

Senior art thesis projects
to be on display

Art by Rebecca Dewey

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER
30
— 2011 —



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Photo
of the
Week

Retiring Kito's jersey // Nov. 28, O'rena

GUSTAVO PESSUTTI/The Oakland Post

Keith "Kito" Benson had his Oakland University basketball number retired during halftime at the OU-Tennessee game just nine months after he played his last game as a Golden Grizzly.



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SCENE // Robbie Rio, a junior communication major, is an electronic music artist who has opened for the likes of Jersey Shore's DJ Pauly D.

Op

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THE OAKLAND POST

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Working through it

Pay it forward by helping improve campus life

The work never stops.

The end of the semester is here and students are all winding down into the homestretch filled with papers, last-minute cramming for exams and scrambling to get final projects completed.

Professors are completing their final lectures, catching up on grading and preparing for final exams. As an aside, professors are not permitted to schedule any tests during the last week of classes during the fall or winter semesters.

It's certainly been an eventful semester for Oakland University as well. National attention has been given to the school twice this semester and the response has been tremendous.

But the work doesn't stop now. OU President Gary Russi is preparing to inform the campus of the direction the school is heading and the progress that has been made with achieving

goals set forth through the Vision 2020 plan.

The school is also preparing to implement a new branding strategy, which is being spearheaded by Janell Townsend, an associate professor of marketing.

The work shouldn't stop for you, either. We don't mean to suggest you should study all throughout break, cancel your planned vacations or work yourselves to the bone.

What we want you to do is continue to think of ways to contribute to this campus. It was great to see the excitement drummed up by events like the Republican presidential debate and the men's basketball game against Tennessee, but the excitement needs to carry through the rest of the year.

That way, we can each make our own mark on the campus and make an impact on the quality of campus life.

Be proactive about affecting the campus and there's no better time to do that than after finals.

It takes minimal work now to start a student organization, which requires only four students, an adviser and the necessary paperwork that is now available online thanks to the GrizzOrgs system.

If that's not your thing, consider at least perusing GrizzOrgs and finding a club or two to join.

Creating a vibrant campus atmosphere helps the school and students alike. Consider ways to contribute to that.

The first step is to get informed about happenings on campus and picking up this newspaper is one of the best ways to do that.

Get involved and be proactive about changing things you don't like, too.

Are you unhappy about

free Scantrons not being readily available at the OU Student Congress office?

What about the decrease in the size of the newspaper readership program? You can get involved with Student Congress and have a say in what they do as the governmental body that represents students.

We have asked for your feedback in this product and are continually seeking it. The work doesn't stop for us, either.

We will continue to work through this break as well and keep giving you information that you need to know. We are also working on a new look for the paper, which will debut in January.

We are improving the student newspaper and are telling you to help improve the campus.

This break, don't just fade into the background. Get involved with your university.

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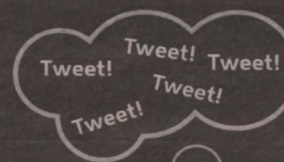
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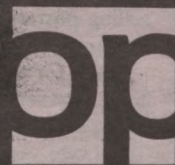
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Students define university brand

By **RAYMOND ANDRE**
and **ISABELLA SHAYA**
Senior Reporter and Staff Intern

Enrollment at Oakland University has steadily risen, with the latest figures counting nearly 20,000 students, all of whom chose OU for various reasons. Administrators want to know what those reasons are.

Students and faculty have launched a research project to bring together those ideas into a new brand for OU.

"Oakland University doesn't currently have a well-defined brand, per se," Lillian Lorenzi, OU's constituent communications director, said.

To say OU is re-branding its image is an understatement to the process that is scheduled to begin early 2012.

"A brand is much more than just a tagline, symbol or logo," said Janell Townsend, associate professor of marketing and international business. "A brand really represents everything about an organization and we often think of it as an identifier."

Townsend and graduate student and former OU Student Congress President Brandon Gustafson separately raised concerns for the university's poor brand positioning — how people view

the university compared to competition.

"Even though OU generates cutting-edge research, develops unique programs and has incredible students, there seems to be a relative lack of recognition of all these important contributions," Townsend said.

Townsend, along with Gustafson, part-time professor Kim Serota and associate professor of marketing, Mukesh Bhargava, make up OU President Gary Russi's Presidential Faculty Advisory Committee on Brand Strategy.

The committee began the first of a three-step process to analyze, devise and implement the strategy with the intention of molding how students and faculty view OU in coming years.

During the initial research stage of the project, the PFAC canvasses student, professor and administrator's views of OU through surveys, focus groups and interviews.

"This is called the multi-method approach, so we are using different methods to get at the same core ideas," Townsend said, adding that the tiered levels "helps to fill in the gaps" in perception.

"Our role is not to tell the university what it stands for," Serota said. "Our role is to facilitate a dialogue among all of the stakeholders — faculty, students, administra-



KAY NGUYEN/The Oakland Post

Students, alumni and community members gathered at Creating the Future last July to shape the university's direction and brand image.

tors, alumni and the surrounding community in order to identify the key values shared across Oakland University, to determine what expectations and aspirations exist with regard to the university, and to assess what Oakland University is actually delivering."

The OU journalism department offered a special topics branding class over the summer that worked to provide the university with a cohesive brand. The group presented their brand ideas to President Russi and other univer-

sity key players.

That initiative continued through this semester with a new group of students in Townsend's brand management course.

"Student involvement is key to the branding process," Gustafson, a first-year MBA masters student, said.

Gustafson approached administrators during his time as OUSC President, after he noticed disparate views of OU's identity from various groups.

The PFAC views Gustafson as

a chair member of equal standing, he said.

While he admits that his perspective as a student grants him unique insight in the branding process, he said he does not view himself as a representative.

"I am not the voice for every student when it comes to branding," Gustafson said.

Rather, the PFAC receives its student consensus on affairs by directly querying students.

"We are doing student surveys, we are going to be doing student focus groups and we are looking for anyone else who wants to be involved in the project," Gustafson said.

"My ultimate goal would be that we are able to put something together that everyone in some fashion can believe in and they can put their support behind."

The PFAC has been presenting research to President Russi throughout the semester. Within the next six months, Townsend said she expects the committee will devise a branding strategy to unify and publicize OU's strengths from various perspectives.

On Wednesday, Townsend and the President's Faculty Advisory Committee for Brand Strategy will provide an overview of the new brand and ways to implement it.

Annual art fair makes holiday shopping easier

By **CHRISTOPHER LAURITSEN**
Staff Intern

Students, staff and faculty at Oakland University will have an opportunity to get some holiday shopping done right in the confines of the Oakland Center.

On Dec. 7, the 27th annual Art, Book & Gift fair will offer local vendors the opportunity to sell their goods to the OU community.

Anne Olson, organizer of the fair, said,

"This is a great opportunity for students, faculty and staff to get some holiday shopping done."

The Art, Book & Gift Fair was started by Bill Marshall in 1984. Planning passed to Olson before the event last year.

Olsen said she is a crafter and is interested

in a seeing what other crafters bring to the table.

The event this year will feature an all-time event high of 50 vendors who will come from all over the state of Michigan.

"We have vendors that come from as far away as the Michigan, Indiana border, but the vendors are mainly from the tri-county area," Olson said.

Last year 12,000 people attended the event and that number is expected to rise this year.

"We have added about 20 vendors to this year's event," Olson said.

Vendors are charged \$35 to have space at the event which gets them a eight foot table and two chairs.

The event starts at 9 a.m. and goes until 4 p.m. It takes place on the main level of the

Oakland Center.

Alternative Spring Break will again be helping to set up the fair, and will also be helping vendors find their tables.

"Last year's event was a success," Constance Farlow, president of Alternative Spring Break, said, "Not only did sales do well, but the arts and crafts from all the vendors were incredible. I can't wait to be a part of it this year."

Alternative Spring Break is a student community service organization at OU.

Along with helping to set up, ASB will be selling posters and hand made bracelets at the fair.

Space for the event is allocated on a first come, first serve basis. There is a waiting list of dozens of vendors for next year.

No two vendors already lined up at the

fair will sell the same thing. There will be everything from Lithographs to Jewelry made out of traditional sowing materials.

"One of the most interesting items that will be for sale is Dinosaur Jerky," Olson said.

Olson wouldn't elaborate what Dinosaur Jerky was and said "you will have to come see for yourself".

The average cost of an item at the fair is \$20.

Olson said she always keeps students in mind when choosing vendors.

Olson said, "I always ask myself before I bring in a vender, would a student buy this?"

The event is free to attend.

For more information on the event, contact Olson at aeolson@oakland.edu or go to oakland.edu/oc



SIERRA SOLEIMANI/The Oakland Post

Meadow Brook Holiday Walk

The Meadow Brook Holiday Walk has been a holiday tradition for 40 years. This year, the walk celebrates "The Games People Played" displaying old fashioned toys, including a rare carved-ivory chess set owned by the Wilson family.

Events include Visit with Santa and Holiday High Tea, where visitors will enjoy traditional teas, savories and sweets in the Christopher Wren Dining Room.

Tours are Monday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$20 for adults, \$12 for OU staff, faculty and alumni with ID, \$5 for OU students with ID and for 17 and under. Children under 2 are free.

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Russi envisions OU as a debate venue

By **MADELINE LOSHAW**
and **MEGAN SEMERAZ**
Staff Intern and Campus Editor

The success of the GOP debate recently held on campus was so immeasurable that OU is considering playing host again.

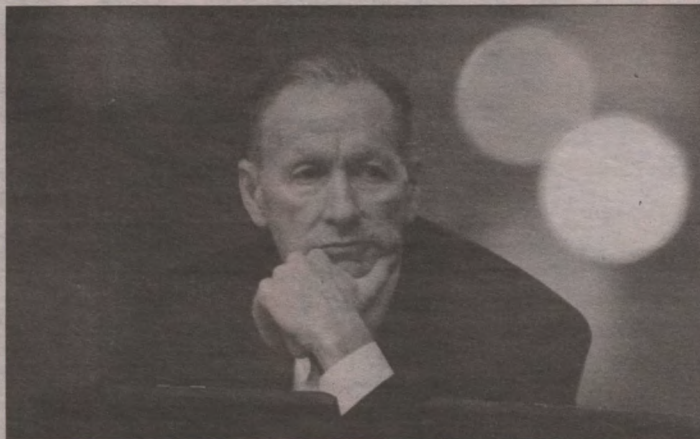
President Russi said that he wants to further involve the university with the Commission on Presidential Debates in order to look into becoming a part of the rotation of schools that routinely hosts the events.

"We're going (to) look at that and see if we want to apply to be on the regular debate scene," he said.

According to the CPD website, their goal is "to ensure that debates, as a permanent part of every general election, provide the best possible information to viewers and listeners."

Other universities that have recently hosted debates are University of Colorado, Centre College and Hofstra University.

David Dulio said that it makes



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Russi said he wants to look into hosting other presidential debates.

sense for OU to become involved with future presidential debates, as all sides — OU, the Michigan GOP and CNBC — had good experiences with this debate.

However, it's too soon to know what the responsibilities of being considered for another debate would be.

"The university would need additional time to research and assess

this matter," Karen Kukek, executive assistant to the president said, "I think it's clear, however, that we know how to manage a successful event of that magnitude."

According to the CPD, size and production are just some of the factors when it comes to the cost of a presidential debate.

This time around, CNBC rented out the O'Rena from OU, but

there were also costs paid by the university.

"The costs incurred by OU were directly related to enhancing the educational experience of our students. Furthermore, any costs incurred by the university were taken care of through philanthropy," Ted Montgomery, director of media relations said.

To the Michigan GOP, OU's location in Oakland County was particularly important for this debate because the area has been hit hard by the economy, Montgomery said.

Though the university will consider hosting further debates, Montgomery said the situation would likely be different in the future because the event may not be economy-driven.

The overall idea of becoming a regular debate school was made possible by the success of the GOP debate held on Nov. 9.

"The media attention before, during and even after the event was uniformly positive, as it related strictly to the university."

Kukek said, "... I think having the debate here offered tremendous opportunity to our students and provided them with a once-in-a-lifetime experience to participate in the democratic process."

According to Montgomery, the success of this debate is proof we could hold similar events in the future, but they would be chosen on a case-by-case basis.

"I believe that the success of the Nov. 9th debate is proof that we have the technical and logistical expertise to handle an event of that magnitude, and we have the facilities and prime location that make us a desirable host site," Montgomery said.

Russi said the question still stands on whether OU wants to continue holding these large-scale events.

"We've had multiple standing presidents here and we have this national coverage," Russi said "... so the question is do we want to be on the list for debates all the time? We're going to look into it and see what happens."



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Student builds connections

By JORDAN GONZALEZ
Staff Intern

Student organizations can enhance the college experience. Whether they are religion or academic based, they give students a chance to be with individuals who have similar interests.

Rachel Deratany didn't have that organization when she came to OU.

As someone devoted to her faith, she was struggling to fully enjoy her freshman year at OU for lack of an Orthodox organization on campus.

She made new friends and did well academically, but she didn't have an organization where she could connect with like-minded students.

"As a freshman at OU, not having a religious organization was difficult," Deratany said.

She didn't give up, however. For Deratany, there was only one option: start an Orthodox organization at OU.

"I didn't have the people, the resources, a spiritual advisor or a church ... nothing fit," Deratany said. "But I didn't give up hope."

She posted on a website for the national Orthodox Christian Fellowship asking if there was an OCF branch at OU.

It turned out that there wasn't, but it just so happened that someone else was interested in starting one on campus.

Tamara Machmut-Jhashi, associate professor of art history, saw Deratany's post and immediately contacted her.

A meeting with Jhashi, Deratany and two other girls, Melanie Templeton and Christine Auxier, soon followed. It occurred at Café o' Bears and the decision to begin the OU chapter of OCF was made.

Soon after, Templeton and Auxier attended the mandatory meeting hosted by the center for student activities which officially registered the group and the officers



Courtesy of Rachel Deratany

Rachel Deratany (right) began the first Orthodox organization, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, on campus to connect with like-minded students. She is the group's president.

for OCF were identified.

Though everyone played a critical part, Jhashi said Deratany's passion has kept things moving. From arranging meeting times and places, to working with their spiritual father, Father Andrew, to receive the blessing from the Orthodox Church of the Midwest, she has been ready.

"Rachel's energy in getting the organizational and administrative tasks in place has been wonderful," Jhashi said. "And her enthusiasm and good humor are so important in moving the students forward."

It was that energy that guided the group to have Deratany be the president of OCF.

"It was sort of mutually decided that I would be president," Deratany said. "I had a lot of connections to service opportunities and I have friends who are actively involved in OCF."

For Templeton, that decision wasn't difficult because of Deratany's contributions to OCF, such as finding the first four members and an advisor.

"Rachel really started the whole movement to create an OCF at OU, and she was willing to sort everything out to get things going," Templeton said. "She visited my church and came to me with the idea of starting some sort of Orthodox fellowship group at OU."

OCF is a campus ministry program, affiliated with St. Mark Orthodox Church in Rochester Hills. Father Andrew Yavornitzky is the parish priest and spiritual advisor of OCF.

Their mission statement is to support fellowship on college campuses, to study the faith and for members to experience and witness the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer and service to others.

OCF meets on the first and third Mondays of every month starting Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. in room 126 and 127 in the OC

To learn more, contact Rachel Deratany at rmderata@oakland.edu for further information.

police files

Marijuana use in Hamlin Hall

On Oct. 17, officers were called to Hamlin Hall for an odor investigation. After officers arrived at the dorm in question, the occupants didn't answer the door. Officers report they heard the sound of toilets flushing. When the door was opened, all the windows were open to clear the room of smoke.

Two of the four students in the room were cleared and released. After searching the desk, marijuana stems, a tobacco tin and plastic bag — both with marijuana residue — were found. One student denied marijuana possession, but during a pat down, marijuana seeds were found in his pocket. The other student had a burn hole in his sweater. He claimed it was from fireworks. Eventually, the second student admitted to smoking. Both were given a misdemeanor citation for marijuana use.

Disorderly conduct near the OC

On Oct. 20, officers working a dance in the OC saw a male had left the building and who was attempting to get back inside. Officers told him that he couldn't because it was past 12 a.m. and the doors were locked. The student became upset, refused to leave and began making faces threatening one of the officers to "come outside so that (the student) could kick his ass." After requesting back up, the male left and was found running towards the Fitzgerald House. Once the male was caught, he received a citation for disorderly conduct.

Assault, battery by Hill House

On Oct. 20, officers saw two female students fighting on the bridge to Hill House at 2:47 a.m. When one of them ran inside the building and opened the door, the other student ran towards her and started kicking and throwing punches at the student inside. Both students were transported to OUPD, where the student who threw kicks and punches was issued a citation for assault and battery.

— Compiled by Kevin Romanchik,
Sports Editor

What's happening on campus

Nov. 30

- 9 a.m. — Meadow Brook Ball tickets go on sale at the CSA office. Tickets are \$25 for couples and \$12.50 for singles
- 4 p.m. — Multi-cultural holiday party in the banquet rooms
- 7 p.m. — An evening with filmmaker Michael Moore at Meadow Brook Theatre

Dec. 7

- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Art, Book & Gift Fair in the OC

Dec. 8

- 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. — Santa at the Credit Union.

Dec. 12

- 5 p.m. — Meadow Brook Hall supper with Santa. \$25 for children, \$30 adults

Dec. 13

- 5 p.m. — Meadow Brook Holiday Walk - OU Night

Dec. 15

- 7 p.m. — Meadow Brook Starlight Stroll. Tickets \$75 each.

Dec. 17

- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. — Fall Commencement



JUSTIN COLMAN/The Oakland Post

Nursing students are provided with resources including bone density measuring machines and synthetic human models. Models range in age from infants to adults.

Riverview offers hands on learning experience

By JUSTIN COLMAN
Copy Editor

Across Belle Isle on Jefferson Avenue is the Oakland University Riverview Institute. Open since 2009, the institute is a 50,000 square foot facility established by the School of Nursing and St. John Health systems.

"The purpose of the Riverview Institute is to train and teach people in Detroit community skill sets and then they ... stay in Detroit," said Barbara Penprase, the executive director of the Riverview Institute.

The facility, located on the second floor of the old St. John hospital, gives nursing students the chance to continue their education while working in the city.

"Many of our programs are targeted at the transitioning under employed or unemployed worker (who is) looking for new career opportunities," said Jacqueline Glover, director of operations of the Riverview Institute. "We have partnered with agencies like The Detroit Workforce Development Department and Focus HOPE ... to serve the immediate community, as well as marketing to all four counties in Southeast Metro Area."

Penprase has played an active role in making the metro Detroit area more aware of the programs Riverview has to offer.

"We're hoping as a university that we can attract more people down here," Penprase said. "I've talked to all of the chief nursing officers that are in the Detroit area and I have worked closely with St. Johns and Beaumont to let them know that the hospital is there."

The institute offers students a chance to take part of the OU's Certified Nursing

Assistant program, Patient Care Technician program, Licensed Practical Nursing program, Basic Life Support courses, and a Vegan Diet for Better Health course.

In addition, they hold classes for an Accelerated Second Degree BSN program with enrollment through main campus.

"The accelerated second degree program is to train nurses to work in the Detroit area and stay there because that is where the need for help is," Penprase said.

According to Penprase, Riverview plans to launch a program that trains people to become hemodialysis technicians within the next six months.

Some of the equipment from the former hospital is still in place, giving students a chance to work in a hospital-like environment.

"With the generous support of the Community Foundation of Southwest Detroit and others, the second floor has been transformed into a new fabulous urban educational site with some of the most technologically advanced nurse simulation training," Glover said.

Though there's an optimistic future the institute has, a lack of funding has prevented them from reaching full potential.

"Those funding revenues have diminished greatly," Penprase said. "It's put a stall on a lot of these vocational programs that we were offering as certified certificate programs."

Despite this, the institute is gaining interest from other departments, according to Glover.

"This past summer we had the two rhetoric courses offered and the School of Education has partnered with us to offer professional development courses," she said.

2012 Wilson and Human Relations Awards

Nominations are now being accepted.

The Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the OU community. **Nominees must:**

- be graduating seniors in winter 2012 or have graduated in summer or fall 2011
- have a strong academic record of 3.5 or higher GPA

The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution in the OU community. **Nominees must:**

- be graduating seniors in winter 2012 or have graduated in summer or fall 2011
- demonstrate service to the community
- have a minimum 2.5 GPA

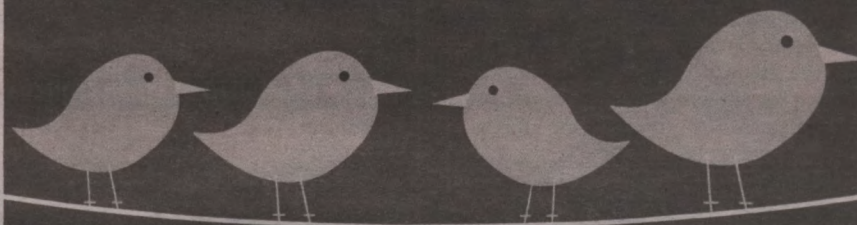
Nomination forms are available at oakland.edu/dean_awards or in 144 Oakland Center.

The deadline for both awards is Monday, February 6, 2012.

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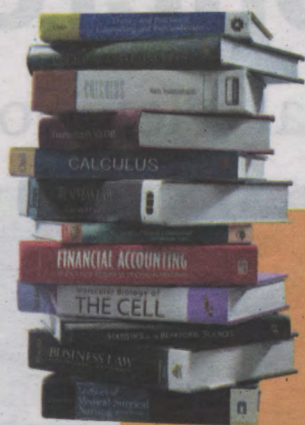
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A winning OU atmosphere

Men's basketball team upsets Tennessee on national television

By **KEVIN ROMANCHIK**
Sports Editor

In the first nationally televised home game ever in the O'rena, the favored Tennessee Volunteers faced the Oakland University men's basketball team in prime-time on ESPN.

Both the Golden Grizzlies and the 3,755 fans didn't disappoint, winning 89-81.

Upsetting the Volunteers for a second straight year, Oakland managed to keep its lead the entire game.

Leading the game was guard Reggie Hamilton with 35 points, his second consecutive career-high game. He also was a perfect 15 of 15 from the free-throw line.

"I believe my teammates put me in a position to make those plays," Hamilton said. "I was just going with the flow."

Drew Valentine scored 15 points and eight rebounds that included a crucial offensive rebound with just over two minutes to go, a play that extended the Grizzly drive and forced Tennessee to foul.

"Coach (Kampe) is always preaching 'Crash the glass,'" Valentine, a junior forward, said. "While I'm playing, that's what I'm thinking about every time."

Even though five players on the Tennessee roster are 6-foot-8 and above, Oakland didn't allow themselves to get out-muscled in the paint.

The Grizzlies out-rebounded the Vols 41-37, 17 of which were on the offensive end and 24 on defense. It was the fifth straight game that OU out-rebounded their opponent.

Center Corey Petros had four fouls but finished with seven points and 13 rebounds.

"Petros has been unbelievable," Kampe said. "He could have finished with 20 rebounds against Tennessee."

Forward Jordan McRae led the Vols with 25 points and going eight for eight from the free throw line. Guard Cameron Tatum had 19 points and five rebounds.

Oakland shot 43 percent overall, and made 90 percent of their free throws compared to Tennessee who shot 41 percent overall and 71 percent of their free-throws.

Players and coaching staff were quick to praise the energy of fans in attendance, which was the seventh highest attendance all-time in the O'rena.

"This was about showing Oakland University basketball to the world," Kampe said. "We've won so many games over the



GUSTAVO PESSUTTI/The Oakland Post

The win against Tennessee improved OU's overall record to 4-2 this season, and 2-0 all-time against the University of Tennessee. Oakland continues their seven game home stand with SDU, UMKC, Ohio, Michigan and ending with Rochester College on Dec. 13.

past few years because of the atmosphere we've created here."

Valentine said that the crowd made an impact on the court.

"Our Grizzly family wouldn't let us down so we kept feeding off them," Valentine said. "I credit this win with the fans."

Oakland is now 3-3 against BCS schools in games in the O'rena.

"We are to a point now (in our program) that we can play with anyone," Kampe said. "If we are lucky enough to get them here, we can beat anybody."

Keith Benson, former OU center and two-time Summit League Player of the Year, had his number retired during the halftime ceremony that ended with the unveiling of his banner.

Benson was instrumental in last year's win against Tenn., scoring 26 points and 10 rebounds.

Summit League conference play kicks off on Thursday night with the South Dakota Coyotes (2-3) visiting the O'rena.



GUSTAVO PESSUTTI/The Oakland Post

Senior guard Reggie Hamilton scored 35 points and six rebounds, passing his previously set career high of 34 points against Utah Valley in the home opener this season.

Success means more than just records

COLUMN



Kevin Romanchik
Sports Editor

As Oakland inbouded the ball, the men's basketball team let the final seconds tick off the clock, and won more than just a basketball game on Monday.

The victory means more than just another season accomplishment.

Wins against major teams like Tennessee, get us one more step from being confused as a school in California and grow into our own.

Going from a Division II power to a Division I mid-major on the rise, Oakland's steady growth has been trending upwards.

In an age where confidence in sports can be attributed to arrogance and cockiness, Oakland is the opposite.

Their confidence has been built over the years through staying proud even when the chips have been stacked against them.

Even winning the Summit League Championship for two straight years and producing professional talent, and not being the obvious favorite for repeat championship hasn't discouraged what the Grizzlies believe about themselves and their abilities.

"A lot of the pundits thought Oakland was a 'one-trick pony' with Keith Benson," men's head coach Greg Kampe said. "We won a lot of games when Keith was here and we'll win a lot of games now that he's left."

Kampe's mentality has spread to players like senior guard Reggie Hamilton, who spoke at the press conference following the second series victory against the Volunteers.

"Coming into the season, not once did we doubt ourselves," Hamilton said. "We know what we are capable of."

These Golden Grizzlies are setting the tone for the future.

It will take time, and growth may not be exponential, but what the basketball program has been doing can't be accurately described by just wins and losses. It is described through respect from the rest of college basketball.

As anyone who has persevered through adversity will tell you: respect is never given, it is earned.

Kampe seems to be well aware of this, scheduling 11 top-25 teams since the 2009 season.

Playing some of the best in the country every year allows for the spread of the Golden



GUSTAVO PESSUTTI/The Oakland Post
Greg Kampe speaks during the press conference of after the win over Tennessee.

Grizzly brand.

This is the real goal.

It's about creating and maintaining that identity of success that is evident in the motto for this current squad.

"Built to last."

Players will come and go, but hopefully the only thing that will change about this team's image is Kampe's recent suit selection.

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OU basketball
moment?

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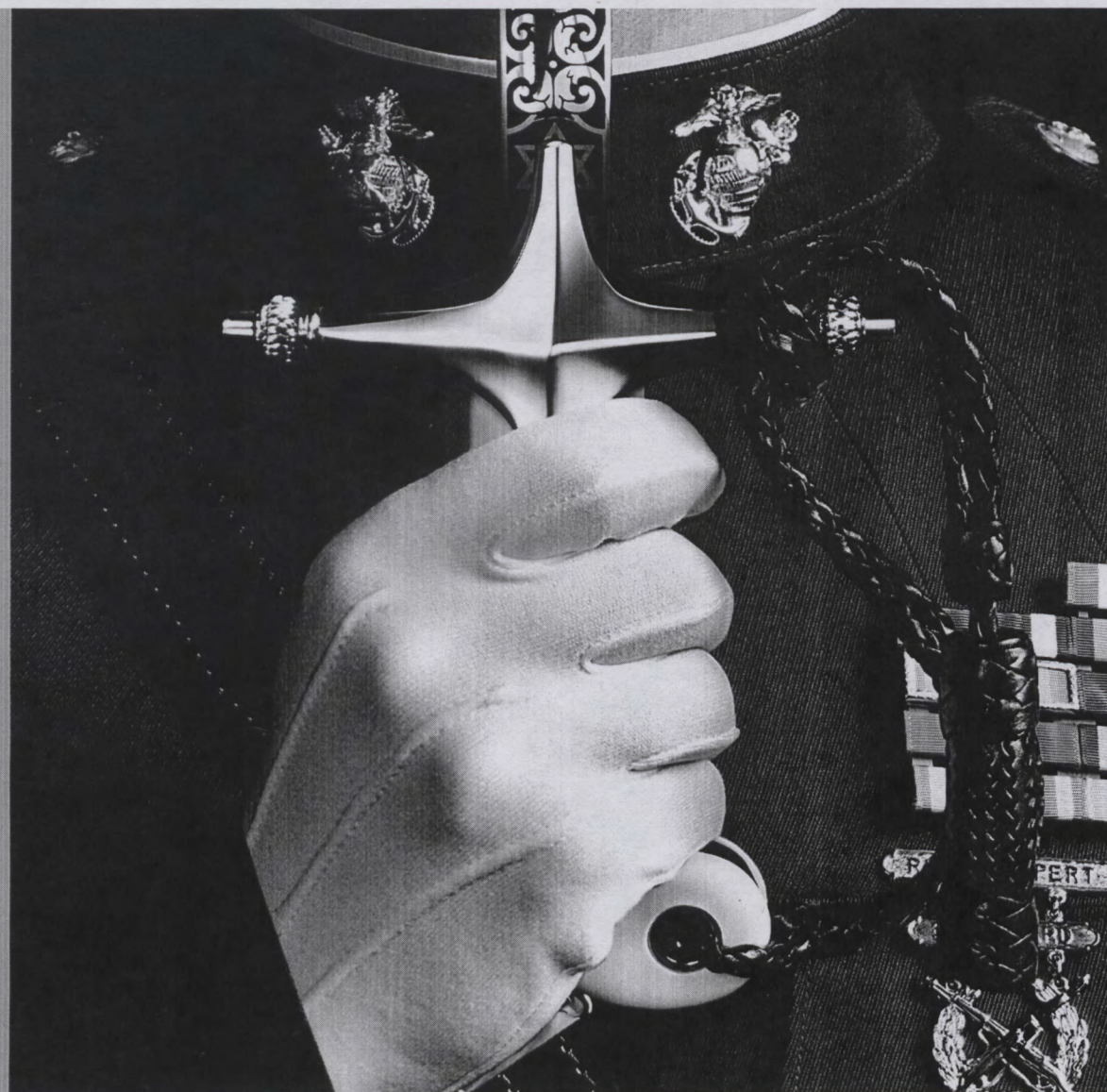
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Rolling into the scene

SARAH HUNTON
Staff Reporter

Women in short shorts, high socks, fishnets and tank tops, skating around a track and bashing into each other. That's the game of roller derby. Although you do see all of this at a Detroit Derby Girl bout, the game is also an intense sport of trained athletes hoping to be active while having a good time.

"I think a lot of people don't know about roller derby, and if they actually came and watched it, I think a lot of people would like it if they could see it for themselves," said Julie "MeanStreak" Vilburn, an Oakland University alum and player on the Detroit Pistoffs. "It's not just a show, it's a real sport."

The Detroit Derby Girls, established in early 2005, is an all-female owned and operated flat-track roller derby league. Over 60 skaters strong, Detroit Derby Girls is part of the national rebirth of roller derby that began in 2001.

Members of the roller derby team starred in Drew Barrymore's directorial debut film, "Whip It," which was filmed in Michigan. More than 50 skaters from Detroit Derby Girls and Grand Raggidy Roller Girls attended the tryouts, which included line readings with a director and a skating demo on a banked track.

A majority of the Roller Derby culture resides in the players and the names and numbers they choose for themselves. Most players pick names and numbers that explain where they come from or their personality, or something that stands as a pop culture reference.

Making the team

In order to make one of the DDG teams, players must participate in Derby! U: 101, a two-day weekend class in which potential players learn the basics of Roller Derby. Participants must also take speedskating classes and attend as many open-skate sessions at local roller rinks as often as possible.

After Derby! U, recruits complete two rounds of skills testing. Applicants then participate in two weeks of scrimmaging against veteran skaters. Here, team captains decide whom they want to draft. Captains then complete the first-round draft picks and fill the five DDG teams based on which skater types are needed.

Many players become involved with the league via friends and acquaintances.

Lauren "Wham!tramck" Uchalik, a skater from The Pistoffs, works at Starbucks and



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Julie "MeanStreak" Vilburn, a skater for the Detroit Derby Girls roller derby league, attempts to "jam" through the pack of the opposite team at a Detroit Derby Girl bout at the Masonic Temple of Detroit on Saturday, Nov. 26.

was introduced to the league through a customer and DDG who heard about her extensive ice skating background.

"She went out to her car and got a pair of her old skates that she just happened to have and said, 'you need to go to Derby! U,'" Uchalik said.

After watching her sister Catherine "Combat Cat" McMurray take part in the DDG league, Vilburn decided that she would like to try Roller Derby for herself.

Kristy "Sufferin' Sucka Bash" Perkins of the Devil's Night Dames, one of the league's other teams, is also an OU alum. She was introduced to roller derby through a friend of her husband who knew of her roller-skating and martial arts skills.

"She was like, 'you would be totally perfect for roller derby.' So I went and saw a game and I fell in love with it instantly," Perkins said.

You don't have to be a skater to get involved in Roller Derby. Dr. Burns — who is part of the graduate admissions committee for the physical therapy program at OU, has taught a neurology class in the past, and helps with modalities classes every fall at OU — is beginning physical therapy research with the league. The injuries and recuperation expectations among derby girls are different from male athletes and even non-skaters.

Burns enjoys working the league and respects how these women are making exercise fun and playful.

"I really love the fact that this is a



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

An aggressive sport, roller derby skaters sometimes suffer injuries like black eyes.

group of women who are completely self-empowered and who are working hard to be physically active," Burns said.

Even though there are five separate teams within the league, the competition between them is mostly friendly.

"I've found myself making friends with so many new people (on the teams)," Uchalik said. "We have found our home as a group."

The game of roller derby

Two teams, each comprised of five players, skate around a track.

Four players on each team are "blockers," one of which is designated as a "pivot." Each team has a "jammer." The blockers begin skating around the track, while the jammers start 30 feet behind them.

Each jammer attempts to break through the pack. Whichever team's jammer is able to break through the pack first is the leader of the jam and may call off the jam before the two minutes has run out (usually to keep the opposing team from earning any more points). Each lead jammer earns a point for every opposing blocker that they are able to pass.

If the lead jammer chooses to, she may pass the star on her helmet to the player in the pivot position to become the leader jammer for the rest of the jam. If a player earns a penalty (by using elbows, tripping, back blocking or passing out of bounds) she must sit out of the jam for one minute.

— Sarah Hunton,
Staff Reporter



Holiday season hits downtown Rochester

ALANA HARTLEY

Contributing Reporter

"5...4...3...2...1...Light the town!"

In a countdown led by Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, locals gathered at Fourth and Main Streets in downtown Rochester, Monday to welcome the holiday season with the debut of the Big Bright Light show.

Young and old gathered to watch the over 1.5 million lights illuminate the streets of downtown Rochester.

In its sixth year, the light show featured the Meadow Brook Carolers, a visit from Santa Claus and a tradition known as Lagniappe.

During Lagniappe, which means "a little something extra" in Creole, businesses in downtown Rochester are encouraged to offer "a little something extra" to their customers.

Twinsite Optical and Flagstar Bank both handed out free neon and 3-D glasses. The Dragonfly Boutique offered a 15 percent discount coupon and employees of Goldfingers Salon handed out caramels and cocoa to visitors.

Dan DeClark, owner of Legends of Time, offered cookies and a psychic reading to the customers of his Native American art gallery.

Stores also have extended hours during Lagniappe. Some stores, like Lytle Pharmacy, have begun offering extended hours until the end of the holiday season.

ReSALE Connections opened its doors Monday night, when it is normally closed.

Sue Burback, an employee at the store, said Lagniappe is an opportunity to "give a little something back when people buy something."

In the spirit of giving, the Rochester Area Neighborhood House collected donations of new socks and shoes for "Kicks for a Cause," and volunteers from the Rochester Rotary Club donated an hour of their time to collect money as Salvation Army bell ringers.

Rochester Rotary Club president, Karen Lewis, said members of her organization volunteer every year for the Salvation Army during the holiday season and she encourages young adults to contact the Salvation Army or Rotary Club to



SIERRA SOLEIMANI/The Oakland Post

Locals gathered at Fourth and Main Streets in downtown Rochester Monday to celebrate the debut of the Big Bright Light show. The celebration included a visit from Santa Claus and holiday singing from the Meadow Brook Carolers.

volunteer.

In addition to the light show, children were given the opportunity to visit Santa Claus and two of his reindeer.

Businesses will continue to light up downtown Rochester every night from 6 p.m. to midnight every night until January 1, 2012.

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Carrying on a family legacy

Professor co-publishes The Italian Tribune in its 102nd year

By DAMIEN DENNIS
Staff Intern

An Oakland University professor is keeping alive a more than century-old tradition with the help of her sister and around 30 employees.

La Tribuna del Popolo, more commonly known as The Italian Tribune, is a bi-weekly newspaper published to serve the Italian-American community of Metro Detroit.

The newspaper's history

The Tribune was founded in 1909 by Vincent Giulliano and his wife Maria as a voice of the labor movement and a way to teach Italian immigrants English.

The paper has since stayed in the family, with Giulliano's great-grand daughter, OU alumna and professor of writing rhetoric Marilyn Borner, owning and co-publishing the newspaper with her sister, Pam White.

"Everything in the Tribune is Italian-related. You won't find any other articles in here except for articles that are related to Italian-Americans," Borner said. "We're here to serve the Italian community of Metro Detroit. We know who our audience is: we want to be upbeat, we want to be supportive and we want to further the Italian language and culture."

Borner's background

Borner graduated from OU in 1979 with a degree in communication. She began pursuing her master's in linguistics, but the birth of her first child put that endeavor on hold.

In 1991, Borner moved to California where she eventually obtained her master's degree in English with a concentration in creative writing from California State University, Fullerton.

She held a position with the Orange County Register newspaper until 2002, when she moved

back to Michigan.

Borner has been teaching writing and rhetoric courses at OU for four years. She has also taught at Macomb and St. Clair County Community College.

Keeping tradition alive

"My sister and I have all of the responsibility and all of the blame if something goes wrong," White said. "My sister is a perfectionist and demands a certain level of competence both from the staff and in production of the newspaper."

The Italian Tribune has been in existence for 102 years and has been owned by five generations of Borner's family.

Borner describes the Tribune as a "good news" paper, meaning they cover news that is entertaining and upbeat.

"Our purpose nowadays is to come together to form a cohesive Italian-American community, but we're not focused on providing language instruction or immigration instruction (anymore)," Borner said.

Most of the paper is in English, but has a section every issue written entirely in Italian. Most of this section is dedicated to news in Italy and pieces written by older Italian readers.

Staff for the paper is around 30 to 35 employees. Borner writes nearly every piece of copy in the paper, and around seven articles an issue. The paper has been bi-weekly since 1970.

Readership

While the paper primarily covers metro Detroit, circulation is not limited to the area.

"We do circulate to other Italian-American communities in the Midwest, New York, New Jersey and Windsor (Canada)," Borner said.

The Italian Tribune is free and available at many local Italian businesses, such as Nino Salvaggio's. Mailing distribution is avail-



Photo courtesy of Marilyn Borner
Marilyn Borner, who has taught writing and rhetoric classes at OU for four years, writes the majority of the articles in the bi-weekly newspaper. The paper has been owned by her family for five generations.

able as well.

The paper is usually 20 to 40 pages long, containing sections such as entertainment, sports and health and fitness.

The largest issues of the Tribune are typically the holiday editions: primarily Christmas, Easter and Columbus Day.

Hope for the future

With newspapers across the country going out of business, the Tribune is still growing.

Borner has plans for her children to take the paper over when she decides to retire, keeping it in her family for a sixth generation.

She works sporadically, serving

more in a mentor role while letting her daughter run the paper.

"Although she does play an integral part in the Italian Tribune, I know her first love is really teaching," White said.

More information about the newspaper can be found at www.italian-tribune.com

Bridging the gaps between OU and Auburn Hills

By ISABELLA SHAYA
Staff Intern

Oakland University's students sometimes forget about their tie to the city of Auburn Hills because the university holds a Rochester mailing address, but the city is working to bridge that gap through various projects and student input.

Reanna Douglas, a junior at OU majoring in public administration, serves as the youngest member of the Board of Directors of the Tax Increment Finance Authority.

"The city is moving towards being more student-friendly," Douglas said.

James McDonald, the mayor of Auburn Hills, wanted a broad spectrum of diverse opinions in order to get a better idea of how to serve the public, according to Douglas.

"Mayor McDonald hired me in hopes that I would serve as a liaison between Oakland student opinion and what is happening on campus, and see if that is concurrent and cohesive with what we want to do here at the city," Douglas said.

In early October, a team of seven city council members recently approved the building of a student housing project. Backed by OU and Cooley Law School, the building is meant to serve as a preferred



GUSTAVO PESSUTTI/The Oakland Post

Auburn Hills city employees and OU students, alumni and faculty are working together to mend the disconnect between city and university.

primary residence for graduate and law students.

"This is the largest and most 'active' project that we are currently working on," said city council member Kevin McDaniel, a 2002 graduate of OU's school of business with a degree in management information systems. "This development is a great example of collaboration and engagement

with residents, developers, private investors, students and OU."

McDaniel was recently re-elected to serve his second four-year term on city council.

"My job is to represent the best interests and concerns of city residents as it pertains to city policy," McDaniel said.

OU's disconnect from the city of Auburn

Hills is not because of a physical barrier, but rather a lack of understanding.

"Our biggest challenge is getting OU to recognize that they are in the City of Auburn Hills," McDaniel said. "We think the school could grow faster by utilizing our worldwide recognition."

McDaniel's position has allowed him to work on various projects to connect more to his alma mater.

"One of our goals is to bring more awareness of how much Auburn Hills is a 'college town,'" McDaniel said. "On any given day, we have more than 20,000 students within the City of Auburn Hills."

The city's motto is "Honoring The Past. Building The Future."

"They are being very innovative and really pushing towards building the future," Douglas said. "What I really like about Auburn Hills is that they say it, they do it and you see it," Douglas said.

OU and the City of Auburn Hills are neighbors building a connection between students and residents.

"The city loves having a university in the city and wants to look for other opportunities for partnerships and ventures that help the University, the city, our residents, businesses and students," McDaniel said.

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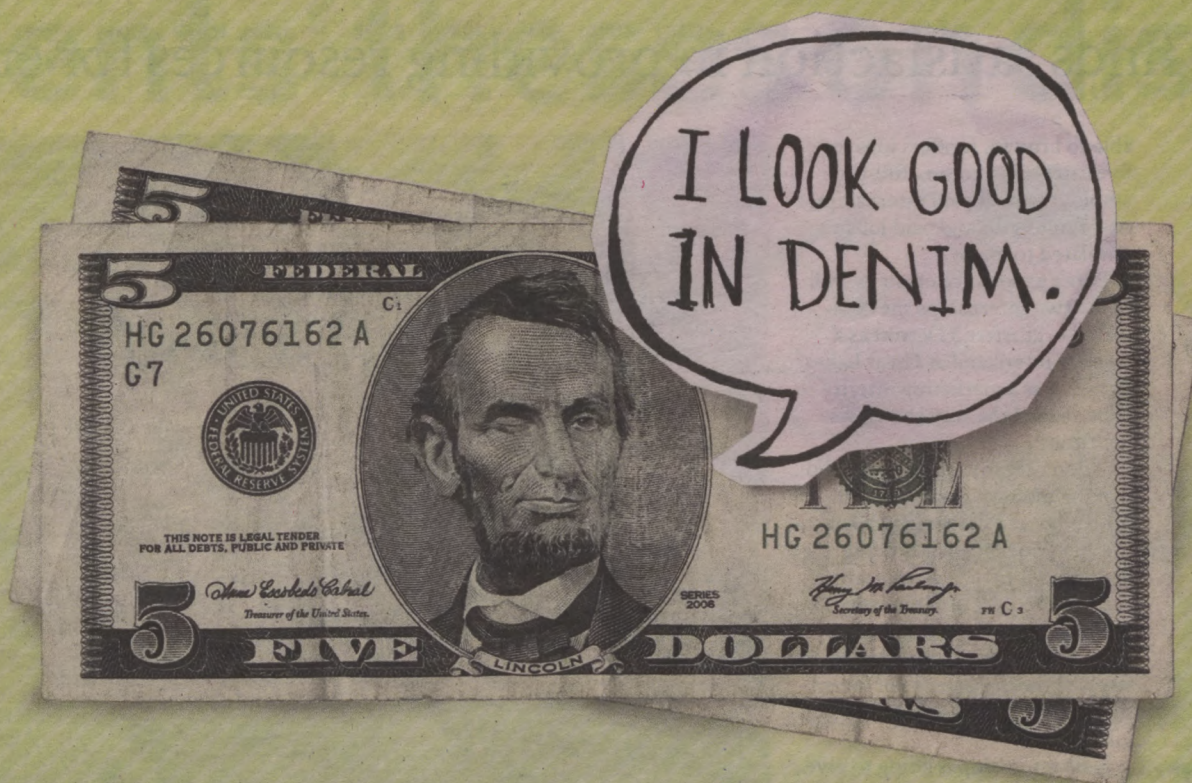
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WXOU radio show makes job connections

Aricka Pore finds satisfaction in providing resources for employment

By SARAH WOJCIK
Features Editor

One student's passion for connecting and helping people led her to create her unique show on Oakland University's radio station, WXOU 88.3 FM, called "Getting A Job w/Mz. Pumpkin."

Aricka Pore said the name originated from her childhood — her mother always called her "pumpkin" and the name stuck.

The show was not always about networking and finding students job resources, however.

When the show was created in 2009, Pore, a senior majoring in communication and minoring in public relations, focused on gossip and playing gospel and R&B music.

"It was getting boring and no one was listening," Pore said. "There are (already) shows in that genre, so it would be hard branding yourself as unique."

In 2010, Pore stopped playing music and geared the hour-long show solely toward careers.

"I love walking into an interview and landing a job," she said. "Besides that, someone can always be a resource to you. Meeting people at the grocery store can be the CEO of a Fortune 500 company."

She said she finds jobs through resources such as www.career-link.com, the Fox 2 Job Shop, Simply Hired and other outlets.

OUCareerLink.com is a forum students can post their resumes on that potential employers are

able to browse. It offers jobs in five categories: co-ops, full-time employment, unpaid internships, on-campus jobs and paid jobs unrelated to major.

Pore's experience on air as well as the two internships she completed — at After 5 Detroit as a website intern and at Great Lakes Crossing as a marketing intern — have shaped the way she views her future.

"I don't see myself in the studio making money," Pore said. "I'll probably get a career in marketing, but I do plan on attending grad school with hope of getting accepted to Purdue University."

Carol Anne Ketelsen, a career consultant with Career Services, stressed the importance of internships in helping students find jobs.

"The internship is going to give you exposure to the industry," Ketelsen said. "The idea with an internship is to figure out not only what you want to do, but also what you don't want to do."

Pore said she plans to continue helping people, wherever her career path leads her.

"(My favorite part of the show is) knowing that I provided a resource to someone to have a chance to earn some money or kind a career," she said.

Along with her radio show, Pore is also the president of Student United Way, an academic peer mentor for housing and an admissions ambassador.

Even with the economic strain



GUSTAVO PESSUTTI/The Oakland Post

Majoring in communication and minoring in public relations, Aricka Pore explores her options through WXOU and internships, but ultimately plans to go into marketing and attend Purdue University.

affecting the nation and topic of the Republican presidential debate focusing on the economy, Pore maintains an optimistic job outlook.

"There is no reason people should be unemployed," she said. "There are many resources and

networking events that can be accessed by the community. People just need to be go-getters."

Career Services, located in 154 North Foundation Hall, is a resource available for students seeking jobs.

They offer services such a re-

sume critiques, mock interviews, walk-in advising, proper follow-up techniques, job fairs, internship mixers and other events.

For more information about Career Services, please call 248-370-3250 or visit www.oakland.edu/careerservices

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Students' theses on display

By **STEPH PREWEDA**
Staff Intern

With time against them, seniors in the art and studio art program are making final adjustments while preparing for their Senior Thesis show.

The theme of this year's exhibition is Converging Parallels and will be held at the Studio Art Gallery in Wilson Hall. The exhibition will be open starting Dec. 2 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The exhibition's final day is on Dec. 18.

The senior thesis capstone course is a mandatory class for all studio art majors. Each semester, students of the course work to put together an exhibition as their final showcase to end their year.

Vagner Whitehead, a professor of art at OU since 2005, is this semester's curator for the exhibition.

According to him, this year will be slightly different with two sections instead of one, due to the two groups of students taking the course.

"I'm very excited," Whitehead said. "Their entire education builds up to this point, not only the work they do this semester, but all the knowledge they learned and carried through other classes, they employ here."

Each student has a section of the gallery, which will provide a range of art forms such as media, photography, paintings, sculpture and mixed media.



Photo courtesy of Ashley Nicholson
Nicholson said she can dedicate 20 to 30 hours working on a single art piece.

Students choose whatever they wish to be on display during the exhibition.

Rebecca Dewey, a studio art major specializing in drawing, uses ink in her section, themed "chaos and control."

Dewey has five pieces in the show all related to that same idea.

This will be the first show Dewey participates in and shows off her artwork to an audience.

"It's an excited nervousness," Dewey said. "I'm confident but nervous to see what other people think of it. The only people that have seen my work are my classmates and professor."

According to Whitehead, it takes an

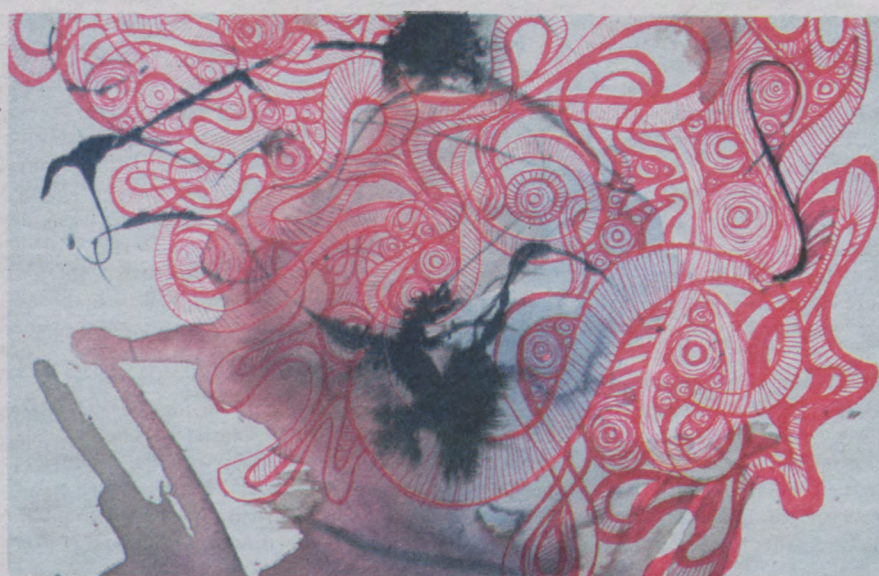


Photo courtesy of Rebecca Dewey
Dewey chose the theme of chaos and control for her five-piece thesis project.

entire semester to work toward the final Senior Thesis project. Students work on their pieces all throughout the semester.

Ashley Nicholson, an art major specializing in new media, can spend anywhere from 20 to 30 hours working on one video piece.

Nicholson's theme came from the inspiration of the creation of the world.

"I want the viewers to get the basic feelings of a spiritual nature from my work,"

Nicholson said.

She will have six monitors displaying a video of the six days in which the world was created.

Using the color theory and abstract meanings, each video is anywhere from one to four minutes long.

"I'm open to suggestions and feedback from others," Nicholson said. "I'm a bit nervous for how people will perceive them though."

WXOU 'Insomnia' host aspires to be a trance DJ, producer

By **ASHLEY ALLISON**
Staff Intern

DJ and producer Robbie Rio has quickly found himself turning his hobby and passion for music into a career.

The communications major grew up listening to trance and electronic music and only took the title of musician two short years ago.

"As a little kid I was fascinated by electronic music — I've always had a strong passion for it," Rio said.

Rio was one of the first few to merge into the relatively new scene. Only six months into beginning his career as a producer

and DJ, he has already caught the eyes of several event promoters and has even booked large shows alongside big name artists.

Rio has had the opportunity to open up for acts such as veteran producer and DJ, David Aude, Jersey Shore's Pauly D, and Paris, France native, DJ Carolina Cartell.

"It's an honor, but also really nice to be able to say I have done these things," Rio said.

Although he has had such grand opportunities, Rio wants to continue to concentrate on the music and not the fame or financial success that comes with it.

"My main goal isn't the money but to change the world," he

said. "If I can make a difference in someone's day, or make their day better at all, then it's all worth it for me."

Rio gives significant credit for his success to his supportive family and friends. He said they are always excited about his work and his future plans.

"Robbie is different from other DJs," Chris Tobia said. "He is very personal and hands on ... everyone just loves him — from his smile to his laid-back personality — whatever you need to get done, he will do it for you."

The music thrives on the listener's positive energy and takes them through a journey, Rio said.

Rio uses a specific formula

when constructing his music. He estimates that he spends between 20 to 25 hours a week working and producing new music.

"It takes me forever to edit something," he said. "I always think I can make it better."

Robbie Rio's music can be heard on WXOU where he hosts his own radio show, *Insomnia*, on Wednesday's at 11 p.m. The show features music from all over the world, including his own trance and progressive music.

For more information or to listen to tracks and weekly podcast shows, visit robbierio.com

— Clare LaTorre, copy editor, contributed to this report



Photo courtesy of Robbie Rio
Rio has opened for several major electronic and trance artists, including Pauly D and Dave Audé.

Countdown to the let down

By BRIAN FIGURSKI

Staff Reporter/Mayan Historian

The semester is over, friends. It's been a great ride that I've loved sharing with all of you.

Next year, something similar will be said about life itself.

End of days is coming, people. It's been predicted centuries ago by civilizations more advanced than the Hot Pocket that Dec. 21, 2012 will spell doomsday.

Imagine Y2K, Hurricane Katrina, and the Lions/Packers Thanksgiving game all snowballed into one massive rapture.

Suh can't stomp his way out of that one.

Long before our time, this has been known to be humanity's demise. What are you going to do with your final calendar days on planet Earth?

Call this my 'Mayan bucket list.'

While writing for a university newspaper prevents me from disavowing college courses, I can say that finishing my bachelor's degree doesn't top my list of things to accomplish.

My editor just informed me I cannot say that either. Looks like I won't be writing for The Post next year.

Over the course of my last days on Earth,

I plan to forego all the inhibitions that have prevented me from living to my fullest.

This year, a personal goal of mine is to get obliterated beyond thought on crazy cocktails. I will fear no more ordering spiral-colored fruit flavored drinks to appease my friends, and by the blender.

I'm talking potential death here by alcohol poisoning. I've never understood why people seem to love a perpetual drunk. On rare occasions, I enjoy a drink, otherwise I suffer from alcohol consumption for the good of socialization.

I've always preferred waking with a sound body and mind to migraines and roll-over blackout mistakes.

We're going to take that philosophy and tie it in a burlap sack, pump some bullet holes in it and toss it out of a moving van somewhere on a desolate strip of I-75 (after sanitizing the fingerprints.)

Stinginess won't play a part, either. Find me closing down a bar somewhere and I'll blow my savings account on you, too. Money won't matter when the meteor showers start so what's the point of having it?

That coincides great with foregoing physical fitness.

I've spent my last few years depriving myself of flavorful delicacies to harness that

frail feminine figure I've been trying to attain.

Cakes, cookies and pies galore! I'm going to stuff my gullet full of sugary-sweet saturated fats and carbohydrates until I double my body weight. I can't outrun a tidal wave or swarm of locusts, so I might as well kick my feet up on the front porch with a ton of

I still want to conquer my fear of heights by skydiving, vote for Herman Cain and win a game of Scrabble by playing the word 'uterus.'

pound cake.

I feel before I completely bloat my proportion though, I should take the time to conquer one of my biggest fears — speaking to women.

All right, I have done that, but often my advances are laughed off or more frequently slapped across the face over whatever meaningless acts I have uttered from my clueless vessel of a skull.

Case and point — "Ever been kissed by God, on the butt?"

Major medical breakthroughs have re-

moved the lacerations from my cheeks.

One of these times I will hit it out of the park when I find that right woman and if condoms still serve a purpose. I can pop open my dusty three-year old box of Trojan His Pleasures (for the guy who doesn't really care).

Before I start a kerfuffle, I do have some serious actions to commit before the world ends me. I still want to conquer my fear of heights by skydiving, vote for Herman Cain, and win a game of Scrabble by playing the word 'uterus.'

Don't let my plebeian plans muddle yours, though. Some of you will set your sights up high and want to change the world, or edit the trajectory of the planet in a failed attempt to save society as we know it.

Will you spend your final moments living in vices, being virtuous, or adapting sentences based off Panic! At The Disco lyrics?

I plan on reliving the best memories of my life on all three of these points of life. On my last night on Earth, I want to be able to look up at the sky falling and not have any regrets of not living.

And if in the very unlikely off-chance the world doesn't end, I'll be quite a lonely chap sitting atop the tallest hill in Oakland County drinking alone in the dark.

Leaving so soon?

— Don't worry, we'll miss you too. —

The Oakland Post will return

January 4, 2012

in weekly-Wednesday fashion.

In the meantime, visit oaklandpostonline.com to keep up to date with your university news.