

OU rival Oral Roberts leaves
The Summit League pg. 11



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER
26
— 2011 —

pgs. 6, 7
and 20



The lives of 2 best friends

Family, friends remember Jenna Balabuch and Rachel Ring



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Oakland University professor comments on the 50-foot smoking ban

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Sports

Liz Ecker will graduate as one of Oakland's best female golfers

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Oakland implements new green initiatives to make campus more eco-friendly.

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Visit www.oaklandpostonline.com for more exclusive content and stories throughout the week.

this week

October 26 — November 1, 2011



Photo
...of the
Week

Flash mob // Oct. 24, Outside of the Oakland Center

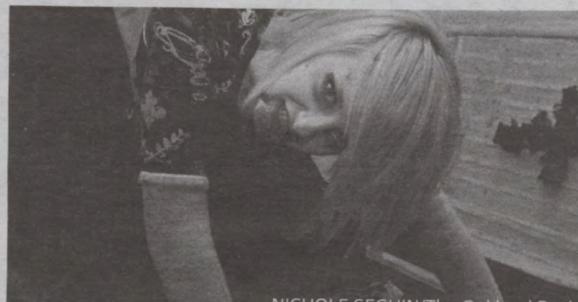
CHELSEA BISTUE/The Oakland Post

Members of the Oakland University Dance Theatre and the Repertory Dance Company perform on the grass outside of the Oakland Center. Comprised of students in various levels of classes, the entire routine was improvisation, meaning nothing was planned in advance. Their annual fall dance concert will take place on Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall.



SIERRA SOLEMANI/The Oakland Post

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NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

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KAITLYN CHORNOBY/The Oakland Post

14 **FEATURES** // Botzilla, a robot created by the Robotics Association, took third place at a competition in June.



KEVIN ROMANCHIK/The Oakland Post

17 **SCENE** // The Bar Hop series debuts with Sherwood Brewing Company, a microbrewery located in Shelby Township.

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Tweet @theoaklandpost
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we're missing.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Custodians being cheated

When the Oakland chapter of the American Association of University Professors reached a collective bargaining agreement with Oakland University in 2009, after a work stoppage that delayed classes for about a week, news of professors' pay freezes for the year were met with disbelief.

Yet during that same time period, union negotiations between the Campus Maintenance and Trades union and the university dragged on for 15 months.

The Professional Support Association, which represents all hourly employees who perform clerical services, was also affected by the day-to-day contract extensions that spanned from 2008-09.

Both unions are once again in the midst of negotiating new contracts and CMT, which represents all university-employed grounds and maintenance workers, has reached a tentative agreement with OU.

A quick turnaround on an agreement represents a positive step in the relationship between the union and Oakland, since the union's contract expired at the end of June. But the proposed contract changes are a disturbing development.

According to a summary of the contract agreement obtained by The Oakland Post,

current custodians will have their hourly pay rate slashed by \$3 per hour by next November, an almost 12 percent decrease in pay.

The agreement has already been signed by union leadership and was up for a vote this morning.

Employees should never feel like they're forced into an unfavorable agreement in order to save their careers

If union members ratify the agreement, it will go up for approval from the Board of Trustees at their next meeting on October 31. OU administrators cannot talk about negotiations that are not yet finalized, however.

"At this point, I can't really discuss because they (union members) are the ones who need to decide if they support (the agreement)," said OU President Gary Russi on Friday.

It is estimated that custodians make up more than half of the union's membership. If the vote to ratify the agreement fails, custodians speaking on conditions of ano-

nymity with The Oakland Post said union officials have threatened to outsource all campus custodial services.

Services are currently being outsourced at four campus buildings.

At the same time, custodian pay is being slashed. Non-custodians, such as groundskeepers, mail clerks and skilled tradespeople, will receive a 2 percent pay increase during its 2012-13 contract year and a 1 percent increase during the 2013-14 contract year.

Though they are members of the same union, custodians are being shafted by this tentative agreement. Even the fact that they'll end up receiving a lump sum payout of 2 percent in 2012 and a 1 percent payout in 2012 doesn't make up for the fact that they'll be absorbing pay cuts while fellow union members are receiving raises.

The scenario that these workers are being forced into is unfair and uncalled for. Twelve percent is a staggering decrease in pay when there is no room for agreement negotiation, especially when threats of outsourced services are reportedly involved.

Employees should never feel like they're forced into an unfavorable agreement in order to save their careers. We hope the PSA fares better during their negotiations.

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Letter Policy:

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for clarity, length and grammar.

GOT SOMETHING TO MOUTH OFF ABOUT?

The Oakland Post is looking for satirical scribes, witty writers and comical columnists.

Submit your best efforts to editor@oaklandpostonline.com and you could get published.

Smoking 'ban' is too lenient

COLUMN

Oakland University should ban smoking throughout its entire campus.

Policy 475 bans smoking within 50 feet of university buildings. No one at OU seems to take this seriously.

I teach two courses in South Foundation Hall. Twice a day, I walk past a crowd of smokers directly in front of the building. Nobody stops them. I like to inform the students of the policy.

These fine young people like to yell things back at me that cannot be printed in a newspaper like the Oakland Post.

It is no surprise that smokers do not comply. The policy is silly. Why only ban smoking within 50 feet of buildings? Who came up with the magic number 50? Isn't the area 50 feet from the buildings part of the campus? Don't people work and study 50 feet away from the buildings?

If second-hand smoke is a problem in front of the building, isn't it also a problem 50 feet away from the building?

Not only is Policy 475 poorly formulated, OU does not enforce the policy. A policy without enforcement is a fake policy.

I called the OUPD to report students smoking.

I was told that because Policy 475 is not a law, but only a policy, OUPD couldn't enforce it. I emailed the Dean of Students, Glenn McIntosh, to inform him of the crowd of smokers.

I received no reply.

Policy 475 should be enforced with strict punishments, including expulsion of students and firing of staff, and it should be



Fritz J. McDonald
Assistant Professor of Philosophy,
College of Arts and Science

converted into a total ban. There are at least three good reasons to do so.

First, smokers not only harm themselves, they harm others. It is a well-established scientific fact that second-hand smoke causes or worsens serious diseases such as cancer, heart disease and asthma.

According to the American Cancer Society, it causes low birth weight in children whose mothers are exposed to smoke.

Imagine if a deranged student poisoned the water in the drinking fountains with a serum that caused everyone at OU to be at higher risk of cancer and heart disease. Imagine the serum also harmed unborn children carried by pregnant students.

Wouldn't OU stop this deranged student? Wouldn't the OUPD enforce a policy banning poisoned drinking water? How is second-hand smoke any different from poisoned drinking water?

Second-hand smoke poisons the environment on campus, putting the health of the OU community at risk.

The second good reason to ban smoking

is to prevent smokers from harming themselves.

Such policies are often called "paternalistic." The worry is that by preventing a person from harming his or herself, the policy acts too much like an overbearing parent.

This should not lead OU to refuse to pass such a sound policy.

After all, OU currently bans drinking, illegal drug use and speeding in cars on campus roads based on the endeavor of keeping students from harming themselves.

How would a total smoking ban be any different?

The third good reason to ban smoking is cost. Health care is a major cost for OU, Michigan and the United States. The increasing cost of faculty and staff health care is one of the major reasons OU has increased tuition in recent years.

Given that second-hand smoke harms the health of innocent bystanders and smokers, smoking makes the already high cost of health care even higher.

The noble aim of OU to be a first-rate biomedical university is not helped by OU adopting a third-rate Detroit-casino-style smoking policy.

Banning smoking would help save everyone their hard-earned money that could otherwise be spent on tax and tuition dollars to ideally subsidize health costs for the diseases smokers inflict upon themselves and others.

OU needs to consider its image and brand. The opening of the new Medical School, the

construction of the Human Health Building, and the continuing excellent biomedical research of OU faculty and students make clear that the aim of OU is to be a first-rate biomedical research university like the University of Michigan.

The University of Michigan recently banned smoking throughout its entire campus in Ann Arbor.

On the other hand, the only businesses in Michigan allowing people to smoke on site are Detroit casinos.

Why is OU imitating the Greektown Casino and Motor City Casino by allowing smoking on campus? Why not follow the University of Michigan instead and ban smoking entirely?

The noble aim of OU to be a first-rate biomedical university is not helped by OU adopting a third-rate Detroit-casino-style smoking policy.

Cancer is a serious matter that has affected many of our families and us. I lost my own father to cancer when I was 17 years old. I have also lost grandparents, aunts and uncles to cancer.

It is a horrible disease that leads too often to a prolonged and painful death, most often to people who did nothing personally to bring such an awful condition upon themselves.

I expect many of you have had similar losses due to cancer. Allowing the presence of second-hand smoke to cause cancer in innocent bystanders on campus is morally abhorrent.

OU should recognize the seriousness of cancer and the other diseases caused by smoking and ban smoking throughout the entire Oakland University campus, not just a distance away from buildings.

This Week's Poll

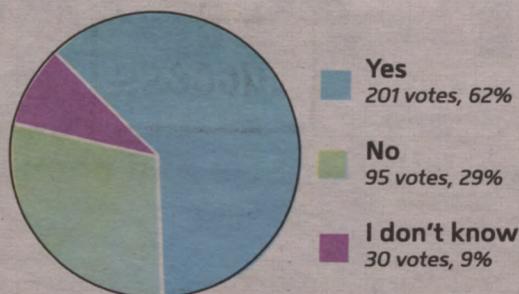
Will you be watching the GOP Debate being held on OU's campus?

- Yes, I follow politics closely
- Yes, but I know little about the candidates
- Maybe, I haven't decided
- No, I'm not interested

[Poll of the Week]

10.26.11

Do you think there should be a campus-wide smoking ban?



Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

CORRECTIONS CORNER

— In last week's center feature "Discovering Faith," Amaal Haimout was incorrectly quoted for the Agape group. April Moses, a senior elementary education major, commented for the section.

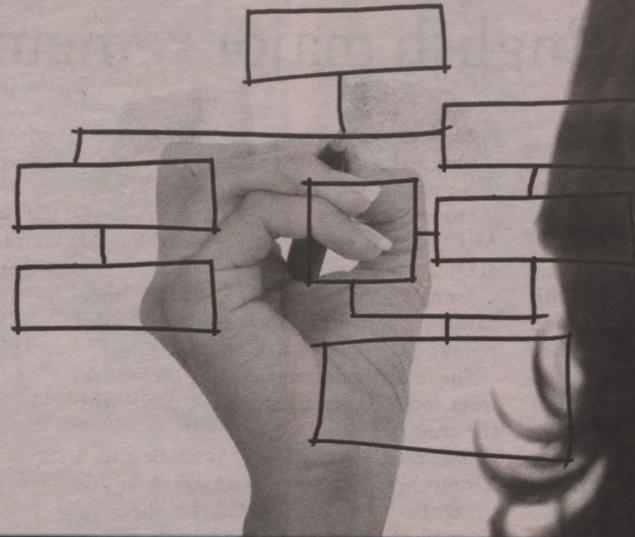
— Richard Stamps is the associate professor for sociology, not psychology, as it was stated in the College of Arts and Sciences 'State of the College' address story.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.4263.

Build and grow your new business idea

OU's Ideas 2 Business Lab



OPEN HOUSE

3 p.m. Thursday, November 3, 2011,
at the OU INC in the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion

OU's new Ideas 2 Business (I2B) Lab offers all the resources that students, faculty and staff members at Oakland University and Cooley Law School need to help them explore and launch a new business venture.

All Oakland University and Cooley Law School entrepreneurs are welcome.

Open for YOUR new business idea

At the open house, you'll:

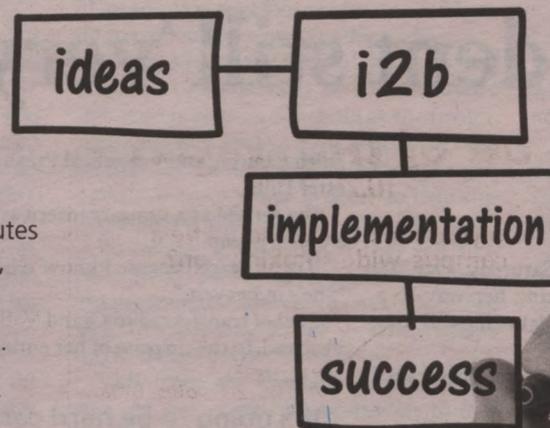
- Learn about the I2B resources available.
- Tour exhibits and meet with successful entrepreneurs and others just starting a new business.
- Network with others interested in start-up ventures.
- Find out about paid positions for students.
- Partake in refreshments.

Don't Miss Out

Shuttle bus service between the OC and OU INC runs every 10 minutes beginning at 2:30 p.m. Look for the sign near Meadow Brook Road, just outside the OC.

Or find ample, available parking at OU INC in lots P53, P55 and P61. Let us know you're coming; just email us at aaevent2@oakland.edu.

Explore your new venture at oakland.edu/i2b.



School of Business Administration
School of Engineering and Computer Science
OU INC

Reader, rider and writer

Sophomore English major remembered for her strong passions

**KAITLYN CHORNOBY
and NICHOLE SEGUIN**
Managing Visual Editor and
Managing Content Editor

Jenna Balabuch's motto was "read, ride and write," and she filled her days with books of all genres, horseback riding and writing essays which she hoped to one day publish.

The sophomore majoring in English at Oakland University died as a result from injuries sustained in a four-car accident on southbound I-75 this weekend when traveling to a bookstore in Detroit.

The 19-year-old, who was born on November 11, was described by her family as constantly happy, always bubbly and a big talker.

"She's the type of person you could write a book about," said Andy Balabuch, one of her four brothers.

The only girl in a family of five males, Jenna's family considered her "happy go lucky from day one."

"She was as good of a sister and daughter you could ask for," said Andy.

An avid English fanatic, Jenna was always interested in working towards getting one

of her works published.

Originally aspiring to become an equine veterinarian, she decided to change her major to English after taking a class with Linda McCloskey, a special instructor of English at OU.

Jenna joined Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honors Society during her time at OU.

She recently began collecting used books from local libraries for a book drive with the group.

"She was so excited," said Susan Balabuch, her mother. "She went to a local library on Friday for books and they told her she could have all of them. She came home and was excited about boxes and boxes of books ... she was proactive in getting that done."

Outside of her studies, her strongest passion was arguably equestrianism and caring for her Tennessee walking horse named Bo Jangles.

"All her life she loved horses and wanted to be a vet," Susan said. "We finally got her one four years ago and my sister just gave us a horse trailer. She was obsessed with horses."

Jenna was part of Romeo High School's class of 2010, where she was a member of

the National Honors Society and participated in 4-H and the Equestrian Team.

Jenna's family commented that she rarely walked away from a show without an award.

"She was always smiling and happy; I don't think I ever saw her without a smile."

— Shannon Reid, friend and co-captain of the 2010 Romeo High School Equestrian Team

"Her goal was to make it to the state horse show," Susan said. "She placed in every class there and submitted an essay about 4-H that won second place."

The Romeo Equestrian Team finished as Reserved Champion with 412 points in the "A" Circuit Division while she was one of two captains her senior year.

"She was always smiling and happy; I don't think I ever saw her without a smile," said Shannon Reid, Jenna's high school friend and co-captain of the Equestrian

team. "We loved big Ford trucks and would send pictures to each other. When we were together we would take pictures with a nice one in the parking lot."

Jenna worked as a babysitter, a barn manager and also at the boarding kennel at Goodison Veterinary.

She enjoyed reading novels, country music and watching movies and television shows.

Her most recent favorite television show was "How I Met Your Mother."

Jenna is survived by her parents, Susan and Mark Balabuch, and brothers, Brandon, Eric, Andy and Josh.

"She would want to be remembered as brilliant," Josh said, noting a paper she received from McCloskey with the word written on it. "Ever since then, that's what we always called her."

Visitation for Jenna will be from 2 until 9 p.m. on Wednesday at Roth-Muir funeral home in Romeo.

The funeral will be held Thursday, Oct. 27 at 11 a.m. at the Romeo United Methodist Church.

Her horse, Bo Jangles, will be present at her funeral in her memory, courtesy of Jenna's 4-H family.

GVSU student still 'very much a part of OU'

By **KAY NGUYEN**
Editor-in-Chief

Rachel Ring loved to read.

Ring, 19, of Addison Township, died Saturday, Oct. 22 in a four-car collision on I-75 while making her way to a bookstore with her best friend Jenna Balabuch, who also perished in the accident.

Rachel, a sophomore at Grand Valley State University, previously attended Oakland University.

"She loved OU and met a lot of friends there," said Ginny Ring, Rachel's mother. "A lot of people from Romeo were there. It's a close community."

Rachel and Jenna were both 2010 graduates of Romeo High School and had been best friends since preschool.

"It's going to be hard carrying on without them: I always think of them with both of their noses in books," Ginny said Tuesday afternoon.

Ginny described her as a religious person who had a "huge amount of faith in God." Ring was very involved at

Faith Church, an Evangelical Presbyterian church in Rochester Hills.

She served as a summer intern at the church and also led a youth group.

"I'm at peace because I know where she's at," Ginny said. "She's in heaven."

Rachel transferred to Grand Valley State University this year and, to the surprise of her entire family, joined the rowing team.

"It's going to be hard carrying on without them: I always think of them with both of their noses in books."

— Ginny Ring, Rachel's mother

"It was a tough decision for her to transfer to GVSU because my husband has cancer and he didn't want her to stay at home just because of that," Ginny said. "He wanted her to get on with her own life."

She was studying international relations and French. Rachel was a huge Francophile who aspired to one day become a French teacher.

Rachel and Jenna were inseparable, Ginny said. They rode horses together for fun.

Rachel made a point of spending time with Jenna and other Oakland friends during her first weekend home in months since transferring to Grand Valley.

Ginny said she had hoped to take her daughter shopping, but on Saturday, Rachel wanted to hang out with Jenna.

"She was still very much a part of OU," Ginny said.

Rachel is survived by her mother Ginny, father Jeff and sisters Stephanie Barnes and Allison Hutt.

Visitation hours are being held Wednesday and Thursday at Potere-Modetz Funeral Home in Rochester from 3 to 9 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in the Faith Church, 160 W. Hamlin Rd. in Rochester Hills. The family is in the process of establishing the Rachel Ring Memorial Fund, where donations can be made in lieu of flowers.



Photos courtesy of the Balabuch and Ring families

Jenna Balabuch (left) and Rachel Ring (right), friends since age 4, graduated from Romeo High School in 2010 and rode horses for fun when they were able to spend time together.

Mourning the loss of students

Campus community members gather in wake of accident

By **MEGAN SEMERAZ**
Campus Editor

Oakland University students, faculty and community members joined together Tuesday in an open forum support group following the tragic deaths of Jenna Balabuch and Rachel Ring — as well as critically injured Shannon Waite.

The group started with an opening statement from OU English Department Chair and Associate Professor of English, Susan Hawkins.

In her remarks, Hawkins read a poem and led a moment of silence in honor of the three women.

"I think it's unfair that there are a lot of people affected by this (tragedy) ... that people that are so young die in such a terrible way," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said that we live out our lives each day, but often times "we don't feel gratitude for the precious life (we have)."

Bailey McDaniel, faculty advisor for Sigma Tau Delta and assistant professor of English, and several members of the group

shared their thoughts, feelings and personal memories of the women.

Sigma members, as well as those who live in on campus housing with Waite spoke about her current state.

Waite has been given the nickname "miracle Shannon," which comes from doctors who said she was lucky to survive the accident and make it out without any broken bones.

Waite has been showing signs of improvement and is listed in stable condition.

According to a Sigma speaker, Waite has been speaking and eating — a big improvement from even 24 hours before.

Other speakers included friends of the victims, fellow students, university faculty, professors, campus community leaders and strangers who showed their support by speaking.

Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, addressed the group.

She felt that the gathering was appropriate for the occasion.

"It was just right — gathering of people

who just want to share their sadness ... it helps to come together as an extended family to remember them," Snyder said.

Glenn McIntosh, dean of students and assistant vice president of student affairs, showed his support for those at the forum. McIntosh was among those who were contacted over the weekend to initiate the university crisis response in order to help students and faculty.

"In talking to students ... they felt support from the campus community and (they) thought it was very useful," McIntosh said. "It's amazing to me — when there's tragic, there's magic."

Staff from the Graham Health Center were on site — welcoming anyone to free counseling services.

Counseling is available to anyone who wishes to speak individually or with a small group.

"As we move through the funeral services, we want to be there for the students and faculty members," McIntosh said.

Two U.S.A Certified Therapy dogs were also present with their owners to try to pro-

vide some relief.

"We were here (on campus) for the Stress Less Fest ... we take therapy dogs ... to take the focus off of what they are struggling with," Alice Malkowych, certified therapy dog owner, said.

According to Malkowych, the therapy dogs typically don't go to memorials or similar events, but they were asked to join the group and provide additional resources.

"I've seen people with tears come out and smile when they pet him ... if we can make one person's day a little bit brighter, it's worth it," Malkowych said.

At the end of the support group, attendees were able to sign poster-sized cards with thoughts and prayers for the women.

Waite will be receiving the card while she is recovering from the accident at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

GHC staffers are helping students and families mourn the loss of the students.

To make an appointment with Graham Counseling Center, call 248-370-3465 or for more information visit oakland.edu/gcc

Free workshops for students

By SARAH HUNTON
Staff Reporter

The Graham Counseling Center will be hosting a workshop for students with anxiety and depression on Nov. 8 and 10.

The Nov. 8 meeting will be from noon until 1 p.m., while the meeting on Nov. 10 will be held from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., for those who cannot make the earlier session.

Doctoral interns Chelsi Day and Jamie Locus will run the workshop together and Dr. David Schwartz, director of GCC, also helped planned the event.

With the rate of anxiety and depression at an extreme high among college students, GCC staff members considered it of great importance to educate students that it is OK to seek help and how and where to do so.

"There are a lot of stigmas around mental health," Day said. "So being able to get out there and provide these workshops is important."

The workshop will begin with an interactive project that will teach students about mental health.

"We know that students are in class all day, so the last thing they want to do is sit in an extra hour of classes," Schwartz said. "We try to keep it fun, interactive and interesting to get people to have fun while they are learning."

Following the activity, psychologists will explain the facts of anxiety and depression, and will answer any questions that participants may have. The workshop will also

provide handouts outlining resources available.

In addition to providing students with knowledge on depression and anxiety, the workshop will teach students how to help others dealing with such difficulties.

Schwartz looks forward to the final detail of the workshop students will have as a place for students to have the opportunity to speak with, and ask any personal questions they have, any of the psychologists one on one.

Day said she also enjoys this aspect of the workshop.

"My favorite part of these workshops is just getting to meet some of the students and hear their stories ... to really be able to interact on a different level with the students," Day said.

Mariel Brehler, a secondary education major, has experienced depression. Since the beginning of her freshman year, Brehler had to deal with staying at home while her parents moved to Ohio, while also dealing with a close friend moving out of state for medical treatment.

Brehler said that she felt her life had no purpose. An athlete her entire life, she stopped working out. She spent a lot of time crying, but thought that she was just overreacting.

"I thought about getting help through OU's counseling center, but I was self-conscious about how I was feeling and I shied away from (seeking help)," she said. "I wish I had known more about the counseling cen-

ter and had been brave enough to get help there."

Brehler has since been treated for her depression and is now living on campus, which she really enjoys.

Alex Carter, an OU alumni and graduate student at University of Michigan, was diagnosed with an anxiety disorder at age five. He believes it is important for people to understand that those with anxiety issues must speak with someone too, whether it is friends, family or a counselor.

"Keeping things bottled up and brewing, building pressure, isn't good," he said. "Talking out your problems makes you feel better."

For more information about the workshops, contact David Schwartz at schwartz3@oakland.edu or visit oakland.edu/ghc for anxiety and depression resources.

Graham Health Center Counseling Services

- Personal Counseling
- Psychological and Psychoeducational Testing
- Career Testing and Counseling
- Substance Abuse Evaluation, Treatment, and Prevention
- Consultation and Outreach
- Crisis Intervention

police files

Student intoxicated in car

On Oct. 15, officers were dispatched to the Ann V. Nicholson apartments regarding a loud noise complaint coming from the parking lot.

When officers arrived, they saw a vehicle sitting with headlights turned on, parked on the curb, with people standing outside of it.

A male student was in the driver seat on the car.

Upon exiting the vehicle, officers started to ask the entire group questions. Officers stated that "it was evident that everyone in the group had been drinking."

Officers had one subject pour out alcohol from the glass he was holding. When the male student confirmed he had parked the car, he also said he had one drink.

To make sure the male student was safe to drive, he had performed a PBT, which had a result of .123. The male student said he had three drinks.

After a field sobriety test, the male student failed the one leg stand and numbers test. The officers administered a second PBT, but were not doing it correctly. The male student was then taken to the police station and cited for operating while intoxicated.

Broken vending machine glass

On Oct. 16, officers reported to the Science and Engineering building for a report of a damaged vending machine on the first floor.

Officers spoke with a professor who had filed the complaint. He said that when he arrived to go to his office he observed that someone had broken the front panel of glass.

Officers said that it did not appear if anything was taken from the machine. Dispatch advised Metro Vending of the incident. There are no known suspects.

— Compiled by Kevin Romanchik,
Scene Editor

Arabian nights promotes cultural diversity

By MISHA MAYHAND
Staff Intern

Oakland University's Student Program Board and the Student Congress teamed up to present the new event Arabian Nights.

The event highlights authentic Moroccan cuisine and a chocolate fountain.

There will also be a variety of entertainment including henna tattoos, palm readings and belly dancers. There will be giveaways, prizes, and a costume contest.

Jibran Ahmen, diversity chair of SPB, is involved with the events organization. The diversity chair, a new position created by SPB this year, focuses on organizing events that promote and celebrate diversity.

"I think that the school could really benefit from having more diverse opinions and events," Ahmed said.

According to Ahmed, SPB gathers student's opinions and uses them to create new

events.

The idea for Arabian Nights came about when Ahmed and other members of SPB attended the National Association for College Activities convention.

"At the convention, many schools get together and share their ideas," he said. "That's where I got the idea for Arabian Nights."

Ahmed did not organize the event alone — he had help from OUSC member and multicultural affairs director, Emilia Allen.

"We are a part of OUSC, but we are still separate members," Ahmed said.

Allen stressed the importance of the two groups working together.

"By collaborating with SPB on Arabian Nights, we are able to bring bigger and better events to OU and reach an even more diverse groups of students," she said.

Ahmed agreed that the work between the two organizations results in better events.

"The direct collaborative goal is to work

together on more events, to promote each others events and to support each other," he said. "When we do that, it shows students that we can work together."

Allen hopes that the event will bring in many students.

"If I had to give you a number, I would say that our goal is 1,000 students," she said.

Allen said that her concern with this event, as is with any event that she works on, is getting students to enjoy themselves and learn something new.

She continued by saying that she is very lucky to have the opportunity to work with Ahmed and SPB as a whole and is looking forward to a successful event.

The event takes place on Nov. 4 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Oakland Center banquet rooms.

For more information on OUSC and SPB visit oakland.edu/ousc and oakland.edu/spb

There's no end to the planning a presidential debate on campus

By RUTH FREEMAN
OU News Bureau

Imagine hosting a party at your place. Now imagine 1,400 people stopping by.

That's the logistical problem Oakland University faces for the Nov. 9 GOP presidential debate when 1,400 people and up to 300 news organizations will pack the Athletic Center O'rena.

Meetings between CNBC, Michigan GOP and OU began in July to coordinate the debate, the 11th in a series of debates this year between top GOP candidates.

"It reminds me a lot of when we've been involved with the NCAA basketball tournament," said Tracy Huth, director of athletics.

While it's unclear now how many top GOP candidates will participate, any candidate with at least 3 percent of the vote in any national poll is invited.

Those asking questions during the two-hour debate are moderators from business news channel CNBC, business leaders, Oakland students and other members of social media.

CNBC's Maria Bartiromo and John Har-

wood will moderate the debate.

Huth said he had been in meetings with the offices of the university president and provost, as well as staff from communications, IT, OUPD and facilities coordinator.

He said that they had considered "everything relative to people coming into the building."

Robert Schostak, university alumnus and chair of the Michigan GOP, originally suggested the school to CNBC and the Republican National Committee.

Schostak met with President Gary Russi about logistics before the school made its pitch to host.

Michigan GOP spokesman Matt Davis said the RNC supported the OU debate.

"The fact that we are located in an area hard hit by economic malaise — combined with the fact that OU has the appropriate facilities and experience in successfully staging high-profile events — made our campus a natural choice for the debate," said Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich.

Eight days before the event, student athletic practices will be moved to accommodate construction of the event stage and backdrop.

A men's basketball exhibition game against Windsor will move to Rochester Adams High School.

To compare, Huth said that graduation ceremonies usually shift team schedules for about three days.

The women's volleyball team, which also uses the O'rena, will play on the road and won't be as affected.

Huth, his staff and athletes will not be allowed in the athletic center during the afternoon of the debate while final set up and security preparations are made.

Athletes will clear their lockers so that candidates, members of the Michigan GOP and moderators from CNBC each have an area to organize.

CNBC, OU and the Michigan GOP all agreed to the number of tickets each received, Davis said.

At OU, students likely will get tickets based on a lottery.

Huth said that he was pleased the university could provide the facility for people to participate in the democratic process.

"I think we're very prepared," he added. "We're right on track."

View this story at ounewsbureau.com

campus briefs

Chinese brush paintings: a hands-on introduction

Join guest presenter Xiangqu Li on Nov. 11 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. for a hands on experience in Chinese brush painting. Attendees will learn an easy way to paint a panda or a crane.

The event is open to all OU students, faculty and staff. It will be held in room 126 of the Oakland Center. Supplies and refreshments will be provided.

Disney college program presentation

On Oct. 27 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. there will be a presentation for individuals who are interested in interning with the Walt Disney College Program.

The presentation is hosted by the student organization for the Walt Disney College Program. The presentation will be of rooms 128-130 in the Oakland Center.

Graduation fair

A graduation fair will be held on Nov. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Barnes and Noble bookstore in the lower level of the OC.

There will information about commencement and guest tickets, which are required to hold a ticket to attend the commencement ceremony.

Regalia will be available in the bookstore starting on Nov. 1. Graduates must wear all black regalia, including cap and gown.

Diploma frames, graduation photos and class rings will also be on display.

OU launches debate website

OU has announced the launch of a website for the Republican debate that will take place on campus on Nov. 9. The site will provide information such as parking instructions, campus events and involvement opportunities.

The website can be viewed at oakland.edu/debateatoakland

— Compiled by Megan Semeraz,
Campus Editor

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Lost and found turns up a plethora of odds and ends

By **MISHA MAYHAND**
Staff Intern

Based on a recent study by the University of Missouri, students are more likely to become forgetful when they are happy.

Students can find simple pleasures on campus by hanging out with friends in the OC, attending sporting events or enjoying a cup of coffee in Elliott Hall.

Whatever it may be, there's ample time to leave things behind.

"It usually takes students a week to notice that items are gone, unless it's a really important item, like a phone or student ID, then they're usually back within a day," said Jamie Phillips, OC welcome center attendant.

According to Phillips, the most commonly forgotten items are cell phones, jackets and ID's.

"It's an everyday thing," she said.

Phillips said that new items are turned into the lost and found every day, but the only things that people typically come back for are expensive items.

While students will almost instantly notice if their phone is missing, the absence of other items may not be realized until much later.

"The weirdest lost item we've ever had was a shoe," Phillips said.

While the OC may be the most popular place on campus

for left behind belongings, Hamlin Hall is not far behind.

Morgan Cardamone, mail desk receptionist in Hamlin Hall, said the most popular items lost in the dorms are gloves, eyeglasses and coats.

Cardamone said that most of these lost items are turned into the OU Police Department.

"Eighty percent of lost items turned into the OUPD are never claimed," officer Jeannine Marthen said.

Some students may assume that their items are gone for good or stolen.

According to Marthen, the most commonly claimed items are car keys, calculators and eyeglasses.

Other items that are turned into the OUPD include money, books, laptops and thumb drives, Marthen said.

According to Marthen, the most unique items ever turned into the OUPD include a set of golf clubs and a stack of love letters dating back to the 1800s.

According to Marthen, there are several things that can happen to items that are never retrieved.

"The items that are not claimed are kept at the station, according to state law, and disposed of in one of three ways: destroyed, donated or converted for departmental use."

When in doubt of a lost item, always check the lost and found, which is located at either the welcome desk of the OC, the mail desk in Hamlin Hall or the OUPD station.

For a list of items that have been found on campus visit police.oakland.edu/property



SIERRA SOLEIMANI / The Oakland Post

Common items turned into campus lost and found locations include eyeglasses, coats and gloves.



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Ecker improves game, breaks record

By **EMMA CLAUCHERTY**
Staff Reporter

Senior Liz Ecker will graduate as one of the greatest women's golfers in OU history.

"I hold the leading average score in women's golf history," Ecker said. "I definitely feel like I have contributed a lot to the program."

On Oct. 9, Ecker won the Detroit Titans Fall Classic. It was the second individual win of her collegiate career and a personal best for a 36-hole course.

Ecker placed fourth in conference as a freshman and third as a sophomore.

"Liz has proven to be a champion while at OU," coach Russ Cunningham said. "I expect that to be the case no matter what her future brings."

Ecker is originally from Delray Beach, Fla., where she played for her local high school before moving to Michigan.

Her dad was a main influence in her golf career.

"I started golfing in about eighth grade," Ecker said. "My dad plays golf — I had always played but didn't start competitive golf until

the freshman year of high school."

Ecker, a marketing major, was drawn to OU for many reasons.

"I chose Oakland for the facilities and because it had a really good academic reputation," Ecker said.

The developing golf program also attracted Ecker's attention.

"Part of the reason why I came here was because I knew I could see the (golf) program growing and getting better," Ecker said.

The women's team is showing more strength than it has in past years; they took second overall in the Detroit Titans Invitational and first in the Cleveland State Invitational this season.

The team's improvement can also be credited to the addition of Cunningham its new head coach.

"He has helped us so much," Ecker said of Cunningham. "We have seen the team grow just in the past month and a half. Our short game and our course management have gotten a lot stronger as a whole for the team. That definitely played a part for me in winning this tournament."

Ecker has high hopes for the team she has led for two consecu-



Courtesy of Oakland Athletics

Members of the Oakland University men's basketball team answer questions at Media Day. Oakland is tabbed to finish second in the Summit League, after winning 50 of their last 53 Summit League games.

tive years.

"I want to see us win a conference championship," Ecker said. "Oral Roberts has definitely had a 15 year regime on the women's side. This is one of the first years I think we really can go out and give them a run for their money."

Ecker hopes to end her college career with both titles.

"(Before I leave Oakland) I want a conference championship for the team and individually — I want to take both home," Ecker said. "We have never won — this is our year."

Professional golf is not included in Ecker's future plans.

"I'll continue to play amateur golf for a long time, but I have no

desire to turn pro," she said.

That aside, Ecker is still thrilled with the development in the program and she hopes to see it continue in the future.

"I have seen the program grow a lot since my freshman year. We keep getting better players," Ecker said. "I don't think I'll be the best for very long (after I graduate)."

Oral Roberts switches Leagues, incurs \$250k fine

By **KEVIN ROMANCHIK**
Scene Editor

Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla. will be ending a 14-year run in the Summit League Conference by leaving for the Southland Conference beginning at the start of 2012-2013.

After a month of rumors and speculations, the university announced at a press conference on Tuesday that Oral Roberts would become the tenth addition to the Southland Conference effective July 1, 2012.

University officials announced that the conference change would cost \$250,000, a standard penalty for not giving the Summit

League a two-year notice of the move.

The Southland conference is considered to be a better geographic fit for ORU, with schools located in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and now, Oklahoma.

Programs in the Southland Conference include Central Arkansas, Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston State, Lamar, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Northwestern State (La.) McNeese State, Southeastern Louisiana and Nicholls State.

"Our number one consideration in this and all decisions is the well being of our student-athletes," said Oral Roberts President Dr. Mark Rutland to the Associated Press. "We look forward to being a competitive

member of such an excellent conference right here in our own neighborhood."

Oral Roberts will participate in 15 of Southland's championships that include men's basketball, baseball, cross-country, golf, tennis and indoor and outdoor track and field.

While the women will compete in basketball cross country, golf, soccer, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field and volleyball.

"We are focused in on what Oral Roberts could bring to the Southland Conference and what we could provide the university," said Tom Burnett, Southland Conference commissioner.

Since joining the Summit League, Oral Roberts has won nine Summit League Commissioner's Cups in 14 years, 68 All-Americans and a total 75 NCAA tournament appearances in that time.

The move of Oral Roberts, historically Oakland University's rival, may have implications that are unknown at this time for the future Golden Grizzlies.

When reached on Tuesday, the OU athletic department had no comment with the news.

With the loss of Southern Utah University, and now Oral Roberts, the Summit League is now with a nine program line-up and a future that is currently unclear.



Courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

The Oakland University women's team added three guards, Lauren Robak, Halle Wangler and Peyton Apsey and forward Shelby Herrington to their 2011-12 class.

Basketball adds four freshmen, depth for '11

By **SETH WALKER**
Staff Reporter

As the 2011-12 season draws near, the Oakland University women's basketball team has four freshmen that are looking to make an impact.

Lauren Robak, Halle Wangler, Peyton Apsey and Shelby Herrington have joined a Golden Grizzlies team that reached the Summit League championship game last season.

Robak, Wangler and Apsey are all 5-foot-9 inch guards joining a backcourt that has a lot of depth.

Herrington is a 6-foot-2 inch forward who became Hemlock's career leader in points, rebounds and blocked shots. She will help provide size in OU's frontcourt.

As freshmen, these four players are not only joining a new team, but making an important transition in their lives, from high school to college life.

A common theme among the players is that their transition to Oakland so far has been smooth.

"I absolutely love it here," Wangler said. "The older teammates have really stepped up and helped us get acquainted with college life and the team."

Though the freshmen will have to find their place on a new team with new coaches, each one will get to do it alongside a familiar face. Herrington and Apsey were teammates on a Hemlock high school team that reached the Class C State semifinals last season. They both said that knowing each other has made their transition easier.

"Having someone that you're comfortable around, (and) have been with throughout high school really helps you fit in better and you always have that core person you can be with if anything happens," Herrington said.

Apsey became Hemlock's all-time leader in assists and steals. All three guards earned all-state honors in high school.

Robak and Wangler are now teammates, but were high school rivals. They both played for teams in

the Catholic League. Robak, who finished her high school career as the all-time leading scorer, led Our Lady of the Lakes to two straight Class D state championships while Wangler helped Royal Oak Shrine win a district championship.

Now at OU, the two are roommates. Wangler said that having Robak here is a "great experience."

"I've known her (Robak) since we were in eighth grade, we've been playing against each other," Wangler said. "It's cool having your rival and then getting to room with her."

As the season draws closer, the Oakland freshmen will look to help OU win a league Championship.

"(My goal is) to just get stronger, stay in shape and compete with all the bigger girls and try to win a spot on that main rotation," Herrington said.

Oakland will play in a Saturday afternoon exhibition game against Ferris State. OU's first regular season game will be against George Mason on Nov. 13.

Golf team wraps up season

By **JORDAN REED**
Staff Intern

The Oakland University men's golf team concluded their season finishing in the top five of two tournaments.

The OU men started off strong in the Fossum Invitational on Sept. 3-4, placing third, shooting a plus-28.

The team had a couple rough patches during the season, finishing last in the Wolverines Intercollegiate, but were able to bounce back.

They also went to the Cleveland State Invitational, where they came in fourth place over thirteen other teams, shooting a plus-14.

"As an individual, the (Cleveland) tournament was my best accomplishment," freshman Alex Turner said. "I ended up coming in 3rd overall."

The men's golf team will now focus on next year's spring season. The first tournament they will participate in will be against their rivals in the Summit League, Oral Roberts.

"Oral Roberts has won the opener for

fourteen years straight," Turner said. "It's about time for Oakland to win this. It needs to come to an end and this year is the year that our ten can do it."

Even though the team members play separately, they all feel like they can count on each other to help them with anything.

"They bring the best out of me," Turner said. "All of the freshmen really do look towards the seniors for their inspiration."

As far as the end of the season, the team and the coach feel like this is only a couple month break rather than a change in seasons.

"This really is half time for us," Cunningham said. "We have a couple months off and then we head back to the game in the spring."

In order to get back into things in the spring, the team will go somewhere they can actually play.

"We are going to start with a spring break trip so that we have a chance to get some golf practice in after all of the snow," Cunningham said. "Our conference championships are in the spring time so that's the main thing that we look forward to."

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A haunting passion

New interactive haunted house offers visitors a trip with the undead

By NICHOLE SEGUIN AND STEPHAINE PREWEDA

Managing Content Editor and Staff Intern

Sinister Haunted House can't keep the dead under the ground.

Once inside there is only one rule — you do what you are told by the people that live inside the house.

"It's not so much freaking people out, it's (expletive) with them," Tonya, an actor and crowd entertainer dressed as a raven, said.

To audition to be a part of Black's haunt, Tonya was asked to hide, then jump out and scare Larry Black, the company's owner. It's been five years since.

Starting out as an actor himself, Black took his love of frightening people and built his own haunted house, Haunted Hallows, which later burnt down in a fire. Turning that tragedy into another idea, Black bought a unit in a strip mall in Shelby Twp. that he quickly converted into Sinister Haunted House and Glow Golf course.

After the demise of the first Sinister house, Black considered retirement, but then decided to collaborate with The Realm of Darkness haunted house in Pontiac and build another new house.

"I wanted to make it interactive compared to other houses," he said. "Next year we're taking it to a new level with new ideas — it's going to be 18 (years of age) plus, and that's it ... we are not the norm. We are way beyond the normal."

Comprised of myriad actors including Black's high school aged daughter, Sinister is an interactive house in which you play by their rules.

"The best part of Sinister is that you take it home with you," Black said.

Using her fear of dolls to her advantage when picking her costume, Lala, an actress that has worked with Black for three years, used her outfit as an opportunity.

"I used to be completely afraid of dolls," she said. "Since I've started working here and wearing this costume, I've completely overcome that fear."

For some of the actors, getting dressed is the easy part. For The Butcher, a haunter that is drenched in blood from head to toe, his experience is the exact opposite.

"It takes me about a half hour to 45-minutes to clean up after each night," he said.

Located in Pontiac, Sinister is open seven



STEPHANIE PREWEDA/The Oakland Post

Jezebel Morte is a haunter at Sinister haunted house in Pontiac. The haunted house is interactive, requiring its visitors to play a game of tick-tack-toe with The Butcher, a fellow haunter, and then forcing them to fish for grapes in a corpse after they lose.

days a week until Halloween. On their last night open, Black is expecting the haunters to be exceptionally terrifying.

"Halloween will be insane," he said. "They're going to go crazy — there will be no rules that night."

For more information visit www.sinisterhauntedhouse.com

House information

- Located on 37 Turk St. in Pontiac
- Tickets for the house are \$13 per person, \$11 for ages 11 and under
- The house is open from 7 p.m. to midnight nightly until Halloween
- Tickets can be purchased for Sinister and the Realm of Darkness in Pontiac for \$30



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Gina TheVictim, a haunter at Sinister haunted house, plays in a skit with haunter Bow-bee TheClown, where she falls victim to a chain saw.

Robot claims third Robotics Association prepares for battle

By KEVIN GRAHAM
Staff Reporter

While it's still a little ways off from creating the real-life version of Optimus Prime, the Oakland Robotics Association is helping create a new generation of autonomous technology right here on campus.

The team, a blend of 14 graduate and undergraduate students, is tasked with preparing an entry for the annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition, held at Oakland University.

This year, the competition was held June 3-6. Teams came from places such as Japan, Jordan and Canada. There were also schools present from the Ivy League and several other big engineering institutions, for a total of 40 teams. Prizes ranged from \$100 to \$25,000.

Botzilla, OU's robot, took 1,500 man-hours to complete, according to team estimates. It was able to navigate obstacles and get to various locations on its own thanks to a GPS, an on-board camera and navigation software that were programmed by the team.

In addition to the chance to compete, the team earned third place in two categories at this year's competition, earning \$3,000 for the robotics program. The team also took away practical application of the concepts they learned in the classroom.

KaC Cheok, the association adviser and OU engineering professor, said this gives students "the ability to learn new things including technology and technical principles on their own and apply the knowledge to



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Graham
Botzilla took 1,500 man hours to complete, according to the Oakland Robotics Association. With a GPS, an on-board camera and software programmed by the team, Botzilla claimed third place at this year's competition.

design the robots."

The group's president, Micho Radovnikovich, a graduate student in his third year of the doctoral program in systems engineering, talked about the benefits of his time in the Association.

"All the theory and mathematics you learn in

class is nice, but if you don't have a context for the real world implications of the math, then your knowledge is somewhat blunted," Radovnikovich said. "On top of that, the experience gained in a group such as this gives you the programming and/or construction skills that any industrial

engineering job would require."

Although performing well at IGVC is the group's main objective, they also attend other competitions in order to practice with and fine tune the robot.

Vice President Lincoln Lorenz, in his first year of a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering, said he enjoys the challenge.

"There are a wealth of things that I get out of being a member of the robotics team," Lorenz said. "Work experience, friends for a lifetime, the knowledge that I can work in high pressure situations, and getting to work with a motivated team."

One of the biggest challenges the team faces is figuring out what is feasible to put into the robot given challenging time constraints.

Radovnikovich said the team is constantly asking itself questions.

"What type of control hardware should we use?" he said. "Would it take too long to develop the software? If so, what alternatives do we have? Answering these questions and coming up with attack plans months ahead of time is sometimes harder than the actual engineering."

Radovnikovich said all the work shows in the finished product.

"The best part of being with ORA is that we get to participate in the ever-expanding field of autonomous robotics," he said. "It is a very exciting field, and when you walk into the tent at IGVC with a vehicle that turns heads and performs well, you get the enjoyable feeling of seeing your hard work pay off."

OU housing provides a sense of community

By HALEY JONNA
Staff Intern

Housing at Oakland University this semester reached capacity this year and students are still living in a nearby hotel. While most OU students commute from home to campus, many are starting to utilize the option of moving into dorms.

Jim Zentmeyer, the director of university housing, said he's excited about the growth in demand for housing on campus. He sees living on campus as a unique opportunity that opens doors.

"We hope to get resident hall students to take advantage of the four-year cycle," Zentmeyer said.

Also, according to Zentmeyer, students who live on campus are more likely to get involved in student activities.

"It's a little bit trickier for a commuter student to make those types of arrangements, to get involved in clubs and organizations," Zentmeyer said.

Resident students run the majority of Oakland University Student Congress and other clubs and organizations. Large numbers of student leaders that belong to the Honors College also live in resident halls.

"The students that are living on campus are the ones that are getting involved, cheering the Golden Grizzlies on, wearing black and gold like crazy," Zentmeyer said. "They're so enthusiastic because they're living here, and they know what it's doing for them."

While students living on campus are making their mark on the university, the university also hopes to give back to them.

Career services plans to focus on the residential apartments.

Tutoring is also available to students living on campus in Vandenberg Hall.

"We are working on providing more 'slipper services' for our students where they don't need to leave their building to get the services they need if they don't want to," Zentmeyer said.

Rachel St. Peter is the graduate hall director of North Hamlin Hall, an all-freshman campus residence hall.

"We want students to think of the residence halls as more than just where they sleep at night," St. Peter said. "The halls are their homes, and being active and meeting people will make their hall feel like a home versus just a building."

HOUSING
continued on page 15

HOUSING

continued from page 14

Students have enjoyed the efforts of their advisors to make their residence halls home.

"I love being able to make friends and only having to walk down the hall to find someone to hang out with or help with homework," sophomore Rachel Smalley, an accounting major living in West Vandenburg, said.

Kyla Kellerman, a freshman and student athlete at OU, said she enjoys attending the weekly floor dinners whenever she has the time.

"Students should never be bored in the halls," St. Peter said. "We rarely have a night without an activity or program being put on."

Many OU students admit to allowing the experience of living in a residence hall slip away without actually enjoying the time.

Senior Sarah Lynch said that she did not give living in the residence halls a fair chance and she cautions incoming freshman to appreciate the dorm-room experience.

St. Peter agrees with Lynch. "Get involved," she said. "Go to



Residence Halls Programming began Friday Night Live in 1997, featuring comedians from the area as well as from around the world. Dave and Ethan performed at The Madnezz on Oct. 14.

the programs your RAs put on, ask someone down the hall to eat lunch with you, find a group or activity to join," St. Peter said.

Other benefits of living on campus include avoiding the fight against commuters for parking spots.

Alyssa Januska, a freshman at OU, commuted for the first couple days of classes. After realizing the immense amount of time spent in the car, she decided to

move into the dorms.

"Walking to class is a lot easier than driving around," Januska said. "And fighting for a parking spot is not much fun, either."

Januska also assures that there is a lot to do when school is not in session. Her and her friends spend time in the Oakland Center and at Bumpers Gameroom. Living in a dorm guarantees that people are always around to pass time.

However, other students feel

that OU dorms cannot compare to those of other university campuses.

Ross Maghielse graduated from OU in the summer of 2011. He lived in Hamlin Hall his freshman year.

"It seemed like if the activity or gathering wasn't organized by OU housing, they were against it taking place," Maghielse said.

"We had to be creative because OU really has an uptight atmo-

sphere when it comes to having fun on campus," Maghielse said. "OU wants a bigger school atmosphere like MSU, Michigan or Central, but they insist on dorm checks, obsessive and unneeded police attention with cops that do pretty much nothing but hand out MIPs."

Overall, dormers have enjoyed their first weeks living on campus.

"It's a great time, and it's really fun so far," Januska said. "I would recommend living on campus. If you commute, you do not get the entire college experience."

As the demand for housing continues to soar, university housing hopes to accommodate the requests, but understands that there is only so much that they can do.

"The demand has grown steadily where we have outstripped any hope of meeting demand," Zentmeyer said. "If ever there was a time when the stars were really aligned for going forward with expanded housing, this would be the time."

For more information about housing at Oakland University visit the website at www.oakland.edu/housing

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Click the link **"Log in to GrizzOrgs"**

You will make an OU profile, and have access to the events calendar for all the student organizations on campus!



SARAH WOJCIK/The Oakland Post
Freshmen Bria Brown, a communications major, and Shationn Young, a nursing major, utilize the plastic bottles receptacles placed around the Oakland Center.



SARAH WOJCIK/The Oakland Post
Nicholeta Raica, a sophomore studying health science, multitasks while at the hydration station, filling up her water bottle while on her cell phone.

Grizzlies take on green initiatives

By TROY FRISBY
OU News Bureau

As the nation becomes more concerned with being environmentally friendly, Oakland University is moving towards being a "greener" campus.

Richard Fekel, director of the Oakland Center, says OU is working to catch up to other state universities in terms of recycling.

"I think Oakland's been a little slower possibly than some other campuses," he said.

Fekel says other universities have educational departments more directly involved in projects that combine teaching and environmental strategies. He cited the University of Michigan's expansive sustainability program as a model for campuses across the state.

"I think we could do a lot more recycling and support more sustainability initiatives but it takes money and staff," he said. "Some campuses have made sustainability a top priority with financial and top-down support."

One of the university's biggest obstacles is a fragmentation caused by individual recycling programs between buildings.

"My hope is, before too long, that we

get a campuswide organized approach to recycling," he said.

The OC and housing department tried to taking a leadership role in developing a program, he said, adding that more unity across campus would help further green efforts.

"I think we're getting there," he said. "It's just that everyone's sort of doing their own thing right now."

However, Fekel said that many projects involving energy conservation are in place, and he is always looking at new ways to improve the OC, including more hydration stations and eco-friendly food services.

Oakland (recycling) Center

The OC's environmental efforts started in 1997 with cardboard recycling.

"The cardboard was coming from a lot of the packaged things from our food service operator as well as the bookstore, so we bought a huge cardboard bailer," Fekel said. "I don't know how many tons of cardboard we've saved from going into the landfill, but it's an enormous amount."

Since then, the university has expanded its recycling to include such items as office paper, toner and printer cartridges, batteries and fluorescent light bulbs.

To reduce plastic bottles and other recyclable materials from going into a landfill, the university has many recycling containers throughout campus for student use.

Freshman Ashley Monticciolo said the recycling bins are beneficial to the environment and keeping the campus clean.

"I've noticed that they have recycling

bins in all the rooms and around campus," she said. "Most people dispose of their plastic bottles and everything is kept up nicely."

Fekel wants to expand the OC's use of green cleaning supplies, although he said that finding cost-effective organic products with the same cleaning capabilities is a challenge.

Most of the windows in the OC have been replaced with double-pane windows, which helps save on heating and cooling costs. There are plans to replace more, he said.



Ashley Monticciolo

The hydration stations

In the past few years, some of the campus's older drinking fountains have been experiencing mechanical problems. When one OC drinking fountain in particular was in need of replacement, Fekel suggested a hydration station.

"You could think that possibly every time somebody refills a bottle, it might have saved a bottle from going into the landfill," Fekel said.

Since then, hydration stations have been placed in both North Foundation Hall and Kresge Library, while another is in the basement of the OC. Fekel said he hopes hydration stations will become a

campuswide standard and replace broken water fountains.

Communication and journalism student Christina Venditti, a junior, uses the OC hydration stations and said the university should install more.

"I think the hydration stations are really convenient," she said. "I can buy a water bottle or bring one from home and refill it a few times before recycling it."

Despite the success of the eco-friendly hydration stations, Fekel said there are no plans to stop the sale of plastic water bottles in the OC.

Good eats

Environmentally conscious students looking for on-campus dining can visit the OC's Pioneer Food Court.

Chartwells, the company that operates the Pioneer Food Court and Vandenberg Dining Hall, has improved its green efforts, including:

- Composting excess food.
 - Working on reinstating a mug-refill program to cut down on the use of disposable cups.
 - Donating leftover food to Forgotten Harvest, an organization working to end hunger in the Detroit metro area.
- "If there is leftover food, Forgotten Harvest will come over and pick it up," Fekel said. "It's a nice way to give back to the community."

In addition to Chartwells' efforts, the OC also serves Certified Fair Trade organic coffee in the Pioneer Food Court, as does Caribou Coffee in Café O'Bears.



Content and design by Kevin Romanchik, Scene editor

The Bar Hop: Sherwood Brewing Company



Bartenders Erica Maloney and Mary Logan have worked there for three and two years respectively.

THE BREWPUB

- Ray Sherwood, owner and brewer, opened Sherwood Brewery Company in 2006.
- Offers an extensive menu that includes homemade burgers, pizza, sandwiches, soups and more.
- "(We have) price points that are accessible to the college student or professional," Paul said. "Anybody can eat here, anybody can drink here."

"Beyond the beer and food we produce, there definitely is a family here."

— Ray Sherwood, owner and brewer



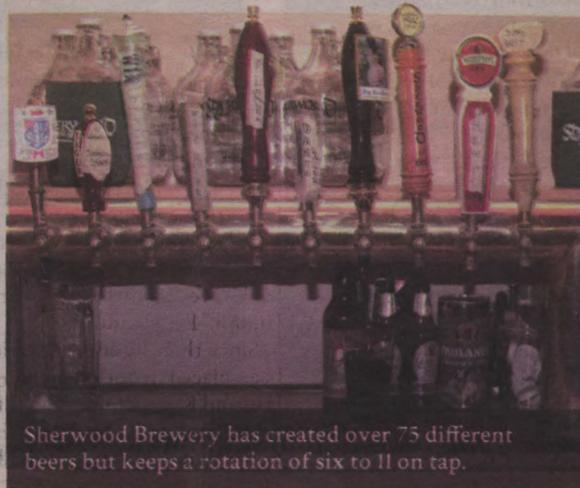
The Smoked Pumpkin Porter is set to release on Oct. 28, with a pumpkin carving and costume contest.

ATMOSPHERE

- The staff believe that because Sherwood doesn't serve liquor and domestic beer, it makes them unique.
- With a focus on the customer experience, they aim to make you feel like a part of the family.
- Returning customers sustained the business in the beginning, maintaining that is just as important.

"People say all the time (that Sherwood) is like a Cheers bar. They come in and know everybody."

— Mary Logan, bartender



Sherwood Brewery has created over 75 different beers but keeps a rotation of six to 11 on tap.

THE BEER

- According to Sherwood, they've created between 75 to 80 various types of beers since opening.
- Anywhere from six to 11 beers of different styles on tap.
- The bar hopes to expand production from 700 to 1,500 barrels and grow their distribution.

"(Our beer is) obnoxiously-unpretentious. Having a good beer and having a good time; it's as simple as that."

— Corey Paul, Assistant Brewer

The world behind your water

Film chronicles the issues behind issues involving the water trade

By **ASHLEY ALLISON**
Staff Intern

"Blue Gold: World Water Wars," which is a film about the overlooked crisis of U.S. water supply was brought to attention last Wednesday.

"Blue Gold: World Water Wars" will continue on Wednesday Oct. 26 with a presentation by Jerry Dennis, author of the Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas.

The presentation and the following discussion will take place from 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Banquet Room B of the Oakland Center.

The filmmakers hope to show people that water is often considered to be a renewable resource, but it isn't.

They believe many people are unaware of how much of the world's water supply is unusable due to pollution.

Deforestation is considered to be another cause of our dwindling water supply.

The more trees we lose, the more water we lose because roots store high amounts of fresh water.

According to the film, the world's wetlands, a major water supply, are being demolished.

Six percent of the world's wetlands have been destroyed in the past century.

Wetlands act as a holding and cleaning station for water, and once they are destroyed, the water will run back into the streams and rivers and become polluted.

Mendoza believes that the crisis, more importantly puts the

"There are people across the world dying everyday, especially children, because they do not have access to clean water while the rest of us, who do have access, are having to pay more and more for that access."

— Lily Mendoza, organizer of the Blue Gold: World Water Wars film screening

youth of the world at risk.

"There are people across the world dying everyday, especially children, because they do not have access to clean water," Lily Mendoza, organizer of the event and associate professor of communication, said, "while the rest of us, who do have access, are having to pay more and more for that access."

The film also explores various companies and the part they play in the crisis.

Companies such as Veolia, the leading global operator of water, are taking away the human rights of water.

Nestle Water North America, another leading company in the water industry, is making \$2.8 million a day in profit according to the film.

The Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation recently ended a nine-year lawsuit battle with Nestle.

The lawsuit resulted in pre-

venting Nestle from pumping water in Michigan.

"When all is said and done, people need water to survive," said Jim Olsen, attorney and chair of FLOW for Water.

FLOW is a non-for-profit organization with a mission to save the water in the Great Lakes area and keep them safe and under public control.

People now have to pay for water; those who can pay receive it, but those who cannot, must go without.

"Unless this privatizing take over is halted, water will be locked up in the control of a few corporations as a commodity, available only for a price, and even then only to 'winners' of a global game that pushes growing numbers of 'losers' into early graves," Mendoza said.

South Indian percussionist visits Varner Hall

By **ISABELLA SHAYA**
Staff Intern

On Nov. 1, Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD) is inviting Rohan Krishnamurthy, a musician from South India, to campus for students, faculty and guests to experience modern and traditional percussion music from Southern India.

This concert is part of MTD's annual guest artist series, and will focus on percussion music from Southern India.

Michigan native Rohan Krishnamurthy is a long-time student of a legendary musician in India.

Guruvayur Dorai, who was originally supposed to be performing, but suffered from a stroke this past summer and was unable to make the journey from India.

"Rohan is Mr. Dorai's number one student in America and has been studying with him for some time, and so I felt that he was the best person to take the place of his teacher," Mark Stone, coordinator of percussion and world music at OU, said.

Four other musicians, including Jay Balan, Sam Jeyasingham, Mark Stone and Rohan's mother, Sujatha Krishnamurthy, will assist Krishnamurthy on a variety of traditional instruments from South India.

"We are calling this a percussion concert, but it is going to be unlike any percus-

sion concert that many people have been to, mainly because of the instruments we will be playing; particularly the instrument that I will be using, the mridangam, which is a pitched drum from South India," musician Rohan Krishnamurthy said.

Krishnamurthy will be performing the compositions of his teacher, but also some of his own pieces, including a cross-cultural performance.

"I can tell you, having already had a rehearsal with Rohan, he is every bit as talented as his teacher," Stone said. "He is a young musician, and the future of South Indian percussion."

The MTD department hopes that by bringing pieces of culture from other countries, like South India, this event will broaden the horizons of OU students and members of neighboring communities.

MTD hopes that the annual guest artists series will continue to provide a different perspective.

"This concert will be a new and enjoyable experience for the audience because this is a really incredible system of music, but it is not one that is widely known in the United States," Krishnamurthy said. "I hope to really share my knowledge and passion for this music with the audience."

Krishnamurthy will also be teaching a world music course and a master class for the percussion students on Nov. 1.

Tala Vadya Kacheri South Indian Percussion Concert

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 1

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Varner Recital Hall

Cost: \$14 general admission, \$8 student

For more information, visit oakland.edu/mtd or call 248-370-2030

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Halloween horrors on a decline

By **BRIAN FIGURSKI**
Staff Reporter

Forget ghosts, zombies, loose wild animals or an army of completely incompetent GOP candidates — what's real scary this fall is how horrible Halloween has gotten.

Kids don't celebrate the holiday anymore, not like how we used to get down. Halloween attendance is down roughly 62 percent of what it was ten years ago. Also, 83 percent of the statistics I make up are horribly incorrect.

The exact numbers aren't out there, but I inquired to my parents on the matter, veterans of letting me look stupid as Super Mario, a pumpkin and WWE's Mankind, and they both concur the kids don't come out on the 31st.

Passing through neighborhoods that once emanated an orange glow, the streets resemble a scene from a nuclear fall-out film, barren of any life. Hell, I've seen more people with Christmas lights up already

that fake spider webs.

It saddens me that one of the best holidays to lose its true meaning in America and transcend into a mockery of itself is losing steam, but I have a few theories as to why.

The modern day parents just don't think it's safe anymore.

The world turns on bad news, and when daily reports of violence, sexual abuse and thievery occur, it's understandable to not let your children come out unattended in a five-mile radius of me.

Could it also be that the world is really becoming health conscious, not allowing the children to engulf chocolate-peanut butter-cookie-caramel-razorblades until they implode a la Monty Python's Meaning of Life, pouring Snickers out of their busted-open ribcages?

Fat chance.

The true culprit of the holidays youthful demise is that this generation is whoring out Halloween.

Dressed up in, well, pretty much nothing,

Halloween has become a day for the average corner-working girl to blend in with all the other leggy peers.

I can't go out on Halloween anymore without seeing every person with a uterus dressed as a sexy cop, naughty nurse, nasty librarian or hairless kitten, showing off the latter for fat college guys dressed up like a beer keg.

The costumes are ridiculous! I really appreciate it ladies, I do, but my brain can't handle it.

While growing older has changed my tastes on what I consider a Halloween snack, I feel bad for the kids losing the opportunity I had to be a rotund gelatinous blob each year.

There has to be some way to get kids out again, not let the rare yard decorations go to waste without having to initialize the 'birds and bees' discussion when they come home soaked from their encounter with a flock of teenagers dressed like favorites at Déjà Vu.

Just like my ideas for this story has be-

come askew, so has the annual Halloween celebration.

Our generation galloped away with candy and costumes and, in turn, transformed it into a hooker holiday, leaving the kids of America in the dark. The will never get to experience what we remember: a real gold mine of an evening.

I hope you're all happy with the Devil's Night thievery of Halloween.

The day of the dead we once knew will die with us.

Even though the children's sugar rush is thwarted, sex appeal stinks up the air on Halloween, and you're going to wonder why "16 and Pregnant" is on its 20th season in 10 years.

Trick on and enjoy your treats, Halloween moguls, because the decline is immediate and the hill always seems to get steeper at the bottom.

You can look for me on the 31st. I'll be the grouch in a garbage can dressed as Oscar.

Bah humbug.

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Best friends forever

Jenna Balabuch (left) and Rachel Ring (right) and their mothers Susan and Ginny.

Photos courtesy of the Ring and Balabuch families



Rachel, who joined the rowing team at GVSU, is pictured here with a teammate.

Jenna Balabuch and Rachel Ring were best friends since preschool.

The fellow English lovers both chose to attend Oakland University after graduating from Romeo High School in 2010.

The families of both girls remember the two as "inseparable."

Susan Balabuch said she considered Rachel her second daughter.

Jenna and Rachel were victims of a four-car accident on I-75 on Saturday, Oct. 22.



Rachel and Jenna both graduated from Romeo High School in 2010.



One of Jenna's passions was horse back riding and participating in shows with her horse, Bo Jangles.



Jenna is pictured here with two of four brothers, Andy (left) and Josh (right).



Rachel, who dreamed of being a French teacher, studied international relations and French at Grand Valley State University.