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25 cents

Judge rules for OU; Post will challenge

BY LAURA ANGUS
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

A judge has ruled OU is not subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and The Oakland Post will appeal the decision.

After nearly seven months of waiting, Oakland County District Court Judge Richard Kuhn delivered his verdict Thursday. He ruled the formal meeting held by the BOT last January was not subject to the OMA.

The OMA states all business of public bodies must be conducted in the open.

The Oakland Post brought the lawsuit against the university after a Jan. 15 meeting in which six of the eight board members were present and reportedly discussed state budget cuts and the state of higher education.

Three Post editors attempted to enter the meeting but were refused.

"The ruling makes no sense to me. It goes against everything a university stands for: openness, debate and the free exchange of ideas," said Bruce Mann, chair of The Post's governing board, The Oakland Sail, Inc. "Secret meetings leave everyone in the dark."

OU's six attorneys made the argument in court that the OMA infringes on its constitutional right to govern the university.

The judge wrote, "the discussion of lobbying strategy in light of anticipated reductions in state funding is an internal matter and falls well within the constitutional power of general supervision. Therefore, the application of the OMA would infringe on OU's constitutional power to supervise the institution."

However, the judge also noted the board still violated the law "because it held a 'formal session' that was not open to the public." Since The Post's attorney did not make that argument, the judge did not address it.

Former editor-in-chief of The Post, Ann Zaniewski, said the ruling was disappointing, but OU should still learn a lesson.

"The trustees wouldn't let people into a budget meeting. If OU really operated in the public eye, this wouldn't have ended up in court," Zaniewski said.

Zaniewski said the decision worries her because now the university is not accountable to anyone regarding any decision it makes.

"It's like if the president of the U.S. was given free reign to do whatever he wanted and never had to tell anyone about his decisions and why he was making them," Zaniewski said. "The Board is OU's government. The whole point of a democracy is that people have a right to scrutinize the government and ask questions. That freedom has just been choked."

OU director of Communications and Marketing, Ted Montgomery said OU is happy with the verdict and hopes the university can now just move on.

"We're pleased that Judge Kuhn's decision confirmed what has been our position all along. The Oakland University Board of Trustees has always conducted the business of the university in an open forum and welcomes public input, and will continue to do so," said Montgomery.

"This decision should not stand," Mann said.

-REBECCA WYATT, EDITOR IN CHIEF,
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

Crime down in 2002

BY REBECCA WYATT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The FBI has released the 2002 uniform crime statistics for most law enforcement agencies this week and it indicates OU's crime is down 2.9 percent from 2001.

Even with 2002 enrollment up 1.2 percent, crime around campus decreased in all actual offense areas, except breaking and entering, which increased from three in 2001 to nine in 2002.

Breaking and entering, or burglary, is taking something from a residence.

Lt. Mel Gilroy from OU's Police Department (OUPD) said the breaking and entering numbers were up last year because there was one person in the residence halls who was stealing from all of the rooms around her. That individual is no longer on campus.

"We've seen the incidents fall off," said Gilroy.

OU reported 91 larcenies, which are thefts from non-residences like offices or the library, one stolen auto and one arson for a total of 102 actual offenses in 2002.

Gilroy said there are three ways to help prevent crime around campus. He said the human resources aspect, like the number and visibility of the officers on campus, is one way. He said technology, like closed circuit television, the blue lights and educational programs, are used to prevent and deter crime on campus.

Gilroy said crime on campus doesn't really follow enrollment. He said sometimes there are years when a few people commit a lot of crime on campus and when they leave the crime drops off.

In 2002, the department had eight police officers and three sergeants. Currently, the department is operating with 14 police officers and four sergeants.

"We ran really short handed in 2002," Gilroy said.

"I want to give credit to the men and women that are working the streets," Gilroy said.

He said the hard work of the officers, supervisors and dispatchers is what makes the difference.

Overall, Gilroy and Police Chief



Margaret Pasikowski/The Oakland Post

The blue lights around campus are one tool used by OU to help students who have an emergency or need help.

Samuel Lucido are happy with the crime stats this year.

"The statistics look really good for us and confirm OU is a really safe place," said Lucido.

He said that doesn't mean OUPD is letting its guard down. He said the officers would still be vigilant and proactive.

Gilroy said the goals of the department are to maintain high visibility, follow up on offenses that occur on campus to make sure the situation is resolved and work closely with the Dean of Students Office so disciplinary action can also be taken. He said the department is also working with surrounding cities to pick up

on trends and watch for certain criminals.

Gilroy said the officers try to create an area where criminals feel unsafe and don't commit the crimes.

"The best crime statistics would be no crime," Gilroy said. "We are not going to see that."

According to Gilroy, crime can still happen here and prevention is key. He said with so many females on campus he still stresses the "buddy system" to ensure students walking to class are safe. He also suggested students don't leave property unattended that someone could steal.

Police make arrest in gun case

BY REBECCA WYATT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A 35-year-old Westland man has been arraigned by Oakland County District Court for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit on OU's campus.

A student told the OU Police Department (OUPD) he called out to his friend from his car while parking in the lot across from Vandenberg Hall. The student then reported he was approached by a man, a non-student, who asked him if he had a problem.

The student explained he was joking with a friend. According to the student, the man said the student would soon have a problem with him and he pulled a pistol from his jacket.

After flashing the weapon the man got in his vehicle and drove away.

The police were able to track down the man based on a description and information that he had been visiting an acquaintance in the dorms.

OUPD arrested the man Friday on campus. The description of the gun given by the students matched one registered to the man. The man denies flashing the gun at the student.

A warrant was issued for carrying a concealed weapon, which is a felony.

"The subject has been barred officially from campus," said OU Police Chief Samuel Lucido.

He said if the man comes to campus again he will be arrested for trespassing.

At the arraignment a personal \$10,000 bond was set and the preliminary examination date was set for Nov. 12.

Starving for a cause

BY TARA FUGATE
THE OAKLAND POST

No one should ever have to wake up in the morning and wonder if they will be able to eat that day.

However, that is the case for millions worldwide.

On Nov. 13 from sunrise to sunset, the Muslim Students Association (MSA) and Honors College Students Association (HCSA) are participating in a national fast-a-thon to raise awareness about local hunger issues.

"We always imagine hunger as something that happens overseas in some faraway land, but it

happens in the United States, it happens in our own backyards," said Sumeera Younis, junior, a member of MSA.

The goal of the fast-a-thon is to raise \$2,500 for the Food Bank of Oakland County.

The money is raised through pledges and donations from local businesses, families and the OU community. These supporters can pledge anywhere from \$1 to \$100.

"Thus far, we have collected almost \$700," Younis said.

The MSA is encouraging students to get involved, not just to raise money, but to show that

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File Photo

Students enjoy a meal after breaking their sun-up to sun-down fast as part of the Muslim Student Association's 2002 program to raise hunger awareness.

Homeland Security Department honors student

BY LIBBY BAKER
THE OAKLAND POST

OU senior Jennifer Froelich was recently chosen as one of 100 students to participate in the Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows Program.

The program, which offers scholarships to undergraduate students and fellowships for graduate students, is catered towards those students interested in stud-

ies that fulfill or are related to the purpose and duty of the Homeland Security Department.

Froelich, a chemistry major, has spent the past year and a half doing lab work on a biosensors project that could one day detect bioterrorism. The road to becoming a U.S. Homeland Security Scholar began earlier this year when a professor she works under informed her of the opportunity.

The application process had many requirements including submission of two essays, three letters of recommendation, her transcript and an explanation of how her future career is important to Homeland Security.

"You had to show that your career goals are related to their mission," she said.

And then the waiting began for Froelich and her family.

Months passed and Froelich thought she had missed the cut. The notification date had come and gone, but a double check of the Web site left her filled with hope.

"The Web site said they had pushed the notification date back," she said.

Froelich's notification letter arrived around the end of July.

"My mom called me and said a FedEx letter had

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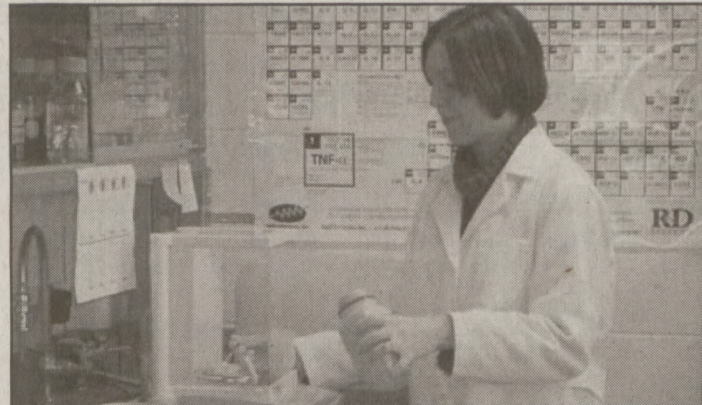
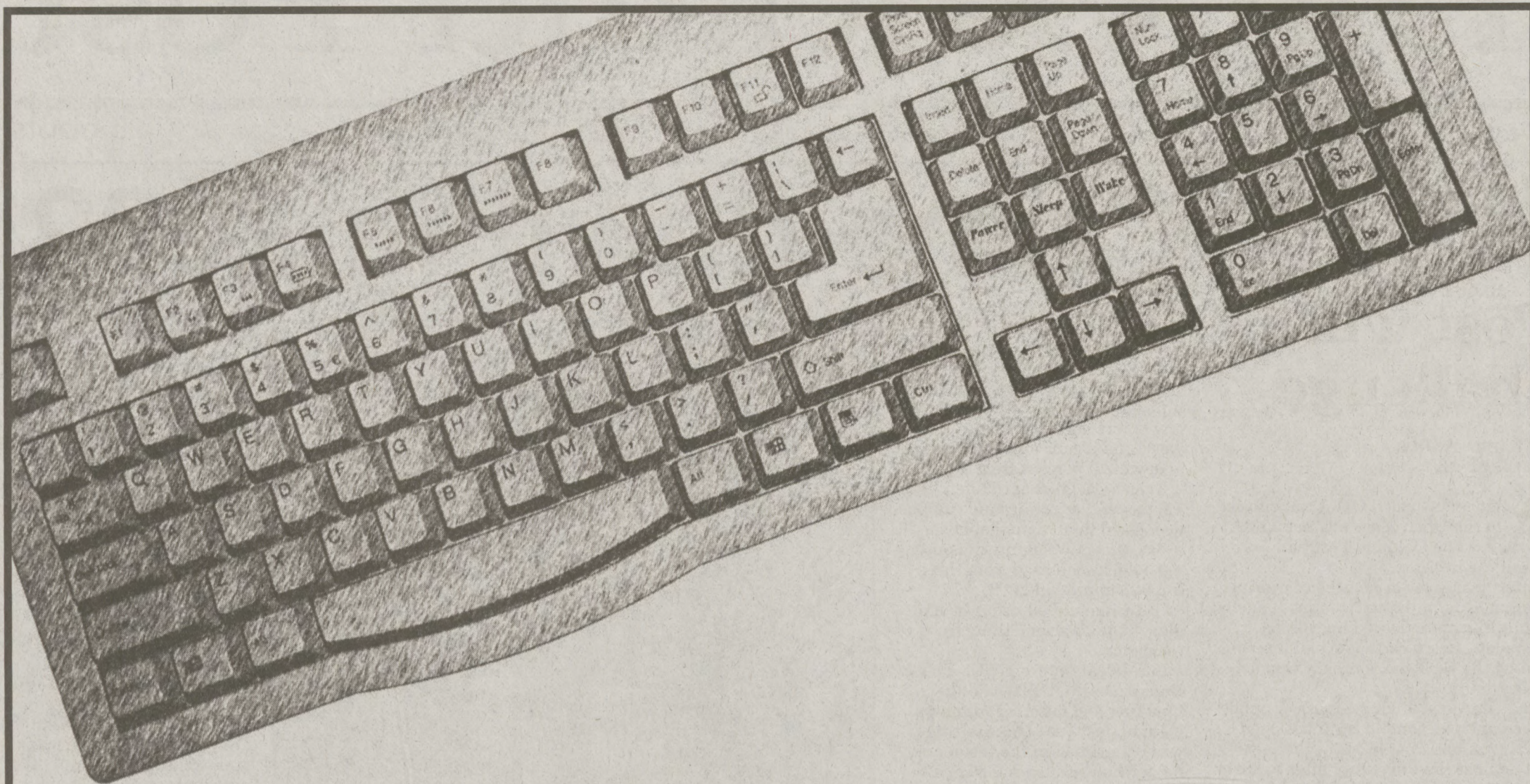


Photo courtesy of OU

OU senior Jennifer Froelich was recently named to the Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows Program.



Get Oakland University's

online Schedule of Classes today

Registration for Winter 2004 classes begins Monday, November 10.

Check your oakland.edu e-mail account for information about registering for Winter 2004 classes at Oakland University.

Check the online schedule today

Visit www.oakland.edu, click the SAIL button, and select Class Schedule.

The online Schedule of Classes is replacing the printed version.

Don't wait 'til it's too late

- Registration for Winter 2004 classes by class standing is November 10-19.
- Open registration is November 20 - January 5.
- Last day for SAIL phone/Web registration is January 5.
- Winter 2004 classes begin Tuesday, January 6, 2004, at 7:30 a.m.

Questions?

Call the Registration Office at (248) 370-3450 or e-mail at registra@oakland.edu

For information about the student e-mail policy, see www3.oakland.edu/oakland/studentemail/

