

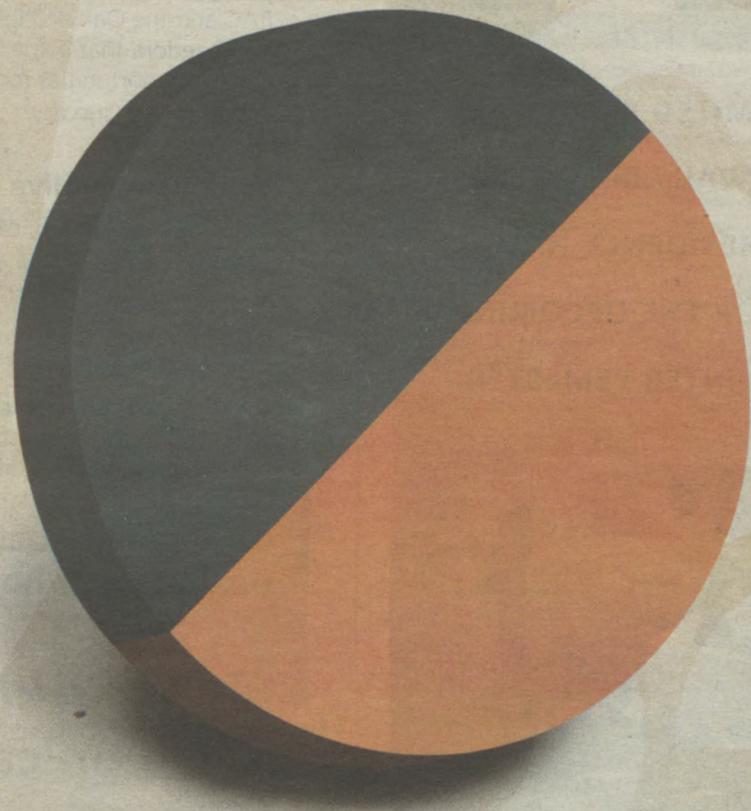
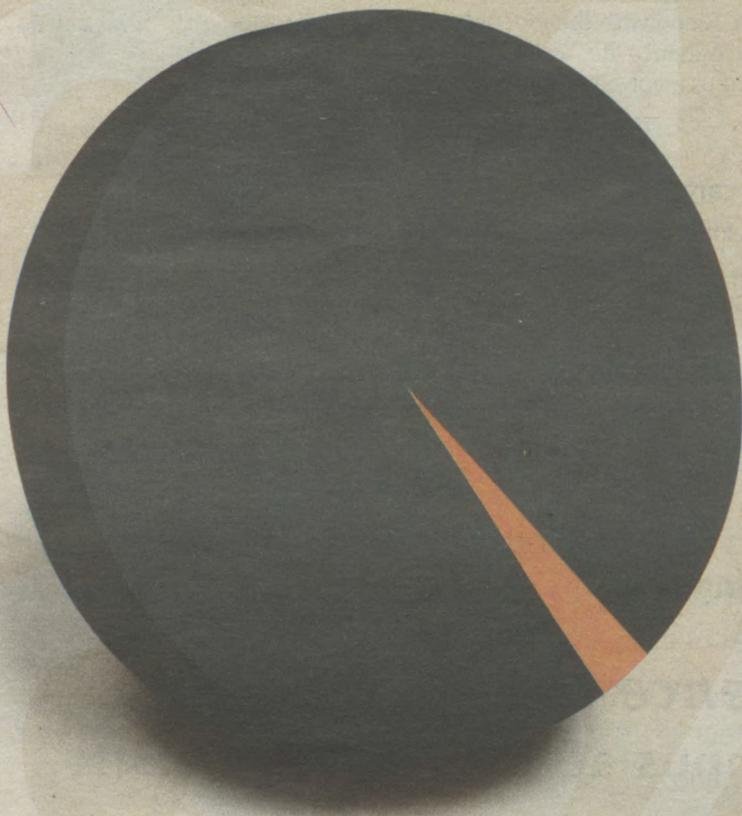
# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

November 18, 2009

Volume 36, Number 15

## An Examination of Representation



A glance at **student congress** and the student body.  
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### CAMPUS

On-campus campaign against domestic violence. Male (role) models wanted.

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### SCENE

Young Heidelberg focuses on community art in Detroit.

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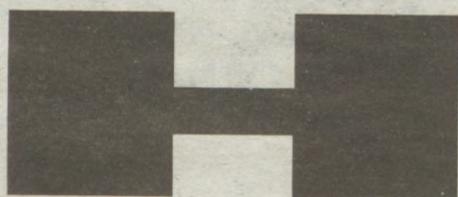


### LOCAL

Creative Arts Center in Pontiac exhibits OU faculty art through December.

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# WANT TO LIVE ON CAMPUS? THERE'S STILL TIME!



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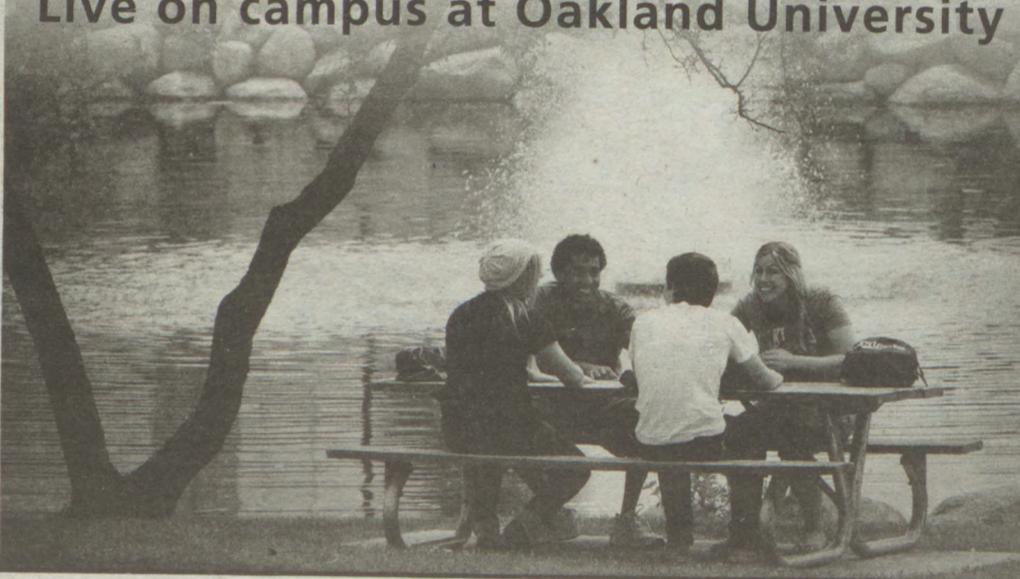


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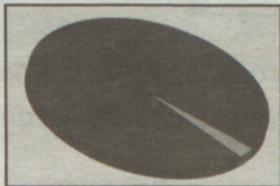


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The Posties are going to be too busy stuffing our Tofurkeys next week to put out a paper. We'll be back with an issue on Wednesday, Dec. 2 and again on Monday, Dec. 7  
Keep up on oaklandpostonline.com

Cover illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# Perspectives

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November 18, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

## 'Big bright' waste of energy

Warning: bah humbug alert.

Like it or not, the holiday season is in full swing with 24/7 Christmas music and piles of specialty catalogs coming through the mail (yay, Signals).

It's also time for Rochester Michigan to top Clark Griswold's Christmas light spectacular that not only blinded the neighbors and ruined their stereo, but was a tradition (see "National Lampon's Christmas Vacation").

In its fourth year, the Rochester Downtown Development Authority will attract thousands of shoppers to its boutiques and restaurants this season within its annual Christmas event The Big, Bright Light Show.

In 2006, there were half a million lights strung on the facades of the buildings on Main Street. Now, there are — drum roll please — more than one million LED lights lining the buildings of Main Street.

The show will plug in on Monday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. during what they call "Lagniappe," which is Creole for "a little something extra." It's extra all right. The show promises to be "bigger" and "brighter" than ever, and to continue getting bigger and brighter every year.

The lights will be glaring on every building on Main Street from the south bridge to Romeo Road and along Fourth

Street from 6 p.m. to midnight every night until Jan. 3, 2010.

Yes, it is a beautiful sight to see. It's gorgeous, it's breathtaking, and it's worth the drive. It has been such a successful event that it drew in on average almost 30 percent increase in business in its first year and over a million visitors.

It is great for the small businesses in this district that big shiny things can still draw a crowd in our modern times.

The economic impact and community pride is one thing. But there's another scene from "Christmas Vacation" that pops into mind. How fast are those electricity meters on Main Street spinning around on those nights?

They are going a lot faster than the drivers going "ooh" and "ahh" as they slowly creep through town. Anybody who lives north of Dairy Queen can testify that the hoopla doesn't do much for improving commute time.

Is Los Angeles' cloud going to start making its way to Rochester? OK, that's just silly, but still.

Isn't the United States in the middle of an energy and climate crisis right now? Aren't there families in the tri-county area struggling to keep a light on over their kitchen table?

Just because they are LED lights

and they use less energy than the giant Christmas tree bulbs of the 1980s, that shouldn't encourage people to use more of them. That's like putting twice as much sour cream on your burrito because it's the light sour cream.

Aren't we told that one light bulb makes a huge difference? Why in the hell would anybody bother turning the electronic flow off when they leave their dorm room when a few miles down the road there are about a million light bulbs on because they look pretty?

It's already so easy to toss aside the fact that something as small as turning off a computer monitor for the night can save a considerable amount of energy, especially if a lot of people are doing it.

And downtown Rochester isn't the only place where energy is wasted over the holiday season. The Village at Adams and Walton puts a bunch of purple lights on practically every tree on its grounds in the winter.

Isn't there a way to attract shoppers to our local business districts that doesn't involve slapping everybody in the face who shuts their lights off during the day to save a small percentage of the world's energy?

Submit your own ideas on how to attract the masses without blinding them to oakpostmanaging@gmail.com.

**W**hat do you think?  
Send your comments to The Oakland Post or stop in the office, 61 Oakland Center or by any of the methods below.

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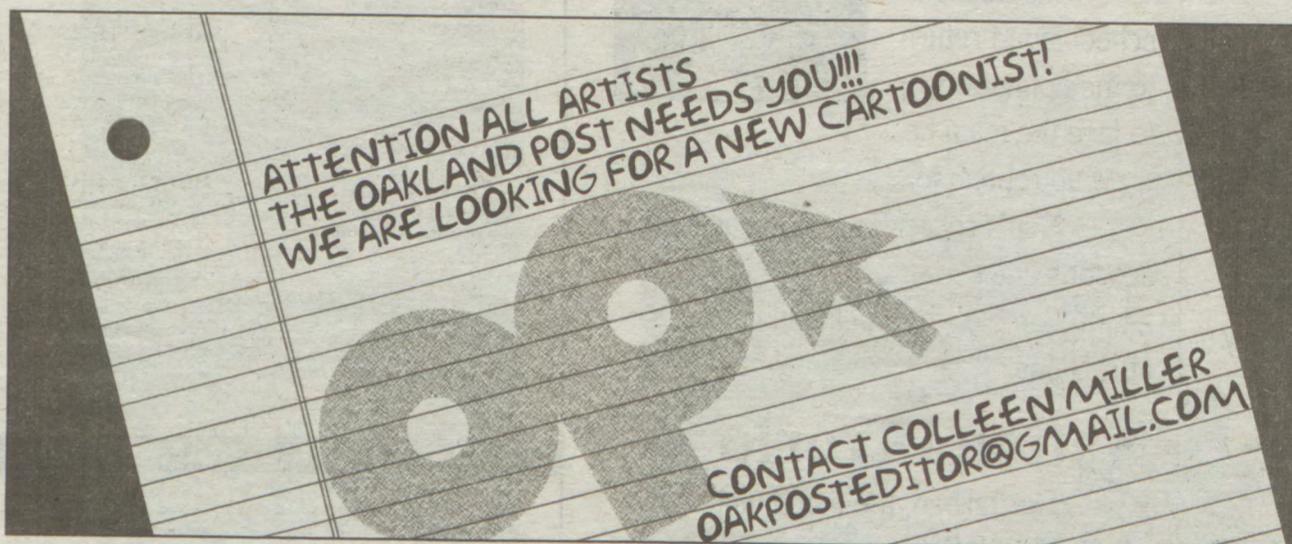
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### CORRECTIONS CORNER

• On page 7 of the Nov. 11 issue, the company awarded the contracting rights of the Human Health Building was misspelled. The company's name is Christman Company, based in Lansing.

• On page 9 of the Nov. 11 issue, Micah Fialka-Feldman was incorrectly credited as hosting a Nov. 18 rally. The rally was organized and sponsored by the Sociology Club.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.



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

# White Ribbon Campaign affirms a student's moral code

**Ryan Hegedus**



staff reporter

Over the week of Nov. 16-20, various Oakland University organizations, including the Residence Halls and University Student Apartments, will be holding events to raise awareness for the White Ribbon Campaign, an organization dedicated to ending male violence against women.

When I first heard about the White Ribbon Campaign and their personal pledge, I knew that it was a sentiment that I could fully support.

"A pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls."

While I hadn't heard of the WRC until last week, that 15-word statement is something that I have followed, and will continue to follow, until the day I die. My brother Eddie and I were lucky enough to have grown up in an abuse-free home.

From a very early age, my dad instilled in both of us a love and respect for women. Every woman in my life means a great deal to me, from my mom and aunts to all of my female friends. Without them, I would only be half the man I am today.

Some young men, however, are not as fortunate and haven't had those positive influences in their lives, and have witnessed or been the victim of domestic violence.

Studies from organizations like the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence have shown that boys who

witness domestic violence at a young age are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults. The cycle of violence needs to end. I believe that education, from an early age, can help to curb the epidemic.

Positive male role models are necessary for the culture to change, which is why I respect and commend the actions of those involved with WRC. Their message has spread to 55 countries all over the world, educating boys and men about respecting women and ending violence against them.

While the WRC should be praised for their efforts, they can only do so much when it comes to stopping domestic violence. Many women don't report incidents of violence for various reasons: fear of retaliation by their partners, a false sense of hope that "things will change," a feeling of shame or lost pride, or even more outrageous, a feeling of responsibility for the abuse.

Another contributing factor to domestic violence in our culture is when it appears in the tabloids. Even being in the public spotlight doesn't keep individuals from committing domestic violence. Look at Ike Turner, Mike Tyson and Jason Kidd: being famous hasn't stopped these men from mentally and physically attacking their significant others.

**"Positive male role models are necessary for this culture to change ..."**

The February 2009 case involving Chris Brown and Rihanna, however, is a shocking sign that age is becoming less of a factor when it comes to domestic violence. How could a 20-year-old man, with a budding career and such a promising life in front of him perform such heinous violence against a

woman?

While it was later discovered that Brown's mother had been abused by his stepfather, I still can't understand Brown's actions — there is no excuse. The pictures of Rihanna's bruised and swollen face are ones that should stick with and haunt Brown for the rest of his life.

My parents got a divorce when I was 18 and entering my senior year of high school. I was sad, angry, confused — all the emotions that someone can feel when a situation like that happens. Until I moved out in September, I lived with just my mom in Sterling Heights for the last 4 years. My dad eventually moved to Arizona for a new job, and my mom moved to Alpena. Even with the distances, their influences haven't faded.

Both of my parents helped me to become the man I am today. I will never be able to repay them for what they have given me, but I can continue to live by the principles that they taught me.

For more information about the White Ribbon Campaign, go to <http://www.whiteribbon.ca> or contact their national office at 416-920-6684.

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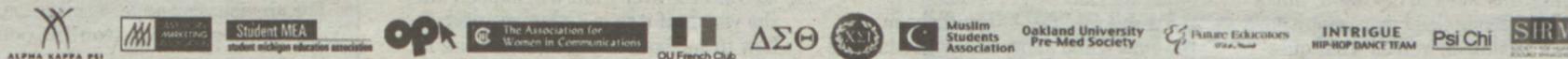


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## Working to "white out" violence

By JENNIFER WOOD  
Senior Reporter

This week, scattered around the Oakland University residence halls and academic buildings, signs requesting male models caused people to stop and take interest.

The signs, which read, "MALE MODELS WANTED!!" included a description of a man who is fearless, smart, righteous, courageous and strong, qualities not typically considered a requirement for modeling.

The "models" these signs were referring to were role models, specifically male role models, looking to end men's violence against women.

Simon Keleel, the Gender and Sexuality Center, Student Congress and a handful of other campus organizations kicked off the White Ribbon Campaign Monday at OU. The campaign asks students to join together to "white out" violent acts committed by men against women and to raise awareness of gender stereotypes and promote all-around respect.

The White Ribbon Campaign is the world's largest effort of men working to end violent acts against women, and although it is typically a male-specific effort, OU sponsors of the event are looking to get everyone involved.

"We wear the ribbon as a personal pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent against violence against women," said Keleel, who has been involved in the White Ribbon Campaign since his junior year of high school. "Women can wear the ribbon to show support that men have a role and responsibility to end violence against women."

Senior Kayla Jones has been sporting the white rib-



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Signs were placed around campus in an effort to curb violence committed by men against women for White Out week.

bon all week in support of the campaign.

"It's sad how prevalent violence is and I am proud of the individuals who are wearing white ribbons and learning simple ways to make a difference," Jones said.

In addition to the campaign's week-long presence in the OC, where students can pledge their commitment and sign the White Out Week banner and receive a ribbon, there will also be a variety of on-campus opportunities for involvement.

All week, the Residence Hall Association will be holding a penny war dividing all proceeds between Haven in Oakland County and Turning Point in Macomb County, organizations offer shelter and an assortment of other resources to women in need.

Wednesday night, Kaleel will be holding "Pink and

Blue," a presentation about gender stereotypes and gender communications from 8-9 p.m. in the Hamlin Lounge, located in Hamlin Hall. Thursday night, events continue with a 7:30 p.m. outdoor candlelight ceremony between the OC and the bridge to Vandenberg.

"The vigil is to honor the victims of domestic violence, as well as other types of violence ... most men will never commit acts of violence, but when men do and we remain silent about it, we're letting that continue," Kaleel said.

Melissa Pope, coordinator of the Gender and Sexuality Center, believes that events like White Out Week are key in the struggle to end violent acts against women.

"In mainstream society it's not always men that hurt women. For men to initiate programs that say not only am I not going to engage in violence against women, but I am going to work towards the end of violence against women period, is not only important, but also comforting and awe-inspiring," Pope said.

For the Friday finale of White Out week, Kaleel and his supporters are asking all students to wear white in support of the campaign.

The take-home message, according to Kaleel, is that "if you ever see violence against women, or men for that matter, it is important to speak up. Sitting back and letting it happen only furthers the problem."

Those looking to get involved in the White Ribbon Campaign are encouraged to visit the campaign's website at [www.whiteribbon.ca](http://www.whiteribbon.ca).

Victims of violence on campus are encouraged to report incidents to OUPD, as well as to seek help through Graham Health Center.

## Russi to hold open forum with faculty

By MIKE SANDULA  
Staff Reporter

Oakland University faculty members will get a chance to discuss their grievances with the administration in an open forum with OU President Gary Russi at 4 p.m. Thursday.

Shea Howell, communication professor and chair of the communication and journalism department, met with Russi last Tuesday and requested that he call an open forum with the entire faculty.

Howell said Russi told her that he hadn't realized the degree to which people perceived him as isolated.

The American Association of University Professors arranged a trio of meetings this week to discuss a "bill of particulars" compiled by an anonymous group of faculty as well as what questions they would like to pose to Russi.

The first of these meetings was held Monday at 3 p.m. in the Oakland Center.

During the meeting, the faculty raised questions about the "administration's bunker in Wilson Hall," the lack of a faculty liaison to the board and a host of other issues that were brought to a head during the OU-union negotiations, which led to a job action that postponed classes for a week.

Members spoke of an "adversarial atmosphere" that had been created over the years, dating back to a 2001 report produced by a committee to look into the way OU's budget was allocated.

"Everything comes from the president's office," said Joel Russell, chemistry professor. "That's not the way other universities are ran."

Russell said OU has millions in reserves while many departments have to dip into gift funds to buy essential

items such as chemicals for the chemistry lab and the tuition rate continues to rise.

Faculty also expressed concern over whether it was Russi, the board of trustees or Victor Zombardi, vice president for legal affairs, who ran the university.

"It's clear ... that there are problems with other areas," Howell said, but Russi is the main focus because as the president, "he is the person responsible for our university."

AAUP is organizing a vote of no confidence for Nov. 23-30. The vote will be online and confidential.

The 15 faculty members present at Monday's meeting expressed a lack of confidence in the administration, but listed concerns over what will happen after the vote or if it fails. Others wondered how to go about engaging the entire faculty, as well as students, in the process.

One faculty member said the question was simple: "Do you have confidence in this administration?"

Christopher Clason, modern languages professor, said it's a problem of whether Russi can take OU to "the next level."

Russell said people are approaching Thursday's forum with an open mind and could be persuaded to reconsider the vote, but "it's up to the president at this point."

"There's not one person that takes any pleasure in this," Clason said.

AAUP will meet again Thursday, at 11 a.m. in Lake Superior Room A and in the same room Friday at 1:30 p.m.

For previous coverage of this issue, go to [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

# CAMPUS BRIEFS

In honor of AIDS Awareness Day, R.E.D. C.O.W. will be holding an event on Tuesday, Dec. 1. "Rouge: The Red Affair" will take place from 8-11 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the Oakland Center.

R.E.D. C.O.W., a campus organization looking to expose the Oakland University community to social and political issues, is hoping to raise awareness for HIV and AIDS through artistic expression.

The event, headlined by Detroit R&B artist L'Renee, will feature urban soul entertainment, spoken word by GRAVITY, as well as free dessert. It is free for both OU students and guests. In addition to the evening event, R.E.D. C.O.W. is asking students to wear red clothing or a red ribbon to celebrate RED Day, another part of the AIDS Awareness movement.

On Friday, Nov. 20, the Lebanese Club of Oakland University will be hosting an event to celebrate Lebanese Independence Night. The event will take place in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Aiming to introduce the OU student body to Lebanese culture, there will be a presentation encouraging diversity on campus and in the community.

There will be music from Lebanese pop artist and OU student Lance Attalah, stand-up comedy by Ferdos Kassir, belly dancers, an open Lebanese buffet, and raffle prizes. OU students can attend for free, while guests will need to pay \$5.

— By Staff Reporter Ryan Hegedus

## POLICE FILES

**LARCENY FROM BUILDING:** A woman reported that she had left her purse inside another bag in a hallway in Varner Hall while she was practicing with her class from 10-11:47 a.m. on Nov. 10. When she returned, her bags were missing. Her purse had contained a cell phone, driver's license, credit cards and an insulin pump.

**CREDIT CARD FRAUD:** On Nov. 9, a student reported unauthorized activity on his credit/debit card, which he had lost at the Oakland Center Nov. 5. His bank had informed him of unusual activity on his account, including charges made Nov. 6 at a Dearborn Heights gas station and a Taylor car wash. At the bank's request, the student filed a police report with OUPD.

**ROAD GAP CAUSES FALL WITH INJURY:** OUPD was dispatched at 1:15 p.m. on Nov. 10 to the sidewalk ramp from Meadow Brook Drive to P-41 near the Hannah Hall of Science. A student in a motorized device had crossed the road, hit a gap in the road and his walker had fallen from the back of his mobility device. He had turned around to pick up the walker and he tipped over, causing him to fall in the roadway. The student was bleeding from a cut over his right eye and stated that his right arm and right side of his head hurt. Auburn Hills Fire Department was called to the scene; the student declined transport to the hospital. OUPD observed a gap where the road and the sidewalk ramp meet and placed a work order for repair.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO:** A student reported to OUPD that she parked her car in P-1 at noon on Nov. 10, returned to her car at 5:30 p.m. and her car was unlocked. The glove compartment had been opened, all the contents pulled out and her purse had been turned inside out. An Apple iPod worth \$200 was the only item missing from her car. OUPD processed the car for fingerprints with negative results.

**MEDICAL ATTENTION:** A Vandenberg resident, who had been vomiting and feeling sick, went to Graham Health Center, where they told her she was dehydrated and needed to drink more fluids. At 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 the student, who is diabetic, stated she felt light-headed and weak. Auburn Hills Fire Department arrived and advised her to monitor her sugar and drink plenty of fluids.

**PAPER CUT:** OUPD was dispatched to Kresge Library to assist a student with a paper cut that wouldn't stop bleeding. Auburn Hills Fire Department arrived, provided medical care and a friend transported the student to Crittenton Hospital.

— Compiled by copy editor Donna Lange-Tucker from OUPD's media logs



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# Week of remembrance spreads acceptance

## *Students use tragedy to teach transgender tolerance*

By JENNIFER WOOD  
Senior Reporter

In recognition of the 11th annual international Transgender Day of Remembrance, OU students are being asked to remember those who have fallen victim to gender identity hate crimes.

Hector Jackson and Alexa Van Vliet, along with help from the Gender and Sexuality Center, the Gay-Straight Alliance and the Sociology Club, have organized a week full of events to remember, spread awareness, and educate students on issues surrounding the transgender community.

On Monday, Jackson and other members of the GSC discussed transgender issues in Lake Superior Room B while the names of transgender individuals who were killed as a result of hate crimes, looped in the background.

"Shot to the head" and "stoned to death" were described as causes of death on the screen, depicting just how brutal some of the crimes could be.

"The importance of these events is to remember people who have been killed. We also ask that in this week people examine their own prejudices," Jackson said. "These events are targeted to everyone, not just the trans or LGB community. We want everyone to reflect

"The importance of these events is to remember people who have been killed. We also ask that in this week people examine their own prejudices."

— Hector Jackson, event organizer

on these problems."

Wednesday, the Sociology Club is sponsoring a showing of "For the Bible Tells Me So," a documentary that examines the intersection of homosexuality and religion in the US and its effects on the gay community. The GSC will also host a drop-in discussion Thursday at 11:30 a.m. during their normally scheduled "That Time of the Week" program.

The GSC is also sponsoring a petition which asks OU to include gender identity and expression in the Oakland University non-discrimination policy against bias-based discrimination, violence and harassment. "We have a chance at Oakland University to reject; to reject discrimination, to reject prejudice and reject the violence that comes from them by being inclusive in a

policy that would protect everyone," said Melissa Pope, coordinator of the Gender and Sexuality Center.

Events on campus conclude on Thursday night, with a 7 p.m. showing of "Boys Don't Cry," in Lake Superior Room A, Pope also encourages students to attend the Nov. 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance memorial at the Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in Ferndale, to listen as the names of all the victims murdered last year because of transgender identification.

"It's extremely powerful especially when you see how many murders are unsolved. It's an eye-opening experience" said Pope.

Students can drop by the GSC on the bottom floor of the Oakland Center across from the student lounge and speak with both Pope and Jackson.

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## Muslim students talk faith

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

The Muslim Students Association of Oakland University is working to try to correct public perceptions of Islam that it feels are misguided.

MSA are voicing this message in observation of Islam Awareness Week, which started this Monday with a lecture by Muslim faculty member Achmat Salie.

Muslim students will give a "Diversity of the Muslim World" presentation, followed by a Q&A session, on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge.

Adam Siddiqi, president of MSA, said Muslim students from different Muslim-majority countries, including Bosnia, Oman, India, and Kenya, will talk about life in Muslim countries.

Students can observe Muslim students during one of their five daily prayers at 1:30-2:15 p.m. in rooms 128-129 in the OC. Professor Sayed Nassar will give the sermon.

Friday at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge, the week's keynote speech will be presented, followed by a Q&A session and closing remarks.

Siddiqi said that Dawud Walid, executive director of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic

Relations, will give the speech "Islam: Friend or Foe?"

"Getting to the bottom of the controversy" surrounding Islam is the point of the talk, Siddiqi said. It's about "making people think about the negative stereotypes" and whether or not they are true.

Monday, Salie, director of OU's Islamic Studies program spoke about Islam and Muslims at an event attended by about 40 people.

Salie said that Islam is a religion of peace, that there are different interpretations of Islam, and that because some Muslims do bad things does not mean Islam is a bad religion.

"Today, the biggest issue is ignorance, which leads to bigotry," he said. "Islam is a mosaic, not a monolith ... Human beings are so diverse ... If we can respect that, we can have more harmony in the world."

He said things such as terrorist attacks and the Fort Wood massacre are "mindless killings; Islam would forbid that."

Student Shakita Billy asked about things like arranged marriages of minor children and limited freedom of women.

Salie said that there are many different faces of Islam so it's difficult to comment on it, but said that we "often take the best of our culture and compare it to the worst of another culture."

# SPB Laugh-A-Palooza to feature SNL alum

By RYAN HEGEDUS  
Staff Reporter

As part of their fall 2009 Programming Calendar, the Student Program Board will be hosting the Laugh-A-Palooza Comedian Show this Friday, Nov. 20. The event will be held at Meadow Brook Theatre from 7-11 p.m.

Event coordinator and SPB chair Jonathan Jenkins got the idea for the show from NBC's "Last Comic Standing" and the Bill Bellamy-hosted comedy show on TV One, "Who's Got Jokes?"

Michigan-born comedian Josh Adams will host the event, and contestants from Oakland University's "Last One Standing" contest will perform.

Noted comedian Finesse Mitchell is the featured guest and will headline the event.

Mitchell, a graduate of the University of Miami, was a featured cast member on "Saturday Night Live" from 2003 until 2006. Before his stint on SNL, Mitchell had been a crowd favorite on BET's "Comic View."

After gaining popularity on "Comic

View," he began making numerous appearances on "The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien."

This exposure on national television sparked interest from Comedy Central, which gave Mitchell his own half hour stand-up special.

Mitchell also won the 2008 African-American Literary Award for his dating advice book, "Your Girlfriends Only Know So Much: A Brother's Take on Dating and Mating."

While he no longer works on SNL, Mitchell's comedic range has kept him busy on the stand-up circuit. His impersonations, ranging from 50 Cent to Morgan Freeman to Donavon McNabb, are just one aspect of his comedy that has allowed him to continue selling out comedy events.

Joining Mitchell on the mic is comedian Josh Adams. Hailing from Detroit, the 25-year-old funnyman cites Richard Pryor and Redd Foxx as two of his main influences in comedy.

In addition to stand-up, Adams hopes to one day become a radio personality,

combining his love of music and his ability to make people laugh.

The two finalists for the student contest, Aaron Hill and Gabe Dubrille, will be competing for the title of "Last One Standing."

"My idea for doing this contest came about when I saw the contestants every Thursday in Vandenberg Hall for their open mic nights," Jenkins said. "I realized that we have great talent on our campus; why not showcase that talent to the community?"

Jenkins is hoping that this event will give students an entertaining night and a chance to see some quality stand-up comedy from veterans and amateurs alike.

"I want people to come, have a good laugh, and see a comedian that has been on TV and movies in real life," Jenkins said. "We're also giving out prizes at the event, so you won't want to miss that either."

Tickets are available for purchase in the Center for Student Activities office. They are free for students and \$5 for guests.



Photo Courtesy of Student Program Board  
Saturday Night Live alumnus Finesse Mitchell headlines Friday's Laugh-A-Palooza and will be joined by finalists from Oakland University's "Last Comic Standing" search.

## Oakland Center to feature student art

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

Oakland University students will get a chance to display their artwork on campus come January.

OU student congress has been working with the Oakland Center administration since last year on the Grizz Art program.

Richard Fekel, director of the OC, said he has been interested in something like this for a while.

"I think it's a good opportunity for art students to showcase some of their artwork," Fekel said.

On Tuesday, Fekel told OUSC to continue moving forward with the program.

The deadline for students to apply is Dec. 10. Applications can be picked up online at [www.oakland.edu/ousc](http://www.oakland.edu/ousc) or on campus at 49 Oakland Center or in Wilson Hall.

Interested students can also email JPEG photographs of the artwork to [grizzart@gmail.com](mailto:grizzart@gmail.com) with name, contact information and description of the art.

Selected artwork will be displayed in the narrow corridor across from the Gold Rooms in the Oakland Center in two month rotations, starting January.

Fekel said they're looking into installing the display systems now.

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# OU students take to the ice

*Four student skaters work for a chance to compete nationally*

By ALEXANDRA DUNNE-BRYANT  
Contributing Reporter

When Jonathan Cassar leans back into a spread eagle, toes turned out, body extended from the tips of his boots to the ends of his fingers, crowds gasp and judges swoon. Even more impressively, Cassar's extraordinary balancing act includes meshing national-level figure skating with full-time study.

This weekend, Cassar, a senior, and three other Oakland University students will compete at the Sectional Championships, the second and final step towards qualifying for the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January.

The results at Nationals are used to determine who will represent the United States at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

## Sectionals

Cassar and Amanda Jagow, a freshman, finished fourth in their events at the Eastern Great Lakes Regional Championship last month.

Ameena Sheikh and partner Aaron Van Cleave, will battle for placement in the senior pairs event at the Midwestern Sections Nov. 19-21 in Kansas. Laura Lepzinski, a junior, along with partner Ethan Burgess, will contend in the senior pairs' division at the Pacific Coast Sectional Championship in Wyoming.

Pair teams, a small but elite discipline in figure skating in which partners perform difficult lifts, twists, and throw jumps in addition to side-by-side elements, do not compete at the Regional Championships due to the small number of teams in the United States.

Only 1 percent of skaters pass their senior tests. Senior level is the highest of the eight levels in figure skating and is a prerequisite for consideration for placement on the World and Olympic Team.

## Singles skaters

Cassar, who qualified for Nationals last year on the senior level, strives to combine his major, dance, with his pas-



Senior Jonathan Cassar practices his figure skating program. Cassar is one of four OU students working toward competing at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

sion, figure skating.

"My goal is to have the audience enjoy the skating," says Cassar. "I want the people watching to walk away from the event with something more, making the spectators think about the movement like an art form — after all, it really is an art form."

Cassar's performance involves unusual musical choices and movements. Cassar worked with world-renowned choreographer David Wilson of Toronto to integrate modern dance techniques.

His long program, set to the haunting tones of "Schindler's List," intimately portrays unspeakable grief, using posture and arm movements to communicate emotional pain. Six triple jumps

highlight Cassar's technical skills.

He acknowledges the stress of combining high-level athletic pursuits with education.

"It's hard to find enough hours in a day to fit in studies and work along with school and training," he said. "I get a little burned out and unmotivated, but so far I've made it through."

Cassar trains 20 hours a week at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills with Julie Berlin and two-time Olympian Jason Dungjen.

He hopes to improve his national ranking from last year in his first trip to Nationals as a senior man.

This year, however, he must place in the top four of 10 senior men to earn a

spot at the national championships.

While Cassar's focus is squarely on Nationals, OU freshman Jagow is thrilled to compete at her first sectional championship.

"I honestly could not believe that I had actually made it (to sectionals)," Jagow said.

Jagow was first-alternate last year. "It was very hard to end on that note last year, so I came in a mind set this year that I wanted to redeem myself and make Sectionals," Jagow said.

Jagow, who skates 18 hours each week in Rochester, is supervised and mentored by Vicky Weber and her daughter Lindsey Weber. Lindsey is a senior human resources management major at OU.

Like Cassar, Jagow enjoys the performance aspects of figure skating and focuses her goals for sectionals on completing two "clean" programs, with no errors on technical elements.

Jagow's long-term career goal is to be a high school math teacher and she is relatively new to the balancing act of higher education and elite skating.

"It's tough to balance school and skating," Jagow said. "I would have to say that it does take certain sacrifices."

Cassar and Jagow juggle the heavy demands of school, skating, and, in Cassar's case, work.

## Pair skaters

As pairs skaters, Sheikh and Lepzinski must also account for their partners' schedules.

For Lepzinski, the demands of balancing a psychology major with high-level training are worthwhile.

"It's tough, definitely a lot of work, but I needed another outlet to have a good balance," Lepzinski said.

The pair trains more than 20 hours each week with 2006 U.S. Olympian Aaron Parchem and Zuzanna Szwed at the Detroit Skating Club.

Lepzinski and Burgess emphasize strength and conditioning training to lessen their risks of injury, and dance to improve their on-ice expression and relationship.

"It's a journey together," Lepzinski said.

The two programs they perform emphasize the relationship between the partners. The programs utilize difficult and dramatic technical elements.

The pair completes the most difficult level of lifts and triple twists. They also throw triple jumps, which involve Burgess throwing Lepzinski into the air and her completing three revolutions before landing.

Their most serious challenge is to improve the triple jumps. They hope to improve their ninth-place national ranking from last year to qualify for international competition.

Lepzinski and Burgess chose to compete out of the Pacific Coast Sectionals instead of the Midwestern Sectionals. They had this option because Burgess is a native of Los Angeles.

With only four pairs competing at that sectional, Lepzinski and Burgess are guaranteed to qualify for Nationals as long as they appear at the Sectional Championships.

Sheikh and Van Cleave are one of six senior pair teams competing at the Midwestern Sectionals and they must finish in the top four to qualify for Nationals.

They placed sixth in the junior level at their national debut last year.

"The top senior teams have that secure, confident movement," Sheikh

said. "We want to show senior quality."

Their programs include a short program that emphasizes eight required elements, and a less restricted long program that includes twelve elements.

Performing to a modern version of *Concierto de Aranjuez* and music from the soundtrack to "Somewhere in Time," Sheikh and Van Cleave attempt to captivate their viewers with their speed and grace.

Sheikh, who acknowledges a tendency to rush in competition, has set herself a goal of focusing on one element at a time while performing their programs.

She hopes to have a career in political journalism, go to law school and work as a touring skater. She also hopes to compete in the 2014 Olympics.

Sheikh is proud to be one of the few Muslim figure skaters competing in the United States.

"My religion is empowering and says that everyone should make use of their talents," Sheikh said. "I hope that it opens doors (for Muslims)."

All four OU skaters who will compete this weekend at the sectional championships manage education and work with the demands of a difficult sport.

"(Skating) is not as easy as it seems and it takes a lot of dedication, hard work, and tons of time to train to be a good skater," Jagow said. "I love to just put on a show and skate clean, especially in competitions."

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# WHO'S LEADING

## Greeks: A sliver of student body, a chunk of

By RORY MCCARTY  
Senior Reporter

When Andrew Stonehouse first joined Oakland University's student congress, he had heard that it was dominated by Greeks.

It turns out that's fairly true. Members of Greek organizations make up 50 percent of the membership of OUSC. While not quite a majority, that's still a massive amount, especially considering that only about 3 percent of the OU student body is affiliated with a Greek organization.

So is this an issue? Members of student congress, both Greek and non-Greeks, don't seem to think so.

### A Strong Presence

The influx of Greeks to student congress this year is due mainly to a large presence of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which currently has six members on the legislature. Until this week, there were eight legislators in SAE, but Andrew O'Mara and Josh Snell both resigned due to scheduling conflicts. Madison McClintock, a non-Greek affiliated legislator, also quit OUSC this week — leaving Greek presence on OUSC at exactly 50-50.

Last year's student body president, Dan Evola, is the current president of SAE, and this year took on a role as a legislator in the student congress.

Evola said that joining OUSC was something he encouraged SAE members to do.

"As a former OUSC president, I thought it would be a great develop-

ment tool for my guys," Evola said. "I'm very proud of my chapter's involvement."

"In a way, all of us SAEs did decide to collectively join OUSC," O'Mara said. "We've always encouraged our brothers to take advantage of the many organizations that are around OU. Many of us were encouraged to join OUSC because of other brothers that were already a part of it."

SAE isn't the only Greek organization with a strong presence on student congress. OUSC President Kristin Dayag recently joined up with Alpha Delta Pi, and Amanda Vander-

Legislator Brett McIsaac, who is not associated with any Greek organization, said that he thinks it's not much of a trend. Rather, Greeks just have the drive to be leaders.

"I feel that the biggest impact Greeks have on OUSC is in the amount of leadership they bring to our congress," McIsaac said. "They are very outgoing and dedicated individuals who have a very positive impact in the roles and jobs that student congress performs."

"While the percentage of Greek legislators has increased over previous years, it is blatantly apparent

nity as a whole give back to the school in some way, and in this case we have Greeks getting involved to help be the voice of the students," O'Mara said.

"Aside from being Greek, they are also representatives who have been elected by the student body to represent their fellow peers," Amy Ring, OUSC Legislative Affairs Director said. "I truly believe they, along with the rest of the legislature, have the students' interests in mind at all times."

### Representation

In a recent student congress meeting, the idea was suggested that in the future, OUSC's constitution could be amended so that only one member from any given student organization could join, thus giving a better representation of the student body.

In addition to having eight of the 19 legislators until the recent resignations, SAE members also chaired four of the five legislative committees.

Evola said the issues they have addressed are a lot different from the typical legislature, but it isn't as if SAE has a special agenda on OUSC.

Another legislator and SAE member, Cameron Schea, said that it's not meant to be a strategic move of any sort; he said each member votes separately.

"Me and my buddy Mike Diedrich, we vote differently all the time," Schea said. "At first, people took it as hostile. But we're individuals and we vote that way."

"Looking at all of the program-

**"I feel that the biggest impact Greeks have on OUSC is in the amount of leadership they bring to our congress."**

—Legislator, Brett McIsaac

ford, the president of the same sorority, has a position in student congress as well.

Additionally, Janelle Arbuckle, the president of Alpha Sigma Tau, said she is planning on becoming involved again in student congress, after having previously served as public relations agent.

### Inclined to Lead

So is there a trend of Greeks coming to OUSC?

to me that virtually all of them are quite adept at separating OUSC business from Greek business," Mark Medaugh, chair of the Student Activities Funding Board said.

### Conflict of Interest?

Many members of OUSC seem to agree that the reason so many Greeks are getting involved on campus is simply because Greeks are already active in extracurricular activities.

"We like to have the Greek commu-



# OU OSC?

## of Student Congress

...ing and decisions made this year by OUSC and its subsets, it would be hard to contend that any of them have a Greek bias," Medaugh said.

Gamma Phi Beta member and OUSC legislator Ashley Forton said she thinks having the Greeks on the congress is a good thing.

"I think that each of us brings a different quality to the group of legislators and that we can offer and contribute different ideas," Forton said.

### Agenda

Saman Waquad, student body vice president, is not currently a member of a Greek organization, but said she used to belong to the Zeta Sigma Chi multicultural sorority. As vice president, she serves as the moderator for most OUSC meetings, and she said that the new Greeks definitely have an impact on what issues come up at meetings.

"When the vice president for student affairs and enrollment management speaks at two Congress events and the only student concern brought before her each time, is Greek housing, that's troubling to me," Waquad said, referring to a meeting which Mary Beth Snyder attended. "I have a hard time believing that for the approximately 19,000 students that we are here to represent, Greek housing is the biggest issue of concern."

Center for Student Activities director Jean Ann Miller said that the makeup of OUSC really depends on who gets elected to the president and vice president positions. She said that

having Evola as president last year probably attracted more Greeks to OUSC. According to Miller, in previous years, around the time of national elections, OUSC had many college Democrats and Republicans on it.

"The people on OUSC are there because they're passionate about being involved," she said.

She said though the people on OUSC are there because they want to make a difference, they have to be sure they are there for the right reasons, which hasn't always been the case in previous years.

"All of them have to be mindful that they're representing the student body rather than the interests of their own group," Miller said.

Stonehouse said he's fairly new to OUSC, but he doesn't feel like Greeks stand out in a particular way.

"... As a legislator who is very active in congress, I can honestly say that I wouldn't be able to guess which legislators are members of a Greek organization," Stonehouse said. "Therefore, I can say with relative confidence that Greek legislators do not have a noticeable impact on any OUSC procedures."

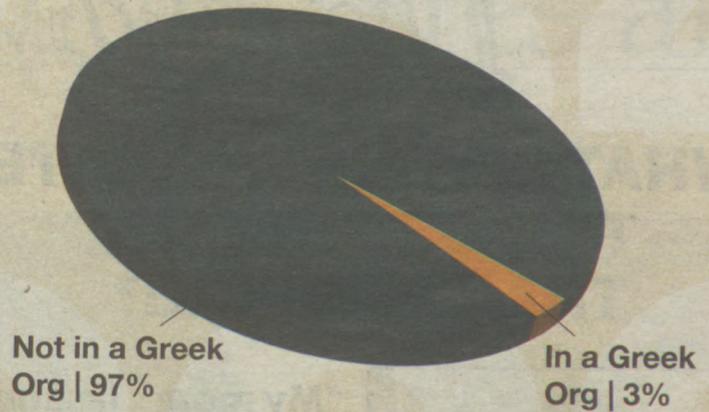
### Next Term

OUSC administrative assistant Bill Hamilton says that congress is currently looking at and revising election bylaws for the upcoming year. Students can pick up election packets, which will contain more information at the beginning of the winter 2010 semester.

HOW THE PIECES ADD UP

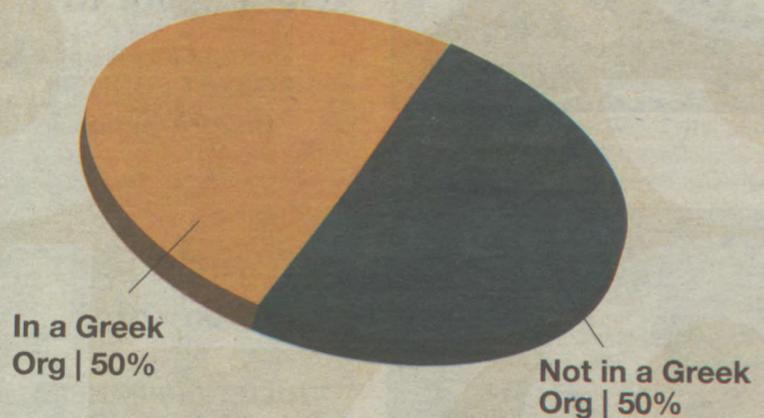
### OU STUDENT BODY

18,920 students



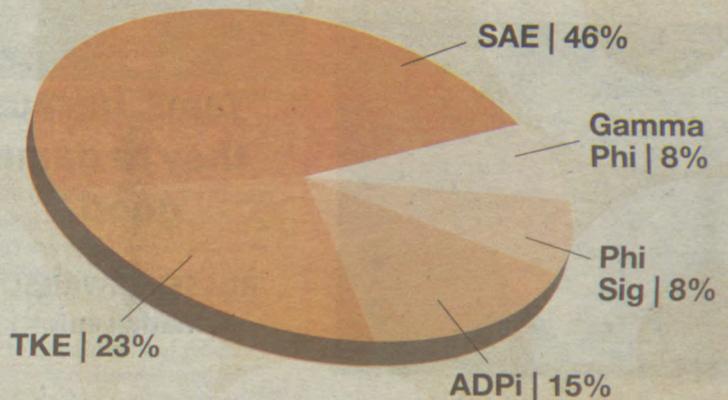
### STUDENT CONGRESS

26 students



### GREEKS IN STUDENT CONGRESS

13 students

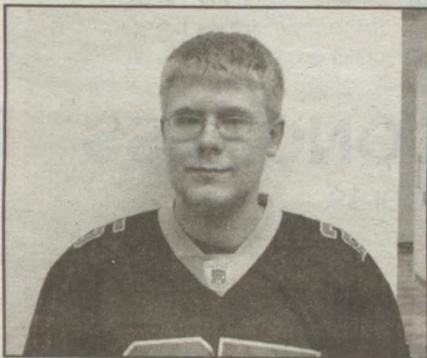


designed by Jason Willis



## Thanksgiving Victuals

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO EAT ON THANKSGIVING?



**"My mom's lasagna. She puts a bit of cooking wine in it and it adds a sweet flavor to it."**

**ROBERT CONNER**  
History, junior



**"Green bean casserole."**

**JULIET OPPENHEIM**  
Education, junior



**"Yams, because they're damn good."**

**RUSSELL SWANSON**  
Math, senior

### BLUEBERRY PUMPKIN BREAD

(NAPSI)-What do blueberries and pumpkins have in common? Both are native to the Americas. Blueberries, in fact, are one of only three fruits that originated in North America. (The others are Concord grapes and cranberries.)

European settlers in the 17th century were not familiar with blueberries or pumpkins. Blueberries were a delightful new discovery and they found many ways to enjoy them in baked goods and puddings, drying the berries for winter use. Pumpkins quickly became a staple for soups and stews, pies and breads.

1 cup canned solid-pack pumpkin  
 ¾ cup sugar  
 ¼ cup orange juice  
 2 large eggs  
 ¼ cup vegetable oil  
 2 cups all-purpose flour  
 2 teaspoons baking powder  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice  
 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries, not thawed  
 White icing, optional

**White Icing:** In bowl, combine 1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar and 2 tablespoons softened butter. Add 1½ to 2 tablespoons milk and ½ teaspoon vanilla; beat until smooth; drizzle over cake. Makes about ½ cup.

Preheat oven to 350° F. Butter an 8½ x 4½-inch loaf pan. In large bowl with electric mixer, beat pumpkin, sugar, orange juice, eggs and oil until smooth, about 1 minute. In small bowl, stir flour, baking powder, salt and pumpkin pie spice; add to pumpkin mixture; stir just until combined. Spoon ½ of batter into pan; spread evenly. Stir blueberries into remaining batter in bowl and spoon over batter in pan; spread evenly. Bake until a wooden skewer or toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 60 to 65 minutes. Cool in pan on a rack for 10 minutes; turn out onto rack; cool completely. May be wrapped and refrigerated for up to 4 days, or frozen for up to 1 month. If desired, drizzle with White Icing.

**Yield:** 1 loaf (8 servings)

# The Scene

November 18, 2009

www.oaklandpostonline.com

15

## Young Heidelberg inspires art

*Detroit's East side art project starts youth program*

By ALEXIS TOMRELL  
Scene/Mix Editor

There is a street in Detroit that marks your entry with polka dots. The polka dots that decorate the end of Heidelberg Street are friendly and unpretentious on the surface, but on the inside they stand as peepholes of expression regarding urban frustration, diversity and human triumph.

The Heidelberg Project began in 1986 by artist and Heidelberg resident Tyree Guyton. Guyton witnessed the effect of the Detroit riots on the city. His family continued to live on Heidelberg among growing vacancy and crime. On a hiatus from the College for Creative Studies, Guyton decided to channel his artistic talent into working change. Guyton, his grandfather, his former wife and a handful of eager neighborhood children gathered with paintbrushes to clean up the street and start creating. Their result turned the wheels for what would become the Heidelberg Project.

Today, the project is community clean-up disguised as a creative commons. The former vacant lots are now grassy stages for installations like "Noah's Ark," a small boat stacked to the sky with old stuffed animals.

The once dilapidated houses are now colorful and alive. The "Dotty Wotty" looms as the palace of polka dots, Guyton's old house, where his mother still lives.

The leafless trees are strung with shopping carts and shoes. The tree branched with shoes is titled "Soles on high" and symbolizes African Americans who were hung from trees during the time of slavery.

The word "God" catches eyes at every corner. It is painted on wood panels, the houses and various found objects.

It is a project that never stops. Heidelberg's art does not sleep when the gallery closes. It is up all hours of the night, 365 days of the year, right along with Detroit. Change is as needed now as it was in 1986.

In this spirit, the Young Association of Heidelberg is embarking on bringing even more art to the community. YAH focuses on 18-30-year-olds who want to work together to build a strong backbone of artistic support and vitality for youth.

"YAH looks at art as a tool that changes



ALEXIS TOMRELL/Oakland Post  
The outside of a house on Heidelberg Street, painted and decorated with found art. Much of the art at Heidelberg has messages speaking out against drugs and alcohol.

things and transforms your space," said Jessica Williams, lead organizer for YAH.

Williams, a Detroit native, graduated from the University of Michigan with an art history and African American studies degree.

She was first introduced to Heidelberg in one of her courses. She was so struck by it that she eventually offered her time to the project. While talking to a fellow Heidelberger, Jenenne Whitfield, in

2007, the two decided Williams should head a younger division of Heidelberg. The plan was set into motion and is sailing strong, though still in its infancy.

Williams is planning on revamping their projects and strategy in the new year. "I had to rearrange and focus on what we do good. Keep it simple," Williams said. Rather than having YAH be an activist group directed at influencing public policy, Williams would like to take the group back to its artistic roots.



ALEXIS TOMRELL/Oakland Post  
The "Beacon for Broken Health Care" installment by Wayne State medical students.

YAH is always open to suggestions from the community. While Williams has her "revolving artists" who help with projects, the group's core is involvement from other outlets who want to help with Heidelberg.

A couple weekends ago, two Wayne State medical students created an installment called "A Beacon for Broken Health Care" addressing the state of health care at its most shameful levels. The installment features statements written on a glass board by local homeless people, surrounded by discarded medical equipment. It can be seen in a vacant lot off Heidelberg Street.

Other YAH projects include a mural painted on the Covenant House in Detroit, a resource center and safe place for homeless or at risk youth. Young people, classrooms and parents are encouraged to get involved. Anyone with a passion, a creative calling to action is welcome to contribute to this forum of expression.

There is no vanity to YAH and Heidelberg creators/artists. The output of both entities does not begin and end with a glittering appreciation of their exertions. The often playful results produced by Heidelberg's artists are only your eye's invitations to rethink and challenge.

"This is not just a Detroit issue, it speaks all over the world," Williams said.

To get involved in YAH contact Jessica Williams at [lovinafroart@yahoo.com](mailto:lovinafroart@yahoo.com). Heidelberg is located on the 3600 block of Heidelberg Street in Detroit. Their website is [Heidelberg.org](http://Heidelberg.org).

# November events in metro Detroit

18 WED.	19 THURS.	20 FRI.	21 SAT.	22 SUN.
<p><b>BREW &amp; VIEW</b> Hang out with friends, drink beer and watch "The Hangover." \$2 Doors open at 8 p.m., film 9:30 p.m. Magic Bag, Ferndale <a href="http://themagicbag.com">themagicbag.com</a></p>	<p><b>311</b> The band known for their ska and reggae influence play with the Kottonmouth Kings. \$26 advance/\$5 parking 7 p.m., Fillmore Theatre, Detroit <a href="http://Ticketmaster.com">Ticketmaster.com</a></p>	<p><b>EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL</b> A musical based on Sam Raimi's '80s campy horror flick "Evil Dead." \$25 ticket 8 p.m., Ringwald Theatre, Ferndale <a href="http://whowantscaketheatre.com">whowantscaketheatre.com</a></p>	<p><b>RECORD TIME</b> An afternoon of live electronic music. Free promo cds. Free admission/10% of all vinyl 3-9 p.m. Record Time Roseville <a href="http://Recordtime.com">Recordtime.com</a></p>	<p><b>VARNER THEATRE</b> OU's theater dept. presents the comedy "The Learned Ladies of Park Avenue." \$13/Varner box office 2 p.m., Varner Studio Theatre, Oakland U. <b>Varner box office</b></p>
<p><b>23 MON.</b> <b>LESS THAN JAKE</b> Ska punk band Less than Jake plays with The Casualties. \$18.50/advance, \$20 day of Doors open at 6 p.m. St. Andrew's Hall, Detroit <a href="http://livenation.com">livenation.com</a></p>	<p><b>24 TUES.</b> <b>THE CRANBERRIES</b> '90s rock band with hits "Dreams" and "Zombie" plays the Fillmore. \$35 advance/\$5 parking Doors 7:30 p.m. Fillmore Theatre Detroit <a href="http://livenation.com">livenation.com</a></p>	<p><b>25 WED.</b> <b>THANKSGIVING EVE</b> Channel 95.5 hosts a Thanksgiving Eve bash with 95.5's Ice and DJ Who. \$10 advance/\$20 day of 9 p.m., Emerald Theatre Mt. Clemens <a href="http://emeraldtheatre.com">emeraldtheatre.com</a></p>	<p><b>26 THURS.</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b> America's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit. Guests Danny Gokey and Bethenny Frankel. Free 9:20 a.m.-noon Woodward Ave. <a href="http://theparade.org">theparade.org</a></p>	<p><b>27 FRI.</b> <b>AVEDON</b> Exhibit for Richard Avedon, fashion photographer. New cell phone tour. \$12 Through Jan. 17 DIA, Detroit <a href="http://dia.org">dia.org</a></p>

## POTLIGHT music spotlight

By **KEVIN ROMANCHIK**

Contributing Reporter

**Artist: Jack Johnson**

**For fans of:** Ben Harper, Matt Costa and Donavon Frankenreiter

**Key tracks:** "Belle/Banana Pancakes," "Constellations" and "Home"

Jack Johnson is back with a brand-new live CD titled "En Concert," featuring songs recorded around the world in Paris, Barcelona, Honolulu and San Francisco from the 2008 Sleep Through the Static Tour. But calling "En Concert" simply a live CD doesn't give it enough credit.

"En Concert" is a true celebration of Hawaiian-born Jack Johnson's music catalogue including songs from previous full-length releases such as 2005's "In Between Dreams."

Some of its tracks feature two-song compilations like the opening "Belle/Banana Pancakes" and closing "Angel/Better Together."

The album's diversity and song selection is nothing short of stellar. Jack Johnson, along with his full band, delivers excitement and new life into old favorites such as "Sitting, Waiting, Wishing" and "Do You Remember?" all while keeping the mellow vibe with "Times Like These" and "Home."

After listening to "Constellations," which features Pearl Jam front man Eddie Vedder, I was quite surprised at how great Johnson's vocals truly are. Keeping up with Vedder's pipes is no easy task, and he matched and complemented Vedder exceptionally well.

What sets Jack Johnson apart in mainstream music is his seemingly always-positive attitude that keeps him in a genre that remains mostly untouched and unthreatened.

With the times as rough as they are for many people, Jack Johnson can make you believe in hope, love and better times with just a verse.

## NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING STUDENT AWARDS:

### WILSON AWARDS

Nominees for the 2010 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in winter 2010 or have graduated in summer or fall 2009. The awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. Nominees must have a strong academic record of a 3.5 or higher GPA.

### HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in winter 2010 or have graduated in summer or fall 2009. The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community. The major consideration of the award is the individual's service to the community. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.



NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

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**DEADLINE FOR BOTH AWARDS IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010**



## Faculty showcases art

By **AMANDA MEADE**  
Assistant Ads Manager

While studio art students at Oakland University attend classes to better refine and master their craft, many of the professors instructing those classes have a lot of experience creating art of their own.

From Nov. 7 to Dec. 4, members of the OU studio art faculty are showing their pieces of art at Pontiac's Creative Art Center at the "Sought/Found" exhibit.

Dan Nitzh, an OU junior majoring in history and psychology, attended the opening reception of the exhibit. He said he found the work of photo/lab media coordinator Chris Lee particularly interesting.

"(Lee) only really has two shots but they're both digital prints and they're really vibrant — really aesthetically pleasing, very interesting to the eye," Nitzh said.

Lynn Galbreath Fausone, adjunct assistant professor of art, is among the many members of OU's faculty to exhibit their artwork.

Galbreath Fausone's submitted work is titled "It's All Fiction," which is five feet wide by 20 inches high and composed of four panels. Galbreath Fausone explained that the particular painting on display is a part of a series based on human identity. This work in specific is set in a narrative context, she said.

"During a time when few could read, storytelling was one of the predominant purposes of painting. With the invention of the camera, TV and then video, this focus has changed significantly," Galbreath Fausone said.

Susan Evans, a studio art professor, also submitted her work for the "Sought/Found" exhibit. Evans teaches



Photo Courtesy of Christopher Lee

Professor Christopher Lee has several pieces of art on display at the Sought/Found exhibit. This piece is called "Domesticus."

new media classes at OU.

"The pieces I have in the Sought and Found show are produced in two historic photographic processes that I learned over the summer, thanks to an Oakland University faculty research grant. The two processes are called ambrotypes and ferrotypes," Evans said.

Evans said the work on display is more free, and lacking a perfect focus, but she said she appreciates that.

"I am not yet skilled enough to pour a perfect plate, does not matter to me. I like this new raw look to things," Evans said.

Further works from Evans can be found on her web-

site, [www.susanevans.com](http://www.susanevans.com).

Kyohei Abe teaches foundations of media art at Oakland University and also teaches many art classes at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. His photography is on display at the exhibit.

"(It is) sort of imaginary landscape on 16 by 16 square imagery print on fine art paper — Japanese textured paper," Abe said.

Abe said he uses recognizable objects in his art, such as old Monopoly pieces, and hopes to raise a simple question with his art.

"My work is a subtle notion," Abe said. He said he wants people to wonder, "What's going on here?"

Abe said he utilizes a mix of Japanese and American culture in his work, a "mixed reflection" of his view of Western life. He also said he uses a specific item quite often in his work.

"Clouds always come in my work — cute and neat, more subtle message I am subconsciously projecting," Abe said.

More examples of Abe's artwork can be found at [www.kyoheiabe.com](http://www.kyoheiabe.com).

Other faculty members participating include Meredith Adamisin, John Corbin, Andrea Eis, Amy Feigley, Grace Frost, Richard Haley, David Lambert, Christopher Lee, Rachel Reynolds, Sally Schluter Tardella, Vagner M. Whitehead and Cody Vanderkaay.

"Sought/Found" is at the Creative Arts Center located on 47 Williams St. in Pontiac. The gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 1:30-5 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.pontiac.mi.us/cac](http://www.pontiac.mi.us/cac).

## Caseworkers worry about threats from clients

By **DAVID EGGERT**  
Associated Press Reporter

LANSING — One frustrated client hurled a piece of concrete through the window of a welfare agency. Another threw her car keys at a welfare worker before being escorted away. At one point, a woman on public assistance even took a swing at a worker.

As Michigan struggles with the highest-in-the-nation jobless rate, state workers who deal with unemployment, welfare and other aid programs say they have never been so overwhelmed — or so worried about their safety. Some clients have begun taking their anger out on the very people who are offering help and caseworkers are seeking extra protection.

"We are seeing it more and more as a dangerous situation," said Amy Harrison,

a caseworker.

More than 15 percent of Michigan workers do not have a job. The dismal economy has also caused record demand for food stamps and public health care, forcing impoverished clients to wait hours for help in crowded office buildings. To make matters worse, a new computer system is also causing delays.

"What is it going to take? Is it going to take one of us getting seriously injured or killed? I hope not," said Laurie Massie, who works for the Department of Human Services. "I am replaceable as a state of Michigan employee. But I'm not replaceable to my friends and family."

At the DHS office in Macomb County, north of Detroit, lines have snaked outside the door, and workers worry what will happen when winter arrives. At a Detroit office, the line forms at 7 a.m., an

hour before the building opens. A client frustrated by a long wait recently threw a chunk of concrete through a window.

About two out of every 10 Michigan residents receive some kind of state assistance. That's 400,000 more than a year ago, and staffing levels at public-aid agencies are only slightly higher than before the recession.

Terry Salacina, director of DHS field operations, says Michigan is still short 700 full-time field workers, and that's after the state hired more child welfare caseworkers to comply with a federal court order.

Even so, given Michigan's multibillion-dollar budget deficits, it will be tough to bring in reinforcements and to pay for more computers, phones and office space.

Earlier this month, seven caseworkers traveled to the state Capitol to plead

with lawmakers for help. They asked for better security, more staff and help with the problem computer system.

Republican Rep. David Agema went so far as to suggest they consider carrying handguns, an idea that did not sit well with caseworkers.

"This isn't happening once. This is happening daily," said Brown, who monitors welfare recipients who have been instructed to get training or seek work. Her caseload was once 150 and is now 360 and climbing because people cannot find jobs. Brown has been assaulted by a client, but does not blame people for their frustration.

"We've got a crisis here. It's not the people that are coming into us. It's not their fault. It's no workers — not enough workers — and a computer system that is not working compatibly."

# Local news briefs: Silverdome, affirmative action

Source: The Associated Press

## Pontiac gets high bid of \$583,000 for Silverdome

PONTIAC — A city official said a Canadian company has submitted a high bid of \$583,000 for the Pontiac Silverdome and plans to bring a soccer franchise to the largely unused stadium.

Fred Leeb, the city's emergency financial manager, said Monday the unnamed company will take ownership of the 80,300-seat stadium and 127 surrounding acres within 45 days. He said details of the transaction will be released before then.

Pontiac has been spending \$1.5 million a year to maintain the Silverdome, which was built in 1975 for \$55.7 million. The city has been trying to sell the stadium since the Detroit Lions moved to Ford Field in downtown Detroit in 2002.

Leeb said the sale means not only that Pontiac will eliminate maintenance costs but also anticipates getting tax revenue from the property.

## Michigan man named Rock Paper Scissors champion

TAYLOR — A Michigan man has won the world Rock Paper Scissors Championship in Toronto.

Tim Conrad of Taylor clinched the title after five hours of play and nine matches at the Steam Whistle Brewery on Saturday night.

Facing off against his best friend in the first All-American final in championship history, Conrad beat Tom Butkin with paper covering rock.

Organizers say Conrad dressed as Captain America during the competition to honor his home country.

Conrad takes home \$7,000 in prize money.

The championship was organized by the World RPS Society.

## Police: Woman carried brass knuckles with knife into court

TROY — Police say a Flint woman headed to court in a retail fraud case was caught with a knife attached to a set of brass knuckles when the weapon set off a metal detector. Oakland County Undersheriff Mike McCabe says 18-year-old Breanna Calvin was arrested Monday morning at District Court in Troy. She was released on a personal bond after being arraigned on a charge of possessing a dangerous weapon, a five-year felony. McCabe says a metal detector at a security checkpoint indicated Calvin's purse contained an object found to be a 3 1/2-inch-long knife blade attached to a 9-inch-long set of brass knuckles.

McCabe tells the Detroit Free Press that Calvin told police her boyfriend gave her the weapon "for when she's walking in the streets of Flint."

## Court to consider Michigan affirmative action ban

LANSING — A federal appeals court is about to consider a lawsuit challenging Michigan's ban against racial preferences in public university admissions and government hiring. Civil rights groups and University of Michigan students, faculty and applicants say the 2006 ballot measure approved by voters is unconstitutional.

Critics say the constitutional amendment has created an unfair process where universities give weight to geographical diversity and legacy status but not racial identity.

Supporters say the law reflects the will of the people.

Arguments were held Tuesday morning at the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. A district judge dismissed a challenge to the law last year.

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## Homecoming for Hudson

*Coach Kampe fulfills his recruiting promise by scheduling game*

By SEAN GARNER  
Senior Reporter

Men's basketball head coach Greg Kampe shouldn't have trouble motivating any of his players for his team's next game against the University of Wisconsin.

Following Saturday's shocking 81-77 defeat at the hands of Eastern Michigan, the Grizzlies, who were much malley-hooded coming into the season, must be eager to justify their lofty preseason expectations against a brand-name opponent.

However, for Will Hudson, the showdown against the Badgers isn't just important, it's personal.

The 6-9 junior starting at power forward is a born-and-bred Badger. He grew up five minutes from campus in Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, and there is reason to believe this homecoming has a deeper meaning to him than it would to most players.

In uniform, Hudson proudly expresses his affection for the Dairy State in the form of a tattoo located on his left shoulder. The tattoo displays an outline of Wisconsin as it would appear on a map with the words "State of" and "Mind" hovering along the northern and southern borders.

Not surprisingly, Hudson has deep-rooted and persisting allegiances to his hometown university.

"Growing up, I was a pretty big Badger fan, you know, catching all the football games," Hudson said. "The high school I went to was pretty much just a feeder right into it, so I still know a lot of people up there."

Hudson said his dreams of donning the cardinal red and white Badger uniform persisted well into high school when he even got a few letters of interest from head coach Bo Ryan and staff. However, Wisconsin rarely expressed serious interest in Hudson, and he was forced to weigh humbler options.

Hudson had scholarship offers from in-state Division I programs Wisconsin-Green Bay and Wisconsin-Milwaukee, among other out-of-state offers, but said he chose Oakland University primarily

because of its "family atmosphere," a sentiment he reinforced when describing his excitement for the game.

"It gives me extra motivation just getting to play in front of my family, because I don't get a lot of opportunities to do that," Hudson said. "This is a chance to go into my hometown with my team, all my brothers, and show them what we've been working for."

The scheduling of this game was not a coincidence. Kampe has made a custom of scheduling non-conference games against schools near the areas his out-of-state recruits come from.

"When we were recruiting him, we told him we would either get him home to face Wisconsin or Marquette, and fortunately, we were able to get the Wisconsin game," Kampe said. "We wanted to do it later in his career so his friends and family could actually see him when he's going to get a lot of playing time. If we took him there as a freshman, he probably wouldn't get to play much."

Kampe's promise, Hudson said, was a benefit that made OU an even more appealing destination.

"That wasn't the reason I came here, but it was definitely a positive," Hudson said. "Coming out to a program where I could go to my hometown and get a chance to knock off a big team, it's pretty cool."

With a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, however, comes the possibility of proportionate anxiety. Hudson said the thought of getting nervous makes him a little nervous.

"That's crossed my mind a couple times before," Hudson admitted. "I just need to rise to that pressure. There's going to be pressure coming to my hometown and having all those wild fans in the arena. I hope I'll just have that excited feeling and not that fear. I think I've learned to let that go."

In spite of the immense pressure Hudson might feel, Kampe said he believes he has the perfect antidote to any potential anxiety.

"I'll scream at him a lot, so that will bring him back into reality," Kampe said jokingly. "As soon as that opening jump goes, it's pretty much the red shirts



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Will Hudson is expected to improve on his numbers from last season when he averaged 7.4 points and 4.6 rebounds per game.

against the black shirts. We'll play as hard as we can, and I'm sure Will will play well."

Kampe said past results of players making homecoming trips have been mixed.

"We've had some guys play real well, and we've had some guys play real badly because they've wanted to play real well."



Check out the Sports section at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com) for continued coverage and game stories from throughout the week.

# Grizzlies defeated in tournament opener

By ZACH HALLMAN  
Staff Reporter

Playing host to the Summit League men's soccer tournament this weekend, the No. 1-seeded Grizzlies were the favorite to take home the conference championship, but the team was upset by UMKC Friday afternoon by a 2-1 score in the opening round.

The loss ended Oakland University's hopes for qualifying for the NCAA tournament later this month.

Head coach Eric Pogue knew coming into the match that the game was certainly not going to be any easier than the first time the two teams met this season.

"It was a 2-1 game earlier this year and it could've gone either way, I think every time we play (UMKC) it is going to be a one-goal game," Pogue said. "We got the one in the regular season and they got the one in the postseason, if I had to do it over I would rather have this one."

Oakland fell behind early when UMKC got hold of a rebound in front of the net and knocked the ball in. The Grizzlies battled back and tied the game 10 minutes into the second half when sophomore Jonathan Evans scored the first goal of his collegiate career.

With five minutes remaining in the game, the Kangaroos took a free kick from near midfield and UMKC defender Coady Andrews lofted a header over the out-stretched arms of goalie Mitch Hildebrandt to put the Grizzlies behind.

Despite some offensive pressure in the



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post  
Mitch Hildebrandt (pictured left) made seven saves in the game, while Jonathan Evans (right) scored the only goal for Oakland in the loss.

final minutes, the clock ran out and the Grizzlies were eliminated.

The game could have very easily turned out differently, however, had the Grizzlies capitalized on one of their many quality scoring chances.

"Anytime you give away chances early and you give the other team the opportunity to stay in the game, you can't leave chances like that out on the field," Pogue said. "You put away one or two of those

and maybe it's a different game."

After the match, Pogue said he was proud of the way his team battled and was complimentary to his goalkeeper.

"The first goal that they scored Mitch would like to have back, but he has saved all us year," Pogue said. "It's one thing when you lose and you don't play with any heart or effort, but that was certainly not the case with our guys."

Prior to the tournament, the team took

home several of the Summit League's highest honors. Pogue was named Summit League Coach of the Year in his first season as Oakland's head coach.

Hildebrandt earned the Summit League Defensive Player of the Year award and was an all-conference selection thanks to his league-leading seven shutouts and 0.66 goals against average.

Also making the Summit League First Team were team captains Stefan St. Louis and Machel James, as well as freshman Johnny Dreshaj. Sophomore defender Vuk Popovic, junior forward Makesi Lewis, and freshman midfielder Leshorn Woods-Henry all received Summit League Second Team awards. Freshmen Shane Lyons and James Leutzinger were named to the Summit League All-Newcomer team.

Looking ahead, Oakland will lose some key players next year as co-captains James and St. Louis will graduate. On the bright side, OU does have a wealth of young talent, many of whom will be returning with their first full year of playing time under their belts. Pogue, although not at all satisfied with the way the season ended, is eager to see what this group of players can achieve in coming years.

"I think this team overachieved from the get-go, with a bunch of young players and they worked hard all season and believed in themselves. This one hurts, but we will lick our wounds and get out there working hard after the new year to make sure this does not happen again."

## Loss dampens an otherwise impressive season

By DAN FENNER  
Sports Editor

Oakland University's volleyball team suffered a heartbreaking loss to the University of Missouri-Kansas City Saturday, in an important match with a conference tournament berth on the line.

The Golden Grizzlies lost 3-2 in five sets to the Kangaroos, marking a disappointing end to a record-setting season that saw the team win nine more games than the previous year.

OU finished the season with a 17-10 record (10-8 in conference) and narrowly missed out on what would have been their first-ever appearance in the Summit League Tournament. Due to tie-breaking rules, UMKC advanced to the postseason despite an identical record to OU.

But taken as a whole, the season can be viewed as a resounding success for Oakland, whose previous season high in victories was just eight.

After the match, head coach Rob Beam said he was pleased with the way his team performed, despite the tough loss.

"UMKC has been the hottest team in the second half

of the year. Our team played outstanding volleyball, and I'm really proud of their effort," he said.

The Grizzlies held a 2-1 lead in sets before UMKC rallied to victory, winning the sudden-death fifth set 15-12.

Beam said he asked his team to play each point with lots of enthusiasm heading into the final frame, but UMKC ultimately prevailed to end the match.

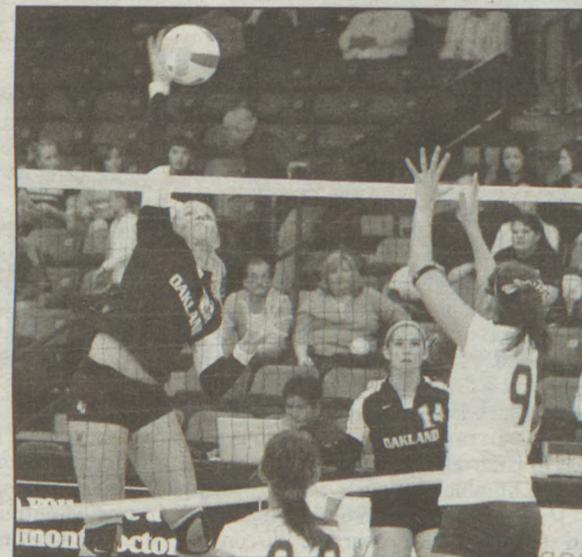
"UMKC played better than we did. They killed the ball, we killed more balls but we made errors and I think that was really the story of the whole match. They were just more offensively consistent," Beam said.

Sophomore Ashley Nevelle recorded 51 assists, while three Oakland players finished with double-digit kills, with a team-leading 22 by freshman Meghan Bray.

Oakland's struggles in the final weeks of the season can be partially attributed to the loss of senior captain Adrienne Leone to an injury. Beam said he considers Leone to be one of the best players in the conference and that he was proud of the way the younger players were able to fill in for her.

"I love our team and I love our future, but I'm also proud of our seniors tonight," Beam said.

The Grizzlies appear to be in a position to improve on their accomplishments next season, as the team's entire



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post  
Brittany Holbrook (pictured above) is one of several freshmen on the young team who received significant playing time this season.

## GOLDEN GRIZZLIES GAME of the WEEK

# Long home winning streak ends

By DAN FENNER  
Sports Editor

The Oakland University men's basketball team opened its 2009-10 season Saturday night, but left the home crowd of more than 3,000 fans disappointed, losing to Eastern Michigan 81-77 in a game they were favored to win.

The Grizzlies spent the entire game playing catch-up, leading for just a few seconds early in the first half, and trailing by as many as 13 in the second half.

After the game, head coach Greg Kampe said that his team still has a lot of work to do if they are to ever reach the preseason expectations that were set for them.

"It's a disappointing way to start the season," Kampe said. "This brought everybody back to reality that you've got to play the games — go out, execute and defend and we did not defend very well."

OU was able to make the game appear much closer at the end than it actually was. With 44 seconds remaining in the contest, point guard Johnathon Jones connected on a 3-point shot to cut the deficit to just two points.

But with a chance to tie the game, Keith Benson missed a shot down low and fouled to send EMU to the

free-throw line to seal the defeat for the Grizzlies.

Statistically for Oakland, Jones led with 23 points, including 16 in the second half. He also dished out nine assists, the most for a player on either side.

"I just choose my spots for when I can attack. I don't like to force things and I don't like to put pressure on myself. When I see an opening, I try to take advantage of it," Jones said after the game.

Derick Nelson and Benson also scored in double figures, with 20 and 15 points, respectively.

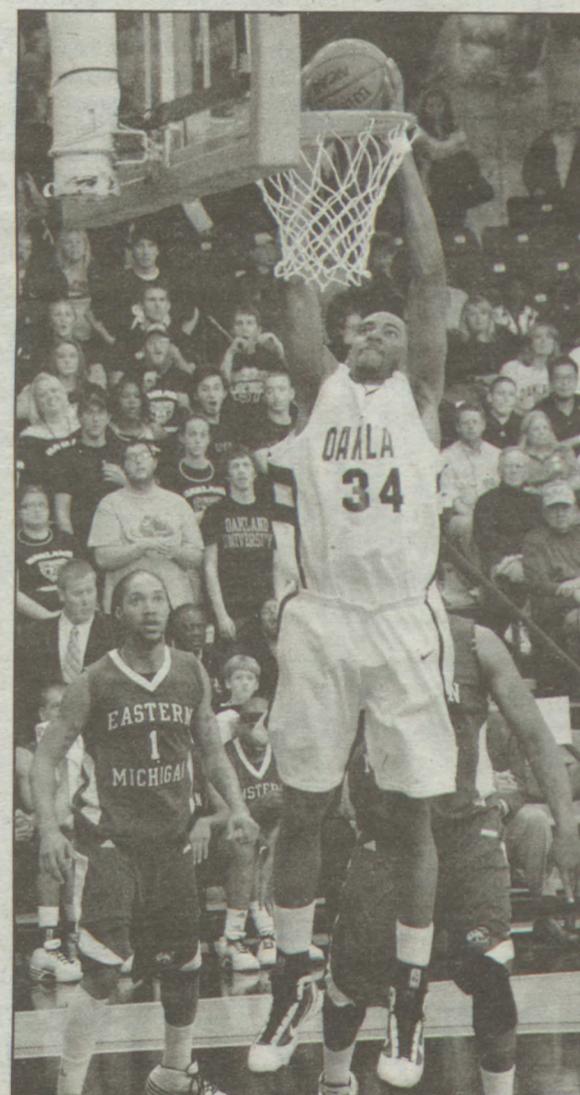
OU was plagued by poor free-throw shooting throughout the game, converting just 45 percent for the game. Nelson, in particular, missed eight important free throws in the second half.

"Nobody can beat anybody if they are nine for 20 from the free-throw line ... I've coached a long time and I don't think I have ever seen that before," Kampe said.

Throughout the game, Oakland had no answer to stopping EMU forward Brandon Bowdry, who scored a game-high 26 points to go with 13 rebounds and was a dominating presence in the paint.

The loss snapped the Grizzlies 14-game winning streak at the O'Rena, which dated back to two seasons ago.

Oakland will face the Wisconsin Badgers Wednesday for their first road game of the season.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post  
Keith Benson tied the school record with eight blocks in the game, falling just two blocks short of recording a triple-double.

## Women's basketball team splits opening games

The Oakland University women's basketball team opened their season this week as well, losing Friday and winning Sunday.

In the first game, Oakland lost to the University of Detroit-Mercy 74-65.

Playing without starting center Brittany Carnago, who is out indefinitely with an injury, freshman Bethany Watterworth recorded a double-double with 23 points and 11 rebounds in her first career game.

Oakland held the lead at halftime but the Titans went on a 10-0 run early in the second half and never looked back.

The team rebounded nicely from Friday's loss by defeating Columbia University in overtime Sunday by a 61-58 score.

Three Grizzlies — seniors Hanna Reising and Melissa Jeltema and Watterworth — each scored 12 points.

With the score tied 53-53, the game went to overtime where the two teams traded baskets before OU pulled ahead one last time on a jumper by Jeltema and several more free throws to end the contest.

— Dan Fenner, Sports Editor

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

11/18 at Wisconsin  
11/21 vs. Rochester College  
6 p.m.  
11/23 at Tennessee Tech  
11/25 at Kansas  
11/28 vs. Central Arkansas  
6 p.m.  
11/30 at Memphis

### Golden Grizzlies

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

GAME SCHEDULE FOR NOV. 18 - DEC. 1

### CLUB HOCKEY

11/20 vs. Liberty 8:40 p.m.  
11/21 vs. Liberty 8:40 p.m.

### CLUB WRESTLING

11/22 Mott Bear Open  
in Flint

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

11/18 vs. Toledo 6:30 p.m.  
11/21 at Marquette  
11/24 vs. Bowling Green  
6:30 p.m.  
11/30 vs. Marygrove 6:30 p.m.

## N W BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

**11-14 | LOS ANGELES** — The lunar dud for space enthusiasts has become a watershed event for NASA. Spacecraft that crashed into the moon last month kicked up a relatively small plume. But scientists have confirmed the debris contained water — 25 gallons of it — making lunar exploration exciting again. Experts have long suspected there was water on the moon. So the thrilling discovery announced Friday sent a ripple of hope for a future astronaut outpost in a place that has always seemed barren and inhospitable. “We found water. And we didn’t find just a little bit. We found a significant amount,” Anthony Colaprete, lead scientist for the mission, told reporters as he held up a white water bucket for emphasis. He said the 25 gallons of water the lunar crash kicked up was only what scientists could see from the plumes of the impact.

**11-17 | PRAGUE** — Thousands marched through the Czech capital Tuesday in commemoration of a student protest 20 years ago that grew into the human tidal wave sweeping away the communist regime in what was then Czechoslovakia. Today, the Czech Republic and Slovakia are European Union and NATO members. While the world recession has left its mark, their economies are among the strongest of the continent’s former communist nations, and their democracies among the most resilient. Pragmatic Czechs in particular have moved into the European mainstream, with most citizens spending little time on any normal day looking back on their Velvet Revolution.

**11-17 | BOSTON** — A Massachusetts state senator got a ride home from police after acquaintances said he was too drunk to drive — about 13 hours before he was involved in a hit-and-run accident. A Cambridge, Mass., police report on Sen. Anthony Galluccio says officers were called to a gas station about 4:40 a.m. Oct. 4 after receiving a call about an intoxicated man. The station attendant told police he believed Galluccio was too drunk to drive. Police say another man said he was trying to drive Galluccio home but couldn’t find his house. Police say they drove Galluccio home. About 13 hours later, a vehicle driven by Galluccio rear-ended a minivan. Galluccio has said he fled because he panicked.

**11-17 | CHICAGO** — Sarah Palin said in an interview with Oprah Winfrey that it’s heartbreaking to see the road that Levi Johnston, the father of her grandson, has taken and that the soon-to-be Playgirl model hasn’t seen his baby in awhile. Palin and Winfrey embraced as the one-time Republican vice presidential candidate walked onto the talk show stage. Palin’s 413-page book, “Going Rogue,” was released Tuesday and she begins a book tour Wednesday in Grand Rapids, Mich. The new memoir doesn’t mention Johnston, who has sparred repeatedly with his former mother-in-law-to-be. Johnston and Palin’s daughter Bristol Palin are parents of son, Tripp. When Winfrey asked about Johnston, Palin said she didn’t think “a national television show is the place to discuss some of the things he’s doing and saying.”

## Taliban attack kills civilians, shows power

By **AMIR SHAH** and **HEIDI VOGT**  
Associated Press Writers

**KABUL** — A rocket attack apparently targeting French forces that killed ordinary Afghans raised concerns Tuesday in eastern Afghanistan about international troops’ ability to secure a volatile valley despite a major offensive.

Monday’s assault in Tagab missed the shura — a traditional meeting called by French officers to explain their operation to local elders — but hit a crowded market area. Fourteen Afghan civilians were killed and dozens more wounded, said Afghan Gen. Paikan Zamaray.

A day earlier, French and Afghan forces launched a major offensive in the Tagab valley, but the assault underscored how difficult it is for troops to protect civilians and combat insurgent violence, especially because an increased military presence can draw more violence.

The U.S. is considering sending tens of thousands more troops, but military officials say that even with a buildup, real security is years away. The men who agreed to meet with French troops as they marched into the Tagab valley all voiced their support for the Afghan government and its NATO backers.



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# MOUTHING OFF

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November 18, 2009

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## Ranting about the lingo no-no's

*An editor's choice words about words leads to a vernacular spectacular*

By DAN SIMONS  
Mouting Off Editor

If I told you a decade ago to go Google yourself, you might have punched me in the face.

These days, the Internet has become a breeding ground for new slang and lingo, with tweets and friending and other such terms that Word likes to underline in red.

However, while these words do have meaning and have entered our common vocabulary, certain words are still not real words. If I haven't nerded you out by this point, then we should become friends.

You see, I got into a fight with a linguistics major the other night. She was talking and said "irregardless."

That is not a word. It's underlined in red in Word too.

Let's break it down. In the middle, we have "regard," to pay attention to or keep something in mind. When we add a "less" at the end, it means to not keep something in mind, like when my editor in chief says "Regardless of your house burning down, you still need to upload to the web."

Now, if someone were to add "ir" to the front, it adds another negative. Don't not pay attention? It's a double negative. Not a real word. "Irregardless" means nothing.

But, this linguist told me, because people still (mis)use the word, and people think there is a meaning behind it, it is a real word because it's part of common language.

Listen, I'm sorry, but as a journalist I'm strictly told to follow many rules. One of them is NOT USING FAKE WORDS. We all read our AP style book before we go to bed, after we say our prayers to St. Murrow. There is a special spot in journalism hell for anyone who thinks "irregardless" is a real word.

Maybe when linguists get together and sacrifice a lamb to the god of lexicon, they can say "irregardless" all they want.

I'm not the only one who thinks the meaning of words is an important topic.

In a recent episode of "South Park," the boys of South Park attempt to change the meaning of the word "fag" from a derogatory term for homosexuals to an insulting word for Harley motorcycle drivers.

I hope I didn't offend anyone by putting that word in my article. I hate the word myself. I have a gaggle of gay friends and while some of them are cool with it, and some aren't, I think with the collective group, there are so many more creative terms of joking anti-endearment you can use. Watch one disc of "Will & Grace" and you'll easily have a list of new, far more creative terms to call your gay friends.

Another attempt to change the meaning of a word comes from a mock-PSA found online where a group of guys attempt to change the meaning of the word douche bag. It's being called the douche bag solidarity movement.

As far as I'm aware, it's only been recently that the name of the feminine hygiene product has become an insulting term for a specific breed of jerk. Is this the beginning of a new wave? Are people going to start calling idiots "tampons" and mean people "pads"?

In the video, a group of guys attempt to take back the word, turning it into a compliment. But as I watched the video, I couldn't help but notice that these guys were a meat head, a jerk, a creep and a frat boy. Are we really going to cheat ourself and be lazy, using one word to describe any guy we don't like? The English language has thousands of words, don't confine yourself to just one. That would make you a douche bag.

And there is one word, the word, that people have molded into an over-utilized, good-for-any-situation word that while highly useful, makes us lazy. It's a word that if say it on air at WXOU, gets you a \$20,000 fine. I can only hint that it begins with an F and ends with my mom hitting me upside the head if I say it in front of her. Regardless of its effect, it's the Swiss army knife of words, and people abuse it and become lazy in their vulgarities.

Another point I must make is that people need to please stop abusing the word epic. If someone made a huge mistake, it's now common for people to call it an "Epic fail." Stop this.

I blame this, along with the downfall of several of my friends' relationships and hours of my brother's life being wasted, on "World of Warcraft." Aside from being a blight to the gaming community, the game also makes the mistake of calling all of the high-end gear "epic," which

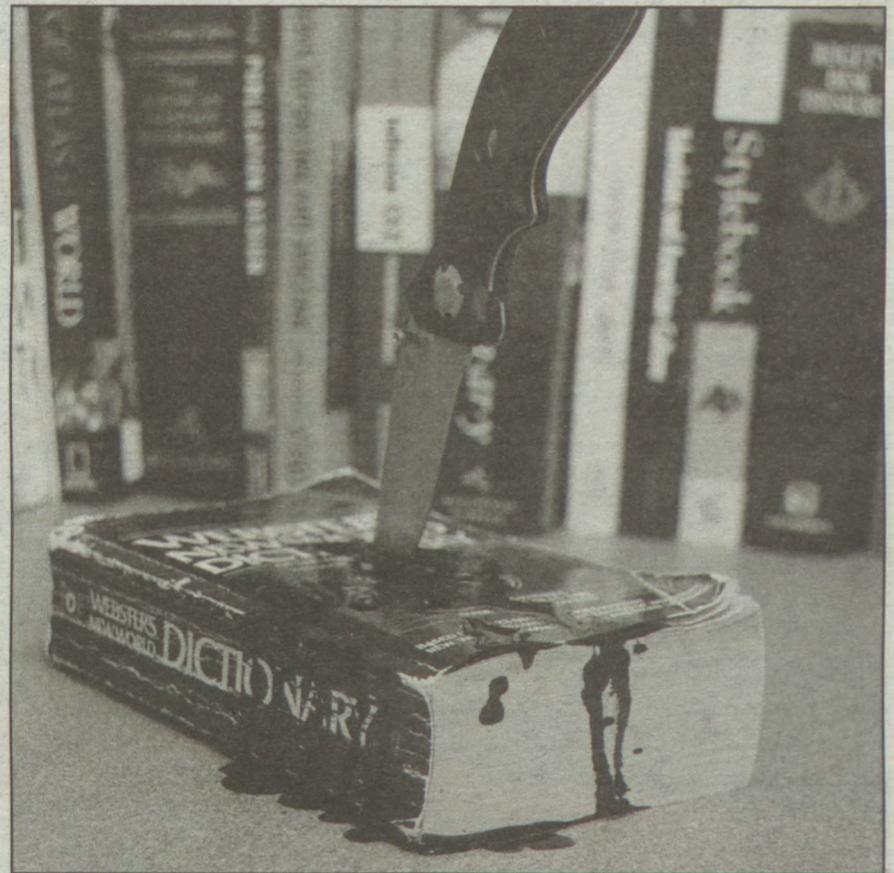


Photo illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post  
Dictionary's friend Thesaurus says he misses his "dead, deceased, departed, cadaverous, perished pal."

led people to thinking the word meant "awesome." You know what word means awesome? Awesome. Epic means really, really long. So unless it took someone years to make said mistake, it is not epic, and you're still stupid.

Lastly, because it is White Ribbon week here on campus, I need to point out the word "wife beater," a name given to sleeveless, tank-top style white shirts. The connotation is horrible, why in the hell would someone name a shirt after a domestic abuser? Can we at least call them something else, like, oh I don't know, a tank top? When that's taken care of, can we rename bigot boots and stereotyper socks?

I only complain because I love the English language. Sure, I cheated on her once with a semester of Spanish, but mi cora-

zon tambien con Ingles. I feel the need to go on one of these George Carlinian style word rants to prove it. My colleague, senior reporter Sean Garner, advised me against saying anything I could do was "Carlinian," because no one can compare to the late George Carlin. I hate it when people throw a fit because you're using someone's name to describe something else, like saying a band is "Beatles-esque" or saying a girl looks "Megan Foxy." I propose that someone who yells at someone for doing this shall from now on be known as "pulling a Garner."

The English language is constantly evolving, and with the Internet, we're only adding steroids and carcinogens to the gene pool. I may be fussy and picky, but words are my job, regardless if you think they're real or not.



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