

THE OAKLAND Post

March 3, 2004 • www.oakpostonline.com

Campus News

Students nationally are taking longer to graduate. OU is trying to stop this trend. •A3

Sports

Both the men's and women's basketball teams say goodbye to graduating seniors. •B1

LOCAL

Smokers in Michigan will be paying a higher cigarette tax to help out the state. •A5

Campus Life

"The Passion of Christ" rules the box office and sparks controversy. Read the review. •B6

Crash kills OU student

By REBECCA WYATT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A student known for his bright smile is being remembered around campus today.

Diraviam Susainatnan, a Ph.D. student studying biomedical sciences, was killed in a car accident Monday that caused the closing of Squirrel Road until late in the evening.

Mr. Susainatnan was an international student from Tirunelveli,

Tamilnadu, India who had come to OU in 2002.

Bonnie Koch, assistant director of the International Students and Scholars Office, said she remembers Mr. Susainatnan for the way he helped her when she was frantically organizing international student paperwork under a deadline. She said Mr. Susainatnan came into her office and helped her organize the information for more than four hours.

"He was a very nice man," Koch said. "A very kind person who had a very nice smile."

She said he was a very polite man, who was currently living in Troy with his wife and two small children.

Professor of Chemistry, Kathleen Moore, said Mr. Susainatnan was specializing in chemistry and had worked as a teaching assistant up until this semester, so he had quite a bit of contact with

undergrad students.

Mr. Susainatnan was also doing research with professor Linda Schweitzer on endocrine disruptors in drinking water. Moore said Mr. Susainatnan was very excited about the project and the funding it had just received.

"He was the kind of person that had a smile on his face," said Moore. She also noted his positive attitude.

Schweitzer said she had



Photo Courtesy of Kathleen Moore
Diraviam Susainatnan

known Mr. Susainatnan for about two years and he had worked in her lab. Schweitzer was the principle investigator on the

Please see SMILE on A6.

Money divides OUSC

By LIBBY BAKER
SENIOR NEWS WRITER

Tempers flared during Monday's OU Student Congress (OUSC) meeting over a money request from the men's club hockey team.

Vice President Kenton Lewis abruptly called the meeting to a close after five legislators unexpectedly left during the reading of bill 04-11. Congress subsequently lost quorum to conduct business and vote on the proposed bill.

The bill stated that Congress would appropriate \$4,200 to the team for their journey to the 2004 ACHA national tournament in Baltimore, Md.

"I have no opinion either way, but the process should have continued. (It) was not against the rules," Lewis said. "The only word I can use to describe them (legislators) walking out is ridiculous."

President Jonathan Parks punched the door as he left the Oakland Room of the OC and the feud continued down the hallway as he argued back and forth with legislator Montrell Porter.

Parks said he was frustrated in the behavior of Congress. He said legislators were participating in vote trading in an attempt to pass the bill.

He said when he tried to call attention to this matter he was ignored.

Monday's hard feelings stem from the club's request for additional funding for transportation to the national competition.

Porter said Congress should look at the contributions the team has made to the University. He said Congress's purpose is to serve the needs of students.

Parks said it would be discriminatory to appropriate money to the team without offering the same opportunities to the other organizations on campus.

"We didn't expect it to be so much drama," said Chris Ballach, team member. "We're going to represent this school no matter what. As a team we don't feel it's a great big deal to ask for \$4,200 to represent you guys. This money is well needed."

Congress remains split on the issue. Parks said last year the Congress had a special fund used for needs such as this one, but this fund has since been eliminated. He said it would be wrong to give money to the team when there are other student organizations just as deserving of additional money.

"Do I fight for what's right or what's wrong? Do I fight when I know this is something we shouldn't do?" Parks

Please see OUSC on A6.

Gender stats

Profs concerned about inequality, vow to help other female faculty

By REBECCA WYATT & TRACY ESTES
THE OAKLAND POST

Nearly 63 percent of OU undergraduate students and 64 percent of graduate students are female, according to OU data from 2002, yet only 45 percent of the faculty is female.

The struggle to increase the diversity at OU's campus is further complicated by having a low female population.

The trend around the state is quite the same. Schools like Eastern Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, Central Michigan University and Lake Superior State University have more than 50 percent female student populations while half or less of the faculty is female.

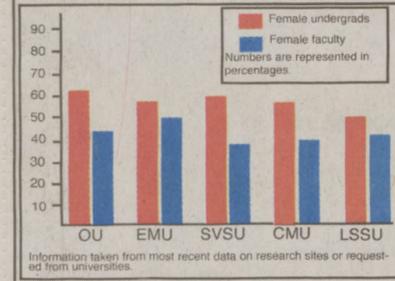
Kristina Setzekorn, assistant professor of management information systems, said she has been mistreated at OU her entire career by some senior male counterparts and higher-ups within her department. Due to what she calls unfair and inequitable treatment, Setzekorn will no longer work for the university next fall. She said she was not reemployed because she is a woman, even though she said she is as qualified as some males who are reemployed.

"Here it is 30 years after my graduation from high school and woman are treated no better," Setzekorn said.

Setzekorn isn't alone when it comes to women on campus complaining of gender discrimination.

Fay Hansen, chairperson of Committee W, a group devoted to helping female faculty on campus, and professor of biological sciences, said a colleague came to her to complain about

Please see GENDER on A6.



Three-peat



By DANA UTZ
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

Preparation for the NIC championship paid off for OU's men's and women's swimming and diving teams.

See "Women at it again" on B1 for the full story.

Above and Right: The swim team celebrates its third consecutive NIC Championship



Senate hears complex plans

By LAURA ANGUS
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Director of Athletics Jack Mehl spoke to OU's Senate on Thursday, Feb. 19 about a possible addition to campus.

For the past year, plans have been in the works to build a new soccer/baseball stadium on campus, near the Rec Center.

Mehl said OU has no short term interest in a new baseball facility, but could have long term

interest. OU has short term interest in building a soccer facility, though.

Mehl said the only way a plan like this would become a reality would be if no university funds go to construction.

"(The project will be) totally and completely from private funds," he said.

Also, it has to occur on the existing facility, to save land. The stadium is tentatively planned to be built on the existing soccer

fields. Finally, said Mehl, all of the university's needs must be met up front.

"The developer has come back to us with a single proposal rather than multiple proposals ... that's good for us because it saves land," said Mehl.

Within the next two months, said Mehl, the developer will need to come up with \$30-40 million for the project.

Most of the funds are from

sources that have never given to OU, said Mehl, which is another plus.

"I'm enthusiastically cautious," he said.

He said from June to August, when OU sporting teams would not need the facility, an independent baseball team would use the stadium.

New expenses from the stadium will include game management costs and custodial services.

Please see SENATE on A6.

Theatre's auction may be come annual

By KRISTIN SOMMER
THE OAKLAND POST

Meadow Brook Theatre had an opening night success last weekend — but not for a play.

On Saturday night, the theater hosted its first black-tie gala and silent auction.

More than 50 local businesses and organizations donated to the auction, held at Meadow Brook

Hall.

Event chair Kate Manfredi said the night was a big success and the theater came within range of their goal of \$10-15,000, although a total is not yet available.

United States Senator Debbie Stabenow was the keynote speaker, and gave a speech on the importance of arts funding in the face of federal and state budget cutbacks, according to Manfredi.

The theme for the gala was a speakeasy, and guests were assigned a character and encouraged to dress in costume.

Many of the 122 guests did dress up, and were treated to a cabaret performance shortly after arriving.

Peggy Cooke, director of Auxiliary Services attended the gala and said the cabaret was a nice touch because the performance allowed guests to see what

their money was benefiting.

Nearly all of the auction items sold for higher than the opening bid. Items ranged from a deluxe suite for 12 at an upcoming Pistons' game to two round-trip tickets for anywhere U.S. Airways flies in the United States, Canada, Bermuda or the Caribbean.

Co-Chair Rae Cartee supervised the theater staff and actors who volunteered to help out. Without

them, the night would not have been as successful, Manfredi said.

Manfredi was also pleased with the turnout.

"Not only did the evening go smoothly, we raised money for the theater and feel people will come back," Manfredi said.

Manfredi said the theater plans to host something similar to this event annually.

band: \$ (undisclosed amount)
 soy cappuccinos: \$250
 make-up & wardrobe: \$7000
 camera crew: \$1200 a day



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THE REASON

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This Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited. **How to Participate:** 1) Visit www.mastercard.com and click on the MasterCard® Priceless Experience™ '04 icon between 12:00:01PM Central Time (CT) on 2/8/04 and 8:59:59AM CT on 4/15/04 ("Promotion Period"). 2) To access the application form, click on the "Apply Now" button. 3) Submit an essay of no more than (250) words answering the following question: "If you were to plan your ideal career in the music business, what would it be and why?" The entry must be your original creation, in English and cannot have been previously published or submitted in any prior competition. Modification of an existing work does not qualify as original. 4) Fully complete the online entry, and 5) Click the "Submit" button. Limit one entry per person and per email address for the duration of the Promotion Period. Additional entries received from each person and/or email address thereafter will be void. Your submission of an entry constitutes your consent to participate in this Contest and your consent for Sponsor to obtain, use, and transfer your name, address and other information for the purpose of administering this Contest. Sponsor is not responsible for lost, incomplete, late, stolen, or misdirected entries or submissions, theft, destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries; failures or malfunctions of phones, pagers or telephone systems; interruption or unavailable network, server or other connections; any error, omission, interruption, defect or delay in any transmission or communication; traffic congestion on the Internet or for any technical problem, including but not limited to any injury or damage to entrant or to any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation in this Contest; errors in the Contest-related advertisements or other materials; the selection or announcement of winners or the awarding of prizes; the cancellation, suspension or modification of online distance-learning seminars; or other problems or errors of any kind, whether mechanical, human, electronic or otherwise. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to void any and all entries of an entrant who Sponsor believes has attempted to tamper with or impair the administration, security, fairness, or proper play of this Contest. The use of automated entry devices is prohibited. All entries will become the property of Sponsor and will not be returned. Neither Sponsor, nor anyone acting on its behalf, will enter into any communications with any entrant regarding any aspect of this Contest other than to notify potential winners. **Judging:** Winner selection for this Contest will occur in two phases. **Semifinalist Selection:** A total of (48) Semifinalists will be selected in accordance with the following Entry Periods, each Entry Period beginning at 12:00:01PM CT and ending at 8:59:59AM CT respectively: (16) Entry Period #1 Semifinalists: 2/8/04-3/1/04, (16) Entry Period #2 Semifinalists: 3/2/04-3/25/04 and (16) Entry Period #3 Semifinalists: 3/26/04-4/15/04. Entries received during one Entry Period will not carry forward to subsequent Entry Periods. Entries will be judged by an independent panel of judges ("judges") supervised by PST (an independent judging organization whose decisions will be final and binding in all matters relating to this Contest) based on the following criteria: 1) Originality: 0-40 points; 2) Creativity/Written Expression: 0-30 points; and 3) Relevance to Theme: 0-30 points. In the event of a tie, the entrant with the highest score in Originality will be declared the potential Semifinalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Creative Execution will be declared the potential Finalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Relevance to Theme will be declared the potential Finalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Creative Execution will be declared the potential Finalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Relevance to Theme will be declared the potential Finalist. **Finalist Selection:** A total of (16) Finalists will be selected from the (48) Semifinalist video entries submitted. Video entries will be judged based on the following criteria: 1) Presence On-Screen: 0-40 points; 2) Creative Execution: 0-30 points; and 3) Originality: 0-30 points. In the event of a tie, the entrant with the highest score in Presence On-Screen will be declared the potential Finalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Creative Execution will be declared the potential Finalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Relevance to Theme will be declared the potential Finalist. **Finalist Selection:** A total of (16) Finalists will be selected from the (48) Semifinalist video entries submitted. Video entries will be judged based on the following criteria: 1) Presence On-Screen: 0-40 points; 2) Creative Execution: 0-30 points; and 3) Originality: 0-30 points. In the event of a tie, the entrant with the highest score in Presence On-Screen will be declared the potential Finalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Creative Execution will be declared the potential Finalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Relevance to Theme will be declared the potential Finalist. **Prizes:** (48) Semifinalist Prize: \$100 MasterCard Gift Card (Approximate Retail Value "ARV" \$100). (16) Finalist Prize: Opportunity to attend the MasterCard® Priceless Experience™ '04 Music Internship ("internship") between 6/15/04 and 7/15/04 consisting of (but not limited to) participation in a four week internship in Los Angeles, California with access to select Music & Entertainment industry experts designated by Sponsor, specialized curricula, and the chance to assist in the production of a music video developed for an artist/group (managed by Universal Music Group) to be designated solely by Sponsor. Internship will include round-trip coach air transportation from major airport nearest to winner's residence in the U.S., select ground transportation, double-occupancy accommodations at a location to be determined by Sponsor, and a total of \$1,000 spending money awarded in the form of a MasterCard Gift Card (ARV \$1,000). Limit one prize per person, family, or household. Total ARV of all prizes \$100,800. Prize details not specifically set forth herein are at Sponsor's sole discretion. Exact dates of internship subject to change at Sponsor's sole discretion. Internship attendance is mandatory and Finalists must comply with all MasterCard rules and regulations relating to their participation in the internship. Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, impose disciplinary sanctions on Finalists, ranging from a warning to expulsion to referral for state or federal prosecution, for violation of federal, state or local laws, and internship codes of conduct. Content of internship to be determined solely by Sponsor and internship is not for credit. Travel restrictions may apply and travel must take place on dates specified by Sponsor or prize will be forfeited and entrant will be awarded to a runner-up. Artist(s)/group(s) and/or other organization(s) featured in MasterCard® Priceless Experience™ '04 Contest promotional advertising are subject to availability. If any named artist(s)/group(s) and/or other organization(s) is unavailable to participate in the capacity specified for any reason, an entry/individual of similar stature as determined by Sponsor will participate in lieu of the applicable named entry/individual. **Miscellaneous:** No transfer, assignment, cash redemption, or substitution of prize (or portion thereof) except by Sponsor due to prize unavailability, and then for a prize (or applicable portion thereof) of equal or greater value. Federal, state and local taxes and all other costs and expenses not specified herein are winners' sole responsibility. By participating, entrant agrees to be bound by these Official Rules and 1) Admit that their essay and/or video ("entry") is an original creation that has not been previously published or submitted in any other competition; and 2) Agree that Released Parties and their designers and agents: a) shall own the entry (and all material embodied therein) and shall have the perpetual, worldwide right to edit, publish, exploit and use the entry (or any portion thereof) in any way and in any media for advertising and/or trade purposes and/or for any other purpose in any media or format now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission or notification; b) shall have the right and permission (unless prohibited by law) to use entrant's name, voice, digitized or scanned photograph and/or other likeness for advertising and/or trade purposes and/or for the purpose of displaying their name as a winner and/or for any other purpose in any media or format now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission or notification; c) use of entry shall not violate the right of any third parties and shall not violate any applicable federal, state or local laws or ordinances; d) shall have the right, in their sole discretion, to disqualify any entries that they deem to be obscene or otherwise not in good taste; e) shall have no liability and entrant will defend, indemnify and hold harmless Sponsor and the Released Parties from and against any liability, loss, injury or damage of any kind (including attorney's fees) to any person or entity, including, without limitation, personal injury, death or damage to personal or real property, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of a prize or participation in this Contest and any travel related thereto including, but not limited to, any claim that entrant's submission infringes or violates the rights of any person or entity. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify, terminate or suspend this Contest should virus, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes beyond the reasonable control of Sponsor, including but not limited to war, strikes, and/or acts of God, corrupt or unsafe administration, security, business or proper play of this Contest and, if the Contest is terminated or suspended, at its discretion award prizes in a judging from among all non-suspect entries received prior to event resuming such modification, termination or suspension. **Winners List:** For the winner's names (available after 6/15/04), send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by 6/1/04 to: MasterCard® Priceless Experience™ '04 Winners, P.O. Box 13106, Bridgeport, CT 06613-3106. ©2004 MasterCard International Incorporated. 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Graduation tough to reach

Students taking longer and longer to earn diplomas

BY LUISE BOLLEBER
THE OAKLAND POST

Jeff Owens will take more than four years to finish his undergrad degree in marketing. But he must take classes every spring and summer semester to meet his Fall 2005 graduation goal. "That's what I'm shooting for," he said.

The reason he's taking longer than four years to graduate is twofold: he changed his major from mechanical engineering to marketing, and he participated in the Walt Disney World College Program. "You work for Disney for either

four or seven months, and they provide housing and give you a job," Owens said.

While working for Disney, students have the opportunity to take college-level courses for credit. He took advantage of the four-month program.

"I worked at Splash Mountain, and took a human resource management class," he said.

For the past two decades, students at OU have gradually been taking longer than the traditional four years to complete their undergraduate degree.

According to a report by the Office of Institutional Research

and Assessment (OIRA) at OU, the percent of four-year graduates in the 1999-2000 class was 19.5 percent, compared to 45 percent in the class of 1981-82. For the 1999-2000 class, 40 percent graduated within five years, 19 percent within five to six years and 22 percent in six plus years.

There are apparently many reasons for the delay, the OIRA theorizes. Approximately 90 percent of OU students commute to campus, many of who work full- or part-time, making it difficult to take a full load of classes.

Senior Liz Belwood, in her sixth and final year of school, works full-

time at Circuit City and is taking 12 credits.

"I've learned to work with it," she said. "It's hard but rewarding."

Other delaying factors include students lowering their workloads to keep their GPAs high, accumulation of more credits due to choice of major, dropping out frequently, changing majors and repeating courses.

OU grad Zvonko Blazevski needed extra time to accommodate two majors, and took five years to complete his degree.

"I double majored in journalism

Please see GRAD on A8.

OU takes diversity proposals

BY TRACY ESTES
SENIOR NEWS WRITER

Diversity is important at OU, and for the ninth consecutive year students, faculty, staff and trustees have been asked to submit their ideas on how to bring more diversity to campus.

Each year, different programs including Cultural Awareness Week, Diversity Ambassadors and Diverse Voices have given the student body an opportunity to step out of their comfort zones and experience something new.

This year, there were 12 proposals submitted and they were due in the Center for Multicultural Initiatives on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

On May 5, a selections committee will present the proposals they feel are the best and make recommendations to the board of trustees (BOT) of which should be funded. The money for the programs is provided by the Diversity Programming Fund, which is overseen by the BOT. The fund allows up to \$8,000.

"The goal is to promote the recruitment of an ethnically and culturally diverse student body," said Gloria Sosa, director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives. "We strongly encourage racial, ethnic and cultural understandings campus wide."

Other reasons for the proposals and programs are to teach students to communicate effectively across racial, ethnic, cultural and gender lines.

"The proposal fund has created some exciting initiatives on campus," said Sosa.

Bonnie Koch, assistant director for the International Students and Scholars Office is very excited about the opportunity to submit her ideas to get more domestic students on campus involved with the international students.

"It's sad that some of these students come here with only a suitcase, having no one to talk to and no where to go," she said. "We want our domestic students to be able to relate to our inter-

Please see DIVERSITY on A8.

Nixon named 'First Citizen'

BY ALICIA SOSSI
THE OAKLAND POST

Jude Nixon, director of the Honors College at OU, was named "First Citizen of Birmingham" by the Birmingham Eccentric newspaper.

He received the award for this honor at the annual Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce dinner last December.

According to Greg Kowalski, editor of the Birmingham Eccentric and presenter of the award, Nixon was chosen because of his "significant contribution to the community and volunteer services."

"(Community service) is just the natural thing to be doing," said Nixon, who began to volunteer because he wanted "to help (the community) achieve diversity in a broader sense."

Since moving to Birmingham in 1997, Nixon has served as part of the Board of Directors at the Birmingham Community House and was chairman of the board at First Baptist Church for three years. He currently is co-chair of the Race Relations and Diversity Task Force.

The task force is a sponsored organization that works out of the Birmingham Community House. It began as a way to address issues of race and racism in the Birmingham

and Bloomfield area. Nixon now believes that the task force has allowed Birmingham to realize that diversity is necessary for achieving a better city.

Although he was initially shocked by the First Citizen honor, Nixon was encouraged by the acknowledgement he received. He said he saw the award as "a way to show that Birmingham really wants to be different and promote diversity."

Nixon continues to work to improve and market racial diversity throughout the Birmingham Bloomfield community and hopes to make the community more welcoming and affordable.

"Nixon is an example for others because he goes beyond and gives of himself," said Kowalski. "People like him are incredibly important to any community."

Nixon also shares his beliefs about diversity and community service with students at the OU Honors College.

He said he encourages them to "improve, change and influence the community" in whatever ways they can, and he credits OU for making his community involvement possible.

"Community service is an important mission of OU," said Nixon.

For more information on the Race Relations and Diversity Task Force, visit www.racerelationsdiversity.org.

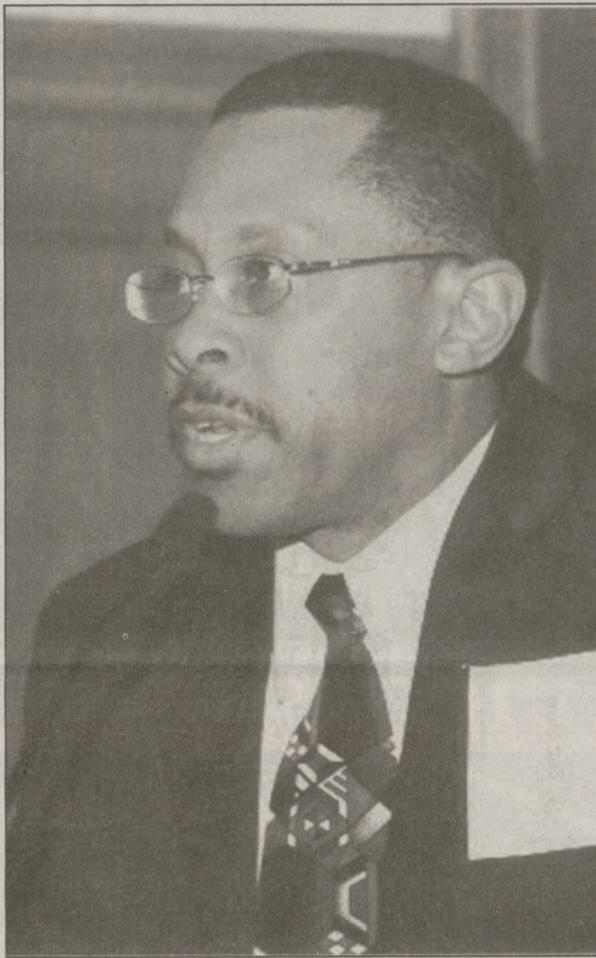
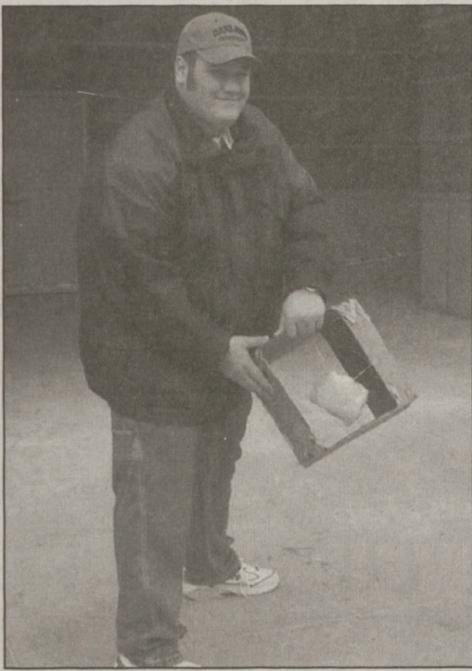


Photo courtesy of Fred Ferris, (248) 288-0333
Jude Nixon, director of the Honors College was recently named "First Citizen" of Birmingham for his contributions to the community and volunteer service.

Scrambled eggs



Brian Young, sophomore, surveys his unsuccessful trial during Theta Tau's Egg Drop yesterday. The event was part of National Engineer's Week, and participants needed to build a structure that would protect an egg when dropped from the eighth floor of the Science and Engineering Building.

Laura Angus/The Oakland Post

Former CAS dean, prof remembered

BY LAURA ANGUS
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

A memorial will be held on Saturday for an OU professor and former associate dean who died last month.

Isaac Eliezer died of complications from a stroke on Jan. 21 in Troy at the age of 70.

He had worked at OU since 1979, first as an associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and then as a full-time professor in the department of chemistry.

Mr. Eliezer was born in Europe and during World War II, he moved to Israel, which was then Palestine. He obtained his doctorate at the Hebrew University during that time and got married and had three children.

Mr. Eliezer and his family moved to Montana in 1976, after four years, they moved to Michigan.

During his time at OU, Mr. Eliezer was involved in research and wrote many publications, said his wife, Naomi Eliezer.

"He was very devoted to his students," she said. "He liked the fact that Oakland University was not too big of a university."

While associate dean, he



Courtesy of Department of Chemistry
A memorial will be held for professor Isaac Eliezer who died last month.

was very interested in humanities and in establishing a medical school at OU. His wife said he took part in establishing new programs in science.

She said he liked that OU had small classes, and he could interact with his students.

"He loved to study and to research things ... so it was a natural thing for him to be in academics," she said.

"He's done a number of things to help the (chemistry)

Please see PROF on A8.

Police Beat

• A student slipped and fell on ice trying to get into her car parked in the Hamlin Circle Wednesday, Feb. 18.

She fell on her right knee and hurt her hand on the sidewalk. She also broke her door handle when she grabbed on to it to break her fall.

• A PC was stolen out of an Elliott Hall office late Thursday night, Feb. 19. The professor said she lined all her PCs up in a row and left her office around 10 p.m. When she returned Friday morning the first PC was not there.

She said that the only people who had access to her office were her student

assistant and the custodial staff. There was no evidence of forced entry and no suspects.

• A student was parked in the P5 parking lot and noticed white glass surrounding his car on Friday, Feb. 20. He drove away and heard something rolling around on his roof and

noticed it was a broken lightbulb.

He then returned to his original parking spot and saw two more broken lightbulbs and white powder on his driver's side front quarter panel. He noticed after wiping the powder off that there were numerous small chips in his paint.

There are no suspects yet

to the damage of the student's car.

• There was a car accident in the parking lot in front of the 7000 building of the University Student Apartments, Thursday, Feb. 26.

Due to a large snow bank and a garbage dumpster, the driver who caused the acci-

dent could not see where she was backing up and struck the other car.

• OUPD investigated nine cases of fraud. OU offices have received several checks that were returned because of insufficient funds, or no account. Only one of these cases could be pursued as a crime.



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Tax ignites conflict

2005 Michigan budget proposes raising the price of cigarettes by \$0.75 a pack

By KRISTEN HERLIHY
THE OAKLAND POST

If Gov. Jennifer Granholm gets her way, smokers could choke on more than just nicotine the next time they pick up a pack of cigarettes.

On Feb. 12, Granholm released her 2005 Executive Budget, proposing the state tax on cigarettes be raised from \$1.25 to \$2 a pack, making it the second highest in the nation, behind New Jersey at \$2.05.

Smokers aren't the only group being targeted for tax increases—wholesale liquor taxes will be upped from 65 to 74 percent.

According to the budget proposal, the tax hike is part of an effort to preserve the healthcare services the state currently provides despite funding cuts from the federal government.

While the proposal avoids general tax increases, some Michiganders, like OU junior Paul Kampe, feel like they're being unfairly targeted by the tax.

"It's just not fair to place another tax on cigarettes forcing one portion of the population to pay for everyone else," Kampe said.

"Taxing other things that everyone uses, (like) gasoline... would be a more fair and balanced way to tax citizens," he said.

Other Michiganders, like Lisa Pedrie, junior, think the tax is an innovative way to solve multiple

health care issues.

"I have no problem with the tax because I don't smoke and drink only occasionally," she said.

"Maybe if the tax is higher, people will cut back on things which cause them harm," Pedrie said.

Granholm is thinking in the same direction. The governor's report says the tax will not only solve the budget gap, but it will encourage better health in the long term.

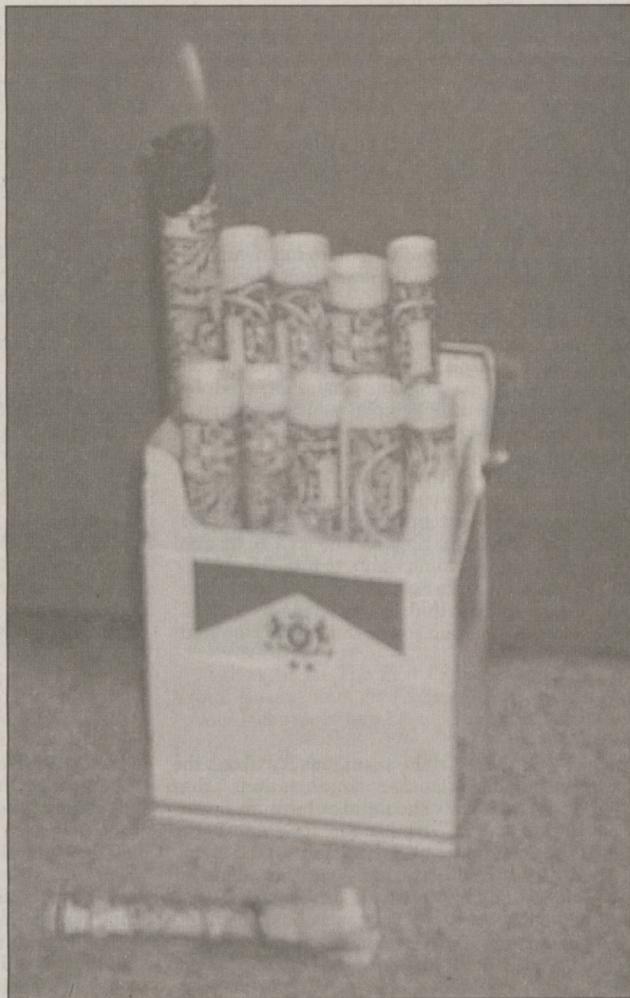
To support this, the first \$30 million of the \$295 million the taxes would generate would be put towards funding smoking cessation and chronic disease programs.

Before any tax changes are made, the budget proposal bill needs to be approved by the Michigan Legislature.

Greg Bird, director of communications for the state budget office, expects the new taxes to go into effect Oct. 1, 2004, which is the start of the new fiscal year.

"We've submitted the language and necessary materials to the legislature (for review). We anticipate the bill being introduced soon at which point it will go through the committee and chamber for debate," Bird said.

Although he had not heard of any alternative solutions to raising the cigarette tax, Bird said it's "certainly a possibility" that the Legislature would propose another plan.



Residents' tempers heat up because tax may leave smokers burning more than just cigarettes.

SAVE alleges knife scheme

Students claim marketing jobs aren't all they are cut out to be.

By REBECCA WYATT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

OU students looking for jobs have seen the advertisements around campus. They call to students promising a top hourly wage and a flexible schedule.

One of these jobs is with Vector Marketing, the company that owns Cutco Knives. According to students and Vector Marketing, the students make money by selling knives.

A group of students, upset by the unfair treatment they say they have received from Vector Marketing, have started a group called SAVE, Students Against Vector Exploitation, to speak out against these alleged injustices.

"We shared experiences and

agreed that sales reps needed their own group to protect themselves against what was obviously an unscrupulous company," said Dave Ferris, co-founder of SAVE. The group started in 2003.

"We have been growing ever since," Ferris said.

The SAVE Web site currently has 113 members and people post messages regarding their experiences with Vector just about every day.

In need of a summer job, Ferris went on an interview for a job he said he knew very little about. He said the interview turned out to be a sales pitch, but when he got the job as a sales rep, he was surprised about what he found out about his new job.

"Between the interview and the

unpaid training, I stumbled upon a wealth of online information about the unethical, scandalous, apparently exploitative nature of Vector, as testified by countless students," Ferris said.

Ferris said he decided to get some answers, so he took a flier to one of the training sessions to get those answers from a manager. He said the manager refused to answer the question in public, but after persistence Ferris said the manager "blew up and then kicked me out."

According to the Better Business Bureau (BBB), Vector Marketing is based in Olean, N.Y. The BBB report states "Vector Marketing Corporation sells its products via independent contractors who sell Cutco Cutlery on a

direct sales basis through personal appointments. The company recruits independent contractors by placing advertisements in local and college newspapers."

Sarah Baker Andrus, director of academic programs for Vector, called Cutco a "phenomenal work opportunity" but she also said, "sales is not for everyone."

She said Vector does not hide the fact that students will be selling knives or any other information.

"It's in our best interest to disclose as much information as possible," she said.

She said the complaints of the students on the SAVE Web site are unfair. She said because the

Please see SAVE on A8.

Schools enforce nutty ban

By TRACY ESTES
SENIOR NEWS WRITER

Sophomore Beth Dahl has an allergy to tree nuts, not peanuts, yet people still act nervous about bringing these crunchy snacks around her.

During a class project in junior high school, Dahl said she was taken out of class and questioned about her allergy for safety reasons. The school felt that precautions should be taken and a simple class project with peanuts, turned into a Frito potato chip test to avoid any unnecessary allergic reactions.

The peanut allergy has caused great concerns among elementary-aged students mainly, and schools are beginning to ban the use of any type of peanut product from the classrooms and cafeterias.

Parents of students in the Lake Orion school district are divided when it comes to the ban. Some are upset they can no longer send their child to school

with a simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich, while others are grateful the harm to their children has been substantially eliminated with this possibly life-threatening allergy.

According to administrators in the Lake Orion School District, at least two schools in Lake Orion have banned peanut products, including Blanche Sims and Paint Creek elementary schools.

"Despite lengthy objections from several parents, the schools' policies are meant to protect students with potentially life threatening allergies to peanuts and are supported by administrators and the school board and are unlikely to change," said Christine Lehman, assistant superintendent of Lake Orion schools.

On the other hand, the Rochester School District has a separate policy run by district guidelines.

"No school has a total peanut ban," said Don Tignanelli, director of com-



Signs on the doors at Blanche Sims Elementary let students know about the peanut-free environment.

munications for the Rochester Board of Education. "It's almost impossible. It may be easier to monitor it in elementary schools, but high school levels are not as protected. We don't police

peoples lunches." Tignanelli said that Adams High School and other schools in the district do not have a peanut ban, but they are peanut alert areas.

"There is an awareness,"

he said. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, there is an estimated 1.5 million people who suffer from the

Please see BAN on A8.

Global Glance

•More than 140 people were killed in simultaneous attacks on Muslim shrines in Baghdad and Karbala yesterday, during the festivals marking Ashura, the holiest Shi'ite Muslim day of the year. The attacks are believed to be the work of at least 10 separate suicide bombers. Iraqi authorities blame Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian who is suspected of leading attacks on Shi'ites to promote the Iraqi fight against the coalition. The Iraqi Governing Council condemned the attacks and declared three days of mourning.

•Dick Clark, the 74-year-old game show host and television personality, is being sued for age discrimination. Clark allegedly called a 76-year-old game show producer a "dinosaur" and refused to hire him. Ralph Andrews, the 76-year-old suing, has been friends with Clark for 40 years and has worked with him before. Andrews said he has never had problems in the past. The suit also names Dick Clark Productions and one of its owners.

•Rebel leader Guy Philippe declared himself chief of Haiti's military Tuesday, days after former President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was forced to step down. Philippe said he planned to use his new power to arrest Aristide's prime minister, but the U.S. government said Philippe has no potential for leadership in Haiti. Aristide stepped down as President Sunday and is in exile in Africa.

•A child who was thought to have died in a house fire in 1997 was found by her biological mother earlier this week. Authorities believe that the girl was kidnapped and raised by the woman who set the blaze to cover her path. The child's biological mother, Luz Cuevas, recognized the girl as her own at a birthday party. At the party, Cuevas told the child she had gum in her hair and removed strands for DNA testing. The child will be reunited with her biological mother after authorities tell the child what happened.

Global

goof

For the second year in a row, a London woman is in trouble with the law for registering cows as voters. Last year, Brenda Gould listed the names "Henry and Sophia Bull" and "Jake Woofles" as eligible voters even though they were two cows and a dog. This year, she said her address had been split into two properties with her living on the first and "Henry and Sophia" living on the other. Gould was scheduled to appear in court last week but did not show up. She was convicted in her absence and ordered to pay a total of \$397 in fees and court costs.

~Compiled by Elizabeth Gorecki,
Local News Editor

Information taken from
various news sources.

FACULTY

Continued from A1

obscene, gender related graffiti that was on a windowpane that she and her daughter passed by daily. Hansen said this woman complained through all of the appropriate channels, starting at the bottom and taking her complaint all the way up to the President's Office.

Hansen said the complaint was never addressed and the woman ended up cleaning the window herself.

"That's what deaf ears this complaint fell on," Hansen said. "That's unacceptable when a simple direction to custodians should have been made immediately to solve the problem."

Virinder Moudgil, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said OU has a non-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination based on gender.

"Oakland University is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff experience an educational and work environment that is free from unlawful discrimination," said Moudgil.

The policy states, "there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any person on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, age, height, weight, disability, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, marital status, familial state or veteran status."

The policy states OU also follows the state and Federal anti-discrimination laws.

The policy states that any faculty, staff or student who discriminates based on one of those categories will be punished up to and including termination or expulsion.

According to the policy, each vice president, dean, director and supervisor must make sure employees are aware of and obey

the policy.

Moudgil said if any staff member feels discriminated against, he or she should file a complaint with the Office of University Diversity and Compliance.

Hansen said that the women's movement of the 1960s started the ball rolling in the right direction, but didn't complete the job.

"It's amazing what did happen, but it's amazing that many attitudes still need to change," Hansen said.

Suzanne Spencer-Wood, director of women's studies and associate professor of anthropology, said the history of women's rights has gotten better, but it's still not perfect.

"I think that things have improved somewhat, but you still have women making lower entry salaries and that women do not get salary increases and promotions as men do," said Spencer-Wood.

Spencer-Wood said laws are improving all the time and sexual harassment laws have helped.

According to Spencer-Wood the disparity is greatest between women and men in Ivy League schools, and it is better in public colleges because they are more affected by equal opportunity employment legislation.

She said this unfair treatment has been going on since the 19th century.

"Up through the mid 19th century in places like Europe and America a married woman was practically dead," Spencer-Wood said. She said they had no civil rights, no legal rights and no rights to property.

According to Spencer-Wood, there have been studies that show women received lower evaluation scores than men. She said

women who are in positions of authority contradict the feminine stereotypes that women are less capable than men and should not be in those positions. Male students will recognize this and don't except it.

"I've actually experienced this," Spencer-Wood said.

She said when women get good evaluation scores it is considered luck or extra effort, and it doesn't get counted. When the scores aren't good, Spencer-Wood said, it's expected, when men get good evaluations, she said it's looked at as them being capable.

"It's all because the stereotypes are so deeply engrained," Spencer-Wood said.

The faculty break down shows female faculty lacking in the schools or colleges at OU.

Within the College of Arts and Sciences there are 88 females out of a full-time faculty workforce of 229. In the School of Business Administration there are 10 females out of 53 staff members. There is one female in the Decision Information Systems department. In the School of Engineering and Computer Science, there are seven full-time females and 43 full-time males. In the School of Education and Human Services full-time female faculty dominate with 38 to the 26 males.

According to Hansen, Committee W is in charge of mentoring women faculty to make sure their needs are met as best as possible. She said the committee is more of a mentoring program for the junior faculty women. She said Committee W orients them for what is needed for their promotions, and it acquaints untenured women with the tenure process.

Hansen said Committee W uses work-

shops and networking opportunities to help the women faculty succeed.

She said gender issues are present throughout all academia, and at OU it is evident that women sit in the middle position for a very long time without the mentoring they need to become full professors.

"There is definitely an under representation of woman at the level of professor," Hansen said.

"Every department in every school has its politics but the more difficult ones to resolve are the ones where there is a preponderance of men in the department," Hansen said. "Sometimes there is gender bias, etc, but often it is simply due to differences in communication styles, problem-solving or priorities."

Hansen said the Committee is trying to do more.

"We've talked about how to get a more effective mentoring system," Hansen said.

Mary Papazian, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, professor of English and a member of ACE/NET, a group devoted to help women faculty and staff in higher education, said some informal mentoring for women at all levels of the university is in the works.

"One of the things we've been talking about is to establish formal networking and mentoring type situations," Papazian said.

She said it's important to support women finding the balance between their personal lives and work.

"There's a lot of good supporting going on around the university," Papazian said.

SMILE

Continued from A1

research project.

"I am committed to the project," Schweitzer said. She said she hopes to finish the research.

According to a press release from the Auburn Hills Police Department (AHPD), the driver of the car that caused the accident struck a mailbox and another vehicle at two other intersections before crossing over the median of Squirrel Road near M-59 and striking the vehicle driven by Mr. Susainatnan and another car. The driver of the other car was not injured. The driver who initially caused the accident died at the hospital.

The press release said AHPD did not believe alcohol was a factor in the incident. According to a press release, AHPD is waiting for the autopsy reports before making a final determination as to the cause of the accident.

We are also looking for an Advertising Manager for the 2004-2005 school year...

Include your resume' in an envelope with Nathan's name on it, and drop it off to The POST office today.

Or call Nathan at (248) 370-4269 for more information

OUSC

Continued from A1

said. "If we give you money than every other organization can come and ask for money."

Ballach said the team had increased fundraising over the past year as Parks had instructed them to do.

"We'll see who supports clubs here and who will go out on a limb to help us," Ballach said.

Sarah Cook, legislator, said the team has the support of Congress, but it was unfair for them to come in and begin attacking Congress.

It isn't about whether or not the Congress supports

the team, but it's about the other organizations that should also have an opportunity for funding, Parks said. He said the OUSC constitution does not allow for personal privileges.

"I'm not against the hockey team or any other organization here," he said.

"Congress is here for the students. We work for students. Congress will not do personal privileges though. It's about being professional. If we give money we break our own rules and go against our own Constitution."

Some legislators said they

agreed with Parks stance.

"I'm just saying it's morally wrong to give money when it wasn't published," said legislator Jeff Galecki.

Galecki said other organizations should have the same opportunity for additional money.

Ballach said the team would not have to pay the transportation bill until one month following the trip.

Legislator Soyini Cowan said Congress could use the next month to help the team find money from other sources, however, a motion to table the bill for one week failed.

Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh, who attended Monday's meeting, addressed the Congress regarding the issue. He said that if Congress passed the proposed bill they must quickly develop a special funding process that is fair and open to all student organizations.

It was during the re-reading of the proposed bill that the legislators walked out of the meeting.

Parks said he was disappointed in his behavior following the meeting, because he wasn't in control of himself, but said he is not disap-

pointed that he spoke out about what is right.

He said it is his job to serve all 16,000 students not just a select few.

Meanwhile the team departed for the national competition on Monday evening with no resolution to their request.

Parks will hold meetings during the coming week to try and mend the wounds caused at Monday's meeting. The Congress will hold its regular meeting at 4 p.m. on Monday in the Oakland Room of the OC.

SENATE

Continued from A1

es, but revenue capability will grow from selling tickets, concessions, hats and other items.

There is also possibility to create new internships with the facility.

"This is a project that cannot fail," said Mehl.

Mehl said all uses for the stadium will have to be approved by OU, and it could be a possible site for graduation ceremonies.

Mehl said the project could attract prospective students as it would increase campus life.

In other business:

• The Senate discussed General Education changes, which will be further

discussed at the next Senate meeting.

• The Senate discussed Kresge Library's new constitution, which has been reviewed and approved by the Library faculty and the Office of the General Counsel.

There are three simple changes to the constitution, but it must be reviewed every five years.

The constitution will be voted on during the next meeting.

• The Senate discussed recommendations for criteria for establishing academic calendars.



Nose for news?
The Oakland Post is accepting applications for the 2004-2005 school year. Most positions available. Call Rebecca at (248) 370-4268 or e-mail editor@oakpostonline.com for more information.

Oakland University's

Student Affairs

updating you every week!

144 Oakland Center Rochester, Michigan (248) 370-3352

CAST PROGRAM

Reel in your career direction with CAST!

The Connecting Alumni and Students Together program is an opportunity for students to gain practical insight and explore career options with OU Alumni. Advantages of participating in this program include: career exploration, discussion of job opportunities, information interviews, job shadowing, mock interviews, networking, office visits, and campus involve

ment. Get the inside track on how OU alumni were successful in finding jobs upon graduation! To learn more about this program or to find out which alumni are participating, visit the Career Services website and click on eRecruiting@OU.

Graham Health Center

Welcome back!

We hope you had a happy and safe winter break. Hopefully you had good weather, were with friends and have come back to us feeling rested and healthy! If you came back with a bug that hitchhiked its way back with you, keep Graham Health Center in mind. We're here to treat your coughs, sniffles, aches and pains, and get you back on track for a healthy spring. Call the Graham Health Center today for an appointment, and let us help you to better health.

GHC...The Place to be for a Healthy Me!
370-2341
www2.oakland.edu/GHC/

Campus Recreation

Memberships on sale!
Half Semester memberships!

Join the Rec Center now and only pay \$85 for the rest of the semester!
Upcoming IM Sports Registration Dates
Floor Hockey—3/12/04
Swim Meet—3/12/04
Racquetball—3/19/04
Table Tennis—3/19/04
All-Star Basketball Championship Games 3/2, 3/8 and 3/9 at 8 PM in the Rec Center. Come out and join the excitement!

Friday Night Live Presents
Alex House with special guest Clara Biji

March 5, 2004, 7 PM, Vandenberg Dining Hall
Alex is a two-time winner in the Bud Light Ladies of Laughter Contest, has participated in the Toyota Comedy Festival, Boston Comedy Festival and the Arizona Women's Funny Fest. She has been on ABC's "The View" twice and was one of the East Coast semi-finalists chosen out of thousands of comics on NBC's "Last Comic Standing."

She plays clubs all around the city, and she also directed a short film, Move in Avec Moi, which has been featured in festivals around the country.

Upcoming Events

Do you lack confidence in dinner etiquette? Learn new skills while enjoying great food! Career Services and FMA present a BUSINESS ETIQUETTE DINNER on Thursday, March 25, 2004 from 5-7 PM in the OC Banquet Rooms.

A special guest will talk you through all the essential skills you need to know when attending a business dinner while you enjoy a fabulous four-course meal. Professional dress is strongly encouraged. Tickets have been reduced from \$10 to only \$5 AND WILL BE FULLY REFUNDED the night of the event! Tickets are available through Career Services, the CSA Service Window, and FMA members. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Reserve your spot today!

For further information visit www.oakland.edu/careerservices or call 370-3250.

Congratulations

2004 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson
Award Recipients
Bradford Whitmer and Rhonda Hanna

2004 Human Relations Award
Genafier Hintz

OUlympics

Friday, April 2, 2004, 4-7 PM, OU Recreational Center (3 lower courts)
FREE food, entertainment and prizes

Registration starts March 1st at Center for Multicultural Initiatives.

121 North Foundation Hall

Events include scavenger hunt, three legged race, volleyball, relay race, tug of war, and obstacle course

Graham Counseling Center

Graham Counseling Center hopes you had a relaxing winter break. Unfortunately, it may not be long before your studies start to create stress in your life once again. If you begin to experience problems with stress, anxiety or depression, our staff is eager to help. Your first six visits are free so please take advantage of this student service. We are located in the Graham Health Center building. Call ext. 3465 for an appointment or more information.

Educator's Recruiting Day

Wednesday, April 28, 2004, 9 AM-4 PM, OC Banquet Rooms

- Participate in scheduled interviews with several schools and school districts

- Must register with Career Services' eRecruiting to participate

- Interview schedules will be posted on our website under eRecruiting@OU starting March 1st.

Contact Career Services at 370-3250 for further details.

Editorial at a glance

The Issue: People around the nation are determining what constitutes a marriage.

Our stance: Chromosomes cannot be the deciding factor. Love and compatibility should be first.

Biology takes stage in marriage debate

Since the mayor of San Francisco gave the okay for same-sex marriages, 3,300 gay and lesbian couples have received marriage licenses from the city.

This has given rise to a national debate and since this an election year, the issue has become even more energized.

Suddenly everyone, including politicians, has become experts in defining the institution of marriage.

Some say marriage can only be between a man and a woman, some say it doesn't matter whether the cou-

ple is of the same sex, but the one common thing is love.

Chromosomes seem to be the more recent criteria for marriage. Is it worth changing the U.S.

Constitution to say only XYs can marry XXs? Aren't there other components of marriage that are more important like love, respect, etc?

We see plenty of XY/XX unions that are not only unsuitable, they are destructive, even deadly. Children within these marriage suffer because the XY

and the XX just can't get along.

If we are going to say that a couple can't be married because they don't fit the profile of a "married couple," then we can't stop there. We have to truly examine every marriage to determine if the couple fits the profile.

Plenty of couples are married for the wrong reasons. Maybe they are coerced. Maybe there are children involved. How many heterosexual marriages do you know that end in divorce because the

couple went into the marriage barely knowing the other person?

Rosie O'Donnell and her partner Kelli Carpenter have been together much longer than some heterosexual married couples.

The world has to adapt to changing times. It may not be easy, but the gay and lesbian community is becoming more outspoken and more demanding of their human rights. By denying them this right, the majority is imposing its views upon another group, something the

Constitution should protect them from.

Many things have changed over time. Blacks have been given the same right as whites. When this country first started, they were denied this strictly because of the color of their skin. While there is certainly opposition to the union between two men or two women, we shouldn't be the ones to judge whether it's right or wrong. They aren't hurting anyone, just let them have the same rights as any other couple.

Talk Back

OU responds to The Post and events around campus

DEAR EDITOR,

Recently, I was conversing with friends in the OC and we began an obscure conversation about the disinfectant ingredients of soap and the proper method of cleaning with soap. My friend asked a gentleman walking by his personal method of washing in order to gain support for his theory.

The gentleman, puzzled, then said he did not care to share his personal method of cleaning with us. We respectfully accepted his response and turned to each other to continue the conversation.

Moments later, the Dean of Students professionally approached us with this gentleman and questioned the appropriateness of our approach and inquiry. We chatted with the Dean for a few minutes and agreed that people have differing ideas of what may offend them.

I, however, would like to say that when I am offended, I prefer to mention it to the offender before running to the hierarchical establishment so that they may take care of the offenders for me.

And while thinking more of this matter, I wonder if perhaps my attitude is wrong. In the future when I am handed a flyer with religious or political rhetoric, maybe I should run to the Dean and file a

complaint. Maybe I should run to Oakland's president if a student or faculty member looks at me offensively. Perhaps that is the solution.

Or should I continue to stand up for myself?

Anyway, the more I think about it, I'm offended about the gentleman who took offense to the importance of personal hygiene.

CHRIS KOWAL
COMMUNICATION AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

DEAR EDITOR,

I realize that this letter is being written after the fact, but unfortunately The Oakland Post continuously fails to give the Women's Tennis team the recognition they deserve. Back in January, the team competed against Robert Morris and scored their first victory of the spring season, rolling to a 6-1 win. The lady grizzlies looked prepared and ready for the competition. Even after this decisive win, I failed to read a reasonable article about the victory. Unfortunately, the sports page was consumed by every basketball story imaginable; not to put down the basketball team, but they are in the newspaper every week whether they win or lose. Most, if not all, of the other

sports teams at Oakland receive more than a 4"x4" article.

I think that the women on the tennis team deserve a little more recognition than they have ever received. Most of the OU population is not aware that a tennis team even exists! But why should they when there are no courts on campus, we have to practice and compete off-site, and we don't even get to share our victories with the rest of the student body and faculty in the newspaper when we do compete.

All I am asking for is that the writers in the sports section provide equal coverage to all of the sports, and yes, even to the women's tennis team. We have a strong team this year. Without the recognition and support of the staff, students and school our successes and hard work will continue to go unnoticed.

I encourage EVERYONE in the OU community to come out and support the girls in their limited home meets in March and April.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I appreciate your thought and response.

BRITTANY MAXEY
SENIOR, WOMEN'S TENNIS

Alum gives advice to all class levels



MIKE MURPHY
OU Alumnus

I thought for The Post I'd run down the four classes and give some quick advice from someone who's been there, and been gone.

Seniors: Take time off. It's worth it.

If you're planning on going directly to grad school, you might still want to consider taking some time off. This, of course, depends on your school and your area of study. If you're going to med school, it might not be a bad idea to get all 19 years of it out of the way. All doctors don't just look old; they are old.

But for other graduate degrees some real-life experience can make a huge difference. I graduated from OU in 2001 with a degree in journalism, and immediately sold out. I took a public affairs job, then a job producing Web sites, and worked as a freelance writer on the side. I moved out to the east coast (okay, Philadelphia, which is the east coast if you consider the Delaware River to be a coast), went to Europe twice, and sat in enough cubicles to realize that I needed to go back to school.

I ended up at Law School at Michigan in Ann Arbor, and without boring you or scaring you to death with the details, it's basically like grad school on powerful methamphetamine. Kind of like Navy SEAL training for your brain.

The two years I took off are invaluable, and I see it when I talk to people who came straight from their senior year in undergrad. Generally speaking, they're exhausted. They're in their 17th straight year of school. They've never measured time outside of "quarters" or "semesters." They yearn to be able to go home from work and not have anything to do until the next day at work... having homework hanging over your head gets old around the 20th straight year or so.

If you're not considering grad school, good luck in the job search. I won't go as far as to say it's all who you know - but I will say I haven't yet received a full-time job

without at least a tip (if not a vouching-for) from someone who worked at the company. My point is; be friendly and positive. Get to know your classmates, and don't have a negative/egotistical/angry attitude that alienates anyone. It's not just a good way to live your life; it can also get you a job, and much more.

Juniors: Get an internship or part-time job that gives you as much experience this summer as you can in the field you think you might want to pursue. Screw the money. (Note: I said "Screw the money." Not "Screw for money." Even if that is the field you think you might want to pursue, it's not legal.)

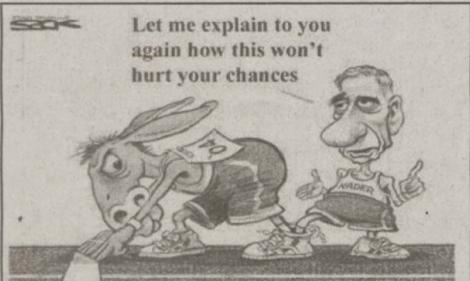
The money isn't as important as the experience, either on your resume or in your head, and I saw more than a few of my friends spend four years studying something that by August of the year they graduated, they realized they didn't like doing. At all. Granted, your first job won't be your last, and it's amazing how people's career paths twist, but I'm saying here they didn't like doing it at all. But they never knew that, because they'd never worked in their field outside of class projects. That's nutty.

Sophomores: Remember. Canada is cool now. But when you hit 21, Canada is no longer cool. You may think I'm crazy. I'm not.

Freshmen: Continue playing Playstation. Remember to find your books underneath the clothes and food wrappers in your room sometime around mid-April... you'll need them so you can sell them back.

OUSA: Please discontinue sending me requests for money. I am a graduate student, heavily in debt and cannot afford to buy food that doesn't involve noodles and paper packets.

Everyone: I spent five years at OU, partly because I was young; mostly because I loved it. I hope you do too, there's a lot to like. OU is a unique university that has some fantastic facilities, street-smart professors and a good overall attitude. Challenge yourselves and don't be afraid to get involved. You will get as much out of your college experience as you put into it; if you have a bad time, it's at least half your fault. Enjoy yourselves, and tear it up.



Let me explain to you again how this won't hurt your chances

All Talk Back letters must include a name, class rank and field of study or OU affiliation. Letters must be limited to 350 words. Letters may be edited for content and length and are due the Sunday before publication. The Post uses discretion and may reject letters for any reason. Letters become property of The Oakland Post. E-mail letters to editor@oakpostonline.com or drop off at 61 Oakland Center.

Should the state smoking tax be increased?

YES

BY LAURA ANGUS
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Last month, Governor Granholm proposed to raise taxes on tobacco products from \$1.25 to \$2, which would make Michigan's cigarette taxes the second highest in the country.

Not only would this plan raise \$295 million to help alleviate the state's economic woes, but also \$30 million of the money would be dedicated to tobacco and chronic disease prevention and control. Sounds like it will be killing two birds with one stone.

And with Michigan's economy, things are serious enough to warrant this tax, as the state has a \$1.3 billion projected deficit in the next fiscal year.

Granholm could cut even more from the funding of higher education, but with the economic conditions of many Michigan universities, I think the cigarette tax is a much better route. Or, we could cut funding to Medicaid, the roads or the Michigan State Troopers.

Either more people give up the habit, improving the health of many, or the state will gain some much-needed

revenue.

Smoking is a disgusting habit that's terrible for your health, and according to The Detroit Free Press, one in four Michiganders do it. Michigan should increase the taxes if only to provide incentive for quitting.

Smokers who opt to continue the habit can shell out the extra 75 cents a pack so they can continue to fill their lungs with tar.

Smoking is unnecessary, I understand that it's an addiction, but paying to smoke is paying for cancer, emphysema and that all too pleasant smell on your clothes.

Granholm can impose extra taxes on cigarettes for that very reason—you don't need it. The state can't impose sky-high taxes on things like milk and clothes because we need them to survive.

Either pay the extra 75 cents, or do yourself and your loved ones a favor and quit smoking.

No

BY SARA WEIGOLD
THE OAKLAND POST

The tax increase that Governor Granholm proposed is outrageous and amounts to discrimination. Smokers are a minority group in Michigan, just 27 percent of the population.

So, why should the smokers of Michigan foot the bill for the entire state?

It seems like whenever there is a budget deficit, the government comes after smokers. In 1994, the tax on cigarettes was raised 50 cents. And just two years ago, smokers helped bail out the state again by paying an additional 50 cents. Now, the governor wants to increase that tax again, this time by an astronomical 75 cents. This increase places us at the second highest in the country at \$2 per pack, only 5 cents less than New Jersey.

The government justifies this by saying that it will convince people to stop smoking. Why does

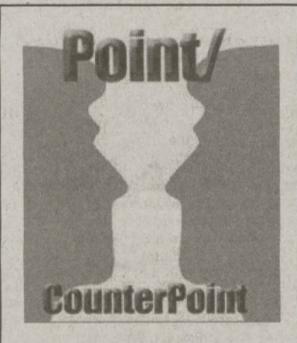
the government feel that they have the right to control what we do with our bodies? With all of the publicity against smoking, the majority know that it is detrimental to their health. If they want to quit, they will do so on their own.

The governor is also claiming that smokers are a burden on society and the health care system. Do they seriously believe that smokers are costing this state more than the obese, alcoholics and drug addicts?

The amount of money saved in the health care system would be nothing compared to the amount saved if this state wasn't so overweight. Detroit is one of the top five fattest cities in America. Maybe we should initiate an additional tax on unhealthy foods such as fast food and doughnuts?

Since the money that will be gained from this proposed tax increase will go to "benefit" the entire state, maybe they should raise the sales tax by one percent instead. That way, the burden is spread across the board instead of singling out one group.

Non-smokers should care about this because it will affect everyone in the state in the long run. After all, when the smokers are gone, what minority group will the government come after for funding?



The Oakland Post

61 Oakland Center

Rochester, MI 48309

www.oakpostonline.com

REBECCA WYATT
EDITOR IN CHIEF
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CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR
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SENIOR NEWS WRITER

HOLLY GILBERT
FACULTY ADVISOR

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GRAD

Continued from A3

and political science," he said. "Right now I'm a legal aid for a state senator."

College affordability may also be an issue. According to the President's Council of State Universities of Michigan, average tuition among Michigan's 15 state universities increased 9.9 percent from the previous year. The College Board, a non-profit organization best known for administering the SAT exam, determined that one year of tuition, room and board at a public university averages \$10,636 nationally, up 9.8 percent from last year.

"I think it depends on your major," Owens said. "With engineering, unless you take 16 credit hours every semester, you won't graduate in four years."

Differences in time to degree are in fact evident in the different schools, according to OIRA data. About 25 percent of College of Arts and Sciences and School of Nursing students graduate within four years. Students in the School of Education and Human Resources graduated "on time" at a rate of 16 percent. The School of Business

Administration graduates 12 percent of its students in four years.

Some students don't have a definite career goal in mind when they enter college.

"When I started at Monroe County Community College in 1994, I really had no idea why I was going to college other than it was what I was supposed to do," said English major Michael Vanderpool.

He worked while taking classes and finally decided on teaching as a career.

"Not until the summer of 2002 did I decide that I wanted to teach junior college English and write," he said.

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil cited several ways extending time to degree affects students. He expressed concern about the added cost factor of enrolling in more terms and taking more credits than required, and that students who take longer risk not completing the degree at all.

"Thirdly is the opportunity cost," Moudgil said. "If the student is taking fewer credits toward their degree in order to

work at a minimum wage job, they are postponing the opportunity to move into the higher paying occupations that are available after graduation. In the long run, it's generally not a good trade-off.

"There is concern over this apparent trend at many levels and most of them have to do with costs to the student, to the university and the state higher education systems."

OU has been working to reverse the trend. The New Student Program office and advisors have been encouraging students to take a full load, four classes, rather than three. Also in the process is implementation of a new computerized advising support system called CAPS, which will help students make informed course selections.

Moudgil has also been working with academic deans to minimize the impact of budget cuts on course offerings to ensure that the courses students need to graduate are available to them.

This trend is not unique to OU, and other schools around the country are also taking

measures to push along students taking longer to graduate.

Florida was one of the first states to develop policies to encourage students to graduate on time. The University of Florida started a program in 1996 that guarantees a slot in any course required for a student's major. Students can track their academic records online and see how long it would take them to graduate if they changed majors. The university saw its four-year graduation rate jump from 38 percent to almost 51 percent between 1990 and 2002.

Others also see a light at the end of the tunnel.

"I do believe that market forces (a growing economy, pressure on universities, pressure on individual students) will result in this current trend discontinuing in the years ahead," said Daniel Hurley, director of University Relations of the President's Council, State Universities of Michigan.

Moudgil is also optimistic. "We think we will begin to see changes in OU's time to degree and graduation rates in the near future," he said.

DIVERSITY

Continued from A3

national students and possibly create new friendships."

Koch and the International Students and Scholars Office have submitted four proposals this year. They include an expansion of the International Coffee Hour from past years, the Learn About Me program, Team Up for a Day and International Day. All four of the programs are centered on introducing international students to a new way of life.

"We want to increase cross cultural understanding and encourage dialogue to draw attention to our international students," said Koch.

Senior Desha Kelsey never really thought about how much hard work goes into making OU such a diverse community.

"I think the events are fine. OU definitely does enough," she said. "But aside from programs, people have to have the drive to want and learn about diversity."

A number of departments have taken the initiative to provide their ideas to help make sure their goal of creating a diverse campus is accomplished. The proposals themselves are very diverse, including student support tutoring, diversity training for athletics, student interaction and expansion of the Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equality (SAFE) on Campus program.

For more information on proposals and programs, contact Gloria Sosa at (248) 370-4404 or e-mail her at gasosa@oakland.edu.

SAVE

Continued from A5

Web site posts are mostly anonymous, it is hard for Vector to follow up and investigate the allegations.

"It is defamatory, much of it is inaccurate and we are currently looking at how we can balance their allegations with what we believe to be the truth in as professional and competent way as possible to address their concerns," Andrus said.

According to the New York chapter of the BBB, in the last 36 months there were 28 complaints against Vector, six in the past 12 months.

All three involving sales were resolved, three involving delivery issues were resolved, one product complaint issue was resolved, four refund/exchange issues were resolved and one contract issue was resolved.

The BBB reports nine customer service complaints, six of which were resolved and three of which the BBB reports the "company made good faith effort to resolve."

There were seven reported credit or billing issues involving Vector, six of which were resolved and one the "company made good faith effort to resolve."

The BBB said the company "offers a pay structure that combines guaranteed pay with an incentive commission program."

When it comes to customer experience, the BBB's Web site reports Vector has a satisfactory business performance record.

Andrus responded to Web site complaints that representatives call students in the program constantly to check up on them.

She said they follow-up with the students regularly because they are independent contractors who are required to check in with the office.

"If we haven't heard from somebody and they haven't checked in, then yes we do call," Andrus said. "If they ask us not to call and they aren't interested, we stop calling,"

She said the program is designed to help students reach sales goals they set and that is why there is so much follow-up.

Andrus said while many students have gripes about Vector, there are those who succeed and benefit from their Vector experiences.

She said there are traits that help students succeed at Vector. She said good phone skills, clarity of goals, asking for help, taking advice and commitment and responsibility are a few of those traits.

As a result, she said students learn good work habits, time management, organizational skills, politeness and how to work on deadlines.

According to Andrus, Vector also gives back to the students' education. She said the company awards two grants, one for the students and one is a donation to the school. The money is given based on the selling.

Andrus said it's hard to tell how many students are currently working for Vector because they are independent contractors and the number fluctuates rapidly. She said most are short-term employees, some for only a few weeks, with the peak season being summer.

"We might have tens of thousands of representative working with us and the number goes down as students return to school," she said.

Andrus said she isn't sure what the company is going to do to stop what she says are the untrue comments being posted on the Web site.

"We believe the best defense is continuing to operate the company with integrity and according to the highest ethical standards and that is going to be our best defense; continuing to treat people well and to address concerns when they are brought to our attention," Andrus said.

PROF

Continued from A3

department and the university," said Mike Sevilla, professor of chemistry.

Sevilla said Mr. Eliezer provided leadership for the creation of the doctorate program in biomedical sciences.

"Isaac was a real gentleman, a kindly person who never took umbrage about anything," said Sevilla.

Mr. Eliezer was also involved in organizing the Chemistry Seminar Series for the past 15 years, said Sevilla, and he helped with the newsletter.

Sevilla said Mr. Eliezer might have retired from his work at the end of this year.

His wife said he was a private person and enjoyed reading, music and movies. He liked to study the history of WWII because he had lived through it. "He was a very tolerant and thoughtful person," she said.

Mr. Eliezer is survived by his wife and three sons, age 40, 37 and 34.

His memorial will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday at Meadow Brook Hall.

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BAN

Continued from A5

peanut allergy. Joanne Talarek, a nurse practitioner at the Graham Health Center at OU, has not run into any cases on campus.

She said some states collect information on patients regarding specific allergies and health concerns, but the state of Michigan does not require it.

Talarek said allergic reactions to peanuts could be life threatening.

"As with most allergies, symptoms may include hives and itching, but with the peanut allergy we look for oral-pharyngeal symptoms," she said. "This can be swelling of the throat and tongue that can close the airway. When cases are severe, we call that anaphylaxis shock."

It seems that over the years, the allergy has become quite common

and Talarek said it is not a new allergy.

"Although we hear about the allergy in children, it actually develops over time at an older age. I think people are becoming so much more aware of health hazards now than they have years ago," she said.

OU officials are aware there are people on campus with the allergy. Questions have been raised about the food court chain, Chick-Fil-A, which cooks their food in peanut oil.

According to Tom Childers, senior manager for food safety of Chick-Fil-A, located in Atlanta, Ga., the oil that is used does not contain the protein that causes the allergic reactions.

"We've used peanut oil since we first opened and there has never

been a problem," he said. "Peanut protein is what causes allergic reactions. We use a highly refined oil without that protein."

Childers said although they have never had any problems, customers should still be careful.

"If a person has a life threatening allergy, I would recommend staying away from any type of product that could harm them, if they weren't 100 percent sure," he said.

Peanut allergies can be very harmful and people who are allergic may react differently.

"I just am careful and aware of what I'm eating. It's very important if you have any type of allergy," said Dahl.

CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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March 2004: Women's History Month
"Phenomenal Women ... making phenomenal choices."

Wednesday, March 3
OU Women's Herstory Month Kick-Off
Noon-1 PM --- Fireside Lounge, OC

Thursday, March 4
Tunnel of Oppression
8 AM - 8 PM --- Fireside Lounge, OC

Friday, March 5
The Vagina Monologues
7 PM --- 201 Dodge Hall

Friday Night Live: Alex House and Clara Bijl
7 PM --- Vandenberg Dining Center, VBH

Saturday, March 6
Women's Studies Film Series:
Women & Sports
9 AM - 5 PM --- 156 NFH

The Vagina Monologues
7 PM --- 201 Dodge Hall

Sunday, March 7
The Vagina Monologues
2 PM --- 201 Dodge Hall

Monday, March 8
International Women's Day: Focus on
International Women's Movements
Noon-1 PM --- Fireside Lounge, OC

Tuesday, March 9
"Montgomery, Marches, Mississippi and
Murder: Memories of the Civil Rights
Movement" featuring Claudia House
Morcom, Retired Wayne County Circuit
Court Judge
Noon-1 PM --- Gold Rooms, OC

One Person, Multi-Media Performance:
"Love Arm'd" Aphra Behn and Her Pen by
Karen Eterovich
4 PM --- Varner Recital Hall, VAR

CSA SERVICE WINDOW

Discount tickets for the following shows and events are available to members of the Oakland University community. You can purchase tickets or pick up a detailed schedule of dates, times and prices at the CSA Service Window, 49 Oakland Center.

- Smucker's Stars on Ice (Mar. 20)
- Miss Saigon (Mar. 23, 28)
- Pistons vs. New York Knicks (Mar. 27)
- Salute to the Duke with Doc Severinsen (Mar. 28)
- A Streetcar Named Desire (Apr. 1)
- Monk Presents "Monk on Monk Too" (Apr. 8)
- Pistons vs. Toronto Raptors (Apr. 9)
- Perlman's "Fantastic Symphony" (Apr. 18)
- Monk Presents "Monk on Monk Too" (Apr. 8)
- Pistons vs. Toronto Raptors (Apr. 9)
- Perlman's "Fantastic Symphony" (Apr. 18)
- The Magic Flute (Apr. 28, 30)
- The Pirates of Penzance (May 12, 14)
- Greig's Great Concerto (May 13)
- Perlman Conducts the Masters (May 23)
- Signature Jarvi (June 6)
- The Pearl Fishers (June 9, 11)

ON CAMPUS EVENTS: TICKETS AND SIGN-UPS

- Women's Issues Forum: Vagina Monologues (Mar. 5, 6, 7)
- Indian Student Association: "Dhadkan" (Mar. 6)
- 11th Annual CSA Leadership Retreat (Mar. 12-13)
- Career Services & FMA: Business Etiquette Dinner (Mar. 25)

"Leadership is Forever."
11th Annual Student Leadership Retreat

Friday, March 12 - Saturday, March 13
Lion's Bear Lake Camp - Lapeer, MI

FREE!
(Meals and lodging included!)

Sign-up at the CSA Ticket Window or call x2400 to reserve your spot today!
Register by Monday, March 8th!
Spots are limited to 50 students!

What is Spirituality? Part II

Tuesday, March 9
7-9 PM
Fireside Lounge, OC

Enjoy refreshments and the company of other OU students as we answer each other's questions about different religions.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Women at it again

Lady Grizzlies win third straight NIC title, men improve finish

Continued from A1
By DANA UTZ
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

The women were able to defend their title as National Independent Conference (NIC) champions, while the men finished third, an improvement over their fourth place finish last season.

The NIC Championships were held at the OU Aquatic Center Wednesday to Saturday.

During the first night of competition, the women's 200-yard medley relay team of junior Tara Berringer, sophomore Maria Musialczyk, seniors Tanya Korniyenko and Oksana Strelets kicked off the meet by setting a new pool, school and NIC record, with a NCAA B standard time of 1:43.03.

The men's 200-yard medley relay team followed with a NCAA B standard time of 1:29.25, finishing third.

By the end of the first night, the men's team was fourth while the women's team started at the top.

On the second day, the women took second, third and fourth place in the 200-yard individual medley with Korniyenko placing second (2:03.82). She was followed by sophomore Line Jensen (2:04.28) and freshman Amanda Burwell (2:05.77).

Strelets finished first in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.05, a season-best time. This is her fourth year finishing on top in that event.

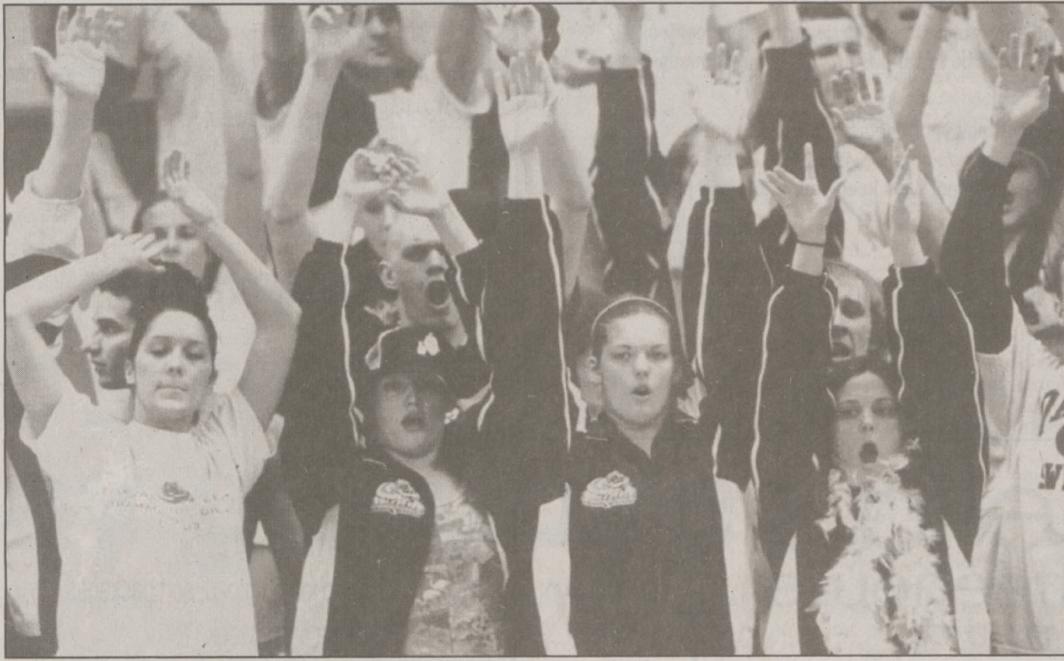
The women's divers were also off to a good start with sophomore Linda Keskey and freshman Liz Herrington taking second and third on the one-meter diving board with scores of 255.00 and 233.85, respectively.

On the men's side, junior Chris Sullivan swam a NCAA B standard time in the 50-yard freestyle with a 19.79 mark.

Both the men's and women's teams finished up night two with second place finishes in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

At the end of the day, the men's team was still in fourth and the women paced the field.

"We felt that after the morning session on Saturday, we had placed our people in enough events that we would be able to win, so going into the meet Saturday night was more



Above: OU swimmers cheer on their teammates during this weekend's NIC Championship. Below: Grizzly junior Chris Sullivan stands atop the podium as the men's 100-yard freestyle NIC champion.

relaxed on the women's side," said OU's head coach Pete Hovland.

"Good things happen when you can clear your mind and not have to worry about any external pressures other than just swimming your race and doing the best you possibly can."

In the 400-yard individual medley, Burwell had a season-best time and took third in the race with a time of 4:26.70 to start the third day of competition.

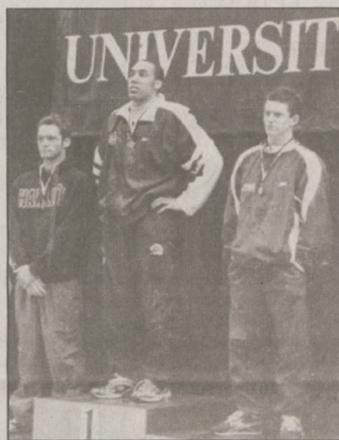
The 100-yard butterfly was dominated by OU's women's team, which swept the top three spots. Korniyenko finished first with a record-setting time of 54.28. She was followed by Strelets (55.68) and freshman Melissa Jaeger (55.69).

On the men's side, Sullivan finished second in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 47.90.

In the three-meter diving competition, Keskey took first with a score of 444.85 and Herrington finished second with 438.45 points.

To end the night, the women's team captured a win in the 400-yard medley relay with the team of junior Renie Green, Musialczyk, Korniyenko and Strelets. Their time of 3:45.10 set a new NIC and pool record.

At the end of the third night the men moved up to third and the women stayed in the top spot, setting up for an exciting final day of



competition.

After the 1650-yard freestyle event opened the last day's competition, Burwell took second in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:03.56.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Strelets and Gardner-Webb University's Terra Wilson fought to the finish, tying for first when they both hit the wall at 50.34.

Sullivan finished on top in the men's 100-yard freestyle with a time of 43.92, taking home the title of the 2004 NIC 100 free champion.

Korniyenko swam a new NIC time in the 200-yard butterfly (1:59.03) to

claim the NIC title in the 200 fly.

Herrington, Keskey and sophomore Andrea Endres took second, third and fourth in the platform diving competition with scores of 310.70, 307.20 and 307.20, respectively.

Korniyenko was named women's NIC Swimmer of the Year.

The final scores had the men's team in third place with a score of 536 while the University of Hawaii took second (876) and Southern Methodist University took the title. The women once again took the title as NIC champions with a score of 918, defeating Northern Arizona University's 885.5 points.

While many swimmers swam NCAA B standard times at the NIC Championships, NCAA hopefuls from the men's team will have one last attempt to improve their chances of being invited to the NCAA Championships at the Indiana Open Saturday in Bloomington, Ind.

Friday, the invitees for the women's NCAA Championship will be announced, with the men's field announced a week later.

The results will be posted online at www.ncaasports.com on Friday night.

"Five years ago we only bettered three NCAA standards, and now we are into the 30s," said Hovland.

Seniors put on a show in farewell

By DAVE PEMBERTON
THE OAKLAND POST

OU's men's basketball team made a statement in its last regular season game by defeating Western Illinois University 88-59 Saturday night at the O'Rena.

It was seniors Mike Helms, Kelly Williams and

Jordan Sabourin's last home game and they made sure to go out with a bang.

After the first 10 minutes, the game became a rout, but that didn't mean it lacked excitement. OU put on a display normally only seen at dunk contests. Five Golden Grizzlies connected on alley-oop dunks that ignited the crowd.

The award for the dunk of the night, however, goes to senior guard Mike Helms. It happened when junior guard DeMarcus Ishmeal bounced the ball off the backboard and Helms jumped between two defenders to grab the ball and slam it home.

"I've seen Mike do some crazy things in the air, but at that time of the game with all the emotion and what this game meant to us, I didn't know how to react," Williams said.

Helms and Williams played arguably their best games of the season.

Helms finished with a game-high 32 points. Helms also had two steals and shot a perfect 8-8 from the free-throw line. Williams added



Senior guard Mike Helms waves farewell to the crowd before his final home game.

10 points, seven rebounds and three steals.

OU also had good contributions from junior guard Rawle Marshall, who finished with 13 points, and junior forward Cortney Scott, who had 10 points and seven rebounds.

Head coach Greg Kampe said he was happy with the way his team played and defended extremely well.

OU forced 26 Western Illinois turnovers including 15 steals. However Kampe said he still has some concerns going into the Mid-Con tournament.

"We still have got to make free throws," Kampe said. "My dad told me when I was young that there are two things in life that don't last - dogs that chase cars and

teams that don't make free throws, and that's the truth."

OU will go into the Mid-Con tournament as the eighth seed after being predicted by almost every expert to win the Mid-Con regular season title. Things could have been different had OU finished out five very close games that were lost either in overtime or on the last possession.

"There are some angry, young Oakland men going there to prove a point," Kampe said. "And we're going there and we're playing the best team."

The winner of the Mid-Con tournament will represent the conference in the NCAA Championship Tournament. It will be

Helms' and the other seniors last chance to make it to the "Big Dance."

"Tournaments are all about who can have the most runs and stop the other team from having them," Helms said. "Defense creates easy shots so when we get easy shots our whole rhythm changes and the whole momentum of the game changes."

The entire OU team was wearing headbands for the regular season finale. A decision Williams said they made as a team.

OU will begin the Mid-Con tournament this Sunday at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo.

OU's first round opponent was unknown at this issue's deadline.



KANIQUA DANIEL
Campus Life Editor

What a way to go

DeMarcus Ishmeal throws an alley-oop off the backboard. Mike Helms comes through from the right, nearly flying over two Western Illinois players, does a one-hand dunk, hangs on the rim and slaps the backboard before descending back to earth.

Yes, the play was out of this world and the seniors were flying high during Saturday's game.

I think a moment of silence is due. These men killed the Leathernecks.

If you missed that performance, you should feel bad. Real bad. Because seniors Helms and Kelly Williams showed their true colors.

Jordan Sabourin, I didn't forget about you. You did a good job, too.

I'll have to admit that Helms' performance was a bit of a disappointment at first. I repeat, at first.

Missing his first two shots, I silently pleaded, "Show me why they call you the best."

He must have heard my inner voice talking because the boy definitely answered.

Dunk by dunk and steal by steal, I ate my words of uncertainty.

My apologies Sir Helms. I honestly didn't know any better.

Has anyone guessed that I'm not a season ticket holder?

Not just the seniors, but the entire squad played with authority as if collectively saying, "Yeah, I'm the man."

But don't be fooled by the tough exterior. They show love too.

When Williams was down after being fouled, Helms nearly stopped the game to help him up. And no, the game couldn't go on until he fixed Williams' headband.

"You alright now man?" How sweet was that?

And he doesn't stop with his own teammates either. Helms pushed through a few players on the court to help a member of the opposing team regain his balance.

It was the least he could do, considering the humiliation he caused their team. No, I'm kidding. You're just a sweet-heart Helms.

I wonder if any of the "Necks" got whiplash from doing double takes of Grizzly steals and dunks?

Anyhow, this was the last one for the regular season; the seniors' last time playing on that sacred OU court.

Emotions were flowing; it was obvious.

As head coach Greg Kampe called Sabourin off the floor with only minutes left in the game, the crowd gave a thunderous applause.

Next, Kampe signaled to Williams, his final home game. He sealed it with a kiss to the middle of the court. Well not really a kiss, but pretty close, and walked off waving to cheering fans.

Last to leave the floor was Helms, the top player of the game. A standing ovation followed his strides.

Job well done fellas.

Kaniqua Daniel is a senior majoring in journalism. Send comments to sports@oakpostonline.com.

See ya seniors

(All-time OU rank)

Mike Helms, guard

2298 points (2nd)
161 steals (Tied 2nd)
799 FTs attempts (1st)
587 FTs made (3rd)

Kelly Williams, guard

551 points
513 rebounds
116 steals
168 assists

Jordan Sabourin, center

259 points
56 blocks
333 rebounds
30 steals

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We hope to see you soon.



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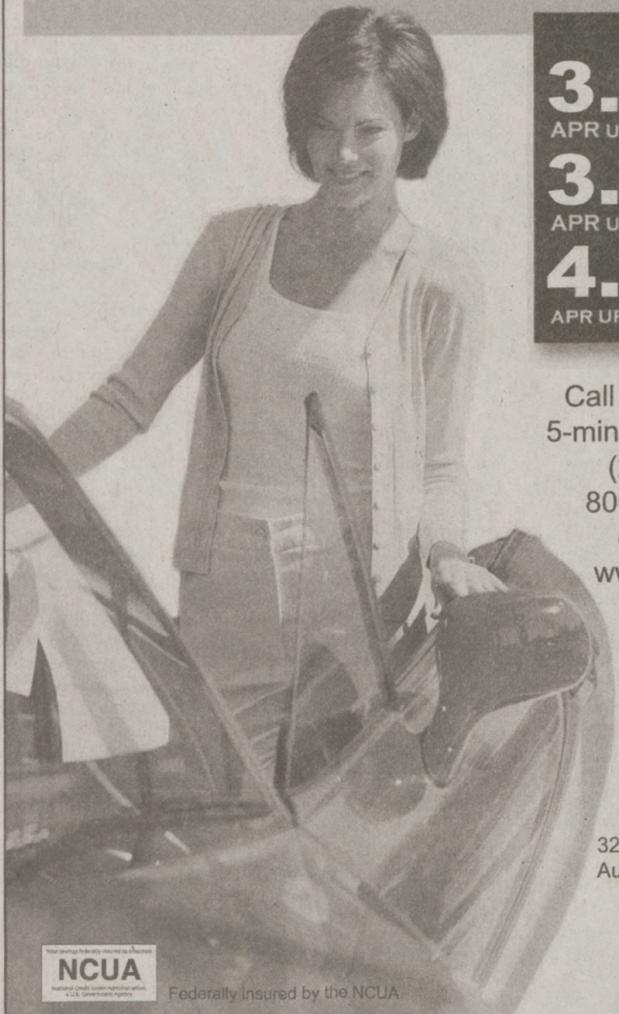
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Check out the times and dates below to get a jump on what's going on in OU athletics this week and beyond. All times are local.

Men's Basketball

Mid-Con Tourny (CST)
Sun March 7, Noon
vs. #1 seed
Mon March 8, 6 p.m.
Semifinal
(if possible)
Tue March 9, 6 p.m.
Championship
(if possible, ESPN2)

Women's Basketball

Mid-Con Tourny (CST)
Sat March 6, 2:15 p.m.
vs. Oral Roberts
Mon March 8, Noon
Semifinal
(if possible)
Tue March 9, 2:30 p.m.
Championship
(if possible)

Men's Swimming

Indiana Open
Sun March 7, TBA
(Last Chance NCAA)

Baseball

Fri March 5, 2 p.m.
vs. Eastern Kentucky
Sat March 6, Noon (DH)
vs. Eastern Kentucky
Sun March 7, Noon
vs. Eastern Kentucky

Softball

ACHA National Tourny
March 12-15, TBA
Hosted by Northern Mich

Men's Club Hockey

ACHA National Tourny
March 3-6, TBA
Baltimore, Md

Women's Club Hockey

CCWHA League Playoff
March 12-15, TBA
Hosted by Northern Mich

Baseball, softball swinging away

Both the OU baseball and softball squads have started their seasons.

The Golden Grizzly softball team has already participated in two tournaments and two other games on its early season southern road trip.

OU will not play a home game until Wed March 24.

The team is 6-8 so far this season, led by sophomore pitcher Nicole Marzano, who is 5-4.

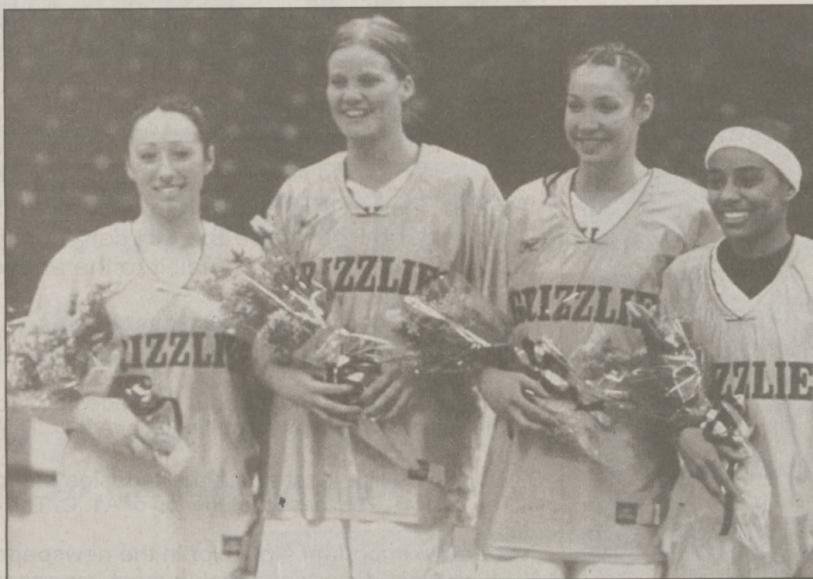
Sophomore Camie Knorr, who has played both infield and outfield, leads the Grizzlies with 14 RBI and two home runs.

The OU baseball team opened its season with four losses in four days against Kansas University last week.

The Grizzlies will not play at home until Sat. April 3.

Over the weekend, the team will play four games in three days against Eastern Kentucky University.

BRENDAN STEVENS
SPORTS EDITOR



OU women's basketball seniors (from left to right) Bobbie Bieszki, Sarah Yaksich, Connie Longer and Nicole Randolph pose before their final home game as Grizzlies.

It's time to say goodbye

By **BRENDAN STEVENS**
SPORTS EDITOR

On senior night, the OU women's basketball team could not overcome a poor shooting performance, falling to Western Illinois University (WIU), 73-69, in overtime in the Golden Grizzlies' season finale.

OU shot 40 percent from the field for the game, weighed down by a 32 percent mark in the first half, leading to a six-point, 27-21, deficit at halftime.

That margin was eight points before junior guard Leigh Tully grabbed an offensive rebound for the Grizzlies with three seconds remaining in the half and put in a lay up before the buzzer sounded.

OU saw the deficit shrink to two points at the 14:58 mark, but grew back to nine points with 9:19 remaining in regulation.

Senior forward Sarah Yaksich cut the lead to three points with 6:03 to play with two free throws.

The Grizzly defense stood strong and Yaksich sank another pair from the charity stripe, bringing OU within one point.

Trailing by two points, sophomore guard Jayme Wilson hit two jumpers in a row to give the Grizzlies their second lead.

WIU regained the lead on a pair of free throws by senior forward Tiffany Cornelius and a jumper by sophomore center Zane Teilane with 52 seconds remaining.

Tully brought the Grizzlies within one by hitting one of two free throws, but Cornelius extended the lead back to two points by knocking down one of two

from the charity stripe with 34 seconds remaining in regulation.

With 14 seconds to play, junior center Petra Manakova tied the game up for OU with a mid-range jumper, with Hafeli picking up the assist.

"I wasn't thinking about how important it was," Manakova said. "It just went in and I was happy. I knew that there were 10 more seconds left so it wasn't over yet."

The Grizzly defense held in the final seconds and sent the game into overtime.

But the extra time wasn't enough for OU to overcome the Westerwinds' clutch free throw shooting down the stretch in the loss.

OU head coach Eileen Shea-Hilliard said the bounces just didn't go the Grizzlies' way down the stretch.

"We played hard," she said. "A few breaks and it's a different ball game. I felt like in the last few minutes we didn't get a break. But we didn't create our own luck either."

Cornelius and Teilane led four Westerwinds in double figures with 23 and 20, respectively.

On their last home game, only Yaksich of the seniors saw extended playing time, recording 19 minutes.

Nicole Randolph played nine minutes, but Bobbie Bieszki and Connie Longer did not play.

The Grizzlies were led by junior forward Amanda Batcha's 16 points and game-high 14 rebounds for her eighth double-double this season, while sophomores Anne Hafeli and Wilson added 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Men rule GMHL

By **ANTHONY STACK**
THE OAKLAND POST

For the first time in league history, OU completed the sweep.

The OU men's club ice hockey team claimed the Great Midwest Hockey League (GMHL) playoff crown and the regular season championship.

After defeating Indiana University, 10-1, in the GMHL semifinals, the Grizzlies defeated the Ferris State University (FSU) Bulldogs, whom they had beaten twice early in the season (3-2 and 9-5), 5-2 in the GMHL Championship.

Sophomore forward Will McMahon recorded a hat trick in the championship game to lead the Grizzlies.

In net, sophomore goaltender Chris Ballach held the Bulldogs at bay to lead

his team to victory.

The postseason and regular season GMHL Championships send the Grizzlies roaring into the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) Division II National Tournament in Baltimore, Md.

By finishing with the number-one ranking in the Central region of ACHA Div. II competition, OU earned a top seed in the first round of the National Tournament. The Grizzlies are the first seed in Pool B.

Fellow-GMHL members Indiana, Michigan State University and the University of Miami-Ohio will also compete.

The opening round of the 16-team tournament is split into four pools that each contain four teams.

The four opponents will face off in round robin for-

mat, with the teams holding the best record in each pool moving on to the semifinal round.

The winner of Pool A will face the winner of Pool C, and the victors of Pool B and Pool D will face off in the other semifinal.

Later that day, the two semifinal winners will face off in the championship.

The National Tournament will take place March 3-6. OU will take on Siena College-New York at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday.

At 3:45 p.m. Thursday, the Grizzlies will face off with fellow GMHL member Indiana, and OU will finish off round robin competition with a 1 p.m. Friday contest against the University of Colorado.

The semifinals will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, and the finals at 7:30 p.m. that same day.

Second-year coach has drive, passion

By **BRENDAN STEVENS**
SPORTS EDITOR

What's been the biggest change for OU women's basketball head coach Eileen Shea-Hilliard since taking the reigns after six seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Michigan?

"Oh, I sleep less," Shea-Hilliard said.

Back in the day

As a player, Shea-Hilliard showed a determination that kept her in the gym continually striving for excellence. Now, that attitude has the second-year head coach picking up game film at 4:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning after a difficult overtime loss.

"I always challenged myself and I always was driven by wanting to excel and wanting to be the best at things," Shea-Hilliard said. "I think that if you feel passionate about something, you absolutely want to do that. You can't be anybody other than who you are, and that's who I've always been. I couldn't change it if I wanted."

Hardly emotional, Shea-Hilliard has a passion for the game that even her mother can't always understand.

"My mother made some random comment the other night. She said something about my niece, who is eight," Shea-Hilliard said. "She said, 'Make sure when she comes home you play basketball with her, because I think she could like it as much as you do.'"

"I said, 'Mom, nobody likes it as much as I do. C'mon now.'"

Caught off guard

The quiet (mostly) coach said that more things are the same from this year to last, when she took over the women's basketball program just weeks before the season began.

As a sixth seed in the Mid-Con tournament last season, the Golden Grizzlies advanced to the finals, falling three points shy of a bid in the NCAA Tournament.

"I think everyone looked at least year as being a different situation, and I don't think we ever looked at it that way," Shea-Hilliard said. "I don't think we ever realized we were a sixth seed last year and we beat some people we weren't supposed to. It never crossed our mind. And I think we feel the same way this year."

With the loss of Katie Wolfe, who averaged 19.9 points for the Grizzlies her senior season, Shea-Hilliard said both returning players and the newcomers have stepped up to fill the gap together.

"Amanda (Batcha) is a better offensive player this year because she knows she needs to be. Leigh (Tully) looks for her shot more because she knows that's what we're looking for," Shea-Hilliard said. "We also have kids that are better. There are a different amount of shots. Katie (Wolfe) scored 20 a game. Was one person going to take that over? No. But has everyone else picked it up a little bit? Yeah."

Shea-Hilliard said that's the fun part of her team.

"You don't always know who you have to stop," she said. "Some people want to stop Jayme (Wilson) and Anne (Hafeli). Some people think they need to stop us inside."

"That's the beauty of us, is we're harder to defend. But then sometimes we ourselves aren't sure who is going to have a good game."

But the sophomore duo of Wilson and Hafeli has led



OU women's basketball coach Eileen Shea-Hilliard.

the team offensively this season, averaging 15.4 and 11.1 points, respectively. No other Grizzly averages in double figures.

Their consistency has given Shea-Hilliard an idea of who to go to when the time comes.

"They've done it for us all year," she said. "How does it go? You have to dance with who you brought to the party."

Now is the time

Going into the Mid-Con tournament this weekend and early next week, Shea-Hilliard believe her team's biggest opponent is itself, and says the higher fourth seed will not make the tournament any easier for the Grizzlies.

"I'll play whoever. We can beat anybody," Shea-Hilliard said. "You've got to win, no matter who it is. You're going to have to beat good teams, and you're going to have to play well. I think if you spend too much time worrying about other people, instead of worrying about yourself, that can be a mistake."

Although OU has recorded 17 wins this season, Shea-Hilliard admitted she has thought the team played well in only a handful of games. That is the strict standard she has held herself to throughout her career as a player and coach, and the standard to which she holds the team.

"I've always had high expectations," Shea-Hilliard said. "I feel that at times we've gotten there, but at other times we haven't."

She compared her duty as a head coach to piecing together a puzzle.

"You're trying to figure out where all the pieces go and trying to put it all together," Shea-Hilliard said. "When you cheat and look at the box ... you know sometimes you don't feel as good about something because you didn't get there the way you wanted to get there. You still got there."

Going into the tournament, for the results to be a success, the team must feel like it played well, Shea-Hilliard said.

"I think if we play well, and if you say your best isn't good enough (we will be content). But our best is good enough," she said. "To us, to have played well and feel like we competed and played with an energy and a passion and a hunger."

"I want to be able to walk away and know that we played the best we could, that we gave our best."

That's why it's not about who the Grizzlies play through the course of the tournament, it's just that they move through the tournament.

"To me, I don't worry about who we're going to play, I worry about how we're going to play," Shea-Hilliard said. "I would love to play anybody. I just want to keep playing."

As a head coach
Overall:
30-26 (.536)
Mid-Con:
17-13 (.567)

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1. Rate the redesign of The Oakland Post (1 being the worst 5 being the best) _____
2. What do you like most about the redesign? (circle one)
A. The color B. The teasers at the top of A1 C. The new look
3. Which you like least about the redesign? (circle one)
A. The color B. The teasers at the top of A1. C. The new look
4. Rate the importance of color in the newspaper (1 being least important, 5 being most important) _____
5. What draws you into The Post? (circle one)
A. The Stories B. The color C. The Design D. The Pictures
6. What is your favorite section of the Oakland Post (circle one)
A. Front Page B. Campus News C. Local News D. Sports E. Campus Life F. Perspectives
7. How often do you use The Post's web site? (circle one)
A. Never Very B. Infrequently C. Somewhat frequently D. Less than once a week E. Once a week
8. What types of things would you like to see more of in the paper?

9. Do you have any general suggestions?

10. Are you a (circle one)
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Thank you for filling out this survey. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca at (248) 370-4268 or editor@oakpostonline.com.

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Karen Eterovich is "Love Arm'd Aphra"

See Eterovich portray the life of a legendary writer in her one-person show

BY REBECCA WYATT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Karen Eterovich breathes life into the story of Aphra Behn, one of the first women to earn her living as a writer, through a one-person show coming to OU next week.

"Love Arm'd Aphra and Her Pen," will take place at 4 p.m., Mar. 9 in Varner Recital Hall.

"It is my hope to enlighten, encourage and inspire other women and men with the exuberance and spirit with which Aphra Behn lived her life," said Eterovich in a press release.

Behn was a dramatist, poet and novelist who lived from 1640-1689.

She wrote more than 20 plays, including "The Rover," during a time when women were not encouraged to work outside the home.

Eterovich became interested in Behn when she was cast as the character Angellica in the Cornell University production of "The Rover."

Since then Eterovich has researched, written, revised and produced her version of Behn's life.

Behn's life was private, so little is known about most of it.

However, as a child, she traveled to Surinam, a British colony, where her father was promised a job as a deputy governor.

When Behn returned to London, she was enlisted by King Charles II to serve as a spy in the Netherlands. She also spent time in a debtor's prison.

Now in its 10th year, "Love Arm'd, Aphra Behn and Her Pen" has been performed off-off Broadway and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The department of English, along with cosponsors, the Honors College, the Women's Studies Program, the department of Music, Theatre and Dance and the Distinguished Programs Fund of the College of Arts and Science have come together to bring Eterovich to campus.

Bruce Mann, chair of the department of English, said the event will really help Behn's story "come to life."

"I think it's a really intriguing, unusual event," Mann said.

The effort of bring Behn to campus was spearheaded by professor of English, Brian Connery.

He said he has been teaching Behn in his classes



Photo courtesy of Oakland University

Karen Eterovich

for 10 years and he has been receiving information about Eterovich's plays of Behn's life for just as long.

"I thought the time was right this year," Connery said. "There were a lot of students reading her plays."

Connery said Eterovich's show incorporates so many disciplines from literature to women's studies, theatre to art and art history.

"It's a good event for the whole community," Connery said.

Eterovich will also offer a free workshop on "Women in the Theatre" during her stop at OU. The workshop will take place at 2:30 p.m., Mar. 10th in Rooms 128-130 of the OC. She will also visit the Honors College's "Friday Forum" to be held on Tuesday.

"The 'Vaginas' are coming!"

BY SARA WEIGOLD
COPY EDITOR

"The Vagina Monologue's" objective is not male bashing, but to generate awareness about the staggering number of women and girls who are victimized every day throughout the world.

By attending this charitable event, you can do your part to end the violence.

The Women's Issue Forum (WIF) is kicking off Women's History Month by bringing its third annual production of Eve Ensler's play to OU Mar. 5, 6 and 7.

"Hopefully, (this production) will bring awareness to the student body about women's issues and women's experiences," said Sue Rumph, special lecturer in women's studies at OU.

"The Vagina Monologue's" is about embracing and becoming comfortable with the differences between men and women as well as providing knowledge about the suffering of women.

The play is a compilation of Ensler's interviews with over 200 hundred women around the world.

It has become a way to raise money to create awareness about the great number of women and girls who are victimized daily.

The charitable organization, V-Day, emerged from the wide spread acclaim that the play drew and has rapidly grown out of the extensive support its causes have inspired throughout the world. V-Day's objective is to put an end to brutality against women forever.

At least 10 percent of the proceeds from OU's production of "The Vagina Monologues" are to be donated to Jaurez, Mexico, where the number of women who are brutally murdered has jumped from approximately three a year a decade ago, to three a month today.

The remainder of the profits will be distributed amongst community charities that strive to stop violence against women.

The two organizations that WIF is helping are Students Active for Ending Rape (Safer), whose goal is to raise awareness about campus rape, and Alternatives for Girls.

More than 25 OU students are involved in "The Vagina Monologues" and their roles range from performing monologues to ushering.

Although only women are allowed to perform, men are welcome to volunteer for other tasks.

Many more OU students are becoming involved in other ways. Rumph's women creating social movements course is participating in the planning of this event.

The class is split into groups and they are helping with the publicity and sponsorship.

"We are learning organizing skills and to work together as women for the benefit of women," said Melissa Fournier, senior.

If you are interested in becoming involved in WIF or "The Vagina Monologues," you can call the Women's Studies department or attend a WIF meeting, which are held on Thursdays from 12-1 p.m. in the OC.

The objective of WIF is to "become a presence on OU's campus and raise awareness," said Heather Brewer, sophomore and vice president of WIF.

"The Vagina Monologues" will be held in Dodge Hall, at 7 p.m. Mar. 5 and 6, at 2 p.m. Mar. 7.

Tickets are \$10 and are available either at the CSA window or at the play.

"Come to learn and to enjoy," said Sue Rumph. "It's for fun and education at the same time."

Embrace African culture with Akanké

During its annual "African Odyssey," Akanké presents "Ifeanocho," a play about a young lady searching for divine love in Nigeria

BY VIRGINIE PEROV
SENIOR LIFE WRITER

Through dance and music, a group of OU students tries to break stereotypes about Africa and African people.

"We want to show that Africa is not this country that people imagine with trees, wild animals and where people walk buck-naked. There are cities there and a real culture that few Americans are aware of," said Krystal Johnson, junior, and president of Akanke.

Akanke is a student organization that was founded in 1998 by 10 OU students.

The word Akanke is a Swahili word meaning "to know her is to love her." Its goal was to "establish a diverse Afrikan cultural

dance troupe that conveys culture, spiritual knowledge and a sense of true Afrikan pride" according to its mission statement.

The play presented this year by Akanke at its annual "African Odyssey" is called "Ifeanocho" and tells the story of the main character, Peaches, in search of divine love for herself.

"She is trying to gain back self-knowledge, by spiritually, mentally, musically and educationally migrating back to Africa," said Johnson.

Half the money raised from the sale of tickets will go to the African Women Economic Consortium (AWEC), an international organization comprised of African women involved in promoting awareness and global communication with other

women around the world.

According to AWEC's website, the main issues the group focuses on are: human rights and political status of women, economic and social development, children, youth care and education, as well as reproductive issues, including fighting HIV/AIDS.

"Ifeanocho" was written over the two semesters as a collaborative work between Johnson and Adaora Osimiri, daughter of the founder of AWEC.

"It's an original creation," Johnson said. "It's our work; we wanted to do something different."

Approximately 20 actors and five performers will be present on stage.

All were selected during castings conduct-

ed at the beginning of this winter term.

The character of Peaches will be interpreted by Osimiri herself.

"Sister Souljah said that young African Americans are retarded about their own culture," Johnson said. "We are trying to contribute to 'unretard' the students."

The performance is free for OU students and the fee is \$5 for non-OU students.

The representation, originally scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 4 in the Varner Recital Hall, has been postponed. The new date will be announced shortly.

For more information about Akanke or the play, contact Krystal Johnson at (313) 585-2477.

To learn more about AWEC, visit its Web site at www.awec.biz.

CASA: Not just a campus organization

BY LOREEN BAHRI
THE OAKLAND POST

The Chaldean-American Student Association (CASA) may not be one of the biggest organizations on campus, but they're doing some big things.

Led by Derek Dickow, CASA began four years ago with only 15 members.

Not only has CASA grown to about 35 members, so has its role in social activities and volunteer work.

One of many events CASA takes part in, the annual "We are the World" International Night, will take place March 26 from 7-11 p.m. in the banquet rooms of the OC.

Students get the opportunity to experience different foods and

entertainment from cultures around the world.

International Night is a free event and about 15 organizations participate.

CASA recently hosted a social mixer with Fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon on Feb. 17 in the OC called "The Hottest Hot Chocolate Social This Side of Hotville."

The social was for students to have a good time and learn about their organization. Free hot chocolate, donuts and cookies were served.

"I think we are doing a great job promoting our name around campus and we have grown a lot over the past four years," said Renee Orow, CASA vice president.

Outside of campus, the organization does volunteer work for differ-

ent organizations in the community.

CASA has assisted the Salvation Army by making sandwiches with their food service.

They have participated in the walk against breast cancer for the American Cancer Society.

During the holiday season they volunteered for Jaycee in Rochester, an organization that raises money for low-income families, by taking children shopping for gifts.

CASA also goes to the Chaldean Manor Apartment building in Southfield and pass time with the older residents by doing activities with them and bringing desserts.

Every Easter, they pack and deliver food for the Chaldean American Reaching and Encouraging (CARE) organiza-



Photo courtesy of the Chaldean-American Student Association
Members of the organization gather for a group photo during one of their community service events with Focus Hope.

tion. And they do the same for Focus Hope, a nationally recognized civil and human rights organization in Detroit, throughout the years.

The group tries to do one social and one volunteer activity each month said Jessica Sitto, president.

"In the four years we have been around, this is our best year because our members have grown and what we do as an organization has grown," Sitto said.

Sylvia Bolos, CASA treasurer,

said this year with the group's biggest year with community service.

"We are going out into the community and helping the less fortunate...we're not restricted to campus activities," Bolos said.

CASA meets twice a month on campus from 12-1:00pm.

Although Chaldean students are encouraged to become members, any OU student is welcome to join.

For more information on CASA, email Sitto at jsitto@oakland.edu.

"Passion of Christ"

Mel Gibson's film is guaranteed to strike emotions and controversy

BY ANDREW DUPONT
THE OAKLAND POST

"The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson's controversial portrayal of the death of Jesus of Nazareth (Jim Caviezel), opened to international audiences on February 25th, Ash Wednesday in many western Christian churches.

The movie cost Mel Gibson \$25 million of his own money to produce. In its opening weekend, the film has already grossed more than \$100 million in the U.S. alone.

Unlike other films about Jesus' death, "The Passion of The Christ" graphically depicts the brutal torture that Jesus suffered before his crucifixion.

The power of Gibson's film lies in its refusal to tone down its violent content.

People may find it hard to watch as Roman soldiers take turns flogging Jesus' back with a cat of nine tails.

The camera stays poised as each nail is driven through Jesus' flesh, never giving the audience a break until he dies.

Gibson co-wrote the screenplay for "Passion" by combining pieces from the four Gospels of the New Testament and in an effort to be more historically accurate, the entire film is done in Aramaic and Latin with subtitles.

The result is an amazing portrait of 12 hours that have affected the world for nearly 2000 years.

One drawback to the film is its lack of exposition for those unfamiliar with the plot. Anyone unfamiliar with the story will have to learn about it beforehand.

Some characters identities or relationships to the life of Jesus are not explained.

There are a few very brief flashbacks scattered throughout the film, but they only provide minor insight to the stories of Magdalene (Monica Bellucci), Mary (Maia Morgenstern) or the Apostles.

All this information was left out on purpose, however, as Gibson's intention was to show a single chapter in a much larger story.

Gibson made a questionable move to have Satan (Rosalinda Celentano) visibly present throughout most of the film.

The evil tempter of Christ is portrayed as a hairless woman who tries coaxing Jesus to use his power to save himself and stands behind the Roman soldiers as they beat him with sticks.

The dramatic presence of evil greatly contrasts what is otherwise a very literal portrayal of the Passion, but serves as a



Photo courtesy of Newmarket Film Group
Above: Jesus is forced to carry the cross.

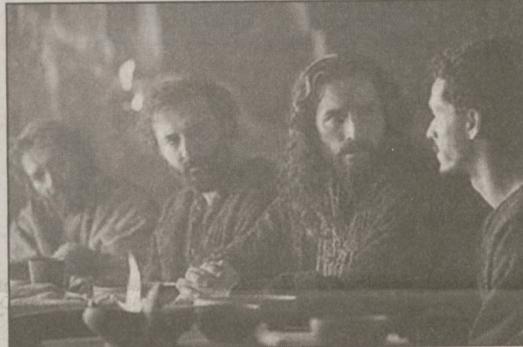


Photo courtesy of Newmarket Film Group
Jesus seats with the apostles during the Last Supper.

Below: Maia Morgenstern as Mary and Monica Bellucci as Mary Magdalene



reminder to Christians of the great spiritual battle behind the events of that day.

"Passion" opened amid many controversial reviews. Critics of the film said it places all the responsibility for Jesus' death on Jews and that a worldwide release could instigate new anti-semitic feelings.

The fear of such an effect is so severe that France refuses to distribute the film at all.

The controversy stems from the portrayals of Caiphas (Mattia Sbragia), the High Priest of the Jews, and Pontius Pilate (Hristo Shopov).

"Passion" shows a bloodthirsty Caiphas nearly force the hand of a reluctant Pilate to sentence Jesus to death.

But while the film shows some Jews clamoring for Jesus' crucifixion, it also shows others embracing him as a brother.

In the end, the blame doesn't fall a single nation or creed of people.

Any anti-Semitism being produced by "Passion" would be comparable to anti-German sentiment produced by "Schindler's List"

Regardless of what one believes, it is hard to be unmoved by the suffering one man endures, the betrayal by his dear friend, and the horror of his mother watching him die.

Caviezel's portrayal of The Christ will have you in tears.

Girl-getting tips from nice guys

OU guys, have no fears, all of your questions about "getting the girl" will be answered in "The Nice Guys Guide to Getting Girls."

BY LAURA ANGUS
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

I'm sure every man at some point has wished for a guide to women. I mean, we are complex creatures, and dealing with us can be no picnic.

Well, now they might have it in "The Nice Guys' Guide to Getting Girls." From tips on striking up conversations, to performing oral sex, this guide covers a lot of the dating game.

"The techniques in this book are not a scheme designed to get sex," declares the authors in the disclaimer, and men should remember that.

It's written in first person, which makes it feel like advice given directly to the reader, and definitely written for guys at college age.

What I really liked were the testimonials, sections where people talk about good and bad experiences they have had.

I know in my experience, guys who follow tips like the ones in this book end up seeming a lot more date-able.

A whole chapter of the book is on conveying interest in conversation. With tips like maintain eye contact and respecting per-

sonal space, this chapter could help many guys with their conversation skills.

Overall, "The Nice Guys' Guide to Getting Girls" is a quick read, and with three appendixes with date ideas, reoccurring event ideas and questions to ask a woman you just met, it could work wonders for guys in the dating scene.

According to its introduction, "Nice Guys' Guide to Getting Girls" serves as an addition to the Nice Guys' earlier book "Make Every Girl Want You" but, I think it can stand alone.

The only detraction from the book, I think, is the consistent references to "Make Every Girl Want You," like an advertising ploy. As a reader who hadn't picked up their earlier books, I don't want to be told what's in the other book - I want to read what they have to say in this one.

In spite of that, "The Nice Guys' Guide to Getting Girls" is a great book for guys who need a little help in the dating field, and Chapter 7 alone is enough to make every guy want to go out and buy a copy - and every girl to buy a copy for her boyfriend.

To find out more about The Nice Guys, or "The Nice Guys' Guide to Getting Girls" check out www.theniceguysguide.com.



Photo from The Oakland Post's archives
Success is awaiting those using "The Nice Guys" tips.

Date Ideas

Five of the more than 50 suggestions offered in "The Nice Guys' Guide to Getting Girls"

- "Picnic"
- "Fly a kite in a park"
- "Miniature Golf"
- "Drive in movie"
- "Cook for a girl (***)Girls love this!"



Poli Sci Professor tackles new career

Dr. Paul Kubicek is running for state representative

BY KRISTEN HERLIHY
THE OAKLAND POST

After four years of teaching political science, OU professor Dr. Paul Kubicek has decided to adjust his personal syllabus this summer—he's running for state representative.

"I've harbored the idea for quite awhile ... now is just a good time," Kubicek said. "There's a seat opening up because the incumbent (David Woodward) can't run for another term."

Kubicek enjoys his job at OU and being able to read and discuss politics with students. He said if he wins the nomination in August and the election this fall, he'll still be around campus.

"The legislature meets three times a week so I'd be able to work part-time. I'd probably be able to teach one class a semester," Kubicek said.

Although Kubicek has been politically active since his days with the College Democrats at Georgetown, this is the first time he's put together a campaign for public office. The current political environment has been a main catalyst in his decision to run.

"I'm upset frequently with politics today ... and I'm increasingly disappointed with the directions the state and nation are taking," Kubicek said.

Most important on Kubicek's agenda would be issues of education, environment and healthcare.

Specifically, he wants to tackle the No Child Left Behind Act, which labels schools who under perform on standardized tests as "failing."

"The No Child Left Behind Act is a disaster in the works," Kubicek said.

According to his campaign Web site, Kubicek compares the act to putting a "strait-jacket on local schools" by relying too heavily on test results. If elected, Kubicek would fight to have Michigan waived from the act.

"I want to devise long term solutions ... I think we have a responsibility to do that," Kubicek says.

With the August primaries fast approaching and two young sons, Jonah, 3, and Asher, 1, Kubicek is preparing for a busy summer.

Part of that preparation is getting OU students involved in his campaign.

"I've got a few students already lined up to help, and there's a political campaign class that will be a great help come May and June when things get busier," Kubicek says.

His wife, Alyce, and her parents have also been very supportive.

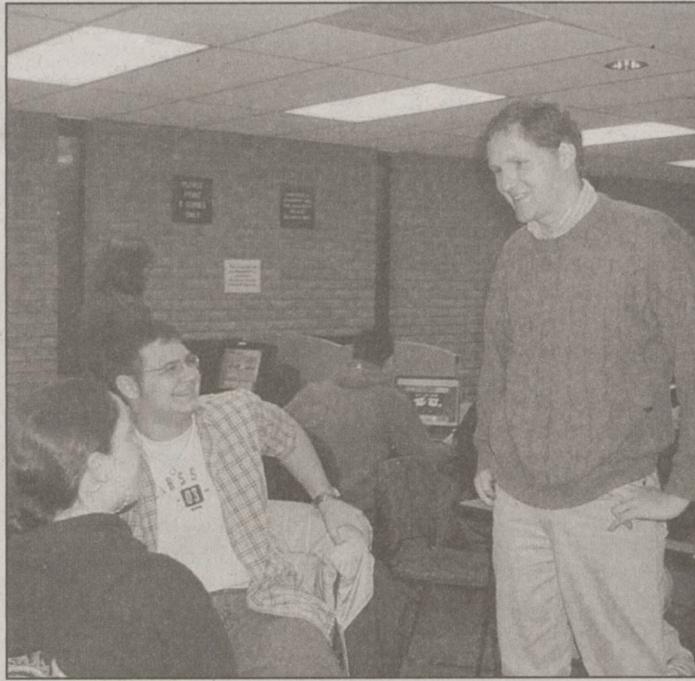
Kubicek said colleagues, though supportive, do think the career adjustment is somewhat peculiar, which he understands.

"Academics don't usually run for office. We don't think like politicians," he said.

Being in the running, Kubicek also has some advice for students who may consider pursuing public office in the future.

"Be established in your community and be willing to have time ... it is very time intensive," Kubicek said.

Though he admits money is somewhat important, he feels that networking is equally advantageous to obtaining any job, and cited incumbent state representative Woodward, who assumed office before finishing up his last class at



Kubicek tries to win the students over.

Rebecca Wyatt/The Oakland Post

Wayne State.

"Not only are networking and contacts helpful for job searching, they also reassure you. The more people you know, the better off you'll be," said Sara Jack, recent OU graduate.

Senior Julie Caleo said her degree has been an important factor in marketing herself for a job, so she agrees good networking can give students the edge.

"Excellent people skills can really set you apart from other people with similar academic credentials, especially in this competitive workforce," Caleo said.

Having already contacted students he's familiar with, Kubicek is still looking for some more helping hands.

"It would be great to get other students involved. I would definitely encourage them to contact me," Kubicek says.

Caleo thinks that Kubicek's campaign may already be benefiting OU

students.

"We are the future and it's good for us to get involved," Caleo says. "When you look at the age ratios of who's actually getting out there and voting, it's usually older people taking the initiative. Hopefully students will feel like they have a voice and become more proactive in Michigan politics."

Although Jack said it's good to have "textbook" professors, she also thinks instructors who move beyond the classroom have more to offer students.

"A lot of the assignments and reading can really be put into perspective by professors who truly deal with the issues in the real world," Jack said.

For more information about Kubicek's campaign and contacts, check out his campaign Web site at www.kubicek2004.org.

THE LOW DOWN

Wednesday, March 3

The Women Studies Program will host the Women Herstory Month Opening Celebration from noon-1 p.m. in the OC Fireside Lounge.

Thursday, March 4

Theta Tau will celebrate National Engineer's Week with a presentation titled "Ten Best Engine Design" from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the OC Gold Rooms A and B.

The President's Colloquium will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the OC Gold Rooms.

Friday, March 5

An opening reception for "75 Master Works from the OU Collection" exhibit will be held from 4:30-7 p.m. in the Meadow Brook Art Gallery.

Residence Halls Programming will host comedian Alex House and special guest Clara Biji for its Friday Night Live at 7 p.m. in Vandenberg Dining Center.

The Honors College Student Association will host a Mafia Game Night at 7 p.m., 112 Vandenberg Hall.

Women's Studies Programs will host The Vagina Monologues at 7 p.m., 201 Dodge Hall. Also March 6 and 7.

Saturday, March 6

OU's Project Upward Bound is hosting its fifth annual Parent Empowerment Conference at 8:30 a.m. in the OC Gold Rooms.

The 21st annual Women's Studies Film Festival will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in North Foundation Hall.

The College of Arts and Sciences will present Mark Stone and Roger Braun in a New World Percussion Duo at 8 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.

Sunday, March 7

College Panhellenic sororities will hold a fundraiser from 3-6 p.m. in the OC Heritage room.

Monday, March 8

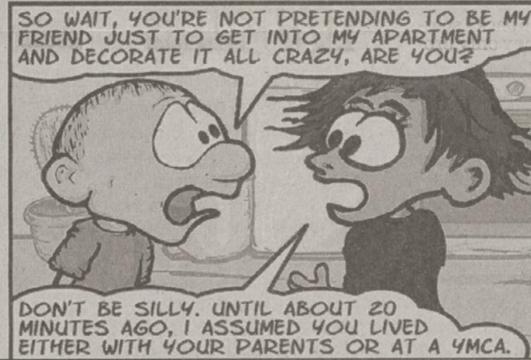
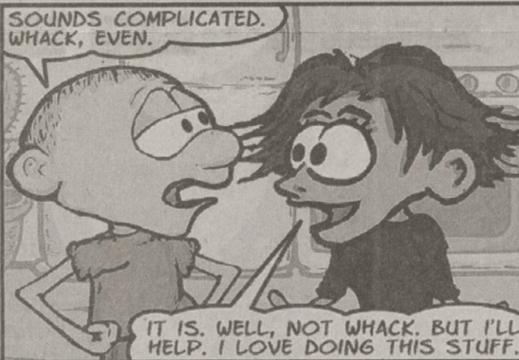
The Honors College and Women's Studies Program will host a panel discussion titled "International Women's Movements" from noon-1 p.m. in 112 Vandenberg Hall.

Tuesday, March 9

The Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention Society will host a presentation by the American Diabetes Association called "Preventing Type II Diabetes" from noon-1 p.m. in the OC Lake Superior Room B.

A multimedia performance titled "Love Arm'd: Aphra Behn and Her Pen" will be held at 4 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.

PAUL



BY BILLY O'KEEFE WWW.MRBILLY.COM

HOROSCOPE

BY LINDA C. BLACK
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Today's Birthday (March 3). Once you've formed a strong bond with a person who inspires you to great things, the work phase begins. Make plans and enjoy some romance — it's a powerful combination.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is an 8 — Get together with a playmate in private and share some of the things that are bothering you. They'll still be there, but they'll look much more insignificant.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 6 — Friends are a great source of comfort, but somebody who often rubs you the wrong way may be useful now. Heed this person's advice on love or money.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 7 — You're about to get involved in an interesting game. It won't bring in much money yet, but it should be a lot of fun. You have natural talent.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is a 7 — A new assignment could bring in extra money — if you're up to the challenge. You might as well. It looks profitable, even if it isn't much fun.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — If you notice that someone dear to you is quiet or grumpy, apologize. You don't even have to know what you did; it's a good way to open

the conversation. Then, listen.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — If at first you don't succeed, go back to the drawing board. There's a way to increase your profits, and you can find it. Be persistent and dig deep.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 7 — Your work could interfere with your social life. There isn't a way to be in two places at the same time, so delegate something.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Take it slow and easy for the next few days. An important person can put in a good word for you, and that could be all it takes. Be patient.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — Once you've paid all the bills, you'll know how much you can afford to spend on fixing up your place. Do what needs to be done in a hurry so that you can play later tonight.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — A thoughtful little gift would bring a smile to a loved one's face. This isn't something you have to do, but it sure would be nice of you, and very much appreciated.

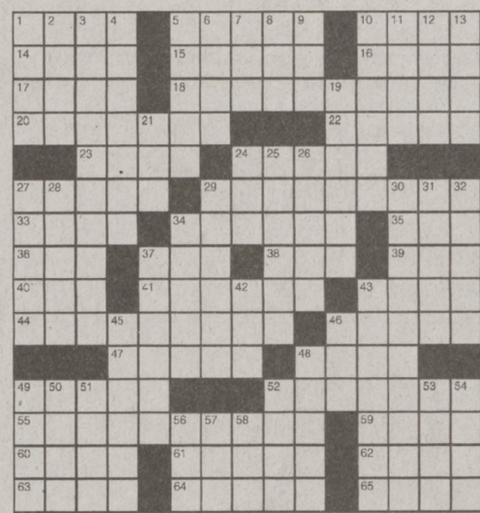
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 7 — If you're not making much progress, ask your partner for advice. You need help from a person who's good at building the projects you design.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7 — Money is just a concept. It can be created or destroyed. Instead of doing the latter by spending wastefully, get back to work.

Crossword

- ACROSS
- Comic Sandler
 - Allotted portion
 - Lots and lots
 - Singer Mitchell
 - Run-down dwelling
 - SSS classification
 - Picnic pests
 - Wiped out
 - Checks, as a horse
 - Make amends
 - Horseshoe projection
 - Trumpet blast
 - Slightly daffy
 - Busch Gardens employee
 - Buffalo's lake
 - Municipal bosses
 - Darya River
 - Intent
 - Zing
 - Boxer's stats
 - Roseanne's TV husband
 - "Born in the ..."
 - "Can Wait"
 - Point after deuce, perhaps
 - "High Noon" theme singer
 - Paddock youngster
 - Attacks
 - Paddock parent
 - Yuletide tune
 - Supporter of a New York team
 - Like some players
 - Add to the staff
 - Fleming's spy
 - Madonna film
 - Egyptian deity
 - "Diana" singer
 - Slanted surface
 - Some degs.

- DOWN
- Open slightly
 - Fully cooked
 - Disappointing outcome
 - Identify wrongly
 - Title role for Valentino
 - Rhino feature
 - Gardner of "The



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03/06/04

- Killers"
- Buttons of films
 - Actor Wallach
 - Chin whiskers
 - Cognizant of
 - there, done that
 - "Smooth Operator" singer
 - Stroke
 - Shifty
 - Tarzan's son
 - Attractive one
 - Rubber Capital of the World
 - Lollapalooza
 - Originate
 - Mexican revolutionary
 - Spoonbill, not the bird
 - Communication option
 - Inclined to flow
 - Encounters
 - Flasks
 - Fido's doc
 - Hindenburg, for

Solutions

S	Q	H	D		T	E	A	E	B		V	K	N	V		
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S	B	O	O				E	R	V	H	S		W	V	D	V

- one
- Beach Boys hit, "Help Me ..."
 - Overweight
 - Badge of honor
 - Castro's isla
 - In due time
 - Standing
 - Distribute
 - Bone dry
 - Loch of legend
 - Network
 - Night before
 - "6 Rms ... Vu"

The
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For additional information about this exciting opportunity, please visit the Center for Biomedical Research website (www2.Oakland.edu/cbr) or email M. Butler at butler@oakland.edu.

Applications are due by **March 8.**

OU Day @ the Capitol



**Wednesday March 31, 2004
11:30am-1pm in Lansing, MI**

Join Student Congress as we travel to our state capitol
For discussion with Michigan Senators/Representatives and
other members of government

With projected budget cuts and tuition increases, students
will be able to have their concerns heard by decision
makers in Lansing.

**The visit to the capitol is FREE to all
students, lunch will also be provided.**

Limited tickets available- sign up today at the
CSA ticket window.

Questions Contact OUSC @ 370-4290



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