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25 cents

Professor named 'Most Distinguished'

By PAM AVOLEDO
THE OAKLAND POST

Paul Tomboulia, a chemistry professor, has received one of OU's highest honors. Tomboulia was recently named this year's Most Distinguished Professor. He is the 10th person to be given this title.

"It's a great honor. It's a pleasure to be served the institution and to receive the award," he said.

Tomboulia accomplished a number of achievements since he became a charter faculty member, which is a title appointed to professors who have been here since OU's first year in 1959.

Tomboulia received OU's very first research grant. He also initiated the first undergraduate research program and introduced the first science-based environmental health major in Michigan.

For 35 years, he was also chair of the chemistry department.

Tomboulia has also excelled in ecological studies.

According to Ron Sudol, associate provost, he has created consciousness about toxic substances in the water and air. He also has been a scientific adviser to numerous public agencies that needed to make an environmental policy and was involved in improving their conditions.

He also has made audio and video records for OU, which trace the beginnings of the university. Called the Chronicles Project, he and his wife started work on it in 1996.

The Board of Trustees created the title of distinguished professor in 1988.

The process begins with the president and provost recommending faculty members to the nine-member selection committee, which is composed of former distinguished professors.

Then, the president and provost decide based on the committee's advice. In order for a faculty member to receive this honor, they must show excellence in teaching, academic achievements and community service.

According to Ron Sudol, he was nominated for displaying a devotion to science and having a passion for teaching it as well.

It was passion his students took to heart, and Sudol said that several of them have entered into environmental agencies, companies and institutions throughout the state and nation.

Linda Schweitzer, a colleague and assistant professor of chemistry, said that he has wonderful organizational and administrative skills, a skill she said she thinks people have taken for granted at OU.

"By working closely with Paul and out in
Please see HONOR on A7

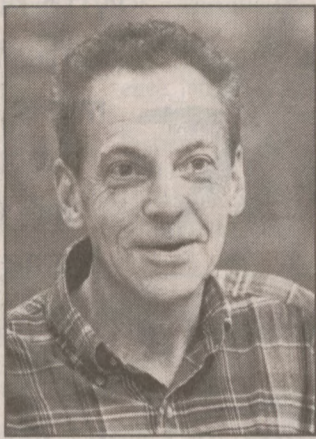


Photo courtesy of OU/
Paul Tomboulia

OU Senate addresses budget, Athletics funding

By DERRICK SOBODASH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The upcoming budget cuts were a hot topic of discussion at the University Senate's Feb. 13 meeting.

The expansion in the Athletics Department, Cooley Law School and the Board of Trustees' failure to hold open meetings was also discussed. Former Governor John Engler

made a 2 percent cut to the budget last year, and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm has announced she needs to cut at least another 1.5 percent.

Moudgil said President Gary Russi is anticipating a cut in state funding that could reach as high as 10 percent.

"This is the worst hit to higher education since World War II," said Virinder Moudgil, vice president of

Academic Affairs and provost.

Rather than seeing sweeping cuts made across the board, Moudgil said he would like to see each department prioritize its programs in preparation for the cuts and decide what they can let go if need be.

"At this time," Moudgil said, "I think we should take solace in the fact that no cuts have been made

Please see SENATE on A7

Keeping kids safe

OUPD offers classes in proper safety seat use

By DERRICK SOBODASH
THE OAKLAND POST

A 20-minute appointment could save your child's life.

OUPD officer Nan Gelman is offering free car seat inspections for anyone who would like to learn how to set up and use the seats properly.

The inspections are available to students and non-students. All that's required is an appointment.

Gelman started the program the second week in October.

"It's an important issue, and it's important for the community to know we offer this service," Gelman said.

So far, Gelman has conducted three to four inspections per week on average.

"I thought it was a fabulous program to be offered at Oakland," Janice Dover, a Rochester resident and OU alumna, said. "It's nice to have something close to home and a bit more per-



Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post
Officer Nan Gelman shows Janice Dover the correct way to install a child safety seat.

sonal."

Dover had an appointment with Gelman yesterday and plans to tell other parents involved with the Lowry Child Care Center about the program.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 80 percent of child and infant car seats are installed wrong. In Michigan, Gelman says

inspection programs like hers have shown it's as high as 95 percent. A properly installed car seat can reduce the chance of fatal injury by as much as 71 percent in infants and 54 percent in toddlers.

Some of the most common problems, according to Gelman, are the seats "not
Please see SEAT on A7

OUSC supports open meetings

By GAYLE ISSA
MANAGING/EDITORIAL EDITOR

Not to be outdone by the OU Senate, Student Congress unanimously passed a resolution Monday supporting *The Oakland Post's* petition to the Board of Trustees.

OUSC President and Vice President, seniors Brian Tomina and Michelle Jamian, and student liaison to the BOT, junior Rhonda Hanna, signed the petition as did more than 20 other OUSC members.

The resolution also requests that the BOT reaffirms its commitment to campus wide openness and the Michigan Open Meetings Act, which mandates that public bodies' meetings are open to the public.

The Post petition asks the BOT to

open both its formal and informal meetings to the public except where closure is permitted under the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

On Jan. 15, a quorum (six of the eight) of OU's appointed trustees met with the university's lobbyists to hear a presentation on higher education state cuts. The session was closed to the public and Hanna was not invited.

Legislators Zvonko Blazevski and Jeff Galecki, seniors, who introduced the resolution last week, and Jane Briggs-Bunting, director of the journalism program and media lawyer, spoke at Monday's meeting.

Shortly after the Jan. 15 meeting, OU's Media Relations Director Ted Montgomery said the court case *Federated Publications vs. Board of*

Trustees of Michigan State University gives OU's BOT the right to close its informal meetings.

Briggs-Bunting said that case's precedent does not hold in this instance because of three key differences.

First, the MSU case dealt with a presidential search, whereas the OU meeting was about budget cuts. Second, MSU has an elected board of trustees. OU's trustees are appointed. And third, MSU was constitutionally created. OU was created by an act of the state legislature in 1970 that specifically mandated the Board follows OMA.

"Why should you care? I'll tell you why you should care," Briggs-Bunting said, addressing OUSC. "If
Please see OUSC on A7

A taste of culture



Matt Nastor/The Oakland Post

Students sample some of the tasty dishes served at last Friday's Taste of Africa Gala.

Dorm smoking may get snuffed out

By DAN NELDER
THE OAKLAND POST

Smokers living on campus may not be able to light up in their dorms if the House Policy Committee approves a new policy at its meeting today.

Representatives at a Residence Halls Council meeting last month cast preliminary votes in support of the possibility of changing the policy on smoking in dorms at OU, making more non-smoking areas.

The votes were found to be in favor of changing the policy. There are several options being considered by the House Council, including increasing the number of non-smoking floors to

ten or more, making Hamlin and Van Wagoner smoke-free or creating smoking-only floors.

The Student Advisory Committee spent the last few weeks talking with residents about changing the policy, and the final decision will be made after the results are presented to Director of University Housing and Food Service Eleanor Reynolds.

If Reynolds approves a change in policy, it will take effect in the upcoming 2003-2004 school year.

"I think people should be allowed to smoke in their rooms because it's their choice, and most people here are 18, of legal age," said Katrin deKoster, sophomore and Fitzgerald House res-

ident. "But I do think that there is a problem with people smoking directly outside of buildings because you have to walk through a cloud of smoke to get where you're going. That's what I would like to see change."

Every year around this time the House Policy Committee reviews its policies on such things as alcohol and smoking.

Currently among the residence halls there are five non-smoking floors altogether, and the only smoke-free hall is Anibal House.

"Turning all the dorms to non-smoking is a pretty good idea," said Jeremy Bruce, a sophomore living in Fitzgerald House. "It would just be better if nobody smoked because nobody wins

except for tobacco companies."

According to a study by the Harvard School of Public Health in 2001, new college students are 40 percent less likely to become smokers if they live in smoke-free dorms.

The same study also found that only 27 percent of American colleges prohibit smoking in students' dormitories.

Recently, the University of Michigan announced that its residence halls will be completely smoke-free starting with the 2003-2004 academic year.

Although some U-M residents are against this policy, the University Housing department there has received no specific complaints from students reap-

plying for on-campus housing.

The State of Michigan currently prohibits smoking in public buildings, including public spaces on college campuses.

Rooms in residence halls however, are exempt from this standard because they are private spaces.

Tyeisha Farley, a freshman resident at OU, said that although she is a non-smoker, people who do smoke in the dormitories do not bother her.

"It's their business. They pay just like everybody else pays. They should be able to smoke in their own residence," Farley said.

The Oakland Post will not publish next week because of the winter recess. Our next issue hits newsstands March 5. Have a great break!

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ELECTIONS!

*Oakland University Student
Congress Elections will be
held*

March 24th, 25th, and 26th

**Vote at polling stations
around campus or online**

www2.oakland.edu/

ouscvote

**THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
WILL BE HELD IN THE FIRESIDE
LOUNGE**

MARCH 17TH AT 12 PM

It's All Fun And Games Until Someone Wants To Play "Hide The Snorkel"



With hula hoop, limbo
contests, live reggae
music, beach dance
floor, and much
more, who could
blame someone for
getting carried
away?



(hint- just don't let anyone push in your stool!)

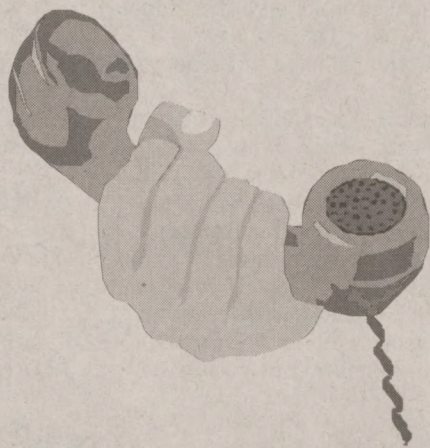
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Moose Beach Bash February 20, 21, 22, 2003

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Night the first Monday of each month
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ext. 341.**

2002-2003 Women's Studies Essay Contest

Deadline: Friday, March 7, 2003

Have you written about how gender shapes, affects or
influences art, literature, politics, history, music,
healthcare, theatre, science, business or society?

**If you have, submit your paper to the
Women's Studies Essay Contest!**



Submission Requirements:

- ✍ Should not exceed 10 pages, double spaced and typed (does not include Works Cited or Bibliography pages)
- ✍ Must be an OU student's original work from any OU course in any academic discipline
- ✍ Must use a feminist perspective, feminist theory or methods
- ✍ Must be a clean copy without any marks or grades on it
- ✍ Must include a cover page with the student's name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address and the semester, course and instructor for whom the paper was written

Awards will be presented at the Women's Studies Spring Luncheon on March 26

First place: \$150.00 • Second place: \$75.00 • Third place: \$50.00

Submit paper to: WS Essay Contest Committee, c/o Dr. Jo Reger
Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 511A Varner Hall

Questions? Contact Jo Reger, Assistant Director of Women's Studies
reger@oakland.edu or 370-2500