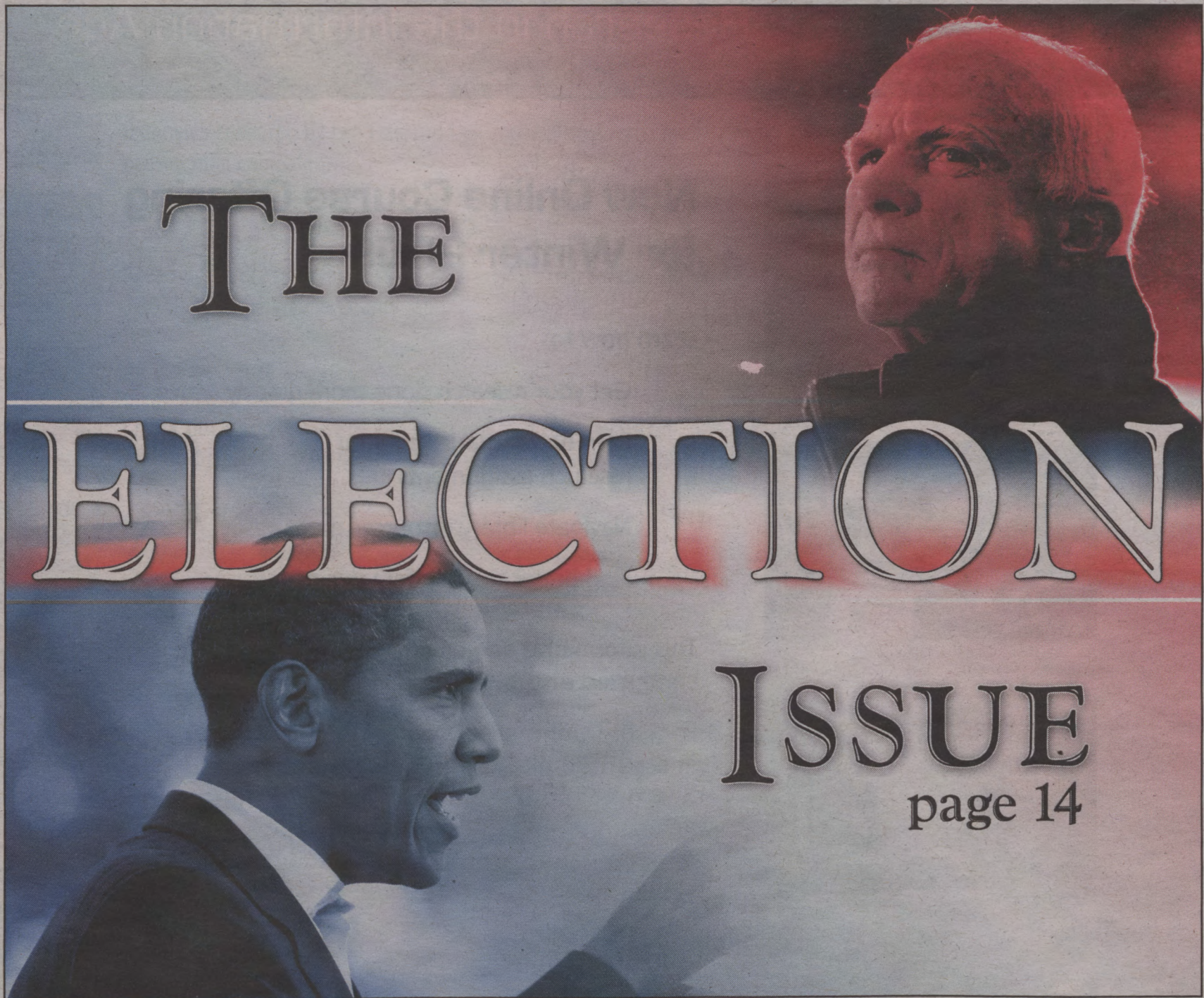


# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

October 29, 2008

Volume 35, Number 9



Neighborhood dresses  
up for Halloween

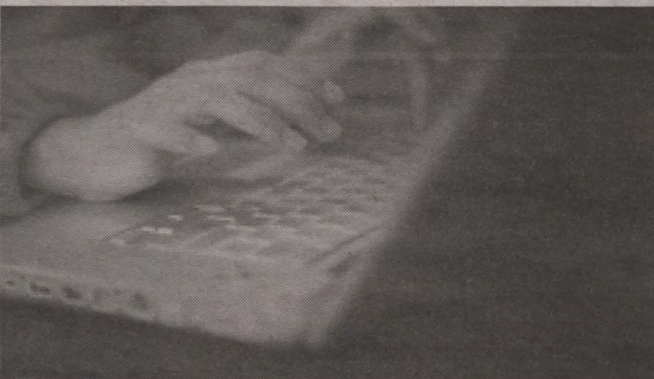
LOCAL page 10

A writer goes along for a ride  
with the OUPD

YOU page 20

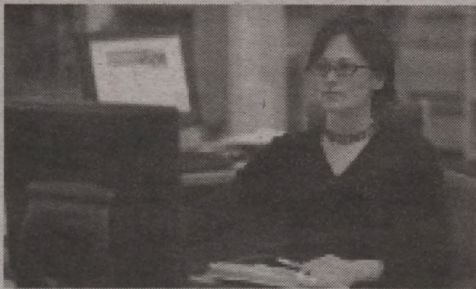
From midfield, Sandell spurs  
Grizzlies to success

SPORTS page 22



# LIB 200

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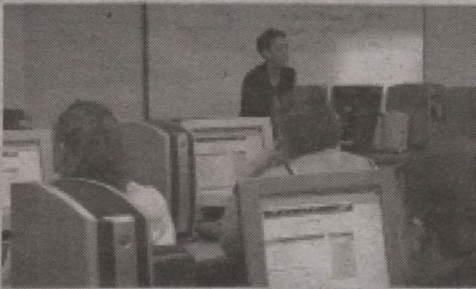
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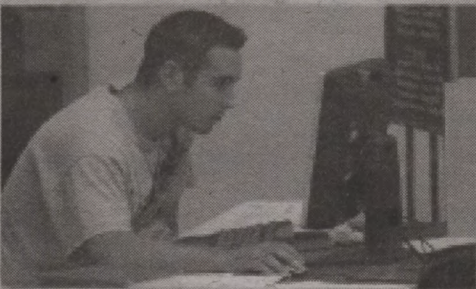
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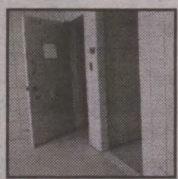
## Perspectives page 4

You/Local Editor Jared Purcell takes a critical look at the culture that surrounds voting in a presidential election.



## Campus page 6

Extensive research by two Oakland University professors sheds light on presidential campaign.



## Local page 10

Area homes dress to impress for Halloween. Plus, Kwame Kilpatrick sentenced to 120 days in the Wayne County Jail.



## The Mix page 12

Check out a top 10 list of the best political portrayals on "SNL." Plus, students talk about which actors they would like to see play politicians in a movie.



## you page 20

Follow Jeanette Williams through a "Day In The Life" of an Oakland University police officer.



## Sports page 22

Manning the midfield with men's soccer star Martin Sandell. Plus, cross country heads to pre-nationals.



## the scene page 26

"American Idol" or the presidential election, which is more important to America?



## MOUTHING OFF page 29

Ready for an Oakland Post showdown? Things get testy when two of our section editors debate the merits of young voters.



## Nation | World page 31

The White House sends a clear message to banks in possession of the bailout funds. Also, two white supremacists are caught plotting the assassination of Barack Obama.



Check out The Oakland Post's guide to help you make a decision in this presidential election.

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# Perspectives

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October 29, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

## Presidential race still on for Michigan's voters

It's been a little more than three weeks since Republican presidential candidate John McCain decided to pull his campaign staff and advertising from Michigan to reallocate funds to other battleground states. To many people, McCain was surrendering a key state and its electoral votes to his counterpart, Democratic nominee Barack Obama.

At the time of McCain's decision to pull his campaign out of Michigan, most polls showed he was trailing Obama by anywhere from five to nine points. However, since his departure from the state, Obama's lead has increased to double digits, with most polls putting Obama's current margin at 13-14 points. Some polls, including one cited in a Washington Post article, estimate that the Illinois senator has as much as a 22 point lead in the state.

The growing perception is that the race in our state is over. And on both sides, it's beginning to seem as though the importance of our vote has been somewhat diminished.

It's understandable that supporters of the McCain-Palin ticket may feel a little disheartened. Many see their candidates' decision as waving a white flag in a state that McCain overwhelmingly won during his bid for the Republican Party's nomination in the 2000 primaries. But that is no reason to stay home on election day. Just because Michigan is not part of McCain's immediate strategy does not mean that his campaign doesn't need your support. Don't take it personally. If you were planning on voting for him before, his decision on Oct. 2 shouldn't prevent you from voting for him on Nov. 4.

Just because your candidate is trailing in polls doesn't mean your candidate is less deserving of your vote. Do you no longer side with your candidate's stances and policies merely for the fact he has limited funds and decided to divert more money and people in states like Wisconsin, Florida and Ohio?

Michigan is not a lost battle — McCain could still win here. Crazier things have happened in politics. Many are familiar with Harry Truman's stunning come-from-behind victory in the 1948 presidential election.

While polls at the time were much less exact than they are today, the national media was all but handing the election to Thomas Dewey. What if Truman supporters, due to the perception that their candidate had no chance of winning, chose to stay home?

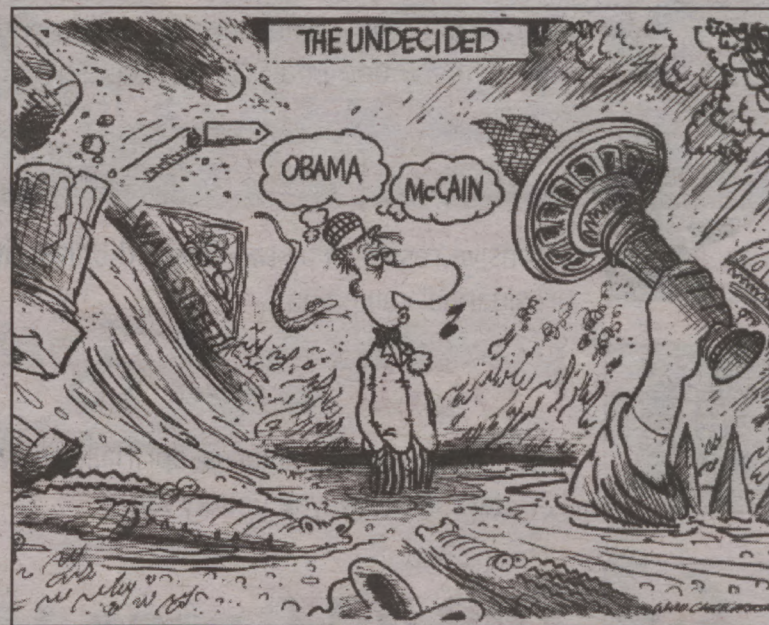
And on the flip side, although no Republican presidential candidate has won Michigan since Ronald Reagan in 1984, it doesn't mean Michigan's Obama-Biden supporters can take it for granted that Obama will win in Michigan. It is just as important for Obama supporters to cast their votes as it is for McCain supporters.

While polls have shown that his lead has increased, complacency can take away that lead on Election Day. Just as some McCain supporters see voting for the Arizona senator as a waste of time, many Obama in Illinois, and now Michigan, may see voting for Obama as an unnecessary or unneeded vote.

"Why should I bother with voting? He's going to win here even without my vote," people may think. It is the unfortunate effect of the electoral college, that a Democratic vote in a mostly-blue state is not valued as much, just like a Republican vote in a mostly-red state.

Supporters of third party candidates, who had at one time pledged their support for Obama, may now be more apt to support Ralph Nader or Bob Barr, in light of Obama's growing lead. And just because these third party candidates are not likely to win this year doesn't mean you are throwing your vote away if you vote for them, if you feel that their ideas are worth supporting.

Let's not forget that voting is a right granted in the United States that is not an option for many around the world. We're not going to hit you over the head with "voting is the most American thing you can do" rhetoric, but supporting a candidate should not stop because you don't feel he or she can or can't win. Your dissenting vote, even in a losing race, lets people know that the winning candidate isn't, the one who has all of the public support.



MIKE LANE/Cagle Cartoons

**W**hat do you think? Have a news tip?

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The Oakland Post  
61 Oakland Center  
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**Letter Policy:** Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

### CORRECTIONS CORNER

In the Police Files of the Oct. 22 issue, statements were incorrectly attributed to "SFL@OU." While "SFL@OU" appears in two of the statements provided in the police report, it is not entirely clear whether or not they can be attributed to Students For Life at Oakland University.

On page 17 of the Oct. 8 issue, the correct title of the photo contest submission from Linda K. Pletz is "Autumn Reflection in the Park."

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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*— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*