

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

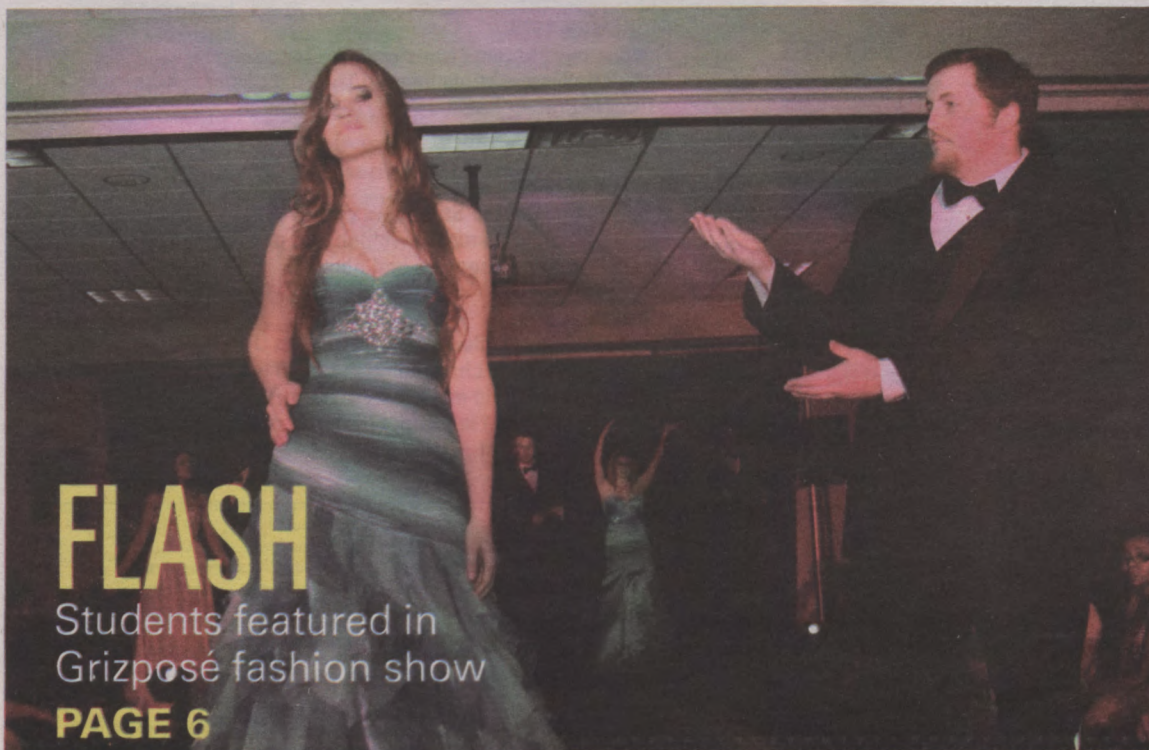
MARCH  
**28**  
— 2012 —



## CHANGE

MTV "Made" to hold  
casting call on campus

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## FLASH

Students featured in  
Grizposé fashion show

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## MAGIC

The Oakland Owls quidditch team  
prepares for competition

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# thisweek

March 28, 2012 // Volume 38. Issue 28



## onthe web

Watch an exclusive video of the WXOU's 46th annual Birthday Bash on our website.

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



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**WATER FIGHT** // Students beat the heat on Wednesday, March 21 by having a water fight using water balloons, squirt guns and large buckets. Tweet us your photos @theoaklandpost for your chance to be featured as next week's photo of the week. View all of the water fight photos online at our website [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

LEX LEE // The Oakland Post

Submit a photo to [photos@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:photos@oaklandpostonline.com) for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

## POLL OF THE WEEK

What is your most anticipated movie of 2012?

- A The Dark Night Rises
- B The Dictator
- C Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part II
- D The Avengers

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

## LAST WEEK'S POLL

Will you be voting in next week's OUSC elections?

A) Yes, I will be voting for Wolf/Williford

16 votes | 29%

B) Yes, I will be voting for Sklar/Chen

8 votes | 15%

C) Yes, but I am undecided

11 votes | 20%

D) No, I don't care

20 votes | 36%

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### MARCH 26, 1979

Five biology students transformed a bathroom in Dodge Hall into a study lounge. They did this as a form of protest because they were denied additional office space.

### MARCH 27, 2002

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow visited OU to speak about the history of women and politics and of her own ascension into politics.

### MARCH 26, 2003

The Oakland Post filed a lawsuit against OU's Board of Trustees, challenging the legality of a secret meeting held in January 2003. The BOT claimed that it is exempt from the state's Open Meetings Act.



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### CAMPUS

Six pairs of same-sex student protestors from the Gay Straight Alliance went to the Oakland County Circuit to get marriage licenses.



11

### SPORTS

The Oakland men and women's outdoor track teams were to finish 8th in the Summit League preseason polls



12

### LOCAL

Three orphaned grizzly cubs recently made their debut at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak. The cubs arrived at the zoo in December.

## BY THE NUMBERS

SPORTS

1964

first year of intercollegiate sporting teams at OU

2

number of golf courses

33

NCCA tournament appearances since joining division one

1998

year OU joined the Summit League for division one athletics

16

number of varsity sports



# Perspectives

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Make student housing a priority at today's Board of Trustees meeting

Last fall, 100 male students were relocated to the Homestead Suites Apartments on University Drive due to a housing overcapacity at Oakland University. They lived there for the duration of the semester.

Today, students are encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees meeting — located in the Elliot Hall Auditorium at 2 p.m. — to help push to approve plans for a new housing facility.

Housing Director Jim Zentmeyer, who will speak at the meeting along with other OU students, is armed with a plan that will add 440 beds to campus housing next year.

Since the start of the fall semester, housing contracts have increased 16 percent, according to Zentmeyer.

In addition to that, OU has experienced its 13th straight year of enrollment growth, reaching an all-time high of 19,379 students this year, a two percent increase and record high.

We believe the demand for housing will increase, along with the number of students, and a new building needs to be created.

Currently, OU is trying to create a solid brand for itself and some believe the "commuter school" image is perceived as a negative.

If the university is serious about shedding the commuter image, they should start by increasing housing options. It seems that some of the

Instead of duplicating facilities, like the new \$75 million engineering building, university administrators should move their focus to housing and creating a better, more campus-friendly living environment.

concerns relate to money too, but money shouldn't be an issue.

The various housing facilities on campus all receive their own funding from room and board fees — which range anywhere from \$4,000 to \$10,000 a semester.

Instead of duplicating facilities, like the new \$75 million engineering building, university administrators should move their focus to housing and creating a better, more campus-friendly living environment.

According to Henry Baskin, BOT president, housing is a priority, but not number one, as we think it should be.

He also added that the board received around 72 responses about housing proposals and they're looking for a builder that will work at a set, student-discounted price.

Yet, the proposal will not be on the main agenda at today's meeting.

The Oakland Post sur-

veyed students in two polls throughout the fall semester and the results agree with us.

In regards to the engineering building, 58 percent of people polled thought the university was already spending too much money.

Another 57 percent of people thought a new housing facility was necessary.

OU has sent recruiters to out-of-state cities like Chicago, but we can't even provide housing for the students we already have.

At this point, OU can't support students from other areas of Michigan, so how can they expect to bring in more students from other states?

An increase in housing will also improve retention rates, which currently suck, to put it bluntly.

From 1994 to 2010, freshman retention rates have decreased 14.9 percent, according to information obtained from the Office of Institutional Research.

More housing and a better campus environment would add to that retention rate, since freshmen will see the benefits of living on campus and going to OU.

We're expecting to make an impact at today's meeting your help would be appreciated.

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



THE OAKLAND POST

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### Letters to the Editor

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.



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EDITORIAL

# Trayvon Martin is more than his hoodie

*Martin-Zimmerman incident not about race, focus on controversial self-defense laws*

From Justin Bieber to Reggie Bush, celebrities far and wide have been fighting the injustice against Trayvon Martin by Tweeting and signing petitions. I wish I had the courage and money to fight like them.

Oh wait, Twitter is free and so is petition signing.

No doubt anyone who casually browses the news, has a Facebook, receives Justin Bieber tweets, watches sports, watches movies or listens to music, has heard about the popular investigation from Sanford, Fla. Since that list includes people who browse online (including preteen girls), it seems safe to say a lot of people have heard about Martin, even if it is via their celebrity heroes.

After an in-depth parallel investigation of every news story about the case I could find, I have compiled a list of facts



**JORDAN GONZALEZ**  
assistant  
campus editor

that all seem to agree on:

■ On Feb. 26, Trayvon Martin was fatally shot by George Zimmerman

■ Zimmerman, as of last Friday, was released by police who said he acted in self-defense

■ Martin carried Skittles and iced tea

■ Zimmerman carried a gun. He was described as a "neighborhood

watchdog"

■ Martin is a human being

■ Zimmerman is a human being

■ Martin was black

How about this lesser known fact: Zimmerman is a Spanish-speaking Hispanic.

That's right. Zimmerman isn't "white." According to friends, he is half white, half Peruvian. His family says he has black relatives. Following the norm for determining race — he is a minority.

Despite these facts, many news organ-

izations originally reported Zimmerman as a "white shooter" who shot a "black teenager." Recent articles eventually replaced "white" with "white Hispanic" or "Hispanic," but by that time, the damage was done.

By adding the two words "black" and "white," this story was hijacked, flipped 180 degrees, distorted and fed to the starving zombies who are desperate to grasp on a piece of its flesh.

Sorry, "The Walking Dead" season 2 finale is still fresh in my mind.

Perhaps the most tragic aspect of this story, after the unnecessary death of an unarmed 17-year-old, is the fact this case has been painted by the media, celebrities and the public as a race issue.

We need to be clear about this: The Trayvon Martin tragedy is not a race issue. Just because he was killed by someone who wasn't black does not automatically brand him a victim of a race crime.

The real issue here is the fact that there is a possible abuse of a unique law, the "stand your ground" law as it is often described.

This law, in which there are similar laws in 21 states, allows citizens to use deadly force against an attacker if they feel their life is threatened. These laws also do not require citizens to have to retreat.

The Martin incident is possibly the first flicker of the fire that is to come. It is possible the law could continue to be abused, as anyone can declare they were righteous in the name of self-defense.

In journalism, we are taught to keep race out of a story unless it is relevant.

In this case, it is absolutely 100 percent irrelevant.

It is also irrelevant that Martin was wearing a hoodie, as if that suddenly makes him a stereotypical black male

We need to be clear about this: The Trayvon Martin tragedy is not a race issue.

victimized by Hispanic racist.

As someone who is Hispanic, who was raised in Houston, Texas and has a grandpa who was born and raised in Mexico — I can tell you that hoodies are as much a part of a Hispanic culture as they are African American, if we are going to play the stereotype game.

I urge everyone, let's not play that game. Focus on the real issues — the fact that an unarmed teenager was shot and the controversial self-defense law, and blend it with what facts we know. The media, celebrities and zombies — I mean, public, should investigate the details of why Zimmerman shot Martin, and wait for more police reports and the autopsy.

To all those who are wearing their hoodies in memory of Martin, don't disrespect him that way. He deserves to be remembered not because of supposed racial stereotypes, but for being the possible victim of a delicate and possibly dangerous law.

Maybe we will find out Martin was shot in cold blood. Maybe we will learn Martin tried to kill Zimmerman.

Maybe we will learn the gun went off accidentally.

Whatever the case, everyone should do their duty to find the facts, be honest, paper-shred their stereotypes and do more than sign a petition because Justin Bieber, Al Sharpton and Michael Moore did so.

Contact Assistant Campus Editor Jordan Gonzalez via email at [jrgonzal@oakland.edu](mailto:jrgonzal@oakland.edu) and follow him on Twitter @el\_doctor23

STUDENT VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

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## Have an opinion on something?

Let us know how you feel about any of our stories, photos or general coverage by submitting letters to the editor.

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number, and field of study when submitting their letters. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.





DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

"MADE" is an emmy award-winning show on MTV that gives student's the opportunity to make their dreams come true.

## MTV recruits students on campus for 'MADE'

*Students will audition to have dreams come true*

By Kevin Graham  
Staff Reporter

**M**TV is giving Oakland University students the opportunity to have their dreams come true on April 2.

OU is one of several stops on a country-wide casting call for the TV show "Made," a series that helps the dreams of young people become a reality.

Previously restricted to high school students, casting directors are now looking for people between the ages of 18 and 26.

### Help from the outside

Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, said she is excited the show is being brought to campus.

"They try to make their dreams come true," she said. "If they have a passion for something and MTV can help make that passion come true, that would be awesome. That would be really terrific."

The casting call says that, in every episode, participants are faced with the decision of determining whether the risks are worth the reward.

"We've all dreamt about rubbing a magic lantern for three wishes from a

genie," the casting call document said. "Most people would start with wishes for fame and fortune, but what would be your third and final wish? What would truly make you happy in life?"

In the past, the show has transformed participants into beauty queens, performers, athletes and more.

### Students speak out

Melissa Brode, a senior majoring in marketing, wants to make music.

"If I could make any dream happen," she said. "I would learn how to play the piano."

Students can sign-up to audition by going to the CSA service window.

Representatives of the show will be on campus in the Lake St. Clair Room of the Oakland Center to conduct taped interviews taking place every five minutes from 1 to 5 p.m. on April 2. Students are asked to bring their questionnaire to the interview.

### Champagne taste, caviar dreams

Students were asked what their wildest dreams were. Here are a few of the responses:

"I don't know if it's really that wild, but

I'd love to be a best-selling author. Writing is one of my best ways of expressing myself," Breanna Brown, a junior majoring in English, said.

"I want to be a pro-hockey player," Jason Scheurer, a freshman majoring in business, said.

"I want to be a history professor. I know, so wild," Katie Chaka, a sophomore majoring in history, said.

"I wish I could open up some kind of a restaurant chain to hire people that have no jobs," Perry Gordon, sophomore, an undecided major, said.

For more information, visit the CSA service window, which is located in the basement of the Oakland Center.

Contact staff reporter Kevin Graham via email at [kpgraham@oakland.edu](mailto:kpgraham@oakland.edu)

## MORE INFO

### WHAT

Auditions for MTV's show, "MADE"

### WHEN

April 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### HOW TO AUDITION

Visit the Center for Student Activities, located in the basement of the OC to obtain an application

### CONTACT

Jean Ann Miller, Director of the Center for Student Activities

Phone: 248-370-4332

Email: [jam@oakland.edu](mailto:jam@oakland.edu)

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Yellow Rage at OU

Spoken word poetry duo "Yellow Rage," comprised of Michelle Myers and Catzie Vilayphonh, will be visiting campus on March 30.

Myers and Vilayphonh are both Asian-American and their poetry deals with topics dealing with the portrayal of Asian women in the media, feminist activism and political and racial politics.

Hosted by feminist student organization SAGA, the event will be from 7 to 8 p.m. in 201 Dodge Hall. The event is free and there will be a book signing for Myers poetry book, "The She Book."

### Visiting Professionals: Rob Paulsen, pro voice actor

On March 28, Rob Paulsen will be visiting OU in Gold Room C in the Oakland Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Paulsen is a voice actor who is known for his roles in Animaniacs, Pinky and the Brain and the original Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles animated series.

This event is free to all and a lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Aaron Segel at [ajsegel@oakland.edu](mailto:ajsegel@oakland.edu).

### How to be compassionate

Room 200A in Elliot Hall will be the location on March 29 for an event entitled "Coffee & Conversation 'How can I be a Compassionate Professor.'"

The event is from 12 to 1 p.m. and will be a chance for professors to share stories of their experiences with fellow colleagues. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

For more information, contact Suzanne Flattery at 248-370-2466 or email her at [flattery@oakland.edu](mailto:flattery@oakland.edu).

### Varner Recital Hall to host 20-member band

Varner Recital Hall will be hosting the 20-member band called "Alarm Will Sound" on March 30 from 8 to 10 p.m.

The group is famous for their unique musical arrangements and approaches. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$20 for the general public.

For more information, call 248-370-2030 or email [gellis@oakland.edu](mailto:gellis@oakland.edu).

Compiled by Sarah Blanchette,  
Staff Intern

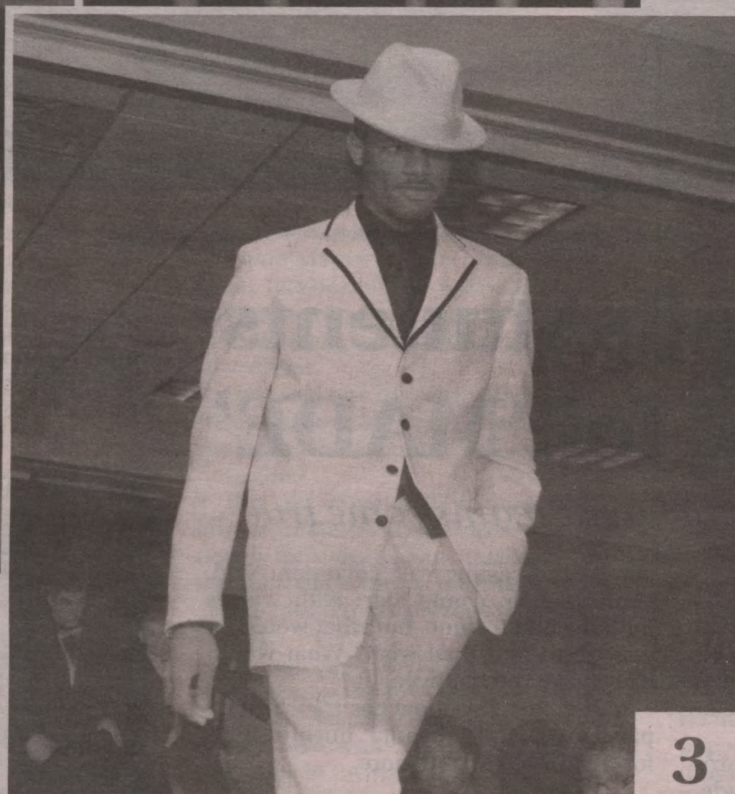




1. Models cat-walked down the aisle and smiled for the audience as they flaunt their dresses.

2. Ladies stepped up to twirl their dresses for the audience.

3. Nico Johnson, a freshman majoring in international business, struts down the runway wearing a tux from Men's Warehouse.



"IN INDIA THERE IS AN 80 PERCENT DROPOUT RATE FOR GIRLS... SCHOOLS FOR INDIA HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. RELY ON THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES"

— VENKATESH CHANDRASEKARAN, FOUNDER OF SCHOOLS FOR INDIA

# Fabulous fashion, fabulous fun

*Students organize fashion show to raise money for a new school in India*

By Chelsea Bistue  
Photo Editor

Have you ever felt so touched by a cause that you suddenly hold the urge to do something about it? Kristie Nixon, the vice president of finance for the Residence Hall Association, experienced exactly that. After reading a book about

life for women in India, she decided that she wanted to help these women. She began to research different causes and, in doing so, came across Schools for India.

"I read a book that went into great detail about how terrible the living conditions were, and I knew there had to be something that I could do," Nixon said.

"Grizzpose," a talent and fashion show was held on March 21. The show was equipped with raffles throughout the evening and a handful of sponsors including Buckle, Flirty Fashions and Men's Warehouse.

According to Nixon, this was the biggest event the RHA has done.

Brianna Shamsuddoha, a student on the programming committee, said members of RHA, especially the performers and models, worked hard for weeks to make the show a success.

In order to gain sponsorships, the committee had to call businesses and ask

for clothing donations. The fashion part of the show featured students wearing these clothes, with each collection being synced to song.

Shamsuddoha's favorite act was the Men's Warehouse part of the show when the guys came out wearing tuxedos and showed off their each individual style and sense of humor.

"They had everyone laughing and smiling," she said.

Nixon's initial goal was to showcase the talents of Oakland University, and she said Grizzpose did that, plus it raised money that will go toward building a school in Bihar, India.

The founder of Schools for India, Venkatesh Chandrasekaran, said support from the U.S. is critical for the future of Indian schools.

"In India there is an 80 percent dropout rate for girls ... Schools for India has spread throughout the country and throughout the world. We rely on the support of the United States," she said.

For more information, email the RHA Executive Board at [rha4ou@gmail.com](mailto:rha4ou@gmail.com)

Contact Photo Editor Chelsea Bistue via email at [cnbistue@oakland.edu](mailto:cnbistue@oakland.edu) or follow her on Twitter @ChelseaBistue



## Campus



SHANNON COUGHLIN/The Oakland Post

The Gay/Straight Alliance at OU annually apply for marriage licenses at the circuit court.

# Students denied marriage licences

*LGBTQ students raise awareness, apply for marriage licenses*

By Shannon Coughlin  
Photographer

Six couples went to the Oakland County Circuit Court on, March 23 to apply for marriage licenses. All six were denied immediately.

They were all same-sex couples.

The couples in question were a group of Oakland University students and friends who participated in a marriage protest arranged by the Gay Straight Alliance.

Students met in the Gender and Sexuality Center, paired up with a "partner" of the same sex, and drove to the court house to apply for marriage licenses. They were all denied and told the state of Michigan doesn't legally allow same-sex couples to apply.

Blake (last name withheld), a volunteer at the GSC and vice president of Transcend, said he thinks the protest was successful because it brought awareness to the issue.

"To make them really think about it and put a face to the issue is really important," he said.

GSA arranged a marriage protest last year, but only two couples went to the circuit court. This year, Blake said their goal was to step it up a notch and have more people attend.

He said the protest also helped to con-

vey transgender issues.

Blake identifies as a man and tried to apply for a marriage license with a female. They were denied, though, because Blake's driver's license identifies him as female.

OU student Zac Willockx said getting the word out is what's important.

"Michigan is the fourth lowest state in the country in terms of LGBTQ rights," he said. Russell Swanson, who is a friend of GSA members and attended the protest, said there are other ways to help spread awareness.

**"ONE OF (GSA'S) GOALS NEXT YEAR IS TO BECOME MORE POLITICALLY AND SOCIALLY ACTIVE."**

Blake,  
GSA and OU student

"I think it'd be good to send letters and call our state representatives," he said.

Blake said the campus atmosphere at OU is not very LGBTQ friendly so GSA tries not to be too controversial.

"One of our goals next year is to become more politically and socially active," Blake said.

Contact Grace Wojcik, director of the GSA, at gawojcik@oakland.edu.

Contact Photographer Shannon Coughlin via email at sjcoughl@oakland.edu

csa@oakland.edu  
248-370-2400

Center for Student Activities

# CSA

[www.oakland.edu/csa](http://www.oakland.edu/csa)

Student Life Lecture Board presents:

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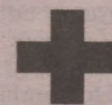
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# Snyder aims to keep tuition costs low

*New budget formula from the governor to go in effect*

By Chris Lauritsen  
Senior Reporter

Governor Rick Snyder's new budget aims at helping colleges and universities keep tuition costs low and helping schools graduate students.

Education funding makes up 31 percent of the total state budget in the governor's proposed budget for the 2013 fiscal year.

The new budget will include an increase in funding for education by \$1.4 billion in base spending, which is a three percent increase over the current \$1.1 billion allocated for funding.

Oakland University's Director of Budget and Financial Planning, Thomas LeMarbe, explained that it is important to look at the context of the three percent increase in allocated funds for education in the 2013 fiscal year budget.

According to LeMarbe, the Governor's FY2013 proposed budget should be examined in the context of the FY2012

budget in order to gain perspective on the base appropriation dilemma which would be created under the proposed budget.

"In FY2012, all 15 public universities received an across the board base appropriation reduction of 15 percent each," he said. "The FY2013 proposed budget aims to hold each university's base appropriation at the same level realized after the FY2012 15 percent reduction."

To try and keep tuition costs low, Snyder created a one time \$36.2 million appropriation pool that schools can receive money from if they meet four performance-based qualifications.

One of the four qualifications indicates that in order for a school to receive this one time fund, their tuition increases must not be greater than four percent.

According to LeMarbe, they are still in process of assessing the governor's formula will impact the overall budget.

"Given any increase that

"WE BELIEVE THE UNIVERSITY, THE METRO DETROIT AREA AND THE STATE ALL BENEFIT WHEN MICHIGAN RESIDENTS BECOME COLLEGE EDUCATED.

Thomas LeMarbe,  
Director of Budget and Financial Planning

Oakland might receive, would be a one-time and not a base increase," LeMarbe said.

The amount of money that schools receive will be allocated to qualifying universities once all institutions have set their 2012-13 academic year tuition rates.

In an interview with The Oakland Post, OU President Gary Russi said: "All of the boards around the state have to be working with administration on what percentage increases will be. It's an attempt to mitigate tuition increases at the state level."

"It's too early in the budget development process to declare what change in tuition rates might occur as a result of the governor's proposed budget. The legislative process generally involves the

governor's proposed budget marking the starting point for discussions, as the budget is examined by the Michigan Legislature," LeMarbe said.

Snyder has said his goal is to have at least 60 percent of Michigan residents attain a high quality degree by 2025.

"We believe the university, the Metro Detroit area and the State all benefit when more Michigan residents become college educated. How the governor's 60 percent goal relates to future appropriation adjustments for universities is not know at this time," LeMarbe said.

Visit [www.michigan.gov/budget](http://www.michigan.gov/budget) for more information.

Contact Senior Reporter Christopher Lauritsen via email at [cklaurit@oakland.edu](mailto:cklaurit@oakland.edu)

## POLICE FILES

### Attempted assault to OUPD in parking lot

On March 21, the Oakland University Police Department met with a male student who said a male suspect had attempted to spit on him. The student said he was walking to his vehicle in parking lot three, when he heard a whistle. The student then turned to locate where the whistle was coming from, when a male suspect in the front passenger seat of a vehicle attempted to spit on the student. The student later noticed the same vehicle in parking lot 43, and then contacted OUPD. Both the student and the suspect are in fraternities at OU, but the student said he did not know the suspect personally.

### Student cited for spraying fire extinguisher

On Thursday March 22, a member of the OU swim team met with OUPD in regards to a fire alarm that had been set off. The student told police he had been drinking at a nearby bar the night of the incident, and then walked to his residence at the Ann V. Nicholson Apartments. The student and his roommates were discussing a past incident at Hamlin Hall where the fire department was called. The student said he and his roommates then pretended to be firefighters. The student then grabbed a fire extinguisher from the hallway, and sprayed it at his roommate. After spraying his roommate, the fire alarms went off and the student ran away. The student said he took the fire extinguisher as a joke and did not realize it would set off the fire alarm. The student received a citation for disorderly conduct.

Compiled by  
Natalie Popovski,  
Staff Intern

## Last day to vote for Student Congress elections nears

### Students can vote for upcoming elections

By Kevin Graham  
Staff Reporter

Elections for Oakland University Student Congress will continue through this Wednesday, March 28 at 11:59 p.m.

Students can vote online at [www.oakland.edu/voteou](http://www.oakland.edu/voteou)

Alternatively, polling stations will be set up in the Fireside Lounge and Vandenberg Cafeteria from noon to 2 p.m. on election days.

When voting online, students can find out more information about each of the candidates by clicking on their hyperlinked names.

Students may vote for one presidential and vice presidential ticket and 23 legislators. They also have the option of including write-in candidates.

Elections Commissioner Lisa Vecchio said it is important for students to vote because of the amount of influence Stu-

dent Congress has on important issues affecting the student population.

"It's important that students vote in the elections because it determines who's going to be the next student body president and therefore, the new administration of Student Congress," she said. "Student Congress has a large budget and it has a lot of influence on campus, so students should be interested."

Student Congress' mission statement states:

"Oakland University Student Congress strives to represent the student body and increase pride and unity on campus through dynamic leadership, a commitment to diversity and an ongoing devotion to the quality of university life. We aim to meet the needs and address the concerns of our fellow students and encourage students to voice their ideas to help us create the best possible 'Oakland experience.'"

Current Student Body President Benjamin Eveslage echoed this sentiment when explaining why students should care about elections.

"I think it's very important that Oakland University students vote for the next student body president, vice president and the legislators because these people really do make a difference on campus and can make instrumental change into how students experience their educational experience."

The next OUSC presidential administration will be announced on Friday at noon in the Pioneer Food Court.

Contact Staff Reporter Kevin Graham via email at [kpgraham@oakland.edu](mailto:kpgraham@oakland.edu) or follow him on Twitter @KevinGraham88

### QUICK FACTS

**WHAT** Oakland University Student Congress elections

**WHEN** Through Wednesday March 28 at 11:59 p.m.

**WEB** [www.oakland.edu/voteou](http://www.oakland.edu/voteou)



# BEAR BUS • Oakland University



OUSC plans to double the usage of the Bear Bus by adding shuttles to the route.

## BEAR BUS EXPANSION

After three years running, the Bear Bus is expanding in order to accommodate Oakland University population.

Last year's fall semester routed from P11 to O'Dowd Hall and from P35 to P37. This winter, the route was expanded to routing the full campus and this year, OU Student Congress plans to double the usage of the buses.

The plans for the additional shuttles was approved on March 26 by Oakland University.

In order to accommodate more people, they plan to add two shuttles on top of the two current running vans.

According to Brett McIssac, student services director, the 16-passenger shuttles will have two wheelchair-accessible spots each.

The current vans do not have this accessibility.

"I think students will identify with it more, it is bigger and accessible, what the campus is becoming," Jean Ann Miller, director of student activities, said. "It's time has come."

— Compiled by Stephanie Preweda

## Need a Summer Internship/Job?

Visit [www.OUCareerLink.com](http://www.OUCareerLink.com)

Your one-stop-shop for 2012 Summer Student Campus Corps (SSCC) Internships/Jobs!!!

Be sure to visit

[www.OUCareerLink.com](http://www.OUCareerLink.com) often for newly posted SSCC Internships

Internship/Jobs are available for continuing OU undergraduate Michigan resident students who are pre-registered at least half-time at OU during Fall 2012 semester.

## THE WOMEN BEHIND OU

By Stephanie Preweda  
and Sarah Blanchette  
Campus Editor, Staff Intern

Director of the Oakland University Writing Center and professor of writing and rhetoric, Sherry Wynn Perdue, has been at OU for 16 years.

Currently, she is investigating evidence-based practices in the writing field of the writing center studies. She strongly feels that her practices and everything she does should be grounded in research.

Perdue said she is most proud of the programming and support she has built for graduate students and faculty.

"While popular culture would encourage us to believe that women are women's own worst enemies, my life is so much richer, and my opportunities are more plentiful because of the women in my life who encouraged me to become my best me," she said.



**SHERRY WYNN PERDUE**  
Director of OU Writing Center and professor of writing and rhetoric



**LINDA OLIVER**  
Manager for University Relations

Linda Oliver is the information services manager for university relations. She has been at OU for almost 15 years.

Oliver said her biggest achievement at OU so far is turning the Alumni Association website into a whole community for alumni.

Currently, she is serving on multiple Banner University Committees, such as the Women of OU Scholarship Committee. Her position in Advancement Services involves data analysis and the continued improvement of constituent data to assist the university in engaging alumni.

"Understand the bigger picture in how your role and the work you do as an employee fits with whatever company you work for," she said.



# Turning the season around

*Softball team hopes to rebound after sluggish start of the season*

By Emma Claucherty  
Staff Reporter

Even with the early season stumbles, the Golden Grizzlies softball team isn't short of any confidence. The team's 2011 season record of 17-29 and conference record of 8-15 aided in their fall to eighth place in the Summit League preseason poll.

## Playing to their strengths

Despite the low projection, the team believes the areas that need improvement are attainable.

"Our defense was rocky at times last year but this year it is our strength," Erika Polidori, sophomore captain, said. "This year, a big focus for us is our communication and leadership in various aspects of the game. We play best when we are aggressive at the plate and we need to work on that as well."

According to Polidori, a combination of these improvements is imperative for the team's success this year.

"(Our goals this year are) staying healthy, eliminating errors, communicating, working as a team and most importantly, having fun," Colleen Zimmerman, senior corner infielder, said. "When we do all of those things, we take care of business."

## Keeping focus

It's no secret that Oakland has had a rough start to the 2012 season. The team was swept in the three-game series against Summit League fourth ranked Southern Utah University. It was their first Summit League series.

Their first win of the season came Feb. 25, when they defeated St. Peters 2-0.

Last weekend, the team won their first league game 7-3 against IPFW.

"Our games so far have exposed areas we need to improve on, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. We now know what to focus on for the rest of the season," Polidori said. "We need to play as consistently in all seven innings of games as we do at practice every day. We need to let our passion for the game be the driving force behind everything we do."

## Staying positive

A challenging first few games have not stopped the team from making lofty goals for the rest of the season.

"We hope to place (in the) top-four (of) the Summit League, which enables us to compete in the conference tournament in May," Polidori said. "Once we get there, we think we have a good shot to win some games and hopefully win the conference."

The team says they are working on getting "one percent better everyday."

The strengths of the team this year have a lot to do with its overall character and companionship.

"Our team chemistry, ability to stay positive, talent and work ethic are the strengths of the team this year," Zimmerman said.

The bond the team shares this season is a key part of their strength.

"It makes it easier and a lot more fun to play for your team-



LEX LEE/The Oakland Post

mates, especially knowing that they have your back no matter what," Zimmerman said.

Polidori says the team's bond will help the Grizzlies sacrifice themselves in order for overall success.

"Being close with your teammates helps because you are no longer an individual player on the team, but rather a team player — a piece of the puzzle," Polidori said. "We need everyone to win games, not one or two players."

OU continued league play with their home opener last weekend against last year's Summit League champion, North Dakota State University.

Unfortunately, they were swept in the three-game series, losing 6-0, 5-1 and 6-0.

The Grizzlies will host Eastern Michigan on Wednesday March 28, for a double-header starting at 2 and 4 p.m.

Contact Staff Reporter Emma Claucherty via email at [em-clauch@oakland.edu](mailto:em-clauch@oakland.edu)

**1.** Senior outfielder Kelsey Krych who started all 46 games in the 2011, scored her drive in her fourth home run of the 2012 season in the opening day game against North Dakota State on March 23.

**2.** Junior Abbie Richardson pitched five innings against NDSU and had two strike outs.

**3.** Freshman Jackie Kisman had three putbacks against NDSU.



# Anticipating a change in results

## Track and field teams look to challenge Summit League poll

By Damien Dennis  
Staff Reporter

Oakland University men's and women's outdoor track teams were both slated to finish 8th in the Summit League preseason polls released on March 15.

The polls were voted on by the 10 head coaches in the Summit League. In 2011, both teams finished 7th in the league.

"The 8th place ranking is justified," said Head Coach Paul Rice. "We showed absolutely nothing at the indoor championships to make anyone think we are better than that ranking going into the outdoor season."

The preseason poll has North Dakota State in first place, Southern Utah in second and

South Dakota in third for the women and men, only replacing South Dakota with Oral Roberts. Oakland, IUPUI, IPFW and Western Illinois round out the bottom of both polls.

"I do believe Oakland should be placed higher because I see how hard the teams work every day, but they will have to prove it on the track," Brittini Hutton, junior distance runner, said. "The guys and girls teams are getting faster, stronger and mentally tougher by the day."

The indoor track championships were held Feb. 24 and 25 in Ft. Wayne, Ind. The first day, the men received two points and the women received eight.

On the second day, the men received nine points and the women got 14.

"At the indoor championships, we were missing quite a few athletes on both sides due to a combination of injuries and red-shirts," Rice said.

Oakland's first meet is on Sat-



JOSE JUAREZ/Oakland Athletics

Senior Niklas Rippon finished in first-place for the 60-meter hurdles, with a time of 8.52 at the IPFW Quadrangular meet on Jan. 28.

urday, March 31 at 10 a.m. in Toledo, Ohio. It marks the opening of the outdoor season for both men's and women's track and field teams.

Other prominent competitions the teams are looking forward to are the University of Detroit-Mercy Dual meet and the Eastern Michigan University

Twilight meet.

"The UDM Dual is always an exciting and fun meet for us," Rice said. "We are taking our top distance athletes out to Bucknell with a chance to really race fast and the EMU Twilight meet always produces fast times."

"Competition looks promising this year," Hutton said. "I am

looking forward to running next week at Toledo, Ohio for our first meet and finally getting to wear an Oakland uniform again."

Oakland has a total of 12 returning athletes who placed in the top eight of the Summit League Championships last season.

"I would anticipate that our returners will perform very well outdoors, especially the athletes that scored last year for us," Rice said. "We do have a few new athletes this year that have a chance to contribute and also a few athletes that were redshirted last outdoor season."

Rice said that if his teams are healthy, Oakland will rank no lower than 6th place at the end of the season.

The Summit League Championships will be held in Fargo, N.D. May 10 and May 12.

Contact Staff Reporter Damien Dennis via email at [djdennis@oakland.edu](mailto:djdennis@oakland.edu) or follow him on Twitter @djdennisOU



Head Coach Rice

## THE SPORTING BLITZ

Compiled by Timothy Pontzer,  
Senior Reporter

### Oakland's basketball season ends with loss to Utah State



Bader

The 2011-12 Oakland basketball campaign finished with a 105-81 blowout loss to the Utah State Aggies on Sunday night.

The matchup was a semifinal affair in the Collegen Insider.com Postseason Tournament.

Oakland had reached the Final Four of the CIT after beating Bowling Green State, Buffalo, and Rice in the tournament.

The game against Utah State was the first time that Oakland had to travel away from campus to play in the CIT, and the cold moun-

tain air was not kind to the Golden Grizzlies.

The offensive output marked the first time Utah State posted 100 points on a Division I opponent.

Utah State shot 71 percent in the first half, taking a 60-43 lead into halftime.

Oakland was never able to trim the deficit to single digits in the second half, as the Aggies coasted to a win and a berth in the CIT Championship game.

In his last game in an OU jersey, star senior guard Reggie Hamilton led the team with 23 points and nine rebounds.

Sophomore guard Travis Bader added 22 and freshman center Corey Petros led the team with 10 rebounds.

### Ecker leads women's golf team in Florida tournament



Ecker

The Oakland women's golf team competed in the UC Spring Invitational in Crystal River, Fla. over the weekend.

The tournament, hosted by the University of Cincinnati, featured 19 schools from across the country.

Oakland placed 16th in the event, posting a 961 team score, a +97 for the course.

Senior Liz Ecker led the way for the Golden

Grizzlies, placing 25th individually. Ecker, playing in her home state of Florida, shot a 231 over three rounds, a +15 over par.

Sophomore Elizabeth Dawkins also had a solid effort for Oakland, finishing with a final score of 248 (+32). That mark was a career-best for Dawkins in a three round event.

Oakland continues their campaign with the Detroit Titans Invitational April 9 to 10 at the Western Golf and Country Club in Redford, Mich.

### Michigan State sweep Grizzlies team in weekend series

The baseball team (3-16) travelled to East Lansing over the weekend to face Michigan State for a three game series.

The Spartans outscored the Golden Grizzlies by a combined 23-4 margin to sweep all three contests.

Following a close 2-1 contest on Friday, in which the game was decided in the eighth inning, the Spartans powered their way to 11-2 and 10-1 victories.

While offense was scarce for the Oakland attack, one player shined for the Golden Grizzlies. Senior outfielder Aaron Cieslak went 5



Cieslak

for 11 during the series with two RBIs.

Overall, Oakland has lost nine out of their last 10 games, including dropping five straight.

The season continues with two more local non-conference opponents this week.

### Trolla leaves Oakland women's basketball coaching staff

Assistant coach Katie Trolla announced

on Friday that she will step down from the Oakland women's basketball staff for personal reasons.

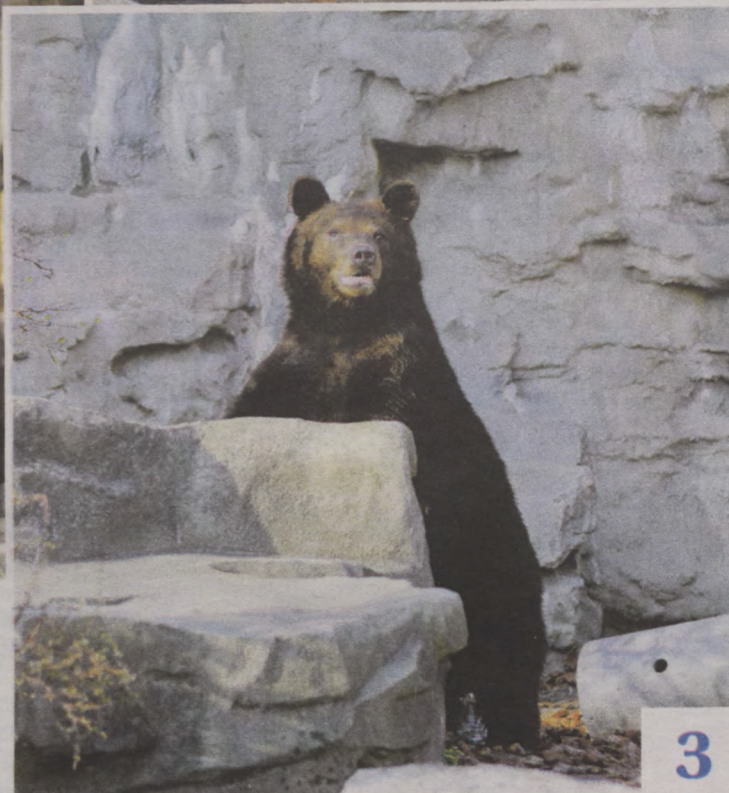
Trolla spent eight years on the staff, serving in player development, scouting, and camps.

During Trolla's time on the bench, Oakland captured the 2006 Summit League Championship, advanced to one NCAA Tournament and two Women's NIT appearances.

Before her time as a coach, Trolla was a star player at OU, scoring 2,065 points to rank third all-time in school history.

Contact Timothy Pontzer via email at [trpontze@oakland.edu](mailto:trpontze@oakland.edu) and follow him on Twitter @timothy\_pontzer





**1.** Boo, one of three orphaned grizzly bear cubs that came to the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, in December. The cubs were orphaned in October and captured by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game after their mother was shot and killed by a poacher.

**2.** The three cubs arrived at the Detroit Zoo in December and spent a few winter months "denning up," just as they would in the wild, in an off-exhibit habitat. The cubs were moved to their current habitat on March 20, where they took a dip in a 6-foot-deep pool. The bear's 8,400-square foot habitat was one of the first animal exhibits to debut when the Detroit Zoo opened in 1928.

**3.** The cubs have nearly doubled in size since their arrival, now measuring about 4 1/2-feet-tall and weigh between 215 and 255 pounds, thanks to a high protein diet of meat and fish. The cubs were rescued in October after their mother was shot. They were spotted in residential areas scrounging for food. The cubs were temporarily housed at the Alaska Zoo before their arrival in Detroit.

NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

# A SECOND CHANCE

Three orphaned grizzly cubs make Detroit debut at Detroit Zoo

By Nichole Seguin  
Editor-in-Chief

**G**oldilocks, stay away. The three bear cubs are here to stay. At the Detroit Zoo, that is. Three orphaned grizzly bear cubs — named Boo, Thor and Mike — made their Detroit debut at the zoo on Thursday, March 19.

The bears became orphaned in October 2011, after their mother was shot and killed by poachers in Alaska.

Rescued by the Detroit Zoological Society, in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the cubs arrived at the zoo in December and have spent a few months in a private off-exhibit

habitat before moving to their current habitat on March 20.

"They were incredibly stressed when they were first captured," said Ron Kagan, executive director of the Detroit Zoo.

Mike and Thor were named after the owners of the land they were found on, and Boo was named after Halloween — the date he was captured.

The cubs aren't small though. Measuring about 4 1/2-feet-tall and weighing between 215 and 255 pounds, the animals feed off a diet of meat, fish and dog food.

"The cubs are healthy and robust, and they have adjusted extremely well to

"It's a rescue story. We were able to help some animals in need ... and that's part of the zoo's mission."

Bob Lessnau,  
Curator of Mammals,  
Detroit Zoo

their new environment," said Scott Carter, DZS chief life sciences officer. "They are having a great time exploring their habitat and playing in their pool."

Though Michigan is a lot warmer than Alaska, Bob Lessnau, curator of mammals

at the zoo, said the weather shouldn't pose a problem to the animals.

"The weather is a lot harsher in Alaska, but they'll acclimate," Lessnau said. "They're also still getting adjusted to their new surroundings."

According to Lessnau, the zoo has been working with bears since the 1930s.

The Detroit Zoo is located at 8450 West 10 Mile Road in Royal Oak. For additional information, visit [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org)

Contact Editor-in-Chief Nichole Seguin via email at [naseguin@oakland.edu](mailto:naseguin@oakland.edu) or follow her on Twitter @naseguin





STEFAN PELAK/The Oakland Post

The Root restaurant in White Lake features a menu with exclusively Michigan-grown ingredients and produce the kitchen gets fresh every day.

## Business advocate for local food production

*Local restaurants support struggling economy by buying local produce, ingredients*

By Stefan Pelak  
Staff Intern

With a struggling economy, many people are looking to support their communities any way they can.

A growing trend is to buy local produce, and a number of restaurants are offering menus centered completely around food that has never left the state.

"I hate calling it a trend," executive chef of The Root restaurant in White Lake, James Rigato said. "It's more of a calibration."

The White Lake restaurant has been praised by customers and critics alike for featuring ingredients from Michigan front-and-center, and for orienting the menu towards what the kitchen team can get fresh that day.

"We're trying to get back to the roots of a restaurant, which is the bed and breakfast," he said. "They would make and you would eat what they had, what was local and in-season."

On each menu is a list of where the food has been originated. Included in the list are dairy products from Guernsey's Dairy in Northville and meats from C-Roy and Sons from Yale.

"The feedback has been phenomenal," Rigato said.

"The local population is looking for good food," said Corryne Urbina, a student at Oakland University and an employee at a Troy restaurant. "I support restaurants using local foods."

According to **SustainableTable.org**, a non-profit organization looking to educate consumers about where their food comes from, the value of buying local doesn't stop at increased profits to growers, which helps the local economy.

"It's about supporting local businesses with home-grown food," said Kellie Sullivan, also a student at OU.

Rigato says that while locally sourced food may cost more, some customers do not mind.

"Local foods are a little more expen-

sive," Rigato said. "Guests whose priority is cost may not like paying a little extra. But those guests who derive value from local foods don't mind as much."

The average American food products travels 1,500 miles before arriving on your table, while local foods travel an average of 100 miles, saving fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As Mirreille Sandborn, a White Lake local puts it, "There really is no tastier way of helping Michigan's economy."

For more information about The Root including menu, location, source list, or to make a reservation visit [www.therootrestaurant.com](http://www.therootrestaurant.com)

To read more about sustainable eating, visit [www.sustainabletable.org](http://www.sustainabletable.org)

Contact Staff Intern Stefan Pelak at [sspelak@oakland.edu](mailto:sspelak@oakland.edu)



The Root Burger is one menu item offered at The Root in White Lake. The restaurant offers local produce and ingredients in their menu.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Spring charity craft show

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday March 31, Troy High School will be hosting the "Spring Charity Craft Show."

The event is sponsored by the Troy Business 4H Group, and is focused on promoting local artists while raising money and awareness for charities.

This year's charity is the "I've Got Your Backs Foundation."

For more information, visit [www.springcharitycraftshow.weebly.com](http://www.springcharitycraftshow.weebly.com)

### Guitars for kids benefit

The School of Rock in Rochester, along with the local music community, will present the 9th annual "Guitars for Kids" benefit concert, on March 31. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the shows will start at 6 p.m.

The event will be held at Callahans Music Hall in Auburn Hills and costs \$15.

All proceeds will go towards purchasing guitars for kids without the means to do so. For more information, visit [www.atcallahans.com](http://www.atcallahans.com)

### Rockin' for a cure bowl-a-thon

On Thursday, April 12, North Hill Lanes in Rochester will host the 2012 Relay for Life "Rockin' for a Cure" bowl-a-thon.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., teams of up to five bowlers will also be able to participate in games and win prizes.

The event costs \$25 and includes two games of bowling, shoe rentals, food and refreshments.

The deadline to register is Friday, April 6 at 5 p.m. For more information, send an email to Joni Ogg at [oggj@rochesterhills.org](mailto:oggj@rochesterhills.org)

### Spring break nature hike

On April 3, the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center in Troy will host a spring break nature hike from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Visitors will take a walk through the woods to look for Spring's animals and plants.

The event costs \$6 for nature center members and \$7 for non-members. Registration is required.

Compiled by Natalie Popovski,  
Staff Intern

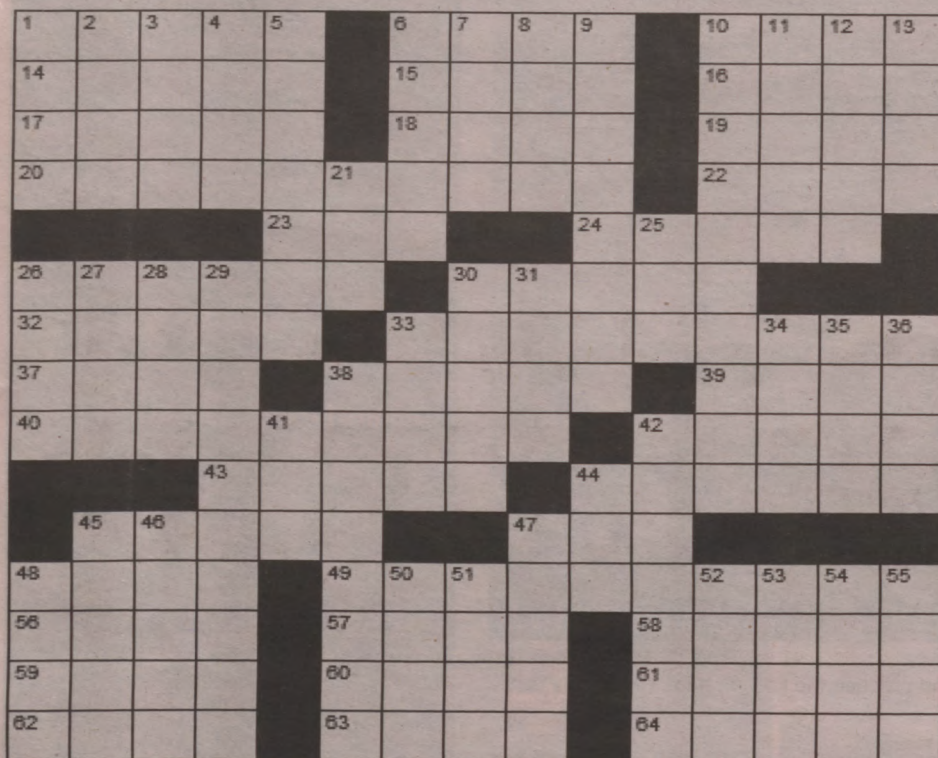


# Puzzles



## WEEKLY PUZZLES

Answers are available online at  
[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



### ACROSS

1. Perpendicular to the keel
6. Plateau
10. Backside
14. French for "Room"
15. Ear-related
16. Get-out-of-jail money
17. Angry
18. A city in western Russia
19. Ancient units of liquid measure
20. Footnote
22. A single time
23. Nigerian tribesman
24. Brusque
26. Ancient ascetic
30. Aromatic solvent
32. Bitten
33. Extreme harmfulness
37. Parental sister
38. Phony
39. Close
40. Draw from a sheath
42. Disdain
43. Disturb
44. Charisma

### DOWN

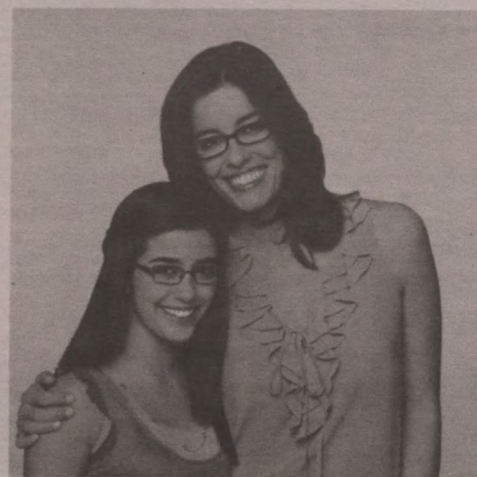
45. Foundation
47. A large open vessel
48. French Sudan
49. Indifferent
56. Diva's solo
57. Midday
58. Dental filling
59. Steals
60. Cocoyam
61. British biscuit
62. Make a sweater
63. Rip
64. Bastes
1. Largest continent
2. Farm building
3. Distinctive flair
4. Countertenor
5. Gathering
6. Slogan
7. Decorative case
8. Storage cylinder
9. Sea holly
10. Detestation
11. Showers
12. Subsequently
13. If not 21. Honest

### Lincoln

25. Snake-like fish
26. Brother of Jacob
27. Render unconscious
28. Stars
29. Fanatic
30. One more than seven
31. Not false
33. Cast a ballot
34. A noble gas
35. Credit or playing
36. Sea eagle
38. Baby bed
41. Upon (prefix)
42. Get by
44. Grayish brown
45. Nobleman
46. Excuse
47. Adult male singing voice
48. Assign a grade
50. Connecting point
51. Fizzy drink
52. Ancient Peruvian
53. Coalition
54. Lean
55. Visual organs

# PEARLE VISION

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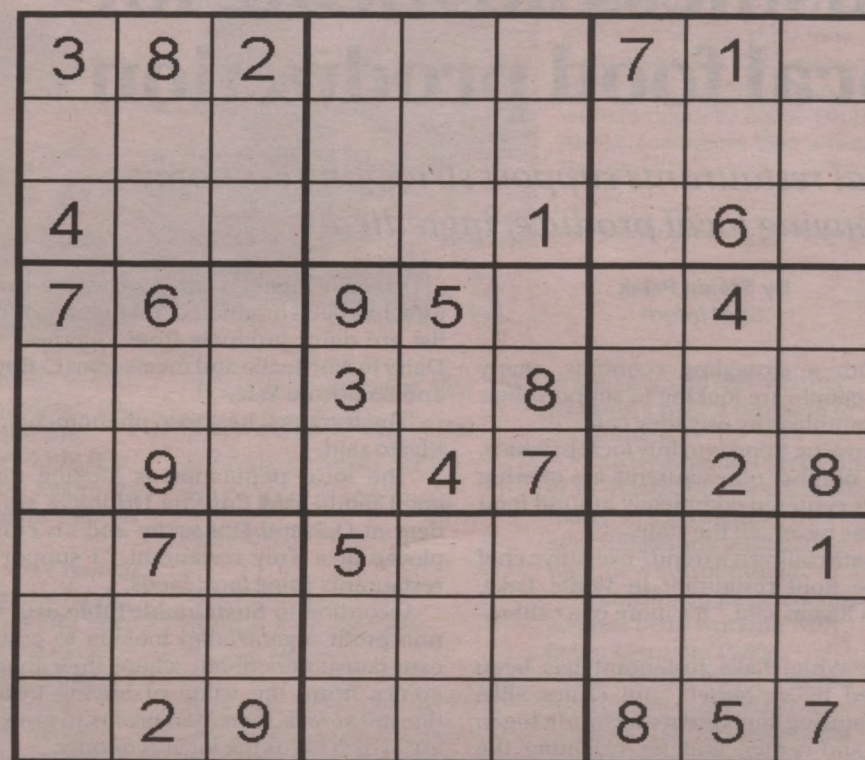


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# Have a news tip or story idea?

Come to our weekly pitch meetings every Monday at noon in the Oakland Post office, located in the basement of the Oakland Center.





## Local

# Eateries participate in Troy Restaurant week

*Troy restaurants offer up deals and donations as part of restaurant week*

By Christopher Lauritsen  
Senior Reporter

Restaurants in Troy will be offering lunch specials for \$15 per person and dinner specials for \$25 to \$35 per person March 25 through March 30.

This is the sixth time the event will be taking place, and three of the 12 participating restaurants will be donating some of the money made during the week to local charities.

"Every time we have done a restaurant week, we have a charitable component," Troy Chamber of Commerce's Director of Marketing and communications Deb Depue said.

Ruth Chris Steakhouse is raising money during the week to send a local child to the Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp.

The Capital Grille and Franco's Gaelic

& Garlic are also involved in donating some profits made during the week to local charities.

According to Depue, the event was started when several local restaurants were experiencing slow sales during the month of August.

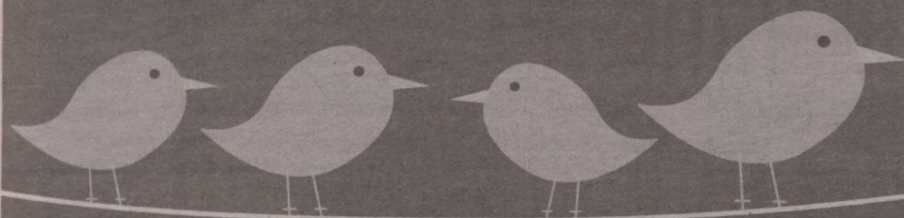
Depue said: "We wanted to come up with something to get people excited about restaurants during that time of the year. Some of the corporate restaurants had done restaurant weeks in other cities and brought up the idea of doing a restaurant week here."

General Manager of Ocean Prime Mark Weiss said last year, the event was expanded so it could be held twice a year. He went on to say that Ocean Prime typically sees sales increase 10 to 15 percent during the event.

According to Holcomb, this week is huge for sales. She added that Ruth Chris can expect to double their normal sales on some nights during the event.

To read the complete story, visit  
[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

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# Meadow Brook Hall on display

*Photo students capture unseen corners of the historic monument*

By Clare La Torre / Life Editor  
Photos by Stephanie Sokol / Photo Intern



1



3



6



2



4



5



7

1. Meadow Brook Hall opened an exhibit of student photography on March 27. Curator Meredith Long expressed her excitement for the premiere event of it's kind. "Students were granted free range of the house," she said. "A rare opportunity."

2. The exhibit consisted of photos by Associate Professor of Art Susan E. Evans advanced photography class. Evans congratulates one of her students, Missy Hansen.

3. Untitled, by Julia Wieting. 11x14 in. Silver gelatin negative, printed permanent inkjet. This was the first showing for Wieting.

4. Untitled, by Annastasia Ruggirello. 11x11 in. Silver gelatin negative, printed silver gelatin.

5. Untitled, by Missy Hansen. 10x10 cm. Silver gelatin negative, printed silver gelatin.

6. Henson and Ruggirello discuss the difficulties each overcame while photographing the house.

7. Untitled, by Braley Bullard. 13x10 in. Silver gelatin negative, printed permanent inkjet.



# Seeking out the snitch

*Muggle Quidditch League celebrates childhood memories*



By Kevin Graham  
Staff Reporter

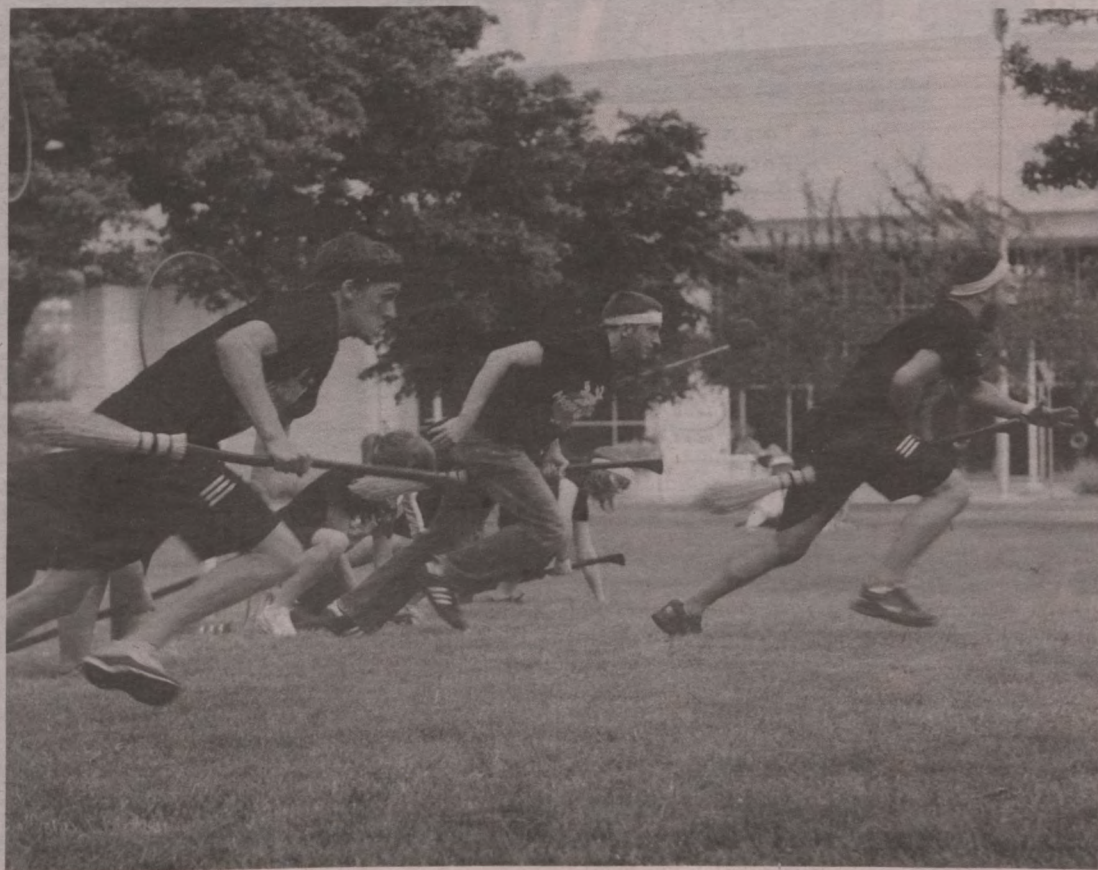
**B**rooms aren't just for sweeping the floor anymore. Just ask the Muggle Quidditch League of Oakland University.

University insurance adjusters may be happy to know they have yet to find a way to get the brooms to fly, but most of the other rules for the game, as played by the witches and wizards of the Harry Potter series, remain consistent.

President of the MQL, Yahawa Ashaqua, a sophomore majoring in biology, explained how the team, the Oakland Owls, plays have been modified to be played safely on terra firma. It's less painful than the magical version, too.

"We have to have one hand on the broom at all times," Ashaqua said. "Therefore, you have one hand to throw, catch, tackle, etc. As for the bludgers (small iron balls you see knocking people off their brooms in the movie), we actually use a much less painful ball — a kickball. And when a player is hit with the ball, they have to go back and touch their team's set of hoops before they can continue playing."

Please see QUIDDITCH, page 18



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

**TOP** The seekers must get past the keeper before they can score.

**LEFT** Players can score from either side of the goals. Each goal is worth 10 points. Once the snitch is captured, the game is over.

**RIGHT** The Oakland Owls competed in a tournament at The Henry Ford Museum. Though they didn't win, they still got a trophy.



## Life

### QUIDDITCH

continued from page 17

When it comes to the golden snitch, Muggle Quidditch works more like flag football. The snitch is actually a person — typically a long distance runner — who dresses entirely in yellow and tucks a golden snitch (tennis ball inside of a sock) into the side or back of his or her waist.

The team practices in the grassy area between Kresge and the Oakland Center on almost all Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays during the summer.

"We do tend to cancel when it rains due to the fact that none of us know how to cast a proper water repelling charm," Ashaqua said.

The team participates in competitions held during the spring and summer, and hopes to attend a tournament on March 31 held at Michigan State. They played the Spartan Spitfires last year at The Henry Ford.

Although inspired by the books, it is not necessary that someone is a Potter fan to play the sport. The team's captain, senior Greg Webb, a studio art major, is an example of this.

"Believe it or not, I only read the first book as a child, and (I'm) not a really big Potter fan," Webb said. "I heard through a friend that they needed some players for the team and I jumped all over the opportunity. I've always wanted to be involved

"THE BEST PART OF THE GAME, FOR ME, IS THE PUZZLED LOOKS WE GET FROM PEOPLE WHO PASS BY WHILE WE PLAY, OR THE EXCITEMENT IN CHILDRENS EYES WHEN THEY RECOGNIZE THE GAME FROM THE MOVIES AND BOOKS."

Yahawa Ashaqua,  
President of the Muggle Quidditch League

in some sort of sport here at Oakland, and now I'm honored to be captain for our team."

The team's practices are open and no prior experience, or extraordinary level of athletic ability is required to play.

For Ashaqua, the crowd makes it all worth it.

"The best part of the game, for me, is the puzzled looks we get from people who pass by while we play or the excitement in children's eyes when they see us play and recognized the sport from the movies and books," she said.

To watch the Owls at practice, go online to [bit.ly/oaklandowls](http://bit.ly/oaklandowls)

Contact Staff Reporter Kevin Graham via email at [kpgraham@oakland.edu](mailto:kpgraham@oakland.edu) or follow him on Twitter @KevinGraham



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

The Oakland Owls quidditch team was formed in 2010.

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SATIRE

## Weather forecasts the end of times

By Brian Figurski  
Multimedia Reporter

**O**akland University is electric. Students scuttling across campus in sandals and shorts, Frisbees flying across rolling green lawns, hammock-seated scholars swaying in the breeze, unicyclists speeding over the Beer Lake bridge. The campus is alive.

Funny thing is, it's only March.

Normally, snow ravages the Midwest until the middle of April, keeping kids focused on their schoolwork before Spring blossoms and preoccupies the minds of many.

It has prevented me from getting any serious work into any of my classes for the past two weeks.

The trees are starting to bud again, two months early.

We haven't even endured April's showers and I already have dandelions coming up through the cracks in the pavement in front of my house and sending me into very public sneezing fits.

The medical community hasn't adjusted, as Sudafed and other sinus medicines are still low in stock.

All while the climate is 85 degrees, all-smiles-and-sunshine in the mitten, it's snowing in dry arid Arizona, a southwestern state that doesn't even know what rain is.

The first news reported that a cargo plane dropped packing peanuts before the Arizonans figures out it was actually the weather.

Is anyone else concerned that the sun might explode this year? I truly love the warm weather and the scantily-clad clothing choices that come with it, but if I had a choice between sweaters and Birkenstocks or booty shorts and jogging bras, I choose the former. I have Internet access for the latter.

This wacky weather has to be one tell-tale sign that everything is true — 2012 is the end of the world.

I didn't buy into the hype at first.

How could the world just suddenly cease to exist like clockwork? The idea seems ludicrous on paper, how low can people go?

Now the signs are crystal clear. There is an apocalyptic ending looming over us. Crazy hobos on street corners of populated cities screaming, "you're all gonna die!" are still very scary, but speak the truth, and I can't help but throw change at them.

Now that my eyes are open, I can see everything. Little things I may have shrugged off as sheer coincidence are now blatant inductors death eternal for Earth.

The iPad 3 is released as the iPad 4 was announced. Tim Tebow. There is no milk in my fridge. Far East Movement has a second LP. I found seeds in my clementines. Figurski/Reed 2012 is gaining steam in the OUSC elections. Madonna is now an "electronic artist." Still, there's no milk in my fridge.

**This wacky weather has to be one tell-tale sign that everything is true — 2012 is the end of the world.**

There's still time to turn things around, right?

Nope. We have crazed neighborhood watch figures shooting teenagers to death over, what? A neon colored bag of Skittles that somehow resembled a weapon? Perhaps a squirt gun from the endcaps of a supermarket aisle.

If nature doesn't destroy the world by year's end, civilization will do it in.

That is, as long as "Teen Mom" keeps airing, proving that stupid people produce more offspring than the rest of the population, and will probably have stupid kids.

If this isn't foreshadowing a volatile ending for dwellers of Earth, I don't know what is — Nicole Polizzi, or the famous Snooki monster from MTV's "Jersey Shore," is pregnant.

The first problem is that a cast member of the "Jersey Shore" is being allowed to repopulate the planet without an uproar.

If there were ever an unarguable debate for pro-choice supporters,

something Rick Santorum can't formulate a rebuttal about, it would be video clips of the dribble shown on MTV.

Secondly, Snooki's due date is none other than Dec. 21, 2012, the Mayan calendars predicted end of days. How could the Mayans have predicted the coming of the anti-Christ all those years ago?

I am clueless as to what nonsense to expect from the remainder of the year, but intuition tells me the worst is in-store for humanity. Keep your fingers crossed for the best, Grizzlies, but if you're in the same boat as I, we should try to have some fun.

Let's start planning for the best funeral ever.

Contact multimedia reporter Brian Figurski via email at [bdfigurs@oakland.edu](mailto:bdfigurs@oakland.edu) or follow him on Twitter @WhatDidBeefSay

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

SATIRE

## WEEKLY TOP 10

By Jordan Reed and Brian Figurski  
Multimedia Reporters

**W**ith the world coming to a tragic end in 2012, we would rather not do what we normally do in our depressing daily routines — post a status update, watch some YouTube videos, check for comments on our status updates, eat a sandwich, play a little minesweeper, check again for comments on our status updates and cry deeply.

If the cries of rapture are true and these are the last nights on Earth, these are some of the most sought-after activities on our bucket list.

**10.** Play a "Mad Men" drinking game in which you take a sip every time a white person isn't on the screen — it won't be very many.

**9.** Ask current OUSC President Benjamin Eveslage for fashion tips

**8.** Locate and talk to "all the pretty girls that go to Oakland University"

**7.** Meet Sofia Vergara and have her speak lots of sexy Latin words

**6.** Become the Chartwells dictator and have students battle for food, "Hunger Games" style

**5.** Dress up like a Disney Princess, go to Disney world and scare all the kids away

**4.** Run around beaches and kick over sandcastles that kids have worked hard on

**3.** Rob a Burger King dressed up like The Hamburglar

**2.** Check into one of Kim Kardashian's bedroom via FourSquare

**1.** Become the mayor of her bedroom

**GOT SOMETHING TO MOUTH OFF ABOUT?**



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