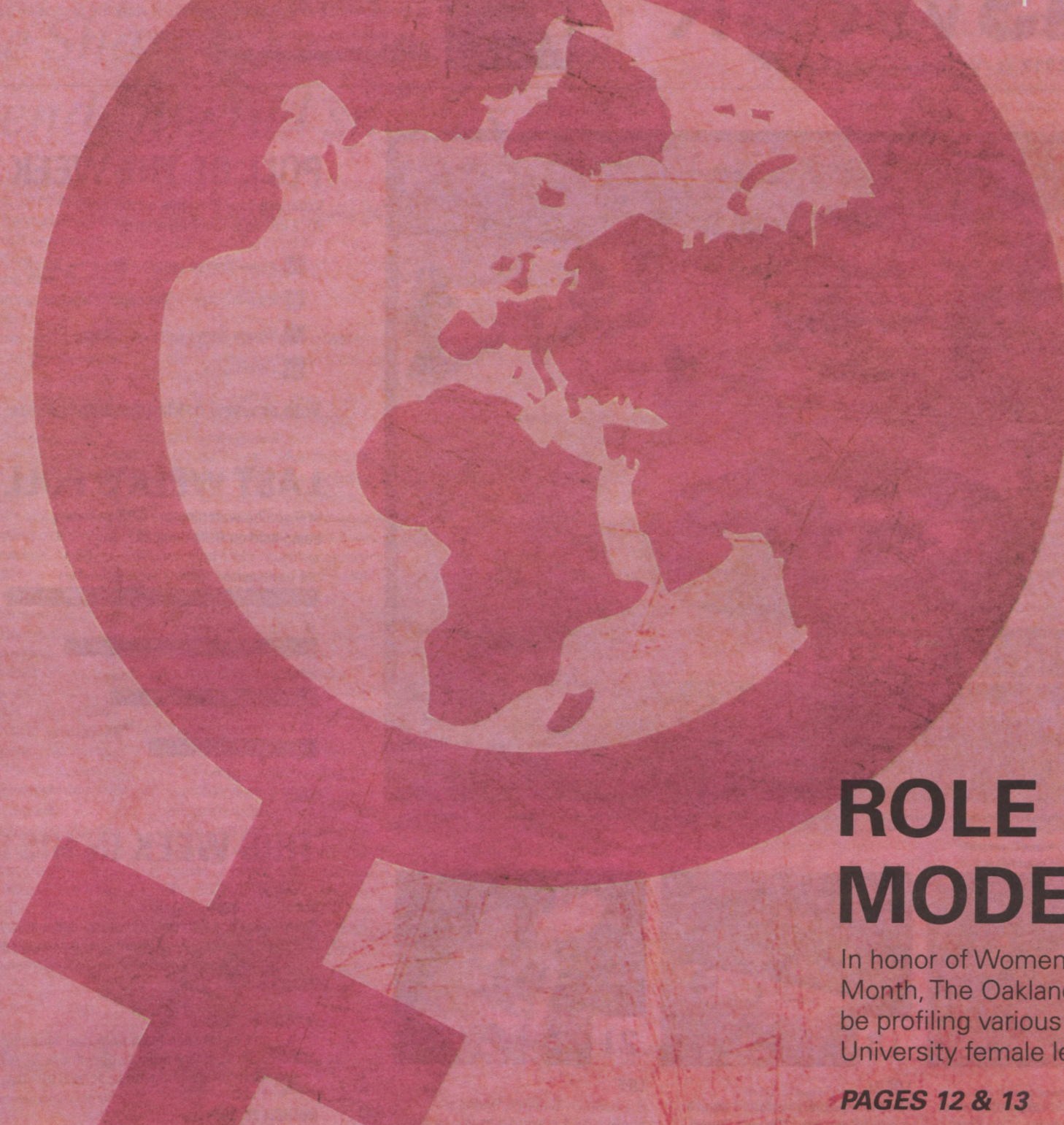


# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

MARCH  
**14**  
2012



## ROLE MODELS

In honor of Women's History Month, The Oakland Post will be profiling various Oakland University female leaders.

**PAGES 12 & 13**



### DEBATING ISSUES

Students protest fellow student's sexual harassment claims.

**PAGE 6**



### SETTING STANDARDS

Division I hockey team finishes second in the nation.

**PAGE 14**



### DIFFERENT PATTERNS

An emerging trend of prints is explored in a photo spread.

**PAGE 20**

# thisweek

March 14, 2012 // Volume 38, Issue 26



## ontheweb

Students celebrate the influential black women at Oakland University at an empowerment event. Read the story and view the photos on our website.

[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**FLASH MOB FOR AWARENESS** // Oakland University students participate in a flash mob to raise awareness for the thousands of deaths in Syria. A bake sale was held to raise money for those who need aid. Read the full story online at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com). Tweet us your photos @theoaklandpost for your chance to be featured as next week's photo of the week. *JESSICA BOONE//For The Oakland Post*

Submit a photo to [photos@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:photos@oaklandpostonline.com) for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)



9

### CAMPUS

Over 100 professionals gathered at Oakland University for "The Stem Cell Michigan Meeting." The meeting was to discuss recent research findings in the area.



18

### LOCAL

The Henry Ford Museum has premiered their new "Driving America," which features how people use cars in their daily lives and have gotten around throughout the years



21

### LIFE

A freshman Oakland University student and musician continues to make music and play shows around the state — even during difficult times in his life.

## POLL OF THE WEEK

What are your thoughts on the Kony 2012 Invisible Children efforts?

- A I think they're great — Bring him down.
- B It's overrated — Facebook can't change the world.
- C What's Kony? Extra chili please.
- D I don't care.

Vote at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

## LAST WEEK'S POLL

Will you be watching the GOP debate being held on OU's campus?

- A) Immediately, I park in the overflow lots  
19 votes | 35%
- B) Five to 10 minutes  
17 votes | 31%
- C) 10 minutes to 30 minutes — I troll  
13 votes | 26%
- D) An hour or more — I need front row  
11 votes | 22%

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### MARCH 17, 1980

Hazel Conniff, a 23-year-old journalism major at Oakland University, was murdered by serial killer Carl Eugene Watts while visiting her boyfriend in Detroit.

### MARCH 16, 2005

OU's men's basketball team defeated Alabama A&M 79-69, allowing them to play in the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

### MARCH 18, 2009

Linda Gillum, Ronald Mattei, Angela Nuzzarello and Michele Raible were hired as assistant deans for the William Beaumont School of Medicine.

## BY THE NUMBERS

CHARTWELLS

1

restaurants in the Oakland Center open on Sunday

4

coffee cafés on campus

7

meal plans available through Chartwells

60

total hours the Vandenberg dining hall is open Monday through Thursday

6

restaurants to eat in the Pioneer Food Court

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Bike Share bikes becoming an endangered species

**Y**ou've seen them before. They're bright pink, have two wheels and aid to your commute around campus.

They are the Bike Share bikes and they are about to become extinct.

Started three years ago by members of the Oakland University Student Congress, a division of Student Affairs, University Housing and Campus Recreation in 2009, the Bike Share program has had problems with bike mortality rates.

Of the 260 bikes purchased at the beginning of the year, a mere 23 percent, or 60 bikes, are left.

While we can't put the blame on one specific group, we are just disappointed in the entire situation.

Oakland's Bike Share policy states online that it "serves to promote physical fitness and eco-friendliness," and the program has been based on an honor system of sharing designated bicycles since it first started.

According to the program's rules, the bikes are limited to OU's main campus.

However, bikes have been spotted mangled all around campus and off campus, too.

There have been reports and sightings of Bike Share bikes at Beacon Hill Apartments, the Busch's shop-

The Bike Share program is a privilege on our campus and it deserves more respect.

ping plaza, all along Walton Boulevard and as far away as Pontiac.

And students aren't the only ones that are using them incorrectly.

Last week's Mousing Off column featured a picture of a Bike Share bike being mistreated. The photo was of someone who doesn't even attend OU submerging one of the bikes into Beer Lake.

The Bike Share program is a privilege on our campus and it deserves more respect. Abusing the bikes and the program is ruining it for everyone.

That is where the problem lies.

OUSC is currently working with campus recreation to develop a plan to keep the program going. Present ideas include a universal lock system that would require students to place a deposit on the bikes in order to be able to receive the universal key.

The hope is that students, by becoming invested in the bikes, will begin to take better care of the devices they're using. It will also

help decrease the amount of theft from the people who couldn't care less.

Other universities around the country have similar Bike Share programs, but they have implemented a system where students use their student IDs to check out a bike, lock and helmet.

Such a program with oversight would help to keep bikes on campus at all times and will ensure they are returned in good condition.

Though we understand that a program like that could cost upwards of \$100,000, a set policy to check out bikes is necessary.

Brett McIsaac, student services director, said OUSC is not planning on increasing the number of bikes for the rest of the semester. So unless everyone starts to handle them correctly, we fear they will soon be extinct.

If you see a bike that is broken, or find one off campus, you can text the bike's location to bike@oakland.edu. Include the bike's number located on handlebar and the rack location.

And please, be more careful with them. Don't ruin it for others.

*The staff editorial is written weekly by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.*



## THE OAKLAND POST

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#### Corrections Corner

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

#### Letters to the Editor

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.



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EDITORIAL

# Why is the 2012 Oakland Symposium for you?

## 2012 Oakland Symposium: Empowering Women in the Global Community

Beyond being the largest event organized by Oakland University Student Congress for the current administration, the 2012 Oakland Symposium will be bringing in the big names to speak, including Sheryl WuDunn — the first Asian American winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author of “Half the Sky,” — the OU Board of Trustees Chair Henry Baskin, CEO of Haven, Executive Director of the Collaborative Group and vice presidents from the multi-billion dollar industries Johnson Controls, Eaton Corporation and Consumers Energy. (Among others listed below)

OUSC is hosting the 2012 Oakland Symposium on the topic of Empowering Women in the Global Community on March 2.

Join in on this educational and inspirational series of engagements, workshops, panels and entertainment.

If this already sounds good, learn more and register for the symposium here [oakland.edu/symposium](http://oakland.edu/symposium).



**BENJAMIN EVESLAGE**  
guest columnist

WuDunn, as described previously, will keynote the symposium at 9 a.m. at Meadow Brook Theatre, followed by various panels from 10:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., a networking session at 3:30 p.m. in the Oakland Room, a benefit dinner at 5:30 at Meadow Brook Hall and the RHA's Grizzposé fashion show fundraiser at 7 p.m. in the Gold Rooms.

Women and girls compose more than half the world's population, however this group is still categorized as a minority because of inequality and discrimination that is either hidden or obvious in many societies throughout the world.

OU's student female population happens to be a surprising 60 percent.

However, it is important to note that women's empowerment empowers all 100 percent of the Oakland University student body.

In the novel, “Half the Sky” by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, they reason that Earth's largest untapped resource is women. Thus, empowering women is empowering the global economy.

The 2012 Oakland Symposium at OU will become

the place for understanding global women's empowerment and learning about solutions to make a positive difference in our own community.

Topics for workshops and panels include sex trafficking, women overcoming social challenges, women with disabilities, global perspectives, empowerment through the legal system, women in politics and media, women in poverty, religious perspectives and women in business.

Free lunch at noon and refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided throughout the day.

View the symposium program and register online at [www.oakland.edu/symposium](http://www.oakland.edu/symposium)

Contact OUSC legislative affairs director, Samantha Wolf at [sdwolf@oakland.edu](mailto:sdwolf@oakland.edu) with questions and comments

Benjamin Eveslage is the president of the Oakland University Student Congress. Contact him via email at [bsevesla@oakland.edu](mailto:bsevesla@oakland.edu)

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LETTER TO THE EDITORS

*Last week's letter to the editor was hurtful, inaccurate towards all student athletes*

Julianne Boyle  
Engineering Biology, Sophomore

This is a response to the letter to the editor about athlete conduct at an eating awareness event.

While I respect the intentions of the letter to the editor, I felt hurt and offended as a student athlete. Every week I look through The Oakland Post to see any updates or activities on campus and I read the sports articles, hoping to see a friend make an appearance in the issue. As a member of the women's soccer team, I hardly receive any recognition or fan support from the majority of Oakland students — so any publicity is somewhat of a shocker. But imagine how I felt as I read the

article which generalized me and my teammates as "middle school boys."

My team attended the movie premiere for Eating Disorder Awareness Week.

This was a function that all student-athletes were required to attend and they became the bulk of the audience. A few were, as was correctly pointed out, behaving inappropriately.

But, by no means, was this something that the entire population of student-athletes took as a joke.

The conduct of a few athletes has been generalized to something that implies immaturity and superiority of athletes.

Many sports teams at OU have small support groups to begin with and do not appreciate the unnecessary poor publicity.

I, myself, learned a lot and encourage the people who read The Oakland Post just as I do, to understand that most student-athletes work very hard to support the community and would hope the community would show some support back to the athletes of all sports.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

*Walk in our shoes before generalizing*

Brittany Holbrook  
Social Work, Junior

This letter is regarding the girl that commented on the athlete conduct at the Eating Awareness Event in the Banquet rooms of the Oakland Center.

As a student-athlete, I was very disappointed when I read this letter in The Oakland Post. I felt that you wrote out of complete ignorance, generalizing the athletes as being immature and offensive at the event.

Most athletes that I had conversed with thought this event was helpful and very educational for those going through eating disorders and body image problems.

You stated a statement saying, "Next time — don't bother coming." I just wanted to enlighten you that this event was mandatory for all athletes. When you heard two girls complain about not wanting to be there — give them a break. They might have had 7 to 9 a.m. practice, along with a 9 to 10 a.m. workout, a 12 p.m. class, trying to find time to eat, following another class and then a mandatory event scheduled just when you think you may get a time to breathe and have

time on your own?

When you said, "To the girl sitting behind me — If this film helps even one person in the community, it's more than what you've done," did not really sit well with me.

Do you know that student-athletes do more community service within Oakland County than some do in their life?

Do you not realize that we are affiliated with Hispanic Outreach Tutoring Programs, The Boys & Girls Club, Jack's Place and reading to elementary schools on a daily basis?

Do you not realize that most athletes take 16 credits while spending at least four hours in the gym, on the field, or on the track each day — not counting all the four day weekends traveling, trying to get your school work done? No. Didn't think so.

Did you even think you are discriminating and generalizing groups of people?

Before you, and a lot of Oakland University, classify athletes as selfish or vain, maybe one day you should take a walk in their shoes and see really what being a Division I student-athlete is all about.

# Now hiring: Editor-in-Chief

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the fall 2012 and winter 2013 semesters. Applications are due Friday, March 23.

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for managing the Oakland Post independent student newspaper and reports to the board of directors.

Applicants should possess superior oral and written communication skills, a working knowledge of news media and have a solid command of digital technologies. Proficiency in Adobe publication software and Wordpress is required.

Job duties include supervision of staff, oversight of production of weekly print publication and daily online news site, writing and editing, staff recruitment and training and facilitation of necessary university and community relations.

Compensation includes weekly salary and a tuition stipend. Applicants need not be journalism majors, but prior experience in a newsroom is preferable.

Applicants should send a digital portfolio including a cover letter, resume and work samples to Holly Shreve Gilbert, shreve@oakland.edu

# EDUCATION UNDER FIRE

A DOCUMENTARY & CONVERSATION

DATE AND TIME: MARCH 22, 2012, 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
VENUE: GOLD ROOM C, OAKLAND CENTER

"Education Under Fire" is produced by Single Arrow Productions and co-sponsored by Amnesty International. The 30-minute documentary addresses the Iranian government's denial of the right to education for religious and ideological reasons.

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# Protests support student's suspension

Feminist organization expresses opinion on sexual harassment

By Jordan Gonzalez  
Assistant Campus Editor

The fire is still burning in the aftermath of the suspension of a 56-year-old student from Oakland University.

A feminist group on campus, Students Advocating for Gender Awareness, and history fraternity, Phi Alpha Theta, have collaborated to protest what they said is an "inaccurate representation of the facts from the media."

They gathered signatures from students for a petition and wrote a letter to President Gary Russi and Dean of Students, Glenn McIntosh.

## Supporting the University

Vanessa Vojinov, a member of SAGA, said the purpose of the letter was to show support for the university's decision to suspend the student and the petition is to raise awareness of what actually occurred.

"Phi Alpha Theta decided that they were going to have a letter to the president saying that they supported his decision and they wanted all the student organizations to sign it," Vojinov said. "(SAGA) decided that student organizations weren't big enough. (SAGA) wanted it like an outcry against sexual harassment from the student body itself."

SAGA began tabling March 5, gathering signatures from students for a petition that they will eventually submit Russi and McIntosh. As of March 12, they had 633 signatures.

"This (petition) is more focused on recognizing that it is sexual harassment and the (Phi Alpha Theta collaborative letter) is more focused on the OU policy to suspend (the student)," Alex Allen, SAGA president, said.

## Challenging the media

Allen said the key to the problem isn't a free speech issue, but a sexual harassment issue.

"We really wanted to challenge a lot of the media ... and the way that they are framing it as a free speech issue," Allen said. "A lot of the headlines were like 'OU student suspended for journal' without really referencing what was in the journal, that the teacher was



JOHN REMILLARD/The Oakland Post

Lauren Catoni, a member of SAGA, explains the purpose of the petition and definition of sexual harassment according to SAGA.

affected by it or that it was sexual harassment."

OU did not charge the student, Joseph Corlett, with sexual harassment, according to documents released by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a non-profit educational foundation based in Philadelphia. The student was charged with intimidation, violating ordinance 6.02, unlawful individual activities, of the University Ordinances and Regulations due to the content in an assignment in his Advanced Critical Writing course, which he described his sexual attraction to his instructor.

For SAGA, the student didn't just commit intimidation, he committed sexual harassment as well.

"Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, which is illegal under title seven of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," Allen said. "(In this case) it would be that Joseph Corlett's journal entries were unwanted sexual attention."

According to Allen, sexual harassment is more than physical harassment or what culture perceives as something that is of a sexual nature.

"The intention is less important than the effect it has on the person," she

said. "It is less important that Mr. Corlett thought that what he was doing is ok and more important that the professor was uncomfortable with it."

## Student challenges protests

The student's attorney, Brian P. Vincent, that the student committed sexual harassment.

"In terms of their protest, Joe's speech, with respect to the charge in this matter, was entirely protected," Vincent said. "We take issue with their assertion that Joe's conduct has in some way violated the university's own sexual harassment misconduct or the law."

Corlett said the definition of sexual harassment, according to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, shows that what he wrote does not fit the definition. He said the director of OU's Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, Joi Cunningham, said his work did not violate the OU's policies during his hearing.

"(The Director) explained to the hearing committee that my daybook did not meet the definition of sexual harassment or intimidation according to (the Office of Civil Rights), with which OU must comply, according title

nine," Corlett said.

Cunningham could not be reached by press time for comment.

Vincent said there were "procedural errors" that also occurred, which he didn't specify, but he said that it is federal law that universities that accept federal funds comply with title nine, also known as the Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.

Recently, OU denied Corlett's appeal to have Corlett reinstated, according to Vincent, but he said they will continue to stay with the case.

"The point is that popularity or majority rule or petition signing has absolutely nothing to do with the first amendment," Corlett said. "It's absolutely irrelevant to the first amendment. In fact, only when those among us have the least popular speech protect will the rest of us have protection."

OU officials are still unable to comment on the matter.

To read OU's sexual harassment policy for students visit <http://bit.ly/A1L7pW> and for faculty <http://bit.ly/xTXmm1>

Contact Assistant Campus Editor Jordan Gonzalez at [jrgonzal@oakland.edu](mailto:jrgonzal@oakland.edu)