

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

November 19, 2008

Volume 35, Number 12



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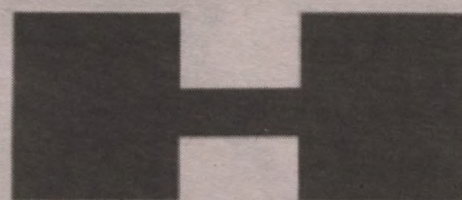
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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives page 4

One student sees a disturbing trend in the fashion choices of adolescent girls.



Campus page 8

OU Student Body President Steve Clark resigns. Find out why and where OUSC goes from here.



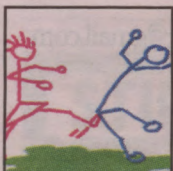
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Gambling at Main Street Billiards makes a difference in the lives of Special Olympics athletes.



The Mix page 14

The Post ponders how students got their sex education, and whether the media is a bad influence on young children.



you page 16

Learn about women's safety tips and what classes are offered on campus.



Sports page 18

Agnes Solan patrols the pool, searching for redemption after being snubbed last season.



the Scene page 23

You/Local Editor Jared Purcell gives his opinions on the latest installment of the Bond films.



MOUTHING OFF page 25

Don't call Tyra Banks for a free fortune reading, she may be too busy trying to solve America's economic problems as the first lady.



Nation | World page 27

Pirates continue to hijack vessels as a Saudi oil tanker is claimed.



"Let's talk about sex" survey results are in. See what OU students had to say about STD testing, one-night stands and using protection.

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Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

November 19, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Is the media portraying sex in the right way?

Sex. These three little letters cover a whole lot of ground.

It seems as if no matter where you go in the world of media, sex follows you. It's prevalent in everything in media, from sideline reporters to suddenly-desperate housewives, from commercials to the race for president.

And we're lusting for more.

You read right, we're calling for more sex in media. For the sake of the children.

That's not to say that we favor more of the current depictions of sex rampant in the media today. Icons like Erin Andrews, Wisteria Lane, Amp Energy Drink's "Walk of No Shame" and "Naylin' Palin" have invaded crevices of media once thought uncorruptable. Like the more egregious forms of pre-packaged sex they present a pure, emotional, spiritual act as plastic and formulaic, worthy of being bought and sold by an all-too-eager public.

These trite, banal symbols of sex used as a marketing tool have clouded the morals of college students at an alarming rate. How many teenage girls took Stacy Hamilton's views on virginity seriously during "Fast Times at Ridgemont High"? How many teenage boys wrote off "the girl next door" because she didn't act like Danielle from "The Girl Next Door"?

Real sex rarely reaches the silver screen and that is damaging to our society. Nobody seems to have to bother with birth control or controlling their orgasm. The sheets are never messed up, nor are their feelings. As for the kids, well, we all know that married couples don't have sex anyway.

The version of sex that you see in the media revolves around hard bodies and careful scripts. The orgasms are timely, clean and marked only by a sudden end to motion. They are supposed to signify either the high-water mark or the powerful finish to any relationship and never a wasted effort.

This is, obviously, rarely the case. When sex is amazing, it's usually spontaneous, unrestrained and filthy. When sex is bad, it's weird, awkward and painful. Usually, it's somewhere between funny, humbling and amazing.

With such pitiful symbols in media, it's no wonder that sex has been deprived of its meaning in society. How can we fault 69 percent of the men who took our survey for not being tested for STDs when men in the media never seem to have to bother with a condom, much less a pee-cup? How can we question the confusion over what constitutes "second base" when television characters seem to hit home runs every time they come up to bat?

Let's get sex on television and movies the way that we know it, the way that our surveys show it. Let's show the pull-out method, lonely masturbation scenes, Adderall-poppers, confused feelings between friends-with-benefits and trust versus lust.

We want more sex on television that properly conveys the complexity behind the very natural act. Let's see the glory of two responsible people in both love and lust clumsily tearing at each other after a hard day at work on the same channel as the bums replicating Paris Hilton, apparently trying out for "America's Next Top Punchline."

Sex is a word that means a lot of different things to different people. Some hold that sex is an entirely emotional idea that can only be shared by married couples. Others say that it should only be used to procreate. Still others take a completely different view, believing that sex is devoid of emotion.

Whatever your beliefs, it's best that they come through your own personal experiences. Because of its role in our society as a teacher, we believe it is best for media to show more realistic depictions of sex.



DARYL CAGLE/MSNBC.com

What do you think? Have a news tip?

Send your comments to
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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.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

On page 15 of the Nov. 12 issue, Kirstie Malone's name was spelled incorrectly.

On page 27 of the Nov. 12 issue, the dates for the Nation/World Briefs should have been Nov. 9, 10 and 11.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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.

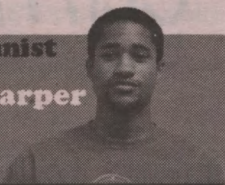
- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Student questions the sexuality of youth fashion

Guest Columnist

Stephen Sharper

Senior
Sociology Major



I think there's an all too familiar story that many guys my age can tell. You're walking somewhere and your eye just happens to catch a nice pair of legs. As you look up, your attention is maintained by what seems to be the figure of a healthy, full grown woman. Finally, you're in for an unsettling shock when your eyes meet the face of the young lady you've been checking out. You're shocked because upon seeing the girl's face, you realize that she is just that — a little girl.

When I say little, I'm generally talking anyone under 18 years old which, for me and many of my peers at Oakland University, is too young. Specifically for the purposes of this topic, I'm talking about girls who look like they could very well be 13 or 14 years old. Now that is disturbing.

What I've come to notice over the past

four years or so, maybe even longer, is that there is an overall increase in the sexual nature of dress that adolescent and now preadolescent girls seem to favor.

Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but when I was in junior high school I don't exactly remember every girl showing up to school as if they were going to the club after class. Granted, it was a trend that definitely started by the time I was in junior high, which was around the turn of the millennium, but it definitely seems more prevalent now.

I take a lot of interest in the social sciences, especially topics of gender and sexuality, and have taken a lot of classes related to that interest. I've learned in my Women Across Cultures class that first menstruation among native peoples generally takes place at around 17 years of age. In industrial countries, especially the United States, we have girls starting their periods as young as 11.

Hormones in our foods seem to be the most likely cause but what are some of the implications of this phenomenon? Young girls are starting to reach sexual maturity sooner and at an age where I believe they should be worrying about

high school placement tests and having fun with their friends instead of asking their moms to take them to Victoria Secret.

I may be all about freedom, especially women's freedom, in a time where the media is ripe with ideas about what it means to be a true woman. I just think that 12 and 13 years old is a little too early to be exploring one's sexuality in that particular way.

There are a number of problems with this trend, some trivial and some potentially quite serious. First, I'm simply tired of looking at attractive, seemingly college aged women and finding that they are freshmen in high school. It's not just me either. I've talked to a number of my male friends who have had the same experience.

On a more serious note, I have also taken notice of what seems to be the increase in sexual activity of young women from ages 12 to 14. Now, I don't want to condemn anyone's sexual history, but I think 12 is a little too early to be having sex. I've heard this from classmates who knew people in junior high school who did it; talk shows have eaten up this topic in recent years and

there have been articles online about this phenomenon.

America's kids may be maturing faster on a physical level, but mentally and emotionally I think 12 is far too young for anyone to know the full implications of sexual activity. This doesn't even begin to take into account the possibility that this age group may see increases in attempted and perpetrated sexual assaults.

I'm a firm believer in the idea that women should be able to dress however they wish and be free from harassment, discrimination and, most especially, assault. In reality, however, people often use women's clothing choices as excuses for why such heinous crimes are committed.

At the end of the day, media images about sex, the fashion industry's desire and obvious success at marketing sexier clothing to a younger audience, combined with parental consent and complacency has combined to create this new dilemma. I guess only time and social science research will reveal the problems that will emerge from this new trend, and how serious the implications are for our young ones.

STUDENT LIFE WEEKLY

Karen Lloyd
Assistant Dean of Students

HOT TOPIC



College students' money mistakes

Daily, there are more reports about struggling economy. In the midst of this uncertainty sound financial management is more important than ever. Following are money mistakes made by college students and some suggestions to stay financially sound.

1. Set a budget. A budget helps track expenditures and provides a feeling of control and peace of mind. It also helps to have enough money to make it through the school year.

2. Shop for the best cell phone deal. Avoid exceeding free minutes.

3. Use a debit card. This gives instant access to money and limits spending to what's in the account.

4. Avoid credit card debt. According to "Money and the College Student: Leave College Without Credit Card Debt", the average undergraduate college student has four credit cards and \$2,169 in credit card debt. According to Nellie Mae, the nation's largest maker of student loans, the average graduate student has \$5,800 in credit card debt. At interest rates of

15-18 percent, it could be 10-15 years before the credit card is paid off.

5. Avoid ruining your credit score. Many graduates will be required to complete a credit history as a part of the employment application process. Late credit card payments, maxed out credit lines, or too many credit cards result in a poor credit score. This will make it difficult to get an apartment, obtain a car loan or find a job.

6. Avoid wasting student loan money. Use student loan money to finance education, not lifestyles. Remember, tuition, room and board, and textbooks are smart ways to spend money. Buying CD's, expensive clothes and eating out are not. Student loans must be paid off, so use the money wisely.

Making smart money decisions will be beneficial in the long-run and result in financial freedom.

—Resources: "Money and the College Student: Leave College Without Credit Card Debt" and "College Credit Crisis."

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING STUDENT AWARDS:

WILSON AWARDS

Nominees for the 2009 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in Winter 2008 or have graduated in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2008.

The awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders, and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. Nominees must have a strong academic record of a 3.5 or higher GPA.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in Winter 2008 or have graduated in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2008.

The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to inter-group understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community. The major consideration of the award is the individual's service to the community.

A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.

Nomination forms are available online at www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/ under "Scholarships and Awards" or at 144 Oakland Center. Call 370-3352 for more information.

Deadline for both awards is Monday, February 2, 2009.

An honest glimpse at sex on campus

DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

By LINDSEY WOJCIK AND
NICK DEGEL
Editor in Chief and Managing Editor



Senior Katie Wolf has had reason to view sex from a whole new perspective. Having ended a serious relationship just days ago, Wolf is beginning to reflect on how her approach to sex has changed.

She cites that relationship as a real breakthrough for her. "With [him] it wasn't just about sex. It made me realize that there was a whole other level you can reach with another person when there's an emotional bond," she said.

Wolf is quick to point out that the experience lead her from a more "cavalier" approach to sex to one built around the emotions of a strong relationship.

"When you're in love a certain barrier is broken and there's a vulnerability that you're willing to show the person that you love that you might not be able to show someone that you just really really like," she said.

According to well-renowned internist and addiction medicine specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky, humans are biologically designed to have an emotional reaction to sex.

"There's a lot of functional MRI data that shows men and women respond profoundly differently biologically to sexual material in terms of what arouses them and their experiencing with sexual acts," he said.

Pinsky touched on this and other topics during his lecture at Oakland University on Tuesday.

"When you look at the male responsiveness in the central nervous system in the brain, say to visual sexual material, what you find is a very powerful arousal ... and then immediate drive response," Pinsky said.

"If you show arousal sexual material to many females, most females, they will have arousal in the same region, no drive."

Pinsky went on to say that for men "arousal around sex equals appetite and drive" and for women, "intimate conversation ... activates drive."

Senior Rob Grieser notices a pointed difference in the way that men and women approach sex.

"Between my girlfriend and I there is a gulf of difference in our approach [to sex]. I don't see much of a difference in myself at all ... it's a lot more of a big deal for her," he said.

Senior Demetrios Anastasiow also sees a difference between men and women especially as it pertains to bringing sex into the equation. "I generally think guys prefer to not go longer than a few weeks and girls prefer going longer, but that also depends on how attached and attracted the people

are to each other."

Regardless of the form of communication there's no shortage of topics that need to be addressed when it comes to a healthy sex life.

Testing. Attention, please

According to American Social Health Association, less than half of adults ages 18-44 have ever been tested for an STD/STI other than HIV/AIDS.

"The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommends [to get tested] once a year. If you test positive they recommend that you come back in 90 days to get retested. Part of the problem is that if your back with the partner who has the infection and they don't get treated you're just going to get it back again," said Lynda Byer, an RN with the Screening Project in Oakland County and the Michigan Department of Health.

In the state of Michigan the two sexually transmitted infections of concern are Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

According to the Michigan Department of Health, 40 percent of Chlamydia cases reported in 2007 were among 15-19 year olds and 33 percent were among 20-24 year olds. Thirty-three percent of Gonorrhea cases reported in 2007 were among 15-19 year olds and 28 percent were among 20-24 year olds.

Grieser said he gets tested and uses protection but that he has not been tested in quite awhile because he has been in a monogamous relationship for the last four and a half years.

"There really hasn't been any need to," he said. "As for my friends, I've got a couple buddies with kids so I would say that I probably err on the side of caution more so than they do."

Having screened over 12,000 young adults and adolescents, Byer said that in the Screening Project the asymptomatic rate for males who do not know they have Chlamydia is 80 percent.

"There's no risk profile that we're going to know that someone has Chlamydia. Someone could come to us that has 25 partners and they're negative, and the next has one partner and they're positive," Byer said.

In a nonscientific survey administered by The Oakland Post in the Nov. 12 issue, results show that 69.2 percent of sexually active males have not been tested for STIs.

This large percentage could be attributed to what Pinsky said is a different approach that men tend to have toward medical screenings. "It's like trying to get a guy to ask for directions. It's that exact impulse," he said.

"Women are much more used to going to medical care systems. They've been going since they were 18 and getting their Pap smears," he said. "Men do not have any sort of regular ritual so they haven't done testing. Even if they did have a regular health maintenance, it's hard to get a man to take care of medical issues."

Though women in the survey were tested at a better percentage, just under half are still choosing not to get tested. The Graham Health Center on OU's campus offers free and discrete STI screenings to students.

"Any student coming in, we're asking [Graham Health Center] to offer this screening," Byer said. "Even if [a student is coming] in for a headache, or for any other reason, we're saying 'go ahead and offer them this testing.'"

The state has also provided Graham with free medication to treat Chlamydia and Gonorrhea that can be administered to at no cost to students.

"There's over 35 STDs now. It's really scary out there and we're concerned about the health of your generation," Byer said.

Sexual Relations

Addressing college-aged women in his lecture, Pinsky said that they perceive only three options for the relationships that make up their social lives: the hook-up, "joined-at-the-hip" relationships and friends with benefits.

Considering the latter, sophomore

Katy Gasta said that she has been in a friends with benefits type relationship. She said it began as a "hook up" until feelings became too obvious to ignore.

"I started kind of liking him but I didn't lead on to it at all because I didn't

want it to get weird," she said. "Then he just stopped talking to me, in which I confronted him and he said 'I didn't want you to get attached.'"

"I basically told him that just because we are having sex doesn't mean I want to be your girlfriend. Things just got weird after that."

Pinsky is leery of these kinds of casual sex relationships as they run contrary to our human nature.

"[They] look great on paper. Things that look great on paper do not necessarily resonate in human experience," he said.

"Inevitably we are human beings and inevitably someone develops an attachment. Men and women equally, somebody gets hurt."

Anastasiow said that as he gets older his opinions on casual sex relationships have changed.

"When I was young I didn't want anything to do with a relationship. But over the years as I have gotten older and had a few casual relationships and long relationships; one-night stands are not as attractive anymore — and with rate of diseases nowadays, it's a total turnoff," he said.

"I've been in love twice and there's nothing on this planet that compares to that."

Senior Meagan Mentor can second that sentiment as she has been in a serious relationship for two years. She explained the different role sex plays in her relationship now compared to when it first started.

"When we were first together it was crazy, like we couldn't keep our hands off each other," she said. "I remember when we first met, how exciting everything was and how spontaneous it was. But our relationship now is more focused on being together and spending time together."

"[Sex] cemented the relationship, like we're going to be together and not with anyone else. It was a stepping stone and

we were committed to each other," she said.

Mentor said that while sex is still a big part of their relationship, it's not the only thing that matters to them. "We would rather get in bed and cuddle and a lot of the time we look more

forward to that than having sex because we're both tired."

She explained that in the beginning of the relationship sex was an everyday occurrence, whereas now it happens two to three times a week.

"Before [sex] was always what you looked forward to because it was new

and exciting, but now it's turned into something meaningful," Mentor said.

It was this same kind of relationship that Wolf has seen come to a close. Though she admits to still being upset about the breakup and "can't see herself dating anyone for a while," she

takes heart in having experienced such an emotional connection.

"People have sex for a number of reasons. I think it's important to have that connection and intimacy with somebody for sex to be truly meaningful, and it's impossible to know that until you've been in that kind of a relationship."

Wolf also said she finds little use for hindsight.

"I think people are so overwhelmed with getting advice that the message does not send through at all. Eighteen-year-old Katie wouldn't listen to 21-year-old Katie," she said.



SEX

By the numbers...

After tallying the responses from the "Let's talk about sex" survey in last week's issue, here are some results that jumped out at us.

88.2%

of sexually active men and women polled use some form of protection.

69.2%

of sexually active men polled have never been tested for STIs.

42.3%

‡ of sexually active women polled have never been tested for STIs.

58.5%

* ‡ of all men and women polled have had three or fewer sexual partners.

60.9%

‡ of sexually active men and women polled did not feel pressured into their first sexual experience.

97 women and 39 men polled. 136 total.

* 119 women and 45 men polled. 164 total.

‡ data includes 1 or 2 no response answers.

Dr. Drew deals with drama

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

Many may know him from VH1's "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew" or MTV's "Sex with Mom and Dad," but on Tuesday, Dr. Drew Pinsky came to speak at Oakland University about hooking up, "getting loaded" and addiction, among other things.

"We co-sponsor with the Student Life Board, once I found out Dr. Drew was coming I was excited because I see him on TV," said Sean Dunlap, the main stage chair of the Student Program Board.

Pinsky is an addiction specialist and a board certified internist — a specialist in the diagnosis and non-surgical treatment of diseases.

He has also co-hosted the radio show "Loveline" since 1982. In 1996, a television version of the show began on MTV, which he hosted with Adam Corolla.

"I thought I was doing community service and I asked if I could come back and keep answering questions," Pinsky said about "Loveline."

"That was the dawning of the HIV epidemic and I thought people needed to understand and know about that because nobody was talking about it, particularly the young people."

Pinsky's visit to campus was not just a lecture, as he included the audience and answered their questions.

He also spoke about "hooking up" and why college students in particular felt the need to "get loaded" and take part in random hookups, as well as many other topics related to love, sex and romance.

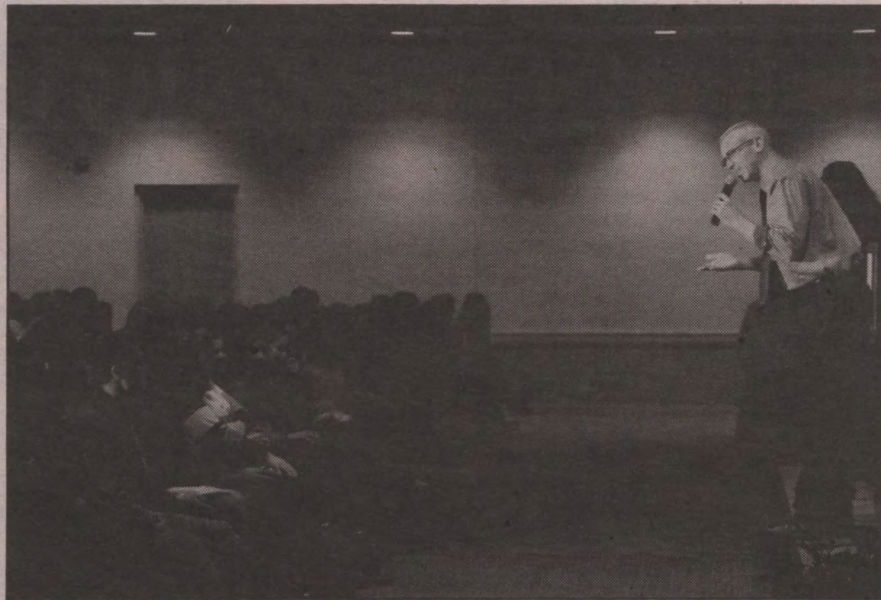
The loaded hookup

Pinsky opened the floor to discussion to find out why college students felt the need to get loaded before a hookup. The men answered first.

Several reasons for drinking were cited, such as it increases their stamina, drinking created a good excuse, loosened inhibitions and increased confidence.

"So it would be accurate then to say that the hookup, as a male, is something you really really like to do. But, it's anxiety provoking, you get anxious, you don't want to feel rejected, you might hurt somebody, you know it's not quite right, you could mislead somebody, but you really like to do it," Pinsky said.

Then, the ladies got their chance to



Dr. Drew Pinsky spoke to a capacity crowd in the Oakland Center's Banquet Rooms Tuesday in an event co-sponsored by the Student Life Lecture Board and the Student Programming Board.

DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

speak.

They mentioned reasons to "get loaded" as the sex becoming more exciting, and agreed with the men about it lowering inhibitions.

Some said they feel the need to flaunt themselves because they lack self-confidence and want to gain acceptance. The suppression of emotions was also a reason to drink before sex.

"If you're denying your instincts and denying your emotions, medicate them away so you can tolerate the hookup ... weird, huh?" Pinsky questioned facetiously.

"What's a date?"

In the process of talking about the "loaded" hookup, Pinsky brought up a topic that seems to go forgotten for most during the college years — the date.

"They want to make you happy, guys are good," he said, given that a lot of the lecture involved the audience and Pinsky engaging in "male bashing."

Pinsky asked women what their ideal alcohol-free hookup would be, and many seemed to struggle with the concept of dating.

"How about this — what if he had conversation with you over a meal? What if he called you back and had another meal

and conversation? Oh my God, right?" Pinsky said. "What a novel concept. Lets call it a date, just for the sake of it," he said.

Advice to students

Pinsky also provided advice for college students that involved potential careers, being safe and preventing cancer.

"Don't wait until something horrible happens to you. Be very cautious with what you expose yourself to," Pinsky

said. "Just because it's accepted on a college campus doesn't mean it isn't a really serious problem. Be careful, just be aware, take care of yourself."

Pinsky said that many cases of cancer could be avoided this way.

"There are 4-5,000 cases of cancer a year that could be prevented. It's bizarre to me that [Gardasil, a vaccine for the human papillomavirus] took this long to get to market. It should be universal. I would urge you to ask your medical practitioner to give it to you," Pinsky said.

Students asked Pinsky for advice about pursuing a career in a medical field.

"If you get trained in too narrow an area it's a huge mistake. Get a fellowship in an area that interests you. But you need to understand the total picture. I've seen much damage done to people who have trained in too narrow areas," Pinsky said.

The Banquet Rooms were filled to capacity and many of those in attendance were impressed by Pinsky's lecture.

"He took action in every situation, but still made it cordial, still intimate," said Jonathan Jenkins, a journalism sophomore. "He was interesting, was intelligent, the event went very well."

Others attended the lecture for more personal reasons.

"I have a family history in addiction. Most don't recognize it's a disease," said Sara Doelle, a junior nursing student. "He was very approachable and very comfortable. I learned about new trends in hooking up and the only way to fix it is to make new rules for yourself."

TV appearances:

- "Robot Chicken"
- "Family Guy"
- "Dawson's Creek"
- "Tom Green Live!"
- "The Girls Next Door"
- "The Tyra Banks Show"
- "Crank Yankers"

Movie appearances:

- "New York Minute"
- "Wild Hogs"



Dr. Drew Pinsky

He currently runs the Pasadena Recovery Center on VH1's "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew," and before that he made appearances on some of these other TV shows and movies:

Clark resigns to pursue soccer career

By PAUL GULLY
Special Projects Editor

Oakland University Student Congress President Steve Clark announced that he will be resigning from his position to pursue a professional soccer career.

He made the announcement at Monday's Student Congress meeting. His resignation will be effective following the next OUSC meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 25.

"This was definitely a hard decision for me to make," Clark said in an interview with The Oakland Post following his announcement, "because I've worked so hard, I can't help but feel that I'm leaving before my job is done. But I've dreamed of being a soccer player my whole life and I have to give it a shot."

And while Clark is fully aware that there is no guarantee that he will make it as a professional goalkeeper, as he put it, "it's now or never."

"I'm 22 years old, which is old for a professional soccer prospect and if I wait until after next semester, I'd be losing another year because in Europe and the U.S. the process starts in December and January."

Many of Clark's peers and faculty and administration members that he worked with were understanding of his decision.

"I don't begrudge him for the fact that he's leaving," said Jean Ann Miller, OU's director of the Center for Student Activities. "He's been very forthright and honest about things. He's leaving Congress in good shape

and he's helped lay a solid foundation there — he's got good people working underneath him."

Clark's announcement comes approximately eight months after he was elected to the position in somewhat of a historic campus presidential race. The fifth-year senior received 34.1 percent of the record 1699 votes that were cast, beating Andrew Bashi by seven votes and Jordan Twardy by 50.

While Clark was aware that his pursuit of a professional soccer career may interfere with his ability to remain as student body president for a full year, he wasn't certain that pro soccer was an attainable goal.

"When I ran for this position last April, I knew there was a chance that if I played well enough this year that I could go pro," Clark said. "But I didn't want a mere possibility to restrict my future plans."

But Clark, who is an All Conference goalkeeper and team captain of the Grizzlies soccer team, has put together a season that ranks among the best in the nation among Division I schools this season. His 11 shutouts (as of Nov. 16) put him in the top five in the country, while his goals against average (.535) ranks ninth.

Student Body Vice President Dan Evola will fill the void left by Clark and be charged with appointing a new vice president, which will be subject to approval by the OUSC legislature. As of press time, Evola had not announced his replacement but said he had several people in mind. He expects a decision to be made by the end of the week.

Evola, who turned 19 in September, will become the youngest student body president in OU's history when he takes over next week. And while he is aware that students may question whether he's experienced or mature enough to handle the added responsibility, Evola feels as though he's more than ready to do so.

"I think the transition will be very smooth. I have a good relationship with everyone in the office so I don't foresee it being a problem," Evola said.

He also has the confidence of the outgoing president. "Dan has come a long way as a student leader since April. He's more than prepared for this job."

During his time as student body president, Clark headed an effort to amend the OUSC bylaws to allow incoming freshman to become legislators and helped lead the charge to open a dialogue between the Student Congress and Chartwell's regarding their food selection and prices.

Clark also oversaw an initiative to implement a disc golf course on campus and supported a bill that authorized a donation on behalf of OUSC to help build a cafe in Kresge Library.

As for Clark's immediate plans, he said he will also be focused on finishing his classes and preparing for the team's pursuit of a national championship.

In the upcoming weeks, he will be working on putting together a highlight tape to send to prospective teams and readying himself to potentially train in Europe for a few weeks. He will also be eagerly awaiting an invite to the Major League Soccer prospect combine.

Students owing money get reprieve in registration

By PAUL GULLY
Special Projects Editor

With the current state of the economy in mind, Oakland University's administration has decided to allow some students with financial holds on their accounts to register for Winter 2009-semester classes.

Students who currently have an account balance of \$1,500 or less, who in the past would not have been able to register for classes, will be permitted to.

OU Media Relations Director Ted Montgomery said the administration hopes that allowing students to sign-up for their classes will help alleviate the financial pressure many students are facing through.

"We understand that times are tough for everyone, so we are looking at ways to ease the financial burden our students bear," Montgomery said. "Lifting holds on student accounts up to \$1,500 is one small way we can help our students, while at the same time allowing them to register as early as possible for the Winter semester."

According to Cindy Hermesen, OU's director of Financial Aid, 640 students with financial holds were notified via e-mail that they qualified for the exception.

While students will be able to register, they will do so with the expectation that they will repay their account balance in full by midnight, Jan. 2, 2009.

If they fail to do so, their winter semester classes will be dropped.

"I think this gives students with a manageable account balance who may need a bit more time to pay it off the opportunity to plan for next semester and register for some of the classes they need," Hermesen said.

During times when the OU offices are closed, students with an outstanding balance can make payments at any time online at www.oakland.edu/ebill.

Winter classes will begin Jan. 6 and open registration for classes ends on January 12.

For more information, visit the Financial Services Department at 120 North Foundation Hall or the Registrar's Office located in O'Dowd Hall.

POLICEFILES

On Oct. 31, OUPD was dispatched to Bumpers Game Room in the Oakland Center where they had been alerted that a fight was in progress. Upon arrival, OUPD found that the parties involved in the altercation had been separated. A suspect was taken into custody and told not to return to campus until speaking with the Dean.

On Nov. 17, a female reported that her car had been broken into at an undisclosed location, and her Magellan Global Positioning System had been stolen. Her driver's side window was broken with footprints in the snow leading to and away from the OU sign at East Oakland and Walton. The victim says she did not notice any other items missing, and OUPD has not named any suspects.

A van was reported missing from Chartwells food storage in the OC loading dock on Nov. 17. Chartwells stated that its trucks are often left unattended with the keys inside the vehicle and the vehicle doors unlocked. OUPD said they believed video from the OC dock might provide them with more evidence.

Staff and students petition to expand discrimination policy

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Hector Jackson was born a female but said he didn't act like a girl is expected to because he didn't feel like a girl. Then one day in the fifth grade, Jackson said he was hanging out with a male friend when some other kids pushed them down, called Jackson a "lesbian" and his friend "gay," took off their shoes and beat them with the shoes. Jackson said nothing was done by the authorities.

Jackson now attends Oakland University and said that, in his limited experience, OU has been a much more welcoming and safe environment.

However, he would like OU to take it one step further and add gender identity and expression to its non-discrimination policy. This would add official protections for anyone who experience harassment for that reason.

Joann Bautti-Roche, director of OU's Gender and Sexuality Center, said she has been trying to get this policy changed since April 2008 but has a ways to go.

OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery said the office of Diversity and Compliance "looked into the matter and found that persons discriminated against

due to 'gender identity and expression' are protected under laws prohibiting sex discrimination."

"The University's non-discrimination policies protect against harassment due to sexual orientation," he said.

However, Bautti-Roche and others said they feel that protections for people of different sexual orientations (gay, lesbian and bisexual) are not enough and there is a need also to officially include people who identify their gender as different from the sex they were born as (transgender people) and people whose outward appearance don't fit gender expectations.

Jackson is known to some students as the only openly transgender student at OU. He said he feels he's a male and didn't "feel like a girl" since he was young. Hector is not his legal name, but he has mostly been going by "Hector"



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
Hector Jackson will be sitting at a table display in the OC for most of Thursday, Nov. 4 to raise awareness for transgender issues.

since high school.

Jackson, a freshman Spanish education major, said he feels comfortable at OU because of the people he met at places like WXOU radio and GSC.

"Knowing we have this friendly atmosphere, it doesn't make sense that we don't have certain things in our policy," he said.

Jackson said he will be at a table display in the Oakland Center

on Thursday to raise awareness for transgender people and the violence they often face.

Bautti-Roche said there are several benefits of changing the policy, such as preventing faculty and staff from being fired due to gender identity.

She said that OU students reported being discriminated against based on gender identity and expression to GSC.

"It was not reported to the Office of Diversity and Compliance, because the

students did not wish to make waves,"

she said. "I'm not sure anything could have been done, as there are currently no protections in place for a case like that."

She also said OU and GSC would be eligible for more grants and donations.

Johnny Jenkins Jr., Michigan program officer for the Arcus Foundation, gave a lecture Monday at OU, and said Arcus gives grants for advocacy programs but requires the institution to have gender identity and expression protections.

Bautti-Roche said GSC could use the funds to benefit the OU community in many ways, as currently it only gets less than \$5,000 a year.

She said she initially met with OU administrators in April to discuss the policy change, but was told by Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder that she needs to show student support before presenting it to the board of trustees.

Bautti-Roche said she, with the help of volunteers, has collected about 200 signatures so far and wants to collect 300-500 and present it to the board in April 2009, when she hopes the policy will be changed.

"It will send a clear message of what's valued at OU," Bautti-Roche said.

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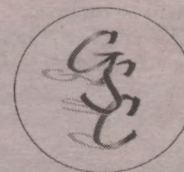
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Excellence to be awarded

OU to honor two professors nominated by students and staff

By DAVID SANDERS
Staff Intern

Each year students can expect Oakland University to reward two dedicated professors for their teaching excellence with its Teaching Excellence Awards.

To receive this honor professors must meet certain criteria set by the Teaching and Learning committee.

This requires a letter stating that the professor has demonstrated the ability to inspire and motivate students.

The recommendation must also consist of professors with high educational standards, and most nominations will come from students.

Calls for nominations will be open from Oct. 31 to Dec. 10.

In April two awards will be granted to outstanding professors at the 14th Annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon. Winners will receive a cash stipend.

One award will go to a tenured full time professor, while the other a non-tenured part-timer.

To get a glimpse of previous nominees, check on display at the Kresge Library or on the OU website.

The most recent tenured professor to earn this honor was Associate Professor of English Susan E. Hawkins, who won the award in April. "It's the most significant thing that

has happened to me as a teacher," Hawkins said. "Winning the award is like the NBA Finals. It was a total and complete thrill for me to win it and a complete surprise."

Hawkins said her award is not only reflective of her work as a teacher but also her peers in the English department.

"The English department has won the teaching excellence award more times than any department on campus," Hawkins said.

The non-tenured winner in 2008 was Mary Frances Zeppelin.

Zeppelin, the special instructor of teacher development and educational studies said, "I am very honored. I have been nominated many times by my students."

The 2007 tenured nominee, professor of anthropology, Peter J. Bertocci was humbled by the award.

"You appreciate the recognition, but I also have a sense of humility about it," Bertocci said. "There are a lot of teachers at Oakland who are very good, and any one of them should have it just as much as I should."

With 23 years of teaching experience, Hawkins said she feels she is reaching the peak of her career.

"For me it is more of a crowning achievement rather than something on the way," Hawkins said.

Bertocci said he feels his work is

soon reaching its end as well.

He admitted that for as long as he has taught, the award is only a sense of recognition instead of something that moves him up the ladder in his career.

He said he believes this progressive motive would be a good one for a younger professor to follow.

Bertocci said that ultimately he believes his one-on-one mentoring helped him earn his nomination. Bertocci advises on both academic and career issues.

"I think I do my best work on a one-to-one basis," he said. "I try to have a reputation for helping anyone who walks through the door."

Zeppelin said her main goal is to have students pick up on her teaching methods and follow in her footsteps.

"I model effective teaching so that they know what that looks like," Zeppelin said. "My main goal is to make sure that my students are confident in their abilities to teach mathematics to children."

On a literary basis, Hawkins' aim is to create great readers who use strong literary language.

"What I'm really concerned about is working with my students to create articulate sensitive readers."

Nomination forms are available at www2.oakland.edu/misc/teaching_award.cfm.

Champion Buy One Get One Sale at Bookstore

The temperatures may be cooling down, but sales are just warming up at Barnes & Noble at Oakland University. Between November 9 and November 30, you can buy any regular price Champion item and get a second (of equal or lesser value) at 50% off.

All men's and women's Champion apparel is included in the sale. It's a great opportunity to get an early jump on holiday shopping — right on campus. The bookstore offers a variety of Champion items bearing the school name and logo. Make sure your friends and family show their school pride from top to bottom.

Barnes & Noble at Oakland University is located in the lower level of the Oakland Center. Store hours are:

Monday 8:00am to 5:00pm
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Wednesday 8:00am to 6:30pm
Thursday 8:00am to 5:00pm
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Russi discusses OU's finances with faculty, calls for 'inventive thinking'

By PAUL GULLY
Special Projects Editor

President Russi implored faculty and staff leaders Tuesday to help pilot Oakland University through the economic storm battering the state and the nation.

He followed up the meeting with an afternoon e-mail to all faculty members and administrators, reiterating thoughts he shared earlier in the day.

In the e-mail, Russi acknowledged that although OU may be in a "current position of strength," it is not immune to marketplace threats that may be obstacles to the growth and revenue of the university.

However, despite the current economic climate, OU has still been able to solicit private grants and contributions.

According to Russi, OU's capital campaign has raised more than \$100 million and is expected to conclude early next year.

"Luckily, we're in a good position because of really good budgeting over the years. So working together I think we're going to be fine," said Ted Montgomery, OU's media relations director.

Russi ended the e-mail asking for "inventive thinking and innovative entrepreneurial approaches" on the part of students and faculty members.

TELL US YOUR IDEAS FOR WEATHERING THE ECONOMIC STORM

How can Oakland University cut waste, kick butt or otherwise stay on top of the state and national financial crisis? We'll print great ideas in the next issue of The Post. Drop this form off at The Post office, 61 Oakland Center, or email: Sean Garner, Campus News Editor at: spgarner@oakland.edu. Don't forget to include your name and contact info.

Making a special difference

Local billiard club hosts casino-style fundraisers for Special Olympics

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

Smoking, drinking and gambling is what you will find any given weekday night at Main Street Billiards in downtown Rochester. As players go through the ups and downs of casino-style gambling, the real winners are the Special Olympics and other local charities.

Every Monday through Thursday night Todd Keplin and a host of other volunteers gather at MSB to run a charity casino which offers blackjack and Texas Hold'em poker. There is a \$5 entry fee for the poker tournament, which goes directly to the charity. During cash games, 10 percent (up to \$6) of each winning pot also goes to charity.

Jason Warzybok, a regular player at MSB, said that playing there is a lot like playing poker at the casino.

"It's a little softer of a game, more amateur," Warzybok said. "But it makes you feel better that it is for charity. I'd rather play there than at the casino."

The only major difference between charity blackjack and the kind at the

casino is that all of the money in pushes is donated.

Lisa Morgan, a volunteer blackjack dealer, said that the odds are set to benefit the charity and many of the players like the idea of their losses going to charity and not just a casino owner.

"Some people just want to gamble and make money but, with charity rules, it doesn't happen that often," Morgan said. "Other people come in because it's for charity. I had a guy come in recently with \$20. He got up to \$60 but he sat there and played until every chip of his was gone, because he came to donate and just have fun."

Keplin said that in the first three months of conducting the event they have raised over \$45,000.

"[That amount of money] is huge right now with the way the economy is," Keplin said. "The Special Olympics is based strictly on donations, there aren't any government programs that help the Special Olympics so that was a big help for us."

Keplin and his wife Karen are heavily involved with the Special Olympics.

Karen is the volunteer director for Oakland County Special Olympics. They have an 18-year-old daughter, Brittany, who is a Special Olympics athlete. Keplin said that being so involved helps him see first hand how important the Special Olympics is for special needs children.

"We get to see every day how much these kids appreciate what we do," Keplin said. "We realize how much need they have for equipment, uniforms, gyms, soccer fields, softball fields, everything costs something."

Keplin said that a lot of the athletes have difficult situations.

"We have a lot of athletes that are in group homes or foster homes so there is not a lot of support for a lot of our athletes except for what we can fundraise," Keplin said.

Julie Brown, the office manager for the South East Region of the Special Olympics, said that the charity casino and other fundraisers are vital to keeping the program running.

She said that it is a year round program that gives special needs athletes a place to learn, compete and have fun in

an environment and be comfortable.

"The athletes live for this," Brown said. "This is good for them because it is athletic and it's their social event. The ones that do go to school don't fit in with the kids on the basketball team or soccer team, that's why this is so great for them."

Keplin said that the owner of MSB has not taken any profits from the event.

"We are bringing in 30 to 60 people a night that he wouldn't normally have but for him to donate his share says a lot," Keplin said. "He is legally able to charge 50 percent of the proceeds and he's elected to not charge us anything. I think with Steve knowing my daughter and all the things she's involved in with the Special Olympics, he sees the money is going to a good cause."

Morgan said that volunteering for blackjack is extremely rewarding to her, especially after meeting Brittany.

"She comes up here [with her parents] and hangs out and socializes," Morgan said. "Once you know somebody who is actually benefiting from it, it affects you more. Knowing Brittany has really put a lot of things into perspective."



Kim Brent/Associated Press
Above: A youth hangs out in the kennel with Molly, as Mommis plays with a chew toy before the start of Project Second Chance training. The program pairs youth from the Monroe County Youth Center with dogs that are awaiting adoption at the Humane Society. The children will care for the animals for three weeks and train them to learn basic commands.

Below: Steve Hoesli, left, a member of the SolarBubbles team from the University of Michigan with the plane 'Endurance'. The fuel-cell aircraft flew for 10 hours, 15 minutes and four seconds, breaking the world record for launching the longest flight by a fuel cell-powered airplane.



Andy Klesh/Associated Press



Elizabeth Conley/The Detroit News, AP
Above: Friends, family and co-workers of Detroit firefighter Walter Harris gather during a candlelight vigil outside the home where Harris died in Detroit, Sunday, Nov. 16. Harris, 37, helped to put out the house fire on the city's east side Saturday when the structure fell on him and several others. He was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

Below: Thomas McCloud Jr., 14, left, and Donte Tillman, also 14, enter the courtroom before the start of their preliminary hearing at 50th District Court in Pontiac Nov. 18. The two have been charged with felony murder in the death of Wilford Hamilton, 65, a homeless man.



Vaughn Gurganian/Associated Press

Big three continue to beg for bailout

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Detroit's Big Three automakers are pleading Congress for a \$25 billion government rescue, while the legislation clings to life support on Capitol Hill and top lawmakers and the White House suffer from bailout fatigue.

Democratic congressional leaders want to tap the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue package for new loans to U.S. auto manufacturers and suppliers, but the White House and GOP lawmakers say the beleaguered industry shouldn't get any new funds.

President George W. Bush and GOP lawmakers instead propose diverting \$25 billion in loans approved by Congress in September — designed to help auto manufacturers retool their factories so they can make more fuel-efficient vehicles — to cover the firms' immediate financial woes.

But auto executives, backed by leading Democrats, insist they need another \$25 billion in emergency loans to avert a collapse of one or more of their companies before year's end. That would bring the total federal help for the industry to \$50 billion this year.

The executives, along with the head of the United Auto Workers union, were making their case Tuesday at a hearing before the Senate Banking Committee as auto bailout backers hunted the votes necessary to pass the plan in a postelection session. Aides in both parties

and lobbyists tracking the plan privately acknowledge they are far short.

The debate comes as the financial situation for General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC grow more precarious. GM has said it could run out of cash by year's end without government aid.

"They're going to need to address what is the perception among some of our colleagues here that there's still some quality issues with the Big Three, and they haven't begun to do the necessary restructuring — because they have," said Sen. Carl M. Levin, D-Mich., an architect of the bailout.

Ford CEO Alan Mulally argued Tuesday in advance of the hearing that his company had already been laboring to "transform our business" into a more profitable one that meets demands for fuel-efficient vehicles.

Interviewed on ABC's "Good Morning America," Mulally denied that automakers resisted restructuring their companies to meet current marketing realities.

He also took exception to assertions of poor company management, saying that "if everybody can remember, we had gotten back to profitability in the first quarter of this year ... None of us ever anticipated that we'd be in a world where our sales in this industry have fallen by 40 percent in the first nine months."

Levin's bill would provide loans with initial interest rates of 5 percent to the U.S. automakers and suppliers in exchange for a federal stake in the companies or warrants that would let the government profit from future

gains. Loan applicants would have to give the government a plan for "long-term financial viability."

But the measure stops short of giving the government a say over the firms' operations through an oversight board or hard limits on executive compensation. While taking advantage of the program, the companies could not pay dividends, award bonuses to executives making more than \$250,000 a year, or give golden parachute payments to top people departing from the firms.

A vote on the measure — which includes an extension of jobless benefits — could come as early as Thursday. But in an acknowledgment of the long odds facing such a plan, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., also laid the groundwork for a straight up-or-down vote on the more widely supported unemployment measure.

The Senate auto bailout bill notes that 355,000 U.S. workers are directly employed by the auto industry, and an additional 4.5 million work in related industries. That doesn't count the 1 million retirees, spouses and dependents who rely on the firms for retirement and health care benefits.

Critics continue to argue that the industry's business practices — including lavish pay and benefits packages for auto workers — have created unsustainable costs for the failing companies that can only be solved with bankruptcy.

"I can't see how injecting capital with all the legacy issues that each of these companies has is better than reorganization," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.



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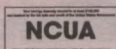
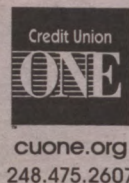
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Getting schooled about sex ed

How old were you when you learned about sex education, and who taught you? Do you feel you learned enough, and is there anything you would change with your children?



"I learned about sex education from my parents around the age of 7. I would teach my kids gradually, take it step by step, but it also depends on the child."

Noah Pelletier
Sophomore, studio art



"I would say from when I was 12, from school teachers. I think it was enough."

Dayana Gomez
Senior, photography



"Yes, I think I received enough. I had a health class teacher that covered it well enough for my understanding."

Matt Brown
Freshman, marketing



"My mom was really honest with me and I felt comfortable asking her questions. It was probably when I was in kindergarten because my mom got pregnant so I wanted to know why."

Ashlee Kazirut
Senior, art history



This issue's photo contest winner is:

"A German soldier stares out across the field in this shot of a World War II reenactment battle."

Dan Nitzh
Sophomore, history

Find out who won this semester's photo contest in the Dec. 3 issue.

Exposed

Do you believe TV, music and movies have an influence on young kids?



"I think there is an influence, but I don't think it's as big a deal as some people make it out to be."

Luke Phillips
Freshman, undecided



"I think it does have a great effect, especially Disney movies. I don't think I find it bad, maybe the more kids are exposed to the topic [of sex] they will feel comfortable asking someone about it."

Ashley Brooks
Sophomore, Spanish



"Yes, I believe kids are influenced so easily by things they watch. But, I think the biggest influence are parents."

Joe Garofalo
Sophomore, marketing/Japanese

In 2006, pregnancy between the ages of 10 and 19 was about 30 percent.

According to
www.13wham.com

According to
midiowanews.com,
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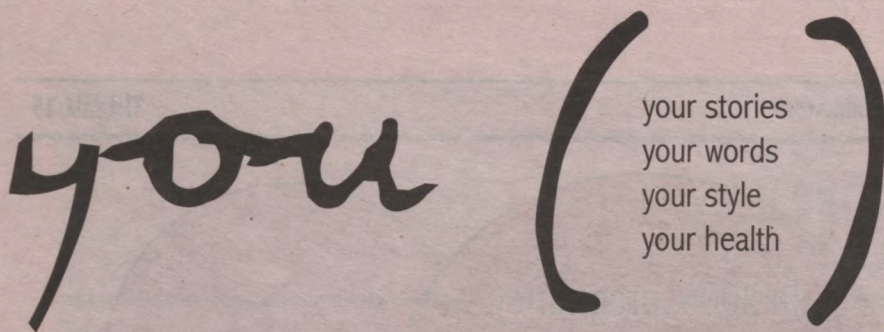
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Teaching women to be RAD

Self-defense classes and easy tips to protect against violence

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

A woman was recently sexually assaulted in Mayfield Township when she was pulled over by what she believed was a police officer. The man was in fact not an officer, but he was driving a Crown Victoria complete with a red light strip.

This incident is just one of many and while problems like this may not ever be completely resolved, there are ways they can be avoided.

The law only protects so much

"If there is some question as far as the legitimacy of what is going on, pick up your cell phone, call 911. Just slow down and don't completely stop," said Pat Reinke, a former campus police officer at Grand Valley State University.

"There's nothing wrong with dialing 911 and saying 'I have a car behind me, it's a police car but it doesn't look like a full police car. I want to know if it is a legitimate car or not,'" Reinke said, also mentioning to make sure to pull over in a well-lit area so others can see you.

There is no need to feel as though you have to pull over right away if there is any doubt that the car following you is not legitimate, according to Reinke, but it is important to stay calm and not flee.

"If you believe you are being pulled over by a police officer who is not a police officer, turn on your four-way flashers, drive at the appropriate speed — slow — to an area that you believe is very populated and don't stop in an isolated area," said Sergeant Terry Ross of Oakland University's Police Department.

For these unavoidable circumstances, there are severe laws that protect anyone against people pretending to be police officers.

"As far as traffic stops go, there is no law saying you can't be stopped here or you can't be stopped there," said Carl Wilczak, a criminal justice graduate from Oakland Community College. "There are laws against impersonation; [with a woman] it's a criminal sexual conduct. There are four levels of that, it could be anywhere from misdemeanor to felony."

Precautions

There are several suggestions for ways to better protect yourself in many different surroundings.

"I've had friends who quite religiously take a peek in the backseat before getting into their car," Reinke said.

He also talked about some basic elements of common sense, for example, parking in a well-lit area, as close

to the building as possible, traveling in groups and just being aware of your surroundings.

An everyday object like a set of keys can turn into a weapon if necessary.

"Be aware of what's going on around you. If you're walking to your car at night, keep your keys in your hand," Wilczak said. "Look over your shoulder if you're in the store and make sure no one is following you out to your car. Be observant."

Having a friend or loved one look out for you can make a difference as well.

"Let somebody know when to expect you. If you don't arrive at that time give them the authority and hold them responsible to call and check on you," Ross said.

Still, Ross stresses that the best way to stay safe is to

"You can never count on anybody else, the person you have to rely on is yourself. You have to educate you."

— Sgt. Terry Ross, OUPD

take responsibility for your own safety.

"Women should know that they are responsible for their own safety," Ross said. "They have to be empowered and responsible. You can't depend on anybody else to protect you."

Solutions

Ross and Wilczak said women should learn self-defense skills.

"I recommend taking martial arts or self-defense. There are a lot of places that offer that," Wilczak said.

It is even possible to get involved in defense and awareness classes at within OU.

"I know Oakland offers the Rape Aggression Defense program. It gives you tools and knowledge to be able to respond if you're ever encountered by an assailant," Reinke said. "It gives you the ability to defend against whatever attacks are coming and survive the encounter. That's one thing that's a service [OU's] campus offers. It's definitely a worthwhile program."

Ross also teaches the RAD program at OU.

"You can never count on anybody else, the person you have to rely on is yourself. You have to educate

you. Once you learn self-defense, no one can ever take it away," Ross said. "Most women say they don't have time. They don't have 18 hours of their life to put into this. For 18 hours of commitment, you have knowledge that no one can ever take away."

Finding Support

Ross said RAD is the largest self-defense program in the world. The classes taught on campus are for women only, and are not restricted to OU students. The class is free to OU affiliates, and a \$35 for those not associated with the university.

Teri Johnson, a 22-year-old marketing senior at OU participated in RAD courses from the fall of 2006 until the winter of 2008.

"I heard about [the class] from a couple people I knew, that I met on campus," Johnson said. "I was interested in self-defense in general. I loved it from day one, it was a great class."

Johnson also said that the course was not purely physical, but also taught with lectures about how women can protect themselves through other methods.

"[It] was really interesting to go over all these things you can do to your home, all these things that you can do when you're walking on campus by yourself," Johnson said.

Instructors also give advice for women in everyday life, in a situation that many may not think twice about.

"If you're going on a date or going out with somebody, let someone know, a roommate or a really good friend or relative. Let them know what time you think you'll be back and if you end up staying later let them know so they don't worry," Johnson said.

Johnson also expressed how she felt every woman on campus should take the course.

"A lot of girls end up surprising themselves. It's more than just physical, it's a lot about mental," she said. "I think that every woman should take this class no matter how old you are."

Johnson has enjoyed her experience with RAD.

"The way they hold the class and the instructors are absolutely amazing," Johnson said. "There are amazing guys and girls that teach that class. Everyone just feels good at the end of the day."

She hopes to one day be able to give the help and advice to others.

"I would like to take an instructors course, and learn how to teach it," she said.

Go to www.police.oakland.edu/rad.html for a list of scheduled RAD courses and instructor contact information. Also, you can register for a RAD class online.

Students protest against bans on gay marriage

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

The passing of four state ballot proposals — even though none of them took place in Michigan — on Nov. 4 has riled up some Oakland University students. Some of them stood in the rain on Saturday to protest it.

Many of OU's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community (LGBT), as well as straight supporters of LGBT rights, said they're upset about the passing of gay marriage bans in California, Florida and Arizona and say it's a step back in the progression of gay rights.

In June, California started to allow gay marriages, but this was overturned when 52 percent of Californian voters voted to ban gay marriage, making California one of 30 states (Michigan included) that have made gay marriage illegal. Massachusetts and Connecticut are the only two states that have given a legal ruling to gay marriage. Americans in every state simultaneously protested against the results of the anti-gay marriage Proposal 8 last Saturday.

Aimee Coldren, a junior integrative studies major who is gay, said at least three other OU students attended the protest and that it was not only about California but also about the rest of the United States.

"I think it's important as Americans to not remain quiet when civil rights are being violated," Coldren said. "Prop 8 is a civil rights violation, when they put it into law that straight people and gay people have different rights."

Leah Moscovitz is a straight student who sup-

ports gay rights, and is an intern in OU's Gender and Sexuality Center.

"It's a huge setback," said Moscovitz regarding the gay marriage bans. "It's unfortunate that in the year 2008, gay marriage is still not allowed in America."

"It's like treating a group of people as second class citizens," said Katie Wolf, a senior journalism major. Wolf is another straight ally of gay rights and the secretary for OU's Gay Straight Alliance. "It's frustrating that homosexuality is used to discriminate ... The answer is obvious — [the government] should let anyone who wants to get married."

Separation of Church and State

Many felt that banning it is unconstitutional, infringes upon equal rights for all Americans and that some of the conservative Christian population are at fault.

"Any current ban on gay marriage can only be viewed as [due to] religious reasons, nothing else," said Zachary Hill, a sophomore music education major who is gay.

"Marriage is sacred, but only to the religious," said Wolf. "I don't acknowledge marriage as sacred, because I don't have faith."

Disappointed With Minorities

Some people were disappointed with the role that minority voters played in the recent gay marriage bans.

"Some of the biggest supporters of [the bans] were African Americans," said Wolf. "This doesn't make any sense because they fought so hard and so long for their own equality."

"I think it's great that so many people showed up to vote for Barack Obama, but it's unfortunate that they also voted against gay marriage," Hill said.

Civil Unions

Students had mixed feelings about civil unions, which would legally recognize same-sex couples and give them the same rights as married couples such as tax benefits and hospital visitation rights without calling it marriage.

"They can make civil unions closer to marriage, but it'll still be discrimination," Hill said.

"It sounds like the old 'separate but equal' deal — it doesn't make sense," Moscovitz said. "But each small step towards the right direction is better than nothing."

Still Hope For The Future

Some students were very optimistic about the future of gay marriage, while others continue to be cautiously optimistic.

"It always takes steps forward and steps back, but overall the direction has been forward," Coldren said. "But I'm fearful that it won't happen within my lifetime."

She feels the current laws discriminate against her and give her fewer rights than straight people.

"Long before I knew I was gay, I knew I was an American," she said. "I pledged allegiance to a flag that promised me equal rights."

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Sports

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November 19, 2008

Hoping to peak in time

Record-breaker Solan wants redemption for last season's finish

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

Every time Oakland University swimmer Agnes Solan looks up at the record board posted on the wall of the Grizzlies pool, she sees her name.

She holds the school record for the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 54.65 seconds and the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1 minute, 58.95 seconds, both reached at the Summit League Championships.

It is a constant reminder that she was successful last season, reaching accolades including winning the Newcomer of the Year Award. However, according to Solan, she wasn't successful enough.

She made the "B" cut as a qualifier for the NCAA championships but she was named an alternate, as her time was not fast enough to compete.

This season her focus is making the "A" cut and leaving no doubt about swimming in the championships.

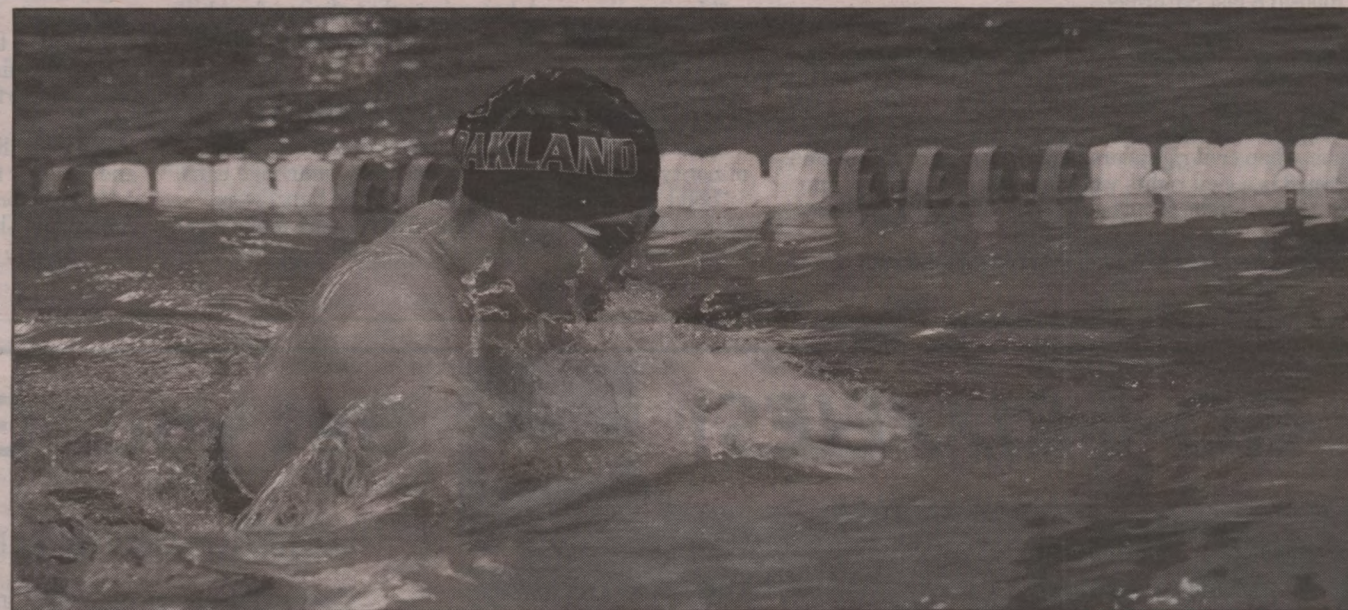
"She wants to excel at the highest level ... last season may be a blessing in disguise."

So far this season, Solan, a redshirt junior and integrative studies major at OU, is well on her way to making that lofty goal a reality.

"I have been happy with my times so far," Solan said. "Compared to last year I think I have dropped a few hundredths of a second, which is actually a lot."

But making the cut won't be easy. The new "A" cut mark is set at an extremely fast time of 53:01 for the 100-yard

"It's cool because I get to look at it every day," Solan said about her displayed achievements. "It makes me want to work hard so I can get those records so fast that no one can ever [break them]."



Redshirt junior Agnes Solan competes Saturday versus Akron. The Golden Grizzlies' swimming and diving teams won the dual meet by a score of 175-125.

backstroke and 1:53.37 for the 200-yard backstroke.

Her current high marks are 54.65 and 158.95 in the 100 and 200-yard backstroke respectively.

"The NCAA cuts for this year are crazy fast," Solan said. "So I am working hard to make the cut."

A swimmer can make the cut at any time during the season but OU head coach Pete Hovland said that there is a method to attempting to make the cut.

He said that, since training is so tough throughout the season, there are specific times the swimmers have to produce their best marks. It involves training very hard early on and then tapering the training to a lower level at different points of the season.

Hovland said that his goal is to have the swimmer reach peak performance levels before specific meets so the swimmer can rejuvenate their bodies in the hopes of producing the highest possible

marks.

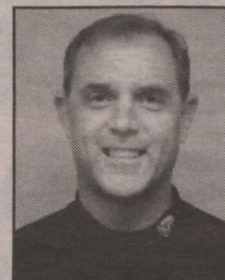
The tapering process has begun for Solan, who will try to make the NCAA "A" cut at the Miami University Invitational Dec. 4-6.

"I am really excited for Miami," Solan said. "The plan is to make the cut in Miami then train really hard until NCAAAs."

Solan said that she would taper again before the NCAA championships in late March in order to give her maximum effort.

Until then, Solan is content to dominate the pool. She tallied top finishes in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard backstroke with times of 56.47 and 2:04.89, respectively Saturday in a dual-meet victory over Akron.

She led off the 200-yard medley relay team with a season-best split



Head coach Pete Hovland

time of 26.12 in the 50 back with freshman Johanna Gustafsson, junior Sarah Ludema and freshman Alyssa Vela. The four of them posted a season-best time of 1:46.81 to finish first.

Hovland said that last season was bittersweet for Solan in that she had a great meet at the Summit League championships but just barely missed the cut for the NCAA championships. This season

he hopes it will be different.

"She wants to excel at the highest level possible," Hovland said. "She will do anything you ask of her to get there. [Not making the cut] last season may be a blessing in disguise."

"Maybe it's the motivating factor this year. She's been working extremely hard to this point and she's showing signs that she is ahead of pace," he said.

POST GAME

The Oakland Post sports department has been nervous since last week, when we prominently featured women's and men's basketball stars Jessica Pike, Ilija Milutinovic and Derick Nelson in our cover story only to see them all not play in their team's season opening game.

Apparently, The Oakland Post wields some sort of metaphysical capacity to keep OU athletes from playing in the game they love. Once more, all in together now, we say: "Our bad."

However, the phenomenon got us thinking: could our newfound powers be used for good? With that in mind, here are four serious and not-so-serious suggestions for public figures that we hope take a breather after this issue hits newsstands: 1) Tyra Banks, 2) Daniel Craig as "James Bond," 3) Rasheed Wallace, 4) Sports Editor Tim Rath.

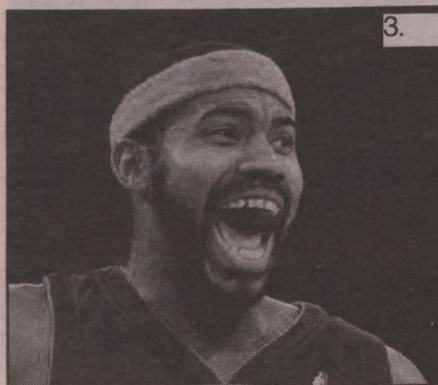


Photo credits: ANDY KROPAS/Associated Press, ROB GRIFFITH/Associated Press, GUS RUELAS/Associated Press, DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

THAT'S NOT MY NAME!



Let's try this again. While nicknames such as "J-Lo" suffice for their function, we here at The Oakland Post feel that they are ultimately uninspired. For help, we turn to you. E-mail your best nickname idea for Golden Grizzlies 7-foot center Ilija Milutinovic to trath@oakland.edu for the chance to win a prize. The winner will be announced in next week's issue. And Ilija, please, be careful this week.

Day-after scoreboard

VOLLEYBALL

OU finished the 2008 season with an 8-21 record, 5-11 Summit League after defeating Western Illinois Friday and IUPUI Saturday.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Oakland University men's cross country team ran to an 18th place finish in a field of 28 teams with 484 points at the Great Lakes Regional in West Lafayette, Ind., Saturday. The women's team finished 22nd out of 34 teams with 607 points.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Grizzlies defeated Akron Saturday by a score of 175-125.

MEN'S SOCCER

The No. 30 Golden Grizzlies routed IUPUI 4-0 Friday in the semi-finals of the Summit League Tournament at the OU Soccer Field, but fell 4-3 to UMKC in the championship game in a 4-3 shootout after a 1-1 contest.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The OU women's basketball team defeated Columbia in the season opening game Friday by a score of 79-59 on the strength of Melissa Jeltema's 20 points and 10 rebounds. They beat Niagara on the road Sunday by a score of 74-64 behind Jessica Pike's 24 points and Brittany Carnago's 16 rebounds.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The OU men's basketball team fell to Cleveland State Saturday in their road opening game by a score of 58-55 but continued their road trip on an uptick, defeating Oregon in overtime, 82-79. Johnathon Jones scored a career-high 32 points in the win, including 10 in the extra period. — Tim Rath, Sports Editor

Home game stories updated daily.

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Golden Grizzlies Games of the Week



At left, senior midfielder Martin Sandell heads the ball. At center, a large crowd gathers at the OU soccer field Friday to watch Oakland defeat IUPUI 4-0. At right, Tom Catalano brings the ball upfield Sunday.

MEN'S SOCCER

OU falls in title game, earns bid

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

The Oakland University Grizzlies lost in a shootout to the UMKC Roos Sunday in the Summit League tournament championship.

Technically, the Grizzlies earned a 1-1 tie in the game but the Roos took the championship because they won the shootout 4-3. A major factor in the game was the ejection of Grizzlies senior goalkeeper Steve Clark. He was red carded early in the second half for taking out an opposing player while trying to make a play on the ball.

"I don't fault the referee," OU head coach Gary Parsons said. "He probably could've given him a yellow card but he chose to give him a red. [Clark] did go through the guy."

Backup goalkeeper Mitch Hildebrandt, a redshirt freshman, was called upon to protect the net for the first time all season. When Clark was ejected it was still a scoreless game.

With the ejection, the Grizzlies were forced to play one man down but still managed to take a 1-0 lead on a goal by junior forward Stefan St. Louis. Shortly after, the Roos came back with a goal of their own.

The Grizzlies out shot the Roos 27-11. Even down a man they were able to control most of the game.

"We had to battle. But even with 10 men we had a chance to put the game away several times. You can't fault the guys. They gave everything they had. We played well with 10 men and just couldn't get it in," Parsons said.

"With one less guy on the field, you can't press like we like to press. You

have to absorb some of their game and counterattack, which we did a good job of. We got a lot of good chances despite being down 10 men to nine," he said.

Parsons continued to say that despite the best efforts of the Golden Grizzlies' defense, they could not prevent a loss to the Roos.

"We just didn't get it in. [Freshman midfielder Tom Catalano] hit the crossbar with an open net there and we just didn't get the ball in the net," he said.

Friday, the Grizzlies advanced to the Summit League tournament championship game with a 4-0 victory over the IUPUI Jaguars. The Grizzlies dominated the entire game. Senior midfielder Piotr Nowak scored the first goal at 22 minutes, 42 seconds of the first half on a shot from 35-yards out. St. Louis was credited with the assist.

The Grizzlies quickly followed with a second goal at the 27:31 mark of the first half on a penalty kick by Catalano. Just before halftime, sophomore forward Makesi Lewis scored an unassisted goal building the Grizzlies lead to 3-0.

"It was nice to get an early goal but when you get that second one before halftime and then you get a third, the game is so much easier for the guys playing," Parsons said.

Despite the championship loss, Grizzlies fans still have reason to cheer as the team still lives on to play another day. On Monday, the NCAA announced that OU will host a first-round match-up in the NCAA Tournament against the Ohio State Buckeyes. Kickoff is slated for 1 p.m.

All photos by
BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post



Senior midfielder Piotr Nowak battles a UMKC defender Sunday. Nowak didn't score with two shots on goal against UMKC, but did score in OU's 4-0 victory over IUPUI Friday.



At left, senior hitter Amy Golem bumps the ball Friday. At center, the OU volleyball team huddled up together one last time after defeating IUPUI 3-1 Saturday. At right, junior Hanna Reising shoots a jumper.

You say goodbye, I say hello

VOLLEYBALL

Duquette leads Grizzlies to last week sweep

By MACKENZIE ROGER
Contributing Reporter

It was two days of conflicting emotions for the Oakland University volleyball team, as seniors bid farewell after two comeback victories.

In the final match of the season, OU defeated IUPUI 3-1 to finish 8-21 for the second straight season.

"We want out this weekend and said we were going to bang the ball and be aggressive," senior libero Lauren Duquette said. "We've had a hard time doing that this season, but aggression was the key to winning tonight."

The final victory of the season meant saying farewell to seniors Amy Golem, Kelli Fiedler, Stephanie Parkin, Leah Dupuie and "Doogie" Duquette, who were all presented with awards after the match.

"[My teammates] changed my life," a teary-eyed Duquette said. "This group of people are phenomenal. Being here is something I'll appreciate forever."

In the second meeting between Western Illinois and OU volleyball teams this season, OU had something to prove after a loss last time in straight sets, 3-0.

The Grizzlies won both of the first two sets (25-19, 25-19) Friday, but fell in the second two losing, 26-28 and 25-21. In the fifth and final set, the Grizzlies pulled ahead at the end to squeak out a 16-14 victory, winning the overall match 3-2.

"The biggest difference was our consistency under pressure," head coach Rob Beam said. "We played our best



Senior libero Lauren Duquette serves against IUPUI Saturday. She dug 46 balls in the series and was named Summit League Defensive Player of the Week for her effort.

when behind and we expanded the lead whenever we had it."

Right out of the gate, the Grizzlies overwhelmed WIU, scoring on each of the first five serves, with momentum building in each dig.

Senior Amy Golem added 32 kills and 24 digs in the series, while also providing leadership for the young Grizzly squad, cheering her teammates after each volley.

"I'm so proud of every girl," Golem said. "Over the past week, we've really come together and are having so much fun. We've been up and down all season, so we've been focusing on ending with two big wins."

Duquette added 46 digs, while junior Adrienne Leone contributed 29 kills in the series.

"Both of our outside hitters, Amy and Adrienne dominated," Beam said. "Both had season high numbers for kills which especially helped us tonight."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jeltema and Pike carry the load for OU

By TIM RATH
Sports Editor

Judging by her status as Summit League Pre-Season Player of the Year, one could assume that Jessica Pike's health is integral to the play of the Oakland University women's basketball team.

The rest of the team threw a wrench into that assumption Friday, pounding Columbia 79-57 without the benefit of having Pike in the lineup.

"I was very proud of the depth that we showed, especially without Jessica Pike [whom] we were just giving a little rest," said head coach Beckie Francis.

Junior guard Melissa Jeltema led the depth-laden Grizzlies with her third career 20-point game and 10 rebounds. Junior Hanna Reising chipped in 16 points, while sophomore Brittany Carnago and freshman Sharise Calhoun both scored 10 points in the season-opening victory.

"I was really pleased with how [Jeltema and Reising] kind of took the scoring load off of the rest of the team," Francis said. "I loved the bench play, thought we had some great sparks from [Anna] Patritto and Calhoun."

According to Reising, having the knowledge that the bench players can come in and have great success makes the game easier for her.

"We feel really confident in our bench and know that they can beat the other team's bench any day," she said. "I think Sharise really stepped up, Anna had a really good game and it just gives confidence knowing that we have those people



Melissa Jeltema shoots over a Columbia defender Friday. She scored 20 points and 10 rebounds for the eighth double-double of her career.

to come in." The Grizzlies began to pull away early in the first half, going on a 15-0 run that ended with a 21-5 lead.

However, Columbia narrowed the gap to five (25-20) with 4:27 left in the first half. It was as close as Columbia got for the rest of the contest. "Everyone is fighting for minutes and they know it," Francis said. "They just want to beat their teammate out to get on the floor ... so they just keep fighting and don't look at the score."

Pike came back just in time to assist OU in a 74-64 victory over Niagara Sunday.

She scored 24 points and four rebounds as Carnago grabbed 16 rebounds, doubling her previous best for the highest mark by an OU player since Amanda Batcha grabbed 16 boards in 2003.

The women's basketball team tips off next against Georgia, Thursday at the

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The Scene

November 19, 2008

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'Evil Dead' star fights Chinese god

By RORY McCARTY
Senior Reporter

Self-described B movie actor Bruce Campbell rose to cult movie fame when he appeared in the "Evil Dead" movie trilogy. He played an elderly Elvis in the critically acclaimed "Bubba Ho-Tep" and is currently on the popular USA television drama "Burn Notice."

But now, Campbell is starring in a movie that spoofs the less illustrious side of his career in "My Name is Bruce."

The film from Dark Horse Indie will be shown at the Main Art Theater in Royal Oak Nov. 21-23, with Campbell appearing for Q&A sessions between showings.

Campbell, a native of Royal Oak, plays himself in "My Name is Bruce," albeit an alcoholic, obnoxious version of himself who is abusive to his fans and lives in a trailer.

The plot of the movie involves the small mining town of Gold Lick, Oregon, which has a curse placed on it that unleashes Guan-Di, an ancient Chinese god of war. Guan-Di starts to kill the relatives of those who disturbed the graveyard of the Chinese miners, which accounts for all of the inbred community. Jeff, the sole survivor of a Guan-Di attack, kidnaps his hero, Bruce Campbell, to defend Gold Lick against Guan-Di.

At first, Campbell thinks his captors are part of a movie experience, but when he realizes the killings are real he has to become the hero he's played in movies for years.

"It's a redemptive story," Campbell said.

Campbell described his character as a "real jerk version of himself," but said he enjoys playing in a film that parodies his life.

"It's fun because I know what my life is," Campbell said. "In real life, my trailer is a lot bigger and little bit cleaner."

Even though Campbell makes light of his career in "My Name is Bruce," the film also parodies his more overenthusiastic fans, such as the character Jeff (Taylor Sharpe), who idolizes Campbell.

"If I'm going to be weird, I'm taking them down with me," he said.

In one scene, a fan asks Campbell if his appearances on Ellen Degeneres' sitcom made him gay, a question that Campbell said was taken from real life.

However, it's certain that this is a film

that was made with his fans in mind, with plenty of nods to Campbell's other works, such as when Campbell refuses to use a chainsaw to fight the monster because it's "too damn heavy."

When producer Mike Richardson and writer Mark Verheiden approached Campbell to appear in the film, they also offered him the chance to direct, something they knew Campbell was interested in. Campbell said he enjoys directing as much as he does acting because he gets to be more involved with the production.

Campbell has directed on "The Man With The Screaming Brain" and episodes of "Xena: Warrior Princess," both of which he also appeared in.

Campbell said that these days he is pickier about what sort of films he does, but some bad films just can't be foreseen.

"The movie 'Congo' looked great on paper. And then it happened to suck," Campbell said. Campbell auditioned for the lead in "Congo" but instead got a small role in the beginning of the movie based on a Michael Crichton novel.

As for the possibility of doing another "Evil Dead" movie with director Sam Raimi, Campbell said he and Raimi both have very favorable opinions of the first "Evil Dead" movies, and that the relevance and impact of films go down the more sequels that they produce.

"Jason six. I defy anyone to tell me the plot of that movie," Campbell said.

"I don't know if I want to get beat up again," he said. Raimi was notoriously hard on Campbell during filming in attempts to get visual injury gags the way he wanted them.

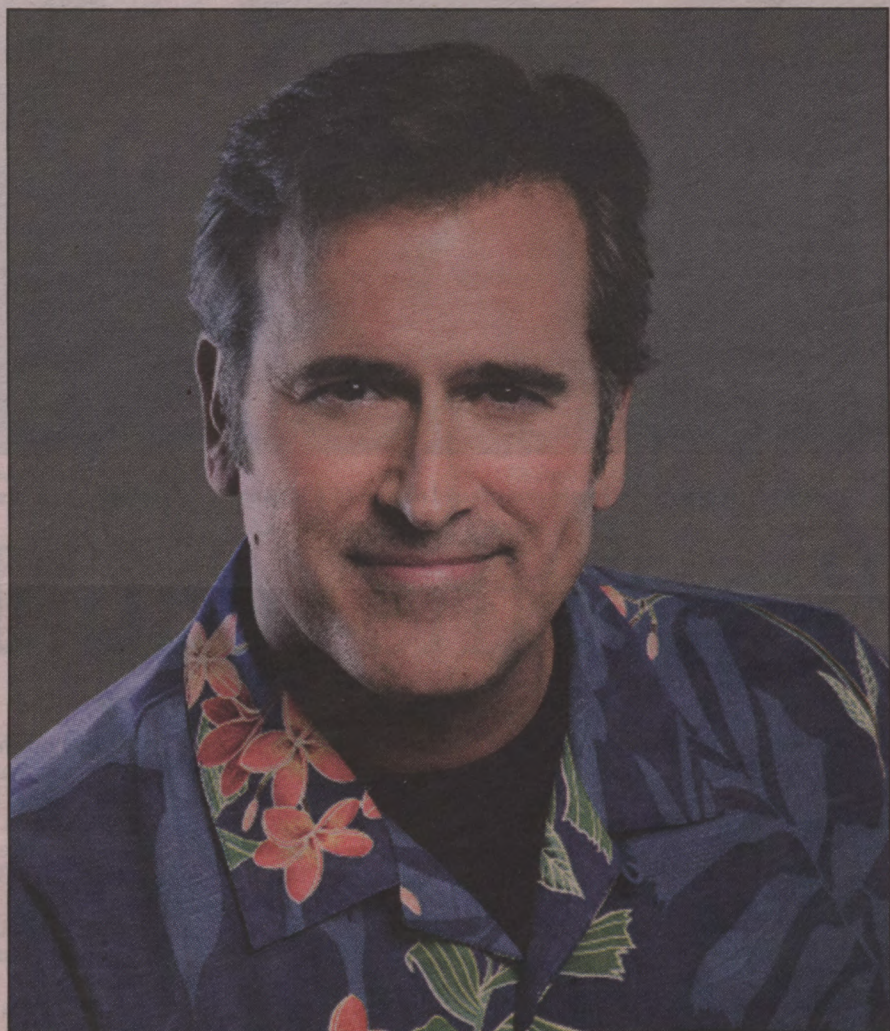
Some of the more slapstick moments of "My Name Is Bruce" hearken back to his days working with Raimi making the "Evil Dead" films, but Campbell said that it wasn't hard to make the transition from the seriousness of "Burn Notice" back to slapstick.

"Burn Notice," which Campbell is signed on to do for five years.

While Campbell has possibly gained more widespread recognition from doing "Burn Notice," he said he would never want to become an A-list celebrity.

"I revel in my anonymity," he said.

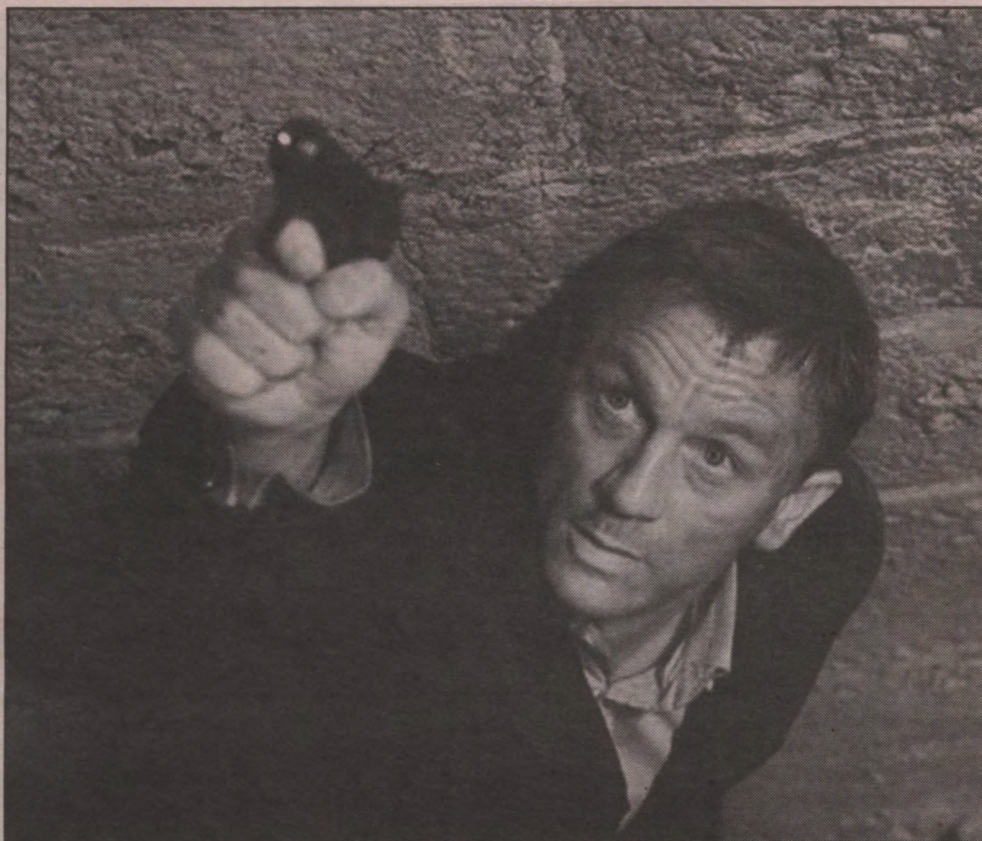
In addition to his acting and directing career, Campbell has written two books, an autobiography titled "If Chins Could Kill: Confessions of a B Movie Actor" and a novel, "Make Love The Bruce Campbell Way."



Photos courtesy of Image Entertainment

Above, Actor Bruce Campbell plays a twisted version of his real self in the film "My Name is Bruce." Below, A scene from the independent film, which will play Nov. 21-23 at the Main Art Theater.





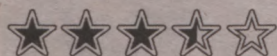
SUSIE ALLNUTT/Associated Press

The latest edition of James Bond movies was released on Nov. 14. It is Daniel Craig's second appearance as 007.

Bond: the sequel?

By JARED PURCELL
You/Local Editor

REVIEW



At face value, the latest installment of the popular James Bond franchise "Quantum of Solace" has everything to keep a moviegoer enthralled: action, drama, moments of witty comedy and more action.

Bond (Daniel Craig) is still looking to exact revenge on those who killed his great love from the 2006 Bond hit, "Casino Royale."

After an opening car-chase scene that will leave you looking for a cure for motion-sickness, Bond quickly finds himself tracking down the leader of a world renowned environmental group. The leader is in cahoots with a super-secret organization group that specializes in international conspiracy and has influence among many world leaders and wealthy so-and-sos.

He meets up with a woman named Camille (Olga Kurylenko) who plays a revenge-seeking, butt-kicking and, of course, super-sexy Bond girl. The film is basically a second installment of "Casino Royale" so it may be hard for those who haven't seen the prior movie to follow along.

Although it was greatly entertaining,

"Quantum of Solace" isn't really much of a Bond movie at all. That being said, there might be some disappointment found in the ranks of the devout Bond enthusiasts.

In his second movie playing the role of Bond, Craig has yet to resemble the Bond we all know and love. He can pull the same stunts, shoot the same guns, look good in a tux and drive the infamous Aston Martin. All that is still cool as ever, but when it's all said and done, Craig's portrayal of Bond is more numb than ever.

It was hard to tell if the main character was angry, sad, afraid, deep in thought or thinking about kittens. The directors tried to implement scenes to show Bond's vulnerability — not being able to sleep, developing a drinking problem — but it just made him seem even more numb. Surprisingly, the line "Bond, James Bond" wasn't uttered at all in the course of 106 minutes. The movie moved very fast and ended quickly too — almost too quickly.

Even though Bond has never had problems with his trigger finger, it finally gets him into trouble this time around. He ends up looking more like a Boondock Saint than a 00 agent because he seems to kill more out of need than necessity.

Still, the flick was every bit as entertaining as you'd expect from a Bond movie. Every guy and gal will either want to be James Bond or be with him in the end — as usual.

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MOUTHING OFF

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November 19, 2008

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25

Tyra Banks can see the future and solve America's problems

By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Editor in Chief

It's a rainy afternoon, you're channel surfing on the couch in order to kill time on an otherwise boring day. You've already scanned the channels to find the same four movies are showing on TBS, TNT and USA. The game isn't on either.

Suddenly you're transfixed by the beautiful model on the screen. She's wearing nothing but strawberry syrup, an ice cream cone hat and a melting pile of ice cream in her hand. You're intrigued but still not sure that you want to watch.

Then in a dramatic moment your world is turned upside down as supermodel Tyra Banks comes on the screen. You're doomed. For the next five hours you sit glued to the television, entranced by the drama that unfolds on an "America's Next Top Model" marathon.

Aside from transforming young wannabe models into mature and sometimes frighteningly mini-Tyras, Banks has splashed her name all over the media.

She produces and hosts "America's Next Top Model." She hosts "The Tyra Banks Show," a morning talk show that is seriously an hour interview about and with Banks, regardless of the guest or topic.

She produces the new fashion editor competition show "Stylista" and recently her production company Bankable Productions released "The Clique," a book series that Banks claims to love.

That's a lot of responsibility. But nonetheless the divalicious media mogul has just added one more job to her resume: fortune-teller. That's right America; Tyra Banks is America's Next Top Fortune-Teller. Don't believe me? It came straight from the horse's, er, model's mouth.

Ten days after the Presidential Election, Banks proclaimed she foresaw a victory for President-elect Barack Obama. While Obama did not seek Banks out for a free reading, Banks did whip out a crystal ball when he made an appearance on her show in October 2007.

Banks said when she learned of Obama's win she couldn't sleep and

when she did fall asleep she would awake in tears. It was *that* amazing for her.

"I actually held up a crystal ball to him and I said, 'What do you see in your future, Senator?' And he said, 'I see the White House.' So then I'm crying some more. I held up the crystal ball and he saw it." Banks reminisced recently at a red carpet event.

She also asked Obama who he thought would portray him in a movie. His answer: Denzel Washinton. To which Banks responded, "If it was Denzel Washington, I was going to be like, 'Can I play your wife, cuz I wanna be in a scene with Denzel Washington.'"

Banks missed her chance to be in a scene with Washington but she did step into Michelle Obama's shoes for the September issue of Harper's Bazaar. Well, not literally. She starred in a photo shoot dressed as the first lady, before Obama was even elected.

While Banks was channeling Michelle Obama long before she would become the first lady, she was also working on filling the first lady's stilettos and promoted herself to First Lady Extraordinaire.

How would Banks fair with helping to solve one of America's biggest issues like the economy? With the high unemployment rate in America, job security is at its highest risk. Absolutely no need to fret, First Lady Extraordinaire Banks is dedicated to creating jobs.

Drivers. Yes, she probably has one or two already, but in a city as big as New York, Banks can spread out her drivers by neighborhood. One for SoHo, one for Greenwich Village and certainly one for the Upper East Side. Hell why not get a driver for every block? Of course Banks will use a different American made car for each block. Auto crisis solved.

Personal photographer. Someone will need to follow her every move and capture the essence of her life. If no one does that how will America know what she looked like in the bathtub or what she looks like in a fat suit? Better yet, she will need photos of herself to send to other people as birthday presents.

Just ask Miley Cyrus who recently received the best sweet 16 gift from Banks — a framed photo of Banks when she was 16.

Bad actors. Banks sometimes needs support on "ANTM." Anyone who can successfully underact will suffice. Banks will take care of the real acting, she just needs someone to hand her an apple when she does her Mr. Peepers bit like she did at the princess party in episode four of cycle 11.

Reality TV show contestant. So you wanna be on top? Banks will take you there. Models of all shapes and genders will be needed for cycles 12 through

1,200 of "ANTM." But if the runway isn't your thing don't worry, the media mogul can create any reality show. America's Next Top Janitor, anyone? The one with the perfect mopping technique will take home the prize.

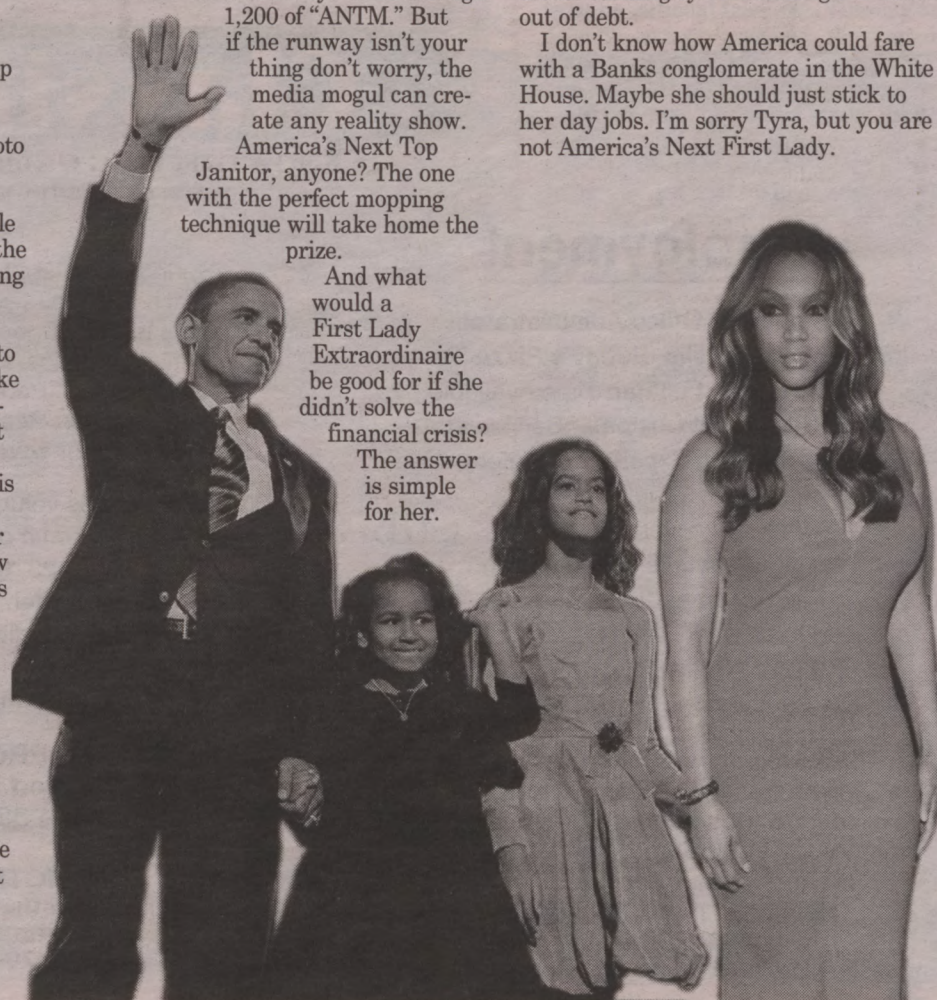
And what would a First Lady Extraordinaire be good for if she didn't solve the financial crisis? The answer is simple for her.

The Tyra Bank — a new national bank much like the Federal Reserve. Banks, Jay Manuel, Nigel Barker, J. Alexander, Twiggy, Janice Dickinson and Adrianne Curry serve as the board of governors.

Key decisions are made based on Tyra's mood swings, "Is it just my anti-psychotics talking ladies, or was Abe Lincoln nothing but a hot mess? That's it — the \$5 bill is worth less than the \$1 bill!"

As for the fierceness of the credit market, "Fixed-rate mortgages at below 4 percent? Fierce in '09!" We would quickly forget about AIG with TTB, the new model banking system leading our nation out of debt.

I don't know how America could fare with a Banks conglomerate in the White House. Maybe she should just stick to her day jobs. I'm sorry Tyra, but you are not America's Next First Lady.



College: A time to become textually promiscuous

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

It's a story that's all too typical.

A guy knows most of his schoolmates are doing it, but he still abstains from it all through high school. He feels uncool and socially inept for not doing it when so many of them started doing it in high school. Hell, some people even started doing it in middle school!

"I'm not going to let peer pressure get to me," he says to himself. "I don't need to do it to be cool. I don't need to do it to feel better about myself."

His abstinence wasn't because of religious reasons or parental oppression — for him it's a personal decision. He doesn't need to do it to have good self-esteem, or even to feel close to people, he says to himself.

Then the guy goes to college. He sees people doing it even more rampantly and really starts to feel left out. But somehow he manages to hold on for almost two whole years.

Then he finally succumbs to temptation, and near the end of his second year at college he loses his virginity — his text-message virginity.

This guy, dear readers, was me. It's

a story I haven't shared with anyone before and it feels nice to finally get it off my chest.

It's not like I was morally against sending and receiving text messages. For a while, it was simply about money — I just couldn't afford a cell phone plan. That's what I told my friends who were annoyed that they couldn't reach me when they wanted to, unless I was at home and they called my land line.

Then I got a job and couldn't use the "too poor" excuse anymore. To be honest, money was never the problem. I simply hated talking to people on the phone. I didn't want to be a glutton for punishment and carry a cell phone with me all the time. And I didn't want to be available to talk to people 24/7.

Another reason was that I was just turned off by schoolmates' textual promiscuity. Everywhere I looked, people were doing it. I've seen people do it at the movies, between classes, during classes, while watching TV, while eating and even while talking to another person. And most of them weren't just exchanging texts with one special person that they cared for deeply — they were doing it with anyone who'd text back.

I saw everyone doing it around me,

and I thought to myself: is this really what it takes to feel close to people?

Doesn't the promiscuity with so many different people just cheapen the bond between all of them?

I didn't understand until I became textually promiscuous myself.

Exchanging text messages with people didn't cheapen my relationships with them — it actually enhanced them.

It was easier to get hold of people who would otherwise be unavailable to talk on the phone, whether they were at work, in a class, at a loud basketball game or at a party.

It was also something for me to occasionally pass the time with at work or in some classes. For any professors reading this, I never did it in any of your classes — I only do it in my other classes.

Looking back, I may have been overdoing it at a certain point. During this summer, I became increasingly bored at work and needy for human interaction. I knew I wasn't doing it nearly as much as some of my schoolmates or colleagues, but for me, it was a lot. Since then, I've been consciously doing it less and less.

I don't regret doing it though. I no longer think there's anything wrong with people engaging in textual intercourse, or

even with being textually promiscuous.

Although I do feel that there should be a minimum age limit. Let's face it — no 13-year-old really needs to send text messages. TV shows and movies have exploited textual behavior and twisted it so teenagers and even pre-teens think they need to do it to be cool.

I only have one regret. In the fervency of my past textual exploits I forgot to keep track of the first time I did it — the time I lost my text message cherry. Was it to tell a friend where we were meeting to play soccer? Was it to ask a classmate when the homework was due? Or was it to my BFF Jim, replying to him "idk, how many grls have turned u down 2nite?"

I'd like to think that the first time isn't really special, that it's just as meaningless as the other times — but I'd be lying to myself.

So the only advice I have for someone who hasn't done it yet is this: don't do what I did — don't let your textual conquests get in the way of what really matters. And don't give in to peer pressure or compare your text life with fictional characters from TV or movies. Do it with someone you care about and do it when the time feels right.

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Stocks decline as recession worry rises

By SARA LEPRO & MADLEN READ
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — Wall Street finished sharply lower Monday as investors pored over more signs of economic weakness, including a huge round of layoffs in the financial sector.

After a turbulent week that sent the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 340 points, investors found little solace in the latest news.

Stocks zigzagged throughout the session, finally giving way to a stream of late-day selling that left the Dow Jones industrials lower by 223 points.

In a signal that banks are still struggling in the wake of massive losses tied to bad mortgage debt, Citigroup Inc. is cutting another 53,000 jobs in the coming quarters.

The company said that in addition to job cuts, it plans to lower expenses by about 20 percent and has reduced its assets by more than 20 percent since the first quarter of the year.

Investors were also nervously waiting to see if the nation's troubled automakers would get a bailout.

Senate Democrats, who plan to introduce legislation Monday, want to use part of the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout to help prop up Detroit's Big Three carmakers: General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC. A vote was expected as early as Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a better-than-expected reading on industrial production did little to boost investor sentiment.

The Federal Reserve said Monday that industrial output rose 1.3 percent last month, after plunging in September

by the largest amount in over 60 years. Economists, on average, had expected an increase of 0.2 percent, according to a survey by Thomson/IFR.

Still, the improvement wasn't encouraging enough, said Anthony Conroy, managing director and head trader for BNY ConvergeX Group, adding that investors want a more concrete sign that the economy could be improving.

"I think we're seeing a tremendous amount of bad economic data," he said. "Earnings have basically hit a wall and don't seem like they are coming back anytime soon."

The Dow fell 223.73, or 2.63 percent, to 8,273.58, near its lows of the session.

Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 22.54, or 2.58 percent, to 850.75, while the Nasdaq composite index dropped 34.80, or 2.29 percent, to 1,482.05.



In this image released by the Iraqi government, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki makes a televised statement from his office in Baghdad, Tuesday.

Iraqi PM backs security pact with the U.S.

By HAMZA HENDAWI
Associate Press Writer

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister went on national television Tuesday to defend a security pact with the United States that keeps U.S. forces in Iraq through 2011 and assure neighbors that Iraqi territory would not be used to attack them.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki acknowledged that he had concerns about the agreement, but said it was a step toward full Iraqi sovereignty once the last U.S. soldier leaves.

"I say to you with complete honesty that we have reservations about the agreement. But we at the same time see it as a solid prelude to the restoration of Iraq's full sovereignty in three years' time," al-Maliki said.

"I assure you that there are no secret clauses or annexes in the agreement, nor permanent military bases in Iraq," he said. "Iraq will never be a conduit or a staging ground for an attack on any other nation."

In the pursuit of a good deal for Iraq, he said, negotiations with the Americans repeatedly hit snags. The negotiations, he said, were "complex and difficult."

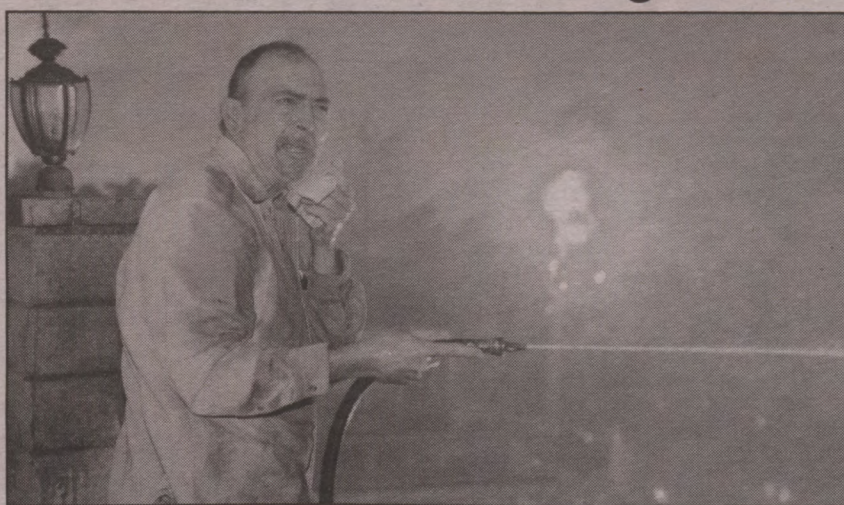
The Cabinet approved the agreement, which now goes to a vote on Nov. 24 in the 275-seat parliament. Al-Maliki's coalition partners dominate the legislature, so the vote has a good chance of approval. The Iraqi president and his two deputies would then need to ratify it.

Also Tuesday, the government announced that the long-awaited provincial elections will be held Jan. 31.

NIW BRIEFS

11-16 | Pakistan agrees to borrow \$7.6 billion from the International Monetary Fund to stabilize its economy. | A tornado in North Carolina claims two lives. | Eleven Romanians die in an explosion. **11-17** | Additions are planned for the International Space Station to allow it to hold more astronauts in the future. | A 7.5-magnitude earthquake in Indonesia claims the lives of two people as a result of panic. | Over 100 retired generals and admirals call for the repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. **11-18** | Taliban militants reject an offer from the president of Afghanistan for peace talks, citing the presence of foreign troops as a deal breaker. | The Australian Navy announces that it will offer a two month work leave for sailors over the holidays, essentially suspending operations.

Wildfires still threatening homes



MARK J. TERRILL/Associated Press
Craig Smith tries to save his home during a wildfire that destroyed a number of homes, Saturday, Nov. 15, in the Sylmar area of northern Los Angeles.

Pirates hijack oil supertanker, anchor near Somalia

By MOHAMED SHEIKH NOHR & BARBARA SURK
Associated Press Writers

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Pirates who seized a Saudi supertanker loaded with \$100 million in crude anchored the ship within sight of impoverished Somali fishing villages Tuesday, while other bandits took control of an Iranian cargo ship — the seventh vessel hijacked in 12 days.

Saudi Arabia said Tuesday that it will join the international fight against piracy, and Somali officials vowed to try to rescue the hijacked Saudi oil supertanker by force if necessary.

But with naval forces unwilling to intervene, shipowners in past piracy cases have ended up paying ransoms for their ships, cargos and crew.

The latest ship seized was a bulk cargo carrier flying a Hong Kong flag and operated by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines. U.S. Navy Commander Jane Campbell of the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said the status of the crew and cargo was not known.

The International Maritime Bureau on Sunday reported five hijackings since Nov. 7, before the hijackings of the Saudi and Iranian ships were announced.

The U.S. and other naval forces decided against intervention in the seizure

of the supertanker. NATO said it would not divert any of its three warships from the Gulf of Aden and the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet also said it did not expect to send ships to try to intercept the Saudi supertanker, the MV Sirius Star.

The tanker was seized over the weekend about 450 nautical miles off the Kenyan coast.

Never before have Somali pirates seized such a giant ship so far out to sea — and never a vessel so large. The captors of the Sirius Star anchored the ship, with a full load of 2 million barrels of oil and 25 crew members, close to a main pirate den on the Somali coast, Harardhere.



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