

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 16, 2011

[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

Volume 37 // Issue 23

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# this week

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## The Kampe of Liberty? // Monday, Feb. 14

Fans that attended Saturday's men's basketball game received cutouts of coach Greg Kampe's face on a stick to wave in the crowd. Following his weekly Monday appearance on WXOU, Kampe struck a pose holding his beloved Diet Dr. Pepper alongside host Matt Pocket outside the WXOU studio. "The Greg Kampe Show" airs every Monday at 3 p.m.



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**CAMPUS //** The newly-founded Muggle Quidditch League of Oakland University will hold its first event on Feb. 28.



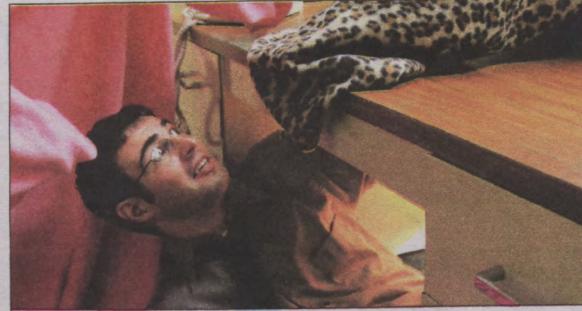
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**THE SCENE //** Oakland's co-ed a cappella group will perform Valentines Day songs as well as "anti-love" pieces this Saturday.



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**MOUTHING OFF //** Forced to relive his past, one editor takes a stand against one of the evils that has plagued him for too long.

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The Oakland Post will return with a new issue on March 2. Continued coverage is available on our website.  
[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

**THE OAKLAND POST**  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# Perspectives

February 16, 2011

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## STAFF EDITORIAL

# A small price to pay

We are asking you to support a raise in tuition.

Now, before you get up in arms, please allow us to reason with you.

The aforementioned increase in tuition we're advocating is only \$5. This dollar amount would be tacked onto the \$25 taken out of each student's tuition every semester for the student activities fee.

Since our job is to seek the truth and report it, we must tell you that it would mean more money to use toward expenditures for all student organizations on campus.

That includes The Oakland Post, the newspaper you are now either holding in your hands or reading online.

Currently, there are eight organizations that make up the Student Activities Fund Assessment Committee. In addition to The Post, representatives of WXOU radio, Student Video Productions, the Oakland University Student Congress, Student Program Board, Student Life Lecture Board and club sports are on the committee.

The Student Activities Funding Board, which is an umbrella of sorts to all other organizations now represented on the committee, is the final member of the board.

These direct-funded organizations each

receive a certain percentage of the fee every semester. A special projects fund also receives one percent of the fee. The amounts fluctuate along with student enrollment.

### An extra \$5 is a negligible amount for incalculable benefits.

An increase in this fee is not unheard of.

A necessity for more money correlates with the growth of the student population and number of student organizations. According to SAFB chair Brandon Hanna, at least 50 new organizations have been formed during his tenure — which began in Fall 2010 — alone.

He said the numbers don't match up. If every organization were to get the amount of money it's eligible for, it would cost at least four times SAFB's operating budget.

Some may object, arguing they're fed up with steadily rising tuition rates. Those are largely due to a decrease in state appropriations for higher education, which have steadily fallen over the past decade and this

upcoming year appears to be no different.

The 2012 state budget is projected to have \$1.8 billion less in revenue. So what is the extra \$5 for?

While upping tuition rates will have the effect of maintaining educational quality, a boosted SAFAC fund would have immediate positive impact.

For instance, free copies of The New York Times are available on campus five days a week. With a sale price of \$2 each, students would get their \$30 worth just by reading the Times every day for three weeks.

Plus, various student organizations hold events daily, many of which feature free food and guest lecturers.

By adding \$5 — the cost of a Subway sandwich — to the student activity fee, student life at Oakland University will stay on a path of continued growth.

Those not active on campus would complain that the extra fee would benefit them. Our response: You're paying for it, use it.

Consider the student activities fee an investment in student life. Unlike the textbooks you sell back at the end of the semester for a diminished return, the student activities fee is worth every penny.

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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.



**GUEST COLUMN****So you want to be the student body president?**

It's that time of year: Elections and campaigning. It seems to be taking off a bit slower than last year, but Oakland University is surely about to get hit with at least a month of avid campaigning for the positions of student body president and vice president.

With that said, there are a few things we want you to know.

The first is that you could in fact be OU's next student body president or vice president. That's right. Applications to run are right outside the OUSC office,

located at 62 Oakland Center. These are positions that are open to anybody and, in our opinion, the more tickets running, the better.

So, consider it. And know that if you have questions about the responsibilities and duties of these positions, we would be more than happy to sit down and talk with you about it.

If you don't think that running for these positions is for you, then we ask you in the next few months to simply become educated about the tickets who are campaigning, and then to vote in the election.

Last year, one of the most common questions that people asked us was, "Will it really make a difference who we vote for? Can OUSC even do anything?" We hope that we have shown you that OUSC does in fact have a lot of power, and that we have listened to what the students want and have made an impact.

So, yes; it does matter. And it is more important than ever to know who you are voting for, what their credentials are and what their short-term and long-term goals are to improve this campus.

Maybe you want to be involved with OUSC, but don't want to be the president or vice president. Perfect. Right now is the most convenient time to become a legislator for next year. All you have to do is fill out one sheet of paper to put your name on the ballot.

This will ensure that you are a legislator for next year's administration. These applications are also outside the OUSC office. If you have questions about the responsibilities of a legislator, we are also happy to discuss this with you.

Try and embrace the next few months of campaigning. It means there are students who are passionate about OU, students who want to represent you and impact the school in some sort of way.

It is up to you how you want to be involved. At the very least, educate yourself and vote.



**Brandon Gustafson and Amy Ring**  
Student Body President and Vice President

**Egyptian youth changed Egypt, the Middle East and the world**

To describe the events of Feb. 11 as historic may be an understatement. The event on Friday was a cosmic event. On this day the Egyptian people, most of whom are under 30 years of age, succeeded in ousting their president and toppling a 30-year-old corrupt regime.

This changed the Middle East and potentially the world as will become evident in the future.

We watched with the world closely as an uprising began on Jan. 25 in the heart of the Middle East, in Egypt. For decades, Egypt has been our stable and close ally.

Our government had supported Hosni Mubarak for decades under the impression that he stood between us and chaos, a theory propagated by the fallen Mubarak regime to instill fear and maintain a stronghold on Egypt.

Historically, Egypt has played a pivotal role in the world for over 7,000 years and Egyptian youth have now proven that they will continue to do so for generations to come.

Egypt has shown us the world's most peaceful revolution. Egyptian youth are an example to the world.

For nine days they stood in peaceful protest demanding change and democracy. In the face of police brutality, they remained peaceful. With over two million civilians on the streets without a defined leadership, this revolution has turned out



**Dr. Ola Elsaied**  
Guest Columnist

to be one for the history books.

A country within a country is how Tahrir Square is repeatedly described by eyewitness reports. Men, women and children. Young and old. Rich and poor. Muslims and Christians.

Tahrir Square was organized to accommodate over two million protesters of this revolution. Pictures showed Muslims praying their daily prayers and Christians standing guard to protect them.

Sunday Mass was also celebrated in Tahrir Square. Once prayer time was over, they were all united Egyptians chanting for freedom, peace, unity and social justice.

The Egyptian military which is held in high esteem also conducted itself in an exemplary fashion and acted with great restraint.

The youth were confident that unlike the brutal police force, the military would never use lethal force against the people of Egypt.

Freedoms that we take for granted here were non-existent under the

Mubarak regime. Oppression had finally reached the point where the only dignified thing to do was to revolt. For the first time in history, the main chant of the revolution is "selmeya," or "peaceful."

With these feelings, Egyptian youth stood their ground day and night demanding democracy. When the world hesitated to speak up, they believed in themselves.

Egypt now belongs to the people of Egypt. Thanks to the young men and women who broke the barrier of fear, who had the courage to rise up and scream, "The people demand a change of regime."

On Feb. 11, Egyptian youth showed the world that violence is not the answer, that peaceful resistance can be a very powerful tool, and that unity can stand in the face of entrenched dictatorships.

As we congratulate Egyptians on their newfound freedom, we encourage students to follow the coming events in the Middle East as the call for democracy that started in Tunisia and grew in Egypt is bound to mature in the Middle East.

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*Dr. Ola Elsaied is a sleep physician who grew up in Egypt and has lived in the U.S. for the past 15 years. She attended medical school in Cairo and is now studying in the Executive MBA program at the Oakland University School of Business Administration.*

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The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact.

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**OP POLL OF THE WEEK****LAST WEEK'S POLL**

What are your thoughts on the possibility of a campus-wide smoking ban?

**I support it — 42 (64%)**

**I am against it — 17 (26%)**

**I don't care — 7 (11%)**

**CURRENT POLL // Vote at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)**

Are you interested in ever running for student body president?

**yes**

**no**

# Expanding engineering

## \$30 million Engineering Center approved by State of Michigan

By ANNIE STODOLA

Staff Reporter

The Oakland University School of Engineering and Computer Science was recently allotted \$30 million from the State of Michigan to go toward the construction of a new Engineering Center on campus.

After submitting a proposal for the 127,000 square foot building to the state legislature, the funding was approved as part of the Michigan fiscal year 2010-11 capital outlay budget bill in December.

"We created a proposal to say what this center would do for the School of Engineering and Computer Science and how it would contribute to the economic development in Oakland County and Macomb County, as well as the state of Michigan," Louay Chamra, dean of the SECS, said.

Although the funding from the state government has been approved, Chamra said there are still steps that need to be taken, including designing the building over the next seven to eight months and getting approval from the OU Board of Trustees. According to Chamra, the building will cost about \$75.5 million, meaning that the school must develop a plan to raise the final \$45.5 million.

"If the Board of Trustees approves our plan and everything goes smoothly, we anticipate that construction will start by next fall," Chamra said. "But there are many tasks before that."

While the building is still only in the

planning stages, both Chamra and interim associate dean of SECS and associate professor Lorenzo Smith hope to see the building develop as a center for student engagement with the department and its faculty.

"I see the building as a place to increase faculty and student interaction," Chamra said. "I want to create more areas for student and faculty to interact. The whole building will be student friendly."

As an additional way to make the building an asset for students, Chamra has suggested a learning center to serve as a hub for engineering student resources.

"I'd like to establish an engineering student learning center," Chamra said. "It would be a place where we can provide student services — advising, tutoring, internship opportunities, career placement after they graduate."

Smith emphasized that the center will not only benefit current students, but hopefully draw potential students in.

"We want the new building to be a venue at which prospective students can clearly see the exciting activities taking place," Smith said. "To this end, the new building is expected to feature work spaces which are visible through large glass windows as they walk the hallways."

Chamra is enthusiastic about the development of integrated design labs in the building as well, where students can work in multidisciplinary teams of students from several types of engineering majors and backgrounds.

"At OU, we pride ourselves on putting students early in their career in multidisciplinary teams," Chamra said. "We try to put them in teams to simulate the workforce."

The new building is expected to make use of environmentally-friendly energy, including the use of solar panels to provide some electricity for the building. The department is also hoping to offer "green space" on the roof, where there will be both a flower garden and areas for students and faculty alike to relax.

While both Chamra and Smith agree that the students in the SECS are already performing at a high level, they also agree that this center will offer even more opportunities for a higher quality education.

"The OU students in SECS already compete very well among their counterparts worldwide," Smith said. "In addition to their academic skills, they are known for their hard work, creativity, confidence and ability to roll up their sleeves and dive into the problem. The new building will only add to their foundation from which they build their competitive edge."

Rob Petrich, president of the OU Society of Engineers, said that as an engineering student, he also expects that the new center will offer improved opportunities for students.

"I think that the new engineering center will provide grounds for research and technological advances," Petrich said. "Because of this, it should give students more outlets to further their engineering education and

improve the quality that the existing engineering program can provide."

He also thinks the new center may draw in new and talented professors.

"With new professors should come a larger spectrum of courses and areas of advanced research, which will have a very positive effect on OU engineering and computer science students," Petrich said.

In addition to increasing the overall quality of education that engineering students receive, the department expects the building to be an integral part of developing the local economy.

"The building is extremely important in terms of providing a highly visible focal point of our contribution to the economic development of the region," Chamra said. "I really believe engineering is coming back to this country. Much of it was outsourced but it's coming back because we provide an excellent quality of engineering and an excellent quality of product if it's made in the area or even in this country."

Although Chamra said that the automotive industry in the area is still a crucial part of the regional economy and is an industry that the engineering department partners with at times, it is important to broaden the spectrum of the industries in the economy.

"This building is at the center of this economic renaissance in terms of this region," Chamra said. "During this great recession, we have to develop other industry in the region. It's essential to grow this area and work with local industry."

## When was it built?

A history of buildings on campus and when they were completed.

1957: Wilson Hall	1969: Dodge Hall of Engineering	2000: Elliott Hall of Business and IT
1961: Hannah Hall of Science	1981: Don O'Dowd Hall	2003: Oakland Center expansion
1959: North and South Foundation halls and the Oakland Center	1970: Varner Hall	2001: Pawley Hall
1962: Kresge Library		1997: Science and Engineering Building

# 'Creating the future' for OU

## Public perception, academic quality of the school explored

By KAY NGUYEN

Editor-in-Chief

Oakland University is often labeled as a commuter school, sometimes chosen as an alternative or second-choice school.

The physical branding of OU was explored in last week's cover story, "What's it to you?" This is the second part of a series examining the identity of the university as an institution.

The first part of the series can be viewed at The Oakland Post's website, [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com), by searching "identity."

### Public Perception

A major difference between the larger Michigan public universities and OU is the absence of traditional campus life due to the low percentage of students able to live on campus, despite continuous rises in the number of housing contracts.

"I thought the school would be boring, since it's a commuter school," said Josh Tsao, a junior computer science major. "My first impression was that there was no community and everyone just came, went to class and went home."

Current students and alumni alike said their primary reason for choosing OU was that its proximity to their homes allowed for a more affordable education.

Senior finance major David Dueweke said the commute does completely change things and wishes there were "more of a draw to campus life."

"It feels more like a job because of driving and how people behave," said Dueweke, who transferred from Central Michigan University.

When he was a prospective student in the late '90s, Bryan Barnett thought of OU as "a very local option that probably wasn't among the top schools in the state, but it was a decent choice."

He initially had his sights set on MSU, and was admittedly "a commuter who pulled in 30 minutes before class and left 10 minutes after," but the former student body president said things changed after he got "super-involved."

As the current mayor of Rochester Hills, he wants the public to rethink "the commuter, isolated image to a school that is really engrained in the community."

While it will be difficult to change the opinion, awareness and exposure of the university has increased in recent years.

The academic image of OU has also changed.

"There's always a chance OU can measure up to U-M but it might take a lot," prospective student Corey Conrad said. "I know that when people hear that you're going to OU, you're going to a good school."

### Academic influences

Competitive advantages will be what give OU an edge in the higher education industry, Russi said.

It is necessary for OU to set itself apart from the other 2,719 four-year degree-granting institutions in the United States recognized by the National Center for Education Statistics in order to increase both enrollment and retention.

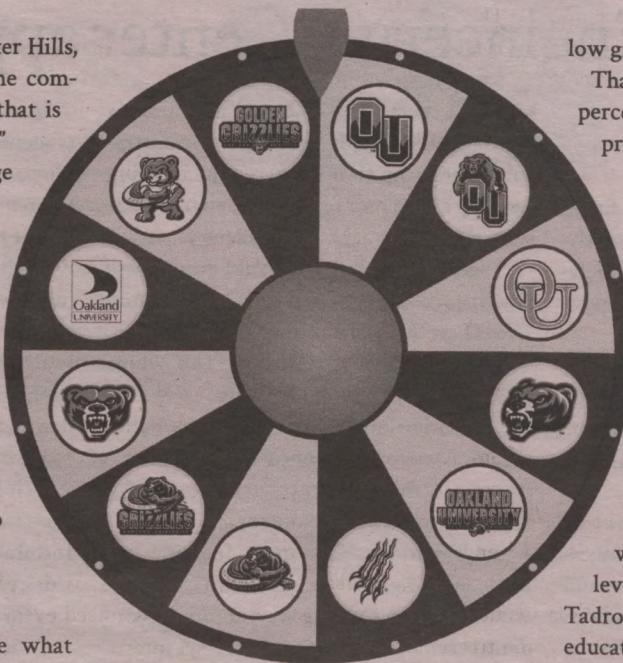
That number also includes community colleges and enrollment has steadily increased at nearby campuses like Oakland Community College, Macomb Community College and Wayne County Community College in the past five years.

OU may be edging out its competition, though.

"OU was close to home and a much better option than a community college without being [too expensive]," Komal Patel, a senior double majoring in English and political science, said.

Dual admissions partnerships with OCC, MCC and Saint Clair County Community College were created to combat the competition aspect.

Attracting and keeping talented students and faculty are the cornerstones to improve the service OU provides, though economic difficulties coupled with a 50 percent decrease in monetary gift support for facilities and equipment over the last year have made things more challenging.



## II of II

This article is the second of a two-part series exploring the branding of OU.

"Competition is the highest threat," Russi said. "The elite schools heavily endowed are coming after the top students with programs, research and support in a way that's very difficult for institutions like Oakland to compete with."

Anandi Sahu, professor and chair of the economics department, proposed that the school's legacy could be built through "teaching emphasis with a difference."

"We should pay real attention to how OU educates its students," Sahu said in a proposal sent to Russi.

He said there is proof of a lack of student engagement in the "high dropout rate," though he noted the school is "by no means alone."

According to a poll done by the Associated Press in September, 87 percent of adults surveyed place some amount of blame on college administrators when it comes to

low graduation rates.

That's almost as much as how many, 89 percent, blamed students themselves or professors and teachers.

Last year's first-year retention rate clocked in at 73.3 percent. Keeping students may be the first step, but ensuring their graduation is another story.

With a six-year graduation rate of less than 50 percent, the school ranks far below U-M's 90 percent and MSU's 70 percent.

"I wouldn't say that OU is as prestigious as U-M or MSU, however those schools had to start somewhere and I can see OU getting on that level in the coming decades," said Jeremy Tadros, a freshman majoring in secondary education with a focus in history.

Sahu believes the school should seek to compete with MSU in the future and Russi agrees. Currently, a higher percentage of Oakland County high school students go to MSU rather than OU.

He presented possible solutions in his presentations and repeatedly encouraged staff and faculty to present proposals much like Sahu's.

OU has a plan for higher retention rates that involves more advising for first and second-year students and vetting program development.

Another way to boost enrollment was to focus in on programs — Russi specifically pointed out the necessity of a strong liberal arts core and fine arts program — in order to appeal to creative students.

"If I went back to school, I would major in art, something along the lines of animation or illustration," Conrad said. "I would want it to be geared towards illustration for movies or books."

Conrad, who has completed some college, is also in another group Russi wants to cater to. There are 1.4 million Michigan residents who have attended college, but have not obtained a degree.

Continued on page 7

## BRANDING

continued from page 6

Creating an inviting environment for non-completers will help OU toward its projected goal of 25,000 students for 2020, Russi said. Such enrollment growth may be the opposite of an image OU already has, though.

"My first impression was that it felt homey and just right. I didn't feel overwhelmed or overburdened," sophomore information technology major Flavius Popan said. "The campus size was just fine, and it was a welcoming experience."

Russi has repeatedly said the target number may be changed, though.

"OU is a much smaller school than MSU or U-M so we have a personal connection with faculty," said Candice Lambert, a junior psychology major. "Prospective students should look at OU because it's a smaller university."

### Creating the Future

During the 1997-98 school year, a meeting of movers and shakers called "Creating the Future" took place in order to gather ideas and elevate the profile of the university before the school's first comprehensive capital campaign.

By June of this year, 500 people will have completed "Creating the Future II," which is focused this time on getting OU to use its resources to better the community.

The project is geared toward identifying and engaging more people in the life of the university.

"The same benefits will come out of it as last time," Russi said. "It will cultivate more people and it's going to excite the philanthropic community once again. We can't over-emphasize in the area of partnerships."

According to Barnett, the city of Rochester Hills is cur-

rently working on cross-promoting and engaging with businesses to embrace the school.

"Much of our success locally is tied to the growth of OU, from the medical school to smaller things like Meadowbrook Theater and the cultural aspects available with speakers," Barnett said. "Our successes are closely intertwined."

He was asked to participate in this next project.

Michelle Moser, director of integrated marketing, believes that the idea for the OU brand will come out of these talks.

"We kind of started this without the support of the administration, so in the marketing department, we went and did it," Moser said. "We all follow the industry and where things are going and headed and help OU with that. It was almost a pet project ... I was taken aback by the communities we were able to bring together."

According to Russi's action agenda, OU's community position should be boosted for years to come based off location and the current economic, financial, intellectual and cultural stipulations of both Oakland and Macomb Counties. By building a national OU brand, its position will be strengthened among competitors.

While some of the operations including improving efficiency and implementing strategies to reduce costs, Russi would also like to hire a senior director of communications and marketing.

"Our passion should be and must be to make our university even more relevant to the public good," he said. "We need every idea. We need every thought to move us through this."

— Nichole Seguin and Veronica Leontyeva contributed to this report

## campus briefs

### History Comes Alive lecture series

On Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m., History Professor Luke Harlow will discuss "The Civil War-Era Case of Kentucky" in the Oakland Room in the Oakland Center. Admission to the event is free, but reservations are requested. For more information contact Johanna McReynolds at 248-370-3511.

### AACM Closing Ceremonies party

African American Celebration Month will come to a close on Thursday, Feb. 17. The closing ceremonies will start at 5 p.m. and will be held in the Gold Rooms in the Oakland Center. The event will include free food and live performances. Those attending the event are asked to wear '70s attire.

### Graduate Open House

Discover the master's, doctoral and certificate programs that OU offers on Thursday, March 3 at 5 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms in the Oakland Center.

### European Night

This year's European celebration will be held on Friday, March 4 from 4-7 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms. The celebration will include live performances, a sampling of European food and much more. The event is free and open to the public.

### Rec Center bouldering wall

TZane Shelley, a graduate assistant at the Recreation Center, spoke at Monday's OUSC meeting regarding a bouldering wall potentially being installed where the racquetball and squash courts currently are. Shelley described the bouldering wall as a climbing wall without ropes that would have a maximum height of 10 feet.

vStudent body president Brandon Gustafson said OUSC would discuss partially funding the project if it goes forward, depending on how much the Rec Center will cover.

— Compiled by Lauryn Andrews and Jake Thielen, Staff Reporter and Sports Editor

# MEET THE POST



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JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Members of the Muggle Quidditch League ride brooms through the center of campus.

## Muggle Quidditch League begins training for season

By ALI ARMSTRONG  
Staff Reporter

A magical sport has arrived at Oakland University.

Quidditch may have began as a game played by wizards with broomsticks and a flying snitch in the Harry Potter series, but the game is taking root on OU's campus.

The OU Muggle Quidditch League has joined the ranks of hundreds of other college, high school and community muggle quidditch teams around the world.

Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University and Michigan State University are just some of the statewide muggle quidditch teams.

Muggle quidditch first began in 2005 as an intramural league at Middlebury College in Vermont.

Junior Nichole Seguin and junior Jeff Lamkin started the group last fall. Both Seguin and Lamkin are longtime fans of Harry Potter.

"Nichole and I have a mutual friend who goes to Loyola University in Chicago. She was telling us that they have a team and we were sitting around talking about it, and we looked into it and figured why not start it here ... we thought we could try it and see if there was interest in it. We started a Facebook group and within the first week, we had 40 people," Lamkin said.

There are not too many differences between muggle quidditch and the quidditch played in the movies. Players are required to have a broomstick between their legs at all times, and are attempting to throw a ball into the goals located at each end of the field.

"The only two differences are the flying and the snitch is actually a person; everything else is pretty much the same," Lamkin said.

The OU Muggle Quidditch League was recently recognized as a forming team by the Intercollegiate Quidditch Association, which organizes quidditch teams all across the world. The Intercollegiate Quidditch Association currently encompasses 226 schools.

While the team is still considered a student organization as part of the Center for Student Activities, they hope to eventually become a club sport in the recreation center where they would have access to the upper fields to hold games.

"Right now we're just trying to get people interested and see who wants to play... that's why we're staying with the CSA. We want to try and get the public relations aspect of the organization down and then we're going to move over to club sports," Lamkin said.

An official OU quidditch team has not been formed yet, but the organization is looking for prospective players. Members are not required to be OU students to play; prospective high school students and long-time Harry Potter fans can also join the organization.

Their goal is to establish two to three muggle quidditch teams on campus. Only 13 players are needed per team.

"Our goal is to have at least two or three teams here to play each other, and then have teams go to other schools or have other schools come here to play," said Lamkin. "If you're interested, just contact us and we can get you on the e-mailing list so we can inform you about what we're doing."

Students can follow the OU Muggle Quidditch Team on Facebook and Twitter and can e-mail the team at [oumugglequd@gmail.com](mailto:oumugglequd@gmail.com) to get involved.

There will be hosting a screening of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in Lake Superior Room B. Food and butterbeer will be served.

# Leader dogs for the blind trained on campus

By MEGAN SEMEREZ  
Staff Reporter

If you have ever seen a dog sitting in the middle of the Oakland Center, chances are it is a Leader Dog in training. The dogs have been trained at Oakland University for many years in order to someday become someone's eyes.

Oakland University is the closest university campus to Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, and it provides an ideal atmosphere for Leader Dogs that are being trained.

"Colleges campuses are kind of a unique setting," Rachelle Kniffen, a marketing specialist for Leader Dogs for the Blind, said.

Leader Dogs need to navigate well. The curved walkways, assortment of buildings and the classrooms contained in those buildings help the dog learn these navigational skills.

According to Kniffen, these dogs are learning many things just by walking around campus, concepts such as walking in a straight line or distinguishing different types of doors.

"The dogs have to learn to walk in a straight line, and if you ever

take your dog for a walk on a loose leash they tend not to (walk straight)," Kniffen said. "They tend to wander left and wander right."

Crowded areas like the Oakland Center can provide a lot of excess noise, music and movement, all things the dog cannot be distracted by.

"It's a wide variety to expose them (the dogs) to," Melissa DeGrandis, a senior communication major who volunteers at Leader Dogs for the Blind, said.

The Leader Dogs roaming the campus are typically there with Leader Dog trainers, not the volunteer "puppy raisers."

Some are there with their owners. OU senior Dave Barber, a social work major, is blind and uses a German shepherd guide dog named Mr. Ford for travel. Mr. Ford assists Barber around campus.

On the first day of classes each semester, Barber instructs his classmates on interactions with Mr. Ford.

"The first day of class, where all of us are new to each other, and I am introducing myself to the group — this is the time when I introduce Mr. Ford to the group,"

Barber said. "I introduce Mr. Ford, describe what dog guide school he is from and the ground rules pertaining to others interacting with Ford."

Leader Dogs aren't always working, and they do get to have their fun. When the dog is not in its harness, it is not working.

"When a Leader Dog guide is not in harness, he is just being a pet," Barber said. "When off harness, it is OK for the dog to have fun and play."

Living in Rochester where Leader Dogs for the Blind is headquartered, there is a chance of having a run in with a guide dog.

There are specific rules to follow when meeting a harnessed dog. According to Kniffen, the first rule is to not touch a dog in harness — always ask first.

Some guide dogs can easily become distracted so if the person says no, you should not take it personally.

And don't talk to the dog, because guide dog may become distracted by eye contact.

"Talk to the person," Kniffen said. "People will have a tendency to talk toward the dog. So talk to the person, address the person —



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post  
Senior Dave Barber walks with his leader dog, Mr. Ford, down the steps at Kresge. Barber has worked with Mr. Ford for 10 years.

don't address the dog."

Leader Dogs for the Blind is a nonprofit organization that engages over 230 volunteers on their campus, and it is easy for students of any age to get involved.

The organization is always looking for puppy raisers who can care for and train a dog for their first year of life.

To get involved or to learn more visit [www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org)

## Grizz Express to convert into 'grab-n-go convenience store'

By EMMA CLAUCHERTY  
Staff Reporter

Students walking through the Oakland Center may have noticed the empty-windowed room across from the cafeteria.

This space was formerly known as the Grizz Express. "The Grizz Express was an annex to the university bookstore," said Richard Fekel, director of the Oakland Center. "It carried school supplies, gum and candy, and various apparel items. With the bookstore on the lower level, Barnes & Noble desired a presence on the first floor."

Barnes & Noble decided to focus its efforts on their main store and closed the Grizz Express on Oct. 31. The space was turned over to the Oakland Center. Late last summer the Oakland Center began discussions about the best use for the space.

"Because the food court is so busy at peak times we intend to create a grab-n-go convenience store," Fekel said.



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post  
The Grizz Express is set to reopen after winter break.

"The store will carry popular foods and beverages. We want to carry a few items students have been asking for ... (like) frozen slush drinks, hot dogs and specialty ice cream."

The new Grizz Express is expected to open after winter break. Construction is underway.

"University skilled trades are doing the work," Fekel said. "The space requires plumbing, counters and storage, electrical work and new flooring. Once we get that completed we will install equipment and begin to stock the space."

The purpose of this new addition to the Oakland Center is to offer more convenience to OU students.

"I hope the new space meets student needs for convenient and quick food offerings," Fekel said. "Grizz Express hours of operation have not been finalized but we intend to open late morning and operate until 10 p.m. That way we provide new food options in the building once the food court closes down for the evening. I think that will be a great service to Oakland Center users."

Since the Grizz Express will be open later than the cafeteria, it will provide more convenience to students with late classes as well.

"I think the new Grizz Express will be a great asset, particularly to our evening users of the Oakland Center," Fekel said.

## police files

### Ex-stalking

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, it was reported to the OUPD that a student has been experiencing unwanted attention from a former boyfriend.

The student reported that after breaking up, the male student continued to message her online and that his behavior has increasingly become more aggressive. She had previously blocked his cell phone number.

The male student was advised to have no contact with the female student and she does not wish to press charges.

### Marijuana arrest

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, OUPD witnessed a student fail to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of Pioneer and Library drives.

Upon being pulled over, the officer observed a bag of what appeared to be narcotics in the glove box of the vehicle when the student proceeded to collect his vehicle registration and proof of insurance.

The student said it must have been a friend's belongings and it was not his. The student was given a citation for marijuana use and for disobeying a stop sign.

### Parking lot destruction

On Thursday, Feb. 10, it was reported that a student received a threat from another driver while parking in parking lot P36. Upon exiting his vehicle, the student making the report was threatened by another driver indicating that if he left his car there, something might happen to it.

The student, who was walking toward the building, wrote down the other vehicle's license plate information, hoping to deter any conflict.

When the student returned to his car, the passenger door mirror was damaged along with passenger side door and fender. The suspect refused to come to the OU police station upon request.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,  
Local Editor

# Campus celebrates African culture

By LAURYN ANDREWS  
Staff Reporter

Culinary traditions and cultural roots were celebrated on Friday evening at the Oakland Center.

On Feb. 11, the Center for Multicultural Initiatives and the Student Program Board co-sponsored the Taste of Africa Gala, an annual celebration held during OU's national recognition of African American Celebration Month. The gala had samples of soul food, Caribbean fare and African-American influenced cuisine.

Junior Abhishek Ujla enjoyed what they had to offer.

"Everything tastes great. I am here to learn about culture and spirit," Ujla said.

"I have come (to the gala) all four years. This is my favorite event during African American Celebration Month," Lanisha Mullin, a senior and a Center for Multicultural Initiatives peer mentor said. "It exposes



RHIANNON ZIELINSKI/The Oakland Post

The AKWAABA OU African Drum and Xylophone Ensemble, directed by Mark Stone (second from right), perform on stage.

so many different aspects of African-American culture in one event."

The program also included a variety of live entertainment featuring drumming, dancing, step show, vocal and spoken word performances. Storyteller Ivory Williams used props and theatrical voices on stage while presenting his positive message

to the audience.

"When you listen you learn, and when you learn you grow," Williams said.

Sai Myint, a junior health science major said the event was "truly electric."

Even the individuals working the event enjoyed the atmosphere. Katherine Buxton, a sophomore, volunteered to help

at the gala.

"It's not a job; it's purely the enjoyment of getting along with everyone ... It's a great environment to be a part of," Buxton said.

Matthew Parry, a senior and a member of the African American Celebration Month Committee, said: "It is a great honor and pleasure to be a part of the AACM Committee. Knowing that I am a part of celebrating and educating Oakland students about African-American history is something that I do not take lightly."

"I want students to have a sense of pride in their heritage and where they come from. Knowing where you've been and where you can go is important in order to reach your full potential in the future," Parry said. Additionally, being appreciative of the many opportunities that we have as African-Americans is important so that the dreams of those that we celebrate are not in vain."

## Now Accepting.....

### Applications and Nominations for:

#### Student Liaison to the Oakland University Board of Trustees

The role of the Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees is to serve as a non-voting resource on all student issues at monthly meetings of the Board.



#### Term of Office:

- ◆ July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 or 2013
- ◆ Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- ◆ Must have earned 56 undergraduate or 18 graduate credit hours (of which 28 are at Oakland University)
- ◆ Must not hold any other major elected campus office

#### Applications are available at:

Student Affairs Office – 144 Oakland Center  
Student Congress Office – 62 Oakland Center  
Center for Student Activities – 49 Oakland Center

**Applications are due in the Student Affairs Office by  
March 31, 2011**

For questions, please call: 248-370-4200

## Oakland University Eye Research Program

### Summer Undergraduate Program in Eye Research

**May 9 - July 29, 2011**

Ideal S.U.P.E.R. candidates will be Oakland University sophomores or juniors who are pursuing careers in biomedical research or teaching. Up to six students will be assigned to one of five research laboratories, working directly with ERI faculty. This training program includes: lab safety, research design, Vision Science seminar series, a \$3,500 scholarship, independent research, and training in audio-visual presentation. ERI scientists explore the biochemical, physiological and molecular aspects of eye function development, and diseases including: cataract, retinal degenerations, and glaucoma.

Application packages may be obtained online at <http://www.oakland.edu/eri>  
Deadline for applications: **MARCH 4, 2011**

## Grizzlies survive late scare

By RYAN HEGEDUS

Senior Reporter

As junior guard Reggie Hamilton's second missed free throw bounced off the rim, a collective gasp echoed across the O'rena. The Golden Grizzlies' home conference winning streak of 26 games was in serious jeopardy.

Those two added points would have given Oakland University a seemingly insurmountable four-point lead with 9.8 seconds left. With one monumental defensive play, however, Hamilton made up for his misses, preserving Oakland's home dominance over the Summit League.

After the Mastodons grabbed the rebound, IPFW's Ben Botts rushed the ball up court for a potential game-winning shot, only to have Hamilton block his attempted three-pointer.

"I knew Botts was going to go for the win," Hamilton said. "A couple of shots he made earlier, he gave me a little push-off, so I knew that was coming. He did it again, and I got my hand in there. Thank God it wasn't a foul."

After recovering the loose ball, Hamilton raced down court and was intentionally fouled with just tenths of a second left in the game by IPFW's Jason Smeathers.

Mastodons head coach Dane Fife marched to half court to argue that a foul should have been called on Hamilton's block, and had to be restrained by one of his players. Fife received two technical fouls and was ejected from the game.

After things settled down, Hamilton made two free throws and freshman Travis Bader hit four more to push the Grizzlies' lead up to its final 86-78 margin.

Hamilton scored a game-high 30 points, nearly matching the career-high 31 points he scored in the Grizzlies' last game against IPFW, an 86-68 win on Jan. 15.

Hamilton was 7-of-12 from the field, including 3-of-6 from three-point range and 13-of-17 from the free throw line for the Golden Grizzlies (18-9, 13-1).

"I think Reggie took it upon himself," Oakland coach Greg Kampe said. "He's the new guy; all the other guys have championship rings and he doesn't have one. I kid him about it a lot, talk to him about it a lot, and I think he took it upon himself to change this game. That's what great players do, and he did it."

Kampe was impressed that the Grizzlies were able to hold on for the win despite not playing at their best level.

"We got spoiled the first nine or 10 games, winning by 20 points every week," Kampe said. "When you play for six months, you can't have your 'A' game every night. What you have to do to win championships is find ways to win when you don't have it, and we did that tonight."

Oakland led at halftime, but fell behind early in the second half. The Grizzlies trailed 60-55 with just under 10 minutes left, but a 12-0 run sparked by Hamilton and Bader gave them the lead for good.

Kampe was particularly impressed with Bader's three-pointer that gave Oakland a 63-60 lead and sent the O'rena crowd into a frenzy.

"For a freshman to have that kind of courage, it's pretty amazing," Kampe said. "Most freshmen would cower down if they weren't



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Junior guard Reggie Hamilton scored 30 points in Oakland's 86-78 win against IPFW on Saturday. Hamilton blocked a potential game-winning shot by IPFW to preserve the win for Oakland.

making shots, but he just turned, caught and fired it. That was an NBA-range three, and I don't think the net even moved."

Bader was shooting less than 20 percent from the field prior to the shot that helped swing the game in Oakland's favor, but he finished with 15 points.

Senior Keith Benson turned in another strong performance for Oakland with 18 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks. It was his 15th double-double of the season and 44th of his career.

Botts and Frank Gaines were the leading scorers for the Mastodons (16-9, 9-5), who are currently fourth in the Summit League standings.

Oakland has a chance to clinch its second consecutive regular season Summit League championship on Thursday, Feb. 17, against North Dakota State University. Tipoff will be at 7 p.m. at the O'rena.

### A LOOK AT THE SUMMIT

Summit League standings as of Feb. 15

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Oakland	13-1
IUPUI	10-4
Oral Roberts	10-5
IPFW	9-5
South Dakota St.	9-6
UMKC	8-6
North Dakota St.	7-8
Southern Utah	4-10
Western Illinois	2-12
Centenary	0-15

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Oral Roberts	13-2
IPFW	11-3
Oakland	10-4
North Dakota St.	9-6
South Dakota St.	9-6
Southern Utah	7-7
UMKC	7-7
Western Illinois	5-9
IUPUI	1-13
Centenary	0-15

#### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Men's basketball
2/17 vs. North Dakota St.
2/19 vs. South Dakota St.

Women's basketball
2/19 vs. South Dakota St.
2/21 vs. North Dakota St.

# Helping students on all fronts

**VP Snyder: 'I love to be a part of change'**

By NICHOLE SEGUIN  
Features Editor

Mary Beth Snyder is the vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, but what exactly does that mean?

It means that she does a little bit of everything.

At approximately 7:30 every morning, her day begins.

With a cup of coffee — she prefers coffees found on campus like Starbucks, Pete's or Caribou — in hand, she takes on a job most people observe but never really think about.

Each day, she has to take on a new task, but nothing is too hard for Snyder. She's constantly answering phone calls from unhappy parents and students and returning e-mails. When she's not doing that, she's in a meeting with people to discuss enrollment, admission, financial aid and student billing. Then there are meetings with her team members to discuss what is going on.

Snyder is also a part of a behavioral intervention team called "Report and Support" that gets together when they get a report of someone that needs to be treated beyond the confines of the Graham Health Center. In those instances, she pulls together an officer from the Oakland University police department, two psychologists — one from Graham and one from the school of education — and the dean of students.

"We come together collectively and we assess and evaluate what we know about this individual and see if he or she is an immediate threat to our campus," she said. "If so, we decide what kind of intervention we will have with the student. We have more reports of students who are acting in an irrational way, or their behavior is suspicious. We get a lot of calls for that now."

Recently, Snyder has been working with faculty members to get students who have disabilities the testing accommodations that they are lawfully entitled to.

Aside from the deskwork, she's a common sight at OU basketball games and has been in dunk tanks, has had pies thrown at her in pie throwing contests and was even dressed up like Cher for a '70s party last year.



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

"I also do things like the videos for admissions," she said. "I do part of the hosting of the incoming student receptions, I'm always dealing with financial aid and I also oversee recreation ... I do anything for them because I need to make sure I have a strong freshman class coming in the front door."

Her colleagues also praise her.

"She picks and prioritizes the right issues and concerns to address in Student Affairs," Center for Student Activities Director Jean Ann Miller said. "She motivates and challenges her staff to impact the lives of OU students to be successful academically, professionally and personally."

Snyder began her education by leaving her hometown of Royal Oak and traveling to Western Michigan University, earning a bachelor's degree in English. After moving to Ohio, she obtained a master's degree from Ohio State University and the job that started her career. Snyder held the title of director of student activities at OSU for five years.

From there, she made a big loop around the country, traveling to the west coast — where she obtained a Ph.D. in higher education at the University of California, Los Angeles — and then to Iowa State Univer-

sity, where she worked for 10 years.

Snyder's position at OU materialized when she heard of a job opening at the campus.

"I loved this area, I grew up here and I knew about Oakland," she said. "When the position came open in '94 I still had a strong memory of Oakland and wanted to come back for that reason."

Since she started her job during the fall of 1994, Snyder has accomplished many different things including the creation of the student apartment buildings, the extension to the Oakland Center, the revamping of the food court and the redesign of the cafeteria in Vandenberg Hall.

"I love to be part of change," she said. "I'm a person who gets excited about changing things for the better — for students. It gives me thrill to build a facility that the students have wanted for a long time and get the final approval by the board to go forward with something like that to make a huge difference for decades in the lives of student generations."

Located upstairs in the OC across from the Pioneer Food Court, Snyder's office captures the uniqueness of her personality — a Cheesehead hat lets visitors know she's

a Green Bay Packers fan, and pictures and plaques placed all over the room give some insight to some of the events she has attended like the talent show last year where she was a guest judge.

"I love being in the Oakland Center," Snyder said. "I feel like it's a really good office to have in my position. It gives me a lot of exposure to what is going on in student life and makes me more accessible to students."

But Snyder isn't solely involved with school events. Each year, she gets to know an assortment of student leaders and students, especially those she meets with at various points during the year. Though she said she doesn't get the chance to meet as many random students as she used to, she does write a lot of letters of recommendation for grad school applicants and students looking for jobs.

"Mary Beth is a really great lady," said Brandon Gustafson, student body president. "She helped so much for every project we've done and she's really active in regards to working with us. She's 100 percent a really awesome woman."

Snyder's dream is to build a clock tower for students somewhere on campus and has designs for such a building in her office.

# The 'inside and outside guys' of OUPD

## Lt. Gilroy, Capt. Gordon work in tandem to serve campus community

By TIFFANY SOOD

Staff Reporter

When you think of the Oakland University Police Department, you probably think of gold and black patrol cars, parking tickets and the station that sits next to the traffic circle off University drive.

What probably doesn't come to mind is embezzlement, bomb threats, dangerous people on campus who aren't students and domestic fights.

Under Chief Sam Lucido in the OUPD, you've got your "inside and outside guys" who deal with all of these issues as they arise on a regular basis.

Captain Mark Gordon is in charge of most of the administrative functions as well as the information technology part of the department — the "inside guy."

Gordon works on cameras, alarm systems, policies, budgets, general orders, citizen complaints and grants. He also lines up all of the training for the department.

Then there's Lieutenant Mel Gilroy. He is in charge of operations, meaning patrol and investigations; he is the "outside guy." All of the personnel who patrol the streets on campus are under his authority.

Gilroy patrols, responds to calls, investigates crimes and pursues court cases. And recently, he spent somewhere between 200 and 300 hours in a financial fraud investigation a few summers back.

"You name it, we've had it," Gilroy said. "I've been here almost 40 years, and I've seen it all."

But, the jobs these men signed up for may not be exactly what you would expect inside a campus police department.

Both men, every day, must take care of day-to-day duties and responsibilities, but must also make time for other projects they constantly update and keep in motion.

Gordon is currently working on orchestrating the installation of cameras on campus, which is a

\$1 million project and very much on-going. After Gordon arrives at the station, checks in with the chief and takes care of his numerous day-to-day responsibilities, he can resume work on one of the continuing projects, like the cameras, that seem to require constant attention.

But every day, nine hours has the great potential to fly right by, Gordon said. Sometimes it is difficult to get the everyday things taken care of in that amount of time, let alone carve out special time to get to projects.

But both men have acknowledged that their jobs are unpredictable, but even though Gordon says it can be hard to get things done, it's how he prefers it.

He said their jobs cannot really be lumped in with the average 8-to-5 job. The two men don't have the luxury of coming in every day and tackling whatever task is in front of them, or begins at 8 a.m.

They have three eight-hour shifts that cover a 24-hour day to worry about. They may come in during the 8-5 day shift, but often they must take care of all of the events that happened in the previous 16 hours.

And many times, much of what happens in one shift simply must be taken care of during their day shift, like processing and arraigning prisoners, and warrant requests for arrestees. This is because courts are only open during normal business hours.

"There isn't an average day," Gordon said. "It just depends on who comes to work and what happened on the shift before."

He has to make decisions on things like prisoners who have been arraigned or on bond and if they need to be set free. He also has to process evidence from crimes and confiscation, as well as take care of his daily tasks, like the three projects he's currently working on.

You wouldn't expect these men to wear so many different hats, as Gilroy calls the vast responsibili-

ties he's taken.

Outside of his job at OUPD, Gilroy also puts to use his concentration in 20th century Chinese politics in his bachelor's in history from OU. He is involved in the start of a multi-cultural center at OU and is the special assistant to the Dean for Chinese studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Gordon entertains the same role of different hat-wearing, but his interchanging happens inside the department. With the amount of responsibilities that come with being the head of the training

department, it seems like a job in and of itself.

He trains in first aid and CPR, firearms including handguns, shotguns and rifles, defensive tactics, legal update classes, and in-service training for police officers who want to go through individual training. He gets submitted the training requests and must verify there is funding available and he must make sure the schedule allows.

Their responsibilities may be completely opposite when they walk through the doors each

morning, but they know their job couldn't exist without the other. And everything they do is to keep the campus, and the people on it, safe.

"While our day-to-day tasks are different, our objectives, our mission, our duties are the same," Gilroy said.

Combined, their goal is to reduce serious crime on campus and maintain a good, strong relationship with the community they serve.



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

# Oakland drops to third in Summit League

By JAKE THIELEN  
Sports Editor

With second place in the Summit League standings on the line, the Oakland University women's basketball team lost its shooting touch at the worst possible time.

The Grizzlies (16-9, 10-4) fell behind early and never recovered as they fell to IPFW, 70-55, Saturday afternoon.

Oakland shot just 31 percent from the field in the first half and shot just over 34 percent for the game, while the Mastodons (17-6, 11-3) seemingly couldn't miss. IPFW shot 54 percent from the field, including 8-of-17 from three-point range.

"They shot a great percentage and we couldn't get stops," Oakland coach Beckie Francis said. "We're a great defensive team, so I give them a lot of credit."

Francis said that the Mastodons' experience, and the Grizzlies' lack of it, was a major factor in the game's final outcome.

"IPFW is a really good team — it's a veteran team," Francis said. "They have five starters back, and they were fired up to try to get a win on our court."

"That's an experienced team, and we're a younger team. We sometimes have three freshmen on the floor, and it takes a while for a team to get confidence if you don't hit a couple shots."

Sophomore forward Bethany Watterworth

scored 17 points for Oakland, while freshman guard Zakiya Minifee added eight points and eight rebounds.

Watterworth said the key for the Grizzlies moving forward is simply to get their confidence back.

"We're a great team, and we got a big weekend next weekend with the Dakotas coming in," Watterworth said. "We just need to get after it in practice and work on the little things defensively."

Senior guard Jordan Zuppe led the way for the Mastodons with 23 points, including 6-of-8 from three-point range, while junior forward Stephanie Rosado added 19 points on 8-of-11 shooting.

Watterworth often drew the tough task of guarding Rosado in the low post.

"(Rosado) had a good game, and their team just hit shots," Watterworth said. "They shot over 50 percent for the game, so it's tough to win when the other team is making half their shots."

Despite falling into third place in the Summit League, Francis said she wasn't concerned.

"We're just going to improve and win games one by one," Francis said. "We don't care who we play. (We play) Saturday and next Monday, then we get our seed, then we win three in a row and that's our goal. When we've gone to the NCAA Tournament we've been a (No.) 3 seed and a (No.) 6 seed and we've still been in the tournament."

The Grizzlies' next game will be Saturday, Feb. 19, at home against South Dakota State University.



BOB KOSKA/The Oakland Post

After Oakland's 70-55 loss to IPFW on Saturday, the Grizzlies fell to third in the Summit League standings with four games remaining.

## The Muggle Quidditch League of Oakland University Presents:



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# Swim team prepares for run at Summit title

**By TOM BARRY**  
Staff Reporter

With the Summit League Championships looming, Oakland University's swim team took to the pool for one last tune-up event.

The Golden Grizzlies were the only collegiate team competing at the Michigan USA Open, which was held from Feb. 11-13 at the OU Aquatics Center. The meet, which was hosted by a local club team, the Oakland Live Y'ers, attracted several clubs from across Michigan and southwestern Ontario.

For Oakland, however, the meet meant one final chance to determine the team's lineups for The Summit League Championships in Indianapolis from Feb. 16-19. The Grizzlies' men's and women's teams are each looking to win a 12th consecutive Summit League title.

The event allowed the coaches a chance to see some of the swimmers in a pressure-filled environment for the first time this season and determining which swimmers earned their spot in Indianapolis will not be easy.

"We give them the chance to swim a highly competitive swim meet in our own

home pool," Oakland associate head coach Shawn Kornoelje said. "We get to put the tech suits on and let them race to show us where they're at."

Kornoelje said this meet was different from regular season competitions because it gave some of the team's less-experienced swimmers a chance to show what they could do.

"Some of these guys are younger and don't have the opportunity to swim in these kinds of meets," he said. "We get an idea of who we're going to bring as exhibition swimmers to the conference meet. We have some fantastic swimmers."

Kornoelje said the coaching staff will meet this week to go over the results and finalize the roster for the Summit League Championships. The final roster will include four men and four women.

Though both the men's (6-2) and women's (8-1) squads are considered to be heavy favorites to win the conference championships, Kornoelje said nobody in the Summit League can be overlooked.

"I think every team is competitive," he said. "Every team has some kids that can swim real well. Centenary has a few really good sprinters. Western Illinois has a good



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The Michigan USA Open gave Oakland swimmers one final chance to impress coaches before rosters for the Summit League Championships are finalized.

(swimmer). There are some good kids on each team that we're going to have to deal with and be competitive with."

Kornoelje said he expects the Grizzlies to do well despite the tough competition.

"We're fired up about it — I think our

kids are ready," Kornoelje said. "To them, it's like their birthday, Christmas and New Year's wrapped into one. They're all excited and ready to go. We've been training six months and we're expecting great things to happen."

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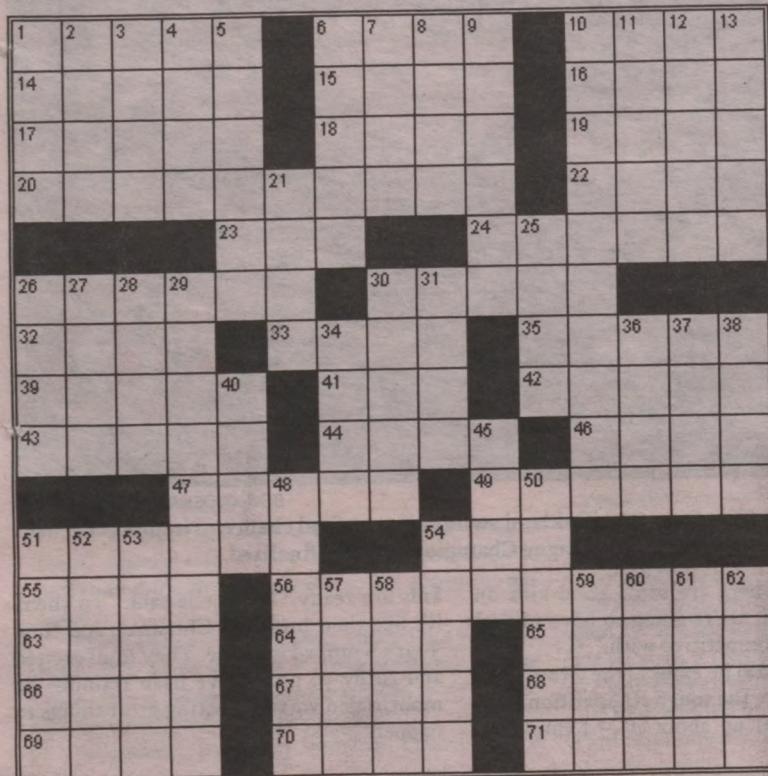
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## ACROSS

- 1. City in France
- 6. Resorts
- 10. Goofy
- 14. Make into law
- 15. Resign
- 16. Part of an archipelago
- 17. Vagabond
- 18. Cancel
- 19. Epidermis
- 20. Illiterate
- 21. Copper
- 22. At present
- 23. Development
- 24. A domineering woman
- 25. A synthetic silklike fabric
- 26. Biblical garden
- 27. In addition
- 28. Base 8
- 29. Canvas dwellings
- 30. Sort
- 31. Combine
- 32. Lustrous fabric
- 33. Tableland
- 34. Debauchee
- 35. Peaks
- 36. Rubbish
- 37. 54
- 38. 55
- 39. 40
- 40. 41
- 41. 42
- 42. 43
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- 67. 68
- 68. 69
- 69. 70
- 70. 71

## DOWN

- 51. Plan
- 52. Not thin
- 53. Incline
- 54. Subjugation
- 55. Largest continent
- 56. Margarine
- 57. Run off to marry
- 58. Unfreeze
- 59. Adolescent
- 60. Egyptian water lily
- 61. Out of the wind
- 62. 3 feet
- 63. Banquet
- 64. Cozy
- 65. Wings
- 66. Overly conceited or arrogant
- 67. Anagram of "Stifle"
- 68. A highly-emotional play
- 69. Artist's workstand
- 70. Grin
- 71. Leaf of a fern
- 72. Supplication
- 73. Jury member
- 74. Gin flavor
- 75. Bit
- 76. Creative work
- 77. Where a bird lives

Answers are available online at  
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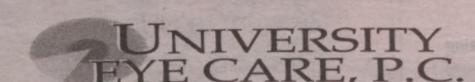
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# Striking response to abortion

By KATIE JACOB  
Copy Editor

Protestors are camped out at a building in Auburn Hills, just minutes from campus, which is slated to become the home of the new Planned Parenthood facility in Oakland County.

In Washington, members of Congress are looking for new ways to restrict abortion. This week, Congress is expected to bring a vote to the floor on the Pence Amendment, which would eliminate all federal funding for family-planning providers that offer abortion services. Another proposal would defund Title X, a family planning program started 40 years ago under President Richard Nixon.

Planned Parenthood recently purchased the building on Opdyke Road and plans to open a center there sometime in 2011.

Planned Parenthood offers reproductive health services including Pap tests, breast exams and cancer screening, as well as education about and access to contraceptives, to anyone regardless of the ability to pay. Planned Parenthood is also a provider of abortions.

It has not yet been determined whether the Oakland County center will offer abortion services, but protestors were at the site on Monday to rally against the center and against abortion.

Monica Miller, president of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, organizer of the protests, said there had been two other protests already and that at least one person from the group would be at the site almost every day in February for at least an hour. Citizens for a Pro-Life Society also has a "Stop Planned Parenthood" petition on their website which Miller said has collected "at least 5,000-6,000 signatures." She said they plan to present the petition to the mayor of Auburn Hills and the city council "to show that there is real opposition to this."

Miller said that it's a moral issue, "what's the nature of culture, what kind of society do you want to live in" and that abortions are "killing innocent life."

Data from Planned Parenthood indicates that abortion services make up a small portion of the services offered. Desiree Cooper, director of community and media relations at Planned Parenthood of Mid and South Michigan, said that most of what they do is preventative services. "Ninety-seven percent of what we do is to avoid what we all see as the worst-case scenario, and that's abortion services, which is only 3 percent of what we do."

Last year, she said PPMSM served 35,000

patients in Michigan, using Title X funding, but that no federal funding was used for abortions.

"We serve people without regard of their ability to pay, so that is a critical service when you think about the state of Michigan and the number of people who have lost access to health insurance because of the poor economy," Cooper said.

Annie Wolf, a junior psychology major and president of Students for Life at OU, was at the demonstration. She said she has always been pro-life and got involved through her church. She said that she thought the protest would be a great event to participate in "to speak for the unborn." She said Planned Parenthood is bad for the community. They provide medical services, but "that does include abortion."

April Moses, an elementary education junior said, "I think it's particularly harmful for (Planned Parenthood) to be so close to the University, especially when pregnant women are going to school."

Claire Kwiatkowski, studying environmental science, said, "I don't think it's a problem. I think that if students here need to go there to get contraceptives, birth control that they may not have access to normally, or to get tested for STD's, I think that it's important...I think people should have the option."

Nancy Jansen, nurse practitioner and director of Graham Health Center, said Planned Parenthood provides much-needed reproductive care for women that don't have access to it. She is disheartened to see people protesting about abortions:

Jansen said that while Graham focuses on the university, Planned Parenthood is going to provide services to all of Oakland County, at a low cost.

"I'm just thrilled that they are going to be here in Oakland County. I feel like going out there and carrying a sign -- in their favor," Jansen said.

Congressman Gary Peters said he believed family planning and contraceptive services are good public policy and an effective way to reduce abortions.

"These two proposals are nothing more than a cynical attempt to target Planned Parenthood to score political points, and they would have the effect of actually increasing the number of unplanned pregnancies. Title X family planning services for low-income women have been proven to be effective in preventing millions of unplanned pregnancies and abortions over the past 40 years, and this issue should be common ground for all Americans who want to see the need for abortion reduced."



KATIE JACOB/The Oakland Post  
Community members protest pro-life at the new Planned Parenthood site, located at 1625 Opdyke Road in Auburn Hills, on Monday afternoon.



KATIE JACOB/The Oakland Post  
Oakland University students Andre Credi, April Moses and Annie Wolf participated in the protest at the Planned Parenthood site-to-be Monday.

# Becoming a master of the mind

By MAYURI MUNOT  
Staff Intern

With a brief discussion of self awareness, Dr. Shvetank Agarwal began his second lecture of the Raja Yoga Meditation Series, entitled "Self Empowerment and Rediscovering Inner Treasures," on Sunday, Feb. 13. A Raja Yoga meditation series was organized and planned for this month at the Bharatiya Temple in Troy. Agarwal and his wife, Kanishtha were invited to be the guest speakers.

The Agarwals are members of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University. They have been doing Raja Yoga Meditation for 11 years and teaching it for five.

According to Agarwal, Raja Yoga meditation is the cleansing of the mind. Raja Yoga literally translates to king or master of the mind, thus it is the highest form of meditation — combining all forms of meditation into one.

"There is a lot of dirt and dust accumulated in us," Agarwal said. "We have to get rid of the ghosts of doubts, worries, fear, anger and resentment."

Agarwal said that the word "power" is often misunderstood, as it has often been

abused. He said power really means having the ability to understand and deal with our own self and at the same time understand others and interact with others with love.

According to Agarwal, Raja Yoga meditation helps awaken the powers inside us. In order to achieve success, there are eight essential spiritual powers — the power to withdraw, to pack up, to tolerate, to adjust, to discern, to judge wisely, the power to face and the power to cooperate.

"We can become an embodiment of power if we hear more and speak less," Agarwal said.

Agarwal also discussed how to connect to the divine energy of the universe through meditation and, more specifically, through a clear mind.

"I found the lecture insightful," said Suprina Walvekar, who attended the lecture. "You can apply these principles to your daily life without giving up anything."

Shvetank is a licensed anesthesiologist. Kanishtha was a pediatrician in India and is now studying for a master's in public health at Wayne State University.

The Agarwals will be visiting the Brahma Kumaris' international headquarters in Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India in March

## Some of Dr. Agarwal's eight essential spiritual powers for cleansing the mind:

**Power to withdraw** — Ability to disengage from external influences and go within ourselves to attain peace

**Power to adjust** — Accepting and going with someone else's flow

**Power to face** — Facing the reality of a situation and not perceiving something as a failure



MAYURI MUNOT/The Oakland Post

Dr. Shvetank Agarwal describes how to cleanse the mind with a yoga series this month.

for Sunday, Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m. at the Bharatiya Temple, located at 6850 Adams Rd. in Troy.

For more information visit [www.bkwsu.org/us](http://www.bkwsu.org/us) or [www.peace-village.org](http://www.peace-village.org)

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# Nation/World

February 16, 2011

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## Global News

### ON FEBRUARY 16 IN HISTORY:

- 1898 – The USS Maine mysteriously exploded in Cuba's Havana harbor
- 1903 – The first Teddy bear went on sale with President Theodore Roosevelt's permission
- 1933 – FDR escaped assassination in Miami by a deranged, unemployed brick layer
- 1950 – Disney's "Cinderella" opened in theaters across the country
- 1998 – Dale Earnhardt won his first Daytona 500 after two decades of trying

### 1 Florida

The Dalai Lama's nephew, Jigme K. Norbu, was hit and killed by an SUV at the beginning of a 300-mile walk from St. Augustine south to West Palm Beach for the promotion of Tibetan independence from China. He was struck on a dark highway, the impact crumpling the hood of the vehicle and shattering the windshield. Although urged by a Florida couple to sleep at their residence, Norbu told them he wanted to press on and sleep under the stars.

### 2 Russia

Russia's plans to land on Mars are progressing in steps. A mock simulation of the journey to the Red Planet is underway. An international crew of six researchers took on the feat of spending 257 days in a locked steel capsule. Last June, the crew members entered a series of modules to emulate the 520-day flight. Although it doesn't include weightlessness, the experiments are useful for recreating the cramped and stressful environment the crew members are bound to experience, according to organizers.

### 3 Japan

Sumo wrestling, Japan's national sport, has been suffering from defamation lately. Charges of gambling rings and bout-fixing are circulating at increasing volumes. Japanese police looked to charge senior sumo wrestlers – Daido, 28, from Tokyo, and Shironoryu, 27 from Mongolia – in an alleged gambling scam on Tuesday. The sumo wrestlers are believed to be involved with gangsters in gambling on baseball games. The Japan Sumo Association is refraining from commenting on the situation.

### 4 Brazil

Rio de Janeiro state's head of investigative police Allan Turnowski resigned on Tuesday during an anti-police corruption operation leading to the arrest of 30 police officers. Carlos Antonio Luiz Oliveira, the former police chief, and other officers tipped off an alleged drug trafficker that he was the target of a large-scale police operation in 2009, resulting in the operation's failure. Jose Beltrame, the state's security director, is leading efforts to alleviate drug trafficking, police corruption and neglected communities.

— Compiled by Sarah Wojcik,  
Senior Reporter, from AP Reports



### 5 Egypt

The Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt announced on Tuesday its plans to create a political party once the country is democratized and new laws are put in place. The Egyptian military and the Brotherhood have been at odds for some time. Internationally, the situation is raising alarm bells; many are worried that the Brotherhood will exploit their power and influence. President Obama said the Brotherhood is just "one faction in Egypt" that does not enjoy majority support.

### 6 Bahrain

In Bahrain, large amounts of protesters successfully overtook the capital city's main square in defiance of the Sunni government Tuesday. With about 70 percent of the population of near 500,000 in the nation being Shiites, the opposition is strong. The protesters have renamed the square, "Nation's Square." So far, two people have died in the protests. The revolts prompted King Hamad Isa Al Khalifa to make a national TV address, voicing remorse for the killings and promising reforms such as easing control on the media and Internet.

# Features

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## Pepping up the crowd

The Golden Grizzly Athletic Band performs at every men's and women's basketball game. Members of the band are paid \$35 per game, if they can memorize the fight song and play it for memory in front of an instructor first.

By ALI ARMSTRONG  
Staff Reporter

You've seen them at the basketball games — they're the entertainment during the media breaks and the providers of the fight song — but who are they really?

They're the Golden Grizzly Athletic Band and they're made up of student employees, with or without a music major. They play at all the men's and women's basketball games and the new student convocation at the beginning of the year.

"Anybody can join, and I recommend it. There is a lot of good stuff going on," said drummer Matthew Dudek. "It's fun to be a part of the environment at games and if you haven't been there, you're missing out. It's a lot of fun to be in the area during games. Our student section is crazy and the band is definitely a part of that. You get to go and enjoy it which is fun."

Pep band players are typically paid \$35 per game they perform at. Students can also apply for a band manager position which requires extra responsibility, including moving equipment as well as playing music.

All students can join the band, but in order to get paid, students must be able to perform the school's fight song from memory without mistakes and get cleared from an instructor with the band.

"There is that process of checking off, that you know the fight song and you are doing your part to get paid for it," Dudek said. "You can't just stand there with an instrument and get paid ... you have to make sure that you are able to contribute to the band."

The pep band is also considered a registered class for students. The class meets once a week, except during basketball season and every Friday to rehearse music.

"A lot of times it turns into 'show up early at a game because we have a new piece of music to work on,'" Dudek said. "It meets substantially less during the season once the pep band is pretty solid and we have everything in place."

If we have something that is not going well, they'll call a rehearsal and that is a required meeting."

Band members are required to arrive an hour before games to set up and warm up. As a drum player, Dudek must carry his equipment and set up his drum set, which is located in the stands before the games.

"It's your own responsibility to make sure you're there on time," he said. "An hour before the game we are starting to warm up and 15 minutes before tip-off we start playing some music. A lot of our responsibilities before a game is getting there early enough to set-up and be ready to play on time."

Band members are not required to attend every game, but before the season begins they must sign an agreement sheet listing what games they can and cannot attend. If a band member cannot work a game, they are responsible for finding a sub to cover their position.

"You don't necessarily have to be at every game, but you can do as many games as you want ... there's a good core of people who are almost always at games, but then for everyone else it's whenever it works into their schedule," Dudek said.

Nick Pichla, a sophomore majoring in secondary music education, has been playing the trumpet in the band for four semesters. He said that members are given some perks like permission to go to the Summit League Tournament in March, free of charge.

"We don't have to pay for the trip, which includes the whole bus ride there, free hotel and meals, but we don't get paid for the playing," he said.

Working for this job, students are able to be a part of a roaring crowd and the campus culture.

"It's a great group to be a part of and it gives you a chance to not only be with students, but be in the middle of the basketball culture on campus ... this is something that can really bring the school together," Dudek said.

The pep band performs at every game, playing songs by Lady Gaga, Ozzy Osbourne and The White Stripes.

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## professor profiles

Weekly spotlight on OU professors

Ron DeRoo  
*Instructor, Music Education*

To say Ron DeRoo is a specialist in his field would be an understatement. DeRoo doesn't just take his work home with him; he lives it.

"I'm like a hired gun," DeRoo said. "I'm always playing on the side."

At age 7 he began playing the piano, and he's been hitting the keys ever since. DeRoo graduated from Central Michigan University, specializing in choral music, keyboard and jazz studies.

Following college, he hit the road for a year with his college pop-rock band, Freestyle, before coming to Oakland University and receiving a Masters of Music in Classical Piano.

DeRoo carries with him over 50 years of playing experience.

Although he's retired from the Waterford School District, DeRoo keeps his work at OU and his hobbies in rhythm with one another.

"You could consider me a freelance musician," he said. "I'll play pop, rock, jazz, country; piano accompaniment for vocals, choirs, weddings, funerals — I'd play for a divorce if you wanted."

Cultural Foundations and Historical Development of Rock Music, DeRoo's sole course at OU, is one of the more uncommon classes students will find at OU.

A strange turn of events landed DeRoo at Oakland. While teaching a history of rock class in Waterford, he was "discovered."

"The department chairman from the university came to observe an OU student teacher at the high school and asked me if I would do it at the college level," DeRoo said. "I said sure — it sounded like a good gig."

Aaron Faw, a freshman majoring in health science, is currently enrolled in the rock music course and enjoys DeRoo's enthusiasm.

"You can tell he's been there. He knows his stuff," Faw said.

DeRoo's class has hit or exceeded capacity every semester it's been offered since 2000.

"I hope students leave my course feeling they learned something useful," DeRoo said. "I want them to feel more musically rounded."

— Andrew Craig, Staff Reporter

February 16, 2011

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## Love songs, tales in a cappella

By ANNIE STODOLA  
Staff Reporter

This weekend, Oakland University's first and only co-ed a cappella group is holding a Valentine's Day concert, which they say will both celebrate the holiday and criticize it.

Following the Valentine's Day theme of the concert, co-founder Elyse Foster said the group will sing popular love songs, with a few "anti-love songs" thrown in as well. In between songs, the members plan to tell stories about their own romantic experiences.

"We'll be telling stories between the songs about our own experiences: good first dates, bad first dates, good relationships, bad relationships," Foster said.

Co-founder Elizabeth Lordon adds that the songs and stories are about both the ups and downs of love.

"Our anecdotes will be about the trials and tribulations of love," Lordon said.

Additionally, a Michigan State University a cappella group called Rcahrella will be opening.

Gold Vibrations, which now has 18 members, was formed when Foster and Elizabeth Lordon teamed up with two of their friends from high school in 2009. The four were reunited at OU after Foster and Lordon transferred from Michigan State University and Kalamazoo College, respectively.

"We all liked to sing together and there was no other a cappella group on campus," Foster said. "People don't realize how big the collegiate a cappella world really is at other schools like MSU and U-M. We wanted to start it up here because it's something we love to do."

Although the members are passionate about singing, there is no requirement for students to be music majors in order to join. The group holds auditions for any interested students at the beginning of the fall semester and then if needed at the start of the winter semester as well.

Since forming in 2009, the group has performed at OU twice, as well as at a benefit concert for Haiti at MSU, as an opening

act at another show at MSU and as carolers at the Lagniappe in downtown Rochester.

The show this weekend, which takes place in the Varner Recital Hall, will be the group's largest show thus far.

"It's our biggest venue we've performed in, so we're really hoping to get as many people as we can," Foster said.

Lordon and Foster were both quick to point out the music they sing is unlike the typical music sung by many college vocal groups.

"We sing popular songs that you'd hear on the radio," Foster said. "We have some oldies in there too, but for the most part it's current popular songs."

The group is not revealing their entire set list prior to Friday's performance, however, they did say that they have two songs by singer Bruno Mars as well as other contemporary hits.

"It's definitely not choral music," Lordon said. "It's not as nerdy as a lot of people think. We have a lot of fun and if you come to the concert, even as an audience



Photo courtesy of Gold Vibrations

The co-ed a cappella group has grown to 18 students since initiation.

member, you have a lot of fun. If you haven't experienced a cappella music, you should. We're a hidden gem."

Foster agrees that although some members were in choir in high school, this is a completely different experience.

"We're just a fun group of people who love to sing," Foster said. "It's nothing like what you knew of choir in high school. We

just like to get together and have fun, sing, dance and be goofy."

The Gold Vibrations Valentine's Day concert is this February 18 at 7 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall. The event is free and open to all students.

"Even if you just have a little interest, come check us out," Foster said. "It's not something you'll experience anywhere else on campus."

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Sideline Sports Wrap

KAITLYN CHORNOBY/The Oakland Post

By ANDREW CRAIG  
Staff Reporter

OUTV, run by students and staff, has prepared a lineup for the semester stretch. Student Video Productions has a variety of shows that run on the channel during the year.

One of the highlights of the 2010-11 lineup, Sideline Sports Wrap, will air every two weeks through the end of the semester.

The show's three-host panel kicks around issues in the sports world from a local perspective. Montezz Allen, who accounts for one-third of the commentary on the sportscast, explained that the show looks at the four major professional sports — football, baseball, basketball and hockey — from the Detroit area outward. As a journalism student with a minor in communications, Allen

naturally fell into the role as a sports commentator.

"I'm comfortable talking sports on camera, but it's still really good to get that experience," Allen said. "The students here get to use all of the production equipment. They can really take advantage of the offerings here at school if they want to."

The three analysts at Sideline Sports Wrap write their own material, which varies depending on the time of year. Currently, the NHL and NBA are nearing postseasons. Accordingly, the show's content will alter slightly as the Red Wings and Pistons round out their seasons. While the NFL and MLB are momentarily idle, the show will focus on free agency speculation and other off-season twists for the Lions and Tigers.

Communications major Cara Miller, producer for Sideline Sports Wrap, explained that there's always something brewing in the realm of professional sports.

"We focus on the four major sports teams, in season and out. What we cover all depends on what's big right now," she said.

"The newest part of the show is Facetime," Miller said. Facetime, introduced this year, is a portion of the show where hosts take turns doing impressions of famous sports figures. A recent episode featured Allen giving his best shot at a Kobe Bryant impression. This fresh aspect of the series is modeled after a similar role-playing scenario performed by analysts on ESPN.

Future installments of the show will likely feature more intensive coverage on the Pistons and Red Wings, as their seasons come down to the brink. The cast also aims to incorporate student feedback. With plans to interview members of the campus community, the opinions of students will also filter into the makeup of the show.

# '80s film advises students today

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY and  
RHIANNON ZIELINSKI  
Scene Editor and Campus Editor

The Oakland Post recently sat down with actor Topher Grace ("That '70s Show") and comedian Demetri Martin ("Important Things with Demetri Martin") to talk about their recent film, "Take Me Home Tonight."

Visit our website at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com) for the full interview with and photos.

**How did you prepare for this role and what's your favorite part about the '80s?**

**Grace:** I'm a producer, so I helped come up with the idea for it, and there's never been a movie about the '80s that wasn't making fun of the '80s. We wanted to take advantage of that, because it's another opportunity to do it.

I wanted to do one where I got to work with my peer group. (It's like) one and two: I wanted to go back and time and be in one.

I also started looking at movies like "Dazed and Confused." A lot of these movies today are all raunchy or all romantic. We wanted one like those John Hughes movies that has everything.

We also made a mixtape of all our favorite '80s songs. We wanted to do really great, kick-ass songs from the '80s.

**In the movie, (Topher's) character rides the ball to impress a girl. Have you ever done anything crazy to impress a girl?**

**Grace:** That's all I've done: stupid stuff around girls.

**Martin:** I don't know whom this was to impress, but it was definitely a strange choice. I used to like to ski when I was little, my family would go on ski trips, and I always thought it would be funny to ski in a gorilla suit. It would just be so funny to be on a mountain and to see a gorilla. So by the time I was in college, I got a gorilla suit, and that was my ski suit, so I used to ski with the full suit and the head, so no peripheral vision. I would never do this now. I remember people would be like, "Hey, a gorilla! Want a banana?"

I don't think that impressed any girls. But it could have if it went well.

**If you weren't acting or doing stand-up, what would you be doing?**

**Martin:** For me, I am really into learning more about industrial design — like, the

design of objects. I read books about it; it's really fascinating, it's so cool. It's so interesting how technology changes. You can see all the different designs, the colors they use and the materials. I think I just like the design of things.

**Grace:** Fireman. Ha, no, I have no idea. I have thought about it, because I didn't want to act. I had no intention of acting. A parent of one of the kids in my boarding school saw me in a play, so my first audition was for "That '70s Show."

This feels like the parallel universe, being in movies. I'm not sure what I would be in the "real world."

**Martin:** If left to your own devices, what would you spend your time doing? I like writing jokes and making things, so that's why if I couldn't make jokes, it would be something like making up objects.

**What would you want today's college students to take away from the movie?**

**Martin:** What I like about the movie is that it's not where the movie takes place at, but it's more what it says about people. It looks at that time when you've left that kind of structure and what's set up for you. As much as school can be annoying, there are markers. If you get this many questions

right, you get an 'A,' and that means you're good. So someone is making it easy for you to say, "Hey, you're good."

But then you leave school at some time, of course, and that's not really there anymore. You have to step up and get with it and kind of decide, "What is my point? What am I going to do?" And maybe what college students can take away is, "What do I really enjoy doing, and what do I want to take a chance at?" Because I think certain things are really worth taking risks for, and other things maybe they're not really you.

(Topher's) character is a smart guy. That's on purpose, they made a character who went to MIT; very capable, he's qualified to do a lot of things. The problem is he's afraid to make a mistake, he's afraid to make the wrong move.

You got the right SAT scores, you went to the right school, you're getting the right grades, you picked the right major. So you're winning on life on paper, but then the paper runs out, so what are you left with?

He's gotta roll with it, he's got to ride the ball.

"Take Me Home Tonight" is rated R and will be in theatres March 4.

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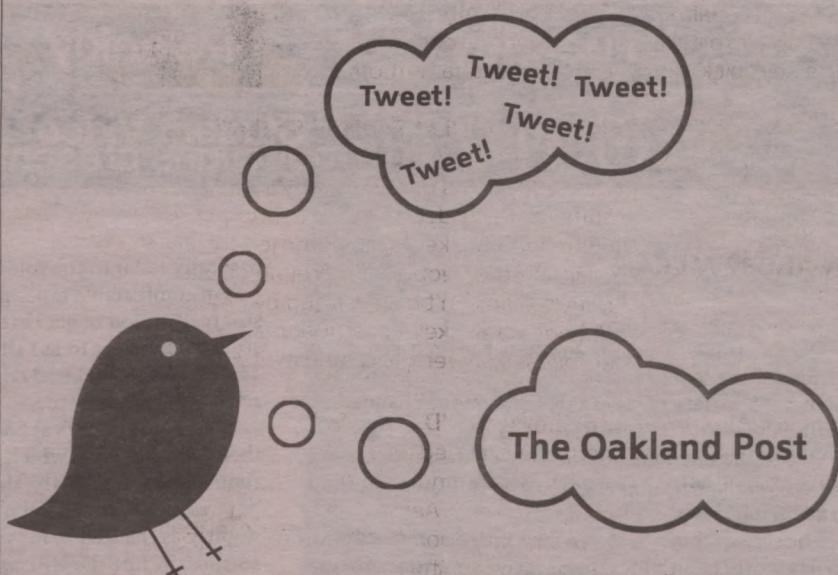
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**op**

## records & reels



### UNKNOWN // 113 min. // PG-13

After Dr. Martin Harris awakens from a car accident in Berlin, he discovers that his wife doesn't recognize him and another mysterious man has taken his identity. Ignored by the authorities that disregard the story, Harris is thrown into a world where his sanity is questioned and he is forced to try to uncover the truth.

### I AM NUMBER FOUR // 110 min. // PG-13

A fugitive on the run, John Smith is extraordinary and wanted by alien enemies who want him dead. He changes his identity from town to town alongside his guardian Henri, but when he arrives in a small Ohio town, he encounters love and others who share a connection to his destiny.



### BROTHERHOOD // 79 min. // R

During his last night as a pledge at a fraternity, Adam Buckley is forced to take part in the robbery of a convenience store. Things take a turn for the worse when someone gets injured and the senior brother of the fraternity decides that the hospital is out of the question. Adam has to take control by helping the injured pledge.



### BRIGHT EYES // "The People's Key"

After a four-year break and multiple side projects, Conor Oberst and company are back with their seventh studio album, the long-awaited follow up to 2007's acclaimed "Cassadaga." Although Oberst's solo project took a different direction, "The People's Key" picks up where "Cassadaga" left off.



### PJ HARVEY // "Let England Shake"

With over 10 albums under her belt, "Let England Shake" is one of Harvey's most ambitious. Recorded in a 19th century church, "Let England Shake" has a common theme of war and the people who are affected by it. Harvey's style can't be classified by one genre; "Let England Shake" is an emotional body of work that focuses on her home and everyone in it.



### Destroy Rebuild Until God Shows // "D.R.U.G.S."

Formed late after Craig Owens was kicked out of Chiodos, D.R.U.G.S.'s members include musicians from various bands, including drummer Aaron Stern (Matchbook Romance), guitarist Matt Good (From First to Last) and bassist Adam Russell (Story of Year). On Feb. 8, the band announced they would release one song per day from the album via various social media sites.



— Compiled by Kevin Romanchik, Staff Reporter



SARAH WOJCIK/The Oakland Post

## Open mic night moves to OC for weekly talents

By SARAH WOJCIK

Senior Reporter

Student organizations come in many shapes and sizes.

However, Word of Mouth unites students in a different sort of way. This week, the Open Mic Night is celebrating its second birthday.

"It is a low-budget, collaborative effort of students for expression," said resident assistant Nick Hooper, president of the organization and emcee of the night.

Every Thursday, a growing number of students meet at 9:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center to enjoy the talents of fellow students.

Thursday's acts ranged from acoustic, keyboard and ukulele performances to poetry, spoken word, stand-up comedy and even dance.

Many of the performers were first-timers.

With food and a supportive audience, the atmosphere is casual, welcoming and fun.

"I heard about it on Facebook," said junior Alex Hubery, an engineering and Japanese double major. "Somebody said, 'I'm gonna do open mic.' So then I talked to friends and they said, 'Yeah, it exists.'"

Hubert headed up a performance with Scott Murray, Dan Engerer and Brad Barr as lead vocalist. Their rendition of Cee Lo Green's "Forget You" featured electric and bass guitar as well as bongos and a tambourine.

Word of Mouth originated in January 2009 by three seniors with a vision to help the campus become more diversified.

"I thought this was my chance to give,

really give something back to the university," said Cam Underdown, OU alumni. "We wanted to be able to connect students on campus that weren't connected."

Underdown's vision was to unite students based on his observations that the campus was often highly segregated.

Underdown also used the opportunity to connect spiritually with students while mingling and spreading the gospel after the performances.

Jarrel Lowman, one of Underdown's cofounders, came up with the idea of not using any promotion—no posters, fliers, emails or Facebook—except for his phone.

There was only one stipulation.

Underdown said: "Anybody can go. You can say anything you want. No censorship. The only thing is that you can only speak for five minutes."

The reason for the time cap was "if you can get someone to talk on stage in front of a microphone, then you're going to know more about them than if you live with them for two years," Underdown said.

The organization grew from 22 people at its first meeting to over 150 at its peak.

Having Open Mic night in the OC instead of the Vandenberg dining hall, Word of Mouth is now more accessible to all students, not merely those who live in the dorms.

However, the leaders of the event are looking for a stable location for the event; the uncertainty of a changing location—despite always being in the OC—is hurting the organization.

Word of Mouth is now under a full change of leadership, along with an evolution of the original standards, but it still gives students on campus a voice.

# Mouthing Off

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

February 16, 2011

## The great Snuggie struggle

By MIKE SANDULA  
Managing Editor / Snuggie slayer

It was the kind of story a journalist hopes to never have to write. The haunting imagery, the burden of research, the emotional toll — it was almost too much to bear. But it had to be written.

Two years ago this week, I wrote a Mouthing Off about Snuggies. The wearable bedspread has haunted me ever since.

When I first heard of the item, it seemed like nothing more than something you feared your aunt would mistakenly gift you. Slowly, it grew into a fad that, I thought, would last no more than a few months. By some cruel twist of fate, however, these blanketed behemoths sold in record numbers and continue to exist.

Apparently the world failed to heed my message. The tragically dorky commercials were a hit. The family featured in them, despite appearing to be on some type of psychotropic drug, became America's family.

Seeing an opportunity to capitalize, dozens of Snuggie knockoffs flooded the market — the Slanket and the Toasty Wrap, to name a few. They attained celebrity status when the cast of "Today" wore them and Weezer came out with its own version. Enough Cleveland Cavaliers fans wore them to earn a spot in the Guinness World Records.

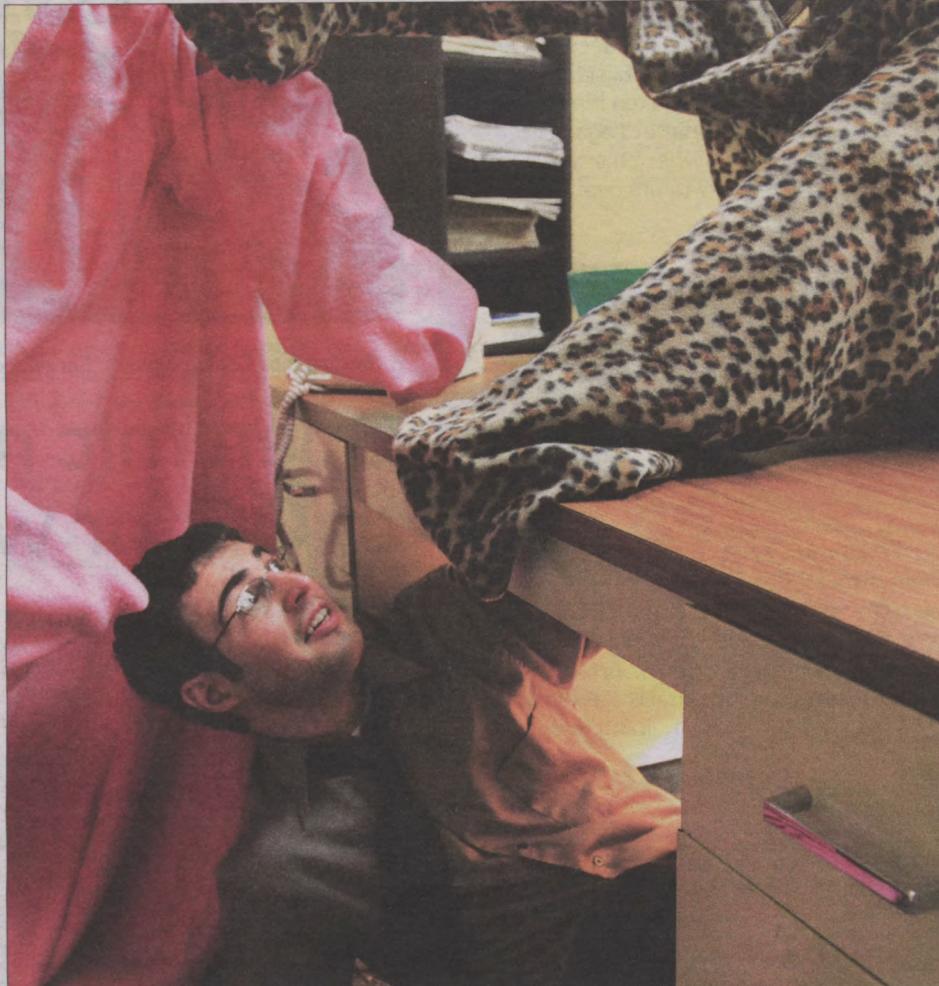
As someone who barely follows popular culture, I was able to sidestep much of this. However, friends, family and coworkers who do pay attention to such meaninglessness notified me of every new development in the world of Snuggies. My phone was bombarded with images of "Snuggie for Dogs" with captions that read, "You should write about this!"

I tried to laugh it off, but to no avail. Humorists such as myself served only to increase the grotesque garment's popularity.

It turned out people were all too glad to give up their dignity and self-respect simply to spite us. They wore them on pub crawls. Someone with way too much free time made a music video titled "Teach Me How To Snuggie," a parody of Cali Swag District's hit song. A book called "The Snuggie Sutra" — well, I'll let you research that depravity on your own.

Even The Oakland Post office, it pains me to report, is home to two Snuggies. But the final straw came when the fond memories of my childhood were forever tarnished when the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles sold out. Yes, the heroes in half-shells became the weirdos in sleeved-blankets.

By this point, I had ample proof of mental anguish, so I sought legal action. Within days of filing my court brief, however, I received a threatening letter — not from Snuggie, but the judge who was to hear the case. I figured he'd have recognized Snuggies as imposters, intrud-



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Managing Editor Mike Sandula cowers underneath a desk to flee from a Snuggie onslaught.

ing on judges' fashion monopoly, but even he was a Snuggie sympathizer. If judges were indoctrinated, there was no hope.

I no longer knew where to turn or who to trust. I couldn't fall asleep at night, for fear I'd wake up trapped inside my blanket.

On a deadly mixture of overexposure to "We Wish You a Snuggie Christmas" and a lack of sleep, I set out to put an end to these arm-abiding afghans once and for all.

I knew I could not slay the Snuggie on my own. The beast was too powerful; I would need assistance. With the rest of the world on the Snuggie bandwagon, it would have to be someone who suffered greatly from its advent. The answer was obvious: The traditional blanket. Abandoned, neglected, cast aside, normal blankets felt like a first-born child after a newborn comes along.

After overcoming my bedtime fears, we formed an alliance and set out to destroy that which had irrevocably wronged us.

While it would've given us infinite joy to

ruin the wearable blankets thread by thread, we'd need something more direct, so we settled for the next best thing: Shrinking them.

The blankets and I amassed every Snuggie we could locate and dumped them into the biggest Kenmore the world had ever seen. The Snuggies shrieked as they shrank.

Things were going perfectly until I heard the screams of my brotherly blankets in arms. They were being dragged into the dryer, falling prey to the same treatment as our enemy.

The situation was dire. When all hope seemed lost, the blankets offered to make the ultimate sacrifice: Their selves. They would forfeit their own fabric to fill the armholes of Snuggies, rendering them just blankets.

The plan went off without a hitch. While the Snuggie population dwindled to zero, blankets experienced exponential growth — it was truly a win-win situation.

While the world may never be free of awful ads and unfortunate fashion fads, we can rest easy knowing that one less monstrosity exists.



Alternatives to the smart phone confession application

10. To a stranger at the bar — it's unlikely either of you will remember anyway
9. Dial a telephone number at random (hopefully someone picks up — you don't need your confession to be immortalized in a voicemail)
8. Message in a bottle — it worked for The Police
7. Type it in Wingdings font — no one will be able to decipher it
6. E-mail President Russ — consider him the high priest of OU
5. Tweet your sins — just keep them at 140 characters or less
4. Send a text message to your favorite cleric — any phone should at least be able to do that, provided it was made post-1992
3. In a bathroom stall — it can't be as absurd as anything already written there
2. A letter to the editor to The Oakland Post — we can't guarantee we'll publish it, but we'll get a kick out of it anyway
1. To the statue of the Grizz outside the O'rena — he's a great listener and he doesn't judge

— Andrew Craig,  
Staff Reporter