

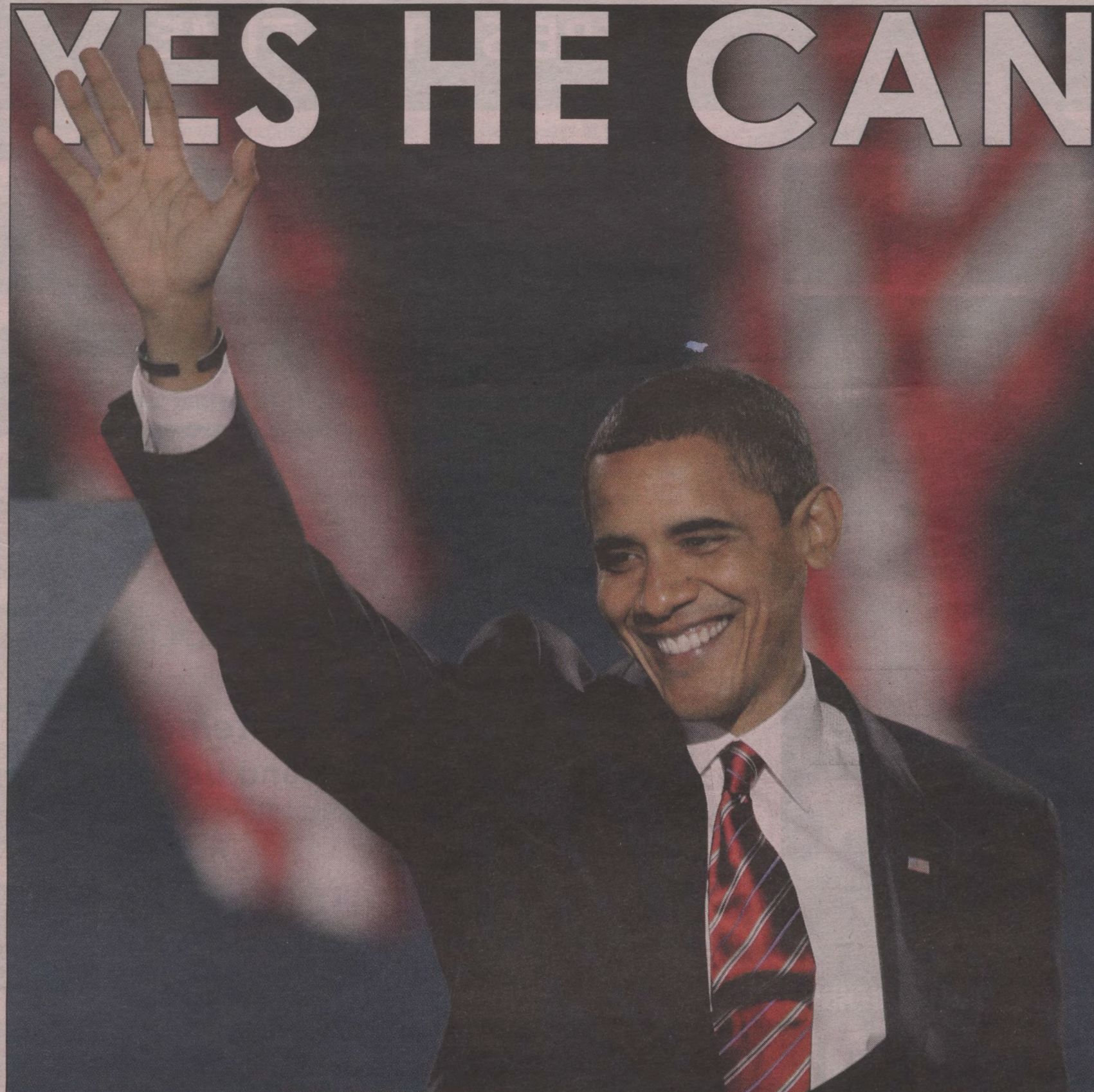
# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

November 5, 2008

Volume 35, Number 10

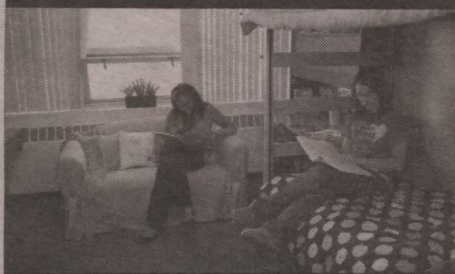
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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Copy Editor Colleen Miller shares how it pays to be proactive with your representatives.



## Campus page 8

Environmentally conscious students celebrate holidays at OU in an eco-friendly fashion.



## Local page 12

They came, they saw, they voted. See what voters had to say as they exited the booths.



## The Mix page 14

Snap! Crackle! Pop! OU students discuss their favorite cereals, breakfast foods and commercial slogans.



## you page 16

Read up on how to do your best to avoid the season of sickness.



## Sports page 18

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As the entertaining political season comes to a close, The Oakland Post takes a look at what ensued over the last 10 months.



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Iran's parliament shows signs of a lack of confidence in President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.



OBAMA WINS!

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# Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

November 5, 2008

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Chauncey Billups should have retired as Detroit's 'big shot'

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, we were introduced to a new leader. After many years of getting used to the way things were run, the change rocked us to our very core. Regardless of the outcome, it was a historic and memorable occasion.

We are speaking, of course, of Allen Iverson's introduction to the media as the new point guard for the Detroit Pistons.

(Real talk: After listening to the same talking points all year, we're as sick of election coverage as anyone else. Less "Change We Need" and more "Need for Speed" — please.)

The arrival of the eight-time All-Star and 2000-01 NBA MVP doesn't come without a hefty price tag. Going to the Denver Nuggets in exchange for "The Answer" is our own starting point guard, Chauncey Billups, as well as valuable reserves Antonio McDyess and Cheikh Samb.

Since the retirement of Red Wings captain Steve Yzerman in 2006, Billups was arguably the face of the Detroit sporting scene. He was originally declared a "bust" after being selected third overall in the 1997 NBA Draft by the Boston Celtics and producing very little until four years later.

However, Billups blossomed after signing a free-agent deal with the Pistons in 2002 while earning the respect, admiration and curiosity of metro Detroiters for his deft passing touch, clutch shooting and workmanlike rise to status among the NBA's elite class of point guards.

By 2004, he had reached the pinnacle of his game in leading the Pistons to a 4-1 series victory over the heavily-favored Los Angeles Lakers. For his 21 points and 5.2 assists per game average in the series, he was named the 2004 NBA Finals MVP.

Since that memorable upset win, the Pistons have encountered a gauntlet of difficulties. Despite six straight appearances in the Eastern Conference Finals since 2003 using a unit of fellow misfits including Richard Hamilton, Rasheed Wallace, Tayshaun Prince and Ben Wallace, they have only reached the NBA Finals twice.

Sports media have diagnosed the fall of

the "sans-superstar dynasty" as the result of everything from aging to a lack of motivation, an NBA conspiracy to a simple lack of talent.

Which brings us to Monday's deal, apparently little more than a business move.

An Iverson-for-Billups trade; from a talent standpoint is at best a lateral-moving transaction of two extremely talented, if aging, NBA icons.

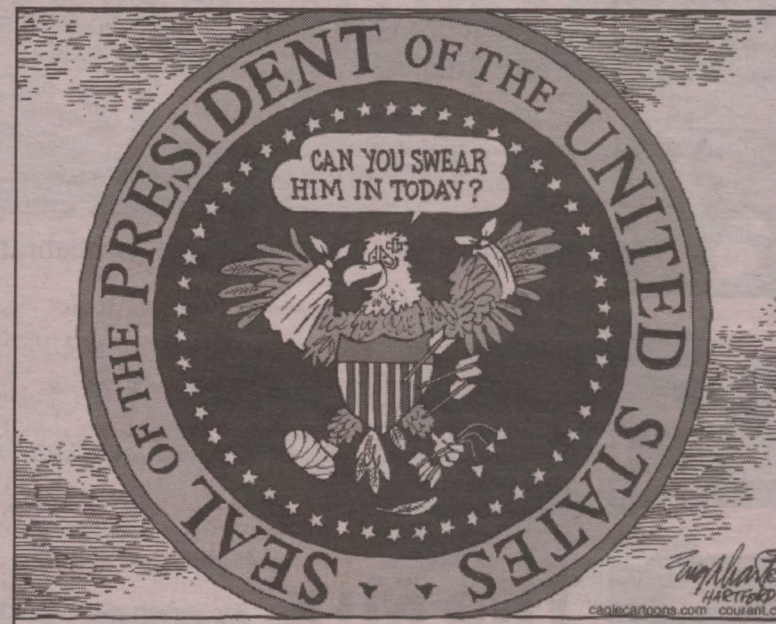
However, Billups' contract guaranteed him several million dollar for the next three seasons, whereas Iverson's is only good for the rest of the 2008-09 season. Should the Pistons choose not to renew the 33 year-old Iverson's contract next summer, this trade will give them money to pursue drool-worthy free agents to be such as Cleveland's LeBron James, Miami's Dwyane Wade and Toronto's Chris Bosh.

Indeed, the prospect of seeing any of those All-Stars in Pistons' royal blue for years to come is tantalizing. Because of the flexibility offered by Iverson's expiring contract, the Pistons will be able to rebuild what is seen as a decayed core of talent while remaining contenders to return to the NBA Finals.

Sports folk heroes in Detroit often take a painful journey to the top. Yzerman played for years on pitiful teams before the Red Wings' rise to success in the 1990s. The Pistons' Joe Dumars played second fiddle to Isiah Thomas and Grant Hill for his entire playing career before coming into his own as general manager of the team. The Lions' Barry Sanders played for... well, he played for the Lions.

For Billups' workmanlike rise to stardom, his consistency and his talent, his departure should have been far more glorious than marking "the end of an era" in Pistons' history. He should have retired in royal blue amongst the rest of the blue-collar "sans-superstar dynasty" that represented Detroit so well.

In the wake of this trade, Detroit sports fans are left with many questions as we try to find a new face for our sporting scene. In this instance, Iverson isn't "The Answer."



BOB ENGLEHART/The Hartford Courant

**W**hat do you think? Have a news tip?

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61 Oakland Center  
Rochester, MI 48309

**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 "Out with a big bang" in the October 29 issue, the side bar should have been labeled "Summit League Championship rosters."

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

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

*— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*



# Noisy wheels get the grease in local government

**Colleen Miller**

**Oakland Post  
Copy Editor**



The election is over, but democracy can happen every day.

There are dozens of people in everybody's pockets holding office ready to be complained to, nagged at, persuaded, or whatever your favorite method is for getting what you want. It works because you elect all these people, presumably, and they want to keep you happy. If they don't, they run the risk of losing their office or seat to somebody who can promise to make you happier, safer, richer, etc.

An excellent success story starts with me living off Tienken Road nearby campus. Until a couple weeks ago, there were tire-blowing potholes that caused an excruciating sound when semi-trucks and lawn maintenance trailers passed

by. Every time it rained or snowed the holes got deeper and hub caps littered my lawn. Every day in the winter there would be one person shoveling asphalt out of the back of a road commission truck with nobody to watch traffic. Talk about dangerous. The road was just as terrible a little east of Rochester Road, where swerving was necessary to keep your suspension from exploding.

I wrote to the city to see if there was some sort of re-pavement in the works and if there was a legal loading limit, because I was sure the trucks were what was ripping up the road. I didn't receive a response; apparently it wasn't worth Rochester Hills' time to inform me that Tienken was a county road and not under their jurisdiction. That is, until I wrote a similar e-mail and copied it to my elected officials, being clear to mention that I vote.

I received numerous e-mails in the following weeks from the offices of

**"Not only did I make it bearable to sit in my living room ... but I can drive to Rochester without appearing hammered."**

my representatives in the Michigan Legislature informing me of the contact they made with the Oakland County Road Commission. I also received an e-mail from the road commission about plans for Tienken in the future (which didn't include the stretch in front of my house) and that they sent somebody out to monitor for violations of the loading limit.

I was still sort of unsatisfied and ready to write again about the pathetic state of the road in front of my house and how their plans to patch as needed weren't sufficient.

But then it happened on a glorious Friday morning; instead of hearing puncturing rubber and rattling cargos I heard the "beep beep" of a construction vehicle.

Every problem area I whined about has been resurfaced. Not only did I make it bearable to sit in my living room with the window open, but I can drive to Rochester without appearing hammered. The county will save money, save time,

and maybe even save the life of a road commission worker.

So maybe you've never voted in elections other than the presidential one because you don't know anything about who is running. Seek them out, because those are the people that represent you and what you want from the government. Here's a run down of the people you can contact:

• **Local:** Try your city council, your mayor and your police chief. Look for them on your city's website.

• **State:** Your elected officials in the Michigan Legislature depend on your House and Senate districts, listed on your voter registration card. Your state representatives and senators are who you want to go to for local concerns, you can find them and the legislation they are involved in at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

• **National:** Similar to the state Congress, the U.S. Congress elects a House Representative from your district, but two Senators from the entire state.

So don't wait until a decision is made to gripe about it; with a simple e-mail, you can influence the decisions made on your behalf.

## STUDENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY

David Schwartz, Ph.D.  
Graham Counseling Center

## HOT TOPIC



### Fighting off the winter blues, part 1

It is that time of year again. The leaves have fallen, the weather is colder and winter is just around the corner. For many people winter portends the onset of the "winter blues."

People who suffer from the "winter blues" experience a depressed mood each year beginning in autumn and continue to feel depressed throughout the winter months and into the early spring. Many people who experience the "winter blues" have a feeling of cabin fever, have less energy and motivation, gain weight, and feel more fatigued during the winter months.

Especially during these stressful times of economic turmoil people need to pay close attention to any significant changes in their moods. Financial, occupational, academic and social stressors can all lead to a worsening of the "winter blues."

When the "winter blues" become more severe in intensity and duration, you may be suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder. SAD affects approximately 15 million Americans

every year with women suffering more frequently than men.

Some of the hallmark signs of SAD are: anxiety, loss of energy, social withdrawal, increased sleep and sleepiness, loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed, overeating (especially foods high in carbohydrates), weight gain, and difficulty concentrating and processing information.

Luckily there are some things you can do that can help you avoid the "winter blues" and SAD. Next week in this column we will list some helpful tips for battling the winter blues and SAD. Also, there is help on campus at the Graham Counseling Center.

Students receive the first six sessions for free and subsequent sessions for a nominal fee. In addition, the Graham Counseling Center is offering a workshop on Anxiety and Depression on Nov. 12, noon-1 p.m. in the Lake Michigan room of the Oakland Center and Nov. 13, 4-5 p.m. in the Lounge of Hamlin Hall.

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PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/Associated Press



DAVID GUTTENFELDER/Associated Press  
 (Above) President-elect Barack Obama walks on stage to deliver his victory speech at his election night party at Grant Park in Chicago, Tuesday.  
 (Left) Supporters cheer as they hear results from television at Obama's election night party at Grant Park.

# Bringing on the Change

By DAVID ESPO  
 AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama was elected the nation's first black president Tuesday night in a historic triumph that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself.

The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic senator from Illinois sealed his victory by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of wins in hard-fought battleground states — Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Iowa.

A huge crowd in Grant Park in Chicago erupted in jubilation at the news of Obama's victory. Some wept.

McCain called his former rival to concede defeat — and the end of his own 10-year quest for the White House. "The American people have spoken, and spoken clearly," McCain told disappointed supporters in Arizona.

Obama and his running mate, Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, will take their oaths of office as president and vice president on Jan. 20, 2009.

As the 44th president, Obama will move into the Oval Office as leader of a country that is almost certainly in recession, and fighting two long wars, one in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan.

The popular vote was close, but not the count in the Electoral College,

where it mattered most.

There, Obama's audacious decision to contest McCain in states that hadn't gone Democratic in years paid rich dividends.

Obama has said his first order of presidential business will be to tackle the economy. He has also pledged to withdraw most U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 16 months.

Fellow Democrats rode his coattails to larger majorities in both houses of Congress. They defeated incumbent Republicans and won open seats by turn.

The 47-year-old Illinois senator was little known just four years ago. A widely praised speech at the Democratic National Convention, delivered when he was merely a candidate for the Senate, changed that.

Overnight he became a sought-after surrogate campaigner, and he had scarcely settled into his Senate seat when he began preparing for his run for the White House.

A survey of voters leaving polling places on Tuesday showed the economy was by far the top Election Day issue. Six in 10 voters said so, and none of the other top issues — energy, Iraq, terrorism and health care — was picked by more than one in 10.

"May God bless whoever wins tonight," President Bush told dinner guests at the White House, where his tenure runs out on Jan. 20.

The Democratic leaders of Congress celebrated in Washington.

"It is not a mandate for a party or ideology but a mandate for change," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

Said Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California: "Tonight the American people have called for a new direction. They have called for change in America."

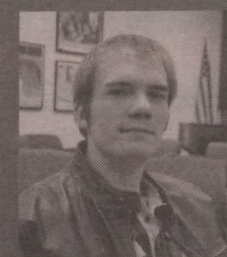
Shortly after 11 p.m. in the East, The Associated Press count showed Obama with 338 electoral vote, well over the 270 needed for victory. McCain had 127 after winning states that comprised the normal Republican base.

The nationwide popular vote was remarkably close. Totals from 58 percent of the nation's precincts showed Obama with 51 percent and McCain with 47.9.

Interviews with voters suggested that almost six in 10 women were backing Obama nationwide, while men leaned his way by a narrow margin. Just over half of whites supported McCain, giving him a slim advantage in a group that Bush carried overwhelmingly in 2004.

The results of the AP survey were based on a preliminary partial sample of nearly 10,000 voters in Election Day polls and in telephone interviews over the past week for early voters.

## OU students react



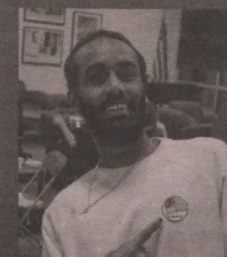
"[I felt] a little iffy at first, but when I heard them speaking [on TV], how groundbreaking it was ... how enthusiastic he was ... I'm a McCain supporter, but I figure if Obama does a good job, then everyone wins."

**Michael Dunaskiss**  
 freshman, psychology



"I'm a first time voter. I just feel like my vote counted. I'm so excited for America because this really is a change. I was just losing hope in America until I saw that screen and I saw Barack Obama — the 44th president! and I was so elated."

**Edith Marshall**  
 freshman, undecided



"I knew going in today Obama was going to win, but it seemed they called it really early. ... It is more of a landslide than I was projecting. I thought it was going to be by a safe margin."

**Naved Ali**  
 senior, philosophy and economics



# Election briefs for Michigan districts, proposals

## Proposal 1 passes

Michigan voters on Tuesday passed a medical marijuana ballot measure — making the state the 13th to allow severely ill patients to use the illegal drug.

With 42 percent of the precincts reporting, 63 percent, or 1,077,103 people, voted "yes" on Proposal 1, which removes state penalties for registered patients to buy, grow and use small amounts of marijuana. Thirty-seven percent, or 619,882 voters, were opposed.

## Race close on Prop 2

The measure would change state law to allow people to donate embryos left over from fertility treatments for scientific research. Those embryos, which may or may not be suitable for implantation, would otherwise be thrown away as medical waste.

With 48 percent of precincts reporting, 52 percent, or 1,059,837 people, voted "yes" on Proposal 2, and 48 percent, or 966,148 voters, were opposed.

— Jeff Karoub, Associated Press



GARY MALERBA/Associated Press  
Democratic congressional candidate Gary Peters greets supporters as they celebrate.

## Peters takes Oakland County

Democrat Gary Peters declared victory Tuesday in an Oakland County congressional district, building a solid lead against Republican Rep. Joe Knollenberg with the help of Barack Obama's win in Michigan.

Peters, flanked by his family, said he would move into Congress as "part of a bigger movement across America that elected Barack Obama president."

"We are going to be able to take America back," Peters told cheering supporters.

## Dems push for more seats

**1st District:** Democratic Rep. Bart Stupak of Menominee defeated GOP state Rep. Tom Casperson of Escanaba, and three others.

**2nd District:** Hoekstra, R-Holland, defeated Democrat Fred Johnson, and two others.

**3rd District:** GOP Rep. Vernon Ehlers of Grand Rapids defeated Democrat Henry Sanchez and Libertarian Erwin Haas.

**4th District:** Rep. Dave Camp, R-Midland, defeated Democrat Andrew

Concannon, and two others.

**5th District:** Rep. Dale Kildee, D-Flint, defeated Republican Matt Sawicki, and two others.

**6th District:** Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, defeated Democrat Don Cooney, and two others.

**8th District:** Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Howell, faced Democrat Bob Alexander, and three others.

**10th District:** Rep. Candice Miller, a Republican from Macomb County's Harrison Township, defeated Democrat Robert Denison, and two others.

**11th District:** Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, faced Democrat Joseph Larkin, and two others.

**12th District:** Rep. Sander Levin, D-Royal Oak, defeated Republican Bert Copple, and three others.

**13th District:** Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, D-Detroit, defeated Republican Edward Gubics, and two others.

**14th District:** Conyers, D-Detroit, defeated Green Party candidate Clyde Shabazz and Libertarian Richard Secula.

**15th District:** Dingell, D-Dearborn, defeated Republican John Lynch.

— Ken Thomas, Associated Press

# 2008-09 Lecture Series

Presented by OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S Student Life Lecture Board and Student Program Board



## DR. DREW PINSKY

Millions of listeners came to know Dr. Drew Pinsky, more popularly known as "Dr. Drew," as the co-host of the nationally syndicated radio call-in program "Loveline." When the show expanded into a television format in 1996 and enjoyed an unprecedented five-year run on MTV, Pinsky's loyal and appreciative fan base grew to include millions of additional young viewers seeking Pinsky's compassionate, intelligent and non-judgmental answers to their tough — and often embarrassing — questions.

Today "Loveline," which is syndicated by Westwood One, can be heard on more than 100 radio stations across the country, five nights a week. In addition, Pinsky is currently the star of the VH1 show "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew," and the host of the Discovery Health Channel's "Strictly Sex with Dr. Drew," an hour-long program that addresses common health problems and offers advice and related information to viewers. He also recently hosted an hour-long special on Lance Armstrong titled "Lance Armstrong: Stories of Survival." The special offered an exclusive, intimate conversation with Armstrong on what it means to survive and "live strong."

Pinsky is a practicing American board-certified internist and addiction medicine specialist. He is currently the medical director for the Department of Chemical Dependency Services at Las Encinas Hospital and a staff member at Huntington Memorial Hospital, both of which are located in Pasadena, California. He also serves on the faculty at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California as assistant clinical professor of psychiatry, and continues to run a private practice.

**Tuesday, November 18, 2008**

**7 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center**

This lecture is free; no tickets are required. Seating is on a first-come basis.

The Oakland Center is located on the main campus of Oakland University, one mile east of I-75 off the University Drive exit. Free parking is available in lot P-1.

For more information about this program, or to request special assistance with attending this lecture, please call the Center for Student Activities at (248) 370-2400. Additional information can also be found on Oakland University's Web site at [www.oakland.edu/csa](http://www.oakland.edu/csa).

This program is co-sponsored with the Student Program Board and presented with the support of student tuition and the Division of Student Affairs.



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## Halloween goes green at OU

By JANICE WILLIAMS  
Contributing Reporter

In an effort to raise awareness about recycling, Oakland University Eco Interest Students, along with the Environmental Coalition, hosted Green Halloween Saturday, Nov. 1. By conserving energy, reusing materials, and recycling plates and candy wrappers, Eco Interest Students turned Halloween into an environment friendly celebration.

Kristen Kimsey of Eco Interest Students said there are many ways holiday celebrations take a toll on the environment in ways the average celebrator might not notice.

"Halloween, for example, all the wrappers, people just toss 'em and things like that. A lot of electricity is used. If you can tell, we're reducing electricity with the lights dimmed, and all the plates and everything are going to be recycled," Kimsey said about the event.

Kimsey is a SOPE — sustainability, outreach, peer educator — a position students can apply for and if they fit the credentials of what a SOPE stands for. They are put in charge of many different groups and organizations that are affiliated with housing and improving life on campus.

Kimsey's job is to oversee the EIS and make sure they are fulfilling their requirements for living in the eco-friendly dorms. She's also in charge of planning

eco-friendly programs for OU's campus.

Mickinze Irwin, a member of EIS, gave a few examples of how the Green Halloween party was more eco-friendly as opposed to most Halloween celebrations.

"Instead of DJ'ing and stuff like that we decided to do different things like live entertainment. And not specifically a big boom box, we just used a little one so it uses less electricity," Irwin said.

Small flashing lights that are usually used as Christmas decorations lit the party on the first floor of Vandenberg Hall. There were also Halloween decorations hanging from the ceiling and walls, all which could be reused and recycled. The coalition also promoted other ways of making Halloween eco-friendly by using recycled costumes.

"Just going to a thrift store and grabbing old clothes instead of buying something that's brand new. Or going through your own closet of clothes that you haven't worn in a while and cutting them up and, revamping 'em," Kimsey said.

Along with free food, live entertainment, music, games and a pie-eating contest there was also a costume contest. The winner of the Green Halloween costume contest, Anurag Jawanda, the event chair of the Environmental Coalition, was "Polluted Earth."

Dressed in a green sweater, a brown shirt, and jeans, all of which came from Plato's Closet, Jawanda placed candy wrappers and garbage on her clothes to complete the look of a polluted Earth.

Jawanda said she pieced the outfit together so that her green sweater symbolized the grass, while the brown blouse represented the soil, and the garbage placed all over the sweater represented the pollution on Earth caused from littering.

When asked about how she came up with the idea of the costume, Jawanda said, "I wanted to help raise awareness because the Earth is polluted. And we need to recycle and clean up the Earth."

Other eco-friendly contestants dressed as water bottles and newspapers in an effort to encourage students to recycle. There were also students entered in the contest as polyester and cotton, a hobo and a Mexican robot.

Students created their own costumes as opposed to buying them, which contributed to making Halloween green.

The Environmental Coalition's founder and president, Avery Neale, also gave

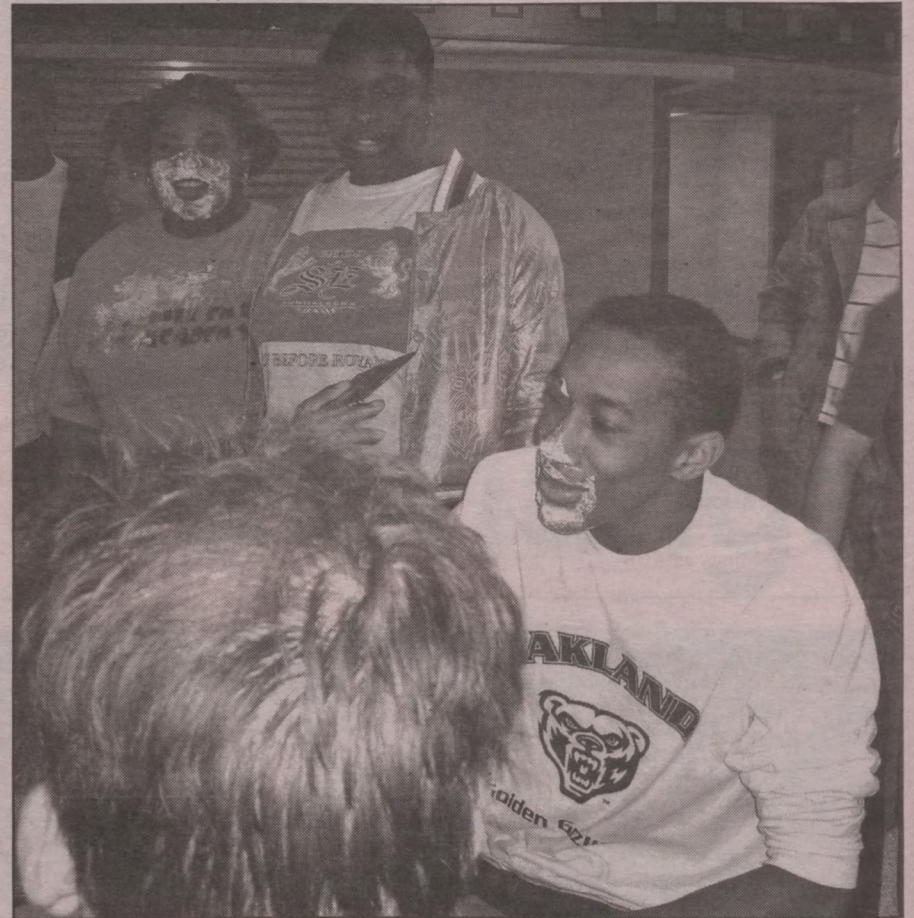


Photo courtesy of OU Eco Interest Students  
A few students gather after a pie eating contest. Green Halloween was created to make students more aware of the environment consequences of conventional Halloween celebrations.

some ways in which people can become more environment friendly during the holidays.

"Everyone has tons and tons of decorations during the holidays, keeping lighting to a minimum or setting them to a timer, or even turning them off before bed can conserve energy," Neale said.

Neale also suggested that when people get clothes as gifts during the holiday season they should go through all of their own clothes and donate the things they don't want or wear anymore. Old electronics can be donated as well because certain parts can be reused.

"Instead of throwing away the wrapping paper from gifts, you can recycle it, and that would reduce waste. Just by reducing waste and electricity during those times can make a difference," Irwin said.

The Environmental Coalition is an

organization concerned with improving OU's environment by coming up with ideas to promote recycling, waste reduction and energy efficiency around campus.

The coalition is responsible for the blue recycling bins that are placed all around campus buildings and in the resident's halls.

They also work with other student organizations on campus to find better ways to make OU's campus eco-friendly and get more students interested and involved with the green movement.

For more information on the Environmental Coalition check out their Facebook group, OU Environmental Coalition.

For more on the Eco Interest Students, contact Kristen Kimsey at [klkimsey@oakland.edu](mailto:klkimsey@oakland.edu).

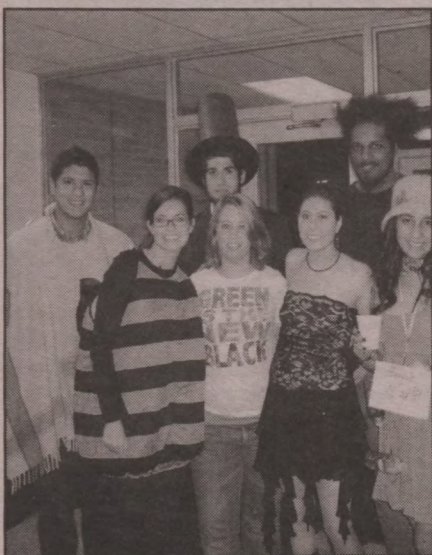


Photo courtesy of OU Eco Interest Students  
A group of students take time out of their Green Halloween celebrations to smile for the camera.



# Russi and Campus Rec awarded

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

People may sometimes think that a college like Oakland University is a separate entity in itself, but OU is actually connected to and influences many businesses and institutions.

This was apparent when Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce awarded OU's president Dr. Gary Russi the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Russi accepted the award on Thursday Oct. 30 during the 2008 annual Sunrise Pinnacle Awards, sponsored by RRCC. At the ceremony, RRCC also presented the Wellness at Work Award to OU's Department of Campus Recreation.

RRCC is a non-profit organization whose focus is to develop the business in the area of Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township.

According to Anne Burns, RRCC's Marketing and Communication Director, RRCC gives the annual Lifetime Achievement Award to "an individual who has been successful in their business ventures, and who

epitomizes the hopes and dreams of Chamber business members, and who actively supports and encourages many of them."

Russi has been the president of OU since 1996. Before that, he served as OU's vice president of academic affairs since 1993.

Russi's contract as OU's president was recently extended by the board of trustees this September to last until 2014.

In his 13-year tenure, Russi oversaw a major expansion period of OU, including the construction of the Science and Engineering Building, the Recreation and Athletic Center, Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology and the Student Apartments.

In September 2008, OU and Beaumont Hospitals announced the official approval of the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, a private medical school slated to officially start in 2010. Currently, the school is undergoing the accreditation process.

RRCC credited all these reasons and more for giving Russi the award,

and thanked Russi for his "stalwart support of education, the Rochester community and Oakland University."

OU's Campus Rec was also recognized, receiving the Wellness at Work award because of its promotion of fitness of employees in the workplace through its Shape Up OU program. RRCC's executive director Sheri Heiney said they were "impressed with the ongoing encouragement of participants, as well as the incentives and rewards for employees to continue working on their health goals."

Shape Up OU is a three-year-old program open to OU faculty and staff members to help them with exercise, nutrition and stress management. Mila Padgett, assistant director of Campus Rec, said that there are at least 120 people enrolled in the program each year, and that although the success of Shape Up OU varies for different people, there are some extraordinary success stories.

"There are individuals who lost 60 pounds over the three years," she said. "People who embraced it have certainly been helped by it."

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## Best of POLICEFILES Fall 2008

On Sept. 6, students at a 6000 USA apartment were cited for marijuana use after police responded to a suspicious odor complaint. Police also confiscated drug paraphernalia that included a package labeled "Bluntzilla Superblunt."

OUPD was dispatched to Meadow Brook Drive and Adams Road on Sept. 11 to check on a report of a deer that had been hit by a vehicle. The deer was severely injured and had to be "dispatched."

OUPD were dispatched to the 2000 University Student Apartments to check on the welfare of a person lying in the grass. The person was highly intoxicated and a group of stu-

dents were gathered around attempting to keep the person conscious. The person was also shirtless, had on only one shoe and had visible vomit on his pants. The Rochester Hills Fire Department were contacted and transported the person to Crittenton Hospital.

On Aug. 19, two men reported an incident that occurred on Aug. 14 while they were trimming tree limbs around the gazebo at Meadow Brook Hall. A limb fell and hit one man. When the other man tried to move the downed limb, a chainsaw used on the job fell, striking the man on the head with the motor end of it. The man suffered seven stitches as a result.



# OUSC combines Halloween with civics

By RORY MCCARTY  
Senior Reporter

Oakland University Student Congress's Trick or Vote took place Thursday evening in the Pioneer Dining Hall of the Oakland Center.

The evening alternated between the reverberating beats of dance music and the fluid movements of dance groups like ASIID, former champions of MTV's America's Best Dance Crew and the more serious segments where the emcees would give out facts about voting.

"It is similar to 'Rock the Vote,' when universities invite famous people to simply come to their event to help them spread the word of how important it is to have these registered people actually go out and make their vote count," said OUSC Multicultural Affairs Director Kristin Dayag.

A combination of trick or treat and voting awareness event, Trick or Vote brought a unique juxtaposition of colorful costumes and political rhetoric.

In keeping with the Halloween theme, donuts and cider were available, pumpkins were being carved, Halloween costumes were judged in a costume contest

and Trick or Vote attendees were making their own music videos in front of a green screen.

On the political side, information about the political issues was available at tables around the event, and a ballot projector showed first-time voters what to expect when they got to the polls on Election Day.

Voting pledge cards were also available, which students could fill out so that OUSC would be able to call them and remind them to vote.

The dance group ASIID, took center stage shortly after the national anthem performed by the group Princeton. Dance routines were performed throughout the evening and were judged by the ASIID crew.

The emcees, Jonathan Jenkins and Jen Doptis, both kept the crowd pumped up in between dance acts and also distributed information about aspects of the presidential election, such as the Electoral College.

"All the first time voters make some noise!" Jenkins yelled to a wildly cheering crowd.

Doptis would later explain about Proposal 1, and how Michigan would

become the 13th state to legalize the use of marijuana if it were passed.

A poll of voters' likely choice for president was conducted through the method of listening to how loudly the audience cheered.

According to Dayag, the event had two emcees, one representing each major party. Dayag said this was done to "keep it from being biased."

Many event attendees were enthusiastic about Trick or Vote.

"I think it's a good way to get the students together and get them energized to vote," said Lola Arthur, a senior in communications.

Kitto Vongprachanh, a sophomore in the business major, said he thought the show was good, but he doesn't feel it influenced him in his voting in any way.

"Always been Obama, always gonna stay Obama," Vongprachanh said.

Dayag said she was happy how the event turned out. "I'm just so happy that OU is part of the statistic of getting people out to vote," Dayag said.

In addition to promoting the election through civic awareness events like Trick or Vote, OUSC registered 899 new voters this year.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post  
America's Best Dance Crew champion ASIID performed for a crowd of students at Trick or Vote sponsored by Student Congress.



Log on to **www.oaklandpostonline.com**

Sunday at 4 p.m. to join in or just watch our exclusive live blog for the OU Women's Basketball exhibition opener against the Mustangs of the University of Western Ontario. The live blog will be hosted by The Oakland Post Sports Editor Tim Rath.

Also, don't forget to check out next week's issue of the Oakland Post for our preview of OU's independent student film festival Grizzdance.

All content in our print edition can also be found at our website.

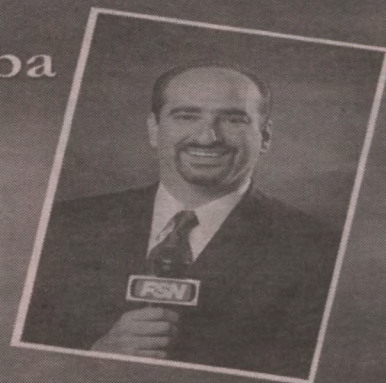
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# OU students to attend inauguration

By SEAN GARNER  
Campus Editor

On Jan. 20, over 100 Oakland University students will have the opportunity to see Barack Obama sworn in as president in person, courtesy of the Center for Student Affairs.

Starting Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the CSA window in the basement of the Oakland Center, OU students, faculty and staff will be able to reserve a spot on a trip to Washington D.C. for the inauguration of Obama.

The cost for the first 56 people to sign up will be \$30, with the price jumping to \$80 for each student thereafter.

The event is sponsored by both CSA, Student Congress and Travel America, a new OU club. CSA director Jean Ann Miller, who was interviewed before the result of the election was announced said the trip presents a unique opportunity for students, because it will mark the first time either the president or vice president will not be a white male.

"Hopefully, whoever is elected today will generate a wave of people who are going to come, because regardless of who gets elected, it is going to be historic,"

OUSC will cover the remaining \$50 of the costs for the first 50 students. Saman F. Waquad, legislative affairs director for OUSC, said she thinks the discount will encourage students to participate in the trip and to greater appreciate for their civic heritage.

"The reason we decided to cover a lot of the costs is because we wanted younger voters to feel like their vote counts, and one of the great ways to do that is to see the next president inaugurated in person," Waquad said.

Waquad also said that, in addition to the unique educational experience, the trip will also provide students with a chance to connect with one another and perhaps make new friends.



REINHOLD MATAY/Associated Press  
Several OU students will have the opportunity to see Barack Obama get sworn in as the 44th President of the United States.

Waquad also said she thinks the trip will give students something to aspire to.

"This is kind of the position we want to be in in a few years. We want to be the leaders of tomorrow," Waquad said. "Going to a presidential inauguration is an opportunity that students may not get later on in life when they get busy with their jobs and their personal lives."

Lori Marsh of CSA said she thinks the trip would be a great opportunity, even for those who supported John McCain.

"I think it's an experience to be able to say, 'I went and saw an inauguration, whether it was someone you supported or not,'" Marsh said. "If your lucky there may be twenty presidential elections that you are able to vote in, and so the

chance to go see them when you live 10 or 11 hours away is really just a great opportunity."

The students making the trip will leave Monday night on two motor coach busses and are scheduled to arrive around 8 a.m. on Tuesday.

The Washington trip is part of "Cities: Explore a City a Month," series of trips organized and sponsored by CSA in conjunction with the College of Arts and Sciences.

The next "Cities" event will be a weekend trip to Mt. Pleasant and Frankenmuth to learn about their Native American and German cultures, respectively.

During the trip to Mt. Pleasant, students will recognize Native American Heritage Month by visiting the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College.

"The state of Michigan is very rich in Native American culture," Miller said. "It will be kind of unique to study that culture from our perspective. Being students, staff and faculty and seeing some of the philosophies and practices of that culture will be very valuable."

Space is still available for the trip and the cost is \$10.

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## Voters flock to booths

*Young and old stand together for a chance to vote for history*

By JARED PURCELL  
You/Local Editor

Maybe it was the weather or maybe it was the chance to be a part of history. Whatever the reason, many voters visited booths on Tuesday to vote on various issues.

Mothers with carriages, people with pets, couples holding hands, young and old — voting booths became a haven for diversity.

At the Community Center in Berkley, the line managed to stretch through the building and out the doors, but the unseasonably warm weather and sunshine helped voters enjoy their experience.

John and Joann Dodson have been residents in Berkley for 31 years and have noticed more youth and first-time voters heading to the polls.

"It's sort of scattered but more so than recent years," Joann said of the younger crowd at the polls.

The couple expressed how they support the increase in young people voting.

"It is so important to their future," Joann said.

"They need to get their feet wet from the get-go," John said.

Both expressed their support of Barack Obama as well.

"It's time for change," John said, echoing one of Obama's main campaign slogans.

Chris Reynolds is an 18-year-old first-time voter in Berkley. He said he voted for Obama and that he believes his generation will live up to the expectations of having a record youth vote.

"Pretty much everyone I've talked to [my age], they're all voting," Reynolds said.

Bar Schramm, 50, supports McCain and voted for him at the Berkley precinct.

"[I like] his policies," Schramm said of McCain. "Everyone of them. Taxes, energy, security."

Although he didn't necessarily think McCain had a chance at winning, Schramm still stands by what he believes in saying that voting is the American thing to do.

Schramm also planned to pick up his 19-year-old daughter from the University



Many voters stand and wait to vote at the Community Center in Berkley on Tuesday morning. The line managed to stretch out of the building.



JARED PURCELL/The Oakland Post

of Michigan to make sure she gets to vote as well.

Although he doesn't expect an impressive turnout from young voters, he thinks that it will be higher than other years.

Sisters Kelley and Nicole Merenius, 21 and 18 respectively, both cast votes for John McCain. They both made trips back from Michigan State University in order to participate in the polling at Holy Name Catholic Church in their hometown of Birmingham.

They said that their father is a small business owner and they voted for McCain because they believe his policies will support small businesses.

"I wanted to make a difference and have a say in the future," Nicole said.

Garrett Moscow, was one of the younger voters that visited the Holy Name precinct in Birmingham. Eighteen years old and attending Seaholm High School, Moscow believes that he is not alone in the polls when it comes to young voters.

"They want their voice to be heard," Moscow said. "I think 18 is the mature age for people to vote."

James Thomas, 38, of Berkley, hopes that the youth get more involved in voting but also gives some advice for them and everyone else to keep in mind for future elections.

"Don't take it for granted," Thomas said. "Investigate and do fact checks before you decide a party affiliation."



Voters stand at their respective booths in the social hall of Holy Name Catholic Church in Birmingham on Tuesday in hopes that their vote will be a winning one. JARED PURCELL/The Oakland Post



John and Joann Dodson (left) and Nicole and Kelley Merenius (right) stand outside their precincts after voting. Although there is a generation gap, they all shared a common theme: they were voters.



# Economy, competition closes local shop

By GABE OUZOUNIAN  
Contributing Reporter

Old Guard Hobbies, located in Sterling Heights, a popular hobby shop for tabletop gaming enthusiasts and model builders alike, has closed its doors.

Old Guard, an independent hobby shop that opened in 1993, saw a steady decline in business once the economy started depriving people of disposable income. Jeff Standley, the current owner of Old Guard, said that because the store caters to a niche audience, specifically tabletop gamers, it depends on people spending nondiscretionary funds.

"When I decided to close, I kept blaming myself, thinking I could have been a better manager," Standley said. "But its not just me, a lot of stores around here are closing as well."

Standley has been the owner of the store for four years and has worked at the location for 14 years. He took over the store when the previous owner, Al Slisinger, died of a brain tumor. Since then, Standley has felt awkward running the business saying that he never got the full training he needed.

"While he was training me to run the store, I kept [telling] him, 'teach me more, I'm not ready for this', and he told me that there was always more time," said Standley. "But you never know when you're going to wake up with a brain tumor."

Another factor in Old Guard's closing was competition from Games Workshop, a U.K. based company that specializes in the popular Warhammer series of models. Games Workshop has four locations in metro-Detroit, including Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Novi and Ypsilanti. The company provided Standley's store with their series of models, which Old Guard sold at a discount.

As Old Guard began to compete with local Games Workshops, Standley's store began experiencing delays in shipping requests. Representatives for Games Workshop were unavailable for comment.

Since the closing, Standley wants to move on to a different job.

"... a lot of stores around here are closing as well."

"I'd been trying to pass the store onto one of my employees. This job was just too unstable," Standley said. "But the guy I was training said that his funding fell through and that he couldn't do it."

Now that the store is closing, Standley is actively training to be an ambulance driver with aspirations of eventually becoming a paramedic.

Even though Standley has begun preparations for leaving Old Guard Hobbies, he said that when the store closes, there will be aspects of the job he will miss.

"More than anything, I'm going to miss the people. Our customer base was really strong, some of these guys have been coming here since the store opened," Standley said. "One of my employees, Steve, I remember him coming here when he was just a kid, buying Pokémon cards. Now he's almost 20 years old."

Frequenters of the store are also mourning the store's closing, including

a student of the College for Creative Studies and local, Gabriel Bañuelos.

"I've been going since I was in junior high. I guess that would have to have been almost 10 years now," Bañuelos said. "I was looking for a local hobby shop that had Dungeons & Dragons stuff, and when I got there I saw all the models and jumped right in."

Bañuelos added that he will probably purchase any models he wants online, rather than entering a Games Workshop, claiming that he finds the atmosphere of the chain store too pushy.

Steve Perry, an employee of Old Guard says that he will also miss the store.

"I've been coming here for 15 years and was so happy when I finally got a job here," Perry said. "I remember a [tournament] that we hosted where people from four different states competed. Jeff [Standley] and I took fourth place." Perry said that he will continue his hobby and try to keep in contact with Standley.

Old Guard Hobbies closed Oct. 31. For reviews of Old Guard, visit [www.insiderpages.com](http://www.insiderpages.com). For more information on Games Workshop, visit [www.games-workshop.com](http://www.games-workshop.com).



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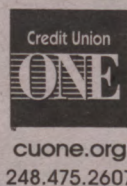
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# What's your favorite brand of cereal?



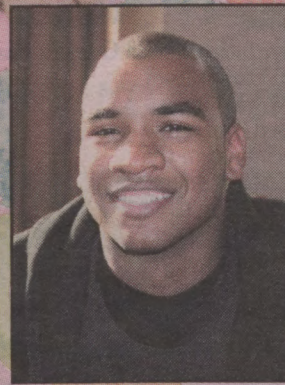
**"I'd say Count Chocula because it reminds me of my childhood."**

Mark Bierbower  
Sophomore, undecided



**"Raisin Bran. I like picking out the raisins and eating the rest."**

Clintisha Newman  
Junior, biology



**"I love Frosted Flakes. They're basic and delicious."**

Ameer Allah  
Junior, English



**"Cinnamon Toast Crunch because it's always what we have in my house."**

Carolyn Moon  
Freshman, undecided

In 1952, four characters competed to be a mascot for a new breakfast cereal: Newt the Gnu, Katy the Kangaroo, Elmo the Elephant and Tony the Tiger.

According to [fitnessandfreebies.com](http://fitnessandfreebies.com)

Battle Creek is the cereal capital of the world. It is home to Kellogg and Post.

According to [foodreference.com](http://foodreference.com)



This issue's photo  
contest winner is:

Vail, Colorado, taken last March.

Ben Treppa

Senior,  
occupational safety and health

Think you can do better?

Send your best shot to the photo editor at [dustinaalexander18@gmail.com](mailto:dustinaalexander18@gmail.com) and you could be featured in an issue of The Oakland Post. At the end of the semester, we will choose one grand prize winner.



## Breakfast, lunch and dinner

What breakfast food could you eat any time of the day?



"An omelet because eggs are filling. You can add things to an omelet that are not breakfast foods, more dinnery things. It's an all day long meal and simple to make."

Thomas Rowland  
Senior, art



"Waffles. They're easy to make, they fill me up and taste great!"

Patrick Darga  
Junior, mechanical engineering

## What's your favorite cereal slogan?



"Rice Krispies — snap, crackle, pop."

Stephanie Lyon  
Freshman, undecided



"Kid tested, parent approved." (sic)

Jim Hoover  
Senior, education

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# Done with the sickness

*The simplest steps can be the best ways to avoid a virus this year*

By JEANETTE WILLIAMS  
Contributing Reporter

Ready or not, the flu season is here — and the cold season. In fact, the season for all types of viruses has arrived.

If you haven't already been ill, there is still plenty of time for that to happen before the season is over.

Perhaps you'll get a cold and spend a week congested and fatigued, going through menthol cough drops like they're breath mints.

Maybe you'll get the flu and spend three or four days curled up in a ball, too exhausted to move, wondering how you can be so hot and so cold at the same time.

You might even be unlucky enough to catch the Norwalk virus — a fairly common gastrointestinal bug that tethers you to the toilet. This one is especially contagious and just loves the dormitories.

While it is impossible to eliminate the risk of contracting one of these diseases, there are several preventative measures that will significantly reduce the risk of catching a cold, flu, or other diseases.

## Wash Your Hands

"Certainly always wash your hands before eating, and wash your hands frequently," said Graham Health Center Director and Nurse Practitioner Joanne Talarek.

She recommends washing for 20 seconds with soap and water to remove organic matter such as germ-laden mucus. She also highly recommends using hand sanitizer frequently and to avoid touching your mouth, eyes and nose as much as possible.



## Take Care Of Your Body

What some people may not realize is that stress, irregular sleep patterns, poor diet, smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol all negatively impact the

immune system and make the body more susceptible to infectious diseases. According to [medem.com](http://medem.com), avoiding these things whenever possible will help your immune system fight off germs more effectively.

## Get Immunized

"If you're not allergic to eggs you should get a flu shot. If you are allergic to eggs you can still get the nasal spray," Talarek said.

During years when the vaccine is well matched, vaccine effectiveness can be "between 70 percent and 90 percent among healthy adults," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Even if the vaccine does not perfectly match the virus, it can still reduce symptoms and shorten recovery time.

Talarek also said that all college students should have already received the MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A and Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccines. Students living in the dorms should also get the Meningococcal Meningitis vaccine, and "everybody should get the new adult Tdap," she added. The Tdap vaccine immunizes against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

"The rate of whooping cough has significantly increased," Talarek said. The disease — an upper respiratory disease characterized by coughing fits so violent that they can fracture ribs — is not usually fatal to adults, but transmitting it to an infant can be deadly.

## Options

OK, so you took all of these precautions and you still got sick. Now what?

For most illnesses Talarek recommends simply getting lots of rest and drinking plenty of fluids. According to



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

With the cold, flu and other viruses ready to hit full force, a tissue can be common apparel for noses.

[drugs.com](http://drugs.com), over-the-counter mucolytics such as Mucinex work by thinning the mucous so that it drains easily. The site also says that Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed) and other decongestants act by decreasing mucous production. Talarek also recommends saline nasal sprays, but warns that they must be frequently replaced to avoid becoming incubators for the disease itself.

Other over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Motrin) and acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin) can all act as pain relievers and fever reducers, although Aspirin should not be taken by anyone under 20 years old, due to the risk of Reye's Syndrome according to [associatedcontent.com](http://associatedcontent.com). These medications are often combined with decongestants in many popular cold medicines.

Finally, do everything you can to keep from spreading the disease to others.

According to [WebMD.com](http://WebMD.com), you should cover your coughs and sneezes, use tissues, wash your hands frequently and avoid exposure to others whenever possible. This is simple common courtesy to those around you who are not ill.

It may be necessary to visit a health care professional if symptoms are not resolved, or if they continue to worsen. Viral infections often trigger secondary bacterial or fungal infections which can warrant a trip to the doctor. Do not hesitate to call your doctor or Graham Health Center in these instances.

The Graham Health Center is currently offering the flu vaccine for only \$15 by appointment on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and at the walk-in flu clinics on Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Health Center accepts cash, check, charge, or payroll deduction.



# Finals destination: Get ready for the end

By KATHLEEN QUANDT  
Staff Intern

As recent as midterm exams may have seemed, finals are right around the corner.

There are many things to do, now and throughout the rest of the semester, that can help students prepare for finals. There are different ways to take notes and study that help with being successful when it is time for exams.

Unfortunately, being prepared for exams can't be done with one simple trick.

Beth DeVerna, M.A., Assistant Director of Student Success — Academics Support Programs said that one of the best ways to prepare is to be proactive in your studies.

"What I generally tell students in any of the workshops that we do or any time they come in looking for easy answers is that there are no easy answers," DeVerna said. "It's keeping up with the work, it's making sure that when you go to class and take notes that you look at those notes before you go back to class the next time."

To avoid last minute cramming there are tips and techniques to study and stay organized, things to do if you find yourself out of time to study and services available at Oakland University to help with studying.

Before finals, a good way to help your grade is to turn in all assignments on time. The better assignment grades, the harder it is for a bad exam to hurt the final grade.

DeVerna said being ready for exams means "keeping up with the work and the information, making sure you're turning in assignments."

DeVerna also said mistakes made on the midterm can be used to help study for the final.

"Making sure that whatever exams you've already had that you study those again for the final and that you make sure that questions that you got wrong, that you study those even harder than the others," she said.

Marta Jablecki, a freshman and nursing major, is usually prepared for exams.

"I try to put together a list on a separate sheet of paper for all my classes to keep them together — especially if they're for my midterms," Jablecki said. "Then the things I couldn't really remember are on the list."

Paul Easterly, a junior and electrical engineering major, said that midterms help his study process.

"I'm usually well prepared by studying for the midterm or off the midterm."

Staying organized and using techniques for taking notes and studying are ways to keep exam, time from becoming stressful.

DeVerna said that being familiar with the syllabus and understanding when everything is due, and what is going to be on the exam are ways to stay organized for finals.

That way, she said, you won't study more than you have to.

Easterly said he stays organized by "keeping all the old work and staying focused on that one subject [that I] needed to study for."

DeVerna said that going to class is the simplest step, tip and technique when preparing for finals. That way, she said, students won't have to worry about borrowing notes.

When it comes to taking notes, DeVerna said it is a good idea to put stars or asterisks by information that the instructor says will be included on an exam.

"Copy it down and re-read it to yourself. I think that works the best," Easterly said.

Another idea is to mark information that you have questions about or didn't understand. Also, write down page numbers if there is additional information about a topic.

But, for many students, when it comes time for finals, they aren't prepared and don't have time to study.

"I try to clear my schedule, try to get the time," Jablecki said. "Sometimes it doesn't always happen or I study before I go to bed because they say you remember more when you sleep."

DeVerna says keeping a syllabus handy will help in the long run as well.

"I think they need to refer to the syllabus, find out exactly what material is going to be covered on the exam, go back through their notes, look to see what they don't understand," DeVerna said. "If they have questions they have to either go to the professor's office hours or they could come and see a tutor."

This will get questions answered, she said, but don't expect the professor or tutor to be able to teach you all the material.

The Academic Skills Center has free tutoring. Workshops are offered through Continued Learning and Advancement Workshops. Some of the workshops include, "What can I do with a major in...?" and "Internship Workshop: Are You Ready to Work?"

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## Focus on freshmen

With fall sports wrapping up their 2008 seasons, The Oakland Post takes a look at how three freshmen have progressed



# Jones bringing passion

By JOSHUA DEFOUR  
Contributing Reporter

Last year, as her career as a Harlem Husky volleyball player drew to a close, Jenny Jones felt excited.

After playing four years for the Machesney Park, Ill. high school, Jones had earned numerous awards and praise developing into a renowned outside hitter.

All that was left was the jump to Oakland University and, subsequently, the NCAA's Division 1.

"I was really excited for playing at a higher, much faster level of volleyball," Jones said. "I had already committed to playing for Oakland the summer before my senior year, so I was anticipating it all of last season."

Despite being selected all-conference both her junior and senior years, Jones understood the need for improvement, as well as the stark contrast between the competitiveness and play style of NCAA arenas and high school gyms.

"There is always a fear of not playing well, but coach takes care of that," said Jones, who played off of the bench to start the season. "If you do screw up there are always people there to take your worries away."

Strong play and hard work were rewarded shortly after midseason when Jones was given the green light to start a game against Eastern Michigan. Though the team lost, Jones ended up hitting .478 for a staggering 12 kills and provided energy for the key moments.

"Her coming out match against Eastern Michigan really gave her the confidence she needed to know that she could play at this level," said the head

coach, Rob Beam. "As soon as she got that confidence she never looked back."

Jones soon became a permanent fixture in the starting lineup and began to carve her niche as a player with an energetic edge; one who maintains deadly efficiency.

"Her energy and defense is definitely a strength of hers," said fellow hitter, and senior, Stephanie Parkin. "She was a little slow at first but after she started more she began to get a lot of kills and blocks, and now she gets about five kills a night."

Jones' spirited play surprised more than just her teammates, it has also impressed coach Beam. He sees her taking on more of a leadership role for next season.

"She played at a very high level with her club team, it was one of the top five teams in the country," Beam said. "I think her leadership is going to come out as she becomes more and more comfortable at Oakland."

With just one season under her belt, expectations are already high for the young outside hitter from Illinois, and Jones appears reluctant to simply rest on her laurels. She points to her "defense and back row skills" as areas to further improve upon.

Coach Beam, however, feels Jones' strength development is a top priority given her current body type compared with the older college players.

"We will focus on her strength development in the offseason through weight lifting and conditioning," Beam said.

"When she gets the physicality to go along with her high level of skill, I think she's going to be really impressive."



Photo courtesy of Oakland Media Relations  
Freshman outside hitter Jenny Jones is introduced to a match in 2008. Jones leads the team in hitting percentage with a .246 mark, while scoring 1.17 kills per set.



# Ecker gains mental toughness

By TOM MURPHY JR.  
Senior Reporter

Oakland University freshman golfer Liz Ecker and her coach Brian Costello have a special bond. She is his first recruit.

Costello, who took over as head golf coach in the second week of the 2007-08 school year said that because of the timing, he didn't have much opportunity to go out recruiting. He had heard about Ecker and went to see her play at last year's state tournament.

He knew that there was something special going on so he watched Ecker the entire second day. He set up a meeting with her to visit OU and a week later she was a Golden Grizzly. She said that the major factors in her quick decision to play for OU were the facilities, the campus and coach Costello.

"Oakland had the best facilities of all the schools I looked at and also the coach. It was a big thing for me to get along with the coach," Ecker said.

Both Ecker and Costello were excited then about the possibilities and after completing their first fall season together both remain happy with the situation.

"I love it," Ecker said. "No complaints."

Well, there is one complaint.

"I don't think I played my best," Ecker said. "I wasn't happy with my performances." Ecker played in all five tourna-

ments this fall and ended the season with a scoring average of 84.54. Her best score was an 80 in the final round of the Zippy Invitational on Sept. 30.

"If she has any faults it would be her mental game and her putting," Costello said. "Her putting let her down in certain situations. If we can get those things straightened out she will keep getting better every year."

Ecker said that she and the rest of the team have worked with a sports psychologist who told her that she needs to block out previous bad shots in order to fully focus on each shot one at a time.

"I really need to put what he said to use," said Ecker. "I need to let go of everything on the course. I hold on to every shot, like if we are playing 36 holes and the first time at a hole I had a really bad shot, I will still be thinking about it the next time I come to that hole, but I need to just let it go."

Time spent with the sports psychologist was not only helping her game but perhaps gaining her insight to a future career.

"I want to go into sports psychology," said Ecker, a psychology major. "So I just eat that up, I love it."

Ecker is aiming high for the future. She wants to help the team progress and win conference tournaments. She also wants to be on top of the leaderboard when winning those tournaments. With



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics  
Freshman Liz Ecker, who played in all five events this season, drives the ball at a tournament in 2008.

her first fall season finished, she has some time to reflect on her brief collegiate experience. She said that she adjusted to college athlete life well. Traveling out of state for tournaments was exciting and different for her. She

said that managing her time was easy for her too, thanks to the mandatory study hall six hours a week.

"That is a huge help," Ecker said. "It forced me to get in there and read and I used that time very well."



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics  
Sarah Lynch pushes the ball past a Central Michigan defender in 2008.

## Lynch prepares for last shot

By TIM RATH  
Sports Editor

Hypothetical situation: It's the Summit League tournament opener against Southern Utah. With the game on the line and coming down to penalty kicks, freshman Grizzlies midfielder Sarah Lynch is poised to kick the winning goal. Is she nervous?

"Not at all," Lynch said. "If it were to come down to that situation, I think I would welcome the chance to kick."

Despite her freshman status, Lynch is open to pressure situations. Due to a number of injuries on the women's soccer frontline, Lynch has played in 18 games this season and started in 12 of them. "We've had some injuries up front [to players] that we couldn't get back, so we had to move some players around and start players that maybe weren't expecting it," said head coach Nick O'Shea. "Sarah's doing a great job up front with Jessica Boyle and she's improving all the time."

Indeed, Lynch has showed a marked improvement since the season began. She's scored five goals and four assists total on the season and 12 of her 26 shots have been on-goal.

"I didn't really know what to expect coming in," Lynch said. "I knew that I had to be somewhat of an impact player, but I didn't know if I was going to be scoring or setting up people to score. I've just tried to work hard, use my body more and do whatever the team needs to win."

Lynch's high-water mark came as she scored a hat trick in Oakland's 6-1 victory over IPFW Oct. 12. That jump-started a five game winning streak that the Grizzlies are riding into the conference tournament after starting the season with a record of 1-7-2.

"Sarah's getting used to the physicality of Division 1 soccer," O'Shea said. "She's more comfortable and confident with the ball, that's a major improvement for her. She's always had good skills and now she's starting to express herself as she's gotten more comfortable with the team and the college experience."

The Grizzlies push forth, having clinched the first seed of the Summit League conference championship tournament and possibly moving towards a berth in the NCAA tournament. With that in mind, O'Shea said that he knew Lynch wasn't the only one comfortable with her taking the hypothetical deciding kick.

"After everything that's happened this year, I trust her," he said.



# Scores from the road

## VOLLEYBALL

Brittany Dunn set a Summit League record for consecutive points, serving for 17 straight points over the second and third sets in a 3-0 victory over Centenary Friday. The Grizzlies fell 3-0 to Oral Roberts Saturday and 3-1 to Central Michigan Tuesday.

## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Oakland University men's cross country team ran to a second place finish in a field of ten teams with a score of 57 in the Summit League Championship Saturday. Zack Jones led the Grizzlies' charge with a third place finish overall at a season-best time of 24:28.3 in the 8K race. The women's team finished fifth with Erica D'Angelo crossing the line with an eighth place finish.

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Grizzlies fell to Houston Saturday 113-110, dropping their record to 2-3 on the season. See page 21 for a complete game recap.

## MEN'S SOCCER

The Grizzlies won their fifth straight game with a 2-0 victory over Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Saturday to improve their record to 12-4. Stefan St. Louis and Ian Daniel each scored goals for the team while Steve Clark recorded his tenth shutout of the season, making ten saves.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

The OU women's soccer team clinched a share of the Summit League conference championship with a 4-0 victory over Southern Utah Friday to conclude regular season play. Jessica Boyle, Meghan Hartwig, Lindsey Blair and Shannon Doyle all scored for the Grizzlies. — Tim Rath, Sports Editor

Home game stories updated daily.

www.oaklandpostonline.com

# POST GAME

When the Detroit Pistons traded star point guard Chauncey Billups to the Denver Nuggets Monday in exchange for Allen Iverson, we in The Oakland Post sports department were hopeful that it was the best move to make.

We always hope for the best from our hometown Pistons, yet we are wistful for a return to the "Bad Boys II" days of the 2004 NBA Championship season that starred Billups as Finals MVP.

With that in mind, here are our four favorite qualities of Mr. Big Shot in image form: 1) consistent leadership, 2) craftiness, 3) careful concentration, 4) guile.

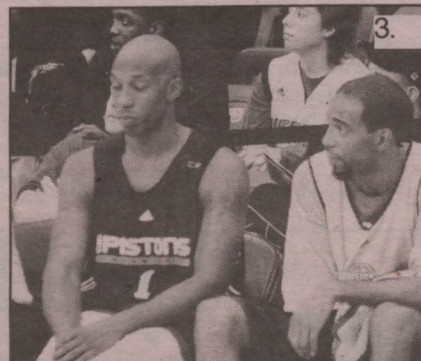
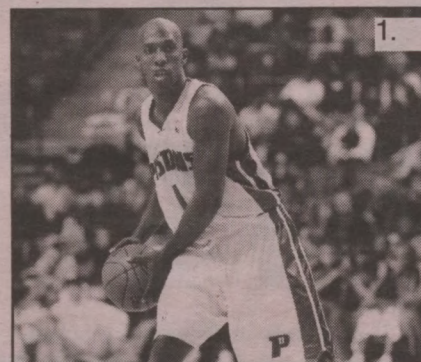


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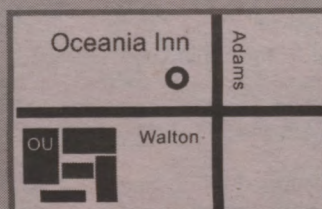
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# GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

**Amy Golem**  
Volleyball

**Year: Senior**

**Major: Integrative studies**

Golem led the Golden Grizzlies with an eight-kill effort in a loss to Oral Roberts Saturday and a ten-kill game in a sweep victory against Centenary Friday.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post



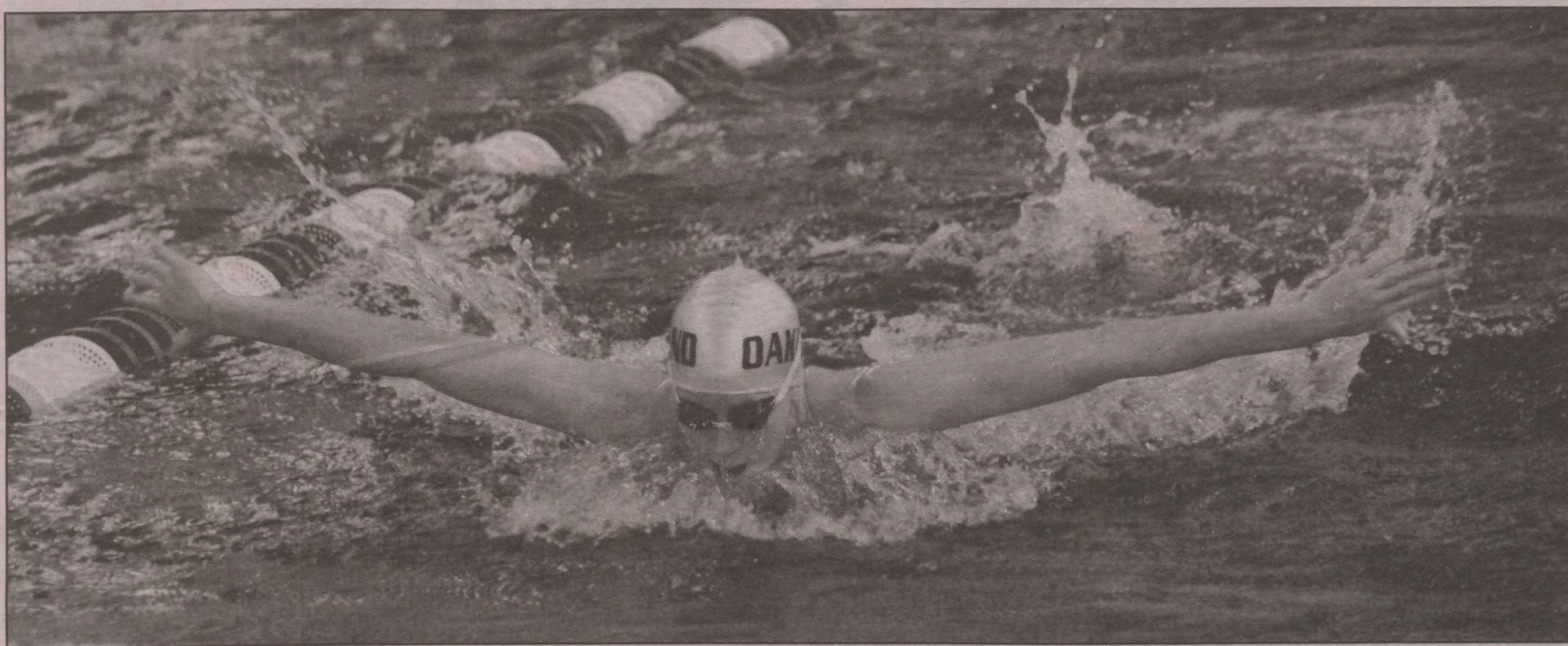
# Golden Grizzlies Game of the Week

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

## OU falls to Houston, but finishes strong



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post  
At left, sophomore Jill Peterson competes in the 400-yard medley relay against Houston on Nov. 1. Her team finished fourth in the event. Below, freshman Johanna Gustafsson swims in the 400-yard individual medley. Gustafsson finished fourth in that event for Oakland.



By MACKENZIE ROGER  
Contributing Reporter

With a loss to Western Kentucky in the Golden Grizzly Quadrangular last week fresh in their minds, the OU women's swim team took on the University of Houston Saturday. Neither the team nor the spectators left disappointed.

Despite the 113-110 loss, OU's competitiveness undoubtedly made their statement; with no finishes lower than third place for the first five events.

"This is the first time we've swum them," said head coach Pete Hovland. "We raced much better than last week. Even though we lost, the real value came in our time drops."

Junior Agnes Solan led the Grizzly charge early in the meet, with first and second place finishes in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard freestyle respectively.

"We have a big freshmen class this year," Solan said. "We're trying to motivate them. They see that if I can swim fast, they have to as well, to keep the momentum going."

Freshman Johanna Gustafsson also stepped up, winning the 100-yard breast-

stroke in a time of 1:05.20. Gustafsson also swam the 400 medley relay.

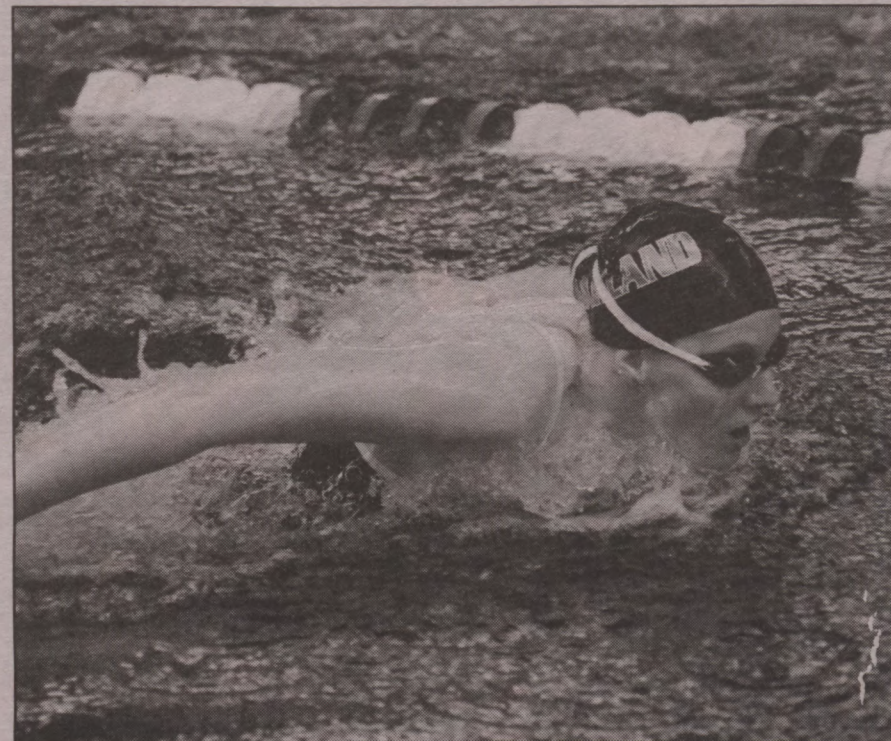
Junior Sarah Ludema contributed valuable points to the meet, winning the 50-yard free with a time of 24.55, touching out teammate Corey Tschannen by less than half of a second.

Both the one and three-meter diving events were ruled by UH's Nastia Pozdniakova, setting pool records in both events. Pozdniakova was also the silver medalist at the Beijing Olympics this past year in the women's three-meter synchronized springboard.

"Houston had a huge advantage in diving with an Olympian on their team," Hovland said. "They have one of the best diving programs in the country, so automatically we knew we would have to make up about 26 points to have a chance."


Despite being tied 56-56 halfway through the meet, UH gained momentum in the second half and proved too much for OU to handle. The loss brings the women's swim team record to 2-3.

The swim teams compete next at Wright State in Ohio, November 7 and 8 at 5 p.m. and noon respectively.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post  
Senior Tara Baxter competes in the 100-yard butterfly race. Baxter finished sixth in the event.





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# The Scene

November 5, 2008

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## Gov't Mule: last of a dying breed?

By TOM MURPHY JR.  
Senior Reporter

You may not be able to tell by listening to pop radio, but rock 'n' roll is alive and well thanks to Gov't Mule.

Unless you are tuned in to the local classic rock station, it is rare to hear the kind of soulful guitar sound made popular long ago by the likes of Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix and Led Zepplin.

But a lack of mainstream airplay hasn't deterred Gov't Mule from enjoying success. In fact, it probably helps.

"The charts have always been filled with stuff that's less than amazing," said Warren Haynes, lead vocalist and guitarist. "It would be easy for me to get frustrated with that but I have been so fortunate in my career. Gov't Mule gets away with murder because we do exactly what we want to do and our audience keeps growing."

Gov't Mule formed in 1994. They began as a side project, a collaboration between Haynes, drummer Matt Abts and the late bassist Allen Woody. Haynes and Woody were also both members of the reunited Allman Brothers Band. In 1997, Gov't Mule could no longer be just a side project. Both Haynes and Woody officially left the Allman Brothers Band to focus on Gov't Mule. But, as the band's popularity was escalating, tragedy struck. On Aug. 26, 2000 Woody was found dead in his hotel room.

"After Allen passed away, our first thought was to end Gov't Mule," Haynes said. "Each member is so important to the chemistry that not having one of those members changes everything drastically."

Haynes said he spoke with many different musicians who had lost band mates and continued to make music, such as Phil Lesh of the Grateful Dead, who lost Jerry Garcia; Gregg Allman, who lost his brother Dwayne; and Dave Grohl of Nirvana, who lost Kurt Cobain.

"The overall message that everybody was trying to get through was 'I know you don't think you can keep going or maybe that you even should keep going, but you've got to. You've got to keep the music alive,'" Haynes said. "You've got to take it where it's supposed to go, even though this is a very difficult time for you."

When the band did continue, they held a tribute concert featuring 25 bass players from around the world. Each song on

the set was played by a different bassist in honor of Woody. The event sparked the return of Gov't Mule and they have not stopped since.

The band has enjoyed much success from numerous nationwide tours to a Grammy nomination in 2003 for the song "Sco-Mule." They have sold over 1.5 million downloads on their website, **Mule.net**, and to this day they have sold over a million albums — all this without being on mainstream radio.

But for Haynes, it is not success that drives him, it's the love for music. Aside from Gov't Mule, Haynes plays solo acoustic shows and sits in with other bands and musicians. He is also once again a member of The Allman Brothers Band.

"The Allman Brothers Band were one of my favorite bands growing up," Haynes said. "I played a lot of their music as a teenager. I joined the band in 1989. I've known Gregg Allman for over 25 years now and it's an extreme honor to be on stage with him and to be writing and recording songs with him."

Haynes said while the Allman Brothers Band had been influential for decades, he is very pleased with the music currently being produced by the Allman Brothers Band.

"I think the most important factor of the overall picture of our relationship is that the music that we're making right now is extremely vital and important, and in some ways as good or better than the music that the band had made in the past," Haynes said. "That's what makes us fired up about what we're doing."

Right now, for Haynes, the focus is on Gov't Mule and the upcoming Kinder Revolution Tour. Gov't Mule will be playing at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Nov. 11. Haynes said that it is always special to play in the Detroit area.

"Detroit is a rock 'n' roll town, it always has been," Haynes said. "There's a vibe that you get when you come to play. When you think of Detroit you think of serious rock 'n' roll fans, so with Gov't Mule being part of a dying breed in my mind, which is a real rock 'n' roll band, it's a perfect fit."

The up-and-coming band back door slam will open for Gov't Mule. Originating from the Isle of Man, a tiny kingdom in the Irish Sea near Liverpool, they have only been in America for less than two years. Guitarist, singer and songwriter Davy Knowles leads the



Photo by Jay Blakesberg, reprinted with permission  
Gov't Mule now consists of (left to right): Jorgen Carlsson, Matt Abts, Warren Haynes, Danny Louis.

group. Drummer Ross Doyle and bassist Adam Jones complete the trio. Knowles said he is very excited to be part of this upcoming tour.

Back Door Slam has been seen on Jimmy Kimmel Live and The Early Show, and recently completed a tour with Kid Rock and Lynyrd Skynyrd. The band has also become very popular on YouTube, especially with their rendition of Jimi Hendrix's "Red House."

"I remember playing that song as a pub band back on the Isle of Man in front of 20 people. And to play it at Bonnaroo or a big gig like that it's a big thrill, just to be lucky to have come so far, but still playing some of the same songs. Back then we would've never dreamed of play-

ing in front of 10,000 people," Knowles said.

Knowles said he does believe the classic rock sound is dying out to some degree but great rock 'n' roll music can still be heard by bands like Kings of Leon and the White Stripes. And while they are influenced by some of the classic rock icons, they are not accepting the responsibility to keep the style alive.

"We're not on a mission," Knowles said. "We're just trying to play the music we enjoy."

It is fair to say that rock 'n' roll may be dying, but with bands like Gov't Mule and Back Door Slam continuing to play great music in front of devoted fans, it can never truly be dead.



# 'Twilight' star shines

By AMANDA MEADE  
Scene/Mix Editor

The popular book series "Twilight" will soon be translated into the highly anticipated movie of the same name.

Rob Pattinson, who stars as Edward Cullen in the film, participated in a college conference call that included The Oakland Post on Nov. 3.

Pattinson portrayed Cedric Diggory in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" and "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," playing the role of Cedric Diggory. Along with his starring role in the upcoming film "Twilight," he will also portray artist Salvador Dali in the upcoming film "Little Ashes," set to be released later this year.

For those who don't already know, the series and movie is about Bella Swan, a young girl that falls in love with Edward Cullen, a vampire.

Pattinson spoke about his role in relation to Swan, the other leading character in "Twilight" played by Kristen Stewart.

"The way I thought about it, [Cullen] was a guy who had nothing going for him, who is denying his base instincts. All he wants to do is be human again or die," Pattinson said.

"Then he meets this girl who makes him feel alive again, gives him a reason to live. His powers, which up until now he thought were his curse, are adequate to protect this girl," Pattinson said. "I thought that after 100 years of absolute loneliness and isolation it's very obvious where his desperate love comes from."

Pattinson talked about how much he enjoyed his character, and the things he admired about him.

"I like how he takes his emotions very seriously. He's very humble as well, that's always a good trait," he said.

Before Pattinson took on the role of Cullen, he was very unsure of his ability to get the role.

"I put off going into the audition. I went in thinking I had absolutely no chance at getting it at all," Pattinson said. "When I went into the screen test with the script, I wouldn't say I realized how to play it, but I played it very differently. I just tried to play it a lot more broken."

"The book is written from a girl's perspective where the girl is completely obsessed and in love with Edward, so she would see him how she wanted to see him. That's kind of the angle I took with it," he said.

To prepare for the role, Pattinson put himself through some extreme conditions.

"I went to Oregon [where the movie

was filmed] before anybody else got there. I wanted to not communicate with people," Pattinson said.

"I wanted to lose a bit of weight, and then I lost too much. I was literally doing five hours in the gym every single day. I started reading the books and reading the scripts, I literally didn't talk to anyone," he said.

Pattinson discussed the element of emotion with his role in the film.

"I definitely read the book as a lot of people have, which is extreme emotions all the time, but I like that. There's not too many stories made into a movie which are that kind of operatic," he said. "I like melodrama, but I definitely didn't want to make it too dramatic. I tried to make it as realistic as I could."

Pattinson is also a musician, and plays the guitar and keyboard. His music will appear in "Twilight."

"[Having a song in the film] was really bizarre at first. I was re-recording because the songs were already recorded on my computer, it was really unprofessionally done," he said.

Even though Pattinson is a musician, he isn't planning on making a career of it.

"I'd like to record an album at some point but I don't care if anybody buys it or not. I'd like to have enough money for a good recording studio but I don't want to be successful musician," he said.

Pattinson provided advice to those who wanted to pursue a career in acting.

"Don't do it to be famous. You'll end up being very depressed. Just try and do good stuff, there's so many bad pieces of entertainment that are made just to make some money," Pattinson said.

"If you want to do it for honest reasons, keep doing it for those reasons. If you want to do it just to make money you're going to have to accept the consequences of that," he said.

Pattinson also said that he was open to basically any role, and cited Jack Nicholson as one of his influences.

"There are so few good scripts, you can't say that you want to just be in an action film," Pattinson said.

"Sometimes you need a really great script that comes from an unexpected genre and it will be an unexpected performance."

Pattinson said he felt as though his latest film has something to offer the audience.

"I think it's different. I think it has a different tone than other movies have, we tried to make the story as unusual as possible. I think it's different than the usual," he said.

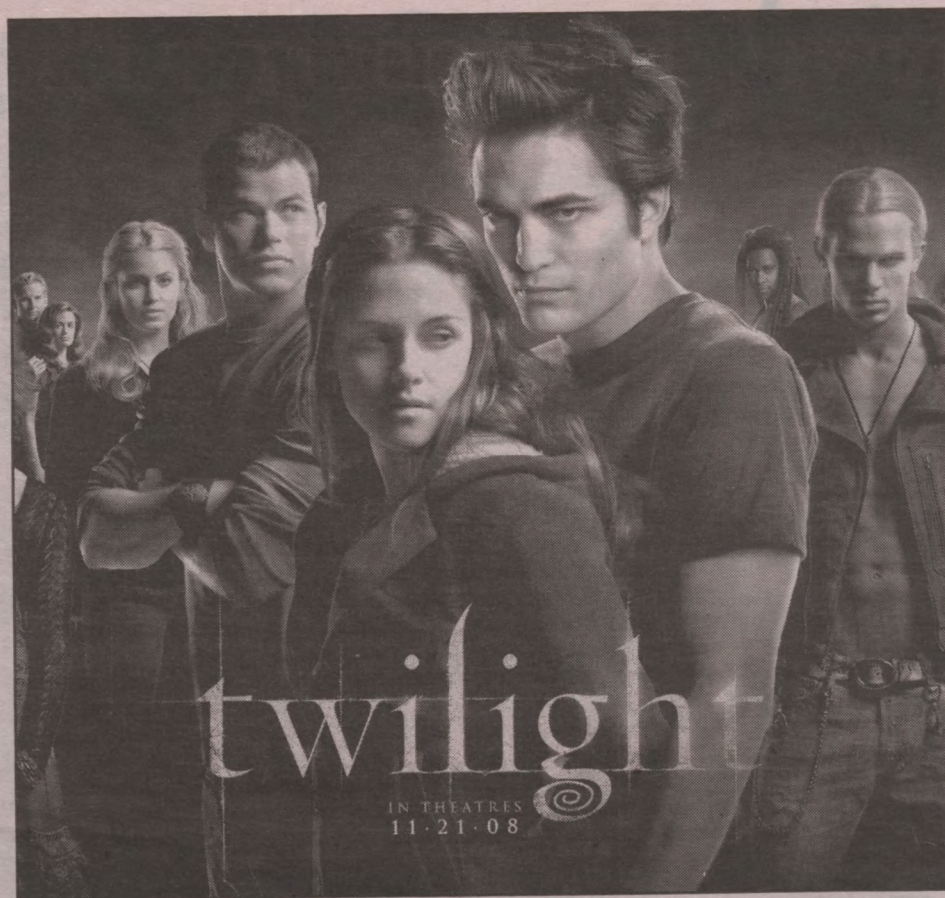


Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment

The highly anticipated book series turned movie "Twilight" is set to hit theaters Friday, Nov. 21.

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# MOUTHING OFF

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November 5, 2008

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## Entertainment tonight: What the political season brought us

By PAUL GULLY  
Special Projects Editor

There may be a chance that as you read this, I am safely within the borders of another country. As I pen this column the day before Election Day, the United States next leader has yet to be decided.



So, naturally, I am preparing for the worst. I've managed to fit all of my belongings into a few **duffle bags** and am waiting things out in the

Green Lot at Detroit Metro Airport.

But even as I do so, I can't help but reflect upon what has been one of the most interesting and entertaining political seasons in recent memory.

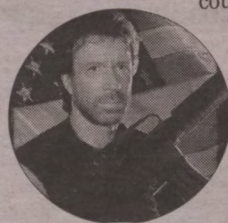
I think we can safely say it even outdoes the epic 1852 showdown between Franklin Pierce and Winfield Scott. But enough about what happened during John McCain's childhood.

It's amazing to look back on how far we've come. It was just 10 short months ago that it all began. Both parties, with a handful of potential presidents, eager to follow up the Bush-Cheney era.

In prior years, the primaries took place with much less fanfare, as the consensus among voters was that they would be stuck voting for the lesser of two evils when all was said and done. But that all changed after the past two elections, when doing so still resulted in two evils running the country.

The Republican Party's primary was full of surprises. Arkansas' evangelical former governor Mike Huckabee, fared better than anticipated, relying on the support of the mythical bearded man with super powers — **Chuck Norris**.

Another surprise came when early favorite Rudy Giuliani, former mayor of New



York City, was only able to secure one delegate — and spent \$11 million doing so.

And perhaps the biggest surprise came when everyone's favorite maverick, 72-year-old John McCain, was able to secure his party's nomination.

On the Democratic side, things were equally as interesting. The Democrats proved that they, quite frankly, actually

had some balls. With the mess caused by the current administration, the Dems could have easily run away with this election had they played it safe and gone with a typical white dude with a nice smile and decent hair.

But instead, they chose to make things a little interesting. Sick of the status quo, a woman and a black guy whose middle name is Hussein seemed like better options.

After a heated primary season we had our candidates — Barack Obama and McCain. The young versus the antique. A new face versus a really wrinkly one. The candidate offering a lot of change versus the candidate that you want to exchange.

Yes, shortly after things were set, you could find many Republicans asking, "Hey, I got an old maverick over here; Can I get that religious nut or the actor back? How 'bout the guy that married his cousin, or the Massachusetts Mormon?"

But McCain was able to rally the conservative base and become a formidable opponent. Many hoped that the presidential debates would help settle things, but they turned out

to be some of the most lackluster events of the season.

In fact, the most interesting of the debates was probably between the two vice presidential candidates. This, of course was due to one Sarah Palin, McCain's surprise choice for running mate.

Yes, McCain stunned the world

when he chose Alaska's governor, an evangelical gun-toting, wolf-sniping, moose-eating, baby-creating, book-banning, eye-winking hockey mom.

Much was made of Palin's lack of experience and lack of intelligence.

But the former pageant girl

quickly quieted all doubters when she spoke of her foreign policy experience with Russia and her thoughts on the Bush Doctrine.

Obama's vice presidential choice, Joe Biden, was also a bit of a surprise. In the primary season Biden said Obama was "the first mainstream African-American who is articulate, bright and clean and a nice-looking guy," according to **cnn.com**.

Biden also proved that brushing twice a day has its drawbacks.

As the political season wore on questions were raised about Obama. But, in due time, we have our answer. It's clear that Obama is a communist Muslim who pals around with terrorists and is "too radical for this country." How does he conceal his forked tongue and horns so well?

As the campaigns wore on, it became apparent that McCain and Palin had



missed their true callings — showbiz. McCain showed off his vocal prowess with "Bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb Iran," a clever rendition on **the Beach Boys'** cover of "Barbara Ann," at one of his town hall meetings. McCain also proved that he's

actually a funny guy, as evidenced by his "Saturday Night Live" appearance. He's almost as good at telling jokes as he is being the butt of them.

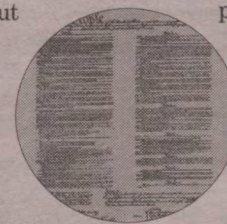
And Palin proved that she is a more-than-capable **Tina Fey** impersonator.

And finally, how can we forget about the new symbol of the American everyman, Joe the (unlicensed) Plumber? This confused attention whore from Holland, Ohio, has once again forced the country to ponder the question: Has anything productive ever come out of the Buckeye State?

Joe was thrust into the national spotlight when he was caught on tape questioning Obama about the senator's proposed tax plans. The McCain campaign decided to capitalize and invited him to campaign with his team. Joe even recently hired a publicity management agent to handle his growing stardom.

Yes, this is the same man who feared that Obama's tax plan would take money that he may earn if he started his own plumbing business, which he has no real plan to do. But apparently he has no problem giving an agent a cut of the cash he'll never have.

So here we are; less than 24 hours to go. I'm hoping for the best, but my bags are packed in the case that the unthinkable happens. Excuse me for a second, I'm going to try and fit my pocket-sized copy of the **Constitution** in my carry-on. It seems a bit lighter since the last time I pulled it out four years ago.





# What happened the morning after Halloween

By JARED PURCELL  
You/Local Editor

'Twas the morning after Halloween,  
when all through the house  
Not a goblin was stirring, not even at a  
haunted house.

The jack-o-lanterns sat on the porch,  
all carved with care

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would  
be there — wait, what?

You've heard it all before. The day  
after Halloween, Christmas takes over.  
Nov. 1 brings Christmas music to the air-  
waves, TV and radio commercials start  
talking about the Christmas rush.

Even a holiday such as Christmas can  
get over hyped. By the time Christmas  
comes around I'm vomiting from a  
Yuletide overdose.

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas.  
I just love celebrating it during the right  
time of year — which is not in the middle  
of fall.

So in honor of the commercial sideshow  
that Christmas is swiftly becoming, I  
continue my poem:

I was nestled all snug in my bed  
And visions of candy corn danced  
through my head

When out of my clock radio arose such  
a clatter,

I sprang from my bed and noticed that  
all of the candy made me a bit fatter.

Away from my bed, I went to turn off  
my alarm with a bash

When suddenly I heard Christmas  
music and it gave me a case of whiplash

I looked out my window and saw no  
snow,

Just colored autumn leaves that had  
fallen below.

When to what my wondering ears  
should hear,

A radio commercial says "Christmas  
would soon be here."

With a little caution, I could not help  
but be skeptic

Christmas already? Don't make me  
sick.

Yet, more rapid than eagles the  
Christmas messages came,

They sang and shouted, advertising  
their company's name.

"Now, Target! Now, Hallmark! Now  
Meijer and Walmart!

On, Sears! On JCPenney! On, Kohls  
and K-Mart!"

I ran to the top of the porch! To the top  
of the wall!

Go away! It's not Christmas, it's fall!

As I sat and pondered I asked myself  
"why?"

I felt a bit of holiday cheer in me  
wither and die.

So out of the house I let my mind mull  
and stew

What will happen to Thanksgiving and  
Hannukah too?

And then, lost in thought, I went to the  
mall

I needed to clear my mind, be among  
the urban sprawl.

As I walked through the stores, and  
was turning around,

Sitting in a chair was St. Nicholas, and  
I fell over in a bound.

He was dressed in all fake fur from his  
head to his foot,

And a fake beard and his smile, my  
brain went kaput.

To see Santa at such a time drew me  
aback,

Did I miss Thanksgiving? I nearly had  
a heart attack.

The atmosphere around me was sup-  
posed to be merry

Yet deep down it all seemed unreal  
and scary.

I ran home with my stomach in knots  
like a bow,

And my mother gave me tickets to the

Radio City Christmas Spectacular show!  
As I hid my feelings and grind my  
teeth,

I looked across the street to see a  
Christmas wreath.

As I tried to calm the sick feeling in  
my belly,

The thought of Christmas after  
Halloween is like having no peanut but-  
ter and a bowl full of jelly.

A tear in my eye and a smack to my  
head

I think this early Christmas hype will  
kill the holiday dead.

I spoke not a word and went straight  
to work,

And I wrote this poem, trying not to  
sound like too much of a jerk.

Whoever thought that Christmas  
should start this early must walk with  
their finger in their nose.

Christmas has taken over this time of  
year, and it really shows.

Now as I walk around and find a tune  
to whistle,

Jingle Bells comes to mind and I want  
to blow up myself with a missile.

So here I exclaim, ere I explode out of  
sight:

"Christmas now owns you all, and to  
all a good night."

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## Iran parliament impeach Ahmadinejad ally

By ALI AKBAR DALEINI  
Associate Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's parliament impeached a Cabinet minister on Tuesday after he admitted having a fake degree from Oxford University, in a vote widely seen as a defeat for hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The dismissal of Interior Minister Ali Kordan was the first high-profile confrontation between the new parliament and Ahmadinejad. It was seen as a vote of no-confidence in the president and a sign that the leader's popularity is tumbling, even with his conservative allies.

The interior minister in Iran is a powerful position in charge of holding elections and local administrations throughout the country.

During Kordan's confirmation debate,

numerous lawmakers argued he was unqualified, some claiming that his Oxford degree was a fake. Kordan was approved Aug. 5 by a relatively slim margin of around 160 of the 269 lawmakers present, a reflection of the concerns.

Kordan initially argued that his degree was real. The Interior Ministry put out a certificate, with an Oxford seal and dated June 2000, meant to prove its authenticity. It was riddled with spelling and grammar mistakes.

Oxford denied it had ever awarded an honorary doctorate of law to the minister, who then admitted the degree was fake.

Ahmadinejad defended Kordan, dismissing degrees in general as "torn paper" not necessary for serving the people.

The president was already under

attack from both reformers and conservatives, who brought him to power but now complain he spends too much time on fiery anti-U.S. rhetoric rather than managing the country.

Middle-class Iranians, who have seen their standard of living fall, often speak scornfully of his economic naivete. In July, he predicted oil prices would never fall below \$100 per barrel.

Oil prices, however, have plunged during the global financial crisis and hovered Tuesday around \$63 a barrel. Tehran's stock index last week plunged about 12 percent to its lowest close in years. And inflation is estimated at 27 percent or more.

Of the 247 lawmakers who attended Tuesday's open session, 188 voted against Kordan — including many hard-liners.



China's top negotiator with Taiwan, Chen Yunlin, center left, shakes hands with his Taiwan counterpart Chiang Ping-kung as they signed trade agreements on Tuesday.

## Taiwan, China envoys sign historic trade pact

By DEBBY WU  
Associated Press Writer

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan and China set aside decades of hostilities Tuesday and agreed to drastically expand flights and allow shipping links across the Taiwan Strait, a potential hotspot that has long threatened to become a war zone.

The historic deal highlighted the dramatic improvement in relations in the past half year between the rivals that split amid a bloody civil war in 1949, but Taiwan and China appeared to still be a long way from resolving the root causes of their conflict.

The envoys agreed Tuesday to hold high-level talks every six months and focus on building closer financial ties in the next round of meetings.

After signing the pact, Chinese envoy Chen Yunlin smiled and shook hands with his Taiwanese counterpart, Chiang Pin-kung. They sipped champagne and held up two lines of framed calligraphy that said: "Peaceful negotiation creates a win-win situation."

Chen was the highest-ranking Communist Chinese official ever to visit Taiwan. Since arriving Monday, he has been greeted by scattered anti-China demonstrations. Protesters lit fireworks outside his hotel Tuesday, and a small crowd scuffled with police outside the venue where Chen attended a dinner banquet.

For nearly six decades, Taiwan banned direct flights and shipping with China, fearing Beijing might attack with bombers and warships disguised as civilian vessels.

Tuesday's agreement — which becomes effective in 40 days — more than tripled the number of weekly flights to 108.

## N | W BRIEFS

11-2 | The Dalai Lama says that he is growing frustrated with tensions between Tibet and China. | The death toll rises to 17 as Vietnam remains under water after days of heavy rain fall.

11-3 | A UN convoy attempts to get behind rebel lines to distribute aid to victims of conflict in Congo. | Pakistan informs Gen. Petraeus that constant missile strikes on Pakistani soil will breed anti-American sentiments.

11-4 | The Supreme Court discusses matters in its first indecency case in 30 years, pitting the FCC against broadcasters on which word should be banned from use. | Osama bin Laden's son Omar seeks asylum from the Spanish government in Madrid. | Madelyn Dunham, grandmother of Barack Obama, dies at 86 after a long battle with cancer.

## Americans take to the polls



Chris Ketchum and his daughter Isla wait in line to vote Tuesday, Nov. 4 in Baltimore.

## Wall Street prepares to stage Election Day comeback

By SARA LEPRO  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Wall Street enjoyed an Election Day rally Tuesday, surging as investors brushed off more weak economic data and looked forward to putting the uncertainty of the presidential voting behind them. The Dow Jones industrial average soared more than 250 points and appeared headed to its highest close in four weeks, while the other major indexes rose well over 2 percent.

The market held on to the improving tone it has seen in recent sessions, although volume was very light, which tends to skew price moves. Still, analysts

saw more optimism on the Street, in part because the election was finally at hand.

"This has been a tremendously long campaign," said Bernie McGinn, chief executive of McGinn Investment Management. "I think that part of the problems that we had could have been compounded by the fact that we were right smack in the middle of a heated election."

Analysts predict stocks are headed for a recovery no matter who is elected, as the policies of both John McCain and Barack Obama will likely be guided by the weak economy and the recent flood of government support designed to keep the global financial system from collapsing.

Matt King, chief investment officer of Oakland, Calif.-based Bell Investment Advisors, said investors are moving into the market in anticipation of the economy improving.

"It's pretty typical of how bear markets end," King said. "The stock market recovers well ahead of the economy."

The market again looked past a downbeat economic report, as it did on Monday, when investors calmly received a report of a big slowdown in manufacturing and the Dow up more than 140 points. "The risk of a depression is off the table," said Ben Halliburton, chief investment officer of Tradition Capital Management.



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