

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

December 2, 2009

Volume 36, Number 16

Football Fantasy?




Student pushes for a football
team at Oakland University.

page 22

TACKLING HEALTH CARE

complete coverage of the health care debate
the numbers, the terms, the views, the need, the stories

pages 14-15



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We'll be back in print Jan. 6, until then, Keep up on oaklandpostonline.com

Cover illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives

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December 2, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

Stitching together reform that works

The poll taken for the special section in this issue found that 84 percent of Oakland University students have health care coverage and 74 percent of them have parents who pay for it.

It's a pleasant surprise that students are taken care of, health wise, at least for the time being. But with the serious debate going on in Washington about how to reform our broken health care system, no one should be complacent.

For starters, in the richest country on earth, close to 47 million people are uninsured. At a news conference in July, President Obama pointed out that 14,000 Americans lose their health insurance every single day. Without a change in policy, the Congressional Budget Office expects the number of uninsured to rise to 54 million by 2019.

Horribly, a Harvard study released in September revealed that roughly 45,000 people die each year in the United States because they do not have health insurance.

Even if you have health care insurance, it is no guarantee. Medical bills are responsible for 60 percent of U.S. bankruptcies, and three quarters of the people who are bankrupt have health insurance.

According to the World Health Organization, the US ranks 37th in the world in health care outcomes, in spite of the fact that we spend about twice as

much on health care insurance as any other country — around \$15,000 per year for a family of four.

President Obama said in September that changing the health care system is the defining issue for the current generation. He would like to have a health care bill on his desk by the beginning of the New Year. The Senate began debate on their version of health care bill Monday.

Among other things, the bill as it now stands will extend insurance coverage to 31 million people. It contains a public option, a government-run plan to compete with private insurance to keep costs down, it would require most people to buy coverage and would prohibit insurers from denying coverage because of preexisting conditions.

Polling shows a majority of Americans support reform and particularly, a public option. According to a recent Survey USA poll, adults ages 18-29 are most supportive of an overhaul. An article in the Chicago Tribune states experts feel that young adults are the ones who have the most at stake in the debate.

The Commonwealth Fund, a health policy research foundation, reported that young people account for about 30 percent of the uninsured population and are the least likely to be offered health insurance through employers.

A main concern is being able to afford

mandatory coverage. But the legislation winding its way through Congress offers subsidies to help purchase health care for those who can't afford it. It would also allow young adults to stay on their parent's plans until age 26.

The health care industry is pouring tons of money into efforts to defeat health care reform. According to the Washington Post, \$1.4 million per day. Democrats will need all 60 votes to pass health care in the Senate, but three democratic senators and one independent have received large sums from the health care industry over their careers, and appear to be hold outs.

Interviewed on CNN, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) pointed out that we are the only country in the industrialized world that does not provide health care to all of its people. He said it's because the health industry, drug companies, the hospitals, all the organizations that are making billions right now, don't want us to touch their profits. They are trying to influence the legislation.

The debate is going on now. We can influence the legislation too. But only if we let our voices be heard. Our representatives in Washington like to hear from their constituents on the issues.

Senator Carl Levin: 313-226-6020; Senator Debbie Stabenow: 313-961-4330; Congressman Gary Peters: 248-273-4227.

What do you think?
Send your comments to The Oakland Post or stop in the office, 61 Oakland Center or by any of the methods below.

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CORRECTIONS CORNER

- In last issue's "Russi to hold open forum with faculty," chemistry professor Joel Russel was misquoted. The correct quote is "That's not the way other universities are run."

- It was incorrectly reported in last issue's "Who's leading OUSC?" that student body vice president Saman Waquad is no longer a member of Zeta Sigma Chi multicultural sorority. She is still affiliated with the sorority.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-2537. 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

The costs of cancer outweigh any benefits of screening later



When it comes to my health, I would rather be safe than be sorry. So when I heard on NPR that a federally appointed group of doctors was recommending women not start regular mammograms until the age of 50, instead of what used to be advised at age 40, I was confused. What could this mean? Why

the change, and why now?

This past November, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force revised its guidelines on the recommended age to start performing mammograms for women. CNN reports that the task force is made up of "16 health care experts, none of whom are oncologists."

These new guidelines have been met with various reactions, but the loudest ones are those of dissent.

In a statement on their website, the American College of Radiology said: "If cost-cutting U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) mammography recommendations are adopted as policy, two decades of decline in breast cancer mortality could be reversed and countless American women may die needlessly from breast cancer each year."

Also reported on CNN was a quote from the American Cancer Society "With its new recommendations, the (task force) is essentially telling women that mam-

mography at age 40 to 49 saves lives; just not enough of them."

These new guidelines are not recommending against all women in their 40s getting mammograms, but say that for most women in their 40s it is not necessary to do them routinely, as explained by Dr. Diane Petiti, vice chair of the USPSTF.

The task force explained that although mammograms can detect cancer in women between the ages of 40 and 49, the net benefit is small, as opposed to a moderate benefit for women in their 50s.

The task force also took into consideration the harm that can be done from the unnecessary testing, including stress, false-positive screenings and biopsies in women without cancer.

The task force has also advised against doctors teaching patients how to perform breast self-exams, giving this a "D recommendation" which means "There is moderate or high certainty that the service has no net benefit or that the harms outweigh the benefits."

Regardless of their reasoning, the move by the task force is an unsettling one.

They're concerned with the stress that a woman may go through when she gets a biopsy on something that may or may not be cancerous? They're worried about the psychological harm women in their 40s go through when getting a mammogram?

What's stressful to me is that I may someday have a doctor who takes this advice. If I'm one of the women who gets cancer in my 40s, but it goes undetected until I reach the age of 50, that means my cancer will have a higher chance of spreading, reducing my chances for

survival and potentially killing me faster.

Getting a mammogram in my 40s is not going to be psychologically harmful, but I can guarantee that if I were dying in my 50s because I missed that mammogram 10 years earlier, my psyche would be plenty damaged.

I would like the task force to tell the countless amount of women (and men!) who first discovered their cancer on their own, possibly saving their lives, that self-examinations have no benefit and could even be harmful.

I perform breast self-examinations regularly, and I don't plan on stopping because this task force says it isn't helpful. I hope that my attempts are in vain and I never have to worry about finding a lump, but if I do I'll be glad I caught it early.

What's so frustrating is that this gives women another excuse to put off going to their doctor and taking care of business. As if they need it.

Every year I get the card in the mail from my OB-GYN stating that it's time for my yearly physical and I groan, "How can I put this off?" The dentist? No way do I want to take time out of my day for a teeth cleaning. My health is important, and these are appointments I have to go to whether I like it or not. But if I have a chance to postpone my doctor visits or skip completely, I'm sorely tempted — and I don't think I'm alone in my sentiments.

Now women can say "Oh, well they say I don't have to worry about breast cancer until I'm 50, so I guess I'm free and clear for another 10 years!" And in the meantime, their cancer could be spreading.

poll of the week

What do you think of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's new recommendations that mammograms should start at the age of 50 instead of 40, and that breast self-examinations have no benefit?

- a** It's infuriating, especially because cancer can be detected between the ages of 40 and 50.
- b** It will save a lot of health care costs and time.
- c** It's not something I need to worry about right now, so I don't care.
- d** Other

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Nursing program may face competition

Mich. bill may allow community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

In most states, including Michigan, bachelor's degrees are only given by four-year colleges and universities. But some legislators are considering a bill that would allow community colleges in Michigan to offer bachelor's degree in nursing, cement technology, culinary arts and maritime technology.

Some colleges support the bill, but Oakland University opposes it, especially regarding the nursing degree, which is the only one of the four proposed degrees that OU offers.

State Rep. John Walsh introduced the bill, HR 4837 in the state House of Representatives in April, and it has gained some traction lately.

On Nov. 5, the bill passed out of the House Education Committee, and Walsh said it will be debated on the floor during the first couple weeks of December.

He said the bill has good support from some legislators, but that they're still trying to work with others who have concerns about it.

Walsh said there is no intention to create new four-year schools or compete with current four-year schools. "When people understand that, they end up supporting the bill."

Mike Hansen, president of the Michigan Community College Association, said the bill, if passed, would not only enable some students to get bachelor degrees who otherwise couldn't because of cost and distance. It would also help fill Michigan's need for nursing graduates.

Walsh said there are 400 students rejected from nursing schools each year because there are not enough open spots in nursing schools in Michigan, even though these students are qualified.

"This will not answer the problem ... but it could create several hundred slots," Walsh said.

People who don't support the bill say community col-



Photo Illustration by Jason Willis
Community colleges all around Michigan may have a hand in the future of the Oakland University School of Nursing.

leges don't need to offer bachelor's degrees.

David Waymire, a spokesperson for the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan, of which OU is a member, said higher education institutions like universities have worked closely together with community colleges in order to make it easier for students to transition between the two.

"(Those who) wish to get a four-year degree can go from a two-year college to a four-year one," Waymire said.

Waymire said that in Michigan's current financial state, it is a bad idea to create duplicate programs and have the new programs compete with the older ones for already limited resources and public tax dollars.

He said it would drive up the costs of community colleges because of accreditation and hiring faculty.

He also said finding faculty would be a challenge because they need doctorates.

But Hansen said that no more money would be required from tax dollars, and that the cost would be

covered by tuition from community college students, which would most likely be increased as a result.

Hansen also said there are people qualified to teach who are not teaching right now because they live too far from four-year universities, but if they could teach in community colleges closer to home, they would.

Waymire said there are some concerns of quality of education of community colleges versus higher education institutions.

Walsh said that because the community colleges would get accreditation from the same agencies as universities, the quality of education would be the same.

Walsh also said that because many community college credits are transferred and accepted by universities, "it shows that universities accept the quality of community college education."

Many community colleges already offer two-year nursing associate degrees, so they already have a lot of the equipment and some of the faculty they would need.

Linda Thompson Adams, dean of OU's school of nursing, did not return phone calls and e-mails for comment by press time.

Dave Groves, OU spokesperson, said OU does not support the bill.

Rochelle Black, vice president of OU's government relations department, said that OU has concerns about the bill, especially about nursing, and is lobbying the state legislature to at least change part of the bill.

Walsh said that he heard from six community colleges in Michigan who said they would offer bachelor's of science in nursing if they could.

Someone can get a registered nurse job through the associate or bachelor degree, but the bachelor can garner more advanced and higher-paying jobs.

The other majors — cement technology, culinary arts and maritime technology — are not as contested as much as the nursing major, partly because there is not as much demand or competition for them in the state.

Russi's forum promises postpone faculty vote

By MIKE SANDULA
Staff Reporter

Generally dissatisfied with President Gary Russi's job performance over the last decade, a group of faculty members planned to hold a vote of no confidence last week. But after an open forum Russi held with the faculty on Nov. 19, the vote was postponed.

At the forum, Russi made an opening address and then fielded questions from faculty for an hour and a half.

Russi promised, among other things, open communication through a variety of ways.

To combat his perceived isolation, Russi said he would open the annual campus-wide leadership meeting as well as access to Wilson Hall. Russi also made promises to have all medical school documents available in Kresge Library and to improve the budget process, which he said is dated and needs to change.

Russi promised to follow the process of shared governance and meet regularly

with the deans, department chairs and the association leadership.

In response to criticism of his 40 percent salary increase in 2008, Russi said he'd be donating \$100,000 to the university.

Though it isn't in his power to appoint faculty liaisons, Russi also promised to work toward more direct contact between faculty and the board.

Russi also vowed to develop a policy that demonstrates OU's support for its lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender

employee resource group and faculty.

Karen Miller, vice president of OU's AAUP chapter, said in light of these promises, the group of faculty that had called for the vote is postponing it until the end of next semester to give Russi time to follow through on his promises.

"I'm going to do everything I can to address the issues that we've talked about," Russi said at the forum. "You will hold me accountable, as you should."

For previous coverage of this issue, go to www.oaklandpostonline.com

POLICE FILES

Counterfeit money: An OU police officer was called to the Chartwells office in the Oakland Center on Nov. 17. A female stated that on the previous day a Chartwells employee working in Pawley Hall Café was paid with a counterfeit 10-dollar bill. The female gave the officer a bill with two identifying marks made by a counterfeit detection pen. OUPD is holding the bill as evidence and there are no suspects at this time.

Warrant Arrest: OUPD pulled over the driver of a car at 12:30 a.m. Nov. 18 for disobeying a stop sign at Pioneer Drive and the parking lot located between Varner and Pawley Halls. The driver, who had an outstanding arrest warrant from Sterling Heights, was arrested and released on bond.

Off-campus traffic stop, chase and arrest: At 1:15 a.m. on Nov. 19 an OU police officer traveling west on Walton Blvd. observed a vehicle disregard the stop sign at the Walton Blvd. turnaround in front of Beacon Hill apartments. The driver pulled into the Red Ox Tavern parking lot and the officer pursued him for a traffic stop. The driver, who didn't have a license and offered three different years for his date of birth, was issued Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and refused to submit to a Preliminary Breath Test. When told OUPD would be seeking a search warrant for blood, the driver ran toward Walton Blvd. with officers in pursuit. He was tackled, handcuffed and placed in a patrol car. A search of his car revealed a large hunting-style knife. The driver was taken to Oakland County Jail and his car was impounded. The driver was found to have two prior Operating While Intoxicated convictions, a Dearborn warrant and did not hold a valid drivers license from four prior suspensions.

Minor in Possession: Responding to a report of a disorderly male, OUPD arrived at West Vandenberg Hall at 4:40 a.m. on Nov. 21. The student confirmed that he had been drinking and officers spoke to witnesses who reported him as being destructive and belligerent. The student consented to a preliminary breath test, his blood-alcohol level was .17 and he was ticketed for MIP.

Report of stalking: A female student reported to OUPD on Nov. 23 that she is being followed at school by someone who has been making threats to her and her son at home. She also filed a report with her city's local police department, which contacted the accused stalker.

Bike stolen: A student reported to OUPD that his bicycle was stolen Nov. 23 from the rack in front of East Vandenberg Hall. His black bike had not been locked.

Off-campus OWI: OUPD pulled over the driver of a car traveling east on Walton Blvd. near West Oakland Drive at 3 a.m. Nov. 26. The car had been speeding, swerving and had a defective rear taillight. The officer smelled the strong odor of intoxicants when he approached the driver, who admitted that he was drinking a few hours earlier. The driver, who didn't have his license, was given sobriety tests, refused a PBT and was placed under arrest for suspicion of OWI. He was taken to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital Medical Center for the blood draw and then transported to the Oakland County Jail.

— Compiled by copy editor Donna Lange-Tucker from OUPD's media logs



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**COLLEGE KIDS
vs.
VAMPIRES**

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Honors college offers new courses

By MARKO POLOVINA
Contributing Reporter

New Honors College courses offered this winter semester give Oakland University students an opportunity to be more interactive, boost their GPA and avoid busy work.

Associate engineering Professor Barb Oakley plans to bring in case studies of anorexia and domestic abuse during next term's Too Kind: The Science Behind Pathological Altruism. The course covers brain development in sociopaths, codependency and selflessness, tied into genetics and neurological disorders.

Another course offered, Irish Literature, will take students to Ireland during the winter break.

"Getting a piece of knowledge isn't just for today," said Dawn Deitsch, administrative secretary of the HC. The classes "are meant to resonate in the rest of a student's life."

The minimum requirements to enter the HC, located on the first floor of East Vandenberg Hall, are an ACT score of 25 and a GPA of 3.5.

In order to be admitted to the Honors College, freshman students must apply after being granted admission to OU.

Students who wish to transfer to the HC from within Oakland University are required to have a minimum 3.5 GPA and complete an on-site interview.

If a student's scores are slightly lower than requirements, students still have a chance of being admitted.

The HC strives to be a "student-driven" community, Deitsch said.

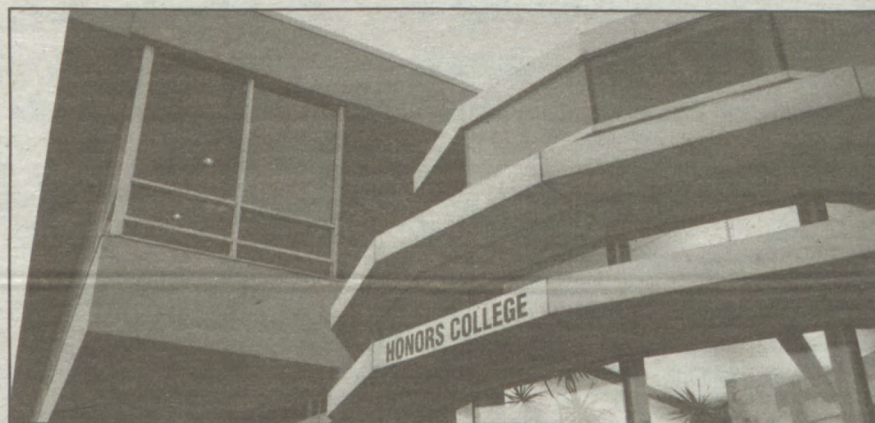
Students of the college recommend favorite professors and courses, therefore influencing their own education.

What makes the HC so open and interactive is the ability for the university's student recommended professors to submit their very own class idea, provided it meets the requirements and is later approved by Barbara Mabey, the interim director of the Honors College.

If accepted, the professor's passion and highly motivated students create not just a class, but a community.

The highly involved and dynamic atmosphere bring both student and professor together for love of the subject material.

The students joining the college are able to achieve, Deitsch said, "a network of connections for your future while helping you build your resume as soon as you start."



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post
The Oakland University Honors College offers a curriculum for highly motivated students with high grade point averages that prefer influencing their own education. New classes for winter include Irish Literature and Physics for Informed Students.

The classes incorporate and encourage heavy participation and allow a maximum of 20 students per class.

Additional scholarships, early registration, a private computer lab, free food and warm drinks are some other perks of being in the HC.

It is like a "home away from home," Deitsch said.

The continuous rotation of general

education classes each semester is one of the highlights of the HC, as it provides a wide variety of options and outlets for its students.

For incoming freshmen joining the HC, Deitsch's message to them is to "open up your world and be what you want to be."

For more information on the Honors College, visit www.oakland.edu/hc, or call 248-370-4450

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Meadow Brook Hall hosts walk

By BRAD SLAZINSKI
Contributing Reporter

Meadow Brook Hall will be hosting its 38th annual fund raising holiday walk from Nov. 28 to Dec. 23.

Meadow Brook will have a winter theme and various events taking place during the festivities.

Guests will be able to tour the mansion, children can participate in a pickle hunt — where guests attempt to find a pickle ornament hidden in a Christmas tree — and dine with Santa Claus.

Guests will also be given the opportunity to see items that are normally not on display at Meadow Brook.

These items include Frances Dodge's sleigh, home videos of the Dodges and Wilsons, and the outfits that Matilda Wilson had worn to social events and theatrical performances.

Other events will include the opportunity to see Santa at Knole Cottage on Dec. 12-13 for free, a breakfast with Santa Dec. 13 and 20, dinner with Santa Dec. 14, and a holiday tea on Dec. 15.

With the exception of visiting Santa at Knole Cottage, a small playhouse located a quick jaunt away from the main mansion, reservations are needed

to attend these events.

The holiday tea will host history storyteller Maureen Esther, who will present the lecture "Holiday Traditions: Revealed." This is a new event for the holiday tea.

Marketing coordinator Shannon O'Berski said that the fundraiser is the biggest one for Meadow Brook.

"This has been going on ever since the Hall was opened to the public," she said.

Meadow Brook Hall has been open to the public since 1971, four years after Matilda Wilson passed away.

Meadow Brook has over 100,000 visitors each year who participate in tours, research, and other events.

Tickets for the holiday tour are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children 17 and under. Children two and under will have free admission.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, seniors age 62 and older will receive \$5 off admission. The tours are self-guided and reservations are not needed.

The breakfast and dinner events with Santa are \$30 for adults and \$25 for children to attend. Holiday tea will cost \$50 per person.

More information about the Holiday Walk can be found at www.meadowbrook.org or by calling 248-364-6200.



ALEXIS TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
Children will be able to participate in a pickle hunt, where they can attempt to locate a pickle hidden in one of Meadow Brook Hall's Christmas trees.

Campus Briefs

The 2010 Meadow Brook Ball is planned for Saturday, January 30, and tickets are currently on sale. The ball is a formal attire event, and the theme is "Masquerade." Ball attendees can bring their own masks, or masks will be provided for guests. Tickets are \$12.50 per person or \$25 for a couple. Center for Student Activities director Jean Ann Miller said that in recent years, tickets have sold out within a day. For more information on the ball, go to www.oakland.edu/csa.

— Senior Reporter Rory McCarty

Micah Fialka-Feldman will be back in court over Christmas break in his continuing struggle to live on campus. Fialka-Feldman will appear at Detroit's U.S. District Courthouse Dec. 17 at 2:45 p.m. for a hearing on a summary judgment in his case against the Oakland University board of trustees. Both parties filed for summary judgment independently, and Judge Patrick Duggan can end the case by determining either party's case unmerited. If no decision is made during summary judgment, Fialka-Feldman will likely go back to court early in 2010 for a formal trial. For previous coverage of Fialka-Feldman's case, go to www.oaklandpostonline.com.

— Senior Reporter Sean Garner

Oakland University's Wellness, Health, and Injury Prevention program has been recognized by the National Wellness Institute as one of the top 10 programs in America and has been approved for accreditation. In addition to the recognition, OU has been invited to the NWI's summer conference next summer to receive an award of excellence from the NWI with their accreditation. With this accreditation, WHP students graduating with a GPA of 2.75 or higher will be able to register as Certified Wellness Practitioners and will be prepared to have careers in fields such as exercise specialists, personal trainers, and patient services coordinator.

— Contributing Reporter Brad Slazinski

OU student Bernice Kerner garnered \$979,400 for the Southeast Michigan Works! Agencies Caucus, which aims to help people 55 and older find work. After writing a grant proposal to the U.S. Labor Department as part of a research project in a master of public administration class, her proposal was one of 10 chosen nationwide.

— Campus Editor Kay Nguyen

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HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in winter 2010 or have graduated in summer or fall 2009. The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to inter-group understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community. The major consideration of the award is the individual's service to the community. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.



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OU continues to attain prestige through research

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Oakland University is currently considered to be in the second tier of public research universities in Michigan, with Western Michigan University, Central Michigan University and Michigan Technological University.

OU is not one of the "Big Three" research universities in Michigan. University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University hold that coveted title, and with it comes prestige, interested students and faculty, more research and grants, and likely a more favorable review from employers.

At OU, there is no official strategic plan or explicitly stated goal to join Big Three at the top tier. But there is a general feeling of trying to get as much of the research funding pie as possible, and steadily increase OU's reputation as a research university.

Getting a reputation as a good research university may come with a monetary sacrifice, requiring more taxpayer money or increased tuition.

At an OU board of trustees meeting in the summer to decide whether

to increase tuition and by how much, trustee Baskin said that if the upgrades were necessary to propel us "into the major leagues" would result in a tuition increase, OU should consider wait another year for those upgrades.

"I'm trying to understand why at this time, this administration said 'Let's get into the big time,'" he said. "It's the wrong time for us to be sitting here asking for an increase when the rest of the world is giving back."

But money is not enough to get into the big leagues, according to officials.

"Each of those institutions took a while to get there," said Kathryn Wrench, director of OU's office of Grants, Contracts and Sponsored Research.

"Research at universities is like a flywheel," she said. "Once you get it turning, it keeps turning."

Wrench said OU is a "robust research enterprise for its size," and that there isn't a need to change direction because it's on the right path.

Brad Roth, physics professor and director of OU Center of Biomedical Research, said it would be tough to reach U-M, but that OU could potentially reach the level of WSU or MSU, but that "it's not going

to happen overnight."

"Our research faculty is smaller in quantity, but similar in quality," Roth said.

It's a competitive time for getting research funding right now, but OU's research funding has been pretty stable recently, Wrench said.

She said right now there is an emphasis on moving faster from research into practical results.

"Society is moving toward integration of research into real-life problems," she said. The addition of the upcoming OU William Beaumont School of Medicine, which is planned to open in 2011, may help with integration of research.

She said there is also emphasis on biomedical, physics, engineering, life sciences humanities and social sciences in interdisciplinary research.

OU faculty received \$1.9 million in research grants from July 1 to Aug. 31, and \$1.9 million from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31.

Part of this was \$649,390 that Roth received as three grants from National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation — two of the biggest research funding organizations that are paid for by public taxpayers — to con-

tinue his research and buy equipment.

OU's finances benefit from faculty research, as a large portion of the research money goes to OU, partly to offset costs for the faculty researchers using OU facilities.

For example, from a \$154,000 grant Roth received, OU got about \$69,000, and Roth's project received \$85,000.

Roth said this is typical of most universities, and bigger universities may get a bigger portion of the research grants.

Central Michigan University recently had some controversy because a research project by two CMU math professors were found to contain plagiarism.

CMU's board of trustees returned the grant money to the NSF.

She said the CMU incident was unusual and unfortunate for any university.

She said there are mechanisms in place at OU to try to make sure such things don't happen.

In the two years that Wrench has been at OU, she said no alleged case of research misconduct has been reported.

"And if there were, it would be confidential, until the process was completed, but I can tell you assuredly there is not one (at OU) right now," she said.

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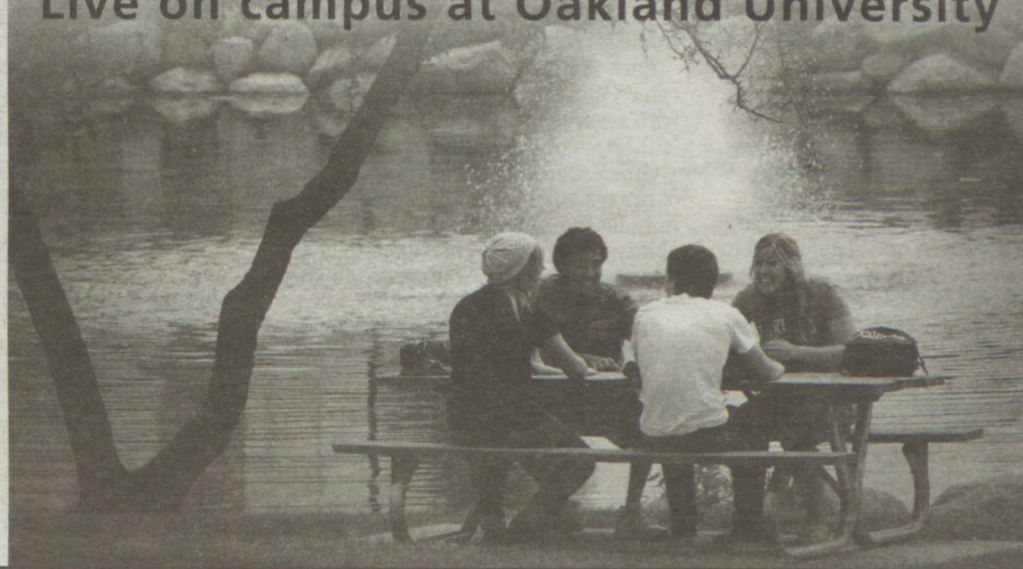


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Taking a break from teaching

OU associate professor to travel to India for research

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Many Americans went on a shopping spree the day after Thanksgiving for the Black Friday sales.

Oakland University special education professor Jan Graetz was one of them. She bought 15 small digital cameras.

But the cameras weren't for her. She is planning to give those cameras to families of people with autism when she travels to India this January, as part of a research project during her semester-long sabbatical.

The study will examine how people with autism are treated in the Indian culture and the daily lives of the families of these individuals.

"In the United States, many people with disabilities don't have equality. They are often looked down upon, or not treated as equal partners," Graetz said. "If we don't have it in the United States, you can imagine they don't have it over there."

Sabbaticals

Once every six years or so, faculty members with tenure get to take paid sabbaticals — usually a semester where they don't have to teach classes — to pursue other interests.

But the sabbaticals aren't just paid vacation time.

Professors have to do certain things that pertain to their field, like concentrate on research, write books or take classes to get a degree. Some stay local, some go across states and some travel to other countries.

Professors typically use what they work on during their sabbaticals as part of their job as a teacher and bring back the knowledge to their students.

According to a faculty personnel report approved by Oakland University's board of trustees on Nov. 9, 18 OU professors are taking sabbaticals this semester, and 21 professors will be taking sabbaticals in the winter 2010 semester.

Sabbaticals have to be approved by

the department chair, dean of the school, provost and OU's Institutional Review Board. Eligible faculty members have to relay to the board the goal of their work, whom it would benefit and what methods of research or data analysis they will use during their studies.

"This was the first year I was eligible for a sabbatical," Graetz said.

She recently got promoted from assistant professor to associate professor. She applied for the sabbatical this spring.

Graetz said she is still awaiting the final approval from the review board, but has already made preparations to go.

Graetz's autism study

Graetz decided to travel to India out of a curiosity toward the quality of life for people affected by autism in other cultures.

"I wanted to see how other countries deal with autism," said Graetz.

She contacted an organization in New Delhi called Action For Autism, and asked if she could talk to people with autism. The organization is helping her find interested families.

Graetz said she is going to India on Jan. 6, and will be back mid-February.

She will talk to about 14 families, who would be divided into two focus groups.

Each family will get one of the digital cameras in order to document their lives with regards to how the autistic member of their family is treated.

Graetz said she will share the results of her research with other organizations in India so agencies dealing with disability or autism can use them to help improve the quality of life for individuals with autism.

"I want to see the gap, see where the quality of life is lacking," she said.

A life-long interest

Graetz said she grew up around people with disabilities, as there was a state mental institution on the outskirts of the town where she spent her childhood.

She said her summer jobs, 4-H events



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Associate professor Jan Graetz stands in front of artwork created by a student with autism. In January, she will travel to India to study the quality of life for people with autism in the Indian culture.

and church projects all revolved around people with disabilities, and that she worked in the state institution when she was in college.

"Ever since I was born, I knew someone with a disability," she said, adding that no one in her family had one.

She said there wasn't a specific point in her life when she decided to work with people with disabilities.

"I taught a year of English in high school, but I knew it wasn't where I wanted to be," she said.

A few years later, in the mid 1970s, she was the principal of a new Detroit school with 70 students with autism and other disabilities.

The sabbatical next month won't be her first trip out of the country to work with people with disabilities.

She lived in Brazil for four years, volunteering with people with severe disabilities, and went with her husband and children to different countries in South America. Graetz said she also lived in Hawaii for five years.

Through these experiences, she got to see how people in different cultures treat people with disabilities.

She said there is sometimes a stigma attached to people with disabilities, and they often aren't treated equally.

"But the parents all want what's best for their child," she said.

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the cost of coverage

[designed by Jason Willis]

By JENNIFER WOOD
Senior Reporter

Kristen Herrick has had a cold for three weeks. She hasn't had a voice for two. Every morning she wakes up, takes a dose of Robitussin and hopes the congestion will break.

"My symptoms are chest congestion, nasal congestion, and laryngitis ... but my dad retired in July, I had to buy my own (insurance)," said Herrick, who recently bought Young Adult Blue insurance, which is catastrophic only with a \$1,000 deductible and 30 percent co-pay for any amount that exceeds her deductible.

Herrick, a 2007 Oakland University graduate with an education certification, is one of many young adults who will be directly affected by the outcome of the current health care debates.

"I've had a bad cough and congestion for the past three weeks and could use antibiotics, but I can't afford to pay for the office visit and then again for the prescription," Herrick said.

In a recent survey of OU students conducted by journalism students, findings showed that out of 120 students polled, 12 percent had no insurance and 13 percent paid out of pocket or through their employer.

When asked what their biggest concerns regarding health care coverage were, the students were mostly concerned about loss of coverage, keeping coverage, changes in coverage, and above all else, high prices.

Gabrielle Schulte, a sophomore communication major, has had multiple health ailments and is concerned that her coverage might decrease.

"I'm worried that we'll lose most of our coverage and will have to pay out of pocket. I'm in and out of the doctor's way too much to not have any health insurance," said Schulte.

On Nov. 7, 2009 the United States House of Representatives passed their version of the health care reform legislation. Debate on the Senate bill started Monday and is

expected to last several weeks.

In a speech at the University of Maryland early last September, President Barack Obama addressed the importance of considering young adults in changes made to the nation's health care.

"Young people make up one of the biggest chunks of the uninsured: One in three adults under 30 do not have health insurance. Most of them are just one accident or illness away from bankruptcy," Obama said.

According to Healthreform.gov, health care reform initiatives currently being debated in the Senate would allow the 1.3 million Michigan residents without insurance and the 459,000 residents with non-group insurance to receive affordable coverage through a proposed health insurance exchange.

The exchange, which would be created by the reform, would allow consumers to purchase health insurance from a pool of competitors with a variety of different plans for varying budgets, benefits, and other special needs.

A Washington Post article, "Health Insurance Exchanges: The Most Important, Undernoticed Part of Health Reform," by Ezra Klein, states that the exchange would be different from the individual market because, "insurers won't be able to discriminate based on your health history or your future risk."

The article goes on to explain that the plans offered would need to meet a minimum level of comprehensiveness and how the competitive nature of the exchange would eliminate plans that "routinely screw over" members because other options would be available.

Next fall, Herrick will continue her hunt for a teaching job, which would likely provide her with a more comprehensive health insurance policy.

"The subbing company offers insurance options too, but it's way too expensive," said Herrick. Until then, medical emergencies must be "catastrophic" in order to merit a visit to the doctor.

by the numbers

12%

of students do not have insurance*

74%

have insurance paid by parents*

13%

of students get insurance through work or payment on their own*

1%

of students get insurance through the government*

27%

fear a rise in cost of health care**

21%

students whose biggest fear is loss of coverage**

*122 students polled
**112 students polled

decoding insurance terminology

Medicare: A health insurance program for people 65 and older, or those under 65 with certain disabilities.

Medicaid: A health insurance program for low-income individuals and families who qualify by federal and state law.

Underinsured: These people are insured, but may not be able to afford high expenses due to their plans' limitations and cost-sharing.

Health Insurance Cooperative: A health plan purchased by a group of individuals or small business owners to gain negotiating power.

Benefit package: Products and services your health plan offers. Or doesn't offer. There's a list for those too.

Pre-existing condition: A previous health condition that may render people ineligible for health insurance coverage as individuals.

Public option: A government-provided plan similar to Medicare designed to compete with "big" insurance companies.

Socialized medicine: A system where a government owns and operates the health care system.

3 professors on 3 pressing issues

Mark Navin

Philosophy Dept.

Is Health Care Reform a step forwards or backwards?

Mark Navin: "It's a step forward in as much as it will increase coverage, reduce the deficit, and build the foundation for a better health care system."

Doris Runey

English Dept.

Doris Runey: "It is a step backward in terms of repeating the early days of socialized medicine which is little more than a highly organized way to destroy quality of life, inhibit personal freedom, and restrain talented doctors, nurses and technicians with regulations, while taxing future generations."

Sharon Howell

Journalism Dept.

Sharon Howell: "Yes it is a step forward, but a very small one."

Would you like to see a Public Option?

Mark Navin: "It'd be great to see a government run option. Or even something similar to the VA's (Veteran Affairs) single payer program."

Doris Runey: "Anyone who has experienced or studied the concept of privatization as an option to nationalization knows that is an ill-fated ruse."

Sharon Howell: "Yes, this is essential. It is outrageous to live in a country where only some of us have access to health care."

What do college students stand to lose or gain in the debate?

Mark Navin: "There's an inter-generational war going on, and the younger generation needs to wake up and fight."

Doris Runey: "They stand to learn enough to take control of their own brains and destiny, rather than being proselytized into giving up their freedom to an ever-expanding centralized government."

Sharon Howell: "Obviously students stand to lose if the public option does not go through. For many this would be of great benefit, depending on how or if it is structured in ways that are accessible to them."

Personal stories with health insurance

By RACHEL HYDE
Contributing Reporter

"I went in for a sports physical and they found a heart murmur," explains Daniel Tallant, a 20-year-old journalism major at Oakland University. Finding out he would need a heart surgery that would cost \$45,000 was not what he went into the doctor's office expecting that day.

His insurance would only pay a small fraction of it. Tallant, like many Americans, was presented with the possibility of out-of-pocket costs because his insurance plan through his parents did not fully cover his medical needs.

After his diagnosis, a hospital worker gave him information about the Children's Special Health Care Services program. The state-run program is available for most Michigan residents under 21 with one of over 2,500 qualifying health conditions. There is a fee to join based on income, but it is waived if the applicant already qualifies for select government programs.

"Technically, I'm still on my parent's (plan) right now. But for anything related to that heart condition, I have the special insurance."

With this additional coverage, Tallant's entire surgery bill was paid off.

The program covers a wide variety of hereditary diagnoses, birth defects and emergency care, from organ transplants to cleft palates to third-degree burns.

Tallant said the helpful program does not seem very well-known. He was thankful to find the program so that his family did not have to pay out-of-pocket, especially in the unstable economy.

When asked what he will do when he ages out of both his health plans, Tallant said he will likely use the insurance offered by his job and that there is less than a 5 percent chance that he will need additional surgery.

Due to his recent medical experience, Tallant said he is much more aware of his insurance situation. Without first-hand experience, students may feel immune to serious health problems at their young age.

By ASHLEY LIENING
Contributing Reporter

College is expensive. Health insurance is expensive. Some students cannot afford to be full-time students, and thus can't be covered by their parents' insurance.

Others, like senior Michael Garrington, are wondering what they'll do for health insurance after graduation and when they will no longer be on their parents' insurance.

"What am I going to do for insurance when I graduate? I don't know. I don't even know what my options are," Garrington said.

Blue Cross Young Blue and Humana One Monogram are two insurance programs geared specifically toward people from the ages of 18 to 30.

Blue Cross Young Blue PPOs start at \$49.30 for basic coverage. Emergency and urgent care services, in-patient hospital care, and surgical care are 70 percent covered after a \$1,000 deductible. Preventive services, such as gynecological exams, are not covered, nor are office visits. For pre-

scriptions, the Affinity Rx Program allows Young Adult Blue members to purchase prescription drugs at the Blue Cross Blue Shield discounted price rather than full retail price.

Humana One Monogram is a low-cost protection plan that covers unforeseen medical problems. When the \$7,500 deductible is reached, Humana One pays 100 percent of most covered in-network medical costs. Unfortunately, insurance programs like Humana One Monogram are usually only cost effective when facing emergencies coupled with huge hospital bills.

Former OU student Jessica Cauley used to have Humana One, but felt the coverage wasn't worth the cost.

"I canceled my insurance with Humana after paying astronomical fees for very little coverage," she said. "Unless I had a major illness or injury, the policy was all but worthless ... I would have been better off not having insurance at all and paying cash to see the doctor with all the money I would have saved from their premiums."

condition
with insurance

an similar to
insurance

government

supplies coverage, employs doctors and owns the hospitals.

Premium: The fee insurance companies charge to provide coverage. About \$12,680 annually per family in 2008.

Health insurance exchange: Marketplaces where people could buy insurance. For example, they could

choose between competing national, state and regional plans.

Cherry-picking: A system where insurance companies try to only provide coverage to healthy people with a low risk of needing medical services.

Deductible: Part of the covered expenses that an insured person must pay before their insurance com-

pany pays the remainder of the bill. These rates are typically \$100, \$200, or \$500.

Co-pay: A flat payment, like \$10 per doctor visit, that individuals pay. These are usually paid at the time of the service, unlike deductibles, which are billed later.

— Compiled by Mackenzie Roger

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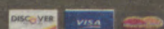


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WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND: DECORATING ROCHESTER



JASON WILLIS/Oakland Post



JASON WILLIS/Oakland Post

By ALEXIS TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

Meadow Brook Hall:

Nov. 27 - Dec. 23 Meadow Brook Hall decorates the grounds in the winter traditions of the Dodge and Wilson family. The 110-room, Tudor-style mansion is lush with holiday regalia from fully-decorated Christmas trees to elegant reds and greens throughout the house.

Meadowbrook invites you to tour the grounds Mondays from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. (last admittance at 8 p.m.) and Tuesdays - Sundays from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last admittance at 4 p.m.). Tours are \$20 for adults, \$12 for OU faculty/staff/alumni, \$5 for OU students and \$5 for 17 and under.

OU night is Dec. 7 from 5 - 9 p.m. OU affiliates can invite family and friends for a discounted rate of \$12. Santa Claus will be there, with light refreshments provided in a private reception area. See page 8 for related story.

Big, Bright Lights Show:

The Big, Bright Light Show in downtown Rochester comes to life on Nov. 30. Displays will be lit every evening until Jan. 3. Most of downtown Rochester's stores are open until 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday. More than one million lights will illuminate Main Street from South Bridge to Romeo Road. See page 20 for related story.



ALEXIS TOMRELL/Oakland Post

Meadow Brook Hall will be decked out in holiday decorations through Dec. 23.

The Scene

18

www.oaklandpostonline.com

December 2, 2009

Bringing 'bones' to life

By ALEXIS TOMRELL

Scene/Mix Editor

Eliciting hope from a story about a young girl's murder and rape is a daunting task. But in the lens of Peter Jackson's thoughtful and visionary camera, some peace is found.

In his latest film, Peter Jackson, the Oscar-winning director of "Lord of the Rings" and "Heavenly Creatures," adapts Alice Sebold's best-selling novel "The Lovely Bones."

The movie's plot centers on the 1973 murder of 14-year-old Susie Salmon and her dreamy limbo-like afterlife as she watches over her crushed family and killer. As she tries to guide her family from above, Susie, played by Saoirse Ronan of "Atonement," must decide whether she wants revenge against her murderer (Stanley Tucci) or the healing of her broken family. Susie's mother, who flees after the murder, is played by Rachel Weisz and Mark Wahlberg is her grieving father.

Alice Sebold's book is heartbreaking and beautiful, a dreamscape that interpretively answers the reader's questions of the afterlife. Where do loved ones go after this? Are they watching over us? The book is so loaded with quiet imagery and embedded emotion that adapting the movie to film could seem limiting.

However, as we see in Jackson's portrayal of the grisly story in 1994's "Heavenly Creatures," he is adept at translating subtle text into visual emotion through visionary modes of re-creation.

This talent is apparent in "The Lovely Bones," a fluid film with genuine characters, even if the characters are occasionally overshadowed by the special effect's celestial visions of paradise.

Some critics are up in arms at the way Jackson's adaptation tiptoes around the vulgar reality of the book's tragedy. Jackson's intention was to introduce the events at a metaphorical level, rather than the cold calculations of the killer.

In a college conference call recently, Jackson describes his favorite scene: "We don't see the murder in the film. Because she flees. And about that time that the murder would be happening, she runs away from it. Which is literally a metaphor for her spirit escaping and separating from her body. And we go with the spirit," Jackson said.

The audience follows Susie to a paradise-like limbo and back home, to an eerier, sadder version of her previous homelife. Susie Salmon is electrified by what she has seen of heaven, but is still distraught about her family's trauma.

During filming of the movie, Saoirse Ronan had to imagine heaven in her mind.

"It was a bit surreal at first because it was all blue screen and I hadn't worked with it much before ... so it was difficult to imagine what it was going to look like," Ronan said. "But it was great, I saw the movie a



On the set with Oscar® winner Peter Jackson (right), director/producer/co-screenwriter and Oscar® nominee Saoirse Ronan of DreamWorks Pictures' "The Lovely Bones," a Paramount Pictures release. Photo courtesy of Matt Mueller

few days ago and it was a lovely surprise to finally see heaven."

More than a grounded drama about a suburban family in turmoil, "The Lovely Bones" can be interpreted as an escape from turmoil. In ordinary life, a rape and murder are reality. A family losing faith is reality. Vengeance is reality. These dark sides linger, while cosmic inner-workings hide from view. When it comes to making films, Jackson is only interested in presenting a new window.

"What I like is escapism," he said. "I like being swept away into an adventure I'm never going to have in real life, seeing and meeting characters I'm never going to meet, because they're so outrageous, or things that happen on screen, and they're never going to be part of my real life."

"The Lovely Bones" opens in limited release Dec. 11 and nationwide Jan. 15.



Filming was done in New Zealand and Pennsylvania. Photo courtesy of Matt Mueller

'Have a Little Faith' tours Michigan

Detroit writer Mitch Albom autographs books in Royal Oak

By MONICA DRAKE
Contributing Reporter

BOOK REVIEW

The Barnes & Noble in Royal Oak is one of 13 stops Mitch Albom made in promotion of his latest book, "Have a Little Faith."

Albom is a best-selling author and writer for The Detroit Free Press. His most famous book was "Tuesdays with Morrie," one of the best-selling memoirs of all time.

"Have a Little Faith," released in September, combines the stories of Albert Lewis, Albom's childhood Jewish rabbi also known as the "Reb," and Henry Covington, a Christian pastor who changed his life around after his previous drug addiction. He followed the two men for eight years chronicling their faith and philosophy.

In this book, Albom delves headfirst into topics that many of us find too uncomfortable to talk about—charity, faith, death and the afterlife.

The book starts out with the question: "Will you do my eulogy?" Albom's reverend from his youth was suffering from cancer and wanted Albom, who had long since moved away from his hometown, to do his eulogy.

"Picture the man who sends people off to heaven, asking you for his send-off to heaven," Albom wrote.

As a child, Albom was always afraid of the Reb, who reminded him of a giant. Since his childhood, Albom stopped going to church, but he still revered and mostly feared the Reb. "Have a Little Faith" tells how Albom learned about the Reb as a person instead of an imposing force.

He was a man who wore mismatched clothes and sandals with socks, a man who made time for every congregation member, and a man who would rather spend money on others than on himself.

In his book, Albom recalls the questions he asked the Reb during his last years. Albom asked him questions like: How does love last? How do you prevent being forgotten after death? What makes a person happy? Why do bad things happen to good people? And why do you believe in God when so many people stop believing?

The other half of the book is about Detroit pastor Henry Covington. Detroit is Albom's home, and he wanted to help someone within his own community. Covington's church, Trumbull Avenue Presbyterian Church, had a hole in the ceiling and no heat.

Many homeless Detroiters depended on the church as a place to sleep at night. Albom wanted to help, but it took him a long time to trust Covington instead of concentrating on his past.

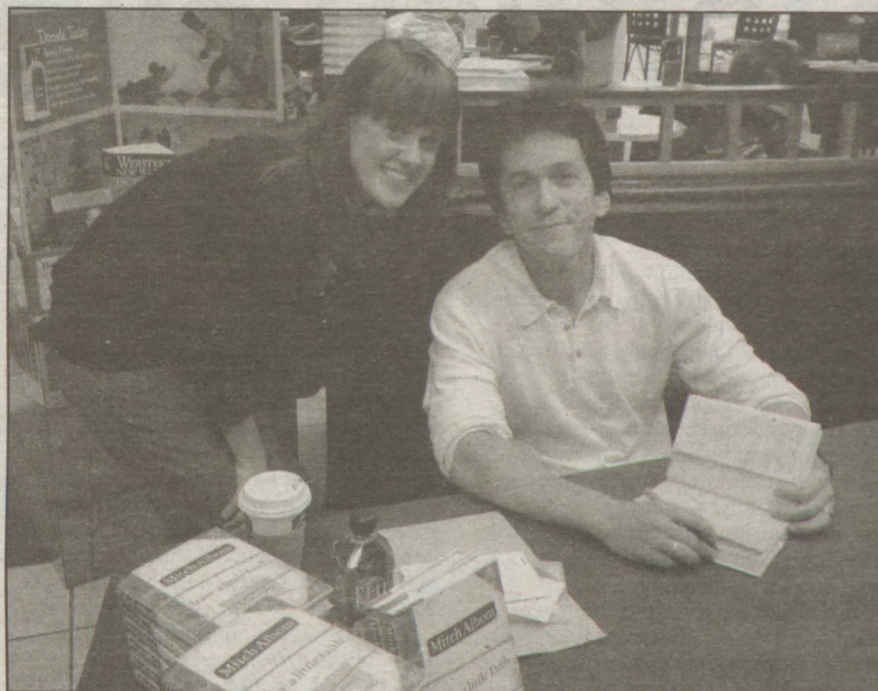


Photo courtesy of Monica Drake

Reporter Monica Drake with Mitch Albom at his book signing Nov. 29 in Royal Oak.

Criticism of beliefs is common in today's world. Albom researches other religions instead of judging them. He writes about the melting pot of beliefs in the world as a blessing instead of a curse. This was a very refreshing idea.

His next book signings are at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 at the Bloomfield Costco, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8 at the Borders in Farmington Hills and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 at the Barnes & Noble in Allen Park.

For more information on Albom's book and a complete list of his book signings visit mitchalbom.com.



music spotlight

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Columnist

Featured Album – John Mayer – "Battle Studies" (Nov. 2009)

Key Tracks – "Heartbreak Warfare," "Crossroads," "Assassin," "Half of My Heart"

As John Mayer continues to experiment on every release with many genres from blues to pop and alternative to jazz, he proves how much he's grown since his first album. On his fourth studio release "Battle Studies," the 32-year-old Mayer exhibits once again that he is much more than the one-dimensional, pop crooner stereotype that he is associated with by the uneducated listener.

"Who says I can't get stoned," John Mayer declares in the first single from "Battle Studies." In "Who Says," Mayer brings his funny side that is portrayed in the media, allowing the listener to not take him so seriously this time around with lines like "I don't remember you looking any better, but then again I don't remember you." This is

a welcome departure from the "Your Body is a Wonderland" days.

In the opening track "Heartbreak Warfare," Mayer goes in a different direction, featuring a guitar riff and melody that compares to the trademark large-scale arena rock perfected by U2 and present on Kings of Leon's album "Only By the Night."

One of the tracks that will stick out to a listener from just the title alone is "Half of My Heart," which features country singer Taylor Swift. As great as the song is, I was disappointed at the amount of time Taylor Swift was actually featured. She only sings a few lines and isn't very recognizable during the chorus with Mayer at the end of the song. Regardless, that doesn't take away from the greatness of the song.

In his cover of Cream's "Crossroads," Mayer channels a sound that embraces the blues vibe created by music legends like Eric Clapton and Buddy Guy, while paying homage to the classic soulful harmonies of Motown.

"Who says I can't be free? From all of the things that I used to be."

I don't think anyone is debating what he can and can't do anymore.

John Mayer plays the Palace of Auburn Hills Feb. 12. Johnmayer.com

Holiday events light up

By JENNIFER WOOD
Senior Reporter

Over 30,000 spectators flooded the streets of downtown Rochester Monday to take part in the annual Lagniappe and Big Bright Light Show.

Celebrating its 37th birthday in Rochester, the Lagniappe, which is Creole for "a little something extra," is a chance for local business owners to give back to the community and the people who shop there year round.

Many stores have special offers or free gifts during the Lagniappe, as well as extended shopping hours.

"It really stretches across the board," said Stacey Keast, event coordinator for the Rochester Downtown Development Authority. "I saw light up necklaces, cookies, sandwiches, some people even did in-store entertainment."

Cupcake Apparel and Gifts, a boutique that sells women's fashions, as well as a variety of accessories and gifts, thanked customers by handing out free cupcake bonbons to the first 150 customers.

In addition to local deals, the evening included the lighting of the 4th annual Big, Bright Light Show.

This year's show is the biggest in the town's history. The lights stretch from the bridge on Main Street all the way north to Romeo Road.

At 7 p.m. on Monday, over one million lights in almost every color imaginable were turned on, lighting up every shop front along Main Street.

"It's always my favorite part to hear the excitement and cheers of the crowds when we turn all the lights on for the first time," said Keast.

Event-goers also traveled down Fourth, Walnut and Water streets to see more light displays, including the Snowflake Spectacular at the Rochester Mills on Water Street.

Most businesses on Main Street had lines out the door.

"It's been busy all night," said Dessert Oasis owner, Charlene Hamood, of business at the restaurant during Lagniappe. "But people are being really patient, so that's nice."

Oakland University student, Nick Bolinger, stopped at Gus O'Connor's for some food and drinks with friends.

"Lagniappe was a lot of fun," Bolinger said. "The streets were packed as well as the bars."



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post
People crowd Main Street in downtown Rochester on Nov. 30 to catch a glimpse of the Big, Bright Light Show.

While he enjoyed being able to look at the lights, walk the streets and see some familiar faces downtown, Bolinger was slightly disappointed with certain

aspects of the night.

"The lights downtown are cool because no other city does something like that, but the ceremony is lame," Bolinger said. "There isn't even a countdown. The only down side was the disappointing beer specials."

For those who missed Monday night's celebration, it is not too late to take part in the downtown festivities.

The Hometown Christmas Parade is on Main Street Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. The town also has an Old-Fashioned Christmas celebration Dec. 12 at the Rochester Hills Museum from 1 - 4 p.m.

Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland County, and the Oakland County Parks organize the winter festival and, according to Keast, it is a "really great time for everyone who comes out."

The Big, Bright Light Show will continue every night from 6 p.m. to midnight until Jan. 3 and Keast, along with the rest of the DDA, encourages the community to come check it out.

"You have to see it to believe it," said Keast. "Come see what it's all about."

For information on upcoming events in Rochester, visit the DDA homepage at downtownrochestermi.com.

Government cautions holiday travelers

By MIKE SANDULA
Staff Reporter

The Michigan Department of Community Health said people need to be more cautious than normal while traveling during this holiday season.

There are a few basic steps travelers can take to help stop the spread of the H1N1 virus.

"As best as possible, avoid close contact," said James McCurtis Jr., public information officer for MDCH.

McCurtis added that people should try to stay at least six feet away from each other.

In the event of becoming sick while traveling during the holidays, he recommends wearing a face mask or covering your face with a tissue.

Dr. Gregory Holzman, state chief medical executive, said there are four rules people should follow.

People should wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based gel. They should practice "cough etiquette" by avoiding touching mouths, noses and eyes after coughing or sneezing.

People who are not feeling well should stay home for at least 24 hours. They also should wear a flu mask while traveling.

"It is the basics we're talking about, but it's amazing how far the basics can go if everybody did that," McCurtis said.

MDCH reported that since April there have been 26,868 influenza-like cases in Michigan, which have resulted in 1,530 hospitalizations and 54 deaths.

But according to McCurtis, Michigan sees 1,200 influenza-related deaths during a typical flu season while the nation averages about 36,000.

"We're not seeing anything here that's really out of the ordinary," McCurtis said.

He added that high-risk persons should also consider face masks or respirators, though he cautions that face masks do not protect against small airbornes.

People who are particularly at risk are those under the age of five, those over the age of 65, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

The H1N1 shot takes eight to 10 days to take effect,

while the seasonal flu shot takes up to two weeks.

Over 1.9 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine were allocated to the state of Michigan, which are distributed to counties based on population.

As of last week, all but 100,000 of them had been ordered. It typically takes about two days for doses to arrive once ordered.

Other things for travelers to consider are travel health insurance, visiting the doctor before traveling anywhere as a preventative measure and attempting to travel only when feeling well.

Webmd.com recommends preparing a travel health kit, including tissues, pain medicine, and soap.

"Our ultimate goal is to make sure the vaccines aren't sitting in depots, but are getting into arms and noses," McCurtis said, adding that "the virus is already here" and all they can do at this point is look for ways to mitigate social disruption.

For more suggestions on preventing the H1N1 virus, visit the MDCH website at michigan.gov/mdch or the Center for Disease Control website at cdc.gov.

Local news briefs: bedbugs in Detroit, lung disease research

Man abducted teen who rang door bell, police say

FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP — Authorities said a Port Huron-area man chased down and abducted a teen who ran off after ringing his door bell.

Police said 36-year-old Charles L. Whitmore drove after three teens who staged the prank on Thanksgiving day.

Whitmore forced a 15-year-old into his vehicle and drove him back to his home in St. Clair County's Fort Gratiot Township.

Police say Whitmore and his wife discussed hurting the boy with a sledgehammer, golf club and propane torch. Police said the teen's father confronted Whitmore and rescued his son. The boy was unharmed.

Whitmore is charged with unlawful imprisonment and felonious assault and is free on a \$5,000 bond. A telephone message was left for him seeking comment.

Officials say bedbugs returning to Michigan

DETROIT — Bedbugs are back in Michigan and one state official said their return is the "biggest can of worms" he's ever seen.

Erik Foster, medical entomologist with the Michigan Department of Community Health, said many people don't know about the national resurgence of the tiny bloodsuckers or how they're transmitted.

They have been found in Detroit and surrounding suburbs.

Bedbugs live in walls and mattresses and can go a year without a meal. They feast at night and leave ugly welts. The clever critters also are adept travelers, stowing away in suitcases, pant seams and laptop computer keys.

Bedbugs don't carry diseases, but are resistant to modern pesticides.

A state task force is dealing with a growing number of complaints.

Target security to nursing mom: Take it outside

HARPER WOODS — A woman said she was kicked out of a Detroit-area Target store because she was breast-feeding her child in the electronics aisle.

Mary Martinez said she was stopped Sunday by a security guard after she began feeding her 4-week-old daughter during a visit to the store in Harper Woods.

Her husband, Jose Martinez, said the couple was told by the security guard that the act was "against the law" and told to leave. Jose Martinez said as a Detroit police officer, he knew that was not true.

Harper Woods police responded to the store, and the couple left.

Target officials said that they regret the incident. They said breast-feeding is allowed in their stores, but they called the police called because the store staff was concerned for the safety of their guests.

UM study seeks genetic factors in lung disease study

ANN ARBOR — The University of Michigan is starting two studies of chronic lung diseases, trying to discover why some smokers get them and others don't and whether 24-hour oxygen can help treat them.

The National Institutes of Health and National Jewish Health are funding a multiyear study of 12,000 people at Michigan and 20 other medical centers. It will look at why 75 percent of smokers don't develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The Ann Arbor school is recruiting hundreds of people ages 45 to 80 who are current or former smokers. It's looking for genetic factors in development of lung disease.

A second study will look at hundreds of people over 40 years old to test the effectiveness of round-the-clock oxygen therapy.

Source: The Associated Press

Community colleges adapt

By ROBIN ERBS
AP/Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — In an increasingly round-the-clock world, community colleges must now stretch their schedules.

Among the latest offerings is Oakland Community College's new Weekend College.

Beginning in January, students willing to spend weekends in a classroom and take online courses can earn an associate's degree in two or two and a half years.

Mike Hansen, president of the Michigan Community College Association, said it's a shift in how colleges operate.

"It was one of those unwritten rules in academia: You didn't do classes on Friday," he said.

But the demand is there, said Curtis Ivery, chancellor at Wayne County Community College District.

When the enrollment period opened earlier this week for January classes, Ivery said, students began filling up classes immediately.

Henry Ford Community College is to begin holding Sunday classes in January; Schoolcraft Community College in Livonia is considering classes that wouldn't end until nearly 2 a.m.

For the students taking college classes at OCC while still enrolled in high school, Weekend College means working toward a degree without giving up after-school activities.

It's also an intriguing concept for older students, who may feel anxious to finish their degree.

"They're very interested in putting those degrees on a fast track," said Steven Reif, president of OCC's Southfield and Royal Oak campuses. "Finding the time to pursue a degree is a priority, but it's also difficult."

That's one of the reasons Schoolcraft began offering a studio recording class that stretched to midnight this semester. It filled up, said Cheryl Hawkins, associate dean of liberal arts.

For some students, especially those in classes like studio technology or computer graphics, "That's when their creative juices start, when they come alive," Hawkins said.

An explosion of online courses at community colleges is evidence of the need for later classes.

Just ask Jason Rager, a 39-year-old Taylor man balancing a full load of classes at Henry Ford with the responsibilities of having a 7-year-old daughter.

"You have to really work to fit everything in, to equalize your time."

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Across from Crittenton Hospital

Grizzlies on the gridiron?

Age-old question of an OU football program is revisited

By SEAN GARNER
and ZACH HALLMAN
Senior Reporter and Staff Reporter

On Saturdays across the country, college students forget about their academic obligations in favor of cheering their school's football team to victory.

Students and communities from St. Paul, Minn. to Gainesville, Fla., look forward to that day as one in which they can express pride in their school with fellow supporters. The campus of Oakland University and its surrounding community have never had the chance to join the nationwide football fever as the school has never fielded a football team.

Dan Evola, a legislator on Oakland's student congress, is trying to change all that. Evola, former OU Student Congress president, is trying to generate support for establishing a varsity football program by forming a group on Facebook, creating a survey for students, and possibly developing a student advocacy organization in the future.

"I am trying to see where the student interest is and I think the time is right for a football team," Evola said. "It's the twelfth year in a row that we have seen expansion in enrollment at the school, we have a medical school coming in and we have a basketball team that is the best it has ever been. There is a lot of excitement going on right now that makes the timing right to push for a team."

Numerous obstacles

Evola likely faces a steep uphill battle from the administration if he chooses to intensely pursue football at OU. University spokesperson Ted Montgomery said the issue of creating a football program comes up every couple years, and the university has been consistently uninterested.

Montgomery said OU estimates it would cost somewhere around \$100 million, which would include hiring coaches and staff, securing training facilities and ordering equipment for around 100 athletes.

"It is not feasible," Montgomery said. "Most football programs don't make

money, they lose money. Before you even break even, an average of 25 years has to go by ... Anyone who is really going for this, I'd be happy to sit down with them and show them the financials of starting such a program, and I think they'd change their mind pretty quickly."

OU Athletic Director Tracy Huth gave a more conservative estimation at the total startup costs, but agreed that Oakland has a long way to go before it can think about supporting a Division I football program.

"There is currently little or no infrastructure within the department of athletics to support a football program," Huth said. "Startup costs alone would be a minimum of \$20 million and could even be double this amount. Annual costs for

would have to compensate for, possibly by cutting existing athletics programs.

For comparison's sake

If Evola's optimistic predictions are true, OU would not be the first school to benefit from building a Division I football program from scratch.

The University of South Florida, a 53-year school of only about 7,000 undergraduate students which started football in 1997, provides a source of both optimism and caution for those eager to start a football program at OU.

The Bulls started as an independent program in Division I-AA — now called the Football Championship Subdivision — and 10 years later, they were ranked

Matt Ugorowski, a senior medical laboratory science and nuclear medicine major, thinks a team would provide financial and social benefits for the university.

"With a football team we could have tailgating and something to look forward to Saturdays," Ugorowski said. "It brings in the whole college experience."

Evola believes the only things that stopped a team from forming in the past were student interest and effort.

"There have been a lot of myths floating around for a long time about why Oakland doesn't have a football team," Evola said. "From what I have found, it's just that no one has ever pushed for it, so why would the administration put money into something that they haven't seen any interest in?"

One of the popular myths on campus, that school founder Matilda Wilson strictly forbade the establishment of any contact sports at OU, was refuted by Evola and confirmed as false by Montgomery.

James Sullivan, a junior computer science major, thinks that the overall cost of the potential program makes the process unworthy of pursuit.

"With the unjustified increase (in tuition) that already took place this year, it would not be right to raise tuition for football scholarships," Sullivan said.

Huth said the issue of establishing a football team is one he addresses regularly, and there is little doubt he'll continue to address it in the future.

"There isn't a week that goes by that someone does not ask or quiz me about a football team," Huth said. "Realize though, that the notion of football at Oakland has typically been an inquisitive approach. In my tenure it has never been a serious issue."

Still, Evola is determined to at least make an effort at forming a pigskin team at Oakland.

"I want to rile people up as much as possible," Evola said. "I have had many positions with the school and been involved in a number of different organizations and there are a couple themes that are always repeated that students want to see: parking and football."

"There is a lot of excitement going on right now that makes the timing right to push for a team."

— Dan Evola, OUSC legislator

staff, scholarships, equipment, operations, travel and recruiting would also be several million dollars."

According to Evola, adding a football team to the university would not only benefit the school financially, but would also lead to improved student and campus life.

"The attention the school would garner from having a Division I football team would be pretty big," Evola said. "It is one of those things that would really boost enrollment and would also add a lot of buzz to the school."

Both Evola and Montgomery also mentioned Title IX complications as a potential hurdle to creating a football team.

Passed by the federal government in 1972, Title IX is most commonly applied to college athletics scholarships. OU awards scholarships to men and women in proportion to the overall gender ratio of the student body. The university is currently Title IX compliant, and a football program would add an additional 50 to 85 scholarships, which the school

as high as No. 2 in the country at the highest level of competition.

But that's only the sunny side of the picture. Chris Freet, assistant athletic director at USF, said the school spent over \$5 million just performing research to gauge the interest of a football program.

According to Freet, USF still loses money on a yearly basis.

"While it seems like if there is enough support on campus it might be something that could happen, internally, there are a lot of people that need to be involved," Freet said. "It was a long process for the whole university before we could say that USF was going to have a football team."

Student reactions

Regardless of the fiscal consequences, a number of OU students still get excited at the thought of having a varsity team in the nation's most popular intercollegiate sport on campus.

GOLDEN GRIZZLIES

GAME of the WEEK

Oakland survives second-half scare

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

The Oakland University men's basketball team improved their season record to 3-3 with an 83-75 win over Central Arkansas Saturday night, but even with the victory, head coach Greg Kampe was not pleased with his team's play, particularly in the second half.

The Golden Grizzlies came out firing on all cylinders in the first half, leading by as many as 20 points, and heading into the break with a 16-point lead.

But Central Arkansas began the second half with a 9-2 run, and continued to close the gap throughout the half, cutting OU's lead to just four points with one minute to play.

Kampe took the blame for his team's poor start in the second period, and said that he could have done some things to stop Central Arkansas' momentum, but he didn't.

"Honestly, that whole thing was probably my fault," Kampe said. "I got mad at some guys and sat them and I wouldn't have done that if this were the end of February ... Hopefully, in the long run, it will help make us a better basketball team because that's my job: to make us the best basketball team I can make us."

Oakland regained their scoring touch in time to put the game away, however. The Grizzlies converted six of their nine free-throw attempts in the final minute to finish with an eight-point margin of victory.

The game was not without its subplots, as several Grizzlies achieved noteworthy milestones.

With his first assist of the night, senior point guard Johnathon Jones set a new Summit League record with his 627th career assist on a pass down low



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
In addition to setting the conference's career assist record, Johnathon Jones (23) also became the school's all-time leader in minutes played against Central Arkansas with 3,815.

to center Keith Benson. Jones finished the game with a season-high 11 helpers to go along with 13 points and just one turnover.

"I have to thank my teammates — they're the ones knocking down the shots," Jones said about breaking a conference record. "A lot (of credit) goes to them and me getting them to where they can be effective. I want to take care of everybody and that contributed to (setting the record)."

Benson also set a new career high with

18 rebounds, surpassing his previous high of 15. He also scored a team-high 24 points and was a defensive stopper for Oakland, blocking seven shots.

"Keith Benson should be the happiest guy in the world that we can't guard anybody because he gets a chance to block shots all the time because they get to go by us as if we don't exist," Kampe said.

Larry Wright, the Grizzlies' starting shooting guard, played just eight minutes after re-aggravating a knee injury he sustained against Kansas on Nov. 25.

"(Wright) came out and made his first shot and as the game went on, you could see him starting to limp ... He told me at halftime that he wasn't able to push off his leg to make the play, so we decided it's not worth playing him," Kampe said after the game.

Leading the way offensively for Central Arkansas was junior Chris Poellnitz with 24 points.

Despite winning three of the past four games, Kampe was clear when he said his team still has a lot to work on.

"We're a long, long way from being a good basketball team," Kampe said. "We have a lot of good players, but some of them aren't here right now. I have no idea where Blake Cushingberry is ... He hasn't been able to make shots and I think it's affecting him mentally. Larry Wright, we don't know what he is yet."

Kampe also said the team will need improved play from Drew Maynard in order to be a good team this season.

"Tonight, (the opponents) were just daring us to shoot the ball and Drew is one of our better shooters. Mentally, both he and Cushingberry are going through that sophomore (slump)," he said.

Oakland's two freshmen received extended playing time and drew praise from their coach for their strong play in the game.

"I was very pleased with Ledrick Eackles and Drew Valentine tonight," Kampe said. "I thought both of those freshmen played very well and I had them in at crunch time. I let them both play to find out what they can do."

Eackles finished with eight points, filling in for the injured Wright for most of the second half.

The Grizzlies will next travel to IPFW and Michigan State before returning home to play Green Bay Dec. 13.

Golden Grizzlies

COMING ATTRACTIONS

GAME SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

MEN'S BASKETBALL

12/5 at IPFW
12/10 at Michigan State
12/13 vs. Green Bay 4:30 p.m.
12/17 at Seattle University
12/19 at Oregon
12/22 at Syracuse
12/28 vs. Alma 7 p.m.
12/31 vs. Western Illinois 1 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING

12/3 - 12/5 Miami Invitational
in Miami, Ohio

TRACK & FIELD

12/4 Saginaw Valley State
Holiday Classic
12/17 Grand Valley State
Holiday Open

CLUB WRESTLING

12/5 Univ. of Toledo Dual Meet
12/20 Grizzly Growl Tournament

CLUB WRESTLING

12/4 vs. Michigan-Dearborn
8:40 p.m.
12/5 at Michigan-Dearborn
12/11 vs. Michigan State 8:40 p.m.
12/12 at Michigan State

Lopsided win puts end to losing streak

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

After struggling through the early part of its non-conference schedule, the Oakland University women's basketball team (2-4) made the most of a game against Marygrove College, winning 95-40 at the O'Rena Monday night.

The victory ended the team's three-game losing streak.

The tone was set early, as the Golden Grizzlies jumped out to a 15-0 lead in the first four minutes of the game.

At halftime, OU held a 53-9 advantage on the scoreboard, thanks largely to their efficiency from the field, shooting close to 60 percent.

Oakland head coach Beckie Francis said her team lived up to her expectations for the game.

"I was very pleased with the intensity of our players in the first half," Francis said. "I thought we created some havoc for them in terms of them running their offense and we forced them to turn the ball over. I was pleased with the whole team. The bench performance was really good."

In the second half, Francis took the

opportunity to give her bench players extended playing time, with all 10 players who were dressed for the game receiving at least 13 minutes.

Senior Melissa Jeltrema's 17 points and 11 rebounds were team-highs as she recorded her 19th career double-double.

Freshman forward Bethany Watterworth notched 14 points along with seven rebounds and seven assists in 22 minutes.

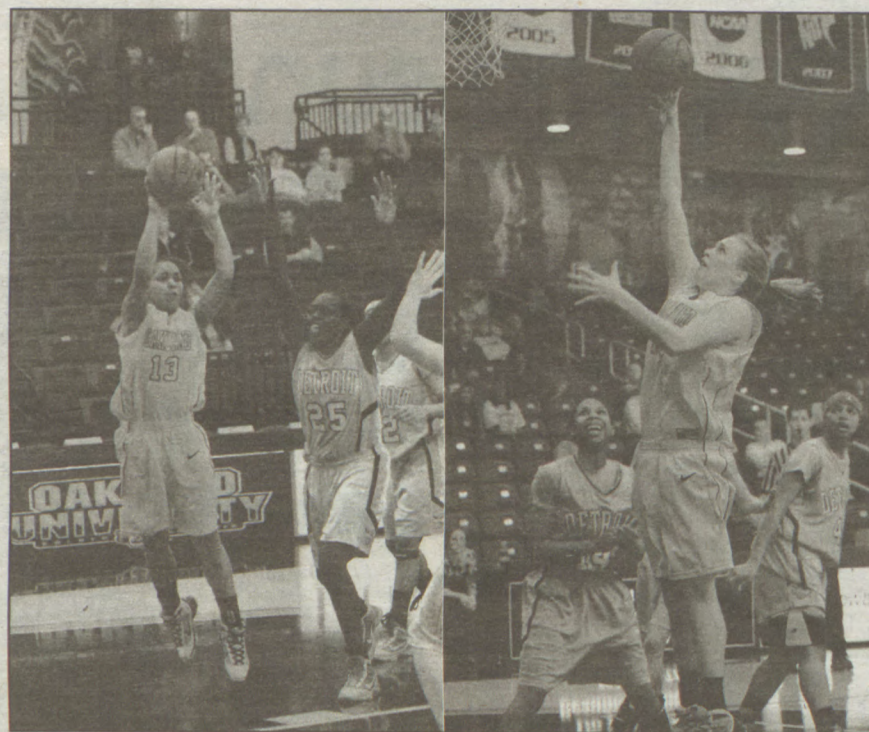
Four other Grizzlies scored in double figures.

"I think with passing and learning our offense, they are doing a great job. I was so impressed with how unselfish our play was," Francis said.

This was the third all-time meeting between the two schools, with Oakland coming away victorious by huge margins in all three games.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

12/5 at IPFW
12/13 vs. Purdue 1:30 p.m.
12/17 vs. St. Louis Univ. 6:30 p.m.
12/19 at Illinois
12/21 at Penn State
12/29 vs. Rochester College 4 p.m.



With injuries to a couple of veteran players, Victoria Lipscomb (left) and Bethany Watterworth (right) have stepped into significant roles on the team as freshmen this season.

BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post



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THE SPORTING BLITZ

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

A rundown of some upcoming events in Oakland University sports.

Student road trip

The third annual IPFW road trip takes place Saturday, Dec. 5 as Oakland University students are invited to travel with the Grizz Gang to Fort Wayne, Ind. to cheer on the men's and women's basketball teams.

To sign up for the trip, students must be one of the first 300 people to redeem a ticket on Thursday in the Oakland Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You must have a previously issued trip voucher and a student ID card to be eligible.

Students who participate in the road trip will receive free transportation and tickets to the games, along with food for the all-day trip.

2010 Hall of Honor

The Oakland University Athletics Department announced the class of 2010 inductees to the Hollie L. Lepley Athletic Hall of Honor last week. The ceremony will take place Feb. 5, honoring these seven people:

- Morgan Bailey (men's swimming, 1994-97)
- James Collins (men's swimming, 1994-97)
- Mike Dobb (men's soccer, 1996-99)
- Paul Doroh (men's soccer, 1993-96)
- Holly Hatcher Conley (1987-90)
- Sarah Judd (women's basketball 1998-2002)
- Gary Parsons (head coach, men's soccer, 1981-2008)

Hockey team update

The club hockey team announced recently that it would be one of six Michigan universities to join the Great Lakes Collegiate Hockey League, beginning next season.

The league is a newly formed conference in the American Collegiate Hockey Association. Along with Oakland, the conference will include Division I schools Adrian College, Eastern Michigan, Davenport University, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and Western Michigan.

All of the teams will play four games against each other, for a total of 20 in-conference contests.

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Corporate Headquarters Champaign, IL

OK, SO MY SUBS REALLY AREN'T GOURMET AND WE'RE NOT FRENCH EITHER. MY SUBS JUST TASTE A LITTLE BETTER, THAT'S ALL! I WANTED TO CALL IT JIMMY JOHN'S TASTY SANDWICHES, BUT MY MOM TOLD ME TO STICK WITH GOURMET. SHE THINKS WHATEVER I DO IS GOURMET, BUT I DON'T THINK EITHER OF US KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS. SO LET'S STICK WITH TASTY!

Jimmy John

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Real applewood smoked ham and provolone cheese garnished with lettuce, tomato, and mayo.

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#3 TOTALLY TUNA®

Fresh housemade tuna, mixed with celery, onions, and our tasty sauce, then topped with alfalfa sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, and tomato. (My tuna rocks!)

#4 TURKEY TOM®

Fresh sliced turkey breast, topped with lettuce, tomato, alfalfa sprouts, and mayo. (The original)

#5 VITO®

The original Italian sub with genoa salami, provolone, capicola, onion, lettuce, tomato, & a real tasty Italian vinaigrette. (Hot peppers by request)

#6 VEGETARIAN

Layers of provolone cheese separated by real avocado spread, alfalfa sprouts, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato, and mayo. (Truly a gourmet sub not for vegetarians only peace dude!)

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- ★ Extra load of meat
- ★ Extra cheese or extra avocado spread
- ★ Hot Peppers

FREEBIES (SUBS & CLUBS ONLY)

Onion, lettuce, alfalfa sprouts, tomato, mayo, sliced cucumber, Dijon mustard, oil & vinegar, and oregano.

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Any Sub minus the veggies and sauce

- SLIM 1 Ham & cheese
- SLIM 2 Roast Beef
- SLIM 3 Tuna salad
- SLIM 4 Turkey breast
- SLIM 5 Salami, capicola, cheese
- SLIM 6 Double provolone

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My club sandwiches have twice the meat or cheese, try it on my fresh baked thick sliced 7-grain bread or my famous homemade french bread!

#7 GOURMET SMOKED HAM CLUB

A full 1/4 pound of real applewood smoked ham, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, & real mayo!

#8 BILLY CLUB®

Choice roast beef, smoked ham, provolone cheese, Dijon mustard, lettuce, tomato, & mayo.

#9 ITALIAN NIGHT CLUB®

Real genoa salami, Italian capicola, smoked ham, and provolone cheese all topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, and our homemade Italian vinaigrette. (You hav'ta order hot peppers, just ask!)

#10 HUNTER'S CLUB®

A full 1/4 pound of fresh sliced medium rare roast beef, provolone, lettuce, tomato, & mayo.

#11 COUNTRY CLUB®

Fresh sliced turkey breast, applewood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)

#12 BEACH CLUB®

Fresh baked turkey breast, provolone cheese, avocado spread, sliced cucumber, sprouts, lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (It's the real deal, and it ain't even California.)

#13 GOURMET VEGGIE CLUB®

Double provolone, real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Try it on my 7-grain whole wheat bread. This veggie sandwich is world class!)

#14 BOOTLEGGER CLUB®

Roast beef, turkey breast, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. An American classic, certainly not invented by J.J. but definitely tweaked and fine-tuned to perfection!

#15 CLUB TUNA®

The same as our #3 Totally Tuna except this one has a lot more. Fresh housemade tuna salad, provolone, sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, & tomato.

#16 CLUB LULU®

Fresh sliced turkey breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (JJ's original turkey & bacon club)

#17 ULTIMATE PORKER™

Real applewood smoked ham and bacon with lettuce, tomato & mayo, what could be better!

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Experts: Iran nuke plans a 'bluster'

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI and JASON KEYSER
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's announcement of plans to build 10 more uranium enrichment facilities is largely bluster after a strong rebuke from the U.N.'s nuclear agency, analysts said Monday. Nonetheless, the defiance is fueling calls among Western allies for new punitive sanctions to freeze Iran's nuclear program.

U.S. and European officials were swift to condemn the plans, warning that Iran risked sinking ever deeper into isolation. Iran responded that it felt forced to move forward with the plans after the International Atomic Energy Agency passed a resolution Friday demanding that it halt all enrichment activities.

Iran's bold announcement Sunday appears to be largely impossible to achieve as long as sanctions continue to throw up roadblocks and force Iran to turn to black markets and smuggling for nuclear equipment, said nuclear expert David Albright.

"They can't build those plants. There's no way," he

said. "They have sanctions to overcome, they have technical problems. They have to buy things overseas ... and increasingly it's all illegal."

A more worrisome escalation in the standoff would be if Iran reduced its cooperation with the IAEA, as some Iranian officials have threatened to do if the West continues its pressure. The U.N. inspectors and monitoring are the world's only eyes on Tehran's program. The head of Iran's nuclear agency on Monday ruled out an even more drastic move, saying Tehran does not intend to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Enrichment is at the center of the standoff between Iran and the West because it can be used both to produce material needed for atomic weapons as well as fuel for nuclear power plants. Iran insists it only wants the latter.

New enrichment plants, on the scale of the one Iran already operates in the town of Natanz, would be extremely expensive, take years to build and would be difficult to stock with centrifuges and other necessary equipment while sanctions are in place, Albright said.

Source: Associated Press

NIW BRIEFS

12-1 | SEATTLE — The man suspected of gunning down four police officers in a suburban coffee shop was shot and killed by a lone patrolman investigating a stolen car early Tuesday. Four people were arrested for allegedly helping the suspect elude authorities during a massive two-day manhunt. Maurice Clemmons was carrying a handgun he took from one of the dead officers when a Seattle policeman recognized him near a stolen car in a working-class south Seattle neighborhood about 2:45 a.m., Assistant Police Chief Jim Pugel said. The vehicle was running but unoccupied when the officer pulled up, radioed in the license plate number and realized the car was stolen, Pugel said. The officer saw something moving, got out of his car, saw Clemmons and ordered him to show his hands and stop. "He wouldn't stop," Pugel said. "The officer fired several rounds."

12-1 | WASHINGTON — The Secret Service will change some of its screening policies after an attention-hungry couple was able to crash the Obama administration's first state dinner. A government official familiar with the plans said from now on, a staff member from the White House social office will work with the Secret Service at the gates where people check in to attend official events at the president's residence. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because there is an ongoing investigation into the Nov. 24 incident. The couple who got into the White House state dinner for the visiting Indian prime minister without invitations insists they were invited to the dinner. The White House says the president and first lady were angered by the incident.

12-1 | NEWARK, Ohio — A motorized bar stool that got an Ohio man arrested for drunken driving goes up for auction this week on eBay. Twenty-nine-year-old Kile Wygle was charged with driving under the influence after he crashed the contraption in March in the central Ohio city of Newark. He pleaded guilty the following month and spent three days in jail. A Licking County judge ruled in June that any profit from sale of the stool should go toward back child support. At the time, Wygle owed about \$37,000. The county seized the bar stool and plans to post it for auction on Thursday. The agency intervened after learning that Wygle hoped to sell the barstool to Ripley's Believe it or Not.

12-1 | LONDON — The chief of a prestigious British research center caught in a storm of controversy over claims that he and others suppressed data about climate change has stepped down pending an investigation, the University of East Anglia said Tuesday. The university said in a statement that Phil Jones, whose e-mails were among the thousands of pieces of correspondence leaked to the Internet late last month, would relinquish his position as director of Climatic Research Unit until the completion of an independent review. Jones has been accused by skeptics of man-made climate change of manipulating data to support his research. In particular, many have pointed to a leaked e-mail in which Jones writes that he had used a "trick" to "hide the decline" in a chart detailing recent global temperatures. Jones has denied manipulating evidence and insisted his comment had been misunderstood, explaining that he'd used the word "trick" as in a clever thing to do. Davies said there was nothing in the stolen material to suggest the peer-reviewed publications by the unit "are not of the highest-quality of scientific investigation and interpretation."

12-1 | PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. — A Panama City Beach man reportedly admitted to deputies that he lied about being robbed so he wouldn't have to tell his wife that he spent the money. The Bay County Sheriff's Office reported that a 30-year-old man was arrested and charged Friday with making a false report. According to a report, the man called 911 from a Panama City Beach store and claimed that he was getting into his car when a man dressed in black hit him and took \$100 in cash. But the store's surveillance video showed the man walk out of the store, sit in his car for a short time and then go back inside to use the phone. After deputies showed the man the video, he acknowledged that he hadn't actually been robbed. The man was released from jail Saturday on \$750 bail.

Obama boosts troops in Afghanistan with exit plan

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press Writer

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Declaring "our security is at stake," President Barack Obama ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. troops into the long war in Afghanistan on Tuesday night, but balanced the buildup with a pledge to an impatient nation to begin withdrawing American forces in 18 months.

In a prime-time speech at the U.S. Military Academy, the president said his new policy was designed to "bring this war to a successful conclusion." The troop buildup will begin almost immediately — the first Marines will be in place by Christmas — and will cost \$30 billion for the first year alone.

"We must deny al-Qaida a safe haven," Obama said in articulating U.S. military goals for a war that has dragged on for eight years. "We must reverse the Taliban's momentum. ... And we must strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan's security forces and government."

The president said the additional forces would be deployed at "the fastest pace possible so that they can target the insurgency and secure key population centers."

Their destination: "the epicenter of the violent extremism practiced by al-Qaida."

"It is from here that we were attacked on 9/11, and it is from here that new attacks are being plotted as I speak," the president said.

It marked the second time in his young presidency that Obama has added to the American force in Afghanistan, where the Taliban has recently made significant advances. When he became president last January, there were roughly 34,000 troops on the ground; there now are 71,000.

Obama's announcement drew less-than-wholehearted support from congressional Democrats. Many of them favor a quick withdrawal, but others have already proposed higher taxes to pay for the fighting.

Republicans reacted warily, as well. Officials said Sen. John McCain, who was Obama's Republican opponent in last year's presidential campaign, told Obama at an early evening meeting attended by numerous lawmakers that declaring a timetable for a withdrawal would merely send the Taliban underground until the Americans began to leave.

As a candidate, Obama called Afghanistan a war worth fighting, as opposed to Iraq, a conflict he opposed and has since begun easing out of.

A new survey by the Gallup organization, released Tuesday, showed only 35 percent of Americans now approve of Obama's handling of the war; 55 percent disapprove.

"After 18 months, our troops will begin to come home," he said flatly.

In eight years of war, 849 Americans have been killed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and neighboring Uzbekistan, according to the Pentagon.

In addition to beefing up the U.S. presence, Obama has asked NATO allies to commit between 5,000 and 10,000 additional troops.

He said he was counting on Afghanistan eventually taking over its own security, and he warned, "The days of providing a blank check are over." He said the United States would support Afghan ministries that combat corruption and "deliver for the people."

MOUTHING OFF

The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Oakland Post

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

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CJ sent a request using FarmVille

The boss of The Post explains what she's really been doing in her office

By COLLEEN J MILLER
Editor in Chief / e-farmer

I have a buffalo topiary. That's a bush that's shaped like a buffalo Edward Scissorhands-style.

I have three chickens, a duck and a baby turkey I can't eat. I have a sheep that goes "baa" quite randomly in the background as I catch up on my Lolcats and FAIL blog reading. Never mind climate zones, I have a cherry, lime, pomegranate and peach tree within an unidentified short unit of distance from each other.

I'm playing FarmVille.

I'm not playing because I am avoiding finding something to actually do with my life like get a job or have interpersonal relationships with people who are worth talking to outside of Facebook.

I'm playing it because journalism (if you want to call this section such a thing) is one of the only fields where you can consider FarmVille research.

It's been 24 hours and I'm starting to understand why the game is so satisfying to people that they feel the need to publish their kind acts such as saving scared turkeys and scooping poop on their high school frenemy's crops for some experience points.

If only life prompted people with a pop-up bubble to publish every good deed they did in the physical realm onto their Facebook feed, maybe we'd do a little more door opening instead of screaming "f***ing a**hole" to everybody who drives 1 mph slower than us.

Not only are we proving to be a most narcissistic people, but a people who favor lazy narcissism. Social networking, micro-blogging, and now games like FarmVille remove any need to be attractive, famous, or God forbid actually witty, to think that people want to know your every thought or inconsequential move.

Speaking of, I can't wait to try Fish-Ville so I can brag about an even more insignificant thing than pretending to farm on my computer, such as keeping fish in a tank (that I can't eat). I thought having fish in real life was pointless.

At least Flash farming is paying homage to the roots of our nation, and the domestic history of our species. I've already managed to harvest strawberries and



Screenshot courtesy of FarmVille application

Mouthing Off editor Dan Simons: "Is that a smiley-face crop circle? Reindeer? This is what so many of my friends want me to start doing? Get a life, folks."

eggplants and collect my first chicken eggs in the time it would normally take me to catch up on my homework. Unfortunately, here I am with nothing to show, not even a real farmer's tan, but some fake currency.

I noticed that if you want to keep growing your FarmVille estate but you don't have the patience to wait the four hours to harvest strawberries, two days for pumpkins, etc., you can now buy FarmVille currency with PayPal or credit card. At least the market will never crash in FarmVille. I'm just waiting for the Farmislature to catch up and let me buy my fake crops with my real food stamps.

The one way that the game has managed to save me some money is with the future in-laws. For the two years I've been engaged to my fiancé, I've been asked, I think jokingly, about where the cow is for the dowry. I was thinking of

getting one of those cow lawn ornaments that you attach your hose to its tail and it flies around in the air to water the grass. But now, I think I have that all taken care of with FarmVille. I just gifted a cow to the in-laws and got one for myself while I was at it. What the hell, you only live once.

Having neighbors is also a big plus. I've been living in my house for two years, and my real neighbors are just too much work. No, they don't ask me to rake their leaves or scare away their crows, but there's really nothing to gain from neighborly relations, is there? It would be different if my neighbors were a Ned or a Wilson, but they're not. I would consider doing some fertilization for a God-fearing Ned or some weeding for the advice of a Wilson.

FarmVille has even been a nice reprieve from my actual love life. Now that

my live-in fiancé and I are neighbors, I really have no need to converse with him while we're at home together. I just go to his farm, where he never is even when I know he is 'cause he's sitting in the other room, and leave a sign on his farm. Maybe he's busy in the chicken coop or tending to the cotton candy stand (because I've seen those on a farm before.)

I have only a few suggestions for FarmVille. How about an iPhone compatible version so I can harvest my crops while on the toilet?

And when am I going to be able to get a dog that looks like my dog? I'd like to feel less guilty about ignoring him while I pet my sheep and send animal-shaped bushes to my closest acquaintances from that class I took freshman year. I'm thinking about registering for a pink tractor for my bridal shower, so let's work something out with setting that up, too.



Best

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