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# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

November 30, 2005

www.theoaklandpost.com

50 cents

## Pump prayers answered



Dan Wilkinson/The Oakland Post

**\$24.85** for 11.5 gallons of unleaded gas, priced at \$2.15 a gallon at the BP gas station at Pontiac Road and University Drive.

"At this gas station, prices are not lower. I just came here because it's close, and I don't usually shop around," said **Laurie Emerson**, 23, of Troy, who drives a 2004 Chrysler Sebring. She is an OU student studying for her master's degree in chemical engineering.

### Gas prices fall to \$2.08 average in state

By **PAUL KAMPE**  
Local News Editor

It might seem like it has been a long time since people were talking about gasoline prices sliding, but the current trend has been underway since the record setting prices of early September during the Hurricane Katrina fallout.

"Mother Nature's cooperating," said Nancy Cain, public relations manager for AAA Michigan.

On Nov. 29, the average price of regular unleaded gas in the Detroit area was \$2.05 per gallon.

The statewide average for regular unleaded gas is currently \$2.08, and the average for the

first three weeks of November is \$2.20 per gallon, according to figures posted by AAA Michigan.

The statewide average price in November of last year was \$1.97 per gallon, and November 2003 recorded an average of \$1.52 per gallon.

That average is a bit lower than the \$2.41 per gallon price tag just one month ago.

Cain credited the consumer cost reduction to the reduction in the cost per barrel of crude oil, which was approximately \$60 per barrel.

"Right now, there's plenty of gasoline," Cain said.

Cain also said barring another disruption — another natural disaster — the current prices could fall a few more cents.

Some students at Oakland University are welcoming the price rollback, however, they feel that there is still a better price possible.

"We're still paying \$2 per gallon," said junior Anthony Wright.

Wright said the ideal gas price for him would be in the area of \$1.50 per gallon.

"It's bad because I think I can still get cheaper gas," said freshman Drew Rogal.

He said he typically drives 250 miles to and from school per week, but he would still be OK with gas prices in a \$2 per gallon range.

The ideal price for gas for junior Joshua Stewart is whatever the sign says.

He has a contrasting opinion that is not likely shared by many as they fill their tanks.

"If you look at what we pay versus Europeans," then comparatively, it is not that much. However, "we're Americans, and we like to complain," Stewart said.

Graphs produced by the Energy Information Administration show that gas prices in European nations typically equate to

Please see **GAS** on A8



Photos by Dan Wilkinson/The Oakland Post

**\$30.67** for 14.9 gallons of unleaded, priced at \$2.05 a gallon at the Speedway gas station at N. Opdyke Road and University Drive.

"I'm happy about it. It's a difference of \$10 per tank. I can buy more groceries now," said **Erin Hutchinson**, 22, of Oxford. She is a pre-medical laboratory sciences student at OU and drives a 1995 Jeep.



**\$21.41** for 10.2 gallons of unleaded, priced at \$2.09 a gallon at the Shell Station at S. Adams Road and Walton Boulevard.

The decrease "saves me money," said **Ryan Decker**, 16, of Rochester, who is a student at Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School. "I can go out with my friends and buy dinner now." He drives a 2005 Chevy Impala.



**\$48.46** for 21.4 gallons of midgrade gas, priced at \$2.25 a gallon at the BP gas station at Pontiac Road and University Drive.

"The decrease has helped a lot. I went from spending \$60 each time to \$48," said **Elize Simon**, of Troy. She works as a real estate agent and drives a 2005 BMW X5.

— Compiled by Senior Reporter Alicia Sossi

## Wireless Internet connects on campus

Experts encourage security awareness

By **KRISTIN SOMMER**  
Senior Reporter

There's no doubt wireless Internet connectivity is growing in popularity.

A stroll through the Oakland Center will turn up a number of students instant messaging, sending e-mail, downloading files or hurrying to finish an assignment on their laptops.

Oakland University began cutting cords in 2000 when the dorms went wireless.

Grizznet, OU's wireless network, is now available in eight buildings on campus with the highest use in the OC and Kresge Library, according to Brian Paige, lead engineer in University Technology Services.

Expanding the service areas has already been discussed, Paige said.

"As funding becomes available and demand increases, yes (we will expand). It's been a slow evolution," Paige said.

Extra steps to protect computers using the wireless network should also be used.

"With wireless networks, people have to be highly aware of security," Paige said. "Because it flies through the air, wireless networks are

Please see **NET** on A8

## Panel listens to testimony on Ten Commandments display at Capitol

LANSING (AP) — A constitutional law scholar, clergy and other members of the public spoke out Tuesday against a proposal to show the Ten Commandments in the Capitol and argued the main purpose of the display would be religious, not secular.

Wayne State University law professor Robert Sedler told state lawmakers and the Granholm administration that the U.S. Constitution affords no place for God in the public square.

"In the American constitutional system, the place for God is in the home, the church, the synagogue, the mosque and the temple," Sedler said. "By keeping God out of the public square and putting God into our homes and our religious institutions, the Constitution protects the religious freedom of all of us."

Sedler and other critics testified before the 12-member Michigan Capitol Committee, which is considering if and how the Ten Commandments can be shown at the Capitol. The panel also heard from two state

What do you think? Should the Ten Commandments be displayed at the Capitol? E-mail editor@oakpostonline.com.

Please see **HEALTH** on A6

Please see **CAPITOL** on A8

## Learn how to face your health insurance hassles

By **KELLY L. REYNOLDS**  
Managing Editor

With the high unemployment rate in Michigan, many students and parents of students are finding themselves unemployed and without medical insurance.

Even for those who are employed, or have parents who are employed, medical insurance can be expensive and confusing.

Insurance lingo and dealing with insurance representatives can be tricky. Terms like deductible, coinsurance, premiums and HSA cou-

pled with fast-talking representatives can give many headaches.

Decoding phrases and dealing with reps is no easy feat, but it is something that everyone should be able to do. Health insurance, after all, is about your health and well-being.

This article will untangle the mess that is health insurance and help you figure out where to go and what to do to get the health insurance that is best for you.

Fran Chapman, a junior marketing and human resources management major, who has insurance through her parents, said, "I don't

know about (copays, deductibles) because my parents deal with it."

Because there are a great number of students who are lacking insurance lingo, let's start with some terminology. According to ehealthinsurance.com, a **deductible** is the amount of money you must pay each year in order to cover your medical care expenses before your insurance policy will start paying for it. Higher deductibles usually result in lower monthly premiums.

A **monthly premium** is the amount paid each month in

exchange for health insurance coverage. Typically, the more paid in monthly premiums, according to ehealthinsurance.com, the less will be paid for routine doctor visits and other services.

**Coinsurance** is the amount required to pay for medical care after the deductible is paid. It is usually expressed as a percent of billed charges. For example, if your coinsurance is 20 percent, the insurance company will pay 80 percent of the claim, and you are

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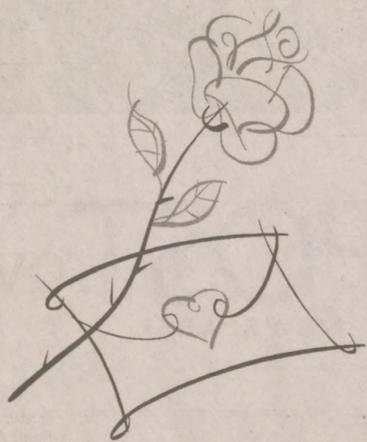


pondering what to do in your free time?

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and see what you've been missing!



Here is the perfect gift  
to give your sweetie for  
the Holidays - a ticket  
to the Meadow Brook  
Ball!!!

## "A Touch of Class"

### Meadow Brook Ball

Saturday, February 11, 2006

8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

Meadow Brook Hall

Cost: \$20.00 per couple

\$10.00 per individual

Formal Attire

Tickets on sale at the CSA Service  
Window, 49 Oakland Center, starting  
Wednesday, November 30, 2005.

For more information, call the CSA Office at 248-370-2400.

## Meadow Brook Hall 35th Annual Holiday Walk

### OU Faculty/Staff Night

Oakland University affiliates and their family and friends can  
attend the Holiday Walk at a discounted rate of \$12 per person  
Holiday treats will be provided



December 5, 2005 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

100-room Tudor-revival style mansion with historic and holiday  
treasures will host this time-honored tradition

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Oakland University recently expanded its relationship with  
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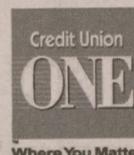
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Senior Reporter

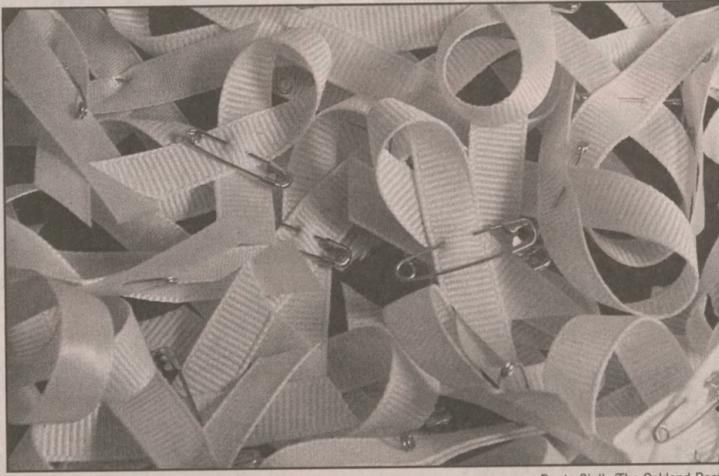
Alicia Sossi  
Senior Reporter

## Men, ribbons help spread awareness

For the second year, men at Oakland University are combating violence against women on campus. Started in 1991, the White Ribbon Campaign spreads awareness about this violence and honors 14 women who were murdered after a 25-year-old male, upset he was not accepted at the University of Montreal, went to the school and opened fire. Men all over the world wear white ribbons for the 12 days between the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women and the anniversary of

the massacre. The Gender and Sexuality Center will be handing out ribbons to men during the campaign, which runs from Nov. 25 through Dec. 6. Volunteers made the ribbons by hand, and more than 300 will be distributed at a table located in the Pioneer Food Court of the Oakland Center. "It's significant when men take a stand on issues like this," said Heather Brewer, manager of the GSC. Ribbons will be available for men who want to take a stand.

—Senior Reporter Kristin Sommer



Dante Ciullo/The Oakland Post  
White ribbons were available to men to show their support for female victims of domestic abuse.

## Aid office to improve

By JEFF KRANITZ  
Contributing Reporter

With the hopes of providing better service, Oakland University's Financial Aid Office will be undergoing significant changes during the holiday break.

When students return to OU in January and seek financial aid assistance, they will find a renovated office with private meeting areas, an increased staff and a telephone system that features cue calling.

Director of Financial Aid Cindy Hermesen announced the plans for modification while speaking at the OU Student Congress meeting on Nov. 21.

"We currently have 12 Financial Aid staff members, and we're going up to 22," Hermesen said. "We think that's the appropriate number for now."

Recently, the office has received countless complaints from students who say the poor service they receive is affecting them financially and academically.

OUSC members relayed to Hermesen their own concerns and suggestions.

Most of the complaints were related to processing delays, which in turn can cause late fees.

According to Legislator Alicia Feys, some students have had registration holds placed on their accounts because of these problems.

"A lot of students who have not been processed yet are those who applied late," Hermesen said. "With our increased staff, we hope to take care of that (late applications) better next year."

Hermesen said her office waives any late fees caused by delayed processing — as long as the application was turned in on time.

Another common complaint among students was that the Financial Aid office needs to provide more accessible and accurate information.

"I've asked questions and been given wrong answers," said Legislator Mia C. Evans.

Hermesen promised many improvements by January.

## Program assists adult students

By JEFF KRANITZ  
Contributing Reporter

Gov. Jennifer Granholm is working with Oakland University and other Michigan colleges and universities to make it easier for adult citizens to return to the classroom and finish their degrees.

In her Nov. 4 radio address, Granholm proclaimed November as "Return to Learn" month in Michigan.

"Return to Learn" is another step in the governor's effort to double the number of college graduates in the state.

"To attract the kind of businesses we need to grow Michigan's economy, Michigan needs to lead the nation in the number of college graduates we have in our state," Granholm said.

Over one-third of the students who enter OU each year are transfer students from community colleges or are returning adult learners.

According to OU's Web site, the average age for students on campus is 25. "Our specific targets for the program are folks who don't yet have their degree and are making the choice to get started or come back," said Sara Crampton, coordinator of New Student Programs.

OU is participating in the initiative by offering a "Return to Learn" informative session on Dec. 3 in Banquet Room A of the Oakland Center.

During the event, adults who wish to return to school will be able to gather information on the special services OU provides for them.

"My first semester at Oakland was a real awakening," said returning student Todd Dollar. "The school has been very good about keeping us informed. It seems that they're always pointing out another resource."

In addition to offering grants, loans and scholarships, the university is waiving the application fee

for any returning adult learner who hasn't been enrolled at a college or university for at least two years.

New Student Programs and Orientation staff members have designed an Express Orientation program for adults to help them connect with helpful resources on campus. Advisors in the Academic Skills Center also put students in touch with study seminars, tutoring and supplemental instruction.

"All the advisors I've spoken with since I've been here have been very helpful," said Jim Radcliffe, a returning mathematics major. "The only negative is that they lost my transcript when I first applied."

OU offers a bachelor of General Studies degree program that may be a sensible choice for some adult learners. This program allows a student to construct a course of study from two or more disciplines that would not be available through one department.

Students are granted a major

standing only after their plan is approved by a General Studies faculty advisor.

Roger Smiley was recently approved to receive bachelor's in Medical Communications from OU.

He said the university should offer placement testing for students who bring relevant life experience to their respective academic programs.

"Somebody who is 33 or 34 will have more life experience than somebody who is 18 or 19 and fresh out of high school," Smiley said.

Also taking place on Dec. 3 is OU's "Winter Wonderland." The event will be located in Banquet Room B of the Oakland Center during the same time as the "Return to Learn" session.

This free holiday fair can entertain the children, between the ages of 6-12, of adults who are visiting the "Return to Learn" seminar. To learn more about "Return to Learn" or "Winter Wonderland," visit <http://www.oakland.edu>.

## POLICEFILES

■ A student in Van Wagoner Hall called Oakland University Police because her roommate was unresponsive after taking cold medicine. The roommate was taken by ambulance to Crittenton Hospital after it was discovered she was diabetic.

■ After responding to a noise complaint, a resident assistant in East Vandenberg Hall called OUPD when she found several open intoxicants. The student in the room was given a Breathalyzer test and failed. She was issued a ticket for minor in possession.

■ Paraphernalia and a half-ounce of marijuana was found in a room in West Vandenberg Hall by a resident assistant.

■ OUPD responded to a suspicious odor call in Hamlin Hall last Monday. A strong smell of marijuana was apparent, and the student let the officer in to search his room. Two small stems were found in the room, and the student admitted it was marijuana. The student was issued a ticket for marijuana use, which is a misdemeanor.

■ Four car larcenies that happened last week in parking lot P-5 are suspiciously similar to 15 previous incidents on campus, according to OUPD. In one incident, two passenger windows were bro-

ken, and the CD player and inverter stolen. A second car had a CD player worth \$100 taken from the dashboard. One car that was left unlocked also had the CD player stolen from it. There was no damage to the car since it was left unlocked. A fourth incident involved the loss of more than \$700 of equipment. Both the driver and passenger side windows were broken along with rain guards on the windows. The faceplate from an after market CD player was stolen and so were two sub woofer speakers. The remainder of the CD player in the dashboard was damaged.

■ A student's wallet was stolen from an unlocked locker in the Recreation Center. It contained \$11 cash, two credit cards, a debit card, the student's driver's license and social security card. There are no suspects.

■ While getting food in the Oakland Center, a student began feeling dizzy and cold. She laid down and called OUPD. She drank some tea and orange juice in an attempt to feel better, but was still cold. Auburn Hills Rescue transported her to Crittenton Hospital.

■ A male returned to his car in parking lot P-16 and found it had been damaged. During the three hours he left it there, the car was damaged along the entire driver side. The responsible person left the scene of the accident and left no identification or information.

—Compiled by Senior Reporter Kristin Sommer

SPB Presents....

112 is coming to OU!!!

December 2

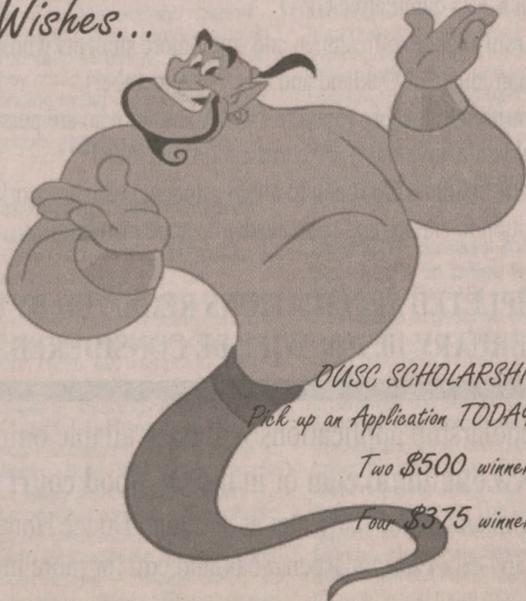
8pm @ Shotwell Pavilion!!!

FREE TO ALL OU STUDENTS

Get Your Tickets at the CSA Window



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OUSC SCHOLARSHIP  
Pick up an Application TODAY!  
Two \$500 winners  
Four \$375 winners

# Oakland University OUSC Student Congress

join us!!!

Next meeting:

Monday December 5th at 4pm

Oakland Room, Oakland Center

Yay! Classes are almost over!  
Oh no! Classes are almost over!  
Come unwind at the season's final

## Game Fest

Friday, December 2  
7:00 till closing

Lake Superior Rooms  
downstairs in the Oakland Center

Free and open to everybody

Come munch some munchies.  
Watch some anime. Play some games  
(video games, card games,  
board games, or any other kind of games).  
Then go home and study.

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## Country Cares Holiday Concert

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DECEMBER 8TH

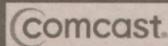
The Palace of Auburn Hills

7:30 PM

Doors Open: 6:00 PM

Tickets available through TicketMaster [248] 645-6666,  
The Palace Box Office and www.countrycaresconcert.com

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## Oakland University ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Scholarship Opportunities

The OUAA will be accepting applications for several \$2,000 scholarships for the Fall 2006/Winter 2007 academic year beginning January 3, 2006.

- College of Arts and Sciences
- School of Business Administration
- School of Education and Human Services
- School of Nursing
- School of Engineering and Computer Science
- School of Health Science
- Honors College
- Black Alumni Affiliate

These scholarships are open to any undergraduate student with junior or senior status by Fall 2006. Scholarship recipients must have two or more full-time semesters remaining in their academic program and must have a 3.0 GPA in their major field of study and a cumulative 3.0 GPA at OU.

Applications are also being accepted for the following scholarships:

- Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration (open to juniors and seniors with at least 3.4 cumulative GPA)
- Thomas A. Yatooma School of Engineering Alumni Memorial (open to juniors and seniors with a 3.25 cumulative GPA)
- Legacy Scholarship (open to freshmen and sophomore students whose parent or grandparent is a graduate of Oakland and an OUAA member)
- Returning Alumni Scholarship (open to OUAA alumni who are pursuing a second degree from Oakland University) \*\*\*certifications excluded\*\*\*
- Working Student Scholarship (open to all OU students who are working at least 20 hours in addition to classes and have academic good standing)

**ONLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006 WILL BE CONSIDERED.**



Alumni Association

Scholarship applications will be available online Jan. 3 at [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com) or in the OC food court Jan. 4 & 5. Contact Carol Carpenter at the John Dodge House at (248) 364-6134 or [cmcarpen@oakland.edu](mailto:cmcarpen@oakland.edu) for more information.

## Livonia leaves SMART, students defend non-use

By PAUL KAMPE  
Local News Editor

While Oakland County communities and governments are assessing the value of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, the importance of the issue reaches across county lines.

In Wayne County, Livonia voters decided on a Nov. 8 ballot proposal to redistribute the funds earmarked for SMART services and to funnel them back to their community through capital improvement funds.

The passage of the proposal means that the city would start collecting a millage not to exceed 0.5 mills — the tax would be \$0.50 per every \$1,000 of taxable property value for a homeowner whose property has a taxable value of \$100,000 — as of July 1, 2006.

The money collected with the tax would be dedicated to the improvements. This millage will replace the 0.6 mill currently taxed to residents.

"We put it on the ballot so citizens could make the decision, they agreed," said City Council President Gerald "Joe" Taylor.

The proposal passed by a 55 percent to 45 percent margin, with 10,691 yes votes to 8,740 no votes.

Taylor said the city sends \$2.8 million to SMART annually, and, with the new millage, the city will



A SMART bus departs from its stop at in the round-about off of University Drive on the east side of campus. The usefulness of the service is being discussed in some communities.

Dante Giulio/The Oakland Post

retain about \$2.4 million for its own use.

"We're not really benefiting by all that money we're sending," Taylor said.

Taylor said those funds will be used to make capital improvements to the city, including improvements for city trucks, police cars, tractors and mowers, and things the city

needs to operate.

"You can only go so long without buying new trucks and movers, and fixing roofs that leak," Taylor said.

The city will use \$500,000 to purchase busses that it currently uses from SMART, and the city will continue to operate them.

However, those will not be the large line haul busses that SMART

uses on large routes.

Taylor said the city conducted its own research into bus ridership and found that their numbers differed drastically from those provided by SMART.

The city will not be able to officially withdraw from the contract with SMART until January, and the current service will not actually termi-

"Public transit, there is none in Detroit."

Olivia Paglia  
Senior

nate until the end of August 2006.

"People don't see the contribution to the community if they don't use the system," said John Klemanski, chair of Oakland University's political science department.

People don't want to pay for the system if they are not going to use it personally, Klemanski said.

Students at OU have their own reasons for not using public transportation.

"I have my own car, and I have enough money for gas," said freshman Matthew Masson.

In fact, figures provided by SMART show that 40 percent of their riders do not have a car.

"Public transit, there is none in Detroit," said senior Olivia Paglia.

Others offered their suggestions for the system.

"We're not like Chicago or New York, so it gets cut down and gets worse," said junior Liz Duvall.

"To make it more functional, it needs money and upgrades," Duvall said.

Klemanski added that he is not optimistic about a rapid transit system in the city of Detroit.

## Boot Camp relieves jail, taxpayers

*Program rehabilitates offenders and saves money for residents*

By PATRICK HAYES  
Contributing Reporter

Overcrowding and under-funding have plagued jails statewide, but Oakland County continues to be ahead of other counties because of a program it started nearly 15 years ago.

The Oakland County Boot Camp, located on Brown Road in Auburn Hills, provides inmates convicted of less serious crimes with the opportunity to receive a shorter sentence by undergoing a military-style eight-week program, instead of sitting in a jail cell.

"We are not just here to yell and scream at people," said Chad Smith, a drill instructor and Oakland County sheriff's deputy.

"We want to teach life skills so that (inmates) can get their GED, go get a job and implement new values to make them productive individuals," he said.

The boot camp program used to see about 10 to 12 graduates per session,

but now that number has increased to about 30, Smith said.

The main reason the program has increased in popularity is the solid rehabilitation inmates seem to receive that they would not be receiving in a typical jail setting.

"About 70 percent of the inmates that complete the boot camp are never convicted of a crime again," Smith said.

Those numbers are almost an exact opposite of statistics for criminals that serve out a prison sentence.

Nearly 70 percent of those criminals do become repeat offenders.

In jail, inmates are usually left to their own devices, generally with the purpose of their sentence simply being punishment.

In boot camp, drill instructors focus on tearing down elements of inmates' personalities that lead to criminal behavior and remodeling them with acceptable values.

The program has also proved beneficial to taxpayers.

The cost of housing a criminal for eight weeks is much cheaper than what

it would cost to house a convict in jail for a sentence that could range from three months to one year.

Smith estimates that the boot camp program saves the county \$1 million per year.

The goal of the program is to catch individuals early in their criminal career and turn their lives around before they commit a more serious crime. Once someone sentenced to jail chooses boot camp as an option, there is little recourse for them to turn back.

"The only way we let someone leave here and go back to jail is if they are disruptive or destructive to other people," Smith said.

With the success the program has had, there are plans in the works to expand the facilities.

Currently, a new and more challenging obstacle course is being built by the inmates with materials donated by area businesses.

A larger building that could potentially house more inmates is also being considered, Smith said.

"We are not here to yell and scream at people."

Chad Smith  
Oakland County sheriff's deputy  
and drill instructor

## Nite brights lights up



The Detroit Holiday Tree in Campus Martius Park was lit on Nov. 18. The tree, the largest in city history, stands 55 feet tall, weighs eight tons and uses 16,000 lights.

Dante Giulio/The Oakland Post

## NATION

### FCC chair to cable and satellite TV: Clean up your act or else

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sexed-up, profanity-laced shows on cable and satellite TV should be for adult eyes only, and providers must do more to shield children or could find themselves facing indecency fines, the nation's top communications regulator says. "Parents need better and more tools to help them navigate the entertainment waters, particularly on cable and satellite TV," Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin told Congress on Tuesday. Martin suggested several options, including a "family-friendly" tier of channels that would offer shows suitable for kids, such as the programs shown on the Nickelodeon channel. He also said cable and satellite providers could consider letting consumers pay for a bundle of channels that they could choose themselves — an "a la carte" pricing system. If providers don't find a way to police smut on television, Martin said, federal decency standards should be considered.

### Man put to death in Ohio; nation's 999th execution since 1977

LUCASVILLE, Ohio (AP) — Ohio carried out the nation's 999th execution since 1977 on Tuesday, putting to death a man who strangled his mother-in-law while high on cocaine and later killed his 5-year-old stepdaughter to cover up the crime. John Hicks, 49, was put to death a day after Eric Nance was executed in Arkansas for killing a teenager by slashing her throat with a box cutter. The 1,000th execution since the death penalty was reinstated is likely to come as soon as Wednesday, when Robin Lovitt is set to die in Virginia for fatally stabbing a man with scissors during a pool hall robbery. Hicks offered a tearful apology for the 1985 murders earlier this month to Ohio Parole Board members, and said he loved both victims — 56-year-old Maxine Armstrong and 5-year-old Brandy Green.

### Thousands without power, roads still closed due to snowstorm

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Broad areas of the Dakotas and parts of Nebraska remained shut down Tuesday by the Plains' first blizzard of the season, with highways closed by blowing, drifting snow and thousands of people without electricity as temperatures hit the low teens. Five deaths have been blamed on slippery roads in Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. A sixth person was killed by a tornado spun off by the huge storm system in Arkansas. Travelers trying to get home after Thanksgiving had been stranded in hotels, truck stops and churches across the Plains. The storm was heading toward the Great Lakes on Tuesday after dumping snow as far south as the Texas Panhandle. As much as 20 inches of snow fell at Kennebec, S.D., while Chamberlain, S.D., was choked by drifts up to 8 feet high. The snow, ice up to 5 inches thick and wind gusting to 70 mph had snapped power lines. Utility officials estimated that 50,000 customers were blacked out across eastern South Dakota on Tuesday.

### Deadline passes for Internet phone providers to offer 911 service

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vonage Holdings Corp., the nation's largest non-cable provider of Internet phone service, could be barred from signing up new customers in many markets because it failed to meet the deadline to provide reliable emergency 911 service to all subscribers. The Federal Communications Commission gave Vonage and other companies that sell Internet-based phone service 120 days to comply with its order requiring enhanced 911, or E911, in all their service areas. The deadline to show the government where E911 is available was Monday. House and Senate lawmakers had urged FCC Chairman Kevin Martin to give companies more time and more tools to speed deployment.

## WORLD

### Saddam lashes out at United States as court holds second trial session

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A combative Saddam Hussein lashed out Monday at his treatment by American "occupiers and invaders" and lectured the chief judge about leadership as his trial resumed in a rambling and unfocused session. Two of the seven other defendants also spoke out during the 2 1/2-hour hearing, complaining of their treatment in detention or dissatisfaction with their court-appointed counsel. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who has joined the defense team as an advisor, said it was "extremely difficult" to assure fairness in the trial "because the passions in the country are at a fever pitch." "How can you ask a witness to come in when there's a death threat?" Clark told CNN. "Unless there's protection for the defense, I don't know how the trial can go forward." The tribunal adjourned until Dec. 5, only 10 days before the country's parliamentary elections, to give the defense time to replace lawyers who have been assassinated since the trial opened Oct. 19. Monday was the trial's second session.

### Vatican defends ban on candidates with homosexual tendencies

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican defended a policy statement designed to keep men with "deep-seated" homosexual tendencies from becoming priests, but said there would be no crackdown on gays who are already ordained. The Vatican document, the first major policy statement of Pope Benedict XVI's papacy, was officially released Tuesday after being leaked earlier. Conservative critics have said it may help reverse the "gay culture" of many U.S. seminaries, while liberal critics complained the restrictions will create morale problems among many clergy and lead to an even greater priest shortage in the United States. The official "Instruction" was released a week after an Italian Catholic news agency posted copy on its Web site.

### U.S. under fire as climate conferees hash out plan to cut pollution

MONTREAL (AP) — The United States came under renewed criticism Tuesday as thousands of environmentalists and international officials hammered out rules for a global treaty to cut greenhouse gas emissions. U.S. comments that it would resist any binding commitment to curb global warming by capping industrial emissions infuriated environmentalists, who accused Washington of trying to derail the U.N. Climate Change Conference. "When you walk around the conference hall here, delegates are saying there are lots of issues on the agenda, but there's only one real problem, and that's the United States," said Bill Hare of Greenpeace International. More than 8,000 environmentalists, scientists and government officials were attending the 10-day conference in Montreal. Some 120 environment ministers and other government leaders were expected to arrive next week for the final negotiations. The conference, the first meeting of the 140 countries that ratified the Kyoto Protocol since the agreement was adopted in 1997, is aimed at setting agreements on emissions cuts planned after 2012, when the second phase of the protocol begins.

### Dangers of China's chemical spill could linger for years in river ice

HARBIN, China (AP) — Experts warned Tuesday that dangers from a huge chemical spill in this northeastern Chinese city could last for years because of toxins — including cancer-causing benzene — imbedded in ice and mud at the bottom of the Songhua River. Their concern came as city officials in Harbin and down river in Russia's Far East, where the 50-mile-long chemical slick was headed, sought to reassure residents their tap water was clean. "Harbin's water is now safe to use and drink," Xiu Tinggong, vice director of the city's health inspection bureau, said on local state television.

**HEALTH**  
Cont. from A1

required to pay 20 percent after the deductible is paid.  
An **HSA, or health savings account**, is a savings account used in conjunction with high-deductible insurance plans in order to help you pay for your medical expenses that aren't covered by the insurance policy.  
Now that the terminology is out of the way, the next thing to look for is available plans for students.

**The Graham Health Center**

The first place that many students go in order to find health insurance is the Graham Health Center. The health center works with Maksin Group to provide affordable insurance to Oakland University students. The annual rate of the plan for students with no spouse or children is \$1,284.

Students enrolled at OU with any amount of credit hours can enroll for this plan. Anyone can also enroll their spouse or dependants for this policy with a higher annual rate. Many of the benefits of this plan are only available at the Graham Health Center. Routine physical exams, outpatient prescription drugs and mental or nervous disorders are all covered, but only if treated at the health center.

Any injuries or ailments that have occurred due to a war or any action related to a war are not covered.

Therefore, students anticipating going to war should look carefully into this plan, as many injuries that may occur may not be covered.

Pre-existing conditions, as well as dental and vision, are also not covered under this plan.

If interested, more information about the claim procedure and this plan are available at <http://www.maksin.com>.

Brandon Glatfelter, a sophomore political science and women's studies major, has student health insurance through the Graham Health Center.

"I know what I need to know. I know about prescriptions and doctors visits," Glatfelter said.

**Assurant Student Select**

Assurant Student Select Medical Insurance works with Fortis to help students under the age of 30 afford health insurance. The annual rate for a policy for a students ages 17 to 24, with a \$250 deductible, is \$1,325. This policy lets students choose which doctors and hospitals they visit, with no restrictions. It is also a flexible plan.

	Maksin	Assurant	Champion	Fortis Student insurance Ehealthinsurance.com	Golden Rule Short Term Ehealthinsurance.com
<b>Premium</b>	\$1,284 annual	Average: \$1325	Average: \$30/month	\$1325 annual	\$79.05/month
<b>Deductible</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$250.00	\$250.00
<b>Coinsurance</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	You pay 20% after deductible	You pay 50% of the first \$5,000 of covered expenses after the deductible is met, after that, you pay nothing
<b>Office Visits</b>	If at Graham Health Center \$15 co-pay	YES	YES	You pay 20% after deductible	You pay 50% of the first \$5,000 of covered expenses after the deductible is met, after that, you pay nothing
<b>Prescription Drugs</b>	100% Covered	NO	NO	NO	You pay 50% of the first \$5,000 of covered expenses after the deductible is met, after that, you pay nothing
<b>Emergency Room</b>	If medical emergency	YES	YES	You pay 20% after deductible	You pay 50% of the first \$5,000 of covered expenses after the deductible is met, after that, you pay nothing
<b>Maternity</b>	YES	NO	n/a	Covers complications of pregnancy, you pay 20% after deductible	n/a
<b>Dental/Vision</b>	NO	NO	Only if occurred by accident while traveling	n/a	n/a

Graphic by Dante Ciullo/The Oakland Post

If a student transfers schools or travels, the plan moves with the student.

It covers doctor's office visits, emergency care and surgery among many other things. The plan also offers a worldwide assistance plan, which covers students traveling abroad.

The plan, however, does not cover pre-existing conditions, pregnancy or childbirth, sterilization, dental treatment, intercollegiate sports injuries, prescription drugs, contact lenses, eyeglasses, mental illness or substance abuse. For more information about the Assurant health plan, visit <http://www.consumerbenefits.net/student-insurance.htm>.

**Champion Insurance**

Champion Insurance offers health insurance for U.S. students studying abroad. The monthly rate for a student, who is younger than 25 years old and covering only him/herself, is \$30. The plan is also available to students up to the age of 64, the insured's spouse, and children of the student for an extra monthly rate.

For more information about this plan, call (800) 643-4675 or visit <http://www.champion-ins.com>.

**Ehealthinsurance.com**

Ehealthinsurance.com is another company that provides health insurance for students. When visiting the site, students can browse a plethora of health insurance plans to find the one that is best for them. Companies like Golden Rule, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Humana are among the others that work with ehealthinsurance.com to give students, and non-students, the best insurance possible.

Ehealthinsurance.com offers student, short-term and major medical health insurance, all of for which a student may be eligible.

Student health insurance through ehealthinsurance.com is for those who are full-time students and want to keep the plan for a while. It is slightly more expensive than short-term insurance. But Emily Fox, a spokeswoman for ehealthinsurance.com, says that if you are looking for long-

term coverage, this is the best plan because, even though it is slightly more expensive, it offers student coverage up to the age of 30.

Short-term insurance features plans that students may keep from three to six months. This is ideal for students who are planning on graduating and getting a job within six months. Short-term plans tend to be \$20 per month cheaper than student insurance, but cover laboratory tests, x-rays, office visits, emergency room visits and outpatient surgery more extensively.

A major medical health insurance plan is one that students, or anyone, can keep indefinitely. There are, however, more steps when applying for this plan and a longer waiting period. This would be ideal for students who are planning on being in school for many years and want to keep their insurance throughout those years, Fox said.

If you are worried about the cost, Fox suggests getting the plan with the lowest premium so that you can "still be covered for the major stuff."

**Here are some questions you should ask a rep of the health insurance company before committing to a plan:**

- Who is eligible for this plan?
- Do I need a certificate of credible insurance? This tells the insurance company who your last or current insurance provider is.
- Does this policy cover students who study abroad?
- Am I restricted to only doctors who are in-network?
- Are pre-existing conditions covered?
- What is the deductible?
- What is the co-pay?
- What is the coinsurance?
- What is my premium?
- Are prescriptions and hospitalization covered?
- Are ER visits covered?
- Is there a procedure I must follow to make a claim?
- What are other exclusions or limitations to the policy?

**Health Savings Accounts**

While looking at plans, students may also want to consider getting a health savings account through a bank. The money in this account can be used for medical expenses that are not covered by the policy.

HSA's are only available with major medical plans, but may be extremely helpful in funding medical expenses. The money that is put in the HSA may roll over from year to year and may eventually be used as retirement money. The money can not go toward the plan's premium, so if you want an HSA, you need to keep in mind that you need to fund the HSA and the premium of the plan, Fox said.

HSA's also offer tax relief. Typically, a person could save \$29.17 per month in taxes after writing off their HSA.

HSA's can be confusing, though. For more information about HSA's, visit [ehealthinsurance.com](http://ehealthinsurance.com) or your bank.

Health insurance and things associated with it can be extremely hard to decipher. While looking at various plans and options, knowledge about terms and conditions is vital.

Take this health insurance guide with you when you speak to insurance representatives about the best plan for you.

— Senior Reporter Alicia Sossi contributed to this report.

**Oakland University's**

# Student Affairs

**GRAHAM HEALTH CENTER**

Please remember, good hand washing (15 seconds) is the best protection against the transmission of colds and flu! The hand wash gels are a good alternative when soap and water are not available. Keep your immune system strong with a healthy diet, plenty of sleep, and vitamins. Alcohol and smoking will weaken your immune system. If you are ill, stay away from crowds and groups in confined spaces. Contact GHC at ext. 2341 or email [health@oakland.edu](mailto:health@oakland.edu) if you have any questions about your health or the need for an appointment.

**GHC...The Place to be for a Healthy Me!**  
370-2441  
[www.oakland.edu/GHC/](http://www.oakland.edu/GHC/)

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THEIR FINAL EXAMS FOR FALL TERM IN THE DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICE, PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**CAMPUS RECREATION WIN A FREE MASSAGE!**

Drop a recipe in the box at the front desk and you are automatically entered to win—and your recipe will be published in our first ever Rec-cipe book!

**Intramural Sports**

The IM Bench Press Competition is November 30 at 7PM. Winners will receive free t-shirts.

**Aquatics**

Sign up for private swim lessons. Contact Liz Groth for more information at 248-370-4532. Swim for Malaria will be held on December 10th. Register today at the Rec Center or call 248-370-4533.

**NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS FIRST-YEAR TRANSITION WORKSHOPS**

**WE'LL HELP YOU FIND THE WAY! MEMORIZING TECHNIQUES**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6-7PM, 121 WEST VANDENBERG HALL**

**WANTED—RESIDENT ASSISTANTS!**

University Housing is now recruiting for Resident Assistants for the 2006-2007 academic year. Applications are available in 448 Hamlin Hall (Housing Office). All applicants must attend an informational meeting. Call ext. 3570 for details or pick up an application.

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**

wraps up fall term with  
**Troy Thirddgill**  
December 2, 7 PM,  
Vandenberg Dining Center  
Free refreshments and admission

Troy Thirddgill is one of the most sought-after comedians working today! He has toured extensively overseas performing for our troops everywhere from Cuba to Kuwait and most places in between. He has also made television appearances on shows like Beverly Hills 90210, Martin, In Living Color and many others.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OFFICE**

The ISSO is proud to introduce...OU International Ambassadors—a program geared to integrate international students with OU locals. Students at OU will be able to benefit from this cross-cultural program by experiencing cultural enrichment and reaffirmation of Americanism. The OU International Ambassadors Program will provide vast opportunities for those involved. Imagine an international experience in your own backyard. Establish a relationship with a person from another country, no visa or passport necessary. Become an OU Ambassador today. For more information contact Petra Knoche at 248-370-3352 or [ppankova@oakland.edu](mailto:ppankova@oakland.edu) or stop by 157 North Foundation Hall.

Visit an Authorized Campus Store, an

## CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

49 Oakland Center, Rochester, MI 48309-4401  
(248) 370-2400 • [csa@oakland.edu](mailto:csa@oakland.edu) • [www.oakland.edu/csa](http://www.oakland.edu/csa)

**CSA SERVICE WINDOW EVENTS:**  
Discount tickets for the following shows and events are available to members of the Oakland University community. You can purchase tickets or pick up a detailed schedule of dates, times and prices at the CSA Service Window, 49 Oakland Center.

- Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular With the "Rockettes" (Dec 1, 5, 22)
- Joffrey Ballet: "The Nutcracker" (Dec 2)
- DSO: Ode to Joy (Dec 15)
- Broadway's Spirit of Christmas (Dec 4)
- Russian National Ballet Company: Swan Lake (Jan 8)

**Winter Wonderland**

Saturday, December 3  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center

A FREE Holiday Fair for the children of OU students, faculty, staff and alumni! There will be Holiday arts & crafts, face-painting, ornament making, jewelry making, cookie decorating, games for prizes, and a coloring contest. Santa will even make an appearance! A light lunch is provided as well. It's fun, festive, and puts everyone in the Holiday spirit!

**SPB Presents to OU: 112 in Concert!**  
December 2, 8 p.m.  
Shotwell Pavilion

Free to OU Students, \$10 for non-OU students. If you have a guest you must buy tickets in advance. Tickets available at booths around campus or the CSA window.

**Good Morning Commuters!**

Friday, December 2  
9-11 a.m.  
Fishbowl, SFH  
Come get your "smarties" before exam week, and some hot chocolate too!  
Brought to you by the CSA Office & OU Commuter Council!

Come visit the new Student Resource Center or Gender & Sexuality Center on the lower level of the OC!

**SRC Hours:** M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**GSC Hours:** Monday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\*These hours are temporary until we are fully staffed!\*

The Gender and Sexuality Center **White Ribbon Campaign!**

TODAY! November 30  
December 1, 2, 5 & 6  
12-1 p.m., hallway of the OC

It's important for women AND men to recognize their role in ending violence against women. By participating in the WRC or by simply wearing a ribbon, you show your support. Spread the word!

For more info: <http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>

This annual community service project is sponsored by the Center for Student Activities & the OU Alumni Association.

For more information, contact the Center for Student Activities (CSA) Office by calling 248-370-2400 or email: [csa@oakland.edu](mailto:csa@oakland.edu)

EDITORIAL

## Religious freedom strikes debate in Christmas season

As we drive around subdivisions during the holiday season, we cannot help but notice the glowing lights, the blow-up Santas on the front lawns and, of course, the nativity scenes.

None of these items are unusual during the Christmas season, but in one subdivision in Novi, a neighborhood association has asked a family, the Samonas, to put away the seven-piece nativity scene decorating their front lawn.

The nativity scene apparently violates a neighborhood association ordinance, and the Samona family could be fined in costs that could reach up to \$100 per week if the display is not removed.

In a notice, the family was asked to take the nativity scene down. However, nothing was mentioned about the other holiday lawn decorations such as the Santa or Minnie Mouse in a holiday outfit. No explanation has been offered for the discrepancy in the request.

The Samonas have refused to take down their nativity scene, which they say portrays the true meaning of Christmas.

Now, college students, ask yourself one

thing: does your house or dorm room showcase something that reflects your beliefs?

Imagine the possible ramifications of OU saying you can display Christmas lights or a mistletoe, but not a crucifix, verse from the Quran, Star of David or a statue of Buddha at your door.

In the Samonas' case, is it not their own property and right to express their religious views? This is different than placing the Ten Commandments on the property of the Capitol, which is deemed public property and must remain secular. (Please see **Ten Commandments story on A1**).

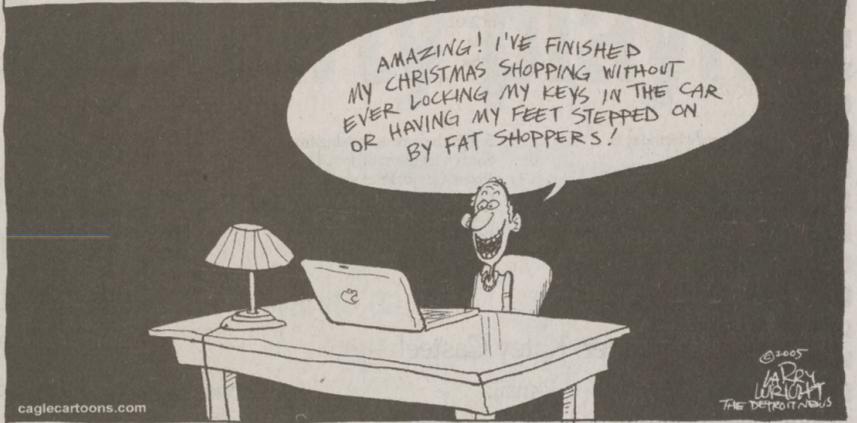
Whatever your religious convictions, you all have the freedom to practice any religion — or lack thereof — and particularly on your own property.

Oakland University has a diverse campus of many religions. Let's encourage enlightenment and tolerance instead of small-mindedness.

Remember, if you are going to display your religious themes, then the person next door has the same right.

— THE OAKLAND POST

THE WONDERS OF THE INTERNET:



Turn on the TV, so you don't miss your Christmas movies ...

■ "It's a Wonderful Life" on NBC, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. Frank Capra's classic 1946 fantasy about troubled George Bailey (James Stewart) and his enlightening angel, Clarence.

■ "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" on ABC, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. Jim Carrey stars as the unpopular Grinch in the film based on the Dr. Seuss book.

■ "The Santa Clause" on ABC, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. Tim Allen stars as a man who becomes the unwilling successor to Santa Claus and has to quickly learn the ropes.

■ "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" on NBC, 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Life on the road isn't easy for Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) and family, but at least his Christmas bonus is coming.

— The Associated Press

GUEST COLUMN

## Tokin' and smokin' the maryjane leads you to a dead end



By BRYAN AUSTIN  
OU Grad Student

Of all the hurdles college students have to encounter: hard classes, long work hours, financial aid, relationships ... none has the potential to be more deadly than drugs. I remember being a kid and going through DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). I remember the Disney specials and the Saturday morning commercials. Growing up, drugs were definitely not cool. Drugs never did go away though. They were

always just out of sight somewhere in the shadows. As I grew older, those shadows drew nearer and nearer. Helping strengthen the shadows were comedians and celebrities who began to normalize pot. In their performances, they praised pot and said it was the cool thing everybody was doing. By the time I had reached college, it was no longer a question of whether or not you used drugs, but what kind of drugs were your preference.

Never mind the fact the drinking age was 21, and pot and other drugs are illegal, college students rationalize to themselves that they are the masters of their own destinies.

Sadly, by choosing to do drugs, most students give up the very independence they so want to

prove they have.

Drugs enslave those that use them.

Once a drug enters your system, you've made the choice that you don't like the person you are, and that you'd rather be the fake or "high/buzzed" artificial person that your drug of choice makes you. Drugs don't make you better at anything, drugs don't make you fall in love, and drugs don't make your dreams come true.

Drugs do make you into someone you are not. Drugs make you do stupid things, hurt people you love and convince you to risk jail time, fines, your health and possibly your life, all for a couple of moments of enjoyment.

But we do drugs to fit in, we do it to forget, we do it because we're bored, and we do it because most of the time we won't get caught.

The punishments and consequences aren't

real until it's too late.

I'm writing this because everyday I see good people fading into shadows. I hear their intelligent conversation turning into the rambling nonsense of potheads. I smell the stench of their drug induced sweat and breath, and, worst of all, I feel the damage they are doing to themselves and others.

If you are a drug user, I probably haven't convinced you to stop, but I would like you to consider one thing: when you were a kid, were you so wrong to think that drugs weren't cool? Remember back when all you had to worry about was what to play after school. Seems to me that life made a lot of sense back then ... Are things so different now? Drugs destroy dreams, every single day...

Bryan Austin is a post-baccalaureate psychology student at Oakland University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### McGuinness has battled tuition for students

Dear Editor,

Last week Student Body President Michael McGuinness was criticized in a letter to the editor. I thought the points made were unfair, and I disagree with them. I also wanted to share about when I attended the August board of trustees meeting, when the 15.2 percent tuition increase was being considered, our Student Congress, with President McGuinness in the lead, organized a great student protest of that increase.

I actually took part because President McGuinness repeatedly encouraged me to come. In fact, he made the "Keep Oakland Tuition Affordable" sign that I held. Our successful efforts landed us on the front page of The Oakland Press.

On top of organizing the students, he spoke before the board of trustees and was successful in lowering the tuition increase. President McGuinness saved each Oakland student hundreds of dollars a year.

Since each student contributes less than a single quarter to his pay, I would say that my individual investment in my student body president, along with the rest of Student Congress, really paid off. As a student who is more able to stay enrolled because of the lowered tuition increase, I say "thank you."

Steve Johnson  
Sophomore  
Education Major

### Fee restructuring is practical in our economy

Dear Editor,

The recent student fee assessment restructuring at Oakland University has generated some vigorous opposition in the local press and within Oakland University.

As a part-time doctoral student, I am understandably happy, as it will cost me less money to go to school.

However, on a policy analysis level, I

believe that this move will further position Oakland to take advantage of the need for continuing education credits, the rise in adult and continuing education, and will enable Oakland to better compete with the growing sector of for-profit colleges and universities.

From the informal conversations I've had, it seems that the percentage of Oakland students who pay college costs out of pocket may be relatively small compared with those who attend school with the aid of scholarships, grants and loans.

In my case, my current employer has a program where my graduate tuition is 50 percent reimbursed. Fees and books are not covered in this arrangement. Now all fees for attending school are part of the cost of attending school, and are viewed as "tuition."

Since education is a service that is being offered in a consumer society, Oakland's educational costs will now be more equitably related to the amount of services actually being purchased by the individual consumer.

As a returning part-time graduate student with a wife who returned to

Oakland for part-time post-baccalaureate teacher certification, the former fee structure always bothered me. I felt that part-time students were unfairly subsidizing the on-campus programs of full-time and resident students.

Oakland has a high percentage of commuting students. Growth trends in students returning to school on a part-time basis and the growth of for-profit and extension college programs have been well documented. Almost all of my fellow doctoral students work full-time jobs in addition to attending classes.

On a statewide basis, our governor has promoted an ambitious vision of doubling the rate of college degrees earned in Michigan within the next 10 years.

November was declared "Return to Learn" month, and included a media and internet promotional campaign designed to increase public awareness of the availability and consumer-friendliness of colleges and universities for those who may have started but never completed a degree.

Public school teachers in Michigan are required to obtain a certain number of continuing education credits to main-

tain certification. Where will these returning students go for the courses that they need? Many would likely choose the programs or courses that fit within their work schedule, are closest to home, and that have the best bang for the buck in value.

Oakland is a great university, and is uniquely positioned to take full advantage of these trends. One of the hindrances to capturing a large portion of this growing market was the former fee structure.

Why should a returning student with a full- or part-time job, an existing health plan and a family doctor, and either home exercise equipment or a membership to a gym pay for full access to programs used by students who spend a high percentage of time on campus?

I am not a policy expert, but from my life experience and my readings, I believe Oakland has made a courageous policy decision that makes complete sense for our economy, our demographics and our state's future.

Jonathan Busch  
Ph.D. Student

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## What do you think? Or got a news tip?

Send your comments to  
The Oakland Post.

Letter Policy: Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

By e-mail:

editor@oakpostonline.com

By mail:

Letter to the Editor  
The Oakland Post  
61 Oakland Center  
Rochester, MI 48309

CORRECTIONS CORNER

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

The Oakland Post is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press.

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

## Do you have the Christmas spirit? Let's see

Circle the correct answer for each question. Completed forms should be placed inside the box located outside The Oakland Post in the basement of the Oakland Center, office 61, no later than 5 p.m. Monday.

1. According to Hallmark, how many Christmas cards are mailed each year?  
a. 1.9 billion  
b. 1,000  
c. 14 million  
d. 1 trillion

2. According to the U.S. Census Bureau report, 20.8 million Christmas trees were cut down in 2002.  
True  
False

3. When was the first Christmas card printed?  
a. 2002  
b. 1843  
c. 1700  
d. 1410

4. Alice Cooper's birthday is December 25.  
True  
False

5. Which name is missing from Santa's reindeer: Blitzen, Dasher, Vixen, Cupid, Prancer, Donder, Comet, Rudolph and?  
a. Rudy  
b. Dancer  
c. John  
d. Jessica

6. When was the Christmas carol "Silent Night" written?  
a. 1999  
b. 1512  
c. 1985  
d. 1818

### Last week's winner: Katey Casteel

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Limit one submission per student, per paper, per week. Winner is posted in next week's paper.

## The Post drops lawsuit against BOT

By ALICIA SOSSI  
Senior Reporter

The Oakland Post decided last week to drop the appeal in its long-standing case against the Oakland University board of trustees.

"It was basically the lawyer's recommendation," said Jane Briggs-Bunting, board member and former advisor of The Post.

"We had no great expectations for the Supreme Court because of the Court of Appeals outcome," she said.

The case began when the newspaper sued the board to challenge the legality of a meeting it held in a closed session in January 2003.

The case first lost in the trial court and then in the State of Michigan Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals ruled in September that the board's meeting was legal and did not violate the Michigan Open Meetings Act, which requires public bodies to meet in open sessions.

"We are happy the matter has finally been resolved, and we're looking forward to moving on," said Ted Montgomery, OU media relations director.

## NET Cont. from A1

inherently less secure than wired networks."

Security doesn't seem to deter many people from using Grizznet, however.

Feedback to UTS has been mostly positive, Paige said.

"I think it's very important to have it," senior Suat Kusefoglu said. "Plus you can use the Internet as a tool to look up stuff."

Senior Irfan Baftiu echoed Kusefoglu's opinion. "I just wished we had a print link," Baftiu said.

Students are also using wireless capabilities for non-academic purposes. Freshman Ryan Arb admits to surfing the Web during class, but takes notes at the same time.

Usage density is a main factor in determining how many access points to have in a certain area.

"When people design wireless networks, they design them with density in mind. We try to forecast what the density will be," Paige said. "The Oakland Center will have more density than the second floor of Dodge Hall."

Wireless usage is tracked by location, and network density is adjusted accordingly.

However, capacity fluctuates regardless of density.

"If you have a few people downloading instead of a lot of people checking e-mail, it takes up a lot of network points," Paige said.

Downloading usually involves file sharing, which takes up multiple network points.

Downloading files illegally

poses more dangers than just overloading the network.

Besides violating copyright laws, illegal downloading on OU's network also violates university policies.

In an e-mail sent to all OU students, faculty and staff, Provost Virinder Moudgil said persons violating copyright law may be incurring liability for OU.

"If the university is notified by an artist, author, publisher or law enforcement agency that someone is violating copyright laws, the relevant offices at Oakland will investigate the complaint, and, if appropriate, take action in accordance with university policy #890 Use of University Technology Resources," Moudgil said in the e-mail.

Penalties for violating this policy depend on the occurrence and severity of violation.

## CAPITOL Cont. from A1

representatives who support displaying the commandments.

Rep. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, said the commandments and the founding fathers' religious faith played a role in U.S. history.

"We shouldn't be running from it. We shouldn't be ashamed that this country was founded on Christian principles," Casperson said.

Rep. Fulton Sheen, R-Plainwell, added, "We need a set of values we can look to."

Those opposing a public display, though, said the founding fathers knew first hand of the abuses that can happen when government and religion mix.

"While I still hold the commandments to be sacred, I cannot in good conscience force my belief or particular version of Christianity on those who may have found God through another channel," said the Rev. Gordon Weller, rector of St. Paul's

Episcopal Church in Lansing.

Earlier this year, the House approved a resolution encouraging the Capitol Committee to create a public display of the commandments. Three months later, the U.S. Supreme Court laid out the conditions under

which commandments exhibits may be displayed.

The court said exhibits will be upheld if their main purpose is to honor the nation's legal — rather than religious — traditions, and if they do not promote one religious sect over another.

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### EVENTS

SUNDAY EVENING CATHOLIC MASS FOR OAKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ACROSS THE STREET AT ST. JOHN FISHER, 3665 E. WALTON BLVD. FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00PM. SOCIAL FOLLOWS. ALL ARE WELCOME! WWW.OUCAMPUSMINISTRY.COM 248-370-2189, ON CAMPUS X.2189.

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## GAS Cont. from A1

between \$5-\$6 per gallon in U.S. currency.

Sometimes people may wonder where the gas prices up on the marquee come from.

"I go with what my market is," said Katina Marie, team leader of the Meijer gas stations.

Marie said she compares her prices with what is going on with gas stations in a three- to five-mile radius to help come up with prices.

The current Detroit area average price is only 13 cents higher than the cost of gas last year at \$1.92 per gallon.

The current national average is \$2.14 per gallon, down from \$2.50 one month ago.

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## The perfect holiday party playlist

The holidays are here. With the holidays come holiday songs. And everyone has their favorites. "My family and I gather around the piano at Christmas, drink eggnog and sing 'Jingle Bell Rock,'" said Melissa Day, a senior at Oakland University.

Sometimes holiday songs just "make you wanna dance," said senior Nicole Makowski. Whatever the case, holiday songs have a strong effect on many.

A survey conducted of 105 OU students on campus about their favorite holiday songs gathered the following results:

### Songs — Artists

- All I Want for Christmas is You — Mariah Carey
- Peace on Earth/The Little Drummer Boy — Bing Crosby & David Bowie
- Sleigh Ride — TLC
- O Holy Night — Josh Groban
- Christmas in Hollis — Run-DMC
- The Chanukah Song — Adam Sandler
- Let it Snow — Dean Martin
- The Christmas Song — Nat King Cole
- Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree — Brenda Lee
- Silent Night — Traditional
- White Christmas — Bing Crosby
- Jingle Bell Rock — Bobby Helms
- Do You Hear What I Hear? — Traditional
- It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas — Johnny Mathis
- Carol of the Bells — Peter J. Wilhousky
- I'll Be Home for Christmas — Frank Sinatra
- Wonderful Christmas Time — Paul McCartney
- Santa Baby — Madonna
- Blue Christmas — Elvis Presley
- Santa That's My Only Wish This Year — Britney Spears

—Information compiled by Kim Petrylka, Contributing Reporter

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"

"My favorite song to listen to while decorating (the) Christmas tree."

Ausra Zurro  
Senior  
Accounting

"All I want for Christmas is you" by Mariah Carey

"It makes me wanna dance."

Nicole Makowski  
Senior  
Accounting

"The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole

"It is just a great traditional Christmas Song."

Nick Browe  
Sophomore  
Marketing

### Your holidays

"The Christmas Song"

"There's an amazing saxophone version by Kenny G."

Christy Gohart  
Junior  
Communications

"My family and I gather around the piano every year at Christmas, drink eggnog and sing 'Jingle Bell Rock.'"

Melissa Day  
Senior  
Accounting

"Carol of the Bells"

"It's in 'Home Alone,' and it gets me in the spirit."

Danielle Harkins  
Senior  
Communications

## Winter blues? It may be more serious

Lack of sunlight may cause depression

By RACHAEL BIERMANN  
Contributing Reporter

It's a cold winter day. Your friends invite you to do some holiday shopping, but you're depressed. The only things you want to do are sleep and indulge yourself with sweets.

In fact, since winter began, you haven't been motivated to carry out your usual daily routine.

If this scenario sounds familiar, you may be suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder.

SAD is a form of depression that people may suffer from during the winter months, most commonly December through February.

According to the Seasonal Affective Disorder Association, about a half million people are affected by SAD during the winter months.

Many can experience a sense of depression while the seasons are changing, but experiencing clinical depression because of the change in seasons is much less common, said Dr. Pamela Marsh, a staff psychologist at the

Graham Counseling Center.

Symptoms can have wide-ranging effects.

In serious cases, the person suffering from the disease may not be able to function normally unless medical treatment is sought.

Most people don't experience the more severe symptoms SAD can generate, but rather suffer from more mild symptoms.

For many students, staying joyful during the winter season is a problem that comes every year.

"I'm usually a little sadder during the winter months," said sophomore Melanie Moore. "I try to cheer myself up by doing winter activities like ice skating or sledding. I also do silly things like making scrapbooks or Christmas ornaments."

For most students, staying busy helps the icy months speed by.

"I try to keep active and resist the natural temptation into hibernation mode," said graduate student Jeff

Cunningham. "But that's usually unsuccessful when I have a choice between sitting outside in zero-degree weather and sitting on my couch watching football."

Cunningham said he feels more sluggish during the winter, and this does not help him in dealing with his busiest time of the year.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.bigfoto.com>

Lack of sunlight during the winter months may cause depression for some individuals.

Sophomore Chris Shina also attempts to fight the winter blues by staying active.

"Since there is nothing to do outside, I usually try to work out," Shina said. "But I also have shovel the snow in the driveway."

Marsh said restful sleep, limiting alcohol consumption and regular exercise can play a positive role in curing winter depression.

She also recommends getting out into the fresh air and getting natural sunlight at least once a day.

Junior Stacey Kubiak said she enjoys the winter.

"Unless it's bitterly cold, the winter has a good effect on my mood because I get to go sledding, skiing, go for walks in the snow and basically enjoy all of the winter festivities."

Shina agrees. "I don't get angry that it's winter. I'd just rather be at the beach than shoveling snow," he said.

If you think you may suffer from SAD seek treatment at the Graham Counseling Center by calling (248) 370-2341.

## UP AND COMING

Thursday, Dec. 1

The 35th annual Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk will showcase the Great Hall, Library and much more. Admission is \$20 for adults and seniors, \$12 for OU faculty and staff, \$5 for children 17 and under, \$5 for OU students, and children under 2 years old are admitted for free. Self-guided tours are available Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Candlelight tours are available Nov. 28 and Dec. 5 from 5 to 9 p.m.

The Graham Health Center starts the American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking Program from noon to 1:30 p.m. The program meets every Thursday for eight weeks. The cost for the program is \$50 for students and \$70 for anyone else.

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is making its debut at Meadow Brook Theatre. For information on showtimes, visit the Meadow Brook Theatre Web site at <http://www.mbtheatre.com>.

## SKETCHES

by Rene Tholy

A performance by OU French language students of comedy sketches by the contemporary French playwright, Rene Tholy.

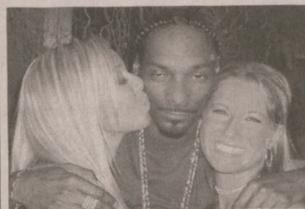
Sketches are in French, with brief introductions in English.

Friday, December 2, 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
Varner Experimental Laboratory Theatre Room 133

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## Wooten guiding young Grizzlies

By ALICIA SOSSI  
Senior Reporter

Junior guard Calvin Wooten has gotten a fresh start playing for the Oakland University men's basketball team.

In each game this season, the 6-foot-1 transfer from Rutgers was the leading scorer, and he has established himself as the team's leader.

Saturday, Wooten scored 20 points, leading OU to a 77-53 win over Duquesne. He is averaging 26.3 points per game.

In his OU debut, Wooten scored 39 points against Albany at the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic in Gainesville, Fl. His point total set a tournament record for scoring.

In the same game, Wooten also tied an OU school record by making nine three-pointers.

"I've had consistent shooting," Wooten said. "Coach (Kampe) really wants me to shoot the ball, and I'm just putting the ball in the basket. He gives me more confidence."

Greg Kampe, OU men's basketball head coach, said Wooten shoots and shares the ball well.

"He scores a lot but is not selfish," he said. "He has been a steady force on a young team. He's a tremendous talent and a stabilizing force."

For Wooten, the leadership role comes with his age and experience.

"Being the oldest and having played at a different school, the players look to me as one they can lean on," he said.

He encourages teammates to listen to the coaches and tells

them what he's been through, including his injuries and experiences with other coaches.

"I take them on my shoulders as an older brother," he said.

A Detroit native, Wooten began playing basketball when he was 12 and graduated from Mackenzie High School in 2002. As a senior, he was a Mr. Basketball finalist and was First Team All-State.

After graduating from high school, Wooten played at Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey, for two years.

He played in 28 games in his first season with the Scarlet Knights. Wooten scored 24 points against Villanova in January of 2003 — at the time, a career high. He followed it up with 13 points against Georgetown and added 21 against Pittsburgh.

When Wooten tore his anterior cruciate ligament in April of 2003, his coach at Rutgers told him he would not see a lot of playing time.

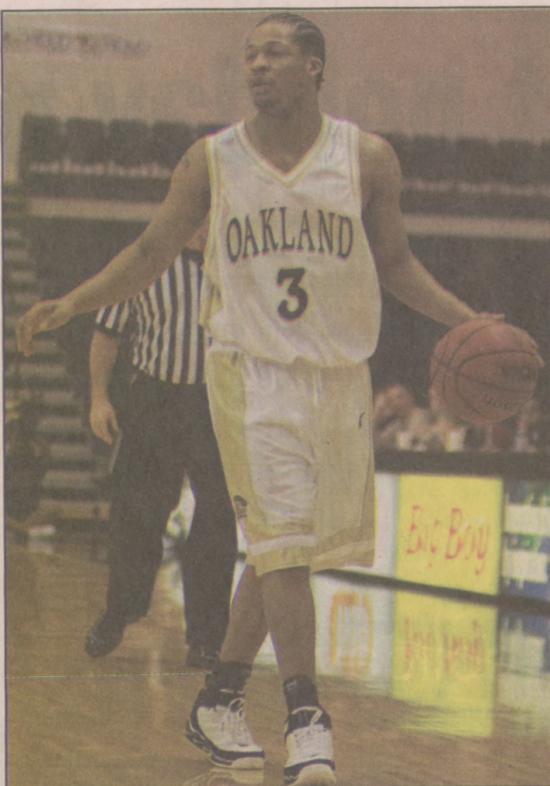
That's when Wooten decided it was best to come home and play for OU.

"Coach Kampe told me if I ever had a problem anywhere, I could always come home," Wooten said. "He told me I'd always have a spot on his roster."

That made Wooten's decision easy — he called Kampe and arranged to transfer to OU.

Wooten, who is one of five children, enjoys being home and close to his family.

"OU is right down the street from my family — it's only a 20 minute drive from my home. I



Dante Ciullo/The Oakland Post  
Junior Calvin Wooten has been a "steady force" on OU's young team.

love the people here," he said.

Wooten transferred last fall and, per NCAA rules, sat out the 2004-05 season.

Watching OU reach the NCAA Tournament from the sidelines was both inspiring and tough for Wooten.

"It was good to sit out and watch, but I'd rather be out there," he said.

This year, the team's goal is to win the Mid-Continent Conference Championship again and to win at least two games in the NCAA Tournament, Wooten said.

Wooten, who aspires to play in the NBA or coach after graduation, said he loves playing

basketball for OU.

He is now able to play with his best friend, Rick Billings, who transferred from Ohio State last year, as well as center Shawn Hopes, whom he played against in high school.

"We have no problems sharing the ball, and the team chemistry is great," he said. "There's nothing but love on this team."

After transferring and recovering from injury, Wooten has finally returned to playing the sport he loves.

"When people are in the stands yelling my name or come up to me in class to say good game, I thrive off that," he said.

## SPORTS

### Women's basketball falls to Miami

Senior Jayme Wilson scored 21 points, and junior Nicole Piggott added 17 points, but OU (1-3) fell to Miami, 78-65, in the championship game of the Thanksgiving Classic in Miami, Fl. OU shot 38 percent from the field, compared to the 52 percent clip for Miami. Senior Anne Hafeli added 12 points and five rebounds. OU advanced to the Classic's championship game after defeating Duquesne, 65-54. Piggott was named to the All-Tournament team, scoring a combined 38 points in the two games. OU will be back in action this Saturday where the team will play its home-opener against Wisconsin-Green Bay at 3:30 p.m.

### Men's basketball shuts down Duquesne

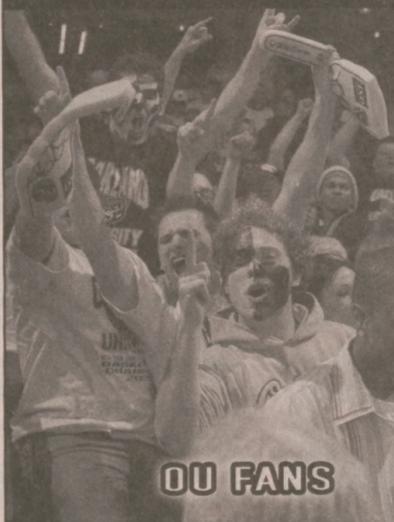
Freshman Derick Nelson and junior Calvin Wooten each scored 20 points in a 77-53 win over Duquesne on Saturday. OU's defense held Duquesne scoreless for the first six minutes of play and the last four minutes of the first half. OU (3-1) held Duquesne to 39 percent shooting for the game and that wasn't nearly enough to cut into the OU lead in the second half. OU also held the advantage on the boards, out-rebounding Duquesne 50-42. Nelson finished the game 12-13 from the free-throw line and had 10 rebounds. Sophomore Patrick McCloskey added six points and 12 rebounds. OU will travel to Bowling Green to take on the Falcons tonight at 7 p.m.

### Jauron steps in



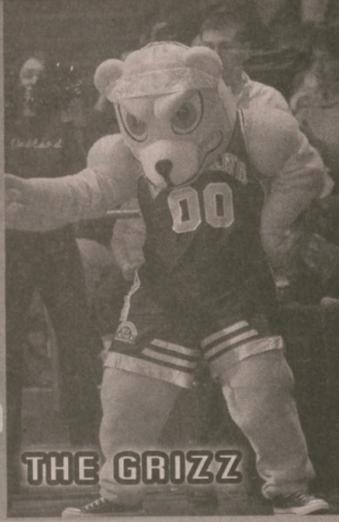
The Associated Press  
Former Chicago Bears head coach Dick Jauron will take over the head coaching duties, on an interim basis, for the Detroit Lions after Steve Mariucci was fired Monday. Mariucci was in his third season as head coach, but wasn't able to develop a young Lions team with four top-tens picks in the last four years. The former defensive coordinator will coach the rest of the season, but no word has been given as to who will lead the Lions in 2006.

# OAKLAND BASKETBALL



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