

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

JUNE
11
— 2014 —

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Oakland University is close to finding its next president, but only a select few know who that might be

Pages 8-9



DANNY'S HOME

Come see where Daniel Dodge, son of Matilda Dodge Wilson, enjoyed spending his free time.

PAGE 5



LIONS ON THE PROWL

Ebron, Van Noy, Swanson; Detroit looks for immediate impact players in the NFL draft.

PAGE 11



SUPER BASS

Neon Trees bassist Branden Campbell dishes on his days as a college musician and his favorite places in Michigan.

PAGE 12



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

YOU'VE GOT SNAIL // A white-lipped snail creeps along a rosebush outside of Oakland Post photographer Shannon Wilson's home. These snails can be found throughout the UK, western and central Europe and some parts of the United States. Hope it's enjoying the warm summer weather!

Photo by Shannon Wilson/The Oakland Post

Submit a photo to photos@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com



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GOLFING GREENS

Summer is here and the golf courses are ready to go, despite the harsh conditions they had to face this past winter.



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ALL WORK, NO PLAY

While the warm weather has hit and classes may be over for many, there are students who are harder at work than ever before.



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SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

The committee created to find and select OU's next president is a small one, and the secrecy is upsetting more than a few campus minds. (Continued from the centerspread.)

POLL OF THE WEEK

What are you doing over the summer break?

- A** Break? There is no break.
- B** Getting high and drunk - ON LIFE.
- C** Becoming the next president of OU.
- D** Having a good time with friends and family.

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

How do you feel about your upcoming finals?

- A)** They are super helpful.
47.8%
- B)** They cost too much money- not worth it.
8.7%
- C)** I have to take them, but don't like it.
17.4%
- D)** Who needs summer classes? Turn up!
26.1%

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

June 17, 2007

Joshua Taylor, a Royal Oak resident, died at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital after getting into a skateboarding accident on OU's campus. According to police, Taylor had no affiliation with OU and had never skated on campus before.

June 4, 2003

The board of trustees voted unanimously to resurrect the Studio Art major in the Art and Art History department.

June 15, 1989

The Detroit Pistons won the first NBA championship in franchise history. They went on to repeat again in 1990.

BY THE NUMBERS

Presidential Search Edition

5

The number of presidents OU has had

5

Number of trustees on presidential search committee

81%

The amount of budget that is paid for by tuition

\$221,417,394

Oakland's budget for the 2013-2014 year

8

The number of state-appointed trustees to select the next OU president

Perspectives

STAFF EDITORIAL

Searching in the dark for OU's next pres

After nearly 10 months of waiting since former Oakland University President Gary Russi resigned from the position following an 18-year reign, the word is finally out on OU's new president.

The word: secrecy.

Since forming the Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee and approving R. William Funk & Associates as the official presidential search firm in December 2013, the Oakland University Board of Trustees has held three public meetings and an untold number of private meetings, interviewing and pursuing contenders to be the next leader of the Golden Grizzlies.

On Monday, June 2, Chairman of the Board Michael Kramer sent an email announcement to OU faculty stating that "extensive open campus forums will not be part of the ongoing process ... the Board of Trustees will make the final selection of the next Oakland University President from the set of finalists presented by the search committee."

The email defended the decision in the name of the "candidates' desires to maintain confidentiality, as all of the finalists are presently employed elsewhere."

"I am sure we can all agree that we do not want to eliminate an outstanding candidate who is perfectly happy in and does not want to risk his or her current position," wrote Kramer.

The Michigan Open Meetings Act defines itself as an act implemented to "require certain meetings of certain public bodies to be open to the public; to require notice and the keeping of minutes of meetings; to provide for enforcement; to provide for invalidation of governmental decisions under certain circumstances; to provide penalties; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts."

In other words, the public has the right to attend any and all government meetings — including state-funded universities such as OU.

However, after the Federated Publications, Inc. v. Board of Trustees of Michigan State University case in 1999 involving the closed-door presidential-picking policies at MSU, the act was amended, exempting informal meetings of regents of Michigan universities

from MOMA.

Technically, the OU board is in the right.

Amendments aside, however, we at The Oakland Post believe the closed meetings, secrecy, and the opaque nature of this search are fundamentally and ethically wrong.

According to Rochester Hills Finance Director Keith Sawdon, at press time, the total citywide budget for the 2014 fiscal year for the city of Rochester Hills amounted to \$129,440,980. In order to lead a city with this budget, current Rochester Hills mayor Bryan Barnett was elected through a popular vote, complete with meetings, debates, and interviews open to the public.

For the 2013 fiscal year, Oakland University's revenue budget amounted to \$221,417,394, according to the university website. Managing a budget nearly double that of its neighboring city, OU's next president has some serious power.

However, there will be no public elections and no extensive public forums regarding the final choice of the next manager of this \$221,417,394.

According to Kramer's latest email, the choice for the next president will be made behind closed doors by the board of trustees, eight individuals appointed — not elected — by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Now, we are not dismissing nor criticizing the capabilities or qualifications of those on the BOT. The board consists of highly distinguished community and business leaders: CEOs, lawyers and businesspeople with degrees in higher education. Their pedigrees speak for themselves.

We are, however, questioning the board's choice to keep the search under wraps, operating in a vacuum without anywhere close to proportionate representation from one of the university's major stakeholders — its students.

In fact, according to OU's general fund budget for the 2013 fiscal year, our students' tuition accounts for 81 percent of the school's \$221,417,394, or \$179,348,089.14, to be exact.

Eighty-one percent of the school's monetary power is represented by a singular student — senior and former Student

Body President Brandon Hanna — on the 12-member presidential search committee. The 12 representatives also include an OU distinguished alumnus, two administrators, three faculty members and five members of the board of trustees.

With only one student even remotely involved in any of this selection process of the university's next leader, we at The Oakland Post believe the least OU could do is allow a bit of transparency in the matter. What is there to hide?

Yes, under the OMA, Michigan public universities are technically permitted to pursue presidential picks in this clandestine fashion. However, the level of secrecy around the search is left to the discretion of the individual institution.

In fact, Northern Michigan University, another four-year public university, also recently conducted a presidential search, announcing Dr. Fritz Erickson as the choice on April 22.

The difference? Openness. The entire search was conducted with transparency, with a timeline of the search displayed on the university's website along with profiles of the four final candidates.

Kramer's email posits the "candidates' desires to maintain confidentiality, as all of the finalists are presently employed elsewhere" as justification for OU's furtive ways. But Dr. Erickson was in fact employed as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Ferris State University during the time of NMU's presidential search. In fact, all of the final candidates in Northern Michigan's search were currently employed in administrative roles at other universities.

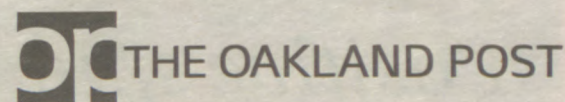
So what makes OU different? Why is the search for the potentially most important leader of our school being conducted in the dark? What lurks in the shadows of the board of trustee's decision?

It's time to come out of hiding, OU, time to clue the students, staff and faculty in on their next leader. After all, he or she will be the face of us all.

It's time, OU, to turn on the light.

The staff editorial is written by the members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.

The views expressed in Perspectives do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.



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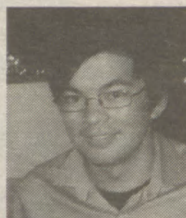
Because many of you have reached the finish line of your undergraduate career this season, I wanted to offer some words to my favorite newspaper: The Oakland Post. From 2006 to 2008, I edited the Mouth-ing Off Column and coordinated the staff editorials. Every so often, I cannot resist the urge to resume the role.

I graduated law school last month in Boston and am preparing to take my Bar Exam in July.

With all of the negative energy around law school these days, you need to hear some positive words. One does not need to look further than a simple Google search of "reasons not to go to law school" to find loaded search results with headlines like "Don't Go to Law School" and flow charts about the complexities of making the decision.

Regardless of all of the recent media hysteria about taking a few years to spend a lot of money to read some cases written by old, dead men, there are good reasons for you to pursue your childhood dream. I assure you, if you follow these six steps, you will be on your way to being your law professor's favorite student.

1. Believe all of the negative commentary you've read about law school, because it is true. There are not enough legal jobs, you will suffocate from student loans and the price of attending law school will most likely be 1,000 percent more (no exaggeration) than it cost the person teaching you. But, focusing on these realities should not bring you down. Use these challenges as an incentive to both change the structure of the system and as an incentive to excel at a practical



ALEX
CHERUP

2008 OU Grad

level so you will see direct results. The challenges that future lawyers today, like lack of jobs, are all primarily created by lawyers, and can be solved by lawyers. By coming to law school, you can be part of the solution.

2. Apply the skills you have developed prior to law school in your legal training. With Point 1 in mind, you need to be on your "A" game. Rather than approach law school as a waiting room for liberal arts Bachelor Degree-holders before the appointment in the real world, arrive with an all-hands-on deck attitude ready to hone the areas where you already have knowledge. With this focus, you can customize your law school experience to fit your unique skills and knowledge. This effort, in turn, will customize your experience searching for jobs, and beyond. For instance, as a visionary English major, you can use your creativity during a criminal defense memo, not to mention quote John Donne in the mock courtroom (as you may know, he went to law school). As a talented young scholar who studied philosophy with expertise in logical analysis, you can cohesively arrange the arguments against the irrational opposition to same-sex marriage in your Constitutional Law course.

3. Prohibit yourself from stressing beyond a reasonable level in your first-year. The experience is synthetic hardship created by the original members of a long lineage of academic purists to intentionally overwhelm students. It is not the end of the world. You will pass, and, if you don't, well then, you really don't have to stress about Point 1. And,

being a lawyer is overrated.

4. Participate in every experiential learning opportunity that you can find. From legal clinics where you support actual clients, to skills-based hypothetical courses, to externships and co-ops, you can feel like a lawyer before you walk across the graduation stage. Identify these programs before you start your first-year to build connections for the second and third-year. I suggest you even rank this high on your list of priorities for selecting a school, as some specialize in experiential learning. Remember, theory can only get you so far in the dog-eat-dog world of law, so use the time before you start law school to research the practical programs at your school. In fact, with enough experiential learning in your curriculum, you will participate in the best alternative to a creative suggestion made by President Obama and others: reduce law school to two years of academic coursework and make the third year an apprenticeship opportunity.

5. Befriend an upper-level student. Free from allegiances to the school and the profession, this independent voice of practicality is a source for knowledge, support and hopefully a couple of trips to the nearest bar.

6. DO NOT ever look at law school rankings. The process to determine a school's ranking is so absurd, you wouldn't even believe it if I wrote it.

In short, follow these steps, and you will be on your way to chasing that ambulance. Good luck, and I look forward to seeing your picture next to a catchy 1-800 number on a billboard soon.

EDITORIAL

Shooters become celebrities, victims ignored

I always find it kind of funny how we react to tragedy. Not that tragedy is at all funny, just that our reactions tend to be a bit misplaced. We always focus on the superficial elements. The big picture

never really crosses our minds as long as we can relate to what we are reading in some way.

News is supposed to be impartial. Reporters are not supposed to form your opinions or tell you theirs. But we know it is not always like that. The media likes to filter things so you only hear what they want you to hear and focus only on what they want you to focus on. Headlines have become a cunning web in unto themselves.

We want to draw you in with catchy or clever titles that leave you wondering whether or not you want to see Hugh Jackman shirtless. That or the news itself isn't all together that interesting in the first place so we have our tricks to get you to read.

This has become the most apparent case with the recent news of the Isla Vista Shootings.

The shooter (who will remain nameless for the duration of this piece because we treat these people like Voldemort) has his apparent "mental illness" plastered on every headline. Not only does this stigmatize mental illness as something dangerous and only associated with psychopaths, it shows how news outlets are shifting our sympathies.

Not only is the "mental illness" plaster silly, it puts criminals into specific groups. If you are brown

or arab? Terrorist. You're black? Gang violence.

But if you so happen to be white, you get the lucky medal of "mentally ill." It makes it sound like everyone was consciously violent except this criminal. He wasn't in control of his faculties. He was sick.

The biggest problem is that these news outlets are not pointing our regards towards the victims; they are pointing it toward the perpetrator. We do not need to be told that he is mentally ill, as it was pretty apparent from the moment he, oh I don't know, started murdering people. This person does not need to be humanized. We shouldn't want to hear interviews from how his parents thought that "He was such a good kid."

Misogyny is apparently never mentioned in these articles. Gun violence is something that is rarely mentioned. News articles should definitely be unbiased, but if they are already pointing at least point in the right direction. Our culture has byproducts by the names these killers take and we cannot even diagnose the issue. It starts with how we present these cases.

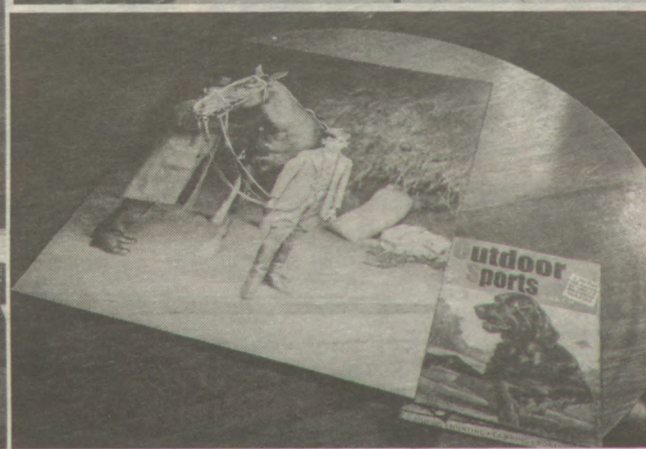
The more we focus on the shooter, the more we give him what he wanted. Memorializing him is not good journalism. It fosters the problem. What should be done is take every chance we can to focus on those he hurt.

Rest in peace: Cheng Yuan "James" Hong, George Chen, Wei Han "David" Wang, Katherine Cooper, Veronika Weiss, and Christopher Michaels-Martinez. May your names live on longer than the person's who took your lives.



KASEB
AHMAD

Staff Reporter



LEFT: An interior view of Daniel Dodge's cabin around Christmas, 1926, when the cabin was built. Courtesy of Madelyn Rzakdowski. **TOP:** The cabin's garage, complete with an antique Dodge automobile. Daniel Dodge's father was a co-creator of Dodge automobiles. **BOTTOM:** The cabin is filled with items and trinkets which provide a glimpse into the past.

A cabin in the wilderness

Danny Dodge's cabin made for the perfect playhouse and work space

Ali DeRees

Campus and Administration Editor

Nestled in the peaceful woods north of Meadow Brook Hall is the cabin of Daniel (Danny) Dodge. It was a place where a young boy could escape and play with his trains and planes, and a place where a young man would cultivate his love for automobiles.

Danny was the only son of John Dodge, co-founder of Dodge Brothers Company, and Matilda Dodge Wilson, founder of Oakland University. After John Dodge's death in 1920, Matilda married Alfred Wilson in 1925.

The cabin was moved in 2013 from its original location on the east side of the property by the golf course, closer to the estate by the gardens and Mill Cottage.

Meadow Brook Hall Curator Madelyn Rzakdowski said the cabin was moved in two different sections,

and the process took a few moments to ensure everything was moved safely and securely.

Rzakdowski said the cabin was built in two sections at different times and points in Danny's life. She said the cabin, in a way, grew with him.

In 1926, the cabin was built as more of a play area for young Danny, and in 1937, Danny built the garage where he worked on a diesel engine, kept his motorcycle and tinkered with different vehicles and automobiles.

Rzakdowski said she thinks the cabin could be seen as somewhat of a getaway for Danny and that its original location near Meadow Brook Farms helped.

"I think he did value his alone time," Rzakdowski said. "He probably enjoyed having it out by the farm."

Meadow Brook Hall Student Manager Mike Katnik described the cabin as "our new old exhibit."

Katnik mentioned some of Danny's

"I think he did value his alone time. He probably enjoyed having it out by the farm."

Madelyn Rzakdowski
Meadowbrook Curator

favorite childhood activities that he enjoyed at his cabin.

"As a kid, he had his trains," he said. "One of his big hobbies was his planes."

Katnik also said how unique the cabin was compared to any other child's play place.

"A playhouse with a bathroom is very cutting edge," he said. "It was very Davey Crockett."

As Danny got older, he spent most of his time in the garage tearing down cars with his dad and uncle, according to Katnik.

"He had a real mechanical inclination to automotive machines,"

he said.

Danny's life was cut short when he died in a boating accident at the age of 21, according to Katnik.

The cabin provides a "direct correlation to the lives of the family," Katnik said. "It has a different appeal."

Rzakdowski said she also believes exhibits such as the cabin provide a special look at the children's lives at the estate.

"They are more interpretive displays on growing up on the estate," she said.

Rzakdowski said Danny's cabin is now included in the Holiday Walk and they are excited to have it incorporated in their tours of the Meadow Brook Estate.

Contact Campus and Administration Editor Ali DeRees at apderees@oakland.edu.

Extended edition

Grizzlies on the Prowl:

"What are your thoughts on the presidential search?"



Ellen Searle, junior, psychology

"I'm in Student Congress so I'm aware that the search is going on. They actually came in to one of our meetings. I thought that it was really cool to be able to express my opinion about what we as students are looking for in a president ... I really do hope the committee considers what we as students have to say."



Ellen Kissel, proud parent of a future Golden Grizzly

"I don't know, but it's always a time of transition so you hope that you get someone who the people who are already here support, but that still brings in some outside culture."



Julianne Boyle, graduate, biology

"I don't know enough about it to give an intelligent answer."



Nathan Ziolk, graduate, marketing

"I hope they hire George Clooney while Morgan Freeman narrates what's going on to the students."



Charles Scribner, senior, nursing

"I don't know anything. To be fair, I'm actually out of town ... It's curious. Why? Why is that happening? Do students relate the importance of that person to them? There's a disconnection."



Vagner Whitehead, associate professor, Department of Art and Art History

"To be totally honest I'm not keeping up, what I have heard is that some faculty feel we need more transparency in the process ... it's taken forever to get done and some things are not clear."

— Compiled by Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

POLICE FILES

Larceny at Vandenburg Hall

OUPD was dispatched to the first floor of Vandenburg Hall on a report of larceny May 28 at 8:00 a.m.

Officers made contact with the field superintendent for Borton Construction. He stated someone stole his power tools at the construction site in Vandenburg Hall because the doors in the east wing were not bolted shut. The field superintendent said that a Milwaukee cordless drill, Milwaukee cordless hammer drill and Milwaukee sawzall were stolen.

OUPD noticed fresh marks between the lide and the tool chest made by a pry bar or large pipe.

They later watched video footage on May 24. At 3:04 p.m. a young male exited the construction area carrying two Milwaukee cases and a backpack.

Suspicious person at Ann V. Nicholson Apartments

Officers were on patrol May 31 at 12:55 p.m. outside of the Ann V. Nicholson Apartments when they saw a man who appeared to be sleeping while standing up with his hands down the front of his pants.

Officers asked what he had been doing. The man stated that he was at a party and had been drinking underage.

OUPD noticed a strong smell of intoxicants. Officers asked if he would blow into breathalyzer, and he agreed. His blood alcohol level was 0.94.

He was given a misdemeanor ticket for minor in possession.

Ongoing investigation

At approximately 9:25 a.m. June 3, a suspect reportedly approached a woman on the third floor of Kresge Library and positioned himself to obtain a photo from under the victim's skirt. As soon as the victim realized what was happening, the suspect left.

Anyone with information can call OUPD at (248) 370-3331 or 911 on a campus telephone.

— Compiled by Haley Kotwicki
Chief Copy Editor

Who will choose?

A look
at who
will be
picking
OU's
leader

Photos courtesy of Oakland.edu



Richard Flynn
Ad Hoc
Committee
Member

Richard Flynn was a teacher for Fraser Public Schools for 27 years and was appointed to the OU Board of Trustees in 2008. He earned a master's degree in education from Oakland University in 1976, after his bachelor's degree from Wayne State in 1970. He is the current president of the Michigan Executive Directors Association.

The Board of Trustees

There are eight members on the board, each of which are appointed by the Governor of Michigan to serve eight-year terms. The board elects a chair and vice chair from its members who may serve up to two years in each position. Michael Kramer is the current chair.

In addition to conducting presidential searches, the board provides general supervision of the university, according to the board's website. This includes "control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds."



Richard DeVore
Ad Hoc
Committee
Member

DeVore holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in business from Wayne State University. He also completed the Wharton School of Advanced Risk Management Course in 2008. DeVore was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2013 and is currently an Executive Vice President of PNC Bank.

R. William Funk & Associates

The board of trustees has named higher education search firm R. William Funk & Associates as the search consultant. As a consultant, Funk and Associates has been aiding in researching and identifying candidates, conducting screens, coordinating interviews, verifying credentials and references, and job offering and accepting processes.

According to the Oakland University presidential search page, Funk and Associates has conducted 375 searches for other college and universities.



Michael Kramer
(Chair) Ad Hoc
Committee
Member

Kramer attended Miami University and went on to law school at Wayne State University. In 1968, he established Kramer, Mellen, P.C. and moved to Miro Weiner & Kramer in 1995. Kramer was appointed to the Oakland University Board of Trustees in 2008, and also serves as the general counsel for Crestmark Bank and the National Conference for Justice.



Mark Schlusell
Ad Hoc
Committee
Member

Schlusell attended Wayne State University and then received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1965. He was appointed to the board of trustees in 2010. He has also served as a member of the Southfield City Council and worked on the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority from 1986 to 2000. He is the 1990 recipient of the Michigan Hospital Association's Hospital Governance Award.



Monica Emerson
Ad Hoc
Committee
Member

Emerson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in French and secondary education from Oakland University, a Masters of Arts degree in guidance counseling from Wayne State University, and a professional development degree from the University of Michigan. She was appointed to the board of trustees in 2007 and currently serves as the principal of Inclusive Performance Solutions.



David Dulio
Chair, Political
Science
Department

David Dulio serves as the chair of Oakland University's Political Science department. Dulio received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and earned his master's and doctoral degrees from American University in Washington D.C. He often contributes to local and national news media including Time Magazine and Fox News.



Craig Stinson
Distinguished
Alumni

A School of Business Administration alumni from the class of 1984, Stinson has served as chair of the SBA Board of Visitors; on the President's Campaign Planning Committee in 2010; and on the Athletics Advisory Board, among others. He was also a member of the Oakland University Alumni Association and completed MCA at the University of Michigan in 1990.



Louay Chamra
Dean, School
of Engineering
and Computer
Science

Louay Chamra became dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science in October 2009. He received his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas, Austin; his master's in mechanical engineering from the University of Portland; and his doctorate in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He has also been involved in numerous research projects and articles.



Janell Townsend
Associate
Professor of
Marketing

Janell Townsend is an associate professor of marketing and international business, and holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Michigan State University. She served as the Vice President of Community Relations and Academic Affairs for the Automotive Women's Alliance Foundation, and is a member of the Executive Advisory Board for We Build Character, a non-profit professional mentoring organization.



Steven Shablin
University
Registrar

Steven Shablin has been the Registrar since August 1998 and is a senator for the AP Assembly on the University Senate. In 2011 he was chosen as the Outstanding Administrative Professional by OU's AP Assembly, and is also a member of the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars.



Andrei Slavin
Distinguished
Professor of
Physics

Andrei Slavin, chair of the physics department, has a Ph.D. in radiophysics and is a published author. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, where he has been a member since 1992. He arrived at Oakland in 1991, and in the 2008-09 academic year with him serving as chair, the physics department secured more than \$1.6 million in external grants, according to Oakland's website.



Brandon Hanna
Student
Representative

Brandon Hanna was appointed by the board to the search committee in December 2013.

A senior biology student, Hanna has served on the Oakland University Student Congress for over three years as a legislator and as student body president for the 2013-2014 academic year. He will continue to serve as a legislator until he graduates in December 2014.

FAST FACTS

The board of trustees

Eight people, eight year terms

Members appointed by governor of Michigan

"The board provides general supervision of the university, including control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds. The board also appoints the university president as well as the secretary to the board and treasurer," according to oakland.edu/bot

The president

"The president reports to the Board of Trustees and is the chief executive officer of the university, serving as leader of OU's senior administrative team," according OU's website

Story by Sam Schlenner

Design by Benjamin DerMiner

The search for a president

As the list of candidates for OU's top job narrows

Oakland University's presidential search will be conducted without extensive open campus forums, said Michael Kramer, chair of the OU Board of Trustees and presidential search committee.

"Because of the candidates' desire to maintain confidentiality, as all of the finalists are presently employed elsewhere, extensive open campus forums will not be part of the ongoing process," he said in an email on Monday June 2.

With the addition of the word "extensive," Kramer's email left open the possibility of some type of forum.

In fact, on Tuesday, just hours before press time, Brandon Hanna, the only student on the search committee, told the Post there will be forums for representative faculty, staff and possibly students, which may be invite-only. The Post could not confirm this with OU spokespeople.

In either case, the decision to limit access to the finalists is receiving mixed reviews.

"The move to not hold extensive

open campus meetings is reminiscent of when former President Gary Russi was hired," said Sharon Howell, an OU professor of communication.

"Then too, the Board of Trustees justified secret meetings, closed door sessions, and a process they told us was designed to protect those who applied for the position but did not want this to be known," she said in an email.

They are not rushing through the search, said Sam Wolf, a student liaison to the Board of Trustees.

"I think they're taking their time to make sure they find the best president for the university," she said.

Not every soul is willing to comment on the move, least of all the members of the search committee, who were largely silent, except Hanna.

The confidentiality agreement is working.

None of the trustees on the committee could be reached after June 2, the only word coming from Kramer in the email.

Spokespeople from University Communications and Marketing

confirmed there will be no update until the next board meeting Tuesday July 1 at 2 p.m.

The search

This is how OU gets its next president:

October 7 of last year, the board, which approves tuition rates and the over \$200 million annual budget, appoints a search committee.

Michael Kramer is chair of both.

The board appoints five of its eight members to the committee of 12, and fills the remaining seven slots with members of the OU community.

The board moves to hire a search firm, R. William Funk & Associates, on Dec 9, which contacts hundreds of potential candidates.

The committee considers 40 of them, interviews nine or 10, and forms its recommendations.

Then it's back to the board, who meets with and extensively vets the candidates, and who has the final say on who to hire as president.

And the public might never have known who that hire would be.

The public might never have known who will lead a university of

THE BOARD AND THE LAW: A HISTORY

All timeline events have been compiled from Oakland Post archives and records from the State of Michigan Court of Appeals.

Timeline by Ali DeRees
Photos courtesy of oakland.edu.

JANUARY 11, 1995

President Sandra Packard resigns, Garry Russi is appointed as interim president. Packard served as Oakland University's president from 1992 to 1995.



APRIL 17, 1995

The Oakland Press files a suit against Oakland University for holding closed presidential search committee meetings. The Oakland Post followed by filing a complaint against the university as well.

MAY 22, 1995

The presidential search is terminated due to an Oakland County Circuit Court's decision to make presidential searches public under the Open Meetings Act. Gary Russi remains as interim president. Oakland University appeals circuit decision.

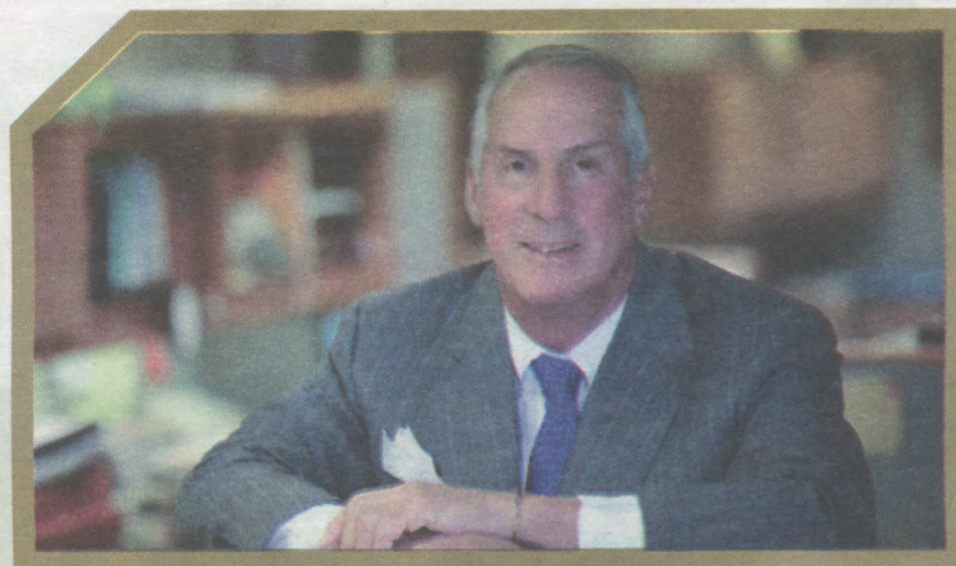


APRIL 11, 1996

The board votes to appoint Russi as president of Oakland University.

Search resident

narrows, the mystery of their identities widens



Michael Kramer, chair of the OU board and search committee

Photo courtesy of oakland.edu

more than 20,000.

The Post talked with Kramer on May 15.

"A lot of what's going on there has to remain confidential, because most, if not all of the applicants, are all people that are presently employed," he said to preface the interview.

"I'm not so sure that the board, as a whole, at this point, has had a lot to do, because there is a select group of them on the committee," he said.

Five of the eight board members are on the committee of twelve.

"But I can tell you that we've interviewed some excellent candidates. I think people have kept an open mind. I think people know this is a huge event for Oakland University."

The search committee is very interested and focused on picking the right candidate, he said.

"I think they've done their homework."

Kramer said that no one quality of the new president is most important.

"We're looking for somebody who could be the face of the uni-

versity. ... Somebody who would be out in the community, and who would help with fundraising," he said.

He said the president will have quite a bit of autonomy.

"We're not sitting next to him day to day as he's making decisions. He has a large amount of flexibility with regards to many of the day-to-day things he does," Kramer said.

One of the president's roles, according to OU's website, is to "strategically align the competencies of the institution with stakeholder values, to further its academic role in the region."

"The student body obviously is one of the stakeholders, and in fact, Brandon Hanna, the president of the student body happens to be on the committee," Kramer said.

Hanna, former student body president, is the only student on the committee of twelve.

The committee is chaired by Kramer, and is made up of Trustees Schluskel, Flynn, DeVore, and Emerson, Chair of the Political Science Department David Dulio, distinguished alumnus Craig Stinson, Dean of the School for Engineering

& Computer Science Louay Chamra, Chair of the Physics Department Andrei Slavin, Associate Professor of Marketing Janell Townsend, University Registrar Steven Shablin, and former Student Body President Brandon Hanna.

"The other stakeholders could be donors of the university that want to know that the university is going in a direction that's what they're interested in," Kramer said.

Other stakeholders, according to Kramer, are administration, faculty, and parents of students.

The presidential search is just like a normal job search, Wolf said.

"You do applications; the committee reviews them. It's a little different in the fact that everything has to be very confidential," she said.

In the 2013 provost search, the top three candidates were brought to campus to meet the students, faculty, and administration, she said.

That might not happen in the presidential search, according to Kramer's email.

"The committee is very sealed tight," Wolf said. "I would say they're doing the best they can do. It's a very confidential issue."

"I'm making sure the students' voices are heard," Hanna said. He has attended every meeting of the committee, and said there are some very high quality candidates.

The legality

"Dear Citizen," begins the Michigan Open Meetings Act guide on legislature.mi.gov.

"The ideal of a democratic government is too often thwarted by bureaucratic secrecy and unresponsive officials. Citizens frequently find it difficult to discover what decisions are being made and what facts lie behind those decisions."

The guide continues.

"The Open Meetings Act, Public Act No. 267 of 1976, protects your right to know what's going on in government by opening to full public view the processes by which elected and nonelected officials make decisions on your behalf."

**Continued on
page 16**



DECEMBER 9, 2013
The OU Board of Trustees appoints R. William Funk & Associates as the Presidential Search Firm.



FEBRUARY 7, 1997

The State of Michigan Court of Appeals upholds the decision to keep presidential searches open to the public.

JUNE 15, 1999

Federated Publications, Inc. files a lawsuit against the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University. The Michigan Supreme Court rules that the government cannot take away the board's authority to choose a public university president. Candidates who do not request confidentiality must participate in public meetings.

AUGUST 30, 2005

The Oakland Sail/The Oakland Post files a lawsuit against the Oakland University Board of Trustees for violating the Open Meetings Act. The student publication lost and the court referenced the 1999 Supreme Court case to the board's right to operate with a degree of secrecy.

Sports

The grass is always greener

Oakland University's golf courses survive Michigan's record-setting winter to remain in working condition for summer golf



Michael Ferdinande/Oakland Post

The lush greens and rolling fairways were able to stay in workable condition despite the record-breaking rough winter that Oakland endured.

Joseph Bach
Staff Reporter

In a year that saw record-breaking amounts of snowfall in Michigan, Oakland University golf courses Katke-Cousins and R&S Sharf remained, for the most part, unscathed by the harsh winter.

Rumors of detrimental damage to the Katke-Cousins course arose early this spring, lumping it in with most of the other courses in southeast Michigan.

According to golf and managing director Bill Rogers, and head course superintendent Tom Schall, most courses within each region keep in contact to compare conditions of their respective courses.

Katke-Cousins suffered minimally this year when they implemented six temporary greens, but in comparison to the likes of Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak and their 17 temporary greens, this was negligible.

As the snow fell, those in charge are left to choose between either doing nothing or plowing the snow and cracking the ice. When ice forms it doesn't let the gasses escape, which could kill the grass below. On the other hand, snow is actually good for the grass, as it provides a natural insulator from the cold air above.

"You can stop the snow about as much as you can stop a tornado," Rogers said. "You just need to let Mother Nature

"You can stop the snow about as much as you can stop a tornado. You just need to let Mother Nature happen. It's when it's over that you then apply your knowledge."

Bill Rogers
Golf and Managing Director

happen. It's when it's over that you then apply your knowledge."

With this in mind, Schall took precautionary measures by top dressing the greens while cutting them higher. This allows for longer roots and more nutrition for the grass to survive the coming winter.

The top dressing and snow combined to insulate well. It's fortunate that the Oakland University area wasn't one hit by too much ice.

It is due to these precautionary measures and the fine attention they dedicated to the care of our very own Oakland University courses that both courses are open and sustaining over 300 golfers a day with ease.

Tucked back in the beautiful landscape surrounded by the old Dodge house and Mansion, these courses are ready to be played. Full time students taking at least six credits this summer semester at OU only pay \$14 on weekdays for 18 holes.

Contact Staff Reporter Joseph Bach at jpbach@oakland.edu.

THE SPORTING BLITZ

Men's Baseball

The Oakland University men's baseball team finished out their 2014 spring season May 22 in the Horizon League tournament after suffering a 2-0 loss to Valparaiso in an elimination game. The team lost to fourth-seeded Milwaukee the day before to set up the elimination game with Valpo. OU finished with an overall record of 12-33 and a conference record of 7-17 in their first Horizon League season. The Grizzlies will return in 2015 looking to build off some late season success, going 4-2 over their final six games of regular season play.

Women's Softball

The OU women's softball team finished out a strong inaugural Horizon League season last month with an overall record of 16-23 and a conference record of 5-9. Erika Polidori was honored as a First Team All-Horizon League athlete, finishing the season with a .333 batting average with 41 hits and five home runs and only committed one error the entire season as the team's catcher.

Track and Field

The Grizzlies men and women's track and field teams finished out the 2014 spring outdoor season last month at the Horizon League Championship, with the men finishing sixth overall and the women taking seventh. Chris Scott and Serena San Cartier both earned individual championships in the men's 800 and the women's 100 hurdles, respectively.

For the full sports blitz, visit oaklandpostonline.com

Compiled by Sports Editor Jackson Gilbert



Craig Rittel/Associated Press

From left: Barry Sanders, Eric Ebron and Commissioner Roger Goodell after the Detroit Lions first round selection.

Lions select Ebron 10th overall

Pressure is on Stafford with new offensive weapons

By Joseph Bach
Staff Reporter

For those who immediately turned to social media to vent after the draft, it's important to keep in mind not every pick can be a sexy name, and even though the Lions war room on draft day didn't agree with your draft opinion, there's still hope on the horizon.

Round 1, Pick 10: Eric Ebron, Tight End, North Carolina

Joe Lombardi comes into the Lions from New Orleans as offensive coordinator, and if you've watched a Saints game, then you know the importance of tight end Jimmy Graham down in The Big Easy.

At the combine, Ebron ran the 40 yard dash in 4.6 seconds. For comparison purposes this is faster than wide receivers Kelvin Benjamin (FSU) and Jarvis Landry (LSU), among many more. This 6'4" 250 pound player managed to pull down 62 catches for 973 yards last season.

Touted by scouts as a nightmare mismatch for those trying to cover him, Ebron will be an immediate impact as a vertical threat all though there is much to be desired when it comes to his blocking abilities.

Round 2, Pick 40: Kyle Van Noy, Outside Linebacker, Brigham Young University

Van Noy comes in with solid size and decent speed. Van Noy tallied 61 tackles for loss, 26 sacks, 11 forced fumbles and 7 interceptions in his career at BYU.

Known for his pass rushing skills, he should team up well as an edge rush linebacker with Ndamukong Suh, Nick Fairley and Ziggy Ansah in front of him.

Round 3, Pick 76: Travis Swanson, Center, Arkansas

Draft experts have one recurring negative comment on Swanson: his strength. Coming in as the future successor to 35-year-old Dominic Raiola, this gives Swanson a full season to gain experience under that expert tutelage, as well as add bulk in the weight room.

Round 4, Pick 133: Nevin Lawson, Cornerback, Utah State

Lawson has the speed and the agility to blanket receivers, but whether or not he can develop the awareness and ability to hang in the NFL remains to be seen. One thing is for sure, at 5-foot-9 inches he's not coming down with many jump balls. He joins a young pool of Lions cor-

ners: four other Detroit corners are in their first three years in the league.

Round 6, Pick 189: T.J. Jones, Wide Receiver, Notre Dame

Jones doesn't have blazing speed like fellow prospect Sammy Watkins, but he possesses stout hands and runs crisp routes. In his senior year, he tallied 70 catches for 1100 yards and nine touchdowns. For the record, those stats put him within 100 yards of first round draft choices Odell Beckham Jr. and Kelvin Benjamin.

The Lions may not have taken that can't-miss prospect or a collegiate fan-favorite, but for the time being, this class has the potential to be very solid.

In a Lions press conference, new head coach Jim Caldwell said Ebron is "going to force teams to make a choice on how they cover Calvin (Johnson)." Clearly, quarterback Matthew Stafford can't complain about the addition of another weapon, especially an explosive, potential defensive nightmare in Ebron. If he does turn into the next Graham, Lions fans will have a hard time arguing against the pick.

Contact Staff Reporter Joseph Bach at jpbach@oakland.edu.

Football club announces new coaching staff

New president and adviser complete leadership roster

By Scott Davis
Staff Reporter

After a mostly successful inaugural season last year, the Oakland University Football Club is looking for repeat success with a new coaching staff.

The football club leaders held a press conference at the Oakland Center Thursday, May 1 to introduce the media and sponsors to their new coaching staff. President David Brosky, Advisor Nic Bongers and new head coach, Chris Pickney, all made short statements about the past success and future goals of the club.

Pickney takes over the head coach responsibilities after the club went through three different coaches last season. Even though numerous power changes occurred over the course of the club's short existence, Pickney is still impressed at how organized this team is.

"First thing I noticed, when I came for an interview, was these guys were well put together," he said. "They impressed me with that."

Brosky said the club faces challenges since it is ran and operated by students, but it's something that he also thinks is a good thing.

"It is really cool because it is something we can hold in our hearts that we are operating this club," he said. "It is just really exciting because we get to make the decisions and it is kind of up to us as players to see what we want to happen."

The club is looking for sponsors for the upcoming season and is participating in numerous fundraisers and community events to help raise money. One of the ways people can help donate to the club is by going to the Fundrazr website and searching for Oakland University Football Club.

The club is also holding its first annual golf outing Saturday, June 8 at Hartland Glen Golf Course. All profits will go to the club and Brooks Charities.

Fans can remain up to date on OU Football Club news by visiting their new website, <http://oufootballclub.wix.com/footballclub>, and their Facebook page, [facebook.com/OUclubfootball](https://www.facebook.com/OUclubfootball).

The new website features up to date information, videos and ways to get involved with the club. The Facebook page already has over 2,700 likes and features updates and the latest pictures from the club.

Contact Staff Reporter Scott Davis at sddavis@oakland.edu.



Scott Davis/The Oakland Post

The OU Football Club introduces their new coaching regime.



Photo illustration by Katherine Snoad

Andrew Wernette and his friends carpool for the drive home out of a parking lot at Oakland University.

"Hi, can you give me a lift?"

New ridesharing website connects drivers and riders

Andrew Wernette
Life, Arts & Entertainment
Editor

A new online rideshare program was recently set up for the Metro Detroit area, giving locals an alternative way of getting around. RidePost Detroit, a specialized webpage under the internationally-used RidePost.com, serves as the hub of this hopeful project.

Users would be able to either post their routes online for others to see, or else search for drivers that would be willing to share their car while traveling to a common destination. The idea is that everyone splits the gas costs, making it cheaper and it would lessen the impact on the environment.

Debra Rowe, a professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak, spearheaded the formation of the Free Ride Sharing Program for Detroiters. She

is also an expert on sustainable energies.

"As you know," Rowe said, "there's very little mass transit in Detroit."

She brought up the burgeoning number of automobiles that flow in and out of the city each day, not to mention the issues of parking that many face. She described this system of transportation as "impractical."

Because of this impracticability, Rowe decided to create an alternative. She worked with the Detroit Green Skills Alliance, an organization that promotes environmental practices throughout the area, to propose the idea of a citywide rideshare program to the city.

Being that Detroit was bankrupt, she said she believed that this program could actually do some good. It was approved. Rowe, along with some of her students, then reached out to one of the creators of RidePost to help set up the website, which he offered to do for free.

"We did the outreach about a year ago," she said. "We're just starting the promotions now."

Rowe hopes that the word will get out about this new program. She emphasized the communal

aspect of its practice.

"It connects you with people in your community you may not have known otherwise," she said.

Commuter schools like Oakland University could also be a popular target for the program.

"I definitely would be interested in it," Bernadette Ewing, a senior at OU, said.

She said that she once put her name on OU's Ride Board in the basement of the Oakland Center a few years ago to find a ride partner, but she was never picked up. She thought the RidePost setup was a good idea.

Senior Rachel Kolling was more hesitant to the idea, though.

"For me, I'm just too busy to worry about picking people up," Kolling said, citing her complex schedule of school and work. However, she said that she could see how it would be beneficial to students without automobiles.

To check out the RidePost Detroit website, go to <https://detroit.ridepost.com>.

Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor Andrew Wernette at life@oaklandpostonline.com.

A Q&A with the man behind the music

Neon Trees bassist's local roots bring him back to Detroit

By Oona Goodin-Smith
Editor-in-Chief

Branden Campbell. While his name may ring a bell, his music will definitely strike a chord. Bass guitarist for the Billboard chart-topping band Neon Trees, Campbell, visiting Detroit on June 29 for the Neon Trees' concert, spoke with the Post about his college, career, and time spent living in Michigan.

OP: When did you realize wanted to be a musician?

BC: Growing up, I lived in Las Vegas and was always into playing guitar and the music scene. In 1996 when I was about 20, I moved to the Clarkston/ Waterford area for a couple years. I also spent some time living in Flint doing a mission trip. Living in the Detroit area really shaped my music tastes. There's an amazing pedigree here, and it's great to study up on different basslines. From Motown to classic rock to Bob Seger, Michigan has an excellent music scene.

OP: Did you study music in college?

BC: No, actually. I went to

both Brigham Young University and Provo State University in Utah to work on a graphic design major. I actually tried not to do music in college, but that lasted for all of three weeks before I was playing in a band again.

OP: Is that when you started with the Neon Trees?

BC: No, I bounced around from band to band at first. I grew up with the mentality of practicing at least five days a week, but the bands I met just weren't that dedicated. I started with Neon Trees in 2007 and was just so impressed with their work ethic. We played every night in bars paying our dues until 'Petsounds' made it big a few years later.

OP: What advice would you give to a college student pursuing a career in music?

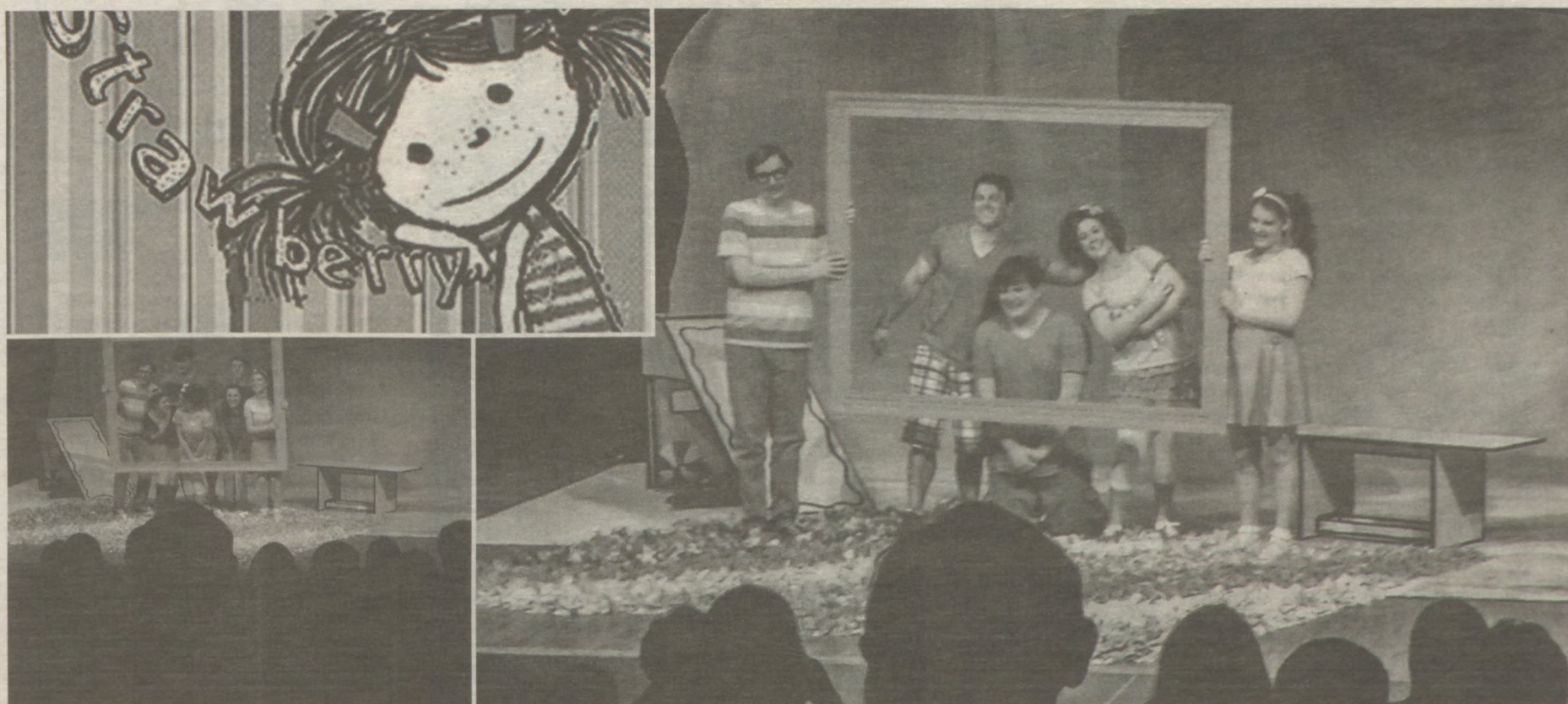
BC: Work on yourself and recognize what you're good at. Everyone's not meant to be a singer, but maybe they're a great songwriter. Focus on your talents to make yourself grow.

Campbell comes to the Fillmore in Detroit with the Neon Trees on Sunday, June 29. Visit concerts.livenation.com for more information.



bbgunpress.com / The Oakland Post

"Living in Detroit really shaped my music tastes," said Campbell (right).



Oona Goodin-Smith / The Oakland Post

TOP The musical is based off books written by Julianne Moore based on her own childhood insecurities surrounding her freckles. **LEFT** The "Freckleface" cast performs for a young audience in the Varner Recital Hall on May 18. **RIGHT** The cast travelled to several elementary schools during the show's run to perform for the children.

By Oona Goodin-Smith
Editor-in-Chief

"She rides a bike, just like everyone else. In fact, she is just like every other girl-- except for the fact that she has freckles," begins the play.

'She' is Freckleface Strawberry, the title character of Oakland University's latest children's musical, based on the book series written by actress Julianne Moore.

This May, OU's musical theatre students brought the book's Broadway interpretation to life, performing for young audiences at both OU and elementary schools in the Oakland county area.

"This is the first musical I've done at OU," said freshman Cassidy Temple, who played Freckleface in the May 18th show at the Varner Recital Hall. "I was in complete shock when the cast list came out, but it's been so much fun and very interesting since it's come together so fast."

After receiving their scripts, the double-cast fourteen-member crew only had two weeks to memorize lines and choreography before taking the 21-song show on the road to local elementary schools.

"I've loved performing at the elementary schools," said senior Jillian Hoffman, or "Ballet Girl" in the musical. "At our very first show, there was a little girl in the audience who screamed 'You're

so good!' and that was pretty special for me."

For junior Anna Marck, getting in touch with her inner child was crucial to forming the role.

"Playing towards the audience and letting ourselves be more like children helped us all to relate, I think," she said.

Marck, who played three separate characters in the production, both children and adult, also had the added

challenge of several quick costume changes. "It takes knowing the whole line of the show so I can plan ahead and know what exactly comes next," she said.

Freckleface Strawberry is based on the premise of self-acceptance, following one young girl (Temple) as she is picked on because of what makes her different—in this case, her ginger hair and freckles on her face.

"My character's favorite line is 'you do you.' I like that...he sets such a good example for the kids and everyone else."

Mitchell Aiello- "Jake"
Junior

Throughout the play, however, the audience and Strawberry learn that everyone, in fact, is different in some way, teaching acceptance to the children.

"My character's favorite line is 'you do you,'" said junior Mitchell Aiello, or "Jake" in Freckleface. "I like that he's so confident in himself and sets such a good example for the kids and everyone else."

For more information on upcoming performances from the Music, Theatre, and Dance department, visit oakland.edu/mtd.

Freckle Face Strawberry

OU MTD's newest children's musical encourages young audiences to embrace differences

Summer students press on

Summer break means hard work for many

By Jake Alsko
Web Editor

School may be out for the summer (for those who do not have summer classes), but that doesn't mean many college students aren't busy with summer jobs. While a down economy has affected youth employment, 50.7 percent of the 16 to 24-year-old civilian noninstitutional population was employed in July 2013, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Oakland University student Tyler Miller works at N1 Discovery in Troy, Mich., an E-Discovery, Digital Forensics and IT Security consulting firm. Miller assists with forensic analysis, collection and imaging.

"I get to go to a lot of interesting places for my job (a lot of which I'm not allowed to talk about), and I find digital forensics really interesting," he said. "Getting to comb through phones, computers, tablets, etc. and find evidence of a crime is exciting for me, and it requires me to think differently about things."

Miller said he's working 35-40 hours a week this summer and works approximately 25-35 hours during the school year.

"I haven't quite figured that one out yet," he said on how he balances work with the rest of his schedule. "It's a learning curve. Sometimes it's really difficult because we get a lot of work at once, and regardless of what else I'm doing, I have to get my work done."

"Thankfully, my co-workers and employers have been really understanding and flexible. They make it a lot easier."

An on-campus summer job is also a choice for students that can cut down on commuting to and from school, home and work.

Golden Grizzly senior Nicholas Frawley, 23, is the building manager of the Oakland Center.

"I make sure all the events are going on appropriately in the OC," he said. "If I have rooms that are supposed to be locked, I need to get those students out of there so the custodial staff can set them up for the next day."

Frawley also closes the OC, assists in maintenance and fields calls on questions regarding the building. He works around 18 hours a week during the school year, but during the summer his hours vary anywhere from six to 25 per



Kate Snoad / The Oakland Post

Student Brooke Lowe spends her time working at the circulation desk in Kresge Library.

week.

"I think something that's very fun, actually, is that there's a lot of events that go on in the OC, more so than most students realize," he said. "One of my personal favorites was a few months ago, we had the (Michigan) Pinball Expo."

"We had more than like 50 different pinball machines upstairs in the banquet rooms, and that was a really interesting site to see."

OU senior Nicole Andress works at the university's Campus Recreation Center, where she says they are very accommodating to fitting into student employees' schedules.

"The schedule here is really good with matching up with your classes and everything, so I never have a prob-

lem," she said. "I usually do closing shifts, so I'll have time afterwards to do my homework."

Andress said one of the perks of the job is the employee nights they have every couple months, where coworkers will hold events such as movie nights and bonfires.

"It's good for making money, but I also really like the people who work here," she said. "It's not that hard, and I like the atmosphere a lot."

On-campus jobs are temporary ones, but Andress, majoring in English and cinema studies, has an idea of what position she ultimately wants to land.

"I want to be a book editor," she said. "It's always something that I've been good at. I've always enjoyed it."

New president: Closed searches perfectly legal

By Ali DeRees
Campus & Administration Editor

The Oakland University Board of Trustees is currently in the midst of a search for the university's next president. The appointed search committee has made few details public and that's perfectly legal. Closed searches for university presidents in this state are protected by a 1999 ruling by the Supreme Court of Michigan.

The case, *Federated Publications Inc. (The Lansing State Journal and The Detroit News) v. Board of Trustees of Michigan State University*, basically exempted searches from the Open Meetings Act. The decision came down to two main factors: Candidates' right to privacy and the government unlawfully infringing on the board's power to maintain a public university.

The case, prompted by a series of candidate withdrawals during the 1992-93 MSU presidential search, went through a trial court, to the court of appeals and was officially settled by the Michigan Supreme Court in the '99 decision.

The court decided that the Open Meetings Act has little influence on public universities. It concluded that when a public university is searching for a president, candidates that who do not request confidentiality must partake in public meetings.

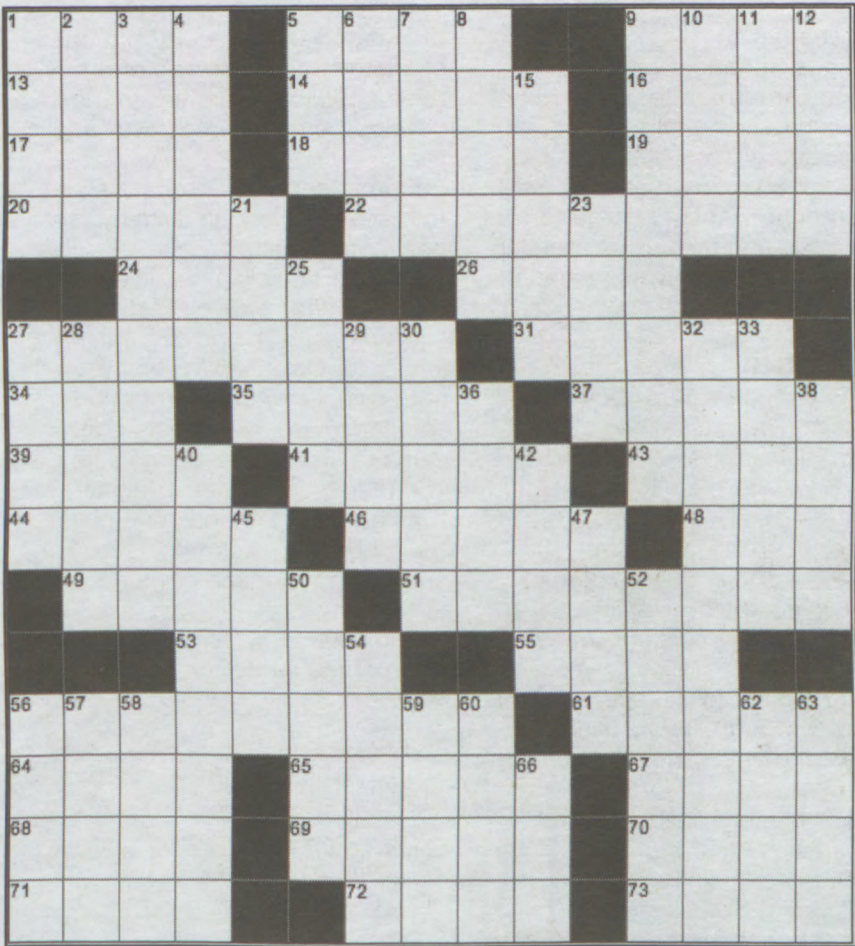
In 1995 The Oakland Press filed a lawsuit against the OU BOT for secret presidential searches. This was the same year President Sandra Packard resigned and Garry Russi was appointed Interim President.

In May 1995 Oakland County Circuit Court judge Gene Schnelz ruled that presidential searches were to be made public under the Open Meeting's Act. This caused the termination of the presidential search. The university appealed this decision and Russi remained the Interim President.

On April 11, 1996 the Board of Trustees voted to appoint Russi president of the university. No further search process for a president was made public. In 1997 the State of Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the decision to have presidential searches open to the public.

The Court of Appeals decision, however, was voided due to the 1999 Supreme Court decision.

Puzzles



- Across**
- 1. English poet Alexander
 - 5. Piercing tools
 - 9. Whistle-blowers, of a sort
 - 13. Black, to a bard
 - 14. Closet section
 - 16. Count's counterpart
 - 17. Small dam
 - 18. Cell phone alternative
 - 19. Herr's helpmate
 - 20. Church group
 - 22. Mark Twain, to Samuel Langhorne Clemens
 - 24. Neatnik's nemesis
 - 26. Hippodrome section
 - 27. Beats badly
 - 31. Dangle a carrot in fr.nt of
 - 34. Away from the office
 - 35. Competes in a sulky race
 - 37. Danger
 - 39. Table scraps
 - 41. Symbolized, with 'for'
 - 43. Extinct flightless bird
 - 44. Has a go at
 - 46. Turf
 - 48. A long way off
 - 49. Fancy party site, sometimes
 - 51. Not in an abundant manner
 - 53. Word in seven Hope titles
 - 55. Smithereens
 - 56. Understanding
 - 61. Cancún coins
 - 64. Act the butterfly
 - 65. Smoking gun, so to speak
 - 67. Curling surface
 - 68. Thorny flower
 - 69. Scent
 - 70. Memo
 - 71. Was in the red
 - 72. Friend
 - 73. Frosty's composition
- Down**
- 1: Sanctuary furniture
 - 2: Listen to
 - 3: Flower displayed at Christmas
 - 4: Register formally
 - 5: Pharaohs' symbol of power
 - 6: Sound of a hard smack
 - 7: Table supports
 - 8: Hand cream ingredient
 - 9: Went straight
 - 10: Make money
 - 11: Unravel
 - 12: Visit a run-down neighborhood
 - 15: Some salad
 - 21: Birdbrain
 - 23: Like one end of a pool
 - 25: Cell features
 - 27: Chimney sweep's target
 - 28: 'Come on!'
 - 29: Basic beds
 - 30: Puts away
 - 32: Line definition
 - 33: Re ocean motion
 - 36: Word before opera or dish
 - 38: Colorful parrot
 - 40: Placed out of sight
 - 42: Ho-hum
 - 45: Loafer, for instance
 - 47: Kind of coffee
 - 50: Packs down firmly
 - 52: Boat backs
 - 54: Stuffed delicacy
 - 56: Curly coif
 - 57: Beam with pride
 - 58: Get ready to shine?
 - 59: Caroling song
 - 60: Causeway fee
 - 62: Not fooled by
 - 63: Place at an angle
 - 66: Take wing

2	9					8		
4	5			9				
		7			5		3	
8					7	1		5
6		9	8					3
	6		4			7		
				8			2	4
		8					1	6

7		1	8					2
			4	6				
			2			5		1
		8					2	6
		4				1		
1	2					7		
9		2			5			
				1	6			
5					8	6		7

This applied to Oakland University presidential searches. And it worked. For a time.

It's moot in this case.

In 1999 the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in *Federated Publications, Inc. v. Board of Trustees of Michigan State University* that, "The Open Meetings Act simply didn't apply to presidential searches at public universities," said Herschel Fink, Detroit Free Press legal counsel.

"Federated stopped openness cold," said Jane Briggs-Bunting, President of the Michigan Coalition for Open Government.

If the presidential search was entirely closed off, the move would be completely legal, said Fink.

The crux

The crux of the open meetings issue is the concept of anonymity: that candidates do not want to be named lest their current employers know they are job hunting.

There are two sides to the story.

On one hand, a current employee searching for a better position is "a feather in the cap of

their own university," said Keith D. Kulper of Kulper & Company, an executive search firm. If the person has done good work and is looking to move up, that makes the university the person leaves look good, he said.

Thoroughness and openness are part of the search process, he said, and references are an important part of the proceedings.

These references are usually board members, deans, provosts, and senior faculty, said Richard Murray of Paschal Murray, a specialized executive search firm.

These references would make anonymity void.

However, "the references are typically provided only once a candidate agrees to become a finalist," said Jeffrey Harris of Harris Search Associates, a global executive search firm. Furthermore, "in a presidential search, much of the information must remain in the strictest confidence for as long as possible to ensure a successful search," he said.

"They pick people who can hold their confidence," Murray said.

"They're like medical doctors," he said. "They just don't go chat-

ting about it."

Briggs-Bunting disagrees.

"[The argument for anonymity] is a longstanding fallacy that has been regurgitated over and over and over again," she said. "I think if someone wants to come to your university and take the leadership role, of a public university, they should be open and above-board."

The end

The confidentiality of candidates can be maintained in the preliminary stages of a search, said Shelli Herman of Shelli Herman & Associates, an executive search firm.

Once a public examination of the candidates begins, she said, that anonymity flies out the window.

With no extensive open campus forums, though, public examination of the final candidates could be impossible.

OU's president can be hired behind closed doors.

The board hasn't learned much in 20 years, Howell said.

"It shows how no matter what governor appoints a trustee, the culture of the board remains one

of antagonism to faculty and one of limited understanding of the role of public universities in the development of democracy," she said.

Kramer said the committee and trustees are working diligently to hire a great leader.

Transparency is a necessity for a great leader, Howell said.

"The desire to find a 'great leader for Oakland University' is not possible when secrecy and anonymity are the primary concerns of any of these candidates. The truly great leader would be the one who demands open meetings with students, faculty and staff before she or he decides to take the job," she said.

"Otherwise, we can expect more of the same."

Contact Staff Reporter Sam Schlenner at swschlen@oakland.edu.

OU's Got Sass

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