

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

October 1, 2008

Volume 35, Number 5

MEET MICAH



**A STUDENT RALLYING FOR
HIS RIGHT TO LIVE ON CAMPUS**

Pages 6 & 7

Student, Army specialist
ships video games overseas
for troops' morale

YOU page 15

A 'club' sport gets students
wielding and swinging foam
weapons

SPORTS page 18

A student shops for
dates and mates on
matchmaking websites

MOUTHING OFF page 22

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THIS WEEK **10.1.08**

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives page 4

An OU grad student addresses beauty pageant stereotypes. Also, the dean's office talks about illegal file sharing.



Campus page 6

School of Nursing gets a lift from the federal government. Plus, if you're not registered to vote yet, opportunities await around campus.



Local page 10

Detroit has become an epicenter for racial issues. Find out how tremors still radiate during election season.



The Mix page 12

Find out how students watch their favorite films. Plus, OU students share what future film release they anticipate the most.



you page 14

OU students explain why they got inked and what tattoos means to them. Also, an OU student looks to help fellow soldiers with video games.



Sports page 16

OU hockey claws its way back to the top. Plus, The Oakland Post jousts its way through the world of Dagorhir.



the Scene page 20

Wanna be a rock star? Check out the pros and cons of "Rock Band" and "Guitar Hero." Also, The Oakland Post sits down with As I Lay Dying.



MOUTHING OFF page 22

Guest Columnist Katelyn Stanis skips the bar scene and browses for love on the Net — find out what she learned.



Nation | World page 23

Congress scrambles to revise bailout package. Plus, Somali pirates deny claims of a shootout aboard a pirated Ukrainian ship.



An OPTIONS student rallies for the
right to live on campus.

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October 1, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

OPTIONS a success but needs to take next step

Few would deny that Oakland University does an admirable job in offering opportunities to its diverse student body.

Some students are here to secure training for promotions at current jobs while others are studying to get a degree to secure a job in the future.

Some are here to party and have fun while others are here to maintain health insurance.

OU also does a fine job in providing disabled students with aid that allows them to participate in the traditional college experience.

From guides to note-takers, students with physical disabilities are provided with the tools necessary to intellectually gain as much as any other student would.

OU doesn't deny prospective social gains from students with physical disabilities either, as it has secured a floor in Vandenberg Hall specifically for those with different needs.

While many universities and community colleges have programs that allow students with cognitive disabilities to attend classes and enjoy the atmosphere, OU truly took an extra step in creating the OPTIONS program in 2007.

By offering a program to assist students with mild cognitive disabilities in both academics and social interaction, OU established a great success in the Michigan landscape of higher learning. Both students participating in the program, and the student body as a whole, benefit from this measure that OU has taken.

Similarly, Micah Fialka-Feldman appears to have established himself as a great success of the OPTIONS program.

He attends classes on a regular basis, takes exams and works with peers on group assignments. His love of politics and public speaking has shone through in his studies and he hopes to parlay his education into a successful career.

According to its informal mission statement, OPTIONS seeks to provide an increase in self-determination, self-direction, assertiveness, goal-setting, the ability to plan to achieve goals, a desire to give back to the

community and interpersonal interaction.

Although many of Fialka-Feldman's supporters would be quick to call the OPTIONS program a success, few would say that the mission statement has been entirely fulfilled. Fialka-Feldman wants to live on campus, but because OPTIONS is not a degree program the university will not allow it.

The traditional college experience encapsulates not only academics and technical skills, but also learning social skills necessary to live on our own in the world: everything from dealing with stubborn roommates to cooking dinner.

With that in mind, would living on campus offer an additional reward to OPTIONS students such as Fialka-Feldman? His supporters say that it definitely would be and we are inclined to agree.

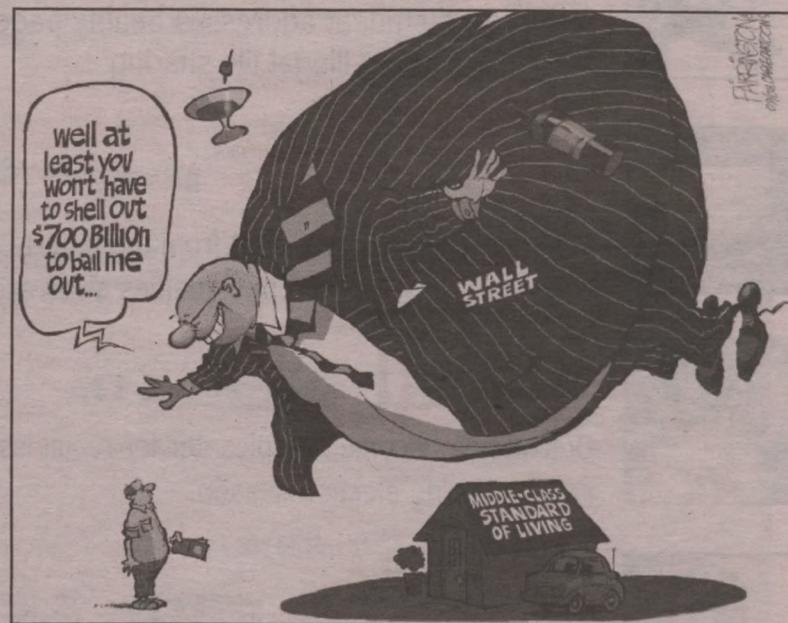
The OPTIONS program was designed to be a "full-inclusion" education program, yet OU administration continues to deny Fialka-Feldman this essential element of a university education.

OU is concerned with the idea of opening up student housing to those in the Continuing Education program. However, OPTIONS sets itself apart from continuing education in that it attempts to offer lessons in social interaction in addition to an academic education.

There are issues with the logistics of offering extra assistance to those in the OPTIONS program. However, special circumstances have been provided to students with physical disabilities for years and should be extended to those with mild cognitive disabilities as well.

Although OU administration deserves great praise for establishing the OPTIONS program in the first place, it is imperative for the school to take the next step and allow Fialka-Feldman to live on campus for the winter 2008 semester.

We understand OU's concern with the precedent that will be set: how will it be decided who is capable of living on campus? We suggest that OU works with OPTIONS in order to improve the foundation of this home that they have built for students in Michigan with mild cognitive disabilities.



BRIAN FAIRRINGTON/Cagle Cartoons

What do you think? Have a news tip?

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

On page 5 of the Sept. 24, 2008 issue Fannie Mae was spelled incorrectly.

In "Students sacrifice and celebrate during holy month of Ramadan," on page 16 of the Sept. 24, 2008 issue, Hamed Altairi's name was incorrectly spelled. Hadi Alzawad's name was also misspelled in the photo caption.

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

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

Beauty pageant hopes to 'bring classy back' in the OC

Guest Column

Scarlette M. Whyte



Remember when being a pageant queen actually meant something? Miss America was the woman that every little girl of all ages and ethnicities dreamed to be. She was elegant, graceful, stylish and, don't forget, absolutely beautiful.

I'm sure some girls were even jealous of her well-proportioned physique. She was the envy of women and the dream of men. Today, when most people hear the words "pageants or pageant queen," lots of negative images come to mind: shallow, mean, plastic, addict, stupid, the list goes on and on.

Some suggest that pageantry contributes to unrealistic standard of beauty that has plagued so many young girls and women. The mistakes of former beauty queens have certainly not been a help to the world of pageantry.

Many of us may be too young to remember Vanessa William's reign as "Miss America," coming to an abrupt end after racy photos of her were made public. Former

Miss USA winner, Tara Conner, had her titled snatched and was forced to move out of her luxurious Trump Towers apartment after she tested positive for drugs. Has the world of pageantry come crumbling down? Is there away to bring "class" back to pageants?

The Cinderella International Scholarship Pageant is "bringing classy back." The Pageant offers an alternative by not just focusing on beauty, but intelligence as well.

Cinderella is the largest and most prestigious pageant of its kind. The pageant has championed the need for higher education by awarding millions of dollars in scholarships to young women throughout the United States and a host of foreign countries. Importantly, the pageant seeks to nurture the development of young ladies through competition, higher education and community service.

Contestants who enter Cinderella pageants gain leadership and public speaking skills that will help carry them through high school, college and beyond.

The Cinderella International Scholarship Pageant is coming to Metro Detroit in search of the next outstanding young lady who will represent the program internationally. She must be elegant, graceful and a true leader. Cinderella will kick off the pageant year by holding the first preliminary pageant on Dec. 14 at the Oakland Center.

Participants, 3 to 26 years of age compete in a variety of categories. Interview, Casualwear, Formalwear and Talent for girls ages 7 and up. And Tot Personality and

Photogenic for girls between the ages of 3 and 6. The contestant's manners, behavior and attire should be age appropriate. This is a natural pageant and excessive make-up is a big no-no.

The age categories are:

- Cinderella Tot (ages 3 - 6)
- Cinderella Miniature Miss (ages 7 - 9)
- Cinderella Miss (ages 10 - 12)
- Cinderella Teen (ages 13 - 17)
- Cinderella Woman (ages 18 - 26)

How does this process work? First a contestant must enter a preliminary pageant to have a chance at entering the State and International Finals. If a young lady lives in an area where there are no preliminary pageants, she can enter the State Finals as an "at large contestant" with the permission of a State Director.

For more information on upcoming pageants in the area and the Cinderella Michigan State Finals you can inquire at cinderellamichigan@gmail.com or (248) 977-5517. Also visit the international website at www.cinderellapageant.com.

Take the first step. You can still make those "pageant queen" dreams come true.

—Scarlette M. Whyte is involved in presenting the Cinderella International Scholarship Pageant at the Oakland Center. She is currently pursuing her masters in Public Administration at OU.

STUDENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY

By Karen Clemmons-Llyod
Assistant Dean of Students

HOT TOPIC



File Sharing

With the influx of new technologies available to Oakland University students file sharing can be a common practice. But is it legal?

In short, sharing copyright-protected data without permission — better known as file-sharing — is illegal. This includes music, movies, software, and games.

As a resource, OU provides Internet access and network connections to students and other members of the campus community and everyone is expected to comply with the University policy on use of **University Information and Technology**.

Periodically, this fast and easy access leads to outbreaks of illegal file-sharing that places individual students and OU at great legal risk. When this happens, the University is required to remove the violated material from the network by the federal **Digital Millennium Copyright Act**.

Specifically, when students get caught improperly accepting or offering movies, music, and other software to the Internet community, using the

University network, OU receives copyright infringement notices from the **Recording Industry Association of America**.

Once these notices are received from the RIAA, they are provided to the student. Students also receive University notification that their Internet/network access has been blocked due to the third party allegations of copyright infringement.

For the first violation, students have two options to resolve this matter. Students can decline responsibility and submit a counter notice to the RIAA. They can also voluntarily complete the **Network Access Restoration Agreement** acknowledging that a computer was used in violation of the University policy on use of University Information Technology and charged a \$100 Computer Review Fee.

For a second violation, the matter will be forwarded to the University Judicial Conduct System for adjudication in accordance with the University Ordinance 4.08 Computers and Other Equipment.

Please contact the Dean of Students Office at (248) 370-3352 for additional information.

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Equality in home quarters

Micah Fialka-Feldman is trying to overturn an OU administration policy that prohibits him from living in any of the campus dorms or apartments

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

"A community that excludes even one of its members is no community at all," read Micah Fialka-Feldman as he concluded his appeal to be allowed to live on campus at Oakland University board of trustees meeting on Sept. 17.

Most OU students who do not live on campus do so to either save money, stay close to family. Regardless of their reasons, it's their choice not to live in the dorms or student apartments. That is not the case for Fialka-Feldman.

Although he has been attending classes at OU since 2003, longer than most other students, and has had an active part in the OU community, Fialka-Feldman is not allowed to live in a campus residence. Fialka-Feldman thinks that part of the reasoning is due to his cognitive disability, which he's had since birth, while the administration holds that it's a matter of policy.

Fialka-Feldman first wanted to live on campus in fall 2007. "I thought it would be nice to be able to go back to my dorm after my classes," he said. Currently living with his parents in Huntington Woods, he takes a public bus system to and from campus Monday through Friday. He said the commute takes him two hours, usually from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., on two different buses.

Entry denied

He applied for a housing contract, and was first approved for winter 2008. But a few weeks before the semester started, he was notified that he would not be able to live on campus. He tried to appeal the decision near the end of the winter semester and met with Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, and Lionel Maten, director of OU housing.

After the meeting, Fialka-Feldman received a letter from OU dated May 23 saying that they will not change the policy.

OU housing rules state that "to be eligible to reside in Residence Halls or



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Since OPTIONS is not a degree granting program, enlisted students like Fialka-Feldman are not permitted to live in campus buildings specifically for OU housing

Apartments, students must be: formally admitted to the University ... in a degree program ... , a student in a degree program at another college or university ... , or participating in the University's spring/summer hostel program or authorized summer camp programs."

Fialka-Feldman does not fit into any of these criterion, and housing rules also state that "students enrolled in continuing education classes or other non-degree programs are not formally admitted to the university," and thus not eligible to live on campus. However, OU housing rules allow guest students from other universities that take any classes at OU to live on campus, as long as they are in a degree program in their respective universities.

Maten said that campus housing is completely full this year, and that there were 157 students on the waiting list at the beginning of this semester. There are still three students on the waiting list now. Snyder said that the limited

aspect of housing was not a factor in the policy, and that if housing was plentiful, students in the OPTIONS program, like Fialka-Feldman, would still not be allowed to live on campus.

The OPTIONS program was founded in fall 2007 by OU associate professor and associate dean of Education and Human Services Robert Wiggins. OPTIONS, which derives from Oakland University Post Secondary Transitions, is

"designed to provide a fully inclusive, age appropriate post-secondary education experience for students with mild cognitive disabilities."

Fialka-Feldman wants OU's housing policy changed so that he and the other OPTIONS students would be allowed to live on campus. Even if it's not on a permanent basis, he would at least like to see this happen on a trial basis so OU administrators can see how it works out and then decide whether or not to continue it.

He has been told by OU administrators three times in the last year that this policy will not be changed, but he is not giving up. He is not alone in his quest either; OU Student Congress is stepping up on his behalf. At a Sept. 29 meeting, OUSC said it will talk to the OU administration and try to change the policy. Several OUSC members spoke out in support of Fialka-Feldman's cause, although there was an opposing member.

Before the board

During his Sept. 17 address to appeal the board of trustees previous decision, Fialka-Feldman said he was grateful to OU for "opening the door for [him]" and allowing him to take classes. He also listed several of his activities on campus, including his participation in Hillel (a Jewish organization), the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, and volunteering at the Center for Student Activities. He also told the board why he believes he should be allowed to live on campus.

"I can be more active on campus if I

COGNITIVE DISABILITIES: The concept of cognitive disabilities is extremely broad and not always well-defined. In loose terms, a person with a cognitive disability [usually] has greater difficulty with one or more types of [the following] types of mental tasks than the average person:

- Memory
- Problem solving
- Attention
- Visual comprehension
- Math comprehension
- Reading, linguistic and verbal comprehension

— According to webaim.org (Web Accessibility in Mind)

live in the dorm," he said. "I pay tuition for my classes...I want to be like all regular college students ... It will help me learn to live more independently ... Everyone should get be able to have a full education, and the chance to live in [campus residence] is part of that education."

Elizabeth Bauer, a member of Michigan State Board of Education, and Richard Bernstein, a lawyer and an activist for disability rights, also spoke on behalf of Fialka-Feldman and the cause he's championing.

Bernstein argued that not allowing OPTIONS students to live on campus is not fully inclusive. Bernstein, who is blind, told the board that "often times, the sole focus for kids like Micah is learning independence and gaining knowledge, and not enough priority is given to socializing."

He, among many others, said that being able to live on campus would give OPTIONS students that opportunity and that otherwise these students are not being given the "full college experience."

Trustee Monica Emerson thanked both Fialka-Feldman and Bauer for the "heart-felt and thought-provoking" speeches and Trustee Henry Baskin said that the board would take their comments under consideration.

The board, chaired by Jacqueline Long, instructed the OU administration to "very seriously look at this request" and review its policies for housing eligibility rules.

Now, OU administration says that it had done as instructed and decided that its policies will remain as they are. In a letter from OU dated Sept. 24, Fialka-Feldman was told that the policy preventing him and other students in the OPTIONS program from living on campus, will not be changed.

Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, said on Friday that she believes the criteria to live on campus to be "a very sound criteria," and that OU currently has no intentions to look into changing it.

"The facilities that a university provides are limited, typically, to enrolled students who register in degree-seeking programs," Snyder said. "Campuses don't typically open up their housing to the general public.

"Housing is a resource of the university that is primarily used to enhance the college experience of the students," she said. "It is there to provide an environment to admitted students - to make it convenient for them and to enable them to participate in the university community.

"But it's always done with the intended outcome that they earn a degree," she said.

Fialka-Feldman is currently ineligible to get a degree because he is not enrolled through the regular admissions process. He said that if he were to apply to OU normally, he might not be admitted because taking tests such as the SAT or ACT is difficult for him.

One effect of his cognitive disability is that although he can sight-read some words (recognize words as a whole, not by reading letters), he has a difficult time reading and writing. He says that he can get around this problem through a computer program called DRAGONSPEAK, which translates electronic text, such as e-mails, to voice so that he can hear the text. He can also speak into the program which translates his voice into electronic text. He can even send e-mails this way.

Fialka-Feldman said his favorite classes so far are politics and public speaking classes. He hopes to find a job somehow related to public speaking, politics, child care or disability rights. He occasionally gives speeches in disability rights conferences around the US. He said he currently volunteers in YMCA's childcare center and hopes to start getting paid for it soon.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Fialka-Feldman stands next to a quote he used in his appeal at an OU board of trustees meeting Sept. 17. The board instructed administration to "very seriously look at [Micah's] request."

Improving the policy

Snyder said that OU's housing eligibility rules are the same as most other universities, but some think that this is not enough. "Sure, it's on par with other universities, but that in itself is not enough reasoning," said Jordan Twardy, an OUSC legislator.

Bauer, Bernstein and many others praised OU for the OPTIONS program and its other programs that benefit students with physical or cognitive disabilities, but

"You have been a pioneer in this field. I urge you take the next appropriate step and let this university shine."

**— Richard Bernstein,
Lawyer and activist for disability rights,
spoke on Fialka-Feldman's behalf at the
board of trustees meeting Sept. 17**

urged OU to take the next step and let the OPTIONS students have a fully-inclusive college experience.

"You have been a pioneer in this field," Bernstein said at the meeting. "I urge you to take the next appropriate step and let this university shine."

In a phone interview, Bernstein said that whether or not OPTIONS students are in a degree program is "irrelevant to them getting a full college experience" and

ABOUT OPTIONS

Lea VanAmberg, director of the OPTIONS Program, said that the program is funded solely by the tuition that the OPTIONS students pay. The program currently has 10 students, an increase from five last year, with two part-time staff overseeing it. VanAmberg said that the vision of the program is to grow to at least 15-20 students, which would require more staff, but that she didn't want to grow "too fast too soon, because then the quality of the education decreases."

She said that there is a high demand for programs like this, but that not everyone is eligible.

The criteria requires high school completion and a strong desire to learn, among other things. "But the biggest factor is they be able move around campus safely, and then be able to meet their class schedules," she said. Van Amberg said she constantly has to turn prospective students down because they're not eligible, and that there are currently about five eligible students in the waiting list.

Fialka-Feldman is close to finishing with the OPTIONS program, and has maybe a semester or two left. "But I'm not focused with graduation right now," he said. "I want to get this done." He said he also hasn't given much thought about living in Beacon Hills Apartments because he wanted to focus on letting OPTIONS students to live on campus.

that it was "disingenuous" to say so.

"The key factor is that Micah's in a program created and administered by OU," he said. "OU should take pride in this and allow this program to develop fully."

Fialka-Feldman, among others, said that just because it's a policy now does not mean that it can never change. Micah's father Richard Feldman said he was hopeful that the policy will be changed, but added that "it will take time and dialog."

Fialka-Feldman is working to get students to sign a petition to present before the next OU board of trustees meeting on Nov. 7, where he will again, speak on behalf of his cause. As of Tuesday, he said he has a couple hundred signatures and his goal is to have 1,000. Some OUSC members are helping Fialka-Feldman collect signatures.

He continually stressed that he was grateful to OU for the opportunities it gave him so far, and that his petition is not meant to benefit only him, but other kids in the OPTIONS program as well.

"I know that I may not get to live in the dorms," he said. "But even if I don't get to live in the dorms, this will make it easier for other kids after me."

—Visit www.throughthesamedoor.com to see the 25-minute documentary made about Micah Fialka-Feldman called "Through the Same Door: Inclusion Includes College."

Nursing school gets \$331K

By SEAN GARNER
Campus Editor

One of Oakland University's most prestigious programs just got a boost from the federal government that its chairperson hopes will make it even stronger.

At a luncheon on Sept. 29 in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center, the OU School of Nursing received a \$331,622 check from the United States Health and Human Services Department. The original grant was for \$350,000 but HHS withdrew a portion.

The grant came as a result of OU winning the Health Resources and Service Administration Award. The money will be used to establish a brand new Center for Pre-Symptom Health Care and Societal Research, according to a press release from OU.

The check was to be presented by Joe Knollenberg, a Republican Congressman representing Oakland County's congressional district, but he was in Washington to work on the major financial bailout plan. Shawn Ciabattoae, Knollenberg's district field director, presented the check in place of Knollenberg and thinks grants like the HRSA award demonstrate the positive impact government can have on the community.

"This was a truly collaborative effort," Ciabattoae said. "I think this is where government can play that kind of partnership role. Partnerships like these can



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
Shawn Ciabattoae, district field director for Rep. Joe Knollenberg, presents a check to OU President

really change the way we're doing things for the better."

Dr. Linda Thompson Adams, dean of the School of Nursing, says the school will use the grant to buy exercise equipment for the center, which will be set up in an existing building currently owned and operated by the Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

"It's taken a couple of years of working with the Congressman's staff, and talking about the problem," Adams said. "He has been very interested and supportive of trying to make Oakland County one of

the healthiest counties in the country."

Ciabattoae also said Representative Knollenberg was especially proud of the collaboration because he thinks healthcare can be an issue that helps to bridge partisan gulfs.

"Healthcare is a huge and important issue that we need to do something about," Ciabattoae said. "If we don't start to find common ground on issues of wellness, speaking politically, where both sides can reach some kind of consensus, then there aren't issues on which we can agree. When you start to put those pieces

of the puzzle together, that brings both sides closer together so we can find a solution to the problem."

Adams said that, in her conversations with Knollenberg, he expressed a strong desire to have the new clinic focus on preventative healthcare.

"His interest was in helping to identify people who had health problems before they started showing symptoms," Adams said. "He wants healthcare professionals to provide advice and treatment before you start having problems."

Adams said the clinic will provide students with the opportunity to practice healthcare both for credit and for internship.

Although she appeared quite grateful for the grant, Adams said the School of Nursing still has bigger plans for the clinic.

"We are using this as a first step in getting other types of funding," Adams said. "It is going to be a nurse-managed clinic. Nurses are going to be practicing in the building and getting reimbursed for some of the services they provide. We hope it will be economically self-sufficient over time."

"When you do good things in the community, that has its own reward," Ciabattoae said. "I know that the congressman looks at it, not in terms of the politics of it, but in terms of this is a good thing we can do here for the community."

OUSC, Secretary of State helps register voters for election

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

As election day draws near, the political arena becomes more frantic. Potential voters are increasingly on the receiving end of a nonstop barrage of political attack ads, constant media coverage, and voter registration drives trying to bring more new voices into the fold. In few places is the drive to register new voters more noticeable than on Oakland University's campus.

The Secretary of State parked a mobile office next to South Foundation Hall Thursday as part of a drive to help get new voters registered. The mobile office visit was part of a trip to 15 different college campuses in Michigan within five weeks, with the hopes of registering students who recently reached voting age.

"Because students tend to be severely underrepresented, the first step is getting them to vote," said David Dodds,

manager of the Secretary of State mobile office.

However, Dodds said that compared to previous registration drives, the number of students coming in to register did not seem significantly higher.

"Obviously this is a heated race this year, so we're hoping a lot of it is the fact that the students are already registered."

Dodds also said that when the voter registration drive was done in 2004, more student organizations seemed to be involved.

One group on campus that is making an effort to get student organizations involved is the OU Student Congress. Kristin Dayag, Legislative Affairs Director at OUSC, is leading the effort to register more voters on campus.

"We want to get as many people involved this year because it's such a historic election," Dayag said.

OUSC has a steering committee made up of those on campus who can get peo-

ple from every department involved. The departments include everything from the residence halls, to student organizations, to the Greek community, to athletics.

So far this year, OUSC has registered 450 students, although their goal is to reach 1,000 by the registration deadline of Oct. 6.

Neither the Secretary of State nor OUSC are associated with the people who have been walking around campus soliciting potential voters.

Newly registered voters have a variety of reasons for voting.

"I want to make a change, and I want to see Barack Obama in office," said DeSean Tansil, a human resources major. "He said he's going to lower college tuition. That's a good enough reason right there."

Some are voting for purely practical reasons

"I want to make a difference because the economy sucks," said Alyssa

Spicuzza, a medical laboratory sciences major.

There are also students who have registered, but have not decided who they are voting for, like Alicia Zelenak, whose major is undecided.

"People keep telling me different things about McCain and Obama, and I haven't decided," Zelenak said. She went on to say that she probably will not vote at all.

Some students are registering to vote simply because they believe it's part of being a citizen.

"I think it's very important in a democratic society that we all participate," political science and history major Anna Rossi said.

This year's election is even bringing in previously unregistered upperclassmen.

"You can't complain about our government if you don't do something to try and change it," said Elizabeth Clinton, a junior physical therapy major.

COW sets out to Change Our World

By JANICE WILLIAMS
Contributing Reporter

One of the newest groups on campus is already working towards its mission of reaching out to less-privileged parts of the community.

RED COW, which is an acronym for Revive, Experience, Dream, Change Our World, is a student based organization, held their first community service project on Sept. 27. Oakland University students, some of whom were members of the Asian American Association, piled into four cars that took them to Grace Centers of Hope, a church in downtown Pontiac. The church, located on Seneca, owns 10 houses on the street that they maintain for low income families.

Grace Centers of Hope invites people to come help keep the street and houses presentable. Yakela Roberson, OU senior and volunteer coordinator for RED COW, found the Grace Centers' Seneca Street Project and offered the organization a helping hand.

"It was kind of hard to start with, but I know Grace Centers of Hope always

has volunteer service and it was in the center of Pontiac so it was closer to our community, so it would be actual community service for Oakland University Students," Roberson said.

Twenty students, arrived at the church at 10 a.m., ready to be put to work. The men went to the church's mission grounds, where they removed old furniture from building.

The women, meanwhile, worked on landscaping projects. They put woodchips in flowerbeds, raked lawns, painted and cleaned up. The students worked for about two-and-a-half hours and then returned to campus.

After they finished, some students said they felt a sense of accomplishment.

"I felt like I had done good for myself and others," said junior participant KreCynthia Day. "It was heartwarming to know that I could better myself and the lives of someone else by giving a helping hand."

The mission for RED COW is to expose the college community to social and political issues through campus involvement, community service and academic

enrichment.

The organization was created by OU students, Norris Chase, Latonia Garrett, Jessica Reese, Yakela Roberson, and Jasmine Rudolph, to encourage awareness in college students and give back to the community. By planning events and programs that will keep students engaged in the community and conscious of what is happening in our nation and world, RED COW hopes to make an effective change to OU's campus.

"We were sitting around talking about other organizations on campus and what we wished they did, so we just decided to make our own," said senior and RED COW secretary Garrett. "We're going to be a positive organization and just give off positive energy and help as many people as we can and really start something for the community."

The name RED COW was coined by Garrett, and according to group members, it is meant to represent a different way of doing things.

"Latonia actually came up with the name because she had been reading a book called Purple Cow and it was about

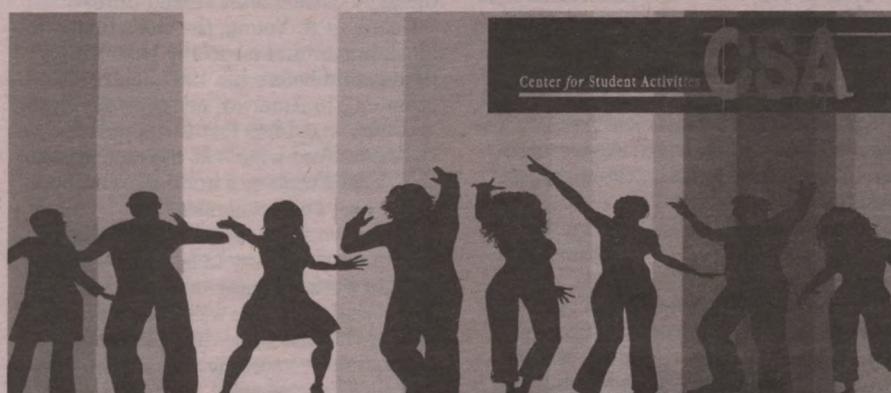
capturing the essence of a purple cow, basically something that's out of the box, out of the ordinary, something unique," said Reese, a senior and RED COW vice president. "So we kind of took that name and branched out into RED COW."

Since RED COW is a registered student organization on campus they get their funding for projects straight from the university, which makes it easier for the members, given that they do not have to pay out of pocket to plan and participate in events.

"They help me to help myself improve my academics, reach out to the community and become active in the world around me," Day said.

RED COW is free and available for all students and volunteer projects will be held monthly. They also conduct weekly study nights on Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Oakland Center.

"We want to do something for the community because part of our goal is promoting unity and things that are positive, so community services is a real good aspect of that," said senior and treasurer Rudolph.



Gender & Sexuality Center

National Coming Out Week at Oakland University: October 6-10

- October 6 "Remembering Matthew Shepard: A Call to Action to Erase Hate", sponsored by Triangle Foundation, GSC & LGBTQA Employee Resource Group, 6 pm in Gold Rooms A & B.
- October 7 "For the Bible Tells Me So," film screening 7 - 9 pm in the Oakland Room
- October 8 "For the Bible Tells Me So," film screening 3 - 5 pm in the Oakland Room
- October 9 Marvelyn Brown, 24-year-old Emmy Award Winning AIDS Activist sponsored by SPB, 7pm in the Gold Rooms.
- October 10 Charles Pugh, local TV/radio personality. Noon - 2 pm, Gold Room C
- October 11 National Coming Out Day

All Events are in the Oakland Center
csa@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc

POLICEFILES

OUPD were contacted on Sept. 22 by a parent about an unverified charge to a credit card. The unexpected charge stemming from a book order at the OU Bookstore, where one book was returned and two more were purchased by the card owner's son, a student at OU.

On Sept. 22 a student became trapped in an elevator at South Foundation Hall. OUPD were able to calm the student down and assisted the student out of

the elevator with the help of Auburn Hills Fire Department.

OUPD were dispatched to Hamlin Hall to check on a disturbance involving two students on Sept. 23. An argument between the two escalated to a confrontation outside the hall where an unknown party became involved. Two participants in the confrontation left the campus and were contacted to by OUPD and made aware that they could not return to campus that evening.

Check out the Oakland Post's live blog of the vice presidential debate Thursday at 9 p.m. only at www.oaklandpostonline.com.

A 'race' against racism

Black-white divide continues in the heart of Detroit and its suburbs

Editor's note: This story contains direct quotes which uses offensive language. The Oakland Post editors decided to include the language because it reflects the issues and we respectfully ask that you consider it in that light.

By **RON FOURNIER**
& **ERRIN HAINES**
Associated Press

DETROIT — The Classic Creations barber shop sits empty, surrounded by drunks and shuttered storefronts just two blocks from the manicured lawns of Grosse Pointe Park. The contrast isn't lost on LaVar Anthony, a young barber who speaks in riddles of race, class and politics.

"What's already understood," he says without looking up from his Ebony magazine, "don't need to be explained."

But when it comes to race, what is understood and what is misunderstood?

And how can it be that in 2008 — 143 years after slavery was abolished, decades after the civil rights movement — an AP-Yahoo News poll could find that racial misgivings could cost Sen. Barack Obama the election?

In search of explanations, two Associated Press reporters — one black, one white — listened to people of both races along Detroit's divides: Alter Road, which separates the city from the tony

Grosse Pointes near Lake St. Clair, and 8 Mile Road, the vast northern border between a mostly black Detroit and its mostly white suburbs.

They found people of both races living just blocks apart who spoke of each other like strangers. There was suspicion, contempt — and yet, for many, a desperate hope that Obama's candidacy might be the final step in America's long path to racial equality. For whites, support of Democratic economic policies forces them to face their racial prejudices.

It is here you meet decent people with much in common — both sides of 8 Mile Road are populated by blue-collar Democratic families. But many still can't get past their racial differences.

Whites say their neighbors consider blacks to be violent and solely responsible for problems in the black community.

Blacks say many of their own consider whites to be spoiled and condescending.

But nobody — well, hardly anybody — acknowledged their own prejudices. Both blacks and whites instead blamed "they," a vague and unaccountable surrogate for their own racial attitudes.

"They" are whites who say Obama is unqualified when they really mean he's black.

"They" are blacks who say all whites are bigots.

Anthony knows who "they" are.

"It's understood that there's still a lot

of racism that goes on out there," the barber says with a nod out his window and a wisdom beyond his 30 years. "A lot of white people look down on blacks as being lazy or whatever."

Perched on a ragged leather barber chair closest to the door, his knees pulled to his chest, Anthony fixes his gaze on a white journalist visiting his shop. "The stereotype against whites is that they have all the advantages," he says. "They all look down on us. They're snobs."

Distant Neighbors

Four of every 10 white Americans hold at least a partly negative view toward blacks, calling them "lazy," or "violent" or blaming them for the ills of black America, according to the AP-Yahoo poll. Such surveys draw criticism from whites who say the numbers are exaggerated and from blacks who say the numbers are too low.

Let others argue about the math. Listen while the people of Detroit explain.

"My kids have been called nigger babies. ... That was from a white family," says Cherlonda Hampton, a black woman shopping at an outdoor mall on 8 Mile Road.

A petite mother of nine who looks half her 37 years, Hampton says she was harassed by whites while living in subur-

ban Detroit. Feces were smeared on her car. A dead bird was left on a tire. When her child was bitten by a white classmate, the white principal didn't seem to care.

After a year, Hampton returned to her segregated Detroit neighborhood.

This is an apt place to talk about race in America. Detroit's population peaked near 2 million in the 1950s and has been on the decline ever since, dropping to less than 1 million in the latest Census figures. Although racial tension isn't the only cause, the 1967 race riots hastened Detroit's decline and mandatory school busing a decade later stoked unrest.

Coleman A. Young, the city's first black mayor and a racially polarizing figure, said before his 1997 death, "No other city in America, no other city in the Western world has lost the population at that rate. And what's at the root cause of that loss? Economics and race. Or should I say, race and economics?"

White working-class Detroiters fled the city in droves, many to Macomb County and its working-class suburbs north of 8 Mile Road. Detroit's white-flighters were among the first to be dubbed "Reagan Democrats" — socially conservative, eco-

See 'Racist Detroit' on page 11

NEWS BRIEFS



CARLOS OSORIO/Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, his wife Michelle Obama, and vice presidential running mate Sen. Joe Biden's wife Jill Biden are given Detroit Red Wings jerseys before addressing a rally in Detroit, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008. New Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. introduced and endorsed Obama at the rally. Cockrel told Detroit citizens "to work as hard as you can" to get Obama in the White House.



Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps, center, acknowledges the crowd at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, Mich., Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008. Phelps was back at the University of Michigan — his home for four years before the Beijing Games — where he was honored alongside other Olympians with ties to the school before an NCAA football game against Wisconsin.

Continued from page 10

RACIST DETROIT

nomically progressive, mostly Catholic voters who abandoned the Democratic Party for the GOP, in part because Republicans exploited their racial fears.

Their children and grandchildren are just as politically independent — swing voters in a swing county that both Obama and Republican John McCain hope to carry en route to winning Michigan.

And, like the Reagan Democrats of a generation ago, whites in Macomb County today aren't sure whether to vote their pocketbooks or their prejudices.

"I work at a grocery store and I know a lot of people who are not going to vote for (Obama) because of the racial thing," says Colleen Mullins, a white woman who lives with her husband Daniel in a black neighborhood south of 8 Mile Road.

"I'm hoping Obama wins because he's for the middle class," says Mark Coccia, 48, outside a suburban post office just north of Detroit. He's white, a laid-off factory worker and lifelong Democrat who's about to declare bankruptcy.

An American flag cracks in the wind as Coccia explains that he agrees with Obama's politics and admires the Illinois Democrat. But Coccia can't move beyond race.

"They can't blame the white man," he says of blacks. "Their own color sold them into slavery."

Coccia takes a seat at a picnic table and opines that McCain will die in office if elected and leave a woman, Sarah Palin, as president. "That," he says, "is not right."

Still, he may not back Obama.

"What kind of choice do guys like me have? A black guy or a woman," Coccia says. "It's a lesser of two evils."

He laughs, then turns serious — though it is never clear how serious he was all along.

"If Obama was a white candidate and gave the same convention speech," McCain wouldn't stand a chance. "But people are going to judge by the color of his skin."

"Not me, mind you," Coccia hastens to add, "But they will."

There's that pesky "they." You can talk for hours about "they" and "them" along 8 Mile Road. Though race relations are nowhere near as bad as they were in the 1960s, a white person can live for years in the suburbs without ever coming in contact with a black and, conversely, a Detroiter can grow up in the city without getting to know a white suburbanite.

Here, it's unfamiliarity that breed contempt — or at least misunderstanding.

It would be a mistake to dismiss Coccia as a "bigot" or "redneck." such labels turn him into a cartoon, somehow taking the edge off his racial views.

He exists, so do his views, and they're shared by countless blacks and whites.

"They're everywhere," says Scott Flatt, 37, after stopping his bike just north of 8 Mile Road in Eastpointe to talk about blacks. "But I don't mind blacks as much as some of my neighbors. They're bigots."

Richard Mosely, a 35-year-old engineer working just west of Alter Road in Detroit, sets aside his blueprints to discuss the sentiments of fellow blacks. "They think whites are punks," he says. "I don't, necessarily."

Blacks are more generous in their description of whites than whites are of blacks, according to the AP-Yahoo News poll, but the two races see racial discrimination in starkly different terms.

When asked "how much discrimination against blacks" exists, just 10 percent of whites said "a lot" and 45 percent said "some."

Among blacks, 57 percent said "a lot" and all but a fraction of the rest said "some."

Building Bridges

Two blocks from Anthony's barber shop in Detroit, James Turnbull of Grosse Pointe Park takes a break from his morning gardening to show off his prized blooms to a black journalist. Before long, the conversation turns to race, class and politics, subjects the 71-year-old white man encountered as a young man working in poor, black neighborhoods in the Jim Crow South.

While repossessing a family's kitchen appliances, "I would have a, pardon the expression, pickanniny on one arm," he recalls.

In one breath, Turnbull politely uses that long-passe pejorative for a black child. In the next, he says he's been around black politics for a long time and worked for former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, who is black. He believes the poll results showing white Democrats are letting their prejudices affect their vote.

"It does surprise me that they admitted it," he says.

Separated by a short walk — from Anthony's barber shop to Turnbull's blooms — are two ways of life: Porsches north of Alter Road, busy bus stops to the south; canopied awnings decorating storefronts to the north; bars and steel sliding doors protecting shops to south; white and black drivers pumping gas across the street from one another at unofficially segregated stations.

Not that Turnbull minds. "You live here, you don't see it," he says.

He notices a group of young, black men walking west on Jefferson, headed out of the Grosse Pointes into Detroit.

"You see them?" he points. "Some folks would look at them and say, 'There go three potential gang members. They've got the black do-rags. Their pants are sagging. They don't look like your neighborhood kid here.'"

But to him? Turnbull wipes the soil from soiled hands and thinks for a minute. "I would hope that I would see just a bunch of kids."

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What is your preferred method of watching movies?



"Movie theaters because when I watch them at home I fast forward through some parts if I get bored, but in the theater I am forced to get the feel for the entire movie."

Zakiya Stokes
Freshman, pre-nursing

In 2007, the average price of a movie ticket was \$6.88. It was a 5 percent increase from 2006.

According to
www.mpaa.org.



"Majority is renting or buying. I like to read about the reviews."

Kyriacos Costa
Freshman, undecided

"I go to the theaters because it's fun to hang out with my friends and get away from the usual things."

Jeena Philip
Sophomore, biology



Blu-ray discs offer the HD quality identical to HDTVs. While Blu-ray hopes to replace DVDs eventually, don't start throwing out your DVDs yet. The two should coexist for quite some time.

According to
www.blu-ray.com.

"Buy them on Blu-ray because it's the best way to see movies by far."

Jim Arapostatcis
Senior, political science



What movie are you most looking forward to being released?



"The new 'Terminator' because I want to see who's going to be the new terminator if it's not Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**Chris Lark
Junior, biology**

"Terminator Salvation" will be released May 2009.



"Transformers 2' because it's going to be awesome."

**Alexandra Mittner
Junior,
pre-med/integrative holistic
medicine**

"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" will be released June 2009.



"Saw V' because I like the thrill of it!"

**Jason Joyner
Freshman, business**

"Saw V" will be released October 2008.

Release dates according to www.imdb.com at time of press.

What is your favorite movie?



"All About Eve' because it's a classic and it set standards for film writing."

**Orhe Onomake
Freshman, architecture**



"Blow,' because Johnny Depp and Penelope Cruz are my favorite."

**Liana Jarrah
Sophomore, undecided**

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Miscellaneous / Employment

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I INK, THEREFORE, I AM

Tattoos have a significant role in the lives of OU students

By KATELYN STANIS
Contributing Reporter

There are many ways to tell a story. One of the most unique ways is through tattoo art. While some use tattoos as a way to display art, many people also use tattoos as a way to communicate a special story in their lives.

"There's two types of people who get tattoos," Kyle Bonkowski explained as he rolled up his shirt to display an air ride truck. "There are the people who get one because everyone does. And then there are the people who get a tattoo to represent milestones or symbols."

Bonkowski got his tattoo after finishing an important project with his truck and hopes to get pinstripes on his shoulders next.

As an education major, he will never get any tattoos past his elbows for work reasons but said he finds them very addictive.

Matt Hessler, a tattoo artist at XS Tattoo in downtown Rochester, has been designing tattoos for over 14 years. He believes that there are many reasons why people get tattoos.

"I don't think there is a single most common motivation for getting tattooed," Hessler said. "In fact, there are infinite good reasons to get tattooed and just a few bad ones."

Although there are many good reasons to get tattoos, Hessler has seen his share of people who get them for "negative" reasons.

"A couple examples of negative motivations ... are fitting in," Hessler said. He added that another bad reason some people get tattoos are because they are "trying to hang on to a relationship." He mentioned that getting the name of a girlfriend or boyfriend tattooed is a prime example.

Still, Hessler says that most people who get tattoos get them for respectable reasons.

Tom Purcell, an elementary education major at OU, doesn't see himself as someone who got a tattoo just to go along with a trend.

"There are people who get them just because they think it is cool," Purcell said. "But, for me, they serve more of a purpose."

Steve Clark, Oakland University's student body president said, "Tattoos are easy points of judgement for some people but I have tattoos because I like them and not because of what other people think."

Clark has his inner biceps completely tattooed with the saying, "heart of a lion" in Swahili.

"I chose the language from some buddies in South Africa," Clark said. "We all play soccer together and have a mutual love of the lion. And I like to think I am a lion in certain ways."

Hessler explained that one good reason why people get tattoos is to have something to remember someone by.

"Some people get tattooed as a memorial for a loved one," Hessler said. "Some feel that tattoos can be a healing process."

Junior Megan Baumgarten is an example of someone who got a tattoo as a tribute.

When she was two years old, Baumgarten's mother passed away and in 2005 her aunt followed. She and her cousins decided to get tattoos in their honor. Baumgarten designed an oak tree that would symbolize her family tree with a flame emerging from the top and roots that resembled wax.

"No matter how small our family tree is, we still try to give off a lot of light to the world," Baumgarten said.

Even though her father did not talk to her for two weeks after she got her first tattoo, Baumgarten said she does not regret it.

"It seems that I was alone for a good portion of my life. I wondered whether I feared it or was obsessed with it," said Baumgarten. To express her appreciation for being alone she tattooed a compilation of three quotes on her back.

"The first part reads: Any man can hold the helm while the sea is calm. We cannot direct the wind but we can adjust our sails," said Baumgarten. "It means

appreciating being alone and not fearing it."

Purcell got his first tattoo for a number of reasons. The Celtic cross design on his shoulder is a way for him to honor the memory of a family member.

"My uncle died riding his bicycle home from a softball game four years ago. He was my spiritual mentor and an older brother. After a year I wanted to get a tattoo but really couldn't put my finger on what I wanted to get," Purcell said. "Then it hit me: the Celtic cross which my uncle loved so much and the Irish background we both embraced would be it. The Celtic cross on my arm represents my uncle and the brick at the bottom of the tattoo represents the foundation he gave me, on which I stand."

Like Baumgarten, other OU students have tattoos that quote someone or have some type of script.

Aymen Hassan, a junior studying political science, got the Latin words "What we do in life echoes in eternity" tattooed on his arm.

"I got this as a permanent reminder," Hassan said. "Live a good life here and people will remember you forever."

Hessler said that tattoos of exotic writings are currently a popular trend.

"Kanji symbols (Japanese characters) and other script seem to be a perennial favorite," Hessler said.

Also an admirer of quote tattoos, Andrew Bashi, a senior political science major, is planning on getting one tattooed on his back.

"It is hard to summarize something that I idealize, that I want to be and that I have the potential to be," Bashi said. "But a quote can and does summarize so much. It's one sentence that means

more than any typical one sentence." Bashi mentioned that getting a tattoo can be a big step to take.

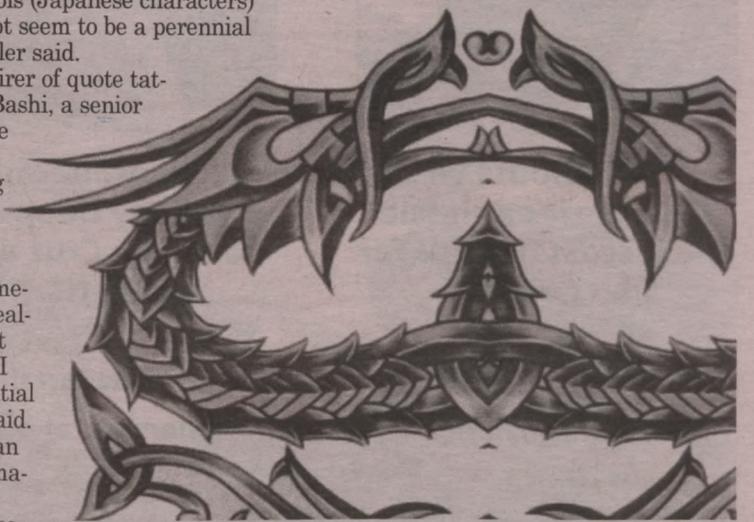
"I can't say that it applies to everyone," he said. "But for me, if I am willing to put that on my body for the rest of my life, I think that is a sign of dedication and it's not something that is a fad."

Some people also get a tattoo to honor religion and family heritage. Purcell's Celtic cross tattoo also fulfills that purpose.

"The Celtic cross is an Irish symbol of the catholic faith. I love my Irish background and all of its culture," Purcell said. "The Celtic cross is seen everywhere on my Dad's side of the family. Everyone in the family has a ring or necklace of the Celtic cross or the Celtic knot."

Although many get tattooed in order to convey a message or keep a memorial, Hessler says that there are still other positive reasons as to why people ink up their bodies.

"Some people get tattooed to exercise control over their lives or bodies," Hessler said. "Some people just want to decorate their skin with beautiful images or collect pieces of art from their favorite tattooist."



Illustrations by DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
A rose (left) and tribal styles (above) are common types of tattoo designs.

Getting to know YOU: OU student builds game program for soldiers stationed overseas

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Many people use video games as a way to relax in their spare time and relieve stress. However, few people are more stressed out than those fighting in a war zone.

Jesse Williams is an Army specialist who was stationed in Afghanistan for a year. Currently, he's a student at Oakland University majoring in physics and taking a minor in chemistry. When he was deployed, he saw the soldiers' recreation room in sad shape. He knew how much the soldiers needed a way to relax in their downtime, and knew just what would work: video games.

That was the beginning of what would become Games For Soldiers, the organization Williams founded to send video games to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Williams' Arizona Army National Guard unit was providing security for a Navy provincial reconstruction team. The PRT was in charge of building things like schools, roads, water wells and district centers. Williams was one of the infantrymen assigned to protect the construction team. His unit's MWR room (morale, welfare and recreation) had very little in it to allow the soldiers a chance to have fun.

"We were in a pretty remote location. We didn't have access to the military stores, so we just had what we [brought] with us," Williams said.

What they had with them amounted to little more than playing cards and a ping-pong table. Some soldiers had video game consoles and games that had been sent from home. Williams' wife sent him his Xbox.

He soon found an enthusiastic community of gamers within his unit.

"There were at least 20 of us between the Navy and the Army," Williams said.

But with few to go around, the video games were not yet available to everyone. Williams contacted game companies to try and convince them to send free games and consoles their way.

"The response was overwhelming," he said.

Companies like EA, Microsoft, and Popcap began sending boxes of games to the troops. Within four months, the MWR room had gone from being empty to having enough games to hold gaming tournaments in "Halo 3" and "Guitar Hero."

"Once in a while, they'd give us a morale day. Those of us who were more into gaming would set up tournaments," Williams said.

When he returned home, he wanted to spread the video gaming wealth around to more armed forces units so he sent more requests to gaming companies. The donations continued to come in and more companies got involved.

"My unit was pretty well set up, so I wanted to send some to different units," he said.

Williams operates Games For Soldiers in his free time, when he's not working full-time at IBM doing technical support or taking night classes at OU.

"I usually try to mail out boxes during my lunch break. I'll try to contact companies on the weekends or in the evenings when I have a break from studying," Williams said.

His wife Jen also helps him run Games For Soldiers

by shipping out boxes in her free time.

Games for Soldiers has also received donations from the makers of the popular webcomic Penny Arcade, which Williams is a fan of.

"They took some games out of their own private collection and sent them over," Williams said.

All monetary donations that Games For Soldiers receives have gone towards shipping costs, and Williams makes no money from running the organization. He is trying to get Games For Soldiers recognized as an official nonprofit organization, both so that people who donate games or money may claim tax deductions and to further legitimize his cause.

"Right now the organization only exists because I say it exists and because people are supporting it," Williams said.

The responses from the soldiers have been extremely positive.

"Again thank you so much for all your support. The troops and I cannot express our gratitude. Your support will never go unnoticed," wrote Sgt. Christina Stern in an e-mail to Williams.

"The games you sent are a huge improvement," wrote Lt. Cmdr. Alexander Harper in another e-mail.

As for his personal tastes in video games, Williams describes himself as a nondiscriminatory gamer. "I play a little bit of everything. It depends on how much time I have."

Williams is gaining more widespread recognition through his website, gamesforsoldiers.org. From Oct. 1 until Nov. 15, Williams will be running a holiday drive for Games For Soldiers.

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Tickets for this lecture are \$20 for the general public and free to Oakland University students, faculty and staff. Tickets for the general public are available at the Center for Student Activities Service Window, 49 Oakland Center, and through Ticketmaster outlets. Free student, faculty and staff tickets are available exclusively at the CSA Service Window. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the event, if not sold out.

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.

This program is co-sponsored with the Office of the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost and is the 2008 Varner Vitality Seminar.



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Presented by OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S Student Life Lecture Board

Hogan's strategy shifts

Hockey coach determined to get back to championship level

By KYLE BAUER
Contributing Reporter

"It was a tough pill to swallow," said Oakland University hockey coach Sean Hogan when the buzzer sounded, ending the 2008 American Collegiate Hockey Association National Tournament run for the Golden Grizzlies, at the hands of the Oklahoma Sooners.

But you can't win them all, right? For Hogan, up until last year that cliché didn't apply.

Since Hogan took over as head coach in 2005, OU hadn't lost a playoff game. The team won back-to-back ACHA championships to open Hogan's tenure. Losing in the post season wasn't a comfortable feeling for the coach.

Last season's performance lowered the standard for the program and was a big disappointment for Hogan. As such, he has taken up new coaching philosophies to raise the bar once again for the OU hockey program.

OU hockey has a championship tradition and Hogan wants to find a new way to get back on top.

The players can point to specific changes that Hogan is making to achieve that goal.

Sophomore defensemen Collin Ronayne has noticed an attitude change in Hogan. "There's a big difference, a lot more dedication from him but also everyone. He's upped the pressure."

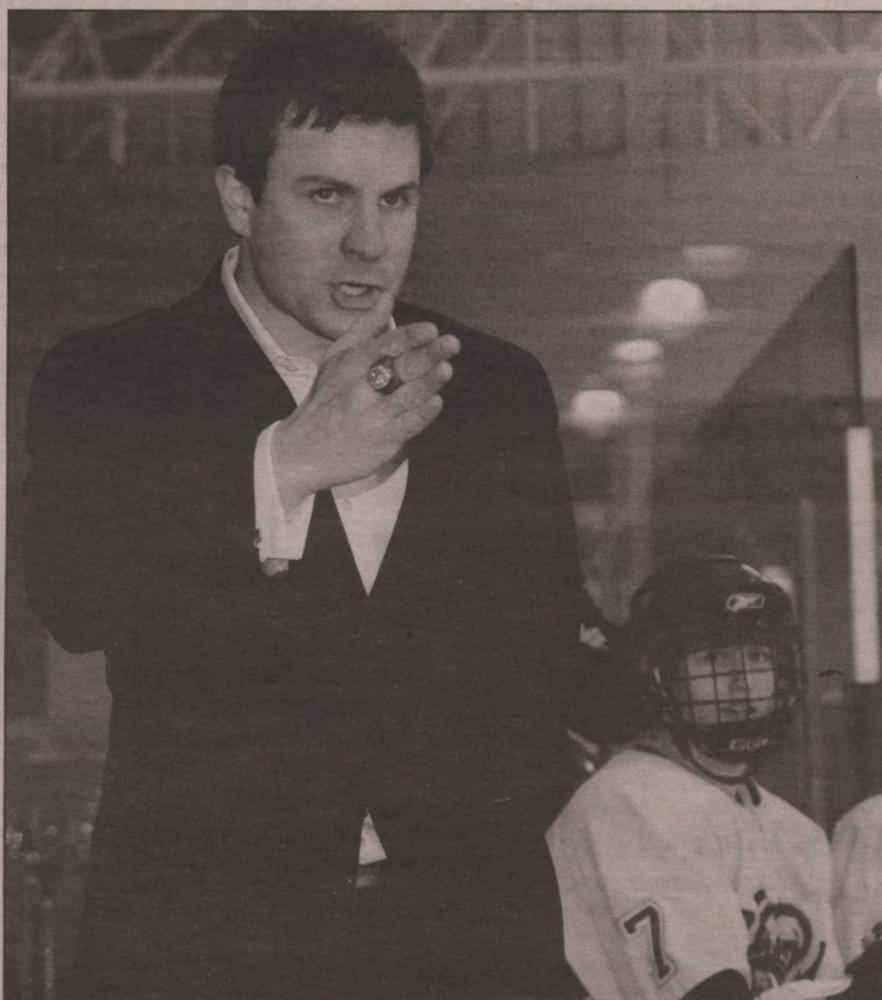
Returning leading scorer Kevin Kranker emphasized that there have been major changes in Hogan's demeanor.

"Hogan has been really gung-ho. He's been really intense. He won't let us beat ourselves," Kranker said.

Prior to this season, OU was able to rely on the top line to carry the load offensively. That is one aspect that players and coaches alike see changing, as Hogan plans on relying on his second and third lines now more than any previous season.

Hogan believes that will be the biggest difference on the ice.

"In the past, we relied on a handful of players to contribute. We are trying to be more balanced up front, doing a lot



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Sean Hogan directs traffic on a line change during a game in 2007. Hogan's title victory marked the first time in league history a team captured consecutive National Titles in two divisions.

of cycling in the offensive zone, trying to get all five players on the ice involved," Hogan said.

Another returning top scorer, Jesse Worell, figures that he'll play a big part in scoring, but also that not one OU player will necessarily dominate the highlight reel.

"There's not going to be one big scorer this year. It's going to be a team effort," Worell said.

The philosophical change offensively does have some reasoning behind it. The

Grizzlies have gotten the rap from many rival programs in the ACHA that they had merely one or two star players and never a complete team. Some believe that was why they were eliminated in the first round last season and why they won't return to prominence for quite some time.

This theory is one Hogan is very aware of and he has used it to motivate himself and his team to step up and prove the rest of the league wrong. "We are highly motivated, the coaches and the veteran

Slow starters

OU hockey head coach Sean Hogan will have to wait a little longer to get a good night's sleep. The Grizzlies fell in the season's first two games to U of M-Dearborn on Sept. 26-27 by scores of 8-5 and 6-5, respectively.

players. The perception has always been we were a couple top-end players to carry us and that's it. We want to change that this season and do it by returning to the finals."

Hogan wants to return to the ACHA finals simply because he's used to winning championships. The same goes for senior defensemen Jarrett Samp and Nick Ranck, forward John Parrish and goalie Collin Chase, who were all there for the championship teams. The OU hockey club has established a winning tradition and the players want to get back to that level just as badly as Hogan.

"Three championships in four years, it was the first thing that got my attention when coming here," said highly touted freshmen defensemen Brian Jacobs.

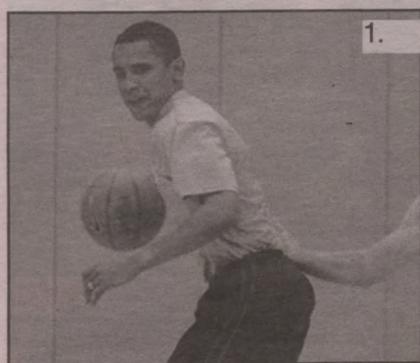
It encapsulates what Hogan has already accomplished in his time as head coach. With the increased dedication, improved off-ice training, focus on a more balanced scoring attack and the return of key veteran players, Hogan is working towards a greater coaching accomplishment.

He has the ability to return this young, hungry team to the ACHA finals. Maybe a year from now OU will be able to raise a banner for a fourth championship in six years, and Hogan will be able to sleep again at night.

POST GAME

Since their NBA Finals win in 2004, making predictions for the Detroit Pistons hasn't been an easy task.

With that in mind, we in The Oakland Post sports department will expect the unexpected when the Pistons stop at OU to practice (see right). Here are four not-so-serious predictions for what may very well go down on Thursday: 1) Presidential candidate Barack Obama suits up at the three spot, 2) pep band rendition of "The Final Countdown," 3) OU President Gary Russi suits up at the three spot, 4) a visit from former head coach Flip Saunders.



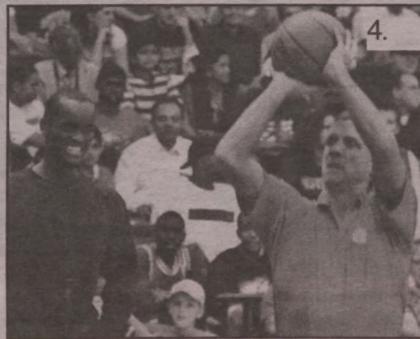
1.



2.



3.



4.

Photo credits: DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post, JAE HONG/Associated Press, BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post, Oakland University

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK



Paul Rice
Head coach
Cross country

Rice guided the men's cross country team from 13th to 11th in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association rankings, as announced by the USTFCCCA office Monday. It is the highest ranking ever achieved in the cross country program's Division I history.

Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

Pistons to play at OU

By **TIM RATH**
Sports Editor

When the Detroit Pistons' 2008-09 season kicks off Oct. 29, they'll be prepared to play a wide variety of creatures; from Bucks to Hawks to Timberwolves.

Before they take on those beasts, however, they'll have to face the Grizz.

The Pistons will host an open practice inside the O'Rena Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Admission is free for all fans and doors are set to open at 5:30 p.m.

The Pistons won't "clock in to work" until 6:30 p.m., but Oakland University students will have an opportunity to compete in a special contest to receive a \$500 gift certificate towards the purchase of books for the winter semester from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Discounted tickets for the Oct. 29 Pistons home opener against the Indiana Pacers will also be available.

Pistons Director of Player Development Ryan Hoover said that the event is an opportunity for fans and athletes alike to reach out to their basketball heroes.

"Watching your idols get that close to

you is just so exhilarating," said Hoover. "For the basketball players, it's like you kind of try to put your game to their level."

A 2003 graduate of OU, Hoover played four years on the Grizzlies men's basketball team prior to suffering a foot injury during his fifth year of eligibility.

Hoover is entering his fourth season as director of player development with the Pistons after serving as a basketball operations assistant/scout in 2004-05.

Hoover said that working to give something back to the OU community is a great experience.

"Putting in as much time as I did all over campus, from the Rec Center to the Oakland Center, to the gym and the classrooms, it makes me extremely happy to be working for this team now," he said.

"We made some great memories and being able to do what I do now is such a blessing."

In addition to the practice, the event will feature the 2008-09 Pistons Dance Team "Automotion," the Pistons' mascot Hooper, and the Flight Crew.

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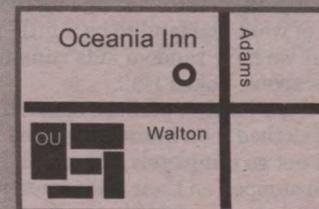
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A club sport that uses clubs

Dagorhir unit offers medieval battles for the modern sports fan

By JOSHUA DEFOUR
Contributing Reporter

After only five minutes of watching Oakland University students dressed in medieval costume beat each other with foam swords, it was apparent that this sports feature would be an unavoidable death trap before a sentence was ever written.

There were 20 or so of these sweaty combatants and they looked nothing short of fierce holding their various instruments of foam warfare.

There was one brutish character in particular who piqued trepidation. The man looked more akin to a cast member of "300" than a club sport participant. He literally looked to be the "real deal": a long beard, muscles galore, a shield and a huge spear that could have killed a whale if it hadn't been tipped with foam.

Quite suddenly, the large spear-wielding man broke from the group of fighters to rush over to the sidelines of the battlefield. One might have expected to see him pick up a different bludgeon or a larger shield.

Instead, he picked up his Motorola and assured his teammates he would be back to the fray in a second. Apparently he had forgotten a battle-axe in his car. Go figure.

The man who appeared to be most in control, that is to say he was the only one not running around wildly swinging a weapon, seemed to be the best bet for an interview. His character went by the name of Stonetred "Stone" Graggrath, and he was to be the informant for the rest of the events in the odd realm of Dagorhir.

Stone, aka OU alumnus Matt Snitgen, explained the game of Dagorhir as a form of Live Action Role Play — or LARP if you prefer not being called a "noob." The sport is combat-oriented with full-contact fighting as its primary focus and can sometimes be infused with a character driven storyline.

While not organized in the fashion of a traditional club sport in that it lacks a discrete schedule for its battles and is not exclusive to college students, Dagorhir does have teams, referred to as "units." The units fight for their "chapters," which can best be likened to a team playing for its home state.

The OU fighters are a unit of the Monroe-based Eryndor chapter, one of the largest chapters in the Midwest. "I'm the envoy of our unit," Snitgen said. "I'm pretty much in charge of the battles, but, you know, they don't show me any respect for it."

For a casual observer it might be hard at first to respect, or take seriously, any of the Dag fighters while they amble around in their medieval wear.

Referred to as "garb," these ensemble outfits represent the type of character class the fighter is portraying and is often worn with various types of armor.

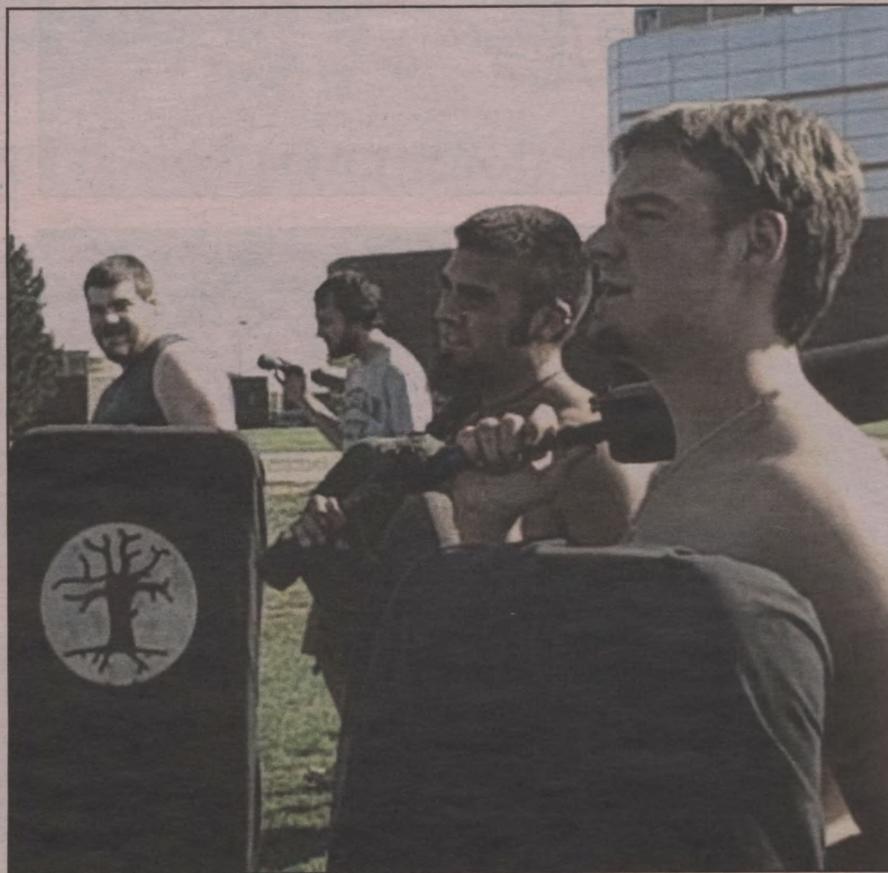
"There are many different character classes," said Austin Eighmey, who is a Cirion Pirate named Evias. "Each chapter has their own storyline and a fighter's character comes from his chapter's storyline."

However, despite the heavy presence of both garb and character names neither are formally in the sport's rules.

Sophomore club president Drew Hall, who also goes by the name of Ryot Shadestep, explained his hope for a more recognized club sport among the campus denizens. "I kind of want Oakland to be a little more aware of the fact that we have random kids running around with foam weapons," joked Hall.

That day's battles, perhaps spurred by the sight of a normal-clothed teen interviewing the intimidating fighters, did not go completely unnoticed. In fact, a few people even stopped on their class route just to sit and watch the carnage as it unfolded.

"I've seen them fighting before," said information technology major Arlind Muca, who watched with friend Russell Kelley. "The reason we stopped was because we wanted to see what it's like to put yourself out there in a fight; a fight without guns



JOSHUA DEFOUR/The Oakland Post
Matt Snitgen (front) and his team assemble on the battlefield, prepared to conquer another team in Dagorhir. "It's just being a kid, swinging sticks," he said.

and technology."

Kelley, who said he would try out Dagorhir "for sure" if it weren't for medical problems, explained his interest in the sport. "It's a more honorable way to fight," said Kelley, who also said that a major drawing point for him was the intense battle sequences. "It's chaos ... they're just swinging at anything!"

Later on in the practice, a student that had previously been watching the fighters from a distance, freshman Brandon Robertson, decided to inquire about the possibility of joining the club.

"My high school had a medieval club," said Robertson. "They met weekly for fights ... I wanted to join in but never had the time."

Within ten minutes Robertson received a short pep talk, was casually handed a waiver form, and then went off to battle with a particularly menacing foam-spear.

Five minutes later he had already scored a hit in one of the battles.

After a few bruising rounds went by, however, it became apparent Robertson's lack of skill was going to hamper his ability to further survive in battles. "Stonetred" Snitgen assured Robertson that repeated appearances at practice, which are held every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. outside of the Oakland Center, would do some good.

Judging from the affirmative look on Robertson's face as the day's battles neared to a close, he wasn't in very much doubt as

to whether or not he would show up to the next practice.

"When people come out to see Dagorhir, generally they're hooked because it's just a fun game," said Snitgen.



Check out Joshua DeFour's garb breakdown and exclusive video interviews with Stonetred Graggrath and the rest of the Dagorhir gang only at www.oaklandpostonline.com

*"It's chaos ...
they're just swinging
at anything!"*

Golden Grizzlies Game of the Week



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
At left, junior forward Sebastian Harris attempts to score on Western Illinois goaltender Stephen Patterson. Above, junior forward Stefan St. Louis keeps the ball from a WIU defender.

MEN'S SOCCER

Grizzlies outlast Western Illinois

By JOSHUA CHARLES
Contributing Reporter

The Oakland University men's soccer team returned home for the first time since Sept. 5 looking to rebound from a surprise loss to Michigan last Wednesday.

The Golden Grizzlies did just that, defeating Summit League rival Western Illinois 1-0 in the conference play opener Saturday night at the Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac.

"The Michigan game is gone," head coach Gary Parsons said. "This one was the conference opener, we had to put that other game away."

Junior forward Sebastian Harris scored his fourth goal of the season with 8:39 left in the first half to put the Golden Grizzlies on top.

"Just the right place at the right time," Harris said after the

game. "I tried to place it, control it, and get something on it. Then it was about the celebration."

The Golden Grizzlies peppered WIU's goaltender with 11 shots in the first half and then eight more in the second.

Despite having a wide shot advantage, the Grizzlies played on their heels for most of the second half, narrowly holding on to their 1-0 lead.

Goalkeeper Steve Clark only had two saves for the game, both coming in the second half in the face of pressure from the Leathernecks.

OU improved its record to 7-2-0 on the season, as they picked up their first conference win in front of an OU men's soccer record crowd of 1,105.

"I love the atmosphere," Parsons said. "I knew we would be able to get people out of the soccer community out to support our team."



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
Above, senior midfielder Piotr Nowak dribbles the ball past an opposing Leatherneck. Nowak had three shots in the game but couldn't connect on any of them. At left, an OU men's soccer record crowd of 1,105 cheers on the Golden Grizzlies at the Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac. The men's soccer team, who opened up their season with a 1-0 victory over Oregon State at the Ultimate Soccer Arena Aug. 29, will return there Nov. 1 to take on Southern Illinois Edwardsville.



The Scene

20

www.oaklandpostonline.com

October 1, 2008

Playing plastic: pretend to be a rock star

By JESSICA WILSON
Contributing Reporter

People all over America are embracing a new way of creating music — through the art of video gaming. Game developers are constantly making new games influenced by music, such as “Karaoke Revolution,” “Dance Dance Revolution” and “Sing Star.”

Now, companies are making musical video games for not only the vocal aspect, but instrumental as well. Games like “Guitar Hero” and “Rock Band” let players experiment with different instruments.

These games pose players with a question: are playing these songs the “Same Old Song and Dance,” or is it just a twist on reality?

Billy Black, the guitarist for the band What Happened in Vegas, said he found “Guitar Hero” to be frustrating when he played it the first time. “It works more with visual perception than ability. I can’t see it really improving my musical skill,” he said.

“Guitar Hero” and “Rock Band” give players the feeling of musical capacity without the need of practicing for endless hours on the actual instrument.

According to The Fair Child Project’s drummer, Scott Brooks, these songs are “more like Simon says.”

“The first time I played [drums on ‘Rock Band’] I played on easy and medium. It dumbed it down, making it harder to play,” said Will Kisil, drummer of A Night to Die For.

Though these games do not require musical genius, some who possess musical ability have a very difficult time with the games.

Brooks said he doesn’t think a real drum set and one played in “Rock Band” are similar at all.

“I fail horribly at the ‘Rock Band’ drum set,” Brooks said.

Black said he prefers to play “Rock Band” rather than “Guitar Hero.”

“Rock Band” has the actual songs, when ‘Guitar Hero’ has their own renditions,” Black said.

Like “Battle of the Bands,” “Guitar Hero” holds national competitions for style and memory.

Though hundreds of people attend the battles “the people playing them should not be applauded,” according to Brooks. These games are improving “the younger generations range of music ... some buy old records from The Rolling Stones,” but are in no way the same as being in a real band.

The games are more about making fantasies come alive; it is a way to play an instrument without the hard work and frustration that comes with it.

“I know of some people who have dropped the guitar completely after playing ‘Guitar Hero’ because it is just easier to play,” Brooks said.

“I also know of some people who have picked up an instrument after playing these games because they like how it felt. I guess it just depends on the person,” he said.

‘Rock Band’ vs. ‘Guitar Hero’

Which do you prefer?



AMANDA MEADE/The Oakland Post
Even though Anton prefers “Rock Band,” she still enjoys a little “Guitar Hero” too.

“‘Rock Band.’ The songs are better, it’s more versatile,” said Taryn Anton, a junior political science major.

“‘Guitar Hero.’ It’s more fun, more interesting. I can get good at guitar, I don’t have to learn all the other stuff,” said Noor Toma, a sophomore majoring in political science and minoring in English.



AMANDA MEADE/The Oakland Post
Toma enjoys rockin’ out on “Guitar Hero” in the Bumpers Game Room.

QUICK HITS : REVIEWS IN 30 SECONDS

By MALLORY LAPANOWSKI
Assistant Ads Manager

The Rocket Summer @ The Crofoot



Concert Review

Claiming it was his best Michigan show yet, Bryce Avary of The Rocket Summer shook The Crofoot Ballroom in Pontiac with his always bubbly piano rock show last Friday.

The show included The Morning Light, The Secret Handshake and locals-forever In A Day, and Avary opened his

set with the single “Break it Out,” from his latest album “Do You Feel.”

The show was complete with Avary’s infamous confetti cannons and singles like “Brat Pack” and “Goodbye Waves and Driveways.”

Avary also displayed his talent by improvising a song he sang to his own drum and keyboard loops that he recorded live on stage. Avary rained his energy over the appreciative crowd, and his fans brought him back on stage to play two more numbers.

Before closing the show Avary announced he would be writing another album in January.

By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Editor in Chief

New Kids on the Block The Block



Album Review

It’s been 15 years since they’ve been on the block, but Sept. 5 marked the day The New Kids on the Block returned with their fifth studio album “The Block.”

While some consider them the grandfathers of boy bands, there certainly is no bubble gum wrapper on this R&B/

hip-hop infused album, and executive producer and singer Donnie Wahlberg may have something to do with that.

Collaborations with Ne-Yo, Akon, The Pussycat Dolls and New Edition give a more urban aesthetic than that of “Step by Step” era.

Tracks like “Single” and their first single “Summertime” appeal to today’s young teenybopper, but “Dirty Dancing” and “Sexify My Love” prove these kids have done some growing up, which is something veteran fans will appreciate.

A combination of “The Right Stuff” and “Dirty Dawg,” only time will tell if “The Block” make NKOTB new again.

'Dying' guitarist talks about metal and politics

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

Metal rockers As I Lay Dying made their first appearance on the Warped Tour this summer. Guitarist Phil Sgrosso made some time for The Oakland Post prior to their performance.

The Oakland Post: How do you feel about touring with the Warped Tour after being on heavier tours like Ozzfest and Sounds of the Underground?

Phil Sgrosso: I think it's awesome for us and the tour in general that there's a lot of diverse bands. For us being probably the heaviest band with Norma Jean, Every Time I Die, Dilinger [Escape Plan] was on the tour for a little bit, we kind of stand out from the rest of the pack. I think it's awesome. The fact that we did Sounds of the Underground, Taste of Chaos and Ozzfest it's cool that we can crossover and still have integrity with what tours we choose to do.



AMANDA MEADE/The Oakland Post
Phil Sgrosso at the 2008 Warped Tour, where As I Lay Dying was promoting their latest

The Post: What is it like being one of the longer running bands surrounded by a lot of younger bands?

Sgrosso: We're still a young band, we've been together ten years. But we wear all black and when we're on stage people are like 'these metal guys, what do they know?' They think we think we're better than them.

The Post: Who inspires you?

Sgrosso: It's really weird, I mean, we're all fans of heavy music. When the band first started I think we all kind of would agree on stuff like Metallica, Slayer, some faster bands. Nowadays, I really like Opeth a lot. I don't listen to metal, I listen to other stuff more than I listen to metal. I like Pink Floyd, Muse, Coldplay, a little bit more in depth, more layering and all that.

The Post: How do you feel about illegal downloading?

Sgrosso: It is what it is. Your music is getting out there so it's a lot easier for kids, it's more acceptable I guess. At the same time it's hard for bands to make money. They have to find other outlets to make money, they can't rely on their CD sales. If you get a dollar per CD, it adds up. I think that constant touring is really what most bands need to have. They always need to stay active and be doing something.

The Post: Is the price of gas affecting your ability to tour?

Sgrosso: Fortunately, we're at the position that it's not hurting us, but at the same time it still does suck. It sucks for younger bands. There's a band I'm a huge fan of but they can't tour, I can't go see them live because they can't make enough money. So I think that kind of sucks but at the same time it kind of weeds out all the bad bands out there.

The Post: What are your thoughts on the election?

Sgrosso: I could care less about it. I don't think anyone's going to do anything. My fiancé loves Obama and I don't get it. My main concern is what's going to happen with the war and stuff, what's going to happen with oil, gas, all that stuff.

The Post: Any tours we can look forward to?

Sgrosso: January and February we're going to be doing a headlining tour, we'll be doing the States, B-market type stuff.

Check out www.myspace.com/asilaydying for more information on the band.

More about As I Lay Dying

The band considers itself Christian metal, since all the members follow the religion. However, according to frontman Tim Lambesis, the lyrics to the band's songs involve life, struggles, mistakes and relationships, which aren't necessarily found in the "spiritual category."



Photo courtesy of Amazon.com

In 2007, As I Lay Dying was nominated for a Grammy for "Best Metal Performance" for their single "Nothing Left."

As I Lay Dying's latest album, "An Ocean Between Us," was released in 2007 on Metal Blade Records.

According to: www.metalunderground.com, www.punktv.ca and www.asilaydying.com.

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

October 1, 2008

Is Mr. Right a click away?

Match.com could have your potential soulmate: browse profiles

By KATELYN STANIS
Guest Columnist

A co-worker told me that her brother found a dead mouse in his oven and sold it on eBay for five dollars. I am not sure how accurate the statement was but it was mind-boggling nonetheless.

Oddly enough, I would not be surprised if it were true. People search for, trade, buy and borrow anything and everything over the Internet these days, and dating, relationships, and true love appear to be no exception.

Like most great developments, mine was inspired by something I saw on television. A popular commercial displayed blissful couples dancing to upbeat love ballads while laughing theatrically to promote the idea that happiness, love and your next relationship can be found online.

Curious at the concept and interested to scope out the available men in my area, I signed onto **match.com** to explore what all the fuss was about.

After creating a username and password, I was interviewed by the online dating site to determine and post my likes, dislikes and **shoe size**.

Soon my profile was attracting attention and I was receiving daily virtual winks of flirtation and introduction e-mails from various users.

I was instantly amazed at the vast array of men available on **match.com**. It was like a guy grocery store. As I rummaged the aisles, various types stood out. There was the gym guy. Pictures of every scenario where it is viable to be shirtless spread out on his profile. A bountiful list of nice guys, hoping not to finish last, lined the shelves. Then the creeper guy appeared through an instant message session of excessively awkward compliments. And lastly, there was the overeager and slightly too desperate guy. Screen names like "URsearchIsOver" should not be a practical option.

As I scanned the profiles of different men who contacted me, I was mystified at what people thought would lure and hook potential matches. Some men posted several pictures of themselves surrounded by attractive woman. Is this supposed to be a preview of our future endeavors?

Users that were 20 years older than me were pre-viewing my profile. Some men stated their intentions right away — a long-term relationship. Um, wow. We have never even met and are already discussing the



Photo courtesy of Katelyn Stanis

Guest columnist Katelyn Stanis' **match.com** profile picture.

likelihood of living together?

Some stated their first loves — money and then their family. I am guessing I would be third in that equation then.

And some just focused on promoting useless information. Attention single men of the Internet! If you are really looking for a true connection, please do not waste the space provided under your "favorite things" paragraph to state your favorite color. I have never established a love bond with a man based on his tendency to grab the **green crayon**.

Stunned at how out of tune some men were when it came to marketing themselves, I began to wonder. Is there an art to online dating? Has dating just become another tedious interviewing process for college students with another resume to tweak in order to stand out? (Actually, for an extra \$2.99 a month, you can enhance your profile with a bold red box bordering the picture).

Perhaps we have all become too busy to spontaneously meet someone. I mean, what *are* the odds of meeting someone who enjoys going out to dinner *and* who enjoys stay-

ing home one night to rent a movie and order pizza?

Surprisingly though, I actually did stumble upon someone who made me completely forget the fact that we started talking through an online dating service. He was witty, the opposite of desperate and had that cute boy-next-door charm that a girl like myself craves. Did I mention he is waiting on the results of his bar exam, ladies?

But what do we really know about the people we find on these dating websites? I came across one profile with photographs resembling a male model who is actually a doctor and Harvard Medical School graduate. Can pretty boys be Harvard med grads? And single? I suppose online we can all embellish our profiles to some extent. I have been known to wear a bikini from time to time. This just in — I am a swimsuit model.

For some, I have discovered online dating is quite simply a last resort. When you are done with the bar scene and sitting on your couch watching TiVoed episodes of "Lost" with Cheeto dust on your fingers, that eHarmony commercial starts to look a little more appealing than the current situation you've got going on.

It only gets more difficult as we get older. You graduated from college, enter the workforce and are working 50 plus hours a week. When and where do you meet someone?

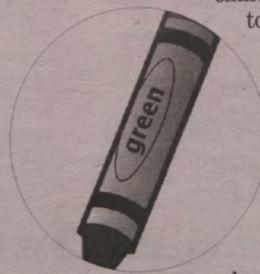
So you take the "what do I have to lose" mind set and make up some login name with a variation of significant letters and numbers. You leave the rest to the matching gods and the wonderment of the Internet.

While many may utilize online dating services to find quick and easy hookups, I think more people turn to these sites to find *that* person.

When you get off of work or out of class or leave the mall with a great people watcher story, you instinctively grab your phone to call *that* person. *That* person makes your pulse pound when their name scrolls across the caller ID.

And *that* person is possibly the only person you would share your chocolate cake with because it's the same person who makes your stomach flip at the thought of seeing them or gives you butterflies right before you actually do. It's a little ridiculous but it's a little true. And when you are in the center of all that, it's also a little great.

Create a profile. Take a gander at what the market has to offer in the realm of dating. If all else fails, I hear dead rodents are going for five bucks on eBay.



Lawmakers try to revise bailout bill

By CHARLES BABINGTON & JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders, with advice from their parties' presidential nominees, scrambled Tuesday to find out what changes are needed to sell the failed \$700 billion financial system bailout to rank-and-file members.

John McCain and Barack Obama offered long-distance help from the campaign trail. They announced, separately, that they support a plan that some House Republicans had pushed earlier: raising the federal deposit insurance limit from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

The aim of this change would be to reassure nervous Americans and their elected representatives at the Capitol that the legislation would shore up the

faltering economy.

For his part, President Bush sought to avoid being marginalized. He spoke with both nominees, and made another statement in the White House.

Even as the pace of legislative jockeying quickened, the atmosphere on an emotionally drained Wall Street seemed to be improving. The New York Stock Exchange rose more than 340 points by early afternoon.

But more attention was on credit markets as a key rate that banks charge each other shot higher, a further evidence of a tightening of credit availability.

"I recognize this is a difficult vote for members of Congress," Bush said. "But the reality is we are in an urgent situation and the consequences will grow worse each day if we do not act."

Republican House aides said the FDIC

proposal might attract some conservatives who want to help small business owners and avert runs on banks by customers fearful of losing their savings.

Another possible change to the bill would modify "mark to market" accounting rules. Such rules require banks and other financial institutions to adjust the value of their assets to reflect current market prices, even if they plan to hold the assets for years.

Some House Republicans say current rules forced banks to report huge paper losses on mortgage-backed securities, which might have been avoided.

Liberal Democrats who opposed the bill are suggesting other changes. The ideas include extending unemployment insurance and banning some forms of "short selling," in which investors bet that a stock's value will drop.



LEE JIN-MAN/Associated Press
Two North Korean soldiers observe the south side at the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone border between the two Koreas, on Sept. 30.

US nuclear envoy to bring proposal to North Korea

By JEAN H. LEE
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — The chief U.S. nuclear negotiator with North Korea will propose a face-saving compromise during a trip Wednesday to the isolated communist nation to try to salvage the derailed disarmament pact, U.S. officials said.

Envoy Christopher Hill said his goal was to persuade North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan to agree to Washington's demand for a verification system to account for the North's nuclear arsenal. But he acknowledged it would be difficult.

The North has rejected U.S. requests on verification and accused Washington of not living up to its end of the deal and removing North Korea from a list of state sponsors of terrorism. It recently reversed the process of dismantling its nuclear facilities.

"We are in a very difficult, very tough phase of negotiations," Hill told reporters Tuesday after meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Kim Sook, to discuss ways to persuade the North to return to the disarmament process.

In Washington, a senior U.S. official said Hill is bringing a new face-saving proposal that would have North Korea agree to a verification program and submit it first to its Chinese allies. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because Hill has not presented the proposal.

The U.S. would then provisionally remove North Korea from the terrorism sponsors list. That would edge around the current impasse, in which the U.S. says it won't remove North Korea from the list until it signs up to the verification measures while the U.S. says North Korea must act first.

NIW BRIEFS

9-25 | A Canadian man is found guilty of participating in a plot to storm the Parliament of Canada to behead the Prime Minister of Canada Stephen Harper in 2006.

9-26 | Japan and Hong Kong detect melamine in Chinese food products including breakfast cereals and crackers.

9-27 | A bomb in Delhi, India kills two and injures 23. | Zhai Zhigang, of China, successfully performs the first spacewalk by a taikonaut.

9-29 | Floods caused by Typhoon Hagupit cause at least 41 deaths in northern Vietnam. | The House of Representatives rejects a proposed bailout of the U.S. financial system.

9-30 | At least 80 people are dead and 150 injured after a human stampede at the Chamunda Hindu temple near Jodhpur in India.

Preparing for an international blast off



Associated Press
From left: U.S. space tourist Richard Garriott, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Lonchakov, and U.S. astronaut Michael Fincke pose after trying on space suits at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008. Fincke, Lonchakov and Garriott are scheduled to start for the International Space Station on Oct. 12.

Somali pirates deny shootout that allegedly left 3 dead

By MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN
Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Conflicts between Somali pirates holding a ship laden with tanks and heavy weapons escalated into a shootout and three pirates are believed dead, a U.S. defense official said Tuesday. The pirates, however, denied the report.

The U.S. destroyer USS Howard and several other American ships have surrounded the Ukrainian cargo ship Faina, which was hijacked Thursday and is now anchored off the lawless coast of Somalia.

The pirates have demanded a ransom of \$20 million and the U.S. Navy cordon

aims to prevent them from taking any of the weapons ashore.

The official in Washington who reported the shootout spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record. He refused to elaborate and said he had no way of confirming the deaths.

But the pirate spokesman insisted the report was not true, that his colleagues were just celebrating the Muslim feast of Eid al-Fitr despite being surrounded by American warships and helicopters.

Earlier Tuesday, Andrew Mwangura of the East African Seafarers' Assistance Program cited an unconfirmed report saying three Somali pirates were killed

Monday night in a dispute over whether to surrender. Mwangura said, however, he had not spoken to any witnesses.

Ali said the vessel was surrounded by four warships but he could not identify where the ships were from.

The USS Howard has been watching the pirate ship for several days and has spoken the pirates and crew by radio.

The U.S. defense official in Washington said the pirates have been moving from ship to shore and back again, bringing provisions including livestock.

He said between 40 and 50 pirates were involved in the hijacking, but a second U.S. official said only about 30 of them were on the ship itself.

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