

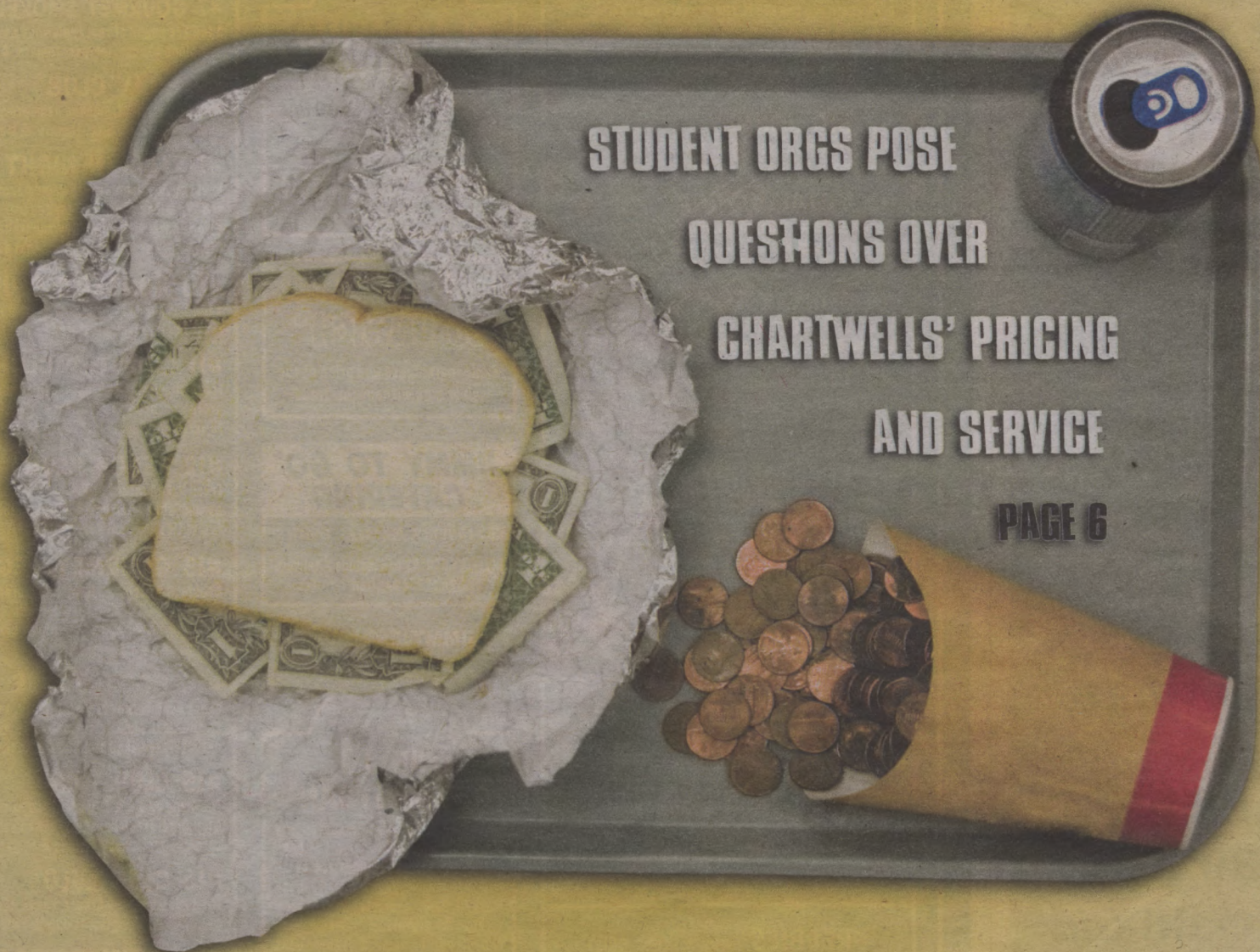
THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

October 22, 2008

Volume 35, Number 8

ARE WE EATING OUR MONEY?



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Club sports presidents take
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THIS WEEK 10.22.08



Perspectives page 4

An OU professor offers a new perspective on the economic crisis. Also, Student Life Weekly takes a look at cheating.



Campus page 8

Congressional candidates debate at OU. Plus, students celebrate Halloween with "Nightmare on Elm Street" live presentation.



Local page 12

Sen. Carl Levin and opponent Jack Hoogendyk go head-to-head in a debate in Detroit. Also, Buddy's Pizzeria pays tribute to OU with a new mural.



The Mix page 14

OU students decide whether or not there's an age limit on trick or treating. Plus, students reminisce about the Halloween costumes of their past.



you page 16

A car is more than just a way to get to class to some OU students. See what students are doing with their rides.



Sports page 18

Club sport presidents are taken out of their elements and placed in the lions' den of nerdy sports. Plus, Midnite Madnezz hits the O'Rena.



the Scene page 23

Bottle or draft? Read about the first Ale Fest in Detroit. Also, embrace your inner child with Halloween costume ideas.



MOUTHING OFF page 25

The online world of social networking gets "poked" in a point-counterpoint that will leave you wondering if we were better off without them.



Nation | World page 27

Kirk Kerkorian sells some of his Ford stock. Plus, three countries discuss natural gas cartel.

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Pricing, quality and service a concern among students at OUSC's meeting with Chartwells.

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

October 22, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Let Chartwells know you mean business

Tuition. Rent. The price of gas. You've heard it before and chances are, you'll hear it again. For most Oakland University students, these three topics are on our minds daily.

Another factor to throw into the mix: \$12.95 for a gallon of Chartwells' lemonade, and the outrageous price of food on campus.

Actually, the student price of a gallon of lemonade is only \$8.36. Excuse us.

We often hear about the money and time that is invested in OU to dilute the "commuter feel" of campus. Students are lured to stay well beyond the time that classes are dismissed for concerts, pep rallies and the like.

While these events are worth the effort, it seems like a gouge is in place when we're left with two options: shell out \$6 to pay for a \$5 Subway sandwich, or leave campus to eat. That doesn't encourage anyone to stick around for dinner.

We do appreciate the salads at Wild Greens and the sandwiches at Subway because they offer a healthy alternative on campus. But while they are tempting, few of us aim to become "Dollar Menu-a-ires."

There is only so much time we have to stand in line and only so many hundreds of dollars we can pay. How many calories do we burn standing in line for a half hour anyway? How many calories does Chartwells management burn counting up their profits?

We would not object if OU students willingly took out loans to pay for breakfast, but this is without a doubt a monopoly forced upon us by Chartwells' relationship with OU.

It is a monopoly that is not only annoying and painful to our wallets, but downright offensive in some cases. Chartwells does not offer options for students with religious or dietary restrictions, making it impossible for some students to find a meal.

Student organizations that serve food at events are lucky to find it being delivered by a hospitable person. While we're sure that working in food service is no picnic (seeing as we are full-time students, most of us have dipped our toes in the food service job market before), it doesn't help to have overpriced food delivered by a sour staff.

While tuition, rent and the price of gas are inevitable, the amount we're paying for food on campus is something we can speak up about and possibly even change.

Chartwells representatives say that the best solution is to make sure that there is no miscommunication between the company and the student body. We need to make sure that this absolutely is the case.

We literally cannot afford to stand by and say, "I only have to put up with this until I graduate." That is the same destructive attitude that the student body has carried since Chartwells began catering to OU in 2002 and it has allowed this mess to carryover six years later.

If Chartwells will initiate the focus groups that they say they're working on, we need to enthusiastically participate. It may not be as strong a display as a protest or an editorial, but it is a way to let them know how we feel.

By this time next year, if we're not seeing real change, then it will be time for real action. That means packing a lunch, buying food elsewhere if we have to hike up a mountain to get it, going on a hunger strike — whatever it takes.

If the Oakland Center is truly intending to service the student body of OU, serious action should be taken quickly in order to remedy this situation.

Let Chartwells know how you feel about their services and prices by holding them to their word, ask for their proposed focus groups to become a reality.

—The author of this week's cover story did not take part in the writing of this staff editorial.



DAVID FITZSIMMONS/The Arizona Star

What do you think? Have a news tip?

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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 content, length and grammar.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

In the second to last column of "Making sense of a senseless number," on page 4 of the Oct. 15 issue, the correct number should have read \$700 billion and \$100 plus billion.

The Student Life Weekly Hot Topic column on page 5 of the Oct. 15 issue should have been attributed to Katy Rasch, Hall Director.

The photo caption on page 25 of the Oct. 15 issue should have read "... support of expanding the definition of hate crimes ...".

On page 17 of the Oct. 8 issue, the correct title of the photo contest submission from Linda K. Pletz is "Lake Huron Sunrise in Mackinaw City."

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

New ways of looking at the economic crisis

Guest Columnist
Shea
Howell
Prof. Communication

The current economic crisis is an opportunity for all of us to do some hard thinking. It is an opportunity to not only talk about what got us into this mess but to talk about what we can do to create economic relationships based on principles that value people and the earth that sustains us.

This crisis is the result of long standing structural imbalances. We have created a global economic system where only a relatively few and a diminishing number of people are needed to produce an abundance of goods. The production and distribution of these goods sucks up ever-larger shares of limited natural resources, turns these precious resources into items that most people don't need and most of us dispose of within six months of purchase. As a result, we have

an economy based on the production of trash, making the question of where to put our garbage an environmental nightmare.

In this arrangement, most people living in aging industrial societies find that our role is not to produce these goods but to consume them. Work that challenges our imaginations, that gives us a sense of

meaning, that connects us to others and gives the satisfaction of making a useful contribution to our communities, seems like an unrealistic expectation.

Separating consumption from production, judging the worth of people by what they can buy, not by what they do or how they live, has fostered a superficiality and irresponsibility in our economic and political life. This superficiality and irresponsibility has encouraged us to dedicate our energies to buying more and more without looking at the tremendous inequities we have created to protect our consumption.

"This crisis is an opportunity to unravel the ways of living that been so destructive ..."

While capital flowed ever more freely around the world expanding the global market, and brewing this crisis, a declining number of people have become extravagantly wealthy while the vast majority of the world has come ever closer to starvation. Now the existence of all of us is threatened by the global catastrophe that this dysfunctional system of consumption and production has created. According to CARE, in the last two years alone the number of people living on the "edge of emergency, increasing the deficit" has doubled from 110 million

people to 220 million.

Politicians, commentators and economists encourage us to think about the current economic crisis as a mortgage crisis or a credit crunch. Almost all the news focuses on the current \$700 billion bailout. Very few news sources point out that this bailout is following on the heels of a year in which we have already com-

mitted \$900 billion in piecemeal efforts to shore up the flagging stock market titans. This includes the recent \$200 billion for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, \$300 billion for the Federal Housing Authority to rescue mortgages, \$85 billion for AIG and \$87 billion in repayments to JP Morgan Chase, according to Reuters. With the new effort to provide an additional \$700 billion, the federal government will have invested roughly \$1.6 trillion dollars in three years, increasing the deficit and systematically debasing the value of the dollar.

Rarely is anyone adding to this cost the daily effort to maintain a military capable of protecting this arrangement.

In the midst of another war, Martin Luther King Jr. warned us that the triple threat of racism, militarism and consumerism was pitting our nation against the best hopes of humankind for peace and productive living.

This crisis is an opportunity to unravel the ways of living that have been so destructive to much of the earth and her people and begin to create economic relationships that serve our communities and sustain our earth.

STUDENT LIFE WEEKLY

Karen Clemmons-Lloyd
Assistant Dean of Students

HOT TOPIC

Think before you cheat

It is now mid-semester and as the school year progresses, some students may find themselves faced with the challenge of academic performance. These challenges can cause some to experience a lapse in judgment resulting in short cuts that lead to academic misconduct.

According to the Oakland University Student Handbook: All members of the academic community at Oakland University are expected to practice and uphold standards of academic integrity and honesty. Academic integrity means representing oneself and one's work honestly. Misrepresentation is cheating since it means the student is claiming credit for ideas or work not actually his or her own and is thereby seeking a grade that is not actually earned.

Think about it. Could this be you? Last year, over 100 students were involved in academic misconduct violations of plagiarism and cheating. All of the students who plagiarized "borrowed" information from the Internet. Students who cheated "borrowed" infor-

mation from each other.

For many, the outcome can be severe. Consequences can include probation and, more seriously, university suspension. Students on probation remain enrolled in their classes, however, they must not be found responsible for a subsequent violation.

Students on university suspension are removed from the university for a specified length of time. This can be costly in two ways. First, courses completed at another college during the period of suspension will not be accepted as transfer credits. Also, the violation date determines whether you are entitled to a tuition, fee and housing refund.

Don't let this happen to you. Many resources are available. For assistance, ask your professor, seek a tutor in the Academic Skills Center or a writing consultant in the Writing Center located in Kresge Library.

Additional information can be found at www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook.

Remember, think before you cheat.

Back to School Scavenger Hunt

Look for the 3 clues planted on Oakland Post newspaper boxes around campus! Not sure where to start? Try searching these buildings:

Oakland Center - North & South Foundation Halls

**Be one of the three winners to receive
\$125 gas card, \$75 gas card, \$25 gas card**

E-mail scavengerhuntoakland@gmail.com to submit your answers by November 1st 2008. Don't forget to include your full name, e-mail address, and phone number to claim your prize.

On Now!

Chartwells focus of OUSC meeting

Students organizations raise issues with lone OU food provider's prices, service

BY MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Rubbery chicken, no kosher food, \$17.71 for a pepperoni pizza at a catered event in the Oakland Center and having the wrong food delivered late, are just some of the reasons why so many students are unhappy with the services of Chartwells, Oakland University's food vendor.

The biggest issue students have with Chartwells is the high prices, but other problems include not having cheaper options for catering, the quality of service, diversity of food available and lack of choices for students who have dietary or religious preferences.

Leaders from student organizations and other students directly voiced these concerns to OU and Chartwells administrators Monday at the Oakland University Student Congress meeting.

The two main resolutions offered by OU and Chartwells representatives at the meeting were to keep the lines of communications open between students and the administrations, and the creation of focus groups to address these problems in the future.

But a lot of students said they were unsatisfied with the answers they were given by OU and Chartwells, and said that more need to be made.

Chartwells and OU

Chartwells is one of the largest food service providers at all types of schools in America. Rather than run its own food services, OU contracted with Chartwells. Except for the vending machines, Chartwells runs all of the food concessions at OU — Cafe O'Bears, the Pioneer Food Court in the OC and Vandenberg dining hall.

Chartwells also offers catering services on campus, and is the only organization allowed to cater food for events and meetings held at the Oakland Center and at Vandenberg Hall. This means that students cannot have food catered by anyone else or buy outside food and bring it in themselves for their events or meetings that take place in the OC or in Vandenberg.

Chartwells took over in providing food services to OU in 2002, after OU let their previous contract with vendor Aramark expire that year. Chartwells originally had a five-year contract with OU ending in 2007, but in 2005, OU extended its contract for seven more years, so Chartwells will provide OU's food services until 2014.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
Director of Chartwells Andrew Willows and Oakland Center director Richard Fekel listened to student concerns at Oakland University Student Congress meeting on Monday Oct. 20.

Students' poor experiences

Some students say they've experienced problems with Chartwells for a long time.

Danielle Fallis, chair of the Student Activities Funding Board, said that she gets bombarded with questions and problems student organizations have with Chartwells. As SAFB chair, she works with student organizations to approve the allocation of funds for student organizations' events.

"People complain to me [about Chartwells] because they don't know who else to talk to," she said. "Most of my office hours are spent dealing with that."

Daniel Evola also heard the problems. "When I became the student body vice president this year, one of the first complaints I heard about was Chartwells."

OUSC members said the main concerns they hear from students are about high prices, and the varying quality of food and customer service.

The latest incident, the last straw for some, was on Sept. 13 during an SAFB training session where student organizations learned how to allocate money from SAFB.

"We were told [by Chartwells] that we would have a showcase of the best foods, showing us new food choices they will have this year," Evola said. "But when lunchtime rolled around, the showcase [consisted of] chili dogs and 'walking tacos' (a small bag of Doritos chips with

meat and vegetables in it)."

He also said there were no options for vegetarians. "It was a big let down because we were assured by Chartwells of new and healthy options."

Evola said OUSC started discussing the issue after that and sent a formal letter of complaint two weeks ago, and invited Chartwells representatives to come to an OUSC meeting so the issue could be discussed publicly.

On Friday, OUSC members, OU administrators and Chartwells administrators discussed the issue in an OU food service committee meeting, led by Oakland Center's director Richard Fekel. Evola told The Oakland Post that at this meeting, Chartwells' executive chef Gerald Gatto took responsibility for the mishap at the Sept. 13 event, and explained that he wanted to provide the students with a less expensive alternative.

Oct. 20 OUSC meeting

The OUSC meeting lasted from 4-6 p.m. and was attended by about 40-50 students, in addition to OUSC members. Like all OUSC formal sessions, the meeting was open to the public, and OUSC specifically encouraged students and student organizations to attend the meeting to raise their concerns directly to Chartwells directors.

Andrew Willows, the director of Chartwells at OU, was at the meeting, as was Fekel, representing the OC. They

both listened to comments from OUSC members and from the other attendees and answered their questions.

Comments and questions ranged from high praise to disappointment to curiosity.

OUSC legislator Jordan Twardy asked what student organizations with a limited budget and a desire to offer a better variety than pizza and chicken tenders could do.

Willows recommended that they communicate with the Chartwells chef, catering and himself to work out a solution.

Lebanese Club president Rami Haddad, said his organization felt Chartwells didn't offer enough international food for catering. Willows said that students should talk with Chartwells to specify what kind of food they want, and that just because something isn't on the menu doesn't mean it's not available.

"If you tell us what you're looking for, our chef can definitely work with you," he said. "Our chef can do international food too."

Haddad said that he's tried that before, but he wasn't happy with the result. "I ordered tabbouli, and I got rice ... that's not even close," he said.

Haddad, as well as other students, said that Chartwells doesn't always provide food to people who have certain religious needs, like Muslim students who only eat halal meat.

OUSC legislator Jake Isley, who is Jewish, said that unless Chartwells buys kosher food from outside vendors or has an actual rabbi in the kitchen, there is no way that Chartwells can provide Jewish students with kosher food.

In response, Fekel said that in such cases the OC and Chartwells had made a few exceptions to use outside-catered food in the past. "If you have certain needs, just bring it up to us — I'm sure we can work something out," he said.

Many students said that because their organizations spend a lot of money on Chartwells catered food, they should expect to see a certain standard of service in return.

OUSC said that SAFB allocated \$77,000 or 64 percent of its \$120,000 budget last winter to student organizations to purchase food for events from Chartwells.

A major concern at the meeting was the price of food for catering, which many said was too high. Willows replied that because of things like labor costs, inflation and the rising price of food, Chartwells' prices went up.

The Chartwells catering prices for

2008-09 increased 4.3 percent from last year. According to the contract between OU and Chartwells, unless an agreement is reached between the two parties, Chartwells can raise its catering prices each year by either 3 percent or by the U.S. Department of Labor Consumer's Price Index for Urban Wage Earner's and Clerical Worker's U.S. Average, whichever amount is higher. In an interview, Fekel said that the 4.3 percent increase this year was agreed upon by OU and Chartwells.

Many students, like Evola and WXOU Program Director Erik Anderson, said they believe one solution would be to lift the ban on bringing in food from the outside without going through Chartwells.

"The worst thing is you can't escape it," said Evola. "You can't go to Busch's or Wal-Mart to pick up a \$2 lemonade."

The price for a cheese pizza at a student event is \$14.58, for a pepperoni pizza it's \$17.71. A gallon of lemonade costs \$8.36.

"We wanted to order pizza [for an event in the OC], but Chartwells prices are very high," said Anderson at the Monday meeting.

Fekel cited the exclusivity-catering clause in the OU-Chartwells contract. "I have to fall back on the contract," he said at the meeting in response to Anderson's suggestion. "The contract is what the contract is." He also said that Chartwells has made significant investments in OU,

including renovating the Vandenberg dining hall and bringing in offerings like Chick-Fil-A and Wild Greens to the Pioneer Food Court, and that Chartwells offsets these investments through sales.

"If the OC was open to other catering businesses, Chartwells would lose a lot of business," said Fekel in an interview Tuesday. He also said that if student

organizations bring in food from outside, that organization could lose the privilege of holding events in the OC. He said he never had to do that, but he very occasionally has to give warnings.

At the Monday meeting, Fekel reminded students that the ban on outside catering is only restricted to the OC and Vandenberg Hall. "You can have [non-Chartwells catered] food in another building."

Fallis said that although that option is available, it's not very practical because there are very few places in other buildings that student organizations can use for meetings. Many times they are already fully booked.

Craig Brown, an OUSC legislator, asked why OU food services hasn't been up for bidding between different businesses recently, because he believes it would reduce costs.

Fekel said, out of the three major food vendors, he believes Chartwells is the cheapest and most customer-friendly.

Many students, like Haddad, said they believe that because Chartwells has a monopoly it is free to "jack up the prices."

Fallis said that one of her main issues is accountability, and believed that it goes both ways.

"If student orgs turn in a catering order late, they have to pay a late fee."

If student orgs are held accountable, so why not Chartwells?" she asked. "If the food is late or is the wrong food, money should be taken out of the bill. It should be just given, not even asked for."

Willows said in an interview after the meeting regarding the two-way late fees issue that "Chartwells and SAFB will discuss policy and procedure to make

sure there are no miscommunications."

Willows and Fekel both stressed that communication was key, and that they were glad the lines of communication were open. They also said they were looking forward to the creation of the focus groups to discuss student issues with food.

However, after the meeting many students, like Evola, said they did not feel that the solutions offered were enough and that their questions had been answered. "These focus groups could be beneficial, but for now, it seems like something they're hiding behind to not give us real answers," Evola said.

Many were glad that some dialogue was taking place though. "It's a good start, but hopefully it's just the beginning," said student body President Steve Clark in an interview after the meeting.

Some OUSC members said they were concerned because they heard that every couple years, some students get upset about food services and try to set up a dialogue, but that the attempts didn't amount to much.

Many OUSC members, however, said they were optimistic that this will not happen this year.

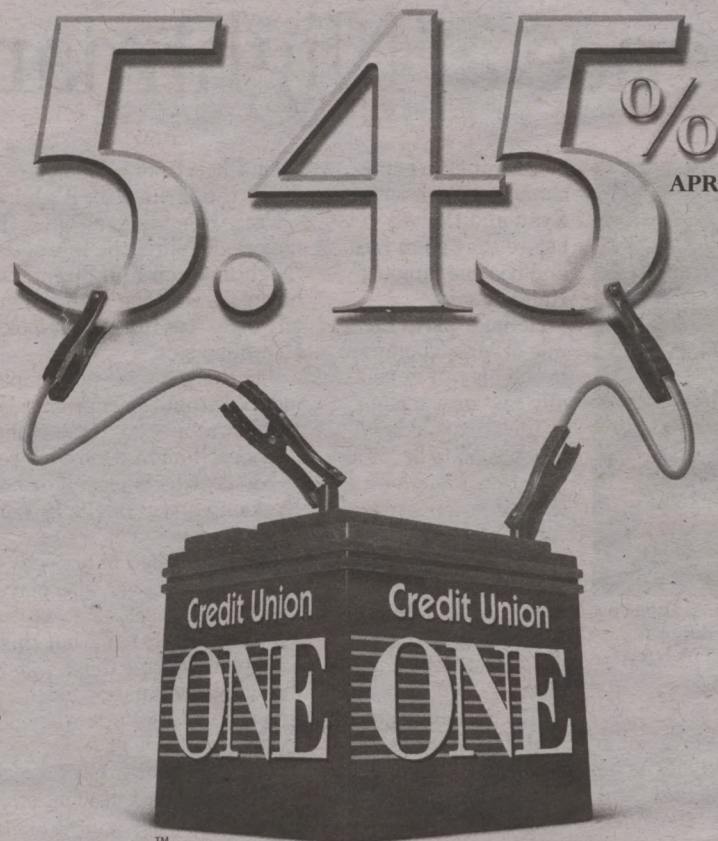
"I can't say it's not going to happen, but I hope not," said Clark. "And the way the OUSC is energized and with how they're doing, I can't see why it would."

Evola echoed the same feelings. "We don't plan on fading away this year."

"The worst this is you can't escape it. You can't go to Busch's or Wal-Mart to pick up a \$2 lemonade."

Daniel Evola

Student Body Vice-President



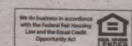
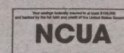
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No homecoming, no problem

By SEAN GARNER
Campus Editor

At a time when schools all over the country were getting revved up in anticipation of their homecoming football games, Oakland University, with no football team, tried to find a way to generate school spirit.

The Week of Champions at Oakland University was last week featuring a series of activities leading up to Midnite Madnezz, the official beginning of the men's and women's basketball seasons.

The festivities began Monday with the Matilda Wilson "Rock On" Birthday Bash, and included a "Guitar Hero" competition and a meet-and-greet session with OU varsity athletes.

Samir Hanna, a student liaison to the OU board of trustees, said he has tried to attend as many

WOCOU events as he can during each of his four years at OU.

Hanna said the participation for this year's WOCOU was better than it had been in past years. He said he thinks having more people involved makes OU a more fun place to be.

"It really builds up the community here at Oakland," Hanna said. "It's something that is vital to our campus, because it just helps us build up so much school spirit."

Jean Szura, assistant director of student activities and member of the WOCOU committee, agreed that this year's festivities had greater participation than in the past.

"All of the daytime events went over really well," Szura said. "We saw tons of students, lots of new faces."

Szura added a number of events new to WOCOU, like the "Guitar Hero" contest and Wednesday's "The

Main Event" Talent Show, made the week even more exciting.

"Even some of our newer events that people put on had great participation," She said. "Battle of the OU Stars had a terrific turnout, and of course, Midnite Madnezz and the laser show were both excellent."

There were several events throughout the week where students had the opportunity to grab free food and merchandise. During "Electric Avenue" on Thursday afternoon, a disk jockey played music while students ate walking tacos. Szura admits the free stuff might have enticed students to the events.

"Who doesn't love something for free?" Szura jokingly asked. "The food always gets eaten, and the T-shirts are always a big hit. In fact, when I was walking out today I saw a ton of people wearing the shirts we were giving away."



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
Students line up to get free food Thursday during "Electric Avenue" Thursday at WOCOU.

OU troupe to give audience a 'Nightmare'

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

As one of the unsuspecting characters dozes off, the lighting shifts to a blood red color and the music gradually becomes more ominous. Before long, Freddy makes his way to the stage.

"A Nightmare on Elm Street" is the last in a series of horror films that were adapted to the stage by students at Oakland University in "A Nightmare on Elm Street Live!"

The third and final show in the horror theater trilogy, which began with "Friday the 13th Live!" and "Halloween Live!," will be performed nightly Oct. 26 through Oct. 31 in the Varner Hall Lab Theater.

Ryan Falcheck, who plays child murderer Freddy Kruger as well as co-directing and co-writing the play, has been involved with the horror theater trilogy since the beginning.

"We really wanted to capture the up close and personal feel of '80s horror," Falcheck said.

Co-writer and producer Denver

Surgener recalled when they came up with the idea for the first horror show.

"We were sitting at Coney Island with a couple of buddies and they said 'We should put Friday the 13th on stage!'" Surgener said.

But Surgener said he and Falcheck not only thought the idea was great, they had the script for "Friday the 13th Live!" written the same day.

"We've been watching horror movies for so long, it's like our life force, it just pours out of us. Doing these things is just like breathing," Surgener said.

Ttari Hellmer, a senior in theater performance, says she's been waiting three years to get into one of the Halloween plays because she says they're amazing.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
Falcheck (front) gets "edgy" during a rehearsal for "Nightmare on Elm Street."

"I wanted to get a chance to work with Ryan and Denver before they go to L.A. and become famous," Hellmer said.

Hellmer plays the role of Mrs. Thompson in the play. "I'm usually cast as the mom or the crazy old lady, so it's good to be the crazy mom for a change."

Falcheck and Surgener adapted the play from the original movie, attempting to translate the gory details as well as the story.

"It's definitely got some original kills, but it's got ideas based off the movie," Falcheck said.

Falcheck said that unlike their first show, the violence on stage this time will not be so extreme that the audience will need to wear garbage bags to shield

themselves from blood splatter, as some did at the "Friday the 13th Live!" shows.

Craig Hemming, a senior theater major who plays the role of Jesse in "Nightmare on Elm Street," said that he enjoys working with the fake blood on stage. "It's fun, and it looks good," Hemming said.

Some of the roles are double cast, meaning that the character is played by a different actor or actress that alternates each night. One such role is that of Nancy, who is played by both Amanda Ryskamp and Danielle DeWulf.

"I find sometimes when we're going through a scene I'm honestly scared," said Ryskamp, who also played Linda in "Halloween Live!"

Falcheck also said that this will likely be the last horror theater show at OU, due to his graduation earlier this year and the fact that other key players are leaving OU as well.

Falcheck admits however, that he has had thoughts about what other movies he could possibly translate. According to him, "Scream" and "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" are at the top of his list.

OU fraternity founded on tolerance

New greek community opposed to hazing, not focused on wealth

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

A new fraternity is soon to be up and running at Oakland University.

Tau Kappa Epsilon already has 20 students going through the membership initiation program, and expects those students to be fully-pledged members before the end of the Fall semester.

Tau Kappa Epsilon, or Teke, will be a social fraternity and have no restrictions for academic majors, but members need to keep a minimum GPA of 2.3.

Andrew Kalinowski, one of the co-founders and currently the only active, fully-initiated Teke member at OU, said that the only real requirements are that member be male and have an open mind. "Social status, ethnic background ... we don't look at any of that," Kalinowski said.

"We don't care if you're the son of a millionaire or of the poorest guy on earth," said Tom Cruz, the other co-

founder of Teke.

Cruz and Kalinowski independently thought about starting an OU chapter of Teke over the summer, and ended up meeting this summer to discuss it.

Kalinowski said he had had experiences with other fraternities at Alma College, where he previously attended.

His main issue was hazing, which is the ritual initiation process that many fraternities and sororities conduct that usually involves new pledges performing meaningless and often humiliating tasks before being allowed to be full members of the organization.

Kalinowski said he found Teke interesting because of its no-hazing policy.

"Teke was formed in 1899 over one concept — no hazing," he said.

Kalinowski also added that OU rules do not allow any of its Greek organizations to do any hazing.

Kalinowski said the OU chapter of Teke has plans to expand its membership to as many as 35 students, but that

right now their roster is at full capacity.

He said rules prohibit more than 20 members while the first batch of initiates is going through the membership education program.

The program lasts six weeks and started last Tuesday, so he expects the 20 initiates to become full members by the end of November.

Cruz, a political science major, said that to be a member of a Greek organization is to be part of a secret society.

"There are actually no frats in China because there are no secret organizations allowed there," Cruz said.

Some members said that to be a member of a fraternity or a sorority is a lifetime commitment.

"Once you're a member of a frat, you'll always be a member of that frat," Cruz said. If someone joins one Greek organization, that person can not join another one.

Many initiates spoke highly of Teke and what it did for them. For some,

it became an opportunity to network socially.

"When I came to OU, I didn't know many people," said Eric Bonneville, a Teke initiate and pre-nursing freshman. "Now I met so [many] people ... had so much fun ... and it brought us [Teke members] all together."

Bonneville said that before coming to OU he served in the war in Iraq in the US Marine Corps. He said the fraternity experience is comparable to his military experience.

"It's kind of like being in a platoon," Bonneville said. "You get along with some people in there, but maybe not with everyone, but we'll always have your back."

Cruz said there was an incident very recently that proved that Teke members always have each other's back. "A couple days ago, one of us were in a car accident," he said. "We [Teke members] were in the hospital with him before his parents were."

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POLICEFILES

On Oct. 14, OUPD was dispatched to the area between the Oakland Center and O'Dowd Hall to look into chalk writings on the sidewalk. A series of inflammatory statements were attributed to "SFL@OU." Police took photos of the chalk writings and OU Grounds was contacted to remove them.

A student contacted OUPD on Oct. 15 about a missing cell phone in Pawley Hall. The student realized that the phone was missing from a jacket pocket after a trip to the bathroom. The student found the cell phone case on the windowsill of a different classroom but the cell phone was missing.

OUPD pulled over a driver on Oct. 20 on northbound Squirrel Road near Walton Blvd. on account of an expired license plate tag. Police discovered the driver to be driving with a suspended license and expired registration.

Congressional candidates debate policies at OU

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

The only publicized debate between the candidates running to represent the 9th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for the next two years took place at Oakland University Oct. 16.

Democratic candidate Gary Peters represents the biggest challenge for incumbent Republican Joe Knollenberg. Knollenberg has held the seat for eight consecutive terms.

The Green Party candidate Doug Campbell and independent candidate Jack Kevorkian also participated in the debate. Libertarian Party candidate Adam Goodman did not attend.

Third-party candidates, with the exception of Kevorkian, are mostly unknown and have a very slim chance of winning according to the polls, although some experts say some could possibly extract votes from Peters.

Knollenberg said that getting anything accomplished in the U.S. Congress takes someone with a lot of experience.

"It took me several years to get on a committee where I could make a big difference," said Knollenberg, who is now on the Appropriations Subcommittee.

Peters refuted the claim that newly-elected politicians cannot get anything done and pointed to the fact that he introduced nine new bills on his first day in the Michigan State Senate. Peters said that if he is elected, he will request to serve on the Financial Services committee because of his business experience.

Peters once taught at OU as a business policy professor and worked as a financial manager at Merrill Lynch. He also served as commissioner of the Michigan Lottery.

"I think we need some fresh, energized people in office that can change things up," he said.

Campbell said that because Democrats have controlled Congress for two years since 2006, and Republicans for 12 years previously, and nothing worthwhile has been accomplished, voters should look elsewhere for representation.

Kevorkian said that he can be trusted because he is "not a typical politician ... just a regular citizen," doesn't belong to any party, and is not trying to make a job as a politician. He did not mention some of his controversial stances such as legalizing drugs, or "spreading the power of the 9th Amendment," which states that people

have more rights than those enumerated in the Constitution.

The debate revolved mostly around the economy, health care and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the auto industry, Knollenberg said the federal government needs to develop partnership with the automakers. Peters said the government needs to help fund research and development for alternative energy.

Campbell said he would put more pressure on the automakers to make cars with better fuel efficiency so American-made cars can be more competitive globally.

Knollenberg said "the worst thing we can do in such an economic crisis as now" is to raise taxes, and that the government should decrease spending.

Peters said he helped cut government spending while in the state Senate. When asked, Peters did not give a direct answer on whether or not he would propose raising taxes for the wealthy. He said that the most important thing to do right now is to decrease taxes for the middle class.

All the candidates present said they support pulling troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan, but to varying degrees.

Knollenberg said the U.S. should begin to pull out of Iraq, but not until stability is guaranteed there. Peters said stability is on its way to Iraq, so the U.S. needs to start leaving now, carefully, and re-deploy some of those troops to Afghanistan because of debilitating conditions.

Campbell, however, argued that Iraq and Afghanistan are lost causes and that history teaches that victory is impossible.

"We need to bring our troops back now, not with their heads held high, but at least with their head attached to their shoulders," Campbell said.

Kevorkian said the U.S. shouldn't have been in Iraq and Afghanistan in the first place and needs to leave immediately.

The debate was mostly civil, and occasionally, humorous. Kevorkian drew laughs a couple times when he appeared to forget what question he was asked a few minutes before.

Campbell elicited the most laughter by far. For example, he said that because he has worked for and has been laid off from all of the Big Three automakers, he needed the job as a Congressman more than the other candidates.

"The next time you see a negative ad from either the Democrats or the Republicans, consider the possibility that they may both be right," he joked.

Upcoming election events on campus

With election day under two weeks away, Oakland University will be the site of many politically-oriented events. Some are aimed at encouraging participation in the upcoming elections. Some have a particular point of view and advocate a candidate. The events will continue through election day and here are just a few that will be taking place shortly.

- Former Michigan Secretary of State Teri Lynn Land, Oakland Center (Lake Michigan Room), Thursday Oct. 23, 2-3 p.m.

- Presidential Colloquium with Political Science professors David Dulio and Peter Trumbore, Oakland Center (Banquet Rooms), Monday Oct. 27, 12 p.m.

- Presidential Forum: A Faith Perspective, St. John Fisher Campus Ministry, Oakland Center (Gold Rooms), Monday Oct. 27, 7-9 p.m.

- Stem Cell Conference, Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research and Cures, Oakland Center (Banquet Rooms), Tuesday Oct. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- Trick or Vote featuring ASIID from MTV's America's Best Dance Crew, Oakland Center (Pioneer Food Court), Thursday Oct. 30 8-11 p.m.

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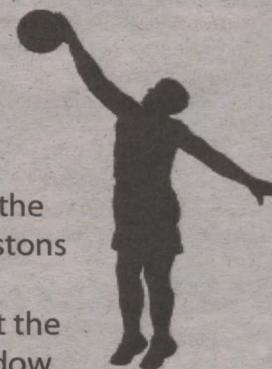
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Romanticism alive at Oakland

By DAVID SANDERS
Staff Intern

This past weekend the field of Romanticism was presented in the Oakland Center by national scholars from various universities.

The event began Thursday, Oct. 16 at Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, and continued there Friday.

At the Royal Park Hotel, Assistant professor of English Paul Westover presented what it's like for Wordsworth and other prestigious romantic era authors.

Westover described Wordsworth as a writer that was thought to be dead because he was praised for his brilliant work. It was common at this time to give more praise for the remembrance of someone's death rather than them being alive.

The remainder of the conference was presented on the weekend in the OC.

Romanticism is a cultural movement that took place during the 18th and 19th centuries. Romantic works often displayed contempt for traditional conservative values and respect for nature

Joshua Wilner, professor of English

and comparative literature at the City University of New York, went further in depth of the definition of Romanticism at the Royal Park Hotel. He describes Romanticism not only as art, but a movement that was very active during the industrial revolution and the transformation of labor.

Romanticism is most remembered for the writings it produced during its time period. Because of that, the majority of the presentations were about writers.

At the Royal Park Hotel, Magdalena Ostas, an English professor at Florida Atlantic

University, discussed the difficulty that John Keats experienced writing poetry.

"Keats' early poetry is an attempt to work out some of the difficulties of writing poetry and finding a subject for poetry," Ostas said. "His late and mature works are his poetry."

Ostas delved deeper into the difficulty

of context that readers may approach, when interpreting Keats' poetry.

"Keats' literary language doesn't mean the way we expect language to mean," Ostas said. "Words for Keats' in any case are like objects that lack depth."

University of Virginia graduate student Christopher Jackson presented how

"Keats' early poetry is an attempt to work out some of the difficulties of writing poetry and finding a subject,"
-Magdalena Ostas

prejudice affects the tone and style of Percy Shelley's poetry in Gold Room A.

"This made Shelley's poetry very aggressive," Jackson said.

But Jackson said that difficulty for Shelley in poetry made him succeed.

Jackson dug further into what he thought was the main difficulties that

affected Shelley the most in his poetry.

"Nevertheless, the difficulty of Shelley's poetry is expressions of his originality."

In Gold Room A, Harvard University graduate student Amelia Klein discussed the poetry of William Wordsworth.

"Wordsworth poetry is difficult but its difficulty gives him the desire to write poetry," Klein said.

The subject of Wordsworth poetry dealt with passions and thoughts of men.

Ann Mellor presented on "Muses to Matrons: The Bluestockings in the Romantic Era."

Mellor, a professor of English at UCLA, has had numerous novels published, encyclopedia entries and reviews on British Romantic writing.

In the Banquet Room on campus Mellor presented The Bluestocking Club on a projector board. The Bluestockings were skilled women writers who wore blue stockings.

Many of the images dealt with the theme of power. Some romantic women commanded a great deal of respect, while others had trouble gaining acceptance.

OU professor acquitted

Sister convicted, facing up to 20 years in prison

By PAUL GULLY
Special Projects Editor

Oakland University associate professor Darrin Hanna was acquitted Thursday, Oct. 2 on nine counts of violating a trade embargo with Iraq while Saddam Hussein was in power.

However, Hanna's 35-year-old sister and business partner, Dawn, was found guilty on eight of the nine counts by a U.S. District Court jury.

The Hanna's were indicted during the summer of 2007 and tried for their alleged role in shipping components for a mobile telecommunications network and GPS equipment to Iraq, in return for approximately \$9.5 million, which was used to pay a supplier, a middleman and themselves.

At the time of the dealing, a federal embargo prohibited all trade and business transactions between the U.S. and Iraq.

The embargo was lifted in May 2003 after the fall of the Hussein regime.

Dawn Hanna was found guilty on multiple counts of violating federal export laws, conspiring to launder

money and making false statements to a customs agent, according to reports. She was acquitted of one export violation count.

Darrin Hanna is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and has been an instructor at OU in some capacity since 1996, according to his biography on the department website.

Hanna, who is also owner and president of Technology Integration Group Services Inc., could not be reached for comment.

A distinguished student at OU, Hanna graduated from OU with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and Mathematics in 1999 and earned a Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering the following year.

In 2003, he received a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering, also at OU.

Dawn Hanna is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 22, 2009. She is facing up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$500,000 fine.

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Senate debate in Detroit

Levin, Hoogendyk face questions from audience in U.S. Senate debate

By PATRICK MCINTYRE
Contributing Reporter

DETROIT — The race in Michigan for the United States Senate between six-term incumbent Carl Levin and Republican challenger, State Representative Jack Hoogendyk, hit a pivotal spot in the campaign trail. The two candidates agreed to a debate, hosted by the Detroit Economic Club, at noon on Monday at the Detroit Marriott.

The debate was moderated by Chuck Stokes, the Director of Editorial and Public Affairs for WXYZ-TV, Channel 7. A unique feature of the debate was that all of the questions came from the audience, as is tradition for all debates hosted by the Detroit Economic Club.

Levin, 74, is the senior Senator from Michigan. He began his service in 1979 after seven years on the Detroit City Council. Levin graduated from Harvard Law School and has twice served as Michigan Assistant Attorney General.

Hoogendyk, 53, is the State Representative for Kalamazoo County. He is the son of immigrants and has spent 15 years working in the sales and marketing field. For four years he was the executive director of Alternatives Pregnancy Care Center, a faith-based

nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide an abortion-free alternative for unplanned pregnancies. Before his election to the State House, Hoogendyk served as a Kalamazoo County Commissioner.

The two candidates fall on opposite ends of the current American political spectrum. Levin has a long history of backing government intervention on issues such as health care, financial institutions and education. Levin is also in favor of higher taxes for "wealthy Americans." Hoogendyk, on the other hand, feels government should be smaller, with lower taxes and less involvement in people's lives.

The candidates also hold varied opinions on Proposal 2, the proposal to allow embryonic stem cell research in Michigan.

Senator Levin said that he is in favor of Proposal 2, and that it's wrong not to use embryos which are already being disposed of, and it is time for Michigan to fall in line with 47 other states that have legalized embryonic stem cell research.

Hoogendyk said embryonic stem cell research is a waste of money, but said he doesn't "have any problem with private industry spending whatever money they want on any research for any product or

any service."

One particular topic where the candidates have differing views is funding for education. Hoogendyk believes public education is a state issue, and advocates the elimination of the Department of Education at the national level.

His opponent, Senator Levin, said that something he has done to help students is pass legislation to cap interest rates on student loans and increase the federal Pell Grant program.

On health care, Levin said we need to "find a way to make sure every single person in this country is covered by health insurance." He went on to say "we ought to be ashamed of ourselves" for the way we have treated this issue.

However, Hoogendyk said the way to reform health care is to increase transparency in billing and provide more means for competition among providers, and this will help drive the costs of health care down. He adds, "You can't trust the government" and "if the government takes it over, the cost will go up and the quality will go down."

On income taxes, Hoogendyk said he wouldn't raise taxes. He said that sharing the wealth is glossed over socialism. He said an increase in taxes on wealthy Americans penalizes the winners who

create wealth in this country, discouraging investment.

"We cannot equalize the outcome. We can only provide for equal opportunity for all," Hoogendyk said.

Levin said he would "restore the Clinton tax brackets." This represents a 3 percent increase for individuals earning over \$250,000 and a 4 percent increase for those earning over \$350,000. He says these tax brackets "are fair and helped to produce one of the most thriving economies we have had."

The only question the candidates agreed upon was on the issue of immigration. After Levin's response, Hoogendyk expressed his surprise by commenting, "Stop the presses!" Both candidates agree that part of the solution to the flood of illegal immigrants is the enforcement of sanctions on employers who knowingly use undocumented workers.

The race for the Senate in Michigan is not exactly a close race. According to the most recent poll by Public Policy Polling of 771 likely voters, Senator Levin holds a 50 percent of the public vote over Hoogendyk who has 32 percent of the public vote, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percent with 17 percent undecided.

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RASHAUN RUCKER/Associated Press
David Cheruiyot, of Kenya, wins the men's marathon event of the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon on Sunday, Oct. 19, in Detroit.

Donald Burke is led away back to the St. Clair County Intervention Center on Monday, Oct. 20 at Circuit Court in the St. Clair County Courthouse in Port Huron. Burke was found guilty of three counts of attempted murder. Burke was convicted of shooting Capac Police Chief Raymond Hawks; St. Clair County Sheriff Deputy Tim O'Boyle; and at a tow truck driver.



MARK R. RUMMEL/AP, Times Herald



COCO WALTERS/Associated Press & The Muskegon Chronicle

"Gunny", the newly trained 2-year-old arson dog, owned by Bryce Dennings of Grand Haven Township Fire Department, demonstrated his sniffing skills at the Muskegon County Wide Fire Prevention Open House at the Lakes Mall on Oct. 2, in Muskegon. Gunny is officially known as an "accelerant detection canine."

Former environmental activist Frank Ambrose, center, walks out of the Federal Court Building, Kalamazoo, Mich., after being sentenced to nine years in prison, Monday, Oct. 20. Ambrose pleaded guilty to conspiring to set a fire and explosion that caused more than \$1 million in damage at Michigan State University's Agriculture Hall on New Year's Eve 1999.



SHAWANO CLEARY/Associated Press



JARED PURCELL/The Oakland Post
The new mural inside Buddy's pizzeria displays faces of Oakland University students throughout the years. Along with the mural, Buddy's has added a lounge area with free Wi-Fi Internet.

'Buddy'ing up with Oakland

Mural at Buddy's acknowledges OU

By SHELLY LATSHAW
Senior Reporter

Buddy's pizzeria is showing its support for Oakland University with the addition of a wall mural inside its Auburn Hills location.

The black-and-white collage displays vintage photographs of OU students throughout the university's 51-year history. Supplied by OU, the historical photographs show how students and the university have evolved throughout the years.

Buddy's general manager, Matt Heckert, said that Buddy's decided to put the mural up to show their support for the university and its students.

"We support the students. Not only are they customers but a lot of students work for us," Heckert said.

Buddy's has long been a staple of the Metro-Detroit restaurant scene. Established in 1946, owner August "Gus" Guerra decided to add Sicilian style pizza to its menu, which soon

became the famous Detroit style square pizza.

Buddy's has nine locations throughout the Metro-Detroit area and remains a local favorite of Detroit-area pizza lovers.

Heckert said that Buddy's now offers more than just good pizza, including a place for students to study, unwind or hang with friends.

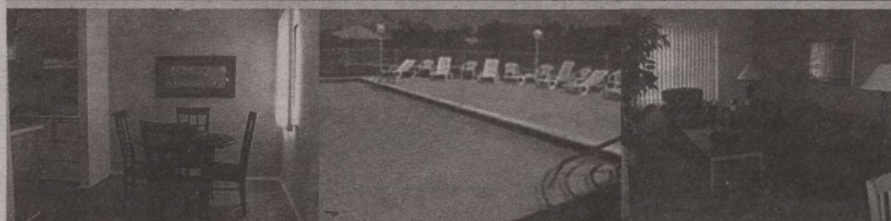
"We have a lounge area with free Wi-Fi and electrical outlets, flat screen TVs and a non-smoking atmosphere," Heckert said.

Buddy's also offers a 10 percent discount to OU students and coupons online.

"We hope to have more students come here, since this is so close to the school," Heckert said.

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Begging for candy

Are you ever too old to go trick or treating?



"Hell no, you always want all the candy in the world."

Myra Wimbush
Freshman, psychology



"Yes. Past 17 is not acceptable. When little you get it, when older you give."

Katie Simmonds
Senior, sociology



"Yes. People don't like older kids showing up at their door."

Brian Riggs
Freshman, business



"No. Everyone loves candy. It's a Halloween tradition."

Ashley McCoy
Sophomore, journalism

Time to dress-up

What was your best Halloween costume?



"Tyrone Biggums. People chanted me on for that."

Gjon Nicaj
Senior, finance



"Britney Spears. It was actually Hannah Montana, but everyone thought it was Britney."

Krissy Gojcaj
Junior, elementary education



"A Hooters girl. I picked it 'cause it was easy to do."

Chris Leja
Junior, business



"'Tomb Raider' costume. I got voted best costume at a party and won \$50 for it."

Rachel Sylver
Senior, communications



This issue's photo contest winner is:

Brooklyn Bridge at night in NYC.

Nicholas Brown

Freshman, engineering biology

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Putting the 'car' in care

Oakland University students share what they think about their vehicles

By NICOLE JACOB
Contributing Reporter

Detroit has always been known as an automotive powerhouse. They don't call it the Motor City for nothing. The people of the Metro Detroit rely on their vehicles more than any other form of transportation. The same goes for the common Oakland University student.

But how important are the vehicles to their owners? Many students have different ideas about and feelings toward the vehicles they drive.

Amanda Hochstein, a junior political science major, found her car to be almost a second home.

"I live in my car," Hochstein said. "I have two years of things in my trunk: textbooks, clothes and much more."

As important as cars can be for some, other students tend not to spend as much time in their cars. Morgan Flees, an undecided junior said that she doesn't even drive her own car to school.

"I drive my mom's car to school because my car won't make it," Flees said jokingly. "It'll break down, my car isn't that good."

"But I do love my car," Flees said. "I just don't think it's safe to drive. I don't put a whole lot of money in it, but I definitely make it my own car."

But while Flees jokes about driving her mom's car to school, it's no laughing matter for other students.

Junior Sammi Charlick, a biology major, confessed that her car has fallen victim to collisions at school. "My car was a nice car until people backed into it, slammed their car doors into it," Charlick said.

To avoid further accidents, Charlick gives advice to anyone who comes close to it: "Stay away from my car," she said.

Charlick and Hochstein agree they make their cars their own without spending a lot of money.



Photo courtesy of KYLE MILIA

Kyle Milia attained his blue Ford Mustang (above) as the result of a lot of working up to 90 hours a week in order to pay for it.

But what about students seen driving around campus with the shiny, expensive cars?

There is more to their cars than smelly air fresheners and decorative bumper stickers.

Kyle Milia, a senior business management student, drives a "sonic blue" Ford Mustang, said he has put a lot of his time and money into his car.

"I paid every dollar for my car," Milia said. "I wanted a Mustang since I was 16. My parents told me if I wanted one, I would have to buy it."

Milia wasted no time and got a job to save up for a 'Stang. He made sure that he did everything he could to see his dream car sitting in his drive way.

"I got my job with Pepsi in the summer of [2005] and worked my tail off to save money," Milia said. "I worked 90 hours in a week once; the only thing that made me not go crazy was the idea of getting a Mustang. I really think me working hard to get the car, made me appreciate it even more. It's my baby."

Milia does all the mechanics on his car himself and pays out of his own pocket for maintenance work. He prides himself on keeping his car simple.

"What separates my car from a lot of other Mustangs is that I didn't do anything flashy to it," Milia said.

Joe Rochon, a junior mechanical engineering major, doesn't mind spoiling his car.

Some of the things that Rochon has done to his "light silver fern metallic" Plymouth Breeze are: tinting the windows, lowering the suspension by two inches, adding 17 inch rims and four-wheel disc breaks with red calipers; and that's just on the outside.

Under the car, he has an MSD ignition and a full custom exhaust system, with a shift kit and upgraded clutch packs. Inside he's installed a CMT (Compass Mini Trip Computer), and remote start with keyless entry and alarm — and it's all lit up with a blue LEDs. It is Rochon's first car and he plans on keeping it for "many years to come."

Why does Rochon do all of this to his car?

"In a world with so many people and so few cars, it can be hard to be unique and have functionality in a daily driver," Rochon said. "That's why I chose to do the things I did to my car. It's not over the top, but it's still different."

Madison Pelletier said that people call her car the "black jellybean." She named her Volkswagen Beetle Johann.

"It's small but really tough," Pelletier said. Pelletier's dad helps her with all the mechanics and he even helped her buy it. "I want to get it repainted ... also I want a turbo engine to give it a little kick."

Like many people, Flees would love to "pimp out her ride" in one way or another, but can't find the time to do it.

"I know other people put a lot of money into their cars, and I would too, it's just not a priority for me right now," Flees said. "Maybe once I get out of college and can figure out how much I can actually spend on a car, I'll put more thought into it, but right now I guess it comes down to whatever I want to waste my money on."

If it looks great or not, Pelletier is happy with her four-wheel transport. "I love my car. I will never sell it."

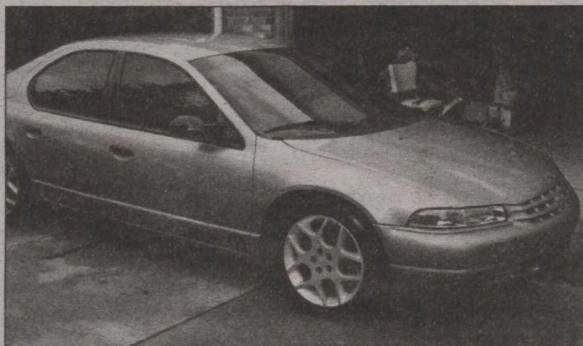


Photo courtesy of JOE ROCHON

Joe Rochon is proud of his Plymouth Breeze (above) which he has made plenty of upgrades to, including tinted windows.

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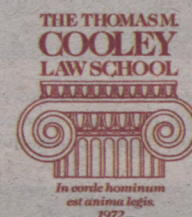
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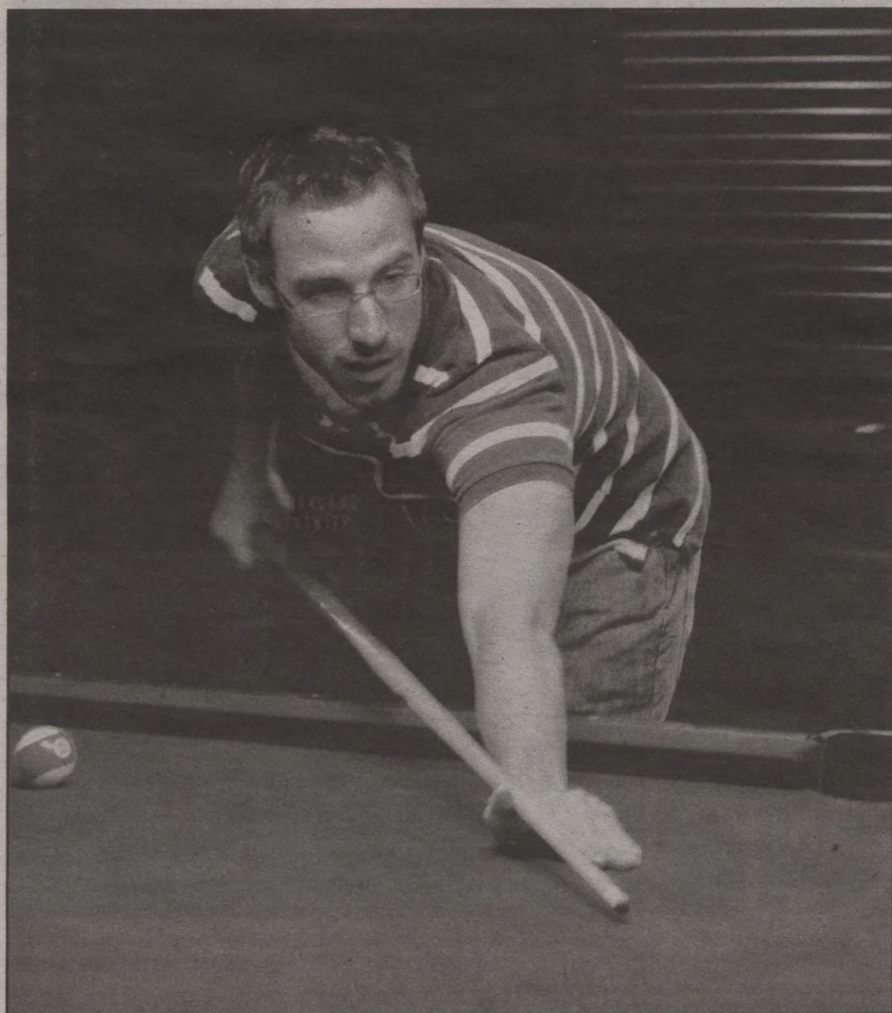


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Heroics in club sports

Stevens, Brandon, Glowacz thrive despite difficult situations



LINDSEY WOJCIK/The Oakland Post

Rugby club president Graham Stevens faces off in an intense game of pool against Sports Editor Tim Rath. Below right, men's lacrosse club president Scott Glowacz takes on Editor in Chief Lindsey Wojcik in "Guitar Hero." Directly below, the two compete in their respective sports.

By **TIM RATH**
Sports Editor

"I would like to take the great DiMaggio fishing," the old man said. "They say his father was a fisherman. Maybe he was as poor as we are and would understand."

— Ernest Hemingway, "The Old Man and the Sea"

Oakland University senior and rugby club president Graham Stevens plays with the scientific precision and destructive attitude of a natural disaster. He doesn't take long to decide his plan of action, noting the choice with a grunt and working quickly to position himself for a strategic advantage. He crouches low and pauses momentarily before attacking with ferocity, razing the careful arrangement, leaving absolute ruin in its wake.

Unfortunately for Stevens, his break in this game of pool yielded no pockets.

"I admit, I don't play pool very much," he said. "I kind of suck at it."

In our society, mythologizing athletics with the type of grandiose, nearly biblical sounding language used above is commonplace in sports journalism. It can be found in an assortment of sports folklore, from Grantland Rice's "The Four Horsemen" passage to Bo Schembechler's 1989 proclamation that "A Michigan man will coach Michigan."

This idea is largely perpetuated by the extensive steps that are taken in order to keep the private lives of athletes just that: private. No OU varsity athletes could be reached for comment.

However, as websites like Deadspin cel-

ebate the candid moments in the private lives of sports stars, we now realize that this mythology is somewhat unfounded.

The Oakland Post put that realization to the test, pitting club sports presidents against staff members in faux "sports." We found that regardless of the score, when placed outside of the comfortable confines of their field of play, a relatable, seemingly more "human" side of these athletes comes out.

"It's like a brotherhood"

Whether he's "sucking" at pool, doing homework for the 17 credit hours he's signed up for at OU, or feeling great pride in playing in front of a crowd of 200, Stevens is confident in who he is and what the rugby team means to OU.

"We accept that we'll never be a varsity sport," Stevens said. "We've been doing this a long time and we don't complain."

While the ruggers play out their schedule against fellow club teams from all over Michigan, they don't have a team charter to get them to the sites where the game is being played. Instead, they pile into a teammate's van every other Saturday and hit the road by themselves.

"It's usually just like, eight guys cramming into a Yukon and everybody chipping in \$20," Stevens said. "Usually the kid that's driving ends up making a couple bucks, which is good because we usually trash his car on the way to the game."

When it comes to taking care of injuries that happen on the field, the attitude towards caring for them is strictly DIY.

See Club Sports on Page 19



Photo courtesy of Matt Moore



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

continued from page 18

CLUB SPORTS

Stevens said that although he's suffered from a dislocated shoulder, broken fingers and AC separations, he's treated most his injuries on the sidelines with help from teammates.

"One time, I came up from a ruck and a kid smashed his head in with my head," Stevens said. "I had to leave the game for about 20 minutes. ... We have trained paramedics on our team, and they sutured me up and got me back out there."

However, life of the rugby club president isn't all about suffering from head injuries. When the OU rugby team defeated Calvin Sept. 27 by a score of 30-29, it disrupted their homecoming and served as the high water mark for the season thus far.

"They used it as their homecoming game because they don't have a football team, so there were like, 100 to 200 people there," Stevens said. "They scored on the last play of the game and almost tied the game. They missed the conversion, so we won and that was cool."

"Afterwards, we all hung out. Their team captain is a good friend of mine and that's a big benefit to rugby, it's like a brotherhood," Stevens said.

On a team whose Facebook page mentions members with nicknames such as "Squeaks" and "Churchboy," and given rugby's status as "never being a varsity sport," he appears entirely within his element as a member of a ragtag bunch.

However, despite "sucking" at pool, he seemed comfortable outside of the rugby field, defeating this author after a scratch on the eightball.

Growing rapidly

Listening to Caroline Brandon take you through her day-to-day responsibilities as president of the women's lacrosse club is work enough. Imagine living it.

"The school doesn't give us a ton of money, so we have to do a lot of fundraising on our own," she said. "I love it, but it's a lot of work because I'm the captain of the team, doing fundraising as the president, starting on the team and then going to school."

Brandon said that it was in large part thanks to

Jocks vs. nerds

— Women's lacrosse attacker Caroline Brandon defeats senior reporter Masudur Rahman in pingpong, 15-9.

— Rugby flanker Graham Stevens beats Sports Editor Tim Rath in pool.

— Editor in Chief Lindsey Wojcik defeats men's lacrosse defender Scott Glowacz in "Guitar Hero."

lacrosse head coach Tobey Kassa that the program has built itself. "The team took a hiatus," Brandon said. "One of the players brought Kassa here three years ago and the program has grown tremendously."

Last year, the Grizzlies won their first ever divisional title in the Western Conference Lacrosse League.

Brandon plays attack, which she described as a "finesse position," similar to a striker in soccer.

"We're responsible for getting behind the net, helping with transition and getting the ball down, receiving passes and scoring goals," she said.

Apparently, the finesse skills translate. She dominated senior reporter Masudur Rahman in a grueling game of pingpong, winning by a score of 15-9. "I'm kind of surprised," she said. "I thought I kind of sucked."

Staying alive

Men's lacrosse club president Scott Glowacz is prepared for tough times.

"We know that this is going to be a tough season," Glowacz said. "It's going to be interesting. We have a lot of new people, we're dropping down a division to play some weaker competition, but really we're just happy to have a team, period."

In part due to funding and recruiting difficulties, the men's lacrosse season almost didn't happen. However, the team has accumulated enough talent and money to make the season a reality. "After all the problems with administration jerking us around, trying to get funding, I just want people to know that OU has a team and we're ready to play."

Glowacz plays defense, but even on the field, it seems that he can find no solace.

What to watch for

— Women's lacrosse

A tournament is being held to celebrate the opening of the women's lacrosse season. Saturday at 9 a.m., the Grizzlies take on Central Michigan at the Upper Fields. At 11 a.m., OU plays Saginaw Valley State and at 2 p.m., they take on Calvin.

— Rugby

The Grizzlies will hit the road to take on the University of Windsor this Saturday and U-M Dearborn Nov. 1.

— Men's lacrosse

The Oakland University men's lacrosse team will take on Ferris State Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. and host an Alumni Match Nov. 1 at 2 p.m. Both games are at the Upper Fields.

"In the game against Michigan State last season, this big defender just rifled the ball ... at my head and I just blacked out," he said.

Last year's lacrosse team limped to a 4-7 record, but despite the losing season and the near-death of the team, Glowacz looks forward to brighter days. "We're planning on playing Western and Eastern Michigan, so we're looking forward to those as rivalry games."

Glowacz fell to Editor in Chief Lindsey Wojcik in a head-to-head game of "Guitar Hero."

If the struggle (DiMaggio's bone spurs in "The Old Man and the Sea," jealousy and fame in "The Silent Season of the Hero") is indicative of humanity, it is in overcoming the odds that makes a human.

That's what Glowacz does. After living up to all due mythology on the field, he and the rest of the club sports presidents fight through real world problems.

That's why when Brandon says that she loves what she does, you believe her. When Stevens mentions brotherhood, he's not joking. To step out of our element, make mistakes and possibly fail is to be human. To emerge afterwards means much, much more.

Grizzlies inspired by Series

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

The Oakland University baseball team is ending fall practice this week with their annual best-of-three Black and Gold series.

Red-shirt freshman pitcher/outfielder Dan Augustine said that playing baseball in October is exciting because of the ongoing Major League Baseball playoffs.

"When we are done on the field, we like to watch the playoffs as a team," Augustine said. "It gives us more incentive to be out here, it makes it more fun."

Augustine, who is a Boston Red Sox fan, said that it was very disappointing for him to watch the Sox lose in seven games to the Tampa

Bay Rays in the American League Championship Series.

"I was really hoping they would come back," Augustine said. "But the Rays deserved to win, they outplayed [the Red Sox] that series."

The Rays will play the Philadelphia Phillies in the World Series beginning Wednesday.

Augustine and senior first baseman Taylor Traub agreed that despite Boston's fall, the Rays would win the World Series.

"I would like to see the Rays win because I played baseball down there in Tampa Bay a couple summers ago and it was cool to go to some of the Rays games then," Traub said. "Also I like a lot of their younger players, so I hope they pull through."

As for what the team is trying to accomplish with fall practice, Traub said that this is basically spring training for the Grizzlies.

"The fall is an opportunity to have full team practices before winter," Traub said. "When the season starts it is still snowing outside. This is an opportunity for the coaches to see the team in game-like situations."

Traub said that this is also a good time for the incoming freshman and other younger players to compete for open positions.

Augustine, who is playing for the black team during the scrimmage, said that he believes his team will be successful.

"I think the black team is going to win, we are going to sweep them," Augustine said.

Former Golden Grizzlies in Major League Baseball

— Kevin Carkeek: taken in the 27th round of the 2007 MLB draft by the Houston Astros

— Paul Phillips: taken in the ninth round of the 2005 MLB draft by the Toronto Blue Jays

— Kyle Boehm: taken in the 17th round of the 2004 MLB draft by the Baltimore Orioles

— Dominic Carmosino: taken in the 27th round of the 2004 MLB draft by the Detroit Tigers

— Brad Morenko: taken in the 40th round of the 2004 MLB draft by the Cincinnati Reds

Runners seeking redemption

MacDonald fights adversity with help from cross country team

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

This was supposed to be Kevin MacDonald's year.

The Oakland University cross country runner had what he called a breakout year in 2007 and in this, his senior year, he was supposed to excel. But tendinitis in his knee held him back.

It became so bad that he contemplated quitting the team altogether earlier in the season. But instead, the senior English major continued to run and recently he has been competing at full strength, with his sights set on helping his team win the Summit League championship.

MacDonald said that his friend and fellow senior teammate Andy Lawrick was very instrumental in getting MacDonald from the mindset of almost quitting to competing for a championship.

"Lawrick was the guy that I could talk to when I was feeling bad about running," MacDonald said.

Lawrick said that he isn't surprised that MacDonald was able to fight through his injury.

"He's a good runner, he puts his heart into it," Lawrick said. "When he puts a goal in front of himself, he'll work hard towards accomplishing that goal."

For MacDonald, the goal now is to become a champion. In 2005, MacDonald's freshman year, he didn't qualify to compete with the team in the conference championship. So he drove down to Valparaiso, Ind., where the championship meet was being held, and he watched and supported as his team won the meet along with the league championship.

"I think being there and seeing it happen and not being there on the course with the other guys really got to him," said OU cross country coach Paul Rice. "It really motivated him. I am sure that seeing those seniors win a championship in their last year is in the back of his mind this year, he wants a title."

Lawrick did compete that day and proudly wears the championship ring, the type of ring that MacDonald strives to own.

Lawrick said that going into their sophomore year, he ran with MacDonald a lot.

"We started running together and he was really putting me through my paces, running pretty hard," Lawrick said. "I told him, 'you're killing me out here,' but we just kept going and we both ended up doing well that year."

But they didn't win the championship.

In 2007, MacDonald had his best season but the Grizzlies placed second in the conference meet, falling just short of the overall goal.

MacDonald has a strong belief that his goal of a championship is very attainable this season because of the chemistry and work ethic that the team shares.

"I honestly do believe that come the conference championship meet, how close we are and how much we care about each other is what is going to propel us to win a ring like that [one that Lawrick wears]," said MacDonald. "That is what made me want to work so hard to get back, to win a championship."

Because of the tendinitis, MacDonald almost lost his chance to compete at the championship meet.

"It did not go well for me at the beginning of the season," MacDonald said.

"I was basically running dead last on our team. It was really hard for me to cope."

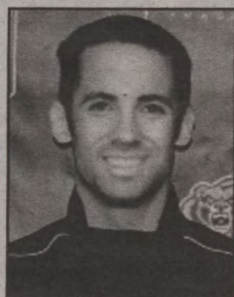
MacDonald has recently earned his spot on the eight man team that will be competing in the Summit League championship meet Nov. 1 in Shreveport, La.

Rice said that MacDonald wasn't a very highly recruited athlete coming out of high school; in fact he had already made the decision to come to OU before he decided to be on the team.

"He was kind of an average high school runner," Rice said. "He took the dive into the collegiate level and we didn't really know what to expect."

Rice said that early on it was easy to tell that MacDonald had the determination that it took to be successful at the collegiate level.

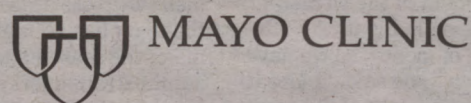
"A lot of times, it's these types of athletes that become your best competitors because they had to work so hard to get where they are," Rice said. "[MacDonald] is a true testament that hard work pays off."



Senior Andy Lawrick



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics
Kevin McDonald races at the Michigan Intercollegiate in October. MacDonald placed 17th to lead OU.



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AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

Midnite Madnezz rocks O'Rena

By **TIM RATH**
Sports Editor

The lights went down, smoke filled the entryways and the screeching vocals of AC/DC's Brian Johnson were heard throughout the O'Rena as Oakland University students were introduced to the men's and women's basketball teams at an event that lived up to its name.

OU hosted Midnite Madnezz Friday at the O'Rena with the help of the Detroit Pistons Flight Crew, Hooper, Grizz and the OU dance and cheerleading teams. An after party ensued at P-16 in surrounding parking lots in front of a large crowd of students and fans.

The event, based on a tradition which began in 1970 with Maryland head coach Lefty Driesell, the first official time that college basketball teams are allowed to hold practices according to NCAA regulations (midnight on Oct. 18), drew wide praise from those who participated.

"It was exciting and fun," said freshman Ilija Milutinovic, a center on the men's basketball team who came to OU

from Serbia after a national recruiting process. "I've never been a part of an event like this. We have families coming over with teammates, we have some laughs and tell jokes. It's all fun."

Men's basketball coach Greg Kampe said that the talent brought on by a much-heralded freshman class brings new challenges to the team.

"We've got to figure a way to mesh the veterans with the young guys and get the young guys some experience, but we'll be fine," he said. "I'm looking forward to a big year."

Women's basketball head coach Beckie Francis said that a key to a hot start would be sustaining the momentum from Midnite Madnezz.

"We're just trying to stay excited," she said. "It's easy to be excited now, we have to keep that going for three weeks."

Both teams began full practices over the weekend. The men's basketball season begins on the road at Cleveland State Nov. 15, while the women host an exhibition game Nov. 9 against Western Ontario.



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

Red-shirt junior women's basketball player Aubrey Freshour greets the near-sellout crowd after being introduced at Midnite Madnezz to a soundtrack of '80s heavy metal.



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

Above, Oakland University basketball fans party amidst a cloud of smoke in the P-16 lot prior to Midnite Madnezz Friday. At right, junior John Kast gets some serious hangtime before a dunk.

The Post asks

Which basketball game are you most looking forward to?



"Michigan and Michigan State at The Palace."

Jermaine Conaway
Freshman, business



"Rochester. I'm going to go and watch OU win."

Rosalyn Calvaneso
Senior, English



"I just transferred over here, so I'm looking forward to them all."

Haylie Kujawa
Junior, English

Scores from the road

VOLLEYBALL

The Grizzlies volleyball team dropped a weekend series to IUPUI Friday 3-1 and Western Illinois 3-0. Lauren Duquette tallied 41 total digs in the two games.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Oakland University men's cross country team ran to a 33rd-place finish out of 40 participants at the 2008 Pre-Nationals Saturday, hosted by Indiana State University. Junior Zack Jones led the team, with a 74th-place finish in the 8K run with a time of 24 minutes, 41 seconds. The women's team placed last in the field of 41. Erica DeAngelo led the way with a 6K time of 22 minutes, 13 seconds.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Grizzlies placed first in the 300 meter breaststroke relay with a time of three minutes, 24 seconds at the Tom Stubbs Relays in Bowling Green, Ohio Friday. Although they lost their first dual-meet relay against Toledo Saturday by a score of 170.5-122.5, junior Agnes Solan had three first-place individual finishes.

MEN'S SOCCER

The Grizzlies edged IPFW Friday 1-0 to push their record to 9-4, 3-1 Summit League. Junior midfielder Wade Allan scored his first goal of the season in the 74th minute off of a pass from junior Sebastian Harris and senior goalkeeper Steve Clark recorded his league-leading seventh shutout with five saves.

MEN'S GOLF

Junior Frank McAuliffe finished in a tie for 36th to lead the Grizzlies Tuesday at the F&M Bank APSU Intercollegiate on the The Links at Novadell Golf Course with a total score of 222 (+6). Sophomores Robby McNiff and Vince Carango scored 223 (+7) and 225 (+9), respectively. — **Tim Rath, Sports Editor**

Home game stories updated daily.
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POST GAME

Friday night at the O'Rena, (see next page), fans of Oakland University basketball were exposed to the kind of true mania that one would expect from an event named "Midnite Madnezz."

With that in mind, The Oakland Post sports department has assembled a list of four instances of insanity from the weekend that we're thankful to have been spared from: 1) Michigan State men's basketball coach Tom Izzo, 2) Connecticut star Jeff Adrien, 3) Cindy McCain trick-or-treating on an airplane, 4) OU men's basketball coach Greg Kampe when the clock actually struck midnight.

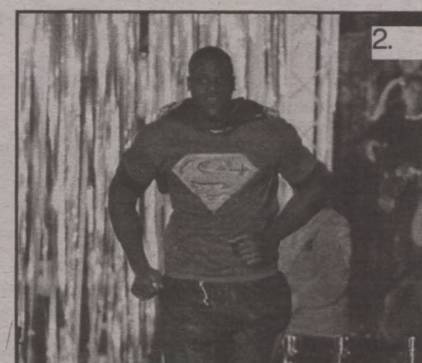
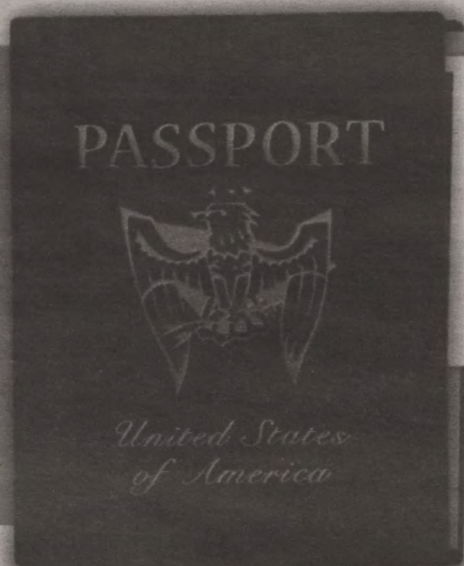


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GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

Agnes Solan Swimming

Year: Redshirt sophomore
Major: Integrative studies

Solan was part of a second-place relay team at the Tom Stubbs Relays Friday and had three first-place individual finishes in the dual meet at Toledo Saturday.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The Scene

October 22, 2008

www.oaklandpostonline.com

23

A taste of local and global brews

By KATHLEEN QUANDT
Staff Intern

REVIEW

The aroma wafted on the cool fall air as people tasted beer from all over the world at the first ever Ale Fest at Eastern Market on Oct. 18.

With over 50 different beverages, including hard ciders, mead, dark ports and pale ales, there were a variety of tastes at the festival.

Ale Fest was put on by the Metro Times and Eastern Market. Visitors could sample beers until the kegs were dry for a cover fee of \$15 in advance at \$20 at the door.

Tasting beer and finding a favorite was what many people were looking to do at the festival. There were many offerings to be enjoyed as well as things that could be improved. The festival included a DJ, food and goods to buy in Eastern Market.

Part of the profits from Ale Fest went to support Eastern Market to bring fresh locally grown produce to Metro Detroit.

Brad Dahlhofer, mead maker and co-owner of B. Nektar Meadery in Ferndale, said the turnout was great.

"The best part about it is when people have never tried it and you watch them take that first sip and their face lights up," he said.

Mead, also known as honey wine, is made from honey instead of grain, which beer is commonly made from. Although mead is made with the sugary ingredient, it isn't necessarily sweet.

"It [can be sweet] but it doesn't have to be. It all depends on how much honey we use," Dahlhofer said.

Budweiser American Ale, a darker ale than regular Budweiser was available at the festival. The ale is an "American-style Amber ale with a rich amber color, a citrus hop aroma, robust caramel malt flavor and hoppy finish," Dahlhofer said.

Hoegaarden, a Belgian white beer, was one of the many imported beers at the festival. Hoegaarden is a wheat beer with a distinctive hazy yellow color. It has a spicy aroma, with coriander and

orange. The taste is sweet, with a light citrus sourness.

Goose Island Honker's Ale which hails from Chicago is inspired by visits to English country pubs. It combines a spicy hop aroma with a rich malt middle to create a balanced beer.

Some of the other beers featured at the festival included Guinness, Stella Artois, Strongbow, Bell's and Arcadia Ales.

Some attendees of the festival were open to new flavors, while others knew what they liked. Monique Steele served beer at the festival.

"A lot of people that come up here already know what they want," she said. Steele also said that people who tasted beers usually ended up getting a cup if they liked it a lot.

It was a beautiful day for the Ale Fest and, according to Maria Stella, assistant to the publisher at the Metro Times, "the turnout was tremendous for our first year, [with a] rough estimate of 1,000 people."

Mike Cullen, a sales representative from Redford said, "The day was great. It felt like St. Patrick's Day in October."

Adam Soutar, 23, a marketing student at Oakland Community College heard about the Ale Fest on National Public Radio.

"Even though there's a cover charge it seems like a good time and to support your local economy. The lines move pretty quickly and it's been a good time," Soutar said.

Other people at the Ale Fest didn't find everything they were looking for. Joshua Druia, a business student at Walsh College said, "I thought there was going to be information here about brewing beers, but there's not."

Also, there was no one available to give advice or information on the different beers and flavors.

As the beer ran out, the lines became longer and it was harder to get a drink.

Overall, the Ale Fest provided a place to get together with family and friends with a great selection of beers from one big distributor from Michigan, three local breweries and breweries around the U.S. and around the world.



KATHLEEN QUANDT/The Oakland Post
Patrons enjoyed the first Ale Fest held in Eastern Market in Detroit on Oct. 18.

THE ITINERARY

Let The Oakland Post
write your to-do list.

"Saw V" 10.24.08

For those of us who have yet to get sick of the "Saw" movies, we can rejoice when the next edition comes out Oct. 24.

"Guitar Hero: World Tour" 10.26.08

This time around, a set of drums and a microphone is added to the mix, and can be purchased as a bundle with the game. Players can also compose, record, edit and share their own music online.

Coldplay 11.3.08

The band is set to perform at the Palace of Auburn Hills with opening band Sleepycar, on the Viva la Vida tour.

T-Pain "Thr33 Ringz" 11.11.08

T-Pain's third album features appearances from Ludacris, Chris Brown, Ciara, Lil Wayne and plenty of others.

"Hancock" 11.25.08

Whether you loved the movie on the silver screen and want to see it again, or you haven't seen it yet, check out "Hancock" on DVD.

Step up your Halloween get-up

By LINA AMENT
Staff Intern

Halloween is a time for kids of all ages to let their imaginations run wild. They dress up like their favorite television characters, scary creatures and role models.

As the date draws near, Oakland University students are putting the finishing touches on their ensembles and some have gone to great lengths for the perfect costume.

"Halloween is the one time of year where you get to be someone you're not," said Steve Johnson, a junior human resource development major. "You actually get to be your favorite character. Last year I was Jack Sparrow and I spent over \$300 on my costume."

This year, Johnson said he will be Sweeney Todd.

"The movie was a great success and it's one of my favorite musicals. So I get to play Sweeney for a night!" Johnson said.

While some can get everything they need in one stop, others had more of a challenge finding the perfect accessories to complete their look.

"I already have a few pieces," Johnson said. "I have the black pin-stripe pants and the white shirt. But I still need to get the vest, tie, shoes and wig. It's kind of a thrill to go shopping for parts of a Halloween costume and trying to find the right piece to go with the rest of the costume."

Even the most intricate Halloween costumes don't have to break the bank just for one night. "I'm planning on going to the Salvation Army for a few things and then to DSW for the boots. You can always find something that you can wear again," Johnson said.

If you don't want to fly solo on your costume, couples and group costumes are something to keep in mind.

"My friends and I were going to go as Disney princesses," said Ashley Clark, a junior human resource development major. "But at the last minute we changed our minds and are going

as 'Wizard of Oz.' I'm going to be Glenda the good witch and my friend is going to be the wicked witch of the west."

Not sure what you want to be yet? There is still time to decide.

Halloween stores and online sites have made great costumes easily accessible so college students can relive their childhood Halloween memories — but with a twist. OU sophomores April Smith, a nursing major, and Nicole Gallo, an elementary education major, visited Halloween USA for the perfect costumes.

"It's fun to dress up even though I'm not a kid anymore," Smith said. "This year I am being a prison inmate."

"I am going to be a lady bug," Gallo said.

As the times change, so do costume trends. Popular media trends often play a role in costume decision making.

"Halo 3" has been the most popular costume for guys," said Halloween USA employee Katie Olson at the Baldwin Road in Lake Orion location.

Lisa Muller, the director of operations for Halloweenmart.com also said 'Halo 3' costumes are very popular for men.

Muller added that a trend for adults is to choose costumes slightly on the risqué side.

"It is hard to pinpoint one costume in particular that is most popular, but this year the trend for adults seems to be anything sexy. Of course the slightly off-color adult humor costumes are a big hit with guys. Our 'Knight to Remember' costume has been very popular," Muller said.

Extremehalloween.com offers a page dedicated to this year's hottest costumes. Sexy witches, lady bugs and pirates are top picks for women.

Shari McConahay from Extreme Halloween, Inc. said that their biggest seller this year for men was the "Dark Knight" costume.

Whatever you'd like to be for Halloween, you still have time to recognize your inner kid and have fun.



Photos courtesy of Amazon.com

Popular costumes among OU students include "Halo 3" characters and Disney princesses.

Still need a costume?

Check out these local stores for your Halloween needs

Halloween USA
Rochester Hills
1242 S. Rochester Rd.

Meijer
Rochester Hills
3175 S. Rochester Rd.

Party City
Rochester Hills
1328 S. Rochester Rd.

Sterling Heights
11970 Hall Rd.

Auburn Hills
800 Brown Rd.

Sterling Heights
12220 Hall Rd.

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MOUTHING OFF

October 22, 2008

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25

Spilling the juice on gossip

POINT
counter
POINT

By TIM RATH, LINA AMENT
& MASUDUR RAHMAN
Sports Editor, Staff Intern, Senior
Reporter

Somewhere between the advent of "tweets" and "the juice," social networking on the Internet became as natural as birds singing and fruit on the trees. Technological advances on websites such as Facebook and Juicy

Campus have pushed communications from the desktop to your cell phone as quick as a Google search.

At the same time, a sharp divide has formed in the opinions of participants as to whether or not these advancements have a positive impact on relationships. For some, these websites are invaluable tools for keeping tabs on friends and family that aren't available for face-to-face discussions. For others, they represent a disturbing intrusion into our private lives.

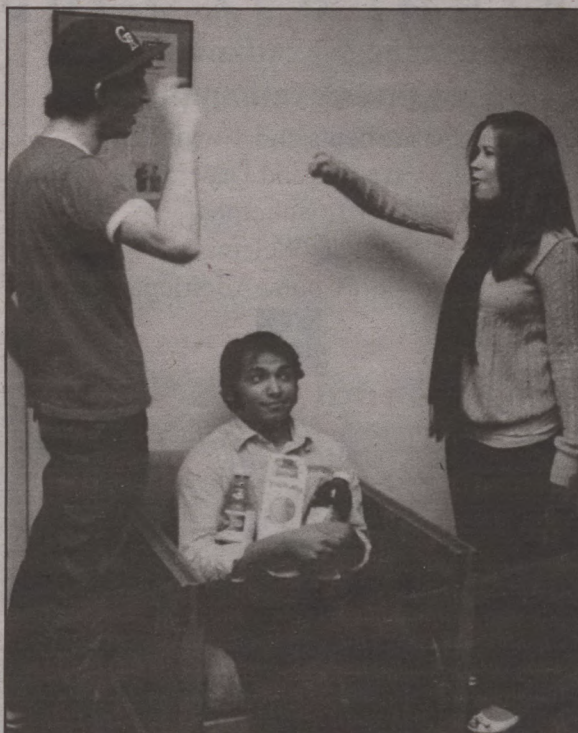
Considering that Facebook attracted 132.1 million unique hits in June 2008 according to ComScore, these pervasive tools appear to be more than just passing trends. With that in mind, it's time to settle the score: Were we better off in the days before social networking websites like Juicy Campus and Facebook infiltrated the college classroom? That will be the question of this point-counterpoint debate, with Sports Editor Tim Rath taking the pro-social networking stance, staff intern Lina Ament taking the anti-social networking stance and senior reporter Masudur Rahman attempting to find a middle ground.

Lina: It's obvious, Tim, that so-called "tools" like Facebook and MySpace are nothing more than human meat markets, offering any stranger with Internet access a chance to quickly evaluate your worth without ever getting to know the real you. Whatever happened to the days of going out, meeting new people and finding out about their interests by actually listening to them speak?

These days, it seems as if my worth is decided by "Who I'd Like to Meet," and that's destructive. Yes, you have control of the things you put on your page but what about the things other people do? They can post pictures of you, say things on your wall, or give you so-called "gifts" that are potentially harmful.

But you wouldn't want anyone to get to know the real you anyway, would you, Tim? You're a career misanthrope whose day is best spent carefully deciding what you'll say in your Facebook status update, all the while doing everything in your power to avoid real human contact. Please, spare me from your friendship and your friend request.

Masudur: Hold on, Lina. I agree that Tim's idea of a Saturday well-spent is updating his "Favorite Music" 50 times. I also believe that little relevance that can be achieved with this type of Internet communication;



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
Senior Reporter Masudur Rahman keeps his juicy secrets to his self as Sports Editor Tim Rath and Staff Intern Lina Ament argue.

a status update does not make for a coherent thought. Regardless, few would deny logging onto Facebook or MySpace less than twice a day. Finding out what your friends and classmates are up to, or even just finding if anyone wrote on your wall or sent you a private message, is one of those guilty pleasures that are absolutely impossible to quit.

Tim: Why would you even want to quit? Facebook and MySpace have improved every aspect of social interaction. Finding people that share your interests has become as easy as point-and-click. Keeping up-to-date with faraway friends and relatives does not have to cost the amount of a long distance phone call. Boring class lectures are negated with e-mail and instant message communication. These sites can also often help to create friendships or even romantic relationships between people who normally may not even talk to each other in the fleshy-world.

For people like you two who are stuck in the Jurassic era, writing telegrams and waiting three weeks to hear back from people you call friends may be enough. But for the rest of us living in the year 2008, those medieval methods of keeping in touch simply won't suffice. Go back to sending your messages in bottles and with messenger pigeons as I tweet my friends about what happened at the party last night. By the way, Masudur, did that marker-moustache come off yet?

Lina: Hold on, Tim. In your incoherent, toddler-like babble, you've inadvertently come to the crux of my argument against these social networking sites: the minefield of individuals that populate **juicycampus.com**. Although Juicy Campus apparently began as a forum to tell people about what happened at parties, it's clear that the goal is to harm and demean your peers. Check out this piece of garbage that was posted just after OU received a listing in September:

"It's the beginning of a new year and we're finally on juicycampus — someone needs to start dishing some dirt. let's see if we can get ou closer to being a real college. let the shit talking begin."

A "real college?" What's the point in that?

The site's anonymously posted content not only harms individuals, but also organizations as a whole. The Greek community and student athletic teams have been singled out and received the most libel. What is even more upsetting is that some of the libel is made by people outside of the organizations that don't know what they really stand for.

Many of the women that have been targeted on the sight are strong, smart women who deserve much more credit than what they are given. Instead, they are objectified. Also, many of the individuals that are targeted have done great things for campus and the community — it's a shame they are subjected to such cruelty by their peers. The bottom line is that the site has done nothing but hurt and embarrass people and no one should have to go through that.

Masudur: Lina, while I agree that Juicy Campus is a festering waste of bandwidth, populated by complete scumbags with far too much time on their hands and no conscience to speak of, the social hierarchies promoted by the Greek community may be the reason they're so often targeted for criticism. Perhaps if the Greek society wasn't so fragmented and competitive within itself, there would be less disgusting things posted on that website. And yes, Tim, the marker-moustache did finally come off after three showers.

Tim: Really? Damn, I thought we used a permanent marker. Anyway, you two really think sites like Juicy Campus are detrimental to the university students and community? I think it's great! In this celebrity-obsessed culture, it's like our university's own tabloid. It's even more than just a tabloid — it's a watchdog tool against the students who think they can get away with doing anything without repercussions.

Masudur: Oh please, Tim, don't pretend. You only want to read Juicy Campus because you want to know who has STDs so you can avoid dating them. It's clear to me that websites such as Juicy Campus exist only to harm and demean fellow classmates. It's unfortunate that such a horrid waste of cyberspace is so popular, but that is the way of young people. Other social networking tools, such as Facebook, have harmful side effects to be sure. However, their positive impact easily overpowers those. Much like other good things that we come across in our college days, responsible use is key.

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Kerkorian sells off Ford shares

By BREE FOWLER
AP Auto Writer

NEW YORK — Kirk Kerkorian's investment firm said Tuesday it sold 7.3 million of its shares in Ford Motor Co. and plans to further cut what is now a 6.1 percent stake, for a potential loss of more than half a billion dollars on the investment.

Tracinda Corp. sold the shares at an average price of \$2.43 per share and said it may sell its remaining 133.5 million shares depending on market conditions.

Kerkorian has tried to leave his mark on the Detroit-based automakers over the past decade. But Tracinda said that in light of current economic conditions it now sees "unique value" in other industries such as gambling, hotels, and oil and gas, so it's moving its resources.

Tracinda, which is named after Kerkorian's daughters, Tracy and Linda, has the majority stake in the casino and hotel operator MGM Mirage Inc.

The sale comes just four months after Tracinda purchased 20 million of the Dearborn-based automaker's shares at market rates to boost his stake to 6.49 percent. Those purchases were announced two days after Kerkorian met with Ford Chief Executive Alan Mulally and Executive Chairman Bill Ford to discuss the company's turnaround plan.

A week earlier, Kerkorian had acquired another 20 million shares through a tender offer for about \$170 million, or \$8.50 per share. Based on that share price, Kerkorian lost about \$44.3 million in Tuesday's sale.

At the time the tender offer was announced, Tracinda said it owned 100

million Ford shares at an average cost of \$6.91 per share. If the firm sold those shares at Monday's closing price of \$2.33 a piece, it would translate to a loss of about \$458 million.

Ford shares fell 11 cents, or 4.7 percent, to \$2.22 in Tuesday morning trading.

In announcing the June tender offer, Tracinda said it believed that Ford was starting to make progress on its restructuring plan, adding that it expected the automaker to post continued improvements.

But high gas prices, a slumping overall economy, low consumer confidence and the tightening of credit markets have taken their toll on the automaker and the industry overall in the months since.

Ford shares are down 63 percent since the tender offer was announced.



SAKCHAI LALIT/Associated Press
An anti-government protester celebrates inside Government house in Bangkok on Tuesday, Oct. 21. A Thai court found former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra guilty of corruption.

Former Thailand Prime Minister guilty of corruption

By SUTIN WANNABOVORN
Associated Press Writer

BANGKOK, Thailand — A Thai court found former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra guilty of corruption and sentenced him Tuesday to two years in prison, adding a new twist to the country's paralyzing political crisis.

The guilty verdict was the first against the country's former leader since he was ousted by a 2006 military coup after being accused of corruption and abuse of power.

Thaksin, 59, jumped bail and fled to England two months ago along with his wife, Pojaman, 51, who was also charged. The Supreme Court acquitted her on Tuesday.

From his home near London, Thaksin condemned the conviction but said it was hardly a surprise.

"It was politically motivated since the court is a carry-forward of the coup d'etat," Thaksin told The Associated Press. "I'm a politician and after I was toppled by the coup, it's normal that they will try every means to justify it."

The ruling was greeted with excitement by the political movement trying to force out the current government, which they accuse of being controlled by Thaksin.

Raucous cheers erupted among several thousand members of the People's Alliance for Democracy, which has occupied the grounds of the prime minister's offices since August. They chanted, "Go to jail, go to jail!"

The charges stemmed from allegations that Thaksin facilitated his wife's purchase of lucrative Bangkok real estate from a state agency in 2003 while he was prime minister.

NIW BRIEFS

10-19 | A 6-year-old boy kidnapped by drug dealers in Las Vegas is found alive near the Las Vegas Strip. | President George W. Bush calls for a summit of world leaders to address the global financial crisis.

10-20 | Zimbabwe's opposition leaders boycott a regional power sharing summit due to its "limited" effect. | The ruling Shiite coalition in Iraq withholds support of a security pact that would keep U.S. troops in the country for three more years.

10-21 | The Consumer Products Safety Commission urges parents to inspect drop-side cribs for safety problems in light of a product recall that was spurred by the death of two infants. | Nebraska lawmakers strike deal to change state's safe haven law to apply only to infants up to three days old. | Canada's Liberal Party leader announces that he will step down.

Turkey tries 86 for conspiracy



MURAD SEZER/Associated Press
A demonstrator chants slogans during a protest in front of the Silivri prison, west of Istanbul, Turkey, Monday, Oct. 20. The trial of 86 people accused of conspiring to overthrow Turkey's government began in chaos when defendants and lawyers complained they couldn't hear in the overcrowded courtroom. Those on trial include a retired general, the leader of a small leftist and nationalist party, a newspaper editor, a best-selling author and a former university dean.

Russia, Iran, Qatar discuss OPEC-style gas cartel

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Russia, Iran and Qatar took their first serious steps toward forming an OPEC-style cartel for natural gas on Tuesday, a prospect that has unnerved energy-importing nations in Europe and the United States.

The three countries together account for 60 percent of the world's gas reserves, and Russia and Iran have both been accused of using their hold on energy supplies to bully neighboring countries. The European Union, which is heavily dependent on Russian gas, criticized the

proposal, saying "energy supplies have to be sold in a free market."

Russia, which most recently came into confrontation with the West over its five-day war with Georgia in August, has been accused of using its hold on energy supplies to exert influence on neighboring nations, particularly Ukraine. Its energy grip adds to its leverage in disputes over other issues, too, such as the United States' missile defense plans.

For its part, Iran, in its standoff with world powers over its nuclear program, has threatened to choke off oil shipments through the Persian Gulf if it is attacked.

A gas cartel to determine supply and

influence prices could extend both countries' reach in energy and politics, particularly if oil prices bounce back to the highs seen earlier this year — prompting politicians, businesses and consumers to look toward cleaner burning natural gas and other alternative fuels.

The gathering in Tehran, which included the chief executive of Russia's state-controlled energy company Gazprom and the oil ministers of the other two nations, appeared to be the most significant step toward the formation of such a group since Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, first raised the idea in January 2007.



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