

WELCOME WEEK EDITION



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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50 cents

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— The Oakland Post
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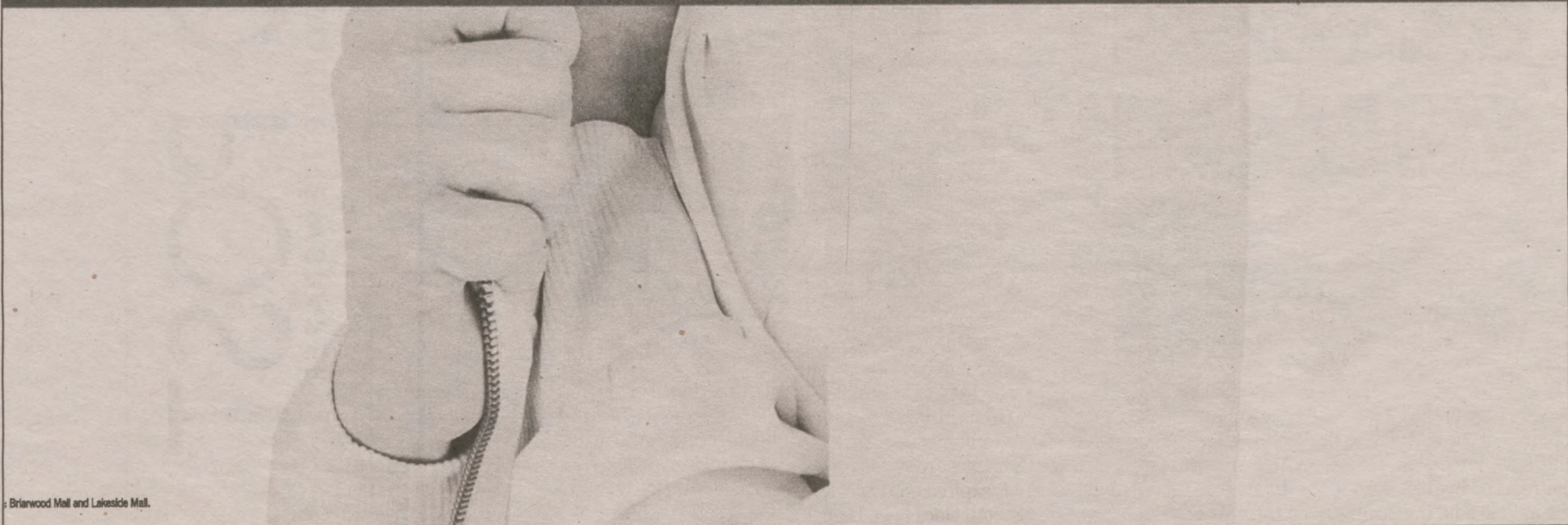


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Stepping down

Miller succeeds McGuinness as student body president

By PAUL GULLY
Senior Reporter

In an unexpected turn of events, Student Body President Michael McGuinness officially resigned from his position at the conclusion of the Aug. 21 Oakland University Student Congress meeting.

McGuinness, who had served as president since 2004, cited personal reasons for stepping down.

"A lot of things have changed for me in the last year and I don't know if I would be able to perform at the same level I did in my first year as president," he said.

McGuinness, who lived in Rochester last year, has recently moved to back to South Lyon, nearly an hour commute to OU, and also started a full-time job.

The outgoing president is also consid-

ering taking the fall semester off.

Taking his position will be Madalyn Miller, who was, until recently, student body vice president.

According to McGuinness, he had made his decision a week prior to his official announcement after conferring with close friends, including Miller.

Later in the week, he broke the news to the rest of the board and legislators.

"I would not be doing this if I didn't think Madalyn was fully capable of the responsibilities," McGuinness said after his announcement. "I think she will do an excellent job."

McGuinness had served on OUSC for four years as a legislator, Student Activities Funding Board chair, student body vice president and, finally, president.

McGuinness did not rule out returning to the OUSC as a legislator or a commit-

tee member in the future.

Miller has served under McGuinness since his reelection during the winter 2006 semester.

Prior to being vice president, Miller was on the Student Program Board Chair and was also a legislator.

"Although I was sad to see Mike step down, I feel I'm prepared to step in and do great things for the student body," said Miller.

Miller's choice to fill her vacant vice president position was Mia Evans. Evans was officially approved at the following week's OUSC meeting.

Evans has served as a legislator and is currently the vice president of the Association of Black Students and co-chair of the Student Life Lecture Board.

"I think it was honorable for Mike to step down knowing he wouldn't be able

to give his all," Evans said.

Around campus, students and faculty alike were surprised by the resignation.

"It's a shock that Mike stepped down," sophomore Josh Gipson said.

"I thought he was a good fit for student body president; his presence will definitely be missed."

"It was surprising to say the least," said junior Jennifer Piwonski.

"Hopefully Madalyn can step up and fill Mike's void."

Director of the Center for Student Affairs, Jean Ann Miller, one of few to know of Mike's decision prior to his announcement, also said she was surprised.

"It was very unexpected," she said. "The timing was not the best, but I'm fully confident that Madalyn will be able to pick up where Mike left off."

Oakland professors may strike

By JEFF KRANITZ
Managing Editor

There's a chance that you may have had to cross picket lines to get this copy of The Post and attend your classes.

If that's the case, then Oakland University students will have also found themselves torn between two loyalties — one to OU's administration and the other to the faculty.

At the time this paper went to press, the Oakland University faculty, organized under the American Association of University Professors, and the OU administration were deadlocked in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement.

According to the OU Chapter of the AAUP Web site, if an agreement was not reached by this morning at 7:30 a.m. the faculty would be prepared to

enact a 'job action' — more commonly known as a strike.

"The faculty are very concerned about due process and accountability, as well as some economic issues," said Professor Liz Barclay, a member of the AAUP Bargaining Forum.

Revisions to the review procedure have been at the forefront of the argument, according to Barclay.

The AAUP has said that the university has repeatedly "stripped out the due process and accountability language of the faculty" — referring to the bargaining agreement.

Faculty members will picket at all entrances to the university if a tentative agreement is not reached by this morning's deadline, according to the AAUP Web site.

In an open letter found on their Web site, the AAUP asks students "to

show their support and honor these picket lines by not coming onto campus."

OU's Web site claims that a strike would violate Michigan law, but acknowledged that some OU professors may still choose not to hold classes.

The university clearly stated that students should come to class as scheduled.

Members of the administration could not be reached directly for comment.

"In the event of an illegal work stoppage, many classes will still be held," according to a university posting on The News @ OU. "Additionally, a bargaining agreement may be reached at any time, and AAUP faculty will resume classes immediately."

The most recent agreement expired on Aug. 14, and both sides have been heavily engaged in discus-



DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post
Faculty members picket and distribute literature in front of the New Student Convocation Tuesday.

sion to get the issue resolved before the start of classes today.

When a 2 p.m. deadline for an agreement expired yesterday, several members of the faculty participated in an informational picket outside of the New Student Convocation, which took place at the Recreation and

Athletics Center.

The picket attracted the attention of the local news media, including WWJ Newsradio 950 and WXYZ-TV.

Faculty members with picket signs greeted new students and parents as they made their way into the arena. Copies of an

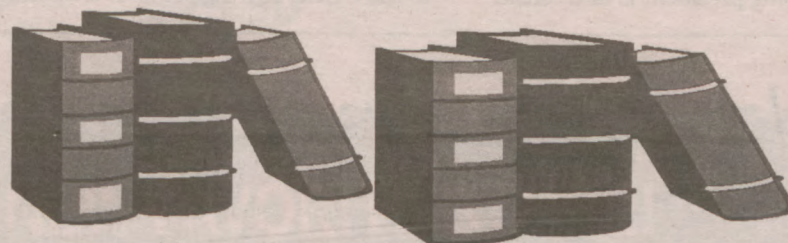
open letter that provided information about this latest chapter in OU's history of union activism were also distributed.

"I, as well as the other faculty, hope that an agreement can be reached before the beginning of classes," Barclay said Tuesday.

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CAMPUS

OU history you may not know

By **MIKE SHELDON**
Staff Columnist

Michigan State University at Oakland.

This was the original name and purpose of Oakland University, yet how many students currently enrolled know its past?

That is not to say the history of Oakland University isn't important.

Far from it, Oakland University has a rich history that even lends itself to a few myths and legends spread amongst student gossip circles.

The university originated with the donation of the Wilson Estate to Michigan State University upon the deaths of Alfred and Matilda Wilson.

Mrs. Wilson's will is the source of one popular myth around Oakland, one which concerns the notable lack of a football team.

It is not true that her will specified that there be no contact sports at the college.

Those who doubt the debunking of this myth can view her will for themselves, which is on display at the Kresge Library.

What is true, however, concerns the address for the university.

Despite being physically located within what is now Auburn Hills, Matilda Wilson demanded that the university hold the same address as that of her residence, Meadow Brook Hall, which is in Rochester.

This residence is the centerpiece of the estate. Meadow Brook Hall is an 80,000-square-foot mansion built in the Tudor revival style. This mansion is a national and state historical landmark, and sits as the fourth largest historic house museum.

The grounds of the hall are also home to the annual Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance, a collector car show whose 28th showing was held on Aug. 6 this year.

Named Michigan State University Oakland upon its opening, the university first enrolled students in 1959.

These students graduated in 1963, the same year the name was officially changed to Oakland University.

The campus started with the dedication of the North and South Foundation Halls and the completion of the Oakland Center.

During this period, the Kresge Library, Hannah Hall of Science, and the Anibal and Fitzgerald houses were built as well. The name change actually worried the graduating students, who thought their class rings would still bear the MSUO name.

Mrs. Wilson actually custom ordered — and sent an airplane to pick up in time for the graduation gala she was holding — rings to hold the Oakland University name.

These rings held a diamond in the center, and were presented by Mrs. Wilson as gifts to be exclusive only to the charter graduating class.

The first chancellor, Woody Varner, held the post until the same year the university was granted autonomy.

This year, 1970, also saw the completion of Varner Hall to commemorate him.

This decade also saw the establishment of the Honors College, which admitted 33 students in its inaugural year of 1977, and the completion of the Katke-Cousins golf course.

The 1980s, despite that Oakland University reached its 25th anniversary, were the years with the most bearing on the university as it is known today.

Expansions to the Kresge Library were completed, leaving the building as it appears now. A 10-year strategic plan was initiated in 1985, which generated an expansion of courses, resources and researching.

Only a few years after the implementation of this plan,

Oakland was lauded by its accrediting body for making steps in showcasing new international courses, courses which laid the foundation for a strong general education emphasis which stands today.

The university ended the decade and entered the 90s on a low note, however.

Three bombs were set off on campus — one in the Kresge Library and two others in parking lots, in what is suspected to have been a diversion away from a robbery.

Oakland University has a proud history, yet it is a largely unknown history.

Nonetheless, the university would not be as it stands today without these formative events, without the legends and personalities of the past.

The incoming freshman class will be the ones to continue to carry the story of this university into the future.



The Oakland Post/DAN WILKINSON
Meadow Brook Hall, an 80,000-square-foot mansion built in the Tudor revival style, was home of Matilda Wilson and her family.

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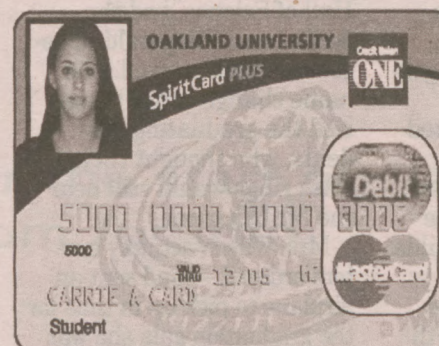
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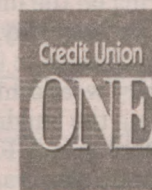
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