

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

JANUARY
18
— 2012 —



CAMPUS THEFT

Larceny reports
on the rise

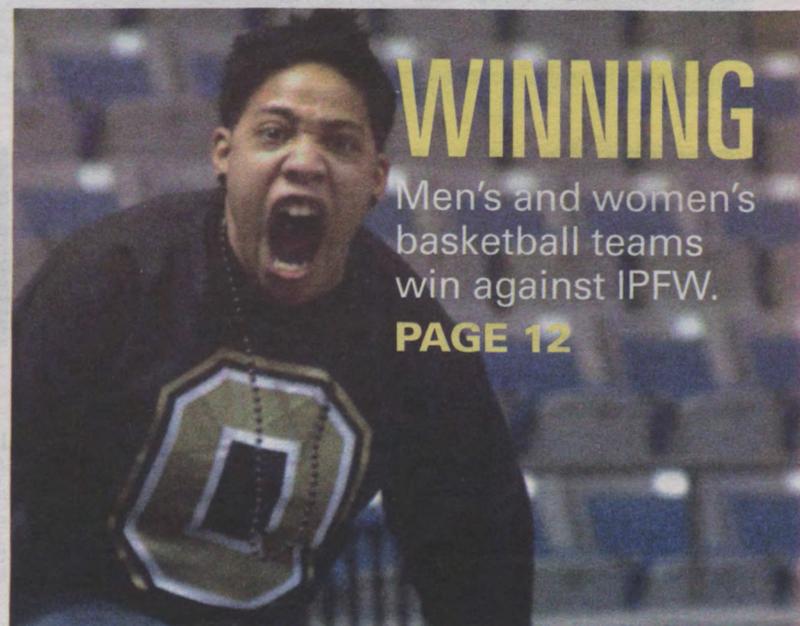
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RENOVATE

Exploring campus
renovations and
upcoming projects

PAGES 10 & 11



WINNING

Men's and women's
basketball teams
win against IPFW.

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KEEPER OF THE DREAM AWARD

PAGE 5

this week

January 18, 2012 // Volume 38. Issue 19



on the web

An exclusive first look at the new Human Health Building. Our reporters take you inside the construction site to see how the process is going.

www.oaklandpostonline.com

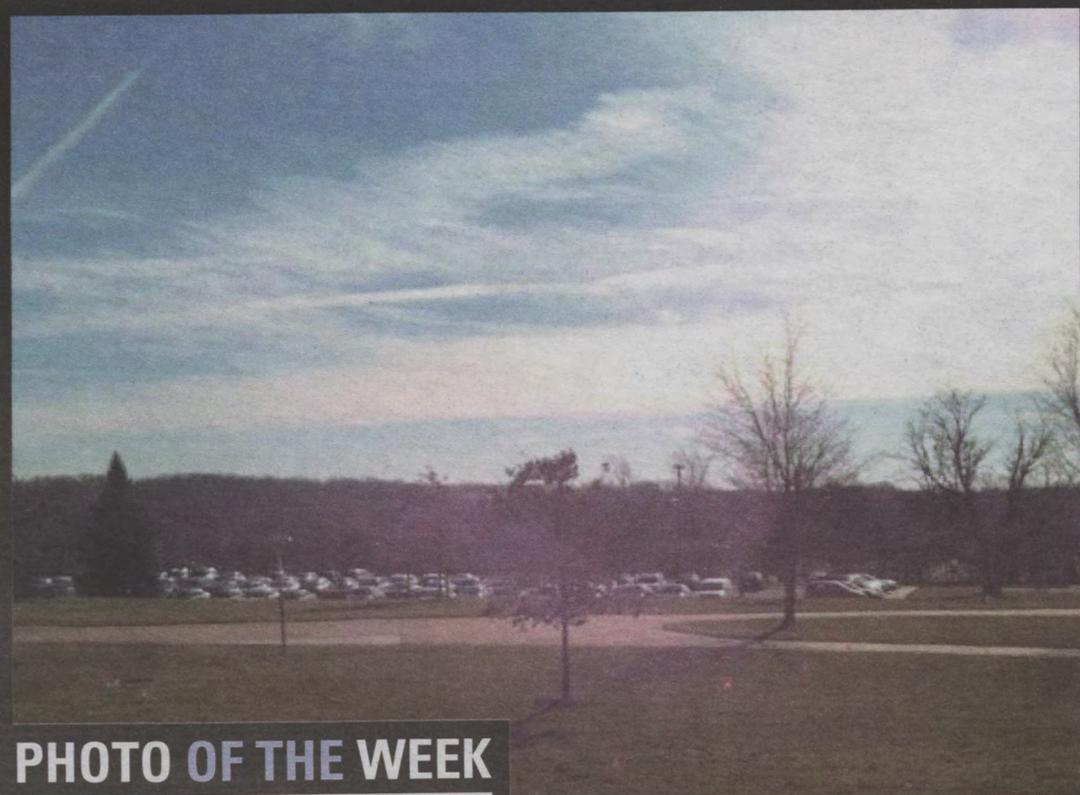


PHOTO OF THE WEEK

OAKLAND IN JANUARY // A view of the campus from outside of Elliott Hall in early January when the temperatures outside reached the mid-50s. Twitter user @lyssanstuff submitted her photo of the week by following and tweeting @theoaklandpost. Tweet us your photos and you may see it here. *Photo courtesy of Alyssa Kraus*

Submit a photo by e-mailing web@oaklandpostonline.com or tweeting @theoaklandpost for a chance to be featured.

POLL OF THE WEEK

What is the worst college job you have had?

- A Food service
- B Retail
- C Babysitting
- D Landscaping

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What is the worst building on campus as far as age and accessibility?

A) Hannah Hall

15 votes | 26%

B) Wilson Hall

5 votes | 9%

C) Vandenberg Hall

10 votes | 17%

D) Varner Hall

28 votes | 48%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JANUARY 20, 1967

The Academic Senate met to discuss adjusting the grading system, eliminating 4.1 and above to prevent confusion of grades on transcripts.

JANUARY 21, 1980

Physicist James Peebles of Princeton University visited OU to speak on the mysteries of the universe. He predicted that in 10,000 years, the universe may collapse on itself and create a black hole.

JANUARY 22, 2003

A student crashed her car through the concrete and marble OU sign located at University Drive and Squirrel Road. The student sustained minor cuts and bruises in the accident.



5

CAMPUS

The campus community gathered to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. by honoring three students who embraced MLK's dream by promoting diversity and peace.



15

LOCAL

A local Rochester Hills winery showcases a series of collaborative artwork done by two Michigan artists in an exhibit called "An Eye for an Eye."



18

LIFE

A student musician co-founded a nonprofit organization called "Forever Adventure" which focuses on providing and aiding young adults in their pursuits of the arts.

BY THE NUMBERS

4,055

largest men's basketball crowd in the history of the O'Rena

83

number of words in the OU fight song

19

number of banners hanging in the O'Rena rafters

114

the most points scored by OU in a men's basketball game

8

number men's and women's swimmers to receive Division 1 All-American Honors since 1998

STAFF EDITORIAL

Increase in campus crime calls for extra precautions

In last week's issue, we reported that Oakland University was the fourth safest college campus in Michigan. A week later, we are not so sure we've held on to those bragging rights.

In an ironic twist of fate, last week all hell broke loose on the OU campus.

For whatever reason, there were multiple cases of crime reported to the OU Police Department on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Aside from a non-student pulling a knife on a group of students at a party over the weekend, there were several larcenies reported throughout campus. One case was right next-door at WXOU, where two laptops were stolen in broad daylight.

With the increase in crime, Grizzlies need to remember to use caution on campus (or in any public place for that matter).

OU is a public campus with a constant stream of students and non-students walking around. Just because our campus is located in Rochester doesn't mean there aren't sketchy individuals looking to snatch up your valuables.

Despite the fact we all get along well at The Oakland Post, we still lock up our laptops and other valuables

With the increase in crime, Grizzlies need to remember to use caution on campus (or in any public place for that matter).

before leaving our office. With the amount of people that walk through our doors each day, we can never be too sure.

So, instead of leaving computers on tables while you go grab lunch in the food court, bring your stuff with you.

Yeah, you may lose a seat, but that's a far less significant loss than a laptop or other expensive items.

The same goes for your residence. Rather than running out of your dorm without locking the door, stop being lazy and take an extra 30 seconds to secure all of your belongings.

Also, neglecting to lock your cars doors is possibly even more ignorant, since it's a lot easier for thieves to slip in and out within the sea of cars.

If it is absolutely necessary to leave valuables in your vehicle, just remember the saying "out of sight, out of mind." Lock it in the trunk.

When you are responsible for your things, it saves

everyone at the police department a lot of time and energy.

With the tanking economy, there is an increase of crime all around the nation — not just around campus.

It's a good idea to be mindful of your environment in any public situation.

If you know that you'll be on campus after dark, try to park near a well-lit area. In addition, when you're walking to your car at night, use the buddy system and walk with a group of friends.

Just keep in mind, if you ever feel threatened or scared, it's OK to give OUPD a call. They'll give you an escort, no questions asked.

On that note, reporting any suspicious people or activity to OUPD can possibly prevent future crime.

If someone looks out of the ordinary, we encourage you to speak up, no matter how stupid you think it is.

We just think it's important for people to be aware of their surroundings, since unfortunately, we can't trust everyone who sets foot on our campus. Just use some common sense.

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

Corrections Corner

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

- In last week's story "Hiring the Experts" the woman who appeared in the photo with Provost Moudgil should have been identified as Chelsey Webber.

Letters to the Editor

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



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EDITORIAL

Consider accessibility when making decisions

Recent building developments have helped buildings, but have ignored disabled students

This week, The Oakland Post has highlighted a range of recent or upcoming construction projects on campus grounds.

While I have no doubt that the administration intends for the buildings to be beautiful and benefit the academic experience here, they really need to worry about taking care of some of the basic problems around campus first.

As a disabled student on campus, I sometimes wonder if the administration takes accessibility into account when making decisions.

I came to campus this semester on a day when the only thing open was Barnes & Noble. That's fine — I don't expect Oakland University to be open over the holidays. My problem stems from the entrance they picked for the bookstore.

They opened the north entrance which is really just a landing. You have to go down a flight of stairs to get to the bookstore, which was not going to work with my wheelchair.

Granted I was on campus during break and I'm willing to concede that I would not run into this issue every day, but there are other barriers on campus that the disabled community at OU puts up with on a regular basis.

For those of you who are unaware, the offices of The Oakland Post are located in the basement of the Oakland Center. As a staff reporter, I spend a significant amount of time on this lower level.

One of the first things I take note of when I go somewhere is where accessible emergency exits are — you just never know what can happen.

The only exit from the basement of the Oakland Center leads to an enclosed concrete patio from which the only escape is a flight of multiple steps. This is not only inconvenient but poses a safety hazard.

A less dangerous, but no less frustrating case, is South Foundation Hall. There is a button to operate an automatic door which takes you into a lobby with an elevator.

However, the classrooms on the first



KEVIN GRAHAM
staff reporter

floor are on the other side of a double door that has no button. This means that me and my fellow students in the disabled community, must rely on someone else to be around to open the door.

Sometimes a door has a button, but someone has forgotten to turn it on that day. A simple oversight, sure, but it's especially frustrating because the functionality is already there.

The parking lot, a common frustration among students, lacks handicapped spaces.

Some of this responsibility falls on the students as well. Please don't borrow your grandmother's handicapped sticker and use it if you don't need to. Trust me, it's better for all concerned if I'm not trying to traverse multiple lanes of parking lot traffic in my chair to get to my van.

Finally, there are very few unisex family bathrooms scattered throughout the campus. The handicapped stalls in the men's and women's bathrooms are plenty big enough.

Nevertheless, there are times when someone might need to answer nature's call with the help of an aide of the opposite gender. When this happens, we would rather not endure the weird looks that occur when you walk out of the wrong bathroom.

I think I should close this by saying that overwhelmingly, my interactions with the university regarding my disability have been positive.

The people at Disability Support Services always have a smile and are willing to help. They need to have more input when it comes to the construction projects that go on around the university though.

I have a simple request: fix the problems you have before creating something new.

Kevin Graham is a staff reporter at The Oakland Post and has been in a wheelchair his entire life.

Email him at kpgraham@oakland.edu or follow him on Twitter @KevinGraham88

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The renovations to the Oakland Center were not pointless, they were necessary

Richard Feckel
Director, Oakland Center

Regarding the Oakland Post staff editorial "Focus More on Students, Less on Creating Buildings" dated Jan. 11, I would like to clarify why portions of the Oakland Center exterior were rebuilt.

Cast stone materials used on the west and south sides of the building failed, allowing rain water to enter occupied areas of the building.

Moisture was also seeping into the sign wall which ended up causing damage to structural components.

In order to correct the problem, it was necessary to repair water damage and replace stone materials.

A great deal of effort went into identifying cost effective options to correct deficiencies and retain the original architectural design intent of the building.

Regarding the east entrance improvements the entry system was at the end of its lifecycle.

The new entry provides a welcoming atmosphere to the building and provides improved safety and handicap accessibility.

No tuition dollars were spent on this project.

Have an opinion on something?

Let us know how you feel about any of our stories, photos or general coverage by submitting letters to the editor.

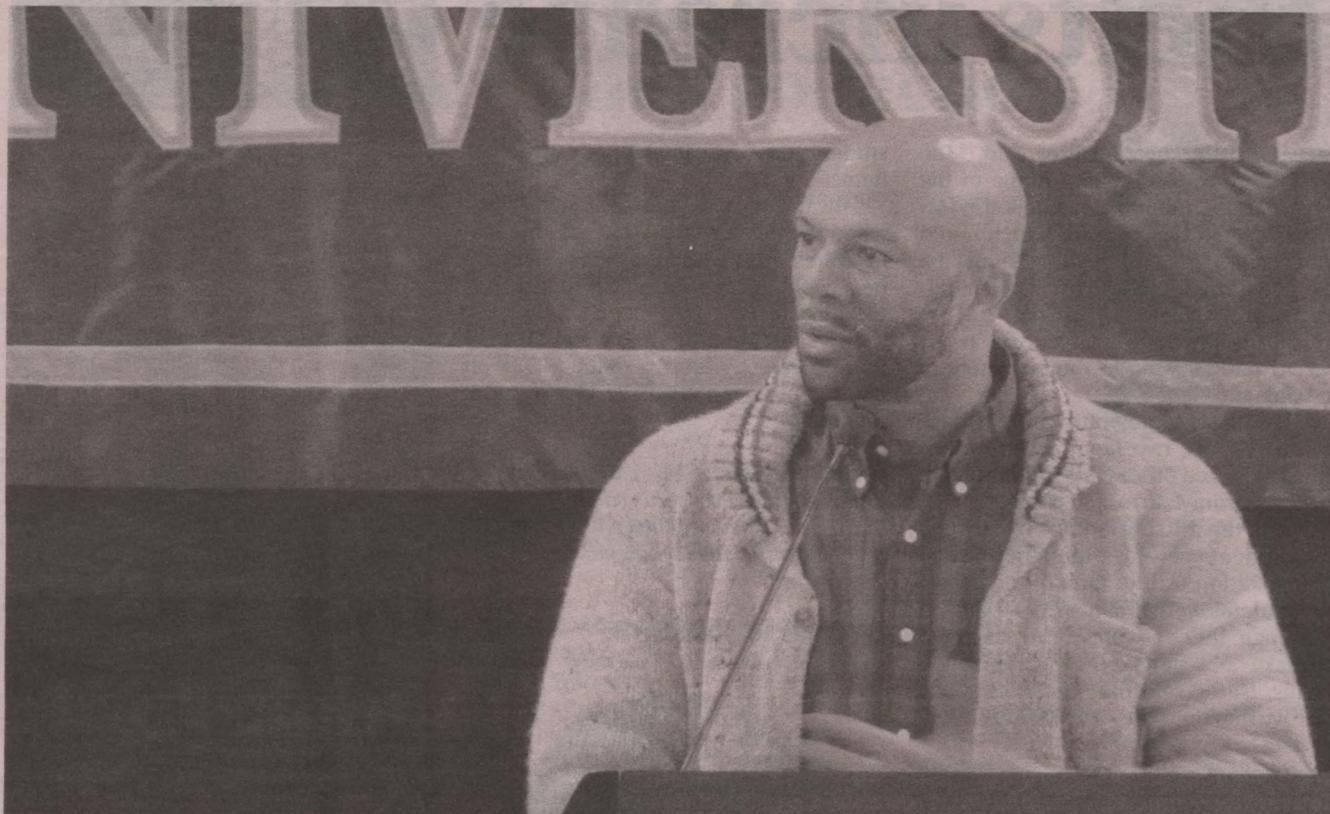
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Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

Submit an opinion column to
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
and you could see it in print.

Be sure to provide contact information,
class standing and field of study.



SARAH HUNTON / The Oakland Post

Rapper, author and activist, Common was the keynote speaker for the KOD celebration. His speech attracted many to the MLK Day event.

Students win Keeper of the Dream scholarships

Three students win Keeper of the Dream award due to their efforts to promote diversity on campus.

By Sarah Hunton
Campus Editor

On Monday at 9:15 a.m., a crowd began forming around the West entrance of the Oakland Center to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the 20th annual Keeper of the Dream Celebration.

The KOD award is granted each year to students "who have contributed to interracial understanding and good will," according to the Center for Multicultural Initiatives. This year's recipients were international relations major Benjamin Eveslage, biology major Subha Hanif and graduate counselling student Tara Michener. Each won a \$5,000 scholarship.

The celebration opened with a video of MLK's "I Have a Dream Speech" read by various students, faculty and staff.

The KOD recipients believed it was an honor to be mentioned with Dr. King.

"His idea of compassion, justice and peace really speaks to me," Hanif said.

Eveslage, OU Student Congress President, wanted to reflect on the honor before mentioning the award to anyone.

"When I found out I won this award, I was really humbled," he said. "I just didn't want to speak about it. I just wanted to kind of hold it inside myself and see how I felt about it."

In addition to honoring the many accomplishments these students have achieved, the KOD celebration welcomed rapper, author and activist Common as the keynote speaker.

Common opened his speech with a freestyle rap, mentioning things familiar to OU students such as University Drive, Hamlin Hall and the OC. He then spoke about his success and goal for "greatness," along with the believing in yourself in order to achieve what you desire.

His speech highlighted three main themes: finding your patch, believing in your path and living it.

Common said it was important to listen to those in your life that you love, al-

though they may not always understand why you're following your calling. To him, believing in your path means you can't "dim your light," or stop believing in yourself.

Sarah Nagia, a freshman communication major, was the first in line on Monday morning. She wanted to ensure she got a good seat to see Common speak.

She admires him because of his talent as a rapper, actor and speaker.

Tyra Wright also attended the ceremony. She was looking forward to hearing Common's speech and celebrating MLK Day with his message in mind.

"I think that regardless of the challenges we face, we have to have the courage to meet them," she said.

Contact campus editor Sarah Hunton via e-mail at sjhunton@oakland.edu



SARAH HUNTON / The Oakland Post

MCI director Omar Brown-EI (LEFT) and KOD award founder Kevin Early (RIGHT), watch an MLK video created by the OU community.

KEEPER OF THE DREAM WINNERS



BEN EVESLAGE

OUSC President Ben Eveslage promotes understanding across the globe. As a freshman he became involved with the Interna-

tional Students and Scholars. He was the legislative affairs director of the International Allies student organization during the winter of his freshman year and aims to make the OUSC a welcoming environment. He also spent the last four weeks in Nigeria using art therapy to help orphans express themselves.

"If you don't travel abroad and understand how other people view the world then your view isn't wide enough," he said.

SUBHA HANIF

Subha Hanif believes it is meaningless you pursue anything other than you passion. This belief has fueled Hanif to get where she is today.

Beginning in her freshman year, Hanif has been very active on campus and in the surrounding community. Most recently she began a monthly workshop for women



in Hamtramck to come, without the influence of any other family member, to learn about health care opportunities available to them. "I only want to do things that I feel really passionate about," Hanif said.

TARA MICHENER

Graduate student, author and entrepreneur, Tara Michener has made many contributions to community. She is a graduate assistant in the

School of Education's counseling office and a member of the Multicultural Affairs Committee.

She also founded the student organization "Students



Against Bullying."

"Sometimes when you are bullied, you can become a bully," Michener said. "So just keeping that in mind, our approach is very open..."

Student thefts increase

Laptops, iPods stolen from WXOU, Hamlin Hall

By Nichole Seguin
Editor-in-Chief

Imagine it. You leave your laptop on the table in the Oakland Center while you purchase lunch in the Pioneer Food Court. When you return, the table is clear of all of your belongings and there's no else around to hold accountable.

Since Oct. 5 2011, there have been 33 reported cases of larceny on the campus of Oakland University. Of those 30 instances, six of them happened last Tuesday on Jan. 10.

Cases of larceny on campus have been increasing lately, according to OU Police Department lieutenant Mel Gilroy.

Campus larceny on the rise

Last week, a laptop, two iPods and a purse were taken from two unlocked dorms in Hamlin Hall.

According to Gilroy, the suspects — whose photos appeared in surveillance videos — are two 17-year-old students from a local high school that were visiting a girlfriend in the dorms when they pulled the fire alarm and the crime occurred.

"We've identified one of the two sus-

pects from the thefts," Gilroy said. "The first one provided the first name of the other and claimed to not know the last name of the other person, which could very well be true. We're going to make a trip down there and the local police department has their info, though."

Other thefts that day occurred at the WXOU radio station in the basement of the Oakland Center.

According to Phil Berard, general manager at WXOU, two laptops were taken from his locked office while he was out of the room from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

One of the missing laptops was owned by a student volunteer, the other owned by the station. At the time of the crime, two students were broadcasting a show.

Though the staff at WXOU declined to make any statements regarding the details, Gilroy said that OUPD is pretty positive that they know the identity of the suspect.

Surveillance videos were also helpful in trying to identify suspects in that case as well, according to Gilroy.

Larceny can be avoided

OUPD classifies larceny as the theft of property or the attempted theft of property. It can be committed anywhere on campus, from breaking into vehicles or rooms to stealing from student areas.

Whatever the case, Gilroy suggests that

students take extra precautions with their items.

"Always lock your doors," he said. "Even when you're sleeping. We've had people lose their stuff while they were sleeping because they left their dorm rooms unlocked before."

To report missing items, call OUPD's non-emergency line by dialing 3331 on campus phones or 248-370-3331 on a cell phone.

Nichole Seguin is the editor-in-chief of The Oakland Post. She can be reached via e-mail at naseguin@oakland.edu or followed on Twitter @naseguin.

BY THE NUMBERS:

Campus crimes reported in the last 60 days.



OUPD 60-day clergy report

POLICE FILES

Marijuana use investigated in the student apartments

A student was arrested for marijuana use on Monday, Jan. 9 at 2:20 p.m. Police were called to the Matthews Court Apartments for an odor investigation. Upon arriving at the female subject's apartment, police smelled marijuana. Police entered the apartment and found a bag of marijuana and several cigars on a table. The student admitted to filling the cigars with marijuana and had smoked approximately three marijuana-filled cigars before the police had arrived. The subject was arrested, issued a citation for marijuana use and later released. OUPD confiscated the marijuana and cigars.

Suspicious activity reported outside of Hamlin Hall

On Friday, Jan. 13 at approximately 3:40 a.m., police were called to the Hamlin Hall area after several complainants of possible gunshots or loud explosions. Police checked the area for possible subjects involved. No subjects were found but police did find seven pop bottles along the south side of the building. OUPD believed these bottles were used as "bottle bombs" or something similar. Five of the bottles had already exploded and the remaining bottles were live. Police relocated the bottles to a nearby ravine where they would not hurt anyone nearby. No injuries or damages were reported and there are currently no suspects.

MIP issued at Hamlin Hall

OUPD arrived at Hamlin Hall on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 1:15 a.m. when several members of the housing staff noticed loud music and what sounded like people playing "beer pong." Upon entering, police noticed a partial bottle of rum in the common area closet. The six occupants completed preliminary breath tests and all results were .000. The students told police they were playing "beer pong," but with water instead. One male occupant handed officers several bottles of rum and one full can of beer that he said belonged to him. The male student received a minor in possession citation and all of the alcohol was disposed of.

Compiled by Natalie Popovski,
Staff Intern

Graham Counselling Center offers free mental health tests

By Kevin Graham
Staff Reporter

Graham Counselling Center will be hosting a free depression and anxiety screening this Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by the food court in the Oakland Center.

At the event, students will have the opportunity to complete a short and confidential screening questionnaire and meet with a counselling professional.

Dr. David Schwartz, director of GCC, highlighted the importance of this event for the student population as it raises emotional health awareness on campus.

"Depression and anxiety are common among college students," he said. "As a result, we try and get out on campus and screen students, pass out helpful information, and get students thinking about their emotional well-being."

One of the goals of the event is to increase awareness among students about the counselling services available to them.

"The biggest thing is that it just allows us to get out into the campus community a little bit more," said Jamie Lucas, an intern with the GCC, "and for students to know who we are, where we are and that we're available. The other big thing is it gives us an opportunity to reach students we maybe otherwise wouldn't."

The anonymous screener includes questions covering both anxiety and depression. The depression questions are designed to measure a student's level of function.

"The screener has a section that asks questions about moods, sadness (and) energy levels," Schwartz said. "Any significant changes in mood, energy level, appetite, substance use, personality

changes, withdrawal, stress, increases in hopelessness or despair, can all be important warning signs."

The anxiety section of the screening explores the student's level of worry and stress.

Signs of anxiety could include fear, increased nervousness or agitation, and dependency on other people.

A counsellor will be on-site to speak with students. Schwartz said it can be important to reach out to someone.

"It takes a lot of courage to recognize that we need help sometimes," he said. "However, taking that first step and calling our counselling center could lead to positive changes that will affect the person for the rest of their (life)."

Students can find more information on warning signs and what to do if a friend is in distress at www.oakland.edu/gcc. Students wishing to schedule an appointment may do so by visiting the center or calling 248-370-3465.

Contact staff reporter Kevin Graham via e-mail at kpgraham@oakland.edu. Follow him on Twitter @KevinGraham88

Educational Resource Lab welcomes rare book collection

Books aimed at kids with disabilities on display in Pawley

By Sarah Blanchette
Staff Intern

The Education Resource Lab is hosting an "Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities" exhibition in Pawley Hall during January.

The collection includes books printed in brail, as well books written in other languages for young children.

In total, there are 60 books in the exhibit.

The reading materials feature illustrations that can also be felt by the children, a feature that assists readers in engaging in the story they are reading.

International books

The books are on loan from countries including Japan, Finland, France, Spain, England, Australia, U.S., South Africa, Italy, Canada, Mexico, China, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, and Korea.

Associate Professor of the School of Education and Human Services, Linda Pavonetti said that books belong to a Baerum, Norway library.

The books were displayed at libraries in New York, Chicago and Evanston, Ill.

Helping future educators through literature

The collection will assist Education majors in understanding the needs of children with disabilities.

Barbara Antoinette Begin Campbell is the coordinator of

the ERL.

"I hope that our pre-service teachers begin to think about how they will accommodate diverse needs of students they might meet in their classrooms once they are teaching," she said.

Increasing awareness

The limited effort put into spreading the word about books made for children with disabilities has motivated Linda Pavonetti to bring this particular exhibit to Oakland University.

"I teach Children's and Young Adult Literature and semester after semester, I see the limited scope of our understanding of the kinds of books we all need — as parents, teachers, students — to know about," she said.

Pavonette is especially concerned about making the world



SARAH BLANCHETTE / The Oakland Post

Books from around the world are on display at the ERL in Pawley Hall.

more accessible to those with disabilities.

"We need to help (those with special needs) in any way we can to make them visible and fully contributing members of society," she said.

So far, there have not been many exhibits like "Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities" at OU. Those at the ERL believe that bringing these

type of exhibits to students encourages acceptance.

Although the exhibit is behind glass, the books are laid out so the viewer can still interact with them.

Contact staff intern Sarah Blanchette via e-mail at sblanch@oakland.edu. Follow her on Twitter @S_Blanche_

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MLK service project inspires unity through service

Students use their day off to volunteer across the area

By Raymond Andre
Senior Reporter

For many, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day free of social obligations. Others see the holiday as an opportunity to aid their communities.

On Thursday, Jan. 12, for the seventh year, Oakland University participated, in the United Way's National Day of Service to commemorate Dr. King's legacy, for the seventh year.

The Day of Service began at 8 a.m. at Pontiac High School.

OU, along with Wayne State University, Madonna University, University of Michigan-

Dearborn, Oakland Community College and Henry Ford Community College, scheduled several volunteer efforts.

Ambriah Brown, OU's AmeriCorps VISTA representative, coordinates student community outreach efforts at the university.

"I'm not so much a mentor as I make a mentor of students," Brown said. "The OU Student Congress was instrumental in recruiting students for the Day of Service."

Lisa Vecchio, the OUSC Administrative Assistant, is a site coordinator at Pontiac High School.

"Collaborative work like the Day of Service represents Dr. King's dream of a united compassionate world," Vecchio said. "I felt like it was something I should be a part of."

Vecchio assisted varied Oakland County community assets, such as The Baldwin Center, a faith-based Pontiac charitable organization and Arts & Scraps of Detroit, which utilizes recycled industrial materials for children's art projects.

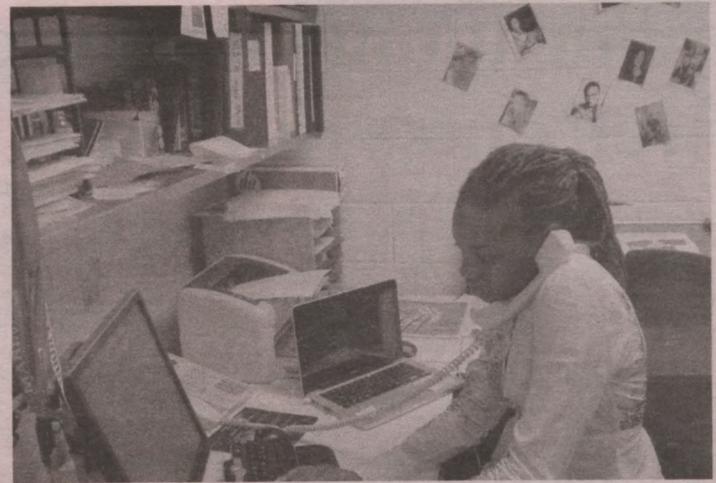
According to Brown, the dispersed efforts are intentional.

"What can we do in one day that will create the most benefit?" she said.

The MLK Day of Service is one of many outreach efforts Brown coordinates as AmeriCorps VISTA at OU.

According to Brown, fewer people devote themselves to the Day of Service than other volunteer initiatives.

The OU Center for Student Activities and the OUSC are appealing to students to become involved in their communities



RAYMOND ANDRE/The Oakland Post

Ambriah Brown coordinates Oakland University's MLK Day of Service

with opportunities like the Day of Service.

Volunteers must register at the website for the outreach day, www.oakland.edu/MLKDayofService

Registered participants in the free occasion, in addition to helping the Oakland County community, will receive breakfast, lunch and a T-shirt commemorating their service.

To get involved with this and other outreach programs, visit www.oakland.edu/volunteer, or contact Ambriah Brown by phone, 248-370-4338, or e-mail, akbrown@oakland.edu.

Contact senior reporter Ray Andre via e-mail at reandre@oakland.edu or follow him on Twitter @RAndre_87

csa@oakland.edu
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Center for Student Activities **CSA**

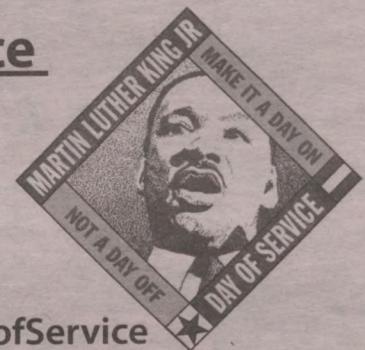
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Recreation Center offers range of classes to reach fitness goal

Personal training and group workouts available to students, faculty

By Kevin Graham
Staff Reporter

A new year brings pledges to lose weight, firm up in time for that trip to the beach or to be more active.

With free membership for students, the Oakland University Recreation Center has a variety of classes and programs to help students accomplish their personal fitness goals.

In addition to personal training, the center offers several group exercise to target a variety of areas throughout the body.

Director of Programs Becky Lewis said students are particularly attracted to the fast-paced, dance oriented Zumba class.

"With Zumba, it's fun," he said. "When the classes are fun, it doesn't feel like you're working out."

For those who haven't been to the gym in a while, the staff recommends Zumba, hip-hop dance and belly dancing courses.

"Students should not be discouraged in participating because of their fitness level," said Fitness and Wellness Graduate Assistant Leah Dupuie.

Our instructors do well in offering modifications for those who may need them."



SIERRA SOLEIMANI / The Oakland Post

Students learn from an instructor the proper way to lift weights to increase physical activity.

Although gym members may work out regularly, they may eventually hit a wall, and not be able to progress past a certain point in their goal.

When this happens, the recreation center staff recommends switching it up.

"The overall goal for fitness is what we like to call 'muscle confusion' Fitness Coordinator Rachelle Winkler said. "If you have been doing the same workout routine week after week, and do not feel sore after your workouts ... these are all signs

that tell you that it's time for a change up." A different workout style might be what is needed to get back on track.

General access to the recreation center is free and open to all students.

For more information, visit the Recreation Center or their website at www.oakland.edu/campusrec

Contact staff reporter Kevin Graham via e-mail at kpgraham@oakland.edu or follow him on Twitter @KevinGraham88

Speaker to talk about Pulitzer Prize winner Arthur Miller

By Natalie Popovski
Staff Intern

On Jan. 10, Oakland University welcomed Nathan Abrams to the Oakland Center for a lecture about Pulitzer Prize winner and playwright, Arthur Miller.

Abrams' interest in Miller's Jewish heritage role as a public intellectual, affected his approach to understanding Miller's work. This unique approach is why Graeme Harper, director of the honors college, invited Abrams to speak.

"These are two areas of research on Miller that have not been covered all that extensively as yet. Dr. Abrams covers

both," Harper said.

Harper not only has an interest in Abrams' approach to understanding Miller's work, but the work itself.

"Miller's work so powerfully explores social responsibility, dignity, the nature of the humanity," Harper said.

What interests Abrams is not the work Miller produced but the man who produced it.

"(Miller) provided a case study of someone resisting the oppression of conformity of the 1940s and 1950s," Abrams said. "He used art as his vehicle."

Abrams attended Bangor University in Wales, and is currently the director of

graduate studies and senior lecturer in film studies at the university.

Having written a case study on Miller to obtain his doctorate, Abrams spent the evening lecturing on many aspects of both Miller's work and life.

"Many people know (Miller) because he was a great American playwright," Abrams said.

Miller graduated from the University of Michigan in 1938 and later wrote "Death of a Salesman," in 1949, and "The Crucible," in 1953, among other works.

Although Miller received a Pulitzer Prize for "Death of a Salesman," some of Miller's work did not go without criticism.

"The time period required to turn (The Crucible) into metaphors," Abrams said.

Miller lived through the Great Depression and World War II.

Contact staff intern Natalie Popovski via e-mail at npopovski@oakland.edu

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Thomas Paine lecture

As part of OU's "History Comes Alive" lecture series, associate professor of history, Todd Estes will be giving a talk on Thomas Paine, tracing what happened to him after 1776 and its meaning for democracy. The free lecture will take place in the Oakland Center's Oakland Room on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Reservations are requested. For more information, contact Johanna McReynolds at 248-370-3511.

Past, present, future of African American Greek organizations

Rasheed Ali Cromwell will be giving a presentation on the past, present and future of the African American Greek organizations on university campuses on, Jan 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Banquet Room A of the Oakland Center. For more information, call the Center for Multicultural Initiatives at 248-370-4404.

Chinese New Year

A Chinese New Year celebration will be held in the Oakland Center banquet rooms on Thursday, Jan. 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. The event is free to all Oakland University students, faculty and staff. In order to represent China, everyone is encouraged to wear red. For more information, contact Melanie Chang at 248-370-4248.

MLK Day of Service

The Center for Multicultural Initiatives will be participating in the 2012 MLK Day of Service taking place Saturday Jan 21 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Pontiac High School. The event is the collaborative effort of several area universities. For more information, visit www.oakland.edu/MLKDayofService.

OU Homecoming

A variety of events will be held between Jan. 27 to 29 on campus to celebrate OU's homecoming. The weekend long event includes women and men's basketball games followed by a tailgate on Jan 28. For more information visit <http://www.oakland.edu/comehome>

— Compiled by Kevin Graham, Staff Reporter



O'Dowd Hall photo by Chelsea Bistue



Building a better campus

By Natalie Popovski
and Kevin Graham
Designed by Rifath Hoque

O'DOWD HALL

Compared with the other buildings on campus, O'Dowd Hall has become known for its shiny, glass exterior. This will be refurbished due to weather damages starting late spring.

O'Dowd Hall will be undergoing a \$4.5 million renovation beginning in May. The project is expected to last nine months, according to Terry Stollsteimer, associate vice president of facilities management at Oakland University.

Completed in 1981, named after former OU psychology professor turned university president, Donald O'Dowd, the hall is 31-years-old.

"Problems with the building's curtain glass window system are the reason for the renovation," Stollsteimer said. "Since its installation, there have been 11 leak areas within it."

Errors with the windows have left O'Dowd exposed to the elements. Over the years, the leaks have allowed for snow and rain to enter the building, causing the most damage.

The renovation will not only fix building problems, but also bring with it a new look for O'Dowd.

"The east and west side of the building will become a metallic gray color and the north and south side will become an earth-toned color," Stollsteimer said.

Along with the new colors, O'Dowd will receive new window paneling.

The DeMaria Building Company, a Detroit-headquartered business with a regional office in Novi, will be handling the project.

"The DeMaria Company is not a stranger to Oakland University. DeMaria has done work for labs at Oakland in the past," Stollsteimer said.

O'Dowd hall plans on keeping its doors open during the renovations, though. The hall currently houses the William Beaumont School of Medicine and various departments, programs and centers.

Although classes will continue in O'Dowd as planned during the renovation, office space may be affected.

Once work begins in office areas, renovations will be done four offices at a time. Offices being renovated could be used if need be but will be temporarily provided with an alternate space, Stollsteimer said.

They plan on starting renovations near the auditorium classroom and work clockwise around the building.



HUMAN HEALTH BUILDING

Nestled on the northwest area of campus, the Human Health building is starting to take its shape and is moving into its final stages of construction.

The \$64.4 million building — that was paid for via state grants, a portion of tuition dollars and grants and donations — will become the new home of both the School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences.

The new construction had its first excavation in the summer of 2010 is expected to open in the fall of 2012.

"It is a 22 to 23 month project," John Harmala, senior project manager of capital planning and design, said.

The School of Health Sciences describes its new home as a 161,000-square-foot structure including classrooms, simulation labs, an interactive media center, a physical therapy facility, onsite clinic, seminar rooms and distance learning labs, according to its website.

The newest building on campus, it was designed by SmithGroup and is being constructed by the Christman Company, the company that also built the Science and Engineering building in 1997.

The building is expected to showcase green technology, calling for both a geothermal heat pump system and a solar thermal dehumidification component through its design.

"Oakland University applied for, and received a U.S. Department of Energy grant worth \$2,752,163 to focus on improving the building's energy efficiency," according to the Christman Company website.



EXCLUSIVE VIDEO ONLINE

Human Health Building photo by Chelsea Bistue

OAKLAND CENTER

At the beginning of the fall semester, The Oakland Center underwent construction on its west and east entrances.

Stonework was completed to prevent water absorption which might have caused the existing stonework to crack and fall.

OU has rectified the problem by putting in limestone in place of the existing exterior, according to Terry Stollsteimer, vice president for facilities management.

The entrances were periodically closed during the construction.

"The material is different, its characteristics are different," Stollsteimer said. "When comparing the new with old it will not absorb moisture."

Regarding the overall look of the design, Stollsteimer said that the entrances were designed to look similar to the rest of the building.

The new front is waterproofed to prevent moisture from making its way into the caulking and stone while maintaining the existing look. According to Richard Fekel, Oakland Center director, moisture was entering the existing stonework, prompting the fears of the split in the rock.

The \$385,000 project also helps eliminate the possibility for slip and fall accidents because of water entering the building. In addition, the automatic door button at the rear entrance was moved to the wall for easier accessibility.

The majority of the funding came from Oakland Center revenue. No tuition dollars were used.

On improving the building's energy efficiency," according to the Christman Company website.



Oakland Center photo by Shannon Coughlin

HANNAH HALL

John Harmala, a senior project manager for OU Capital Planning and Design, has confirmed that the university has started looking into what to do with space that will open up on the second and third floors of Hannah Hall after the School of Health Sciences completes its move to the Human Health Building when it opens in the fall. The timeline, cost and scope of the project have yet to be determined, but the final plan will likely include space for the School of Medicine, Harmala said. The chemistry and physics departments are among those that have submitted a request for additional lab space in Hannah.

Hannah Hall was completed in 1961 and used for temporary housing. In 1969, it was vandalized by identified political activists. It is named after John A. Hannah who is a former president of Michigan State University. He was integral in establishing Oakland as a branch of MSU. O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach Associates of Birmingham designed Hannah Hall after winning a bidding battle for the building. It cost \$1.7 million.



Hannah Hall photo by Sierra Soleimani

Weekend Warriors

Men's and women's basketball teams sweep weekend matchups at IPFW

By Kevin Romanchik / Photos by Chelsea Bistue
Sports Editor / Photo Intern

1. Sophomore guard Travis Bader led the Grizzlies with three steals and finished with 21 points in the 96-86 win against IPFW. Bader also drained a three-pointer to give OU a four-point lead at the break.
2. Over 400 students, staff members, alumni and donors all took part in the CSA-organized road trip to Fort Wayne, Ind. on Saturday to see the Grizzlies doubleheader.
3. Junior forward Bethany Watterworth attacked the Mastadon defense, scoring a game-high 22 points and six rebounds.
4. Senior guard Reggie Hamilton finished with a game-high 30 points. Saturday's win against IPFW was the sixth time this season Hamilton passed the 30-point mark.
5. After being down by two at half-time, the women's basketball team opened with 16-2 run to pull away with the 67-47 win.



Around the Summit League

A look at what happened and what is to come for the men's basketball team

By **Bryan Everson**
Freelance Reporter

In the second and final part of 'Around the Summit League, The Oakland Post's Bryan Everson got an in-depth look at the other men's basketball teams within the Summit League. To view the first part including UMKC, visit www.oaklandpostonline.com



IUPUI

Record: (8-12, 2-6)

If you just tuned in:

Maybe it was unfair to expect so much of the Jaguars considering the circumstances this season. Head coach Ron Hunter departed, and Leroy Nobles (18.3 ppg as a senior) graduated, so like IPFW, some setbacks should've been anticipated. Star guard and forward Alex Young has struggled at times early in games, and he's still transitioning to be the sole focus of the high-powered offense when necessary.

You SHOULD know:

Young, guard and forward (17.3 ppg, 6 rpg in seven games vs. OU)

You WILL know:

Christian Siakam, forward (6.5 ppg, 4 rpg in four games vs. OU)

Coach-Speak:

"(With new head coach Todd Howard), I think the offense will stay the same, with some wrinkles and changes added in. But defensively, I think it was just a shift into a man-to-man defense as the primary defense, versus a matchup zone being the primary defense." — Assistant Coach Matt Crenshaw



North Dakota State

Record: (13-4, 6-2)

If you just tuned in:

The Bison have been the darlings of the early season in the conference, and for good reason. They started the season 6-0 in non-conference play, and already have wins against IUPUI and Oakland under their belt. Their trifecta of sophomores (Marshall Bjorklund, Taylor Braun and TrayVonn Wright) is great, but freshman point guard Lawrence Alexander has made them even more dangerous.

You SHOULD know:

Braun, guard (14.3 ppg, 8 rpg in three games vs. OU)

You WILL know:

Alexander, guard (11 points, 10 assists in one game vs. OU)

Coach-Speak:

"(Jackson worked on his defense in the off-season), that and his outside shot. He's spent a lot of time on his game. He had a very good summer and worked a lot at it. It's showing for him." — Assistant Coach Ron Carling



South Dakota

Record: (13-5, 5-1)

If you just tuned in:

OU fans got an early look at the Coyotes already in the team's inaugural season in the Summit. They play an up-and-down pace, and they aren't as far behind as you think—they've lost two contests in overtime. Several of their best players are seniors, but otherwise it's a very young core of players.

You SHOULD know:

Charlie Westbrook, guard (19 points, four steals in one game vs. OU)

You WILL know:

Allen Saint-Gelais, forward (8 points, four rebounds in one game vs. OU)

Coach-Speak:

"The challenge for us is going to be extremely hard, no doubt about that. From top to bottom, it's going to be a strong league, going to new places and getting familiar with all that is always a big challenge. We do have a good core back, we do have a group of newcomers that are going to have to blend in with all that." — Coach Dave Boots, Summit League media day



Western Illinois

Record: (9-7, 4-4)

If you just tuned in:

WIU returns just 24 percent of their minutes from last year, but that comes with a caveat: Senior point guard Ceola Clark III, a former Summit Leaguer Defensive Player of the Year, missed nearly the whole season with torn foot ligaments. They nearly scared then No. 17 Michigan at Crisler Arena, losing just 59-55. They're the only non-power conference team to defeat NDSU, and lost to SDSU by just one.

You SHOULD know:

Clark III, point guard (16 ppg, 5.3 apg in four games vs. OU)

You WILL know:

Terrell Parks, center (No games vs. OU—12.8 ppg, 9.5 rpg this season)

Coach-Speak:

"We have more balance (this season) where as last year we were down to six or seven players because all of the injuries and you just can't win at Division I basketball if you get down to that number." — Coach Jim Molinari, Summit League media day

THE SPORTING BLITZ

Compiled by Timothy Pontzer, Senior Reporter

Reggie Hamilton recognized

Coming off back to back 30 point games, star senior guard Reggie Hamilton was named the Summit League Player of the Week.

This was the third time Hamilton had earned this distinction this season. Hamilton is ranked third in the NCAA with 23.6 points a game.

While Hamilton is putting up big numbers offensively, he is far from being one-dimensional. Hamilton is willing to dish the ball to his teammates, leading the team with 90 assists. The senior is also a force defensively, leading with 50 steals.

Women's basketball on a hot streak, win three straight

After losing four straight in December, the Oakland women's basketball team has rebounded and turned their season around this month.

The women are currently riding a three game winning streak, their longest stretch of the year.

The winning streak has been over three tough Summit League rivals in IUPUI, Western Illinois, and IPFW. Junior forward Bethany Watterworth has been the Golden Grizzlies' leader during this run, scoring 27, 17, and 22 points in the three games.

This streak is even more impressive considering the Grizzlies lost one of their top players in Zakiya Minifee. The star sophomore led the team in rebounds before sustaining a season-ending leg injury early in the IUPUI game.

For complete recaps of each and every women's basketball game, visit www.oaklandpostonline.com and click on the Sports tab.

Several Golden Grizzlies shine at Chip Invite

On Friday, Oakland competed in the Chip Invite hosted by Central Michigan. Several Golden Grizzlies stood out against competition from Central Michigan, Detroit, Aquinas and Macomb Community.

For the men, sophomore Alex Kationa earned a top-three finish in the one-mile run. Two Grizzlies placed in the top three of the 800 meter run with senior David Magnotte winning the race and junior Spencer Britt placing third.

On the women's side, junior Shannon Getchen placed second in the weight throw and senior Desiree Pettiford finished second in the 200 meter run. Two OU runners took the top spot with redshirt junior Lia Jones winning the 3,000 meter run and junior Breanna Peabody winning the 60 meter hurdles. Jones also placed second in the mile run.

The Oakland track and field team continues their season on Jan. 20 at Grand Valley State.

Open tryouts being held for men's soccer team

Full time Oakland students are eligible to try out for the Oakland men's soccer team. The tryouts will be held at the OU Bubble by P13 between 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Feb. 1.

The tryouts will be for potential walk-on players. Interested students must be enrolled at Oakland full time for the winter semester. Students also must fill out all necessary paper work and have a current physical in order to try out.

All information and necessary documents can be found online at ougrizzlies.com. For additional information and questions, contact assistant coach Jason Perry at perry2@oakland.edu.

Contact senior reporter Timothy Pontzer via e-mail at trpontze@oakland.edu and follow him on Twitter @ [timothy_pontzer](https://twitter.com/timothy_pontzer)

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Art exhibit attracts aliens, robots

'Eye for an Eye' art exhibit showcases work of two local artists

By **Jordan Gonzalez**
Senior Reporter

The atmosphere was mellow, inviting and warm. Soft couches rested against the brick walls which neighbored earthy green and burnt brown drywall.

To the right of the couches, tables and customers was a pack of aliens of all shapes, sizes and colors. Robots gathered in throngs, glaring at all who walk by. A monkey in a throwback space helmet smiled a sneaky smile, snickering at those shocked at the head right next to it that was tearing to pieces.

The place was Fieldstone Winery in Rochester Hills. The occasion was the reception to premier the artwork of Michigan mixed media artists Adam Klimek and Anthony Callis.

Friends, family and contemporaries gathered there on Jan. 13 to celebrate with the artists as they premiered their latest gallery, "Eye for an Eye."

There was a reception which included finger foods, dessert and free wine tasting courtesy of Fieldstone, and guests were able to interact with the artists, who featured over 20 of their paintings.

Collaboration is key

Klimek and Callis are both graduates of the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, which is where they first met and began to collaborate.

Though they have done solo pieces in the past, working together is the key to their latest works, which took around three months to complete.

"Each piece is completely collaborative, and each and every piece has a bit of us," Klimek said. "We have done a few collaborative pieces in the past and we have gotten a lot of response from them, so we said lets to a whole show of them."

Callis explained the process of the collaborations differed, too. Sometimes he would paint the background and Klimek would finish it off. Other times they would work simultaneously on a project.

Finding inspiration

The themes of "Eye for an Eye," according to both Klimek and Callis, deal with anything from music to mystery, drawing from a well of throw-



ALEXANDRE LEE / The Oakland Post

An original piece titled 'Gritty' by local artists Adam Klimek and Anthony Callis. The work of the two artists was showcased at an art exhibit held at Fieldstone Winery last Friday.

back sci-fi movies and legends.

"We have a lot of music influence, space, technology, the unknown ... Bigfoot, aliens, that kind of stuff," Klimek said.

Each piece of the gallery, though it follows that common theme, is different in its own way, according to Callis.

"We came up with the same themes throughout, but we let the actual process of making them tell the story of each piece," Callis said. "If you get up close to it and look, you will see there are a lot of different stories going on."

The gallery was co-hosted by Firebrick Gallery. Firebrick is an art gallery,

gift shop and studio. It displays works of Michigan artists and it also offers courses, internships, workshops and private tutoring for artist of all skills.

Christine Laikind, Firebrick owner, thought it would be great to collaborate with Fieldstone to host galleries.

"Wine and art go well together," Laikind said.

For more info on Klimek and Callis, visit their website at www.cinema3956.com.

Contact senior reporter Jordan Gonzalez via e-mail at jrgonzal@oakland.edu



Firebrick Gallery

WHO Firebrick Gallery is owned by Christine Laikind.

WHAT Firebrick displays work of Michigan artists. Laikind thought it would be great to collaborate with Fieldstone to host monthly galleries.

WHEN Laikind first discovered Klimek when he won an art contest hosted at Firebrick in May 2011. Klimek and Callis will be featured at Fieldstone for one month.

Showcased art at gallery....



Jump It

Mixed media piece
Dimensions: 24x24
Artist: Cinema 3956
(Adam Klimek and Anthony Callis)



Road Show

Mixed media piece
Dimensions: 30x40
Artist: Cinema 3956
(Adam Klimek and Anthony Callis)



Pele's Curse

Mixed media piece
Dimensions: 12x36
Artist: Cinema 3956
(Adam Klimek and Anthony Callis)



King Chameleon

Set of 3
Dimensions: 3x3
Artist: Cinema 3956
(Adam Klimek and Anthony Callis)



NICHOLE SEGUIN / The Oakland Post

Among the displays of the Life on Earth Exhibit at Cranbrook, a taxidermy display of a Bengal tiger.

Exploring the evolution of life

New Life on Earth Exhibit explores evolution

By Christopher Lauritsen
Staff Reporter

Life on Earth is an exhibit at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, that runs through Sept. 2, 2012.

The exhibit examines life on our planet resulting from 3.4 billion years of evolution. Specimens collected from Cranbrook, the Smithsonian, as well as other institutions, represent all major groups of plants and animals.

"The whole concept of the exhibit is biodiversity, not only modern, but biodiversity throughout the years," John Zawiskie, curator of the Life on Earth exhibit, said.

The exhibit examines the evolution of life on Earth going dating back 3.4 billion years.

Some of the displays are on loan from the Smithsonian Museum as well as Wayne State University.

The exhibit is laid out so that visitors can go chronologically through time and look at how the five mass extinctions affected biodiversity.

"Anyone would benefit from coming to this exhibit, espe-

cially biology or ecology majors" Zawiskie said.

The exhibit features several examples of taxidermy, including a Bengal tiger and a white rhino head, both of which are from Wayne State University.

"This is aesthetically one of the best exhibits we have had," Zawiskie said.

The exhibit also features one of the most complete Megalodon teeth rows ever found. The Megalodon was a species of shark that lived roughly 1.5 million years ago.

There are quite a few artifacts from the Hankla Collection, including fossils that are 35-million-years-old.

The exhibit has a massive herbarology collection, which focuses on plant life found in Oakland and Wayne counties.

Also located in the exhibit is an area named the "Galapagos Trail," which is especially geared towards children eight years and under.

The area features a real salt water coral fish tank, as well as an exact replica of Charles Darwin's HMS Beagle, which was built in house by Cranbrook's staff.

"Recently we have been doing a lot of exhibits by pulling artifacts from our store room instead of bring traveling exhibits in," Stephen Pagnani, head of marketing at Cranbrook,

said.

A world population calculator is also in the exhibit.

Seventy-five percent of ice free landscape has been modified by humans, Zawiskie said.

There is a section of the exhibit that focuses on the evolution of the human genome, as well as how animals around us have adapted to their surroundings.

Evolution area also features "The Hall of Origins," from the Smithsonian Museum, which features the 11 stages of human evolution.

The cost of the exhibit is \$12.50 for adults and is free after 5 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.

For more information on the Life on Earth Exhibit, visit Cranbrook's website at science.cranbrook.edu

Contact staff reporter Christopher Lauritsen via e-mail at lauritsen.chris09@gmail.com or follow him on Twitter @ChrisLauritsen

More Info

WHAT Life on Earth Exhibit at Cranbrook

WHEN Exhibit runs until Sept. 2, 2012 and is free with admission

Racing into the auto show

OU Society of Engineers makes appearance

By Ali Armstrong
Local Editor

Entering its 24th year as an international event, the North American International Auto Show featured 53 vehicle debuts, with 32 of those being worldwide introductions.

With over 500 vehicles on display from the world's leading automakers like Chrysler, Ford and Chevrolet, this year's auto show is yet again spotlighting a vehicle made right here on Oakland University's campus.

The OU Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) 2010 and 2011 race cars are currently on display at Cobo Hall.

"This is huge for us. It not only gets our name out there, but really shows people what Oakland University has to offer and how you can be on an award winning team and do real-life stuff," Thomas Garvey SAE business manager, said. "It's just huge and being next to some of the biggest car companies in the world, it's an amazing experience."

Along with their newest 2011 car, SAE's 2010 race car is also on display.

The display is brand new and was donated by OU alumni Tracy Lindsay who is the

proprietor of Lindsay Exhibit Group.

"She saw our booth last year and she came up to us and said that if we needed any help, just to call her," Garvey said. "We knew that we wanted our display to be huge this year, so we decided to call her. She was excited to work on our display because she loves OU."

The new display features new graphics, a light bar, tunnel lights and a donated ramp which showcases their 2011 car.

There is at least one person from SAE present at the booth at all times to answer technical questions. The booth also features OU staff, faculty and alumni.

"I think this is a really big step for us to be there again and to continue to represent Oakland University and the School of Engineering," Evan Fischer, president of SAE, said.

Among some of the other big auto show debuts, Ford unveiled the new Focus and Fusion. Chrysler debuted their revived their Dodge Dart and Nissan, returning to the auto show after a four year hiatus, revealed their new Pathfinder.

For more information on the North American International Auto Show, visit www.naias.com

Contact local editor Ali Armstrong via e-mail at aarmstr@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @AliArmstrong1

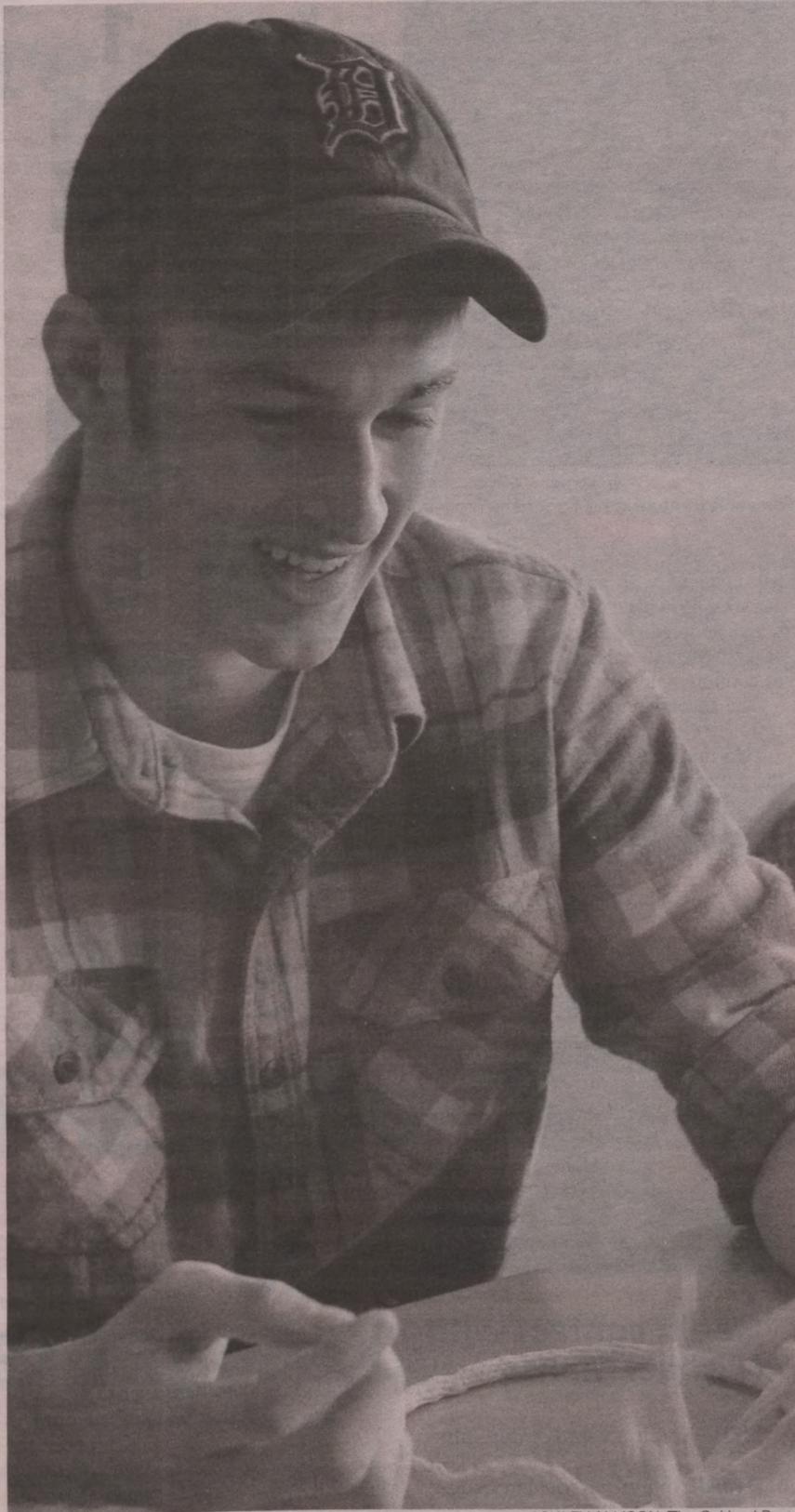


Photo courtesy of Stephanie Moore

The OU display at the North American International Auto features both the 2010 and 2011 SAE racing cars.

Flipping over the right card

Engineering student takes up mini-career performing as a magician



ASHLEY ALLISON /The Oakland Post

Student Justin Green performs as a magician as a side job outside of school.

By **Jordan Gonzalez**
Senior Reporter

At first glance Justin Green appears to blend in with the mass of students at Oakland University. The 19-year-old sophomore electrical engineering major rocks a North Face jacket, a baseball cap, jeans and clean cut hair.

Then he pulls out a deck of cards and starts doing magic tricks.

"Is this your card?" he asks the volunteer, holding what obviously isn't the card they had drawn.

He flashes a sneaky grin.

"Well, you see, all I need to do is rub it," he says, rubbing his hand over the card, making it transform into the volunteer's card.

This is Justin Green, the magician.

A magical finding

From a young age, Green has always been fascinated with magic. But the intrigue was stuck on a plateau, always moving but never rising higher.

That all changed around four years ago, when his friend, a fellow magician, invited him to a magicians club meeting. It was there that he saw a professional magician, John Luca, perform.

Inspired by what he saw, he felt a need to dig deeper. His father encouraged him, buying him a few tricks, which he learned quickly. Within a month, he was performing his first paid job.

"I took the opportunity with open arms," Green said. "I got sources, (which were) friends and books. It all happened little by little."

He has since learned dozens of new tricks (cards being his specialty). He performs anywhere from 1 to 10 shows a month, averaging about 50 shows a year.

"Justin is completely self-taught. He absolutely loves anything to do with cards and (he) is a very personable guy who loves to entertain people," said Ian Komisak, a friend of Green. "He tried to get his audience involved, which allows him to get on a more personal level with (them)."

Green works his magic in a variety of venues and occasions. He likes to do what he calls "table to table magic" — performing tricks at each table.

"It is not a stage show," he said. "I

prefer to walk around."

For Green, his magic tricks are a mini career, and could eventually be much more than that. In the meantime he is pursuing a career in engineering.

"Magic can be a career," he said. "I really like magic, but to make a career out of it is very difficult."

But the possibility has not left his mind.

"If (it) got to the point that I had to put my job aside, then I would," he said.

In the mean time, Green is concentrating on learning new tricks in order to keep things fresh for his audience.

"For me, it's addicting," he said. "When I learn a trick I want to practice it and show my family and friends. It's exciting for me, just as much as it is for the (audience) to watch."

Gaining support

Green receives tons of support from his family and friends. His father, Al Green, is Justin's self-described manager and promoter.

"We practice a lot together and we're trying different things all the time," Al said. "I do most of his bookings, but he's getting better at doing that."

Father and son both agree that school comes first, though.

"For me, it's addicting. When I learn a new trick, I want to practice it and show it to my family and friends."

Justin Green
Student and Magician

"I support (what he does in) his magic, but he needs to get that college degree first," Al said. "I support him any way I can."

Green also does a lot of charity work. He performs for free at the Hurley Medical Center in Flint several times a year, as well as performing for other charities.

Green is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM), ring (section) 36. He has had many opportunities to perform with and view big names in the field, including Frank Everhart Jr. and David Copperfield.

Green is always open to opportunities and ideas. Contact him via e-mail at jgreensmagicalcards@hotmail.com

Contact Senior Reporter Jordan Gonzalez via e-mail at jrgonzal@oakland.edu

The adventure continues

Student, musician contributes in memory of lost friend



Photo courtesy of Michael Morris

After his friend John Hitz (LEFT) passed away, Michael Morris (RIGHT) started the nonprofit Forever Adventure in his honor. The organization raises money to help aid the artistic adventures of local teenagers and young adults.

By **Jessica McLean**
Staff Intern

Grieving the death of his friend John Hitz, Michael Morris, sophomore communication major, co-founded Forever Adventure along with Sarah Brockett (Hitz's girlfriend) in January 2011.

One year later, the nonprofit focused on providing and aiding young adults in their pursuits of the arts, has survived and is thriving, Morris said.

"Most nonprofits fail in their first year and we have done nothing but flourish," he said.

The organization has hosted four benefits, sold T-shirts and wristbands, and has gathered an army of supporters, many of whom from East Detroit High School in Eastpointe, where Hitz attended.

The organization hosted its most recent benefit this past December at Café 220, a venue associated with the Christ Community Church in Roseville.

For a \$10 cover charge, participants were able to see performances by local bands, including Passage To India, American Opera, Marty Fletzsar, and Morris' own band, Shapes and Colors. The event also included an ugly sweater contest and sample sweets from a bake sale.

During this event, Forever Adventure gave away another Adventure Pack — a backpack equipped with whatever the recipient may need to succeed in their artistic adventures.

Dave Edwards, guitarist of Passage

To India, said his band frequently plays these events because of the great cause they promote.

"We make a big deal out of those shows, probably more-so than normal," he said. "(Forever Adventure) made me see what a good person like Mike can (accomplish)."

Aside from funding future events and their donations, proceeds go towards the John Hitz scholarship, which will be awarded to a chosen student from East Detroit High School later this year.

According to an article in the Macomb-Patch, last year Forever Adventure awarded the \$1,500 scholarship to David Meldrum, a visual artist pursuing a career in graphic arts.

Morris says he is currently working on expanding the scholarship's eligibility to other schools. However, to do so, the organization must be nationally recognized as a nonprofit.

Forever Adventure is still awaiting federal acknowledgement.

In fact, Morris still runs the nonprofit out of his home in St. Claire Shores.

Yet Morris remains hopeful.

"I have two people I have to adventure for," he said, speaking of himself and Hitz. "I feel like it's so sad that John's gone, but it feels good to make a difference in people's lives."

Besides that, Morris hopes to keep the organization going as long as possible.

Planning on continued growth in the coming year, he hopes to get young art-

ists involved with professionals, as well as working with the Vans Warped Tour, which adopted Forever Adventures cause at their concerts in summer 2011, as well as continuing to host similar events.

The success and opportunities continue to grow for Morris and those involved.

"No matter what happens, it's part of the adventure," Hitz is quoted as saying in a tribute video on the Forever Adventure website.

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TOP 10 ALBUMS OF 2011

POSTER THE PEOPLE



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2



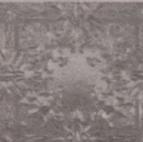
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ASAP

BACK IT UP

Check out the entire list with commentary at www.oaklandpostonline.com

Compiled by
Brian Figurski,
Multimedia Reporter
and Kevin Romanchik,
Sports Editor

Textbooks, plus what you really want—fast.



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SATIRE

Working in fast food is the most demanding 'career'

By **Brian Figurski**
Multimedia Reporter

I've been doing a lot of pondering over what the ultimate purpose of acquiring education through school is. Aside from racking up lifetime fees, it seems most continue their education in hopes of achieving a successful challenging career.

What is a challenging career? Mechanical astronaut? Nope. A career as a neuro-surgeon? That is child's play.

The most demanding career is by far the fast food industry.

I can't stand the food industry, as they pump out chemical-saturated "food" into the gullets of Americans daily.

There's a 25 percent chance you are using the Mouthing Off page as a napkin for the Big Mac sauce coating your lips.

Most important to my rage is the fact that I'm reluctantly still part of it.

It's sorely embarrassing that I'm in a position of management.

I have a dreaded fear I will turn into some fast food dictator who actually gives a magic floating cramp about a dead-end job or, firing employees over sock color if I continue to deteriorate in this facility.

The reason fast food is the most demanding career is multi-faceted,

response.

The first reason for its stranglehold is the customers.

Everyone has something to say about food. Everyone eats. Anyone who claims a liquid diet is a down-right liar who got their jaw wired shut for lying in the first place, and is therefore telling the truth now.

Everyone is a consumer of food, and in America, the freaky faster, the better.

A quarter of our obese nation gobbles on grease-flamed fries and burgers daily.

Chances are, you won't see the mechanically-inclined picking fights at the auto shop, but rest assured everyone from snot-nosed adolescents to an 88-year-old have an issue with your food handling skills.

If only we could abolish the slogan "have it your way" and in its place scribe "order what's on the menu, pick off what you don't like, shut your mouth and keep driving." If consumers don't comply, sic the creepy crown-donning king on them.

No one executes any kind of courtesy from lobby side of the cash register.

I have to piss insincere politeness, but if it were any reflection of how I really felt, I would have been tossed a long time ago.



Photo Illustration by GREG WEBB / The Oakland Post

Although the time I was written up for giving the middle finger to a family of four, I got promoted.

Most people in this world have experienced waged life in the food processes, and properly I must assume they were also treated like peasants.

This world is a downward spiral of "do unto others" to a malignant point.

Food of the quick and pointless is routinely stereotyped as a job for carefree teenagers, functioning drug addicts and overall failures.

Being a resident at such a place, I concur.

This is how the industry creates such a booming profit, by paying us downgrade humans in floor scrapings.

By this point I have probably been grouped into the latter of the categories, and have only kept this job to inject a healthy dose of inspirational hatred into my day.

Even with how much information

I divulge about myself, you may be shocked with how many times I've been fired.

Out of all my jobs, this one has been the most draining.

So, if you're looking for challenge in the job market, look no further than every quarter mile on any road, any city, America.

In fact, there are positions opening soon at my store — mine!

As a pure scumbag, I am getting out and shaking loose the title before I embody some of the nastiest, most despicable scoundrels I have had the displeasure of knowing and interacting alongside for way-too-long on the timeline of my life.

I hope this story brought you back to your boil-faced teenage years. If it brings you back to last night's shift, I can only imagine how you could put my tales to shame.

I ran into some people I went to high school with that I haven't seen in six years.

We swapped stories for a moment. Well, they spread stories about how they are mechanical engineers or in general, successful happy people.

I exercised my creative muscle and created fables about how "I work for an online newspaper and write really funny stories and I'm perpetually optimistic. Do not google my name."

So sad it is that I have to hide my pathetic job from the general populous.

Contact multimedia reporter Brian Figurski via e-mail at bdfigurs@oakland.edu. Follow him on Twitter @WhatDidBeefSay

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