

# 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](mailto:photos@oaklandpostonline.com) for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

## 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](http://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.



10

### GOLFING GREENS

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



14

### 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.



16

### 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.)

## 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

### 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.

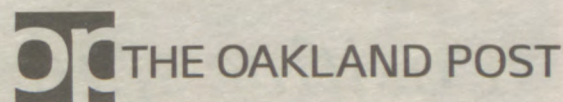
So what makes OU different? Why is the search for the potentially most important leader of our school being conducted in the dark? What lurks in the shadows of the board of trustee's decision?

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.



**Address** 61 Oakland Center,  
Rochester, MI 48306  
**Phone** 248.370.2537 or 248.370.4268  
**Web** www.oaklandpostonline.com  
**Email** editor@oaklandpostonline.com

### editorial board

**Oona Goodin-Smith**

Editor-in-Chief  
editor@oaklandpostonline.com  
248-370-4268

**Kaylee Kean**

Managing Editor  
managing@oaklandpostonline.com  
248-370-2537

**Salwan Georges**

Photo Editor  
photos@oaklandpostonline.com  
248-991-7574

### sections

**Ali DeRees** Campus &  
Administration Editor  
campus@oaklandpostonline.com

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

**Jackson Gilbert** Sports Editor  
sports@oaklandpostonline.com

**Jake Alsko** Web Editor  
web@oaklandpostonline.com

### reporters

**Matt Saulino** Staff Reporter

**Sam Schlenner** Staff Reporter

**Sean Miller** Staff Reporter

**Joseph Bach** Staff Reporter

**Kaseb Ahmad** Staff Reporter

**Scott Davis** Staff Reporter

**Jessie DiBattista** Staff Reporter

**Michael Pulis** Staff Intern

**Johnny Oldani** Staff Intern

### copy & visual

**Haley Kotwicki** Chief Copy Editor

**Josh Soltman** Copy Editor

**Kelly Lara** Graphic Designer

**Benjamin DerMiner** Graphic Designer

**Michael Ferdinande** Photographer

**Danielle Cojocari** Photographer

**Katherine Snoad** Photographer

**Shannon Wilson** Photographer

### advertising

**Hailee Mika**

Ads & Promotions Director  
marketing@oaklandpostonline.com  
248.370.2848

### distribution

**Andrew Greer**  
Distribution Director

**Brian Murray**  
Distribution Manager

**Parker Simmons** Distribution

**Ted Tansley** Distribution

**Jacob Chessrown** Distribution

### advising

**Holly Gilbert**  
Editorial Adviser  
248.370.4138

**Don Ritenburgh**  
Business Adviser  
248.370.2533

**Facebook** facebook.com/theoakpost  
**Twitter** @theoaklandpost  
**YouTube** youtube.com/oaklandpostonline  
**Flickr** flickr.com/theoaklandpost  
**Vimeo** vimeo.com/theoaklandpost  
**Issue** issue.com/op86

LIFE AFTER UNDERGRAD

# Positive spin on law degree

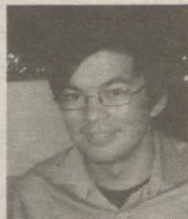
**B**ecause many of you have reached the finish line of your undergraduate career this season, I wanted to offer some words to my favorite newspaper: The Oakland Post. From 2006 to 2008, I edited the Mouth-ing Off Column and coordinated the staff editorials. Every so often, I cannot resist the urge to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

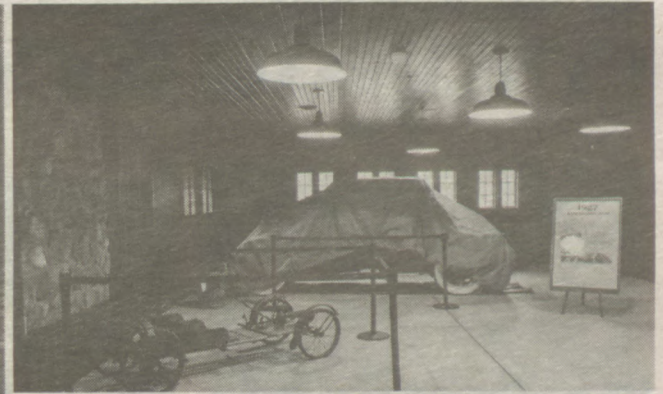
The more we focus on the shooter, the more we give him what he wanted. Memorializing him is not good journalism. It fosters the problem. What should be done is take every chance we can to focus on those he hurt.

Rest in peace: Cheng Yuan "James" Hong, George Chen, Weihan "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 Rzadkowska. **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 Rzadkowska said the cabin was moved in two different sections,

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

Rzadkowska 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.

Rzadkowska 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," Rzadkowska 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 Rzadkowska  
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 Crocket."

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."

Rzadkowska 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.

Rzadkowska 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](mailto:apderees@oakland.edu).