



# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

October 5, 2005

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50 cents

Detroit gets a make over on A5.

Kara O'Connell/  
The Oakland Post



Dante Ciullo/The Oakland Post

Heather Lippert (No. 15) makes a save to continue the volley on B8.



Learn how to make your own jewelry on B2.

Dante Ciullo/The Oakland Post

## OUSC consumed with allegations

By SHEILA KOSZTOWNY  
Managing Editor

A legislator elected to Oakland University Student Congress on Monday night may have a short tenure if allegations of sexual harassment are proved true.

Within 20 minutes of being voted into office by a margin of nine to four, senior Derek Giordano was accused by two legislators of having "sexually harassed" four members of OUSC in past weeks.

Giordano flatly denies the allega-

tions. "I have never met the person that brought the allegations," Giordano said after the meeting. "And I have never done anything in my life that would be considered sexual harassment."

He said he had "absolutely no idea of where these allegations are coming from."

OUSC Legislator Bre Kopson, who was present during the initial approval of Giordano, surprised some by making a motion to reconsider his

Please see OUSC on A2



The Associated Press

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., shown while speaking at Unity College in Unity, Maine, Sept. 23, will address environmental issues to OU students.

## RFK Jr.

Activist speaks today at OU

By ALICIA SOSSI  
Senior Reporter

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has three sons with asthma.

"I watch them struggle to breathe on bad-air days," he wrote in a December 2003 issue of "Rolling Stone."

Kennedy, an environmental lawyer and activist, is speaking

on the importance of protecting the environment at OU's Banquet Rooms today.

"The Pentagon recently issued a report that said global warming is a greater threat to global stability than terrorism or war," he said in an interview with The Post, citing the importance of focusing on

Please see KENNEDY on A2



The Associated Press

British flags decorate the largely Protestant area of the Shankill Road area of Belfast, in Northern Ireland, Monday.

## Irish activist recounts personal civil rights plight

By JULIE SWIDWINKSI  
Campus News Editor

Recent developments in Ireland may turn toward peace as Irish Republican Army members stated Monday that they have disposed of all their stockpiled weapons.

During their struggle for civil rights, Republicans of Ireland created the IRA to protect supporters of their cause and fight against British and unionist forces in their land, often ending up imprisoned for their beliefs.

Caoimhin Mac Giolla Mhin spoke yesterday at Oakland University of the discriminations and hardships that former prisoners face.

"They were just political prisoners. They were not involved as rapists, pedophiles or people involved in robberies," said Mhin, a representative of Coiste na n-larchimi.

Mac Giolla Mhin is touring the United States of America to publicize Coiste, an organization that strives to help the social, economic and emotional well

Please see ACTIVIST on A10

The Associated Press

An Irish Republican Army mural in West Belfast, Northern Ireland, Monday. Disarmament officials presented a confidential report Monday to the British and Irish governments detailing the Irish Republican Army's recent secret handover of its weapons stockpiles, a long-elusive goal of Northern Ireland peacemaking.



A father and son pass the Irish News newspaper offices in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Sunday. It was announced Sunday that the Irish Republican Army had decommissioned all their weapons.

The Associated Press



## Athletic director retires, fulfills dream of taking OU to Division I

By DAVE PEMBERTON  
Assistant Sports Editor

In 1995, Oakland University had a successful Division II athletic department, but its athletes dreamt of taking the next step to Division I.

Athletic department members knew they would need strong leader-

ship to make the transition, and the future of the program was put into the hands of then new athletic director Jack Mehl.

Ten years and 34 Mid-Con conference titles later, OU has made a smooth transition to Division I under Mehl. But Mehl will no longer be with OU.

He made the decision to retire as athletic director last week.

"I've been thinking about making this move for some time," Mehl said in a statement.

"With our recent success in the NCAA basketball tournament last March, and having established with the staff a solid framework for per-

formance in Division I athletics, the time will probably never be better for me to transition."

Mehl will continue to be the interim commissioner of the Mid-Con conference. It is unclear if Mehl plans to take the position permanently.

He could not be reached for comment.

Men's basketball coach Greg Kampe will be the interim athletic director, while the search for a new athletic director is conducted.

Kampe served as interim athletic director once before in 1994.

"I've been here before, and I know

Please see MEHL on A10

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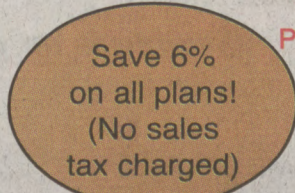
News tip? Call (248) 370-4268.

### Commuter/Faculty Staff Meal Plans

Purchase before October 14th and receive Bonus Dollars or Bonus Meals on each plan!

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- 250 Meal Plan Dollars + 25 Bonus Dollars!
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Sign up before October 14th at the Chartwells Office, 121A Oakland Center to take advantage of these great deals or call our office at 248-370-3490. Visit us online at www.dineoncampus.com/oakland or, sign up online at www.dineoncampus.com/oakland under the link purchase meal plans. Meal dollars may be used at any of Chartwells' on-campus dining locations. Meal Dollars/Block Plans are good for the 2005 Fall Semester only.



## KENNEDY Cont. from A1

environmental issues. Kennedy, the son of late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is the chief prosecuting attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper, an organization that cites as its mission "to safeguard the ecological integrity of the Hudson River, its tributaries and the watershed of New York City."

He has prosecuted companies and the government for polluting the Hudson River and Long

Island Sound and is known for leading the battle to protect New York City's water supply by negotiating the New York City watershed agreement.

Kennedy is also the senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council and president of the Waterkeeper Alliance, an organization dedicated to protecting water from pollution.

According to Paul Franklin, coordinator of Campus Programs, Kennedy's visit to OU coincides with this year's College of Arts and Sciences

theme, "Environmental Explorations."

"We wanted to contribute a major speaker for that theme, and Kennedy is a well known environmental activist and lawyer," he said.

Kennedy, a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Virginia Law School, is a clinical professor and supervising attorney at the Environmental Litigation Clinic at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, New York.

Among his publications are

"New York State Apprentice Falconer's Manual, Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., A Biography," and "The Riverkeepers," which he co-wrote in 1997.

He has written articles, which have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and The Boston Globe, among others.

The lecture at OU is sponsored by the Student Life Lecture Board, and seats are free on a first-come basis. No tickets are required.

The lecture will be at 7 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center and interpreted for the hearing impaired.

For more information on

Kennedy, please visit <http://riverkeeper.org>.

— Editor in Chief Roqaya Eshmawi contributed to this report.

**Who:** Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
**What:** Environmental Destiny  
**Where:** Banquet Rooms, Oakland Center  
**When:** Wednesday, 7 p.m.

# Test your knowledge on environmental issues

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

1. Who is currently the head of the EPA?

- A) Samuel Jackson  
B) Alfred Wilson  
C) Stephen L. Johnson  
D) Lauren Joseph

2. When was the EPA established?

- A) 1963  
B) 1970  
C) 1985  
D) 2004

3. What date is Earth Day?

- A) January 1  
B) April 6  
C) April 22  
D) November 10

4. How many endangered species of mammals are there in the United States?

- A) 3 species  
B) 12 species  
C) 68 species  
D) 112 species

5. How much of U.S. waste is recycled each year?

- A) 10%  
B) 25%  
C) 33%  
D) 45%

6. In 1999, how many tons of waste were avoided due to recycling?

- A) 1 ton  
B) 62 thousand tons  
C) 12 million tons  
D) 64 million tons

Name:

E-mail:

Phone:

Limit one submission per student, per paper, per week. Drawing at 5:00 p.m. Mondays. Winner is posted in next week's paper.

Last week's  
winner:  
Meghan Ferdon

## OUSC Cont. from A1

confirmation. Kopson made the motion, citing allegations of sexual harassment. She did not elaborate.

Kopson's remarks were followed by Katie Miller, OUSC student services director, who said that four unidentified Congress members had allegedly been harassed.

Tuesday, Kopson said she did not vote for Giordano. She also said she did not voice her concerns during discussions following the motion to approve him because she was confused about the procedures.

A spirited and often chaotic debate followed Kopson's motion for nearly 30 minutes.

OUSC Legislator George Nahas suggested that the matter be forwarded to OUSC's Disciplinary Committee.

"This is a serious, serious allegation, and I would like to think that any man or woman is innocent until proven guilty," Nahas, who is also a member of the committee, said.

"You're innocent until proven guilty, as far as I know in the United States," he said.

Research and Review Committee Chair Kristina Butler agreed with Nahas' suggestion and moved to have the Disciplinary Committee review the matter.

OUSC Legislator and Disciplinary Committee Chair Montrell Porter seconded the motion.

"Before you go making a charge against someone of that caliber, I think it is something that should be dealt in private," Porter said. "This is something that could ruin this man's life around campus."

"Some select people knew there was some sort of discomfort beforehand," OU Student Body President Michael McGuinness said after Monday's meeting, though he declined to provide any names.

Under OUSC by-laws, legislators can elect students to fill legislator vacancies.

To qualify, they must attend three OUSC meetings and be in good academic standing.

They are also screened for any disciplinary actions or misconduct.

Giordano's record was clean, said Samantha Hardenburgh, coordinator of student leadership development for the Center for Student Activities.

However, McGuinness alleged that Giordano may not have fulfilled the requirements of application to become a legislator.

According to McGuinness, Giordano did not attend three OUSC meetings as required to become a legislator.

Giordano said that this was also untrue.

"I have, in fact, met the regulations," he said.

Giordano said he attended four OUSC sessions, including Monday night's meeting.

After the meeting, McGuinness said that Giordano may have misrepresented himself as an OUSC legislator in the past weeks.

While working on the Anti-Hate campaign, Giordano allegedly made several phone calls promoting the campaign from the OUSC office.

During Monday's meeting, Legislator Allison Cummings-Stuckman said Giordano may have represented himself as being a member of OUSC, although he was not at that time.

"I made calls saying I was from Student Congress' office, meaning that I was in the office," Giordano said.

The Disciplinary Committee is looking into these allegations this week and expects to have a full report for next week's meeting.

Committee members include Porter, Nahas, Kopson, Butler and Legislator Jilian Key.

According to Kopson, members of the Executive Board are considering whether her position on the Disciplinary Committee is a conflict of interest in the investigation.

Meanwhile, McGuinness said that because OUSC's by-laws do not cover these allegations, the laws are being examined

and reconstructed.

"It's new territory," McGuinness said, "because we have never had a situation like this, at least to my knowledge."

"It's going to end up coming to he's on or he's off (Congress)," Porter said regarding Giordano's recently approved position.

According to Oakland University's Administrative Policies and Procedures, sexual harassment includes "explicitly or implicitly requiring sexual

favors as a term or condition of an individual's employment, education or use of educational facilities."

It also includes "conduct of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work, academic performance, or use of University services, or which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, educational or service environment."

The guidelines also specify

that students who are found to make false complaints may be subject to academic discipline including expulsion.

As of Tuesday night, no Congress members could be found by The Oakland Post who had come forward with any formal charges of sexual harassment against Giordano.

"I have a right to face my accuser and defend myself," Giordano said late Tuesday, "but that is not even possible yet."

## Oakland University Discount Tickets

Upcoming shows and events you can get discount tickets to at the CSA Service Window!

### Peter Pan starring Cathy Rigby

at the Fisher Theatre

Tuesday, October 18 @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 23 @ 6:30 p.m.

Save between \$10.50 to \$20.50 a ticket

Close date will be Friday, September 30

### Toast to Ole Blue Eyes

performed by the DSO Pops

at the Max Fisher Music Center

Thursday, October 6 @ 8:00 p.m.

Save \$3.00 a ticket

Close date will be Wednesday, October 5

### Late Night Catechism

at the Macomb Center for the Arts - Stage 2

Tuesday, October 18 @ 7:00 p.m.

Save \$5.00 a ticket

Close date will be Friday, October 7

### Menopause: The Musical

at the Gem Theatre

Sunday, November 6 @ 2:00 p.m.

Save \$5.00 a ticket

Close date will be Friday, October 14

### Cats

at the Masonic Temple Theatre

Sunday, November 13 @ 7:30 p.m.

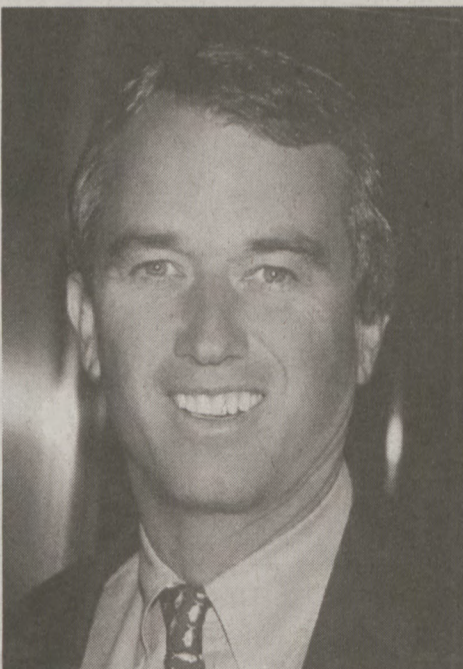
Save between \$3.25 to \$8.00 a ticket

Close date will be Friday, October 21

The CSA Service Window is located adjacent to the CSA Office, 49 Oakland Center

Tune in to WXOU,  
88.3 FM.

News tip? Want to get involved with your student newspaper? E-mail editor@oakpostonline.com.



Oakland University Presents  
The 2005-2006 Student Life Lecture Series

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Environmental Lawyer/Activist

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

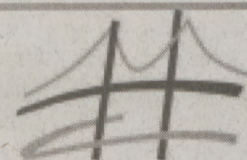
7:00 p.m. in the

Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center

This lecture is free. No tickets are required.

Seating is on a first come basis.

Presented with the support of OU Students, Division of Student Affairs, Student Program Board, and the Office of Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost. This program is funded in part by the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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