

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

November 17, 2010

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Attention journalism majors:

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The Oakland Post will return Dec. 1 with our Year in Review issue. In the meantime, visit our website for more coverage.

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THE OAKLAND POST
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Cover photo by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

STAFF EDITORIAL

Full body scan, empty claims

There are many different arguments that pertain to the use of full body scanners at airports, but the following may be a new one.

Get over it.

While there are objections about privacy or health issues that may stem from the usage of these scanners, the bottom line is that national security and helping the Transportation Security Administration complete its job trumps all when traveling.

Things started changing after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001; this is just a continuation of that heightened security.

Remember when a friend or family member could literally step inside a plane in order to bid a traveler adieu?

While it's sad to leave loved ones on the other side of the security checkpoint and to have to trudge through the airport terminal alone, it's a good thing they don't just let anyone in now.

What about the ban on taking liquids in carry-on bags that started in 2005?

It may seem like an overreaction, but adhering to the 3-1-1 policy is also a small inconvenience that allows for additional safety. It is not that difficult of a task to fit all liquids into a quart-size Ziploc bag.

Another step that must be completed while in the security line is the removal of shoes. Not many gripe about that, though.

According to a CBS News poll, 81 percent of the public endorse the use of full body scans.

So why is there such an outcry?

To those uncomfortable with TSA's introduction of full body scans, we have three words: Get over it.

We understand that the scan itself may be an awkward experience, but a few moments of awkwardness now could mean avoiding larger issues later.

Still, some are concerned about possible privacy issues — some consumer rights groups are even boycotting the body scans. The American Civil Liberties Union said it's part of what it sees as a "seemingly constant erosion of privacy," but those viewing the images can't distinguish individuals, as faces aren't identifiable.

There are also strict measures in place to protect that anonymity and, according to the TSA, images of the scans are not saved anywhere.

Others, particularly frequent travelers and airline pilots and staff, express worry regarding the safety of full body X-Rays and point to the fact that scientists aren't in full agreement.

However, TSA officials maintain that the radiation levels emitted by the machines are 2,000 times less harmful than a chest X-Ray and 200,000 times less than that of a CT scan.

Also, not every traveler will require full body scanning. TSA agents randomly pull travelers from security lines and there's a very low chance of an airline passenger being scanned every time.

In a column she wrote for USA Today, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano asked air travelers for "cooperation, patience and a commitment to vigilance in the face of a determined enemy."

If that is not enough motivation to adhere to this extra precaution, we don't know what is.

The speculations needs to stop. As far as we can see, it does not seem to be a breach of privacy or a health issue.

If you travel via air this holiday season, just remember: a slight delay in seeing your family is a small price to pay for ensuring your and your family's safety.

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Letter Policy:

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



Facebook exploits death

Facebook has become mundane — undeniably part of our everyday lives. In fact, it has become so mundane that people share or discuss anything on the site without thinking twice about it.

So, when a friend or family member passes, it's no surprise that news feeds and walls everywhere become flooded with virtual condolences.

But when it comes to Facebook and death, where is the line between thoughtful and exploitative?

A status along the lines of "R.I.P., I'll miss you, you were such a great person" is, of course, a kind thought — but are lengthy statuses and posts on the deceased individual's wall too much?

Death is a serious and saddening matter. Facebook takes away from its significance. In times of grief, the friends and family of the deceased individual should be spending time together, helping each other through the hardship.

Mentions of the death on Facebook and other social media forums should be tasteful and also limited. When someone writes a long paragraph about how sad they are on the deceased individual's wall, that takes the focus away from the death and creates a spectacle of the person who wrote the post.

This was posted on the wall of a recently deceased Oakland County boy:



Rachel Ritzenthaler
Guest Columnist

"I can't listen to Silverstein or Thursday without completely breaking down or just screaming every lyric through tears. It's like all the music that we shared will just forever hurt and leave a void. I miss you so much."

Death is a serious and saddening matter. Facebook takes away from its significance.

This is a deeply personal thought — a thought that should be shared in a heartfelt conversation between friends or family — not with, potentially, hundreds of strangers.

It's something that one would read, stare blankly at, and not even know what to think of because it's so heavy. Death is something that radically affects peoples' lives. Facebook doesn't do it justice.

Aside from the general exploita-

tion of death on Facebook, fighting and belittling of individuals can occur as well. Amanda Merrill, a freshman at Oakland Community College, can attest to this.

Recently, Merrill's father passed away. Due to confusion over legal and financial issues, a number of her family members lashed out on Facebook through notes and statuses.

For weeks, Merrill said, there has been an endless amount of badmouthing and name-calling aimed in her direction. Merrill has reported these issues to Facebook, but the abuse continues.

"From personal experience I can say that Facebook should not be okay with the amount of exploitations of the deceased and those involved," Merrill said. "It just makes it that much harder to make it through your day when you have horrible things like that in your face."

In this situation, the focus has moved away from the passing of Merrill's father to a public and unending quarrel between family members.

"I have to be worried about unnecessary things rather than my own grieving and healing process," Merrill said.

Facebook is a place for friends and family to stay in touch, not a place for serious issues such as death to be brought up. People should be able to log in to Facebook and smile, not frown.

ON SECOND THOUGHT...

Give thanks for family, tradition, bizarre food

Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for what we have; a time to enjoy a heartfelt dinner with family and



Daud Yar
Local Editor

friends. Any sort of turkey substitute served at the table like tofurky — a vegetarian alternative to traditional turkey often made with tofu — or turducken — a dish that combines

turkey, chicken and duck — is an insult to the very Pilgrims and Native Americans who started this holiday.

On second thought...

Hold on a minute. I started this column all wrong. Thanksgiving is not about the food. It is about coming together and enjoying each others' company. If that means adding some stuffing, duck, sausage or jelly into your turkey, then so be it.

When Native Americans and Pilgrims sat down to the first Thanksgiving, did Indian Chief Massasoit get upset when the Pilgrims burned the turkey?

Absolutely not. He thanked the Pilgrims for a delicious meal and headed off into the wild blue yonder. But upon returning home, he is rumored to have informed his tribe that their new found friends were lousy cooks and suggested next year's turkey be made out of tofu.

I'm joking, of course. But even if Jennifer Aniston and Angelina Jolie were somehow at the same Thanksgiving meal, the two would find a way to cope ... immediately after the hair pulling, wrestling and obnoxious name calling.

That is what Thanksgiving is all about. It is a time for all Americans to come together with their loved ones — even if your mom prefers tofurky, while your son is wolfing down the turducken and your grandparents are eating gravy straight from the bowl.

It's true. There is no other American holiday that emphasizes food more than Thanksgiving. And sure, we love to eat, I just never thought circus food would be acceptable for Thanksgiving.

It may have started as a traditional holiday. But over time, and with a new generation, the food has gotten progressively uglier.

However, Thanksgiving is not about the food. Spending time with loved ones is the ultimate payoff.

So bring the tofurky, turducken or any other bizarre dish you may have to the table. We're sure to eat it.

If there is a topic you would like "On second thought..." to tackle, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline.com.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact.

If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248-370-2537.

You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

OP POLL OF THE WEEK

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Do you think you're getting enough sleep at night?

yes — 6 (17%)

no — 29 (83%)

CURRENT POLL // Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

Are you Facebook friends with any of your Oakland University professors?

yes

no

Crunches and candy canes

Weigh in on tips to 'Maintain, Don't Gain' this holiday season

By **KAITYLN CHORNOBY**

Assistant Campus Editor

Outside of offering exercise machines and classes to help students keep fit through the holidays, the Oakland University Recreational Center is hosting an incentive program to keep students mindful of their weight and they can even win a prize.

"Maintain, Don't Gain" runs through both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Since the initial year for the program was successful, with nearly 170 students who registered to participate, the program was chosen for this holiday season too.

Participants will weigh in at the Rec Center with a fitness attendant during open hours on Nov. 22-24. The weight will be recorded and kept confidential.

After the holidays, participants will weigh in once again on Jan. 3-5. A prize will be awarded to those who remain within one pound of their original weight or for those that have lost weight.

Becky Lewis, the assistant program director at the Rec Center, said weekly e-mails will be sent to those who register with the program to update participants with tips for maintaining the goal.

Tips include how to make healthy se-

lection at buffets and parties and how to limit intake. The e-mails will also address time management to get workouts in busy schedules while trying to entertain, Christmas shop and attend parties through the holidays.

"The e-mails will focus on the topics of nutrition, exercise, stress management and getting enough sleep," Lewis said. "(These are) the six primary things that get people down over the holidays and make it difficult and make us want to eat more."

Prior registration for this event is not required. Lewis said participants will check in at the Rec Center and step on the scale to join the "Maintain, Don't Gain" campaign.

The program is free for all students, faculty and staff. Paid membership to the Rec Center is not required for participation.

"Just show up and the staff will be ready to weigh you in and put down the information," Lewis said. "When students come back to weigh in the second time, we will be able to give out prizes accordingly."

Lewis said after the holidays, the Rec Center will be launching the "Shape Up OU" program to keep the community in shape.

Those without a membership to the Rec Center can take advantage of the facilities on Winter Preview Day, scheduled for Jan.



PHILIP STAKICH/The Oakland Post

Students, faculty and staff interested in participating in the "Maintain, Don't Gain" program will weigh in Nov. 22-24, and return after the holiday break for final weight.

13. Students and the community can use the Rec Center, free of charge and take classes such as yoga and cycling training, to get a taste of the added benefit of having a membership with the Rec Center.

For more information on "Maintain, Don't Gain" or upcoming Rec Center events, contact Becky Lewis at lewis236@oakland.edu

The Rec Center will be open on Nov. 24

from 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. and will be closed on Thanksgiving. The Center will reopen from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Nov. 26-28.

For Christmas break, the Center will close at 8 p.m. on Dec. 23 and remain closed on Dec 24-25. It will be open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Dec 26-30, closed on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, and open on Jan. 2 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Regular hours resume Jan. 3.

OUSC plans Monopoly stock challenge, Redbox

By **JAKE THIELEN**

Staff Reporter

Oakland University Student Congress discussed a \$200 stock challenge and a movie rental program at Monday's OUSC meeting.

James Kaminski, OUSC Scholarship Committee Chair, said he plans to hold a Monopoly stock challenge.

"You have \$10,000 in discretionary funds to have, and you can invest in up to five stocks, any five stocks you want," Kaminski said. "Whoever makes the most amount of money, whoever actually increases their profits the most in one month's time, will win a first prize of \$200."

The prizes will be given in Spirit Cash. Second place will

take home \$100 and third place will win \$50.

Kaminski said the prizes are geared toward helping students with books or other educational expenses.

"Students have some books that are upwards of \$150, and my book was \$180," Kaminski said. "The \$200 is an investment towards your education."

The stock challenge entry deadline is Nov. 26 and the contest will run until Dec 26.

"It's really geared towards the students who are into finance or business and students who are really interested in the stock market," Kaminski said.

Kaminski said the stock challenge is open to all students. Entry forms can be found at www.oakland.edu/ousc/awards

Forms must be turned in to Kaminski's mailbox in the OUSC office, located in the basement of the Oakland Center, by Nov. 26.

Student Body President Brandon Gustafson said he and Student Services Director Brett McIsaac plan on working to try to bring a Redbox movie rental kiosk to Oakland, after plans for a student-run system fell through.

Gustafson said likely locations for a Redbox kiosk would be the Oakland Center or the residence halls.

Jermaine Conaway was approved as Student Programming Board chair. Conaway took over as SPB chair on an interim basis after Jonathan Jenkins resigned in September.

Ashley Marthen was approved as the associate chair of the Student Activities Funding Board.



campus briefs

Study in Oxford this summer

On Thursday, Nov. 18, there will be an informational meeting for those interested in studying in Oxford, England this summer. The meeting will run from 6-7 p.m. in the Lake Huron Room of the Oakland Center. All students are invited to learn more about the program that will begin in July 2011. For more information, contact Brian Connery at connery@oakland.edu

Introducing Mr. PhiSignificant

This Saturday, Nov. 20, Phi Sigma Sigma will host its annual Mr. Phi Significant pageant in the Dodge Hall Auditorium at 8 p.m. The pageant is a male-only competition and will require contestants to charm the ladies of Phi Sigma Sigma. For more information contact Lskriebe@oakland.edu The event is free to all students.

Dry Tears raise funds for wells

On Saturday, Nov. 20, the non-profit Dry Tears organization will host a fundraiser at the Applebee's across from campus. The organization raises money to build wells in Africa that will provide fresh drinking water. The event will begin at 8 a.m. and will be a pancake breakfast including eggs, bacon and more. Each breakfast will be \$5. For more information about the event or the organization, contact mrgajews@oakland.edu

Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk

Beginning on Friday, Nov. 26, students, faculty, family and friends are invited to experience the annual Holiday Walk at Meadow Brook Hall. The Walk includes tours, visits with Santa, cookies and hot chocolate, classic Christmas cartoons, crafts and more. The Walk is available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, until Wednesday, Dec. 22. With an ID, the entrance fee for OU students is \$5, it is \$12 for faculty, staff and alumni (with an ID) \$20 for adults and \$5 for students ages 17 and younger who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact asrugis@oakland.edu

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Campus Editor

Losing money on dropouts

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY

Assistant Campus Editor

For a small campus, breaking 19,000 students is a feat Oakland University should be proud of. However, this number could be higher if Michigan schools had a higher retention rate for first year students.

According to a study titled "Finishing the First Lap" done in October by the American Institutes for Research, a non-partisanship, behavioral and social science research organization, states and taxpayers are paying approximately \$6.2 billion to colleges and universities to pay for the cost of students who did not return for a second year of school.

Out of the 50 states, Michigan ranks 10th in highest amount spent on first year dropouts, dishing out \$251,200,000.

In a category for funds spent from federal student aid, Michigan takes the 13th spot with \$39,100,000.

These numbers are hardly state-exclusive. Even Vermont, who takes up the last spot in the rankings, spends \$7,300,000 on students who leave after the first year.

The state of Michigan offers \$50,200,000 in student grants for first year students.

According to American College Testing, a not-for-profit organization that provides education and workforce research and information, one in every four students leaves college before completing sophomore year. According to the same source, nearly half of all college freshmen will either drop out of school completely or complete their degree at a school other than where they began.

The Finishing the First Lap study says only 60 percent of students who begin a college career will graduate with a four-year degree within six years. In 2008, OU spent approximately \$6.5 million in attrition costs.

In the same year, the university had a 44.3 percent graduation rate, which, according to collegemeasures.com, ranked 36th among all colleges. OU's retention rate is around 72 percent, which ranked 41st among all colleges statewide.

While both of these percentages are trending down, the retention rate has only seen a 1 percent decrease over a five-year span.

Mark Schneider, the Vice President for AIR and author of the study, gives no recommendation for increasing retention rates.

"This report is not about why students fail to return for a second year or why some colleges and universities have high dropout rates while other institutions with similar students have low ones," Schneider said in the study.

"Indeed, arguments over the causes of student failure: Some argue that far too many students are entering college unprepared for the rigors they are about to face. Some say colleges and universities aren't doing their job in educating their students. Others say that states have not held their public campuses accountable for low student success and are therefore allowing their campuses to take advantage of lax state policies and oversight."

In attempt to lower these numbers, Oakland has taken many steps toward raising the retention rate to graduation.

In 2005, OU was selected to be part of Foundations of Excellence (FoE), a national program that encourages students to lead a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated approach to the first year in college.

According to studies done by the FoE, institutions that participated in the program through four years saw an average of a three percentage point change in rate. The retention rates for a high degree of involvement with the program are significantly higher than low involvement.

The FoE plan looked at themes throughout the first year of college at OU and examined areas of the school to look for the causes of dropouts in the undergraduate class.

From the goals of the FoE program, Academic and Student affairs collaborated to address the barriers for first year students.

According the FoE website, the process hinges on a campus-based task force to evaluate performances across the undergraduate class and eventually develop a strategic plan for campus improvement.

While the FoE Task Force researched ways to demolish the barriers, Senior Vice President and Provost for Student Affairs Virinder Moudgil appointed a Retention Committee, consisting of faculty and staff to look at issues at all levels brought to light by the FoE program.

From the discoveries and advances by the Task Force and Retention Committee, OU has instated a plethora of programs and practices in academic and student affairs to keep students enrolled in classes.

These initiatives grew from OU's FoE process as well as other campuses.

Objectives for first year students were established and printed in the undergraduate catalog. OU developed a first year philosophy to efficiently describe the role each member of the OU community plays to ensure first year success.

The Early Alert system was piloted for students who may be falling into academic difficulty. The system monitors poor class attendance, low grades and inappropriate behavior and contacts the student to offer assistance.

Combined registration allows students the opportunity to plan for future semesters, aiding the student to think long term rather than semester by semester.

A Communications 101 class is offered to ease the transition from high school into university life.

Several offices and organizations have increased their involvement with first year students as well. The Financial Aid office calls students who have a balance on their account to resolve it before registration begins for the following semester. The Center for Multicultural Initiatives helps to address minority student retention, and the Office of Service Learning helps faculty to create an engaging learning environment.

Although there is currently a high rate of first year drop outs, the initiatives OU has in place is working to deter that number and engage students in a successful college career. All of the offices on campus are available to any interested students.

To learn more about the Early Alert system, call 248-370-2529.

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For more information visit us on the web!
www.communityimpactchurch.org

Packing the truck for the holidays

By **NICHOLE SEGUIN**

Features Editor

"Pack the Truck," an event to collect cans for those in need, is exactly how it sounds: filling a truck to its maximum capacity.

The Rochester Hills-based Silverback Moving company, owned by Cameron Schea, a sophomore majoring in finance, and Dan Evola, a senior majoring in communication, has partnered with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity to collect non-perishable food items for the needy and to continue to fill the company trucks.

"I feel that this event is allowing us to do what everyone needs to be doing around the holiday times, and that is giving to those who need it the most," said Zach Norris, SAE president. "We are benefitting the local community with canned foods that they can enjoy during the holidays and also have the thought that someone was thinking about them. The worst feeling around the holiday times is the feeling of being alone and having nothing, and I feel that we are preventing this problem for many and letting them know that someone was thinking about them."

On Nov. 6, Silverback Moving and SAE



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Taylor Kosnik won first Lady SAE pageant Saturday where more than 800 cans of food were donated for the holidays.

hosted their first Lady SAE pageant "to find an exemplary girl" and increase the can collection, according to Schea.

Taylor Kosnik, a sophomore majoring in secondary education, Spanish and special education, was crowned this year's Lady SAE.

According to Kosnik, there were nine competitors and half of Dodge Hall auditorium was full for the event.

"I was really happy that most questions that determined the (pageant) winner regarded both campus and community involvement," Kosnik said. "Not only (about) the pageant and "Pack the Truck" but it also gave the audience a standpoint on things happening on campus and what we thought could be improved and things we really felt strongly about."

To attend the event, guests were required to bring one can for a general admission seat while the ladies that were competing needed to donate 20 cans.

"My basement is currently packed with cans," Schea said. "I mean really packed. This is the best thing we've done on campus so far."

All of the cans collected are donated to less fortunate families in the Oakland and Macomb county areas and will be distributed through the Oakland Livingston Human Services agency. Canned goods can also be donated in various places around campus.

For more information on Silverback Moving, visit www.silverbackmoving.com

Week's events are an antidote for hate

By **ALI ARMSTRONG**

Staff Reporter

Oakland University Student Congress kicked off its annual Anti-Hate Week campaign on Monday.

"Anti-hate week is a week-long event to try and raise awareness about different kinds of hatred that takes place and how students can become educated about them and what Oakland students can do to assist with the issues," Student Body Vice President Amy Ring said.

The first three days will be forum and educational-based, focusing on raising awareness about these issues, and the final two days of the week will focus on student engagement with events such as a poetry slam, Unity Day and volunteer opportunities.

"Those are the four days that really give awareness to the different problems that we have in our society today and different things that people may not be aware of," Tom Cruz, the multicultural affairs director, said.

For Wednesday's events, OUSC teamed with the Gender and Sexuality Center, the Gay Straight Alliance and the Multi-Cultural Programming Board of the OUSC to raise awareness about violence against the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersected Questioning (LGBTIQ) community. They are co-sponsoring "The

Consequences of Hate" in the Fireside Lounge as part of Anti-Hate Week and the Transgender Week of Remembrance.

"As a student, and a member of the LGBT community, I feel that it will bring more awareness to the transgender community," freshman Mark Martinez said. "While we've all gone through issues with our sexuality, it's not really well known for the transgender community."

Thursday's events will feature a poetry slam.

"All of the poetry is under the theme of discrimination whether from personal experience or something people have noticed about society," Ring said.

During Unity Day on Friday, students can make scarves that will be donated to the Freedom House of Detroit. Saturday, students are invited to attend the Greening of Detroit.

At every event, OUSC will be accepting food and toiletry donations, which will be sent to the Freedom House of Detroit and the Baldwin Center of Pontiac.

Free T-shirts and food will be available at every event. More information about the several events can be found on the OUSC Facebook site.

"I think it's a really nice thing because student congress is specifically helping to push this, which is really nice," freshman Zachary Willockx said. "It helps address a lot of issues."

police files

Stolen wallet from Pawley Hall

On Monday, Nov. 8, a student reported that her wallet was stolen from Room 350 in Pawley Hall. The student left her wallet at a table in the room while she left to purchase a snack, using money from her pocket. When the student returned to study, she noticed the wallet was missing. There are no suspects at this time.

Ketchup on a Chevy

On Tuesday, Nov. 9, a student reported that someone had smeared a large amount of ketchup on her Chevy. The student reported the possible suspect to the OUPD. There was no damage to the vehicle.

Caught under the influence

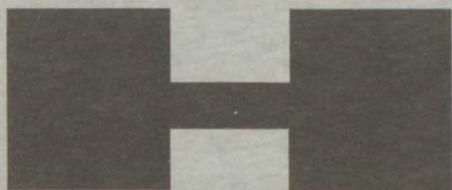
On Saturday, Nov. 13, OUPD witnessed a student urinate on campus in P-5 parking lot after parking his vehicle within sight of the officer's vehicle. Upon arrival, the officer reported that the student clearly had an alcohol odor on his breath. The student admitted to having a drink prior to arriving at the parking lot. The officer administered the standardized sobriety tests.

Missing vehicle found on I-75

On Sunday, Nov. 14, a student reported that her vehicle was missing from the P-3 parking lot. The student parked her car in the lot before leaving on a trip to Toronto for the weekend. While on the trip, a friend alerted the student that it appeared her car was on southbound I-75. The student reported her missing vehicle upon returning to campus. The vehicle was found empty of fuel and parked on the shoulder of I-75 between exits 91 and 84.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Campus Editor

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Grizzlies finish strong

OU cross country performs well at Great Lakes Regional

By **TOM BARRY**
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University cross country teams demonstrated that they are programs on the rise as the school hosted its first ever NCAA Great Lakes Regional Saturday.

The Golden Grizzly women finished 14th out of 33 schools at Katke-Cousins Golf Course with a score of 357, the highest-ever regional finish for the program. The men's squad placed 16th out of 31 teams with a score of 424.

"I'm very pleased with our performance," Oakland coach Paul Rice said. "Our women had their best performance ever at a regional. We've never been higher than 18th, so that's a real exciting accomplishment. Cracking the top 15 in our region is really tough to do."

"The guys finished 16th and we've been 16th quite a few times. We're consistent," Rice added. "We know we got a good group coming back next year on the men's side, and we can come back to where we are this year. So it's been a good day for us."

Lia Jones led the OU women, finishing 47th at 21:48.5 in the 6K race.

Brittini Hutton placed 58th (21:58.3), Kelsey Carmean 63rd (22:05.8), Erica D'Angelo 84th (22:24.7) and Sara Lieblein 110th (22:54.2) to round out the top finishers for OU.

"It was great to have a big crowd out here," Jones said. "Oh my God, I could really hear our fans, which was awesome. It was really nice to see all of the other athletic teams out here. It was nice that we knew the course beforehand but you still get caught up in the moment, and you want to go (faster) and you shouldn't, but that is racing."

Zack Jones led the men's squad, by finishing with a time of 31:33.6, good for 48th place in the 10K.

Also scoring for Oakland were Brandon Griffin at 73rd (32:05.5), Pat Cassidy at 77th (32:07.6), Steve Marcinkowski at 111th (32:47.4) and Tony Schafer at 115th (32:50.8).

"I ran pretty well today," Zack Jones said. "The first 5-6K was pretty smooth. After that, it got to be a little more challenging. Overall, it was a great day to race. It was the most exciting race I have ever been in, going around the course and hearing all our fans was overwhelming."

Rice said that hosting regionals and performing at the level the Grizzlies did speaks to how Oakland is an up-and-coming cross country school.

"We've come a long way since moving to Division I," Rice said. "This is a vision that we have had for almost 10 years, talking about the possibility of doing something like this."

"To put it together, it's such a great day, and to have thousands of people out here was an unbelievable sight to see," added Rice. "I'm just really proud of everything everybody has done to put this thing together. It's not just me. It's a great team effort and we saw it all come together today."

No. 5 Wisconsin took the men's team competition for the eighth consecutive year with 32 points, followed by 12th ranked Indiana (76) and No. 30 Notre Dame (117).

No. 16 Michigan State captured the women's team title with 80 points, beating out No. 18 Michigan (96) and No. 30 Toledo (130).

Emily MacLeod of Michigan State captured her second consecutive women's individual championship, finishing in 20:18.8.

Oakland did not qualify to compete in the NCAA Championships next weekend, but after his team's performance in the Regionals, Rice said he's optimistic about the future of the program.

"Well, there's a lot of confidence with this group," Rice said. "We have a lot of veterans, unfortunately, that are graduating, so we're losing quite a few (runners). The ones that are coming back have learned a lot from the veterans, and they're leaving them in good hands. We're excited to get the group back that we have next year and build on the success of this year. Just keep moving them forward."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Junior Lia Jones has consistently finished toward the front of the pack for the Grizzlies throughout her career. Saturday, she was once again OU's top female finisher.

Lockouts loom large for pro sports leagues

COLUMN

Ever consider how much more productive your Sundays would be if you didn't spend three and half hours watching the Detroit Lions trying to "learn how to win?" Or what you could have accomplished on those winter weeknights had you not scooped up some discounted tickets to The Palace of Auburn Hills to watch the Pistons?

Next year, you might have no choice but to find out.

Thanks to growing irreconcilable differences between the NFL Player's Association and team owners, the 2011 NFL season is in severe jeopardy. Teams across the league made it clear in Week 1 of the NFL season this year that they are united and committed to holding out next season if a new collective bargaining agreement is not reached.

Meanwhile, the NBA is also in the final year of its own collective bargaining agreement, with nothing but negativity looming around the negotiations.

NFL team owners and league commissioner Roger Goodell want to expand the regular season to 18 games, without significantly adjusting players' salaries. NBA Commissioner David Stern wants a 30 percent reduction in player salaries starting next season.

Remember when NBA players threw a fit about the dress code Stern put into place? This is much more of an issue.

The NFL Player's Association not only doesn't want to go to an 18-game regular season, but it also wants to implement guaranteed contracts for all its players.

O.J. Simpson has a better chance of getting out on parole than NFL players do of getting guaranteed contracts.

As far as the NBA goes, a 30 percent pay cut does seem steep — until paired with the fact that the league cited a loss of over \$130 million last season.

The possibility of both the NFL and NBA seasons for next year being canceled has



Ross Maghielse
Sports Editor

become more and more likely. In fact, it's getting dangerously close to the point of certainty.

This is what happens when greed and arrogance come full circle.

We saw this with the NHL in the 2004-05 season. Both sides refused to compromise, canceled an entire season and then reached a deal neither side was happy with. The owners lost millions in arena leases with no product to put on the ice and the players got hit with a salary cap and a large pay cut. It's still not clear who really won, only that the fans lost.

People in this town, like with any major sports market across the country, love their pro football — even if it hurts to do so. There's still strong support for the NBA, too. But they both might be absent a year from now.

Then what?

Will Mike Illitch have finally signed the deal to buy the Pistons in 2012? Will Matthew Stafford's shoulder finally be healthy two years down the road?

Who knows.

The real question, and the one that both the NFL and NBA should pay close attention to when they next sit down at the negotiating table, is will the fans still care?

I do know that people working 40-plus hours a week, or none at all, in a tough economy don't want to hear millionaires argue with billionaires about money.

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GOLDEN GRIZZLIES GAME of the WEEK

Taking care of Grizzzness

By RYAN HEGEDUS

Senior Reporter

Heading into its final regular season match against Centenary College on Nov. 6, the Oakland University men's soccer season had been marred with injuries and bad breaks, leaving the Grizzlies with a 4-10-3 overall record.

After an inspired two-week stretch of soccer, however, the team can now proudly call itself conference champions.

With a resounding 2-0 victory over rival Oral Roberts in the bitter cold Sunday, OU will now represent the Summit League in the NCAA Tournament. The Golden Grizzlies will face Michigan State in the first round Thursday at 1 p.m. in East Lansing.

To head coach Eric Pogue, the turnaround wouldn't have happened without a return to the team's basics.

"When we're putting all of our pieces together — getting good goalkeeping, playing solid defense, getting good midfield play, and putting the ball in the net — I think we're a very difficult team (to beat)," Pogue said. "I thought we were starting to get there in the final stretch of the season. Although we've had a lot of injuries, it seems like the next guy in line stepped up for us. That says a lot to the depth of the team this year."

Leading the charge offensively for OU Sunday was sophomore Johnny Dreshaj and junior Jon Evans.

Summit League triumph

In the 36th minute, senior Makesi Lewis took the ball through the defense and got off a low pass to Dreshaj, who netted the game-winner.

"Tournament games are gritty and tough," Dreshaj said. "In the Summit League Tournament, it's just who wants it more that comes out on top."

Dreshaj leads the team with four goals this season after scoring twice in the tournament.

Evans put the game out of reach for the Grizzlies with a goal in the 75th minute. After a crossing kick by junior Vuk Popovic,



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Junior Jon Evans celebrates with fans during Oakland's victory over Oral Roberts in the Summit League Tournament final. Evans scored a late goal to secure the win.

Evans gathered the ball and put it into the left corner of the net. The tally was Evans' second of the season.

Oakland had four players selected to the All-Tournament team — Dreshaj, Evans, freshman Lucas Diener and junior goalkeeper Mitch Hildebrandt — with Evans winning the tournament MVP award.

Despite the award, Evans was quick to deflect any praise.

"I thought we all did a great job this weekend. We kept it very organized and communicated with each other," he said. "I knew if I was going to make a mistake, someone would cover for me and vice-versa. I couldn't have earned the award without my teammates."

While he was also a factor on the offensive side, Evans, along with Diener, led the Grizzlies to a pair of stingy defensive performances over the weekend.

Oakland outscored IUPUI and ORU a combined 5-0 in the two games, giving up just four combined shots on goal in the process.

Oral Roberts had one scoring chance in the game that could have shifted momentum. In the 71st minute, ORU's Sterling Copeland hit the post on a shot from 13 yards out, an ensuing rebound attempt also failed to find the back of the net.

"It was a good hit; he cut it clean. I don't know if I had it covered or not but I got down and it was just close," Hildebrandt said. "A lot of goalkeepers aren't going to make that save. I just tried to cover it and luckily it hit the post and clanged out."

Pogue said his team has been on the wrong end of those types of breaks all season long.

"Earlier in the year, that shot would go in," Pogue said. "That's the difference — we

didn't used to get those breaks ... Good things happen when you work hard. Right now, some bounces are going our way and earlier in the year they weren't."

Besides that scoring opportunity, Hildebrandt only had to stop only one other shot on goal to record his ninth shutout of the year and second of the tournament. Last season's Defensive Player of the Year had five shutouts in seven Summit League matches this season and 93 total saves.

Redemptive season

Coming up short in big games of past seasons and the chance to redeem those losses served as the ultimate source of motivation for both Pogue and his players in this year's tournament.

"Last year we came in as the No. 1 seed and it was a huge disappointment. We knew how it felt (to lose) and we remembered that feeling," Dreshaj said. "We played like it the last two games, with determination and the heart to win it."

This is the third straight year Oakland has hosted the conference tournament. The Grizzlies were unceremoniously bounced from the tournament in the first round a year ago when expectations were very high.

"It is all about redemption," Pogue said. "Seeing UMKC celebrate on our field last year left a bit of a bitter taste in our mouth. They are a very good team and as you have seen, being the No. 1 seed is a difficult thing. We validated the fact that we're not an under-.500 team, we just had some bad breaks and we're a lot better than people think we are."

Oakland now sets its sights on a familiar opponent in the Spartans.

Despite being knocked out of the Big Ten tournament by eventual champion Michigan, the Spartans qualified for the NCAA tournament with an at-large bid.

The Grizzlies are 3-0 all-time against MSU, including a 2-1 victory in the first round of the 2007 NCAA Tournament.

"We don't mind being an underdog and I'm sure (MSU) is going to be picked to win, but I wouldn't want to bet against us," Pogue said.

The Sporting Blitz

By **DAN FENNER**
Senior Editor

A rundown of the week in sports at Oakland University.

Hoops season starts

The Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team (1-1) picked up its first victory of the season Monday night by defeating Ohio University, an NCAA Tournament team from a year ago, 78-66, on the road.

With star center Keith Benson limited to just 19 minutes of playing time due to foul trouble, Oakland University received significant contributions from a multitude of players.

Sophomore Ledrick Eackles shook off a subpar performance in Friday's loss to West Virginia and put up 18 points to lead the team in scoring.

Oakland starting backcourt combination of Larry Wright and Reggie Hamilton each reached double-figures, scoring 15 and 14 points, respectively. Wright also added a career-high nine rebounds.

An 18-0 Grizzlies run in the first half put separation between the two teams. After that run, Ohio only came within seven points the rest of the game.

Junior Ilija Milutinovic had arguably the best game of his career with eight points and nine rebounds, while playing extended minutes in place of the foul-plagued Benson.

Watterworth shines

Two games into the women's basketball season, sophomore Bethany Watterworth has already justified her selection to the preseason all-conference team.

While the Grizzlies have yet to square off against a conference foe, Watterworth has picked up right where she left off last season by scoring 17 and 26 points in OU's first two games.

Oakland (1-1) suffered a narrow defeat Friday against in-state rival Detroit Mercy, but found better success against Illinois-Chicago Monday, defeating the Flames 69-58.

Junior center Brittany Carnago looked more comfortable in her second game back

from last season's injury, putting up nine points and pulling down six rebounds.

Oakland will host Penn State in the home opener Thursday at the O'Rena. Tipoff is set for 6:30 p.m.

A disappointing end

Despite winning its final match of the season Saturday, Oakland's volleyball team narrowly missed out on qualifying for its first-ever Summit League Tournament. The Grizzlies (17-13) finished with the same 12-6 conference record as Southern Utah and South Dakota State, but lost out on tiebreakers to the two schools.

Sophomore outside hitter Meghan Bray broke OU's single-season record for kills (360) in Saturday's win over UMKC.

Oakland's 17 wins in 2010 tied for the most in school history, a mark that was previously established last year when the Grizzlies also finished fifth in the Summit due to developments on the final day of the season.

Oakland nabs recruits

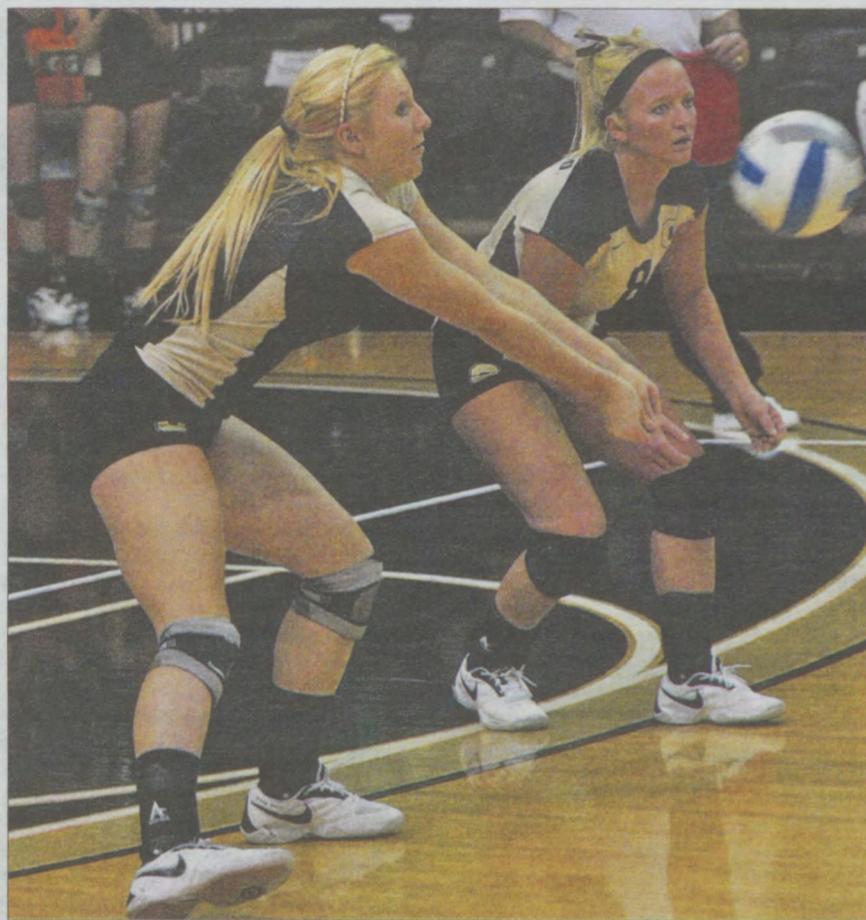
Two new recruits were officially announced Friday as local talents Matt Poches and Dante Williams signed National Letters of Intent to play basketball at OU next season.

Poches, a 6-4, 175-pound shooting guard from Hartland High School, chose Oakland over Central Michigan, Western Michigan and The Citadel. Grizzlies head coach Greg Kampe described Poches as "a kid that you cannot stop from getting to the basket." ESPN's recruiting service pegs him as the 62nd best player at his position in the nation.

Williams, a small forward, helped lead his high school, Ann Arbor Huron, to the Class A state championship game last season. He is best known for his 3-point shooting ability. At 6-6, 165 pounds, Williams could have an opportunity to take advantage of OU's lack of depth at his position early in his career, but Kampe said he will need to get bigger and stronger.

OU has at least one more scholarship to give next season, as three seniors will depart the program at season's end.

The OU women also added three new



File photos by BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

TOP: Becca Means (left) and Brittany Dunn (right) helped spur OU to victory in Saturday's match against UMKC. **BOTTOM:** Sophomore Bethany Watterworth was Oakland's leading scorer in each of the first two games this season.

members to its team on signing day. Shelby Herrington, Lauren Robak and Halle Wangler all signed National Letters of Intent with the Grizzlies.

"This is a great, hardworking group of players," Francis said in a statement released by the university. "They are all from winning programs, which will help them as they prepare to come in and compete on the collegiate level."

Robak is a 5-9 guard from Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes High School. She had a very consistent playing career at the high school level and scored 30 points to lead the Lakers to the Class D state championship last season. She is Our Lady of the Lakes all-time leading scorer with 1,500 career points.

Herrington is a 6-2 forward from Hemlock, Mich. She averaged 16 points and 11 rebounds in her final high school season. She was selected to play in the McDonald's High School All-American game.

Wangler is a fast-tempo, 5-9 guard from Royal Oak Shrine. After a junior season in which she averaged nearly 20 points and five assists, she was named to the All-State second team and also collected All-Catholic School and all-area recognition.



Culture showcased in Southfield

By DAUD YAR
Local Editor

The Native American Festival is held to bring the great traditions of the first Michiganders to light. This year's festival, organized the Metro Parent magazine, featured various forms of dance and storytelling and the sale of authentic Native American goods.

Lisa Grace, events director of Metro Parent magazine, has been a part of the festival for the last four years.

"I like this event because it is a perfect way to celebrate the season," she said.

Not only is Thanksgiving right around the corner, but November is Native American month.

The festival, in its 18th year, offered insight into many different aspects of Native American life. Yvette Pitawanakwat, Visitor Services Coordinator, was a representative of the Ziibiwing Center during the festival.

She said the aim is to clear up any misconceptions about Native American culture people might have.

"People usually associate us with what they see on TV," Pitawanakwat said. "Many people don't realize that our culture has evolved, and we are a modern day people

just like everyone else."

The Ziibiwing Center displays exhibits for visitors, which preserve the cultures of Great Lakes Native Americans for anyone who wants to learn more.

There are three major tribal groups in Michigan today: the Chippewa, the Ottawa and the Potawatomi. These tribes comprise the Three Fires Council.

The Ottawa people resided on the northern bounds of the Great Lakes. They were great traders and craftsmen as their birch bark canoes show.

The Potawatomi used to inhabit the southwest corner of Michigan, near Kalamazoo. As they developed horticultural skills, their medicinal herbal gardens flourished.

The Chippewa are the second largest tribal group in the United States. In Michigan, they resided on the east side of the state as well as on most the Upper Peninsula.

Many Boy and Girl Scout troops attend the festival every year to get a better idea of Native Americans through culture, history, dancing and hands-on experiences.

"A lot of kids are studying native Americans in school right now," Grace said. "It (the festival) is a great way for them to experience the culture first hand."

The most important thing is to bring his story and culture to life, said Grace.

Tracey Jefferson and her son Joshua are with Boy Scout Pack 106 of Cornerstone Schools Nevada Campus.

The two made choker necklaces of beads and string. Tracey said the necklaces were designed to protect any warrior from being hit with an arrow in the throat.

"I'm having fun," she said. "I can't wait to get out there and dance."

Bill Memberto, coordinator of the dance program and part of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, said dancing was and is still used for "spiritual healing."

The lady jingle dress dance was one of the dances performed. Each dancer wears a dress with sewn on bells that symbolize prayers. The dance focuses around healing as each jingle of a bell emphasizes prayers against sickness and weakness.

Another dance, the men's traditional dance, combines 20th century costumes with ancient storytelling. Marty Wabindato, traditional dancer, said when dancing, balance is the key.

As he dances, he holds a dance stick, in his right hand, decorated with a claw from a red-tailed hawk. Wabindato holds a shield

and a fan made of feathers in his left hand to maintain balance when he is dancing.

Wabindato is also a champion dancer of 19 years. Pitawanakwat said the dance has evolved into a sport with some dancers making a living from the various competitions held. Being a champion dancer means you are one of the best, she said.

The event also featured a look into trading. Tony Gerard, a demonstrator of Indian trade during the 18th century, said a big part of the Indian trade was in skins and furs.

"The two biggest ones in this area were beaver skins and tan buck skins," Gerard said.

At the time, items were priced according to buck skins, he said.

"Knives would be five buck skins, or five bucks," Gerard said. "That is where the term 'buck' originated in reference to a dollar."

For more information about Native Americans in Michigan, visit the Ziibiwing Center's website at www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing

— Jen Bucciarelli contributed to this report.



JEN BUCCIARELLI/The Oakland Post

The men's traditional dance, seen above, combines modern costumes and ancient storytelling. The dance is the oldest style of Native American dance.

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Friending professors

Students face the dilemma of adding teachers online

By MEGAN SEMERAZ
Contributing Reporter

His number was posted only for personal friends to see, but after a student called him on his personal cell phone, he changed his policy.

Vagner Whitehead, an associate professor of art, accepts friend requests from students, but only if the student asks him.

"My current policy is to accept student friend requests if they ask me, but never seek students," Whitehead said.

The action of accepting or denying friend requests between students and teachers has been the subject of recent media debates.

With schools across the country banning social media relations between students and teachers, many are questioning whether these online relationships are appropriate.

Liz Rodriguez, a senior, does not want to add professors on social media websites and does not like the idea of allowing them to see things on her profile.

"I don't want (professors) going into my stuff," said Liz Rodriguez, a senior.

But Whitehead thinks the blurry lines are what makes Facebook appealing.

"What I find interesting about Facebook is the collision of worlds, and how boundaries are blurred," Whitehead said. "This at times causes some uncomfortable situations, but ultimately makes you more aware of your life's decision."

Sophomore Megan Kiefer has only had one class where the professor asked his students to add him on both Facebook and Myspace, although it wasn't a class requirement.

Kiefer doesn't feel as though her privacy is being invaded as a result of adding a professor on Facebook.

"You have the right to deny them if you want," Kiefer said.

Facebook's privacy settings allow

the user to manually block out what individual friends can see on their profile.

In order to block individuals from certain parts aspects of their profile, a Facebook user would insert the names of each person they want to block one by one.

"My privacy settings are set the same way for everyone," Whitehead said.

However, Whitehead likes to keep the distinction between the person he is at work and the person he is in the outside world.

"One thing I make very clear is that when a student contacts me on Facebook about a school or course-related issue, I immediately tell them to contact me via email," Whitehead said. "Students eventually get the separation between 'work me' and 'Facebook me.'"

"What I find interesting about Facebook is the collision of worlds and how boundaries are blurred."

— Vagner Whitehead,
Associate Professor of Art

Jason Schmitt, a special lecturer in communication, uses Facebook as a tool to keep in touch with students about class assignments and school events.

"Facebook is superbly more user intuitive than Moodle," Schmitt said.

For students, adding a professor on social media websites could potentially help with finding a job or internship.

Both Whitehead and Schmitt post what they can in regards to job leads.

"I continuously put job leads on my social networking sites," Schmitt said.

Since there is no school policy on social media websites, individuals are drawing the line where they feel comfortable.

Though some professors add any of their students, some, like Laura Landolt, an assistant professor of political science, uses Facebook to keep in touch with the school's political science club and department. She does not add her current students on Facebook until they have already graduated and prefers to keep her professional and personal life separated.

"Students in my classes often try to friend me on Facebook, but I don't add them until class is over," Landolt said. "I only have a personal account, and I'd like to keep my personal and professional life separate."

Most recently, Landolt taught a class online while doing research in Egypt. She communicated with some of her students through the Internet-based video chat service Skype.

Annie Briggs, a junior, said that she would make her "Facebook friending" decisions based on the individual professor she's looking at.

"Maybe it would depend on the professor," Briggs said.

Kiefer was also caught in between, saying it would depend on the teacher. If she liked the teacher it might be all right. However, if she didn't like the professor, she felt differently.

As for Whitehead, he continues to add students who request to be friends with him, but he has decided to remove his phone number from his Facebook.

"I realized that it would be easier to remove (the cell phone number) altogether instead of customizing settings for each friend," Whitehead said.

Though Facebook and the Internet are becoming more common, it is ultimately up to students and professors to decide how to acknowledge the request.

Strange and unusual classes offered on campus

"Do you believe in magic?"

Sorry Harry Potter fans, this is not a Hogwarts kind of class.

Magic, Witchcraft and Religion, or AN 271/REL 271, is an exploratory course of religion and its relation to the studies of magic and witchcraft.

The class uses anthropological theories and applies them to magic and witchcraft and how they pertain to past and present life.

Henri Gooren, assistant professor of anthropology, said he wants students to learn the different elements of various religions and the class far extends investigating just Christianity or Islam.

"The thing they have in common is that they all are trying to make sense of the world," she said.

The course also examines how magic and religion are both tools of manipulation and studies how both try to influence your life in some regard.

"Magic is about getting an advantage," Gooren said. "Magic is just a different technique than religion."

Students are given the opportunity to explore religions different than their own but also take a deeper look into the religion that they practice.

This course is open to anyone and the next session begins in Winter 2011.

American Sign Language

There is one foreign language class on campus that promises no oral exams.

COM 114, or Introduction to American Sign Language, and its sister course COM 115, or American Sign Language, offer students a different look at language.

Sign language, which is actually based off French, not English, has always been regarded as an easy subject to those who do not understand the mechanisms needed to sign, according to Jon Wilkinson, a special lecturer of communication and journalism.

"Many people don't realize that American Sign Language and English are on two different sides of the spectrum," Wilkinson said.

The sentence structure is very different when using sign language. Instead of saying "I will buy a new car," students sign "tomorrow new car finish buy."

To realize this, students must strip what they know about grammar and start from the beginning, according to Wilkinson.

ASL is much like any other foreign language; you must start from the basics.

Both courses are open to anyone.

— Amy Eckardt, Staff Reporter

40

professor profiles

Weekly spotlight on OU professors

Alan Epstein Special lecturer, political science

Envision a professor that refuses to play "class" and instead transforms the 14-week semester into a journey that leads to discovery, and one will find in Alan Epstein.

A special lecturer in the political science department, he has been teaching at Oakland University since 1997. Epstein has distinguished himself through thoughtful and absorbing lectures, receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award from the University in 2005.



Born and raised in Flint, Epstein went on to complete his undergrad at the University of Michigan and his master's at Cornell University. He went on to describe his experience of Cornell, an Ivy League private university located in New York. Reflecting on his days as a graduate student, he remarked on the campus's beauty and his time at the university libraries, some of the world's best, he said.

With a nostalgic smile, Epstein also mentioned the campus tradition of screening one or two films each night, a temptation he couldn't resist.

And then, there's Hong Kong.

Seven years of his life were spent in the Chinese city where he worked as a teacher and counselor. It was his father's illness and the impending arrival of his brother's child that brought Epstein back home.

Genevieve Wilson, a former student in his comparative politics class, classifies Epstein as "an American treasure" promising prospective students a rewarding educational experience.

"He's a one-man revolution, and he's going to make damn sure you know it," Wilson said.

When asked if a moment or day stands out as particularly memorable, he listed "the occasional e-mail from or visit from former students," sharing how the information imparted in his class helped them along their journey at OU or thereafter, referring to them as "delights (that) are extremely gratifying and underscore the unpredictable ways in which students find meaning and utility from course offerings."

Among the subjects taught by Epstein this semester is the new course, global democratization.

Regardless of the subject matter, Alan Epstein is sure to make it unforgettable.

— Sarah Lazarescu, Contributing Reporter



AMY ECKARDT/The Oakland Post

Meadow Brook Hall, along with Meadow Brook Theater, Sunset Terrace, 1,500 acres of land and \$2 million, was donated to what is now Oakland University by Alfred and Matilda Wilson in 1957.

The 'who' behind OU

By SARAH WOJCIK
Staff Reporter

Oakland University is a landmark of beauty and prestige, but it would not exist without two very important figures: Matilda Dodge Wilson and Alfred Wilson.

The Wilsons' life was proportional to the immensity of their gift.

Their first meeting was at church in 1925, five years after Matilda's husband, auto tycoon John Dodge, died. The union was speculated to be money-related, as Matilda was the inheritress of a fortune and Alfred was a successful lumber broker.

"They were Victorians," said Meredith Long, museum services coordinator at Meadow Brook Hall. Marriage was "not for passion," but there was a "bond beyond money" apparent between the couple.

Unlike many affluent couples of the time, the Wilsons were frugal and modest, choosing Rochester as their home instead of urban and upscale Detroit. Alfred's motto — "For law and order" — was vastly different from Dodge's — roughly translated to "Living leisure to the hilt," according to Long.

Alfred's motto aligned more with Matilda's belief in Andrew Carnegie's philosophy: "It's not the money you have, it's what you do with it."

The couple built Meadow Brook Hall with American-made materials because of Matilda's patriotism and Alfred's confidence in American resources, an uncommon but progressive practice in the early 1900s, when most millionaires constructed lavish mansions from imported materials.

The 88,000-square-foot house — today the fourth largest historical house in the country — cost \$4 million to build. That translates to \$80 million today.

From a game room embellished with wooden carvings of pool sticks and cue balls, to the frieze in Albert's office depicting his life story, to the hand-sculpted plaster ceiling in the Christopher Wren room, the details are everywhere.

Long said for Alfred and Matilda to build the nursery and governess's room adjacent from their suites was also progressive; normally these rooms were on an upper floor, far removed from the parents.

During a world tour, the family acquired several zebras and the household pet, Pete the Turtle. Later they donated the 48-pound tortoise to the Belle Isle Zoo.

The couple was a sight to behold, with Matilda standing 5 feet 2 inches and Albert looming 6 foot 3 inches. But what Matilda lacked in height, she made up for in character.

Described by many as a "feminist" and "strong-willed," Matilda Wilson became chairman of the board at Fidelity Band & Trust Co. in 1931 and lieutenant governor of Michigan in 1940.

In that time, society looked down upon a woman holding so much power, but Matilda was unfazed by public opinion.

She was a member of many organizations, including the National Council of Women, the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Historical Society, according to her autobiography on Oakland University's website.

Matilda even prepped her daughter, Francis Dodge, to one day fill her shoes by putting her in charge of Knole Cottage, a fully functional playhouse in which every detail is three-fourths size ("Except the toilet," said Bill Cichowski, president of the Squires, a group of male volunteers dedicated to the preservation of the hall). She was in charge of paying staff, ordering food and cooking meals, according to Long.

After purchasing furnishings for a Grosse pointe house they never moved into, the couple reused the items in the staff corridors. Included were a 1914 organ and custom Tiffany light fixtures, according to Long.

They also shut down the house during the Great Depression and World War II, Long said, not only because of financial difficulties, but also out of respect to others.

Alfred and Matilda gave their greatest gift in 1957, when they bequeathed Meadow Brook Hall, along with all of its facilities (including the Meadow Brook Theater and Sunset Terrace, President Gary Russi's home), 1,500 acres of land and \$2 million for the charter of what would become OU.

According to the Meadow Brook website, Matilda awarded each member of the first graduating class a diamond ring.

Matilda and Alfred Wilson's magnanimity and influence are reflected in the counting students that have passed through OU's doors.

The class of 2010 has been working towards creating funds for a life-sized bronze statue of Matilda Wilson that will stand on campus.

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ACROSS

- Throat-clearing sound
- Diplomacy
- What we chew with
- Part portrayed
- Look at flirtatiously
- Audio transmission
- Violent disturbance
- Thug
- Impulses
- Certain edible young shoots
- Cubic meter
- Inscribed pillar
- The end of life
- Finish
- Remove the triggering device
- Atomic number 81
- Listener
- Angelic headgear
- Stop
- Security for a debt
- Assault
- Fighter of the skies
- Snuggle
- Colloid
- Abandoned ships
- Beginning

- Accumulate
- Leeway
- Swivel
- Precipitation
- Bit
- Gunk
- 5280 feet
- Wander
- Deacon
- Picnic insects
- Tallies

DOWN

- Wall hanging
- Lift
- Run off to marry
- Steel or tin
- Roman robe
- All excited
- Overcast
- Anxious
- Member of a governing board
- Landslide
- Border
- Level
- A flexible tube
- Whirl

- Stick
- 5 cents
- Payable
- Murres
- Caught in the act
- Coastal raptor
- Comparative word
- Despise
- Anagram of "Salt"
- Offensive
- Mouth
- Droop 44. Bunch
- Turn over earth
- Fate
- Killed
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- Basilica area
- Grind
- Keen
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- 1111

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Nomination forms are available online at www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/ under "Awards and Scholarships" or at 144 Oakland Center.

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Experience 'After the Fall'

Arthur Miller's play comes to life at the Varner Studio Theatre

By RHIANNON ZIELINSKI
Scene Editor

"Our 21st century experiences of the horrors of domestic hostility, political animosity, unending war and ethnic cleansing make this classic drama disturbingly familiar and thought-provoking," Michael Gillespie said, director of Varner Studio Theatre's performance of Arthur Miller's "After the Fall."

The play debuted on Nov. 11 and will continue till Nov. 21. Three OU students take the lead in the performance to transform the theater back to the 20th century and the mind of the main character, Quentin.

For ticket information and show times for the performances, visit www.oakland.edu/mtd

Grant Drager -Quentin

Senior musical theater major Grant Drager describes his character Quentin as a man that has to re-evaluate his life after two failed marriages, as he contemplates entering a third.

"Quentin has reached a point where he doesn't know how to continue to go on without sorting out what has happened in the past," Drager said.

In order to prepare for the role, which was double-cast between Drager and David Meese, he looked at each part of the story to understand where his character was coming from, to "become" who he was.

"All of us can relate to failed relationships and afterwards having to ask the question, 'Whose fault was it? How do you go on?'" Drager said.

The 79-page script is full of long monologues and dialogue that required a significant amount of time to rehearse.

"This has been the hardest semester I've had," Drager said, in regards to balancing his school and social life on top of the



Above: David Meese and Emily Sorensen channel the mid-1900s as lawyer Quentin and his second ex-wife Maggie. Below: Grant Drager as Quentin in the final scene of the play, loosely based on Arthur Miller's own relationships.

Photos courtesy of Rick Smith

rehearsal schedule.

He thinks that despite the serious subject matter of the play, the audience will find something to relate to.

"There's something so real about it in the sense that we all experience loss and we all have these questions of, 'How do you go on?' It's so relevant."

Emily Sorensen -Maggie

The character of Maggie is based on Miller's second wife, Marilyn Monroe, a role that senior musical theater major Emily Sorensen has enjoyed researching.

"You don't often get to play characters that are based off of real people," Sorensen said. "An article in Vanity Fair just came out last month with a spread of Marilyn Monroe's diary, so I actually got to read her diary and know her thoughts before

I actually had to play her. That was really lucky."

The diary revealed a side of Monroe that many hadn't seen before and that offered a new view of her character.

"I just can not look at her the same way anymore," she said. "She talks about how she screams and she doesn't want life to come any closer but it always does."

Sorensen translated the emotion in Monroe's diary to her character Maggie on stage.

"It's hard to play," Sorensen said. "It's hard to go to those places every night."

Shes hopes that the play will be able reach out to audience and urge them to reevaluate their life and their relationships with other people.

"A show like this is not just for entertainment," Sorensen said. "It's for changing lives. It sends a message to people."

David Meese -Quentin

In order to prepare for the role of Quentin, senior acting major David Meese jokes that he slept with his script under his pillow at night.

"The character has the most spoken words than any other character in any other show - even more than Hamlet," Meese said. "Repetition, repetition, repetition. That's all I can say."

Meese worked closely with costar Emily Sorensen and director Michael Gillespie to collaborate ideas, and considers the last scene one of his favorites.

"The final scene is this climactic battle with his second wife Maggie. It's emotional. It's a physical scene," Meese said. "The tension in the audience - it's like nobody's breathing. I love that scene."

He estimates that over 20 hours a week was spent rehears-



ing.

"Luckily, being a theater major, I have theater classes and all of our professors are very understanding of our schedules," Meese said.

With the first weekend of performances finished, he is confident with the success of the play.

"It was a phenomenal experience. Everybody is so committed and dedicated to this," Meese said. "Everyone has had good things to say about it."

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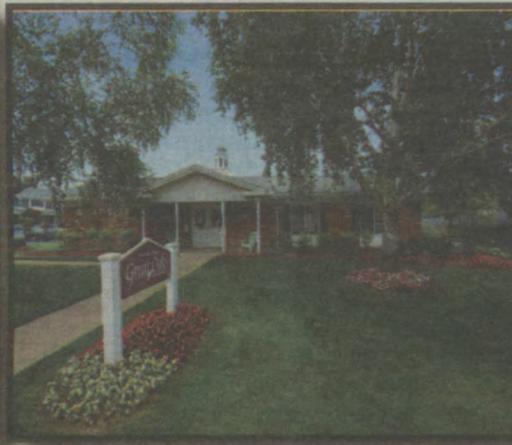
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Music sales turn digital, but support remains real

By **KEVIN ROMANCHIK**
Staff Reporter

June of 1999 marked a beginning of a new era in music and the reason was not a band or a song; it was the creation of the peer-to-peer online music service called Napster.

Users were suddenly able to share music with others over the Internet for free.

Napster's creation and 2001 demise resulted in a complete change in the culture and business of music.

With this newfound market and source for undiscovered music, the influence of Internet assisting the spread of talent can't be denied.

According to Nielsen SoundScan's report, which tracks and reports music sales in detail, sales of physical albums dropped 20.7 percent in 2009 with 209.9 million total sales compared to 2008, with 249.6 million physical albums sold.

But the sales of digital albums rose: 2009 reported a record 76.4 million albums sold, which is a 16.1 percent increase compared to 65.8 million in 2008.

"For a new band just starting out, it is a blessing. There is not faster or better way to get your music out to the masses," said Zach Carothers, bassist for popular indie-experimental band, Portugal. The Man.

He considers the Internet a way to promote a band and their music in a way that wasn't available before.

"It brings people into your shows and that's where you prove what you do matters," Carothers said. "Sure, you won't get nearly the records sales, but that won't make a difference until later in your career anyway."

Some students suggest that the price of physical albums effects their decisions.

In a survey of 41 OU students, less than 5 percent of students polled purchase albums from retail stores.

"Since CDs are so overpriced, in my opinion, there's no way I could find all this good new music without spending a ton of money," junior Sara Szilagy said.

While the digital age of music has done a lot of for the spread of new acts and talents, it also has brought the wide spread of crime in the form of music pirating.

"Music has always been free with any radio, so I think it's hard to adjust to paying for the convenience of using it on different devices," Szilagy said.

In the survey, 75 percent of students admitted to illegally downloading music regularly.

"Music downloading is hardly considered illegal in the general opinion," Szilagy said. "I think the first time you

download a song, there's a little pause of your conscience reminding you it's wrong, but because of the frequency it's possible without any punishment, people easily get numb to the idea of 'stealing'; it hardly feels like physical stealing."

Even if the mass of the population partakes in these acts, justifying pirating music as a common accepted practice is a dilemma that may be ignored by students.

"I think the issues are so important," said Phyllis White, professor of MUS 339: What's On Your Playlist. "I created a course to be certain we had a forum for (these) kinds of conversations."

The class discusses in detail ethical issues within the music industry.

"I think legal sites where you have to pay money like iTunes should be used to download music," senior Kristin Totoraitis said. "It's important to support the artists whose music you're downloading."

Almost 20 percent of Oakland students surveyed purchase their music through outlets like iTunes, where most tracks cost around 99 cents.

As music industries see the mass flux in the sales, there are other resources to support artists, even if you do download illegally.

"There are many different ways for a fan to support a band they love," Carothers said.

Supporting an artist or band doesn't always have to mean always spending money.

"One guy may download music, but pay for a ticket every time they come through town. One may collect vinyl, one may Twitter non-stop and another may be into merch. As long as you do something to help your favorite artist, it's OK with me," Carother said.

Some artists, like Carothers' Portugal. The Man, openly support the downloading of music but bring up an important idea that puts the reality of the risk-free music pirating on a personal level.

"If you love a band and want to see them continue doing what they do, and you still want them to come through your town often to play shows, support them, in any way you can. It's an investment into something that you care about."

While the market suggests that digital album and track sales will continue to rise, we all have to come to terms that this is the new standard.

"The Internet isn't going anywhere for a while," Carothers said. "Whether you like what it's done to the music industry or not, we all have to adapt to the future of music."



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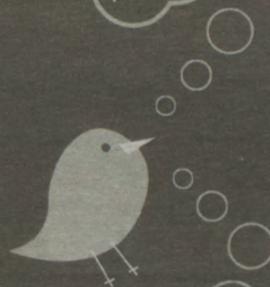
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The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily reflect those of The Oakland Post.

SURVIVING BLACK FRIDAY

BY RORY MCCARTY

They line the storefronts at 3 a.m., shivering in the darkness. Drunk on tryptophan from the feast from just a few hours prior, Black Friday shoppers huddle by the windows in hopes of buying a plasma screen TV at a \$50 discount.

On the other side, in the warmth of the Best Buy, employees stare in horror and dread the chaos that is about to befall them. Friends will abandon each other. Someone will get punched. The Black Friday enthusiasts know this, but they have been hardened by the cold. Nothing will stand between them and their

sweet, sweet savings.

Black Friday shopping is not for the faint of heart. If you've never experienced Black Friday, now is not the time to start. The veterans will tear you apart. People have been shot doing this. People have been trampled to death. But if you insist on braving the madness to get your

hands on a cheap GPS, you should come well prepared.

This guide is designed to prepare you for every possible predicament, and keep you alive while standing in one place in freezing temperatures for hours on end.

Listed here are a few of the essentials for Black Friday survival.

SECURE DWELLING

Where expensive electronics are concerned, shoppers may have set up tents days in advance that snake around the building, creating a small village in the parking lot. The die-hards make Black Friday into a twisted tailgating event, grilling steaks on the sidewalk and watching portable TVs in their sleeping bags. A tent will give you a great place to retreat to if the weather turns nasty. Remember, nobody who got a new laptop for \$150 let a wind-chill advisory or a foot of snow deter them.

WALKIE-TALKIE DEVICE

You may go out with a group of friends and split up to cover more ground. It may be a good idea to coordinate on a set of Walkie-Talkies, like a budget savvy Jack Bauer. "Wango Tango, what is your position?" "Currently on perimeter of JC Penney. Received word of roller blades on clearance at Toys R Us!" "Roger that! Moving in to secure assorted cheese set! Over!"

HEATING APPARATUS

Even with enough clothing on that you look like the coat pile from your Christmas party, you're going to want an external heat source you can take with you. Some kind of outdoor patio heater will provide you with a place to warm your hands while meditating on the coming storm.

Your fellow doorbusters are probably going to ask to share your heater. Resist the urge to turn this into a campfire sing-along. These people are not your friends. The same person who was laughing with you and telling amusing anecdotes out on the curb will be body checking you into the checkout counter as they make a beeline for an Xbox Kinect.

Keep everyone from getting too close to your heater. There is no fellowship on Black Friday. There is only awkward, nervous laughter as the shoppers take a mental inventory of their compatriots: "That guy, I could trample if I had to."



PHOTO BY PHILIP STAKICH

DESIGNED BY JASON WILLIS

VISUALLY-INTIMIDATING OUTERWEAR

The most important thing to note is that Black Friday is invariably the coldest day yet of the year. Come-ill prepared, and police will be chiseling your frozen body off the sidewalk the following afternoon.

Layer your clothing. Start light and get gradually heavier as you go: First, suit up in the all-important long underwear, then add a long sleeve shirt, ugly Christmas sweater, hoodie, winter coat, earmuffs, scarf, wool hat, blue jeans, sweat pants and snow pants. Put on so many layers that your puffy arms are stuck pointing outward from your body like an obese scarecrow. Put on so many layers you are uncomfortable. Then throw a snuggie on over that.



THERMOS BANDOLIER

You're going to get hungry out there waiting for the green light, so come with no fewer than five thermoses. You can fill them with chicken soup, coffee, hot chocolate, energy drinks, liquid Vivarin and anything you can think of to keep your energy and body heat up. If you're falling asleep by the time the destined hour begins, all your efforts will have been for nothing.

Be sure to leave one of the thermoses empty. You can't exactly step out of line to use the bathroom. Anyone who says they'll hold your place in line is a liar. But of course, all that bourbon and coffee has to go somewhere. The empty bottle is there to hold your contents. Just make certain that all thermoses are labeled clearly.



COMMANDING STATURE

If you can help it, be 6-foot, 4-inches tall by Black Friday. Smart retailers will hand out wristbands for big-ticket items to stop people from racing to grab them once the floodgate is open. Other stores act as bizarro cattle ranchers, funneling customers through the entrance and into aisles. Don't be surprised if you're hit with a cattle prod at some point in the night.

There is a very real danger of being crushed underfoot here, so if you can't be built like a linebacker, try to make yourself look bigger, like a blowfish. Alternately, bring along your friend who works as a bouncer to plow a path to savings Nirvana.

SURVIVAL TIPS FROM A RETAIL VETERAN

BY STEVE WISEMAN

When checking out, go to the clerk that looks like they hate their life the most. A chipper, Santa hat-wearing clerk hopped up on No-Doz will try to engage you in conversation, wasting precious time. You need to get out of there and on to the next place. The disillusioned, nihilistic cashier will shuffle you through as fast as they can just to get you out of their face.

Run first to the back of the store where the big discount items are. All the items with rebates on them are up front. Stores figure that the average shopper is too stupid and/or lazy to understand how rebates work, so they make money on those items. Just before you check out is where you can grab all the "Oh \$#!%, I forgot Billy!" presents.

More insane customers have been known to get a layout of the store days in advance. They'll draw up a map of the store, figure out where the most desirable stuff will be, plot a course through the store for maximum efficiency and maybe do a few dry runs with a stopwatch. This is a waste of time. On the eve of battle, the store will be completely rearranged, with pallets of action figures blocking off aisles and parapets of Lego sets forming toy fortresses. This is because retail employees hate their jobs and delight in confounding the patrons.

If you want to turn the entire store against you, by all means, pay for your stuff with a check. In the amount of time it takes the clerk to process it, every person in line behind you and most of the cashiers will be ready to rip your head off and hang it from the sale banners as a warning. Trust me, I've lived this moment time and time again.

If you really want to get the edge on your fellow deal hunters, dress in khakis and the appropriately colored polo shirt: supermarket camouflage. When a frazzled father approaches you and asks where the scented candles are, snatch the DVD boxed set from him, tuck it under your arm and take off like a running back before he realizes what's happened. Stiff arm or hurdle past any obstacles.

Some stores are open 24 hours, so the sale technically starts at midnight. In this case, find yourself a good hiding spot early on. Crouch amongst the stuffed animal display, and at the turn of midnight, spring from it like a jungle cat and pounce on that leather recliner you have staked out.

Most of all, if you have an ounce of practical sense just avoid the chaos all together and stick to online shopping. Cyber Monday, the online version of Black Friday, typically brings in more money for companies. In this case you'll need a reliable Internet connection, plenty of caffeine and a splint for your finger after you break it trying to press the "refresh button" 30 times a minute.

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