

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

April 13, 2011

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## touring *the* town



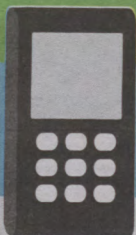
THE OAKLAND POST'S GUIDE  
TO ALL THINGS LOCAL

*pages 11-17*

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## THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# this issue

April 13 — May 10, 2011



Photo  
of the  
Week

### Unique talent on display // Monday, April 11

NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Riding his unicycle all around campus yesterday, freshman David Rich has only been practicing the technique since last summer. Also featured on the Oakland University Facebook page, Rich had been spotted by students around the Oakland Center, South Foundation Hall, Dodge Hall and in the circle drive entrance into the university.



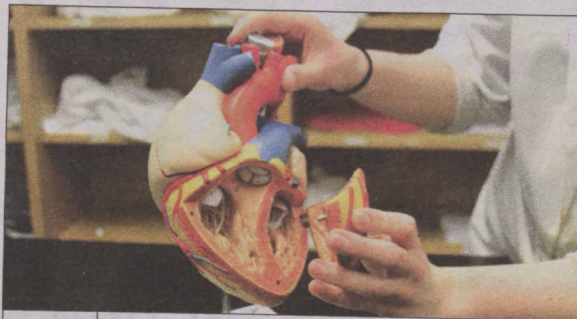
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**CAMPUS //** As part of Oakland University's Greek Week, students are celebrating this week with a carnival, a dance-off and a tailgate.



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**SPORTS //** With the NBA Draft approaching, Oakland's Keith Benson is working hard to impress scouts and improve his draft stock.



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**FEATURES //** Working with the human body, teaching assistant Alison Glinski dissects human cadavers to teach her human anatomy class.



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**THE SCENE //** Oakland University will host the second annual Michigan Pinball Expo from April 14-17. It will feature over 250 machines.

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**STAFF EDITORIAL**

## Retaining students

As this is our last editorial of the winter semester and 2010-11 school year, it may very well be the last editorial you read as an Oakland University student.

And that doesn't apply only to seniors.

OU's first year retention rate is 76 percent, according to data compiled by the university, meaning approximately one in four current freshmen won't be Golden Grizzlies come this fall.

Why is this happening? One could blame educational quality, but that doesn't seem to be the case for us. It is nearly impossible for students to find a class taught by a graduate assistant or the like, though that is the reality at many large state universities. About 90 percent of Oakland's professors hold doctoral degrees, and most have real-life experience in their field of study.

While the retention rate doesn't fluctuate greatly year to year, the freshman class profile is going up. The average ACT score of incoming freshmen has increased incrementally over the last five years, from 21.6 in 2006 to 22.4 in 2010. At the risk of sounding like an admissions brochure, we must stress that these are simply the facts.

What can bring students to OU and keep them here, though? The school has taken a

step with implementing multiple concurrent enrollment programs with community colleges in the area. A fourth partnership of the sort was announced Friday with Mott Community College.

Does a football program make for a legitimate destination college? That seems to be the case with the top two choices in the state, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

### What can bring students to Oakland University — and keep them here?

However, a school that is consistently named as a dream school by both parents and students in an annual survey done by the Princeton Review is New York University — and the Violets haven't fielded a football team since the 1960s.

What the school does have is an urban campus that provides access to internships and other opportunities in a large city. OU shares that benefit; its location is a huge advantage over schools like Central Michigan University and its Mount Pleasant location, which is comparatively isolated.

At the Creating the Future II summit, President Gary Russi tasked campus and community leaders with coming up with ways to better the school. One of the bigger issues brought up was the recruiting and retention of high school students — of which there will be a smaller pool in coming years — and those who haven't completed their secondary education.

The school has done well in avoiding the "capital arms race" — pooling all assets toward bells and whistles like a football program — that Jeff Williams, a consultant hired by the school for Public Sector Consultants, says is not a good idea. The school should take this advice and focus on assets that "enable students to interact," such as technology and programs that encourage collaboration.

Russi has stressed that OU is still a young school. It is doing all the prescribed things to grow; it is just an issue of time and age when it comes to retention rates.

Enrollment numbers continue to rise — we'll let you decide whether that's a good thing. Regardless, OU should worry less about the quantity of students and more about the quality of students and the education they receive.

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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.

**Poll**  
- of the -  
**Week**

**4.13.11**

### Last Week's Poll

Do you take time to honestly and thoroughly fill out teacher evaluation forms?



• Yes  
34 votes / 83%

• No  
7 votes / 17%

### This Week's Poll

Since enrolling at Oakland University, have you ever considered transferring?

• YES • NO

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

# OU

## BY THE NUMBERS

Ever wonder how many subs are made at Subway in an hour? Or how many cars go in and out of the main entrance?

Find out at  
[www.vimeo.com/theoaklandpost](http://www.vimeo.com/theoaklandpost)

# Take time to practice professional writing

With my time at The Oakland Post finally coming to an end, I thought a retrospective look at my tenure here would be appropriate, considering the effect it has had elsewhere in my life.

For the better portion of 2009 and 2010, this was my only job. Starting off as a staff reporter, I didn't make much money, but looking back, I realize I made something more valuable than money.

I started writing here in October 2009 having never taken a journalism class and not writing journalistically since my senior year of high school. I wasn't even in the journalism school; I graduated with a degree in business management and human resources management.

Writing at The Post, however, developed my critical and creative writing abilities into something that my newest employer, a marketing firm, said was the deciding factor in my hire.

In this age of 140 character Tweets and



**Ryan Hegedus**  
Senior Reporter

instant messages, spelling and grammar skills have deteriorated in an alarming number of students.

Yes, anyone can create and author a blog or write notes on Facebook. Twitter updates are even considered publications now. With the quality editorial staff of The Post, though, you can get real guidance for crafting award-winning articles.

I can only speak from my own perspective as a business major, but I think writing is often something that non-journalists

view as a struggle they'd rather avoid.

Undergraduate students are faced with a challenge once they enter college — writing developed research papers for general education courses while expressing themselves clearly, confidently and concisely for an audience, something they may have never done.

## Spelling and grammar skills have deteriorated in an alarming number of students.

Obviously, there are writing classes available for non-journalism majors, but with The Post being inside the Oakland Center — the hub for student activity — joining the staff here is a cheaper and time-friendly alternative.

Regardless of where you go when you

leave Oakland University, written and verbal communication skills are critical to finding success in the career field.

I have also made connections that I would have never made without writing for the newspaper and interviewed people I could have never met otherwise.

In addition to nearly every head coach and dozens of athletes on campus, I've interviewed Food Network personality Alton Brown, comedian Charlie Murphy and hip hop superstar Lupe Fiasco.

What kind of connections would someone normally need to have to be handed similar opportunities?

With my time at The Oakland Post, I was able to meet them, and even got paid to do it.

While I can't promise you will make money or meet celebrities, I can tell you that writing for The Post will drastically change your job outlook when it comes time to graduate.

# Detroit is on its way back — stay and be a part of it

Growing up, I've sort of always had a desire to move on to the next best thing.

When I was in high school, I couldn't wait to get out of the small town I lived in.

When I was going to school at another university, I couldn't wait to move to Rochester. And up until a few months ago, I could not wait to move out of the metro Detroit area.

Don't get me wrong.

I have had a great experience at Oakland University over the past few years and I love Rochester.

But Detroit has so many negative connotations that I was eager to move on to whatever I considered a "real city" to be, looking exclusively for jobs in places like Nashville or San Diego.

One afternoon, however, I stumbled across a site called I Am Young Detroit.

On this page, there were links to blogs about Detroit's rebirth and information about the work that dozens of young professionals are doing in the city.

Even though I have spent my whole four years in college thinking about how to make a difference after I graduated, I never considered staying in Detroit until reading the stories of these people who were fight-



**Annie Stodola**  
Staff Reporter

ing to give Detroit a second chance.

Unfortunately, I think the attitude I used to have is something that is all too common in college students across Michigan.

Because everything we've heard about the job outlook in Michigan and especially in Detroit is so bleak and discouraging, a lot of people don't even think twice before deciding to move out of state.

As I've considered it more and more, staying in Detroit is a great opportunity — both for young professionals and the city.

Detroit has a lot to offer young people. Even though several neighborhoods may be run down, there's a vibrant visual arts culture in the city that we're lucky to be able to experience.

Detroit has an amazing music scene.

There are nonprofits that work around the clock to make life better for the city's residents.

Perhaps most importantly, however, we have the people of Detroit themselves. While volunteering in Detroit, I have had the opportunity to absorb a wealth of information from older Detroit residents who have been in the city for years.

There's so much we can learn from people who are aware that their city is flawed, and still are so proud of the area and are so determined to restore it.

I'm not saying that Detroit is problem free because it's clear there is a long way to go before Detroit is back in its prime.

But these problems are precisely why we should stay in the area.

Just because a city has problems does not mean it should be abandoned. It won't be easy, but Detroit can get back on its feet and I really believe that it will.

How soon it gets there is up to young professionals, though. The city needs people with fresh ideas.

Every city can make use of talented young people who are full of innovative ideas and we should definitely experience other cities at some point in our lives, but

Detroit needs educated young adults more than ever and they need them right now.

**Detroit has so many negative connotations that I was eager to move onto whatever I considered a 'real city' to be, looking exclusively for jobs in places like Nashville or San Diego.**

Volunteering or working in the city will make a huge difference for individuals and the city as a whole. Even though it may be a challenge, the work we do can lead to Detroit once again being a great place to live and visit.

Finding a job in Detroit will likely be more difficult than finding a job in other metropolitan areas, but it's worth it.

It's worth it to seek out a job that will improve the lives of others and it's worth it to be a part of reviving a city like Detroit, the city that is on the brink of something wonderful.

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## Punditry less a wreck with absence of Beck

By DAUD YAR

Guest Columnist

Have you ever thought about beating foreigners down with shovels? Or hating 9/11 victims because they complain too much?

Don't worry, neither have I. But believe it or not, one man prides himself on answering a strong "yes" to both questions: Glenn Beck.

He may not have had the simplemindedness of Sean Hannity, the uncreative material of Rachel Maddow, the vocabulary of Ketih Olbermann, the loudness of Rush Limbaugh, the rudeness of Bill O'Reilly or the arrogance of Bill Maher. He wasn't charming or good looking. But he had "it" — which in this case being the ability to make everyone else seem normal.

Beck, famous for his conspiracy theories and obscure references — i.e. cutting a rabbit in half with a chainsaw — drew audiences of 3 million people at one point; no doubt due to the political jousting as Democrats sat pretty in both congressional chambers.

Republicans own the house now, and things aren't any different. No wonder Beck lost more than half of his audience over the last year. Hardcore conservatives are learning government affairs will always be a soap opera, as portrayed by the media.

Chuang Tzu, the great Taoist, once said, "Virtue is destroyed by fame and fame is something to beat people down with ... This is simply using other men's bad points

to parade your own excellence."

O'Reilly sums it up rather well: "People get attention for attacking other people."

And he's right. What is more entertaining than meaningless conflict? A little insult here, a dash of hate there and anyone can be the next pundit.

Beck supplied these attitudes and more. Only one man is comfortable with calling President Barack Obama a racist and follow it up with a crying serenade. He is unique, and we loved him for it.

So now that he's been demoted — Beck will still appear on Fox News as a contributor — where will we get our daily dose of "over the top" crazy? I hate to say it, but tuning into "Days of Our Lives" is becoming a real possibility.

We are witnessing the slow death of the political pundit; first Olbermann, now Beck. It's enough already. After almost two decades of polarizing different groups of people, America won't miss them. We'll just find something new drama to fixate on.

We all dig drama — "Jersey Shore," "Real Housewives," "Made." Political talk shows are no different. But maybe it's time for a new beginning; an age when getting along with your fellow man is a priority.

Americans are at a fork in the road. As pundits take their leave, the country is one step closer to a dream; a dream that one day a nation will rise up and cast aside any sentiment of negative feeling toward any fellow man while being videotaped.

Of course, we still have a long way to go, but it's progress.

## CORRECTIONS CORNER

— The sports story "Dance team returns to Disney" incorrectly reported that the team's sixth-place finish this season was its best showing ever at the Universal Dance Association College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championships. The team placed fifth at the competition in 2005.

— Lisa Jacques was misidentified in the cutline accompanying the story "Singing for Sheen a 'losing' feat."

— Beekie Francis' name was misspelled in "Dictated but rigorous schedule."

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail [managing@oakland-postonline.com](mailto:managing@oakland-postonline.com) or call 248.370.2537.

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