

Special Edition

THE OAKLAND POST

Student-run newspaper
serving Oakland University's
community. 10 cents

Tuesday • December 11, 2001 • www.oakpostonline.com

Award-winning
independent newspaper
THE OAKLAND SAIL, INC.

News on the EDGE

•Reminder to students: Professors are not permitted to give tests or quizzes during the last week of classes (Dec. 4-11). If you know a professor that violated this rule, please contact The Post at 248.370.4268 and let us know.

•OU's Latino organization Fuerza will be collecting canned foods, toys and money through Dec. 20. All donations benefit Detroit-area families. Look for Fuerza members in the OC, or call Maria at 248.364.8712 to donate.

•Student Congress is accepting applications for scholarships that will be awarded next semester. OUSC has five prizes totaling \$600 each. Deadline to qualify is Dec. 12, and winners will be announced Dec. 17.

•Meadow Brook Theatre's production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" runs through Dec. 23.

•The Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk "Flappers and All That Jazz" runs through Dec. 20.

EDITORIAL...

A3

This special edition of The Post was began after the Board of Trustees voted to give President Gary Russi a 6 percent pay hike last Wednesday (strategically after the last issue of the year was already circulating).



Partly Cloudy
High 44°
Low 32°

Russi's stocking stuffed

■ **Board of Trustees adds \$21,630 more to OU President's pocket, plus defers \$50K if he stays through 2006.**

By Michael Hoskins
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Christmas came early this year for President Gary Russi, as the Board of Trustees voted last week to up his salary \$21,630, a two-year retroactive raise which resulted in a 12 percent increase.

Additionally, he was awarded \$50,000 total for the last two years in deferred compensation, money that he will receive if he stays at OU through 2006.

In addition, Russi was promised more deferred compensation "bonuses" for the next four fiscal years. The amounts of those have not been determined by the Board yet.

"We are pleased with his performance and very confident with his ability," Board of Trustees Chair Ann Nicholson said. "OU is becoming a more dynamic place for students, and under his leadership we are heading in that direction."

The raises, which were not on the agenda circulated prior to the meeting and which have not

been published on OU's official news website, came less than a month after the BOT was formally presented with a highly critical report of Russi's management style and OU budget problems.

The five month long investigation was conducted by a faculty and board committee called the Academic Affairs Review Committee. The AARC was formed last summer after the firing of Provost Louis Esposito on charges of fiscal mismanagement. Esposito was the fifth provost in seven years and the second one fired by Russi within two years of their hiring.

"To be fair, the Board should be awarding large bonuses to those faculty members who worked so many months trying to decipher OU's grief-producing accounting practices. Isn't oversight of these practices one of the Board's responsibilities?" said Associate Professor of Rhetoric Barbara B. Hamilton. "If the board has so much cash to distribute, why don't they award all faculty a Christmas bonus for enduring the pain of last year. Kris Kringle went down the wrong

chimney."

According to Nicholson, Russi had not received a salary increase the previous year because of ongoing contract negotiations with several employee unions on campus. Those contracts have all been settled at significantly less than 6 percent per year.

To compensate, the BOT decided last Wednesday to increase his salary 6 percent for the past two fiscal years.

For the 2000-01 term, Russi's salary was retroactively raised from \$175,000 to \$185,500. For the current 2001-02 term, his salary was increased to \$196,630.

According to Director of Media Relations Ted Montgomery, this raise puts Russi more in line with what other presidents make at Michigan's 15 public universities, boosting him from twelfth to seventh place.

Adam Kochenderfer, student liaison to the BOT, said he understands the Board's reasons for

SALARY continues on A4

Eleventh attempt golden for the Grizzlies

By Zvonko Blazevski
THE OAKLAND POST

OU men's basketball team manhandled the University of Detroit Mercy Thursday night in front of an almost sold-out O'Rena, beating its rivals 93-67.

It was OU's first victory over UDM in 11 tries and the most points the Titans have allowed against any team since 1994.

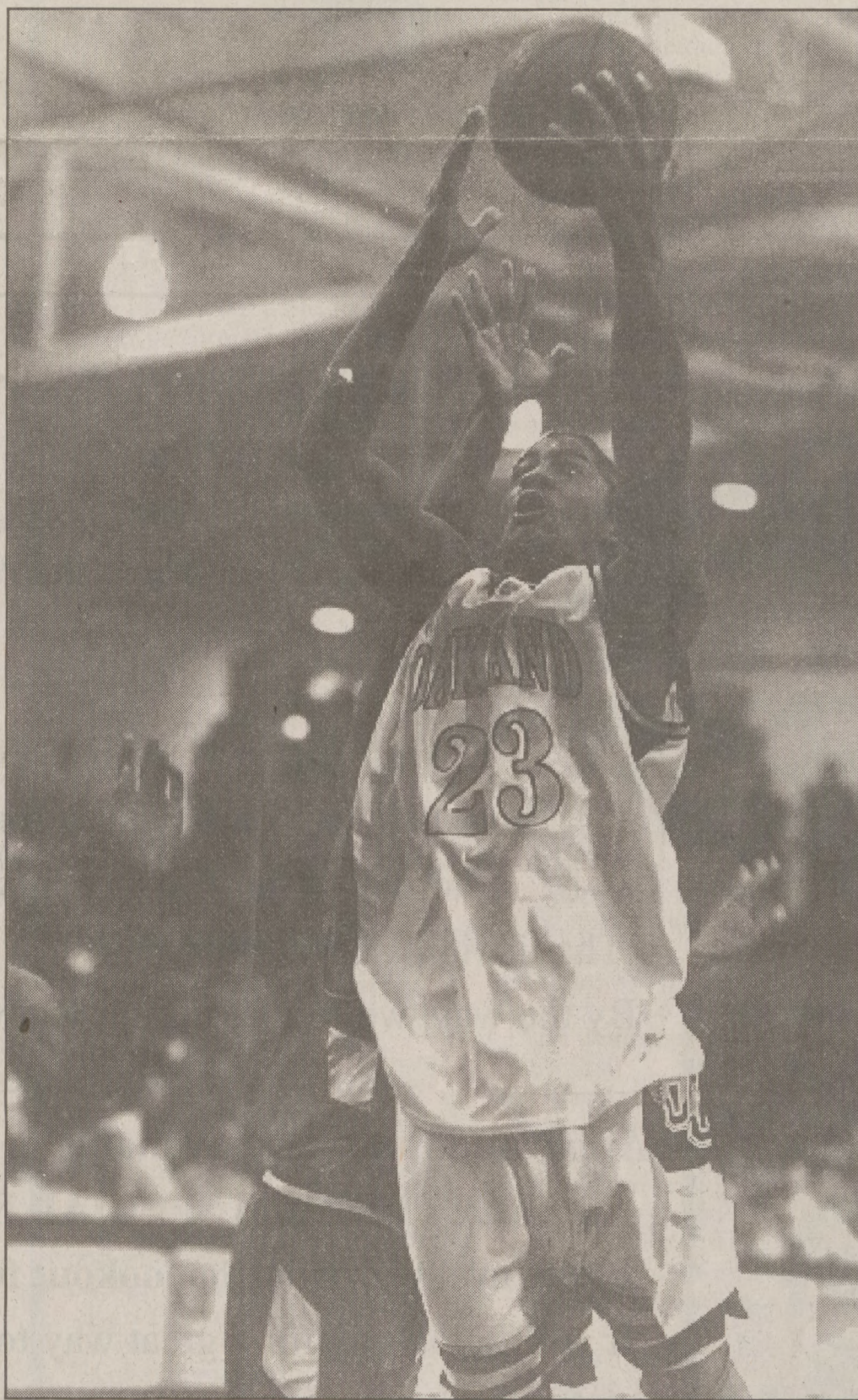
"We just want to be mentioned in the same breath as (UDM)," said OU head coach Greg Kampe after the victory. "That is all we are trying to do. Anytime you get a win over a team like that, you know you've made progress."

The Grizzly attack was led by sophomore guard Mike Helms, who tallied 28 points.

It was sweet justice for Helms, who was slighted by UDM Head Coach Perry Watkins when he was a senior at Martin Luther King High School in the Detroit Public School League.

"It was very personal for me," said Helms, who is a sophomore. "Perry Watson did not really want me. A lot of his assistant coaches told me they wanted me, but they never sent any letters."

OU never trailed during the game, as Helms scored seven of OU's first nine points. Helms scored 18 points in the first half. The Golden Grizzlies were up



ON FIRE: Sophomore guard Mike Helms led OU's fight against UDM last Thursday. His 28 points helped the Grizzlies win their first game in 11 tries against UDM.

by ten at the break, 48-38.

In the second half, the Golden Grizzlies extended the lead to 69-45 with 11:44 left. OU continued to add to its lead and when the final whistle came, UDM

went home with a 26 point loss.

OU's zone defense forced UDM to commit 18 turnovers and only allowed 29 points in the second half.

"We created chaos on

defense and got them to play faster than they wanted to play, which is what this defense is designed to do," said Kampe. "It allowed us to get up for-

HELMS continues on A4

Cabinet, Deans' wages up less than president's

By Cara Plowman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Deans and vice presidents all saw raises this year ranging from 4 to 5 percent, except for Dean of the School of Business Administration John Gardner, who earned 9 percent more this year.

Gardner now makes \$165,932 a year, making him higher paid than any member of the president's cabinet and all the other deans.

Interim Provost Virinder Moudgil and Dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science Pieter Frick are close behind Gardner, making \$162,000 each. Moudgil, who is also the vice president of Academic Affairs, was hired in September making more than former Provost Louis Esposito left earning (\$151,425).

Vice President of Finance and Administration Lynne Schaefer saw a 5 percent increase, bringing her wage up to \$150,964, making her the highest paid vice president other than Moudgil.

Vice President of Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder is making 4 percent more (\$131,706).

Vice President of University Relations Susan Goepp was hired earlier this year and will take home 7 percent more than David Discend, who held the position before her.

Of the deans, two, Ronald Olson, health sciences and Kathleen Emrich, interim dean of nursing, saw 5 percent hikes (\$135,236 and \$99,275, respectively). David Downing, arts and sciences, Mary Otto, education, and Elaine Didier, library, each received 4 percent raises (\$135,004, \$127,706 and \$120,058, respectively).

In athletics, Director Jack Mehl will see 4 percent more (\$102,973), as will Men's Basketball Coach Greg Kampe (\$85,523), Men's Soccer Coach Gary Parsons (\$55,596), Women's Soccer Coach Nicholas O'Shea (\$37,041) and Swimming Coach Pete Hovland (\$61,360). Women's Basketball Coach Beckie Francis received a 5 percent hike (\$58,707).

Summary of raises

Gary Russi	6 percent
Lynne Schaefer	5 percent
Mary Beth Snyder	4 percent
David Downing	4 percent
Mary Otto	4 percent
Ronald Olson	5 percent
Kathleen Emrich	5 percent
John Gardner	9 percent
Elaine Didier	4 percent
Jack Mehl	4 percent
Greg Kampe	4 percent
Beckie Francis	5 percent

OU 93 • UDM 67

Oakland

University



Scholarships 4 You!

Student

For more information call
John Torres
370-4290

Congress



Happy Holidays!

from
The Student Program Board

Good luck on your final exams and enjoy the break!
But whatever you do, don't forget that SPB will be bringing
hordes of fun-filled events your way next semester!

That is right, it's our little gift to you, something to look forward to.
By the way, we're looking for a new member of our executive board!

Could that person be you?

**Applications are now available in the SPB office for the position of
LECTURE and SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIRPERSON!**

As always, we're on the lookout for new committee members, too!

If you're looking for a great way to get involved, this is your chance!

Simply stop by the SPB office, call us, or visit our website:

64 Oakland Center
(248) 370-4295

www.oakland.edu/ousc/spb



Editorial

Board acts to hide Russi's raise from OU

This special edition of The Post was deemed necessary after the Board of Trustees voted to give President Gary Russi a 6 percent pay hike last week (strategically after the last issue of the semester was already circulating).

Members of the university community who live outside of The Oakland Press circulation area or those who do not subscribe to the paper, might not have ever learned of the raise (the story didn't even make it onto OU's website).

We are not surprised that Russi's raise was left off the original BOT agenda distributed before Wednesday's meeting. This little item of great interest to the community as a whole made its appearance on the agenda handed out at the meeting.

About half way through the meeting, Trustee David Fischer motioned the Board to approve a 6 percent raise for Russi for the past two fiscal years. In 2001, Russi was retroactively paid \$185,500 and in 2002, \$196,630. The Board also voted to set aside \$25,000 a year in deferred compensation, money that Russi will receive if he stays at OU through 2006.

The almost \$200K salary is paid in addition to Russi's free housing, free car, health benefits, retirement, life insurance and an expense account.

It's not to say that Russi doesn't deserve a modest increase, though, in light of the Academic Affairs Review Committee report released in October, there are serious issues on the budgeting process that need to be addressed.

Many students were outraged to come back to campus after summer break to find that their tuition had been inflated by 8.4 percent. Because the state didn't give OU the money it was expecting last year, and the university hadn't cut its budgets at all, students had to pick up the slack.

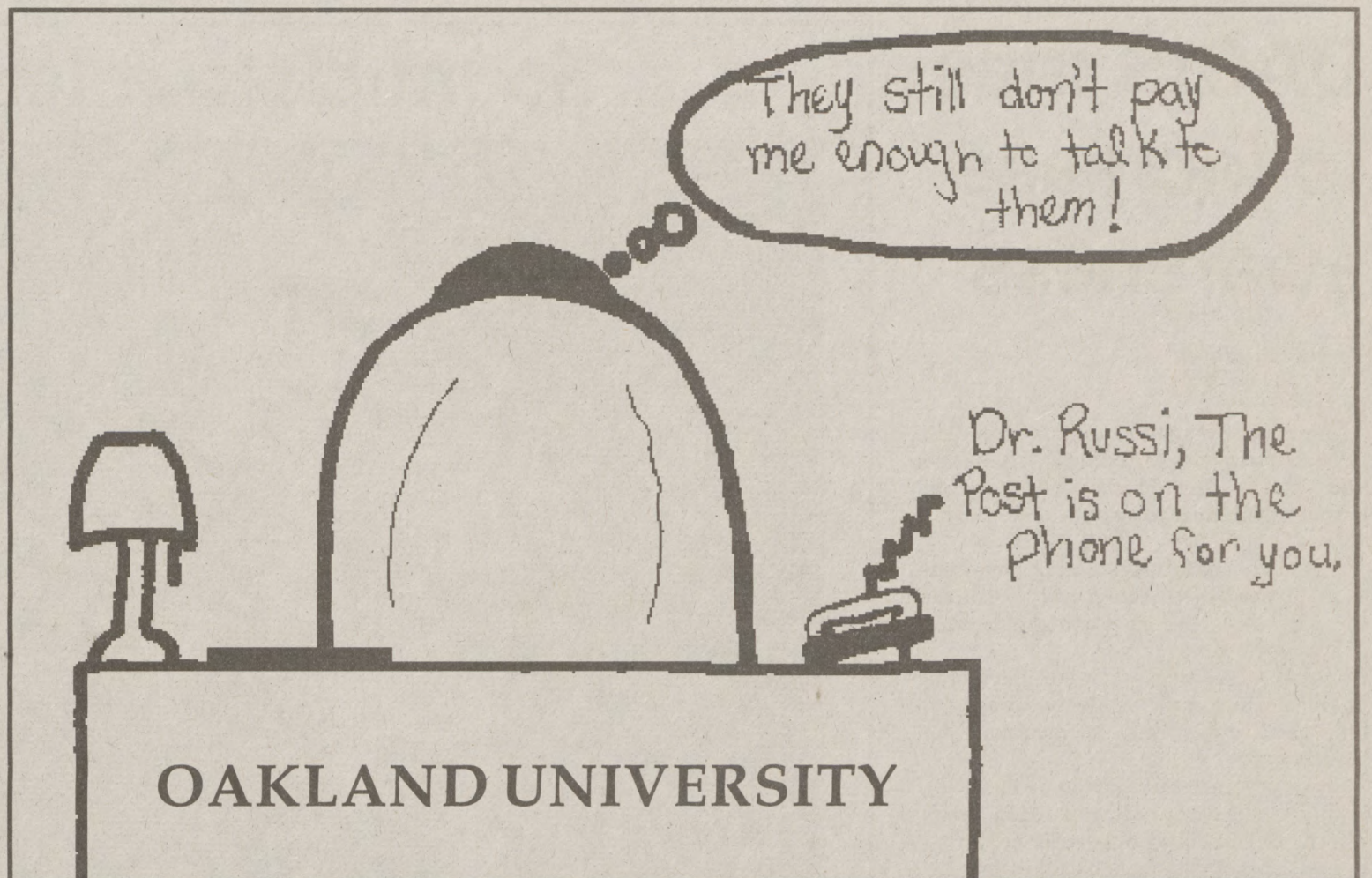
But that was last year, and it can't happen again, right? Wrong.

At every Board of Trustees meeting this semester, the topic of whether or not OU will get the cold shoulder from Lansing again this year has been debated. In light of the economic recession the country is experiencing, many agree we won't see much state appropriation money again this year. You'd think the Board would learn from last year and plan ahead.

Although faculty and staff saw minimal wage increases this year, those, too, will drive up tuition costs for students. So long as OU employees see wage increases and the state keeps pinching pennies, students will have to dig deeper into their wallets to compensate.

When MSU President M. Peter McPherson received a \$25,000 bonus last year, he donated it back to the school to plant trees on south campus, according to a report in The State News. In addition, McPherson has insisted that the Board not give him raises exceeding 3 or 4 percent a year, comparable to what other university employees receive.

It's too bad Russi doesn't take a page from McPherson's play book.



Letters to the Editor

Teaching evaluations lacking this year

Dear Editor,

I just want to say that I am extremely disappointed with the teaching evaluations that have been distributed for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology this semester.

I do not recall the exact format of the evaluations from previous terms, but I know that many, if not all, evaluations normally provide some section to comment. I have never really taken evaluations all that seriously until I started to realize that evaluations are my only real voice to say how I feel about a professor and his or her performance, skill, etc. without going directly to that professor. I think it is very important that professors know what students think of them, specifically, not just in A, B, C terms. I feel it should be mandatory to have a comment section on evaluations because the one professor who I really had something to comment on... there was no option to do so, and I feel I've been cheated of my opinion, an opinion I am more than entitled to and feel very strongly about expressing.

And of course, the professor who I really had no comment to make on, I had the option. What gives?

Kim Wachowski
junior, sociology

— complements of the great doctrine know as the U.S. Constitution (i.e. Bill Of Rights). But as this "War on Terror" continues to unfold I am seeing more and more of those civil liberties and rights being pulled from my grasp, literally by the day.

From The "Patriot Act" to mass interrogations of foreign-born residents, this country and all for which it stands is becoming polluted with enormous amounts of government intervention into our lives.

As a result, I feel as though I have become an outcast in my own homeland. I have endured racial profiling at the hands of authority figures almost on a daily basis and have even been told to "go back to my own country" (which is this country) numerous times.

Why? Because I don't look "American." I am penalized and labeled a potential threat, simply because my parents came from a non-European foreign country and raised me with the cultural values of their homeland.

Since the 9-11 tragedy, I have entered into Canada, via the Windsor, Ontario tunnel, three times. Every single time I was told to report to INS agents, where upon just about all of my liberties and rights were violated.

Many may say they are just playing it safe. Everyone is treated the same way, right? Sure maybe that excuse will fly the first time, but not after being continuously harassed and demeaned to the status of a criminal.

Many may say the simple solution would be to just not leave the country, but why? I am an American-born citizen raised within the boundaries of the U.S. Why are my civil liberties and rights allowed to be infringed upon? No one has the right to put anyone down to the status of a "second class citizen."

Next time you begin to justify the "War on Terror," or should I say the "War on People of Foreign Decent," I urge you all to step back and look at this war through the eyes of your

minority or foreign brothers and sisters.

I love my country and have always been proud to be an American, but I do not want to see all for which we stand for fall into a deep pit of government control and immense fear fueled by our own paranoia.

We live in what many call the greatest free democracy in the world. I say, let's live up to that name and protect people's civil liberties and rights.

As we fight this current war, we must remember to not lose focus on what great American values we are supposedly representing.

Juan Pablo Torres
senior, political science

Make a difference every day

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all of the OU students who ventured out in the 41 degree weather on Oct. 27 to participate in "Make a Difference Day," a national day of service, with AmeriCorps OU members.

Students representing numerous campus organizations worked with AmeriCorps members to provide Halloween activities for children.

AmeriCorps members raised \$520 in cash donations, \$1,388 in material donations and received a donation of 1,000 apples to support numerous Halloween activities offered for children. More than 85 volunteers helped children make caramel and chocolate apples, spider hats, slime, ghost suckers and popcorn glove treats.

Unfortunately, due to the cold there were more volunteers than children. All of the children, about 50, left happy, having experienced positive concentrated adult attention and received bags filled with goodies. Thank you for Making A Difference!

Carol Anne Ketelsen
AmeriCorps OU Program Director

The Post Staff

SPECIAL EDITION STAFF:

CARA PLOWMAN
Editor In Chief

MICHAEL HOSKINS
Local News Editor

LISA CALI
Managing Editor

DAN McDUFFEE
Photography Editor

RACHEL RYBICKI
Campus News Editor

JASON SHERMAN
Advertising Manager

Oakland University
61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309
248•370•4268

An independent award-winning paper serving Oakland University since 1976. Free to OU students. Advisor, Jane Briggs-Bunting.

Student experiences forms of profiling

Dear Editor,

"Home of the free land of the brave," is a line that has been embedded in my head throughout my whole life. Most recently, however, the values behind this line seem to be quickly losing their meanings and truths as the days of "The War on Terror" continue to unfold.

I am a 23-year-old OU senior, who has essentially become a foreigner in his own homeland.

My whole life I have been told that because I am an American, I am entitled to certain liberties and rights

Editor In Chief 248.370.4268
Managing Editor 370.4268
Campus News 370.4267
Local News 370.2848
Features 370.4266
Campus Sports 370.4263
Photography 370.2849
Advertising 370.4269
General Info. 370.4265
Fax 370.4264

Volume 28 Issue 14

Send letters, comments,
opinions and story ideas
to oakpost@oakland.edu
Check us out on the
web at...
www.oakpostonline.com



Quote of the Week

The most important quality in a leader is that of being acknowledged as such. All leaders whose fitness is questioned are clearly lacking in force.

-André Maurois



DAGIS tries to increase awareness

By Sarah Wood
THE OAKLAND POST

Many able-bodied students complain about the struggles of finding a parking spot and getting to class. That task and many others are significantly more difficult for 300 disabled OU students.

A group of students on campus have dedicated themselves to helping everyone understand the daily challenges and struggles disabled people face.

Disability Awareness Group Integrating Students was formed nearly a year ago and only has five members, but they hope that will change.

There are currently 300 students at OU with disabilities, according to Linda Sisson, director of Disability Support Services. Fifty percent of those students have learning disabilities. Thirty-five percent have physical disabilities. Ten percent have psychological disabilities. Three percent are hearing impaired, and two percent have vision disabilities.

It was Sisson's idea to begin this group when she became director last year.

She felt it was important because, "it has the potential to educate and inform the OU non-disabled community on issues that impact individuals with disabilities. Making friends and networking with others is important."

Sisson, along with the campus senior architect, Khaled Dahr, and the current members of DAGIS, have developed an accessibility chart for students with physical disabilities on campus.

The chart shows accessible, inaccessible, and challenging areas all over campus. It also shows where there are electronic door openers, snow removal priority routes, and handicapped parking. Copies are available in Sisson's office, 106 North Foundation Hall. Members are currently developing a disability simulation day next semester.

DAGIS President Adam Fuhrman, 20, is very excited about the simulation day.

"One of the simulations will be a wheelchair obstacle course, along with a simulation representing a learning disability. We feel that simulation will attract a lot of attention, and will be a good springboard to encourage additional membership," he said.

Fuhrman was born with cerebral palsy, and has been in a wheelchair since the age of 4.

He did not choose OU simply for its accessibility, although he stresses that accessibility around campus is generally very good. Fuhrman commutes from Troy and likes that OU is close to home and gave him a scholarship.

Increased membership will help DAGIS accomplish everything they hope to, and according to Sisson, "increase awareness of specific disabilities or just the general disabled population."

Open to anyone, DAGIS meets every Thursday from noon-1 p.m. in the Disability Support Center in North Foundation Hall.

Students do not have to have a disability to join.

So much to celebrate



THE BIG DAY: Santa showed up for CSA's "Winter Wonderland" over the weekend. There were many activities for kids to participate in, including making reindeer treats.

Different Christian holiday traditions come alive

By Rachel Rybicki
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

This is the season for celebration, and OU students have many different ways they choose to spend their holidays.

Student Body Vice President Vesna Saveski celebrates the Serbian Orthodox way.

"Our Christmas is by the Old Testament," she said. "Christmas Day is not the traditional Christmas Day." The day Serbian Orthodoxes celebrate Christmas is not Dec. 25 either; it is Dec. 7.

"We celebrate on Dec. 6, Christmas Eve, with our family," said Saveski. "The entire family, town or village would sit down for dinner on Christmas Eve."

Saveski's religion observes numerous traditions throughout the season. "There is this one tradition where everyone got chunks of a loaf of bread with a coin baked in it," Saveski said. "The person who got the coin in their chunk was considered the 'Godfather' of the farm of town."

That person would then traditionally donate money to benefit the town.

Saveski said she observes a six week fast before the Christmas Eve feast at the church.

"We eat no meat, no eggs, no cheese, no dairy," she said. "They typically roast a pig after the fast and take communion before Christmas and eat a big dinner."

Another tradition they have is similar to Halloween. "The kids go from house to house and collect money and

food," said Saveski. "They dress up in scary costumes, because they didn't want anyone to know who they were. And it wasn't always candy that they got. It was what was available, like fruits and nuts and things around the house."

Christmas is also important to Saveski's family because of the patron saint born on that day, St. Vasilisa.

Evergreen branches are important in the tradition, because they are used to say prayers for the house.

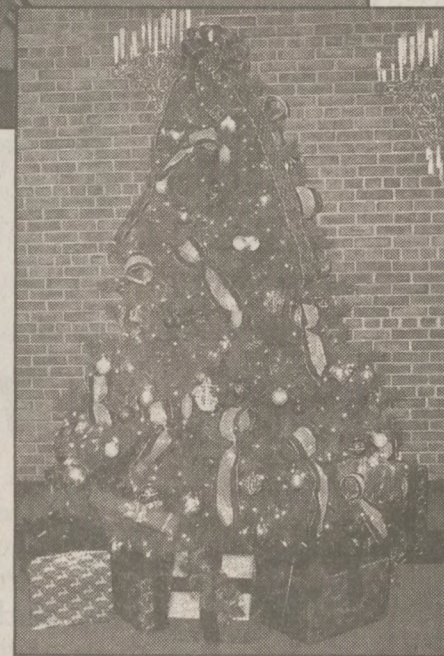
"They take evergreen branches from the forest and on Christmas Day, the first person to wake up would get them," she said. "They would hold it in the fire for good luck for the holidays. They would say a prayer for the house and for the year, and when it burned it looked like a sparkler."

Saveski also said they finished burning the branches in the stove to "seal" the prayer.

"Our church burns an oak log for everyone on Christmas Eve at midnight service," said Saveski. "We walk around it three times to symbolize the three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Everyone would hold a single white candle, too."

"See, for us there is commercial Christmas and then there is the spiritual side of it, the birth of Christ," said Saveski. "It's a time for our family to be together and view it as a Jesus Christ holiday, not Hallmark. It's nice, because it is farther away from Dec. 25 and it helps to push away from the commercialism."

Another way that one student celebrates is the Mexican way.



Maria Romero, junior, elementary education, said her mom has always held onto the traditions in her house.

"My mom makes this 'nacimiento' (a manger), and it takes up half of our living room," she said. "It has these porcelain figures of Joseph and Mary and baby Jesus. There's the three wise men underneath this platform thing, and that's where we put our gifts."

On Dec. 24, with all of the family at home, they tell the story of Christmas.

"We lay baby Jesus down in the manger and then on Jan. 6, we pick him back up again," Romero said.

Jan. 6 is the Epiphany, the day the three kings or wise men came to pay homage to Jesus.

"We pick him up then, because of the day (the three wise men) came to visit," said Romero. "We sing religious songs, and my mom does the rosary for Christmas, and we pass baby Jesus around and everyone there will kiss him on the top of his head. Everybody says a prayer. It's a Mexican tradition."

No matter how the holiday season is celebrated, The Post would like to extend its holiday greetings to you. Have a safe New Year.

LIFE COLUMN

Rethinking Christmas past

Christmas is a time to reflect on things that are important to you. For me, it means sharing stories around the tree and continuing traditions each year.

A few years ago, my mother started the tradition of telling the story of the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. She read the story before we opened gifts from



RACHEL RYBICKI

our secret Santas, while we sat around the nativity scene under the tree. I remember being moved by the simple gesture of bringing the family together. My aunts and uncles watched while each person took up their piece of the nativity scene and put it in its place with a tenderness not seen before.

We always put baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas morning, my brother and I used to fight over who got that job.

Tree decorating was never beautifully coordinated but a simple tree full of passed on ornaments and hand crafted tokens. With Christmas music playing in the background and my father singing like always, we would hang the ornaments one by one and laugh at the old ones we made in kindergarten, the ones with googly eyes and pom pom balls for reindeer tails.

This year I didn't decorate the tree with my family, because I am now out of the house. I went home to talk to my dad about Christmas shopping awhile ago and the tree was up and lit when I walked in. It was kind of sad to see it up and know that I didn't take part in it. We shared stories and laughed about the ornaments and silly traditions that our family has.

The week following the decorating of our Christmas tree, my mom, brother and I would bake a half a dozen different types of cookies and decorate them all with our favorite sprinkles and frosting. We each got to eat one or two after they were finished, and sometimes we would make special ones for mom and dad. Of course, they always tasted the best.

Last week my mom called me and left a message on my cell phone, "Hi Rachel, it's mom. I was gonna make Christmas cookies tomorrow and was wondering if you wanted to help too. Okay, well, call me back. I love you, bye."

That simple message was enough to cause me to remember some of the best times as a child were the holidays, not because of the gifts, but because of the love that went into the preparation for the arrival of Christ and family into our home.

HELMS

continued from A1

ward and get some shots. When you get turnovers like that and can't convert, you are going to score points."

Senior guard Jason Rozycy left early in the second half with an ankle sprain and missed Saturday's road game against Air Force.

Senior guard Mychal Covington scored 19 points, and contributed with nine rebounds and nine assists. Senior guard Brad Buddenborg added 15 points for the Golden Grizzlies, while sophomore forward Kelly Williams and senior forward Dan Champagne each added ten points.

Willie Green's 14 points led UDM.

The Grizzlies also beat Air Force Saturday 57-53, putting their record at 5-4.

OU plays tomorrow at Wright State.

SALARY

continued from A1

the raise. "It's very comparable to other university presidents."

According to Nicholson, the BOT determines the president's salary by focusing on key points, like the job he does and what other university presidents in Michigan and nationally are earning.

"The man is doing an excellent job, and he should be compensated as such," said Student Body President Derek Dickow. "What level and what price, that's determined by the Board now. That's something they've deemed necessary to pay the man for the job he's doing."

With the release of the Academic Affairs Review Committee report last month, though, some faculty have questioned the Board's timing.

In the agenda released prior to the BOT meeting, a motion by Trustee David Fischer to increase Russi's salary was not included. A revised agenda released immediately before the meeting, however, included the motion.

"Timing is everything, and the fact that this wasn't on the agenda ahead of time is not a mistake," Dickow said.

Kochenderfer voiced his concern with the timing, as well. "I don't like the fact that I was kept in the dark. We need full disclosure. It's

in the best interest of the university. The way this was presented to the staff and community was not."

The timing, Dickow agreed, "doesn't ease the concerns of the faculty and basically, the community in general."

Some faculty object to the \$21,630 raise and \$25,000 bonuses, since it is more than some university employees earn.

The CTs, whose wages average around \$20,000 annually, settled contract negotiations in February with a 4 percent increase in salary.

The BOT also approved this fall a 4 percent raise for OU Police Department.

Dickow, however, said some faculty are not looking at the whole picture.

"A lot of faculty, it seems, want to have a cup of tea and a donut with their idea of a president of a university," he said. "They want to be more personable with him. They want to shake his hand on a regular basis."

"I believe the true job of a president of a university should be to run the business like it's a business, because that's what this is," Dickow said. "It's a business of education, and if certain things are not in order, it's going to be very hard to get that education for students."

Kochenderfer said the timing of the salary increase concerns him and could cause further problems between the faculty and president.

"It could've been done at a better time," Kochenderfer said. "The faculty was not happy before, and now I see it getting worse."

"I don't have a problem with the raise, itself," he added. "Agree or disagree with him, Russi's a very committed individual."

In an email response to calls made by The Post last week, Russi thanked the Board for the recognition.

"I am pleased that the Board of Trustees supports my role in leading Oakland University along the aggressive path we've charted for 2010," he wrote. "I look forward to working closely with faculty, staff and students over the next several years to continue to make Oakland a university of distinction."

Another faculty member was less than pleased with the Board's decision.

"I think the Board is insensitive and hypocritical. On the one hand, they are saying faculty can't have food at meetings (because of the budget situation), and on the other hand, they establish large salary increases for the president. How could they possibly expect the faculty to believe we're facing hard economic times?" said Professor Shea Howell, acting chair of the Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism.

She said Russi should get the same raise the faculty gets, no more and no less.

Howell also noted he's been responsible for some of the most tumultuous times at the university and faulted Russi for continuing a policy of secrecy in his dealings.

Russi was chosen to be president in 1997 and started out making \$155,000.