

THE OAKLAND POST

MAY
13

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER — 2015 —

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OU officially welcomes its next president PAGE 10

Photo by Dani Cojocari / The Oakland Post

thisweek

May 13, 2015 // Volume 40. Issue 60



ontheweb

Maybe you've never thought of making homemade iced tea lemonade cubes, but it's something you should definitely try this summer. Blog Editor Selah Fischer shares this cool recipe at www.oaklandpostonline.com.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

TURN UP AND GET COLORFUL // Students crowd around the GlowRage stage to listen to a DJ while having glow paint sprayed over them. This was the colorful closing to the Student Program Board's first-ever Spring Fest, held on Friday, April 17 as one last celebration before finals.

Photo by Dani Cojocari / The Oakland Post

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

POLL OF THE WEEK

What's been the hardest part of summer so far?

- A** Too much work, too many classes.
- B** Being away from OU and my friends.
- C** There's nothing left to watch on Netflix, I watched it all :(
- D** Remembering to wear pants when I go outside.

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LAST WEEK'S POLL

What are your plans now that the school year's ending?

- A** Signing up for summer classes. Back to the 'ol grind. **21.1%**
- B** Sleep, binge-watch Netflix, repeat. **21.1%**
- C** Making the most of my summer. YOLO. **26.3%**
- D** Are you kidding? I still have to make it through finals. **31.6%**

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

May 16, 1984

The Student Club card is introduced, enabling OU students to purchase half price lawn tickets to select Meadow Brook Music Festival performances.

May 24, 1995

The School of Business Administration started the search for a new dean by hiring the search firm MacNaughton Associates for a cost of roughly \$27,500.

May 25, 2002

An ongoing debate ensues between the cities of Rochester and Pontiac to determine which city is better suited for college students.

— Compiled by Nick Kim, copy intern



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THE SITUATION WITH SUNSET

With Hynd officially inaugurated and the Sunset Terrace unoccupied by the presidential family, its fate is up in the air. What will happen to the historical home?



14

MUSIC AND GRASS

Meadowbrook Music Festival recently brought back the grass pass for OU students, which gives them \$100 lawn tickets for five selected summer concerts on the outdoor amphitheater.



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ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The men and women's track teams took third place in the Horizon League outdoor championship on Sunday, May 3. The placing was due in part to a slew of individual victories.

OU SUMMER STUDENT STATISTICS

Provided by OIRA

12,156

students were enrolled for summer classes in 2014

4

Native Hawaiian females were enrolled in summer classes in 2013

84

international students were enrolled in 2013 for summer classes

\$637.25

is the cost per credit hour for a graduate student in the summer of 2015

199

students were enrolled in organic chemistry II, which was the largest enrolled class in the summer of 2014

Letter from the editor: You matter most, so share your thoughts

Dear Oakland Post reader, I'm not sure if you know me or not, but I've been here for some time — one year and seven months, to be precise. That's quite long, as far as length spent at the Post goes. (We come and go like flies.)

I began as a reporter in September 2013, worked my way up to managing editor in March 2014, and now I've made it as editor-in-chief (words can't describe how excited I am for this, so I won't even try). While I'm sure you all care about my timeline immensely, there's one main reason I'm telling you this: I've loved the Post since day one and I've loved every moment spent here.

I'll be blunt: Before coming to the Post, I didn't take it very seriously. I'm not sure I was even aware Oakland University had a student newspaper. I only found out about it after my JRN 200 teacher, Holly Gilbert, recommended I come here.

I took her advice and discovered there is so much more to this paper than I had ever imagined.

I've seen so many of the Post's ups and downs, and I've felt the real traumas and triumphs of a college journalism student. It's been quite the eye-opening experience, and I feel like an entirely different person than I was one year and seven months ago.

This letter is my chance to tell you, the reader, directly: We care. We care deeply about what we do.

You might not guess it, but there are students that spend countless hours on this paper to make it the best it can be. There is nothing produced by

faculty or staff members — this is purely student-made.

There is a talented team of writers, photographers, copy editors, designers and editors that work to make the web and print issue something that is interesting, informative and beneficial to the community. There are advertisers that try to bring in revenue so we can invest in more projects and products. There are distributors that try to connect with readers and represent the Post in a positive manner. And there's an editor-in-chief that won't sleep until everyone's done their best work.

We're here, we're working, and we care.

At the same time, I want to remind you that we are students.

This paper is where we come to learn how to write, research and report interesting, informative and accurate content. This is where we come to learn how to develop the right emotional and social skills needed to interview strangers and to publish stories that might threaten our organization and careers as students.

Being a student is no excuse, but it's something to keep in mind. We don't want our work to be sloppy, but we will make mistakes.

Oh, we make mistakes. But that doesn't mean we don't care.

So first, reader, I will make a promise to you: I promise to do the best I can, and to learn how to continue making this a paper OU can be proud of. I promise to provide you with fresh, quality content that informs the OU community and inspires con-

versation on topics that matter to you.

We will seek the truth and report it, and we will give a voice to the voiceless. This mantra is the foundation of journalism and something we are taught from the beginning.

But in order to fulfill this promise, I need you, the reader, the reason we make this paper, to be open and honest with us.

Tell us what you want to know. Tell us what you enjoy reading. Tell us what you're disappointed in. Tell us how we can get better.

You won't hurt us by sending kind, constructive criticism. In fact, it's more than welcome. Any feedback is good feedback, I like to say.

Our main goal is to engage and inform you, our audience. You're what matters the most, and so does your opinion. How will we get better without knowing what you want?

So I am asking you today: please share your opinion freely. We simply ask that you remember who we are and what we are trying to do when you share that opinion.

It's going to be another year full of crazy and cool things. I hope I get to know more of you during it.

So please, take this to heart and reach out. I can't wait to hear what's on your mind.

Thank you for your readership and support, and thank you in advance for your thoughts.

It's going to be a great year and I'm absolutely honored to have a chance at this role.

Thank you,
Kaylee Kean
Editor-in-Chief



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The President's Report: Our promise to the students

Student Body President shares plans, vows to deliver on promises

Nick Walters
Student Body President

It's over. The speeches, handshakes, t-shirt giveaways and student org visits.

After an insane and crazy election, you, the students of OU, voted me, Nick Walter, as Student Body President with Madison Kubinski, my running mate, as Vice-President.

During the campaign we promised a lot: reforming the grading scale, expanding the OC, adding more outlets, and increasing swag on campus.

The Big 4, I called them.

Now, the new Walter/Kubinski administration has promises to keep, as does the rest of the newly-elected Student Congress.

We ran into a problem even before taking office, though: a problem that I knew would arise.

What on earth is Student Congress?

Why are we here?

What do we do?

When and where do we meet?

Many OU students don't know the answers to these questions.

Indeed, OUSC has sometimes even been called a "secret society".

Nothing could be further from the truth, and it is these



Nick Walters,
Student Body
President

perception that this column is designed to combat.

Put simply, I want you to know what's going on.

You elected me, you elected Madison, you elected the legislature. You deserve to know what we're doing.

So, then, I'm starting this column to give you an update on OUSC.

It will appear once a month, and will list what we've been doing, whether an Executive Board member is working with a student organization on a new project, Madison is coordinating with the legislature on their projects and ideas, or I am meeting with OU's administration to work on the Big 4, or, indeed, anything else that OUSC is doing.

I'll begin this column with a quick recap of the past month.

After being sworn in, Madison and I appointed (and the legislature approved) a new Executive Board.

Roughly similar to the Presidential Cabinet, they deal with areas such as student services, legislative affairs, environmental health and wellness, and diversity.

There are also eboard members who work on finances, marketing, graphics, and administrative affairs.

We've already started projects and moved into the OUSC office in the basement of the OC.

The legislature hasn't been idle, either: they've begun projects of their own.

All of OUSC has come together several times for meetings.

(As an aside, the meetings are

normally at 4 in the Oakland Room on Monday nights. During the summer, though, we don't meet as often. Check out our Facebook page for updates on when the next summer meeting will be.)

As a final thought, take this column as a starting point.

Don't just read this, helpful as I hope it will be.

Stop by the office. Email me. Email Madison. Email any member of the e-board or legislature. Ask probing questions. Get specifics.

Don't settle for a halfway job. We pledge, as the members of your student government, to deliver on our campaign promises and to represent you.

If we're not doing our job, then it is your responsibility as the student body to tell us so.

That is our promise for this year.

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ArtB. shatters expectations

Self-published alumna opens up about the triumphs, tribulations of writing

Dani Cojocari
Photo Editor

Making connections with authors, publishers and agents is one of the most important tasks a young author with dreams of having her work published can do. Ever since transferring to Oakland University for a bachelor's in Creative Writing, that's exactly what I've been trying to do.

The English department does a fantastic job with planning poetry and fiction readings, Q/A sessions with publishers and authors, and creating a large community of creative writers who want to learn the business. I've met many authors, made plenty of friends and gathered connections for my future because of it.

However, my last run-in with a debut author came from an assignment for The Oakland Post.

An Oakland University alumna had recently self-published her first novel and was celebrating with a book signing and reading in Detroit. When I heard the news, I was excited to go and take photos for the Post.

I met Art Pacious, who goes by pen name ArtB., at Urban Bean Co. in downtown Detroit on Saturday, April 11.

The bright orange café sitting on the corner of Grand River and Griswold wasn't hard to find, unlike the parking which eventually ended with me getting a parking ticket. Set up on the top level of the tiny café were chairs for guests to attend her book reading. Piles of her book, "Shattered Marbles," were stationed behind her, and a large poster of the cover of her novel was on display.

After introducing myself, I snapped my photos for the Post and then got to talk to her one on one, author to author. She is one of the nicest people I've ever met. She's passionate about her craft, and she was excited to talk to me about her novel and about her writing process.

The journey

Much like other authors, her passion for writing came at an early age.

"I've always loved writing, ever since I was a kid. I began taking it seriously when I was on the newspaper staff at my high school," she explained.

When I asked her which she



Art Pacious graduated from OU in 2007. It took her five years to complete her first novel, "Shattered Marbles," which she self-published under the penname, ArtB.

preferred, journalism or creative writing, she told me that she couldn't choose one over the other.

"Writing for the newspaper or any publication is all business. Creative writing is personal. When I'm writing and editing articles for hotcityonline.com, it keeps me on my toes. The creative writing allows me to express myself in a different way. To me, they're both equally important because it provides a balance. Publication writing is black and white. Creative writing is color."

We discussed topics such as character and setting. She told me in depth her reason for placing her novel in Detroit.

"Detroit is my home," she said. "No matter where I go, there's no place like home. I wanted to have the story of my first novel there. It just seemed right."

Soon enough, the café filled with friends and family who came to support her. They bought copies of her book, which she signed with a beaming

smile. "Thank you for supporting me!" she wrote in each copy. After taking photos with her supporters, myself included, she read some excerpts from her debut novel and had a Q/A session.

The art of storycrafting

One of the first questions asked was how she came up with the story, and if any of it was based on reality.

"The very beginning of the book was inspired by an actual event," she said with a laugh. "I had no idea where I wanted to go with that particular story, but I knew I wanted to share it because it was so bizarre. Eventually, I began developing the rest of the book from my imagination."

She explained that the rest of the book is completely fictional, but her characters are often influenced by people in real life and the main character is very much like her.

She also discussed the title, "Shattered Marbles".

"I actually have three reasons why

I came up with the title. 'Marbles' is such a great word to play on," she started. "First, it's something that can't be easily broken. You can throw it or bounce it off a hard surface, but it won't break. If you want to shatter it, you must heat it up and place it in cold water or by using a hammer. In the book, the main character is like that hard shell that's not easily broken, but so many things try to break her.

"Secondly, marbles are used as a game, such as Chinese Checkers. In the book, she believes that her ex-boyfriend is stalking her and leaving marbles. She thinks he's playing a mind game.

"Last but not least, the phrase 'lost your marbles' means someone is crazy. The main character is having a mental breakdown and possibly going crazy."

The roller coaster of writing

ArtB. discussed the process of writing, stating that it took her five years to complete the entire book. One guest asked how she battled writers block.

"After I realized that staring at the blinking cursor in Microsoft Word wasn't working, I would simply walk away. I would run errands, go hiking, watch movies, or take a nap. Basically, I would do whatever I could to get away from the problem," she explained. "Also, caffeine was, and is, my best friend during the writing process."

She also described how story ideas would hit her at random times, usually when she was starting to fall asleep.

"Writing is such a roller coaster ride. It has its ups and downs. However, the best part is when you finally get that great idea that completes your thought and you rush to the computer to type it in."

ArtB. even hinted about a sequel. "Nothing is etched in stone yet, but I will say that the sequel will go deeper and more in depth than the first."

She ended with advice to young writers.

"Perfectionism is something you should stay away from. Just write! You can go back and revise and edit later. If you have a great idea, go with it no matter what. Challenge yourself to make it work. Tweak it until it's exactly what you want. It takes patience to write a great story," she suggested. "Put no restrictions on your creativity."