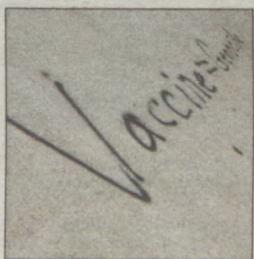


OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 36, Number 10



**OUPD investigates
in wake of anti-vaccine
graffiti blanketing
campus.**

Restoration of historic Redford Theatre lifts the curtain on glory days of silent movies.

Residents voice opposition to Gitmo prisoner transfer at Rochester town hall.

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October 14-20, 2009

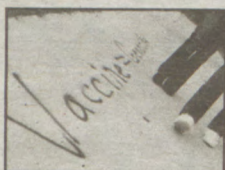
Cover design by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

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Blogosphere

The Oakland Post is looking for OU students, staff & faculty who write their own blogs, on any topic. We'll link your site to ours to create a community of ideas on oaklandpostonline.com
E-mail your blog link to oakposteditor@gmail.com

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives

October 14, 2009

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Sharing bikes proves to be a challenge

Scraping and wobbling. Those are two things you're more likely to hear and see on campus now that the Oakland University bike share program is rolling full speed ahead. But ride with caution, because the brakes on some of the bikes are reportedly shoddy.

Admittedly, two members of The Post only tried out two of the 34 bicycles in the program, but that's still at least over 5 percent of them that are in disrepair. And we've heard stories.

One, a street bike with skinny tires, had almost no tire pressure. The other, a 15-speed mountain bike, had almost no rear braking (great for stoppies, bad for stopping on a hill) and a seat angling in the most uncomfortable way.

Unless students carry an air pump, a wrench set, and a generous health insurance policy, we can't say The Post would recommend relying on one of these bikes for transportation.

The bikes are to be maintained by the Sustaining Our Planet Earth program. And they acknowledge the needed repairs. Already, it seems as if all the horns have been stripped from the handle bars. Either somebody has a fetish or the honor system isn't working.

However, that's not to say that we are discounting the effort and initiative it took to get this idea to come to fruition. And we do realize that the program is

still in a trial period and we surely support it and trust that it will continue to get better every year.

Here are a few ideas to take into consideration when the bikes come out of storage next spring:

Maintenance: It's really only in the best interest of the students and the university's liability to ensure that there is a stringent system for keeping these things safe. All it takes is one accident for the program to fail, and the likelihood of that happening is much higher when the bikes are in poor condition.

More bikes: It was literally a quest to find some bikes to ride for this editorial. There were none to be found near the Oakland Center, Foundation halls, Kresge, nor Pawley. The hot spot seemed to be the lower level entrance of Varner Hall.

We realize that the budget is tight, and several of the bikes were refurbished and probably purchased cheap, but come on.

The program was partially funded by the president's office, and with their increased spending in next year's budget we don't see why they can't skip a couple of catered lunches and squeeze a little more money out for a few more used bikes in good shape.

It also might be worth considering having a spring bicycle drive, encourag-

ing students to donate their own wheels to the program for a credit on their tuition. It would be a win-win situation, and might prompt students to just bring their bikes to campus for their own use.

Enforce the "honor" in the honor system: If this is going to work, there needs to be at least the threat of enforcement. Apparently some students carry wrench sets for the purpose of removing the bicycle seats while they go into class or their residence to ensure that the bike will be there when they're ready for it again.

We're sorry, but if you want a guaranteed bike, buy your own. Perhaps people don't fully understand the concept of a bike "share" program and that needs to be reiterated to the student body somehow. And in that message, there needs to be some course of action stated for those who abuse the free resource, however chintzy.

We are appreciative of this first step toward a more active, community-oriented campus lifestyle. We know how hard it can be to get a project off the ground. We hope efforts are made to keep improving the program, and that this trial period is only just the beginning.

As Lance Armstrong said, "If you worried about falling off the bike, you'd never get on."

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

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By phone:

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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.

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CORRECTIONS CORNER

• In last week's article "OUPD works to stop deer-related accidents," Terry Stollsteimer's title should say vice president of Facilities Management. Also, the amount cleared by the OU grounds' staff was 45,000 square feet.

• For clarification, the student of the month is chosen by OUSC, not The Oakland Post.

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

BLUNDERGRADS

by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

GLBT equality: the dialogue is far from finished

Alexis Tomrell



scene/mix editor

The year is 1987. There are 600,000 gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual people and their friends and allies and they've come to Washington D.C. to march in one of the largest rallies for civil rights this country has seen.

Twenty-two years ago on Oct. 11, the LGBT community showed America its face. People traveled

from all over the nation in support, in love, in solidarity, and in protest of their invisibility in society. Through the sheer turnout, the American psyche was suddenly tuned in to the struggle of hundreds of thousands, even millions of everyday people. The impact was so revolutionary that we commemorate the past work of our forefathers and foremothers and the continuing battle for LGBT rights in our celebration of National Coming Out Week.

Looking back on our history, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders have overcome many boundaries, taboos and fears of the American public. We look back, thankful to our predecessors. Today, gays and lesbians are more frequently being represented in the media. It is more openly discussed. It is becoming more acceptable in social circles and schools.

But as with feminism (that dirty word), today homosexuality is also being condemned to the realm of the forgettable. The war is over. People have voiced their opinions. Token characters have made it to television shows. What more can be done? We all co-exist ... don't we?

On the contrary. After the TV's shut off, when your awareness has been raised with a little "too much information," the dialogue is over. No real change has been made. And don't even get me started on the total media and governmental invisibility of the trans community.

The most maddening part of this whole scenario is the bone-throwing. I will not stand for the government and

the media throwing the GLBT community a few bones of social importance here and there over the course of the 20th and now 21st century. Some sodomy laws are knocked down, gay bars become legal bars, a lesbian dances on daytime television; it's great and good but I want more.

President Obama promised to end "Don't ask Don't Tell" Saturday in a speech at the annual dinner of the Human Rights Campaign, but gave no definitive timetable for action. And the next day, an anonymous administration official leaked a statement to MSNBC about Sunday's National Equality March protesters, calling them "internet left fringe" who are "bloggers that need to take off the pajamas, get dressed and realize that governing a closely-divided country is complicated and difficult." Back to square one.

So let's be real, let's talk about our lives, let's talk about legal equality. Here is a laundry list of the multiple issues that affect a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender person's legal sanity and domestic happiness.

The Defense of Marriage Act

This act denies any type of federal benefits to same-sex couples, regardless of whether they are married or not. Apparently, a GLBT couple's commitment does not warrant the same federal seriousness as a heterosexual couple's. Much of the rhetoric in defense of the act still alludes to the tired old belief that homosexuality is a choice that should be "reserved for the bedroom," that it is counter-productive to a larger religious plan and that gays and lesbians have more promiscuous and tumultuous relationships than straights do. All myths. Margaret Cho puts the issue in the best perspective: "I think gay people should have the right to get married by Elvis like everybody else."

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act

Many Americans are being denied job opportunities across the board because they are LGBT. No federal law is currently in effect that prohibits employers from discriminating on this basis. According to the Human

Rights Campaign, in 29 states it remains legal to discriminate based on sexual orientation and in 38 states it is legal to do so based on gender identity or expression. In my opinion, the bill is mild. It is not even asking small businesses, the military or religious organizations to refrain from discrimination; it only asks this of businesses with more than 15 employees. However, like the tossed-aside Equal Rights Amendment, this is just not a big deal in American politics. The recognition of basic human rights can wait another hundred years.

The fight for GLBT youth

While GLBT adults are mainly in the spotlight, most of the dire, life-threatening problems are centered around youth. Living GLBT as an adult is hard enough, but growing up GLBT is a lesson in survival. Adult confidence is not there yet, your identity is in shambles and solid support systems are rare in adolescence. According to Mental Health America, a study found that 31 percent of gay youth had been threatened or injured at school in the last year and that a GLBT teen is two to three times more likely to commit suicide than a heterosexual teen.

This is just a short list. If I had the time, we could expand on a PowerPoint that would last for days, a protest that would last for weeks and a mobilization that would span the globe.

So, here's my plea of desperation: Don't forget this celebration of "coming out." Don't let these issues fall into obscurity. If you are GLBT, stand tall. If you are heterosexual, reach out to bridge the gap.

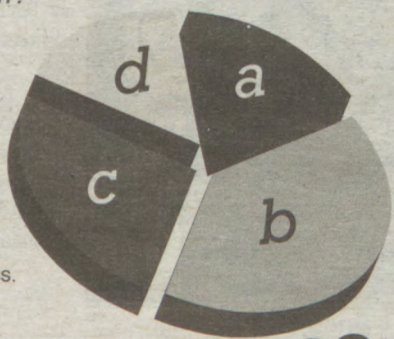
The Gender and Sexuality Center and Gay/Straight Alliance are working to build structures of support and provide statements of awareness to our campus community. Our room is tiny and our group is small in comparison to the 600,000 who marched that Oct. 11, but the message is the same: Visibility means change. The simplicity of our plight is so innocent; it is a shame that it has to become tainted with politics. It is a desire to be recognized as equals.

Editor's note: Alexis is the vice president of the Gay/Straight Alliance at Oakland University.

last week's results

What do you think about technology in the classroom?

- a** It's annoying and it should be shut off at all times.
6 votes | 17.1%
- b** It should be used for emergencies only.
14 votes | 40%
- c** Students have the right to keep their technology on in class.
9 votes | 25.7%
- d** Let people do what they want.
6 votes | 17.1%



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current poll

What do you think about the bike share program?

- a** It's a great idea, but it needs work.
- b** I'd rather drive to each class, even if it takes longer.
- c** It's fine the way it is. People should stop complaining about the bikes; they were free.
- d** It's hard enough to drive around campus with all the pedestrians. Now I have to try not to hit a bicyclist.

Total Votes: 44 | Poll conducted at oaklandpostonline.com

Vote now @ oaklandpostonline.com

poll of the week

Noble intentions ≠ Nobel Peace Prize worthy

Sean Garner



It was all planned out so perfectly. When it was revealed that President Obama's administration was considering supplying United States forces in Afghanistan with 40,000 additional troops, I was going to use this very section in The Oakland Post to voice my strong objections to what I felt was a foolish and dangerous decision for our commander-in-chief.

And boy did I have plenty of reasons to object. I was going to wonder why President Obama sees the US mission in Afghanistan as more worthwhile and winnable than the situation in Iraq from which he has siphoned immense resources. I was going to point out that in eight years of occupation we still have not found Osama bin Laden and are over-seeing perhaps the world's most ineffective government. I was going to note that our presence in this region has served as a better recruiting tool for young, radical Jihadists than the PR department at al-Qaida could have ever dreamed. I was going to wonder how many soldiers had to die so that Obama could fulfill his campaign pledge to win an unwinnable war.

Unfortunately, a squirrely group of runts in Norway known as the Norwegian Nobel Committee must have

gotten wind of my plan and set out to sabotage it.

This "Nobel" group apparently gives out an award each year for the person who does more than anyone in the world to promote peace. In the past, they have awarded the likes of Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela with this distinction, and Friday they declared Barack Obama — the man who is in charge of two wars, counter-terror strikes in Pakistan and Sudan, and is responsible for more than 90 percent of the nuclear weaponry in the world — the most peaceful man in the world.

Now, none of the above statements were meant to be cheap shots. I know Obama had very little to do with creating the situation of which he now presides, and I do believe he is an immeasurably better person to navigate the stormy waters we find ourselves in than his maligned predecessor George W. Bush. He is certainly not antagonizing anybody at the moment, and I don't doubt his sincerity to resolving conflict through diplomacy.

However, the question must be asked, what has he actually done to create a more peaceful world?

The Nobel Peace Prize sometimes uses the award to endorse efforts it considers worthwhile rather than reward actual results. In 1984, they gave the prize to South African President Desmond Tutu for committing to end the practice of apartheid in South Africa when it didn't end for another decade. Jimmy Carter won in 1979 for trying to bring a peace between Israel and the Palestinian authority that has yet to come to fruition.

I have no problem with the Nobel Committee using

its considerable influence to take a stance on contentious global issues. What I have a problem with in this case, is that it seems Obama is winning this award simply because of his celebrity and the low bar set by his predecessor.

The deadline for the submission of nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize was Feb. 1. By that time Obama, who had been in office for all of 12 days, probably still hadn't located all the bathrooms adjoining the Lincoln bedroom, much less made substantive progress toward world peace. So he must have been nominated based on what he did before inauguration. If so, I have a few bones to pick with the committee's logic.

As captivating and charismatic as Obama is, his record on promoting peace is checkered to say the least. He showed little leadership as a senator to bring a close to the war in Iraq he so dreads, voting for most of the funding bills that bankrolled that unfortunate effort. In the general campaign, a race he stood almost no chance of losing, he wasted a perfectly good opportunity to challenge conventional wisdom on American militarism and our foreign policy as a whole. Instead, he simply acquiesced to the criticisms of the right wing, making campaign pledges that let us all know he still intended on kicking ass and taking names.

While Obama is extremely likable, and I believe he is on the verge of great things as president, it is too early for a coronation of any kind. Leaders need to be challenged and questioned. Instead of kissing Obama's butt over all the ways he is not like George W. Bush, let's hold him accountable for the ways he still is.

THE OAKLAND POST
Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Current: Oct 5, 2009 - 12:33 pm // Last Updated: Oct 1, 2009 - 10:11 am

Home Perspectives Campus You Sports Local The Scene Mousing Off Blogs

Campus
OU 11th floor, double occupancy
An unexpected spike in housing applications caused a shortage in housing, necessitating double occupancy in the scene.

The Scene
Transforming Oakland's 10th floor into a new space.

Local
Oakland University's 10th floor is a new space.

You
Oakland University's 10th floor is a new space.

Search GO

Video Gallery

Photo Gallery

The Oakland Post puts out online
OU sports games and stories
Blogs by students and faculty
Breaking news
Online Polls

Police seek vaccine vandals

By RORY MCCARTY and COLLEEN J. MILLER
Senior Reporter and Editor in Chief

OUPD is actively pursuing leads for a series of graffiti markings found on campus.

According to OUPD Capt. Mark Gordon, one set of graffiti was found on Sept. 5 and another on Oct. 3.

The graffiti was found on the sidewalk between the Oakland Center and Varner Hall, on portable toilets by Meadowbrook festival during the Brookside Way run, outside the north entrance of the OC and on the sports dome. All of the graffiti has since been cleaned up.

"It's a consistent message with a consistent theme and it's being placed in various areas," said OU police chief Sam Lucido.

While OUPD did not release the report for the ongoing investigation, or the wording of the graffiti messages, they were visible to almost anybody who has been to campus this semester. Some of the graffiti, including the most recent on the sidewalk between the OC and Varner, read "vaccine = genocide," possibly a reference to the new H1N1 vaccine.

Flyers, which were not approved by the Center for Student Activities, have also been found in various locations on campus referencing vaccine data cited on various websites as well as a campaign to stop "what will be the 'Greatest act of Genocide the Earth has ever Seen'" by a mass faxing of the document. It is unknown at this time if the flyer is related to the graffiti.

Interim director for OU's Graham Health Center, Nancy Jansen, said movements opposing vaccinations are nothing new. For instance, some have suspected that autism was connected with vaccinations, but the Centers for Disease Control says there is no link between the two. She also said the swine flu vaccination in the 70s caused controversy. Since finding one of the flyers on campus, and seeing the graffiti, Jansen's office has been working to get reliable information out to the public.

"There's misinformation about vaccines out there. People take information off the Internet, not paying



Photo by JASON WILLIS/THE OAKLAND POST
Portable toilets were vandalized during the Brookside Way run.

attention to what the source is," she said.

In a letter to her friends and family, Graham Health Center employee Kathrine R. Kranz, a physician's assistant, repeated the sentiment.

"Put all information into perspective. You wouldn't take medical advice from a mechanic, why would you determine whether or not to be vaccinated based on someone's homemade YouTube video? Please educate yourself," Kranz said in the letter.

Kathy Forzley, a health officer for the Oakland County Health Department, said that the H1N1 vaccine has been tested, and as with any vaccine, it's risk versus benefit.

"I believe that everyone has to look at it for themselves," Forzley said. "If I was a part of the target population, I would definitely consider it."

The groups at high risk for catching H1N1 include children, pregnant women, young adults, and adults with pre-existing medical conditions. Forzley suggests that everyone considering getting the vaccine or having



Photo by JASON WILLIS/THE OAKLAND POST
An OU staff member cleans up graffiti in front of Kresge Library.

concerns about it should talk with their doctor.

Lucido said he understands that somebody is attempting to put out a political message, but doing it with graffiti is not the way to go about it.

"It is totally inappropriate. In fact it's criminal," Lucido said. "It's defacing the university." He estimates that the damages are well over \$1,000, including the cost of clean up and said the suspect could be charged with a felony.

John Barth, manager of custodial and grounds facilities, said that they have been called out to pressure wash some of the sidewalks off where the graffiti has appeared.

"We think they took their time," Barth said. He also said that the markings were found all over campus.

Barth said they couldn't be sure if the taggers will strike again, so they're stocking up on paint remover just in case.

Anybody with information that could help OUPD's investigation is urged to call (248) 370-3331.

Students try to revive Promise scholarship

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Staff Reporter

University students across Michigan, including Oakland University students, are trying to save the Michigan Promise Grant college scholarship.

The Promise Scholarship was cut from Michigan's interim budget passed by the Michigan State Congress on Oct. 1.

The interim budget says that about 96,000 students who were promised up to \$4,000 from the state government after having completed two years of higher

education, would not get the grant.

But this interim budget is only valid until Oct. 31, and while Michigan legislators are working on the actual budget for 2009-10.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm said she will not sign any budget that doesn't fund the Promise scholarship.

She also said that she can use the line-item veto to move funding from one program in a proposed budget bill to fund another program. She said her priorities are education, police and fire, and jobs.

"The governor is prepared to use the

veto pen," said Liz Boyd, a spokesperson for the governor.

OU was cautious, and did not give its students the Promise Grant's money to calculate into tuition payments, and said it would not do so until it actually received the funds from the government.

The Michigan House of Representatives passed a bill on Tuesday, Oct. 6 that funded the Promise scholarship, which costs about \$140 million.

The house bill funded the scholarship by revenue generated by increasing taxes on some things like non-cigarette tobacco

products and reducing some personal tax exemptions.

But the bill would also have to be passed in the Senate, and then signed by the governor.

On Monday and Tuesday Oct. 5-6, students across Michigan called their representatives to express their support for Promise and to try to persuade them to vote to fund the Promise.

Some student leaders credit student

See Michigan Promise on page 7

MBT presents 'Sleepy Hollow'

By JENNIFER WOOD
Staff Reporter

Now showing at Meadow Brook Theatre is Washington Irving's story of the superstitious 1790s town of Sleepy Hollow.

New York native Jefferson Garrett's world premiere adaptation of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," is first in line for Meadow Brook's 2009-10 season.

Meadow Brook managing director, Cheryl Marshall was pleased to welcome the never-before-seen play to the stage at Meadow Brook.

"Getting a chance to have a world premiere on the Meadow Brook Theatre stage and watch our young talented director and talented staff bring this to life," were among the most exiting aspects of this production, Marshall said.

Travis Walter, the "young director," is also the recently named interim artistic director of Meadow Brook Theatre and man who picked Garrett's vision from a number of adaptations of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

"I was looking for a version that was the closest to Washington Irving's actual story," said Walter. "This version

includes much of Irving's actual words. I was so impressed that I contacted the playwright and asked to host the world premiere of this work. He agreed and the result is currently on our stage."

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," stars Rusty Mewha, as the new-in-town school master Ichabod Crane, and Oakland alum Katie Hardy, as Katrina Van Tassel, the object of Ichabod's affection.

"Travis had callbacks and had several ladies read for the part, after careful consideration he decided on Katie Hardy," said Marshall.

"I was very excited — working at Meadowbrook is extremely prestigious," said Hardy. "I was thrilled to be able to work so close to home."

The play tells not only the story of a superstitious town and the mysterious Headless Horseman who haunts it, but also the tale of the love between Ichabod and Katrina.

"One of my favorite things about this story has always been the fact it not only is a 'ghost story' with the tale of Headless Horseman, but at the heart of it lies another story ... a beautiful story about unrequited love," said Walter.

The first in the Meadow Brook line up,



Photo Courtesy of Rick Smith

Rusty Mewha as Ichabod Crane and Katie Hardy as Katrina Van Tassel share a tender moment.

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" will show every Wednesday through Sunday until Nov. 1 and will be followed by the annual performance of the Charles Dickens' classic production "A Christmas Carol."

"So many people put their hearts and souls into making this production a success and I am extremely pleased with the outcome. I know this production will have our audience coming back for more!" Walter said.

Tickets for Meadow Brook productions range from \$24 per seat for Wednesday/Thursday previews to \$39 per seat for Saturday showings.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.mbttheatre.com> or call the Box Office at (248) 377-3300.



Photo Courtesy of Rick Smith

The children of Sleepy Hollow listen to Brom Bones (Aaron T. Moore) tell ghost stories. Jefferson Garrett's adaptation of Washington Irving's classic tale was chosen out of many.

Campus Briefs

Kresge Library is scheduled to reveal its brand new Technology Center Thursday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. The new facility will offer large screen LCD monitors as well as additional personal computers and laptops. President Gary Russi and Provost Virindir Moudgil will speak at the grand opening.

Registration for winter classes begins Monday. All registration is to be done online on OU's SAIL website with seniors and graduate students getting first dibs. Registration for juniors begins Tuesday, with sophomore and freshman registration beginning Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

According to recent figures OU grew for the 12th consecutive year this fall. This year's student population was calculated to be at 18,967 students. This figure includes students enrolled in the Macomb2Oakland program. This year there was a 4.1 percent increase over enrollment in fall 2008.

OU Facilities Management created about 72 additional parking spaces in various existing parking facilities on campus. OUFM created the spaces by restriping spaces in the lots. For more information, check out the full online version of this story at www.oaklandpostonline.com.

— Sean Garner, Senior Reporter

Continued from page 6

Michigan Promise

involvement with getting it passed in the house. They also organized mass call-ins to the state senators on Monday and Tuesday Oct. 12-13 to try to get it passed in the Senate.

"Student activity kept it alive," said Jordan Twardy, an OU undergraduate alum now pursuing a masters in urban farming in University of Michigan. "The last fight is the Senate."

Twardy is the president of Student Association of Michigan, an advocacy group consisting of members of student congresses of public universities in Michigan.

He said Central Michigan University's students got the ball rolling in this effort, and SAM has been coordinating with students from other public universities to organize a state-wide effort to save the Promise scholarship.

Amy Ring, legislative affairs director of OU Student Congress, said that hundreds of OU students called last week, and that she herself knew of at least 50, and that overall they were effective. She said there was no way of knowing

how many students called in altogether.

OUSC has not taken an official stance in the Promise scholarship, but has been using their resources to get it passed in the budget.

Saman Waquad, OUSC vice president, said she thought the campaign went "pretty decently," but couldn't estimate how many students called their legislators.

Ring also said she didn't want to downplay the importance of other things in the state budget.

Waquad said that, although the Promise scholarship may not be her number one priority, with her position in the student congress, her job is to support the students.

"Higher education is especially important," she said. "We need to encourage them (students) to go, and this (Promise) will make it easier."

— Contributing reporter Tiffany Wolfe contributed to this report

For continued coverage of the Promise scholarship and state budget, visit www.oaklandpostonline.com

Hourly unions reject final offer

CMT, PSA contract extensions terminated by university after 15 months of bargaining

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

Until last week, Oakland University employees represented by Campus Maintenance and Trade and the Professional Support Association were working under extensions of contracts that had expired over a year ago. Now, they are in an even more tenuous situation.

After 15 months of bargaining, OU administration terminated the contract extensions of both CMT and PSA on Oct. 7 when both unions rejected OU's final offer.

The two unions had been working under these conditions since their contract expired in July 2008.

By the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act, OU must honor the wages and working conditions of the previous contract during what is called an impasse.

However, OU has an obligation to uphold other parts of the contract such as the collection of union dues.

Jan Shelito of the Michigan Education Association, who is the chief bargainer for both CMT and PSA, said she believes the university will uphold all the conditions of the previous contract.

"They have made no indication that they intend to not recognize any parts of the contract," Shelito said.

A few rumors had circulated on campus, claiming that the MEA had sued the university and the university was not bargaining with the unions.

Members of each party denied those claims. Ron

Watson, vice president of OU Human Resources and chief bargainer for OU, responded briefly to an e-mail, specifically to clarify misleading information.

"I am not aware of any lawsuits that the MEA has filed involving negotiations, and we are continuing to negotiate," Watson said.

Citing OU policy, Watson did not provide any further comment on the negotiations.

Shelito said that while no suits have yet been filed, she and others in the MEA are meticulously examining the recent events and weighing possible legal options.

"We are reviewing the actions of the university to see what legal options we have, up to and including litigation," Shelito said.

Although she didn't file any formal lawsuit, Shelito did file for fact-finding, a process of arbitration by which an independent investigator is assigned to objectively review each party's claims about the unsettled provisions of the contract being negotiated and make a non-binding recommendation of what a fair compromise should look like.

Michael Long, professor in the school of education and chair of OU's human resources development program, is also a labor lawyer and fact finder.

Long said that OU is not allowed to implement any new conditions of employment while the fact-finding is being conducted.

It is "better in this case, means it's one of those things that depends on the circumstances," Long said. "For

example, if the employer wanted to cut wages, they would have to justify cutting wages. If the union wanted a raise, they would have to justify that."

Long said that the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act curiously does not say anything about job protection, meaning it is not clear whether employees at a contract impasse are "at will," meaning the university can fire them for any reason, or "just cause" employees, meaning they have the right to due process in all firings or demotions.

Shelito said the university will respect the just cause provisions of the expired contracts.

She said it is unlikely that the university would unilaterally implement such authority without making a "last best" offer, which is reportedly more severe than a final offer.

"Generally, when the employer gives you their last best offer, it's a sign that they're looking to impose something, and the employer has given us no indication that they are going to change our health care or affect our wages or anything like that."

Neither union head gave an official statement.

CMT President Chris Turkopp is currently on vacation, and Sandy Gabert, president of PSA, said she did not want to comment on the record without MEA representation present.

The unions are scheduled to meet with a court mediator this Friday in another formal bargaining session before fact-finding begins.

New program offers support to student veterans

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Staff Reporter

There are challenges that may arise when transitioning back into civilian life for some soldiers. In addition to any mental or physical after effects of active duty, education and financial issues need to be addressed.

With help from the newly-created Veteran Support Services office, however, the 195 student veterans currently enrolled at Oakland are finding the transition much easier.

"These are people who've given a great deal to their country," said Glenn McIntosh, assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students, in an April 2009 press release. "If they make a decision to further their education, we want to do anything we can to make that as easy a process as possible."

Located in room 103A of North Foundation Hall, the VSS office helps student veterans apply for admission, add and drop classes, pursue scholarship and grant opportunities, and educate themselves about unique financial benefits available to veterans.

One of those benefits is the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The bill seeks to help soldiers who have performed active duty with any branch of the armed forces since September 10, 2001.

The bill's provisions went into effect in August 2009, giving universities billions of dollars in tuition money to recruit veterans to their campuses.

According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs official website, over 2,600 payments have been distributed since the GI Bill's inception.

"It's still too early to measure the impact of the bill. However, the expanded benefits package provides many veterans the ability to attend college," McIntosh said. "Consequently, we expect to see an increase in the number of veterans seeking admission and enrolling at Oakland."

The VSS office also refers student veterans to other campus offices and departments that can address specific questions regarding military certification and benefits, working in conjunction with the Veteran's Office in 101A O'Dowd Hall.

The current student veterans at

Oakland are from all five branches of the armed services, as well the National Guard.

Some have served as far back as the original Gulf War, but more have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Oakland's efforts to help those who have served in America's armed forces haven't gone unnoticed.

G.I. Jobs magazine has distinguished Oakland as a "military-friendly school," an honor given only to the top 15 percent of all universities, colleges, and trade schools in the United States.

The university's policies, efforts, and results pertaining to recruitment and retention of student veterans were a deciding factor in receiving the distinction.

"We should take great pride in this honor," said Steven Shablin, Registrar. "Clearly OU has an interest in recruiting and retaining military students, and this recognition confirms the continuing stellar efforts by our staff in improving military-friendliness every year."

Along with the national praise that Oakland has received, community

response to the VSS office has been overwhelmingly positive.

"The VSS has been a positive addition to campus. Currently enrolled veterans feel that they now have a visible campus office capable of addressing their needs," McIntosh said. "Additionally, since the veteran's liaison, Michael Brennan, is a veteran himself, he can easily relate to many of the adjustment issues and needs faced by current and future veterans."

In addition to providing a source of information for student veterans, VSS hosted an open house as part of an outreach campaign designed for enrolled and potential veterans.

"There has been a lot of interest shown about forming a veterans' student organization, so the process has been started," said Brennan. "We expect to start meeting in the near future, and would like to extend an invitation to all veterans at Oakland University interested in joining to come visit the VSS office."

Current or future veterans who are interested in more information can visit the Veteran Support Services office in 103A North Foundation Hall or the Veteran's Office in 101A O'Dowd Hall.

CAS explores religion and society

By **MIKE SANDULA**
Staff Reporter

For the 2009-10 school year, the College of Arts and Sciences asks if religion has gone away and if so, is it making a comeback? The CAS will explore "Religion and Society," this year's theme, through specially planned courses and events.

A debate about religion and secularism held Oct. 7 was the first event of the year. Other events include lectures, a panel discussion and trips to Dearborn and Frankenmuth.

The program also features a yearly "community book" that the writing and rhetoric department adds to the required reading list.

This year's book, "Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know — And Doesn't," by Stephen Prothero, is the focus of the Nov. 4 debate. In his book, Prothero says most college students don't know the basic tenets of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism, but should. Prothero, chair of the religion department at Boston University will be visiting OU Nov. 9 to give a lecture.

The music, theatre and dance department is also hosting a concert Friday, Oct. 16 that connects with this year's theme.

Professor Shuishan Yu will be joined by two of his music teachers from China in a concert of Chinese guqin music, featuring instruments that date back over

900 years to the Song Dynasty. Professor Yu will also duet with Yin Zheng, assistant professor of piano.

Beth Talbert, special instructor of communication and journalism and chair of this year's theme, said classes typically discuss the topic. Some professors even require attendance to certain events and make the community book required reading for students not in the writing and rhetoric department.

"We absolutely try to weave it into the curriculum as many ways as we can," Talbert said.

The program "Celebrating the Liberal Arts" was created during a 2001 summer retreat taken by CAS chairs and was designed to coordinate with OU President Gary Russi's vision of where the school will be in 2010.

"The idea was to identify a theme that could be addressed by any department in the college so we could collaborate creating a series of programs that we united via a common theme," said Robert Stewart, interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Themes are identified based on their ability to be "timely and cross-disciplinary," Talbert said.

This is the fifth themed year since the program began.

Last year's theme "Cities" explored recent migration trends to cities. The scheduled theme for the 2010-11 school year is "Frontiers and Borders."

For a complete list of events and more information about this year's theme, visit www.oakland.edu/cas.

Friday, October 16

Guqin Concert
8-9:45 p.m., Varner Recital Hall, Varner Hall

Sunday, October 18

Trip to Dearborn (Islamic Center of America and Arab-American National Museum)
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sign up at the CSA service window, 49 Oakland Center

Wednesday, November 4

Religious (II) Literacy: The Stephen Prothero Debate
5-7 p.m., Fireside Lounge, Oakland Center

Monday, November 9

Lecture by Stephen Prothero: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't
2-3 p.m., Banquet rooms, Oakland Center

Saturday, November 14

Trip to Frankenmuth
8 a.m.-7 p.m. Sign up at the CSA service window, 49 Oakland Center

Wednesday, December 2

Science and Religion; Faith and Reason
Noon-1:30 p.m., Oakland Room, Oakland Center

POLICE FILES

On Oct. 6, an OUPD dispatcher reported witnessing a male urinating near the dome used as an indoor soccer facility on a security camera. After OUPD responded to the scene, they made contact with the man. The man said that he needed to use the bathroom but did not urinate outside. OUPD copied his information and released him.

On Oct. 6, a female student and a male student reported a car-and-bicycle accident near the P17 lot on Pioneer Drive. The female student driving the car said she was hit in the side by the male student on the bike. The male student reported that his foot was run over, but he was not injured. He signed a waiver and was released without being treated.

On Oct. 7, OUPD responded to a report of malicious destruction of a vehicle. The complainant, a female student, had a flat tire and said that her roommate, who she reported having problems with, might have deflated the tire. After re-inflating the tire, OUPD reported that the valve appeared to be leaky.

On Oct. 7, a student reported an attempted automobile theft on Ravine Drive located by the Upper Athletic Fields. The complainant said she saw a woman enter the front passenger door of her Ford Expedition and go through her glovebox compartment. After confronting the woman, the complainant said the woman in her car apologized and claimed she thought the car was her own. She then ran toward the University Student Apartments.

—Compiled by senior reporter Sean Garner, from Oakland University Police Department's media logs

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Across from Crittenton Hospital

Activists seek students' help

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Many colleges are filled with organizations that promote student activism.

Activism, however, doesn't appear to be the focus of the majority of students at Oakland University. The few activist groups that are present are scattered and not very visible on campus.

Whether it's due to lack of interest, lack of time, lack of knowledge or something else, is unclear.

Two of the groups that do exist, though, are trying to raise awareness in global issues and get students involved in taking action, with mixed results.

Schools for Schools

Rhiannon Zielinski, a junior political science and journalism major, started an OU chapter of Schools for Schools this semester. She said she already found six members willing to help.

The group's first project is to raise money to help rebuild schools in Uganda that were destroyed during war, buy supplies and pay for teachers for the schools.

"Our job is to fund the schools there because they can't do it themselves," Zielinski said.

She said one of the things they will do is hold bookdrives at OU where students can donate items like textbooks and OU's Schools for Schools can sell them

on a website and give the proceeds to Invisible Children, which will undertake the schools' rebuilding.

Zielinski brought Invisible Children members to OU on Tuesday, Oct. 6 for a movie screening of "Invisible Children: The Rescue," and students and the public were invited to attend, but less than a dozen people showed up.

"The Rescue" was a documentary made by Invisible Children. It chronicled how many young children in Uganda were abducted by soldiers of rebel leader Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army and forced to be child soldiers.

It also had a call to action for viewers to get involved in ending the war and rescuing the child soldiers.

Invisible Children started the program Schools for Schools, to "rebuild schools in war-torn northern Uganda, with help from people just like you."

Students at all schools and colleges are encouraged to start their own chapter of Schools for Schools.

According to its website, so far this year 1,027 schools have participated and raised \$29,651 toward the project. There are ways to raise money for the project listed on the Invisible Children.

Zielinski said she found a couple interested people at the screening and some others who emailed her after seeing her email listed in the screening's flyer.

"I also forced some friends into it," she said.

She said the group is trying to increase membership, and trying to get official status recognized by OU's Center for Student Activities to get funding.

She said Invisible Children does a good job using social media to get young people active in global issues, and that the cause should appeal to high school and college students.

Zielinski doesn't want the OU chapter to focus solely on Uganda's child soldiers or schools, however. She also wants to group to eventually take on other issues such as the genocide in Darfur.

For more information about Invisible Children and Schools for Schools visit www.invisiblechildren.com

To join the OU chapter, email Zielinski at rlzielin@oakland.edu



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
Myint said he uses the laptop's sticker during Nightwatch shift to get people to ask questions.

U.S. Campaign for Burma

Sai Myint said he is disheartened by the lack of interest he found from OU students to help him in his mission to help with the U.S. Campaign for Burma.

"The e-board I had bailed on me," he said. "How am I supposed to recruit members without an e-board?"

Myint, a sophomore biology major in the secondary teacher education program, said he was born in Burma. After having lived there for 11 years, moved with his family to the United States.

He said although he and his family have not personally experienced any corruption or oppression, a lot of people in Burma, especially people in rural areas, experience human rights violations committed by the military dictatorship.

"It's a nasty situation there," he said.

Myint has a poster of Aung San Suu Kyi on his dorm room's wall, and stickers saying "Free Burma" and "Free Aung San Suu Kyi" on his laptop.

Suu Kyi was democratically elected as Burma's prime minister in 1990, but has been under detention on and off by the government since 1989. In 1992, she won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights.

Myint said he started a chapter of the U.S. Campaign for Burma at OU last winter, but hasn't been able to find hardly any dedicated people interested in the

cause who have the time to participate.

He said he educated himself by going to the Campaign's website.

He also raises money for the cause by using goodsearch.com instead of other search engines like google.com or yahoo.com, because it donates a couple of pennies to a cause of one's choosing each time the site is used.

So far Myint estimated he raised about \$3 himself for U.S. Campaign for Burma, and according to goodsearch.com, about \$866 was raised so far for this cause.

He said he hasn't tried to do any recruiting after welcome week this fall, because "reality hit me."

"Some students just want to do school-work," Myint said.

He said he considered quitting because it's hard for one person, but isn't giving up yet. He wants to hold a bake sale, raise awareness and recruit members.

"You can't half-ass it," he said, warning that it may not always be fun being a member of the group. Ideally, he wants the group to write to congressmen and other people to raise support for the international community to put pressure on the Myanmar government.

For more information about the U.S. Campaign for Burma, visit www.uscampaignforburma.org

To join the OU chapter, email Myint at svmyint@oakland.edu



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
Zielinski holds up an Invisible Children film that shows the life of an Ugandan orphan.

Zaslow and pilot co-author book

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

In his new book, a local writer helps tell the story of a national hero.

Jeff Zaslow, a Wall Street Journal columnist and metro Detroit resident, recently co-wrote "Highest Duty," the autobiography of Captain Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger.

Sully, a pilot with over 40 years of training, made an emergency landing in the Hudson River during a flight last January.

The emergency landing became necessary after a Canada goose was sucked into each engine and the plane lost altitude. Emergency landings at area airports were not possible.

His ability to complete an emergency landing of the plane in the river is credited with saving the lives of 155 passengers and crew members aboard the flight.

Earlier this month, Sully made headlines when he returned to LaGuardia Airport to complete the flight.

Zaslow said he thinks that Sully's story is important to read, especially for

college students preparing to enter the work-force.

"Students are at the beginning of their careers, and Sully is a great example of someone with a lot of experience and someone who has worked hard," Zaslow said.

Additionally, Zaslow hopes students will recognize Sully for his modesty in spite of all of his.

"Sully wouldn't call himself a hero," Zaslow said. "But he is proud of himself and his accomplishments. He is certainly a role model."

Zaslow said he was first approached to help write Sully's story after Sully read another of Zaslow's books, "The Last Lecture."

Zaslow also co-wrote "The Last Lecture," with Randy Pausch. The book tells the story of Pausch, a Carnegie Mellon professor, and the life lessons he wanted to pass onto his children. Pausch had pancreatic cancer and passed away in July 2008.

To help spread the word about the book, Zaslow visited Oakland University last March.

After reading "The Last Lecture,"

Sully decided he wanted Zaslow's help with writing his autobiography. Zaslow, with an already full schedule, said he was eager to help when Sully said the book had to be finished quickly.

"I was honored to help tell his story," Zaslow said.

Although Sully is nationally recognized because of his landing efforts last January, Zaslow said much of the book is focused on the rest of Sully's life, rather than the actual river landing.

Zaslow and Sully wrote about Sully's pilot training, Air Force career and family life. The book highlights his relationships with his wife and daughters.

An important part of the book also focuses on Sully's belief in the "can-do" American spirit.

"The book is about all the moments in his life that led him to do what he did that day on the Hudson River," Zaslow said. "He trained hard, he worked hard, and even things in his personal life gave him the fortitude to land the plane like he did."

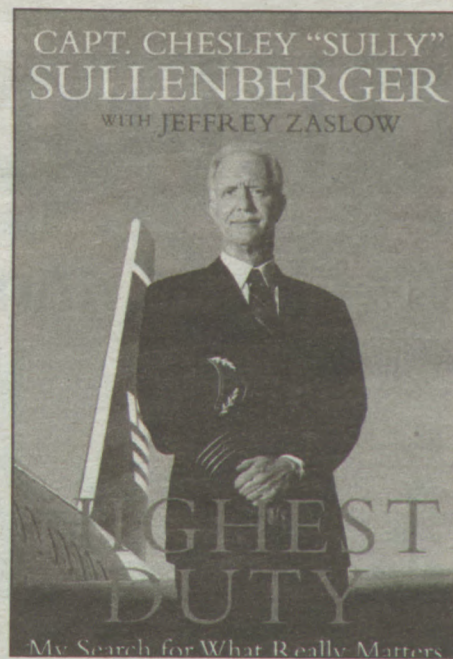


Photo Courtesy of Harper Collins
"Highest Duty," the autobiography of Captain Chelsey B. "Sully" Sullenberger is in bookstores and online now.

csa@oakland.edu
248-370-2400

Center for Student Activities

CSA

www.oakland.edu/csa

Trip to Dearborn

Islamic Center of America &
Arab-American National Museum

Sunday, Oct. 18
10am to 6pm

Check the events calendar for more details

Student Program Board's

Murder Mystery

Friday, Oct. 30
8pm Meadow Brook Hall

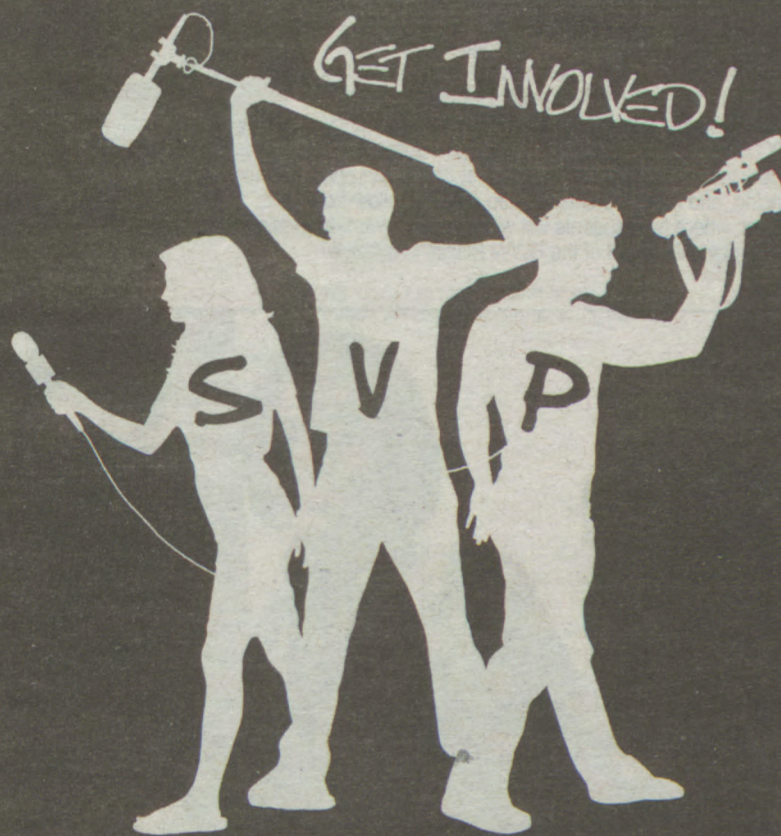
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12^{week}
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celebration

charity

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Celebrations Mix it up this week

Week of Champions

By MIKE SANDULA
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University basketball season starts Friday when the men's and women's teams practice together in the O'Rena for the first time this year. Leading up to that event is a weeklong celebration called Week of Champions at Oakland University, or WOCOU.

"It highlights our champions, which are students, staff and faculty," said Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities. The weeklong event originated 14 years ago as a homecoming, but is now a spirit week.

The festivities kicked off Monday with Matilda Wilson's 126th Birthday Bash, which featured free cake and ice cream and WOCOU T-shirts. There was also "The Real Deal Crazy Game Show," where students answered trivia questions and spun a wheel to win cash and prizes. Host Patrick Duffy described it as "one hour of crazy fun." At 7 p.m., comedian Wendi Fox performed "Trashed" at Meadow Brook Theatre.

On Tuesday, a street party with free food, prizes and caricatures was held in the basement of the Oakland Center. Students also signed up to join the Grizz Gang or register to enter the Buffalo Wild Wings Blazin' Challenge. The elimination round will be held Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. outside the Oakland Center between North and South Foundation halls.

Wednesday features the "There's No Grizzness like Show Business" talent show from 8 to 11 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms of the OC.

On Friday, Midnite Madnezz begins with a performance of Friday Night Live in the OC Banquet Rooms from 7 to 8:30 p.m. After that, there's the 3rd Annual Block Party in the P16 parking lot where students can enjoy free food, music and dancing, and meet the Grizz. A pep rally will follow from 10 to 11 p.m. in the O'Rena, where two students will win a tuition award. Immediately afterward is the championship round of the BWW Blazin' Challenge.



Robert Bauer, from Goofy Faces Caricatures in Rochester Hills, drew caricatures of sophomores Courtney Zimmer and Sana Feezhafiez in the lower level of the Oakland Center as part of Tuesday's "Hooray for Grizzlywood," the 4th annual street party. "He was a riot!" Zimmer said.

Monica Drake/The Oakland Post



From left: Kiara Dowdell, Brittani Burroughs and Ashley Coates stood in line to have their caricatures drawn during "Hooray for Grizzlywood." There was free food ranging from corn dogs to caramel apples, as well as prizes.

Monica Drake/The Oakland Post



Ladies and gentleman, students and teachers, welcome to "Grizzlywood," just one of many events WOCOU is putting on this week. From left: Sophomores Nicole Gravelle, Cat Reams and Elizabeth Jacobs attended Tuesday.

Monica Drake/The Oakland Post

students

fun

organizations

challenge

week of weeks 13

National Coming Out Week

By JENNIFER WOOD
Senior Reporter

This week the Gender and Sexuality Center is celebrating National Coming Out Week. The GSC is holding a number of events across campus to promote acceptance of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community.

On Monday, members of the GSC attended the Wayne State University showing of "The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later."

The show aimed at exploring the continuing affects of the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay man who was brutally murdered because of his sexuality.

"It was truly incredible and very moving," said junior James Bialk, who frequently volunteers at the GSC. "I think it's important for people outside the community to see the struggles within the LGBT community."

Tuesday, the GSC continued the week's events with a Students Administration and Faculty for Equality informational social.

The S.A.F.E. program is a series of training that students, administration and faculty can participate in order to become better informed on the history of the LGBT movement and the issues LGBTs face.

According to the GSC website, after a person completes the required training, S.A.F.E. allies recognize them as being "knowledgeable about LGBT resources and issues and willing to assist students in a variety of ways."

"This year is a little different because we are looking to have some sort of continuing training for S.A.F.E. allies," said GSC director, Melissa Pope.

On Wednesday, the GSC will continue their festivities with LGBT Trivia Challenge from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the GSC, where attendees can win prizes and enjoy refreshments while being tested on their knowledge of the LGBT community.

Friday offers those who missed the first S.A.F.E. informational social the opportunity to attend a second social, in the GSC at noon.

"The events are designed to encourage people to learn more about the LGBT community and they challenges they face ... and to promote true equality," Pope said.



ALEXIS TOMRELL/The Oakland Post



Above: Gay/Straight Alliance members at the Students Administration and Faculty for Equality information social held Tuesday. Another social will be held Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Gender and Sexuality Center. From left: Melissa Bukowski, James Bialk, Alexa Van Vliet and Benjamin Lemon.

Left: Chris Darin, president of the Gay/Straight Alliance on campus, enjoys a cookie.



Each team in the Iron Chef competition Tuesday had a theme ingredient they had to cook with.

Brad Slazinski/The Oakland Post

Greek Week

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Oakland University is in the midst of Greek Week, a competition between the Greek organizations to raise money for charities and have fun on campus. The fraternities and sororities have joined together to form teams for competing in the events. Three teams are made up of one fraternity and one sorority each, while the six smaller Greek organizations combined together to form a fourth team, "The New Kids on the Block."

The teams are awarded points for winning each competition, but they are also given points for ongoing competitions throughout the week. The teams with the highest percentage of members participating, most food contributed to the canned food drive, and most pennies in the penny war, will get additional points. All proceeds

from the penny war go to Veterans Haven.

Each day during Greek Week features a different event. On Monday, Greeks attended the alcohol abuse awareness seminar and show of comedian Wendy Fox, and on Tuesday teams of sororities and fraternities teamed up to create dishes for the Iron Chef competition at Greek Row. Teams were charged with creating an appetizer, main course, beverage and dessert, each with its own theme ingredient.

As for the rest of the week, Wednesday will feature the Greek Council talent show, which has been moved to 8 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms, and the Greek Olympics, which will be outside the OC on Thursday. Friday's "Spirit Boat Competition" invites teams to create a boat out of foam and PVC pipe to float in Beer Lake.

Greek Week winners will be announced on Saturday.

A jump to the next level

Freshmen student athletes share their early college experiences

By DAN GLIOT
Contributing Reporter

Every fall marks the beginning of a new athletics season for Oakland University's sports teams. With every school year a new incoming class of freshmen recruits arrive to help fill the holes left by departed seniors and to build upon the success they've left behind.

One way to measure the success of a program is by the type of recruiting classes brought in by the teams. Coaches are tasked with getting new players to quickly buy in to the team philosophies. This helps contribute to long-lasting success.

In speaking with several members of this year's freshman class, however, the pressures of moving from high school to collegiate athletics at the Division I level is proving to be one of the greatest challenges.

"The biggest difference between high school and college sports is the whole fact that everyone is a great player," said Brittany Holbrook, a freshman volleyball player from Westland, Mich. "Instead of leading the team like you did in your later days of the high school years, you start over again as a freshman."

Holbrook is the starting middle hitter for the Golden Grizzlies this season, helping the women's team to an 13-4 record thus far. She has recorded 140 kills so far this season, which is good for third on the team.

"The most difficult thing about transitioning between high school and college is managing school work," Holbrook said. "In college sports, you sometimes have to miss class because of traveling and you miss lectures that day. It gets tough, but you have to learn to make it work."

For freshman midfielder Alyssa Fulton of the women's soccer team, the biggest challenge for her has been the game itself.

Fulton said that the main adjustment she's had to make in college has to do with the quicker pace of the game.

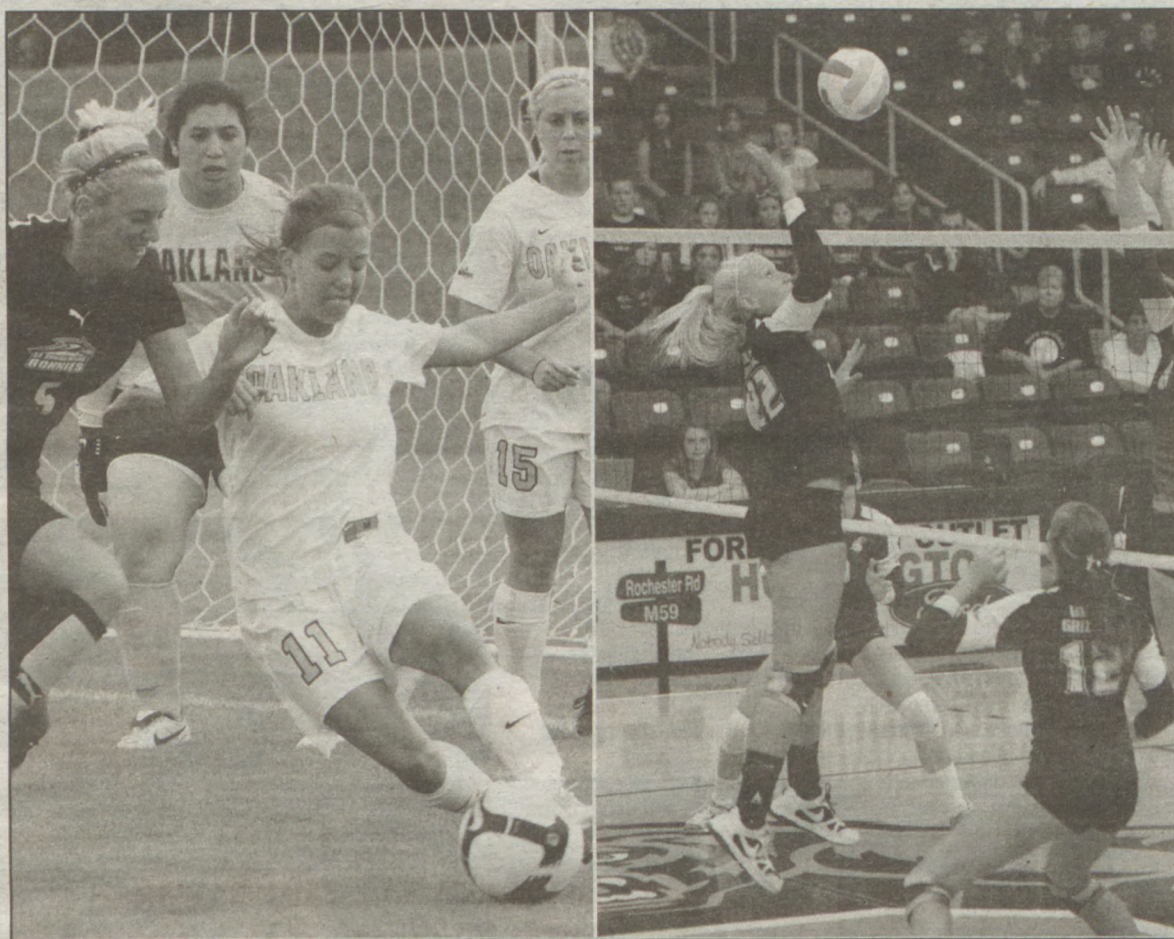
"College sports are a lot more intense and physical," Fulton said. "I also think that the aggression level is much higher in college than in high school."

However, the better competition is one of the things Fulton said she is enjoying the most about playing collegiate soccer.

"I definitely love the hard work that is put into college sports compared to high school," Fulton said.

One of the true tests of whether freshmen can make a big impact in their rookie season is whether they can adjust to the speed and increased competition of the game. In addition to playing the games, new student athletes have to adjust to living on their own and juggling a lot of things at once.

"In college, the sport you play is a job," said freshman baseball player Mike Carson. "The only thing that I



Alyssa Fulton (11, pictured left) and Brittany Holbrook (22, right) both stepped into the starting lineup in their first seasons.

miss about high school baseball is the amount of free time that you have."

Carson, an infielder from Attica, Mich., said he's making sure that baseball does not consume his entire life and to enjoy his first year in college baseball at Oakland.

"You can never stop having fun in the sport that you play," he said.

The one thing that all three of these athletes agreed upon is how the higher level of competition seems to push them to playing up to their abilities.

"Everyone is dedicated and with your teammates being great and giving 100 percent, you'll do the same and you'll also get better as well," Holbrook said.

"The speed of the game makes you keep your mind on what's going on all the time," Carson said. "Also, every-

body at this level is good. This makes everybody step up their own game to get better."

For Carson, the true test for his freshman season will not come until the spring when the baseball season starts. But for Holbrook and Fulton, their respective seasons are in full swing and the athletes needed to make their adjustments almost immediately after stepping onto campus.

For some students this can be difficult, but for others it appears they are meant to play Division I athletics.

"I don't think that there is anything that I don't like about college sports so far," Fulton said.

These three freshmen have already done one of the most difficult things in college sports — making the transition from being the star of their high school to being a team player in college.

BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Grizzlies split pair of matches

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University women's volleyball team took one step closer to securing their first ever bid to the Summit League tournament last weekend, as they split a pair of in-conference matches at the O'Rena.

The Golden Grizzlies dropped a heart-breaker Friday to the IUPUI Jaguars — three sets to two, but rebounded nicely Saturday with a dominating performance, winning in three sets to sweep Western Illinois.

Oakland was up 2-1 in sets against IUPUI Friday night, but was unable to sustain the momentum. OU fell behind quickly in the fourth and tie-breaking fifth sets, sealing the victory for the Jaguars.

After the match, Grizzlies head coach Rob Beam knew that his team had let an important game slip away.

"This was a disappointing effort for our program," Beam said. "This was a match competing for second place (in the conference), and I don't think we came out with any measure of seriousness or intent on securing that."

Freshman Brittany Holbrook said that the team lost focus after taking a 2-1 lead.

"I think we became really confident and started saying to ourselves, 'Oh, we're just going to win this, and we're not going to try as hard as we did.' And I think that's what happened, and they got runs," Holbrook said. "We couldn't come back from that."

Even in defeat, the Grizzlies put up

statistics good enough to win on many nights. Holbrook hit .682 for the match, the second highest single-game percentage in school history. Senior captain Adrienne Leone recorded 23 kills, the highest total for any player on either team.

OU managed to salvage the weekend, however, by showing no ill effects of Friday's loss in knocking off Western Illinois the following afternoon.

The Grizzlies defeated the Leathernecks, 3-0, in straight sets.

After opening the match with a dominant 25-16 first set win, OU had to fight for the other two, as Western Illinois kept it close. The Grizzlies ultimately scratched out 25-23 and 25-22 wins to sweep for the fourth time this season, the first in conference play.

One of Oakland's keys to victory was its success on serves. Oakland had 14 service aces in the match — the second-highest three-set total in OU history.

In his post-game comments, coach Beam praised his young team for coming back positively from Friday night's loss.

"This was a much-improved performance," said the Grizzlies coach. "I thought we had great energy and great spirit. We rebounded from a tough loss last night and put forth one of our best efforts this season."

Oakland takes its 13-4 overall record on the road, traveling to Fargo, N.D. for its next match Friday, Oct. 16. The team's next opponent, North Dakota State, is a perfect 9-0 in conference play and will serve as a measuring stick for a Grizzlies team that was not expected to compete for the conference title.



With ten matches left in the season, Oakland is currently second in the conference. The top four teams at season's end will advance to the Summit League tournament next month.

BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

OU has a very young team this season, operating with just two seniors on the roster to provide experience and leadership. The team has several freshmen making significant contributions this season, and their ability to keep composure down the final stretch of the season will be something to watch.

If all goes according to plan, Oakland's upcoming trip to North Dakota won't be its only visit this season. A return trip in November for the Summit League Championships would represent a major step in the right direction for a program that has struggled in recent seasons.

— Dan Fenner contributed to this report.

MEN'S SOCCER

10/17 vs. IUPUI 7 p.m.
at the Ultimate Soccer Arena

WOMEN'S SOCCER

10/16 vs. Centenary 4 p.m.
10/18 vs. Oral Roberts 1 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

10/17 Falcon Invitational
in Bowling Green, Ohio



GAME SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 14 - 20

MEN'S GOLF

10/19 - 10/20 APSU Intercollegiate
in Hopkinsville, Ky.

WOMEN'S GOLF

10/17 - 10/18 Hawkeye Invitational
in Iowa City, Iowa

VOLLEYBALL

10/16 at North Dakota State
10/17 at South Dakota State

SWIMMING & DIVING

10/16 Tom Stubbs Relays (women)
in Bowling Green, Ohio
10/17 vs. Toledo and Illinois
(women) 1 p.m.

CLUB HOCKEY

OU Hockey Alumni Weekend
10/16 vs. Pittsburgh 8:40 p.m.

Keeping OU atop the Summit

By ZACH HALLMAN
Staff Reporter

More than anything else this season, the Oakland University men's soccer team has been proficient at keeping the ball out of their own net. Oakland's defense has continued its tradition of stingy defensive play this year, with a 0.67 goals against average for the season.

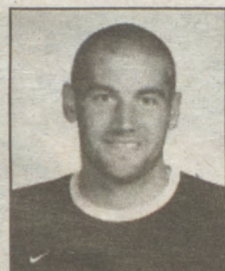
No one has contributed more to this success than goalkeeper Mitch Hildebrandt, whose play in September earned him Summit League Player of the Month honors.

"Great goalies have to do a couple things," head coach Eric Pogue said. "They have to not make any simple mistakes that would take us out of the game. They also have to sometimes make great saves to keep us in games. Mitch Hildebrandt does both of these things and he does them on a consistent basis."

Hildebrandt has recorded six shutouts on the season, including one Sept. 30 against Michigan in which he had to make a season-high 14 saves.

A graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, Hildebrandt acknowledged that he has played well thus far, but attributes much of his success to his defensemen.

"Machel James has been unbelievable this year. Vuk Popovic has been rock solid and James Leutzinger has not played like a freshman," Hildebrandt said.



Mitch Hildebrandt

"Our defense has been superb, but there are still a couple times in games where the team gets a chance that I think will be a sure goal," Pogue said. "Mitch has been great all year at stopping these chances."

Pogue knows though that if not for Hildebrandt's play, the season might have a much different look than it does currently, as Oakland sits atop the Summit League standings with

an undefeated conference record.

Hildebrandt says that in a way he looks forward to these opportunities. "When I get called into action, I do get kind of excited because my job is to make those saves," he said.

According to Hildebrandt, much of his team's success comes from the confidence that Pogue has shown in his players.

"We always knew we had talent, but Pogue really has instilled confidence in us from the very beginning," Hildebrandt said.

"We lost the entire center of our team from last year. We lost our goalie, our center back, our center midfielders and our center forward," Hildebrandt explained.

Hildebrandt said he felt especially comfortable this

season after spending the last two years on the sidelines and learning from former keeper Steve Clark, as well as Pogue, who is a former standout goalie himself.

"Pogue being our goalkeeper trainer the last two years has made me feel really confident," Hildebrandt said. "Now that he is the head coach he does not spend that extra time with the goalkeepers, but he still places a large emphasis on the defensive side of the ball."

One of the other challenges that Hildebrandt faced upon taking over the starting role was having to immediately step into a leadership role.

"As the goalkeeper, you are always a leader," Hildebrandt said. "As a goalie I can see the whole field so I am in a position where I can see when our team needs to settle down or focus."

Hildebrandt also said that he believes learning from Clark put him in a position to be successful when his time finally came to play.

"When I came in to Oakland, I was not in the greatest shape and I think that it was because the game did not challenge me particularly when I was in high school," he said. "Then I came here and I saw how hard Steve worked and I realized what it took to be successful at the collegiate level."

For Hildebrandt, playing at the next level is his ultimate goal. "There is nothing I would rather do than be on a soccer field for 90 minutes. It is all I have ever wanted to do."

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THE SPORTING BLITZ

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

Men's soccer

Season Record: 6-4-2 overall (3-0-0 in conference)

Oct. 7 — The Golden Grizzlies lost a hard-fought match-up by a 1-0 score against nationally ranked Ohio State Wednesday. The Buckeyes got on the scoreboard early, scoring what would be the game's only goal in the opening 10 minutes. Shots on goal were kept at a minimum for both teams, as OU was outshot 7-5 for the game. This was a rematch of a memorable opening round game last November in the NCAA Division I Tournament where OSU prevailed in a shootout.

Oct. 10 — Oakland returned to their winning ways Saturday afternoon with a 2-0 shutout of IPFW at the OU soccer field. Forwards Makesi Lewis and Stefan St. Louis notched goals for the Grizzlies, one in each half, en route to

victory. Goalkeeper Mitch Hildebrandt was not tested much, having to make just four saves to pick up his sixth shutout of the season. OU improved to 3-0 all-time against the Mastodons.

Women's soccer

Season Record: 5-7 overall (2-2 in conference)

Oct. 9 — The Grizzlies were victorious Friday in a matchup against South Dakota State. Oakland ended a double overtime game by breaking a scoreless tie 106 minutes into the match. Sophomore Deanna Colarossi netted her team-leading fifth goal of the year on a pass from team captain Lindsey Blair to end the game. Oakland goalkeeper Shannon Coley broke a 13-year-old school record by recording 17 saves in the match. The second half of the game was played in adverse weather conditions with strong winds and snow falling on the field in Brookings, S.D.

Oct. 11 — Oakland dropped a 2-1 decision to North Dakota State Sunday. All of the scoring came in the first half with NDSU jumping out to an early 2-0 lead. Freshman Leanne Fomenko scored her third goal of the season to cut the deficit to one, but the Grizzlies were unable to complete the comeback bid. OU will return home this week for three consecutive games against conference opponents.

Men's swimming

Oct. 9 — The men's swimming team competed in the Dennis Stark Relays on the campus of Notre Dame Friday. The team finished in third place out of five in the first intercollegiate competition of the new swimming season.

The highlight of the day for the Grizzlies was placing first in the 200 yard medley relay. OU's quartet of Anders Jensen, Scott Yarbrough, Alex Aceino and Mark Loegel narrowly beat host school Notre Dame in the event.

OU finished as the runner-up in several events, including the 400 relay, the 800 freestyle relay and the 400 butterfly.

Tigers exceed expectations, but leave fans disappointed

By KYLE BAUER
Guest Columnist

COLUMN

Game 163 in Minnesota encapsulated everything that the Detroit Tigers season was. All drops, twists and turns. Unexpected heroic performances, trumped by baffling lapses. They fooled you though. Because the game went 13 innings, because they ALMOST had it, you are satisfied.

For me, this season was more disaster and disappointment than surprise and satisfaction. My preseason expectation was 80 to 84 wins. They won 86. I just never would have thought that 87 would be enough to win the division. So, because Minnesota and Chicago underachieved, I should accept that the Tigers almost won the American League Central? No, not at all.

You can take the scenic route to almost and look at little breaks that went against the Tigers. But it's obvious they had more good luck than bad in a season in which they allowed more runs than they scored. Playoff contenders typically can't make that claim.

The Tigers were fortunate to ultimately draw a one-game playoff. Yet I still believe they underachieved.

What I look at it in their ultimate demise is the hitting. No one expected it to be good, but I never could have imagined it being this bad.

Curtis Granderson is a prime example. His .183 average against left-handed pitching unfortunately isn't that big of a surprise. This has dogged him throughout his career. What gets me is that in 2008 he had shown improvement against lefties, bumping his average up to .259. He followed that up with a sharp decrease in average against all pitching, not just against southpaws. Granderson regressed this season.

At one point, Magglio Ordonez was only batting against left-handed pitching. Mired in the mess of his wife's undisclosed medical problems, and debate over whether or not to allow his massive 18 million dollar option to kick in, he felt flat. Ordonez completely lost his ability to turn on a fastball making him a one-dimensional singles hitter.

Falling short of his career averages, I point at Placido Polanco as well. For the majority of the season, Polanco was hitting in the .270 range and in need of someone to pick him up. Like Magglio, Polanco regained form in the final weeks. He still came up with many big hits, but I believe the Tigers would have been

better served if he were getting the consistent hits to begin rallies and wear down pitchers.

Polanco would often set up Miguel Cabrera. I really can't dog his performance too much. His batting average increased from last season. The drop-off came slightly in home runs — 38 last season, 34 this season — but what got me was the 24 fewer RBIs. For the most part he went missing in clutch situations where you need your best hitters. The Tigers ability to score runs depends on Polanco getting on base and Cabrera driving him in. Too often this season did one or the other fail to execute.

Had these players stepped up to the level they have played at in the past, it wouldn't have come down to a one-game playoff. The Tigers would have run away with the division. Well maybe they would have choked in an even more epic fashion, but my point remains, this team underachieved.

Did the pitching staff overachieve? Yes. Edwin Jackson and Rick Porcello far exceeded expectations for this season. Unlike in 2008, Justin Verlander met them. Going down the list of pitchers in the bullpen, you clearly see that the pitching staff as a whole was exceptional, despite being marred by injuries. I underestimated what the Tigers were capable of at the beginning of this season because of their pitching.

I'm not discrediting Jim Leyland, who did a fine job managing around the lackluster at-bats that swallowed most games. He was so desperate, he batted journeyman Don Kelly third for a short time. Had this lineup performed up to par, Don Kelly would have been nothing but a pinch runner in September, not a cry for help.

While you're all taking the scenic route to almost, I'm going to continue taking the congested, construction-barrel laden, route that leaves you frustrated and slightly confused. That is how I feel when I hear a pleased fan or pundit say almost about the 2009 Detroit Tigers. Because ultimately almost means nothing, except that your trip is incomplete. You haven't reached your destination.

That's how the Tigers ended their season. The car stalled and ran out of gas with the finish line in sight.

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

Jordan McDonald

Hockey

Year: Sophomore

McDonald scored five goals in three games for the Oakland University club hockey team over the weekend, as they swept at the ACHA Showcase in Youngstown, Ohio.

13

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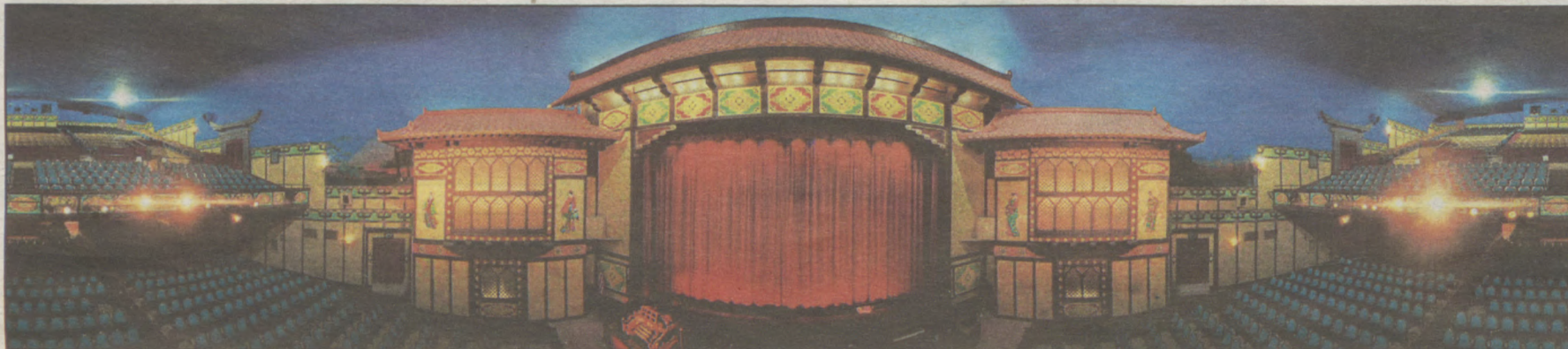


Photo courtesy of Thomas Schiff

A panoramic shot of the Redford Theatre. This is much like the theatre looked in 1928. The Japanese decor has been restored to its original grandeur and the seating was restored in 2002.

Nostalgia runs high at historic theater

By ALEXIS TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

The audience hushes and the lights dim around the pre-deco theatre. The red velvet curtains open slowly to reveal the stage. The accompanying pipe organ draws its first breath of deep sound. And the film reel begins.

This is a silent film screening from the 1920s, before theaters became known as "multiplexes" and candy cost as much as a movie ticket. It's an interesting novelty to our generation and a highly nostalgic one for past generations. Most of the original silent film theaters that played the organ and used real film through classic projectors have vanished from public recollection.

In the spirit of their tradition, however, many groups still preserve their memory. The Motor City Theatre Organ Society perpetuates that very thing through Detroit's Redford Theatre.

The history of the Redford Theatre in Detroit is a charming tale that not only tells the story of the organ and the "neighborhood movie houses," but one that tells of forgotten Detroit history as well. The Redford lit its marquee in 1928, during a transitional era for cinema. It was originally built to play silent films, hence the Barton Theatre Organ, but during its construction sprung the advent of "talkies." Admission was 30 cents.

Since then, the theater has been through a string of other transitional periods, some detrimental, others hopeful. The theater thrived during its heyday. Detroit was a bustling landscape of financial growth, trolley-buses, and patronage of the arts. But, during World War II, the theater's initial Japanese décor was painted over or taken down. The organ was left untouched and tucked away. Part of the marquee was removed for war scrap iron.

The Goldberg family took over the theater in the 50s. Their group of Community Theatres took over until the 70s, when they no longer considered the theater a profitable venture. It was then handed over to the Motor City Theatre Organ Society.

In the 60s and 70s there was a sudden revival of interest for the theater organ. MCTOS would come into the Redford and rent it out on Sundays to play Laurel & Hardy, Charlie Chaplin and other silent films. Soon,

their Sunday showings made a more substantial profit than the Redford's regular movie showings.

In an inspiring feat of preservation, today the Redford is around 90 percent restored to its original décor. MCTOS still runs the theater house on a volunteer basis and plays films ranging from "My Fair Lady" to silent films with stars like John Barrymore. All are accompanied with a pre-movie organ number, an intermission, an emcee, and various surprises tailored to the movie. When the Redford showed "Back to the Future," a refurbished DeLorean was driven across the stage.

The preserved Barton pipe organ is also only one of 32 left in the world, out of 10,000 originally made. It is undisturbed; heard exactly as it was in 1928.

"It's amazing how functional it all is (the theater, the organ). It spans all generations. Your great-grandparents could have gone there and they would have had the same experience and same fun time as you will," said Edward Seward, of the MCTOS/Theatre's Volunteer Services and Media Relations. "There is nothing wrong with the multiplex. But, this is just like comparing modern rockets to 'Star Trek.' It's a whole different movie experience."

Throughout the year, the Redford has various themes to their movie showings. From this weekend until Halloween weekend, the Redford is showing classic horror films. On Oct. 16 and 17, they are playing a double-feature of "Werewolf of London" (1935) and "House of Dracula" (1957) with special Friday guest host, Wolfman Mac of television's "Chiller Drive-In." Showings are at 8 p.m. Friday and 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday. Tony O'Brien, the skilled organist known for his prowess in the horror genre, will be playing. Costumes are encouraged to add to the mood. Tickets are \$5.

Before the show, patrons are invited to hike up to the projection booth, where you can marvel at the classic Norelco projectors and chat with the projectionists.

On Oct. 23 and 24 the Redford is playing one of their most anticipated showings of the year, John Barrymore's 1921 silent film "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Showings are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

"I encourage everyone to come to this. It's an opportunity that is unique and amazing and totally Americana.



Photo courtesy of Lance Luce

Tony O'Brien will play the organ on horror weekends at the Redford.

It's American history, we're talking 80, 90 years ago, but it's still relevant. It's (the silent film art form) like watching a Shakespeare play today. You can still relate," Seward said.

On Halloween weekend, the Redford wraps up the holiday with a Three Stooges movie festival. They will play six spooky-inspired Stooges shorts. In previous years, the Stooges festivals have held their largest attendance.

The Redford experience is living history. To watch the same movies, eat the same candy, hear the same sounds, and escape in the same ways as moviegoers from bygone eras is a luxury few events allow these modern days. There is a community affection that radiates in this rare artifact of a building. Just don't get upset when people talk to the screen during the silent film. Remember, talkies haven't been invented yet.

The Redford Theatre is located in Detroit at 17360 Lahser Rd. Check out redfordtheatre.com.

My adventures in "Zombieland"

By **DAN SIMONS**

Mouthing Off Editor

MOVIE REVIEW

Cardio. Double tap. Seatbelts. Don't be a hero. Always check the bathroom. These are just some of the rules to help keep you alive after the world has been overrun by the living dead. Battling the rotting dead doesn't stop one man from having no life. "Zombieland" is the story of a loveable loser, a rough redneck, and two sinister sisters on their way to what they believe is the last place left for humans after a zombie apocalypse — an amusement park.

Jesse Eisenberg plays the main character Columbus, who survives against the undead by adhering to a strict set of rules. He's an introverted neat freak and obsessive-compulsive loner. The role seems written for Michael Cera, but handed off to the nearest guy who could fill those shoes while Cera was off bombing in "Year One."

Woody Harrelson steals most of the scenes as Tallahassee, scouring the land for Twinkies in between his bouts of destroying things in the name of therapy.

The two men stumble across Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin, two sisters who con and steal anything they need to make it

in a world destroyed by ghouls.

The jokes are funny, the action is awesome, and the zombies claw, bite, and splatter with as much gore as a noncomedy zombie film. It never seems like the movie is too comedy or too zombie at any point, and it keeps a consistent balance throughout. While I personally would not put "Zombieland" on par with its British counterpart, the classic "Shaun of the Dead," I still recommend it and feel it was worth my money.

For zombie enthusiasts, some may not like the fact that the zombies run, a recent trend in undead cinema that goes against the standard shambling zombies from Romero classics. I personally feel running zombies are the better variety and think anyone who prefers slow, stumbling ghouls can get torn limb for limb and eaten alive.

My only gripe with the film is a lackluster credits roll after a creative use of graphics throughout the entire film. With a surprise hilarious appearance by Bill Murray and enough shots of Emma Stone with a shotgun to make you forget about Megan Fox fighting robots, this movie is awesome.

It's time to nut up and shut up — "Zombieland" is a fun place to go and a great movie to watch.



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Publicity /Glen Wilson

The zombie-fighting main character, Columbus, is played by break-out star Jesse Eisenberg.



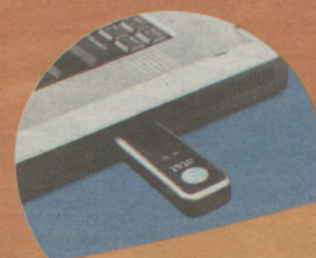
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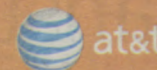
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Will Gitmo move to Michigan?

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Government officials and citizen activists warned people at a town hall meeting in Rochester High School on Monday that transferring detainees from the Guantanamo Bay prison to a prison in Standish, Mich. could be dangerous.

They said it will put at risk not only the Standish community, but surrounding communities, the state of Michigan and the United States of America.

"Is this self-targeting worth it?" said Peter Leitner, president of Higgins Counterterrorism Research Center, who was one of the panelists.

Leitner and other panelists speaking said the risks of moving the detainees far outweigh the benefits, because the prison could be targeted by terrorists to try to free the prisoners, local governments could have to spend extra money for security, and civilians and public places could be targeted.

The meeting was organized by Michigan Coalition to Stop Gitmo North, a grassroots organization concerned over the issue, to inform citizens of the risks and ask for their support to help stop the government from moving Guantanamo, or Gitmo, detainees to Michigan.

Among the panelists, who were all in support of the Coalition's cause, were state senator Mike Bishop, whose jurisdiction includes Rochester Hills, and

Mike Bouchard, Oakland County sheriff.

Linda Brenner, an organizer, estimated the meeting was attended by about 450 people. Most of the attendees appeared to be in support of the Coalition's beliefs.

The Michigan State Senate and the State House of Representatives recently passed resolutions stating they do not want the Guantanamo detainees moved to Michigan.

The U.S. Congress also passed a resolution stating it will not fund the closing of Gitmo and transferring of the detainees on U.S. soil until more information is available.

Megan Brown, a spokesperson for Gov. Jennifer Granholm, said that Granholm has concerns about the possible move, and until those concerns are met, she will not support it.

Mike Moran, city manager of Standish, said that if the detainees were moved to the maximum security prison, it would help out the city's finances.

"It would help the community," Moran said of the possibility that the detainees be moved to Standish.

Michigan Congress voted to close some prisons to save money on the budget, including the prison in Standish.

The closing was unrelated to the issue of Guantanamo Bay. Bouchard said closing the prisons to save money was a serious safety hazard, as prisoners paroled early killed people after they

were released.

He said when the prison closes on Oct. 31, the city will lose \$36,000 from water and sewage revenue, but holding Gitmo detainees in the Standish prison would get this back.

The panelists said that U.S. House Representative Bart Stupak, whose jurisdiction includes Standish, also supports the possible move.

But Stupak denied this in a statement e-mailed to The Oakland Post by his spokesperson Michelle Begnoche.

"My position on transferring Guantanamo detainees to Standish prison remains the same — I only support the move if it has the support of state and local officials," Stupak said. "My first concern has always been the impact this proposal would have on the safety of the Standish community. No proposal has been made to move the detainees to Standish as there are several options and locations under consideration to house Guantanamo detainees."

Standish was revealed to be on the list of possible places the detainees could be moved to if the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay is closed. The Gitmo facility was created after the Sept. 11 attacks, and has been controversial because American prison workers have been accused of torturing the terror suspect detainees during interrogations, and because some detainees have not been given due process of law.

Another possible place to move the detainees was revealed to be Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, but it was recently taken off the list.

"We hail Wednesday's announcement as a victory for the people of Kansas, that the federal government is no longer considering Fort Leavenworth to house Gitmo detainees and urge that our elected officials demonstrate the same non-partisan, resolute opposition to transferring Gitmo terror suspects to Michigan," said the Coalition in a press release.

Kelly Kimball, a Standish resident, said it's not only a local issue, but a state and national issue.

"These people have no right to step on U.S. soil," said Dave Munson, a Standish resident, regarding the detainees.

"This is just a public relations gimmick trying to push an ill-conceived campaign promise," Leitner said, referring to President Barack Obama's promise to close Guantanamo Bay in one year after taking office.

"They say Gitmo's an abomination. It's not going to be any less abomination in the United States," he said.

"Nobody's going to want to live here" in Standish if the terror suspects are there, Leitner said.

Attendees were asked to contact government representatives to say that moving the Gitmo detainees to Michigan is a bad idea, email stopgitmonorth@gmail.com to find out what they can do.

Lansing: stimulus saved or created 19,500 jobs

By TIM MARTIN
Associated Press Writer

LANSING — About 19,500 jobs in Michigan were saved or created through the end of September with federal stimulus money, according to the state's first accounting of how the money was spent.

About 74 percent of the jobs were at schools or related to education, according to a state report released Monday. Many of the jobs were likely teachers or others who would have been laid off without the federal money.

About 17 percent of the jobs were related to work force development, such as summer jobs for people under age

24. Another 6 percent were tied to road repair and other construction projects.

Nationwide, education and construction benefited the most from the federal stimulus package, according to preliminary information gathered by The Associated Press. Schools in particular were helped, as federal money supplemented state and local budgets and spared what officials said would have been tens of thousands of teacher layoffs.

"The blow would have been much worse had that money not been there," said Doug Pratt, a spokesman for the Michigan Education Association, the state's largest teachers union.

As of Sept. 30, Michigan had spent

about \$620 million of the \$3.7 billion it was allocated in federal stimulus money.

The state's report covered money it spent or distributed to other agencies for such things as education, road and sewer construction and alternative energy. It did not include stimulus money spent on such programs as Medicaid, food assistance or unemployment.

It also didn't include money the federal government sent directly to more than 1,300 local governments, universities and other agencies around the state.

Overall, Michigan officials estimate \$9.3 billion in stimulus funding has been allocated to the state, local governments, residents and tribal governments.

The report doesn't distinguish the number of jobs saved from the number created by the stimulus. But it's likely Michigan's high unemployment rate — 15.2 percent in August — would be worse if it weren't for the federal assistance.

The state has lost more than 300,000 jobs in the past year.

State and local agencies that receive stimulus money were required to report to the federal government over the weekend. The reports cover the period from when the stimulus package was signed into law in February through Sept. 30.

Agencies will be required to file reports every three months as the Recovery Act program continues.

Local news briefs

Source: The Associated Press

Police step up patrols after 11 Detroit arsons

DETROIT — Police are stepping up patrols in an east side Detroit neighborhood after 11 fires were set within 90 minutes over the weekend.

The fires occurred come three weeks before the annual citywide Angel's Night observance when police and volunteers are extra vigilant against arson.

The 11 fires happened on six adjacent streets between 5:30-7 a.m. Sunday. Seven of the houses were vacant. No injuries were reported in the four occupied homes.

Police spokesman John Roach says the fires are under investigation.

Detroit officials are preparing for Angel's Night patrols over several days around Halloween. Once known as Devil's Night, the period saw hundreds of fires set each year to abandoned houses and buildings in Detroit.

MDOT seeks public comment on high-speed rail plan

DETROIT — The Michigan Department of Transportation is seeking public comment on an environmental assessment done as part of an effort to upgrade the Detroit-to-Chicago rail line for high-speed service.

The environmental assessment details proposed upgrades to tracks, trains and amenities.

Among the changes, a new station would be built in Troy to replace a station in Birmingham; a new station would be built in Dearborn combining two existing stations; and the Battle Creek station would be overhauled.

A copy of the assessment is available on the Department of Transportation's website, www.michigan.gov/mdot. Comments are due by Oct. 20.

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October 14, 2009

Obama? Nobel, what the hell?

Read about the peace prize surprise before this article wins an award

By DAN SIMONS
Mouthing Off Editor

I've got to find a place for my Pulitzer Prize.

The way I figure, if President Obama is handed the high honor of The Nobel Peace Prize only nine months into his presidency, then I'm bound to win a Pulitzer. For which article? It doesn't matter, I'll write it later.

You see, Nobel Prize nominations are submitted before February 1, meaning Obama was president for less than two weeks when he was nominated.

I've been the editor of Mouthing Off for six weeks now, which makes me a shoo-in for the top literary prize.

Hell, throw in a Peabody award too. I'll probably earn it.

The award, given out to those who promote peace in the world, is named after Alfred Nobel, famed chemist and inventor of dynamite. You know, that stuff that explodes violently and kills people? Yeah, he wanted world peace.

Hey, that last bit was funny. Where's my Emmy? Tina Fey has too many already.

Obama was given the award "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

He has helped, or will help, or hopes to help nations come together for peace talks, ends to conflicts, and making the world a better place.

Although, North Koreans still live in a hellish tyrannical pit, Iran is still fiddling with nukes and aiming them at Israel, Africa is still plagued by AIDS and South America continues to pump drugs into every corner of the globe.

You know what else helps people stop fighting and become friends? Booze. I don't see Jim Beam and Pierre Smirnoff getting post-mortem peace prizes.

Some people think that the international community is only giving Obama the award to prove just how much they hated Bush. "Peace Prize" now means "Thanks for not invading anyone this year!"

To be fair, Bush did play one of the longest games of hide-and-seek with Osama bin Laden and deserves a gold star for being runner-up.

Other people think that the award is another ass kissing when it comes to Obama-rama and treating him as some sort of savior of America, which isn't true: The medal is made of heavy gold and will therefore slow down his ascent into the heavens above.

Despite where you fall on the political spectrum, you have to admit that this prize is being given to the president of the United States for something beauty pageant contestants ask for at the end of every speech: World peace — and Obama didn't even have to slip into a bikini.

That last bit I stole from my friend and fellow journalist, Jared Purcell. He's busy making a trophy case for the track and field Olympic gold medals he's already won at the London 2012 games.

Oh wait, is this because of the Olympics? Obama came up short in trying to get Chicago the games, losing to crime-ridden Rio De Janeiro so he's getting a medal as consolation?

If we're giving out sports-related runner-up prizes, then after the way the Tigers bombed out of the playoffs Detroit gets to coat the Ambassador Bridge in platinum, right? If Pittsburgh gets Stanley, we get our auto industry back?

This does feel like a pat on the back in a sports game. These days we have to make sure that every kid playing feels good about themselves, because gone are the days where you suffer a loss, change for the better, learn from your mistakes, and grow into a better person.

No, these days you give ribbons out to every kid, and special awards for the kids who scored a goal, the kids who didn't hurt themselves, and an award for largest dent left in a car from a soccer ball.

Obama is the third president to win the award while in office. Woodrow Wilson won it when he created the League of Nations, the failed precursor to the United Nations.

Theodore Roosevelt won it because, well, he had a lot of guns and you didn't ask questions around the guy.

Jimmy Carter also won the award, but that was after he was in office, when we fumbled the Iran hostage situation. Ironically, he won the award in 2002 because of his Mideast peace talks. Go figure.

"To be honest," said Obama after getting the award, "I do not feel that I deserve to be in the

company of so many of the transformative figures who've been honored by this prize."

At least he's covering his ass on this one.

"Let me be clear," he continued, "I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments, but rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations."

No, wait, now he's blaming this on us. That was smooth. Someone should give him an award.

If anything, this will only spur Mr. President into doing something to prove to the world he deserves the award. It's kind of like giving a teenager their first car and telling them they will earn it with chores and good grades.

Here you go, Barack. Now use the next three years to fix the economy, save the climate, stop people from blowing each other to pieces, and regain our global standing or we'll return the award to the Norwegians.

Oh, and win the hide-and-seek game. Use lots and lots of explosives to really make Mr. Nobel proud.

So, back to my Pulitzer. I think I'll put it next to the Heisman trophy I won because I watched a college football game, and in front of the Oscar they gave me because I almost saw Slumdog Millionaire in theaters last year.

Congratulations, Mr. President. I can't wait until I get my Nobel prize too.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post
Not only did Jason win photojournalism award for this picture, but for some reason a Grammy as well.

Jurors at Atlantic City corruption trial watch sex tape

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press Writer

MAYS LANDING — Kristyn Haino had qualms about luring a stranger to a motel room and having sex with him at the behest of some acquaintances who would pay her for doing it.

But with an "all-day, everyday" heroin and cocaine habit, she needed the \$200 to \$300 the job would bring, and did as she was told — despite her suspicion the November 2006 encounter was being videotaped.

The assignment grew more distasteful when the man directed a steady stream of vulgar, sexist and racist comments at her as she engaged in a sex act.

Then he slipped her a business card. "It said 'City Councilman,'" she testified. "At that point, it was way out of my league."

Haino is the prostitute at the center of one of Atlantic City's most colorful corruption cases in decades. It involves a plan hatched by former Council President Craig Callaway to ruin council rival Eugene Robinson, who had broken with Callaway and switched allegiances

after Callaway admitted taking bribes.

Callaway admitted masterminding the scheme and was sentenced last year to three years in prison, to be served concurrently with a 40-month sentence in the federal bribery case.

His brothers Ronald and David, and friend Floyd Tally are on trial for conspiracy, criminal coercion and invasion of privacy in the videotaping case.

Haino testified that a friend and Tally recruited her to have sex with a man for money "because he turned his back on his friends."

Waiting for Robinson to emerge from a 7-11 where he was known to buy junk food most nights, Haino testified, a man she identified as Ronald Callaway pointed out the target to her, saying, "There he is, go!"

She walked up to Robinson and told him her girlfriends were staying at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa on the other side of the city.

"I told him he looked like a nice gentleman and asked him if he could give me a ride," she testified. "He was all for it."

En route to the casino, she said she changed her mind and wanted to go

home to her motel. When they drew near it, she testified, "I said I wanted to compensate him for giving me a ride home."

They walked into room 102 at the Bayview Motel in neighboring Absecon. She got Robinson to sit in a specially placed chair, as she said she had been instructed to do, and asked him for money to buy sodas. This was yet another directive from the defendants, she testified: Make sure he hands you money for something.

The last directive: During sex, make sure he looks over at the clock (which was outfitted with a hidden camera, though no one told her that at the time).

Haino testified that Robinson was crude and verbally abusive while she performed oral sex on him.

It was only after the recording surfaced publicly and Robinson — a Baptist minister — went to the authorities alleging he was being blackmailed that she began to have some sympathy for him.

"I knew what I was doing was wrong, but I was OK with it," she testified. "When I found out he was a religious man, it hurt. It affected me. I knew this man's reputation was hurt, and I felt

bad. I still do."

About 10 seconds of the tape was played in court Tuesday, showing the two entering the motel room and kissing.

Prosecutors allege the defendants leaked the tape to the media with a note claiming it showed Robinson having sex with a 16-year-old girl (Haino was 24 at the time of the encounter) in an attempt to force him to resign from the City Council.

Haino spent 18 months in rehab and says she has not used drugs or engaged in prostitution in two years.

Tally was granted permission by the judge to question witnesses after complaining that his lawyer was mishandling the case. During his cross-examination of Haino in which Tally had a freeze-frame from the tape displayed on a screen, he was frustrated that the video did not prove a point he was trying to make about the layout of the room.

"Can we get a different camera angle?" he asked aloud.

"Your honor," Chief Assistant Prosecutor James McClain replied, "the defendants only manufactured one videotape; this is all we have."

UCLA student charged with attempted murder

LOS ANGELES — A UCLA student has been charged with attempted premeditated murder in the slashing of a classmate's throat during a chemistry lab.

The district attorney's office says 20-year-old Damon Thompson will be arraigned Tuesday. He is being held on \$1 million bail. Thomas is accused of attacking a female student he was standing next to during the lab at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Prosecutors say the attack on Thursday was unprovoked, and that he stabbed her five times. Witnesses say Thomas walked calmly into a student information office after the attack and told a staff member he had stabbed someone. The victim was taken to a hospital in critical condition. Her condition has been improving.

Ohio boy, 7, hit by deer while playing football

WINTERSVILLE — A 7-year-old Ohio boy playing a game of backyard football was tackled by a deer.

Brandon Hiles says he encountered the buck when the ball rolled into woods while he was playing with friends Saturday in Winterville, about 125 miles east of Columbus.

The boy says the buck ran at him and flipped him with its antlers, leaving bruises and a gash.

His 9-year-old friend Wyatt Pugh beat the deer with a stick to make it go away.

Winterville police officer Art Fowler Jr. says there were actually two bucks in the area gearing for a fight, and Hiles was attacked when he inadvertently got between them.

Cuba won't let blogger go to US to receive award

HAVANA — A Cuban blogger who has become an international sensation for offering frank criticism of her country's communist system said she was denied government permission Monday to travel to New York to receive a top journalism prize.

Yoani Sanchez had hoped to go to Columbia University for a Wednesday ceremony to receive her Maria Moors Cabot Prize, the oldest international award in journalism. "Immigration just confirmed that I remain prohibited from leaving the country," she posted on her "Generation Y" blog.

There was no confirmation from the government, but Cuban authorities almost never comment on such matters.

NY dad sues over son's hazing drinking death

GENESEO — A New York City father is suing a group of college students accused of plying his son with so much alcohol during hazing at a banned college fraternity that the teen died.

Nineteen-year-old sophomore Arman Partamian was found dead March 1 after drinking heavily for three days to gain membership in the unsanctioned fraternity at the State University of New York in Geneseo.

In a wrongful death lawsuit filed in Queens, Hagop Partamian is seeking \$2.5 million in compensation from six young men and two co-owners of the fraternity property. Two former fraternity members are charged with hazing and criminally negligent homicide. A third pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor in return for three months of weekends in jail.

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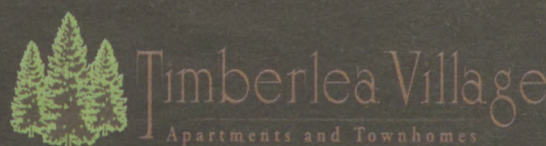
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