

Volume 36, Number 31

2010 BEST OF METRO DETROIT RESULTS

PAGES 13-19



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Cover illustration by Jason Willis

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

61 Oakland Center, Rochester MI 48309

EDITORIAL

Colleen J. Miller
Editor in Chief
oakposteditor@gmail.com
248-370-4268

Katie Wolf
Managing Editor
oakpostmanaging@gmail.com
248-370-2537

SECTION EDITORS

Kaitlyn Chornoby — Sports
oakpostsports@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

Kay Nguyen — Campus
oakpostcampuseditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-4263

Dan Simons — Mouthing Off
oakpostmouthingoff@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

Annie Stodola — You/Local
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

Alexis Tomrell — Scene/Mix
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

SENIOR REPORTERS

Ross Maghielse
Mike Sandula

STAFF REPORTERS

Mike Espejo
Ryan Hegedus
Gabi Jaye
Rory McCarty

COPY EDITORS

Katie Jacob
Shawn Minnix

WEB

Bryan Culver
Web Editor
oakpostwebeditor@gmail.com

PHOTO & VIDEO

Angela Jackman
Multimedia Editor
oakpostphoto@gmail.com
(248) 370-4266

Jason Willis
Photo/Graphics Editor
oakpostphoto@gmail.com
(248) 370-4266

INTERNS

Jen Bucciarelli
Jamie Gasper
Christy O'Shaughnessy
Courtney Umbras

CONTRIBUTORS

Mas Rahman
Brad Slazinski
Kevin Romanchik
Jake Thielen

ADVISOR

Holly Gilbert
shreve@oakland.edu
(248) 370-4268

ADVERTISING | MARKETING

Jillian Field
Lead Ads Manager

Mallory Lapanowski
Kelsey Elyse Lepper
Amanda Meade
David Nacy
Assistant Ads Managers

oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Steve St. Germain
Marketing Director

Amanda Benjamin
Marketing Intern

Amber Dietz
Distribution

oakpostmarketing@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

"To provide a forum for news, information, opinion and discussion for the Oakland University community."

— The Oakland Post mission statement

Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

April 14, 2010

STAFF EDITORIAL

Return the favor, rise up

If you stay or go, improve what was left for you

Somehow we find ourselves approaching finals week, a revolving occasion that always seems so far away except for when it rears its head.

For about 2,000 Oakland University students, it's our last, and it's totally surreal.

Like a much shorter generation, the time we spend at OU fits into this little box chock full of experiences. It's hard to gauge how significant our time here was compared to somebody else's maybe 20 years ago.

But at The Post, we think there's sufficient evidence to say that these last couple of years have been pretty momentous.

These changes came because somebody before us made it possible. They built a platform for us to jump off.

We saw the ground breaking for improvements to the campus from the Human Health Building to the Grizzly Oaks disc golf course.

We partook in the highest voter turnout for student elections, electing a student body president and vice president with more votes than were cast last year total.

We suffered a 9 percent tuition increase to cover a significant change in

our financial aid system.

We missed the first week of classes because of a faculty strike.

We watched as President Gary Russi was confronted with grievances and how he rose to respond to them. We've received more communication and inclusion from him and his office than ever. Not only as a community, but as members of the student media.

After covering his story for over a year, Micah Fialka-Feldman won his personal battle to live on campus, just in time for his last semester.

We cheered on the men's basketball team all the way to the NCAA tournaments.

To shamelessly plug ourselves, The Oakland Post dove into these stories. Because of that insane dedication to making the news something you want to read, The Post had its winningest year in statewide and national competitions.

We brought home three awards just from the Society of Professional Journalists on April 10, including second place for best all-around non-daily newspaper at a four-year university.

Last year we were third in that category. Next year, we hope to be first.

We come from a small, young school. We are not a superpower. But our reputation is increasingly gaining speed. All those important folks out there are starting to see the potential in OU's graduates.

It's the ones who have come before us who will give the line on our resume that says Oakland University that wow factor. It's what they did while they were here, and what they continue to do out there.

For those graduating, it's your turn to return the favor. To perpetuate that good name and pave a way for those who will follow behind, just as our student leaders have paved a way for students at OU.

Maybe we didn't achieve everything we set out to do this year or last, on a personal level or as a university. But the climbs we made while we were here make forecast a not too far from now future where it is very possible to surpass those goals.

For those staying on, it's time to rise up. Take what is being left for you and continue to make this university a better place to learn, to become who you are.

Return the favor.

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Colleen J. Miller • Katie Wolf • Jason Willis
oakpostmanaging@gmail.com

Contact us:

In person:

61 Oakland Center, located in the basement.

By e-mail:

oakpostmanaging@gmail.com

By phone:

(248) 370-2537 or (248) 370-4268

Online:



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Letter Policy:

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

THE OAKLAND POST TRIVIA CONTEST

Do you read our paper cover-to-cover? This contest is for you!

- 1) What building was added to campus in 2004?
- 2) What is the VISTA program?
- 3) What is the movie "The Beetle" about?
- 4) What WXOU radio show performed a live program on the Tigers' opening day?
- 5) What did Mouthing Off editor Dan Simons find wandering around Beer Lake?

Directions: The first reader to answer all five questions correctly will win a prize!

E-mail your answers to oakpostcontest@gmail.com with "Trivia Contest" in the subject line.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

- Last week's story "Film Festival to preview at MB Hall" we incorrectly spelled the name of Elysha Koppelman-White.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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

- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Underdogs succeed at Oakland



the end of this semester, finishing his odyssey and completing his education. I look at Micah and what he has accomplished and smile. He inspires us all to do greater things. I should know. In some ways, I used to be Micah.

I was placed in a school for the emotionally impaired when I was 6 years old, and I stayed there until I was 14 and it was hell from the start. I was told by my own principal that I would never finish high school. There were many times I was very close to integration, and wound up the next semester back at the beginning. I started to have my own doubts if I could ever handle being in a "normal" school.

Finally, when I got to Rockwell Junior High, I got my chance. After another argument with staff I asked to speak with the principal. I told her politely that I wanted out of the program and was ready to handle the pressure of going to a regular school, and she agreed. Within 14 months I was going full time to a regular school, and wound up getting my diploma four years later.

The end of the semester is quickly approaching and with this being the last issue of The Post, I thought I would take a minute to congratulate all of the seniors on their upcoming graduation. There is one person that I wish to acknowledge separately, and that would be Micah Fialka-Feldman, or as we just know him Micah.

Micah has a cognitive disability, and is set to get his certificate at

The odds of someone even graduating from a regular school were low, going to college was even more astronomical, and going to a university was unheard of. I enrolled and got my Associate of Arts at Macomb, and I could not have been more proud.

When I decided to check out universities, after the first time I stepped on Oakland University's campus I fell in love. I got accepted here in fall of 2009, and I have never looked back. To me, this is a mission to complete a life-long dream. I was often told that I couldn't, and that I shouldn't try. I was often "the underdog."

Oakland has that same kind of mentality. We won the Summit League championship this year and got no respect. While our school is fantastic, they are often overlooked by Michigan and Michigan State in just about everything. With Micah, I guarantee not many would have said he could finish school at a university. I know that's what people said about me.

Finally, OU's motto is to "seek virtue and knowledge," and I sincerely hope the university allows more students with disabilities to attend classes. Failing to do so would go against the very nature of the foundation that our school was built on. There are always people like Micah and myself who want to enrich our lives, and finish something that many told us would be impossible.

This is Oakland. Anything is possible if we just believe.

Editor's Note: To read a letter from Micah Fialka-Feldman's parents, please visit the Perspectives section at oaklandpostonline.com.

LAST ISSUE'S RESULTS

total votes: 25

What do you find is the best way to relieve stress?

- A** Exercise -- I like to sweat it out. 7 votes | 44%
- B** A good night's rest is the cure. 3 votes | 12%
- C** Laying off the junk food really makes a difference. 1 vote | 4%
- D** My vices (smoking, drinking, drugging) make it all go away. 3 votes | 12%
- E** Just taking some "me" time is all I really need. 11 votes | 44%

POLL OF THE WEEK

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CURRENT POLL

What would you like to see changed in The Oakland Post?

- A** More original content in the Local and Nation/World sections.
- B** More/better photography in the layout.
- C** More arts and entertainment.

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Breaking new ground

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

Hundreds gathered under a large, white tent on the northeast corner of Parking Lot 1 on Monday morning for the groundbreaking ceremony of Oakland University's Human Health Building.

"Beginning in 2012, OU's School of Health Sciences and School of Nursing will relocate to this new 161,000 square foot Human Health Building, bringing two schools under one roof for the first time in university history," said Kenneth Hightower, dean of Health Sciences.

Hightower introduced a series of speakers that ranged from OU President Gary Russi and board of trustees members to Oakland students and congressmen.

"Through our growth in the legislature we've seen the need for buildings and capital outlay which, in fact, provides jobs and provides help in our economy," said Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

Rep. Tom McMillin, R-Rochester Hills,

and officials from the cities of Rochester Hills, Rochester and Auburn Hills were also present.

Following the brief presentations, which thanked those who helped in the funding and the development of the project and highlighted its features, the event moved outside.

Select groups of people stood alongside Russi and shoveled commemorative piles of dirt at the proposed site of the building, which is slated to open in fall 2012.

The five-story building — the newest addition to campus since Carlotta and Dennis Pawley Hall was constructed in 2004 — will reside on the northwest corner of campus.

It will house both the School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences. The OU William Beaumont School of Medicine currently has no involvement with the Human Health Building and is housed in O'Dowd Hall.

OU nursing faculty had a table displaying a life-like model that nursing students use to simulate child rearing. They've used such models — which can cry, breath and turn blue — for a while,

but only have a few and would be able to expand the program in the new facility.

"This exciting new complex ... will open a vast array of opportunities that will allow our students to master the expert innovations and real world approaches in the delivery of health care," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil.

Additionally, Patricia Ketchum, director of nursing laboratories, said she looks forward to being so close to the School of Health Sciences.

Emily Wilson, a third year health sciences student who spoke during the presentation, also looks forward to the advantages of the two schools being housed in the same building.

"This interaction will provide the opportunity to become aware of the needs of other professionals and to prepare us to effectively work together for the benefit of our patients," Wilson said.

The Human Health Building, which

Continued on page 9

See Groundbreaking

New pres., VP and legislators take their seats

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

Brandon Gustafson and Amy Ring were sworn in as student body president and student body vice president by former student body president Kristin Dayag Monday.

They pledged to uphold the Oakland University Student Congress mission statement, Constitution and bylaws.

This began the inaugural OUSC meeting, held at 4 p.m. in Gold Room C, under the newly-elected Gustafson/Ring administration and was the last general body meeting of the school year.

The 16 legislators who were voted in during the student elections were also sworn in. Two additional legislators, Daud Yar and Tom Cruz, were approved at the meeting as well.

Yar is a senior with a major in philosophy and a minor in journalism. He currently hosts two shows on WXOU radio.

Cruz, a junior double majoring in political science and history, has served in OUSC for the last three years and is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

He noted his involvement in the fraternity, as well as the involvement of many other OUSC members that are brothers of TKE. Gustafson is also a member of TKE.

Gustafson gave the first reading of the proposed summer budget, which includes executive board compensation, a summer retreat, operational costs and various OUSC initiatives. The proposed budget runs \$53,450.

With a carryover of \$35,000 from last year, OUSC has \$58,000 total available funds.

After Ring read over the job descriptions of all the committee chairs, she opened the floor for discussion before the legislature went into a vote.

Brett McIsaac was approved as judiciary chair, Hawra Abogilal as research and review chair, James Kaminski as scholarship chair, Andrew Gustafsson as steering chair and Shakita Billy as congressional archivist.

Three of the five committee chairs are members of TKE.

Campus fraternities continue to grow

By RORY MCCARTY
Staff Reporter

Changes have come to Greek Life at Oakland University in the last month as fraternities are expanding and gaining recognition from their nationals and from OU.

Tau Kappa Epsilon recently finished the process of gaining their charter at OU, becoming a full chapter. Vice President Josh Bray said that to finally have a charter is relief, after all the work that everyone put in.

In addition to making a massive recruitment drive over the past year to reach the requisite number of members, Tau Kappa Epsilon has needed to meet requirements for philanthropy, member involvement, and GPA.

Bray says now that they're chartered, they'll be able to have larger philanthropy events, and they plan on doing a social with every Greek organization.

Only five months ago, Kevin Friesmuth started the Student Leader Athlete Gentlemen (SLAG) student interest group. Now they have been approved as a fraternity on OU's campus, evolving into a Pi Kappa Alpha colony on March 20.

Friesmuth transferred to OU from Kettering University where he was already a brother of Pi Kappa Alpha.

"I came from a campus where 80 percent of the campus was Greek," Friesmuth said.

Friesmuth said he's had to adjust to OU's campus where Greeks make up only 3 percent of the student body, while at Kettering Greeks "would spend \$5,000 on rush."

"We're comprised of a lot of individuals that have been on campus two or three years and they haven't joined a fraternity," Friesmuth said. "But when they heard about Pikes and what we do, they joined up."

Pi Kappa Alpha has 22 members and will be confirming more soon. Pi Kappa Alpha, or the Pikes for short, hope to become a fully chartered chapter next semester by recruiting a total of 55 members, among other things.

"We set a lofty goal for ourselves," Friesmuth said.

Friesmuth said they plan to push for a Greek unification and making Greek life more publicized on campus. He also hopes they can help to enrich campus life by doing two things: expanding Greek involvement, and getting OU a football team.

Friesmuth said a football team would help people get more involved on campus, and bring more students to live on campus, to live closer to it.

"If we had a football team, I would be there at every game, body painted, jumping around," Friesmuth said.

Fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon's recent efforts to get football at OU haven't made any headway into the project, but Friesmuth said he would "without a doubt" be open to the idea of working with SAE to make it happen.

Campus Calendar

Sports, local and
campus events

April 14 to May 12

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds. 14	Thurs. 15	Fri. 16	Sat. 17
			"Walmart: The high price of low costs" film > Fireside lounge > 12 - 2 p.m.	Tuition open Forum > Fireside lounge > 12 - 1 p.m. Drake @ MMF > 7:30 p.m.	Concealed Weapons Forum > Fireside lounge > 12 - 1:30 p.m.	Grizzly Oaks Charity Event > 1 - 5 p.m. > See page 28
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Brunch with Bach > Kresge Court at the DIA > 10:30 a.m. > \$35	South African Anti-Apartheid Event > Fireside lounge > 12 - 1 p.m.	Baseball > vs. Toledo > 3 p.m. Citizen Cope > Royal Oak Music Theatre > 7 p.m. \$25	2nd Annual Rock Lottery > Magic Stick in Detroit > 8 p.m. > \$10	Against Me! > The Blind Pig in Ann Arbor > 7 p.m. > \$12	Spring Gallery Stroll > Downtown Rochester > 6 - 9 p.m.	Baseball > vs. Centenary > 12 and 3 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Baseball > vs. Centenary > 1 and 4 p.m.	Craig Ferguson > Royal Oak Music Theatre > 7 p.m.	Angels and Airwaves > The Fillmore > 6:30 p.m. > \$25	Baseball > vs. Central > 3 and 6 p.m.	Education Career Day > Banquet Rooms, OC > 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Softball > vs. Western Ill. > 3 and 5:30 p.m.	SAE Sigma Hockey Cup > Onyx Arena > 8 - 11 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Detroit rocks! > Onyx Ice Arena	Ed.S. Ph.D. Educational Leadership > Clinton Twp. > 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Baseball > vs. Olivet > 3 and 6 p.m.	3OH!3 > The Fillmore > 5:30 p.m. > \$24.50	The Moth StorySLAM > Cliff Bell's Detroit > \$5	Godai Ninpo Training > Gold Room B > 5 - 7 p.m.	Hair (play) > The Village Players > ends May 24

ITALIAN 101 HELPS STUDENT ORDER AT RESTAURANT

What began as a typical

experience turned into a scary sophomore friend's restaurant lunch. Speaking to the authentic Barn, the venture "I

moment friend of like we

something. The waiter came over and started talking in Italian! Um... what? I had no idea what to do."

Fortunately for the group, Danny Rivers did.

"I've been taking Italian 101 this semester," Danny explained, "so I was pretty comfortable in that environment. Once I heard him say 'amici' I knew he wasn't mad at us or anything, so I just stuck with what I remembered... 'saluti,' 'il mio nome è Danny,' that kind of stuff."

After breaking the ice, Danny managed to tell the waiter that he and his friends wanted one very much good pizzas on the large. It was exactly what they received, much to everyone's surprise.

"It was a good day," Danny added. "Professore Vacanti would've been proud of me. Or maybe I should say would've been feiro di me."

Professore Vacanti refused to comment.



Some suggested a move to a 4-letter system, while others questioned why it always had to be

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GREEK SYSTEM RUN- NING OUT OF 4-LETTER COMBINA- TIONS

Panic struck the heart of and sororities across the week when word spread a number of unique remain letter combinations was in condition.

"Unfortunately, with the induction of our newest chapters, Mu Mu Mu and Psi Phi Pi, we've exhausted just about every option out there," said National Greek Board President, Henry Boggins. "There were only about 18,000 possible letter combinations to begin with, so you had to know it was coming."

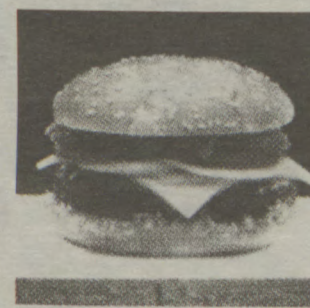
The news certainly left the Greek System in a state of turmoil, as rumors began to fly immediately.

STUDENT WANTS TO RENT EVERYTHING

Junior Mick McConnell has decided that he will no longer buy anything. Instead, he says with confidence, "I'm gonna rent."

Mick tells the story of renting his apartment, which is "waaaaay cheaper than buying one", which led to renting movies, renting cars and even renting his textbooks. "Once I found out I could rent textbooks, I was like, duh, this is the future."

While Mick hasn't had much success, he's determined to find a way. The Junior is currently negotiating rental agreements for food, tuition, back massages and toiletries. "If I could rent all that,



FACULTY FOUND TAIL- GATING BEFORE BIG EXAM

It was Thursday afternoon, hours before the big exam, and Professor Jay Limbaugh's office was empty.

Professor Rick Stein's and Professor Carol's. Where was the frenzy? Apparently,

According to Senior Ben, eight professors (those mentioned above) were in the faculty parking lot the school just after the football and

tailgating. Obviously, Chinese New Year! Giving us a great

any the professor great

many the professor great

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The matter is now in the hands of Chancellor Pittman, who is rumored to have streaked through the tailgate earlier that day.

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continued from page 7

Groundbreaking

was designed by the Detroit office of Smith Group architectural firm, is priced at \$62 million.

About \$40 million will come from the State of Michigan's capital outlay projects fund.

The rest will come largely from general revenue bonds issued last year, which also raised an additional \$11 million that will go toward "related infrastructure and technology improvements."

No public funding will go toward financing the building, according to John Beaghan, vice president of finance and administration.

Additionally, OU received a \$2.7 million grant last week from the U.S. Department of Energy that will go toward making the building eco-friendly.

OU has also been given a \$75,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation, which offers grants to non-profit organizations they deem successful in select areas, including health and the environment.

"When completed, the building will include a water conservation system, enhanced air quality system and a geothermal heating and cooling system that will cut energy costs about 50 percent,"

Russi said.

Once the project is finished, Russi said OU would apply for platinum certification from the U.S. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system.

Platinum is the highest certification available, and if the Human Health Building earns it, the building would become the first educational facility in the state to earn such a designation.

Oakland has seen a steady increase in enrollment in recent years and the new partnership with William Beaumont Hospital is likely to boost the student population still more.

"In fall, our head count was just a stone's throw from 19,000; I fully expect we will top that this fall," said board of trustees chair Jackie Long.

Total student enrollment has risen by roughly 80 percent since the mid-1990s.

In addition to new classrooms and seminar facilities, the building will include an interactive media center and clinical labs.

Diane Norris, dean of the School of Nursing, said students would work with more than 35 hospitals, clinics and healthcare providers.

"Without a doubt we are and will continue to be a key player in efforts to shape our community as a premier destination for superior health care," Long said.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

President Gary Russi, along with other major contributors to the Human Health Building project, broke ground Monday. The \$62 million building will be built at the corner of Squirrel and Walton. It will house the School of Nursing and School of Health Sciences.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Construction of the Human Health Building will begin this coming summer.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

President Gary Russi stressed the importance of this milestone for the university in his remarks.

POLICE FILES

Minor in possession: April 9 two officers responded to a MIP call. The officers met with the resident hall assistant who stated night-watch staff reported that they smelled alcohol on the breath of a student. One of the officers met with the student and observed the student's eyes were slightly red. The student voluntarily submitted to a preliminary breath test. He blew a .047 and was issued a citation by the officers.

Operating while intoxicated: April 10 an officer observed a car traveling the wrong way through the traffic circle on Meadow Brook Drive. The officer approached the vehicle and noticed an odor of intoxicants coming from its open driver's window. The woman driver told the officer she had two beers. She was asked to perform sobriety tests, which she struggled with. Another officer arrived on the scene and administered DataMaster tests. One of the officers handcuffed the woman behind her back and placed her in the back of a patrol vehicle. She was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Gun on campus: April 11 a faculty member claimed she had seen two males shooting a gun in the field behind the faculty subdivision. The woman pointed out where she saw them and three officers walked into the field to investigate. Walking through the field toward the rear of the fraternity cottages, the officers observed what appeared to be a scoped rifle lying on a wooden platform. They then observed two males closer to the cottages and called them over. They identified themselves and said they had been shooting a pellet gun at a paper target placed on a collapsed barn. One of the officers informed the men that pellet guns are not allowed on OU property. The pellet gun was confiscated until the men moved off campus.

— Compiled by staff reporter Gabi Jaye from OUPD's media logs

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VISTA builds service program

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

Between the beginning of September and the end of March, Oakland University students logged 1,751.5 hours of community service. This was largely due to the efforts of Tiffany Sims, an AmeriCorps Campus Compact Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

Sims, a 2009 Eastern Michigan University graduate, began working at Oakland University's campus last August.

Sims describes the AmeriCorps VISTA program as a sort of "domestic Peace Corps." The organization's programs work to end poverty in the country, as well as provide other community services.

The Campus Compact VISTA program specifically works to empower students, mainly through indirect service by its members and the use of service learning on its campuses.

After her experiences in the Alternative Spring Break program at EMU and the encouragement from her campus VISTA, Sims decided to apply to the AmeriCorps VISTA Campus Compact program.

"Really through my experience with Alternative Spring Breaks I decided to do VISTA," Sims said. "I was a site leader for ASB in 2008, and then decided to be a coordinator the next year. I did a lot with budgeting, got to know all the participants who went and liked doing the indirect service planning the trips."

She applied at several schools throughout Michigan, as well as in North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington D.C. and Georgia.

"I interviewed all over the place but at OU I liked that I get to work with the students doing ASB and also the opportunity to work with Academic Affairs and faculty on service learning," Sims said.

Since her work at OU began, Sims has implemented service programs, as well as working on the existing service programs. The two components of Sims's job include working the Center for Student Activities Volunteer and Leadership Center, as well as through Academic Affairs.

At the CSA, Sims's main projects include the Community Service Council, Alternative Spring Breaks, the Volunteer

Involvement Partnerships (VIP) program and the Make It a Point to Volunteer Once a Month program.

Additionally through the CSA, she's responsible for planning special events, including working in a collaborative group of other campus VISTAs in southeast Michigan to plan Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

For the OU students' portion of the day of service, the students worked at Grace Centers of Hope.

Another special event she planned involved working with United Way of Southeastern Michigan to get OU students involved in Make a Difference Day in October.

That day, more than 200 students volunteered at various service locations, including Beyond Basics, OLHSA, Grace Centers of Hope, the Baldwin Center and Salvation Army Pine Grove Camp.

The second part of Sims's job is through the Academic Affairs office.

As part of this job, she recently gave a presentation to the faculty regarding service learning, or the integration of service into the classroom environment and educational components into service experiences.

"It's great to see how the faculty is interested and excited to use this new pedagogy," Sims said. "I've begun to see how service learning does tie in to academic goals."

Another part of her role through Academic Affairs involved working with one of the COM 399 courses.

During that course, students must complete 60 hours of community service.

"It's been neat to see the progression of the students, especially in COM 399," Sims said. "At the beginning, a lot seemed like they were like, 'Oh this is just something else I have to do to graduate,' but in the end they seemed like they learned a lot about community service and had a good experience," Sims said.

She said she thinks over the past year, the number of students involved in service and the general service community on campus has grown.

"The university is a place of learning, so it's good to see the students learning and engaging in the community," Sims said.

Recently, the university was approved to have a VISTA on campus again next year. After re-applying, Sims decided to return to OU as a VISTA for a second year.



ANNIE STODOLA/The Oakland Post
Tiffany Sims, an AmeriCorps campus compact VISTA, works with students during the school's Alternative Spring Trip. ASB is one of Sims's many responsibilities.

"I like the work I'm doing here and I think it's a great opportunity to develop as a young professional," Sims said. "I have a passion for service and saw the opportunities here for the development of service learning."

During her second year, she hopes to see even more growth in the culture of service that she has been working to develop at OU.

"I'd like to see more courses using service learning and see more people get involved with community service, as well as get those who are already involved into leadership positions," Sims said.

Sims said service learning is becoming more and more important to the college

experience for many students.

"People go to college looking for the college experience, and I think service learning is an opportunity to really enhance that," Sims said. "They experience new population, new communities and new areas while working with a wide range of people."

She said the benefits of service learning extend beyond college life, as well.

"They gain team building skills, communication skills, plus they're able to apply concepts they learn in their courses," Sims said. "They see the needs of the community, make a difference and then see the impact one person can have on lives of others."

Students blog about service work

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Staff Reporter

Editor's Note: Tiffany Sims, the AmeriCorps VISTA featured on page 11, worked with Rachel Smydra's English 200 course as a trial for service learning at Oakland University.

Online blogs are created by a diverse group of people on an equally diverse group of topics. There are blogs for every interest group, sports team, or political movement; all of them serve some purpose on the Internet.

For a winter 2010 English course entitled "Blogging as Self Literary Narrative," the purpose was more focused on academics and service learning activities.

The class, taught by special instructor Rachel Smydra, looks to explore the relationship of blogging to more traditional forms of writing, like journals, memoirs and personal essays.

At the start of the semester, students created blogs, hoping to mimic elements such as voice, persona, credibility, and persuasion — traits that are typically found in self-narrative genres. The stu-

dents have frequently updated their blogs, all the while seeing if they can become a legitimate layer of self-narrative writing.

"Posting becomes difficult for students because they have to decide how much of themselves to put out there for public consumption," Smydra said. "Do you share your true feelings as you would in a journal or do you mask these feelings?"

She said the blogging process makes students pay closer attention to how they wrote their blogs and what details they provided in their work.

"With instantaneous readers who can comment at will on posts, the blogging experience really makes students think carefully and critically about not only what they say, but how they say it."

Currently, the students are working on persuasive personal essays.

Smydra has incorporated service learning into the class to create a unique volunteer experience for her students to blog about.

The service included a class trip to the Baldwin Center in Pontiac to assist in stocking the food pantry and sorting clothes. The students are now in the pro-

cess of creating blogs that include strategies to try to persuade readers to take on service learning and outreach.

Many of the blogs include information specific to the Baldwin Center.

"Moving the students out of the classroom gives them not only a common experience, but insight into how to construct a persuasive document," said Smydra. "Even more importantly, however, is that working at the Baldwin Center introduced students to the fact that there are real needs three miles away from our campus and that, even in

small ways or short durations, they can have a lasting impact on what goes on around them."

Smydra believes that service learning could be integrated into any class at OU, allowing the Oakland community to create beneficial partnerships with local businesses, all the while helping students apply concepts that they learn in class.

More information about the Baldwin Center and how to do work similar to that done by Smydra's students is available at baldwincenter.org.

English 200 blog links

Major Initiative —
major-initiative.blogspot.com

The Sherwood Bandwagon
sherwoodhelping.blogspot.com

Get Off the Couch —
getoffthecouch-ou.blogspot.com

Go BALD and WIN —
gobaldandwin.blogspot.com

Human Progress —
opportunitiesbaldwincenter.blogspot.com

THE REWARDS OF STAYING OUT LATE

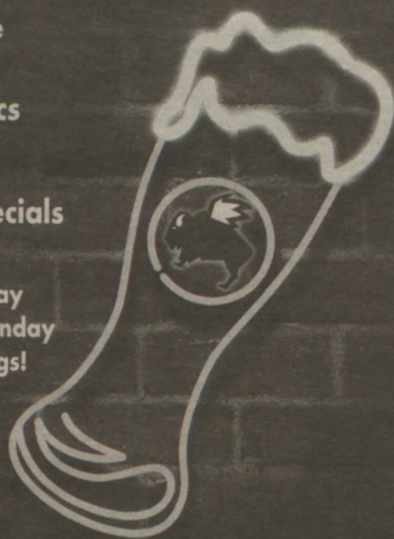
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YOU VOTED WE COUNTED

the results are in...

The Oakland Post's Best Of Survey wraps up once again after nearly 200 students told us their favorite places to dine, drink and spend their time. There were seemingly countless categories, and most people couldn't fill out a "best of" for everything. So we ventured out to the winning locations to bring you a guide to your fellow students' top picks. So whether you're looking for a place to get your first tattoo or just need to find a different happy hour, you can find a recommendation in these pages. Thanks to everyone who filled out the survey and congratulations to all the winners!

design & photography by Jason Willis

Lava Lounge photo by Mike Espejo; Plato's Closet photo by Colleen Miller

written by Colleen Miller, Kay Nguyen, Katie Wolf, Ryan Hegedus, Dan Simons,
Kaitlyn Chornoby, Mike Espejo, Jamie Gasper, Gabi Jaye, Annie Stodola & Katie Jacob

SUSHI SUMO SUSHI

Nestled right in Rochester's downtown district, Sumo has perfected the sushi experience and wins the category two years in a row. From start to finish, your taste buds will not be let down. The house ginger dressing gives the salad a lovely texture and is also used with their best selling rolls: the Green River roll (raw) and the lobster delight (cooked via tempura). Don't miss an opportunity to try any veggie roll with sweet potatoes, as the mix of crunchy sweetness and nasal-clearing wasabi is to die for. Finish it off with the fried cheesecake, a delicacy like no other.

LOCATION: Rochester; Main Street, between 4th Street and University

BURGER FIVE GUYS BURGERS & FRIES

For those fortunate enough to have been to the Washington D.C. originals, the newer outpost on Adams Road does not disappoint. Definitely go for the burger, which can be ordered 250,000 ways, and an order of fresh-cut fries. With two freshly-made patties to a burger, you can obtain a gastronomical challenge with \$5. Those less inclined to eat that much meat can opt for a "little burger," hot dog or grilled cheese sandwich. The fries never disappoint either, and a regular sized cup can easily be shared between two people. An added bonus are the additional fries that are thrown at the bottom of the bag.

LOCATION: Adams, south of M-59

ICE CREAM & GUILTY PLEASURE COLDSTONE CREAMERY

Who wouldn't want to partake in "the ultimate ice cream experience"? Patrons can mix practically any fruit, candy and nut into their ice cream. After a quick mix on the store's namesake granite stone, ice cream treats are served up in "like it," "love it," or "gotta have it" sizes. Beware: even the "like it" presents a behemoth challenge.



Cold Stone ice cream is also served in drink and cake form. The cake batter ice cream is sure to please in solid form in the "birthday cake remix" concoction or as a "cake 'n shake."

LOCATION: Northwest corner of Walton & Adams

food & drink

location listed is that closest to campus

APPETIZER APPLEBEE'S

With all appetizers half off after 9pm, and it's prime location right across the street from campus, it's no wonder that Applebee's win's for best appetizers.

LOCATION: Squirrel across from OU

COFFEE STARBUCKS

With a constantly changing menu of new favorites and old staples, plus its close proximity to campus, Starbucks is ideal for a quick caffeine fix between classes.

LOCATION: Northeast corner of Squirrel & Walton

JUICE 7-11

We're pretty sure readers voted 7-Eleven for "best juice" because there is simply nothing better than a Big Gulp full of four different Slurpee flavors.

LOCATION: Walton, west of Squirrel

SANDWICH JIMMY JOHN'S

With just about the best sub rolls in the country, Jimmy John's is a sure winner for their one-of-a-kind delicious sandwiches that even the pickiest eaters can enjoy.

LOCATION: University Drive, west of Squirrel

VEGETARIAN & VEGAN MIND BODY & SPIRITS

With an ever-changing menu that has its roots in eating locally and organically, the eco-friendly restaurant's menu features a myriad of vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options.

LOCATION: Rochester; northwest corner of 3rd & Main

DESSERT T.G.I. FRIDAY'S

TGIFriday's has their seasonal specials and staples alike when it comes to dessert, all at a reasonable price. Like the saying goes: "Dessert" has two s's because you always want seconds." At Friday's, you'll want seconds.

LOCATION: Squirrel across from OU

QUESADILLA TACO BELL

Taco Bell's Quesadillas are definitely one of a kind, with their zesty Baja sauce. Competitors stand no chance. Not only is their taste unique, but where else can you get this Mexican delight "at 2 a.m. or later"?

LOCATION: North Opdyke, south of University

PASTA OLIVE GARDEN

Olive Garden always has a new pasta-oriented entrée to try with that sweet someone, or you can just go for the salad and breadsticks!

LOCATION: Rochester Road, north of M-59

CHINESE OCEANIA INN

Oceania Inn is perfect for your Chinese food needs for a few reasons: It's close to campus, it has delicious yet affordable food and it even has a drink specialty menu!

LOCATION: Northwest corner of Walton & Adams

TIME KILLER OAKLAND CENTER

For anybody in a student org, you probably live in the OC by default. It's also really the only place to buy a decent meal on campus (excluding the tuna salad in the basement vending machine), peruse the table displays and sit in on whatever event in the Fireside Lounge has free food (cross your fingers for chicken strips).

ENTRANCE WALTON

It only makes sense to enter campus off Walton, as the elevated entry point allows a quick survey of which lots are too full to attempt to park in.

VENDING & PLACE TO NAP O.C. BASEMENT

With sofa chairs and all sorts of vending machines, the basement of the OC proved to be the best spot on campus to take a nap or enjoy a snack.

REC CENTER CLASS YOGA

While the famous yoga butt can be achieved with a really expensive pair of yoga pants, you can work out your stress and strengthen your core by attending one of the Rec's several different styled yoga classes.

ENTERTAINMENT EVENT FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Once a month, a line-up of professional and student comedians take the stage at Friday Night Live. Stand-ups from Saturday Night Live and Comedy Central prove that there is something to do at OU on a Friday night.

LATE FOR CLASS OUTFIT SWEATS & HOODIE

When the dilemma of whether to sport jammies to class or actually get dressed occurs, sweats and a hoodie are a great in between outfit that screams comfort.

BUILDING FOR CLASS SOUTH FOUNDATION

SFH may be a bland building architecturally, but it's a great place for some old-fashioned, no-nonsense learning. Bonus point for its close proximity to the P1 parking lot.

PLACE TO STUDY 4TH FLOOR KRESGE

With less restrictions than the other floors of the library, Kresge's fourth floor offers something for every student's needs. The study rooms are perfect for buckling down for that paper you've been procrastinating on, while the common areas allow for group studying, chatting and maybe even a YouTube break.

CAMPUS EVENT (1st place) HAITI-PALOOZA!

Students from WXOU, the campus radio station came together in record time after the devastating Haitian earthquake to raise money for The Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, The Salvation Army and Partners in Health with an all-day music festival. Other organizations contributed to the event by setting up tables around the Oakland Center and camping out for 12 hours of music that

featured local performers. The successful event ended up raising over \$3,000 and the OU President's Office matched student efforts with a donation of \$3,400.

DATE: Jan 20, 2010

CAMPUS EVENT (tie for 2nd) GRIZZDANCE

This annual film festival showcases student-made films that gives students the chance to win cash prizes and network with film industry professionals.

DATE: Nov 11-13, 2009

MEADOWBROOK BALL

Dubbed Oakland University's oldest tradition, demand for a coveted ticket goes up every year for the black-tie event. Stake out the Center for Student Activities window come December.

DATE: Jan 30, 2010

BEST SPORTS MOMENT, MASCOT, TEAM, COACH & PLAYER GOLDEN GRIZZLIES MEN'S BASKETBALL



The OU men's basketball team, led by Best Coach winner Greg Kompe, had their most successful season in school history in 2009-2010. The team had several defining moments in the record-breaking, 26-win season, including senior Johnathon Jones' game-winning shot versus Oral Roberts on Homecoming and a 17-1 conference win-loss record (best in league history). However, it was the team's 20-1 record to end the season and Summit League tournament title that proved to be the fans' choice for Best Sports Moment of the Year. Center Keith Benson, recipient of the 2010 Lou Henson National Player of the Year Award (presented to the top mid-major player), averaged 17.3 points and 10.5 on his way to becoming the fans vote for Player of the Year.

campus

sports

night life and

MICRO-BREWERY ROCHESTER MILLS

The Mills has it all, a deluxe menu of delicious microbrews and food (including some items from Mind Body & Spirits), live entertainment on weekends and pool tables. If you've never been, order up a sampler to see which brew you prefer. The Lazy Daze Lager is one of the most

popular, and always a good choice. Hang out in the massive dining area of this old factory building or belly up to the vast bar.

LOCATION: Rochester, Water Street & 4th Street

HAPPY HOUR T.G.I. FRIDAY'S & RED OX

A two-way tie for happy hour gives you plenty of time to visit both. The best part is they're both within walking distance of campus! Red Ox happy hours are 2-6 p.m. with different nightly specials and the occasional themed party. TGIFriday's is the kind of place where the bartenders will remember your face, and maybe even your name (if you frequent enough). Friday's has earned their title because their specials are abundant. Most days the happiness begins at 4 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m., only to start



back up at 9 p.m. The weekend offers specials all day and night. Every day there's a different featured cocktail special for \$2.50, with domestic beers at \$2 and premium drafts at \$3.

LOCATIONS:
T.G.I. Fridays - Squirrel, across from OU
Red Ox - Walton, across from OU

DIVE BAR RJ'S PUB

It's the type of place your best friend's dad hangs out at. You'll see more gray hair and Real Tree hats than you will sexy singles in halter tops. That being said, it's the perfect place to have a laid back pitcher of beer and cheap dinner. Nightly specials and menu-sharing with neighbor Sir Pizza give



your traditional bar fare some variety. The brick doorway arches give the bar an old English pub feel, and the eight TVs in varying sizes, two dart boards

and a Golden Tee game bring in the sports bar aspect. Open since 1989, this pub is Oakland University's choice for a clean and friendly "hole in the wall."

LOCATION: Tienken, west of Main Street

PLACE TO WATCH A GAME BUFFALO WILD WINGS

Pass the spicy garlic sauce! Buffalo Wild Wings serves up the kind of sauce you would lick off anybody's hands and the game watching experience Grizzlies would



come out in packs for. The Walton and Livernois location was host to the official game-watching party for the NCAA tournament. You can even take the Bear Bus there from campus, so hop and grab your wet naps.

LOCATION: Walton, east of Livernois

PLACE TO CELEBRATE YOUR 21ST BIRTHDAY

**4 WAY TIE: LUNA, MAIN STREET
BILLIARDS, COYOTE JOES &
ROCHESTER MILLS**

A four-way tie for best place to celebrate your 21st birthday means one thing: you have to get a limo (or your dad, whomever) to make a stop at each one. Hit Luna for an alternative scene, depending on the night, cheap well drinks and cans of PBR.

Mosey back up to north Oakland County; shoot some stick and bust a move at Mainstreet, a slightly classier joint.

It's not your 21st until you ride a mechanical bull, do the hustle, and sing "pour some sugar on me" on a dance floor. There's an outdoor patio, Coyote girls and a DJ spinning country tunes.

LOCATIONS: Luna - Royal Oak; Main Street & 12 Mile
Coyote Joes - Shelby Township; Ryan south of 22 Mile
Main Street - Rochester; Main Street north of 2nd Street
Rochester Mills - Rochester; Water Street & 4th Street

MICROBREWERY (2nd) TIE: WOODWARD AVE. BREWING CO. & BLACK LOTUS

WAB draws a mixed bag of young hipsters and working professionals for their brewed seasonal and signature selections.

Clawson is gaining culture cred on Royal Oak and Ferndale with the popularity of Black Lotus, which hosts band and dance nights, food and drink options in a non-smoking environment.

LOCATIONS: Woodward Ave: Ferndale; Woodward south of 9 Mile; Black Lotus: Clawson; 14 Mile north of Main Street

DANCE CLUB TONIC

Readers chose Tonic as the place to dress to impress for a night of dancing. Multiple dance floors feature various types of music and channels 98.7 and 95.5 have events on weekends.

LOCATION: Pontiac; corner of Water Street & Saginaw

ART GALLERY DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Renovated three years ago, the DIA is still the best place for art in Michigan and their Film Theatre is truly an awesome place to experience classic movies.

LOCATION: Detroit; Woodward, between Kerby and Farnsworth

MOVIE THEATER AMC THEATER

AMC 30 has everything from the glistening pathway to the giant theatre size, and plush rocking seats scream "you're in for an excellent movie experience!"

LOCATION: Rochester; northeast corner of Auburn and Rochester

entertainment

HOOKAH BAR LAVA LOUNGE

There aren't too many places around OU where you can go and indulge in the fine tobacco of the Orient. But the Lava Lounge in Shelby Township offers all qualities and flavors of shisha tobacco and a fine array of hookahs small and large (there's one over 5 feet tall!). Just place your order (they recommend adding fruit juice to your vase or a real halved fruit on your bowl), relax on one of the many comfy couches and wait for your server to bring your already-lit hookah. Then, puff away! The laid-back staff offer tips to beginners, there are HD flat screens around every set of couches and there's a killer snack bar to satisfy munchies.

LOCATION: Shelby Township; Hayes, north of Hall Road



MARTINI BAR & LOUNGE FUSE

Sip away the worries of the day, the week or even the year with a generously-sized Martini at Fuse. Sink deep into the comfortable chairs and couches in the first or second level lounge, or hang out with the boys in the separate cigar lounge. Later in the evenings you can even get up and



dance for a bit as the DJ spins. They offer 20 percent off for OU students and staff and have specials throughout the week, including \$5 martinis for ladies on Wednesdays. It's a classy place, and a unique destination. Just be prepared to stay awhile or have a designated driver. The martinis are way more than one drink on the BAC scale.

LOCATION: Rochester; Main Street, between 2nd and 3rd Street

BOWLING CLASSIC LANES

Bowling is one of those sports you can have fun with whether you're an amateur, professional, somewhat in between ... or even downright terrible. And Classic Lanes will provide a classic night of fun for everyone. The best time to go is on Thursday nights after 9 p.m. where games are only \$1 each. The same deal stands on Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon. Want an extra unique bowling experience? Wear your white, because Friday and Saturday nights after 9 p.m. are designated for glow bowling. Check in with the front desk often, because Classic Lanes has an array of specials that change throughout the year.



LOCATION: Avon Industrial (west of Crooks), north of M-59

BIKE PATH PAINT CREEK TRAIL

Anyone looking for a bike trail that is not an intense uphill climb should head to Paint Creek Trail. It is about 8.5 miles long and was built over a railroad, explaining its smooth grade. Anyone who's tried to ride their bike around here knows it's not called Rochester Hills for giggles. There's awesome scenery, friendly faces, and a great way to spend the day. Your dog will love this path, and a fun walk is from the Tien-ken entrance to Lake Orion. It's limestone though, so keep your roller blading to other paths.



LOCATION: Rochester entrance - City of Rochester Municipal Office, Pine Street, north of University and west of Main Street

ALL AGES DAVE & BUSTERS

Whether you're looking for family fun or a night out with friends, Dave & Buster's is the place. From the full service restaurant and bar to the giant arcade of games, there's something for every kid, no matter your actual age.

LOCATION: Utica; north of M-59, east of M-53

CAMPGROUND TIE: ADDISTON OAKS & RUBY'S PORT HURON

Addison Oaks offers camping grounds from May to October and a plethora of outdoor activities from swimming to disc golfing.

Who needs more than a picnic table and fire ring? This campground, located near the Blue Water bridge, features sites that range from rustic to full hook-up.

LOCATION: Addison Oaks - Leonard; Romeo west of Rochester; Ruby's - Imlay City Road west of Cribbins

LIVE MUSIC THE CROFOOT

Located in the heart of Pontiac, The Crofoot is home to The Pike Room, The Vernors Room, and the Eagle Theatre. It's the ideal location for the best intimate concert experience.

LOCATION: Pontiac; Pike Street, south of Saginaw

SKATING CAMPUS MARTIUS

Tucked into downtown Detroit, Campus Martius is a great place to spend a winter night with a group of friends or that special someone. Then grab a bite to eat at a restaurant along Woodward if you can't take the cold.

LOCATION: Detroit; Woodward, north of Michigan Ave

PERFORMING ARTS MEADOWBROOK THEATER

Conveniently located right on the campus of Oakland University, starving college students can find discounts to attend events at this performing arts venue, which caters to some of the best touring acts.

LOCATION: Meadowbrook Road at OU

WINTER OUTDOORS PINE KNOB

It's a tad warm to go skiing or snowboarding now, but snow bunnies can call Pine Knob's snowline at 800-642-7669 to see when they will open back up for the season.

LOCATION: Clarkston; Sashabaw, north of Clarkston Road

**BLOG
PEREZ HILTON**

Perez is the addictive guilty-pleasure, Pepto-pink celebrity news blog that features photos augmented with drawings of, umm, well, white substances.

**BOOK
TWILIGHT SERIES**

Love it or hate it, the Twilight series was the most popular literature this year. Werewolves, vampires, and high school, oh my!

**OAKLAND
POST COVER
HOMECOMING &
HELL YEAH!**

As the Grizzlies took home the Summit League victory, fans at home knew just where to find the best info from the Post's on-site writer. The "Hell Yeah!" cover was also featured by local media in their coverage of Oakland's advance to the NCAA tournament.

**MAGAZINE
COSMO**

Despite Mouthing Off efforts to convince the masses to not read Cosmo, readers spoke up and nominated the fashion magazine as the best in the business. Tips, gossip and sex advice helped Cosmo rise to the top.

**LOCAL
NEWS
CHANNEL 7**

Channel 7-WXYZ is "on your side" as a local news provider. We think Jerry Hodak and his weather reports sealed the deal.

**WXOU
SHOW
MEET THE CAMPUS
& YARS AND STRIPES**

Daud Yar cleaned up the "best WXOU show" category with nominations for both of his shows. "Yars and Stripes" is WXOU's only political commentary show and "Meet the Campus" provides a weekly dose of campus news along with interviews with a spattering of big campus names.

**WEBSITE
FACEBOOK**

Catching up with long-lost friends, inviting a mass amount of people to an event with just the click of a mouse ... who wouldn't love Facebook with its endless amount of applications and social networking tools?

**TWITTER
FOLLOW & CD
JOHN MAYER**

In spite of some interview slip-ups and intense media criticism, readers still stood by John Mayer's November "Battle Studies" release as best CD. Meanwhile, thousands of followers stay tuned to @johnmayer for Tweet gems such as "I want someone to record my voice and turn it into a font" and "Any day you begin by singing out loud in bed while stretching shows big potential in being an awesome day."

**SCANDAL
TIGER WOODS**

For the first time in his career, Woods' on-course activities were overshadowed by what was going on off the course. Following a car accident in November 2009, details began to leak out that the 10-time PGA Player of the Year reportedly had affairs with nearly a dozen mistresses.

**FACEBOOK
APP
FARMVILLE**

This game is so addictive you might just start getting up at 6 a.m. to "harvest your crops" as if it were real. Whatever you do, please turn the sound off. Moo.

**RADIO
STATION
89X**

The self-proclaimed "only new rock alternative," 89x is arguably best known for its morning show featuring Dave and Chuck the Freak. No doubt they're on your radio while you're driving to your a.m. classes — the perfect way to start your day.

**REALITY TV
JERSEY SHORE**

For some, it's the worst thing to happen to television ever. To others, it's the greatest thing on TV this season. MTV's Jersey Shore combined drama, booze, stereotypes and hair gel to create a runaway reality sensation that brought fist pumping to the masses.

SELF**MANI/PEDI
LUV**

LUV seeks to provide the pampering without the prices. The Rochester location is the newest to the chain, but the \$30 classic mani/pedi combo has already proved to be the best deal in town. You can also dial up the relaxation by providing hands and feet with a "whole lotta LUV" or "lotts-a hottsa LUV." Acrylic, pink and white, fiberglass and gel nails are all available for an additional cost. The atmosphere rivals any 5-star spa and LUV's manicurists use Essie and O.P.I. products. Other spa services, like massages, waxing and facials are all available for similarly low prices.

LOCATION: Northeast corner of Auburn and Rochester Road

**FITNESS CENTER
OU'S REC CENTER**

The Rec Center (with its free everything) is still the best place to break a sweat. All OU students have access to free fitness classes, exercise and weight-lifting equipment, locker rooms, and an indoor track for staying healthy all year round.

LOCATION: OU Campus

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2ND HAND STORE

SALVATION ARMY (1ST PLACE)

Looking for your next oh-so-dever and ironic children's T-shirt? Or how about a sweater so hideous even Dr. Huxtable wouldn't wear it? Then head on down to your local Sal, you hipster.

LOCATION: Pontiac; Perry Street north of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

MUSIC STORE

ITUNES
Legitimately a one-stop shop for all entertainment needs. Whether you're buying music, or renting a flick, it's all done with the click of a mouse, and the best part is, it's all compatible with the ever popular iPod.

LOCATION: www.apple.com

TECHNOLOGY

BEST BUY
Best Buy is a haven, no matter the type of geek you are, providing a wide variety from video games to cameras and everything in between.

LOCATION: Northeast corner of Auburn & Rochester Road

GIFT SHOP

HALLMARK (1ST PLACE)
Sure, it's overpriced, but it's a sure thing for a nice card/classy gift when you're running 20 minutes late for somebody's party and you totally forgot to get them something.

LOCATION: Adams north of Walton

2ND HAND STORE

PLATO'S CLOSET (2ND PLACE)

Imagine a resale shop that doesn't smell like, well, a resale shop. These quaint little shops sprouting up around metro Detroit and the nation offer a variety of gently-used clothes more tailored toward young adults and teens than your average Salvation Army. The closest one is right at the corner of Squirrel and Walton. You can easily pack your spring wardrobe with yellow pumps, halters and tanks. If you're looking for that obscure band's tour T-shirt, this may not be the place for you. While there's more women's clothing and accessories, there is also a selection for men. Clothes are arranged by type and somewhat by color and you get a boutique shopping experience.

LOCATION: Northwest corner of Walton & Adams



GIFT SHOP

CATCHING FIREFLIES (2ND PLACE)

Sick of giving gift cards? With outposts in downtown Berkley and Rochester, this colorful and whimsical gift shop offers a unique alternative shopping destination for gifts. The store name came of an art piece the two founders found at a local art fair and, in keeping with its local roots, the store features pieces by various local artists. The store can help patrons pick out gifts for everyone in their lives: from the person who has everything to a pet or teacher. An eclectic variety of items and fun atmosphere make choosing the perfect gift an easy task.

LOCATION: Rochester; University, east of Main Street

ONE STOP SHOP

TIE: MEIJER & TARGET

Meijer is open 24/7. What more needs to be said? And Target has absolutely everything you are looking for. Case closed.

LOCATIONS: Meijer - Rochester Road south of Auburn; Target - northeast corner of Auburn & Rochester

GAS STATION

SPEEDWAY
It just might be the only place that rewards people for buying lots of cigarettes. The coffee isn't bad either.

LOCATION: Crooks south of M-59

TEXT BOOK STORE

TEXTBOOK OUTLET
Just down the road, The Textbook Outlet gives Grizzlies an alternative to buying books. Along with Grizz gear and other school necessities, the Outlet wins the battle of the bookstores.

LOCATION: Northeast corner of Squirrel and Walton

GROCERY STORE

MEIJER
You might go for the fresh produce or great deals on a smorgasbord of items, but Meijer was probably voted best grocery store for one simple reason: it is open 24 hours.

LOCATION: Rochester Road south of Auburn

PIERCINGS & TATTOOS

Xs

Campus editor Kay Nguyen chose XS based on best-of feedback for her tattoo. Chase, Mike and Matt draw up the awesome custom body art, while Andy does piercings in the super clean and comfortable environment right in downtown Rochester. The prices are fair and there's a reason XS was chosen again by readers as the best place to get a tat or piercing. Those looking for something less permanent can also buy a few sticks of incense, body jewelry and other merchandise from the XS shop as well.

LOCATION: Rochester; northeast corner of 2nd Street & Main

Photo courtesy of XS

HAIRCUT

LADY JANES
Gentlemen, start your engines: Lady Jane's offers a free shampoo and neck shave with a haircut every Sunday this year as part of its "stimulus deal."

LOCATION: Troy; Rochester Road south of Wattles

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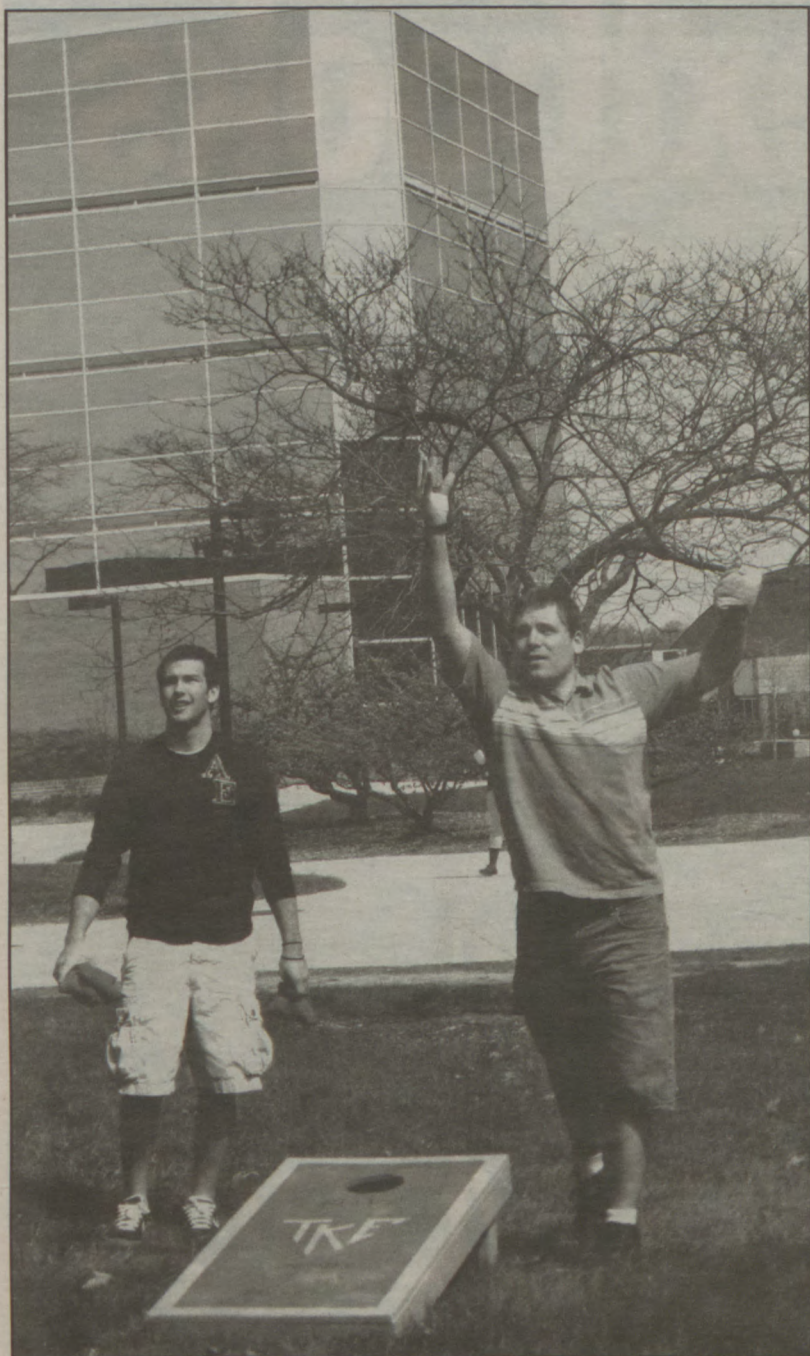


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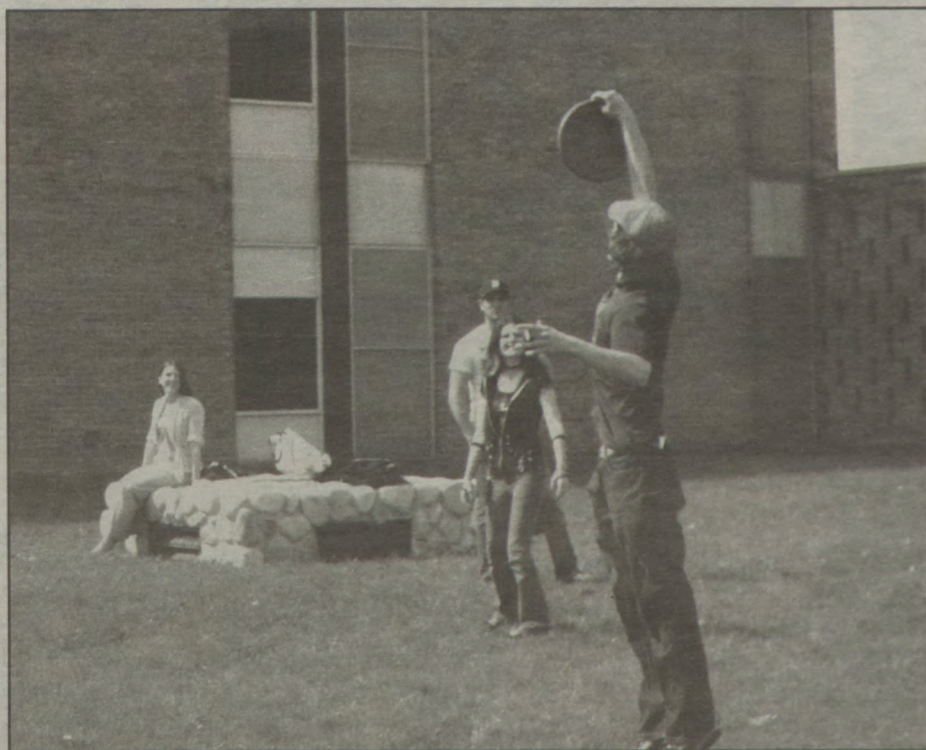


Oakland heads outside

Spring activities take over campus lawns



ALEXIS TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
TKE members cleared a spot for the bean toss, also called "cornhole," on Monday afternoon.



ALEXIS TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
A group of students gathered to play frisbee and smoke cigarettes outside the Oakland Center Monday.

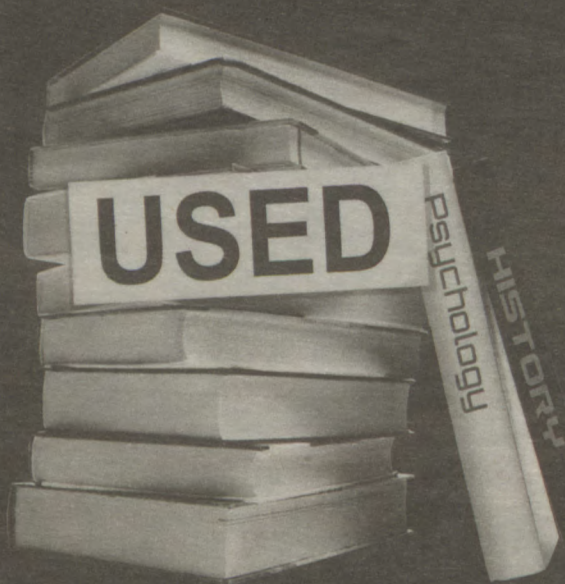
Spring Pastimes

It's finally spring and the lawns surrounding the Oakland Center have been crowded with students lately; studying in the shade, playing with flying discs and hanging out with friends. With warmer days ahead, get outside with some of these fun outdoor activities:

-Alexis Tomrell

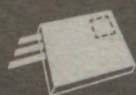
- **Bocce:** Lawn bowl with Italian men at Palazzo di Bocce in Lake Orion.
- **Horseshoe:** Play one of the oldest games in the book at a local park.
- **Biking:** Downtown Rochester offers great biking options, like Paint Creek.
- **Polo:** Detroit has a polo club ... in Hartland. Visit for games or lessons.
- **Disc Golf:** This newest phenomenon now has a course on campus.
- **Kayaking:** More intense than canoeing, MI offers lake and river options.
- **Zorbing:** Strap in a giant inflatable ball to roll down hills at 30 mph.
- **Trampoline:** Take a trip back to childhood with some good ol' jumping.
- **Fishing:** This waiting game with nature is relaxing and rewarding.
- **Sandboarding:** A summer alternative to snowboarding on the dunes.

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The Scene

April 14, 2010

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Previewing universal themes

By KATIE JACOB
Copy Editor

Oakland University kicks off the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival tonight and tomorrow at Meadow Brook Hall, with a preview of four specially selected films chosen to delight a diverse Oakland audience, Jewish or not.

The four films, picked from over 40 being shown at the film festival, which will run later this month, were selected upon input from OU faculty, who will facilitate discussion after the preview screenings.

Michael Pytlik, lecturer in sociology and anthropology, will review "The Beetle," filmed in Israel and Jordan. Pytlik, who is taking a group of 13 OU students to Jerusalem this summer to work on a dig sponsored by Hebrew University, said he reviewed three movies and chose "The Beetle" because he wanted a movie that would be "sort of modern, less war/terrorism, a little more positive, be meaningful but not overly serious." Something that would be relatively light, that would appeal to college students "or whatever," he said.

"The Beetle" is about a young husband, with a pregnant wife, obsessed with his Volkswagen Beetle. His wife begs him to get rid of the "bug," but he struggles to trade in his old life for fatherhood.

The man begins a journey to trace the history of the old car through its previous owners and by virtue of that, Pytlik said, "We get to look at their lives, how many kids they had, their memories too." Then he sets out on a "little adventure" to find parts for the car.

This trip lets viewers see "modern people in Israel doing real things, not obsessed with security and war and all that other stuff we sometimes get saturated with," Pytlik said.

He said one of the interesting things about the movie was that the man's search for parts leads the Israeli across the border into Jordan, something some people may not think Israelis can do. He explained that Israel isn't so isolated.

"Wow, Israel and Jordan, well they have relations you know. They are not at war ... I can speak for this because I've been there," said Pytlik, who is Jewish. "The Jordanian people are very friendly ... just average people."



Photo courtesy of The Syrian Bride

"The Syrian Bride" is playing at the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival and Meadow Brook Hall



Photo courtesy of The Beetle

"The Beetle" is about a young husband obsessed with his Beetle who goes out in search of its history.

Kellie Hay, associate professor of communication and journalism, will lead the discussion after "The Syrian Bride," Wednesday at 4 p.m. One of the classes Hay is teaching this semester is "Women's Liberation Movements in the Middle East." She's giving extra credit for her students who attend, calling it relevant and important.

Hay said the movie takes place in the Golan Heights region of Israel. "The Golan Heights is very interesting to me," she said. "Especially the Druze community within it, because they are very

split between having Syrian identities and commitment, and between kind of conforming to an Israeli mode of identity."

Hay said that the film is a "border film" about the Druze community and all the pressures of occupation and questions that split the community, paralleled by "this wedding where all these issues come through."

"There are issues about marrying someone in an arranged marriage that you just don't know. It's going to be about husbands and wives, and wives

resisting sort of a patriarchal way of thinking about marriage. It's going to be about young lovers who are separated from one another because one family has a Syrian identity and the other family is called an Israeli collaborator."

In the movie, "Goyband," a member of a non-Jewish band down on his luck takes a gig at an Orthodox Jewish casino.

"It's a fish out of water story," said Kyle Edwards, assistant professor of English and director of cinema studies. "It's about a character that isn't Jewish, (his) experiences with different characters that are, so it goes to both sides of our cultural divide."

Eric Lumberg, a Birmingham lawyer and chairman of the JFF, said that the festival is expanding their movie-going base by doing new things, like sponsoring the event at OU, in conjunction with the movies at the festival.

Lumberg said that there were only maybe a half dozen films the first couple years, and then the festival started to grow to regular movie theaters in the area — Birmingham, Commerce Lake, Ann Arbor — "not just the Jewish Community Center." He said that now it's a two week festival.

Selecting movies for the festival, they like to "mix it up" thematically. "We always have a lot of movies that deal with Jews that live in other places ... there's always Holocaust-themed movies, that's inevitable," he said. "But we don't want to have all Holocaust-themed movies."

This year's festival includes one movie called "Size Doesn't Matter," about a group of Israeli men that train to become Sumo wrestlers and "City of Borders," about the only gay bar in Jerusalem. The JFF will sponsor an event after "Borders" featuring local GLBT panelists comparing life in Israel and the Arab world.

The Oakland University Jewish Film Festival preview is at Meadow Brook Hall on Wednesday, April 14 and 15 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Oakland students get in free with ID. Regular tickets are \$7 each or \$10 for a double feature.

For advance tickets, contact Kristen Clark, 248-370-3650 or kclark@oakland.edu.

The Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival runs April 25-May 6. For more information visit jccdet.org.

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OMNI arrives

Minus the Bear in Detroit

By AMANDA MEADE
Assistant Ads Manager

The guys of Seattle based indie-rock band Minus the Bear have kept themselves busy in the three years since their last album "Planet of Ice" was released in 2007. They have finished their latest album, "OMNI," set for release on May 4. They were recently signed to Dangerbird records, and are ready to embark on a U.S. tour, stopping in Detroit at St. Andrew's Hall on April 25.

The Oakland Post got a chance to speak with bassist Cory Murchy on April 2.

The Oakland Post: What are you looking forward to with the upcoming tour?

Cory Murchy: We're excited to get out and start playing some of these new songs we've got. We've been antsy and chomping at the bit to do it. This is our first run on the new record; it's going to be a lot of fun. Plus, we've been home for so long that it'll just be good to get out on the road again.

The Post: What is the difference between "OMNI" and your previous albums?

Murchy: It's the first record that we did a lot of live studio takes and kept a lot of the rhythm tracks and a lot of the tracks from all of us just sitting in a room and playing, so that was exciting. It was the second time we used an outside producer, but the first one that really came in and helped preproduction and switching around parts and helping with some of that stuff.

The Post: What sets you apart from other bands?

Murchy: I think we've got a pretty strong work ethic. I think a lot of bands

have that as well but I think we definitely put our elbows into it. We're not afraid to go out and tour six months of the year and once we get home go straight back to the productive space and bash it out for some more. We're all still really good friends; I don't know how many bands still have that, so I think we're fortunate in that regard too.

The Post: Minus the Bear has been together nearly a decade and have only gone through one lineup change, which seemingly ended on good terms. How has the band maintained such a lasting chemistry?

Murchy: I think we've all got the same vision as far as we want to be able to do this band for as long as possible and continue writing music as long as we're having fun doing it. We've all got that same kind of vision to do this so I think that helps.

The Post: Who would make up the lineup of your dream tour?

Murchy: We've been lucky with who we've been able to tour with. P.O.S. and The Russian Circles and The Velvet Teen was a really fun tour, maybe re-form that one. Maybe Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, that'd be pretty good.

The Post: What would you be doing if you weren't in the band?

Murchy: Dear lord, I don't even want to think about it! We went up in a couple office buildings this week with the band just to go meet some people and it was terrifying. Half of us have all worked in office buildings before, so it definitely wouldn't be in an office building. I'd probably try to help teach kids or something.

To listen to Minus the Bear or find out more about their US tour visit myspace.com/minusthebear.



Photo by David Belisle
Minus the Bear's new album "OMNI" releases May 4. The band plays St. Andrew's Hall April 25.

Michigan Congress races heat up

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — Michigan Republicans have wanted for the past two years to take back the two congressional seats they lost in the 2008 Democratic tsunami to Mark Schauer and Gary Peters.

Now, with embattled Democratic U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak announcing he won't run for re-election to his northern Michigan seat, the playing field has widened. The races are drawing the attention of the Republican National Congressional Committee and tea party activists, and the Michigan GOP sees a chance to regain a majority of Michigan's congressional seats.

But Republicans also must deal with disorderliness in their own ranks, as the decision of U.S. Reps. Pete Hoekstra of Holland to run for governor and Vern Ehlers of Grand Rapids to retire has opened the door to a flood of GOP candidates hoping to succeed them in the November election. Those races, too, are influenced by tea party activists, and the infighting within the party could prove difficult to contain.

The recent passage of historic but polarizing health care legislation and a deeply rooted anti-incumbency mood, have emboldened candidates to take a shot this election cycle, experts say.

"In an environment like this, the Republicans feel energized and enthusiastic about their chances in every race," said Tom Erickson, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Peter Wielhouwer, political science pro-

fessor at Western Michigan University, says there's a lot of dissatisfaction with those in power.

"I think we're seeing vigorous competition from the party not holding the office. I see within the Republicans we've got quite a few challengers spread all over the place," he said.

The current breakdown in Michigan is eight Democrats and seven Republicans, but if the GOP holds its seven seats and picks up a win against either Schauer of Battle Creek or Peters of Oakland County's Bloomfield Township — or in Stupak's 1st District — they'll be back in the majority in Michigan.

Stupak's decision not to run leaves former Charlevoix County Commissioner Connie Saltonstall as the lone Democratic candidate in the 1st District, but other better-known Democrats, including Senate Democratic Leader Mike Prusi of Ithaca, could get in the race now that he's stepping down.

Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer says Schauer and Peters are in "strong positions" heading into November, raising a lot more money than their opponents thus far.

"The Republicans have really fielded weak candidates against them. You can't beat somebody with nobody," he said.

Republicans disagree, with candidates ranging from a former congressman to an Iraq war veteran, several businessmen and a former congressional staffer.

Schauer faces a handful of GOP challengers hoping to win the chance to take him on in the 7th District, including Tim Walberg, who held the seat for one term until Schauer unseated him in 2008.

Peters has three Republicans fighting for the chance to take him on in November in the 9th District.

Peters and Schauer both voted for the health care bills, but both also have been strong supporters of issues important to their economically struggling districts, such as promoting loans for small businesses and voting to extend unemployment benefits and health care subsidies for jobless workers. Even so, they're in GOP-leaning districts and could be vulnerable, especially in a year when Republicans are energized by opposition to Democratic President Barack Obama.

The fight over the two seats isn't the only factor roiling Michigan's congressional ranks. It's highly unusual for Michigan to have three congressional members retiring simultaneously, opening up seats that have each been held by the incumbents for years.

Term limits also are causing some lawmakers to challenge incumbents in their own party they're unlikely to beat.

Democratic state Sen. Mickey Switalski of Roseville is running against longtime Democratic Rep. Sander Levin of Royal Oak, who recently became the powerful chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

"He is an ambitious person who will have spent his 12 years in politics in the state Legislature, doesn't want to give up that career path so he's going to jump into this Democratic primary," says Michael Traugott, a political science professor at the University of Michigan. "That doesn't mean he has a chance to win."

Traugott says that the health care leg-

islation as well as general dissatisfaction with Congress are luring candidates into the political arena, though even with all the challengers, most incumbents likely are safe this year.

He expects Republican Reps. Dave Camp of Midland, Fred Upton of St. Joseph, Mike Rogers of Brighton, Candice Miller of Macomb County's Harrison Township and Thaddeus McCotter of Livonia to win, as well as Democratic Reps. Levin, John Dingell of Dearborn, Dale Kildee of Flint and John Conyers of Detroit.

All have fundraising advantages and enough popularity in their districts to overcome any potential voter anger, he says. Republicans also are likely to win easily in Hoekstra and Ehlers' districts, two west Michigan districts that usually favor Republicans.

Democratic Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick of Detroit, who was close to being knocked from office by a Democratic challenger in 2008, again could be hurt by ties to her son, disgraced former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. The seat is nearly certain to remain in Democratic hands. Her challengers include state Sen. Hansen Clarke and businessman and broadcaster Glenn Plummer.

Oakland University political science professor David Dulio says the unsettled state of Michigan's congressional races this year is largely a reflection of voter unrest.

"It's indicative of a very strong anti-incumbent sentiment where even in safe districts for one party, you're seeing challengers pop up," he said.

Local briefs: Earth Day, garden club events

Michigan's largest Earth Day event comes to Rochester

ROCHESTER — The state's largest Earth Day Festival takes place in Rochester on April 23-25.

One of the event's most well-known aspects of the festival is the Earth Day Parade, which takes place Saturday at 10 a.m. There is also the Rochester Area Recreation Association 5K run on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Other activities during the weekend include documentary screenings, children's activities and musical activities.

Hours for the festival are 4-7 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. Prior to the event, the Green Careers Fair takes place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Additionally, a preview party is set for April 22 at 7 p.m. east of Rochester Mills Brewery. Comedian and TV actor Dave Coulier will emcee the preview party.

Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club events

ROCHESTER — The Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club is hosting several events from now until the end of May.

The group is hosting their monthly meeting April 23 at 9:15 a.m. in the Coach House across from Meadow Brook Hall.

The guest speaker for the meeting is Carol Czechowski, a representative from the Michigan Herb Associates and Herb Society of America.

The event will also feature the presentation of the 2010 Meadow Brook garden plan. Members of the public are welcome to attend, however the event does require a non-member \$5 fee.

Other events include a Landscape Planting Workshop on May 11 and a plant sale on May 20. For information, call 248-887-1983.

— Annie Stodola, You/Local editor

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Athlete sets high goal despite injury

By ROSS MAGHIELSE
Senior reporter

During his brief time with the Oakland University track and field program, John Butler has built quite a resume. A junior in standing, Butler joined the track team as a walk-on last season. He received all-conference honors after placing third in the javelin throw at the 2009 Summit League Championships where he set a school-record mark of 175 feet, 3 inches.

And now he's healthy.

Butler enrolled at Oakland in 2007, but did not join the track team until the outdoor season of 2009 due to a series of injuries still lingering from his high school athletic career at Troy High. Once he finally recovered from a strained rotator cuff and reconstructive hand surgery, he had another setback when he broke his wrist last season while playing a pick-up game of basketball.

Leading up to the Summit League Tournament, where he set the school record, he hadn't thrown the javelin for weeks. But he did manage 10 minutes of practice time the day before the tournament started.

Having injuries of some sort since he was a freshman in high school, the memories of each individual injury run

together in his mind.

"I haven't had anything serious this year though, just banged up a little bit," Butler said. "This year has been my most injury free year and I'm feeling really good."

Butler originally ran sprints for OU, where he competed in the 100 and 200-meter dash as well as the 60-yard dash, but a hamstring problem at the beginning of this season has limited him strictly to throwing – an area in which he has excelled.

"There's two main ways that John contributes for us," said Rod Yeacker, who coaches field events at OU. "One is on a raw performance basis. He scores points. He's among the leaders in the conference and he just has that pure talent. The other is he pushes his teammates and makes them better. He's got a good attitude and his teammates really feed off that in-practice competition which brings a better performance out of the other guys on the team."

Like his teammates, Butler feeds off the in-practice competition the sport generates and doesn't like taking second to anybody.

"If you see someone do better than you it brings more focus; at least that's how I am about it. I don't want anyone

to beat me, even if they are one of my teammates," Butler said. "I think that atmosphere makes for good, healthy competition."

Healthy being the operative word.

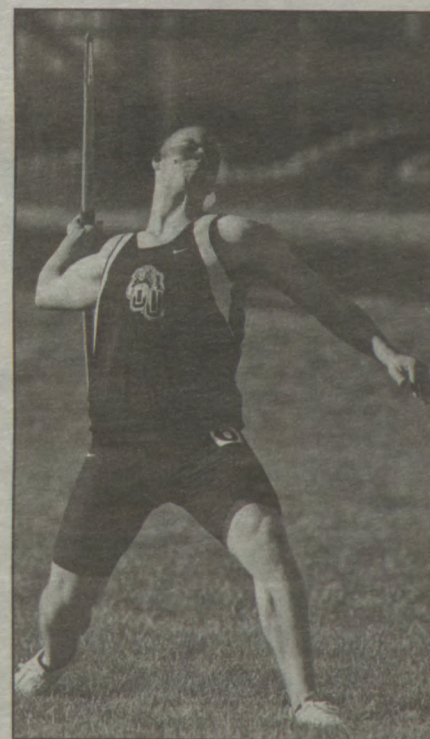
For Butler, his focus is no longer on injuries or getting acclimated to competing in athletics at the college level. His focus is on the number 200. Butler wants to tack on roughly 15 feet to his current school-record javelin toss, and if he does so, it will put him in position to qualify for regional competition.

"Obviously I want to be all-conference again, but if I could throw over 200 feet, that's the ultimate goal because I think that will give me a chance at the automatic qualifier for regionals after the conference meet is over."

As for the team's chances for success this season and in the conference tournament, Butler thinks the Golden Grizzlies have the talent to compete with the top teams in the Summit League.

"We can improve upon what we did last year and I think we could really make some noise in the conference tournament."

The Grizzlies will resume competition Thursday, April 15 with a dual meet at Detroit-Mercy and back-to-back meets at Eastern Michigan Friday and Saturday.



Oakland University Athletic Communications
Junior John Butler has a high personal goal to add 15 feet to his current record.

Opening Day for Tigers brings Detroit together

By ROSS MAGHIELSE
Senior Reporter

Friday, April 9, was an unofficial holiday for people in Michigan. It was Opening Day in the Motor City, with the Detroit Tigers playing their first home game of the 2010 season. The date also marked an official holiday in this state – it was Ernie Harwell Day.

Downtown Detroit was absolutely packed, and crazy, before the clocks switched over to 12 p.m. Tailgaters, bars with lines out their doors, remote broadcast from numerous radio stations, and several other baseball related festivities took place from mid-morning until the first pitch was thrown at Comerica Park at 1:07 p.m..

Among those there to capture the moment were Oakland University's own Neal Ruhl, Kyle Bauer, and Mike Parsons of the Real Deal on Sports. The WXOU trio hosted a remote broadcast from the Town Pump Tavern downtown. A live video of the Real Deal on Sports show was streamed on Mlive.com.

Mlive.com sought out the WXOU hosts at the Tavern as a means to provide a new and fresh aspect to

its Opening Day coverage.

"It was nuts down there, we had the whole nine yards going on," said Ruhl, the host of the Real Deal on Sports since its WXOU debut in 2007. "It was just your classic opening day. Everybody was into the spirits of the whole thing because baseball season doesn't officially start until the Tigers play a home game."

Ruhl is also the color commentator for Oakland University basketball broadcasts on WDFN-AM (1130). But he, like everyone else downtown Friday, was all about baseball.

"The fact is that Detroit is a baseball town. I know everybody likes to call it Hockeytown because there are a lot of hockey fans here, but this has always been a baseball town," Ruhl said. "It's the same atmosphere for Opening Day every year. Even in 2003, when the Tigers avoided becoming the worst team in baseball history by one or two games, it was packed. There wasn't really a difference between that day and today. Obviously people are going to be a little more amped up when the team's good, but fans here just love the Tigers."

And by early standards, the Tigers do appear to be

good. They added to the party by knotting a 5-2 win over Cleveland. Adding to the celebratory theme was the previously mentioned Ernie Harwell Day.

Senator Randy Richardville, of the 17th District in Monroe, was the driving force behind making April 9 2010 officially recognized as Ernie Harwell Day – an effort to honor the longtime Detroit Tigers broadcaster who was diagnosed with terminal cancer this fall. Richardville was a guest on the show.

"I think my story is going to be like a lot of other people who grew up in the Detroit area, but I remember listening to Ernie Harwell on the radio every night as a kid once my parents thought I was in bed," Ruhl said. "That's one of the beautiful things about radio, is a guy like Ernie kind of becomes your friend, because he's there every night. It's a sad situation but at the same time it puts things in perspective and I know a lot of people who grew up here have fond memories of listening to Ernie throughout his career."

The official attendance for the Tigers game against Cleveland was announced at just over 45,000. It was a record-setting crowd for Comerica Park.

Grizzly Oaks hosts charity disc golf tourney

By COLLEEN J. MILLER
Editor-in-Chief

The disc golf season at Grizzly Oaks, Oakland University's new course, will kick off Saturday, April 17 from 1-5 p.m. with a charity event and tournament.

The event is two-pronged, catering to disc golfers and those who simply enjoy free food, mini games, music and prizes. Organizing the event is Jarret Schlaff, founder of the OU's disc golf initiative and OU Student Congress student services director.

"If you picture the tailgate party, it will be like that

but better," Schlaff said.

Everyone attending will receive one free raffle ticket, which puts you in a drawing for prizes and is worth a free play of one of the mini games that will be set up. Additional tickets for the raffle and games will be \$1 for purchase. Prizes will be drawn every half hour with a grand prize package drawn toward the end of the event.

Registration for the tournament will begin at noon and is first come first serve. Schlaff said that the course holds 75 players. Cost is \$5 with proceeds going to the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"We're not expecting a ton of pros because we're not

doing cash prizes," Schlaff said. Instead, prizes range from \$50 gift cards to free bowling and free golf at OU's Katke-Cousins course, Grizzly Oaks' "sister" course.

The tournament will have categories for beginner, intermediate and expert players.

"The prizes are OK, good, exceptional," Schlaff said.

Immediately following the tournament will be a putting demonstration by professional and co-designer of the course Greg Utech.

Grizzly Oaks is located off of the upper athletic fields across from the student apartments.

For information visit the Facebook event page.

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Lacrosse takes historic win

By SHAWN MINNIX
Copy editor/LAX Beat

Last year, when the Oakland University women's lacrosse team played Michigan State at Ultimate Sports Arena in Pontiac they were defeated handily 15-3. This year, the Grizzlies were determined not to let that happen again.

In a monumental upset, Oakland defeated MSU 13-10 in their rematch on Senior night back in Pontiac. The Spartans came in ranked No. 16 in the nation, and took a crippling hit in their quest to make the Division I National Championship tournament.

The win was one of the biggest upsets in all of women's lacrosse this year and head coach Towbey Kassa could not have been more pleased, especially after last year's result.

"Michigan State's been a team for many years, we were the newbies," Kassa said. "They would beat us, kill us. My girls after last year being embarrassed by them said it's not going to happen this year."

The game started off very quick-paced as MSU got off to a great start, taking a 3-1 lead. OU would eventually tie the game at 3-3, but would run into some major issues toward the end of the first half.

At one point, Oakland was down three players due to penalties and lost a defender due to injury. Junior goaltender Laura Hein made several great saves during this stretch, and the defense did not allow a single goal. MSU would eventually score three unanswered tallies after the power plays were over, and would take a 6-4 lead at halftime.

In the second half, captain Ashley Krisfalusi and freshman midfielder Vittoria Wallace quickly scored to tie the game, and forced Michigan State head coach Sara Tisdale to call a fast timeout.

The timeout did not change things much, as OU came out and scored the next two goals to take an 8-6 lead. However, these were the Spartans and they would not go away quietly. They took the momentum back and tied the score up at 9-9 with less than 10 minutes to play.

At this point, Hein made several critical saves to keep the game deadlocked and it changed the entire complexion of the game.

From that point on, the Grizzlies would become much more aggressive and were easily hungrier than MSU.

Oakland used quick transition plays and caught the Spartans off-guard with their speed. They would score the next four goals as Michigan State's crowd went dead silent and Oakland's could sense victory was close at hand.

Michigan State went into desperation mode at this point, firing everything they could at Hein in the last few minutes, but it was to no avail. When the horn sounded, the Grizzlies had their revenge for last year and the seniors finished a perfect 7-0 at home.

"This is the program's biggest win in school history," Kassa said. "My seniors played amazing. This is just the biggest win ever."

In the present, this helps Oakland in their chase to make the Division II National Championship tournament coming up in Arizona in May. But of greater importance may be the future dividends a win like this creates down the road.

"Now that we've beat MSU, we can compete," Kassa said. "So hopefully we get some recruits to come in. You would be surprised how many girls will stay here and play because of the lacrosse community and now that we can compete with Michigan State. It's amazing."

The Grizzlies would continue their great play over the weekend, as the team won all three games they had scheduled in Wheaton, Ill. and built up even more momentum for the upcoming postseason run.

Oakland's record stands at 13-1 after the weekend, and the team will be heading to the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League playoffs which starts April 17 at the University of Toledo. The team holds the top seed in the tournament and will face No. 8 seeded Calvin (8-2) in the quarterfinals.

Should the women take their first game, they will continue to a more difficult game against the winner of the game between Central Michigan and Grand Valley State, as both of these teams owe OU from games earlier in the season.

If the women land in the finals, they will be facing a team at least 5.0 RPI lower than the Grizzlies.

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Mouthing Off

The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Oakland Post. So long, and thanks for all the laughs.

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April 14, 2010

Breakup—it's not me, it's OU

Oakland, I wish I knew how to quit you - oh, wait, by graduating. That's how.

Dear Oakland University,

We need to talk. I ... I'm breaking up with you. It's over. I'm sorry but I have to end it between us.

Our time together over these last two and a half years will be years that I'll never forget. But I cannot continue being with you. This has to stop — I literally cannot take any more classes here that count toward my degree, so come May 1, we're through.

Let's face it, you need your space. Mainly parking spaces. And a new medical building? I'm supportive of all your endeavors and everything, but now you're going to be a top ranked medical school? Whatever happened to that fall-back school I fell in love with?

Forget I said that, that was harsh. You were always my first choice. After that time I spent with Macomb Community College, you were like a shimmering angel of gold and black compared to — well hell, I don't even know if that school was good enough to have colors.

I digress. This isn't about her. This is about you and I and how this just wasn't meant to last. I knew going into this that this was just going to be a semi-serious thing. A few days a week, a couple dozen thousand dollars of my parents money, a nifty little degree, that was all I was really going for.

Say, do you remember that time my friends and I ran through the Oakland Center screaming our heads off after the men's basketball team made it into the NCAA tournament? Do you remember that kitten I found wandering around Beer Lake? You remember when I would sneak up to the top floor of the Science and Engineering Building with my friends, before they locked students out? We'll always have SEB.

Any time I spend 15 minutes stalking someone in a parking lot to get their spot, I'll think of you. Any time I get super frustrated with ill-designed computer programs that inevitably cause a brain hemorrhage, I'll think of SAIL. And the next time I spend exponentially way too much money on a book I'll never use and only be offered spare change when I go to return it ... baby, I'll be thinking of you.

Graduating is a part of life. I'll eventually take my journalism degree and wind up still working for my dad's landscape company. You'll still be in Rochester, where I'm sure you'll meet tons of new people. Like, thousands of new people every semester. I don't expect you to not meet anyone new after we're done.

I'm 22, you're 53. People normally look at a relationship like that as weird, but we made it work. Don't think of this as one of us failing the other, unless you count that one online philosophy course in which I really was almost failed. Oh, and "You Can Afford This." I don't think I'll ever be able to forgive you for that one.

Although, I will miss hanging out with my buddies in the honors college of 5 West Vandenberg, those crazy kids over at WXOU, those girls who wear shorts and tank tops the first sign of it getting warm on campus, the Subway employees who yell at everybody, and the



Dan Simons, hugging the Grizz statue outside the O'Rena. It took four OUPD officers to pull him from the statue, kicking and screaming. JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

entirety of the men's basketball team. I will forever have the names Benson, Jones, Hudson, Cushingberry, Maynard, Nelson, and especially Kampe etched into my brain. I still have a wallet full of Mongolian BBQ coupons I got from the home games that I need to use.

Nothing, however, will be more well remembered than my time working for The Oakland Post. In my time as Mouthing Off editor I've written about boobies and zombies, caffeine and sarcasm, the Olympics and the Nobel prize, the history-making teachers strike and the history of my generation. I've cut my hair for this paper, I've witnessed little people strippers for this paper, I got Ryan Hegedus naked for this paper. Yes, Holly Gilbert, advisor to The Oakland Post, I am going to get cliché and devote an entire paragraph to The Post. It's my last column so deal with it.

There were times when I thought braving the trek down M-59 wasn't worth being with you, and there were times before this when I thought about breaking up with you and running off to live somewhere that didn't resemble an arctic wasteland in January. But I stuck with you, and now have a collection of awesome free shirts because of it.

Can we just be friends? I'm not sure. I don't know if I

can be that guy who hangs around after he graduates, eating free food and sleeping somewhere in the Oakland Center. I need to move on, become my own person without you. I need to evolve.

Unless you can offer a free semester of beer-tasting classes, a graduate program in playing video games at my leisure, or bring me back as a guest lecturer when I become rich and famous and/or controversial and infamous, I have to end it between us now.

Never forget me, OK? Always remember the good times and not the bad. Remember the smile on my face when I walked through your hallowed halls, thinking to myself, "This is so much cooler than going to Central." Remember the times late at night when I would do circles in the University Drive roundabout just because. Remember to shout and scream wildly when they announce my name on May 1 at the graduation ceremony.

This is it, Oakland. We're done. I love you and I always have. I will always be your Golden Grizzly, and you will always be my alma mater. Stay classy, Oakland. Love,

By DAN SIMONS

Mouthing Off editor / soon to be bitter ex.

Crash devastates Poland

By MATT MOORE and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
Associated Press Writer

WARSAW, Poland — Thousands of grieving mourners tossed flowers on a slow-moving hearse and joined an enormous viewing line at the presidential palace to pay their respects Tuesday to Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife as their bodies lay in state.

Kaczynski and his wife, Maria Kaczynska, were among 96 people killed Saturday in a plane crash in western Russia. Investigators are pointing to human error as the cause.

Mourners knelt, prayed and cried before the first couple's coffins in the Columned Hall of the palace, where the president appointed and dismissed governments. The line to get in swelled to over half a mile.

"We will wait as long as it takes," said Alicja Marszałek, a retired telephone operator who was waiting with a friend. "We want to pay homage to them because they were wonderful people. He was a modest man, very well educated, intelligent and kind."

Polish television broadcast live images of mourners walking by the closed coffins. Many were families with children, parents and grandparents. A pair of soldiers flanked each coffin, standing crisp and still.

Earlier Tuesday, Kaczynska's body was greeted with tears and tulips after being flown home from Russia. Officials announced that the first couple would be buried Sunday after a state funeral at Krakow's Wawel Cathedral.

Krakow Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz said the funeral would begin at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday in the 1,000-year-old cathedral — the main burial site of Polish monarchs since the 14th century and more recent heroes including the 20th century Polish statesman and military leader Jozef Pilsudski.

The last Polish leader killed in office, Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski — the exiled World War II leader who perished in a mysterious plane crash off Gibraltar in 1943 — is also interred there.

Some Poles criticized the decision to bury Kaczynski, whose combative style earned him many opponents, in a place reserved for the most esteemed of national figures. Hundreds protested in front of the archbishop's residence in Krakow on Tuesday evening, carrying banners reading "Really worthy of kings?" and "Not to Wawel."

In Washington, the White House announced that President Barack Obama would travel to Poland to attend the funeral. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and French President Nicolas Sarkozy are also

expected to attend.

Kaczynska's body, in a wooden casket draped with Poland's white-and-red flag, arrived in a military CASA plane at Warsaw's Okecie airport. It was met by her only child, Marta, and by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, her brother-in-law, the twin of the late president.

Marta knelt by her mother's casket and wept as an honor guard stood by.

Kaczynska's body was ferried slowly to the Presidential Palace in a black Mercedes-Benz hearse, as her husband's had been on Sunday.

Thousands of Warsaw residents lined the route, gently lobbing bouquets of tulips and roses on top of the hearse.

"I'm here because it's such a tragedy for Poland," said Maja Jelenicka, 63. "I'm in despair. I feel as if I've lost a close relative. Maria Kaczynska was a wonderful woman, kind, with a heart of gold."

Parliament held an observance in memory of the president and the 18 lawmakers killed in the crash. In the assembly hall, framed portraits of the lawmakers and flowers bedecked their empty seats.

The names of the victims were read out. Senate Speaker Bogdan Borusewicz, his voice breaking, declared the crash the "greatest tragedy in Poland's postwar history."

Investigators have suggested that human error may have been to blame for Saturday's crash. The Tu-154 went down while trying to land in dense fog at Smolensk in western Russia. All aboard were killed, including dozens of Polish political, military and religious leaders.

They had been traveling in the Polish government-owned plane to attend a memorial in the Katyn forest for thousands of Polish military officers executed 70 years ago by Josef Stalin's secret police.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said Tuesday the plane appeared to have been functioning normally.

"Judging by preliminary analysis of data from the black boxes, there was no explosion or fire aboard the plane, and the engines were working until the collision," Ivanov said in televised remarks.

The pilot had been warned of bad weather in Smolensk and advised by traffic controllers to land elsewhere — which would have delayed the Katyn observances. He was identified as Capt. Arkadiusz Protasiuk, 36; the co-pilot was Maj. Robert Grzywna, also 36.

Traffic controller Anatoly Muravyev, a member of the Russian team that handled the plane, told the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper that the crew ignored their warnings about worsening weather.

N I W BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

4-13 | BAGHDAD — A bomb planted inside a Baghdad liquor store Tuesday killed three people and wounded seven, police and hospital officials said. Separately, an Iraqi TV reporter was in critical condition after a bomb stuck to the underside of his car exploded. The noontime liquor store bombing in an eastern Baghdad neighborhood took place after people posing as customers left behind a black plastic bag filled with explosives in the shop, an Iraqi police official said. The Christian owner of the store was among those killed, the police official said. The blast also damaged nearby stores. Broken bottles of alcohol and ripped beer cans could be seen scattered outside. A doctor at the nearby al-Kindi hospital, where the victims were taken, confirmed the casualties. Both the police official and the doctor spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media.

4-13 | BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — Kyrgyzstan's interim leader told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview Tuesday that her government will extend for a year the lease of a U.S. air base key to the war in Afghanistan, and guarantee the deposed president's safety if he steps down and leaves the country. The ousted ruler said he was willing to step down but he also wants security for his family and close circle as a condition of his resignation — a demand that could block a deal to transfer power and exacerbate the turmoil gripping the Central Asian nation. Roza Otunbayeva, the interim leader, told the AP that the agreement allowing the U.S. to use the Manas air base will be prolonged after the current one-year deal expires in July. "It will be automatically extended for the next year," she said. The U.S. base, at the capital's international airport, provides refueling flights for warplanes over Afghanistan and serves as a major transit hub for troops.

4-13 | PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — First lady Michelle Obama made a surprise visit Tuesday to the ruins of the Haitian capital, a high-profile reminder that hundreds of thousands remain in desperate straits three months after the earthquake. The first lady and Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, took a helicopter tour of Port-au-Prince, where many people are still homeless, before landing at the destroyed national palace to meet President Rene Preval. They later talked with students whose lives have been upended by the disaster and walked along a vast, squalid encampment of families living under bed sheets and tents. "It's powerful," Obama told reporters. "The devastation is definitely powerful." A number of past and present world leaders have visited since the earthquake, including former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

4-13 | ALBANY, Ga. — Albany authorities did a double take when they arrested a man twice on the same drug charge in one day. Authorities said a man, 26, was charged with possession of marijuana around noon on Friday after police pulled him over during a routine traffic stop. He was sent to the Dougherty County Jail and released on bond four hours later. But Bill Berry of the Albany-Dougherty Drug Unit says police soon received a tip that the man was trying to set up a drug deal. The suspect was arrested again at 6:30 p.m. Friday after authorities found him with two ounces of marijuana on him and charged a second time with possession of the drug.

4-13 | MUNICH — Retired Ohio autoworker John Demjanjuk told a German court Tuesday he was a victim of the Nazis, using his first major statement since his trial began to sharply criticize the country that started World War II for prosecuting him. Demjanjuk, who turned 90 earlier this month, is standing trial on 27,900 counts of being an accessory to murder on allegations he was a guard at the Sobibor camp in occupied Poland. He denies ever being at any camp, claiming he is the victim of mistaken identity. "I am again and again an innocent victim of the Germans," he told the court in a statement he signed and that was read aloud by his attorney. He said that as a prisoner of war the Nazis used him as a slave laborer, while killing millions of his fellow Ukrainians. Since his extradition from the U.S. last May, Demjanjuk has been in a prison near Munich, again "as a German prisoner of war," he said.

4-13 | OAK ISLAND, N.C. — A couple has cleaned off the mud after a nighttime fishing trip went wrong and left them buried up to their armpits in the mud of a North Carolina marsh. The StarNews of Wilmington reported Tuesday the couple were rescued after a Brunswick County sheriff's deputy in an air boat tracked them down in the dark. The Coast Guard and a local water rescue unit had been unable to find the them stranded between Oak Island and the Intracoastal Waterway.

OUR WONDERFUL STAFF

Thank you everyone for making the 2009 Fall, 2010 Winter publishing seasons at The Oakland Post what we think is the best year ever. To all of you who won't be joining us next year, you will surely be missed.



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Managing Editor

Most likely to pose nude for The Oakland Post.



Jason Willis
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Most dedicated to perfection.



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Most likely to rule the world before 25.



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— Compiled and designed by Bryan Culver