motherhood. It definitely brought life into the classroom."

Inside her classroom, Landolt shows her students various movies followed by what some students consider a strict grading style.

"Professor Landolt is so very passionate about political science, and it really came through in her teaching style and the discussions we had in class," Lisa Vitale, a junior with an undecided major and a political science minor, said. "For an introductory class, it was tough. You'd never hear anyone refer to Professor Landolt as an 'easy' professor, but she's still very well-liked and respected by her students, and that's a tough thing to do — teach a challenging class yet still have most students find it interesting and enjoyable."

Landolt plans on going back to Egypt for more research soon.

40

professor profiles

Weekly spotlight on OU professors

Pamela Mitzelfeld English professor

Oakland University English professor Pamela Mitzelfeld didn't always want to be a teacher.

"I didn't really know what I wanted to do with my English degree," Mitzelfeld said.

Mitzelfeld, who graduated from OU with a Master of Arts degree in English, has been teaching in the university's English department for 11 years.



She wrote her graduate thesis on Hamlet films, and she incorporates her knowledge of it into several of her classes, which include ENG 210, writing about literature and ENG 380, advanced critical writing. She also teaches a thesis proposal course in the Honors College.

Mitzelfeld also works as the associate director of the writing center in Kresge Library, and she does outside consulting work for companies such as Nissan and Volkswagen.

She traced her decision to go into teaching to a meeting she had with an advisor. While waiting for her appointment, she overheard her advisor giving advice to another student.

"He was really being helpful and clearing things up for this particular individual," Mitzelfeld said. "It was sort of like an epiphany."

"I just thought at that moment that's what I'd like to do. I'd like to be able to work with students and help them, so teaching became the thing I wanted to do," said Mitzelfeld.

Several of Mitzelfeld's past students are glad that she had that epiphany.

"I absolutely loved her," said Angela Logan, an elementary education major at OU. "She made her objectives and the goals for the class clear, so it was easy to keep on track. If you do the work and participate in class discussions, she'll reward you with her quirky personality and a great overall class experience."

Mitzelfeld said that developing her own teaching style that incorporates her personality has been the key to her success as a teacher.

"I try to keep a good sense of humor about it, keep things as engaging as possible, and do my best to create a classroom community," Mitzelfeld said. "I like the fact that when students leave my classes they generally know people they didn't know when they first came into class and they've made some friends. That's important to me as well."

—Jake Thielen, Staff Reporter

Life lessons turn into award-winning poetry

By **RHIANNON ZIELINSKI**
Senior Reporter

For some, to say that Alice Carleton, 64, is a woman of many talents is an understatement. During the day she is a social work student and works in the mathematics department. She has survived abuse, was in the army and published a book, among other accomplishments.

Carleton grew up in Maine in a house that she describes as a "code violation."

"There was no phone, no car, no refrigerator and no bathroom," she said. "My mother was a single parent when nobody had a single parent. My only opportunity was staying in a little town and working at a factory."

Carleton moved to San Francisco to join the Women's Army Corps during the Vietnam War instead.

"It was major culture shock," Carleton said. "I had never seen a person of another race before, so it was life lessons and nothing I ever learned in a book."

During the three years that she spent in the army, Carleton also experienced years of verbal abuse from her then husband and a lack of support from her church.

"Verbal abuse is literally brainwashing," she said. "Techniques used in POW camps are the same ones abusers use. Of course they're not sophisticated enough to know that, but it's all concentrated on one thing which is to control somebody."

Carleton credit's Patricia Evan's book "The Verbally Abusive Relationship" as the key to taking control of her life.

"I think it's a book that should be required reading for everyone," Carleton said. "Even therapists will miss the dynamics of verbal abuse because abusers are very manipulative with charm and fool a lot of people. We need a program in every elementary school to teach children basic respect, because if you respect someone, you won't abuse them."

Carleton turned to poetry as a way of sharing her story with others that were, or have experienced abuse.

"The poetry just started pouring out of me," she said. "I've always been able to make something good out of the ashes. No matter what has been bad, I've been able to turn it around and make something positive out of it."

Carleton's poetry led to her first published book, "Sanctuary of the Soul:

Poems of Anguish, Healing, Hope, Comfort and Celebration" and her writing has led to multiple endorsements from notable people around the globe.

Elie Wiesel, a Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor, wrote, "I read your volume of extended verse with much interest. It reflects the depth of your experience and your compassionate response to suffering."

One of her most striking endorsements came from an anonymous fan who wrote, "She stopped me from committing suicide and gave me a reason to live."

Carleton attributes her success to her readers.

"It's very humbling, that's the only way I can describe it," Carleton said. "I'm always saying that angels show up in my life."

One of those angels is her third grade teacher, who she stayed in contact with till her death at 97 last year and who she dedicated her poetry book to.

"She was one of the amazing people in my life," Carleton said. "I just adored her and she understood me because I was an artistic type. I've always kept in touch with my friends. I just think it's important to nurture your relationships."

Carleton's hard work led to her winning

a Linda Lael Miller scholarship for women three years ago, which has allowed her to study for her bachelor's degree at Oakland University while working in the mathematics and statistics department.

"I was one of 20 recipients out of 1700 applicants in the United States," she said.

Carleton is using the scholarship to study social work, a cause very close to her heart.

"I chose the social work program because if I get a master's degree then I can do private counseling, and that's what I want to do."

Carleton is currently working on her next book, which is a memoir that is 10 years in the making, about her life growing up, and is titled "Ghost Child to Triumph."

The topics are sometimes hard for her to revisit, but she recognizes that they made her the strong woman she is today.

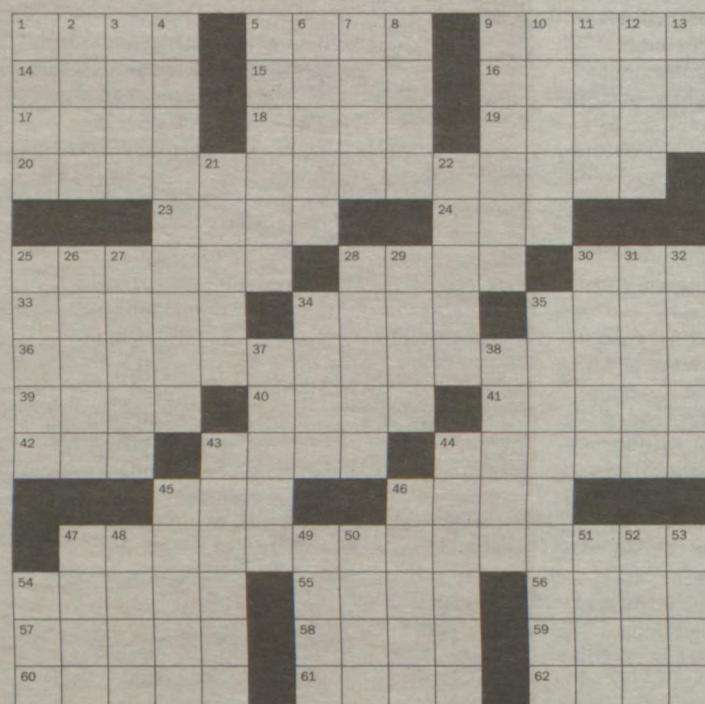
"I guess in a way I'm almost glad I grew up that way because I appreciate things that people never even think about. I had to pull myself up by my bootstraps and make my way in the world."

To read more about Carleton, read her endorsements, or order her book, visit www.soulpoetry.org



WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Puzzle by DeLeon Miner



Across

1. Ancient colonnade
5. "Hamlet" has five
9. Chew with persistence
14. Stalk
15. Become friendlier
16. Hindu queen
17. Death notice
18. Charlie, for one
19. Consumed
20. Coolers
23. Notch
24. Cleopatra biter
25. Gap
28. Newborn
30. Setting for TV's "Newhart"
33. Book of maps
34. Computer data error code
35. International pilot's association
36. Where state documents are processed
39. "Your majesty"
40. Ridicule
41. Swiftly
42. Mozart's "L' ___ del Cairo"
43. Fletcher-class destroyer USS ___ or the "Pirate of the Pacific."
44. Wild goat of the Alpine
45. Grass part
46. Carbon compound
47. Largest Christian church group
54. Poison plant
55. Turkish title
56. ___ cheese
57. Discompose

Down

1. Display
2. Band member
3. "Don't bet ___!"
4. Gradual loss in intensity
5. Theseus' land
6. Thick mass or piece
7. Bite
8. Cashless deal
9. Oily
10. Civil rights org.
11. A chip, maybe
12. Pee-___ Playhouse
13. Clinton, e.g.: Abbr.
21. Dentist's direction
22. To work hard
25. Rodeo rope
26. Heirloom location
27. "The Nutcracker" lead
28. Two legs
29. Biology lab supply
30. Mountaineer's tool
31. "Eraserhead" star Jack
32. Staff members (and a hint to this puzzle's theme)
34. Turned right
35. Increases the pressure and flow of a fluid
37. Genie

38. It's a no-no
43. Currency of Malawi
44. Get some air
45. Accumulate
46. Aromatic solvent
47. Unsophisticated sort
48. Mideast's Gulf of ___
49. Bounders
50. Chills and fever
51. TV's "American ___"
52. Supergarb
53. Old World duck
54. Uncle ___

Check back next week for the solutions and look for a new puzzle in every Wednesday's issue!

Answers will be available online at www.oaklandpostonline.com

Behind 'The Social Network'



Left: Jesse Eisenberg, stars as Mark Zuckerberg in "The Social Network," which hits theaters Friday.

Right: Actors Armie Hammer and Max Minghella co-star in the film, which tells the story of Facebook's beginnings.

By STEVE WISEMAN
Contributing Reporter

"The Social Network" is not just a story about Facebook's origins, but rather a story of friendship, betrayal, power and jealousy.

"There was nothing about Facebook that got me interested in writing a movie," screenwriter Aaron Sorkin said. "Obviously I had heard of Facebook, but that was about it. What interested me were the themes in this story — they are as old as storytelling itself."

Sorkin was given a 14-page movie proposal about Facebook, written by Ben Mezrich. Three pages into his reading, Sorkin had seen enough. He called his agent and immediately began working on the screenplay.

Sorkin conducted research for the film without actually interviewing Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook. Sorkin said he "aggressively pursued Facebook's cooperation and

Mark's cooperation in the making of the movie."

He was relieved when they were unable to interview Zuckerberg because he was sure "that Mark and Facebook would prefer the story was only told from Mark's point of view."

He also did not want to give the impression that the movie was created or produced by Facebook, Inc.

With two lawsuits brought against Facebook at roughly the same time, it presented Sorkin with multiple points of view while researching and writing the screenplay.

"The plaintiffs, the defendant and the witnesses came into a deposition room, all swore an oath, and three very different versions of the truth got told," Sorkin said.

Ultimately, Sorkin incorporated the various testimonies, which became the structure of the deposition room scenes in the film.

Director David Fincher was

charged with the task of bringing Sorkin's vision to the silver screen.

"David is brilliant (There were) things that he did I wouldn't have done," Sorkin said, praising Fincher for his translation from screenplay to film. "His way was a lot better," he said.

Fincher called on Trent Reznor to score the film. Sorkin said the music selection throughout the film was "a great, great choice and I would have made a less good choice."

Sorkin also credited the film's actors for their portrayal of their respective real-life roles.

"Usually I am playing all the parts in my head," Sorkin said. "It's a delightful surprise when really good actors come along and do it."

Jesse Eisenberg, who played Zuckerberg in the film, said he did not have trouble playing the computer programmer.

"I didn't understand much of the technical jargon on the film,"

Eisenberg said, adding that he couldn't put together a computer, though he liked exploring the

"What interested me were the themes in this story — they are as old as storytelling itself."

— Aaron Sorkin, screenwriter

reality behind his character.

"There was a certain disengagement that Mark has, like he often seems like he is not paying attention," Eisenberg said.

Also helpful to Eisenberg's role as Zuckerberg was Justin Timberlake's role as Sean Parker, the founder of Napster.

"My character views Sean Parker as a rock star...not dissimilar to the way I view Justin," Eisenberg said. "To Mark, Sean Parker is Justin Timberlake."

Co-star Armie Hammer had a unique experience in his dual roles as twins Cameron and

Tyler Winklevoss. Hammer did not want to do the stereotypical good twin, bad twin characters, but sought to establish two distinct personalities for the characters he played.

"We wanted to make sure that yes they were both cut from the same cloth, but one was cut from this part of the cloth, and the other one was cut from way over on (another) part, but still the same cloth," Hammer said.

During casting, Hammer was excited to learn that Fincher was directing the film.

"I would crawl on my knees through glass to work with them again, both Fincher and Sorkin," Hammer said.

"The Social Network" opens in theaters nationwide Friday.



To read a review of "The Social Network," visit our website after the film hits theaters.

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GET TO
500 MILLION
FRIENDS
WITHOUT MAKING
A FEW
ENEMIES

THE SOCIAL NETWORK // 120 mins // PG-13

One night in his Harvard dorm, computer programmer Mark Zuckerberg (played by Jesse Eisenberg) created a revolution in the culture of internet communication called Facebook. Although Zuckerberg is now the youngest billionaire in history, the road to the present did not come without conflict not on a personal level, but legal.

CASE 39 // 109 mins // R

In this thriller, Renée Zellweger plays Emily, a family services social worker who has experienced many different kinds of cases. When Emily is introduced to 10-year-old Lilith, what seems to be normal case takes a dangerous turn. Lilith's parents attempt to kill their only daughter, forcing Emily to take care of the child.



LET ME IN // 104 mins // R

"Let Me In" is a remake of a Swedish film about a tormented and neglected a 12-year-old named Owen who spends most of his time plotting revenge against those in his middle school and spying on the residents of his apartment building. He becomes friends with an equally troubled daughter of a quiet father, named Abby. Once a string of murders occur in town, Owen begins to believe Abby is hiding a dark secret.



JIMMY EAT WORLD // "Invented"

Jimmy Eat World and producer Mark Trombino are collaborating for a third time since the release of 2001's "Bleed American." Continuing the tradition of great lyrics focusing on relationships and passion, "Invented," also has an emphasis on hard rock grooves and string sections. The Arizona-based band was formed over 16 years ago and continues a musical tradition that made songs like "The Middle" and "Pain" hits.



John Legend & The Roots // "Wake Up"

Two of the today's greatest R&B acts are finally collaborating for a full-length effort. The soulful voice of Legend is combined with the diverse sound of the Roots crew, who also serve as the band for "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." The two acts show the same passion in cover songs like "Wholy Holy" by Marvin Gaye. The 12-track album offers additional guest appearances like Common and CL Smooth.



— Compiled By KEVIN ROMANCHICK, Staff Reporter

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Don't eat that, it will kill you

By RORY McCARTY
Mouthing Off Editor

Eating food is probably my favorite pastime, next to taking naps. So maybe you can understand why I panic every time I open a newspaper to read about the latest food group to be tainted with salmonella or E. coli. I'm thinking now that it was a mistake to friend the FDA on Facebook.

The recent nationwide recall of salmonella-tainted eggs is still fresh in the minds of consumers. The investigation revealed, among other things, giant piles of excrement left unattended in chicken pens. This is literally a bunch of crap.

Not just that, but recent E. coli outbreaks have prompted voluntary recalls in foods like ground beef, iceberg and romaine lettuce, bean sprouts, ground pepper, green onions and tomatoes.

Thanks to runoff from animal farms, even vegetarians are not safe from food poisoning. Thanks for nothing, PETA. When are vegetables going to get their fair treatment?

Before long, even Breatharians will be threatened as our light and air turn on us as well.

I've been worried about our food since the first reports of Mad Cow disease put into mind the image of a rabid cow crashing into my living room, gnashing and biting and putting hoof-prints on the upholstery.

Fresh food is not the only thing trying to poison us. A group of cans of SpaghettiO's were recalled earlier this year for being "under-processed." I can only imagine this meant that one of the cans had become sentient and had started a revolution among its pasta brethren. They have since been "reprocessed" and integrated back into grocery stores.

Now, the FDA is considering releasing a genetically modified form of salmon for public consumption. These so-called frankenfish have been given genes from eels that allow them to grow about twice as fast as regular ones. We are officially one step away from a Sci-Fi Channel original movie. "Danger Salmon."

I don't want to be considered alarmist, but when the FDA is considering not labeling the genetically modified fish differently than naturally grown fish, then I start to hyperventilate.

In Michigan, we're currently in the process of using an electric fence to keep out an invasion of rapidly producing, aggressively expanding Asian carp.

The same fish have been known to leap out of the water and slam into fishermen. And yet, we have a company that wants to put a veritable clonetrooper army on the market.

By the way, how does one build an electric fence in the water without killing every living thing in the area?

In the not too distant future, the FDA may consider approving genetically altered "EnviroPigs" for public consumption as well. The waste these pigs put out supposedly has a less dramatic impact on the environment.

This bothers me for two reasons. First, I don't trust any animal whose doody doesn't stink. Second, I was under the

impression that once the fuel apocalypse comes, pig poop is going to be our main source of energy for powering our Thunderdomes.

Don't get me wrong, I've got nothing against making pigs that make more hams, or hams that come pre-honey glazed and spiral cut. I'm just worried about trusting our food oversight to the organization that oversees food production.

Oftentimes the people running the FDA are the same people who worked as heads of the food industry itself. That would be like if I gave up a life of crime to work as a police officer. And then I sat at my desk playing Solitaire all day.

The companies that make Danger Salmon and EnviroPig will no doubt patent their genetically altered forms of life. Maybe in the future, instead of branding cattle, we'll be able to stamp a trademark on them.

The way I figure it, the only safe option is to eat nothing but hot dogs. That way, I at least already know when I'm eating 3 percent offal.



By RORY McCARTY

Mouthing Off Editor/doctor of sandwichology

A few months ago I wrote an article about "suicide sandwiches," a new form of food technology that would allow Americans to kill themselves in the most delicious way possible.

It became clear to me in the months that followed that this was far too broad a topic to be dissected in a single page article.

Reports of new killer sandwiches came in, sandwiches that dwarfed the Double Down in their vision and grandeur. I realized my integrity as a journalist and an eater of sandwiches compelled me to give these artery-stoppers the print they deserved.

So I created the first in what I hope to be a long series for the Oakland Post: "The Sandwatch." This month we'll take a look at grilled cheese.

Let's enjoy.

DENNY'S FRIED CHEESE SANDWICH

Denny's has entered into the fray with a culinary construct that is to the sandwich world what Christopher Nolan's Inception is to movies.

Imagine if you will, an order of mozzarella sticks — essentially cheese breaded and fried. Now, shroud them in more cheese. Then, put that combination between two pieces of bread, and fry the result. But wait! The fried sandwich is itself surrounded by a side of French fries.

The longer you contemplate the Fried Cheese Sandwich, the longer you stare into the face of madness. Where does the fried cheese recursion end?

I would not be surprised if within those mozzarella sticks, there turned out to be tiny cheese sandwiches. And then within each of those, there may be a set of nanomachines that produce microscopic orders of poutine.

As far as I can guess, the Fried Cheese Sandwich was created by a Denny's manager who, while looking at an M.C. Escher drawing, said, "It's neat, but it needs more cheese."

FRIENDLY'S GRILLED CHEESEBURGER MELT

Have you ever eaten a sandwich and thought, "Instead of bread, this sandwich could use more sandwiches." Well one of the gourmet chefs at Friendly's apparently did. The Grilled Cheese Burger Melt is essentially a

cheeseburger with grilled cheese sandwiches substituted for buns. In a sense, it's a fast food ménage à trois.

At first I thought, "Finally! An efficient way to eat three sandwiches at once." However, this meal is problematic for two reasons.

1. In order to fit the Grilled Cheese Burger Melt in your mouth, you have to unhinge your jaw like a snake.
2. Including a drink, the Burger Melt has enough calories to exceed your 2,000 calorie allowance as recommended by the FDA. After eating one, we recommend you go to sleep. Just call it a day. You're not going to be sprinting anywhere in a hurry, anyway.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post
Fried Cheese Sandwich. The wait staff at Denny's gets nervous when you start photographing your lunch.