



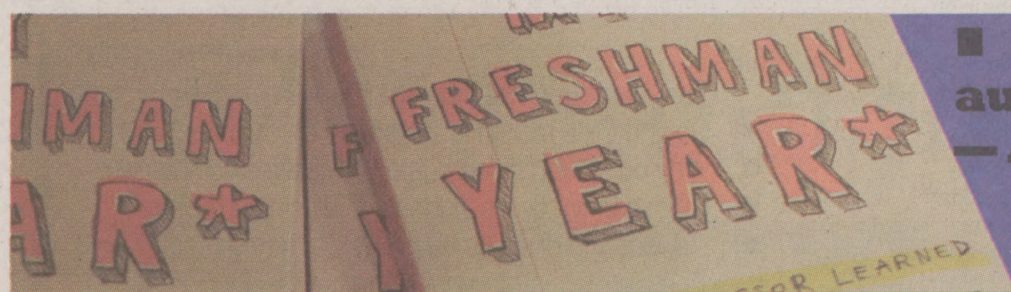
# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Volume 33, Number 16



■ Undercover freshman author comes to campus — A3

■ Let OU pay for your world travel — B1



## POST OSCAR PICKS A10

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**Campus — A4**  
**Panel discusses affirmative action**  
Students, faculty and panel take part in a discussion of Proposal 2.

the Mix — A10

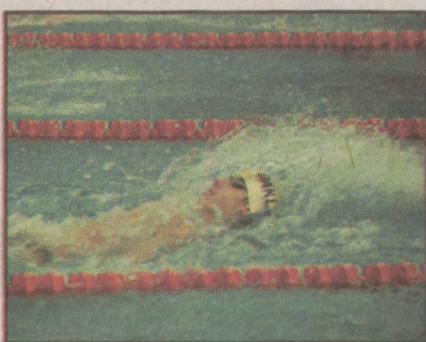
**Postie Oscar Picks**  
See which Post staffer picked what as their favorites to take home an Academy Award.

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**Get the facts on (Product) Red**  
Fight AIDS while stocking your closet with Gap, Giorgio Armani and Converse.

Sports — B4

**Mis-matched success**  
OU men's basketball goes 5-0 in Mid-Con with mis-matched uniforms.



## Dressed to the nines



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Brandon Cassise took the jump shot against UMKC Saturday. The men's basketball team has been wearing mis-matched uniforms since playing rival Valparaiso and have been undefeated in the conference ever since.

See our complete coverage of the games — B4

## OUSC to improve impact

By OWEN SEXTON  
Senior Reporter

Several members of the Oakland University Student Congress recently told The Post that, they have struggled in the past school year at efficiently serving the student body.

"There are a lot of things to do and a few people to do them," said Student Body President Miller said. "We are short on student leaders."

President Miller's administration has struggled to retain its legislature and make

an impact on campus this semester. Raising awareness of their organization is proving to be a difficult task at Oakland University.

Miller told The Oakland Post that they are having a hard time finding students who are willing to commit to Congress. She explained that many people who get involved with Congress don't understand the time commitment necessary.

When this year's Student Congress took office last April, they had a hard time

Please see OUSC/A2

## Cloudy cultural climate

By KELLY KOZLOWSKI  
Campus News Editor

I sat at the wrong lunch table.

There were plenty to choose from. Empty tables. White tables. Even booths.

I walked past those, though. Past the comfortable options, straight into a party of five ... black students, that is.

Perhaps you're reading this thinking, "What's the big deal? You're white, they're black. Get over it."

I agree. It shouldn't be a big deal. But at Oakland University, it is a big deal. We are 50 years past the height of the civil rights era, and it's still a very big deal.

Is OU diverse? Does its student body embrace cultural differences? Does its staff?

Survey says, "Maybe." Results from a self-study report done in 1998 show that "Diversity in the student body and in the faculty and staff is a concern to alumni, faculty and staff groups ... but there are real differences in their perceptions of the climate for diversity at OU."

The surveys used for the study included a series of multiple-choice and open-ended questions related to the topic of diversity on

Please see CLIMATE/A2

## An inside look at sports recruiting

By KYLE MAGIN  
Special Projects Reporter

For some, deciding where to go to college is tantamount to deciding whom to marry, what to name a first-born child and what Tigers jersey to buy. For others, however, the decision-making process is eased when colleges seek them out. They are the athletes, and Paul Rice, Oakland's cross country coach, lends his insight in the recruiting process.

Rice looks at potential scholar-athletes as early as their junior year in high school.

"We are starting to gear more towards the spring of their junior year now. It is a challenge to stay ahead of the game and keep up with other schools, so it is impor-

tant that we start getting to kids before the summer after their junior year," said Rice.

The recruiting road isn't a lonely one for Rice, though. "EMU, CMU, Grand Valley, and MSU are our biggest competitors for recruits," says Rice. He gets a hand facing all that competition from assistant coach Matt Kaczor, who, like Rice, is NCAA certified to recruit.

Once Rice finds an athlete that fits the bill time-wise for a scholarship; men who run under 16:20 and women under 19:35 in a 5k, he takes into careful consideration a variety of factors.

"We consider mostly (an

Please see RICE/A2

## Tigers @ OU



DOUG BAUMAN/AP Photo/The Oakland Press

Check out our complete Tigers @ OU coverage on A6.

## Tigers claw onto Grizzly turf

By KELLY L. REYNOLDS  
Editor in Chief

When the Detroit Tigers came to campus as part of their Winter Caravan, it was clear that no matter if you were in the stands or on the court, everyone in the O'Rena on that day felt one thing: Pride.

At this time last year when the Tiger's Winter Caravan made its first tour, many fans and members of the media

scratched their heads and had to dig down deep to remember the names of many of those appearing. The message sent by the players and coaches during that caravan was one of hope and optimism — feelings that were missing for many Tigers fans after the previous seasons.

This year, the caravan, which made its stop at OU last Wednesday in the O'Rena, was completely different. This time, when the players and coaches came out of the tunnel,

everyone knew who they were. This time, the message was not one made out of desperation, but a message of pride and the notion that these Tigers — the American League Champions — are here to stay.

"This team has no plans on this being a one-year wonder," said emcee and FSN Tiger commentator Mario Impemba.

Please see TIGS/A6

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■ What do people on campus think of President Bush's plan to increase the amount of troops going to Iraq?

—A2



# CLIMATE

Cont. from A1

OU's campus. While most agreed that diversity should be a top priority, many did not "perceive that the university as a whole is committed to diversity."

Faculty and staff had the opportunity to rank words or phrases that best describe OU in order of accuracy. Out of 11 choices, "diverse" came in last place behind "intellectual" and "small." The no. 1 choice, with 52 percent of the vote, was "commuter school."

According to the study, student surveys show a similar opinion. "Very few OU students interact or make acquaintances with persons from backgrounds that differ from their own, even in areas as commonplace

as major and age."

Although the study results were published in 1999, the OU of 2007 appears strikingly similar. "We're not educated on each other," said sophomore Barry Childress. "I don't think everybody is comfortable with the other side yet."

Sophomore engineering student Maurice Carlisle said one of the reasons races do not always mix is "mutual intimidation." Each side thinks the other has little in common with it, and, therefore, little interest in spending time together.

Fear may not be a factor for everyone at OU, but something as simple as the daily scene at the food court would suggest that most students are perpetuating segregation.

According to Carlisle, the OU student body has such clearly-drawn lines that you can predict when or where you'll find

a majority of black students in the food court and when the majority will be white.

While Childress and Carlisle, both African-American, do not seem to be bothered by the racial climate at OU, many staff and faculty members think the issue is paramount.

"Lots of people don't want to talk about it," said professor and chair of political science, John Klemanski, "but it's a fact of life that our society is becoming more diverse, not less."

Vincent Khapoya, professor of political science, has been employed at OU since 1974 and says his impression of students' cultural awareness today is that "they have strong opinions, not always sensitive to students of color and, sadly, not always based on personal experiences or personal relationships."

"Students should know that whether they like it or not, the world

outside the campus is a diverse one," Khapoya said. "The sooner they can figure out how to get along with people who are 'different' from themselves, the better it will be for everyone."

In 1998, studies found that the OU administration believed diversity was

"less of a university priority than increasing institutional prestige."

Perhaps it is not solely the responsibility of the university to promote an appreciation for diversity. Maybe it starts on a personal level. One day at a time. One person. One lunch table.

## What do you think?

- Do you think racism is a problem on campus?
- Why do students segregate themselves voluntarily?
- What can we do as students to eliminate racism?
- Racism and diversity have been showing up in headlines for decades. What will future Oakland Post headlines have to say about the racial climate at OU?

— E-mail us with your thoughts at [editor@oakpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oakpostonline.com)

# RICE

Cont. from A1

athlete's) proven performances in big meets, but do take into account their potential based on the program they come from. A kid from a smaller program may have been under trained and may have a bigger upside than a kid from a bigger program who may be teetering on burnout.

Most of this is determined by talking individually with the recruit, as well as their coach."

Academic performance is another consideration for Rice as he narrows a list of potential Golden Grizzlies.

"Academics are a high consideration due to the NCAA clearinghouse requirements, but if they can get cleared, they are a candidate for us," says Rice. The Clearinghouse governs the standards by which incoming freshman are "cleared" to play. It takes into

account an athlete's GPA and their scores on tests such as the SAT and ACT.

"We have had many athletes with questionable academic backgrounds come in and do very well academically here at OU," says Rice.

Once an athlete clears time and academic standards, Rice has to sell them on the merits of OU to get them into a uniform. Athletically speaking, Rice feels his program offers a lot.

"We are a distance runner based pro-

gram, focusing not so much on quantity of training, but quality of what we do. Also, we try to cover all of the little things like nutrition, injury prevention and stress management," Rice said.

He also thinks that OU has quite a bit to offer. "The university kind of sells itself with a great academic reputation and a beautiful campus. It lends itself well to our sport with the land, trails and golf courses for training."

Rice says that student-athletes concerns include everything from the

program's success to availability of an academic field of study in which they are interested.

"Academics are important to make sure we offer their major or a variety of majors they are interested in. They like to see that we have had some team success, but more importantly that we are making strides to improve each year, which we are. Also, a lot of kids want to know they can contribute at some point to the success of the program," Rice said.

# OUSC

Cont. from A1

finding students that were enthusiastic about Congress. There were numerous problems with absenteeism and productivity was affected according to Former Legislator Chris Goeth who resigned in the summer of 2006.

Goeth joined Congress in hopes of making a difference on campus. He served as a legislator during the past two summers and became frustrated with the attendance problem.

According to Goeth, often times meetings would not take place because Congress did not meet the required amount of members present to hold a meeting.

"[Congress] needs to refocus on what their purpose is," Goeth said. "They need to refocus on OU issues."

Goeth's opinion seems to echo those wanting to make a change in Student Congress.

Miller said, "I'm sure we could do more and that's something we're always striving to do."

Miller acknowledges that there are more things that can be done to raise awareness and bring Congress together. She explained that their meetings every Monday seem less productive than they are.

According to Miller, it's hard to motivate

legislators unless the legislators are passionate about changing OU. Legislators volunteer their time to Student Congress and most have a full load of classes along with, their off-campus obligations.

All of this combined, makes it difficult for an organization to function and remain a priority among its members, which affects the student body.

Former Student Body President Michael McGuiness explained what is possible when Student Congress is fully engaged.

McGuiness told The Oakland Post of the success his administration had on campus. McGuiness made sure to point out that a lot more can be accomplished with a full legislature and executive board.

During his term in office, McGuiness and his administration hosted the Association of Michigan Universities, an organization that brings together student governments from the 15 state universities.

In addition, the Student Program Board, which is part of OUSC, helped put together a concert at Meadowbrook Music Festival, which included recording artists 112.

"We had a full and vibrant membership," said McGuiness. "You always get a better product with more heads put together."

Former Legislator Peter Vitale said the greatest accomplishment that the previous admin-

istration achieved was assisting in the reorganization of the Financial Aid Office in North Foundation Hall.

Before the reorganization of the Financial Aid Office, students spent hours in a crowded waiting room, sometimes without a seat. Phone systems were inadequate, lacking a proper hold system.

McGuiness' administration worked closely with the office to remodel and reconfigure their system to run more efficiently.

Vitale mentioned that Congress also worked hard to clean up their budget and cut frivolous spending, enforce roll call voting during their meetings and fine-tune their government documents.

Many former Congress members agree that accomplishments like these are what the current administration needs to strive for.

This month, things are starting to change for OUSC. They are starting to find more students willing to be involved and their public relations has upgraded, bringing a more professional attitude, according to President Miller.

"We have found a group that is dedicated to being on Congress and makes sure that it is present each and every week for us to get business done," said Legislator Miller.

President Miller and Legislator Miller both believe that one of the biggest problems facing OUSC is connecting with the student body.

There are approximately 18,000 students attending Oakland and only about 1,200 students voted during last year's election.

Legislator Miller is worried that many students do not know about OUSC and what it does. Even worse, students may not even care. He feels that this year's publicity has been better than the past but students still don't understand what Congress does.

Legislator Miller and President Miller would like to see greater concentration by the Congress on issues pertaining to campus.

"While I appreciate efforts to be involved in issues that affect the wider world," Legislator Miller said. "I sometimes wonder if we aren't neglecting issues on the minds of most students."

Prominent issues on campus have been and still are parking, student awareness, library hours, printing on campus and book buy-back.

Student Services Director Jason Twardy is hoping to tackle more issues on campus. Starting at the end of January, Twardy and OUSC will be hosting Legislative Open Forums, which will invite students and faculty to openly discuss issues that are still problematic on campus.

Whether or not President Miller's administration can raise student awareness remains to be proven but, Congress is optimistic.

Legislator Aaron Kochenderfer said, "There is always room for improvement and we're still thinking of ways to increase student awareness."

# Classifieds

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For Lease: A 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Auburn Hills 2 car garage \$1395 monthly. Conrad 248-703-9790

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For rent 2 bedroom full basement 2 bathroom house with detached 2 car garage 10 minutes from OU. \$875/month Interested please call 248.375.2948.

## Roommate Needed

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Madison Heights- Roommate, clean, non-smoker, conscientious mature student, large bedroom, includes H/L/W, kitchen privileges, recreation room, central air, and patio, \$500 per month. Requires F/L/S. 313-363-1939.

## Health & Care

**Help Create A Family.** Infertility Office in Rochester Hills seeks healthy women between the ages of 22 and 32 to serve as egg donors. Qualified candidates will be compensated for their involvement in our program. Please leave a message where you can be reached for Shoshanna to set-up an interview (586) 997-7247.

## Childcare

Students needed to work with our autistic son. Great experience for social work, education, psychology and related majors. Flexible hours and training provided. Sterling Heights, 17 and Dequindre. 586-795-9344.

## Childcare

Part-time nanny wanted, minimum 15 hours a week; additional hours available. Must be experienced, reliable with references. Non-smoker. Please call 248-444-4494.

Wanted Royal Oak Family. Babysitter/Nanny for a 4 month old child. Availability MWF. Wednesday nights and/or Saturday Nights. Need referencesContact: [erwhite2@yahoo.com](mailto:erwhite2@yahoo.com)

## Employment

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## Services

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## FROM A1

**Q: In Bush's State of the Union, he justified sending more troops to Iraq. What do you think about his decision?**



A: I think we can't leave our allies that are over there right now to get slaughtered when we leave.

**Joseph Tolan**  
Junior  
Sociology



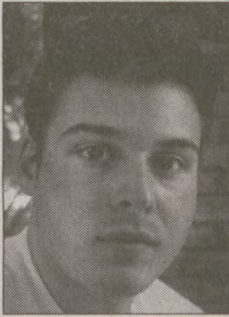
A: I completely disagree. I don't think we should be over there in the first place.

**Anissa Knowles**  
Senior  
Biology



A: I believe that's it's unnecessary. I feel there are other ways to negotiate with Iraq.

**Jessica Shaba**  
Sophomore  
Accounting



A: If they need to get the job done, they have to do what they have to do, but it sucks that they have to send more people over there.

**Blake Burman**  
Sophomore  
Business

## Enter for a chance to win \$25!!!

Circle the correct answer for each question. Completed forms should be placed inside the box located outside The Oakland Post in the basement of the Oakland Center, office 61, no later than 5 p.m. Monday.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. How old was the man who crashed into Starbucks in Rochester?<br>a. 16<br>b. 65<br>c. 81  | 3. What night does "Top Design" premier?<br>A) Monday<br>B) Saturday<br>C) Wednesday                     | 5. What Rec Center trainer is seen on The Mix?<br>A) Johnny Quest<br>B) Johnny Chase<br>C) Johnny Hunt                   |
| 2. What movie is not nominated for Best Picture?<br>A) Babel<br>B) Borat<br>C) The Departed | 4. Who won the College Bowl?<br>a. The Oakland Post Team<br>b. Team Adams<br>c. The New England Patriots | 6. What is the name of the Tigers' publicity campaign?<br>a. Winter Caravan<br>b. Winter Pitch<br>c. Tigers' Fever Pitch |