

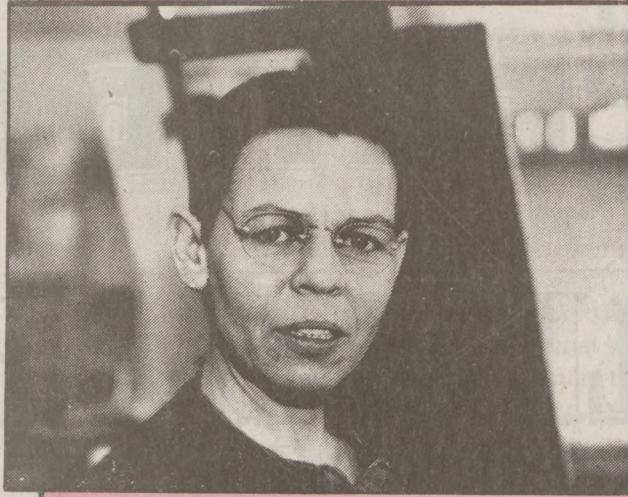
Wednesday

March 23, 1994

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Opinion

President Sandra Packard applauds OU community's reaction to Dodge Hall fire. See page 5.

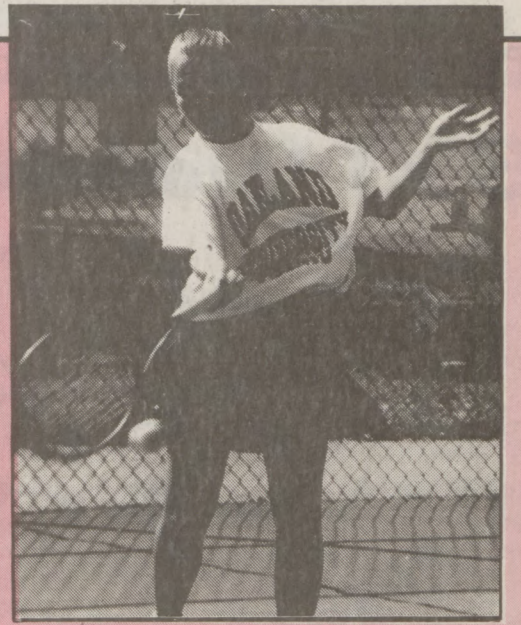


Features

Life's themes flow from the soul to the canvas for Monica Molinaro, an adjunct art professor and mother. "I express my life in art," she says. Page 7

Sports

Tennis team courts the spring pre-season to prepare for fall's full slate. Team expects to be "as tough" as last year's second-place GLIAC finish. Page 11



The Oakland Post

THE '94 VOTE

Simon says: 'I'm Congress President'

Summer Dreamin'

Yesterday's high of 65 degrees wipes away winter blahs

By MELISSA LAROSE and ROBERT CARR
Staff Writer and News Editor

Michael Simon will get a chance to make some improvements at Oakland University as he prepares for his upcoming term as Student Congress President. Simon defeated Melissa Winter by 142 votes in an

Michael Simon victorious in 1994 Congress election race. Voter turnout of 664 nearly triples last year's voter turnout.

election that received 664 ballots compared to last year's record low turnout of 250. Simon, a communications major who coined the term OUnity, plans on strengthening

relationships between students, the community and the administration. Mike Simon was ecstatic about winning the election. "I put a lot of time and hard

work into the campaign, I'm just glad it paid off," he said. He said he wished more students had attended the debates or knew about the issues. "We had approximately 5 per-

cent of the student body voted. While that's about five times more than voted last year, I still wish there had been a larger percentage of voters." Students also chose from 22 candidates to fill 20 Congress seats. One candidate, Aaron Talley, was invalidated due to violating elections guidelines (see story page 3).

See ELECTIONS page 3

Lawsuit pending

By ROBERT CARR
News Editor

A former interim Medical Director for the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute is suing Oakland University, the institute and three of its employees for defamation of character. The suit was filed in Oakland County Circuit Court Dec. 23, 1993, and outside counsel for the University was approved by the Board of Trustees March 3. Former Director Joseph Arends claims in the suit that the three employees, on or after December 24, 1992, made statements concerning his practice of medicine at the institute "and otherwise such as are libelous, slanderous and/or defamatory." The employees named in the suit are Alfred Stransky, director of Health Enhancement programs, Laurie Mastrogianis, Coordinator of Marketing, Health Maintenance and Health Improvement programs, and Jan Peabody-Kratt, an office assistant at the Institute. "OU believes the employees acted in good faith," said Susan Gerrits, general counsel for OU. "We deny the allegations that Joseph Arends has made."

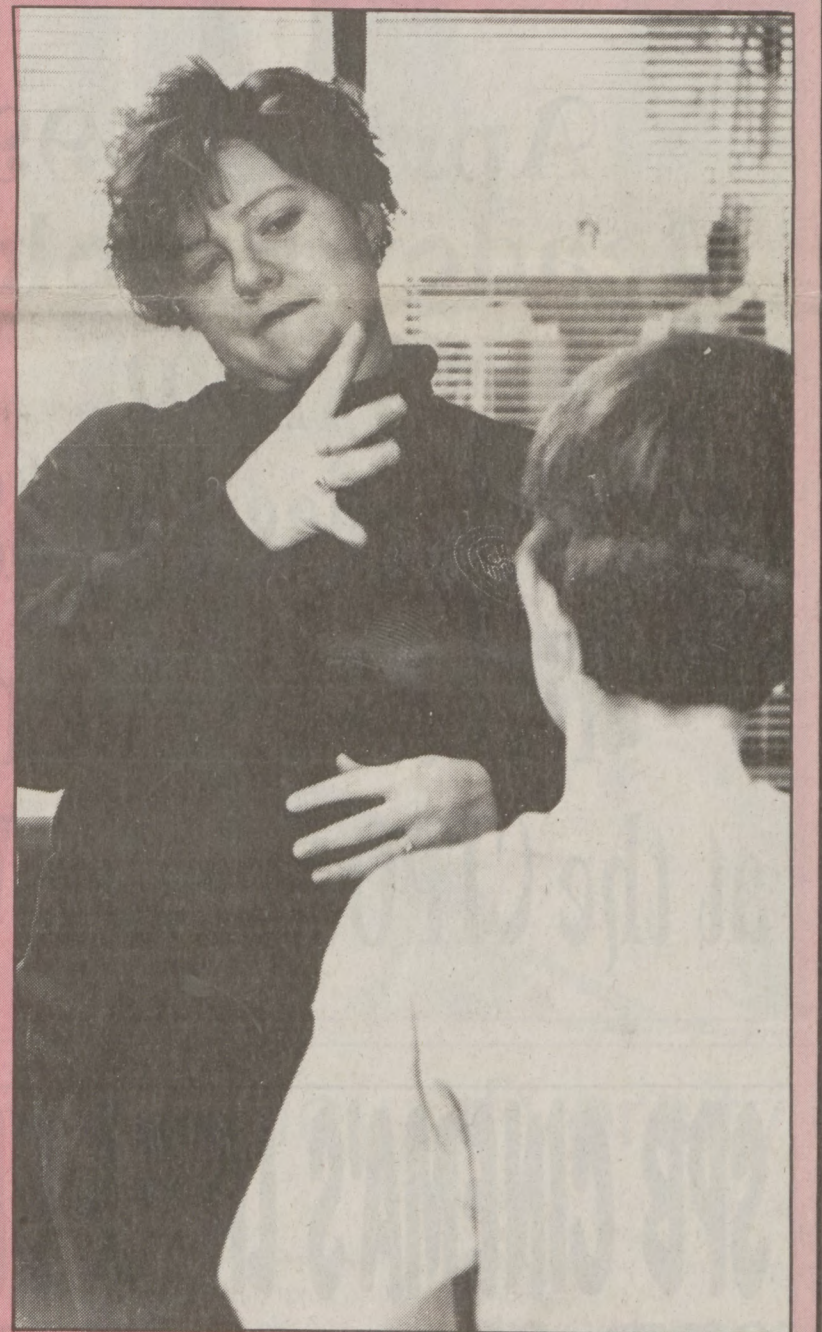
Sign of the Times

Sign language speaks loudly for lecturer

By DIANA PLETZ
Staff Writer

Last year's commencement ceremonies had an extra special meaning for American Sign Language Interpreter Deborah Lutfi, who watched five of her students graduate. For the first time, Lutfi was

honored with an invitation to interpret at Oakland University's Commencements and watch students from her American Sign Language classes ASL 1 & 2 graduate. She knew the students that had taken her course were stepping away with more than a diploma. They had a greater comfort around the Deaf population and an understanding of the language and culture. "Sign Language is not a handicap," Lutfi said. "Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do but hear." That is the message she hopes everyone takes home with them. Another misconception she'd like to put language and decided to pursue it at the age of seventeen and began taking a class in American Sign Language at the Waterford Community Center.



Oakland Post/Clive Savage

See SIGNS, page 9

Lutfi instructs one of her students earlier this week. Eastover Elementary School. Left, Lutfi's tools of the trade.

Police interview key figures in fire investigation

By ROBERT SNELL
Editor in Chief

Oakland University's Department of Public Safety and Police are conducting interviews with people who had access to Dodge Hall's fire-ravaged biology lab, DPSP officials said. The first part of the university's fire investigation has been completed, Mel Gilroy, the commanding officer of police operations said. Gilroy said the fire originated in a drying oven under the lab's fume hood, sending hazardous chemicals into the



The Oakland Post/Clive Savage

See FIRE page 3

The charred remains of biology lab room 304 last Monday. Early estimates place the total amount of damage between \$250,000 and \$500,000, sources said.

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BATTLE of the BANDS APRIL 6, 1994 OC CROCKERY

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For more information,
call Kelly Schehr at the
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Murder Mystery II

April 8, 1994
Meadowbrook Hall
8 p.m.

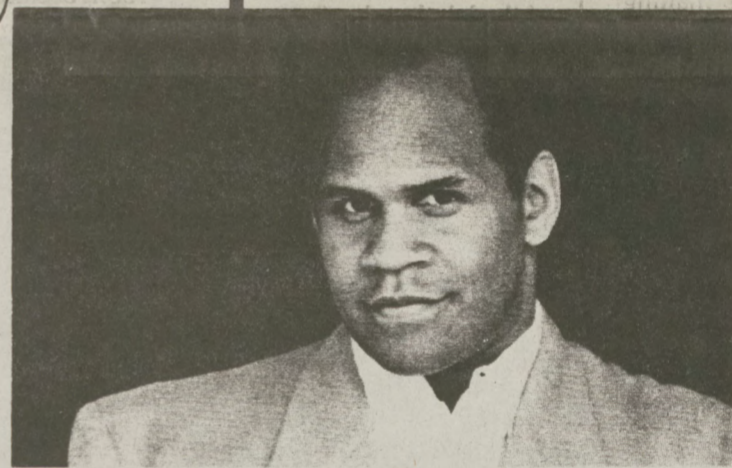
Admission: \$3

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MAINSTAGE

THE COMEDY OF RONDELL SHERIDAN

March 24, 8:00 p.m. - Gold Rooms



"That's the way, uh-huh, uh-huh,
I like it, uh-huh, uh-huh."

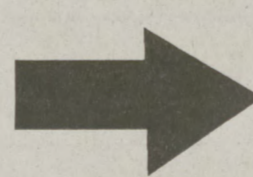
SPB CINEMA'S LITTLE BROTHERS/LITTLE SISTERS WEEKEND SPECIAL

SPB Cinema • 201 Dodge Hall • Admission: \$1.50

Friday, March 25

Sunday, March 27

7 p.m.



SISTER

ACT 2:

BACK IN THE HABIT



Saturday, March 26

3 p.m.