

## COMIC BOOK PROPAGANDA

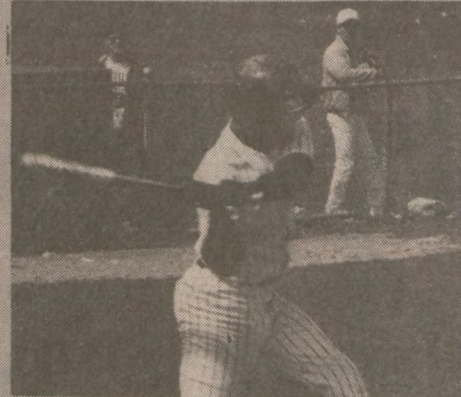
Comic book distribution promotes engineering careers.

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# The Oakland Post

## EARLY SIGNS OF SPRING



Men's baseball team aims to top last year's record.

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Vol. XXVI No. 24 The Oakland Sail, Inc.

March 25, 1992

Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309-4401

## Briefly ...

### Information system

OU will complete converting its student records to ISIS, a new information system which will provide enhanced services to current and former students, this month. All student records from billing, financial aid and cashiering will be converted into one system under ISIS. The office of the registrar said the new system will provide better service in the future during the registration process or when students need academic advising. Over 60,000 records have been transferred, and ISIS will be fully operational by Spring session 1992.

### Campus Clean up

The Residence Hall Council's Environmental Committee is sponsoring a campus-wide clean up on Wednesday, April 1 from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Gloves and bags will be distributed in the Oakland Center across from Sweet Sensations during this time period. A free two liter bottle of pop will be given to the first 100 volunteers. For further information call Residence Halls Council at 370-2998.

### English Club

The English Club's publication, *The PEN* (Publication of English Novices), is now accepting poetry, short stories and essays for Volume V, to be published this spring. Please turn in submissions to the English Club mailbox in CIPO, 49 Oakland Center, by the end of the semester.

The club is also presenting "Detective Novels by Women: Gumshoes and Private Eyes with a Difference," a discussion on the impact of women mystery novels led by English Professor Susan Hawkins, Wednesday, March 25 at 4 p.m. in the Oakland Center room 125.

### Alann Steen

Former hostage in Lebanon and current journalism professor at Albion College will talk on Saturday, April 4 at the Grand Manor at Fairlane, Dearborn. The speech is sponsored by Wayne State University's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Detroit Council for World Affairs. For more information call 577-3453.

### Job Fair

The Engineering Society of Detroit's Young Engineers Council is sponsoring "Careers Unlimited: Architecture and Engineering Job Fair" on Thursday, April 9 at Cobo Center. Call 832-5400 for further information.

### The Race for the Cure

One of 24 nation-wide road races to help promote awareness and early detection of breast cancer will be held at the Detroit Zoo Saturday, April 11. The race begins at 9 a.m. and features an all-women's 5K run/walk and a one-mile for beginners and men who want to participate. For further information call the Michigan Cancer Foundation 833-0710 or the Motor City Strider hotline at 544-9099.

## Summer hours for OU staff run out after 11 years

By ROBERT PARKER  
News Editor

For many of OU's administrators and secretaries, leaving work at midday on Fridays in the summer was an attractive perk, but that apparently ended when Interim President John DeCarlo announced last week that OU will discontinue its 11-year practice of operating on summer hours.

Since 1981, the university has adjusted its office hours during the summer, allowing staff members to

### DeCarlo concerned about student needs; staff is angry over decision

work from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from either 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays.

"Our (university's) purpose is to meet the needs of the student body and the general public. That is the critical factor," DeCarlo said. "Ethically, we've got a public-service duty to be open during regular office

hours. Individuals who feel they need to take time off can take vacation time," and, "that way, we can still keep the office(s) open," he said.

The change is not being well-received in departments and offices.

The university maintains that the staff is here to serve the students, but there are hardly any students on campus Friday afternoons in the

summer, Kathleen Ford, administrative secretary for the college of arts and sciences, said.

Friday classes will not be offered during this year's Spring and Summer sessions.

According to Orientation Coordinator, Fran Mayfield, traditional age, in-coming freshman will be on-campus Friday afternoons this summer on June 19 and 26 and July 10. They are scheduled to leave campus by 1:30 p.m. There will be a one-day orientation for transfer stu-

dents on Friday, August 14.

According to Ford, the university made a unilateral decision, and sought no input from the people the change would affect. Ford said for many staff members, the shorter work day on Friday allows them to save on child care costs.

"Leaving earlier on Friday gives us 12 days that we don't have to pay for child care," she said.

According to Susan Forgette, UAW Local 1925 president, part of See HOURS page 3

## Conference allocation bill vetoed

By JENNIFER HEIL  
Staff Writer

Members passed Bazooka comics and the time Monday night while the Orientation Department waited for Congress to decide whether or not to override president Derek Wilczynski's veto of a bill allocating money for a conference for orientation group leaders (OGLs).

Last week Congress passed a bill that allocates \$1,100 to the Orientation Department for sending 14 OGLs to a conference in Ohio, but Wilczynski decided to veto it because he said the bill sets a dangerous precedent.

"Congress is being called a blank check Congress," Wilczynski said. "I think we're remissing the point when it comes to this bill," he said.

Wilczynski said because Congress is giving money to one department that this will pave the way for other departments to expect money, even though some members do not share his view.

"I think they have a different philosophy on this than I do," Wilczynski said.

Committee and Elections Coordinator Jennifer Schutt, who is also an OGL, said that future bills calling for Congress to allocate funds should be taken on a case-by-case basis.

"I don't think you can just draw the line and say we'll fund student organizations and not departments," Schutt said.

Orientation Coordinator Fran Mayfield thanked Congress for overriding the veto after the lengthy See CONGRESS page 3



The Oakland Post / Robert Parker

A section of the mural located in the basement of Kresge Library.

## Mural depicts diversity

By DEBORAH DZIEWIT  
Features Editor

Campus artists have taken a brush to the drab gray walls in the basement of Kresge Library.

The piece of work, a *Salon Wall*, is the third project funded by Robert Robinson, executive director of computer and information services, and organized by La Pittura, a student organization made up of art history majors.

When completed, the wall will contain 45 "framed" pieces of art, representing various styles ranging from portrait to landscape, realism to abstract.

The artists paint in the different sized and style frames which members of the La Pittura sketched on the the basement wall, according to Charissa Lopez, president of La Pittura and an art history major.

However, questions arose over a sign posted last week by Lopez in the center of the work in progress which asked artists to first See MURAL page 3

## Packard contract still under negotiation

By AL COOK  
and KYLE GREEN  
Staff Writers

Without a ratified contract, Sandra Packard has agreed to accept the position as OU's new president and is looking forward to living on-campus at Sunset Terrace.

Packard anticipates starting her position in mid-June, she said at a press conference last Wednesday.

She would not release details of her contract and referred all questions to Board of Trustees Chairman, Howard Sims.

"The contract is not finalized yet," Sims said. "We appeared to be in complete agreement, but we're not down to the point of putting it in writing yet."

Once the fine details are worked out, Sims will present the completed contract to the board on April 8.

"We'll show it to her to make sure we're in general agreement," he said. "It will be pretty much consistent with historical precedents of university compensation packages. There is nothing unusual in it."

Former president Joseph Champagne received a salary of \$120,000,

a university-owned car and house, insurance and a pension plan and a sizeable expense account.

Packard is currently Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) and makes approximately \$80,000.

Packard, 49, said she is looking forward to living in the Sunset Terrace home because it is located on-campus. Currently, it is used as a conference center and is managed as an extension of Meadow Brook Hall.

The house is a "little large" for her See PACKARD page 3

## Student pressure leads to review and suspension reversal

By KEN POWERS, JR.  
Staff Writer

Freshman Omari Thomas' suspension from the university, stemming from an altercation with a female OU student in January, was reversed by Vice President of Student Affairs, Wilma Ray-Bledsoe after he agreed to complete 20 hours of community service and attend alcohol and conflict management sessions.

Thomas is on probation for the remainder of the winter semester and the spring semester.

Wilma-Ray Bledsoe, who reviewed the USCB's decision that found Thomas guilty, said she decided to reverse the suspension, because after reviewing his prior records, there was no indication of physical violence within the system.

"I hope that Thomas has learned

how to settle his conflicts in a different manner, because violent behavior is not acceptable in a university setting," Bledsoe said.

More than 50 ABS members wrote letters to Bledsoe disagreeing with the USCB's decision to suspend Thomas.

"Most of the students who wrote the letters were angry because they thought the decision to suspend Thomas was racist," Chaunci Wyche,

president of ABS said.

Bledsoe planned to meet with ABS members to discuss their concerns, and inform them about the trial process, but no one from the organization attended.

"I was disappointed to see that not one ABS member appeared at the meeting, because I would have given them a chance to understand the appeal process," she said.

See FIGHT page 3



The Oakland Post / Tim Stuller  
Sandra Packard

## Privatizing costs jobs

By AL COOK  
Staff Writer

The majority of full-time staffers at the Meadow Brook Music Festival and Theatre are discovering a hidden cost attached to OU's decision to use a private contractor to operate the Festival — their jobs.

"It's necessary to have our administrative ranks match what the current work is," said Margo King, assistant vice president for university relations.

With the privatization of the music festival, many long time employees are no longer needed. Those that remain face new challenges as the theatre administration reorganizes, according to King.

"This is a transition period," she said. "We have to discover as we go and adjust our whole administrative structure accordingly. The contract (between OU and Olympia Arenas to operate the music festival) is not final yet. We'll have to be flexible and hope attrition will help."

That means most people are being placed elsewhere in the university unless they decide to pursue other opportunities, according to King.

But John Fischer isn't so sure about that.

Fischer had been with the theatre and festival for 7 and a half

years until February when he was moved from his position as finance manager to become an administrative assistant to Dean Howard Witt in the engineering and computer science department.

"As far as I know, I'm the only one that was reassigned, and that was because I had a continuing contract," Fischer said. "Jim Spittle (former Managing Director of Meadow Brook Theatre) was laid off in February too."

Fischer said he does not question the need for the move, noting that privatization of the festival meant that \$390,000 in salaries had to be cut.

"The university can't be associated in any way with the festival period," said Fischer. All salaries that were associated with it had to be eliminated.

OU box office staff will also be affected, meaning a loss of four full-time jobs and 13 or 14 part-time summer positions usually filled by students, according to Fischer.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We were all one happy family for a long time. This has to lower morale with people doing three or four jobs."

However, King is more optimistic.

"We are still going to have an See JOBS page 3

## Outsourcing postponed until May

By DEBORAH DZIEWIT  
Feature Editor

The decision to "outsource" university campus stores has been postponed until May, according to Robert McGarry, vice president of finance and administration.

The finance committee of the Board of Trustees is scheduled to receive and review the proposals offered by Silvers and Macauley's Office Products to take over operations of Central Stores operations.

Campus Stores is responsible for ordering and delivering office items to department offices. By privatizing the stores, the university will save money, McGarry said.

"We were late on putting the proposals on the committee's agenda," McGarry said. "It's got to be entered on the agenda so many weeks before a meeting and we didn't meet the deadline."

See STORES page 3

"We were all one happy family for a long time."

John Fischer  
Former finance manager