

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

October 15, 2008

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MADAM SECRETARY MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

THE FORMER
SECRETARY OF STATE
SPEAKS OF AMERICA'S
NEW ROLE IN THE
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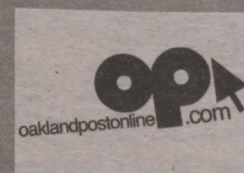
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Perspectives page 4

Student Body Vice President Dan Evola is calling on students to voice concerns over Chartwells' prices.



Campus page 6

OU celebrates National Coming Out Week with several events on campus. Plus, a disc golf course could make its way to OU.



Local page 11

A former OU student is found guilty for her hand in an overdose death. Also, a closer look at a few Oakland County House of Representative candidates.



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Follow You/Local Editor Jared Purcell as he recounts his time as an Erebus actor. Plus, an OU student gets a dream job with BET.



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Students reminisce about their favorite childhood television shows, treasured toys and the first movie they remember.



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Grizzly spirit is a full time job for Images Dance Team and the OU Cheerleading Team. Plus, former men's soccer coach John Motzer dies at 75.



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The Oakland Post talks about virginity and online dating with three stars of the upcoming film "Sex Drive." Also, the latest "Silent Hill" video game is reviewed.



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What do whips and chains have to do with a presidential candidate? Find out why a sadomasochists organization would endorse Barak Obama. Plus, fantasy football becomes reality for one sports fan.



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More wildfires sweep across Southern California. Also, Casey Anthony is indicted for the murder of her daughter.



See what former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had to say during her lecture on campus.

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October 15, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Making sense of a senseless number

Seven hundred billion dollars. Think about that figure for a second.

Try to comprehend the enormity of a number this large. It's tough to do.

Take a seven and add 11 zeros to it. It stretches pretty far across a page.

\$700,000,000,000. That help at all?

Many European countries don't use the term "billion" as we do in America. Instead they use the term "thousand million." Many French and Italians, for example, would say \$700 thousand million. Whatever the reasoning for this, it does help you get a better grasp on such a figure.

As most of us are aware, \$700 billion dollars is what the federal government has allotted to bail out corporate lenders and investors who nearly sent this country's economy into a tailspin.

The number is almost incomprehensible; that is, of course, until you consider the fact that the U.S. is approximately \$10 trillion in debt.

That's \$10,000,000,000,000.

Things have gotten so ridiculous that the National Debt Clock in New York City has run out of digits to record the growing number.

Needless to say, it doesn't seem like the U.S. is doing so hot financially. But there's another problem here. It seems that in an era in which our government is spending \$400 million per day on the Iraq War, according to some estimates, Americans are becoming a little too comfortable with dollar amounts that carry more zeros than a bowl of Cheerio's.

It's a scary prospect to consider that \$700 billion really doesn't phase us much anymore.

The problem with this is when we become dismissive or desensitized to numbers such as these, we begin to lose perspective when it comes to true scope of

their implications.

In an effort to take such a number and make it a little more tangible, consider the following:

With \$700 billion dollars, the U.S. government could have given all 300 million Americans — men, women, children, elderly — a \$2,300 check and still have \$10 billion to spare. With that \$10 billion, the government could pay for four years of schooling for approximately 250,000 Americans — 50,000 in each state.

Or, we could use the entire allotment to pay for college educations. In which case, 17.5 million people would be afforded four years of college at an institution where tuition costs \$10,000 per year.

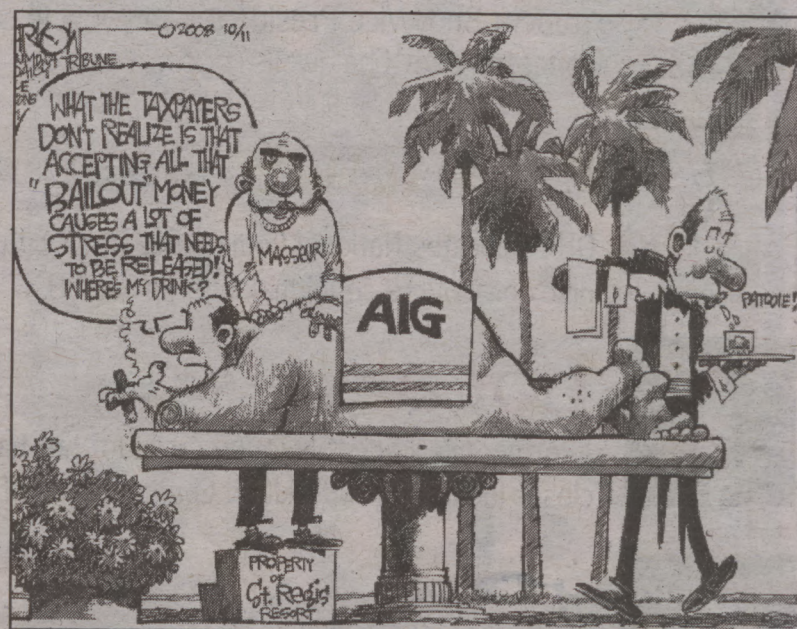
The country could have effectively begun the implementation of a universal health care system. According to an estimate by the American Medical Student Association, the cost of implementing a universal health care system in the U.S. would be \$34 billion-\$69 billion per year. So, with \$700 billion, the government could provide free health care for at least 10 years.

In an effort to fight world hunger, the U.S. government could have purchased approximately 785 billion Volcano Tacos from Taco Bell to distribute around the world.

If you attempted to count to 700 billion, at a rate of one number per second, it would take you approximately 22,242 years.

Had we taken the \$700 and tagged on the extra \$100 plus million that was added to the bailout, and put it towards leveling the national debt, we could have lowered it by approximately 10 percent, leaving us with about \$8 trillion left to pay off.

Eight trillion dollars. Think about that figure for a second.



JOHN DARKOW/Columbia Daily Tribune, Missouri

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 "First 'Brooksie Way' triumphs," on page 12 of the Oct. 8, 2008 issue, Mike Kilburg's name was incorrectly spelled in the photo caption.

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.

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— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

OUSC to confront Chartwells over prices

Dan Evola
Student Body
Vice President



Most of us have at one time played the Parker Brother's classic board game Monopoly. You pick your piece (I chose the little hat), and try to control the board in order to make the other players pay you obscene amounts of money to land on your property. We all know Park Place, the Boardwalk, but what about our beloved Oakland Center? Many would argue that Oakland University has its own game of Monopoly going with Chartwells food service.

For those of you who are not aware of what Chartwells is, I will take a moment to enlighten you. Chartwells is the only food service organization allowed to distribute any food in the Oakland Center, whether it's the Pioneer Food Court or a student organization event. They are contracted by the OC. Think back

on every catered event you have ever attended at the OC. It was undoubtedly Chartwells food served by Chartwells employees.

For the average student, this is why lunch in the OC empties your pockets.

There is no competition allowed, therefore Chartwells sets prices unopposed. For those with special dietary needs, such as vegans, this is why there is a lack of alternative food options. But most noticeably, for those involved in student organizations, this is why most food orders for meetings and events will completely drain your accounts.

For example, a gallon of Lemonade costs \$12.95 through Chartwells (prices can be viewed on their website). Last

time I checked, Lemonade consisted of some pretty rare and expensive ingredients: something to the extent of water, sugar and lemons. A quick trip to Busch's supermarket reveals that the most expensive form of lemonade costs

nowhere near half the price of Chartwells' variety. But because of the agreement with the OC, student organizations are forced to buy and serve the Chartwells lemonade. Perhaps it's the extreme quality and

service we pay for, but if that's the case then I have been receiving a terrible amount of false complaints. The caliber of service and quality of food is a concern equal to that of the prices in the eyes of many students.

I could probably fill pages of The

Oakland Post with angry stories, complaints, and general dislike with our food situation in the OC, but I am writing this article for a much different reason. I would like to personally invite each and every person reading this article to stop complaining and do something about it. Monday, Oct. 20, Chartwells is sending representatives to the Oakland University Student Congress meeting to hear our issues with the current food service in the OC. This is your opportunity to come voice your concerns and help change the situation for the better.

The more students in the gallery, the more of an impact we can make on the food service industry at OU. There are over 120 student organizations at OU. If every one sent just one representative, our meeting would be overflowing. This is not even including the large amount of students not involved with organizations who are just plain dissatisfied.

So this Monday, Oct. 20, make sure to bring your proverbial pitchforks and torches to the Oakland Room of the OC at 4 p.m., and let Chartwells know that they cannot pass go and collect our \$200.

STUDENT LIFE WEEKLY

Rebecca L. Wickham
Associate Director of University Housing

HOT TOPIC



People stopped being nice and started being real:

Tips on solving roommate conflict

Since the fall semester is in full swing, we should again broach the topic of roommate conflicts in the residence halls. In most cases the conflicts boil down to differences in opinion and not communicating effectively with one another. Differing ideas of clean, quiet and guests seem to cause the most concern in the halls.

So what can be done to prevent these problems? Open the lines of communication about the key concerns before an issue develops. Find a time when all your roommates can get together and go over standards for your room or suite. Some simple solutions available to help this conversation are the roommate agreement form and creating a cleaning schedule. You can obtain roommate agreement forms from an RA. This may seem like a simple solution but opening up the lines of communication works. Keep in mind that you are sharing a living space with people

from different homes and with different ideals. Finally, realize that you all need to agree to the agreement in order for it to work.

Here are a couple of tips for success with roommate conflicts:

- Approach the topic in a calm manner. Take time to breathe before confronting the issues and understand that your roommates will probably have issues with you too.
- Go into the conversation with an open mind. Don't think switching rooms will solve all your problems. You could have the same issues or worse in a new room.
- Set up a roommate/suite meeting. Most people would rather be confronted about problems by their roommate, not an outsider or a note.
- If things get heated or are not going anywhere then consider getting an un-biased mediator such as an RA to help you come to a resolution.

Attention
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Albright speaks at OU

Former secretary of state discusses experiences, foreign affairs

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

One of the most influential global diplomats of the last 15 years made an appearance at Oakland University, without the cumbersome burden of espousing a political cause.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright appeared at the O'Rena Tuesday night to give a speech about her life and career, her views on foreign policy, and the direction she feels the international community is taking.

"Because I'm no longer secretary of state, I'll actually be able to answer your questions," Albright joked.

Albright was born in Czechoslovakia in 1937 to Josef and Marie Jane Korbel. Her family was Jewish but converted to Roman Catholicism to escape persecution during the Holocaust, something Albright would not learn for 60 years. Her family moved to Serbia and England during the war before returning to Czechoslovakia, and then eventually moved to America in 1948 to avoid communist rule.

"Among my first memories were gathering in a bomb shelter with my English friends, singing songs during the air raids," Albright said.

Albright first served as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 1993 to 1997. She gained a reputation for making blunt and concise statements in her diplomacy. One of her most notorious remarks was her "no cajones" comment directed at Fidel Castro after he destroyed two civilian aircraft with air-to-air missiles.

She was appointed secretary of state by Bill Clinton in 1997. She had influence in U.S. military operations in Kosovo and Bosnia, and would be one of the highest-ranking diplomats to meet with Kim Jong-il.

"Kim Jong-il was probably the most interesting person, because no one knew what to expect from him, and he turned out to be very smart," she said.

Shortly after becoming secretary of state, Albright learned that her grandparents had been Jewish rather than Roman Catholic, and that three of them had been killed in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Although Albright's Jewish background had been rumored in the media for some time, the revelation came as a shock to Albright.

"I compared it to being asked to represent the United States in the Olympics in the marathon," Albright said. "Being given a very heavy package when I started, and I have to unwrap it as I run, I had to prove I could be secretary of state and also have this complicated personal problem to deal with."

Albright said she felt that while the discovery of her



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/Oakland Post

The former secretary of state talked about her experiences in that position and her perspective on current hot-button international topics when she visited OU Tuesday.

grandparents' heritage certainly affected her, it did not change her worldview or affect her actions in office.

Albright talked about the kinds of actions she believes the next president will need to undertake and the kind of political climate either Sen. John McCain or Sen. Barack Obama will be entering when he takes office this January.

"What I find missing from this administration is people who disagree with the president," Albright said.

Albright said that a Cabinet should not be a group of people who all agree with each other, but rather made up of all different views and headed by a president confident enough to listen to all of them.

Albright supported Hillary Clinton during the primary elections, but has since supported Obama. She expressed her discontent with being misquoted by Sarah Palin, who said that there is a special place in Hell for women who don't support other women.

"I was talking about it in a non-political way,"

Albright said. Albright has long been a vocal supporter of equal rights for women.

She also spoke about the situation in Iraq, and said that the next president will need to cooperate with the Bush administration to make a policy in Iraq.

"If Obama is the winner, I think he'll do something about Iraq on day One," Albright said.

Even though she says Iraq must be a top priority for the next commander in chief, Albright believes the final judgement for the war will not be positive.

"I've said that I think Iraq will go down as the worst foreign policy disaster in American history," Albright said. She said that the U.S.'s reputation has been deeply damaged by the war. "We've already been in Iraq longer than WWII, and yet Afghanistan will probably last longer."

With regards to Russia, Albright talked about its changing role in the global community. She said that she had hoped that after she left office, Russia would evolve into a democratic state, having met many-times with Boris Yeltsin during his presidency. Albright spoke about how the behavior of Russia's current president, Vladimir Putin, concerns her.

"What I do not want to see is a return to Cold War rhetoric. We need to work with them on a host of issues, but we need to push back when they push against independent countries," Albright said.

Albright said that she believed the United States should pay less attention to detractors in Cuba and Venezuela and suggested that the U.S. should try to create a friendly atmosphere with Cuba, should a change in power occur.

"With Cuba I've predicted only one thing, and it will happen: Castro will die," Albright joked.

As for North Korea, Albright said that they had made progress towards disarming the authoritarian state, but the Bush administration went in the opposite direction following their "anything but Clinton" policy.

"I regretted that the Bush administration did not pick up the cards we left on the table," Albright said.

As she concluded her speech, Albright said that, "We are about to turn over power peacefully for the 44th time in our history, and that is unique."

Since being secretary of state, Albright has worked on the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange, as chair of the Council of Women World Leaders and as chairperson of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. She has also written three books: "Madam Secretary: A memoir"; "The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs"; and "Memo to the President Elect: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership."

LGBT celebrates Coming Out Week

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people do not always have the same rights as others, but they're not giving up in their fight for equality.

Many Americans, including members of the Oakland University community, celebrated the annual National Coming Out Week through events held last week.

The last day, Saturday Oct. 11, was National Coming Out Day, a day where gay, lesbian and bisexual people across the country are encouraged to "come out" and openly declare their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. The rest of the week was focused on awareness for LGBT issues.

Student members of OU's Gender and Sexuality Center and the student organization Gay Straight Alliance collected signatures for a petition to extend OU's non-discrimination policy to include transgendered people.

Transgendered people are those who do not identify their gender as the sex to which they were born.

GSC coordinator Joann Bautti-Roche believes that while OU's non-discrimination policy currently protects lesbian, gay and bisexual employees from being discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, the policy should also offer protection in cases of gender identity.

"We want our policy to be inclusive for all [of the LGBT community], not just part of it," Bautti-Roche said. "I don't know if anyone has been fired because of their gender identity, but if someone was, there's aren't any rules in place to prevent that."

Bautti-Roche said she hopes to present this petition to OU's board of trustees during the winter semester, when enough support is garnered and the proposal is ready.

There are currently proposals in the Michigan House of Representatives and in the state Senate that propose including crimes committed against people because of their sexual orientation/gender identity to the state's current hate-crimes law.

Paul Condino, a Michigan house representative, spoke about the bills and their necessity Monday Oct. 6 during "Remembering Matthew Shepard: A Call to Action to Erase Hate" in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center.

House bills #6340 and 6341 and Senate bills #1454 and 1455 would seek to add harsher sentencing against criminals convicted of crimes against person or property in Michigan if proved that the crimes were motivated by the victim's sexual orientation/gender identity.

"Thirty-one states have this law already," Condino said. "Being 32nd isn't exactly being a leader, but we'll take it."

Condino urged Michigan residents to tell their local politicians to support these bills.

Michigan currently has such anti-bias crime laws that add harsher punishments for crimes committed "with a specific intent to intimidate or harass another person because of that person's race, color, religion, gender or national origin."

The new bills also seek to update the laws to apply whether or not the victim actually turns out to belong to a group that the criminal thought he or she did.

"Erase the Hate" took place on Oct. 6 the 10th anniversary of the night that University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard was brutally murdered by two men because he was gay. On every chair at the event was a piece of paper that described similar crimes committed against LGBT people. Some were crimes committed against people because they were thought to be LGBT even though they really were not.

There is also a bill in the U.S. Senate that is seeking to extend domestic partnership benefits available to federal government employees who are married, such as health care benefits, to federal employees with same-sex domestic partners.

Connecticut became the third state to allow gay marriage on Oct. 10, as the Connecticut State Supreme Court ruled that banning same-sex marriage violates the state constitution. Massachusetts and California also allow gay marriages.

Michigan's state constitution does not allow same-sex couples to get married. While some other states with gay-marriage bans recognize same-sex marriages licensed in other states, Michigan does not recognize any same-sex marriages or give benefits to homosexual couples comparable to those heterosexual couples receive.

Some say that religions use their dogma to discriminate against the LGBT community.

The documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So" was shown last Tuesday and Wednesday, in which some Christians and Christian churches in America were shown to have denounced gay acts as sinful and excluded openly gay people from churches.

Some students like Mary Maloy said they were straight, but still supported acceptance and inclusion

of rights to LGBT people, and said there is no reason why gay people can not be compatible with Christianity.

"Some of my gay friends are way better Christians than I'll ever be," Maloy said.

"A lot of people take the Bible for black

and white, but they nitpick," said Sarah Brooks, a bisexual student. Brooks said people should interpret the Bible for context, not content.

Most students interviewed seemed to believe that while the official stances on gay marriage of both presidential candidates are the

same, Obama is more LGBT-friendly.

"I think in his heart Obama supports gay marriage," said student Ben Spedoske. "Unfortunately, he can't come out and say it because of the way the political system is."

Some students like Maloy said that OU is a much more LGBT-friendly community than her hometown, but others say they still occasionally experience

backlash for their sexual orientation.

"I've had conversations with a few people who told me I'm a sinner and I'm going to hell," said Melissa Bukowski, who said she was bisexual.

Some gay students like Adam Cadd said while acceptance would be nice, they'd settle for tolerance.

"I don't care if you like me; just don't take away my rights," Cadd said.

GSC and GSA work closely together to help LGBT people, and their members say they welcome anyone, whether or not they're LGBT or just want to be allies with LGBT people.

GSA is a student organization that deals with LGBT issues specifically, while GSC is a partially OU funded center located in room 49 in the basement of the OC, and it deals with LGBT issues as well as with women's issues and domestic abuse issues.

"College is a time where many people choose to explore their sexuality, and we're here to help them," Bautti-Roche said. "If you want to talk to someone sympathetic, or just want to hang out, come by [to GSC]."

"We also give out free condoms and candy," Maloy said.

**"I don't care if
you like me; just
don't take away
my rights."**

— Adam Cadd

**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!

Pugh talks about sexuality

By JANICE WILLIAMS
Contributing Reporter

Local Fox news reporter Charles Pugh talked to Oakland University students for National Coming Out Week on Friday Oct. 10. The week, which ended with the celebration of National Coming Out Day on Saturday, is dedicated to encouraging people struggling with their sexuality to be honest about it without worrying about the backlash from those who might disapprove, with the help of the allies of the gay and bisexual community.

In front of the audience, Pugh talked about his experience as a homosexual public figure coming out about his sexuality.

It was during college that Pugh started his coming out process and acknowledging his sexuality within himself, which he said is one of the hardest things to recognize and accept for a lot of people.

"I've known all my life that I was attracted to men more than women," Pugh said.

After graduating from the University of Missouri and making many stops as a newscaster in different areas in the Midwest, Pugh admitted his sexual orientation to some of his friends. All his friends, with the exception of his college roommate, accepted Pugh's announcement.

Since he already had three openly homosexual family members, coming out to his family wasn't an issue.

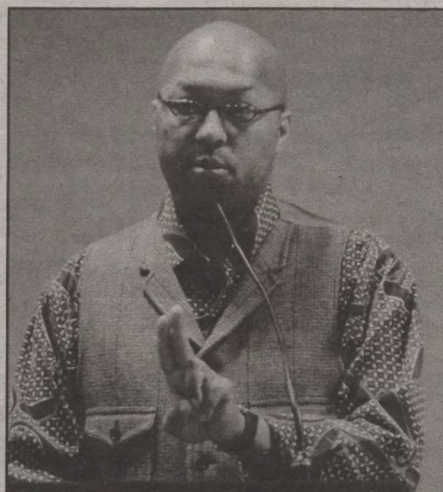
"I really never had to come out to my family because they were going to accept me regardless," Pugh said. "So I didn't have to have this whole, 'guess what ya'll conversation.'"

He also talked about how he does not separate his sexuality from his public image. He's more concerned about advancing as a man than advancing in his career because his career is only one part of him.

Having made it as far as he has professionally, Pugh said he believes he can be an example of how being yourself and standing up for what you believe in does not have to be an obstacle to success.

Pugh said he hopes that by being unapologetic about his sexual orientation, he can help other homosexuals realize there are people in positions of power who understand their hardships.

"I'm out on purpose with a purpose," Pugh said. "I understand that now, because I've shared who I am with every-



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
Local television personality Charles Pugh spoke about homosexual issues Friday.

one, that there are people counting on me."

At the close of the his speech, Pugh extended a question and answer session for student participation. He received a lot of positive feedback from students about his candor and sincerity.

"He influences me to be who I am and also remain professional because I do expect to be a part of the professional world one day,"

said OU freshman Catherine Pannell. "So he's a big influence especially to me."

When asked about the importance of National Coming Out Day, Pugh said, "Coming Out Day is necessary because sometimes we forget the importance of the LGBT allies, advocates, and straight people who have a heart and have a head and realize that there's more than just straight people."

The event for National Coming Out Week was organized by the Gender and Sexuality Center. The center offers resources, programs and advocacy for

women and anyone on campus dealing with sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

Coordinator of the GSC, Joann Bautti-Roche, trains OU students, faculty and staff to be allies to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender organization on campus.

"College is really a time where students are free to explore more of their sexual orientation," Bautti-Roche said. "It's also a time where a lot of changes are going on, they're adapting to a new environment and they're adapting to classes, so we offer the LGBT peer mentoring and offer a one-on-one avenue support."

In the LGBT peer-mentoring program, students facing identity crises are paired up with an older student from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community.

Bautti-Roche said the program is a support system so students can concentrate on their academic and personal growth without the stresses of dealing with their sexual orientation issues.

Aside from creating awareness for LGBT issues on campus, the GSC also host many of events throughout the school year for breast cancer, domestic violence, AIDS, and alcohol and sexual assault awareness.

The GSC, located in the basement of the Oakland Center, is free and available for any students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

OU to host Romantic conference

By DAVID SANDERS
Staff Intern

A number of the United States' most renowned Romantic scholars will be coming to Oakland University for the International Conference on Romanticism.

The event will begin Thursday, Oct. 16 at Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester, where it will run through Friday. The two days at the hotel are sold out but, there's still room for admission into the portion of the Gold-Rooms of the Oakland Center. The show at OU will begin Saturday, Oct. 18 and continue Sunday.

Romanticism is the cultural movement during the 18th and 19th century of art expressed in paintings, poetry, literature and music.

The term is very broad, encompassing

a variety of art forms and literary styles.

OU English professor, Robert Anderson said most people do not realize that Romanticism was more than just a Western movement.

"Although Romanticism is usually thought to be taking place in England, Europe and America, we have presented papers about how writers in Africa, Japan, Romania and South Africa responded to the movement," Anderson said.

A diverse range of scholars who will be presenting on a wide variety of topics.

"The conference is a big deal," Anderson said. "It brings scholars from around the world: China, Nairobi, Turkey, Germany and England, to a campus to present papers based on their research."

Anderson said he hopes students will learn from the acclaimed scholars and

artists what their professors may be teaching when not in class. This is the case if certain professors have an interest in expanding their knowledge in the field of romantic literature.

"We are very proud to be bringing our colleagues from around the world here to see Oakland University," Anderson said. "We hope people from the university community will drop by and give us a look."

Anderson also hopes students will be fascinated by not only literature but also with the styles of music and dance from the romantic period.

The event is dedicated to many educated people in the field but also two main speakers who are experts on particular aspects of the Romantic era.

UCLA professor Anne Mellor's presentation will feature "Romantic Bluestockings: From Muses to Matrons."

The Bluestockings were a feminist organization in the 18th Century.

Mellor is expected to present essays written by many female poets and writers along with images of women in paintings that existed in the 18th century.

Ray Fleming from Florida State University will present "Caspar David Fredrick and the Politics of Romantic Landscapes."

Fredrick was a German romantic painter, who is known for landscape painting.

The entrance fee for ICR is \$90 for OU students. However, those who volunteer to check in attendees and hand out programs will be admitted free of charge. Admission is good for all sessions of the event.

"We don't really expect students to pay but we would be interested in having them help out," Anderson said.

Poetry, murder come to OU

By **SHELLY LATSHAW**
Senior Reporter

It's a dark and stormy night, a woman wanders along an ink-black path lined with perverse twisted trees; their branches hung like lifeless limbs on a corpse.

In the distance, the woman sees a faint glow set among indistinct towering planes of darkness.

As she grows closer the mass begins to take shape among the trees; a dimly lit mansion begins to rise upon her in the moonlight. She enters to find herself in a world of macabre mystery and murder: a world of Edgar Allan Poe.

Meadow Brook Theatre's first production of the 2008-2009 season, "Murder by Poe," written by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher, brings the works of Edgar Allan Poe woven into a sinister tale filled with murder, mystery, betrayal and revenge.

Directed by Oakland University alum and Meadow Brook Theatre

artistic director, Travis Walter, "Murder by Poe" is brought to life by a cast of Michigan actors, including Kelly Komlen as the woman and Tobin Hissong as M. Dupin, Poe's infamous fictional detective.

"Murder by Poe" is spun from many of Poe's most infamous tales, including "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Purloined Letter," "The Black Cat," "Fall of the House of Usher," "Murder at the Rue Morgue" and "The Mystery of Marie Roget."

The woman in the play must solve the mysteries of the house, owned by Usher, played by Dax Anderson in order to secure a room in the seemingly desolate mansion.

As the house host, M. Dupin introduces the guests that have filled the other rooms, each who have their own wicked story of murder and mayhem.

It is the mystery of murder she must resolve to explain.

Cat, played by Jeff Thomakos, explains his deviant affection for his

black cat, until it begins to show a fondness for his wife.

He soon becomes enraged, only calming his fears with a quick swing of an axe.

Next, Heart, played by Chris Korte, tells of his hatred for his old man, whose defective and grotesque eye repulses him.

Waiting for the perfect opportunity, he finally resolves his quandary by shutting the eye for good.

The play attempts to use suspense and horror to placate even the most disturbed imagination, with a drop of comedic banter.

"Murder by Poe" at Meadow Brook comes just in time to "usher" in the Halloween season.

"Murder by Poe" will continue at Meadow Brook Theatre through Nov. 2.

Tickets range from \$24 to \$39 and are available by calling the Meadow Brook Theatre box office at (248)377-3300 or online through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

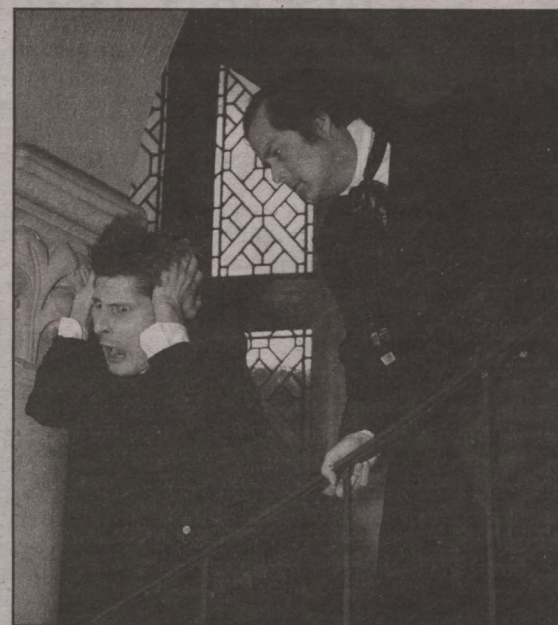



Photo courtesy of Meadow Brook Theatre
Dax Anderson does not want to hear what Tobin Hissong wants to tell him during "Murder by Poe" at Meadow Brook Theatre.

POLICEFILES

On Oct. 9 an employee of the Sharf Shack reported that a consumer on the golf course paid for an item with a counterfeit \$20 bill. OUPD met with the employee, assistant golf pros and the suspected party at the Pro Shop to be questioned. The suspect alleged to not realize the bill was counterfeit. A check of other bills on the suspect's person did not find any other counterfeit bills.

OUPD was dispatched to Varner Hall on Oct. 10 to investigate the smell of smoke coming from the second floor. The source of the smell was discovered to be a burnt paper cup in the microwave in Advising Office.

On Oct. 12 OUPD responded to a report of possible minors in possession of alcohol at Hamlin Hall. Four suspects admitted to drinking earlier in the night and were administered PBT tests. Two of the people involved were issued citations.



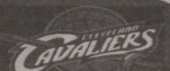
PISTONS

8:05

Shot Clock Period

23 35 1 0

Nov 9 @ 7:30





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Center for Student Activities

CSA

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MURDER


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MTD's tale of AIDS struggle

'Falsettos' depicts plight of homosexuals in early 80s

By BRANDY FREY
Senior Reporter

The Department of Music Theatre and Dance's latest production is "Falsettos" is a play about a unique Jewish family set in 1979 and 1981.

It tells the story of Marvin, a man who has left his wife and child to be with another man, and the effect that has on their relationships as they try to redefine family.

"The whole show is one minute you're laughing and the next minute you're crying because you feel like you can relate to these characters and what they're going through they're just trying to find love," said Chris Rozanski, who plays Marvin.

Falsettos will be performed in Varner Studio Theatre, with shows on Oct. 15, 16, 17, and 18 at 8 p.m. and on Oct. 18 and 19 at 2 p.m.

Some of the major themes of the show are love, relationships, family, AIDS, and the games people play.

"My concept is based around the Rubik's cube," said Director Fred Love. "Jason really is a central character to the show because he seems to be in the biggest turmoil, and so I wanted to have the kid playing with the Rubik's Cube throughout the show."

Austin Reynolds, who plays Marvin's son Jason, viewed the game as central to the show.

"I like how the show revolves around Jason's life and the Rubik's Cube, and the idea that his life is trying to be put together," Reynolds said.

Reynolds, a 13-year-old middle school student, wanted to be a part of the show because he wanted to have the chance work with college actors.

"I think it's an excellent experience for me, being only 13, working with all college theatre majors," Reynolds said. "It's a wonderful experience, really a great, amazing opportunity

and it's a good show too."

Love said "Falsettos" was a groundbreaking production.

"Falsettos" was one of the first musicals to deal with homosexuals and lesbians without making them stereotypes," Love said.

"Playing Marvin was weird because it's so different from anything I've done," Rozanski said. "I've never played a gay character, I've never thought about it. Then we get there and we [Steven Ross, who plays Marvin's lover Whizzer] have a kiss in the show."

AIDS is featured prominently in the show. "It must have been so horrifying for them in the 80s not knowing what they had," said Kristen Hardy, who played Marvin's wife Trina. "When you're on stage on with someone and they die, you see how many lives it touches just with the people on stage. I can't even fathom how somebody would go about dealing with that disease."

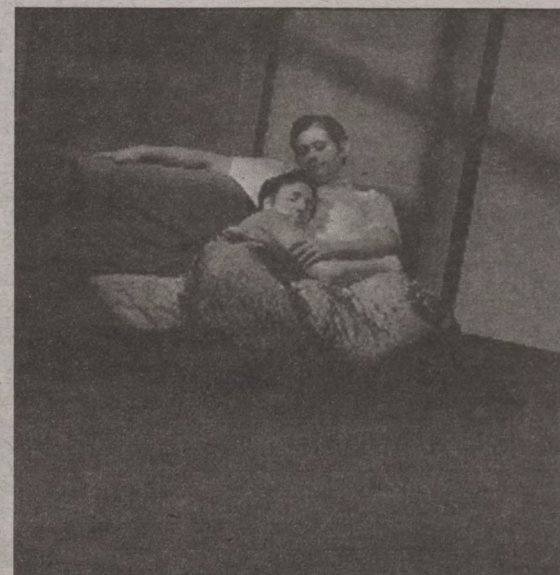


Photo courtesy of OU Music and Theatre Department
Steven Ross (left) playing Whizzer shares an intimate moment on stage with Chris Rozanski, who plays Marvin. Rozanski said "Falsettos" was the first time he played a homosexual.

OUSC lobbies for disc golf course on campus

By COLLEEN MILLER
Copy Editor

Pretty soon, Oakland University students will no longer have to leave campus to participate in one of the most popular recreational activities among college students.

Oakland University Student Congress and the Rec Center are working on bringing a disc golf course to campus, possibly by Thanksgiving.

Disc golf is like regular golf but with frisbee discs, and a basket-like target instead of a hole.

"People always ask me what's the best exercise to get in shape and probably expect an answer like swimming, biking or weight lifting," said Greg Jordan, director of campus recreation. "But exercise that's best to get people healthy is activity that gets you off the couch and participating in whatever you might like to do ... So if this gets you out to throw a disc around, walk the terrain, chase a disc around for a mile, it's another way to contribute to wellness and fitness lifestyles."

OUSC introduced a budget proposal Monday to use \$8,000 in uncategorized funds for the purchase of disc golf equip-

ment and the extension of the three existing trails on and around campus.

The budget is expected to be approved at next Monday's OUSC meeting. Jarret Schlaff, an OUSC legislator and pioneer of the disc golf initiative, said once the baskets are ordered, it should only take two weeks for them to be delivered. The Rec Center has agreed to pay for installation costs.

"Hopefully it will get commuters to stay [on campus]," said OUSC legislator Jake Isley. "Instead of working out at the Rec Center, they check out the disc golf course and trails."

Kate Neely, a sophomore nursing major said that she would absolutely use the course and was excited to call her friends to tell them about it.

"I think that [using the OUSC money for a disc golf course] is fair, it's a recreational activity, anybody can do it," Neely said.

The site, near the upper athletic fields and student apartments, is also awaiting approval. The first tee will be accessible from a pre-existing trail near the cricket field. Jordan said the course will probably be "a couple hundred yards wide by potentially 600 yards deep."

But Randy Drewry, grounds mainte-

nance supervisor, said in an interview last week that the department hasn't even surveyed the site yet.

"I just know it's an area right now full of brush and weeds," Drewry said.

Schlaff said the course will have 18 holes ranging from about 200-400 feet with double-link galvanized chains on each basket. He said the terrain is a variety of wooded and open areas with a bunch of hazards.

According to Jordan, the tees could be cement or natural, depending on the cost difference. The goal is to have a course with as little environmental impact and upkeep as possible.

Instead of putting up expensive signs, the Rec Center is considering using painted landscape rocks found on the grounds to mark each tee, similar to a disc golf course in Shelby Township. Not only will the course be nearly maintenance free, it will also be free for anybody to use.

The Motor City Chain Gang, a Detroit based club that promotes disc golf, is excited about the potential layout and the terrain and said it would be nice for a disc golf course. John Minicuci, a representative from the MCCG said he has been working with Jordan for years on

getting a disc golf course to OU's campus.

"I know there are a lot of players that go to OU ... the local area is bursting at the seams in terms of play," Minicuci said.

The course will allow OU to join other universities in Michigan that participate in intercollegiate tournaments. Central Michigan University and Michigan State University have 18-hole courses on campus, while many others like Albion College have designated courses they use for tournaments. Minicuci said that the Michigan Disc Golf Organization wants to bring events to OU.

Some students do not agree with the OUSC's appropriations, like Lindsay Cassidy, a senior accounting major who works at Bumpers Game Room. "There are so many other ways to use extra money," she said, such as making the game room free for students.

Student Body Vice President Dan Evola said that OUSC receives a lot of ideas for the use of extra money from legislators and other departments. Like Julie Voelck, dean of the library, who proposed Monday that OUSC support a 24-hour cafe in the library.

"Unfortunately, students haven't been pouring in ideas," Evola said.

Former OU student pleads guilty

19 year old faces a 3-20 year sentence for her role in overdose death

By DAN SIMONS
Contributing Reporter

Former Oakland University student Amanda Davidson, 19, was sentenced on Oct. 8 in a Mt. Clemens courtroom to three years in prison for distribution of a controlled substance that resulted in a friend's fatal overdose.

Davidson, of New Baltimore, along with her co-defendant and boyfriend Addison Bade, 20, of Chesterfield Township, both plead guilty to supplying liquid morphine to Charles Szuber, 18, of Columbiaville in Lapeer County.

The two sold Szuber the morphine for \$15. He took one to three ounces before going to bed on March 19 and later died in his sleep.

"I'm very sorry for how this has turned out for everyone involved," Davidson said while at the stand in the Macomb County Circuit Court.

"I can't believe how my actions have affected everybody," Davidson said.

Davidson graduated from Anchor Bay High School in 2007 and won the Bay-Rama Fish-Fly festival beauty pageant held in her hometown of New Baltimore.

After receiving an academic scholarship, she attended OU during the Fall 2007 and part of the Winter 2008 semesters. Friends say she was undecided about her major, but was leaning towards a business degree.

"I can't even describe how much I've



DAVID N. POSAVETZ/The Macomb Daily
Amanda Davidson, above, faces a 3-20 year sentence for selling morphine that resulted in a death.

missed her since they took her," said Kristina Croes, 19, an English Major attending the University of Michigan and close friend of Davidson's.

Croes has known Davidson since they were in eighth grade. They were in band together throughout school and both were part of the Key Club in their

senior year. Croes keeps in contact with Davidson through letters.

"She's always been there for her friends. She's been a strong, intelligent leader and for many a role model," Croes said.

Circuit Judge Mark Switalski commented that while Davidson had a clean

record, she was on a "downward spiral" that led to a "reckless ... stupid thing."

"She wasn't a 'beauty queen gone bad,'" Croes said. "She was a girl with emotional issues, that turned to drugs because her community couldn't offer any alternatives. Drug abuse in New Baltimore is an epidemic."

Prosecutors had originally planned on charging Davidson and Bade with distributing a controlled substance that resulted in death, which carries a maximum life sentence.

The sentencing for possession and delivery of less than 50 grams of a controlled substance results in a 3-to-20-year sentence. For Davidson and Bade, this will include a retraining boot camp to take place before the minimum three years is served.

"[Davidson] will pick up after this with some hard earned lessons," said Switalski after delivering the sentencing.

Defense attorneys initially argued for Davidson and Bade to be sentenced under the Holmes Youthful Trainee which, after serving three years in a special prison for youths between the ages of 17 and 20, would erase the charges from their criminal records.

Davidson was also charged with larceny for stealing the morphine belonging to a terminally ill cancer patient. Switalski ruled that the charge had been served by the 202 days Davidson spent in prison prior to the sentencing.

NEWS BRIEFS



PAUL SANCYA/Associated Press

AAA Michigan says gasoline prices have fallen 40 cents per gallon over the past week to a statewide average of \$3.07. The Dearborn-based auto club surveys 2,800 Michigan gas stations daily.



WILLIAM ARCHIE/AP photo, Detroit Free Press

Chris Ramos, 26, of Ferndale poses in front of his shuttle bus on Monday, Oct. 6, 2008 in Troy, Mich. Powered by biodiesel, the Night Move shuttle bus now offers after-hours travelers rides for \$12 between Detroit and its northern suburbs.

A candid look at the congressional candidates

The views and opinions of Oakland County candidates on hot button topics

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

The House of Representatives plays an important role in the United States government. It serves as a check on the Senate and on the executive branch, and has the power to initiate spending bills and even impeach the president. Each state has a number of representatives proportional to its population, and representatives serve a term of two years after being elected.

On Nov. 4, the congressional election will be very important in economically-ailing Michigan, especially in Oakland County. Michigan has 15 congressional districts, and most of Oakland County (which includes Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac, Rochester, Farmington Hills, Troy, Royal Oak and more) falls under the 9th Congressional District.

Republican Joe Knollenberg and Democrat Gary Peters are the main contenders.

Knollenberg, 75, has held the seat for 16 years in this Republican-leaning district, but non-partisan organization CQ Politics says that Peters, 49, has caught up with him in the polls.

Also running is Libertarian Adam Goodman and non-party-affiliated Jack Kevorkian. Kevorkian's candidacy was revealed at a town hall meeting on Aug. 21, but since then has been unavailable to the press. CQ says he may be a spoiler in this tight election, even though he urged his supporters not to vote for him, or anyone else, in any elections that had the two main parties on the ballot (Democrat and Republican).

Goodman, also, seems to be an enigma. Efforts to contact his campaign have been unsuccessful, and no one seems to know anything about him other than the fact that he's on the ballot. Even the Libertarian Party said they didn't have any information on him other than a post office box address in Royal Oak.

ISSUE	Joe Knollenberg/Republican	Gary Peters/Democrat	Jack Kevorkian/Independent
Gay Marriage	Voted "No" on defining marriage as man-and-woman and on banning same-sex marriages in the U.S. constitution.	He supports extending rights of opposite-sex married couples to same-sex couples.	No available answer.
Wall Street Bailout	He voted against it because it didn't have enough regulations.	He says it's needed now to save the economy, but that it must be regulated more after January.	No available answer.
Auto Industry	"We can't lose more auto jobs." He said he will try to make American companies more competitive.	He supports lending federal money to the auto industry to make cars more fuel-efficient, which will restore the auto industry, he said.	He said he was still formulating his plan on this.
Embryonic Stem Cell Research (Proposal 2)	He opposes it.	He supports it, given certain ethical standards.	No available answer.
Health Care	"We must take [medical malpractice] lawsuit greed out." He supports tax credits to companies proving "wellness programs."	"It's a moral issue that 47 million don't have health care." He supports opening federal employee healthcare to public.	He wants health care to be free to the public, and proposes to pay for it by taxing profits of pharmaceutical companies.
The War in Iraq/Afghanistan	"There is great folly in abandoning [these countries] before [they're rebuilt]."	"We have to end the war in Iraq responsibly, but must start redeploying troops now. Some of these troops must be sent to Afghanistan."	He believes both these wars are wrong and that we should end them now.

Detroit mayoral candidate frenzy

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — A state representative, NBA Hall of Famer, former assistant federal prosecutor and ex-city council president are among a "who's who" list of prominent Detroiters seeking to run the city of 900,000.

They were among the 18 candidates who dropped off petitions at City Hall before the 4 p.m. deadline on Tuesday.

More than three dozen people had picked up petitions for the Feb. 24 special election. Each had to turn in a minimum of 583 valid signatures to make the nonpartisan ballot, with the top two vote-getters moving on to a May 5 runoff.

The winner of that election will fill out the remainder of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's abbreviated second term in office.

If name recognition translates into votes, current Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr., ex-Detroit Pistons star and businessman Dave Bing, state Rep. Coleman A. Young II and three others who lost in previous runs for mayor — Freman Hendrix, Sharon McPhail and the Rev. Nicholas Hood III — should have an edge.

Don't tell that to 41-year-old information technology consultant Duane Montgomery.

"It will be me and Dave Bing as the top two," Montgomery said. "I see him as really my only competition."

"I'm in the best possible position. The more big names, the better. Dave Bing won't get all the votes because there are other big names out. You may only need 10 to 15 percent of the vote to make it to the top two."

Wayne State University political science professor and Center for Urban Studies director Lyke Thompson called Montgomery's theory "interesting."

"But I doubt it," Thompson said.

"With the exception of a few of them, they all have name recognition, which is key to having a successful mayoral bid," he said. "There is strong competition between some well-known actors. That playing field is relatively level."

Montgomery, however, was the first to announce his intentions to run for mayor as Kilpatrick's political career began unraveling after the publication of sexually explicit text messages between him and his ex-chief of staff.

Those text messages on Christine Beatty's city-issued pager contradicted testimony both gave during a 2007 whistle-blowers' trial when they denied being romantically involved. They also were accused of lying about their roles in the firing of a police official.

That suit eventually was settled by the city for \$8.4 million.

Kilpatrick and Beatty were charged in

March with perjury, conspiracy, misconduct and obstruction of justice. Kilpatrick later was charged with assaulting two investigators trying to serve a subpoena.

The publicly popular mayor and one-time political rising star resigned last month as part of a plea deal in both cases and will be sentenced Oct. 28 to 120 days in jail. Kilpatrick will not be able to run for public office until his five-year probation ends.

Without a formidable Kilpatrick in the mix, many of the candidates have a chance, political commentator Adolph Mongo said.

"At this point, this is anybody's game. You are going to see a real, real tight race."

Former city council president Cockrel, Bing and Hendrix are top contenders, Mongo said, though former assistant U.S. attorney and Kilpatrick general counsel Sharon McPhail may act as a spoiler.

"The city needs somebody like me," Bing said after dropping off his petitions. "They need leadership, honesty and someone who has invested in the city."

"My whole life has been about competing and I've usually won. And I expect to win this."

Hood, who graduated from Yale University and is a Detroit pastor; Coleman A. Young II, son of former Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young; and Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans could also make their marks in this race, Thompson said.

Hendrix, chief of government relations at Eastern Michigan University, received more votes than the incumbent Kilpatrick in the 2005 primary, but lost in the runoff.

"It's a good thing, anytime you have this kind of depth of experience and different kinds of talent being offered," Hendrix said. "It's a stark contrast to some comments made earlier this year out of the corporate community who suggested that Kwame Kilpatrick was the only person qualified and able to be in that position."

A special primary is a smoother road than a main election, state Sen. Hansen Clarke said. Clarke lost in his 2005 mayoral bid.

"Many are looking for the easier way into the mayor's office," he said. "It's a shrewd politically tactical way of doing it."

Frances Culver just wants change. The 39-year-old unemployed former special needs teacher was one of the last to file Tuesday.

"I feel all of the previous leaders have not done a good job as far as helping poor people," Culver said. "All of the leaders running now could have invested in the neighborhoods before this election."



PAUL SANCYA/Associated Press
Dave Bing, right, watches Information Technician Reginald Smith stamp his petition for the race to fill out the remainder of disgraced Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's abbreviated second term in Detroit.

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A day in the life of...

...an Erebus actor

New 'Day in the Life' series:
We don't just write the story,
we live the story.

By JARED PURCELL
You/Local Editor

Most people use Saturday evenings to escape the clutches of work or stress from the prior week. Many choose to hit the bar scene or maybe catch a movie with a group of friends.

However, I spent my Saturday night in a crude, dimly lit room wearing a black robe and a ton of makeup while screaming for people to die. Yes, ladies, I am single.

At Erebus haunted house, I was just one of 85 people on staff that Saturday night, working to make the Guinness Book of World Records largest indoor walk through haunted house a success.

The Ambition

So, how and why did I get myself into such a position?

Well, I've always enjoyed the Halloween season. The decorations, the candy, the costumes, the scaring — all of it makes for a great holiday.

This year, I wanted to take my scare tactics to a new level. That is when Erebus came into the picture. Four stories high, proclaimed as the largest haunted house in the world — there aren't many other places with better credentials for me to try, right?

The Arrival

From my house, Woodward gives me a straight shot to my destination. When I was five miles away, I noticed the bright spotlight at Erebus shining in the sky. I felt like the three wise men following the Christmas star — except my destination was far less peaceful.

When I arrived at Erebus, the line to get in was five people wide and wrapping around the exterior of the building and beyond. Luckily, I wasn't waiting in line.

I met up with fellow Oakland Post staff member Rory McCarty and Mary Bonser. They volunteered to assist me in documenting the evening and to get a chance to walk through Erebus — and hopefully make it out alive.

We walked in through the back doors and met a security worker who radioed Ed



Ed Terebus and I share a laugh as we talk about my experience scaring people in Erebus. My hair matted and my makeup running from sweat, I could only think of one thing: "Mission accomplished."

Terebus, one of the founders of Erebus.

Terebus, a 28-year veteran of the haunt business, took me upstairs to the staff break room where actors and workers go to relax or get ready to head into the house. On the way up the stairs, screams echoed through the dim stairwell as people walking through the house became victims to one of the many scares Erebus has to offer.

The Big Daddy

While I was waiting on my turn in the makeup chair, Terebus shared some of the history of his business with me.

Terebus and his brother, James, founded Erebus in 2000. In fact, Ed said that they got more than they bargained for.

"We looked for a building for 10 years and we finally found this one in downtown Pontiac," Terebus said. "It didn't have to be Pontiac but we wanted two stories and plenty of parking. This one is four stories — three up, one down — and we have a 3,000 car parking garage across the street."

When it was time to get in the chair, Terebus gave me a preview of what I was going to be doing and a bit of advice.

"We are going to put you in a spot — it's

going to be relatively easy. We're going to give you some props to work with, some things to do and buttons to push."

Props! I thought I'd just be standing in a corner and jumping out at people. Things had gotten even better.

The Transformation

I was introduced to Lee Hagedorin, the makeup artist. Hagedorin is also a prop and set designer and helps out with other things around the house.

Painting 45-50 faces a night, Hagedorin has his work cut out for him.

"This time of year, it's pretty much 24/7," Hagedorin said about the workload. "There is just so much to do."

Luckily, he is fast at what he does. He said it usually takes six to 12 minutes to get someone made-up depending on how visible they will be in the house.

Hagedorin began dabbing a base layer of blue paint on my face and it actually felt pretty nice. I told him that it felt pretty relaxing and he said that was a common thing.

"A lot of people say that actually," Hagedorin said. "I've had a couple kids

start to fall asleep in my chair. They literally just mellow out and almost nod off."

In less than 15 minutes, I was painted and ready to dress up.

He left to go get me a robe and I leaned closer to the mirror for a better look. The reflection I saw was so unfamiliar that I practically scared myself.

He came back with a big, black, ratty looking robe that I accidentally put on backwards at first and then tore a bit when trying to turn it around.

"It's OK," Hagedorin said about the tear. "It happens."

The Mission

The fact that I can hardly see without my glasses and it being pretty dark in the house made it extremely difficult to see.

Still, I had to play my role. I was a dungeon master who gets to pull a lever that releases a bed of spikes right up to the noses of innocent people. Awesome.

I found a voice I never knew I was capable of producing to help lure unsuspecting people into my death trap. The pure adrenaline rush I got from the screams of terrified strangers felt strangely incredible.

Girlfriends grasping boyfriends; boyfriends grasping girlfriends. I was racking up scares like I invented them.

After 30 minutes, I was sweating bullets, my makeup was running and my vocal chords were screaming uncle.

Lee came to retrieve me from the house and complimented me on my last scare of the night. I felt like a million bucks.

I met up with Terebus again and thanked him for the experience. But his generosity didn't end there. I got a free walk-through of the haunted house.

After walking through the house, I realized how much of a rookie I was. Actors were popping out at every turn from all different directions.

I hopped into my car and headed towards home — with my makeup still on. I caught one driver off guard at a stoplight and then they laughed it off.

With my adrenaline finally lowering, and my throat hurting, I felt like I had gotten the full experience of what it was to spend a day in the life of an Erebus actor.



Here I am at the beginning of the makeup process. Lee Hagedorin was my makeup artist and has been working with Erebus for eight years. He tries to come up with a new idea each time someone sits in the chair. I was wearing a hat so my hair wouldn't get in the way. Lee quickly dabbed on a base layer of blue. The paint was very cool to the skin and actually felt really good. I could almost feel my skin exfoliating.



The final touches are being made as Lee adds fake blood to my face. There can never be enough blood, right?

Throughout this whole process, even though I'm facing a mirror, I can't see myself because my sight is terrible without my glasses. I'm really anxious to get a closer look in the mirror.



After only a minute or two, Hagedorin brought out his paint brushes and began to start the main part of my transformation into a zombie-like executioner. What I found interesting is how he used his hand as his color pallet. The paint is washable and skin-safe so don't use your hand as a pallet for your oil landscape painting — it could get messy.



Getting deeper into the transformation process. Hagedorin told me that the essential guideline to creating a good character: "It's making people not look like people," he said. "As soon as somebody looks human, they associate it and the scare is gone."



I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeVille.

A little hair dye (even on my beard) and I'm ready to scare the living daylights out of anyone who dares approach me.

Eat your heart out Freddy and Jason, there is a new fright master on the block.

Photos on this page provided by Mary Bonser

Getting to know you

A series telling the stories of those who make OU unique

OU student lands an opportunity of a lifetime and lives his dream

By **MONIQUE PHILLIPS**
Contributing Reporter

"Dear ... We are pleased to inform you that you have been selected as one of only three 2008 BET Interns ..." read Oakland University student Pierre Witcher on March 25, 2008 as he sat staring at his computer screen.

In utter disbelief, in that one brief moment, his dream was coming true. Soon, Witcher would be embarking on the internship opportunity of a lifetime.

The 21-year-old communications

student was awarded a prestigious and well sought-after internship at the BET (Black Entertainment Television) Studios in New York City this past spring.

The competition for this internship was so steep that only 36 applications were accepted out of thousands of candidates. Of those 36, only three would be chosen for the job. Prospects varied geographically, mainly from Los Angeles and New York, but the Canton, MI native made a lasting impression that got him the lucrative position.

"This was the internship that I've

worked so hard for," Witcher said. "I talked a good game during the interview."

After he received the initial acceptance e-mail, a series of follow-up e-mails and phone calls ensued. He finally got the chance to speak with BET Representative Sean Pierre Regis who filled him in on the specifics of the job.

"Actually, I had the option of either conducting an over-the-phone interview or an in-person interview," Witcher said. Yet, he decided that his chances would be greater if he did an in-person interview — so he decided to do both.

This tactic, he thought, would make a good impression on the coordinators of the program and would demonstrate his passion for receiving the internship.

Witcher said he found out about the internship through an old friend. Since he was interested in a career in entertainment news, Witcher decided that this would be his chance to take advantage.

"I empowered myself to go through the process," Witcher said.

Big City Business

On May 27, Witcher arrived at the BMW Building, located at 555 W. 57th Street. With his work schedule and duties defined, Witcher began his job.

"My work schedule was very strenuous," he said. "I worked tirelessly Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., without pay for three months."

He described the uneasy adjustments and sacrifices he had to make in order to survive there.

Witcher knew beforehand that there would be no monetary or shelter accommodations, but he was so committed to impressing his superiors and gaining the experience that he was willing to forgo the basic amenities.

For instance, he paid \$750 a month in Newark, NJ, which, according to Witcher, was a deal he was fortunate to receive considering its closeness to New York and the location he was housed.

In addition, he said that it was quite an adjustment from driving a car to taking the bus, train and finally a subway to work everyday.

When he arrived, his duties included working in the production management

sector — logging and transcribing tapes, and conducting research. Some of his efforts included work surrounding the Democratic National Convention and celebrity guests.

When asked if he had any memorable experiences, he responded with a resounding "Yes."

His first included an assignment that involved music mogul/entrepreneur Russell Simmons.

He got the opportunity to go on a shoot with the legendary icon and learn his views on several issues such as Obama and the upcoming election.

He even got an opportunity to go to Russ Communications, Simmons's famed communications business, where he and reporter Tony Ducret interviewed him in his office.

Maybe even more impressive, Witcher met songwriter, artist, clothing designer, and entrepreneur Sean "Diddy" Combs.

"That was the best part of the entire experience," Witcher said. "I went to the showroom on the 10th anniversary celebration of his Sean Jean Clothing Line. Not only that, I received an invite to an actual Diddy party." He went on to describe how there were other music artists and industry executives there.

"I was so overjoyed and overwhelmed by the whole thing," he said. "I was floored."

Worth It?

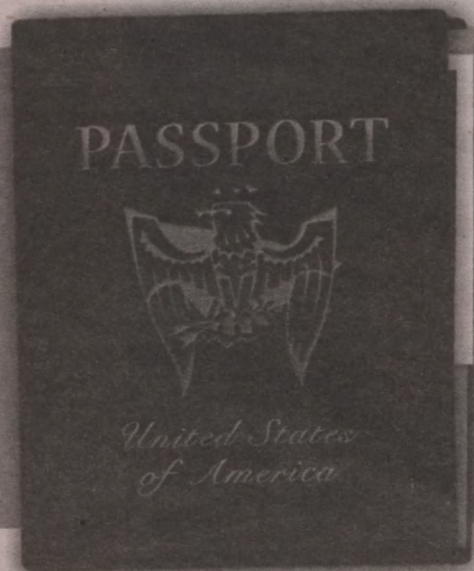
He said that though he had to struggle to maintain himself for three months, he wouldn't have traded the experience for the world.

"Some days I just didn't feel part of the crew, especially since I wasn't on the payroll, you know," he said. "Over time, it did kind of dwell on me, made it hard to keep a smile on my face while trying to keep up the momentum."

Overall though, Witcher said that he was proud and knows that the experience has more than prepared him for future endeavors. "You can't put a price tag on the type of exposure I gained here," he said.

"This is merely a confirmation that dreams do come true and I am a living testament of that."

GOT TO GET AWAY?



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What was your favorite childhood television show?



"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.' That was my favorite by far. Every little boy wanted to be like them."

David Miller
Junior, integrated studies



"Gumby.' I liked the claymation, I thought it was really cool."

Melanie Dupont
Senior, psychology



"Rugrats,' because it was entertaining and since the characters were kids too, it made it easier to understand."

Flavius Popan
Freshman, information technology



"Full House.' I liked the family dynamics of the show."

Lindsay King
Senior, integrated studies

"Rugrats" was one of the very first Nicktoons, with "Doug" and "The Ren and Stimpy Show."

According to
www.imdb.com

Animators had to use five or six "Gumbys" for each scene, since he was made out of plasticine and would disintegrate quickly.

According to
www.imdb.com

What was the first movie you can remember seeing?



"Probably 'Snow White' I think. I saw it in English and I was just learning English because I came from Russia and I was mesmerized!"

Veronica Leontyeva
Freshman, English

"Snow White"
was the world's first
feature-length animated
movie.

According to
www.disneyclips.com

When "Pokemon: The First Movie" opened in theaters in Japan it surpassed the sales of "Godzilla."

According to
www.animationartist.com

"'Pokemon: The First Movie.' I was scared because Mewtwo was trying to kill everyone and take over the world."

Josh Tsao
Freshman, computer engineering

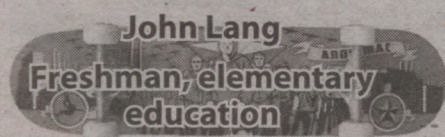
Graphics courtesy of Amazon.com



What was your most treasured childhood toy?



"Probably my skateboard. I've had it since I was little, but I played on my father's until I got mine when I was eight or nine."



John Lang

Freshman, elementary
education



"A little stuffed animal cat named Tuxedo. My dad was in the military and we traveled a lot. I didn't take a lot with me, but the cat always came with me."



Rachel Thomas
Sophomore, physics



"All my G.I. Joe figurines because you got to make forts and bases."

Duncan DeBruin
Senior, economics



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Sports

October 15, 2008

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Stealing the show

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

Next time you attend an Oakland University basketball game, keep an eye out for senior Marissa Wintermantle.

She won't be easy to miss, defying gravity, flying through the air.

She is a captain on the OU cheerleading team. When you see her ten feet in the air, don't worry because she has been in that position for years.

"The first time I tried it I was in the seventh grade," Wintermantle said. "I remember thinking 'oh my God,' I thought that it was really crazy. But now because I am so used to it, it doesn't bother me. I think it's fun."

The OU cheerleading team, along with the OU dance team, Images, performs at every men's and women's home basketball game, providing entertainment and encouraging the crowd to become more involved in the game.

But neither team just shows up to the event and performs off the cuff. A lot of work goes in to making those performances happen. Both teams put many hours a week into perfecting their craft.

OU sophomore dancer Lindsay Yax said that Images practices twice a week for three hours. Wintermantle said that the cheerleading team practices three times a week for three hours at a time.

But neither team practices just for a good performance in front of basketball crowds. They both compete in national competitions. Images has often done very well at the National Dance Team Competition, consistently placing in the top ten.

"We put a lot of effort into competing for Nationals," Yax said. "We have to because we go against a lot of really good teams."

Last year the cheerleading team went to the Universal Cheerleaders Association National College Cheerleading Championships for the first time and placed a respectable 15th, just missing the finals, according to cheerleading coach Tara Palmer.

"For our first year going to nationals we did really well but the disappointment was pretty heavy," Palmer said.

"This year we have more of a fire. Nobody wants to be out and about on the Saturday of the finals, we want to be competing so I am looking for a visit to the finals this time," she said.

Besides competitions and basketball games, both teams perform at soccer, volleyball and hockey games. They also do a lot in the community. Sophomore dancer Nancy Hoppesch said that performing for the community can be very rewarding.

"We've done 'Dancing in the Streets' in downtown Rochester. We did a walk for cystic fibrosis and we also did a fashion show at Somerset Mall," Hoppesch said.

Yax said that helping with the walk was good for the team.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Above, left and below, the Oakland University cheer team and Images Dance Team perform during breaks at the Summit League basketball championship tournament in March 2008.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

See SHOW on page 11

continued from page 19

SHOW

"It was good because we got to perform for people who have been through that experience, it was really nice."

For the cheerleading team, fundraising is an important part of the experience. Wintermantle said that the team holds car washes, bottle drives and in November they hold a ladies night out event. The fundraising helps the team pay for expenses not covered by university funding including traveling to the national competition.

"The girls work very hard at fundraising," Palmer said. "It's difficult, with the way the economy is nobody wants to give away money."

For both teams the hard work and the amount of time they put in is rewarded with the chance to perform. It is what they love to do, even if at times it can be nerve-racking.

"I get nervous all the time," Yax said. "Especially right before we are about to perform. My hands get sweaty and everything, but once the music hits, it all fades away. It's an awesome experience."

The girls are not the only ones making sacrifices for the good of the team. Coach Palmer puts in a lot of work as well, adjusting her life around doing the best she can to build the program.

She said that she was getting married during the preparations for Nationals and they had to send in their performance tape to the committee in order to be eligible for competition.

"So we practiced right up until the Wednesday before

my wedding, I got married on Saturday, came home the next day, finished the tape and mailed on the way to the airport for the honeymoon," Palmer said. "So you can imagine planning a wedding on top of a full time job on top of preparing for nationals, it was a little wild."

But Palmer said that despite the time constraints and work load, she couldn't imagine life without coaching the cheerleading team.

All the hard work and sacrifice is shown in the progress the cheerleading program has made. Before Palmer came on to coach in 2005, OU didn't even have a colle-

"We've done 'Dancing in the Streets' in downtown Rochester. We did a walk for cystic fibrosis and we also did a fashion show at Somerset Mall," Hoppesch said.

giate style cheerleading program.

"Things have just exploded since my first year here," Palmer said. "This year was by far the most competitive year we've had. We are finally being able to recruit girls from different area high schools which in my first and second year we were unable to do."

She said that making it to the national competition

wasn't something she thought would happen until at least her fifth year as coach.

"I tell the girls all the time that we are two years ahead of schedule," Palmer said. "It is great for me to watch the girls grow and watch the program grow and compete at Nationals with Division 1 A schools as if we were a Division 1 A school."

Why no guys?

According to cheerleading coach Tara Palmer, there has been interest from the student body in turning the team co-ed. While she isn't interested now, it may happen in the future.

"If we're going to do this, we're going to do it the right way to build the program," she said. "I would be willing to entertain it, but we played the card smart on the nationals mat as an all-girl program."

"Get nationals under the wing, then wrap our arms around what a co-ed team is going to bring ... that's the way to go."

Motzer dies at age 75

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

Former Oakland University men's soccer coach John Motzer passed away Monday, Oct. 6. He was 75.

Motzer coached the team from 1973-1977. He played a major role in the team reaching varsity status in 1973, in that same year he was named Mr. Michigan Soccer by the Michigan Soccer Association.

"John has always been synonymous with men's soccer here at Oakland University," said Director of Athletics Tracy Huth in a press release. "He represented everything that is good about OU athletics. The pride that he felt about soccer and Oakland University saw no bounds. What he meant to OU soccer and what we felt towards John as a person cannot be measured. We have truly lost one of the great ones. The entire Michigan soccer community is in mourning."

In the team's first year as a varsity sport, Motzer coached the Pioneers to an 11-2-2 record. His coaching record was an impressive 48-16-5 over five seasons.



Coach John Motzer

In 1976, Motzer led the Pioneers to the NCAA Tournament for the first time.

"I hope we all pause for a moment and reflect on his contributions to the game and the positive effect he had on so many young men and women," Huth said.

In 1991 Motzer was elected into the OU Hall of Honor.

Motzer was also an accomplished player, starting his career with junior teams in Hungary, Austria and Germany before coming back home to play on 12 Michigan Cup Championship teams.

He represented Michigan 30 times in international competition and in 1962 played for the national amateur champions, the Carpathia Kickers.

Motzer went to work for General Motors for 35 years after leaving OU.

He is the husband of Susie, father of Gerald and Craig (Becky). Grandfather of Olivia, brother of Lousia Horvath, Giesla (Hubert) Maier and Joseph (Lisa) Motzer. He is also remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Complete 'Madnezz'

By TIM RATH
Sports Editor

The Oakland University men's basketball team may not kick off their home schedule until a Dec. 7 romp against Toledo, but OU will be going crazy for basketball this weekend anyway.

Midnite Madnezz will mark the official start of the NCAA basketball season Friday with a block party in the P-16 parking lot at 8:30 p.m. followed by a pep rally in the O'Rena at 10 p.m.

The event will feature performances from the dance and cheerleading teams, Hooper and the Flight Crew, and appearances by OU athletes, coaches, administrators and student leaders.

"We have put together an evening full of entertainment that will give our fans a great opportunity to get to meet our basketball teams for the first time this year," said Director of Athletics Tracy Huth.

"With the performances, special appearances and giveaways we have planned, the night is sure to be a fun night for everyone."

The men's basketball team is rebounding from a 17-14 season in which they advanced to the Summit League tournament semifinals before falling to IUPUI. They return five starters and welcome a host of new recruits, including nation-

ally-recruited center Ilija Milutinovic.

The women's team will look to advance on a 20-10 season that saw them advance to the Summit League tournament semifinals before falling to Oral Roberts University.



Check out The Oakland Post's website Saturday for photo galleries, video and all of the action from Midnite Madnezz as soon as it happens.

www.oaklandpostonline.com

POST GAME

When Michigan's football team fell to the University of Toledo Saturday, it threw us here in The Oakland Post sports department for a collective loop. It was the first time in history that the mighty "Maize and Blue" fell to a Mid-American Conference team.

In the spirit of surprise, here are four not-so-serious suggestions for more improbable headlines we could see this fall: 1) "Hermann scores 60 to lead Pistons," 2) "Palin leaves McCain campaign to begin hockey career," 3) "OU president Gary Russi dons clown costume for Halloween celebration," 4) "Michigan qualifies for bowl game."



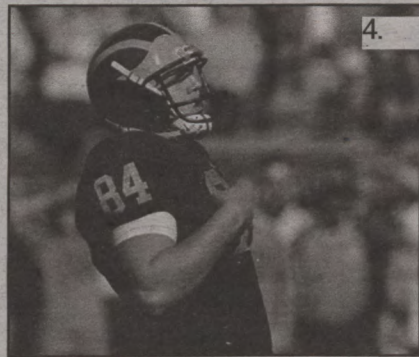
1.



2.



3.



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Photo credits: DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post, TOM MIHALEK/Associated Press, Oakland University, CARLOS OSORIO/Associated Press

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

Sarah Lynch
Soccer

Year: Freshman
Major: Biology

Lynch netted a hat trick in OU's 6-1 win at IPFW Sunday and scored a goal in a 3-1 loss to IUPUI Friday. Through Sunday, she tallied five goals and one assist.

Scores from the road

VOLLEYBALL

Senior Amy Golem hit .325 with 19 kills in 40 swings to lead the Golden Grizzlies to a 3-0 sweep over Centenary Friday. Lauren Duquette added 19 digs to help push OU's record to 5-13 overall on the year.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Oakland University men's cross country team ran to a 10th-place finish out of 20 participants in the Michigan Intercollegiate Championships at Milford Friday. Senior Kevin McDonald led the Grizzlies, finishing 17th overall in the 8K run with a time of 26 minutes, 26 seconds. The women's team failed to place. Junior Erica DeAngelo led the way with a 5K time of 19 minutes, 25 seconds.

MEN'S GOLF

The Grizzlies finished in a tie for 11th place in a field of 15 at the D.A. Weibring Invitational this weekend in Normal, Ill., on the campus of Western Illinois University. Sophomores Robby McNiff and Vince Carango led the team with final scores of 217 (+7) and 221 (+11), respectively.

MEN'S SOCCER

The OU men's soccer team fell to No. 4 Akron by a score of 2-1 Wednesday. Junior Stefan St. Louis scored the team's only goal off of a pass from senior Martin Sandell.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Grizzlies' women's soccer team picked up its fourth win of the season Sunday, rolling over IPFW 6-1. Freshman Sarah Lynch scored a hat trick in the win, while freshman goalkeeper Shannon Cooley won her second game of the season while making three saves. - **Tim Rath, Sports Editor**

Home game stories updated on the daily
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Golden Grizzlies Game of the Week

WOMEN'S SOCCER

IUPUI deals Grizzlies bad hand

By BRAD SLAZINSKI
Contributing Reporter

The Oakland University women's soccer team had many chances to score Friday, but could not hit the back of the net when they needed to.

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis defeated OU 3-1, handing the Golden Grizzlies their first Summit League loss of the season.

OU took the lead at 35:00 into the first half when freshman midfielder Sarah Lynch scored on a chip shot that went over the goalie when the ball bounced off the crossbar.

However, IUPUI equalized quickly when Leslie Walker scored off a header from a free kick 36:17 into the game.

OU outshot IUPUI with the Grizzlies taking seven shots in the first half, to IUPUI's four.

In the second half, IUPUI scored two goals from breakaways, giving OU a two-goal gap.

The Grizzlies had ten shots in comparison to IUPUI's four but were unable to catch up.

Lynch led the way with seven shots total, two of which were on goal. Sophomore midfielder Dani Haelewyn attempted two shots, while junior midfielder Lindsey Blair tallied an assist.

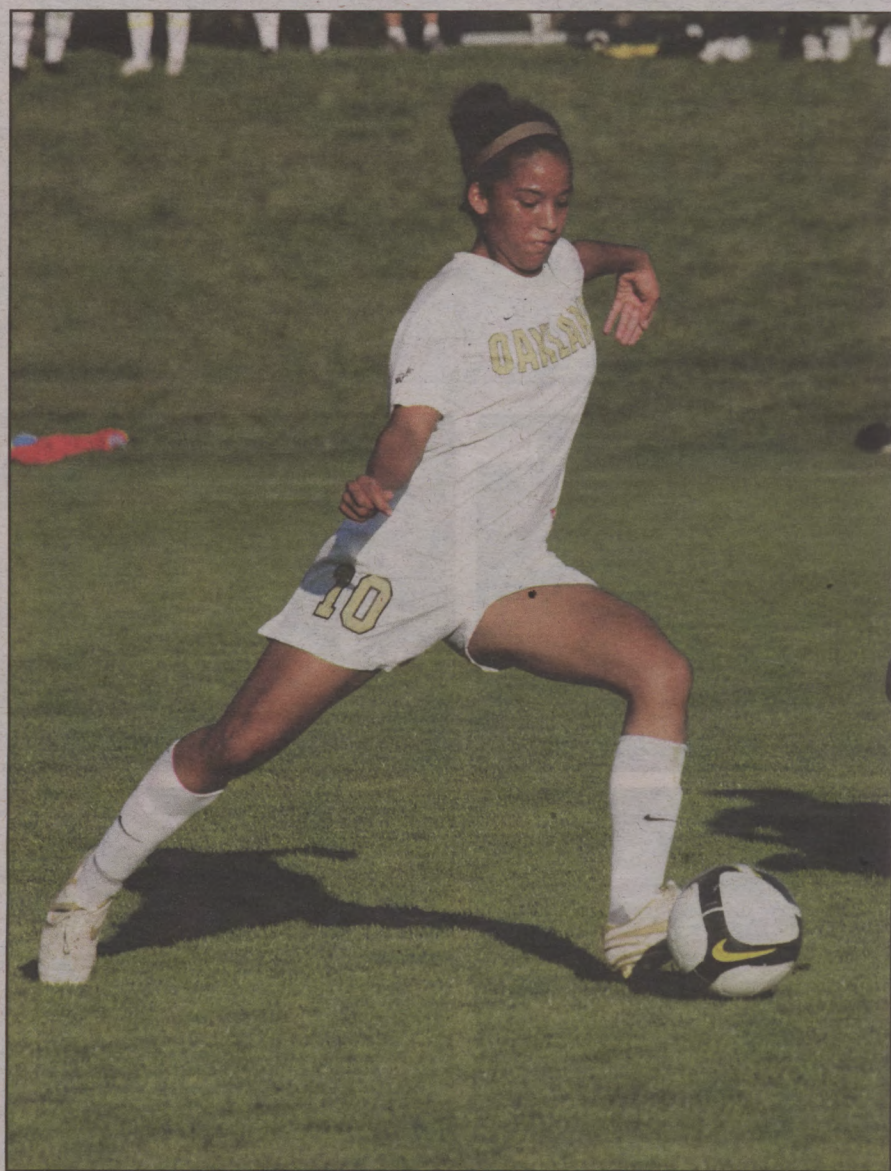


BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
The Oakland women's soccer team celebrates the lone goal scored against IUPUI.

"We saw a determined IUPUI side today," said head coach Nick O'Shea. "We're hoping to get a win and stop making mistakes."

The loss drops OU's overall record to 4-8-0, with a Summit League standing of 2-1-0. IUPUI goes to 7-5-0 on the year with a conference tally of 3-1.

The Grizzlies will return home Friday to take on Western Illinois. Kickoff is scheduled for 4 p.m.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Above, freshman midfielder Jessica Lynch maneuvers past a Jaguars defender. Lynch scored the game's only goal for OU, her second of the year. Below, senior midfielder Kristi Evans looks upfield while dribbling. Evans had three shots in the game, one of which on goal.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Above left, senior midfielder Jessica Boyle looks for the play. Boyle had one shot in the game. Above right, teammate Lindsey Blair plays the ball. Blair had one shot on goal and one assist in the game.



The Scene

October 15, 2008

www.oaklandpostonline.com

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'Sex Drive' crew tells all

By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Editor in Chief

Senior year of high school — hormones begin to rage and the prospect of the "first time" is on the mind as homecoming and prom approach. At 18, some may be hit by the pressures of having sex for the first time before they graduate and get to college.

That is the pressure that Josh Zuckerman's character Ian Lafferty feels in the new comedy "Sex Drive," set to hit theaters Oct. 17.

Cast members Zuckerman, Amanda Crew and Clark Duke shared their thoughts on the pressures young people face with losing their virginity, online dating and the process of filming "Sex Drive" in a college conference call interview that included The Oakland Post on Oct. 1.

Written and directed by Sean Anders, "Sex Drive" follows the story of high school senior Ian and how he plans to fulfill his goal of losing his virginity before his freshman year of college. After being shot down by the girl of his dreams and best friend Felicia (Crew), Ian sets out to meet someone on the Internet. But in order to consummate the relationship, Ian must drive cross-country from Chicago to Knoxville. Felicia and his best friend Lance (Duke) join him on the adventure.

The making of "Sex Drive"

As with most other teen comedies, the interaction and camaraderie between the characters was important for Zuckerman and Crew in preparing for their roles.

"A lot of the preparation we had to do was establishing the relationship between the three main characters as friends, and a lot of that came with rehearsal," Zuckerman said. "And the second part was establishing how the relationships were and the friendships and how they evolved from when they were kids until they were budding adults."

Crew explained that herself, Duke and Zuckerman are all very similar to their characters. "Usually in a teen comedy the female lead is cookie-cutter, girl-next-door, pretty and she serves the purpose for guys to just fall all over her," Crew said. "I just loved that the character had so many layers."



Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment
Josh Zuckerman, Amanda Crew and Clark Duke star in the latest high school comedy.

Crew also joked that in order to prepare for his role, Zuckerman took back his virginity.

"I was 22 when I filmed it and he [Ian] was 18, so I thought about it like it was me when I was 18," Zuckerman said.

Duke said his character Lance was the closest role he has played to his own personality. "The way the character was originally written was kind of a totally different guy. [He was] kind of a classic good-looking, Abercrombie type of guy and it was obvious when he got the girl. So I kind of redid the whole character to some extent," Duke said.

Supporting roles

In addition to working together as three best friends, Zuckerman, Crew and Duke also had the opportunity to work with veteran teen comedy actors James Marsden (Rex) and Seth Green (Ezekiel).

Marsden plays Ian's older brother Rex in the film and Zuckerman had a lot of interaction with him on the set. "He was so funny. He is in real life and as Rex, of course," Zuckerman said.

"He always had ideas about his character. Everyday when we'd film a scene he'd always have ideas about what we could try, physically or changing the dialogue around. He wasn't afraid to go for it."

Duke had a lot of interaction with

Green on the set. "I've actually been friends with Seth for about a year before we did 'Sex Drive,'" Duke said. "So it was nice to finally get to shoot something with him live action because I've done some voices on 'Robot Chicken'. It was a pleasure to work with him, hopefully we can do something soon."

Internet hookups

While Ian finds a female companion online, Zuckerman, Crew and Duke all said that online dating was not for them.

"I think it works and I think it can also not work. I think it has the potential to be very dangerous," Crew said.

"But I think it works for some people to open the door to some people they don't think they can meet in real life. For me, I don't think it would work. I get a little freaked out by it," she said.

Duke expressed similar views. "I'm not really in the market for online dating but I've seen those eHarmony commercials and those people look very happy."

Zuckerman said he has used online chat rooms in the past to get information on specific topics and never for dates but said, "[Online dating] seems like the evolution of dating and of social communications."

see Sex Drive on page 24

Staff Picks

MINI-SERIES TO WATCH: "THE LAST ENEMY"

A 5-EPISEODE MINI-SERIES CURRENTLY BROADCAST ON PBS THAT SHOWS BRITAIN IN A STATE OF SURVEILLANCE FOLLOWING A TERRORIST BOMBING. THIS MYSTERY/THRILLER MAKES YOU CARE ABOUT ITS CHARACTERS AS THEY EXPLORE THE NOTION OF HUMAN TESTING AND PRIVACY VS. SECURITY.

-MASUDUR RAHMAN, SENIOR REPORTER

SONG TO HEAR:

"KEEPS GETTIN' BETTER"

BY CHRISTINA AGUILERA

THE POP ARTIST RETURNS WITH HER FIRST SINGLE IN TWO YEARS. THE SONG IS OFF HER NEW GREATEST HITS ALBUM OF THE SAME NAME, "KEEPS GETTIN' BETTER- A DECADE OF HITS," SET TO BE RELEASED ON NOV. 11.

-LINDSEY WOJCIK, EDITOR IN CHIEF

MOVIE TO SEE:

"RELIGULOUS"

IN THIS FILM, BILL MAHER POSES QUESTIONS RELIGIOUS PEOPLE MUST CONFRONT IF THEY ARE GOING TO CONVINCE SKEPTICAL PEOPLE THAT RELIGION HAS A PLACE IN PUBLIC SOCIETY. MAHER'S FLAWLESS COMEDIC TIMING AND THE EDITING OF LARRY CHARLES ("BORAT") ALSO MAKE "RELIGULOUS" A LAUGH-OUT-LOUD EXPERIENCE.

-SEAN GARNER, CAMPUS EDITOR

BAR TO GO TO:

FUSE LOUNGE & BAR, ROCHESTER
THIS MARTINI BAR RIGHT OFF MAIN STREET IS STOCKED FULL OF LIQUORS AND BOTTLED BEER. THE UPPER LEVEL IS TRULY A LOUNGE, WITH COUCHES GALORE, AND A SEPARATE CIGAR ROOM. THE DJ SPINS ALL THE LATEST DANCE BEATS, BUT THERE IS NO DANCE FLOOR TO SPEAK OF.

-COLLEEN MILLER, COPY EDITOR



Photo courtesy of Amazon.com

"Homecoming" was developed by Double Helix, rather than its original Japanese developers.

Slow but steady progress: 'Silent Hill: Homecoming'

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

REVIEW

"Silent Hill: Homecoming" is the first "Silent Hill" console game in four years, since 2004's lackluster "Silent Hill 4: The Room." It's also developed by the western-based game company Double Helix, a departure from the series' Japanese pedigree. So how does the latest trip to the foggy hamlet fare?

The game follows the story of war veteran Alex Sheperd as he looks for his little brother, Joshua. He returns to his hometown of Sheperd's Glen, only to find the town nearly abandoned and engulfed by a strange fog.

Though the developers of "Homecoming" have rebuilt "Silent Hill's" game play from the ground up, they've taken care to recapture the atmosphere of the series. However, basic changes in things like combat and perspective have totally altered the feel of the game.

In previous games, the camera would be in fixed positions inside buildings to give the player a sense of fear and trepidation when they enter a new area, as well as to give the game a more cinematic presentation. This system has been replaced with a behind-the-shoulder camera similar to "Resident Evil 4" or "Gears of War." You'll always be able to see what Alex is looking at, so the sense of foreboding is gone.

Partly because of this, rather than simply putting the player in unsettling landscapes or pitch dark hallways where the true fear comes from anticipating what might be lurking out there, the game often falls back onto the uninspired "Boo!" tactic. This is also known as the "Resident Evil" things are going to smash through

walls at you" tactic.

Combat is a completely different experience as well. Fighting in "Silent Hill" has traditionally been awkward and simplistic, and few enemies, terrifying as they were, posed a great threat. This time around, Alex can defend himself by executing combos and dodging, due to his war experience. When using guns, there's even a reticle to assist with aiming at specific enemy body parts.

Of course, the disturbing, twitching abominations that inhabit Sheperd's Glen are much more dangerous to justify the improved combat. Encounters with regular enemies like nurses can be fatal if you get cornered by two or three.

However, the creative, thoughtful puzzles of the first three "Silent Hills" have been replaced with mediocre and downright obnoxious ones. One puzzle requires you to align the hands of a clock to a certain time, which is written on a sheet of paper sitting on a table five feet away. Some locked chests require you to solve slider puzzles to open them, which are the game designer's equivalent of saying, "I just don't care."

"Silent Hill: Homecoming" does improve on the "Silent Hill" formula in many ways. The better graphics, dialogue and combat make for a better game experience overall. But they also sacrifice the horror aspect of the survival horror genre. I rarely felt frightened playing "Homecoming," even playing it alone in the dark.

So while Double Helix has made some progress with "Silent Hill," it's really one step forward and two steps back for the series. Hopefully the next game in the franchise will see the reins handed back to the Japanese developer.

Continued from page 23

SEX DRIVE

Sexual healing

Ian feels a strong pressure to lose his virginity in "Sex Drive" and it's also a pressure that Zuckerman feels young people face specifically from the media.

"It's kind of a right of passage to lose your virginity, specifically for men. It's kind of your sexual bar mitzvah," he said. Zuckerman said he feels like a lot of the pressure comes from peers and society but he does not think it is something young people should rush into.

Duke also thought a lot of pressure comes from the media. "I have a brother that's 16 and I don't really think he needs to have sex. I don't really want any pressure on him. I would say I'm against it even though our film is probably pushing it," Duke said.

Crew agreed the pressure is similar for women. "I think it differs from person to person," she said. "Everyone deals with pressures differently and it's your choice. I think everyone goes through that and you just kind of want to get it over with just to get it over with. It's just this awful curse hanging around you that once you're done you're like 'Finally!'"

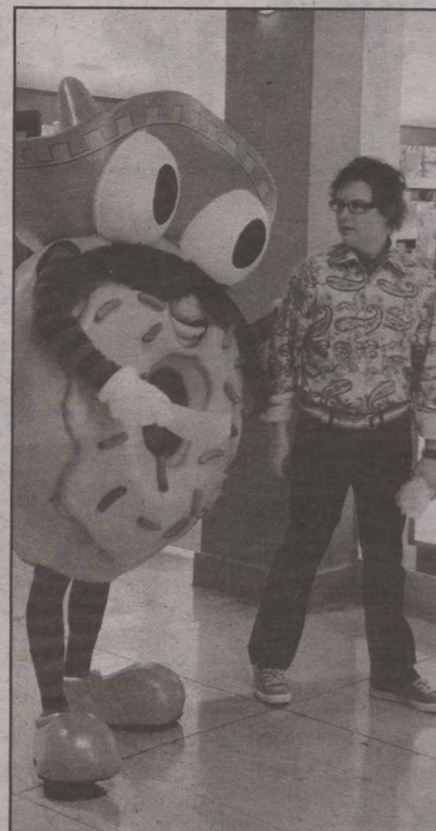


Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment
Ian (Josh Zuckerman) is constantly tortured working at a mall doughnut shop, where he is forced to dress up as a doughnut wearing a sombrero.

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MOUTHING OFF

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Chains we can believe in

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

DISCLAIMER: *Sadomasochists' American Coalition* is a fictional organization. This column is not intended to insult anyone who practices sadomasochism.

Hello, my fellow Americans. This is an open letter to you from the Sadomasochists' American Coalition (SMAC).

As the president of SMAC, I am bringing this message to you on behalf of the sadomasochists of the world because we do not want to be ignored any longer.

Every election year in the past we stayed silent because we feared that throwing our support behind someone would end up harming our champion rather than help because of the prejudices that a lot of people have against us.

But we think that this year is the year that will change all that. This year, our voice will be heard, and the rightful candidate will be elected President of the United States.

I am hereby excited to announce that SMAC has decided to declare its endorsement of Barack Obama.

We support Obama because we believe he is more sympathetic toward people with a diverse sex life.

We support Obama because we can no longer tolerate the openly intolerant religious-fundamentalists in Washington who want to keep us in the dark ages of oppression and inequality.

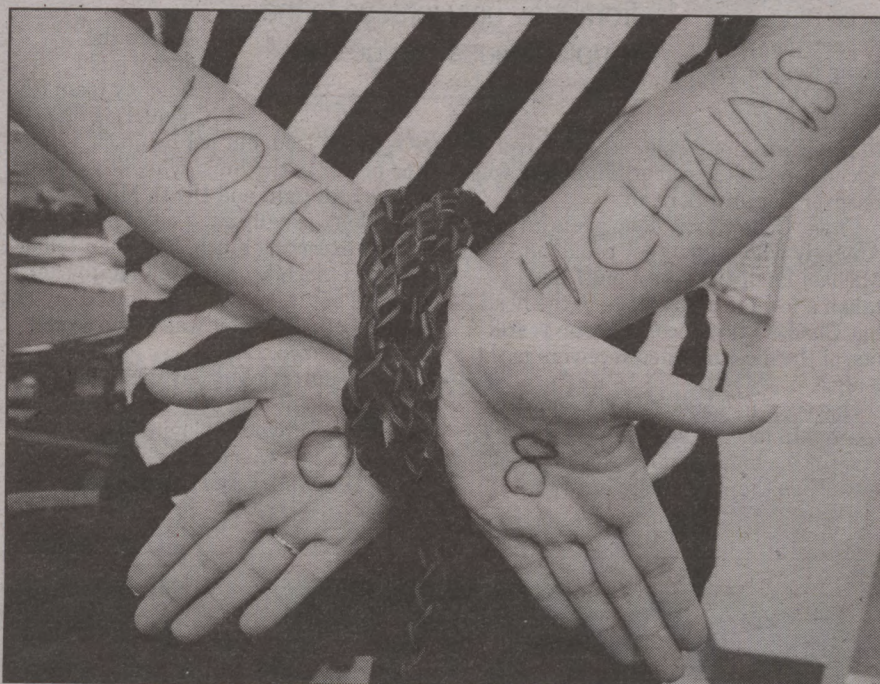
We can no longer stand by and watch as politicians in the highest seats of power look down at some people and deny them rights simply because their preferred sexual activities include getting their ass smacked.

Sure, none of these politicians directly came out and said they discriminate against people or deny people rights based on how they get it on, but we all know how politicians think.

If they had their way, Americans would be allowed under law to have sex at most once a week, in the missionary position, under covers in our bedrooms, with the lights turned off.

No thank you.

An eternity of getting our livers pecked out by an eagle, having them regrown,



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
Whip loving sadomasochists endorse Barack Obama for president. Obama's support of expanding hate crimes is one of the many reasons the S&M group has offered its support to Obama.

and pecked out again and again, all while being forced to listen to Jennifer Lopez, would be preferable to having such a boring sex life.

We say: "Give us sexual liberty, or give us death!"

Sure, Obama has not exactly spoken out in support of us sadomasochists during his campaign, but we know that he supports us in his heart.

Obama's official position on amending the U.S. constitution to allow gay marriages is the same as McCain's — neither support it. Likewise, both candidates' visible support of sadomasochists is the same: nonexistent.

Sexual activity is just one of those things you can't talk about in a presidential campaign, just like you can't support gay marriage if you want to win.

But we know that in his heart, Obama supports our sexual freedom, even if he can't come out and say it openly.

We get it. But with Obama in the White House, we'll at least have someone who's sympathetic to our cause.

Are masochists any less human because they like being smacked around

a bit during sex?

Are sadists any less human because they like to smack around a consensual partner during intercourse?

Are we any less human because we like to feel pain and pleasure simultaneously during coitus?

Have we not eyes to see intolerance with, eyes to see discrimination with, minds and hearts to feel pleasure and pain with? If you cut us, do we not bleed? If you strike us, do we not feel hurt?

Yes, some of us like to be struck. But this doesn't mean that we are to be looked down upon.

We are aware that SMAC's endorsement of Obama has the potential to hurt his likelihood to be elected president. Some people who were considering voting for Obama might now not vote for him, deterred by our endorsement.

It's a bit similar to what happens when certain Christian extremists expressed their support for Obama: a few other people stopped supporting him because of their dislike of those certain Christian individuals. Similar incidents happened to McCain, too.

This usually makes some minority groups hide their support of a candidate because they fear that their support will hurt the candidate rather than help the candidate.

But we feel that this year is the year that this all changes. We have hope that these political games will not hijack the elections, and that despite it all, the next American president will be the right one.

Of course, no candidate is perfect, and Obama is no exception. We sadomasochists have invited both of the presidential candidates to many of our S&M club events and appear to have been shunned and ignored by the McCain campaign, which was no surprise. But we also appear to have been shunned and ignored (on the surface, anyway) by the Obama campaign too, which admittedly stung a little.

It's a striking parallel to how Obama has attended events at Christian churches and Jewish synagogues, but not Muslim mosques. (Of course, McCain hasn't visited a mosque during his campaign either, but the expectations really weren't too high for him.)

It's a tricky subject, to be sure, because even despite the squashing of the rumor that Obama is secretly a Muslim, many still claim that he is Muslim and will not vote for him because of this. By not appearing in mosques, Obama risks alienating some of the minority Muslim voting population. But at the same time, he also gains a little by not alienating some of the more thoughtless population who would use the visit as clinching proof of the untruthful rumors.

So we get it. Obama can't risk coming to our S&M clubs because he might lose some voters who don't like us sadomasochists. We understand, and we forgive him. To us and Obama, it's more important that he wins the election because we would rather have a president who at least supports us in his heart than one who does not.

So please, America, vote for Obama and elect him as the next president because he will bring America out of its swirling depths. He is the personification of change we can all believe in, whether or not we like to be gently caressed in the nude during copulation, or to be struck while wearing leather, chains and the occasional ball-mouthgag.

It's not just a fantasy – get the play-by-play

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

The economy is falling apart, my rent is overdue and I have a test that I need to study for. Yet as I pace back and fourth in my room the only thing on my mind is if I should start Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers or Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck.

I am a fantasy football owner and I take it seriously because I hate to lose. But more importantly, I love to win. I am in a league with some friends and there is nothing better than talking trash to a defeated man, letting him know that he is nothing compared to me.

When it comes to my opponent, I have a Mike Tyson mentality; I want to bite his ear off and watch him bleed. This is all metaphorical of course, since fantasy football is all Internet and numbers. There is no physical contact, but the mentality is war. The win is the only thing that matters.

So I pace back and forth. I research statistics. I listen to sports talk radio for advice. I watch ESPN religiously and I am constantly on the Internet looking for ways to destroy my opponent each week.

Week five was a difficult one for me. My opponent had a good team so there was no room for mistakes.

The first thing I had to do was decide on my quarterback. I picked Rodgers. I hate the Packers, everything from their ugly jerseys to the stupid cheese wedge hats. But in fantasy football there is no room for personal feelings. If you produce, you play, and so far this season Rodgers has been doing well for me.

Next, I had to decide whether to play Cincinnati wide receiver Chad "Ocho Cinco" Johnson or Minnesota wide receiver Bernard Berrian.

Chad "Ocho Cinco" Johnson is an idiot. Anybody who thinks they could out swim Michael Phelps in a pool must have taken a few too many shots to the head but Chad "Ocho Cinco" Johnson is still one of the most talented receivers in the league.

However, he has not produced this season. In fact, he has been a liability for me, so benching him this week should have been the easy choice but I just

couldn't do it. He has too much potential to have a big game. The rest of my team was already set due to injuries and bye weeks. So these two decisions were crucial to attaining sweet victory.

The first one worked. Rodgers had a big day and scored 22 points for me. Johnson, however, let me down once

again. He had a terrible game, only gaining me four points.

Before the Sunday night game, my team (the Conquering Heroes)

was in the lead, but not by much. I had one player in the Sunday night game, Pittsburgh tight end Heath Miller. Tight ends don't usually get a lot of points so I wasn't expecting much, but when Miller scored a touchdown in the first quarter I jumped out of my seat and spiked my hat like a football, as if it was I who scored the touchdown.

Going into the Monday night game, I had a 13-point lead over my opponent. I didn't have anybody playing in the game but all he had was Minnesota's kicker Ryan Longwell. I could taste victory. I

went online and told my opponent that he was worthless garbage and that he didn't have the right to be in the same league as me.

What happened next made me want to kick a hole in my television. His kicker, Longwell, had two field goals and two extra points in the first half. Since one of the field goals was for over 50 yards, it was worth five points in my league. I still had the lead 85-82. In the fourth quarter Barrian, who I sat in place of Johnson, scored on a 33-yard touchdown.

He finished the game with six catches for 110 yards and one touchdown, good for 17 points that I didn't get.

Longwell made the extra point making my score 85-83. Then with 13 seconds left Longwell hit a game winning field goal giving the Vikings a 30-27 win. I watched in agony as the kick sailed through the uprights. His kicker ended the game scoring 14 points. I lost 86-85.

Afterwards I was forced to endure the trash talk; there was nothing I could say. But the fantasy world keeps spinning and there is no time to sulk I have to prepare to annihilate the Death Dealers, my next opponent, and I plan on showing him no mercy.

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Government move unclogs more credit

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The government put itself four-square into the country's banking business Tuesday, resorting to what President Bush conceded was the unwelcome choice of buying into the system to loosen paralyzed channels of credit.

The president said the decision to buy shares in the nation's leading banks — a kind of federal intervention not seen since the Depression era — was "not intended to take over the free market but to preserve it."

But the administration was clearly conflicted by the action.

Said Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson: "We regret having to take these actions. Today's actions are not what we

ever wanted to do — but today's actions are what we must do to restore confidence to our financial system."

At a news conference last month, Bush defended his administration's increasingly aggressive market interventions to deal with the biggest upheavals on Wall Street in seven decades.

"I'm sure there are some of my friends out there saying, I thought this guy was a market guy; what happened to him?" he said. "Well, my first instinct wasn't to lay out a huge government plan. My first instinct was to let the market work until I realized, upon being briefed by the experts, of how significant this problem became."

Said Paulson: "Government owning a stake in any private U.S. company is objectionable to most Americans — me included. Yet the alternative of leaving

businesses and consumers without access to financing is totally unacceptable."

Nine major banks will participate initially, including all of the country's largest institutions. The first bank to take advantage of the new program was Bank of New York Mellon which announced Tuesday that it would sell \$3 billion in preferred shares to the Treasury.

Some of the nation's largest banks had to be pressured by Paulson to participate, who wanted healthy institutions that did not necessarily need capital from the government to go first as a way of removing any stigma that might be associated with banks getting bailouts.

It was the latest in a long series of moves taken by the administration and the Federal Reserve over the past several weeks to prop up a weakening financial industry.



RED HUBER/AP photo

Casey Anthony, mother of missing 3-year-old Caylee Marie Anthony copes with tears in Kissimmee, Fla. Tuesday, Oct. 14, as her attorney, Jose Baez, conducts a news conference about the grand jury hearing in Orlando that is considering possible charges against Anthony.

Florida mother indicted in murder of her daughter

By **MARK WANGRIN**
Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — The mother of a missing 3-year-old girl was arrested Tuesday and charged with killing her daughter, even though the child's body has not been found during an exhaustive four-month search.

A grand jury indicted Casey Anthony on charges of first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse, aggravated manslaughter and four counts of lying to investigators about the disappearance of her daughter, Caylee, State Attorney Lawson Lamar said. The mother is being held without bond.

If convicted of first-degree murder she could face the death penalty or life in prison. Prosecutors said no decision has been made on whether the death penalty will be sought.

Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary said investigators' satisfaction that the indictment had been issued was tempered by what it concludes about the girl's fate.

"Speaking as a father, a day doesn't pass where I wish the evidence that we have gathered didn't add up to the painfully obvious," he said. "Sadly, I cannot change the facts surrounding the investigation."

He said investigators would continue doing "everything in our power to find little Caylee."

A few hours before the sealed indictment was issued Tuesday, the 22-year-old Anthony stood silently, sometimes crying, as her attorney told reporters she is innocent.

NIW BRIEFS

10-12 | Russian President Dmitry Medvedev oversees a series of missile launches meant to be a reminder of the country's nuclear power. | Biologists report that they have successfully kept the Mississippi gopher frog species from dying out.

10-13 | New York Times columnist Paul Krugman wins the Nobel Prize in economics. | North Korean diplomats say they will again allow the United Nations to inspect its main nuclear facility.

10-14 | An Ashville, N.C. woman changes her name to Cutoutdissection.com to protest animal dissection in schools. | U.S. intelligence officials report that foreign hostages taken by insurgents have increased by 500 percent. | China's defense minister demands that the U.S. cancel a \$6.5 billion arms sale to Taiwan if relations are to improve.

Wildfires rage near Los Angeles



MIKE MEADOWS/Associated Press

A firefighter battles flames at a mobile home park early Monday morning, Oct. 13, north of Los Angeles after intense Santa Ana winds swept into Southern California and whipped up a 3,700-acre wildfire.

Syria establishes formal diplomatic ties with Lebanon

By **ALBERT AJI**
Associated Press Writer

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria formally recognized Lebanon for the first time Tuesday by establishing diplomatic relations with its neighbor — meeting a U.S. demand to do more for regional stability even as Damascus pursues indirect peace talks with Israel.

Lebanon and Syria have not had formal diplomatic ties since both gained independence from France in the 1940s and the move by President Bashar Assad ends six decades of non-recognition. Both countries announced plans to open embassies by the end of the year.

Lebanon's Western-backed prime minister, Fuad Saniora, praised the development as a "historic step on the road to confirming Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and its free decision-making."

"It is the situation which Lebanon and the Lebanese have long hoped for," he said.

Relations between the Arab nations have been lopsided since the 1970s, when Syria sent its army into Lebanon and retained control there for nearly 30 years. Ties unraveled when former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was killed in a 2005 car bombing that many Lebanese blame on Syria — a charge Syria denies.

Hariri's assassination triggered huge anti-Syrian street protests and Damascus caved to U.S.-led international pressure and withdrew its tens of thousands of troops from Lebanon a few months after the bombing.

But establishing diplomatic relations remained a pressing demand of the anti-Syrian majority in Lebanon's parliament, which saw it as an important symbol of recognition of Lebanese sovereignty.

Some observers say Syria is more comfortable dealing with Lebanon now that its ally Hezbollah has gained veto power in a unity government that was formed in July. In May, Lebanon also installed a president sympathetic to Syria.

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