



Star Wars fans try to be the first to get newly released Star Wars Trilogy, on DVD for the first time.

A5

THE POST

OU's women's volleyball won its first two matches of the season last week.

- B6



50 cents

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September 22, 2004



Elizabeth Gorecki/The Oakland Post
Construction is forcing commuters to maneuver to enter campus.

Road work slows drive

By ROQAYA ESHMAWI
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

When you leave home in the morning, get into your car, roll down the windows and start your drive to school, make sure you're also thinking of alternative ways to get onto campus grounds.

The City of Auburn Hills started road construction on Sept. 15 at the intersection of University Drive and Squirrel Road.

The center section of the intersection of University Drive and Squirrel Road is scheduled for repaving from Monday, Sept. 20 to Friday, Sept. 24.

"There are many projects that go on in the city," Ron Melchert, deputy director of public services for Auburn Hills, said regarding the timing of the project. "This is the way we managed to get the scope of the work ... that's the way it fell in."

"Our contractor's great," he said.

"He pours it the same day he breaks. It will hopefully be done this week."

For those students, faculty or staff who travel eastbound on University Drive and wish to enter OU's main entrance, traffic will have to:

1. Turn right onto southbound Squirrel Road.
2. Make a U-turn onto northbound Squirrel Road.
3. Turn right onto University Drive.

From Sept. 15-17, the southwest corner of the intersection was broken up and repaved. The two right lanes of eastbound University Drive and southbound Squirrel Road were closed, but traffic progressed through the other lanes.

Melchert said that the city might need to do more repair work in the area next year.

"We've got some work there and we ran out of funds this year," he said.

Contention marks Fest

By TARA FUGATE
THE OAKLAND POST

Controversial issues and a low number of attendees marked the first Freedom Festival held Thursday night by the College Republicans. It was held to raise awareness among the OU community about issues that the Republican Party will focus on in the upcoming election.

OUPD was at the event, at the request of the College Republicans, in case individuals attempted disruptive behavior, said David Lauber, chairman of the OU College Republicans.

Robert Spencer, an author who was invited to discuss the roots of terrorism, caused a stir when he made one thing clear: American troops need to stay overseas fighting terrorists.

Democratic presidential candidate, John Kerry, said he would bring American troops home, and although Spencer said that would be ideal, he said it would ignore the problems created in the Middle East.



Tara Fugate/The Oakland Post
Robert Spencer (above) spoke at Freedom Fest last Thursday.

Kerry wants to return to an idealistic time and embodies a wish to go back to the world that was, said Spencer. "Voting for John Kerry, is voting for Sept. 10."

"When you talk about fighting terrorism, you have to recognize your own hypocrisy," said Joe Culik, a political science senior. "The U.S. goes and uses cluster bombs, weapons of mass destruction, Please see FEST on A6

Despite how it may appear, Fall is here



Elizabeth Gorecki/The Oakland Post
Abnormally high temperatures have forced students to keep cool. Ironically enough, fall began at 12:30 today.

Stricter screening desired

By LIBBY BAKER
MANAGING EDITOR

OUSC heard complaints during their Monday meeting from two students who attended last week's Freedom Festival hosted by the College Republicans.

Nora Mohammad, junior, said

she was "very disappointed" in the address by keynote speaker Robert Spencer, a terrorism expert.

Mohammad said Spencer was both biased and slanderous in the comments he made regarding Muslims.

"It worries me that people will think that's the only way of

thinking," she said.

Mohammad said in the future she wants to ensure speaking guests are properly screened before coming to campus.

David Lauber, chairman of the OU College Republicans, said via e-mail that they do not necessarily agree with the majority of Spencer's remarks and are sorry

they offended some students.

"We do not endorse hate speech or intolerance, and would hope that the same rules would apply to other student groups, activities or speakers that offend other students," he said.

In other OUSC business:

- Applications for the OUSC Student of the Month Parking

Spot are due Friday, Sept. 24. Applications are available in the OUSC office and online.

•OUSC listened to complaints from students regarding the new printing policies on campus.

•Discussion on bill 05-10 was tabled.

•Brittani Hobbs was approved to the Student Program Board

(SPB) Executive Board.

•Congress approved new members to the Disciplinary Committee and the Steering Committee.

•Congress approved SPB guidelines.

•OUSC will meet next Monday, Sept. 27 at 4 p.m. in the Oakland Room.

Diversity still an issue at OU

By BRENDAN J. STEVENS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Diversity issues are still a high priority at OU.

At the Sept. 15 working session of the board of trustees (BOT), Director of the Office of University Diversity and Compliance (UDC) Joi M. Cunningham gave a special interim report on diversity initiatives.

Historically, OU has used traditional methods to attract diverse applicants for open positions, and this has yielded modest results.

In response, the BOT chal-

lenged UDC to think outside the box earlier this year, in an effort to attract a more diverse pool of candidates.

A series of meetings with OU graduates and corporate officials has led UDC to come up with a series of initiatives that can be separated into two distinct categories: those aimed at increasing diversity in recruitment and hiring and those that promote diversity and foster recognition of the importance of diversity.

One of the initiatives that will be taken is a pilot recruitment program, with Please see BOT on A6

Kerry lead dwindles in Michigan

By STEVEN THOMMA
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS (KRT)

WASHINGTON - President Bush is cutting into John Kerry's base, leading or drawing virtually even with the Massachusetts senator in six of seven swing states that Democrat Al Gore won four years ago, according to a new Knight Ridder-MSNBC poll and two other single-state polls.

In Iowa, Bush led Kerry by 48-42 percent; in Minnesota, by 46-44; in New Mexico, by 47-43; in Oregon, by 47-43; and in Wisconsin by 46-44.

Kerry held a razor-thin lead of 45-44 percent in Pennsylvania. In Michigan, he led by 47-41, his strongest state among the seven.

Those results emerged from a series of polls for Knight Ridder and MSNBC done by Mason-Dixon Research and Polling. In addition, Mason-Dixon surveyed Minnesota for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Minnesota Public Radio, and polled New Mexico for the Santa Fe New Mexican and KOB Television.

While Bush held a slim lead in most of these key battleground states, each state poll was close enough to be considered a statistical tie. Mason-Dixon surveyed between 624 and 629 likely voters in each state from Sept. 11 to Sept. 16; the polls had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

All polls are but snapshots in Please see RACE on A8



CHUCK KENNEDY/KRT
President George Bush flanked by Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist met with a bi-partisan group of leaders from Capitol Hill to discuss the creation of a National Intelligence Director.

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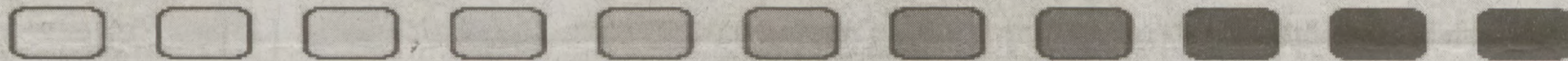
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Thomas Adams, US WEEKLY

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Peter DeLuca, NBC43

"Peter Sarsgaard is a force to be reckoned with."
Clay Smith, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD

"Garden State illuminates a young man's coming of age with UNEXPECTED DEPTH AND GRACE."
Frank Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Zach Braff is a genuine filmmaker's eye and is loaded with talent."
David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

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Roger Ebert, EBERT & ROEPER

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@ 4PM

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