

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

November 11, 2009

Volume 36, Number 14



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for \$125 on SPB  
sponsored trip

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-Two professors organize vote to push the president out of office

-Board of trustees reiterate support for Russi and administration

-Russi meets with department chairs and complainants for solutions



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Cover photo and illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

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# Perspectives

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November 11, 2009

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Who's really to blame?

When The Oakland Post caught wind of the stirrings of a vote of no confidence against Oakland University President Gary Russi, we were tempted to call a situation FUBAR.

With the new faculty contracts approved and put into motion, we thought the worst was behind us. Students no longer needed to be concerned with whether their professors would be in the classroom.

Now we're left to wonder if our president will be in his office in the months to come.

A group of faculty members are organizing the vote against Russi, providing a "bill of particulars" to support their decision.

Although the results of the vote will not have an official impact on the state of Russi's contract with the university, the faculty members behind this movement are hoping the outcome will be in their favor, and Russi would leave his office.

This could happen one of two ways: By Russi's own resignation, or by request of the board of trustees — the same board which appointed him to his position in the first place.

It seems unlikely that the board will ask Russi to step down, especially in

light of the university's recent press release quoting board members on how impressed they are with Russi's performance. These sentiments were reiterated at the Nov. 9 BOT meeting.

No university is perfect, and when things go wrong, people often look to its president. When a country is faltering, the president is the first person from who we demand change. The same goes for companies that are failing. Ask the president. So it's no surprise that Russi is the go-to guy right now.

The bill of particulars is a laundry list of legitimate concerns, with which we sympathize.

Russi does seem isolated at times — just ask WXOU General Manager Erik Anderson. He's been trying to pin Russi down since the beginning of the semester, documenting every step of the way on his Dr. Russi Log (found at [www.erikandersonprogram.com](http://www.erikandersonprogram.com)). The fruits of Anderson's labor have yet to grow. But how much time does a president of a university have to spare? And who gets to decide which people deserve his limited time?

It's worth noting that Russi is making time for the two faculty members who have stepped up to be the faces of this movement — we hope they make it past

the security check in Wilson Hall.

Yes, it has been an uphill battle to obtain documents regarding the new medical school, one which seems unnecessary. Yes, the lack of requests for input on budgetary matters is frustrating. And yes, we all hate the 9 percent tuition increase.

But is Russi responsible for these decisions on his own, or are they left to the administration as a whole?

The one thing that was completely in Russi's control was his 40 percent increase in salary, which nobody can refute, nor seem to justifiably explain.

It seems as though while Russi has an obvious influence on all of the grievances the faculty has brought forward, they are not his mistakes alone. The problems of the university are being placed at the feet of its president, with no room for criticism elsewhere.

Russi has a team of people working alongside him. And while some of these team members are alluded to in the bill of particulars, they are not asked to be held accountable. Maybe the problem does not lie in Russi, but instead with his inner circle of advisers.

If the right people are held accountable for the problems at OU, we have a real chance to make change.

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

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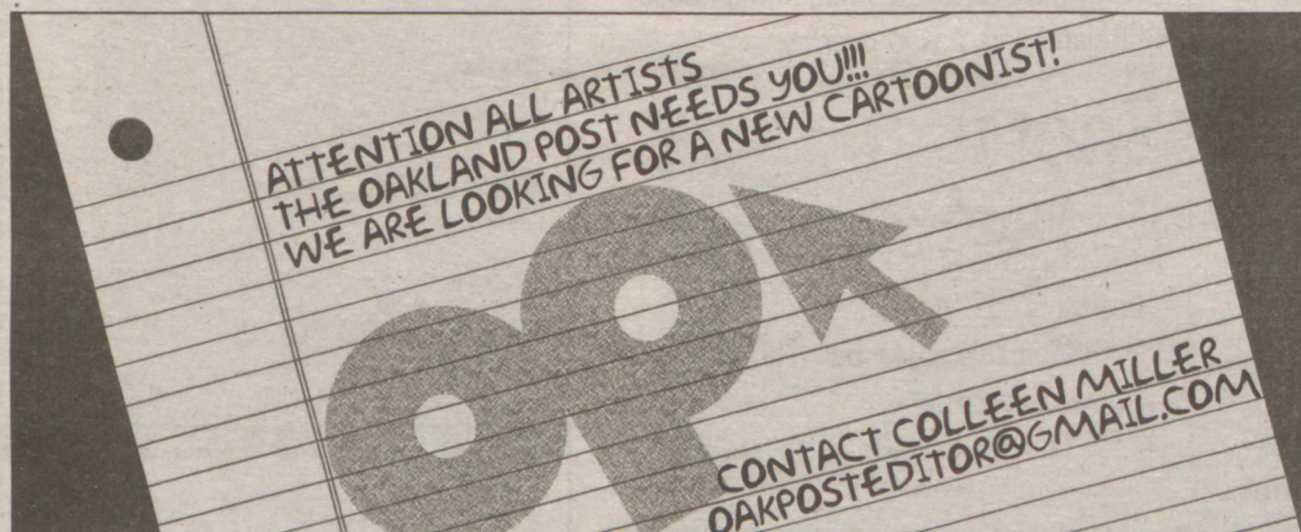
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*— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*



# Trying to please parents as a first-generation American



While I give a more humorous tale on being an Asian female in this week's Mouthing Off column, I also wanted to share a different perspective on parent-child relationships.

I have heard the words "that is so crazy!" or some variation with or without expletives too many times from friends and even teachers regarding my relationship with my parents.

Let me just start with this before I am written off as a whiny complainer. I am lucky. I know that without my parents I would not have a roof over my head, a car to drive, and money for school.

I also could have had to live through the Vietnam War and go through all of the struggles that my parents had to overcome in order to come to the United States and allow me to be a first-generation American.

My father and his family hectically packed during the final days of the war and were able to leave the war-torn country on one of the last U.S. helicopters headed for the island of Guam. After a brief stay at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, they began a new life in Southern California. My father was 12.

My mother was not as lucky. She was a boat person: She, along with about 80 others, left everything she had behind to leave on a small fishing boat. She luckily landed at a refugee camp in Malaysia and was able to

immigrate to Canada.

You know what, though? I'm tired of that being held over my head. I know of the arduous journeys and greatly appreciate all that my parents sacrificed.

I thought things would change once I graduated high school. A year went by and then I thought things would change when I turned 18 and legally became an adult this past summer.

Things haven't changed one bit.

I obviously live at home, which isn't uncommon these days or at Oakland University in general. The thing that screws me over is the cultural barrier and impossible generational gap between my parents and me.

I don't have a curfew. If you're thinking that I'm fortunate; think again. I don't have a curfew because I'm basically never allowed out.

I guess it could be a lot worse — but I definitely do not enjoy having to ask my parents about something as simple as going to a movie on a Saturday night. Nor do I enjoy having to build up points on a system similar to credit card rewards in order to go to said movie.

If I want to go to a party, I have to spend a minimum of two complete weekends with them. If I go for coffee to catch up with a friend coming back from school, that counts as "going out."

Want me to fulfill another stereotype? My parents still entertain fantasies of their daughter suddenly gaining the ability to learn vast amounts of biology, chemistry, physics and calculus and deciding to go to medical school. I am majoring in journalism and political science, surely a failure.

I've been asking for a simple lock on my bedroom door since the fifth grade. It's still not there. That might have been a little petty, but it's simply to illustrate the amount of privacy I get at home.

The biggest point of contention is my future happiness. I wish I was joking when I tell people comical stories about them trying to set me up with a "nice Vietnamese boy." Mouthing Off editor Dan Simons was right when he called me the overly-mothered girl.

I'm happily dating someone right now, but my parents (at least for the time being) don't accept it. If they had it their way, I probably wouldn't be moving out until a ring was on my finger and the formal exchange of a few farm animals was made.

The only way I can move out (translation: get some freedom) is if I graduate. Guess who is trying to complete an undergraduate degree in three years?

In the end, it's a matter of this fine balance of the old and the new. As an Asian-American, I know my heritage but at the same time I know about where I am at the present.

I am completely fluent in Vietnamese and find time to appreciate the culture and history, but I am not overly consumed by living in the past the same way my parents are. It's time they became aware of the problems I face, as well as many other first-generation Americans.

Being expected to be subservient, yet strong, independent and responsible is a difficult act to juggle.

I don't want to be treated like a child when they feel it's necessary, yet expected to be an adult at times that are pleasing to my parents.

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### Donate \$1 Dollar to help support the OU General Scholarship Fund

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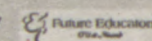
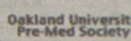
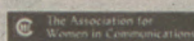
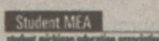


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can

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## Exhausting all opportunities

*Faculty members plan to hold a vote of no confidence against Russi*

By COLLEEN J. MILLER  
Editor in Chief

An anonymous group of faculty put its negative opinion of Oakland University's leadership in writing, prompting two professors to come forward and organize a vote of no confidence. The vote, which holds no official weight, is used in university settings to push a president out of office.

"It's an extreme measure people only come to when they feel they've exhausted all opportunities," said Shea Howell, communication professor and chair of the Communication and Journalism Department. Howell and David Garfinkle, professor of physics, signed an e-mail sent to faculty last week pledging to organize the vote.

"Traditionally a vote of no confidence in the president of the university is a statement by the faculty (saying) the university is broken," Garfinkle said. The professor said the desired outcome of the no confidence vote would be for Russi to leave office by the request of the board of trustees that appointed him or by resignation.

However, OU's board has shown an outpouring of support for Russi in two meetings in the past week (see page 7 for story).

Student liaison to the board Tawnee Milko said in her time as a student, the board has always been supportive of Russi and the administration, and Russi has always seemed to truly care about the student body.

Howell thinks the board's opinions may be able to be swayed, as more information is uncovered.

"The board spoke without any knowledge," Howell said. "This isn't about whether (Russi's) nice to talk to. This is about how do you decide the direction of the university and what kind of atmosphere you create ... The heart of the university are the things (the board) can't see unless they talk to students, faculty and clerical. Hopefully once they hear some of that they'll change."

To educate the public and the board, this anonymous group of faculty (which is currently of unknown size) has outlined grievances with the president and the administration in a "bill of particulars."

"The first step is to go ahead and articulate what the case is," Garfinkle said. Howell said there were more than a dozen faculty members adding to the list in an e-mail chain, and nobody made a peep at last week's faculty union meeting of about 50 where the list was presented.

An "adversarial atmosphere," preventing direct contact between faculty and the board of trustees, and failure to provide information about the medical school are among the grievances cited in the bill.

However, some of the "particulars" are not solely the president's responsibility.

For example, Russi is cited as failing to provide information regarding the medical school, but releasing that

information is up to the general counsel's office (OU's legal office).

"The president doesn't handle every day-to-day concern," said Dave Groves, OU's assistant director of media relations. "That's why he has a cabinet and that's why they have deans and chairs and the rest."

"None of it seems to really add up to really specific, tangible gripes," said OU media relations Director Ted Montgomery. "They seem to be talking almost in philosophical terms rather than tangible terms."

Although it was ultimately resolved in the recent contract negotiations, governance is the topic of another document being passed around.

"The past few years have seen persistent and continuing assaults on shared governance, open communication and the eroding of trust between the faculty and Gary Russi," the document states.

### WHERE IT'S BEEN DONE

A vote of no confidence has been used at other universities, like Harvard and University of California, and does not carry any certain consequences.

"I'm not sure that we know that we would need a plan of action," said Groves, on what would happen if there was a majority vote. "If you look at what's happening at other universities, there are presidents serving who've had no confidence votes against them who continue to serve. The bigger question is, regardless of a vote, how do you address the root of the problem? And I think that's what Dr. Russi and the administration are trying to do."

### UNION INVOLVEMENT

While the professors' union is serving as a platform for the effort, the union is not officially involved.

"We would not instruct our members one way or the other. We do not have any official position in either endorsing or refuting it," said Karen Miller, vice president of OU's AAUP chapter.

An article published on the AAUP's national website actually recommends "if your campus can avoid a no-confidence vote, do so."

The article suggests an alternate problem-solving method that includes an investigation of the problems.

Miller said that based on her personal interactions with professors, the opinions are mixed.

"I have talked to 30-40 faculty and there are a few who very much oppose it and more than a few who very much support it and a fairly substantial bunch in the middle ... considering the ideas put on the table," she said.

### TAKING ACTION

Russi is taking a proactive approach to the criticism and responded to the documents by sending an e-mail



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post  
President Gary Russi listens intently during the BOT meeting.

to the OU staff list on Friday, Oct. 6.

"I see this as a call to open broader communication not only on these particular concerns, but also any issues important to successful governance of the university," he wrote.

"In this spirit, I am planning to meet with authors of the letter as soon as possible. I am also planning to meet with the academic deans and department chairs to learn what measures we might take to improve communication and the shared governance process."

Russi did reach out to the only two names publicly associated with this action.

Garfinkle has a meeting scheduled with Russi on Wednesday and Howell met with Russi on Tuesday.

"Both Shea Howell and I made it clear to him we are not authors, leaders or sole forces behind this," Garfinkle said.

OU media relations also said Russi has already met with several department chairs to look for solutions to the items listed in the bill of particulars.

"He's soliciting their advice on how better to do this, how to make clear channels of communication," Montgomery said.

Howell said she requested Russi call an open forum with the entire faculty.

Montgomery pointed out that the board meetings are always open to the public and that faculty should attend those because that's where the university carries out most of its business.

"This is going to be a process of discovery through which he gets the input from campus leaders on how best to do this. You don't solve it overnight and you don't solve it in a forum in one afternoon," Montgomery said.

The vote is planned to be done online, confidential, and possibly before December 1.



# Board of Trustees meeting covers array of issues

By MASUDUR RAHMAN and SEAN GARNER  
Senior Reporters

Contracts between Oakland University and three employee unions were finally made official at the OU board of trustees formal session on Monday, Nov. 9.

The board also approved several items proposed by the administration, including the Golf and Learning Center's 2010 budget, Meadow Brook Hall's 2010 budget, a capital outlay plan and choosing a construction manager for the upcoming Human Health Building.

Before starting the meeting, the trustees responded to "rumors going around campus" about conflicts between the board and President Gary Russi.

Each of the trustees defended Russi's leadership and said they support him and his vision for OU, and said the board is doing its job in looking out for the university.

## Treasurer's report

Vice president for finance and administration and treasurer John Beaghan announced that OU's general fund budget remains strong, though it is not clear how much of the money the university will receive from the state. He said the state fiscal situation will likely continue to be tenuous throughout the fiscal year, but the administration will continue to monitor the checks received from the state.

Beaghan said that cuts from the state government, which include a 3 percent across the board cut, add up to about \$1.76 million in lost allocations from the state or about 1 percent of the general fund budget.

Beaghan reported that the 4.1 percent student enrollment increase exceeded the planned budget, and expenditures are proceeding at a pace similar to past years.

According to Beaghan, OU's investments are also performing well with a 5.52 percent increase in the pooled cash summary.

## Contracts approved

Three unions reached tentative agreements with the administration this fall, and the union members voted to ratify the contracts.

The contracts for faculty members represented by the American Association of University Professors; OU Campus Maintenance and Trade, which is made up of the university-employed maintenance and grounds workers; and OU Professional Support Association, which consists of the clerical and technical staff on campus, were each approved unanimously by the board.

The three-year deals were approved by each union Oct. 29, more than 15 months after both groups' previous deals had expired.

OUPSA President Sandy Gabert expressed her disillusionment in an address to the board.

"We have just concluded a very long, difficult and contentious contract negotiation with the university," said Gabert. "The goal of my negotiating team was to bring back to our members a fair and reasonable contract. We wish that we could have been more successful ... It is my hope and my wish at Oakland University that the attitude changes and all employees regardless of the hat they wear, the position they hold and the daily tasks they perform will be valued, appreciated and respected."

Visit [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com) for details about the contract changes and previous Post coverage of the union contract negotiations.

## Human Health construction

The board approved the administration's recommendation to grant Lansing-based Chrisman Construction Inc. the exclusive contracting rights to the Human Health Building, but not without robust discussion.

Trustee Henry Baskin expressed discontent over the fact that there were no provisions stipulating that at least half to three quarters of all contracted employees

must come from the tri-county area, a point that many trustees sympathized with.

The resolution passed with all trustees except Baskin voting to approve Chrisman.

Baskin abstained from voting, stating there was not enough information about the contracts for him to make a decision.

## Dayag asks for Pepsi money

Moments after the board approved a 10-year vending contract renewal with PepsiCo, Student Body President Kristin Dayag asked that \$100,000 from vending earnings be allocated annually to the division of student affairs.

Over the next 10 years, Pepsi is planning to give about \$4 million to areas like student activities, athletics, cultural events, etc.

## Parking proposals "coming soon"

Student Ashley Gordon addressed the board and said that parking needs to be increased, and suggested that OU build a parking structure in P1, the main lot.

Trustee Dennis Pawley said he told Beaghan increasing parking (not necessarily in P1) is a priority, and Beaghan said there will be a proposal to add parking soon.

Baskin said that at the board's next finance meeting, it should create an ad hoc committee for parking.

OU Student Congress has open meetings on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in 61 Oakland Center to discuss parking.

## Get more details

Visit [www3.oakland.edu/oakland/bot](http://www3.oakland.edu/oakland/bot) to read the full detailed agenda items, and archived minutes and agendas of previous meetings.

The next board of trustees meeting is scheduled for Feb. 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Elliot Hall auditorium.

# Focus on OU filmmakers

By BRAD SLAZINSKI  
Contributing Reporter

Since long before Michigan was seen as the next frontier of the motion picture industry, some of OU's most creative students have been displaying their cinematic works to student audiences every year.

That chance comes to aspiring filmmakers at Oakland University in the form of the Grizzdance Film Festival along with a chance to win prize money and a trophy in several categories.

The prize money is \$750, \$500, and \$250 for the first, second, and third overall places. Except the student choice, individual category winners will win \$50, and all of the winners win a trophy.

Films will be judged in the categories of best special effects, best costume design, best school spirit, best story/writing, best acting, art, drama and comedy.

Grizzdance also presents an opportunity for students to network with film professionals.

Grizzdance begins on Wednesday, Nov. 11 and ends on Friday, Nov. 13. Screenings run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Fireside Lounge in the Oakland Center.

Viewers can vote for the films being shown.

Evening screenings will also be held. Director and actor Michael Manasseri, who directed the 2008 film "Babysitter Wanted," will be a keynote speaker at Grizzdance. He is to speak on Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Banquet Room B in the OC.

The final day of Grizzdance, Nov. 13, the banquet and an awards ceremony will be held in the banquet Rooms. The banquet will start at 7 p.m. with the awards ceremony beginning at 8 p.m.

Winning films will be shown at the banquet, which is open to all students.

## POLICE FILES

**FENCE VANDALIZED:** On Nov. 5, a person reported to OUPD that a section of the new fence was cut and pulled back to allow someone to enter. The fence was along Butler Road where Butler goes from a paved road to a dirt road. The complainant said a construction company had been making repairs to the fence since Oct. 29, and was still on site after the fence was cut, so it made the repairs again.

**SUICIDE ATTEMPT:** On Nov. 2, a person told OUPD there was a possible suicide attempt in progress on campus. She said she was on the phone with her son, who was in a parking lot, slitting his wrists. An OUPD dispatcher contacted the son, who said he was "tired of trying" and that "nothing I do ever works out." The dispatcher determined that the son had not hurt himself, and the son said that hurting himself was not an option for him and that he would never hurt himself. The son said he was going to work. OUPD forwarded the information to Macomb County Sheriff's Department. MCSd drove to his home, where he was sitting in his car in the driveway. The MCSd officer said he couldn't see any injuries on the son and made no statements about harming himself. MCSd did not ask him to go through any psychological assessment.

— Compiled by senior reporter Masudur Rahman from OUPD's media logs



# How orgs spend money from tuition

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Senior Reporter

How Oakland University administration spends student tuition money is often discussed, but how student organizations spend the money they get from student tuition is not.

All OU student orgs are funded every semester by a \$25 student activities fee that students pay as part of their semester tuition.

And with almost 19,000 students registered this semester, this adds up to \$473,000.

This money goes toward a student activities fund that official student organizations can tap into, and many of them are making use of the funding they get.

"For accountability, it's important (students) know how this is spent, because it's their money," said Jean Ann Miller, director of OU's Center for Student Activities.

Most of the money — 71 percent — goes toward seven organizations. On top of getting more funding, the seven organizations also receive offices on campus.

Miller said this is because these organizations provide services to all students on campus, "whereas other organizations are limited in who they serve."

The remaining 29 percent of the fund is distributed to these groups.

These other clubs and organizations registered with CSA may receive up to \$3,000 a semester, with some limits, and can request rooms on campus to hold meetings and events.

These percentages were decided last winter by the student activities fund advisory committee, which had representatives from the above organizations, and was chaired by the OUSC president. The distribution plan was passed in the April 2008 student-body election.

The student media organizations said they spend their funding on mostly payroll, equipment and printing costs, and encouraged students to make use of their content, as well as try to get involved with the media orgs, because the students are already paying for it.

"We're hoping to get more people involved," said Jillian Nassar, president of Student Video Production. "Since they're already paying for it, they should use it."

"We are grateful for the money we do get, and hope that despite the administration's insistence that OU has 'no fees,' students still realize a part of their tuition is being given to organizations like The Post and WXOU and that they get their use out of us," said Colleen Miller, The Oakland Post's editor in chief.

The other organizations spend their money on things like payroll, office expenditures, event hosting and food.

Amanda Vanderford, SPB chair, said it sponsored 12-14 events this semester, including a 160-student trip to New York City that cost each student \$125.

"My best recommendation for students to get the best use of their money is to come to our events and take advantage of our trips," she said.

According to a spreadsheet made by SAFB chair Mark Medaugh at [www.oakland.edu/safb](http://www.oakland.edu/safb), about \$124,000 was spent by the minor student orgs this semester as of Nov. 1, and SAFB has about \$59,000 left in its funds this semester.

According to the spread-

sheet, most of the money used by these orgs was used for food at club-member events or events open to the OU community.

Student Life Lecture sponsored TV chef Alton Brown's appearance this September, attended by thousands of students. Miller said with speaker fee, room rental, food, etc., the event cost about \$60,000 to \$70,000.

She said for next semester, SLL made an offer to former Detroit Red Wings player Steve Yzerman, and if this doesn't work out, SLL may ask an astronaut to come to campus instead.

"Right now, the way the money is distributed (among the orgs) is very fair and equitable," Miller said. "There are checks and balances in the system, so there's no misuse of money ... If (students) are dissatisfied, they need to let us know."

Visit [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com) to read an expanded version of this story.

**How the \$25 per student fee was distributed among the student orgs this fall**

Student Org	Total (%)	Total (\$)
Special Projects Fund	2%	\$9,460
Student Life Lecture	3%	\$14,190
Student Video Productions	5%	\$23,650
The Oakland Post	7%	\$33,110
WXOU	11%	\$52,030
OU Student Congress	17%	\$80,410
Student Program Board	26%	\$122,980
Student Activities Funding Board	29%	\$137,170
<b>Total student org funding this fall</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$473,000</b>

Numbers compiled according to total fall funding given by Jean Ann Miller, Director of Center for Student Activities

## Jazz program moves on with new faculty hires after director Jordan's death

By MIKE SANDULA  
Staff Reporter

When Marvin "Doc" Holladay started the jazz program at Oakland University in the late '70s, it was the first of its kind in the state of Michigan.

"Oakland was known nationally for their jazz program," said Jackie Wiggins, chair of the music, dance and theatre department.

Though it never went away, the program faded during the late '80s after Holladay left OU until professor Danny Jordan revitalized it.

When Jordan died in May following a long illness, Wiggins said replacing him became "a bit of a challenge."

New this year to the MTD department are four jazz instructors who are looking to pick up where Jordan left off. Miles Brown was chosen as the new director of the program.

"We're just in the stages of building up the program," said Brown. "I'm trying to attract more interest."

Brown, who's played since grade

school, has a master's degree in classical bass performance from the Mannes College of Music and is in the process of earning his doctorate in jazz performance studies from the Eastman School of Music where he earned his bachelor's degree.

Last year Brown served as the Gussman Director of Jazz at Cornell University.

As the jazz program's only full-time faculty member, he also led two jazz ensembles and four jazz combos.

He also plays in a 20-member chamber orchestra called Alarm Will Sound.

Joining Brown are Jiana Hunter, Tad Weed and jazz drummer Sean Dobbins. Applied instructors Hunter and Weed teach jazz vocals and piano, respectively.

Hunter both attended and taught at The School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati and has a Master of Music degree in jazz studies performance from Western Michigan University.

She also teaches at the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit.

OU is one of several schools where Weed teaches jazz piano. He is also in the Oakland Jazz Quartet with Brown, Dobbins and Mark Stone, who plays steel drums and vibraphone and is director of OU's world music program. The quartet will have their first performance Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall.

Dobbins joins Regina Carter as an artist in residence.

The Detroiter has performed, toured and recorded with a slew of local and national acts and is currently touring the Caribbean with famed pianist Johnny O'Neal.

Stone said all four are extremely talented musicians in their own right, but also have the "ability to communicate that knowledge with our students."

"It's exciting to see a high level of jazz brought back," Stone said. "Having these guys join the faculty has been uplifting and rejuvenating."

One of Brown's plans for the jazz program is to implement a jazz minor, provided there's enough interest.

He'd also like to see "a lot more com-

munity involvement" through playing at high schools and other local venues.

Currently, Brown is only scheduled to be at OU for one year as a visiting professor, but he likes the university so far and hopes to stay.

"Ideally, I'd be here for a long time," said Brown, whose wife's family lives in Livonia.

This semester, Brown teaches a jazz theory class and is in charge of the OU Jazz Band, a 21-student jazz ensemble.

They'll be teaming up with the Jazz Singers to perform Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.

Auditions to be in the ensemble are open to all OU students until Jan. 4. Those interested should contact Professor Brown at [brown239@oakland.edu](mailto:brown239@oakland.edu).

Stone said the chance for students to work alongside their professors who are also performers is an important aspect of jazz.

"One thing all of these guys are rooted in is the tradition of mentorship," Stone said. "I hope they inspire our students in the way that they inspire me."



# Catch a whiff of Vandenberg

By RORY MCCARTY  
Senior Reporter

Since the beginning of the semester students passing through Vandenberg Hall's lower level have been complaining of an unpleasant aroma hanging in the air.

Now the stench may finally be gone, but few people can say for certain what actually caused it.

The area where the odor was strongest was by the south entrance near the help desk.

Opinions about what the stink smelled like run the gamut of vile, nose-wrinkling items.

Vomit, bad cheese, feet, rotting garbage, dirty laundry and backed-up toilets are just a few of the things brought to the minds of students by the smell.

"I think it's a health risk," said Louie Alkasmikha, a freshman biochemistry major.

He said that he noticed the smell since he enrolled, and he thinks whatever is causing it may be unsanitary.

"Just a few days ago, it was so strong I had to run through this area," he said.

Adam Silverthorn, a business major, said that the problem was probably not so serious.

"It doesn't always smell like this. The dorms don't smell like this," Silverthorn said. "Just Febreeze it or something."

Dominique Florence said she noticed the smell, and she knows that all of her friends noticed it every time they walk through.

Others, like Lisa Hylenski, did not notice.

Many students pass through the area on their way to classes, their dorms or the cafeteria.

But even some faculty members have complained about the stench recently.

"I've heard people walk through and say, 'What happened in the hall? Did someone vomit out there?'" said Garry Gilbert, interim director of the journalism department.

Gilbert's office is in the journalism wing of Vandenberg.

Some staff in Vandenberg have talked about the stench as well. Dan Bickerstaff, a cafeteria cook, said he thinks the smell may be caused by a sewage backup.

Other students and faculty have said they think the smell may have been caused by a broken vending machine or leaky pipes under the cafeteria.

However, many maintenance workers suggested that the smell was probably coming from the machine room near the elevators, or possibly from the drains.

Staff from Vandenberg and OU's plant maintenance say the issue has been addressed, although no one is able to say for certain what originally caused the smell.

## Campus Briefs

Micah Fialka-Feldman is hosting an event rallying the university to allow him to live on campus. "Rallying for Micah's Dream" at 12:15 p.m. Nov. 18 in front of the Oakland Center is to build support for Fialka-Feldman's effort to sue the administration for the right to live in university housing. Fialka-Feldman has a trial date set in Detroit Federal Court in January to decide that case.

The OU department of athletics is sponsoring the Mascot-naming Contest, where imaginative students can take the opportunity to think of a name for the sports mascot, The Grizz. The names will be reviewed by the Athletic Naming Committee and they will choose a winner to be announced at the men's basketball home opening game Nov. 14. The winner will receive a \$50 gift card to Buffalo Wild Wings. All entries must be sent to grizzfan@oakland.edu with the subject "Name the Grizz."

— By Senior Reporter Rory McCarty



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# SPB hosts New York trip

*A group of OU students spends the weekend in the Big Apple*

By RYAN HEGEDUS  
Staff Reporter

Musicians ranging from Frank Sinatra to The Velvet Underground to Jay-Z have sung about its sights, sounds, and citizens. Wilt Chamberlain and Stephon Marbury honed their basketball skills in its world-famous Rucker Park. Its skyline is massive, with shimmering buildings recognized throughout the world.

New York City has a unique culture that can only be experienced through a visit to the city.

Over Nov. 6-8, 160 Oakland University students, including representatives from the Student Program Board and the Center for Student Activities, got to see the city.

One thing that seemed to attract students was the low cost of the trip. For \$125, students received transportation, a hotel room, two 24-hour subway Metro Cards, and a CityPass ticket booklet.

Included in the booklet were tickets to the Empire State Building Observatory, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry tickets, and passes to various museums in New York City.

"I had never been to New York, and I wanted to experience something new," said junior Alex Demare. "It was a really good price for everything we got."

Price wasn't the only factor, though. After the 11-hour bus ride to the Big Apple, some students were looking for a hiatus from scholarly activities and work-related commitments.

"I had just gotten through with my mid-terms, and I needed a break from learning about kidneys," said junior biology major Aaron Hill. "I have always loved the city of New York, as well, and I can't imagine living anywhere else after college."

Hill had been to New York before for a spring break trip, but still was amazed on the recent excursion.

"I have been to NYC before, and it is never what I expect it to be," Hill said. "I have stopped trying to expect things when I visit. The things that make New York so great aren't things you can plan

ahead for."

The trip also allowed for newly-formed friendships to grow even stronger.

Shaina Dobbs and Jennifer Hite, both juniors, had met only four times before signing up for the trip, but the two had memorable moments in the Big Apple.

"The first night we were there, we went out to a Mexican restaurant; there were maybe 10 people in the entire place when we got there," Dobbs said. "They ended up serving us until 5:30 a.m. and even taught us how to salsa dance."

With the exception of departure and arrival times, students were given free reign when it came to choosing which sights to visit in the city.

Some made plans while others simply let their schedules play out as the days went on.

"We had made plans, but they all got changed at the very last minute," said junior and SPB member Jonathan Jenkins. "One thing we planned to do, and did do, was going to Brooklyn. We went to the Brooklyn Museum, where they have free art programs and entertainment on every first Saturday of the month. There must have been 2,000 people there."

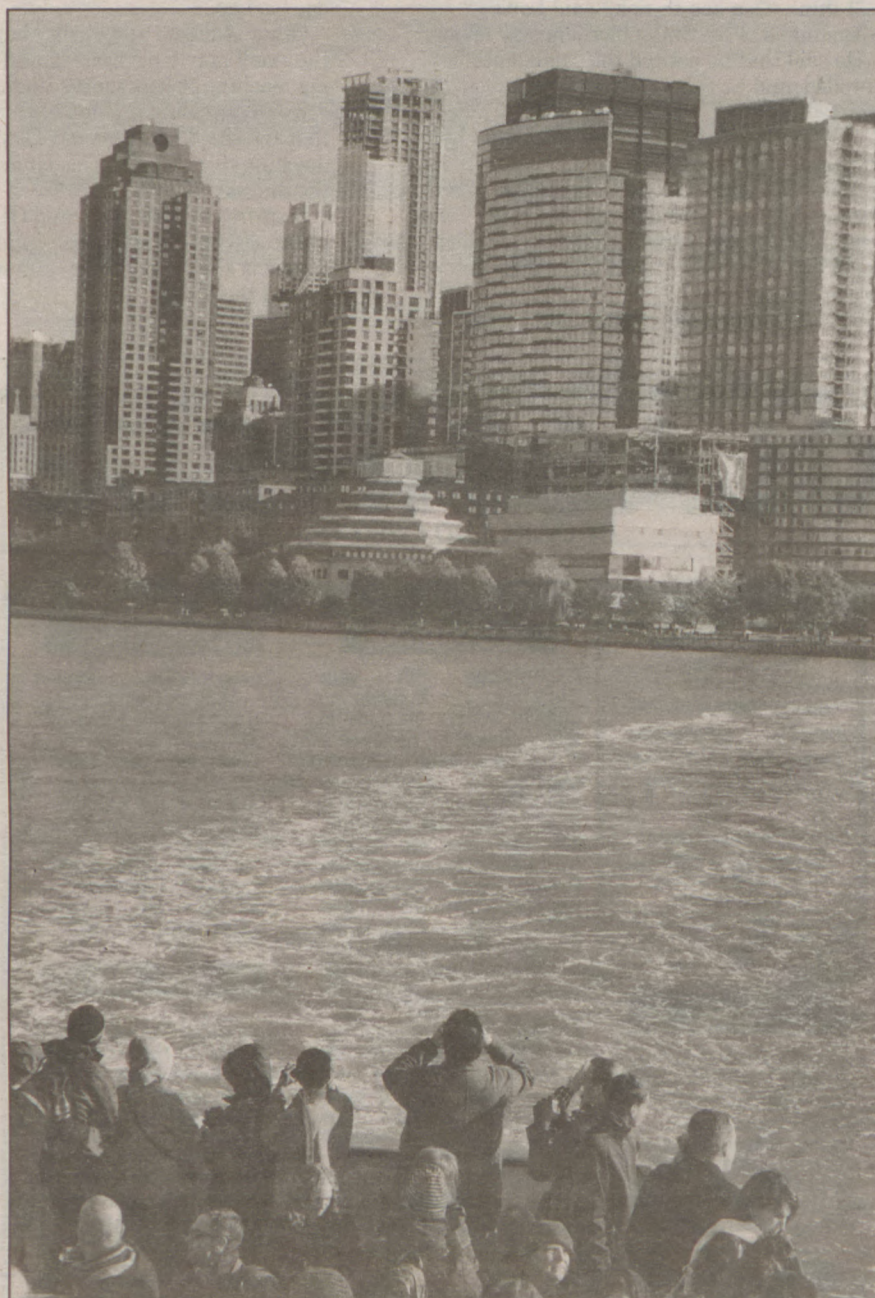
When deciding what cities to travel to, the SPB knew that New York would be an instant hit with the student body. The success of the decision was made evident as soon as tickets went on sale.

"The reaction was overwhelming," said Amanda Vanderford, SPB chair and senior. "We sold out all the tickets in just two days, and we actually had to add a third bus. We were looking to add another bus but it was going to be too expensive."

Tickets for the trip went on sale in early October, and were still being requested up until the week of the trip.

Possibilities for future destinations include Toronto and Atlanta, but a decision has not been officially made yet.

With such a positive reaction to their choice of New York City, SPB is confident that OU students will likely be excited with whatever destination the SPB decides on in the future.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

OU students spent the weekend in New York City on a trip sponsored by the Student Program Board. While there, they experienced multiple aspects of the city, including a boat tour.



# New York City through a photographer's lens

By JASON WILLIS  
Photo/Graphics Editor

## COLUMN

New York City is one of those places that no matter how much time you spend there, you will never experience it all.

I recently went on the university sponsored trip to New York. As a photographer, the city is full of possibilities, whether it's from 102 floors in the air at the Empire State Building, in the midst of Times Square's chaos, or in the subway tunnels beneath Wall Street.

On the last night/morning of the trip, I decided to scrap the idea of getting a full night's sleep. After going to bed at 4 a.m., I got up at 5 a.m. to photograph downtown Manhattan's skyline from Brooklyn.

The greatest thing about photography is capturing something in a way that isn't normally seen, and this time around that required sitting on a park bench between the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges, by myself, for an hour waiting for the sun to hit the skyline at the perfect spot.

I didn't get to visit as many places on my second visit to the city as I would have liked, but everything looks unique each day.

The Statue of Liberty depends on the sky, Times Square depends on the advertisements, and the subway stations depend on who is waiting at them. For me, that is the most exciting part.

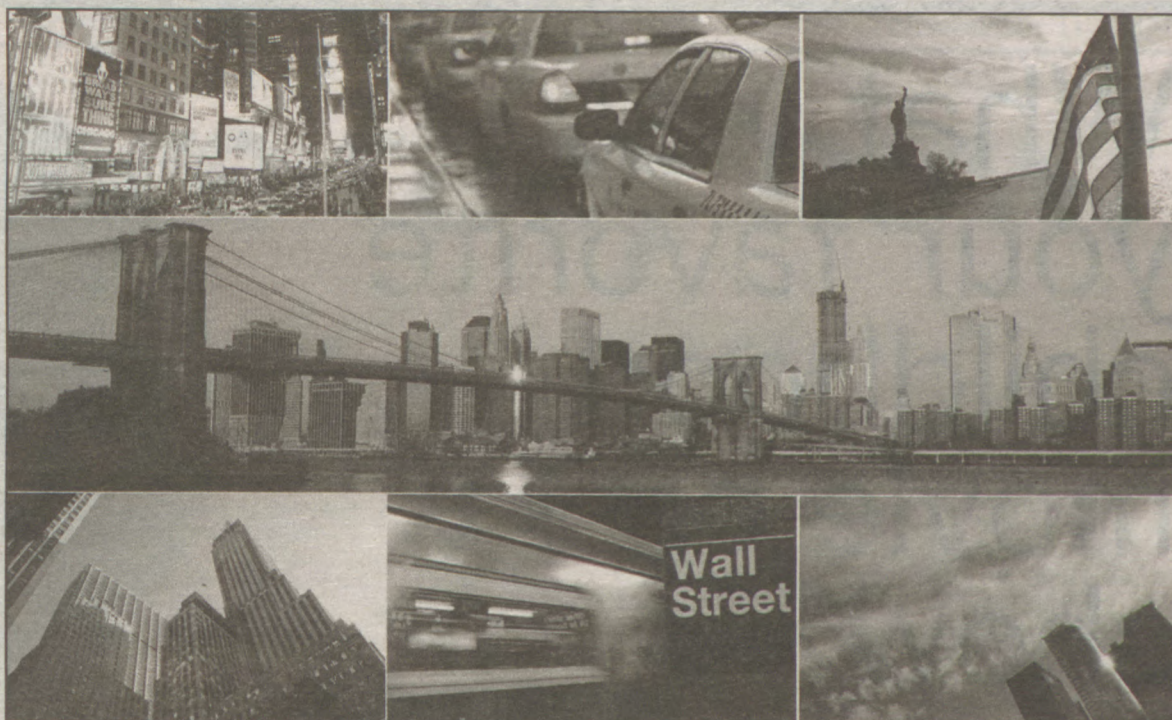


Photo Illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

A collection of photographs done by Jason Willis during his visit to New York City with the Student Program Board this past weekend.



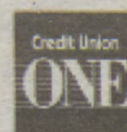
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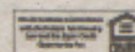
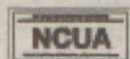
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# What was your favorite childhood movie or TV show?

"I used to love the 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.' I also liked the 'Little Mermaid.'"

Jessica Vahcon  
Senior  
chemistry



"As a kid, I liked the movie 'Water World.'"

Charlotte Rose  
Junior  
occupational health and safety



"'Stargate SG-1' and 'The Santa Clause' with Tim Allen."

Andrew Criscuolo  
Sophomore  
chemistry

## STAFF PICKS:

- Dan Simons: "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"
- Kay Nguyen and Masudur Rahman: "Sailor Moon"
- Rory McCarty: "Back to the Future"
- Sean Garner: "The Simpsons"
- Annie Stodola: "Salute your Shorts"
- Ryan Hegedus: "Rugrats"
- Jennie Wood: "Fraggle Rock"
- Colleen Miller: "Dinosaurs"
- Jason Willis: "Hey Arnold"
- Katie Wolf: "The Sandlot"
- Alexis Tomrell: "The Neverending Story"
- Dan Fenner: "Spawned as an adult"
- Brad Slazinski: "Ren and Stimpy"



"Pocahontas."  
Sharon Mullins  
Freshman, undecided



"Street Sharks."  
Billy Jacobs  
Senior, biochemistry



# The Scene

13

www.oaklandpostonline.com

November 11, 2009

## Where are they now?

### PETE & PETE

International Hug a Ginger Day is approaching fast. You can't think ginger without remembering some of our childhood's favorite gingers: the redheaded brothers Pete and Pete. Everyone loves "The Adventures of Pete & Pete." The loveable and quirky charisma of this show and its theme song, "Hey Sandy," has not been replicated since, reminding us just how cool our young selves were for tuning in.

#### Michael Maronna aka older Pete

The older ginger never made a comeback into the world of prominent acting. Today, he usually stays out of the limelight, trading fame for behind the scenes work as an electrician for film and TV crews. His last roles were "Bagel Boy" in the 2002 movie "40 Days and 40 Nights" and "Jeff Davis" in 2002's "Slackers." Unless "Pete & Pete" does a reunion movie, sadly, Maronna's last movie credits are currently (and seriously) "Men Without Jobs."



### PETE & PETE

#### Danny Tamberelli aka younger Pete

Oh, that face! It was even cuter in his small role on the "Babysitter's Club." Since doing "Pete & Pete," Danny Tamberelli starred in a Wendy's commercial in 2006. Other than that, he is bassist and vocalist for the experimental rock band Jounce. In full confidence they aren't that bad. The best description possible is that Jounce is a good and loud house band. The type of music you'd stumble upon in a bar, rather than willingly seek out. Tamberelli fits right in, and except for his ginger drapes, you'd think he was just another husky, bearded rock singer in a plaid shirt. Myspace.com/jounce

### FULL HOUSE

#### Andrea Barber aka Kimmy Gibler

Urban dictionary defines Kimmy Gibler as "when you refuse to leave after you have a one-night stand, even when they ask you nicely." Kimmy Gibler was the Tanner's annoying neighbor and DJ's best friend on "Full House." Her peppy, joking antics landed her as one of the most hated '80s television characters, setting the stage for Roger! in "Sister, Sister." Today, she looks much like you would expect an aged Kimmy Gibler to look. Her hair is slightly peppier than before, but she still has the same toothy smile and googly-eyed stare. She seems to be keeping a low profile and hasn't been in many movie or television roles since "Full House." Maybe there is a possible Lifetime movie in the works for Barber. For now, she keeps to updating her Facebook profile. Every hour.



### READING RAINBOW

#### LeVar Burton aka Reading Rainbow host

LeVar Burton played a small but entertaining part in tuning young children's minds into reading. Or maybe they just watched the show and figured that was enough indirect reading for one day. Regardless, the show had intellectual merit.

Kunta Kinte became a household figure for his adventures in the realm of reading and became famous with the phrase "but you don't have to take my word for it." Today, Burton is a participant of the World Poker Tour and has his own blog. He is looking as sprightly and smiley as in his "Rainbow days."

### HANSON

These Oklahoma hotties made it big in the '90s with their mega-hit "MMMBop." The three brothers, Isaac, Taylor and Zac came out of nowhere to become some of the decade's biggest stars, gracing the cover of Tiger Beat on a weekly basis. Today, the brothers have matured nicely. They continue to produce music on a more obscure basis and none worthy of the hit "MMMBop." In June 2009 they confirmed that their new album was complete and they would be touring the country with band Hello Goodbye. They recently came to the Fillmore on Oct. 10. Between touring and recording, Taylor, Zac and Isaac are family men, spending time with their wives and children. Even baby-faced Zac just became a daddy. Taylor Hanson is currently engaged in a side project with some of the members of the Smashing Pumpkins and Cheap Trick.



### FAMILY MATTERS

#### Jaleel White aka Steve Urkel

The too-tight suspenders. The plaid shirts buttoned all the way to the top. The high-water jeans and white socks. The thick-framed safety glasses. Yes, Steve Urkel of "Family Matters" may be one of our generation's most recognized nerds. His existence was a simple one: Make Laura Winslow love me. In real life, Urkel is Jaleel White. He used to appear on "Family Matters" sans Urkel costume as Laura's love.

Today, he still makes guest appearances on various television shows and movies like USA's "Psych" and the movie "Dreamgirls." His crowning moment may have been in 2006, when an Internet rumor spread that White committed suicide, leaving behind a note that only said, "Did I do that?"

Photos courtesy of Amazon.com



# Reflections of timeless fashion

*The DIA opens exhibit for famed fashion photographer, Richard Avedon*

By JENNIFER WOOD  
Senior Reporter

Richard Avedon once said, "None of the women I consider beautiful have beautiful features. What moves me is when something unexpected happens in the face."

A revolutionary fashion photographer, Avedon spent the greater portion of his life dedicated to reshaping couture photography.

He set himself apart by uncovering unconventional beauties, such as '60s Portuguese/Chinese model China Machado, who broke the mold by being the first non-Caucasian cover girl in the Western world and emphasized the importance of the model, as no longer just a prop for the clothing, but rather an equally important facet of what he called "the fashion essay."

For the first time, roughly 180 of Avedon's masterpieces are on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The collection, titled "Avedon Fashion Photographs 1944-2000" is a comprehensive study of Avedon's 50 years of work in what was a continually changing fashion scene.

It follows his humble beginnings as an advertising photographer in the post-World War II era at "Harper's Bazaar," to his final works with top models including Kate Moss and Gisele Bündchen.

"It's like a walk down memory lane," said Pam Marcil, the public relations director for the DIA. "The photos start in the '40s and the fashion is fascinating. You're able to see how fashion has evolved and some fashions have come back."

The exhibit, which features photographic prints, magazine features, and never-before-seen contact sheets, is a little different than previous exhibitions at the DIA.

When patrons enter the first room, stark white walls, high ceilings and a large screen await them.

Within moments, Graham Beal, director of the Detroit Institute of Arts, appears on the screen, and welcomes you to what will be the DIA's very first cell phone tour.

The audience is told to turn their phones to vibrate, and watch for the small signs with phone numbers next to certain photos.

After dialing the number, the caller is greeted by a woman's voice who gives background on the particular photograph, as well as insider details about Avedon's creative process and development as an artist.

In what Marcil calls, "keeping up with the times," the DIA is also allowing their followers to become involved in the arts by offering free VIP tickets to the Avedon exhibit to the winners of its Fashion by the Decade contest.

In honor of Avedon, the DIA is asking the community to send in their fashion photos in order to create a fashion-by-decade online yearbook.

The site, which asks for photos to be sent to [fashion@dia.org](mailto:fashion@dia.org), solicits all types of photos, stating, "Show us



Richard Avedon © 2009 The Richard Avedon Foundation.  
Dovima with Sacha, cloche and suit by Balenciaga, Café des Deux Magots, Paris, August 1955.

your fashion evolution! Send pics of yourself, your family and friends throughout the decades. The good. The bad. The 'what was I thinking'."

People who submit photos are automatically entered into the weekly drawing for VIP tickets to the Avedon exhibit, which runs through Jan. 17.

"People will enjoy this as something different, everyone likes fashion. To see how it's done throughout decades is so interesting," Marcil said.

Murray Grondin, local photographer and associate creative director for Detroit advertising agency Team Detroit attended the exhibition and felt the photo display represented Avedon "remarkably."

"Richard Avedon's breadth of work is staggering, and the exhibit at the DIA is an exhaustive collection spanning a remarkable 50 years. He defined fashion photography, setting the bar, and all of his iconic shots are represented: Dovima with Elephant and Suzy Parker in Dior," Grondin said.

Not only were earlier Avedon photographs moving, but Grondin also found the more recent photos to have a similar, astounding effect.

"Amazingly, his later work was just as fresh as his earlier ventures," Grondin said. "A campaign for Versace, and work with Stephanie Seymour show that he is the master of fashion photography bar none."

Avedon died October 1, 2004, as the result of a brain hemorrhage while shooting an assignment for The New Yorker. Even in his last days, Avedon was still striving to break down the barriers in traditional photography and capture couture fashion in innovative ways.

He is revered as a master by many, and his groundbreaking work in the fashion and photo industry remains unmatched.

Go to [dia.org](http://dia.org) for more information about this exhibit.



Richard Avedon © 2009 The Richard Avedon Foundation.  
Donyale Luna, dress by Paco Rabanne, New York, December 1966



# WXOU DJ profile: real deal on sports

*A radio bromance forms over sports, society and the Silverdome*

By ALEXIS TOMRELL  
Scene/Mix Editor

Kyle Bauer and Neal Ruhl want to buy the Pontiac Silverdome. To them, this massive business venture is merely a hobby; a side project to their first love: hosting WXOU's "Real Deal on Sports."

The live show, which airs Thursdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., had its official start in April 2008.

The two hosts had been working together since 2007, appearing on each other's sport shows and working on various projects, until they decided to combine forces and co-host "Real Deal on Sports."

As for the Silverdome, well, the guys' pooled funds of \$17 may not place them in the category of highest bidder.

"It's really a grassroots campaign. We are currently taking donations, meaning you're obligated to pay us," Bauer said. It is this kind of banter that sets the tone for "Real Deal." The show is serious sports talk, but that doesn't mean life or death for the hosts. The show is quick-witted, irreverent and smart, and there is a solid chemistry between Bauer and Ruhl.

On an average day, they talk about local and national sports, with both of them weighing in with their opinions. On their website, [realdealonsports.com](http://realdealonsports.com) listeners can check out past shows with titles like, "You seriously don't understand how bad the Lions are Pt. 1" and "The Tubby Temptress vs. Real Deal on Sports vs. ESPN."

Interspersed with all the sports talk, there is something for everyone. Even the innocent bystander will enjoy their special talks called "Real Deal on Society." Bauer and Ruhl question everyday life and playfully tear people apart for putting ketchup on eggs and owning an iPhone.

The best thing about the two hour show is that Bauer and Ruhl seem to thoroughly enjoy their time on air together. It is evident from their demeanor that they like working together.

"My favorite part of working with Kyle is his unpredictability and his predictability. You deal with it because you expect it," Ruhl said. Bauer responded, "Working with someone of Neal's talent has helped me immensely. It will eventually help in my career."

Despite the show's obvious talent, the "Real Deal" wouldn't be possible without the behind the scenes work of its producer, Mike Parsons.

"It is incredible the impact he's had on the show," said Bauer.

Bauer and Ruhl are making plans to produce a weekly podcast. Each are also working on their other shows on WXOU. Ruhl hosts the Men's basketball play-by-play. Bauer hosts "About Music" Wednesdays from 8-10 p.m and "Turning Down the Bro" Fridays from midnight-2 a.m.

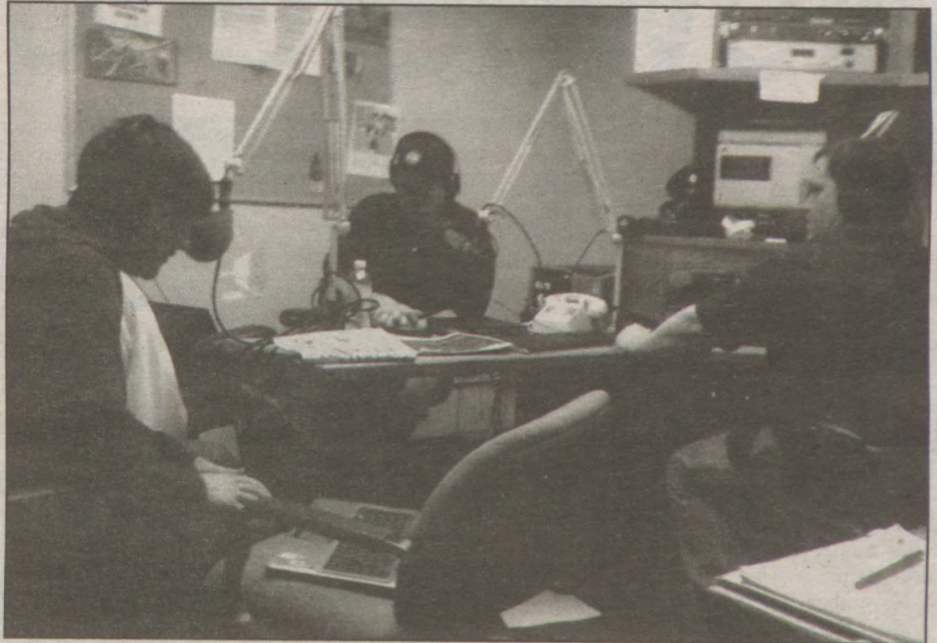


Photo courtesy of Erik Anderson  
The guys of "Real Deal on Sports" from left to right: Kyle Bauer, Neal Ruhl, and producer Mike Parsons.

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## Nowhere to call home

By JENNIFER WOOD  
Senior Reporter

At the end of a long day of classes, work, and countless other commitments, heading home for the day is among the greatest joys a person can have.

However, for thousands of Michiganders, home may be nothing more than an abandoned building or a public park.

According to the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, there are 86,189 homeless people living in Michigan.

In 2008, Michigan saw an 11 percent increase in the homeless population, after numbers seemed to previously be decreasing.

November 15 kicks off Michigan's annual Homeless Awareness Week, coordinated by the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness.

"In the last year, we were walloped," said Jason Weller, executive director of the Coalition. "The amount of unemployment paired with the number of foreclosures creates a vacuum. These things feed off each other, which is why we have seen such a huge rise in homelessness."



Photo Courtesy of ShiYali

Currently, more than 86,000 Michiganders are without a home.

Throughout the week, Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, along with other local community outreach programs, will be putting on a number of different programs in order to both raise

awareness about local homeless populations and aid those in need.

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit, the Coalition is sponsoring one of many Project Homeless Connect programs that will take place across the state.

Project Homeless Connect provides a variety of services to the homeless and "at-risk" community, including free medical consultations, barber services, and food giveaways.

"All services are donated labor. It's a way to begin to educate the community, because it impacts the community as a whole," said Weller.

In addition to the Project Homeless Connect programs, there are a number of other events to raise awareness, including Macomb County's poverty simulation on Wednesday, and Kalamazoo's candle-light vigil on Friday.

"The poverty simulation is great. It's for people who might be at risk who aren't familiar with the system. It walks them through the tough daily decisions you have to make when homeless, and where to go for resources," said Weller.

In addition to the Coalition's events,

there are a number of alternative ways that students can get involved.

Oakland University nursing student, Alaina Matteson, along with other students in the nursing program, volunteered at Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac for a class project on homelessness.

"We found they needed more men's clothing and business attire for interviews, so we are going to donate clothing and make a brochure on hypothermia," said Matteson.

On campus, a number of student organizations are sponsoring "All for One," a food/dollar drive that donates all proceeds to Gleaner's Food Bank.

Gleaner's provides for a number of families, as well as several homeless shelters across southeast Michigan.

To donate, students can drop off cans to one of the 30 marked boxes around campus or make monetary donation to "All for One" sponsors. Donations of canned goods, dried pasta, cereal, and household items are all welcomed.

For information on Homeless Awareness Week and ways to help, visit <http://mihomelessweek.org>.

## Center offers lecture on secular ethics

By JENNIFER WOOD  
Senior Reporter

This Thursday, at the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, lecturer D.J. Grothe will be asking people to examine their religious and ethical beliefs.

Grothe is the vice president and director for outreach programs at the Center for Inquiry. His lecture is titled "Darwin Made Me Do It!"

It is an investigative look into secular versus religious ethics, and whether it is possible for non-believers to be ethically and morally good.

"There is nothing wrong with a religious morality, if it's moral," Grothe said. "Unfortunately, there are a lot of religious moralities that are simply immoral."

Grothe is also the associate editor at Free Inquiry Magazine, as well as host of the nationwide radio and podcast show, "Point of Inquiry."

"When you do something that you think is right because God says, how do you know it is right?" Grothe said. "As an atheist, I believe the best way to see right from wrong is to look at your conscience and the consequences."

The audience will hear Grothe's ideas on secular eth-

ics. Lecture topics will include how it is possible to be a good person without belief in a higher power, and how he thinks religious ethics could be to blame for many of the world's problems.

"Being good for the sake of God is not being good at all," said Grothe.

Mary Taylor, atheist and employee of the Center for Inquiry, hopes the program will not only enlighten members of the secular community, but will also benefit those with religious beliefs.

"So many people, when confronting the nonreligious community, claim that if you don't have religion, you can't possibly be ethical," said Taylor. "What I am hoping is that students and other people will come away with the realization that indeed secular ethics are quite possible, that you can find your ethics based in care and love of your fellow men."

Grothe agrees, and feels that there is no better time than the college years, for people to examine religious and ethical beliefs.

"Universities have as a goal to ask big questions where nothing is off limits, nothing is taboo. The idea is free unfettered criticism and inquiry," Grothe said. "You shouldn't conform education to your preconceived ideas.

Ideas should follow education where it leads."

The Center for Inquiry has student organizations on six different college and university campuses across Michigan, including Michigan State University and Ferris State University.

Admission charges will be waived for members of "Friends of the Center." People of all religious and secular views are welcome to attend.

The Center for Inquiry is a nonprofit education organization that promotes the scientific study of religion and ethics.

The lecture will be at 7 p.m. and admission is \$6.

For information on "Darwin Made Me Do It!," as well as the Center for Inquiry, visit [www.cfimichigan.org](http://www.cfimichigan.org).



Photo Courtesy of James Taylor  
Lecturer D.J. Grothe will speak Thursday on secular ethics.



# Local news briefs: polygamy trial, pumpkin assault

## School bus drivers in Mount Clemens on strike

MOUNT CLEMENS — Bus drivers in the Mount Clemens Community School District have walked off the job, leaving about 1,000 students looking for a ride. Officials said 31 bus drivers contracted by the Cincinnati-based company First Student began a strike Tuesday over wage issues. Superintendent Charles Muncatchy said that schools remain open, but it's an "upsetting" and "disruptive" day. The district is not directly involved in negotiations with the drivers. First Student is bringing in 12 drivers from Illinois, Ohio and Michigan to resume bus service on Wednesday. Teamsters Local 614 vice president Dave Bluhm said that drivers are seeking an additional \$1.50 per hour. Negotiations are ongoing.

## Granholm tries to rally support for school funding

MASON — Gov. Jennifer Granholm said school officials and parents must persuade lawmakers more needs to be done to shore up education funding in Michigan. The Democratic governor on Tuesday again called on the Republican-led Senate to immediately vote on proposals that would prevent some school funding cuts. Granholm spoke with reporters Tuesday after meeting with school officials in Mason, just south of Lansing. She said lawmakers could pass short-term fixes now but a ballot proposal might be needed to make longer-term changes. The governor has ordered a \$127 per student cut in school funding to take effect in December unless the legislature votes for additional revenue within the next two weeks. She also vetoed about \$52 million in funding for wealthier districts.

## Police: Pumpkins thrown from overpass, driver hurt

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP — Police say a driver in a Detroit suburb has been injured after three pumpkins thrown from an overpass hit his truck. Michigan State Police say the 2007 Ford Ranger pickup truck was hit by the pumpkins early Friday on M-14 in Wayne County's Plymouth Township. Two of the pumpkins struck the front of the pickup and the third went through the windshield. Police say the driver, a 50-year-old man from Pinckney, is hospitalized in stable condition. More pumpkins were thrown off the overpass 10 minutes after emergency personnel cleared the scene. Police are investigating the incident as a felonious assault.

## Big drug bust at small Mich. airport

SANDUSKY — Federal agents say marijuana and ecstasy worth at least \$1 million was flown to a small Michigan airport from Canada. Two people accused of picking up the drugs in Michigan's Thumb region are in custody. The bust was made Friday night with help from high-tech tools. A border agent followed the suspicious aircraft while flying his Blackhawk helicopter. He also used night-vision goggles. Agents say two people in a Toyota SUV drove onto the runway at Sandusky City Airport to pick up suitcases full of drugs. Matthew Moody and Jesse Rusenstrom were later captured. The Canadians will appear Monday in federal court in Detroit. Lawyers were not yet assigned.

Source: The Associated Press

## Michigan seeks \$290M

Associated Press Report

LANSING — The state has applied for \$290 million in federal money to help tear down blighted buildings and revitalize neighborhoods in 12 cities including Detroit, Grand Rapids and Flint.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority has proposed launching the "New Michigan Urban Neighborhood" plan. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development could decide by Dec. 1.

"We are working together to overcome division because we understand that all Michigan communities have a shared stake in developing the assets of our urban centers," said MSHDA Executive Director Keith Molin.

Under the plan, money would be allocated to acquire and redevelop more than 6,000 foreclosed, abandoned and vacant properties in Michigan, demolish 2,500 structures and rehabilitate or build 1,500 homes.

The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority would provide land bank services in Detroit and Oakland County until local land banks are ready to take over the work.



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## Shelby man plays cards, wins \$8M

By OSKAR GARCIA  
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — After winning enough at poker to buy a house and justify playing tournaments in far-off places, Joe Cada bet on gambling instead of college and started playing cards full-time.

Cada's wager paid off Tuesday in a way many players only dream of when the 21-year-old from Shelby Township, Mich., became the youngest champion ever at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

"It gives me a lot of freedom," Cada said after winning \$8.55 million. "I'm going to absorb it and take it in."

He posed for pictures with his mom, girlfriend and a large stack of cash on a table where he matched wits against eight others during the weekend culmination of a no-limit Texas Hold 'em tournament that began in July with 6,494 players.

Then he partied with friends and family in an unrentable suite at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, a high-roller haven usually reserved for free-spending gamblers and celebrity guests.

"Poker-wise, this opens up tons of doors. Everything I do I always strive to be the best," Cada told The Associated Press.

"I'm not saying this even makes me close to the best, but it's one step closer and a good start to my poker career."

Cada told the AP that his decision to leave com-

munity college and play poker full time instead was a logical one — not just an all-in shot without an idea of how successful he could be.

"I won a significant amount of money and I had good results over a long period of time," Cada said. "School and poker kind of interfered with each other and I made the decision."

Cada had won \$500,000 playing poker before he entered the main event, helped by backers who paid his \$10,000 entry fee in exchange for a 50 percent cut of his winnings.

His mother, Ann Cada, drew her son into a big hug after he won the bracelet and thanked a raucous crowd.

The dealer at MotorCity Casino Hotel in downtown Detroit said afterward that she was "very elated." "We wanted him to get his education. He's living his dream, and he loves it," she said. "He's kept it very levelheaded."

Cada stayed level at the table during a nearly three-hour heads up match against Darvin Moon, a 46-year-old logger from Oakland, Md., who won \$5.18 million for second place.

Cada turned over a pair of nines on the final hand after Moon called his all-in wager with a suited queen-jack, setting up an about-even race for most of the chips on the table.

A board of two sevens, a king, an eight and a deuce didn't connect with either player's cards and gave Cada the win with two-pair.

## Obama, nation mourn Fort Hood

By BEN FELLER  
Associated Press Writer

FORT HOOD, Texas — Somberly reciting 13 names and 13 stories, President Barack Obama saluted the Americans killed at this Army post as heroes who died for their country — and promised a nation demanding answers that "the killer will be met with justice."

Addressing a hushed crowd of thousands of soldiers Tuesday, the president spoke forcefully if indirectly of the alleged shooter's motives in last week's massacre, never mentioning Maj. Nidal Hasan by name.

"It may be hard to comprehend the twisted logic that led to this tragedy," Obama said. "But this much we do know: No faith justifies these murderous and craven acts."

It was an apparent reference to reports that Hasan had communicated with a radical Islamic imam. A vast investigation is under way, including questions about what the government knew about Hasan and whether action should have been taken.

The president's remarks at a memorial service were personal, more about how the victims lived than how they died: the Eagle scout, the newlywed, the expectant mother, the soldier eager to catch Osama bin Laden by herself. The president spent more time meeting privately with the wounded and with loved ones of those killed than speaking in public.

His tone stern, Obama pledged to the crowd that "the killer will be met with justice — in this world, and the next."

On a steamy Texas day, Obama stepped into a scene filled with military resolve and tender moments. Soldiers helped wounded friends to their seats. A little girl in a black dress and shiny shoes clutched her mother's hand as hurting families streamed in.

Thousands upon thousands gathered on a field for the ceremony. Right below the stage was a traditional military tribute to the fallen — 13 pairs of combat boots, each with an inverted rifle topped with a helmet. A picture of each person rested below the boots.

Riflemen fired a last salute. A bugler played taps.

After the ceremony, Obama walked solemnly along the row of boots, placing a commander-in-chief's coin next to each victim's photo in tribute.

Then soldiers and loved ones traced the same path to remember those lost and give a final salute, one woman nearly collapsing with grief.

Even as Obama honored the dead, there was finger-pointing back in Washington about what the military knew of Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, before the shooting rampage.

Two U.S. officials said a Washington-based joint terrorism task force overseen by the FBI was notified of communications between Hasan and a radical imam overseas.

The information was turned over to a Defense Criminal Investigative Service employee assigned to the group. But a military official denied prior knowledge of the Army psychiatrist's contacts with any Muslim extremists.

All of the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk about the case on the record.

Obama, in his public remarks, spoke of the tranquility and liberty enjoyed by most Americans, and said the 13 fallen gave their lives for it.

"That is their legacy," he said.

## NIW BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

**11-10 | LIMA, Ohio** — A state trooper in northwest Ohio who was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving in 1997 for the number of drunken-driving arrests he made has been charged with drunken driving. A patrol spokesman said Monday that Gerald Gibson had taken leave of absence following his arrest last weekend. Gibson was off duty Sunday when Waynesfield police say he drifted over the center lane and then refused to take a Breathalyzer test. Waynesfield is 12 miles northwest of Lima. Mothers Against Drunk Driving honored Gibson in 1997 for making the most drunken-driving arrests by a Lima trooper. He was named trooper of the year in 2002 in Lima. A message left with Gibson's attorney, William Kluge, was not immediately returned.

**11-10 | TYLER, Texas** — Police said an East Texas man has outsmarted himself in trying to get a quicker response from officers to an alleged assault. Tyler police said 38-year-old Mark Anthony Johnson called 911 on Monday night and reported that he'd just committed a homicide and was armed with a weapon. According to a Tyler police statement, several officers sped to the northwest Tyler location with lights flashing and sirens screaming. They found Johnson, who allegedly told them the homicide was a ruse to get a quicker response to what his real beef was, a simple assault complaint. Indeed, the Tyler police did act quickly. They arrested Johnson and charged him with filing a false report. He's in the Smith County Jail with bond set at \$3,000. A jail spokeswoman said she has no record of an attorney for him.

**11-10 | TORONTO** — Taliban detainees in Canadian custody in Afghanistan will receive swine flu vaccinations ahead of the majority of Canadians in Canada, where there is a shortage of the vaccine — a move Canada's health minister called outrageous. Task Force Surgeon Cmdr. Rob Briggs said Tuesday detainees being held at Kandahar Airfield will have the opportunity to be vaccinated beginning Wednesday. Canadian soldiers have been receiving the vaccine for more than a week. Medical staff sought legal advice, and Briggs said they were told that under Geneva Conventions, prisoners of war should receive the same treatment as Canadian soldiers. Vaccine shortages in Canada have hampered the country's largest-ever mass vaccination effort, causing long lineups and widespread frustration at clinics.

**11-10 | DUBLIN** — A Northern Ireland filmmaker has won 46,000 euros (\$69,000) in damages after a judge ruled that his Irish island home was transformed into a parking lot while he was overseas for six years. The case of 61-year-old Neville Presho captured national attention because of the apparent callousness of his treatment at the hands of the insular 170-strong community of remote Tory Island. Police investigating the vanished house found only a wall of silence. Presho successfully sued developer and hotelier Patrick Doohan after he returned from New Zealand to find no trace of his six-bedroom property beside the island's harbor. In its place stood a septic tank and parking lot for Doohan's newly built 12-room hotel.



## Bold change of scenery

*Three athletes reflect on their decision to leave home to play at OU*

By ZACH HALLMAN  
Staff Reporter

Oakland University men's soccer players Stefan St. Louis, Machel James and Makesi Lewis have enjoyed a lot of success in their college careers.

All three were All-Summit League selections last season and have played major roles in leading Oakland to a third straight regular season Summit League championship this season. Lewis and St. Louis are Oakland's two leading scorers while James anchors the Grizzlies' stingy defense.

But they each share a more personal life story that runs much deeper than their on-field accomplishments.

### Recruitment to Oakland

St. Louis, James and Lewis were born and raised in Trinidad and played soccer together previously at Fatima College in their home nation.

"It was a public school, but they recruited us to go there because they wanted to do good in soccer," St. Louis said.

The three players, who are now roommates, were noticed by Gary Parsons, the previous head coach at OU, after they were invited to a soccer camp in Barbados for the region's best players.

James, who goes by the nickname Jumbo, a name his mother gave to him, had his mind made up as soon as the offer was made to come to Michigan and play for Oakland.

"I always wanted to come to the U.S. because everyone always says the U.S. is the place to be," James said.

His decision was influenced by another factor as well, he explained. He is the first member of his family to go to college. James has made the most of his educational opportunity by earning Academic All-Summit League honors last year.

For the other two, however, the decision to come to the United States was not so easy. While James jumped at the opportunity to attend college, St. Louis had a hard time choosing whether to come and play for the Grizzlies.



Stefan St. Louis (10, pictured left), Machel James (7, center) and Makesi Lewis (9, right) have been fixtures in the starting lineup all season for the Grizzlies.

"For me it was different because I hated school," St. Louis said. The All-Summit League player made his decision after consulting with his mother. "After talking to my mom I decided to come here and play instead of going pro (in Trinidad)."

St. Louis, James and Lewis each said they want to continue their soccer careers and continue to play after their time at Oakland is done.

"I don't care where I play," St. Louis said. "Here, Europe, India, it does not matter, I just want to play."

Lewis, a junior, said he feels the same way that St. Louis does about continuing to play after he leaves OU, but would not mind going home after he is done at

Oakland for a few reasons.

"Here the food is way different, I have to adapt to the food every semester," Lewis said. "I still talk to my family once a week, home (Trinidad) is nice."

"For me it (coming here) was spur of the moment," Lewis said. "I did not always think about playing soccer in the U.S."

James added that although all he wants to do is play soccer, he would not return home to Trinidad to play because he does not feel the quality of play is that good and the pay is too low.

### New Surroundings

For all three, the new environment had a lot of surprises and the first year was

difficult for each of them.

"The people are very different here," St. Louis said. "In Trinidad the people are more relaxed; it's just a different environment."

"To be honest, I hated it here my first year," James said. "It probably took my whole freshman year to get used to it."

According to current head coach Eric Pogue, if James had any feelings of regret, he did his best to hide them. Of the three players, Pogue believes James was most accustomed to American style both on and off the field.

BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

See Soccer on page 20



Continued from page 19

## SOCCER

James said his transition was also made difficult by the fact that even the soccer was different in the United States.

"In Trinidad we play a lot of possession and the game is slower. Here it is much faster," he said.

"Jumbo has been very mature and on top of things since day one. He always seemed wise beyond his years," Pogue said. "He fit right in with the defensive-minded mentality that Gary (Parsons) and I preached every day. I have a scar on my shin from a scrimmage on Jumbo's first day when he put his six-stud cleats into my shin, drawing blood on a tackle. I knew he would fit right in from the start after that."

Pogue said that St. Louis did not adapt as quickly to the new lifestyle.

"It was a little bit more of a process for Stefan, making some mistakes along the way, like all guys do, and learning and growing from them," Pogue said. "He was pretty stubborn out of the gate, but once things started clicking, his development has been dramatic."

St. Louis, who has played games for Trinidad's national team, believes that he has matured since he first arrived at Oakland in 2006 and credits Pogue with much of his growth.

"When me and Gary (Parsons) used to have our fights, Pogue was always there," St. Louis said.

Lewis and Pogue both believe that having St. Louis and James at Oakland when Lewis arrived made the settling process a bit smoother than it would have otherwise been.

"Makesi is an even keel, fun-loving, happy-go-lucky, quiet kid," Pogue said. "Coming in a year later than Stefan and Jumbo, he learned quickly from the early struggles of the other two, so the learning curve for him wasn't as steep."

The three players were forced to adapt to a dramatic culture change, having to balance school work and soccer away from their families and their homes.

But one change in particular startled Lewis during his first year, a struggle that his teammates and coaches could not help him with.

"In Trinidad the coldest we get is probably 80 degrees," Lewis said. "It was 60 degrees when I got

## Oakland to host men's soccer championship

After going undefeated in Summit League play during the regular season, the Oakland University men's soccer team earned the No. 1 seed in this weekend's conference tournament Nov. 13 and 15. The Grizzlies will play host for the tournament at the OU Soccer Field for a weekend of games.

The first matchup takes place Friday at 11 a.m. when Oakland will square off against fourth-seeded UMKC. OU defeated UMKC Oct. 31 in an overtime thriller earlier this season.

The other first-round matchup is between Western

Illinois and IUPUI at 2 p.m. Friday.

The winners of the two games will advance to Sunday's championship match, which is scheduled to begin at noon.

The league champion will earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

For coverage of the weekend tournament, visit [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com) for scores and game recaps.

— Dan Fenner, Sports Editor

here. I wanted to go home as soon as possible."

James remembered thinking similarly upon his arrival to Michigan. He said that one time he let the cold weather get the best of him in his freshman year.

"It was the first time I had ever seen snow and it was so cold that I decided not to go out to practice," James said. "Coach (Parsons) was so pissed."

St. Louis said that overall he has adjusted well to life at Oakland and is better because of it.

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said St. Louis. "I used to get in trouble a lot in the classroom, but I have grown up a lot here and become more mature."

### Team captains

James and St. Louis are serving as co-captains this season for the Grizzlies.

In total, the men's soccer team has seven international players on the roster and James believes that the leadership he and Stefan provide benefits these players.

"We try to lead them and be there for them so their first year is not as hard as ours was," James said.

St. Louis agreed with this mentality, adding that, to him, the team is like "one little happy international family."

Vuk Popovic, a redshirt sophomore, has shared a dorm with the three Trinidadians for the last two years.

"It's been fun," Popovic said, referring to his dorm life. He also said that life at Oakland was not always

as fun as it is now. The native of Serbia noted that like his three roommates, his first year away from home was very difficult to endure. Popovic's transition was made easier though, by the leadership of Oakland's two captains.

"They are by-example leaders," Popovic said. "Stefan and Jumbo played a big role in helping me my first year. Especially Jumbo, he has been like a big brother ever since I got here, showing me around campus and introducing me to different people."

The players believe that a lot of the success the team has had comes from the chemistry they share.

"I always know how and where Stefan and Makesi want the ball," Jumbo said.

Pogue was very proud of his team's accomplishments this season, but was especially proud of the way his two captains have grown and carried the program with them.

"Jumbo and Stefan have been here through the highest of highs and the lowest of lows in this program from 2006 through 2009, so they have put in a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get us back on top," Pogue said.

"They have earned the right to wear that captain armband this year and help lead us back to the NCAA tournament. I have a lot of respect for those two guys and how far they have come, not only as soccer players, but more importantly as great young men that represent Oakland University and our soccer program on and off the field in a very positive way."

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

11/14 vs. Eastern Michigan 7 p.m.  
(regular season opener)

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

11/13 vs. Detroit-Mercy 2 p.m.  
(regular season opener)  
11/15 at Columbia

### CROSS COUNTRY

11/14 NCAA Great Lakes  
Regional Championship in  
Bloomington, Ind.



### GAME SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 11 - 17

### MEN'S SOCCER

11/13 and 11/15 The Summit  
League Tournament at the OU  
Soccer Field  
Starting at 11 a.m.

### CLUB WRESTLING

11/15 Michigan State Open  
in East Lansing

### VOLLEYBALL

11/13 vs. Southern Utah 7 p.m.  
11/14 vs. UMKC 4 p.m.

### SWIMMING & DIVING

11/13 at Michigan (men's team)  
11/14 at Akron (women's team)

### CLUB HOCKEY

11/13 vs. Eastern Michigan  
8:40 p.m.  
11/14 at Eastern Michigan



## GOLDEN GRIZZLIES GAME of the WEEK

# Bittersweet win for Grizzlies in exhibition

By DAN FENNER  
Sports Editor

Depending on how you look at it, the women's basketball game Monday against Western Ontario can be viewed as an impressive sign of things to come, or a meaningless preseason game with an unfortunate development.

The Grizzlies defeated Western Ontario 88-54 in OU's second and final preseason contest.

The good news was that the team dominated in their final tune-up for the regular season, which begins Friday. The bad news, however, is that starting center, Brittany Carnago suffered what appeared to be a serious injury just two minutes into the game.

Head coach Beckie Francis declined to comment specifically on the injury, saying only that "it looked bad."

Carnago landed awkwardly on the court and immediately clutched her left knee in obvious pain. She was attended to for several minutes by Francis and the team's medical trainer before being helped to the locker room, putting no weight on her left leg.

With senior Melissa Jeltema leading the way with 28 points, OU took com-

mand of the game midway through the opening half and didn't look back.

"It was really good for (Jeltema) to get into a flow," Francis said. "We're very excited about her. She worked hard in the offseason and it showed tonight."

Freshman Bethany Watterworth received extended minutes in Carnago's absence, and made an impression on Francis by recording 14 points and seven rebounds.

After the game, Francis said that the exhibition season confirmed her belief that the team had a lot of quality depth behind the starters.

"I was happy with all of our freshmen. I thought it was a great exhibition game to get freshmen in and get some reps," Francis said.

Two other Grizzlies finished with double-digit points, with senior Hanna Reising contributing 12 points and six rebounds, and junior Kirstie Malone scoring 11 points.

While Western Ontario had trouble keeping the game close, the team found success from 3-point range, connecting on nine shots from beyond the arc.

The Grizzlies will begin the regular season in a matchup with the University of Detroit-Mercy Friday at the O'Rena.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

OU held a 40-22 lead going into halftime despite playing without starting center Brittany Carnago.

# Pistons frontcourt remains a work in progress

By RYAN HEGEDUS  
Staff Reporter

## COLUMN

With a modest 3-4 record over the first seven games of the season, the Detroit Pistons have shown that they are still a team in transition.

Injuries have also been a major factor in the average start, as guard Richard Hamilton has been sidelined since the first game with a sprained ankle, and Tayshaun Prince has been sidelined indefinitely with a ruptured disk in his back.

With the team's two longest-tenured players on the injured list, the Pistons have had to lean heavily on their \$55 million man, Ben Gordon, as well as young guards Rodney Stuckey and Will Bynum. The trio has been able to keep the team in several games, taking over on offense at times.

Asking a backcourt to carry an entire offense for a full 82-game season, however, is highly risky — injuries, suspensions, or shooting slumps could derail the entire team's progress. That's where a team's forwards and centers can make or break a season.

In addition to holdovers Kwame Brown and Jason Maxiell, the newly revamped Pistons' frontcourt

includes free agents Ben Wallace, Charlie Villanueva and Chris Wilcox, as well as rookies Jonas Jerebko and Austin Daye. None of them have come close to replacing the production of departed veterans Rasheed Wallace and Antonio McDyess.

Wallace has been a pleasant surprise thus far this season, averaging 9.6 rebounds, 1.29 blocks and 1.29 steals. The 35-year-old forward was expected to be a mentor to the team's younger frontcourt players, playing limited minutes, but has found himself rejuvenated by the return to Detroit after stints in Chicago and Cleveland. Asking the 13-year veteran to continue at his current pace for an entire season, however, could prove difficult.

After a slow start this season, Villanueva has been able to find an offensive flow in the past three games, averaging 20 points per game on 59 percent shooting, as well as 5.6 rebounds in the same span. His most impressive game this season — a 28-point, five-rebound effort — came in that three-game stretch, a 110-103 loss to the Orlando Magic.

With the injury to Prince, Jerebko and Daye have both seen action, with mixed results.

Maxiell and Wilcox have only managed to play 17 and 10.5 minutes per game, respectively, and have done little to warrant any more playing time. Minutes have

been sporadic for the two, as other frontcourt players have performed better.

A consistent frontcourt is imperative to a team's success. While there have been bright spots in the first seven games, the frontcourt for this season's Pistons team must be upgraded.

Rumors have swirled that trading one more of the mainstays from recent years — Hamilton or Prince, specifically — is likely at some point soon. The recent injuries to both players, however, could delay a trade.

One look at the league standings will show that team president Joe Dumars must make moves to upgrade his team's frontcourt positions. Teams that have elite frontcourt players — like the Los Angeles Lakers (Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum), Orlando Magic (Dwight Howard), Boston Celtics (Kevin Garnett), and Dallas Mavericks (Shawn Marion and Dirk Nowitzki) — are all leading or tied for first place in their respective divisions.

When the Pistons won the NBA championship in 2004, they lacked an elite big man. That championship, while greatly deserved, was more of an exception to the rule than the norm.

Professional basketball has evolved into a game that requires a dominant low post presence. For the Pistons to return to the championship level, they will need to find that presence.



## GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

**Sandra Czerska**

Swimming • Freshman

Czerska helped Oakland University defeat Wright State Saturday, winning three individual events — the 100 and 200 Yard Butterfly and the 200 Yard IM. She has now won multiple events in three straight swimming competitions.

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## Club wrestling team enjoying new success

By **ZACH HALLMAN**  
Staff Reporter

Oakland University's enrollment has been increasing in recent years and the school's administration might consider thanking the Club Wrestling program for its contributions.

"We have 18 state placers out here that are all freshman," team president Kyle Nieporte said. "I don't think any of these guys would have come to Oakland had it not been to wrestle."

Even more impressive considering that because of Title IX, the wrestling team does not have any school-sponsored scholarships to promise recruits.

Title IX is an education amendment created in 1972 essentially to bar discrimination in school classrooms and athletic fields. Since the number of scholarships given out to male and female athletes must be equal, many male-only varsity sports that do not draw large revenue for the school, like wrestling, are cut and become club sports.

The wrestling club at Oakland, though, is not your average college club sport. While not even every varsity athlete is guaranteed money from the school, Oakland's wrestling team hands out around \$1,000 in scholarships to each one of its members as long as they meet the team requirements.

"We have raised around \$25,000-\$30,000 this year for the team, one guy donated \$10,000," Nieporte said. "All these guys get scholarships ... not from Oakland University. They are from us to the guys for coming out and working hard four days a week and making weight at all the tournaments."

Nieporte hopes that the club's success at bringing in wrestlers is noticed by the powers that be.

"Recruiting wrestlers is good for us, but it is good for the school too if you look at all the money that we are bringing in," Nieporte said. "I hope that the school remembers that whenever the talks come up for wrestling to become a varsity sport."

Last year's team, which didn't feature anyone who was recruited to wrestle at Oakland, placed fourth at nationals. The placement was the best that Oakland has ever had in the National College Wrestling Association. It was also the club's first year with a full roster.

Oakland hopes to repeat their success this year and Nieporte has full confidence that they will.

"I expect that we will place around the same this year, if not better," Nieporte said. "I think we will beat a couple varsity teams, maybe not Division I, but definitely Division II or Division III teams."

The team's ultimate goal of getting back to nationals and placing in them recently hit a speed bump as Garrett Johnston, the team's 185-pound wrestler, has been out with

shoulder problems. Johnston, a junior from Chesaning, Mich., was the team's first ever All-American. Nieporte, however, is not concerned.

"Garrett has a little bit of a shoulder problem, but should be back by the winter semester, which is the only semester that really matters," Nieporte said. "To tell the truth, we have a guy, Josh Villarreal, who is just as good if not better (than Johnston)."

The team has had to replace many more spots than Johnston's, however, since the team has only eight upperclassmen wrestlers, less than one-third of the roster. Nieporte believes that this speaks to the success of last year's team.

"We only returned four or five guys from last year's team because everybody else got recruited up to a higher Division school," Nieporte said.

He also said he believes the team has benefited from the faltering economy, as many of the area's top wrestlers are choosing to stay home and wrestle at Oakland instead of going out of state. Even if the out of state schools offer scholarships, they are usually not enough to cover the cost of moving out of state.

Nieporte explained how he recruited one freshman in particular.

"We have one kid who was a state champ," he said. "We went to him and said, 'Hey I know you got recruited here, here and here to go outside the state. You can save this much by staying in state and going to Oakland.' Then you throw in another \$1,000 from us and the guy saves thousands of dollars to wrestle competitively close to home. We basically just put the numbers together."

Oakland wrestles out of the NCWA, which is, in theory, below the NCAA's three divisions. However, because of Title IX, many school's teams have been forced to turn their wrestling into clubs, making the NCWA the largest wrestling organization in the country.

For Oakland to make it to nationals again, they have to place in the top six of their division, which consists of 24 teams from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

The club got off to a great start this weekend. Three wrestlers — Villarreal, Jake Hyde and Peter Waszkiewicz — were able to place at Oakland's first tournament.

The tournament, held at Eastern Michigan University, had many Division I and Division II teams competing.

### UPCOMING TEAM EVENTS

11/15 Michigan State Open in East Lansing  
11/21 Mott Bear Open in Flint  
12/5 Univ. of Toledo Dual Meet at OU  
12/12 Triton College Open in Chicago



# MOUTHING OFF

The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Oakland Post

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photo illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

## Yellow fever fiends

By KAY NGUYEN  
Campus editor/Asian sensation

I'm Asian so it's totally OK that I write this.

**urbandictionary.com** defines yellow fever as: "a term usually applied to white males who have a clear sexual preference for women of Asian descent, although it can also be used in reference to white females who prefer Asian men."

According to **stuffwhitepeoplelike.com**, number 11 on the list of likes is Asian Girls. Great for me, right?

Wrong. This creeper makes it really difficult to ever trust people. Am I really hot or do you like me just because I'm Asian? Don't get me wrong, I have my preferences too, but thinking that every Asian girl is hot is just downright creepy.

This creeper is the guy who starts the conversation with a: "So, where are you from?" When I answer Rochester/Michigan depending on the locale, he will then again ask "So, where are you from?" Am I going to ask you where you're from and expect a foreign country?

No. The sad part is that this creeper is often encouraged and can often reach his goal. I am talking about

you, Rupert Murdoch. You too, Nicholas Cage. Thanks, Woody Allen for being the creepiest of all.

The best part is the complete disregard for age.

I've had people guess anything from 12-30 for me. But this creeper really doesn't care because, in the end, Asian girls don't age, right?

I have admittedly gone so far as to date someone afflicted with this creepiness.

Does he have an odd fixation on Hello Kitty? He may be this creeper. While you're doing some Facebook creeping of your own, check to see who he's taking pictures with. If you see anything with Pikachu, run.

While I know that my advice really only helps a small percentage of the population, I'm hoping I can do whatever I can to curb the creeper.

## Classroom creepers

By KATIE WOLF  
Managing Editor/ferocious flirt

I'm a friendly, social person. I like to make friends with my classmates. So on that first day of each semester, I start working on my neighbors to be my friends.

Some people (OK, to be honest, pretty much everyone alive) would

go so far as calling me a flirt. I think that's my mistake when encountering classroom creepers. I don't know how to turn off the charm. So maybe I'm living in a hell of my own making, but that doesn't make it any less uncomfortable.

It always starts out so innocent, like a question about an assignment via Moodle, a friend request on Facebook, a joke about that stupid girl who just won't shut up, you know how it goes. A friendship begins. Double bonus points if your new "friend" is cute.

Triple negative points if your new "friend" is a creeper.

There's really no appropriate segue from "How'd you do on that test" to "What are you wearing right now?" but somehow creepers still think that's a com-

pletely normal topic of conversation. A hint? It's not.

And speaking of inappropriate, no, Mr. Creeper, I do not care how big your man-pickle is, but that doesn't stop you from telling me, does it?

Fellas, a word to the wise: If a woman doesn't ask you what kind of heat you're packing downstairs, it's not something you should share.

When you volunteer that information before the question is asked, you have officially declared yourself a resident of Creeperville.

If you continue to talk about how impressive it is, you're throwing your hat in the ring for being mayor of Creeperville.

Senior Creepito, I do not appreciate your dirty text messages. "You looked really f\*\*kable today" is not how I like to end a long day of classes.

I'm flattered that you ... wait, no, I'm not flattered at all. I'm grossed out. Go away.

Most importantly, I am not playing hard to get. I promise. When I say, "I'm not interested in dating anyone," please take the hint that I'm trying to let you down.

The right response would be, "Oh OK, I'll back off."

Do not say, "Well maybe you just need a good time," and follow up with a wink.

## Hallmark horrors

By JENNIE WOOD  
Senior Reporter/Hallmark hottie

Dear Married/engaged/even-slightly-taken men who shop at Hallmark, As much as the flattery is appreciated, please stop hitting on me.

Speaking on behalf of myself and the rest of the Werner's Hallmark staff, I need you to understand that when I am working, khaki-clad and ultra-smiley, I am earning a paycheck, not trying to land a taken man.

When I smile and chirp, "Are you finding everything OK?" I really just want to know if you found the overpriced card you need so I can go back to smelling Yankee Candles and singing along with Michael Bolton's Greatest Hits CD.

I want to be nice to you. I enjoy my job for the most part, and as both a female and a Hallmark veteran, I think I have a pretty good handle on what your mothers, sisters, wives, and girlfriends want. (Hint: It's not the 500-word "Between You and Me" cards ... sappy does not equal sweet.)

However, I do notice your wedding ring and when you are buying an anniversary card.

It is highly insulting that you really think winking and saying, "Hey, how about you add your number to that bag," will make my heart beat faster as I ring up your over-the-top "For Her" birthday card, complete with ridiculous picture of two frogs kissing and lame pop-out that reads "my heart leaps for you."

Odds are I have seen your wife in the store. I am not going to be anyone's "other woman." The hours that she spends kickboxing, paired with that gigantic rock you bought her are not anything I want to mess with.

It also will not help your case to become a regular. I will not forget about the card for the wife, nor think you are sensitive because you spend so much time at Hallmark. I will only further be weirded out and probably hide in the backroom and watch the surveillance video until you leave.

For the most part, spoken-for men are easy to spot. The tan line from your wedding band, the "Forever Love" CD paired with a sugar-free Godiva bar, and the fact that your Gold Crown Card is under the name Mary are dead giveaways.

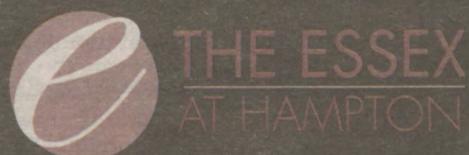
Love, Jennie.

Visit [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com) to view other profiles on creepers, and to write your own, submit it to [oakpostmouthingoff@gmail.com](mailto:oakpostmouthingoff@gmail.com)



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