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# Meadow Brook Ball

— B1



# THE OAKLAND POST

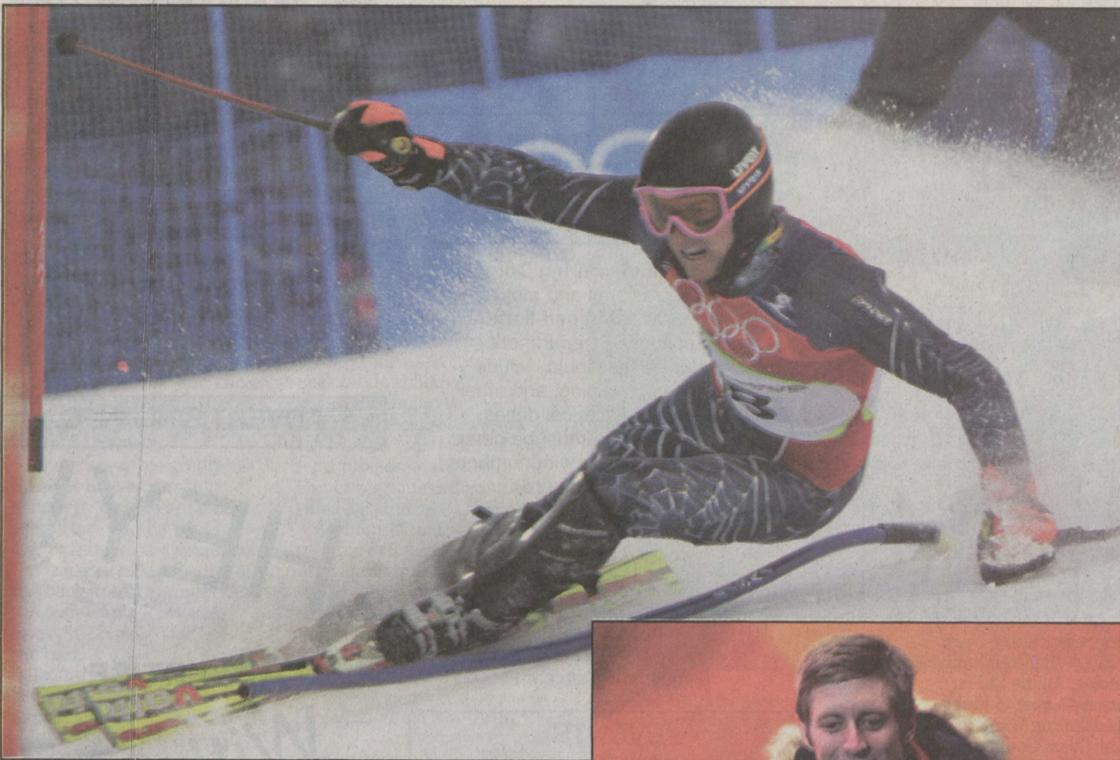
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 15, 2006

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50 cents

## WINTER OLYMPICS 2006, TORINO, ITALY



### Ligety wins gold in men's combined

By BOB BAUM  
The Associated Press

SESTRIERE, Italy — Young Ted Ligety gave the United States the Olympic gold medal that Bode Miller couldn't deliver Tuesday night, uncorking two dynamic slalom runs to win the men's combined and break the Americans' bad luck in Alpine skiing.

The 21-year-old skier from Park City, Utah, in his first Olympics, had a combined time of 3 minutes, 9.35 seconds for the downhill and two slalom runs.

"It's incredible," Ligety said. "I can't believe it (happened) in combined because I'm not very good in downhill."

U.S. skiers Steven Nyman and Scott Macartney tackled Ligety, and the three teammates rolled in the snow

together. They rose, and Ligety waved an American flag while he was propped on the others' shoulders.

"I'm not surprised he's on the podium," U.S. men's coach Phil McNichol said. "I'm a bit surprised he won gold."

It was only the fourth Olympic Alpine gold medal ever for U.S. men.

It couldn't have come at a better time for the frustrated Americans.

"It's a great day, especially with Bode skiing out," Macartney said. "Ted stepped up."

"You've just got to get in the starting gate and throw down whatever you've got," Ligety said.

**For more information, The Post's all-inclusive Olympic games guide:**

- Find out how Michigan athletes fared in the games
  - Upcoming events
  - Torino medal count
- Please see A2



Above: Joey Cheek, of the United States, throws a bouquet of flowers as he celebrates his gold medal during the medal ceremony for the Men's Speedskating 500 meters at the Turin 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy Tuesday.

Top left: Ted Ligety of the United States skis to the gold medal during the second slalom run of the Men's Combined at the Turin 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Sestriere Colle, Italy, Tuesday.

### STATE OF THE STUDENT BODY ADDRESS

# It's wrong for higher ed not to be 'right'

By JEFF KRANITZ  
Senior Reporter

Watching fellow students drop out of school because of the inability to afford rising tuition costs is one of the most difficult parts of being a student leader, said Student Body President Michael McGuinness during his State of the Student Body Address last Thursday.

"It's happening all too frequently these days, unfortunately," he said. "Higher education is shifting from a right to a privilege, which is dangerous for the long term future of our state and our nation."

McGuinness said that OUSC has been trying diligently to reverse that trend.

He pointed out that Legislative and Multicultural

Affairs Director Saman Waquad has been leading the early stages of a letter-writing campaign to state legislators, asking for a redirected focus upon higher education in Michigan.

According to McGuinness, the letters are specifically advocating for increased appropriations from the state for higher education.

This initiative is being carried out in accordance with other student governments at higher education institutions in Michigan, McGuinness said.

The venue for this cooperation is the Association of Michigan Universities, which is made up of the student governments from all of Michigan's 15 public

Please see STATE on A2



Granholt

## Granholt proposes higher spending on university funding

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Oakland University would receive a 2-percent budget increase under Gov. Jennifer Granholm's new budget plan.

The state's three main research universities — the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Michigan State University — would receive a straight 2 percent budget increase.

But OU, along with the state's other 11 public universities, would get varying increases, ranging from 1.55 percent for Western Michigan University to 3.86 percent for Lake Superior State University.

The proposal would guarantee each at least 1 percent and then base additional increases on factors such as affordability and the number of students who complete degrees.

All community colleges also

would get 2 percent increases under the proposed plan.

State budget director Mary Lannoye presented the governor's \$42.6 billion spending proposal to lawmakers Thursday.

It's 2.5 percent higher than this year's spending plan and divides up state and federal dollars for everything from prisons to social programs and roads for the budget year that starts Oct. 1.

There is no tuition cap in the proposal that would take away money from schools that did not keep their 2006-07 tuition increases below a set amount. But Granholm said she hopes the higher funding and the incentives for keeping tuition low will encourage universities to make tuition increases reasonable.

Please see FUNDING on A2

### YOUR CAREER

## How to get a glowing recommendation

By GEORGE DAVIS III  
Contributing Reporter

Flooding the desks of employers and educational administrators are letters of recommendation.

As many Oakland University students prepare to seek employment or apply for graduate school, they will be asked to submit a letter of

recommendation with their application.

These letters provide an account of a person's academic or professional history via an employer, professional or someone who can attest to one's character and performance.

Not to be confused with references, a recommendation can be a generic letter that

you have on file or formatted for a specific endeavor.

References are simply the listings of names and contact information of people who are familiar with you.

Director of Career Services at Oakland University, Bob Thomas knows a lot about recommendations.

Please see LETTER on A2

### What to think of when requesting a recommendation

- Ask someone who knows you and your capabilities well.
- Make your intentions and goals clear, so they know what to focus on in the letter.
- Remember to thank them for writing the letter so they are more apt to write another.

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**STATE**  
**Cont. from A1**

universities. Although in past years OUSC did not consistently participate in AMU, they are now major players, according to McGuinness. Three members of Congress hold leadership positions in the organization, including Student Program Board Chair Madalyn Miller, the AMU clerk, and Student Congress Legislator Dan Kubicek, public relations chair for AMU.

The student body president often drew laughter during his 30-minute speech in the Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge.

The crowd of about 40 was comprised mostly of other Student Congress members, student organization leaders and random students who stopped by for the free food which was offered.

Aside from tuition woes, McGuinness dedicated much of his address to commending all of the strides and gains he said OU has recently made.

"Oakland University Golden Grizzlies — the state of our student body is spectacular," he said. "We are essentially in uncharted territories and our futures are bright."

The continued record-setting growth of OU's student population, the success of the men's varsity basketball and lacrosse, and ice hockey club sports programs, the creation of the new Gender and Sexuality Center, new technology and resource centers and the new Vandenberg Dining Center were some of the examples McGuinness noted.

Many audience members were pleased with the address.

"I thought it was a well-written and well-presented speech," said Legislator Stephanie Mungo.

"He hasn't pointed out some of the things that Student Congress has done, but most of the things were very good and very positive, and I'm happy to see some of the changes that have been made here at Oakland University."

Early in his speech, McGuinness reminded the audience that the university is still young and only nearing its 50th anniversary.

"Imagine the possibilities of Oakland's centennial," he suggested.

"Hopefully many of us will be in an excellent position to pitch in some fat alumnus support," he said, drawing laughter for the first of several times.

**When to Watch**

**Wednesday, Feb. 15**

MSNBC — Live: Men's hockey: Sweden vs. Kazakhstan; Canada vs. Italy; Finland vs. Switzerland; Germany vs. Czech Republic; Russia vs. Slovakia, 5 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

USA — Live: Men's hockey: USA vs. Latvia, 3-6 p.m.

NBC — Speedskating Women's Team Pursuit; Short Track Speedskating Women's 500m Semifinal, 4-5 p.m.

NBC — Alpine Skiing Women's Downhill Final; Freestyle Skiing Men's Moguls Final; Short Track

Speedskating Women's 500m Final, Men's 5000m Relay Semifinal and Men's 1000m Prelims; Luge Men's Doubles Final; Nordic Combined Team Final; Ski Jumping Large Hill; Cross Country Women's Team 4x5km Relay, 8-11:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 16**

NBC — Cross Country Women's 10km Final; Speedskating Women's Team Pursuit Semifinals; Speedskating Men's Team Pursuit Semifinals, 4-5 p.m.

CNBC — Women's curling: USA vs. Sweden, 5-8 p.m.

NBC — Figure Skating Men's

Free Skate Final; Men's Snowboarding Cross Final; Speedskating Women's Team Pursuit Final; Speedskating Men's Team Pursuit Final; Skeleton Women's Final, 8 p.m.-Midnight

**Friday, Feb. 17**

CNBC — Men's curling: USA vs. Switzerland, 5-8 p.m.

NBC — Figure Skating Ice Dancing; Snowboarding Women's Snowboard Cross Final; Alpine Skiing Women's Combined (downhill & slalom) Final; Skeleton Men's Final; Ski Jumping K125-Large Hill Individual, 8-11:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 18**

MSNBC — Women's curling: USA vs. Italy, 5-8 p.m.

NBC — Alpine Skiing Men's Super-G Final; Short Track Speedskating Men's 1000m Final and Women's 1500m Final; Speedskating Men's 1000m Final; Ski Jumping K125-Large Hill Individual Final; Bobsled Two Man, 8-11:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 19**

USA — Live: Women's curling: USA vs. Switzerland, 8-11 a.m.

NBC — Live: Men's hockey: USA vs. Sweden, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

MSNBC — Men's curling:

**2006 WINTER GAMES**



**Medal count**

As of Feb. 14  
22 out of 84 medal events

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOT
Norway	1	5	5	11
Russia	4	3	2	9
United States	5	2	0	7
Germany	4	1	2	7
China	0	2	3	5
Netherlands	1	2	0	3
Canada	1	1	1	3
South Korea	1	1	1	3
Italy	1	0	2	3
Austria	0	2	1	3
Finland	0	1	2	3
Sweden	2	0	0	2
France	1	0	1	2
Estonia	1	0	0	1
Croatia	0	1	0	1
Czech Rep.	0	1	0	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1
Switzerland	0	0	1	1

USA vs. Britain, 4-7 p.m.

NBC — Figure Skating Ice Dancing; Alpine Skiing Women's Super-G Final; Speedskating Women's 1000m Final; Cross Country Men's 4x10km Relay Final; Bobsled Two Man Final; Freestyle Skiing Women's Aerials, 7-11 p.m.

—To view the complete olympic schedule, visit <http://www.NBCOlympics.com>

**How local athletes fared in Torino**

**Tuesday, Feb. 14**

Chris Cook, a cross-country skier and Northern Michigan University graduate, and his partner Andy Newell, failed to qualify for the finals of the men's team sprint. Cook and Newell posted a seventh-place finish in the second semifinal.

Angela Ruggiero, of Harper Woods, scored two goals and had one assist in the women's hockey team's 7-3 preliminary round win over Finland.

**Monday, Feb. 13**

Kip Carpenter, a Kalamazoo native and a bronze medalist speedskater from the Salt

Lake City Games, finished in 26th place in the 500-meter sprint. Carpenter finished the two legs of the competition in a combined time of 1:12.08.

**Sunday, Feb. 12**

Alex Izykowski, of Bay City, failed to advance past the semifinals in the men's 1,500-meter short track speedskating event. The 2002 Bay City high school graduate placed third in his first-round heat with a time of 2:19.731, then finished fifth in the semifinal with a time of 2:18.610.

**Saturday, Feb. 11:**

Shani Davis finished sev-

enth in the men's 5,000-meter speedskating event, with a time of 6 minutes, 23.08 seconds. The Chicago native trains at the U.S. Olympic Education Center at Northern Michigan University in the summer and is a junior at Northern Michigan.

Angela Ruggiero, of Harper Woods, had two assists in the third period — including a pass to set up captain Krissy Wendell's first goal of the game — in the women's hockey team's 6-0 preliminary round win over Switzerland.

— The Associated Press

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**FUNDING**  
**Cont. from A1**

Mike Boulus of the Presidents Council, which represents Michigan's 15 public universities, said reactions to the governor's plan are mixed. But universities are glad to see more money flowing rather than less. GOP lawmakers also made it clear they won't do away with the Michigan Tuition Grant pro-

gram that offers tuition grants to needy students attending private colleges in Michigan. Granholm wants to merge that money with a fund that

offers scholarships to needy students attending public universities and gradually eliminate state aid for private college students.

**STUDENT OPINION ...**

"A lot of middle class families go to places like OU. It makes more sense that all universities be given the same amount." — John Miller, freshman, Information Technology  
"If this plan would help middle class families then yes, that would obviously help the situation, but it doesn't seem like it would." — Brenna Donovan, freshman, Biology  
—Cindi Pozzi, Contributing Reporter

**LETTER**  
**Cont. from A1**

"I've had employers call me to reference a student, and I can't remember who they are," Thomas said.

One mistake a student may make is having a reference on an application that they haven't spoken to in years. In the same light, students may ask someone to write a recommendation that doesn't know them well enough to write a strong letter. This can weaken a candidate's credibility and chance at employment or educational advancement.

"Only ask a person that knows your capabilities, and who will give you a positive recommendation, to write one," Thomas said.

The professional writing the recommendation should assess if they're the right person to write the letter, provide at least three concrete examples of the candidate's character and tell the truth about the student.

While it may seem that a letter of recommendation has become an essential piece in securing employment or advancing academically, it isn't. Thomas explains that recommendations aren't significant

until after the interviewing process, and only have two functions.

First, it distinguishes the difference between two equally qualified candidates.

And second, the letters are the deciding factor for eliminating a candidate.

Your letter of recommendation should stand out from the rest, but be a truthful reflection of who you are.

Finally, always thank the professional for writing the recommendation; they will be apt to write one in the future because, it's not always what you know, but who you know.

What would you like to read about in the paper? E-mail [editor@oakpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oakpostonline.com).



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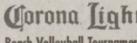


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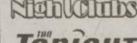
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## Back massages made easy

By KRISTIN SOMMER  
Senior Reporter

With spring break around the corner and midterms coming up, a massage might be the perfect way to help you relax.

A massage "helps with clear thinking, stress, all anatomy parts ... muscles, bones, and circulation; it rejuvenates you," said Sherlene Robinson, director of Alternative Healing in Rochester Hills.

Robinson and a co-worker from the massage school in Rochester Hills gave massages during a clinic in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center.

"The massage was excellent," said freshman Katherine Reed. "The back was the best. This was my first time getting a massage."

If you missed the massage clinic on campus Tuesday, here are a few tips and tricks for giving a good and effective back massage from Massagefree.com.

There are three groups of muscles in the back that should be targeted in a massage. They are the long muscles parallel to the spine, the flat muscles along the top of the back and lower neck, and the wide band of muscles from the spine to the side of the back.

To start a back massage, begin with a circulatory motion that covers all three of

the muscle groups.

Begin with your hands flat and fingers facing the spine. With medium pressure, slide your hands up the spine.

When you reach the neck, rotate your hands so your fingers go along the top of the shoulders and down the side of the back.

At the base of the back, return your hands to the original position and repeat.

For a more targeted massage, try these tricks.

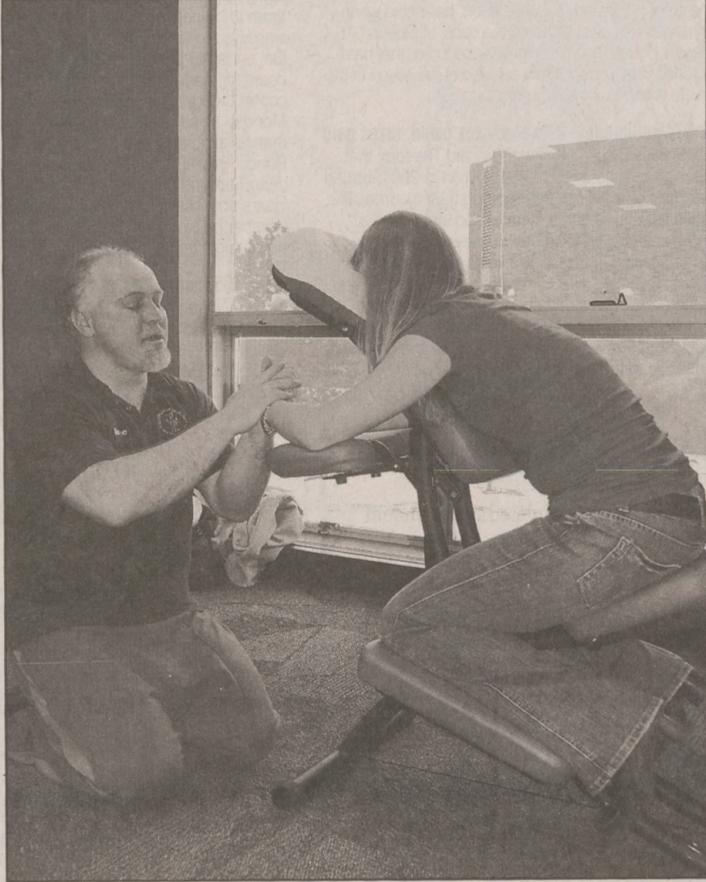
For the long muscles along the spine, start by pressing your palms into the base of the back. With constant pressure, slide the heel of your hand up until you reach the shoulder blades.

Next move to the shoulders. Using your thumbs, gently rub the back of the neck. Then curl your hands over the shoulder, pressing the heel of your hand into the back while rubbing the front with your fingers.

If these techniques seem too hard to master or you prefer a professional's touch, the Rec Center offers discounted rates for students.

An hour of massage therapy runs \$40 for students, with each additional minute costing \$1. For a deeper massage, the Rec Center also offers acupressure and shiatsu massages. An hour of this costs \$55 for students.

Appointments can be made by calling (248) 370-4910.



Freshman Ashley Autus enjoys an early afternoon massage from Massage Therapist Wayne Robinson from Rochester Hill's Alternative Healing.

## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENT CONGRESS

### Congress supports 'no' vote

By KRISTIN SOMMER  
Senior Reporter

Nine months before voters decide whether affirmative action programs will remain in Michigan, Oakland University Student Congress took their stance.

Two resolutions previously postponed were renewed and voted on during Monday's Student Congress meeting.

The first resolution, sponsored by Legislator Dan Kubiczek, stated that OUSC is opposed to the proposal and will use its resources to educate students about the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative.

The MCRI would eliminate the use of race as a factor for admissions and hiring in public universities and government agencies.

Discussion mostly focused on amending the resolution to include two additional clauses, which connected affirmative action programs to the students.

OU does not currently use race as a factor in admission of students. However, faculty and staff hiring, and certain community outreach programs do consider race.

The resolution passed, but Legislator Mark Ewing asked for his name to be listed as not supporting it.

Some legislators felt the resolution dictated to students how to vote.

"We are not dictating," said Student Program Board Chair Madalyn Miller.

The second resolution ultimately failed, in part because it would contradict and cancel out the first.

Legislator Mike Mersol-Barg sponsored the failed resolution, which called for OUSC to remain impartial and promote awareness among students about the MCRI.

"As representatives of the students, we shouldn't be telling students what to think, rather give them the tools to make an informed decision," Mersol-Barg said.

Student Body President Mike McGuinness added that Student Congress has been taking a stance on different ballot proposals since at least 2000.

Much debate was generated in 2004 when OUSC passed a resolution to oppose Proposal 2.

That proposal, which passed, amended the state constitution to say that same-sex unions would not be recognized in Michigan.

"We tried to educate, but no one read the flyers," Legislator Allison Cummings-Stuckman said of Proposal 2. "We had to put our foot down. Telling the students 'this is what Congress decided, but vote for yourself.'"

The controversy over Student Congress taking a stance is what made them aware of the issue, she said.

Other legislators pointed out that the first resolution only states Congress' stance and does not tell students how to vote.

"It doesn't say we urge the student body to vote no," said legislator Josh Rotarius. "We don't urge the student body to do anything, technically."

The second resolution failed 6-10, along with two abstentions.

Since affirmative action was also the discussion topic for last week, the conversation continued after the vote.

Student Services Director Katie Miller, who supported the first resolution, commented on the ongoing debate.

"It is not Student Congress' job to represent the opinions of all students. It is our job to represent what is best," she said.

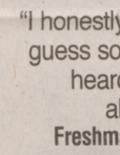
How do you feel OUSC is doing at representing you and the student body?



"I feel that Student Congress represents me because they know what I need ... and what I need is free Scantrons."  
Senior Melonie Summers



"I feel that they are non-existent."  
Freshman Scott Meal



"I honestly don't know... but I guess so because I haven't heard anything bad about them."  
Freshman Alyssa Carnaghi



"There are a lot of different views, and everyone seems to be working together ... they are discussing financial aid and topics that concern students."  
Senior Courtney Youngblood



## POLICEFILES

■ A man was arrested for drunk driving Friday night after being pulled over by police for swerving on Walton Boulevard near Adams Road. The man told Oakland University Police Department that he had been at a local bar and had consumed two pitchers of beer. Police observed his eyes to be red and said he smelled like alcohol. After failing a field sobriety test, a Breathalyzer revealed his blood alcohol level to be 0.142.

■ A female OU resident reported that unknown person(s) used her credit card to charge \$997.46 at the

Wal-Mart stores in Balbuena and Apto, Mexico. The woman told police that she did not give anyone permission to use the card and that she hadn't been to Mexico.

■ A resident of University Student Apartments contacted police after she alleged that she was threatened with a knife last Wednesday night. According to her statement, the complainant was cleaning up the kitchen area when a woman, reaching for the upper cabinets, intentionally bumped into her. After a brief exchange of words, the alleged assailant opened the drawer that holds the kitchen knives and said, "I'm going to cut her throat," while she was on the phone with another person. Police are investigating.

■ A student had his leather jacket and wallet stolen from a locker room at the Rec Center last Thursday morning. The jacket was valued at \$125 and there was \$40 in the wallet, according to the police report. The student told police he didn't know if he had locked the lock. Police have no suspects.

■ A department chair received threatening e-mails from a student last week, according to the police. The student's e-mail stated that he refused to attend a meeting with the chair to discuss a private matter, and further said that if anyone labeled him as crazy they would need SWAT. The chair and his staff told OUPD that they felt unsafe. The student has been restricted from campus until further notice.

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### CSA SERVICE WINDOW EVENTS:

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.

- Chicago (Feb 28, March 5)
- Three Mo Tenors (March 14, 26)
- Aida (April 26, 28)
- Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (May 25, 28)
- Wicked (May 31, June 1, 4, 8, 11, 18)
- Annie (Feb 21)
- Les Grans Ballets Canadiens (April 7)
- Cinderella (May 17, 19)
- Salome (June 7, 9)

What is Spirituality? The Christian Science  
Enjoy refreshments and the company of other  
OU students as we discuss our thoughts  
on the idea of spirituality  
7-9 pm, Fireside Lounge, OC

"The Flicks" @ Oakland University  
7:30 pm, Meadow Brook Theatre, \$4/person

Feb 21: American History X  
March 28: Glengarry Glen Ross April 4: Rashomon

Learn to Lead Series:  
"Recruiting Membership"  
Thursday, Feb 23, 5-6 pm,  
Lake Michigan Room, OC  
Pre-Register by emailing  
hardenbu@oakland.edu,  
walk-ins are welcome!

### Current Events Interactive Discussion

Wednesday, February 15

noon - 1 pm, Fireside Lounge, OC

Discuss current events that have the potential to affect us for a long time to come. Possible topics include: The Palestinian Elections; The Iranian Government's position on its nuclear program and statements by its President; The Confirmation of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court; Plant Closings at GM and Ford & the impact of Superbowl 40 on the Detroit Area.  
The Panelists: Dr. Peter Trumbore & Dr. Dave Dulio.

25th Annual...

### OU Photography Contest!

Awarding winners in two categories:

Best Color Photographs

Best Black & White Photographs.

\$150, \$100, and \$50 cash prizes

Judges may also award honorable mentions.

The photographs & entry forms must be turned into CSA by Friday, March 31. All photographs that meet entry criteria will be on display in the Fireside Lounge, OC, April 3-5 with judging taking place on April 4.

Entry Forms & rules will be available February 13.

### Random Acts of Kindness Week!

February 13-17!

Celebrate "RAK" Week by showing your appreciation & thanks to those around you. Share the joy of each other and take part in being kind!

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

Make "P B & J" Sandwiches Day

Noon-1 pm, Gold Rooms, OC

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

Good Evening Commuters!

4-6 pm, OC Main Entrance

Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

SAFE on Campus Ally Day

12-2:30 pm, Gold Rooms, OC

### African-American Celebration!

Wednesday, February 15

"Eyes on the Prize" - Civil Rights Documentary

6:30 pm, Oakland Room, OC

Thursday, February 16

"Martin Luther King's Unfinished Agenda"

A Lecture by Michael Honey

7 pm, Gold Rooms, OC

Tuesday, February 21

"It's Not a Game!"

ABS Black History Month Game Show

Noon-1 pm, Fireside Lounge, OC

"Experiencing the Greatness of African-American Women"

6:30 pm, Rooms 128-130, OC

## NATION

**Killer of 11-year-old girl asks judge to spare his life**  
 SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — A weeping Joseph Smith apologized Tuesday for the abduction, rape and murder of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia two years ago, telling a judge he had taken large amounts of cocaine and heroin that day in hopes of killing himself. Smith told Circuit Judge Andrew Owens, who will sentence him to death or life in prison, "I do not ask for mercy for myself. The only thing I can see to give me a life sentence is for my family." Carlie was abducted while walking home from school in February 2004, an attack that was caught on a car wash surveillance tape and broadcast nationwide. Friends and even Smith's brother said they recognized the burly mechanic grabbing the young girl's wrist on the tape as Smith. A jury found the 39-year-old guilty last November and recommended by a 10-2 vote that he be executed. Owens will ultimately sentence Smith on March 15.

**White House responds aggressively to allegations**  
 WASHINGTON (AP) — After accepting responsibility for the government's slow response to Hurricane Katrina, the White House is now striking back at critics who administration officials say are unfairly blaming President Bush.

White House homeland security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend said Monday the administration welcomes and will cooperate with congressional inquiries into Katrina and its aftermath. "But let's be clear about the facts," she said. "As you know, President Bush was highly engaged in the preparation and response effort, beginning when Katrina was a tropical storm off the coast of Florida." At issue is a House report, set for release today, that has concluded Bush was not fully advised of the scope of the damage caused by the Aug. 29 storm.

**IRS: \$345 billion gap between taxes owed, taxes paid**  
 WASHINGTON (AP) — The IRS said Tuesday that unpaid taxes amounted to \$345 billion in 2001, traced mostly to individuals underreporting their income. The statistic refines an estimate released last year that found taxpayers failed to pay between \$312 billion and \$353 billion in 2001. "We've come in at the high end of that range," IRS Commissioner Mark Everson told reporters. The study showed taxpayers much more likely to report their income when an employer, banker or other party must separately submit the information to the Internal Revenue Service.

## WORLD

**Candidate alleges 'fraud' in Haiti's elections**  
 PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Leading presidential candidate Rene Preval said Tuesday that "gross errors and probably gigantic fraud" marred last week's elections, backing the protests of his supporters but urging them to be peaceful, a day after at least one person was killed in violent demonstrations. Preval, who had just under 49 percent of the vote with most ballots counted, made the comments hours after a U.N. helicopter brought him to the capital from his rural home Monday as supporters accusing election officials of manipulating results stormed a luxury hotel in Port-au-Prince. Preval, a former protege of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, enjoys wide support among Haiti's poor majority. It was uncertain, however, whether he would get the 50 percent total needed to win outright and avoid a second round of voting.

**Iran: 135 swans in Caspian Sea die of bird flu**  
 TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The deadly strain of bird flu has killed 135 wild swans on the Iranian part of the Caspian Sea coast, the first such cases detected in the Islamic Republic, the government said Tuesday.

Indonesia also reported its latest bird flu death Tuesday — a 23-year-old man — while four members of a family were being treated in a hospital for symptoms of the virus. The strain has killed at least 91 people in Asia and Turkey since 2003, according to the World Health Organization. Almost all the human deaths have been linked to contact with infected poultry, but experts fear the H5N1 strain of the virus could mutate into a form that spreads easily among people, possibly starting a human flu pandemic.

**Saddam, co-defendants say they are on hunger strike**  
 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein and three former officials in his regime told the court handling their trial Tuesday that they were on a hunger strike in protest of the judge overseeing the proceedings. Saddam said he had not eaten in three days, while his former intelligence chief, Barzan Ibrahim, said he had been on the strike for two days. Two other defendants, Awad Bandar and former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan, also said they had started a hunger strike. Their claims of a hunger strike could not be independently confirmed.

### What do you think of The Oakland Post?

Circle the answer that reflects your opinion for each question. Completed forms should be placed inside the box located outside The Oakland Post in the basement of the Oakland Center, office 61, no later than 5 p.m. Monday.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. How often do you read The Oakland Post?<br>a. Weekly<br>b. Twice a month<br>c. Once a month<br>d. Never<br>e. Other _____ | 2. What is your favorite section of The Post?<br>a. Campus News<br>b. Local News<br>c. Nation/World<br>d. Sports<br>e. The Mix<br>f. Other _____ | 3. What is your least favorite section of The Post?<br>a. Campus News<br>b. Local News<br>c. Nation/World<br>d. Sports<br>e. The Mix<br>f. Other _____ |
| 4. What type of stories would you like to read more of in The Post?<br>_____<br>_____  | 5. What would you change about The Post?<br>_____<br>_____   | 6. What would you keep the same?<br>_____<br>_____   |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Last week's winner: Jeff Reid  
 Feb. 1 winner: Jessica Deisenroth

XO X O  
 hugs and kisses  
 scholarships

How to win...

Bring in This OUSC AD from Wednesday February 15 issue of the Oakland Post to the OUSC office in 62 Oakland Center

Draw to win a variety of monetary prizes

OUSC wants to show you some love, so visit us to claim your prize

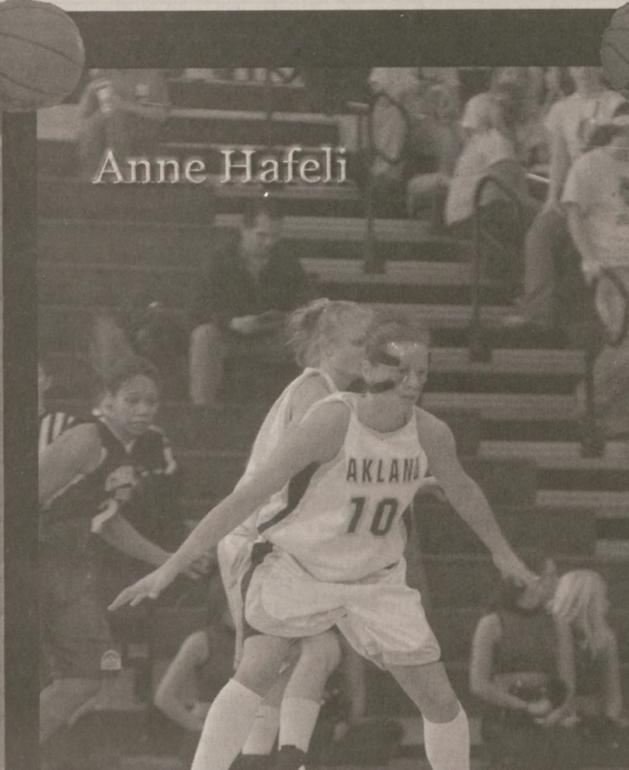
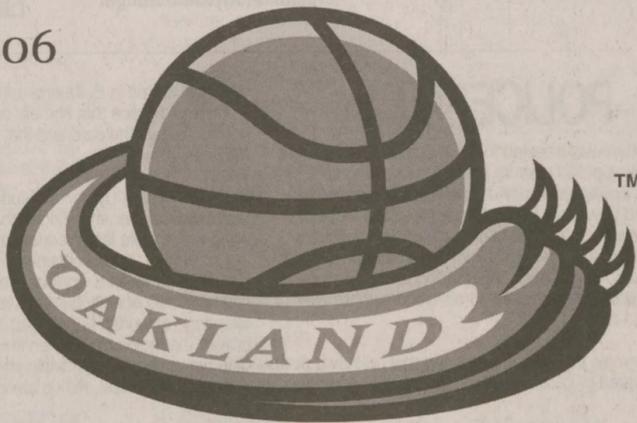
Contest ends February 22, 2006  
 Brought to you by YOUR Oakland University Student Congress

# SENIOR NIGHT

Monday, February 20th, 2006

OU Women  
 vs.  
 Oral Roberts University  
 7pm

In the O'Rena



EDITORIAL

## Racism still exists today

Although it's no longer reputable for people to overtly display the same kind of racial hostility that was entirely tolerable a generation ago, look hard enough and you'll find plenty of covert examples.

For those of us who live in and around Detroit, all we have to do is open our eyes.

Forget the unconcealed and malicious racist behavior that many of us observe in our own private social circles for a moment, and let us examine some hard evidence.

Segregation of cities remains apparent, and Detroit is the nation's greatest example.

The 2000 Census Bureau report points out an interesting contrast in the Detroit metropolitan area. We were saddled with the dubious distinction of having the nation's second "blackest" city side-by-side with the nation's "whitest" city. With a black population of 82 percent, Detroit ranked second among cities with 100,000 or more. Livonia topped its respective list with a white population of 95 percent.

The report also pointed out while 26 percent of Detroit's population lived below the poverty line, Livonia residents were able to boast that only three percent of their community were officially poor. The south side of Eight Mile Road may only be a short geographical distance from those in the outer suburbs, but, socio-economically speaking, it might as well be on the other side of the planet.

Imagine how different our country would look if, throughout history, its black citizenry had been given an equal claim to the American dream.

In 2001 The Associated Press published a three-part series that revealed how generations of black Americans in the South have been driven from their land by thievery, bullying, violence and murder. After interviewing more than 1,000 people and examining thousands of public records, the AP concluded that 406 black land owners lost 24,000 acres of farm and timber land, and dozens of smaller properties, including beachfront land, city lots and stores. The series concluded that "today, virtu-

ally all of this property — valued at tens of millions of dollars — is held by whites or corporations."

The American Psychological Association has a Web site devoted to racism in the housing market. It says that discrimination against blacks leads to greater difficulty renting apartments, taking out mortgages and buying houses in certain areas.

There is even a commonly known term for the process by which real estate agents show blacks only the homes in their neighborhoods — steering. It's safe to say that most people aren't conspiring to use this way to exert power — in most cases.

However, it does happen — mostly because of individual biases and the reluctance to rent apartments, sell houses or loan money to black Americans.

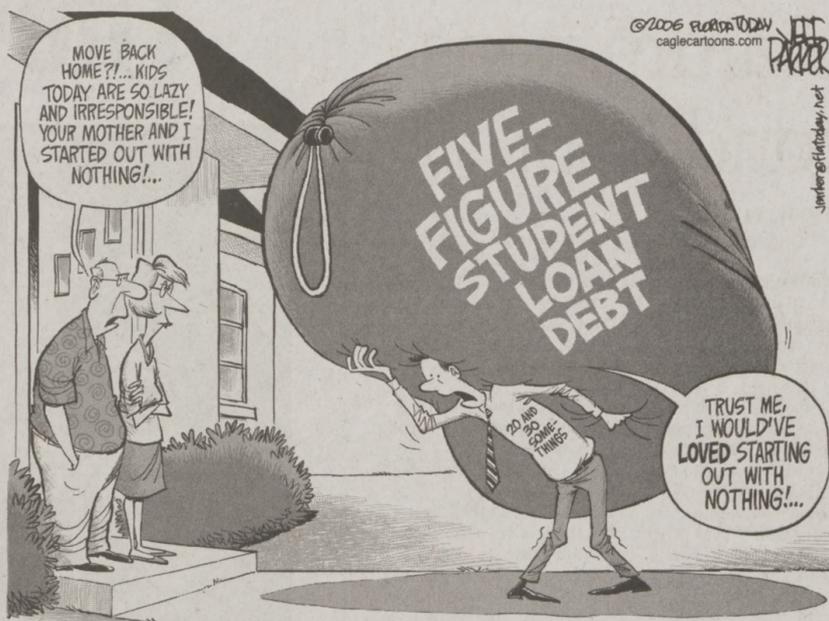
These individual acts can add up and become larger patterns. This trend maintains the type of segregation that we see here in Detroit.

When neighborhoods and communities are not integrated, people from different groups are prevented from getting to know each other. Stereotypes are maintained, and thus continue the cycle.

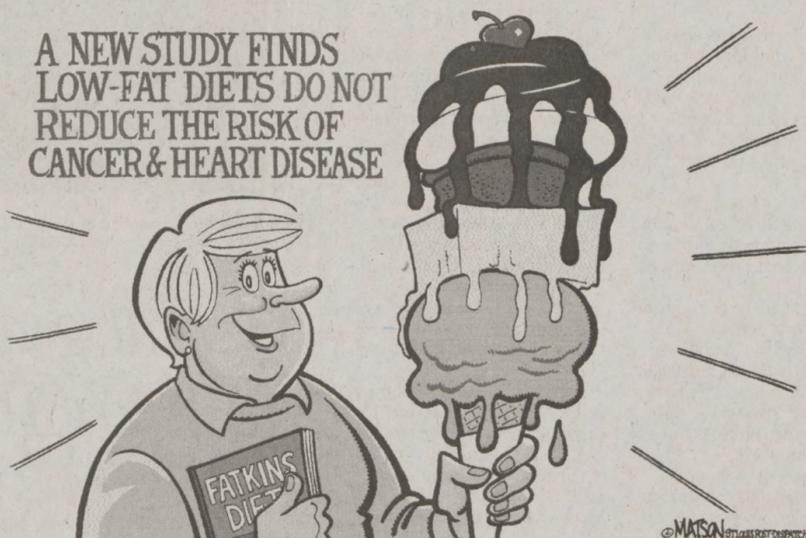
How about public education? The graduation rate for the Detroit City School District students in 2003 was a mere 44.5 percent, compared with a state average of 90 percent, according to a Standard and Poor report. In 2003, the districts' high school dropout rate was 19.2 percent, compared with a state average of 2.7 percent. The response? In 2004 the city's struggling public schools cut 3,200 jobs — including at least 900 teaching positions — to close a budget gap.

America is diverse — it is the nature of our different cultures that define us as a country. One can still celebrate those different cultures without being a racist; let us never forget that. A society that doesn't create character bias based on our biological differences should always remain our ultimate goal. Yet, until we address the problems caused by the previous mistakes of some, that is all it will ever be.

— THE OAKLAND POST



A NEW STUDY FINDS  
LOW-FAT DIETS DO NOT  
REDUCE THE RISK OF  
CANCER & HEART DISEASE



"... AND HIGH-FAT DESSERTS CAN MAKE YOU FEEL 12 YEARS OLD AGAIN!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Civil Rights Initiative is discriminatory**

Dear Editor,  
To all members of the Oakland University community, I am writing this to warn you not to be fooled by the affirmative action amendment by California businessman Ward Connerly.

In my opinion the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative as it is so incorrectly called is a step backward.

This proposal sounds as though it would end gender and racial preferences. It will not.

It will instead eliminate the very tool that was designed to reduce the gender and racial bias that occur daily.

Let's not fool ourselves, discrimination still exists. In fact Michigan is ranked number one in segregation and number three in hate crimes committed nationwide (according to a Detroit Free Press article Dec. 2005).

These are issues that need to be addressed.

Unfortunately ending affirmative action won't solve them because the end result will not lead to a color-free or gender-blind society.

OU students along with Michigan voters must learn that voting for this anti-affirmative action amendment will

only cause devastating outcomes to all. Michigan is being redeveloped in many ways, having full access to opportunity strengths not only women and members of a minority ethnic group, but it also helps the community and the state.

While the Michigan Initiative attempts to receive votes by using the words "civil rights" — don't be fooled. This initiative has many consequences that voters need to be aware of.

- Kill fair housing and lending programs that help prevent discrimination
- Kill programs that encourage men to enter nursing and teaching, two professions where men are underrepresented.
- Pave the way for possible reduction in sporting activities for women and girls engaged in sports.

Until people begin to look at the whole scope of this issue and not just at race, real progress to end discrimination and gender bias will continue to exist.

Don't be fooled by the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative for there is nothing Civil about it.

Indira K. Pierce  
Political Science, Women Studies

**While offensive, cartoons not slander**

Dear Editor,  
The Editor in Chief of The Oakland Post, Roqaya Eshamawi, wrote last week about publication in Europe of depictions of the founder of Islam, Mohammed.

She eloquently showed her respect for her religion and its founder. Her piety is demonstrated further in her picture — she wears the khimar, the traditional Muslim head scarf. I respect her views, but I must take issue and disagree with the idea that publishing the cartoons in question would have been slander, as the headline of her column suggests.

I have seen the caricatures of the prophet Mohammed — one depicts the Prophet wearing a turban (imamah) that is also a bomb. Another shows Mohammed telling suicide bombers that paradise has run out of virgins (Islam teaches that a martyr [shahid], not a suicide bomber, will receive 72 virgins.) If I were a Muslim, I would be offended at the nature of these depictions.

Mohammed was a man who founded a religion — the very name of which means "Peace."

The cartoons expressed the artist's

views of the prophet.

Had Muslims not ever bombed someone (or anything) in the name of Islam, then the cartoon could be called slanderous. The fact is very different — radical Muslims have in fact committed atrocities in the name of their religion, claiming sanction by their beliefs. This does not warrant these depictions (while offensive and hurtful) to be labeled as slanderous.

Every religion has its fundamentalists. They tend to be radical and extreme and more often than not, they are who the media focuses on. The face of a group, or a cause, can be shaped by this attention. The face of Islam has been shaped by extremists who react by burning the embassies of offending nations in the name of their religion — Adherents who miss the point, the crux, of what their religion teaches.

Recently Rolling Stone magazine published on its cover a picture of the rap artist Kanye West as Jesus Christ (the founder of Christianity) prior to being crucified complete with a crown of plaited thorns and dried blood on his face.

While this depiction is extremely offensive to me as a Christian, it is

within the right of Kanye West to dress as he did, the photographer to shoot the picture and Rolling Stone to publish it. The freedom of speech that we are guaranteed allows for this action. It also allows for me to say publicly that I do not like it.

While the depiction of Islam's founder is blasphemous to Muslims, showing Mohammed (in any fashion they choose) is the right of media outlets in any nation that has freedom of speech.

Choosing to exercise this right does not make them slanderous.

It may be in poor taste and extremely disrespectful but it does not by any stretch of the imagination make it slander. Furthermore, the expressions of outrage by members of this religion through violence and offensive rebuttals does nothing more than continue to paint their faith in a negative light.

Better results would be achieved through constructive dialogue about this issue, peacefully and would certainly be more appropriate.

Peter D. Coyl  
Senior  
Public Administration and Public Policy



## THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



The Oakland Post is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press.

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**What do you think? Have a news tip?**  
Send your comments to The Oakland Post.

By e-mail:  
editor@oakpostonline.com

Please submit letters by 5 p.m. Friday. Letters submitted after this will be printed a week from the following Wednesday.

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

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

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

BACK IN THE DAY

## OU alum pens second book

By PATRICK HAYES  
Contributing Reporter

With a growing concern to find alternative fuel sources, an Oakland University alumnus recently wrote a book about Chrysler's early attempts in this field.

With gas-guzzling SUVs and cars on the market today, fuel efficiency seems to take a back seat to power and appearance in the design process.

Chrysler, however, had a program in the 1960s that produced vehicles that could run on kerosene, diesel, jet fuel, alcohol or even perfume.

The book, "A Most Unusual Experiment: Chrysler's Turbine Car," is Steve Lehto's second.

"If you were in Detroit in 1967 or 1968, there is a good chance you would have seen or heard a Turbine car" on the road, said Lehto, a Farmington Hills attorney who graduated in 1989. "If you saw it once, you would never forget it."

Lehto said he wrote the book because he remembered those cars from his childhood and he had an interest in their research.

The book, which took Lehto about a year to write, describes how the Turbine project came to be at Chrysler.

A group of rocket scientists employed by the struggling company built vehicles that had jet engines.

The engineers were not looking to advance the field of fuel efficiency, however.

The company simply wanted to make a name for itself.

"It was originally a huge P.R. stunt," Lehto said. "A lot of the newspaper articles that I found about the car were taken almost verbatim from press releases sent out by the company."

Chrysler announced that they would lend their Turbine cars out to people for a period of three months to be test-driven at no charge.

About 200 families took advantage of the offer over a two-year period.

However, the program was put in place before the nation would realize there would be pending problems with dependence on foreign oil.

Instead, the program was scrapped because of a different worry.

Deadly smog in Los Angeles, Pennsylvania and other urban areas caused citizens to pressure the government to place more strict regulations on automakers.

"The government was concerned about emissions standards at the time," Lehto said. "The emissions concerns killed the program."

Today, there are nine Turbine cars still in existence, including one at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills.

Lehto's first book, "Bobby Isaac: What Speed Looks Like," is about the former NASCAR champion.

For more information about Lehto's novels, visit <http://www.turbineauto.com>.

# They're Grrreat!



In this photo provided by the Kellogg Co., factory employees are shown packing boxes of Corn Flakes in Battle Creek in 1922. The cereal maker marks its 100th anniversary on Feb. 19, 2006.

## Cereal giant to turn 100

By JAMES PRICHARD  
The Associated Press

BATTLE CREEK — It was 1894, and the chief physician at the Battle Creek Sanatorium and his younger brother were experimenting in the hospital's kitchen, trying to create a better-tasting replacement for the nutritious but bland bread served to patients.

Instead, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg and William Keith Kellogg ended up accidentally inventing flaked cereal. The discovery eventually led the business-savvy "W.K." Kellogg to establish what is now the Kellogg Co., which marks its 100th anniversary on Feb. 19.

anniversary on Feb. 19.

Company leaders say W.K. Kellogg's belief in the health benefits of exercise and a vegetarian, grain-based diet benefits confirmed decades later by modern research continue to drive Kellogg Co. to improve product nutrition as it enters its second century.

"The vision that he had for the company of products that have good nutritional value, that people really enjoy eating, that are convenient, a good value, is as relevant now maybe even more relevant now than it was back then," says Jim Jenness, chairman and chief executive officer of the company, which is still based in Battle Creek.

The business has grown into the world's largest maker of ready-to-eat cereals, with net sales of \$10.2 billion in 2005. Its products, including Rice Krispies and Special K cereals, Eggo frozen waffles and Keebler cookies, are marketed in more than 180 countries.

Like its largest U.S. competitors —

General Mills Inc., Kraft Foods Inc. (makers of Post cereals) and PepsiCo Inc. (Quaker Foods) — Kellogg has long emphasized the importance of good nutrition in its cereals and other breakfast products, fortifying them with vitamins, minerals and fiber.

But with growing concerns about obesity, heart disease, and cancer in the U.S., cereal makers are in a race to find new ways to improve the nutritional value of their products and new ways to market them.

In fall 2004, General Mills, the nation's No. 2 cereal maker, announced that all of its cereals would be made from whole-grain flour, which is healthier than the wheat flour or refined corn meal used in most cereals.

Last December, Kellogg announced that it will start using oil this year made from genetically modified soybeans in place of the partially hydrogenated oil and saturated fats found in some of its crackers and snacks.

GUBERNATORIAL RACE

## Granholm leads probable opponent

The Associated Press  
LANSING — With about nine months before voters go to the polls, Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm continues to lead likely challenger Republican Dick DeVos, according to a recent poll.

The poll conducted by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA showed Granholm with 53 percent, DeVos with 36 percent and 11 percent undecided, pollster Ed Sarpolus said Sunday.

The survey of 600 likely Michigan voters was conducted Jan. 15-25 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4

percentage points.

In November, an EPIC/MRA poll of 600 likely Michigan voters showed Granholm leading DeVos 58 percent to 35 percent, with 7 percent undecided.

That poll also had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Granholm is seeking her second term in the November election.

DeVos, of Ada, is a former president of Altacor Inc. parent company of Amway Corp.

His wife, Betsy DeVos, is former chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party.

How do you plan to vote this November? Who do you think would make a better governor?  
E-mail your thoughts to [editor@oakpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oakpostonline.com).

### A brief look at the Kellogg Company timeline



Oakland University's

## Student Affairs

144 Oakland Center

### STUDENT LIAISON TO THE OU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2006-2008

Now accepting applications/nominations. The role of the student liaison is to serve as a source to the Board in decisions regarding student issues. Term of office is one or two academic years, beginning July 1. Must be in good academic standing (2.5 GPA or higher), have earned 56 undergraduate credits (28 from OU) or 18 graduate credits (9 from OU). Must not hold any other elected campus office, have a record of service to the campus or community, and no record of disciplinary action. Applications available at Student Affairs, 144 Oakland Center. Call 248-370-4200 for more information. Deadline is March 31, 2006.

### New Student Programs

#### NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS FIRST-YEAR TRANSITION WORKSHOPS

Time Management.  
Wednesday, February 15, 5 PM,  
Lake Michigan Rm, OC.

New Student Programs is searching for Peer Leaders to serve as co-facilitators of the COM 101 course in Fall 2006. Applicants must have junior or senior standing in Fall 2006 and have a cumulative GPA of 2.8. Applications are -

available in New Student Programs (121 North Foundation Hall) or online at [www.oakland.edu/newstudents](http://www.oakland.edu/newstudents) (Under "Leadership Opportunities") and are due on Friday, March 10, 2006 by 5 PM. For more information, contact New Student Programs at (248) 370-4418 or [nsp@oakland.edu](mailto:nsp@oakland.edu).

### CAMPUS RECREATION

Celebrate recreation with us by participating in **Rec Sport and Fitness Day** on Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 4-8pm. Former NFL player Lomas Brown will be on hand to sign autographs! Compete in a 3-point shootout, hockey slap shot competition and an obstacle course. Win some great prizes, have fun and enjoy being active.

### Friday Night Live!

David Dyer has been performing stand up for 13 years. He headlined at clubs and colleges all over the country and for businesses and organizations of all sizes. He worked with some of the best performers in the industry including Drew Carey, Lewis Black, Kathleen Madigan, and Bob Zany. He contributed material to ABC's Politically Incorrect and The Zany Report performed by Bob Zany on The Bob and Tom Show. In the past, he won The Grand Rapids Magazine Comedy Joke Off, a competition that put him up against several other comedians as well as the top radio talent in West Michigan. Michael Kosta might remind you more of your smart-aleck best friend than a seasoned comedian, but rest assured his comedic talents have quickly established him as an up-and-coming star. As a finalist in this year's Michigan Comedy Survivor competition, judges described him as having the quirkiness of Daniel Tosh and the stage presence of Dane Cook. Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Michael's take on relationships with independent women, elderly parents, internet dating, and the Catholic Church are unique, fresh and hilarious. Utilizing a high energy, gregarious delivery and playful narcissism Michael Kosta involves his audiences without making anyone feel uncomfortable.

### Aquatic Center—Learn to Swim

Registration is now open for the Learn to Swim program. Classes have just begun and are held on Wednesday or Saturday (depending on the class level). For additional information contact Liz Groth at 248-370-4532.

### No Time to Workout?

Working out does not have to take more than 45 minutes. The Rec has devised a program called Short Circuit geared toward the individual that wants a quality workout in a short amount of time. Our fitness staff is on site to help you with any questions about our cardio or weight machines. Come talk to our helpful fitness staff or call Marc at 248-370-4911 for more information.

DAVID DYER (Michael Kosta opens)  
February 17, 7 PM,  
Vandenberg Dining Center  
Free admission and refreshments

**Be nice ...**

It's Random Acts of Kindness Week! So go out of your way to do something thoughtful for a friend, family member, fellow student, faculty or staff member. Visit the Center for Student Activities office — 49 Oakland Center — to learn all about Kindness week events.

**Music, Theater and Dance**

**"Syncopation"** is a romantic comedy playing at Meadow Brook Theatre. The play, set in New York, was written by Allan Knee, author of the play that served as a basis for "Finding Neverland" starring Johnny Depp. Show times for the weekend are: Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

**Now Playing ...**

and 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.mbtheatre.com>.

**Events**

David Dyer, along with guest Michael Kosta, highlights **Friday Night Live** this week at 7 p.m. in

the Vandenberg Dining Center. Dyer has been performing comedy for 13 years and has contributed to ABC's "Politically Incorrect."

**Rock for Change** is a benefit concert hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Center. The concert takes place Friday from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

**Movies**

The following films will be released Friday:

- "Date Movie" (PG-13)
- "Eight Below" (PG)
- "Freedomland" (R)
- "Neil Young: Heart of Gold" (PG)
- "Tamara" (R)
- "Tristram Shandy: A Cock & Bull Story" (R)

Still craving more romance after Valentine's Day? **Meadow Brook Hall** offers a romantic dinner and a movie combination.

For \$30 per person, make a reservation to enjoy a three-course dinner while you watch a movie in the Meadow Brook Hall ballroom. **"Breakfast at Tiffany's"** is playing Thursday and Saturday at 7 p.m.



Students dressed in formal gowns and suits line up to dance the Macarena in the ballroom of Meadow Brook Hall. Approximately 300 students attended the ball Saturday night.

DAN WILKINSON / The Oakland Post



DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post



DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post

## A Touch of Class

### Students dress to impress at the Meadow Brook Ball

By ALICIA SOSSI  
Assistant Features Editor

Jeans and tennis shoes are the norm for typical college students. But Saturday night at the Meadow Brook Ball, Oakland University students proved they know how to dress up just as well as they dress down.

The ball took place at Meadow Brook Hall, giving a natural aura of class, romance and sophistication to the already formal and dressy occasion.

Most women wore gowns, many of them still intact from a high school homecoming or prom, and the men dressed in suits and ties.

Students enjoyed dancing in the ballroom and feasted on an elaborate assortment of desserts, such as chocolate-covered strawberries, as well as cheese, breads and other finger foods.

There were many additional activities at the sold-out ball, including Texas Hold 'Em, a Chinese calligrapher, psychic readings and a caricature artist.

Guests were free to roam about many of the mansion's rooms, and they mingled with fellow students throughout hallways and living areas on self-guided tours.

Pamela Klueck, a junior majoring in piano performance, brought her boyfriend to the ball. For Klueck and her boyfriend, Michael Whitworth, the ball has become a tradition.

"I think this is just great. It's our third year and we look forward to the ball every year," Klueck said, as she and Whitworth posed for a picture near the entrance of the mansion.

"It's so great that such a place is part of this college campus," Whitworth said.

Dennay Lay, a junior English major, and her boyfriend Bob Bedard, a senior majoring in psychology, also made sure to attend the ball.

"We loved it last year and wanted to come again this year," said Bedard, as he and Lay sat on the mansion's red-carpeted stairs.

The ball is presented by the Meadow Brook Ball Committee, along with Meadow Brook Hall, Continental Cregar and the Student Activities Funding Board.

Heather Mulrenan, a junior in the pre-med program, poses for the camera with her boyfriend, Patrick Winkel, a junior majoring in environmental health.

Jessica Bianchini shows off her dress while taking a break from a poker game with her boyfriend Brandon Burskey. "The ball gives us a chance to interact with other students," Bianchini said.



DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post

Heidi Barbe and her boyfriend Mark Agnetti show off their Sunday best at the ball. "These pearls are my mom's. They look classy with black," said Barbe, a junior biology major.



DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post

Sarah Martin, a sophomore biology major, poses with her date, Nick Gauthier, a junior majoring in wellness and health promotion. "I got this dress in Indiana and used it for prom a couple years ago," said Martin of her flowery gown.



**MOVIE REVIEW**

"Freedomland," starring Samuel L. Jackson and Julianne Moore, comes out Friday. Here's what one reviewer thought of the film.

(AP) — "Freedomland" clearly was an important film for Joe Roth — so important that the esteemed Hollywood executive decided he had to direct it himself.

Sadly for Roth and stars Samuel L. Jackson and Julianne Moore, "Freedomland" will be inconsequential to audiences. The movie has nothing insightful to say about the social issues it tackles — racial unrest, police authoritarianism, the tragic outcomes that can arise from the pressures of single parenting.

A story that tries and fails in its examination of meaningful matters should at least be decent drama. But "Freedomland" is an exercise in bleakness and tedium occasionally broken up by shrill clashes between the two leads and poorly staged, stereotypical confrontations

between white cops and black citizens.

Former Disney and 20th Century Fox studio boss Roth is the founder of Revolution Studios, whose films include "Black Hawk Down," "Anger Management" and Roth's last directing effort, "America's Sweethearts."

From that feeble romance and "Freedomland," along with Roth's earlier stabs at directing ("Coupe de Ville," "Streets of Gold," "Revenge of the Nerds II"), it's clear Roth's talents are best put to use behind a desk rather than behind a camera.

Adapted by Richard Price from his own novel, "Freedomland" opens with a promisingly moody title-credits sequence in which Moore meanders in distracted confusion through the tough black housing projects of a New Jersey town bordering on a blue-collar white enclave.

Moore's Brenda Martin ends up at a hospital emergency room, treated for cuts and bruises and claiming she's a victim of a carjacking by a black man. After police detective Lorenzo Council (Jackson) shows up to take her

**Mixin' it up ...**

statement, Brenda spills the beans: Her 4-year-old son was asleep in the back seat of the car and now is missing.

Minutes into the movie, this discovery is followed by bellowing between Moore and Jackson that's so shriekingly over-the-top, "Freedomland" never recovers.

White police storm-troop into the neighborhood to find Brenda's boy and nab his abductor, while terrorized black residents respond with rage. Roth seems to be using the carrot-and-blow-torch method of directing, rewarding actors for their excess and scorching their bottoms to elicit more frenzied performances when they're not yelling loudly enough.

Eddie Falco of "The Sopranos" is one of the few actors who remains under control as a woman leading a parents' group that hunts for missing children. Too bad her character is so even-keeled and dull.

Other principal cast members — Anthony Mackie, Aunjanue Ellis, William Forsythe and Ron Eldard — are left stumbling about in occasional walk-ons between the long, talky exchanges involving Jackson and Moore.

"Freedomland" flits clumsily between these interludes, which feel as though they've been lifted from a two-character stage play, and the chaos in the streets.

Hanging over the whole affair are Lorenzo's doubts about the veracity of Brenda's story, the drama playing out limply, with no sense of revelation or relevance to the racial rifts her situation has exposed.

At one point, a character exhorts another to "do the right thing," a blunt reminder of how powerful a story of urban strife can be in the right hands. Joe Roth is a savvy producer of commercial flicks, but as a director, he's no Spike Lee.

"Freedomland," released by Sony's Columbia Pictures, is rated R for language and some violent content. Running time: 112 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.



Do you have a cute picture or story about your pet that you would like to see in the paper? Send your anecdote in a Word document along with a photo to [editor@oakpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oakpostonline.com). Entries will be featured in our March 8 issue.

Do you have a question about health, business or environmental issues? Do you need advice on dating, relationships or style? Send your inquiries to [editor@oakpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oakpostonline.com), and we'll answer your questions with the help of local experts.

HEALTH

# McDonald's: Fries have more trans fat

By DAVE CARPENTER  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — McDonald's french fries just got fatter — by nutritional measurement.

The world's largest restaurant chain said last week its fries contain a third more trans fats than it previously knew, citing results of a new testing method it began using in December.

That means the level of potentially artery-clogging trans fat in a portion of large fries is eight grams, up from six, with total fat increasing to 30 grams from 25.

Often used by restaurants and in packaged foods, trans fats are thought to cause cholesterol problems and increase the risk of heart disease.

The dietary guidelines for Americans that were issued by a government panel last year said people should consume as little trans fat as possible.

The disclosure comes as McDonald's Corp. starts rolling

out packaging for its menu items that contain facts about their nutritional content — a move made voluntarily but with the fast-food industry under pressure from consumer groups and the government to provide more information.

McDonald's said it updated the nutrition info on its Web site last month as soon as it discovered the new level of trans fat.

It explained the increase by saying an improvement in the testing process has made results more accurate.

"As part of our ongoing voluntary efforts to provide our customers with the best science-based information, we continually enhance our testing," said Cathy Kapica, global nutrition director for Oak Brook, Ill.-based McDonald's.

Michael Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, called the change "quite a dramatic increase."

He renewed the nonprofit health advocacy group's call for McDonald's and other fast-food chains to make healthier food — and for the Food and Drug Administration to ban the use of partially hydrogenated oil, the source of trans fat.

Trans fat is made when manufacturers add hydrogen to vegetable oil — a process called hydrogenation.

"Nutritionally it's a disastrous product," Jacobson said of the fries. "McDonald's could fry in canola oil or other liquid oil" as it does in other countries, he said.

McDonald's has been reluctant to risk changing the taste of its iconic french fries.

It pledged in September 2002 to switch to a new oil that would halve the level of harmful trans fatty acid in its fries.

But it has delayed those plans, citing product quality and customer satisfaction as priorities while continuing testing.



McDonald's recently said its fries contain a third more trans fat than it previously knew.

Associated Press file photo

## Scientists find T. rex's earliest known ancestor

NEW YORK — Scientists have found the oldest known tyrannosaur, a primitive ancestor of the Tyrannosaurus rex. The two skeletons they unearthed shed light on the lineage that produced T. rex, revealing a creature that lived some 160 million years ago. A two-legged meat-eater with a puzzling crest on its head, the beast was far smaller than its celebrity descendant, measuring about 10 feet from its snout to the tip of its tail and standing about 3 feet tall at the hip. It also sported relatively long, three-fingered arms, rather than the two-fingered stubby arms T. rex had. Scientists suspect it had feathers because related dinosaurs did. The researchers named the creature Guanlong wucaii, from the Chinese words for "crown" and "dragon," referring to the crest on its head, and for "five colors," from the multi-hued badlands where the creature was found.

— Malcom Ritter, The Associated Press

## MySpace: A new star hits the Web

By ANICK JESDANUN  
AP Internet Writer

NEW YORK — The Internet has a rising star whose name isn't Google.

Just over two years old, MySpace now has 2 1/2 times the traffic of Google Inc., and it quickly eclipsed Friendster as the top social-networking site where users build larger and larger circles of friends.

MySpace learned from predecessors and figured out the right tools to package.

And when its founders noticed heavy usage among musicians and fans, MySpace embraced that community with custom features.

College students, meanwhile, can rate their professors and find classmates or alumni.

Others play games, view classified ads,

send online party invitations or rate the brave on how "hot" they are.

Sure, none of these features is unique, but what's the point of going elsewhere if your friends are already on MySpace?

Instead of just using e-mail and instant messaging, students can also keep in touch with many friends simply by posting bulletins on their personal MySpace page, known as a profile.

There, friends can send private messages or post a public comment; they can see each other's photo albums or read their Web journals, called blogs.

The free, ad-supported site has gotten so popular among teens — a quarter of its users are registered as minors — that parents, schools and law enforcement officials have taken notice, warning of sexual predators and other dangers.

The U.S.-heavy site now wants to expand internationally and on wireless devices, and it is adding such features as video-sharing to become more like a Web portal.

"We want people to stay on MySpace," said Tom Anderson, its president. "We'll give them whatever they might want to do."

### What do you think?

Do you use MySpace? How does it play into your daily life? E-mail editor@oakpostonline.com.

### TECHNOLOGY'S EFFECT ON EVERYDAY LIFE

## Michigan site logs 10 million views a month

By DAVE FROWNFELDER  
The Daily Telegram

ADRIAN, Mich. — "Ipsa scientia potestas est" (knowledge itself is power) is the motto for Sploofus.

The brainchild of Justin Morton of Adrian, Sploofus.com is a Web site packed with trivia quizzes and information. "Sploofus is a product of my love for computer programming and my passion for learning about the world and the people in it," said Morton, 30. "It is a forum for people from around the globe to come together, ask questions, learn new things and be passionate about knowledge."

The site has even caught the attention of representatives at VH1 and Viacom, who have asked Morton's help in casting a trivia reality show. Launched in the spring of 2004,

Sploofus.com has nearly 10,000 daily subscribers, about three-quarters of whom live in the U.S. Morton said the site has more than 10 million page views per month. There is no cost to join. The trivia doesn't concern only television, music and movies, he said. Sploofus trivia is also about science, hobbies, literature, religion and sports.

The database contains more than 800,000 trivia questions with quizzes and word games included.

Morton said he was contacted recently by representatives from VH1 and Viacom to help in casting their upcoming trivia reality show, The World Series of Pop Culture.

Even though the site has members all around the world, the quizzes, at this point, are only in English. Morton hopes to one day be able to offer them in different languages.

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HEALTH

## Mmm! Smelling good may mean it's good for you

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — That fresh grassy smell wafting up from the newly sliced tomato may be its way of saying "I'm good for you."

Indeed, the odors from foods ranging from garlic and onions to ginger and strawberries may be nutritional signals that the human nose has learned to recognize. "Studies of flavor preferences and aversions suggest that flavor perception may be linked to the nutritional or health value" of foods, researchers Stephen A. Goff and

Harry J. Klee report in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

However, they caution, domestication of many vegetables has not been kind to them, tending to favor qualities like color, shape, yield and disease resistance instead of flavor and nutrition.

Flavor is complex and uniquely challenging to plant breeders, they note, and as a result has not been a high priority. Take the tomato, for instance.

Klee and Goff analyzed two types of tomato, the wild *cerasiforme* and the commercially grown *Flora-Duke*.

Except for one chemical that also

affects color, the sugars, organic acids and volatile compounds associated with tomato flavor were reduced in the commercial product.

For example, one of the volatile compounds associated with the "tomato" or "grassy" flavor is called *cis-3-Hexenal*, which is also an indicator of fatty acids that are essential to the human diet.

They found that the wild tomato contained more than three times the amount of that chemical than the cultivated version.

Two other contributors to tomato flavor — 2- and 3-methylbutanal —

He said, she said ...

"It seemed like everyone was setting themselves up for something impossible. It's like they were seeing that one day as a referendum on their whole romantic life."

—Bennett Madison, Author

are indicators of the presence of essential amino acids and are also three times more common in the wild tomato.

In addition to tomatoes, those chemicals are also important constituents of the flavors of apples, strawberries, bread, cheese, wine and beer, they reported.

Goff and Klee also noted that the scent compounds produced in many spices are associated with health properties. For example, curcumin, which is present in turmeric, is reported to have anti-inflammatory properties, compounds in ginger have antiox-

idants and there are antimicrobial chemicals that contribute to the scent of onions, garlic, rosemary, sage, clove, mustard, chili peppers and thyme.

"A preference for the flavors found in these spices is believed to have developed due to the health benefit of less contaminated food," they conclude.

The odors of the compounds are of particular interest because they are a major factor in how taste of foods is perceived. The human tongue senses just five flavors — sweet, sour, salty, bitter and umami, sometimes called savory — and scent provides considerable added information about a food.

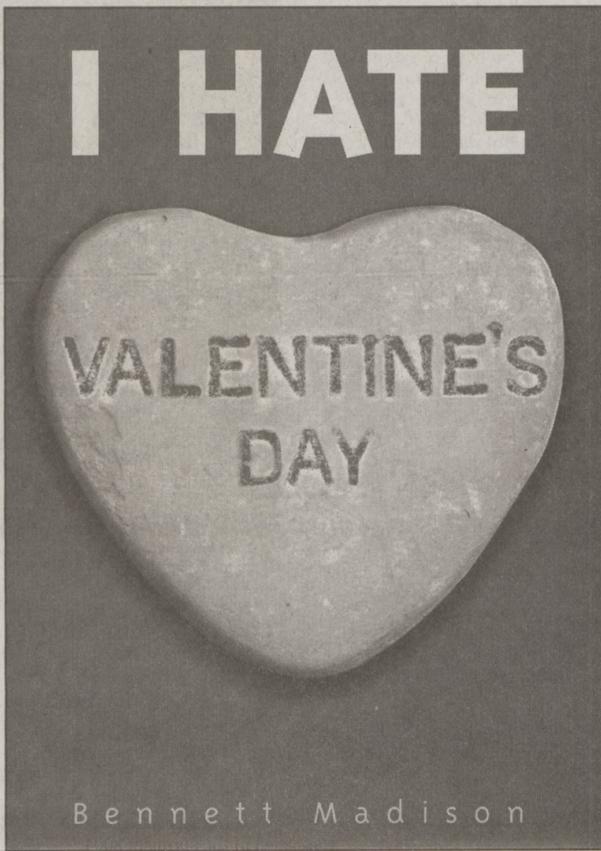
### MY ROTTEN VALENTINE

This photo supplied by Simon Spotlight Entertainment shows the cover of Bennett Madison's book, "I Hate Valentine's Day." Madison, a 25-year-old New York receptionist, says Valentine's Day causes stress. Madison says he wrote the book because "all my friends were complaining about Valentine's Day. Even people who were really self-confident. It seemed like everyone was setting themselves up for something impossible. It's like they were seeing that one day as a referendum on their whole romantic life."

The Associated Press

#### How was your Valentine's Day?

If you had an unpleasant Valentine's Day and would like to share it with The Post, e-mail us your story at editor@oakpostonline.com



### Study finds huge gap between male, female characters in G-rated movies

By DAVID GERMAIN  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Male characters outnumbered females 3-to-1 overall in top-grossing G-rated films from 1990 to 2004, according to a study whose sponsors say the disparity diminishes the importance of women in children's eyes.

"We're showing kids a world that's very scantily populated with women and female characters," said actress Geena Davis, founder of See Jane, a program of the advocacy group Dads & Daughters that encourages balanced gender representation in entertainment for children.

In the 101 animated and live-action films examined, 28 percent of speaking characters were female, and just 17 percent of people in crowd scenes were female, researchers found in the study released Thursday by See Jane.

"It's important for what kids watch that, as far as possible, they see the real world reflected, to see men and women, boys and girls, sharing the space," said Davis, co-star of the female-empowerment film "Thelma & Louise" and star of TV's "Commander in Chief" in which she plays the U.S. president. "They should see female characters taking up half the planet, which we do."

Davis and others involved with the study — titled "Where the Girls Aren't" — discussed

the findings at a forum Thursday night in Los Angeles.

They said they hope to use the research to push Hollywood toward giving female characters equal time on screen and encourage parents to vote with their wallets by choosing films offering balanced gender representation.

Spokesmen at Disney, which had the biggest share of films in the study, Paramount and Universal said studio executives declined to comment.

The results came as little surprise to researchers. Studies have found similar imbalances between male and female roles in films for adults and on TV shows, and anyone who channel-surfs or goes to the movies regularly knows anecdotally that men dominate the screen.

"There seems to be nothing new under the sun here," said Stacy Smith, associate professor at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communication, who oversaw the study. "The only thing different is it's G-rated films."

G-rated means: General audiences. All ages admitted.

Of the 101 films, 71 percent were animated or partly animated features. Among the films studied: "Finding Nemo," "The Lion King," "Monsters, Inc.," "Chicken Run," "The Princess Diaries," "Babe," "The Santa Clause 2" and "Toy Story."

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WBB Southern Utah 73, Centenary 61; Chicago State 66, IUPUI 63;

Western Illinois 55, UMKC 46

Days until OU hosts the first round of the NCAA tournament: 29

# Final doubleheader of the year

*Men bounced by UMKC; women extend home winning streak*

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

By SAMANTHA FRANZ  
Contributing Reporter

It was a season for the Oakland University record books. Only problem, it wasn't the kind of record the Golden Grizzlies had been hoping for. On an attendance record-setting night of 2,985 fans, OU dropped its final home game of the season with an 84-81 loss to UMKC, marking the first home-losing season of OU head coach Greg Kampe's 22 years at the helm.

"It's a hard thing to talk about because it's game after game," Kampe said referring to the way UMKC shot from the three-point line. "And we're a pretty good rebounding team. But for us, it's just unbelievable. I just don't understand it."

The game appeared to be a complete turnaround from the Oral Roberts blow out, as OU kept pace with the Kangaroos through 10 first-half ties and eight lead changes.

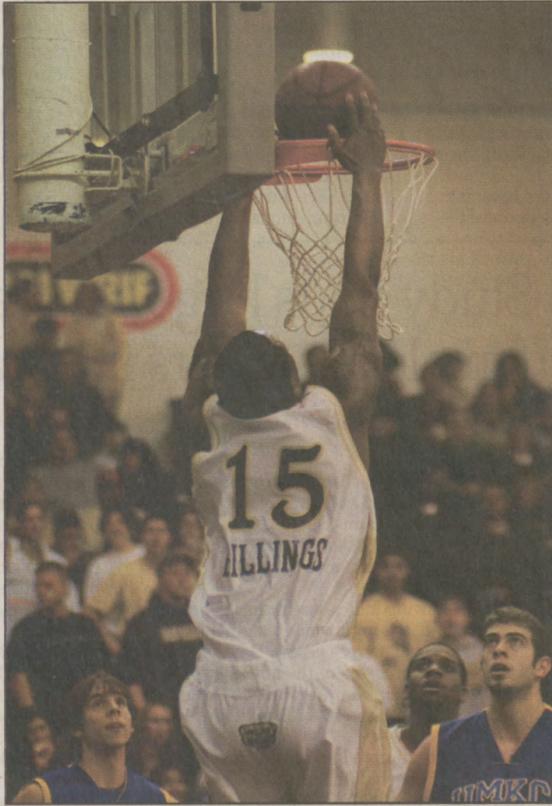
At the 7:14 mark, it appeared that OU was pulling away and pushed out to a nine-point lead on a 3-pointer by sophomore Brandon Cassise.

However, UMKC knocked down four 3-pointers, three of them by freshman Dane Brumagin, to reduce OU's lead to 46-44 going into half-time.

In the second half, OU saw their lead slip away with an early 3-pointer by sophomore Tim Blackwell at the 18:16 mark and OU didn't have another lead until 7:58 remaining in the game.

With 2:12 remaining, junior Vova Severovas made a key three-point play to pull OU within 82-81.

With 1:11 to go, UMKC junior Dee Ayuba sank a 3-pointer that put the Kangaroos ahead by three, 84-81. OU failed to tie the game as two



DANTE CIULLO/The Oakland Post

Junior Rick Billings dunks the ball in the first half of action against UMKC. OU lost the game 84-81 and ended its home season with a 6-7 record — the first losing season at home in the 22 years Greg Kampe has been head coach.

3-pointers by sophomore David Carson just missed with eight seconds remaining, letting UMKC escape with the victory.

This game marked the end of a rough three-game losing streak for OU, having lost to the first, second and third-ranked teams in the Mid-Con, putting the Golden Grizzlies at 4-9 in the Mid-Con and 9-16 overall.

On the UMKC side, Ayuba led both teams with 22 points, Blackwell added 16, junior Quinton Day scored 15, and sophomore Brent Stephens chipped in with 11.

For OU, four players finished the night in double figures. Billings scored 18 points, junior Calvin Wooten added 16, and Severovas ended his night with 15.

Cassise recorded a season-high in both in points, scoring 17, and in 3-pointers as he went 5-for-11 from behind the arc.

After the final buzzer, Kampe addressed the crowd, thanking them for their support throughout the season.

"We're a very young team," he said. "We've had our ups and downs, but come March, I think we have a chance."

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By SAMANTHA FRANZ  
Contributing Reporter

In the first game of the Feb. 11 doubleheader, Oakland University continued to shine at home as they extended the Mid-Continent Conference's second-longest home winning streak to five games as they defeated the University of Missouri-Kansas City, 87-65.

"We've been pretty good at home," senior Jayme Wilson said. "We have to take care of the home court."

Before the game tipped off, the Kangaroos and the Golden Grizzlies were tied for fifth place in the Mid-Con standings. But all five of OU's starters scoring in double figures proved to be too much for UMKC to handle.

OU was strong right out of the gate, as junior Nicole Piggott got things started with a 3-pointer and OU jumped out to a 5-0 lead. The Kangaroos kept up with the Golden Grizzlies for a while and were only down by one at the 14:53 mark.

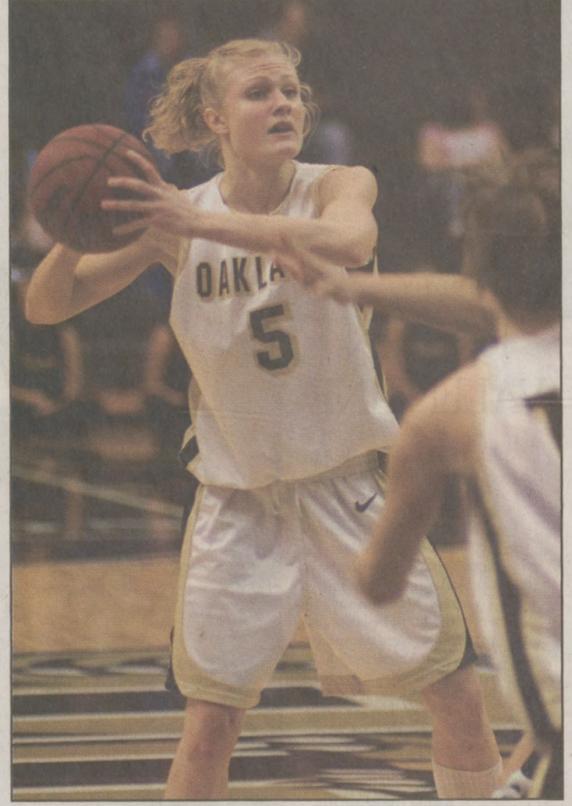
After falling way behind, UMKC pulled to within seven after a 3-pointer by sophomore Brittany Picconi.

However, a jump shot and a free throw by Wilson ended any chance of a single-digit deficit for the visiting Kangaroos.

After trailing, 47-32, at the half, UMKC just couldn't find their rhythm. OU led by as many as 25 points in the second half.

Picconi finished with 16 points and sophomore Alysa Klein added 12.

All five of OU's starters reached double-figures for the first time this season. Piggott led both teams with 21 points, Wilson had 18 points and five assists, junior Bonnie Baker scored 15, and senior Anne Hafeli ended her night with 10 points.



DANTE CIULLO/The Oakland Post

Junior Nicole Piggott, the Mid-Con Player of the Week, looks to pass the ball against UMKC Saturday. OU won the game 87-65 behind 21 points from Piggott. All five starters reached double-figures in the game.

Freshman April Kidd, who has replaced injured guard Riikka Terava, has certainly held her own. She finished the game with 11 points and grabbed six steals.

"Kidd brings a spark," Wilson said. "She's so quick and she's a big part of our defense."

Though individual players are playing well, Piggott likes to look at OU's success as a team effort.

"We're definitely starting to mesh more," she said. "There's more intensity, we're picking up the (defense) and everybody is contributing."

## Hafeli shoots down ORU

Monday night, with the score tied 70-70, senior Anne Hafeli nailed a runner at the buzzer to give OU the win, 72-70, over Oral Roberts. OU moves to 7-5 in the Mid-Con standings and is alone in fourth place. Junior Nicole Piggott finished with 19 points and Hafeli had 18 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Freshman April Kidd added eight points and four steals. OU trailed 70-68 as ORU went ahead on a pair of Rachel Watman free throws. On the next possession, senior Jayme Wilson made a jump shot with 39 seconds left to set up Hafeli's heroics in the final seconds.  
— Dustin Frucci, Sports Editor

## BASKETBALL

# Oral Roberts hands men worst Mid-Con loss ever

By SAMANTHA FRANZ  
Contributing Reporter

Ever have one of those days where it seems like there's a rain cloud constantly floating over your head? The analogy seems to have some merit for Oakland University as they kicked off their final home stand.

The Oral Roberts Golden Eagles steamrolled over OU, 90-53, Feb. 9 and the 37-point deficit marked the worst ever Mid-Continent Conference loss for OU. The loss dropped the Golden Grizzlies into seventh

place in the Mid-Con.

"We were trying to keep (Caleb) Green from going off inside," OU head coach Greg Kampe said, referring to the reigning Mid-Con Player of the Year. "It worked out, but we couldn't score."

Indeed, the visiting Golden Eagles were the team with the hot hand and it was a night for the record books. They shot 18-for-32 behind the three-point line, two shy of the school's all-time record.

ORU senior Chris Riouse surpassed his career-high by knocking down 32 points and

sinking a school-record 10 3-pointers. Coincidentally, the last time Riouse got a career-high in 3-pointers was against OU last January.

The game tipped off evenly enough, as neither team led by more than three points until the 14:06 mark, when junior Vova Severovas tied the game at 10. After that, the Golden Grizzlies entered a severe scoring drought and didn't register a field goal for more than seven minutes.

The drought gave the Golden Eagles plenty of time to give themselves a comfortable lead.

By the time OU got on the board again with a layup by junior Shawn Hopes, Oral Roberts was ahead by 12 points.

At halftime, the Golden Grizzlies were behind 40-18.

The second half didn't fare much better for OU. A 3-pointer by junior Calvin Wooten put the Golden Grizzlies within 18 in the early minutes of the second half, but sadly, that was as close as OU would get.

OU tried to keep with Oral Roberts behind the three-point line, but at 27 percent, they had no chance.

In addition to Riouse's career night, three other Golden Eagles scored in double figures. Senior Larry Owens scored 20 points and went 4-for-5 from the three-point line, sophomore Moses Ehambe put up 12 points, and junior Caleb Green chipped in 10.

Only one Golden Grizzly finished the night in double figures, and that was Wooten with 12 points. Severovas and Hopes were quiet in the second half.

"I know this is embarrassing, but we have to keep our heads up and move on to the

next game," Wooten said. "Some of the young guys are down, but I'll be on them."

In addition, Wooten, who racked up four fouls in the first half, managed to stay clean in the second half.

"I think he did a good job playing those last four minutes without a foul," Kampe said.

This game marked the sixth straight time ORU has defeated OU in the regular season and the third time in a row at the Oakland Athletics Center.

"We have to stay positive and pull a (win) from somewhere," Wooten said.

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