

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

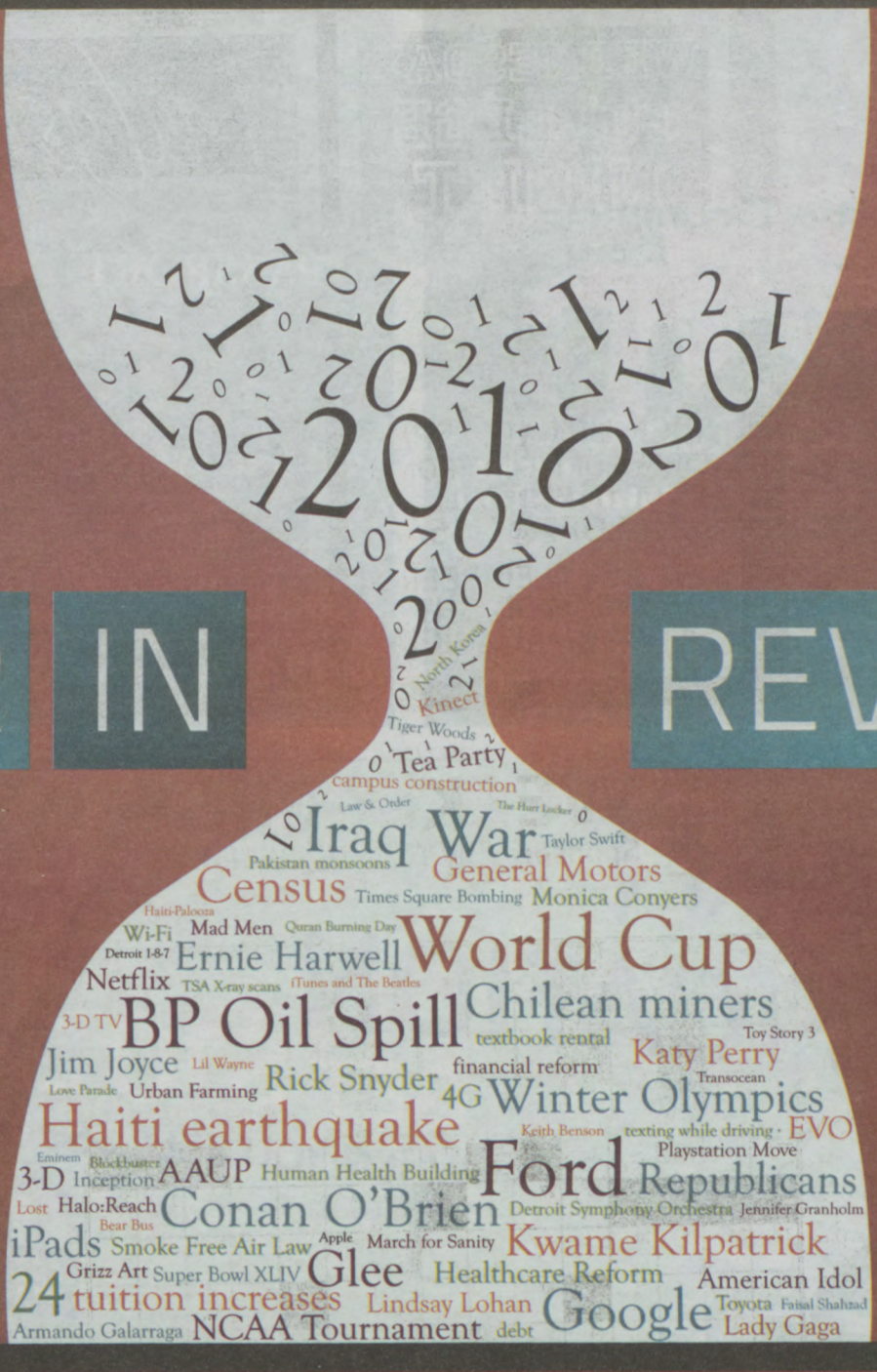
December 1, 2010

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Volume 37 // Issue 16

YEAR IN

REVIEW



PAGES  
13-18



**SPORTS**  
With midseason approaching, players and coaches discuss OU club hockey's progress  
**page 9**



**THE SCENE**  
Varner Recital Hall hosts its annual student dance performance  
**page 24**



**MOUTHING OFF**  
With 2010 nearing its end, one editor looks ahead to the new year  
**page 26**



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# this issue

December 1 - January 4, 2011

## 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW PAGES 13-18

4



### Perspectives

4. Staff Editorial and cartoon 5. One staffer weighs in on the education crisis in the U.S. while another dishes some fashion advice

6



### Campus

6. Kresge Library dean announces resignation; Campus briefs for the holiday break 7. Graduate school applications on the rise; Rec Center holiday events plus Police Files 8. An in-depth look at the William Beaumont School of Medicine

9



### Sports

9. OU's club hockey team discussed the first half of its season 10. Sporting Blitz 11. Game of the Week: Golden Grizzlies women's basketball bests Cornell

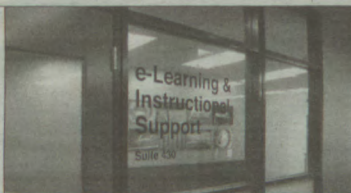
20



### Local

20. The effects of suburban budget cuts; A 4G network is introduced to Rochester Hills

22



### Features

22. Using Moodle: What are the pros and cons of using the service? 23. OU alumna forges her career path at the Macomb County Mental Health Center; Professor Profile

24



### The Scene

24. Oakland Dance Theatre and the Repertory Dance Company kick off their performance season 25. Records & Reels for the month of December

26



### Mouthing Off

26. Get ready for the only article in the newspaper that's written in future tense. To conclude our "Year in Review," Rory McCarty takes a look into the future to find out what happens this December



The Post will return Jan. 5. In the meantime, please visit our website for continuing coverage until winter semester begins.

THE OAKLAND POST  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Be more inclusive

### A 2011 New Year's resolution for Oakland

The phrase "better late than never" springs to mind, but that would excuse the tardiness.

Oakland University added the phrases "gender identity" and "gender expression" to its equal opportunity policy, which guarantees equal benefits for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees.

"Inclusion of these terms further advances the university's commitment to diversity and inclusion and fosters a campus community where all are respected and valued," said Joi Cunningham, director of university diversity and compliance.

Tim Larrabee, the LGBTQA Employee Resource Group chair, said the policy provides recourse for employees in the event they feel discriminated against.

"People have protections that they didn't have before," Larrabee said.

Policy 712, "which defines the University's goals for diversity and inclusiveness and the roles and responsibilities of all faculty and staff in achieving those goals," was updated in October.

The insertion of those two phrases had

been cause for debate since at least during last year's faculty negotiations, when equality for the LGBTQ community became a sticking point.

Following a campaign that sent 800 postcards to OU President Gary Russi's office, the president said at a March 2 Board of Trustees meeting that he fully supported the policy change and Cunningham said she expected the policy to be changed by fall.

At a faculty forum held a week later, Russi instructed Cunningham to work with Larrabee to develop a policy that reflects university support for the LGBTQ community.

Larrabee said he's been working to get such a non-discrimination policy passed since he came to OU in 2004.

When the administrative change was finally made in October, however, it flew under the radar.

A Nov. 3 press release from OU simply listed policies that were either updated, new or deleted, without any additional details.

Plus, OU, which has been on top of social media as of late, never sent word out via Facebook or Twitter. An OU student wrote on Oakland University's Facebook page on Nov. 18 to announce it. OU commented back, linking to an article by Between The Lines, an LGBT publication.

Larrabee said the administrative policy doesn't have any legal binding, but the Board of Trustees, whose next formal session is Dec. 9, will be looking into an Equal Opportunity Policy soon.

The board passing a policy, Larrabee said, is "a more arduous task" as it would be legally binding and therefore entail bargaining contracts and negotiations.

Still, he said he doesn't expect push back from the board.

All the same, we hope the board is able to quickly pass a policy that is a long time coming.

While the rest of us promise ourselves to lose 10 pounds, quit smoking or study more in 2011, let's applaud OU for the steps they've taken so far and hope they resolve to finish the deal.

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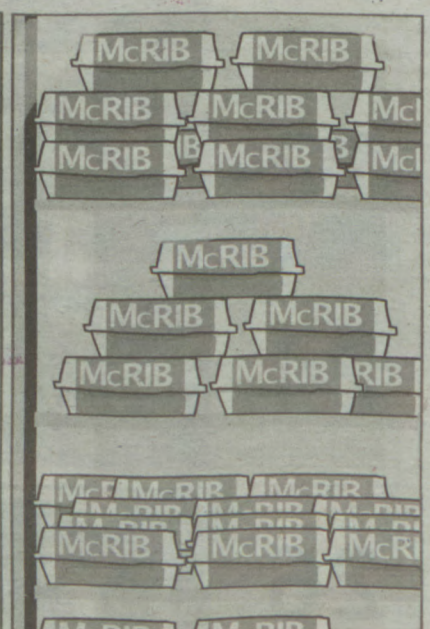
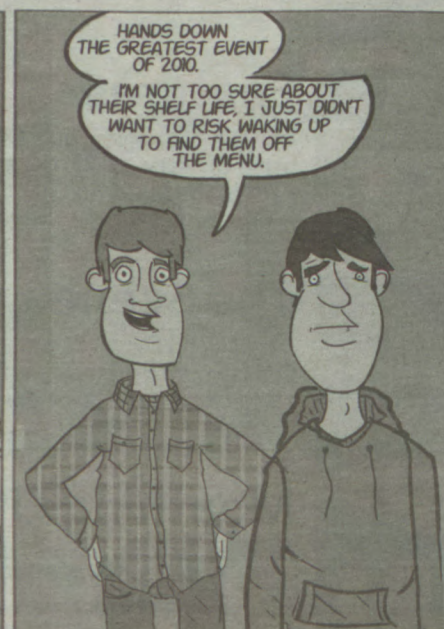
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# Education's gone awry

The American public education system has turned into a catastrophe.

The catastrophe is not that the system is failing as a whole. Some schools are flourishing and turning out bright students who are ready to become leaders in their communities and productive members of society. The real disaster, rather, is the vast difference of the quality of education in different school districts.

I grew up in a small suburb of Flint called Goodrich, which my parents specifically moved to for the strong school system. My teachers made sure my classmates and I learned the fundamentals at each grade level and took a personal interest in our lives.

The experience of suburban students is generally charmed. The disparity comes into play when their experience is compared with students in urban districts.



**Annie Stodola**  
Staff Reporter

This is extremely evident when a school's "promoting power" is examined. The promoting power of a school is the percentage of students from the freshman class that graduate four years later. In 2008, Goodrich High School graduated 106 percent of the students that began as freshmen, meaning it actually gained students. By comparison, Cody High School in Detroit had a promoting power of only 20 percent.

The number at Cody High School is low, but not entirely unusual. In the metro Detroit

area, in both urban and suburban areas, there are 38 schools that researchers at Johns Hopkins University have deemed to be "drop-out factories," as they regularly graduate less than 60 percent of the students who enter as freshmen.

These numbers are unacceptable, alarming and somewhat terrifying. If these kids aren't finishing high school, what's in store for them?

Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and coreipient of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize said: "Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress in every society, in every family."

Students who aren't getting a quality high school education are at a serious disadvantage — even for minimum wage positions. This lack of education and qualifications for careers or even entry-level jobs perpetuates the cycle of

poverty. Many times these students come from impoverished homes, are unable to get a quality education because of where they live, are unable to get high-paying jobs and therefore end up staying in impoverished neighborhoods and starting the cycle over again.

Poverty is a big problem. Education is not the full solution, but it's certainly an important step. We need to put an emphasis on education not just in school districts that are already stable, but everywhere.

The crisis in our school systems is a problem for all of us and our collective future. It's something that we all need to act on if we want to see a solution.

Change won't come solely from people volunteering to tutor students or voting for candidates who place value on education, but it's a leap toward breaking the cycle.

## A fashion tip for 2011: Leggings are not pants

The year 2010 saw a new trend rear its unflattering head.

The question of whether leggings are pants has never had to be asked before, but now, everywhere one goes, a pair seems to be following.

The unfinished look is, in a word, awkward.

If you look into the mirror and feel like something is missing, then you should probably slip on either a skirt or a dress.

Even wearing longer tops is acceptable. A tunic or longer shirt that sufficiently covers your assets will complete a cute outfit.

But wearing a short top and only leggings is a taboo that should be restricted to young children, who have diapers to



**Sarah Wojcik**  
Senior Reporter

save their decency and who cannot make fashion decisions for themselves.

The issue of leggings as pants is comparable to wearing tights as pants.

As far as I've seen, the tights idea has not caught on — yet. We should all be thankful.

But there is a line, and donning a mere pair of leggings crosses it.

If you are unable to break away from the new trend, then there is another fashion alternative that adds some class to your outfit.

The redemption comes in the form of jeggings, which are relatively new — many still have no idea what the term means when it is referenced.

The word originates from an atrocious blending of the terms "jeans" and "leggings" and they are created from a material suggestive from the name that is half denim, half spandex.

But there are two types, and only the second is permissible.

The first type of jegging is like a pair of seam lined leggings only with a denim feel. They have an elastic waistband

and no pockets. These are still leggings and still a no-no.

The second type of jegging incorporates belt loops, pockets and a fly with real hemming, and approaches the situation with infinitely more tact, imitating the appearance of a pair of very skinny jeans.

With the year coming to a close, let's hope that the trend of leggings as pants follows suit and people come to realize that divulging their goods is often times more unattractive than not.

2011 will bring around new trends in fashion, but hopefully we will not regress to any more unnecessarily revealing clothing items and move forward toward a better tomorrow.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Ally Employee Resource Group (LGBTQA ERG)

Invites all staff and faculty dedicated to equity and equality for all members of the OU community (students, staff, faculty and administration) to join.

We meet monthly and have an active listserv.



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## Kresge in search of dean

By **JAKE THIELEN**  
Staff Reporter

Julie Voelck, dean of Kresge Library, announced last month that she will be resigning from her position and chose to step down for personal reasons.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, Voelck's colleagues at the library held a farewell reception in her honor. The reception took place from 2-4 p.m. in the Oakland Center's Fire-side Lounge.

Voelck has served as Kresge's dean since 2004 and was the associate dean, 2001-03.

"This is a semi-retirement for me," Voelck said. "I live in Ann Arbor and it's kind of a long commute every day, so I'm looking forward to not getting up quite so early for a while and staying close to home."

Voelck said the library has changed a lot since she took the position as dean in 2004. New additions that were implemented during her time as dean include the Writing Center, which opened in 2006, and the Kresge Café that opened earlier this fall.

"The librarians and the library staff have, I think, transformed the library from what it was back in 2000," Voelck said. "It is, first of all, a place where students want to come."

With the implementation of new information commons, "Students can use computers there, work in groups and practice presentations," she said.

Voelck said the library has also focused on making it easier for students to find and understand information.

"We have really focused in our library on information literacy, which is helping students understand how to use, access and evaluate information," Voelck said.

Voelck will be replaced on an interim basis by Frank Lepkowski, Kresge Library's associate dean.

Voelck said one of her responsibilities as the dean has been to promote the work of Lepkowski and the Kresge Library staff.

"My role as dean has been to serve as the mouthpiece for the all good work that people like Frank and everyone at the library are doing," Voelck said.

Lepkowski said part of his role as interim dean will be to support the library's interests during meetings with university officials.

"The dean provides leadership for the library and also sells the library outside the library, because we need people to understand our needs," he said.



JEN BUCCIARELLI/The Oakland Post

Kresge Library Dean Julie Voelck announced her resignation last month in the O.C.

Lepkowski said there will be a national search to find Voelck's permanent replacement. The university's provost, Virinder Moudgil, will name a campus-wide search committee that will identify candidates for

the job.

"They'll hopefully get a good pool of candidates and invite a few to campus for an interview," Lepkowski said.

A new dean could be in place next year.

## Jackson fundraiser successful, breakfast with Santa

### Fundraiser collects over \$2K

Oakland University recently hosted several fundraising events in memory of Corey Jackson. The activities resulted in a collection of \$2,052.59. A check was sent to the Harold W. Vick funeral home, which handled Jackson's burial arrangements and will benefit the family.

### MBH hosts breakfast with Santa

Meadow Brook Hall will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants are advised to bring an appetite, a Christmas wish list and a holiday spirit.

Reservations are required; tickets are \$25 for children and \$30 for adults.

Tour tickets may be purchased at a discounted rate of \$12 per person.

### Opera workshop open for students

The Opera Workshop will be presented in Varner Recital Hall on Thursday, Dec. 2 from 8-9 p.m. Voice students will be showcasing their annual workshop performance, featuring classical selections. Admission to the performance is free.

### OUSC approves winter budget, Redbox plans fall

At OUSC's meeting on Monday, Nov. 29, the budget for the winter semester was approved.

Student activities funding board bylaws were updated regarding the date and time in which student organizations must turn in paperwork, and Student Body President Brandon Gustafson said discussions with Redbox about adding a movie rental program were not progressing and that he would begin looking at other possibilities.

Board of Trustees Student Liaisons Marta Bauer and Emily Tissot spoke with OUSC about expanding the partnership between the two groups and Ashley Marthen was named as Legislator of the Month for November. OUSC's next meeting will be at the start of next semester.

### Party to encompass many cultures

The Multicultural Holiday party will be held on Friday, Dec. 3 from 4-7 p.m. in Banquet Room A of the Oakland Center. The all-campus gathering will feature holiday performances by OU students, traditional and international holiday food and desserts as well as crafts and games.

— Compiled by Kaitlyn Chornoby,  
Assistant Campus Editor



# Grad school applications on rise

By SARAH WOJCIK  
Senior Reporter

In our troubled economy, the news that graduate school applications are predicted to surge may not come as a shock. The numbers are expected to rise nationwide and at Oakland University.

There were more than 675,000 people who took the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and graduate applicant volume was up 8.9 percent during 2008, according to Lee Weiss, director of graduate programs for Kaplan Test Prep and GRE instructor.

Kaplan Test Prep conducted a survey of graduate school admissions officers at 108 top programs across the nation. Seventy-eight percent predict an increase in the number of applicants for the current cycle.

"The past couple of years have been hard for college graduates trying to enter the workforce for the first time, as well as for working professionals looking to change careers or bounce back after layoffs," said Liza Weale, executive director of pre-business and pre-graduate programs at Kaplan Test Prep, "which has made graduate school an appealing destination for both groups."

As a result of more grad school applicants, the entry competition has grown increasingly fierce, according to some.

During Winter 2011, the most popular programs at OU according to Doug Bourassa, director of graduate marketing and recruitment, included Accounting, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Special Education with Autistically Impaired Endorsement and Leadership.

Several new programs will be introduced at Oakland next year, including a master's program in communication.

"The M.A. was created because there has

been a growing interest in communication studies as a discipline on the part of OU students," said Rebekah Farrugia, assistant professor of media studies. "It is also the only M.A. in the state to offer a concentration area in Communication and Culture. The other two areas of focus offered are Interpersonal Communication and Media Studies."

More programs offered through OU can be found at the graduate admissions page on Oakland's website.

Amy Ring, vice president of OUSC and Spanish major, took her GRE Wednesday.

"It wasn't too bad," Ring said. "I bought a (Kaplan) GRE book and I pretty much went through it whenever I had an extra hour or two, but (my preparation) definitely was not super intense."

Ring earned the score she wanted for her program — higher education student affairs.

"It's to work on a college campus as a staff member," she said.

Ring is lucky to have taken the GRE when she did. On Aug. 1, 2011, a new GRE will be implemented in all graduate schools, according to Weiss.

"The new GRE will be dramatically different — there is a lot of uncertainty among both test takers and the graduate school community," Weale said. "While it's safe to say most graduate programs will develop a transitional policy over time, we advise students to take the GRE before it changes, since scores are good for five years, and avoid the mystery if they can."

The test is changing for three main reasons, the first of which is the question type.

"The new GRE has higher level reasoning questions that are a little more complex and are supposed to test more of what you are actually going to be studying in graduate school," Weiss said. "The current GRE has

question types like short verbal questions like analogy and antonyms, which are not all that predictive of how well someone is going to do in graduate school."

Business school accessibility is another reason for the alteration of the GRE.

"The company that makes the GRE wants to be able to use the test for business school. Over the last few years, more and more schools have been using the GRE instead of the GMAT as a way to get into business school," Weiss said. "So they're making the test more like the GMAT so that people can use it to get into business school."

Finally, the scoring scale of the test will change in 2011.

"Right now they use the 200 to 800 scoring scale on the verbal and math sections," Weiss said. "You can get a perfect 800 on the math side and you're only in the 94th percentile, but you can get a 730 on the verbal side and you're already in the 99th percentile."

The Kaplan survey found that 81 percent of graduate schools do not yet have a policy for transitioning current GRE scores to the new format.

The new test will also be approximately an hour longer and will include stricter limitations on the frequency of taking it.

Students interested in going to grad school should follow Kaplan's advice and take their GRE now as the scores are good for five years.

Kaplan found that of the admissions officers in their survey, an applicant's GRE score is the most important admissions factor, followed by undergraduate GPA then work experience.

Those interested in more information about the graduate level standardized testing should visit [www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com)

## New Rec classes, events next semester

The Rec center will continue to offer group exercise classes during finals week and into the holiday break. Classes are offered at special hours through Dec. 19. The full schedule is available online.

Classes are offered Monday, Dec. 13 from 8:45 a.m.-6:15 p.m. and include Cardio, Tai Chi, Cycling and Step Circuit. Dec. 14 classes run from 11:30 a.m.-6:15 p.m. and include Ab Lab, Yoyalates and Zumba.

Wednesday classes are offered from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Thursday's classes are from 11:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. and Friday's Balance and Strength class is offered from 9-10:15 a.m. Vinyasa and Yin Yoga are also available, but require a paid membership to the center.

### Upcoming events

The center will host several events throughout the upcoming winter semester. New group exercise classes include training for the indoor triathlon, intramural sports and more.

Building Lean Athletic Strong Toned Bodies, or BLAST, classes

will begin winter semester. BLAST sessions include 45 minutes of intermediate to advanced body blast circuits and 15 minutes of stretching. Prizes are offered for those completing the program and for those who are most transformed. Details from the BLAST fall program are available online.

Special hours are available during the final week of classes and through break; regular hours will resume on Jan. 3.

Visit [www.oakland.edu/campusrec](http://www.oakland.edu/campusrec) for building hours.

### Gift Certificates

Give a campus recreation gift certificate this holiday season. Gift certificates are available in any increment and can be used on any program or service available at the Rec center.

Check online for the full schedule and special hours over break.

— Compiled by Kaitlyn Chornoby,  
Assistant Campus Editor

## Police Files

### Busted for marijuana use

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, a University Student Apartment resident and a friend each received a citation for the use of marijuana after a complaint was reported to the OUPD by a neighbor.

Upon arrival, officers confiscated two pipes and a bowl, used for smoking, from the apartment.

### Dance Lounge larceny

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, three students experienced theft from their bags that were left in the Dance Lounge, or room 130 of Varner Hall. The students left their belongings in the room while heading to class.

The room was unattended and the door was not locked. Missing items include a red, Dell laptop and its charger, two wallets, a credit card and a debit card, among other things.

### Hamlin Hall burglary

On Saturday, Nov. 20, a Hamlin Hall resident reported that her laptop had been stolen from her dorm room. When the student left for class, the inner door as well as the outer door to her suite was locked.

The student's roommate had left the day prior and no other students had access to the room. There were no signs of forced entry.

### Assault after party

On Sunday, Nov. 21, it was reported that three University Student Apartment residents were involved in an assault. Upon returning from a birthday celebration, the residents were involved in what was reported as punching and kicking and more. None of the residents wished to receive medical attention.

One of the three residents involved is underage and was issued a Minor in Possession citation, because the students had been drinking.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,  
Campus Editor