

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER
27
2013

STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Oakland Center transformed into fashion hub for a day - Page 11



SPECIAL THANKS

Students hold luncheon to
write 'thank you' letters
for scholarship donors

PAGE 5



CANNED RESPONSE

Alpha Lambda Delta
holds canned food drive
for the needy

PAGE 6



BLECH FRIDAY

Copy editor Brian Figurski
deals with Thanksgiving and
Black Friday retail woes

PAGE 12

thisweek

November 27, 2013 // Volume 40. Issue 14



ontheweb

OUSC passes a bill for student transportation to the MSU vs. Oakland basketball game, plus sets a budget for Winter 2014.

www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

CELEBRATING CULTURE // Naomi Issac and Mohammad Kaif walk the runway together at a fashion show on Monday, Nov. 25 in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms. "Ek Desi Raat" was held by the Indian Students Association. The night included music, dancing, and singing performances to celebrate India and its culture. Issac is the vice-president of the ISA and Kaif serves as treasurer. *TIMOTHY PONTZER // The Oakland Post*

Submit a photo to editor@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

What are your plans for Winter Semester 2014?

- A** Getting ready to graduate
- B** Taking care of prerequisites
- C** I won't be here; I'm graduating this semester
- D** I won't be here for other reasons

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What are your plans for the upcoming Thanksgiving break?

A Spending time with family

66.7%

B Doing a lot of Black Friday shopping

20%

C I have to work

13.3%

D I don't celebrate Thanksgiving

0%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER 30, 1994

OUPD investigated complaints of messages featuring discriminatory language, including racist and homophobic remarks, in bathrooms around campus.

NOVEMBER 27, 1978

Students elected Mart Sue Rogers as Student Congress President, while also shooting down fees for Graham Health Center and the Oakland Center.

NOVEMBER 30, 1962

Dr. Samuel Shapiro left OU, still known as MSU Oakland, after serving as a professor of history and contributing to many magazine publications.



5

POSITIVE PARTICIPATION

Oakland University and OUCARES held the first Fall Festival for Autism Awareness in the Auburn Hills Community Center, to help children with spectrum disorders.



7

BUYER'S REMORSE

This week's Grizzlies on the Prowl asks OU students to recall the stupidest thing they've ever bought. Find out what your fellow Grizzlies wasted their money on.



8

DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL

OU's slogan has moved from "Reach Beyond the Ordinary" to "Be Extraordinary." Find out what went into the ad campaign, and what students think about it.

BY THE NUMBERS

Black Friday stats taken from Christian Science Monitor

\$602

billion in estimated Black Friday sales

\$82

estimated online sales

48

million turkeys eaten on Thanksgiving

\$646

Average money spent on gifts for holiday season

57%

of shoppers find Black Friday fun

Perspectives

STAFF EDITORIAL

The season of giving (less) is upon us

The holidays are upon us. For most, they're considered a time of giving and sharing. For others, they're a much-needed break from the daily grind.

Based on recent news, if you work at McDonald's or Walmart, they're neither.

McDonald's has been in the news all year for its perceived insensitivity toward its bottom-rung employees. In July, McDonald's employee budget planner came out, which advised employees to take a second job in order to pay the bills, according to a report by Bloomberg.

Just this past week, McDonald's struck again with a move that would make Ebenezer Scrooge cackle with delight. McResource, a help site for McDonald's employees, suggested selling unopened Christmas gifts "for quick cash," according to Business Insider.

The McResource site also suggested employees "stop complaining," because "stress hormones rise by 15 percent after 10 minutes of complaining." Of course, the company also suggested that hourly employees take two vacations a year to get rid of that stress.

Not to be outdone, Walmart has some fantastic holiday cheer for you. While bell-ringers and donation bins are a common sight this time of year, a Walmart in Canton, Ohio has a donation box for its own employees, according to a Yahoo Business article.

A plastic storage bin sits with a printed sign on it, reading "Please donate food items here

so Associates in Need [sic] can enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner."

A Walmart spokesperson said the donation bin was in the employee break room and was merely meant for associates to help one another through the holiday season.

MarketWatch lists Walmart has having made \$461.9 billion dollars in revenue last year, and apparently they can't spare any of that to help employees in need.

Meanwhile, Walmarts wages are low enough that a group of Minneapolis employees walked out on the job Monday, Nov. 25, according to WCCO CBS Minnesota. This comes after a Nov. 8 act of civil disobedience in which 54 people in Los Angeles — both employees and supporters — were arrested by police in riot gear for protesting Walmart's "poverty wages," according to the Huffington Post.

The same Huffington post shows anywhere between 525,000 and 825,000 employees earn less than \$25,000 per year.

It's not just Walmart employees or their families that suffer, either. Walmart's low wages are often offset by government assistance programs like Medicaid.

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance estimates at least \$4 billion in taxpayer money goes toward keeping Walmart's employees financially afloat every year.

But Walmart and McDonald's have one last gift left to give for the holidays. To get a jump on Black Friday sales,

Walmart has decided its stores will stay open Thanksgiving Day. So even if some workers can afford holiday dinners, they'll be too busy working to sit down with family and enjoy it, according to the Huffington Post's Rebecca Smith. McDonald's is also urging its franchisees to stay open Thanksgiving Day, according to Crain's Chicago Business.

McDonald's and Walmart are certainly not the only two businesses who are pulling these stunts, but they're certainly the most visible. In a desperate bid for your holiday dollar, they're driving their own employees to poverty while offering platitudes instead of actual help.

While a few isolated incidents of Walmart employees walking off the job may make the news, it probably won't matter to a corporate goliath. What might matter, however, is a dent in their bottom line.

Make a conscious decision from now on to shop only at stores that treat their employees fairly. Are employees fairly compensated? Are they given holiday time? The answer to these questions should also be the answer to "should I shop here?"

Tell the corporate giants you've had enough. They won't be visited by three ghosts, so they're not going to change until they feel the sting in their pocketbooks.

The staff editorial is written weekly by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.



THE OAKLAND POST

Address 61 Oakland Center,
Rochester, MI 48306
Phone 248.370.2537 or 248.370.4268
Web www.oaklandpostonline.com
Email editor@oaklandpostonline.com

editorial board

Scott Wolchek

Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-4268

Brian Johnston

Managing Editor
managing@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-2537

sections

Timothy Pontzer News Editor
news@oaklandpostonline.com

Jake Alsko Sports Editor
sports@oaklandpostonline.com

reporters

Kailee Mathias Staff Reporter
Chris Peralta Staff Reporter
LeeAnn Brown Staff Reporter
Ali DeRees Staff Reporter
David Cesefsky Staff Reporter
Katie Winkler Staff Reporter
Kaylee Kean Staff Reporter
Matt Saulino Staff Reporter
Oona Goodin-Smith Staff Reporter
Ellen Searle Staff Intern
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Jennifer Pavkovich Staff Intern

distribution

Brian Murray
Distribution Manager

Rhoneshia Hudson Distribution

Koran Williams Distribution

Ted Tansley Distribution

Andrew Greer Distribution

Parker Simmons Distribution

advising

Holly Gilbert
Editorial Adviser
248.370.2848

Don Ritenburgh
Business Adviser
248.370.2848

copy & visual

Haley Kotwicki Chief Copy Editor

Natalie Popovski Co-chief Copy Editor

Brian Figurski Copy Editor

Rachel Moulden Copy Editor

Deleon Miner Copy Editing Intern

Jon Davis Photo Editor & Cartoonist

Salwan Georges Photographer

Kailey Johnson Photographer

Frank Lepkowski Graphic Designer

Luke Lafountain Web Designer

advertising

Kelsey Lepper Ads Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.2848

Jessah Rolstone Lead Ads Manager

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Letters to the Editor

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EDITORIAL

Mystery Librarian — the longest tale

Opening up the mystery of the largest book ever published

Dearest readers,
This column is the last for the semester. Parting is such sweet sorrow!

The Librarian has a very important task for you, before we meet again: send me some new material! Submit your questions to <http://tinyurl.com/StumpOU> or email me at StumpOULibrarian@gmail.com.

If you don't send questions, I will be forced to fill up this space by pontificating on matters of interest to me, and I am told that not everyone finds things like arcane details of medieval history or the intricacies of financial literacy to be fascinating. Poor souls.

We're going to end this semester with another question about books:

What is the longest book ever published, and how many pages was it?

This is again one of those questions for which The Librarian, should you be asking in person, would have several follow-up questions. Are we talking single volume, or multi-volume? Is this a book published in English, or any language?



**MYSTERY
LIBRARIAN**
Librarian
Arcimboldo

There are also two ways of looking at your question: longest book via physical size, or longest book via word count.

Thinking about the question in terms of the longest book published in cubits, or whichever measuring system you choose, the page count will be dependent upon the content as well as how much can be stuffed between the covers without creating a spontaneous black hole.

For these types of questions, we have several books on book history (how very meta of us), and we have some trivia books. For those interested in the general history of books and their development, The Librarian recommends:

Lyons, Martyn. 2011. *Books: A living history*. Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum. (call number: Z4 .L95 2011)

What we don't currently have is a current copy of the Guinness Book of World Records (your public library would have that) but they are nice enough to share much of their information online: <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/> If you do a keyword search for "book" there, you'll find lots of interesting tidbits, such as:

The largest book measures 5 m x 8.06 m (16.40 ft x 26.44 ft), weighs approximately 1500 kg (3,306 lb) and consists of 429 pages. The book was unveiled by Mshahed International Group, in Dubai, UAE, on 27 February 2012.

An additional search for information on this in Library Onesearch reveals that the title of this book is *This is Mohammad*. ("Largest book in the world at Arabian Centre." Gulf News. (2013, May 8).)

If you're thinking about word count, and you want to know the number of pages, you run into the problem of book editions having various page counts due to things as arbitrary as font size, page size, margin size, line spacing, and all those other tricky adjustments that I'm sure none of you have ever played with in order to make your papers look longer than they actually are.

At this point I would give you the title of the longest book published according to word count, but...my word count is now up.

The Librarian would like to wish you all a very stress-free end of the semester.

Please remember the library and librarians are always around to help you as you work on your final projects!

Dog-gone it, take care of your pets

Pet ownership is more than just providing food and shelter for an animal

After skimming online, a pair of floppy dog ears and a pink wet nose caught my eye.

Sadly, it wasn't a Reddit's r/cute. St. Clair Shores police shot and killed a pit bull who had been roaming the neighborhood in the early morning Nov. 25.

According to freep.com, Police Sgt Dave Burmeister said officers had tried to catch him but the dog had charged the officers and appeared to be aggressive. They were alerted to the dog at 3:00 a.m. and the shooting happened at 7:00 a.m.

All of this rings odd for me. Why are police officers trying to catch a dog for four hours? Am I really forced to believe that the St. Clair Shores Animal Control could not have been dispatched?

Animal control officers have expertise in capturing wild animals and loose pets because it's in the job description. Well, it is the job description. So why are police officers playing pound puppies when there is a city to protect?

Whether the dog was aggressive is up for debate.

The owner of the pit bull, Brittany Preston, said her dog was not mean, according to freep.com. It sounds a bit strange.



**HALEY
KOTWICKI**
Chief Copy
Editor

She obviously did not research this breed.

I have cared for a few pit bulls and what seems to escape pit bull owners is the fact that these are from the terrier breed group. From my first hand knowledge, terriers are adorable terrors. They are high energy dogs that need a healthy outlet to drain that tension, and they are bred to hunt.

On the American Kennel Club's website, it reads, "They make engaging pets, but require owners with the determination to match their dogs' lively characters." Terriers are a handful, and it doesn't help that pit bulls are heavy and muscular.

I can't speculate if her little Lexie was an aggressive dog. But, I will say she was probably having fun chasing her "prey" and gallivanting around the neighborhood.

And when her "prey" turned into a "predator," as the officers chased her, she probably became scared

and worked up. It's not a surprise that she didn't want to come when called. We give people benefit of the doubt for how they were raised, why not dogs on how they are bred?

What also concerns me is that Preston's grandfather was home during the ordeal, while Preston was at work. How do you not notice your big pit bull is missing?

And if he did, why didn't he go look for her?

If my Chihuahua escaped, I would be outside with a flash light and a can full of treats, hollering for her until I found her. When officers told him they had to shoot the dog, he just watched. Honestly, I don't know anyone who wouldn't have tried to stop them.

All-in-all this story leaves too many unanswered questions. But, this is all about the shoulda, coulda, woulda.

The real point is animal owners need to care for their pets. Food, water, shelter and love are pretty basic. But caring includes protecting your animal from potential dangers and researching the breed.

Let's continue a happy relationship with man's best friend.

Campus

Writing letters of thanks

Scholarship-bound students applaud generous OU donors

Kailee Mathias
Staff Reporter

A luncheon was held for scholarship recipients to write letters of gratitude to Oakland University donors.

"The idea behind this is to show gratitude for what folks have done," Brenda Wehrli, campaign director at Oakland University said.

Much of Oakland University's campus was created through generous donations, and for some students a scholarship can be the deciding factor in a student's education.

Students who received scholarships were sent an e-mail to RSVP to the luncheon. At lunch they wrote thank you letters to their donors at told them how it impacted their lives.

"We want the students to talk about what the scholarship meant for them. It's a great way to show appreciation to

the donor," Wehrli said.

Molly Galbreath a freshman psychology major was awarded a scholarship by the Village Women's Club for Birmingham that lead her to come to Oakland University.

"I was choosing between two schools at the time," Galbreath said. "I'm telling them it helped me a lot and ultimately was the scholarship that made me decide to come to Oakland."

For Galbreath, this scholarship means extra money left over for graduate school.

Kelsey Ball, junior double major in Spanish and social work, also attended the luncheon to show her appreciation.

"It's allowed me to continue my education with less stress on money and debts after I graduate," Ball said.

Ball wrote her letter of appreciation to Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Although this was their first time having a luncheon for donors they are hoping to make it a bigger component at OU.

"Quite honestly some of these donors set up funds years ago, some are no longer with us. But their children receive the letters, hear the stories and see the legacy their parents left behind," Wehrli said.

A video was also made by Oakland University, to show gratitude and give viewers an understanding of how donors have impacted life at OU.

For more information regarding the donor luncheon e-mail Brenda Wehrli at Wehrli@oakland.edu

Contact Staff Reporter Kailee Mathias at kmmathia@oakland.edu



Students gather for a luncheon to write letters thanking previous donors for their support.

Coming together for autism

Students organize first Fall Festival for Autism awareness

Kaylee Kean
Staff Reporter

A group of Oakland University students worked with OUCARES to hold the very first Fall Festival for Autism at the Auburn Hills Community Center.

The festival, which was held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., was arranged by communications students Jacqueline Lee, Anya Young, Stephanie Farley and Lindsay Cece as a class project.

"We decided to go above and beyond," said Lee, the leader of the group. "We just wanted to make a difference."

The festival was open to children between the ages of 10 and 18 who are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as their friends and family.

Over 50 people attended, according to Lee.

Lee said that OUCARES has been let down in the past regarding other student activities

and fundraisers - the Fall Festival ended up being a hit, however.

"A lot of the family members said they were so excited to see the kids in an environment where they were comfortable," said Lee. "In the future it will definitely come back again."

Sending a message

The goal of OUCARES is to promote awareness and understanding of ASD and the problems that come with it, according to the group's website.

"The festival was supposed to be a place where they could have fun and be the majority," Lee said.

Activities included a "thankful tree," bounce houses, free food, face painting, coloring, dance lessons, bowling and much more, according to Lee. Everyone dressed up, got involved and "had a blast."

During the festival Lee and her volunteers also handed out ribbons and wore shirts

decorated with colorful puzzle pieces, the national symbol for autism awareness.

When it comes to dealing with autism, Lee said she has one very simple piece of advice.

"I know it sounds cliché, but don't judge a book by its cover," Lee said. "The kids there had awesome personalities, creative mindsets - just beautiful children. Every kid is unique."

The staff was nervous about working with the kids at first, Lee said, but soon became very comfortable and "just seemed to be having so much fun" with them.

"I think it was just very eye-opening for a lot of people," Lee said.

Positive participation

In order to fund and throw the event, Lee said she and her partners had to approach a variety of businesses in the area for sponsorships.

There was a lot of good feed-



Photo provided by Curtis Peterson of Digital Kitchen Media

back.

"Pretty much everything was done through donations," Lee said. "Everyone was very willing to donate their time, service and products."

Melanie Williams, CEO of GURU public relations, was one of the volunteers who attended the festival. Her company helped to organize and played an "overall leadership role" in the event.

"One of our strong missions and goals is to give back to the community," Williams said.

"This was a good opportunity to do so."

Williams, who has had experience with autism inside her family, said it is important to be patient and supportive when dealing with autism.

"It's not the parents' fault, it's not the child's fault - it just happens," Williams said. "They're no different from other kids, they just learn in their own unique way."

Contact Staff Reporter Kaylee Kean at kmkean@oakland.edu

Tis the season for giving thanks and helping those in need

HCSA and ALD are inviting students to participate in their canned food and sock drive for the Baldwin Center

Kailee Mathias
Staff Reporter

Canned food and socks can be dropped off in the Honors College Office. Donations are going to the Baldwin Center, located in Pontiac Michigan.

The Baldwin Center's mission is to feed, clothe, educate and empower the men and women of Pontiac according to their website.

The Honors College Association and Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD), the freshmen Honors College are using a friendly competition as a motivational tool to encourage more participation. The winner receives a

pizza party held in Vandenburg Hall — and bragging rights.

A friendly competition

"We shuffled around a few different ideas but we decided to go with canned food and socks," Farha Hanif, president of ALD said. "Each year, they do holiday food baskets to over 600 families. We are in the holiday spirit and will be collecting cans and socks during November and the beginning of December for their baskets."

In some cases at the Baldwin Center, people have one pair of socks to last them the whole winter.

"Honors College saw a need for socks for the Baldwin Cent-

er," Liz Lawyer, president of Honors College said. Those socks get wet and cause frostbite and eventually they have to get amputated."

The deadline to drop items off will be on December 2.

"It's a totally friendly competition," Hanif said. "Working with HCSA has been great."

Alpha Lambda Delta

"It feels great there is only so much you can do alone," Hanif, president of ALD said. "To provide others an avenue to give back feels amazing. It's fulfilling to know you're helping so many people help others."

The ALD accepts the top 20 percent of students in their



Kailee Mathias / The Oakland Post

The drop off box for the canned food and socks drive is located in Honors College office in Vandenburg Hall.

freshman year.

"We are an honor's society focused on charities and community service," Hanif said.

Last year ALD members helped in the soup kitchen in Baldwin Center and made a whole day dedicated to helping out.

This year in December they will be going to Sunrise assist-

ed living to make gingerbread houses for the seniors.

For more information check out their Facebook event page or stop by the Honors College located in the bottom floor of Vandenburg Hall.

Contact Staff Reporter Kailee Mathias at kmmathia@oakland.edu

Seeking Nominations for the Teaching Excellence Awards

The Senate Teaching and Learning Committee is pleased to announce a **call for nominations for the 2014 Teaching Excellence Awards**. Two awards will be made for 2014: one to a tenure-track or tenured faculty member; another to a non-tenure-track faculty member. Each award includes a cash stipend and will be presented at the Annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon, tentatively scheduled for beginning of April, 2014.

Nominations may be made by any member of the Oakland University community, including students, faculty, alumni, administrators, and staff. Student nominations are a highly valued component of this process. Faculty may not self-nominate for the Award. Faculty members are encouraged to announce this nomination process in all classes.

Previous winners and current members of the Teaching & Learning Committee are not eligible for nomination. A plaque showing previous Teaching Excellence Award winners is on display in the lobby of the Kresge Library.

DEADLINE for nomination is : December 6th 2013.

The link for nominating faculty members: <http://goo.gl/DRaFYJ>.

Student Profile of the Week

Brooke Will

Communications Major. Public Relations Minor. Senior. Relationship Status: Single. Height: 5'3"

Chris Peralta
Staff Reporter

Age/Level: 21

Water sport: Will has been swimming at OU for four years now. Currently, she swims freestyle for the varsity swim team, and she's also a big fan of other water sports. During the summer, Will likes tubing, water skiing and wake boarding at her family's lake house on Houghton Lake.

Tale teller: Along with being known as a devoted Disney fan, Will is the storyteller in her group of friends. "I'm great at telling stories," Will said. "I could tell you a story about pretty much anything."



Grizzlies on the Prowl:

"What's the stupidest thing you've bought?"



Mike Binge, history,
freshman

"I bought a blow-up sex toy for my buddy."



Dean Michel, history,
freshman

"It would probably have to be an iPod when I already have an iPhone, and an Xbox when my brother has one."



Larsa Esho, biochemistry,
freshman

"I guess probably buying my iPad. I don't use it at all."

—Compiled by Kaylee Kean, Staff Reporter
Photos by Kailey Johnson, Photographer

POLICE FILES

Car vandalized in parking lot

OUPD was dispatched to the Nicholson Apartments' parking lot Nov. 22 at 1:51 p.m.

When the student came out to her car, she noticed the driver's side and windshield were covered in egg yolk and shells.

The student said she thought the people who egged her car was a couple that she had a traffic altercation with Nov. 21.

The student pulled into the parking spot, and the couple exited their car and approached her car. The couple began yelling at her through her window, so the student called OUPD. Officers took statements from both parties and asked them to separate.

OUPD is continuing the investigation.

Student issued a ticket for minor in possession

Oakland officers responded to a call for an odor investigation from a resident adviser in South Hamlin Hall Nov. 20 at 7:10 p.m.

The resident advisor said the floor smelled of marijuana and referenced to a specific dorm room. Officers knocked on the door and the student gave consent to enter. They stated the smell of marijuana became stronger.

OU officers were given consent to search the dorm. In a Vans shoebox, they found three marijuana containers, a scale, two glass jars, a lighter, a cork pipe and a silver flask. The student denied that they were hers and said that it belonged to a friend.

Her roommate told her to stop lying, and officers took the roommate outside. The roommate said that when she and her boyfriend entered, the room smelled like marijuana and said the marijuana did not belong to her friend.

Another officer found a half empty bottle of spiced rum, which the student insisted was her friend's bottle.

OUPD issued a ticket to the student, poured out the rum and confiscated the marijuana and paraphernalia.

—Compiled by Haley Kotwicki,
Chief Copy Editor

OU no longer reaching beyond the ordinary

Oakland's ad campaign employs a new catchphrase:
Be extraordinary

Onna Goodin-Smith
Staff Reporter

Oakland University has gone from "ordinary" to "extraordinary" thanks to its newest ad campaign, and students are taking notice.

You may have seen the commercial on television or while listening to your favorite Pandora station: students smile as the motivational acoustic music in the background swells, advertising just what OU has to offer, complete with a gleeful woman dramatically tossing fall leaves into the air.

Senior Ethan Scott acted in the \$85,000 project as one of the smiling students and said he was surprised at just how many people had seen the ad.

"I've had a lot of OU students, high school people, as well as old teachers and professors message me to say 'Hey, saw you on TV,'" Scott said. "[The commercial] does a great job of putting our name in a more positive light."

According to university Associate Vice President of Communications and Marketing John O. Young, the commercial has been doing its job. "Applications are up for freshmen so that is a key indicator of success," he said. "[OU's] social media sites and web traffic on the admissions pages has also increased."

The change is perhaps in part due to the new effort towards collaboration between students and Radish Creative, a "local firm that has done creative work for OU for over several years," according to Young.

"Dialogue with many student focus groups over the spring and summer are shaping the creative strategy and brand development for OU," he said. "The commercial is powerful and memorable due to the music being upbeat and reflective of the energy and creativity of the OU student."

Freshman communication major Adam Nofs originally chose Oakland because it was "convenient and close to home" but was also impressed with the advertising he saw on the internet and television.

"It makes OU look like a pretty gnarly place to be," Nofs said of the newest ad.

Ethan Scott said that he was especially in favor of the newest slogan change to "Prepare for the Extraordinary."

"I think it's a really cool transition from 'Reach Beyond the Ordinary,'" he said. "People were misconstruing our message before and I think this is a really good transition to the new message. It's definitely a step in the right direction for OU."

What do you think of OU's newest commercial?



DONAVAN WHITEHEAD
sophomore, bio-chemistry

"I think it will be effective in new student recruitment. It shows a lot of the different factors that relate to the school, and shows a positive image of campus."



DARCIE LOCHINSKI
senior, communication

"I really like it. I think it's inspiring but not too pushy, so potential students will be excited to enroll."



ADAM NOFS
freshman, communication

"The music makes me want to run a marathon up Mount Everest."

—Compiled by Onna Goodin-Smith,
Reporter

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Crossing the globe for class credit

Students study archaeology in Israel, gain 'world-widening' experience

Kaylee Kean
Staff Reporter

The Archaeology of Israel study abroad program is currently looking for students to participate in the next annual summer trip to Israel. Directed by Richard Stamps, associate professor of anthropology, and Michael Pytlik, director of OU's Judaic Studies Program, the program has been taking students to the same dig site in Israel since 2009 to teach them about the archaeology, history and culture of the country. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and must be enrolled at Oakland University in order to participate. There is no major requirement. "We're looking for energetic students who might not become

archaeologists but want to know about the history and the world and see Israel from a unique perspective," Pytlik said. "It's a world-widening experience for everybody." Each trip lasts for around three and a half weeks, according to Pytlik, and requires a significant amount of work. "We've been digging up for the last five years stuff from 1,000 BC that's associated with King David and the Bible," Pytlik said. Oakland will be moving to a new biblical site this summer, according to Pytlik.

Beyond the classroom

Pytlik said the program tries to cover 50 to 60 percent of the cost for each student through grants and donors, making it not only a great experience but an

affordable one. "We want to make sure the funds that we have make a difference," Pytlik said. So far they have done that and more. Courtney Ponka, a fifth year history and anthropology major with a focus in archaeology, was one of the students who made the trip last summer. She had heard about the program in one of her classes and thought it would be a good opportunity to expand herself and her resume. "The overall experience was so much more than I ever expected," Ponka said. "I learned things that would have been impossible to be taught in a classroom." It took a lot of work, she said, but it left her with "an extraordinary experience" that she will

carry with her for the rest of her life. "After going to school for so long, you can kind of lose sight as to why exactly you're doing this, or what it was that you wanted in the first place," Ponka said. "Being there reminded me and cemented my resolve for getting my degree; it made me excited again."

A unique perspective


The trip consists of more than just digging, according to Pytlik. Students and faculty also visit various religious and historical sites, going beyond just "tourist sites," according to Pytlik. Students have gone swimming in the Dead Sea, hiked Mount Olive and mixed with other students and people from all around the world. There will be a course offered

in the winter 2014 semester that will teach students about archaeology and the history of Israel. It will be taught by Pytlik. The course is not required to participate in the study abroad program, but Pytlik said he recommends that interested students take it. Students who wish to join the program must apply by the end of the year and will be chosen by mid-January, according to Pytlik. So long as they can increase the funding, Pytlik said he hopes they can increase the number of participating students this year. "Everybody whose come back has been changed for the positive," Pytlik said. "Even if they're a little sore when we get home." Learn more about the program and courses offered by emailing pytlik@oakland.edu.

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OU's official skateboarding club recently found a new home in Vert Village, Lake Orion.

Skateboarders are back to the grind

The skateboard club finds a new place to ride

Jake Alsko
Sports Editor

Oakland University's official skateboarding club recently found a new home in Vert Village in Lake Orion. The facility is currently geared toward BMX dirt racing but plans for a skating-oriented section of the warehouse are now underway.

The club's original park, City Grind Skate Park, closed this May.

"(The facility owner's) got pretty elaborate plans but he says that the way he'll be working on it, he'll just keep on adding slowly and slowly to it so we'll be able to still enjoy it," 23-year-old skate club member Ryan Adams said.

The owner of the facility also owns a moving company, in addition to the BMX track. The track is made out of wood and is on a cement-painted floor.

Adams said the BMX track surface can be hard to skate on as a skateboarder, but that doesn't prevent the club from having fun when they meet there every Wednesday.

The skateboarding section is still tentative, but Adams says a one-year timetable would be reasonable.

The club always carries a 12-man group, but has had 20-25 skaters at certain times due to non-OU students and high school seniors also participating, 27-year-old club founder Chris Arelanes said.

Adams, who began skateboarding

when he was 19, was on the club's original skating roster when the club was created in October 2011.

"I had always thought about starting my own skateboarding club, but I figured since there was already one in existence I would just try to help this one," he said. "I just joined it and Chris and I kind of bounced ideas back-and-forth, and I've been a part of it ever since."

While the club sticks to their core 12-man rotation, both Adams and Arelanes encourage newcomers, regardless of their experience or lack thereof.

"Join if you're looking to get better at skateboarding," Adams said. "We're all kind of comfortable with each other's skill sets, and we push each other further to learn better tricks."

"Everyone in the club is super patient so there's really no skill set required."

In addition to just practicing with each other, the club also participates in several contests out-of-state.

The skateboarding club requires only a one-time \$25 deposit to join. Once skaters pay the fee, they can use as many boards as they choose for the skate team.

If a skater decides to leave the club, they have the choice to either take back the \$25 deposit or keep their board.

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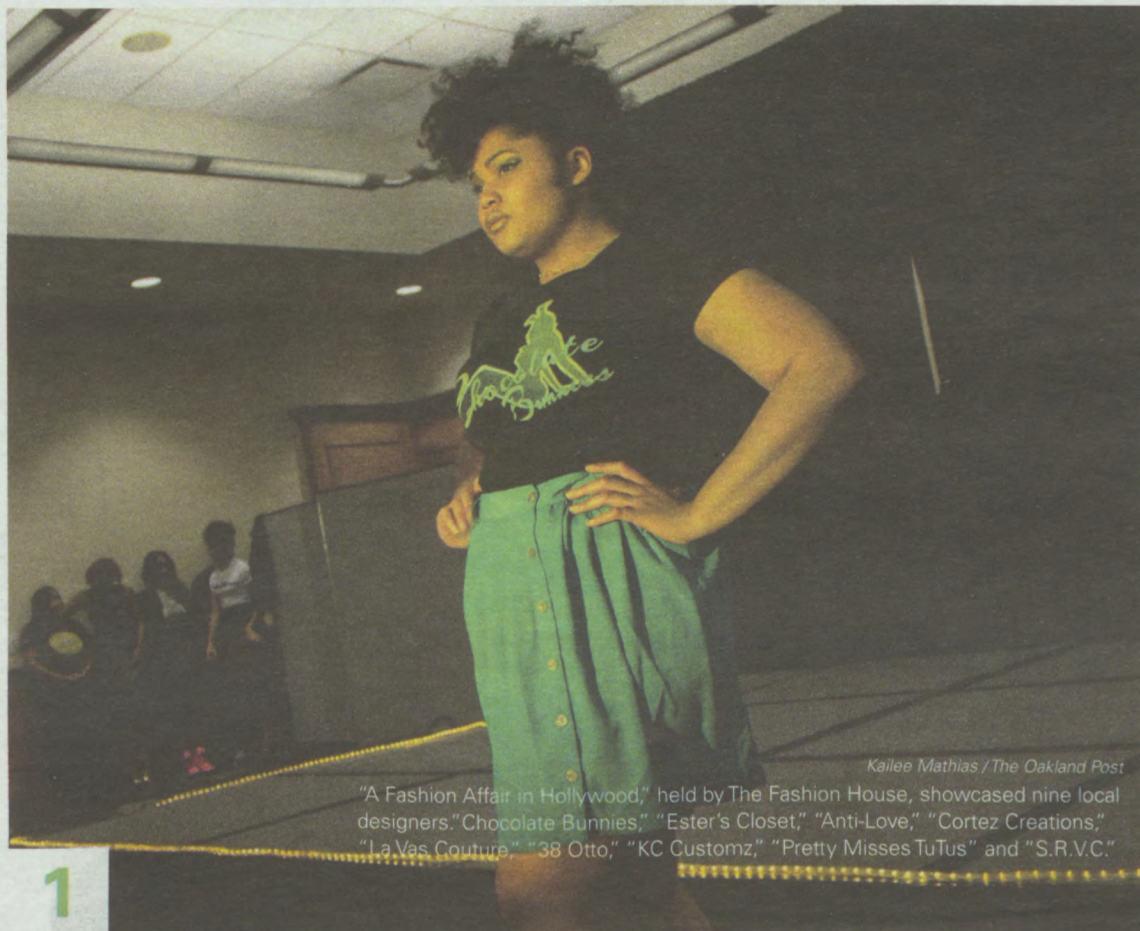
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1

"A Fashion Affair in Hollywood," held by The Fashion House, showcased nine local designers. "Chocolate Bunnies," "Ester's Closet," "Anti-Love," "Cortez Creations," "La Vas Couture," "38 Otto," "KC Customz," "Pretty Misses TuTus" and "S.R.V.C."

Kailee Mathias / The Oakland Post

Workin' it on the runway

The Fashion House features local designers, models at fashion show

Kailee Mathias
Staff Reporter

Bow-ties, tutu's and dancing — oh my. "A Fashion Affair in Hollywood," brought together by Fashion House of Oakland University showcased local designers at a fashion show on campus.

The banquet rooms of the Oakland Center were transformed into a runway for models to strut their stuff Nov. 22 at 7 p.m.

The evening featured performances by Nachale Dance Team, Danz Zone Dance Performance and B.R.E.A.D. a singer.

Cortney Hopkins, creator of Fashion House, was the host for the evening.

"Lots of preparation from decorations, stage set up, model practice, designer line-up and programs," Hopkins said. "There was a lot that went into it. It was great to visualize something and get to see it become reality."

"We have designers new and old in this show," Bethany Jackson, fashion director said.

"Chocolate Bunnies," "Esther's Closet," "Anti-Love," "Cortez Occasions Creations," "La Vas Couture," "38 Otto," "KC Customz," "Pretty Misses TuTus" and S.R.V.C were the

Michigan designers featured.

After the models flaunted their designs the creator took the microphone and explained their inspiration behind the pieces.

"Cortez Occasions Collections stood out to me because I thought he just did bow ties but he did a variety of things," Hopkins said. "Sweaters, T-shirts and vests, he had extra uniqueness to his look."

The Fashion House has put on several shows. Their first was "Traffic Stoppers."

"Our first one had a lot of student participation and we showcased a lot of student designed fashions," Ane Taylor, Fashion House member said.

The second show took place in February. "Mandarendare: A Place Full of Energy," showcased African hairstyles, clothing, body art and entertainment.

Fashion House collaborated with La Vas Couture to create an off campus fashion show on June 1 at Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Pontiac called "Crystal Clear: An All White Affair."

"My favorite part is seeing all the talent from the models to the uniqueness of the designers and their inspiration behind the line," Hopkins said.



Nishara Thomas and Larry C. Watkins modeled for several designers throughout the evening.

2



3



4

The Fashion House has now hosted four separate fashion shows.

Mouthing Off

SATIRE



Photo Illustration Salwan Georges /The Oakland Post

Copy Editor Brian Figurski, is more than prepared for the shopping fiasco of the season.

Brian Figurski
Copy Editor/ Curmudgeon

Thanksgiving will always hold a special place in my heart. November's fourth Thursday always brings back golden memories of the Lions being utterly decimated, my first taste of whiskey via my sneaky uncle and Grandma's to-die-for-pumpkin pie (R.I.P.).

Everything's different now, save for our football team. I guess from now on there will be less family members and more violent shopping sprees.

Black Friday has now been ushered into Thanksgiving, everyone. Looks like future Thursdays will be much darker.

This reassignment of the days is truly disheartening, brought to you by the same mislabeling marketing team that introduced Christmas in July.

If we trace back America's family tree, only two branches are really rooted in our culture: Independence Day, where we blow a bunch of poop up in the sky and Thanksgiving, which will now be utilized for our indulgence of feverous spending.

I won't be seeing a good portion of my family this Thanksgiving due to their time constraints of 16-hour shifts at malls or superstores, unless we start munching mashed potatoes sometime around dawn. This is one of the few days a year family travels from across the country, but marketing teams deem it's a better use of time if employees fight off mobs.

This is a battle already lost, too. I would issue a boycott, for all those jittery bugged-out-on-coffee shoppers to hold off until it's officially Friday and strike storefronts at midnight, but

I've already seen people with pitched tents pitching tents outside of Best Buy, overly excited to indulge.

This is America, right? Who's going to resist a \$300 discount on a 72-inch flat screen television that probably exceeds the wingspan of most modern apartment feng shui?

I admit I am a mousy man and have not the testicular courage to witness firsthand Black Friday madness. I watched plenty of footage on YouTube, though, of store workers being trampled down and two elderly women duking it out over a vacuum cleaner.

Maybe my balls will drop and I will meander a store and catch this action up close and personal. I'll bring a portable rotisserie and eat turkey legs on the run.

I will then see the same exact portable rotisserie for 60 percent less and go into an Incredible Hulk-like transformation and start clubbing children. Not in a race over any specific product, just for the hell of it.

It looks like if you want to spend some quality time with your family this year, you should meet up with your loved ones sometime around noon on Thanksgiving, strap on your riot gear and hit the largest mall in the vicinity. Upgrade your shopping cart with bulletproof armor and attach a gun turret to the handle – you're going to need it.

Come to think of it, I'm desperately in need of a new frying pan. Mine's been soiled with burnt egg particle for months now. I'm bringing my old skillet and crushing the skull of any man, woman or child that dare try to take the last one on the shelf. Guess I've got the holiday spirit after all. Happy hunting, everyone!

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



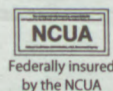
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