

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 20, 2010

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benefit concert on campus for Haiti

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oaklandpostonline.com



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Perspectives

January 20, 2010

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STAFF EDITORIAL

What's in a benefit's name?

In the wake of destruction after the earthquake in Haiti, people all over the world are starting to wake up. The movement to help the people of Haiti has been swift, and there's no exception here at Oakland University.

January 20, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., students organizations from OU will join together in efforts to host a benefit concert for the victims of the earthquake. It will broadcast live on WXOU Radio throughout the day and night.

Many will agree that these efforts are impressive and important. Student Body Vice President Saman Waquad has her own column featured this week on oaklandpostonline.com stressing the significance of supporting those in need.

But whispers of discontent have been spreading about one particular aspect of the 12-hour event.

What could be controversial about a benefit concert? To some, its name. "Haiti-Palooza" is the moniker the event organizers decided to use.

Those who are unhappy with the name find it offensive and say that it downplays the severity of what's happened in Haiti.

The Post asked one of the event organizers, WXOU General Manager Erik Anderson, about his thoughts on the title Haiti-Palooza!

"Palooza is generally defined as a party, event, or festival that no one will forget. Clearly we are having a memorable event that's never been attempted in the school's history to raise money for the victims in Haiti, and not some crazy bachelor party," Anderson said.

No bachelor party indeed.

We'd like to pose a question. Which is more inappropriate: A tongue-in-cheek approach to a difficult situation, or taking the time to insult an event raising money to save lives?

Anderson also said that he's received positive feedback and that the unique name is what has gotten some students interested in attending.

To some, the coolest part about Haiti-Palooza! is that OU students beat George Clooney in the race to host a benefit concert (Clooney's isn't until Saturday).

When destruction like this occurs in the world, people can't help but ask, "Why?" We're not buying religious leader Pat Robertson's explanation of Haitians' pact with the devil causing the downfall of Haiti. (We're also not buying his retraction and further explanation that he confused "Haiti" with "Hades" as The Huffington Post reports.)

The truth is, there is rarely an acceptable reason for why these things happen.

In this case, one of the biggest reasons this occurred is because the buildings in Haiti were not equipped to handle the force of mother nature.

It's an understatement to say it's unfortunate when already impoverished nations face even more turmoil. While we certainly have our own share of problems here in America, we need to continue to extend our hands in help and aid to those in need.

Despite the devastation that has happened in Haiti, we should use this as an opportunity. For lack of a better cliché, every cloud has a silver lining, and as dim as the light is right now, we can find that silver shimmer. This is our call to action to help. Haiti-Palooza! is the perfect chance for students to get involved and help pay it forward.

And who says we're not allowed to have a little fun while we're at it? There's no rule book that says benefit concerts are meant to be boring — in fact, that sounds like a perfect way to turn away people. Even though Haiti-Palooza! may not be the classiest of names, it does sound like a good time and a great way to help those who need it most.

As Anderson put it: "If the name is the biggest problem we have during this event, then I'd say the event was wildly successful."

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

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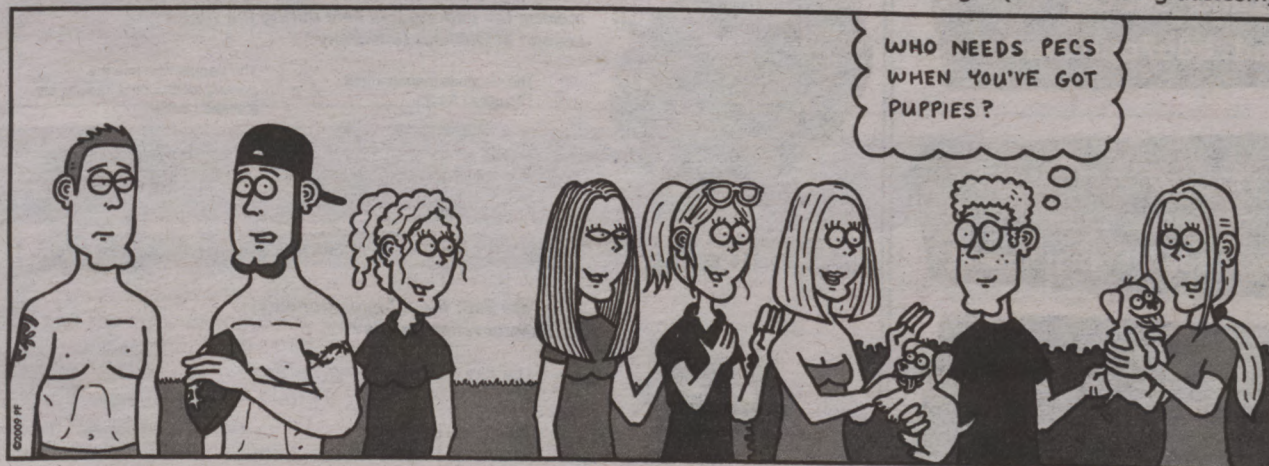
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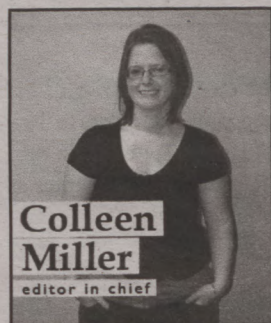
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— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

I will call the cops on you



Colleen Miller
editor in chief

There are some laws that I couldn't disagree with enough; for example, the federal criminalization of a harmless plant when top killers like alcohol and cigarettes are regulated. It would

have to be a dangerous situation for me to feel compelled to narc on somebody for that. But there are some laws that I don't think are enforced enough.

And perhaps that's why it makes me so pissed when I see somebody roll their car window down, stick their arm out, and toss a juice box out onto Walton Boulevard. I mean, if you're going to blatantly litter, at least litter a used mattress or soiled reclining chair. If you're going to make a statement, don't do it with something that belongs in a fifth grader's lunch box.

It's equally painful to live in the same world as people who actually drive as if they are playing Grand Theft Auto, steal, cheat, or rip trees out of people's lawns.

This is a message to any of those people out there, as well as a message to everybody else who is as furious as I am when you see people do these things. God I wish I had a siren and some handcuffs sometimes.

"I always know my surroundings," these people might say. "I never get caught because I look for cops."

While officers of the law might not be around, I am. And hopefully, other engaged citizens are around too, with the Oakland County Sheriff dispatch (248-858-4950) or Oakland University Police dispatch (248-370-3331) in their favorites.

There are so many things I realize that I cannot change. But I can and I will continue to get my jollies by calling the police when I see a drunk driver, when I perceive somebody to have road rage, or when an idiot litters on the street.

I am also out there calling for when I think somebody needs help. You can't always assume that somebody has already called for themselves, and you also cannot assume that it is safe to help them yourself. I call when I see a car accident, or a woman stranded on the highway.

I'm sick of this apathy that still lingers. I'm tired of hearing my friends think they are too good at checking their rear view to get caught. Just know, I'm out there.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the Letter to the Editor from Professor David Garfinkle that appeared in the January 13 Post regarding the appeal of the Micah Fialka-Feldman ruling. I'd like to clarify why we decided to appeal.

The ruling said that the university must make an exception to our policy that requires individuals who want to live on campus to first qualify for admission and then to be working toward a degree.

Mr. Fialka-Feldman is a 25-year old who has never applied to Oakland but rather participates in a non-credit continuing education program of the School of Education and Human Services.

We believe an appeal is important beyond the issue of housing eligibility. Specifically, we want to clarify that it's the prerogative of the university, not the courts or members of the public, to determine who qualifies for our programs such as housing, scholarships, intercollegiate athletics, commencement,

study abroad and the like, which we believe serve the institution's educational interests.

In this decision the Court said that the eligibility rules we use to determine who may or may not live on campus have nothing to do with the academic program that we believe the halls serve. Is it such a big jump that a future court could tell our physics department to waive an academic degree requirement because the judge or some individual knows better what should or should not be a component of that educational program? We hope to clarify and prevent that from happening.

One point has been lost in all the discussion: For a very long time our residence halls have successfully housed and accommodated hundreds of physically and cognitively impaired OU students who are now alumni of our school.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Snyder
Vice President for Student Affairs
and Enrollment Management

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Center for Student Activities

CSA

www.oakland.edu/csa

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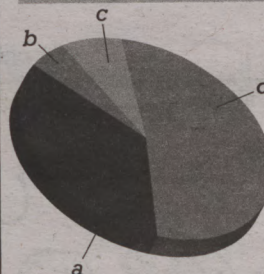
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Submit it to the CSA Events Calendar @

www.oakland.edu/csa/events

poll of the week

last issue's results Total Votes: 35 | Poll conducted at oaklandpostonline.com



Who do you think should be held responsible for making the parking lots safe during the winter season at Oakland University?

a) The Grounds management
12 votes | 34.3%

b) OUPD
2 votes | 5.7%

c) The people who use the parking lot-students, faculty, etc.
3 votes | 8.6%

d) It's everybody's responsibility
18 votes | 51.4%

current poll

Vote now @ oaklandpostonline.com

What are your thoughts on donating to disaster relief causes?



a) I think it's important that I do my part!

b) I don't have any money to spare on strangers.

c) I wouldn't mind donating, except for the fact that I hate that I'm expected to.

Union fueled up for vote

FOIA requested information adds athletic salaries to the mix

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

Upset over a number of issues, including salary raises throughout various departments of Oakland University that took place right before OU President Gary Russi announced a wage freeze, OU faculty will be holding a vote of no confidence in late March.

The American Association of University Professors' OU chapter planned to have a similar vote in late November 2009, but postponed it to give Russi a chance to make good on promises he made at an open forum held with faculty earlier that month.

Salaries

Last June, Russi announced a "salary freeze," effective July 1, 2009, which stated that virtually every OU employee would not be receiving any pay raises until Michigan's economy improved.

While in contract negotiations last summer, Karen Miller, history professor and chair of the department, said faculty heard that employees throughout the administration and Athletic Department had received salary raises prior to July's wage freeze.

The AAUP filed a Freedom of Information Act request, seeking to obtain documents verifying this, but was initially "stonewalled."

On Jan. 8, the AAUP received the requested material after paying necessary fees.

The documents showed that on June 30, 2009, nine members of the Athletic Department staff received raises ranging from 3.25 percent to 34.23 percent.

Nine other staff members took raises ranging from 3.25 percent and 14.14 percent in late 2008 or early 2009.

In 2008, OU created two new Vice President titles as well as the positions of Senior Vice President and Executive Assistant to the President.

These positions came with raises ranging from 5 percent to 13.7 percent.

Miller said faculty are upset most by the "rhetoric of having to sacrifice" when it seems not everyone had to.

"In the same way that President Russi argues that we want to keep our good coaches, we want to keep our good faculty," Miller said.

Officials said these raises brought OU in line with the market rate, according to Miller. All university base salaries are paid for by the general fund.

"There clearly are areas of the university that are treated differently than the rest, and treated far more favorably," Miller said.

David Garfinkle, president of AAUP's OU chapter, said that "the revelation of the hypocrisy of Mr. Russi's 'wage freeze' announcement has further eroded faculty confidence."

"These salaries were adjusted in response to two key elements: One, individual contracts, and two, the athletic conference agreements as a member in good standing," said Russi. "So any adjustments to salaries and so on are consistent with those two."

According to Russi, salary raises like the ones brought up are common practice in athletic programs at universities across the country.

FOIA docs

The AAUP has been seeking accreditation documents presented to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

"The longer they remain secret, the more concerned we are," Miller said.

According to Miller, AAUP filed court papers in December, issuing a deadline for the documents.

Russi promised in a November open forum that the documents would be made available.

He said the application and other medical school documents are now available in Kresge Library.

As of press time, The Oakland Post was unable to locate the specific LCME accreditation materials there with the help of librarians.

The vote

On Jan. 15, the AAUP issued a flier reiterating the above points with the words "get angry" written across the top. The flier has been posted around campus.

Garfinkle said the vote won't be canceled again unless Russi resigns.

"The postponement of the vote until the end of March was to give Mr. Russi one last chance to change and to earn the confidence of the faculty," Garfinkle said. "His foot dragging on fulfilling even the minimal promises made at the November faculty forum is also contributing a further loss of confidence in Mr. Russi and his administration."

Russi told The Post that he is following up on the requests made by the union at the open forum.

"I've never said they should consider stopping it even when they first considered it in November, but there have been several meetings as you know; theirs was an open forum with the faculty. During that meeting, we made commitments to do certain things and we are doing those things," Russi said.

With the help of OU media relations, Russi is cataloging his efforts to satisfy those complaints online.

The vote will be online and anonymous, but the exact details are yet unknown.



RUSSI QUESTION & ANSWER

Additional Parking

In response to a growing student body, and the anticipation of the Human Health Building taking up existing parking spaces, OU has been working with student leaders to create a plan for new parking spaces on campus.

That number is not definite yet, and neither is the exact location, but it's looking like there will be well over 400 new spaces to be added over the summer. Some will be re-purposed existing spaces, said Dave Groves in media relations.

During the construction of the Human Health Building, about 50 spots will be unusable.

Groves said OU Vice President of Finance and Administration John Beaghan will propose the plan, which will be presented to the student congress soon, then finalized and presented to the board of trustees in March.

"That is a normal thing for us to do every year," Russi said of parking expansions. In October, 72 more parking spaces were created. "(We are) expanding it next year, it will happen again the

following year, this is a normal consideration for us as we consider what we need."

Weighing in on Micah

"I think the key thing is the word 'student.' If the student is admitted and matriculated as a normal student, they certainly have access to the residence halls," Russi said. "We do have disabled students, we have cognitively impaired students; these are fully admitted students to this campus, therefore they have access to all the facilities, whether it be

athletic facilities, Rec Centers, residence halls; I think it's all tied up into the definition of what a student is."

The Bike in Beer Lake

"Save the Bike from Beer Lake" is one OU-centered Facebook group to pop up recently. Since Russi was president when a car was pulled out of that same lake in 2002, The Post asked him about it.

Read his account and the rest of the interview on oaklandpostonline.com.

— Colleen J. Miller, Editor in Chief

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Full-year registration in the works

Starting with summer 2010 registration in February, students will be able to register for multiple semesters at a time.

The proposal was put together to help minimize the inability of students to register for classes due to issues on SAIL.

The registration proposal was approved on Dec. 15, 2009 by the President's Cabinet.

Full year registration will allow students to register for summer, fall and winter semesters at the same time or in the most convenient possible order.

Graduate students will have first priority registration starting on Monday, Feb. 8, 2010. After that, registration dates will go by class standing.

Each class will be split up into two separate registration categories until all students will eventually be able to register for summer 2010 classes on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Fall 2010 and winter 2011 registration will both begin on Monday, March 15, 2010.

Each term will have a separate tuition payment deadline despite the ability to register for a full year's worth of classes at once.

Any questions regarding the changes to registration should be directed to an academic adviser.

— Staff reporter Ryan Hegedus

New student organization recruiting students

Students can enjoy free ice cream sundaes and learn more about how Oakland University's newest student organization at an informal introductory meeting Thursday, Feb. 21.

The Student Alumni Association is intended to bring students together to promote OU pride, tradition and spirit.

The goal of the SAA is to help members establish valuable alumni connections that enhance professional networks long after graduation.

The organization partners students up with nearly 3000 OU Alumni Association members and 80,000 OU alumni worldwide.

— Campus editor Kay Nguyen

Students to see changes to FAFSA form

The Free Application for Student Aid is an annual form filled out by students to determine eligibility for federal financial aid in the United States.

A new form this year, with some changes being implemented to make things easier for applicants. Accessible at www.fafsa.ed.gov, the form should be filled out in order to qualify and obtain financial aid for the coming fiscal year.

FAFSA has made an emphasis on making their application less difficult. For the complete article, with tips from Oakland University director of financial aid Cindy Hermesen, go to www.oaklandpostonline.com.

— Contributing reporter Brad Slazinski

Wanted: singers

Feel some 'Gold Vibrations'

By GABI JAYE
Staff Reporter

While many Oakland University students had gone home or back to their dorm rooms to relax around 8 p.m. on Jan. 13, there was a select group of students with butterflies in their stomachs.

The nerves belonged to those auditioning for OU's A Cappella group, Gold Vibrations.

Gold Vibrations is a fairly new organization created by sophomores Elyse Foster, Sarah Robinson, and Elizabeth Lordon and freshman Ana Rodriguez.

The four attended Rochester High School together and wished to continue their shared passion of singing through college.

"We all love to sing," Foster said. "So we wanted to start a group where we could all sing together."

The idea was such a success that they had 12 people immediately join the group during the fall semester.

Gold Vibrations generally sings popular songs that people would hear on the radio.

The week prior to auditions, students were encouraged to try out for the rising group.

Those that auditioned heard about the opportunity through social networks, such as Facebook and its numerous applications, or simply by word of mouth.

Those who were already members were given the chance to

judge the incoming participants last Wednesday.

One by one, aspiring participants took center floor and sang a chorus and verse of their favorite pop song.

Songs ranged anywhere from Jay Sean's "Down" to '80s hits from Pat Benetar.

After the audition was completed, the group would ask silly questions to get a feel of the person's personality.

In all, there were 14 people that tried out for the group.

"We are really looking for two tenors, a bass, soprano and an alto," Foster said. "But we're really open to any position."

When the night wrapped up, the group voted for those they thought possessed the talent and personality for the organization.

On Jan. 17, the new members were announced.

The four new members are freshmen Zac Rogers, Regina Dolza, Anna Falkowski and Nikki Book.

With the group's popularity and number of members rising, Gold Vibrations hopes to expand their familiarity with other students.

They have already sang in local areas like the Village of Rochester Hills.

"Our long term goal for Gold Vibrations is to participate in ICCA (International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella) and to put Oakland University on the map," Foster said.

POLICE FILES

Larceny: On Jan. 13, an officer met with three students who claimed they had items stolen out of their room. The student said they were showering in the community bath area and hung up their room keys on the hooks available. Once they finished showering, they noticed that their room keys were gone. The keys also had their student ID attached to them. The students returned to their room to see items that had been on their bed were gone. Stolen items ranged from purses to cell phones. The students went to their banks to put holds on their debit cards. They also went to housing to have the locks on their doors changed. No suspects have been reported at this time.

Bunk Bed Incident: On Jan. 15, two officers were dispatched to South Hamlin Hall. A student explained that she fell from her top bunk bed while she was trying to get out of it. The student injured her right ankle when she landed then bumped the back of her head on the floor. The Auburn Hills Fire Department arrived to treat the student. She was then transported to Crittenton for further medical attention.

— Compiled from OUPD media logs by staff reporter Gabi Jaye

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PLU 192

Senate meeting approves new policies, new business

By MAS RAHMAN
Staff Reporter

At its Jan. 14 meeting, Oakland University Senate approved a new major, and discussed the need to review policies about teachers giving exams the week before finals and when teachers should turn in students' grades.

The campus police chief also addressed the Senate and asked its members to help stop ongoing legislation that would let civilians carry concealed weapons on campus.

The Senate is made up of faculty members, administrative personnel and student representatives, and meets monthly to discuss academic affairs and make recommendations to the president.

Its next meeting is on Feb. 11 at 3:10 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms, and is open to the public.

New major program

A Bachelor of Science degree in actuarial science was approved by the senate.

This means the senate would recommend this major to OU's president, whose office would submit it to the OU board of trustees, who needs to approve of the major before it can be offered to the students.

Because the deadline for inclusion in the fall 2010 catalog was in December, it is unlikely that the major would be offered until 2011.

The actuarial science major, a collaboration of college of arts and sciences and the school of business administration eight years in the making at OU, essentially assesses risk in finance and insurance. It's a very specialized field, which is why proposers only anticipated having three to five students in the first year.

Grade submission change

Senate members generally said it may be time to review the policy that says teachers must submit students' semester grades 48 hours after the scheduled final exam.

Sumit Dinda, assistant professor of health sciences, first brought up the subject, and said this strict deadline is harmful to academics, because teachers grade too quickly and mistakes can be made.

"It's forcing too many to adopt a multiple choice final," Dinda said.

Others agreed with him.

Sean Moran, associate professor of history, said it's

difficult to read thousands of pages of term papers within a couple days.

"When you write an essay, you want your professor to read your essay," said Virinder Moudgil, senior vice-president of academic affairs and provost, who chairs the senate meetings.

"Times have changed; it's a different university now," Moudgil said, adding that any proposed change would need to keep the students in mind.

He said some students need grades earlier because of internships and other things.

Emily Tissit, a student representative to the senate, said some of her friends got wrong grades and late grades.

"Extended deadlines would create a lot less anxiety," Tissit said.

The 48-hour grade submission deadline is included in the teachers' contracts.

To change the deadline, the contract would have to be changed.

The contract will need to be re-approved by the teachers' union, the OU administration and OU's board of trustees.

Exams before finals

Senate members also generally agreed to look at the policy of teachers giving exams on the week before finals.

Tamara Machmut-Jhashi, associate provost and associate professor of art history, said she has received complaints from students about instructors who have done this, despite there being a written policy in the registrar's office that says teachers shouldn't.

"The senate did this in 1963," Machmut-Jhashi said. "Is there need for change?"

Some said the phrase "written exam" is not clear enough.

Some science teachers said some lab practicals need to take place the week before finals.

Some suggested letting some teachers apply for exemption if they need to give an exam the week before finals.

"What the senate does is just recommend," Moran said. "It's not binding."

Lucido on gun bill

Sam Lucido, chief of OU police department, asked for help from the Senate members to stop ongoing legislation in the Michigan state Senate and House that is

seeking to let people carry guns onto college campuses.

He said he and other chiefs of campus police in Michigan do not agree with the contents of the bills, and OU has also taken a stance against it.

He said youth and young adults make up the majority of the campus population, and because they mature at different rates, he's concerned about their judgement with firearms.

He said college students are also known for consuming inappropriate amounts of alcohol, and "I can't imagine adding firearms to the mix," he said.

Lucido said people carrying guns on campus, which is illegal now, would add to the danger also because if more people who see someone with a gun call OUPD, the police would have a hard time deciding whether to approach the person as a potential threat, or to let that person be because that person probably has a permit.

Larceny is the number one crime on campus, and "I don't want to see firearms on that list," he said.

He asked Senate members to write letters of support against the House Bill 5474 and Senate Bill 747, as individuals or as groups.

Wage freeze issue

A professor doesn't think that the 2009-10 wage freeze for OU's non-unionized employees, announced last summer, was followed to the spirit.

"At that time, we thought that was a sacrifice," said Joel Russell, professor of chemistry, who was the teachers' union's president last summer.

"At least nine members of the athletic department got a raise in the June 30 paycheck, one day before the July 1 announcement," he said. "The letter was carried out, but the mechanism was made to give raises to some right before, so the spirit wasn't followed."

OU president Gary Russi was present at the meeting, and said in an interview after the meeting that he had previously been asked to confirm some charts regarding this and did so, but he had not yet seen the figures that Russell is using now.

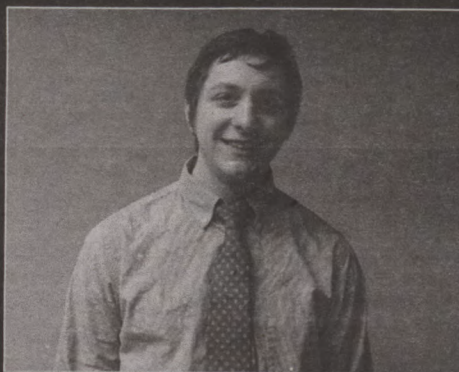
For more on the issue of athletic department paychecks and other teachers' union issues, see the lead story on page 5.



For previous coverage of the 2009-10 wage freeze saga, visit our website.

STUDENT of the MONTH

Steve St. Germain
Senior, Marketing



Steve is the president of the American Marketing Association chapter at OU, the Marketing Director for The Oakland Post, founder of Free Food at OU and All For One giving program and a member of the Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity.

Student of the month is selected by the Oakland University Student Congress through applications (available at 62 Oakland Center), receives a prime parking spot near the Oakland Center and \$50 in Spirit Cash.

Keeper of the Dream kicks off African American celebration

By RORY MCCARTY
Staff Reporter

People lined the walls and filled the seats in the banquet room to hear Susan L. Taylor's speech at the Keeper of the Dream celebration Monday.

Taylor worked for almost 30 years as an editor at "Essence" magazine, and has received numerous accolades from the magazine industry and civil rights groups. She also started the National CARES mentoring organization.

Taylor covered a wide array of topics relating to racial injustice, community service, and the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Let me first say that you young sisters have taken my breath away," Taylor said to a round of applause.

Taylor first addressed a question she has had posed to her many times: "What would you do if you had met Dr. King?" She said the first thing she would've done was drop everything she was doing and simply carry his briefcase.

"The second thing I would do is apologize. I would apologize because my generation dropped the baton," Taylor said. She expressed her remorse that her generation didn't follow up on the legacy

of the Montgomery bus boycotts.

Taylor discussed King's life from his beginnings as a student up until the final days of his Civil Rights marches.

"When he really started understanding the suffering in the world, that's when he put his behind in the chair and became a scholar," Taylor said.

But Taylor said that King had doubts that he could continue his efforts when he feared that death threats would truly put his family in jeopardy, though in the end he resolved not to turn his back on the movement.

"It's the troubled times that make you look inside yourself," Taylor said.

She related the issue of racial inequality to the situation in Haiti.

She expressed the need to fix the problem of poverty by first fixing public education, and the need to stop "verbal violence" among people. Taylor also made a case for community service, and asked people to simply help those around them.

"What really makes you happy at the end of the day is knowing you used your breath to help others," she said.

She made a plea for getting more black mentors for young men and women, saying that there is a disproportionate number of white mentors.

Each of the award recipients were able to talk about their achievements in multicultural understanding and what winning the award means to her in pre-recorded speeches that were played as they accepted the awards.

Chelsea Grimmer explained about her work with Beyond Basics getting OU students to volunteer at elementary schools. She talked about working in a school in Detroit which is 99 percent African American and receives less funding than other schools due to scoring lower on MEAP testing.

"Vision, compassion and faith are still necessary in fighting this injustice and working towards a better understanding and equality for all people," Grimmer said.

She said her experience proves that Dr. King's dream is still important even today.

Juquatta Brewer co-created the ELITE organization, which stands for Encouraging Ladies by Inspiring Them to be Empowered.

She talked about her work as a Resident Assistant in the residence halls, and how it has allowed her to learn about different cultures.

"I focused on our similarities instead

of our differences," Brewer said. "Doctor King's dream continues to encourage people to overcome their racial differences."

Melissa DeGrandis has served as a senior RA in the residence halls, a peer mentor, and an orientation group leader. "(This award) means that I have grown and pushed beyond my comfort zone, and I have stood out as a driven leader who made a change in my own life," DeGrandis said.

"I believe Dr. King's dream of equality is still relevant today, and some of it has come true," DeGrandis said.

Each of the recipients expressed their gratitude to OU and the Keeper of the Dream committee for recognizing her.



Grimmer later said that winning this award and hearing Taylor speak has given her further inspiration to get students involved with Beyond Basics.

She hopes that they can work in the future in collaboration with Taylor's National CARES organization.

The Keeper of the Dream celebration kicks off OU's African American Celebration 2010, as well as black history month. Upcoming events include documentary screenings and public lectures throughout February.

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Nominees for the 2010 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in winter 2010 or have graduated in summer or fall 2009. The awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. Nominees must have a strong academic record of a 3.5 or higher GPA.



NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.OAKLAND.EDU/DEANOFSTUDENTS/
UNDER "SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS"
OR AT 144 OAKLAND CENTER.

CALL (248) 370 - 3352 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

DEADLINE FOR BOTH AWARDS IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

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



Student's faith inspires

Daniella Saveski's legacy lives on through family and friends

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Staff Reporter

Daniella Saveski was a devout Christian, family member, friend and student. Friends and family say she had an outgoing personality, vibrant smile and a continuously positive outlook on life.

After a two and a half year battle with cancer, Saveski, a Sterling Heights resident and Oakland University communication student, passed away last month.

She was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in late September of 2007, 11 days before her 19th birthday.

Religious convictions

Faith had always played a role in Saveski's life, but it was this life-altering diagnosis that truly impacted her devotion.

This change was exceptionally clear when Ashley Lorano, one of Saveski's closest friends, received a text message from her saying, "They say I have cancer, Ashley, but don't worry, in Jesus name, I am healed."

"I have been a Christian my whole life and I am the one who Daniella always looked to for spiritual guidance," Lorano said. "We would talk about God and different religions, but I never imagined that she could teach me how to become a stronger follower of Jesus."

Even when those around her were uncertain of the future, Saveski was the one who would constantly encourage everyone around her to stay abundant in their faith.

She remained strong, never letting those around her fear the situation, but rather helping them in their personal struggles.

Oakland Christian Church became a cornerstone in her daily life, and it is there where she met Pastors Dominic and Amira Russo, who became vital role models to Saveski.

After attending church at OCC, Saveski and Lorano began going to The Gathering, a group for young adults.

These services helped Saveski grow spiritually and find her passion for missionary work.

Missionary work

After a year of going to The Gathering and inviting friends to join her, Saveski decided it was time to share her testimony with others around the world.

In April of 2008, she went on a missionary trip to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where she spoke of her healing to nearly 10,000 people.

One defining moment of the trip was when Saveski was asked to visit a local hospital to pray for a sick patient. Immediately upon entering the room, Saveski jumped onto the woman's bed and began praying enthusiastically over her.



Daniella Saveski speaks to a crowd during her missionary work in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Saveski, a student who passed away last month, aimed to spread her passion for her religion to as many people as possible. Photo Courtesy of Ashley Lorano

After returning home from Bolivia, Saveski's passion for preaching grew even stronger. She continued to visit other churches, as well as meeting people in their homes and sending uplifting messages through e-mail and Facebook.

Lasting impression

One of Saveski's most redeeming qualities was her strength in light of the situation at hand, both during her time as a student at Michigan State University and her stay at OU.

"She would go to State for classes, then come home for treatments," Lorano said. "It was hard on her sometimes, but nothing was going to keep her from doing the things she set out to do, especially when it came to helping others."

In such a difficult time, like the months following Saveski's diagnosis, her family grew closer than they had ever been. Her parents, Bob and Mary, and younger sisters, Missy and Jessie, became her strongest support system.

While Saveski had a noticeable impact on those who

knew her, she even received messages from people that had never met her but knew her story.

Nowhere was this impact more clear than in the words of her mother, Mary Saveski.

"She was my hero," she said.

The impression that Saveski left was also evident to the professors she had during her time at Oakland.

"One of her aspirations after high school was to go to Michigan State, but she always valued the times she had at Oakland," her mother said. "When she was first going through everything, she would always talk about how the Oakland professors were so good to her. They really cared."

Lorano plans on having a fundraising event on her birthday in honor of Saveski. She hopes to raise money for cancer awareness or for a local family struggling with the disease.

One of Saveski's favorite quotes, "I am third. God is first, others are second, and I am third," was truly indicative of her devotion to her faith and helping others. To those who knew her, this quote stands as a testament to the legacy Saveski left.

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Student publishes novel

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

When Evan Heuker completed a sixth grade writing assignment, he had no idea it would one day turn into a novel.

Heuker, a sophomore theatre acting major, had his first novel, "Warriors' Legacy: The Uncovering," published in November 2009.

"It started as a sixth grade assignment to get a grasp on the idea of sci-fi," Heuker said. "In eighth grade, a similar assignment came about and I brought back my first piece. I had fun and continued to write."

He has worked on the novel on and off since then.

"Warriors' Legacy: The Uncovering" follows a character named Ezmer as he attempts to stop a nearly millenium-long war in their universe. He classifies the book as a fantasy or science fiction novel.

Heuker said the book is the first in the Warriors' Legacy trilogy. He is currently working on the next book.

"The second book is, well, more complicated than the first one was, so it might be awhile," Heukers said. "It's something that I've started, so now I have to finish it so I make myself sit down and do it."

He tries to devote himself to at least three or four three-hour long writing sessions each week.

"It varies if an idea strikes me," Heuker said. "There are days I could write two pages easily and others I can't even write half a page."

One way Heuker gets ideas is through rereading his first book.

"I've been reading it over and over, but it's still fun to read and a good way to keep the ideas fresh," Heuker said. "Ideas come as I think of what new aspect I could throw into the mix."

He said he rewrote "The Uncovering" from the beginning on three separate occasions but now has a much better idea of where he'd like to take the series.

Heuker currently has two ideas for future books.

In addition to his writing pursuits, he works two jobs, is taking 14 credits this semester and is the props runner for the school's production of "Little Women." He is also considering a writing minor.

Information about the book is available in the Facebook group "Warrior's Legacy Trilogy." The book is available for purchase at www.authorhouse.com.

"There's more to expect and two more books to look forward to," Heuker said.

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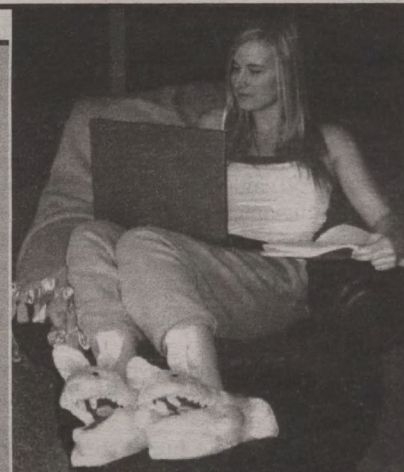
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Helping Haiti: Students Pitch In

How have you helped relief efforts?

Outside Orgs

- Through a partnership with the Red Cross, customers of participating mobile carriers can text "HAITI" to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Donations show up on monthly bills.
- Doctors Without Borders (doctorswithoutborders.org) is accepting donations for Haiti relief efforts.
- ShelterBox (shelterbox.org) is an international disaster relief charity that's delivering emergency shelter and warmth.
- Mercy Corps (mercycorps.org) needs donations for water-filtration devices to supply Haitians with clean water.

Don't make a hasty donation. Always research charities before giving money.



"Once I get my paycheck I'm donating \$10 to the celebrity fund, Artists for Peace and Justice. They have a 100 percent turnover rate."

Zachary Hill
Junior, undecided



"I'm wearing red for Haiti today. My friends have posted Facebook pictures of themselves in red."

Katara Logan
Sophomore,
psychology



"I donated 50 cents to Haiti relief in the food court. I could have given more, but I'm already \$13,000 in debt."

James Bialk
Junior, cinema studies

PERFORMING A C

Support and aid goes from cam



Talia Frenkel/American Red Cross

An American Red Cross worker helps a survivor of last week's earthquake in Haiti. Thousands of miles away, Oakland University students do their part via Haiti-Palooza!, a concert hosted by WXOU.

When she heard about the devastation in Haiti, Oakland University student Kirby Hairston decided she wanted to do something big.

After the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that left most of the nation in shambles and an estimated 200,000 dead — and counting — Hairston said she had a conversation with a close friend about whether people should feel a responsibility to help those who have lived through a natural disaster. Hairston feels they do.

"People are still people ... people should help people," she said.

Immediately after the earthquake, aid started pouring in from around the globe.

President Barack Obama, for instance, pledged \$100 million along with troop support. Hairston, host of "The One O'clock Takeover" on campus radio station 88.3 FM WXOU, is coordinating with her coworkers and other student organizations to also raise money for Haiti relief.

She had the idea for a benefit concert and started calling performers. She got confirmation from about 25 performers ranging from acoustic acts to spoken word poetry.

"I got a really good response from everyone," she said.

Within a few days, the radio station had planned an all-day event for Wednesday, Jan. 20, called "Haiti-palooza!"

"It usually takes us a month to plan something like this," said Erik Anderson, general manager of WXOU. But everyone involved, including Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, wanted the event to be timely.

"We wanted to do it as quick as possible and capitalize on the momentum," Miller said. "If we wait too long, people might lose interest."

The concert will be held in the Pioneer Food Court of the Oakland Center from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. There will be a stage accompanied by two tables, one accepting donations and the other serving as a live broadcast booth for WXOU, which will also be streaming the concert on wxou.org.

There will be roughly two performances per hour, "which is going to be insane, but we're going to do it," Anderson said. WXOU DJs will be filling the time between performances, which should last about 15 to 20 minutes each.

The artists performing are eager to help out for what they see as a very important cause.

Noah "Noafex" Smith, who graduated from OU in 2005 with a degree in communications, will be performing at 8:15 p.m. "I think it's a great idea," the rap artist said of the concert. "I hope a lot of people come out to support this cause."

Quesami Hickerson, the Detroit musician who goes by the name "RenCen

GOOD DEED

Campus to the Caribbean

written by Mike Sandula | designed by Jason Willis



Talia Frenkel/American Red Cross



Eric Quintero/IFRC



Eric Quintero/IFRC

What other student orgs are doing to help

FRENCH CLUB

Because Haiti is a Francophone — that is, French-speaking — nation, Oakland University's French Club wanted to lend their support.

The club is holding a meeting Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Rooms 129-130 of the Oakland Center. They will be accepting donations on behalf of the American Red Cross.

SIFE

Students in Free Enterprise will be selling posters Wednesday from 1-10 p.m. in the hallway of the Oakland Center.

The 22" x 28" posters, which come in either color or black and white, are two for \$3 or three for \$5. All proceeds go to Partners in Health.

SAMAN'S STRIP

If all goes to plan, Saman Waquad, student body vice president, will be spending her spring break, Feb. 20-28, in Haiti, volunteering at an orphanage 50 miles out of Port-au-Prince, the nation's capital.

The trip is tentative because Waquad doesn't know how things will be in a month and currently there are no commercial flights into Haiti.

Students would have to cover the costs themselves, which would be about \$20 a day plus airfare. Those interested can reach Waquad by e-mail (sfwaquad@oakland.edu) or by calling 248-470-4949.

MONEYWAR

The Center for Student Activities is hosting a "Money War" between student organizations. Those interested can pick up a money-collecting bag from Janelle Arbuckle at the CSA office in the lower level of the Oakland Center, Room 49. The contest ends Friday at noon.

1.20.10

Haiti-Palooza!

schedule of performers

- 10:05am - Ryan D'Silva
- 10:35am - Pato Margetic
- 11:05am - Marty Party
- 11:35am - Robo-Robb
- 12:05pm - VP
- 12:35pm - Quest M Cody
- 1:05pm - Coldmen Young
- 1:35pm - Kopelli
- 2:05pm - T. Miller
- 2:35pm - Mic Wright
- 3:05pm - Sheefy McFly
- 3:35pm - New Unity
- 4:05pm - Phenom
- 4:25pm - Lil Solo
- 4:35pm - CSF
- 5:05pm - J Finn
- 5:35pm - Nique Love Rhodes
- 5:55pm - Jeremy Ravezzani
- 6:05pm - Midcoast Most
- 6:35pm - Braed Mape Brown
- 6:55pm - Spillseed
- 7:05pm - Whitney Raenan
- 7:35pm - Newland
- 8:05pm - Roc Stea'd
- 8:35pm - Noafex
- 9:05pm - Blackbird Smile
- 9:35pm - Rencen Cool Beanz

HOW YOU CAN HELP

WXOU will be collecting monetary donations all day at Haiti-Palooza! in the Oakland Center 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Stop by any participating student org office on campus by noon on Friday.

CoolBeanz" on stage, said he was all for the benefit concert the second Hairston mentioned the idea to him. Hickerson, a self-described "musical mutt," plays a combination of alternative/punk rock, R&B, hip hop and various other genres.

"I think it is very great that people in the music community in Detroit are doing things to make a change," Hickerson said. He added that he hopes people look at the concert as more than a free show. "Dig in your pockets, dig in your soul and give whatever you have to help folks," he said.

Various student organizations will be overseeing the donation table, rotating throughout the day. People can donate cash and change, or write a check out

to one of four charity organizations: American/International Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Doctors Without Borders, and Partners in Health.

Miller said these organizations were chosen because they have proven to reliably channel funds directly to those in need.

"The idea is to make sure money goes straight to the people, not administrative costs," Miller said. She added that all donations must be monetary because material donations are more difficult to process.

Miller said a similar fundraising event was held in 2004 after the Indian Ocean Tsunami, in which OU students raised

\$3,400 in one day.

"I would love to top that," she said.

To show solidarity, Miller also encourages everyone to wear "anything that says 'OU.'"

Down the hall, in the Fireside Lounge, Chartwells will be selling bowls of spaghetti with garlic bread for \$2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds will be going to relief efforts.

The benefit concert is a one-day, one-time event, but Hairston said that she will be looking into what else needs to be done afterwards.

"I hope to encourage people to participate and help out after 'Haiti-palooza' is over," Hairston said.

The Scene

14

www.oaklandpostonline.com

January 20, 2010

written by Alexis Tomrell
designed by Jason Willis

ferndale city guide

AJ's Music Cafe

This large cafe has a small-town community feel, a mellow atmosphere and friendly staff. AJ's has a diverse, wide selection of coffee drinks, sandwiches, vegan choices and their greatest creation: waffliches (cheap waffle breakfast sandwiches!). It's a relaxing place to study (free Wi-Fi), read from their stocked library or catch up with friends. Unlike corporate coffee, this place has character, featuring local artists' work on the walls. Since opening in 2007, AJ's has a pretty impressive history. Last year they made it into the Guinness Book of World Records for hosting 288 hours of nonstop music performance. They also do weekly open-mic nights and their new Sunday Cabaret from 3-6 p.m.

Address: 240 W. 9 Mile Rd.
Website: www.ajsmusiccafe.com

Mother Fletchers

This vintage store is packed with odd knick-knacks, mounds of retro clothing and wild-colored boots. Whether you're shopping for a costume party or an everyday look, Fletcher's has got something, although you may have to dig to find it. It's a black hole of the forgotten and the bizarre, populated with hideous prints and strangely pleasant fabrics. Bon voyage!

Address: 234 W. 9 Mile Rd.

Magic Bag

Housed in an old theatre, this classy dive venue has been spruced up in recent years and now hosts a variety of concerts, movie nights and dance parties. The selection is so varied that you may find Joey McIntyre on one night and a late night showing of "The Hangover" on the other. Their "Brew and View" nights show second-string movies, like the upcoming "Pirate Radio" and "Where the Wild Things Are," and pair them with cheap beer and popcorn. Entry is only 2 bucks. For nonsmokers, the Magic Bag was one of southeast Michigan's first bars to go smoke-free.

Address: 22920 Woodward Ave.
Website: www.themagicbag.com

The Record Collector

Since Record Time closed in Ferndale, The Record Collector has taken over your music needs. Not a bad replacement. The Collector has been open for over 25 years, supplying the mainstream buyer and the avid collector. Unlike some vinyl graveyards, the store is well organized and the staff is knowledgeable, making it easy to find what you're looking for. They also sell DVDs and used CDs in every genre, from classic rock to spoken word. Riding retro? All cassettes are \$1.99 or cheaper.

Address: 327 W. 9 Mile Rd.

American Pop

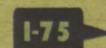
A time warp into the kitschy home decor of '50s and '60s Americana. This is the store for your random rarities; like that Monkees tin lunch box or special edition Saturday Evening Post. The perfect option for out-of-the-box gifts and small surprises. Like other vintage/treasure stores, American Pop is packed with hours worth of browsing. Their selection is always changing, so stop by periodically to see new additions. Even if you don't find anything to your liking, the store's nostalgia will transfer you to more colorful times.

Address: 175 W. 9 Mile Rd.

Como's

This Ferndale eatery, around since 1961, is known for their Italian food and pizza. While it's a family restaurant during the day, it's an adult hang out at night — a decent place to grab some food before or after the bar. In the warmer months, Como's offers plenty of outdoor patio seating to eat, people watch and hang out during one of Ferndale's many summer festivals. They are most popular for their handmade pizza, a must for the first-time visitor. One of their biggest nights is Ladies Night (for the LGBT crowd) on the first Wednesday of each month.

Address: 22812 Woodward Ave. at 9 Mile Road.



woodward avenue

vester street

9 mile road

9 mile road

allen avenue



music spotlight

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Columnist

The year promises exciting music as artists reinvent their sounds and record with unlikely collaborators. Music Spotlight's review roundup covers Vampire Weekend, Blakroc and Metric.

VAMPIRE WEEKEND: On Jan. 12 indie pop band Vampire Weekend released "Contra," their anticipated follow-up to 2007's breakout self-titled album.

This past November, Vampire Weekend released a music video for "Cousins" from the Contra album along with a free download of "Horchata."

"Cousins" is full of the same purebred pop that made their big hit, "A-Punk," such a great song, with its fast drums and catchy harmonies. On the flipside, "Horchata" brings harder drums, xylophones and synthesizers, while still maintaining a laid back, almost mellow sound.

Their track "White Sky" strays from vocalist and guitarist Ezra Koenig's past work by incorporating a combination of sounds, including traditional African music and synth beats.

While "Contra" is still the quintessential Vampire Weekend that made them popular, don't be surprised by their new musical direction. It shows a quick maturity by a relatively young band.

BLAKROC: Since 2002, blues-rock duo, The Black Keys, have been paying homage to blues greats like B.B. King and Junior Kimbrough. In late 2009, Roc-A-Fella CEO Damon Dash reached out to vocalist/guitarist Dan Auerbach and drummer/producer Patrick Carney to collaborate under the project titled **Blakroc**.

Blakroc features new sounds that combine the blues sound and rough vocals of the Black Keys and the acclaimed talent of hip-hop artists like Mos Def, Jim Jones, RZA, Ludacris, Q-Tip and others.

In "Ain't Nothing Like You (Hoochie Co)" Auerbach lays down hard blues riffs and background vocals, setting the foundation for Mos Def and NYC's famous Jim Jones.

Ludacris and the O'Dirty Bastard also bring strong verses to "Ain't Nothing." The song does a stellar job showcasing drummer Patrick Carney's diverse talents, yet distinct sound.

When Blakroc pairs with Nikki Wray (Make it Hot), the result is powerful: "Why Can't I Forget Him" is a dark, soulful ballad about longing.

The project is a refreshing change of pace for hip-hop collaborations, a genre that's seen its share of copycats and rehashes. Mainstream music hasn't seen a group containing this much talent in awhile.

Although their self-titled album has been out for a few months now, expect it to pick up speed and become

one of the most talked about projects of 2010.

METRIC: Sometimes it takes months for an indie album to gain hype; **Metric** is the exception. The Toronto-based indie rock band, Metric's 2009 release "Fantasies" is moving fast.

While Metric has been gaining popularity and radio play in the US, they already have an established fan base in their home country, Canada. They've been nominated for the Polaris Music Prize's Canadian Album of the Year and a Juno Award nomination for Best Alternative Album.

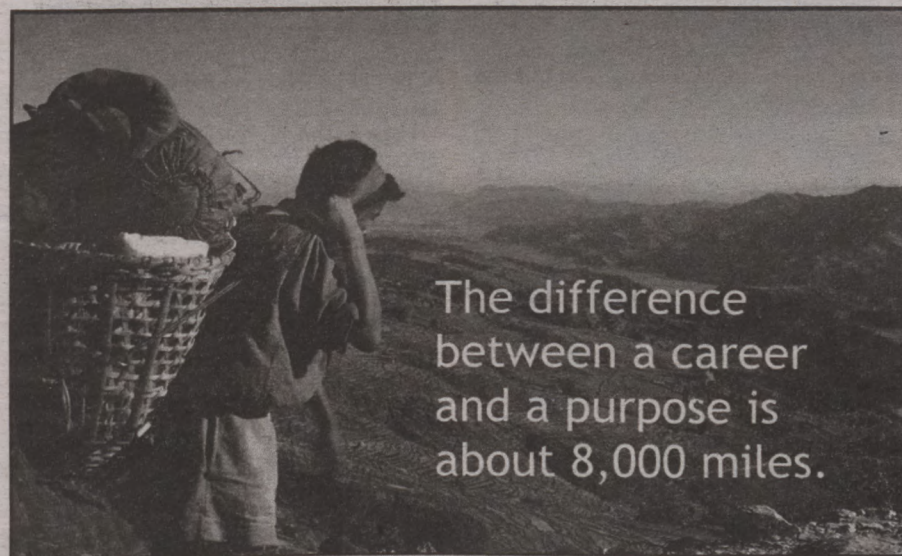
"Fantasies" was released in April 2009 and is their fourth studio album.

Metric's music has been featured on shows like Grey's Anatomy, Gossip Girl, Entourage and in the movie Zombieland.

"Fantasies" is an upbeat alternative album with a poppy influence like that of The Killers. Lead vocalist and synth player Emily Haines (also of Broken Social Scene) brings catchy harmonies and personality to consistently good music.

"Gold Guns Girls" is a fast drum and vocal-driven track with minimal guitar riffs that really showcases Haines' offbeat voice.

Metric's popularity will only rise if they continue making music that sets them apart from other bands like Shiny Toy Guns and The Sounds.



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Governor's race begins

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

Although the 2010 Michigan gubernatorial race isn't until November, several candidates have already announced their intentions to run for the seat.

Current Gov. Jennifer Granholm is legally prohibited from running for a third term, which has left the pool open to a wide variety of other contenders.

So far for the democrats, only Alma Wheeler Smith has officially announced her candidacy. Smith is a current State representative and a former State senator. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She is a member of the Michigan House Appropriations Committee. Among her top priorities are health care reform and education.

Lieutenant Governor John Cherry, former state representative John Freeman and state senator Hansen Clark withdrew from the race earlier this month.

Others who have publicly discussed running for the Democratic nomination include Virg Bernero, Andy Dillon and George Perles. Bernero is the mayor of Lansing. Andy Dillon is the current state Speaker of the House and Perles was a

former Michigan State University football coach. None of them have officially announced candidacy as of press time.

Others who are considering candidacy include Bart Stupak, Dan Kildee, Daniel Mulhern, Debbie Stabenow, Denise Iltch, Jim Barcia and Joe Dumars.

For the Republican Party, seven candidates have announced their candidacy so far. Additionally, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land announced her candidacy but later withdrew in order to run for lieutenant governor with Mike Bouchard.

Announced candidates for the Republican nomination are Mike Bouchard, Mike Cox, Tom George, Peter Hoekstra, David Kniffen, Tim Rujan and Rick Snyder.

Bouchard, current Oakland County Sheriff, is also a former state senator. He said his main priority is to create jobs and revamp the economy in order to prevent young people from leaving.

"Like many parents, I have a child in college," Bouchard said. "It would sadden me greatly if she had to leave to find a job. If it's her choice to leave, that's one thing. If that's her only option, that's unacceptable."

Other issues he plans to tackle are

controlling spending and fixing the tax system to encourage local business. Bouchard is speaking at Oakland University on Monday, Jan. 25.

Mike Cox, is the state attorney general and graduated from the University of Michigan law school.

Cox is also aiming to keep college graduates in the state, particularly by cutting the Michigan Business Tax in half and eliminating the 2007 personal income tax increase. Questions for Cox can be directed to his Facebook or Twitter pages.

Tom George is a state senator and a former state representative. He aims to work on reforming the health care system and making education a priority. He also is planning to create a Detroit/Wayne County Redevelopment Authority to help the area develop a degree of competitiveness with other metro areas.

Peter Hoekstra, a graduate of Hope College and the University of Michigan, is a current United States representative serving Michigan. His "100 Jobs/1,000 Miles" plan will involve him working 100 jobs and biking 1,000 miles across the state during his campaign in order to hear from as many citizens as possible. He is concerned with reforming taxes

and the economy.

David Kniffen, founder of the social networking site LeapNGo, mainly wants to focus on education and the economy, particularly creating jobs and restructuring the tax system.

Tim Rujan, a former county commissioner, said education is something that needs to be made a priority.

"Basically, I'm looking at reforming tax structure and allowing things like the Michigan Promise Grant, which was needlessly eliminated, to come back," Rujan said. "Education is right at the top of the list of things we need to change."

He also hopes to reduce the amount of government influence on personal lives.

Rick Snyder, former executive vice-president of Gateway, is also running. Snyder is the founding Chairman of Ann Arbor SPARK, an economic development organization. Snyder's top three campaign principles are to create more and better jobs, reform the tax system, and increase state government efficiency.

The Republican candidate will be chosen in the August primary.

Calls to the offices of Cox, George, Hoekstra, Kniffen, Smith, and Snyder were not returned as of press time.

Bouchard announces Construction Jobs Now plan

By JAMIE GASPER
Staff Intern

With the election for governor coming up in November, Michigan residents have begun to hear a number of improvement plans from candidates.

Mike Bouchard, one of the candidates and Oakland County Sheriff, has come up with a plan called Michigan Construction Jobs Now.

This plan proposes a 12-month window of opportunity where both home and business owners can build additions, remodel, and renovate while being exempt from property tax increases until the property is sold.

Under the current law, the value of home renovations becomes part of the property tax.

"My program gives Michigan a much needed economic jump-start by fueling a demand for builders, contractors, and suppliers," Bouchard said. "It also will lead to long-term investments in Michigan by encouraging hometown job providers to enhance the value of their properties now. If we provide the opportunities, Michigan's builders, contractors and suppliers will get the job done," Bouchard said.

Oakland University freshman Justine Roy said she supports the proposal.

"I think that Bouchard's proposal sounds like a fantastic idea," Roy said. "It would really help a lot of home and business owners out that are looking to sell. We see many businesses that are run down because the owners can't afford the taxes, and it's kind of sad."

Bouchard received positive feedback after pitching his plan to various builders, contractors and top legislators.

Bouchard said his plan will help residents achieve the "American dream" by making the building process more accessible. He expects the plan will cause a ripple effect, starting with the builders, leading to plumbers.

In 2008, the construction trades sector lost 25,500 jobs, and about one third of overall workers are unemployed.

With the "Construction Jobs Now" plan, businesses and homeowners will have an incentive to push ahead with their renovations.

Once the renovations are ignited, Bouchard hopes this will generate job growth amongst electricians, lumber yards, heating and cooling specialists, painters, plumbers and roofers, putting thousands of Michigan's unem-

ployed back to work.

The goals for the plan include not only stimulating job growth, but also generating economic growth in the government with building permits, inspection fees, sales taxes on building supplies and income tax from jobs created.

Since 2005, the number of building permits dropped 84 percent. But with Bouchard's plan, he hopes to turn the economy around.

"This plan sounds great, it seems like it will give immense opportunity to our overall state and economy. I think that our current governor has failed to improve our economy and if Bouchard was elected I'd have hope for the future," OU freshman Katie Swift said.

"This plan sounds better than anything pitched by our current governor, and I myself am looking forward to the future of Michigan," sophomore Thomas Schandewski said. "I have always had an interest in the remodeling process of Detroit, and if this plan helps to move that process along then that's even better. I love Michigan with all of its seasons, and history and I want nothing more than to see its economy improve so that it can continue to thrive."

Sports

January 20, 2010

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Freshman stars in victory

Win moves the Grizzlies up in Summit League standings

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

The Oakland University women's basketball team (8-10) pulled off a small upset over UMKC Monday night, knocking off a team with a better conference record 81-75 at the O'Rena.

Freshman forward Bethany Watterworth turned in a big night, putting up 22 points and seven rebounds for the Grizzlies in a game that was more closely contested than the final score would indicate.

"We just came out aggressive and looked to score," Watterworth said. "We never backed down as a team, and we never backed down from this game. (UMKC) made a little run, but we stepped it up and finished it off."

Oakland carried the lead for nearly the entire game, but UMKC made several scoring runs to get back into the game in the second half, cutting OU's advantage down to a single point with just over two minutes left to play.

"It always happens in basketball: You have a lead and you get in your heels a bit because you are playing not to lose, and it happened in our offense and we weren't as aggressive," head coach Beckie Francis said. "But I thought our defense did a great job in those last few possessions."

Coming off a career-high 18 points in Thursday's win, sophomore guard Sharise Calhoun followed up with 17 points against the Kangaroos in addition to a team-high eight rebounds.

Seniors Melissa Jeltima and Riikka Terava also scored in double figures, with 15 and 10 points, respectively.

Oakland carried a nine-point lead into halftime, and pushed it to 15 points with 15 minutes remaining before UMKC began its rallies.

The Kangaroos used an 8-0 scoring run to make it 70-69 with four minutes left on the clock, but Oakland never relinquished its lead.

"That (game) was exhausting," Francis said. "We are getting better and what I love about this team is that they



Bethany Watterworth (40, pictured left) and Sharise Calhoun (34, right) led Oakland to a win over UMKC with 22 and 17 points, respectively.

BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

are competitors and they knew this was going to be a good game tonight. They made a run at us; we kept our composure and we closed it out. Good teams do that and once again, it was our defense."

Oakland's defense limited the third leading scorer in the conference this season, UMKC's Chanz Morris, to a season-low three points.

Kangaroos coach Candace Whitaker said this was a typical game for her team that tends to run hot and cold.

"It was a hard fought game," Whitaker said. "Oakland is a good team and this is a tough place to play ... We didn't do a good enough job defensively in the first half and we didn't make the stops when we needed to."

With the victory, Oakland improved to 5-2 in Summit League play, and is currently tied with two other schools for third in the conference standings.

"We don't really get caught up in the league standings because it's too early.

We don't worry about it and just take things one game at a time," Francis said. "We know (UMKC) beat IPFW the night before and we lost to them (in December), so that was a personal signal we could send to ourselves and the league."

The Golden Grizzlies will begin a four-game road trip against South Dakota State Saturday, returning to the site of the team's loss in the conference championship game for the first time.

GOLDEN GRIZZLIES GAME of the WEEK

Grizzlies roll to a 46-point win

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

The Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team won by the largest margin in school history against a Division I opponent Saturday, defeating the Southern Utah Thunderbirds 99-53 at the O'Rena.

The outcome was sealed very early on as the Grizzlies jumped out to a 13-0 start and went into halftime with a 29-point lead.

"I was really pleased, obviously, to win a conference game by that wide of a margin, as it doesn't happen very often," head coach Greg Kampe said. "We have struggled with Southern Utah in the past and I think our kids understood that and they came to play."

All 12 of OU's players figured into the scoring, with junior guard Larry Wright leading the way. Wright had 18 points, including four 3-pointers, and was a big part of Oakland's tenacious defensive effort on the night.

"I think (Wright) did a great job of setting the tone defensively at the beginning of the game. They could not get into their offense because of the pressure he applied on the ball at the top," Kampe said.

Oakland is now 8-1 on the season when Wright scores in double figures.

The Grizzlies pressured the Thunderbirds into 26 turnovers, 13 of which came off of steals.

Center Keith Benson became the 28th player in school history to surpass 1,000 career points when he converted a free throw attempt in the opening

minutes. He finished with 12 points and seven rebounds.

"I think it is a great group of players in OU's history that have (reached 1,000 points) and I'm just happy to be up there," Benson said. "I want to thank my teammates for getting me the ball and sharing the ball to help me get my points."

Senior Derick Nelson scored 13 points and drew the praise of his coach for his defensive work against Southern Utah's leading scorer, limiting him to just 10 points.

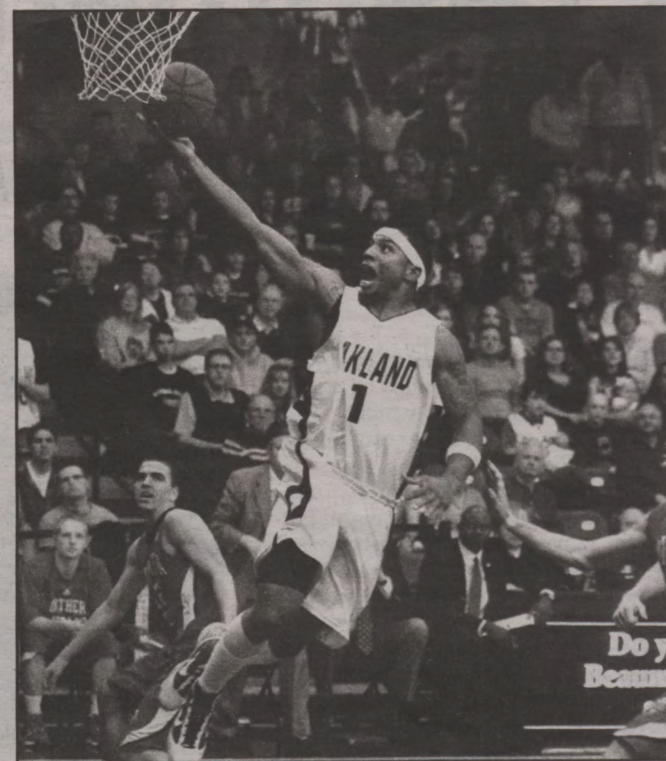
"I think we would be remiss if we didn't talk about Nelson's (defense)," Kampe said. "Game after game he has taken very good players in this league and shut them down. He did a very good job on Davis Baker tonight."

The highlight of the evening came midway through the second half when sophomore Drew Maynard buried an alley-oop pass from Johnathon Jones on a fast break, bringing the crowd of 3,125 to its feet on the dunk.

The play was just one of nine baskets assisted by Jones, who also chipped in 10 points. He went 4-for-4 from the foul line, setting a new school record with 38 consecutive free throws made.

OU shot over 52 percent from the field, which included 10 3-pointers.

Oakland (13-7) is riding a seven-game winning streak into a season-long four-game road trip that will begin Thursday against North Dakota State, the team that eliminated the Grizzlies in the conference championship last season.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The Grizzlies, led by Derick Nelson (pictured above), limited the Summit League's leading scorer, Davis Baker, to just 10 points Saturday. He had been averaging over 18 points per game coming into the game.

New O'Rena scoreboard enhances fan experience

By ZACH HALLMAN
Staff Reporter

This season the O'Rena has been host to a number of new additions.

The basketball teams feature several freshmen who have made an instant impact.

There is a new mascot, Clawzz, who was brought in to excite and enthrall any students dissatisfied by Grizz's performance.

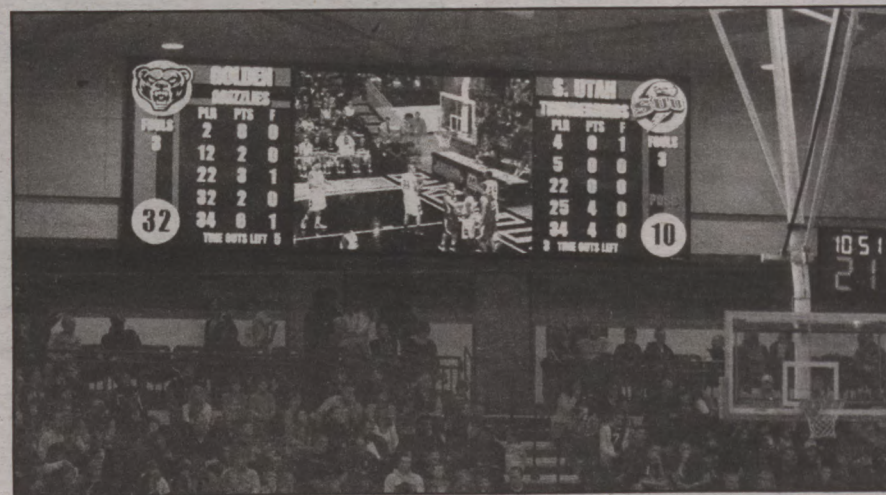
But most noticeably, there is the recently installed scoreboard on the south end of the O'Rena.

The new addition, made by Daktronics, Inc., is a state-of-the-art 10 by 30 foot LED scoreboard featuring 10 millimeter resolution.

According to Scott MacDonald, director of athletic communications, the scoreboard was brought in to enhance the fan experience.

"The board is just a step below hi-def and has the ability to go wide or small," MacDonald said. "The board has the ability to grab stats directly from our stats computer on press row, so we can have those 'hustle stats' you see during timeouts and team stats at halftime, something that was not possible with the old board. It also allows us to step up our production of the web stream on ougrizzlies.com."

MacDonald also added that instant replay should be in place by the homecoming games Feb. 6, something that will come in handy the next time Drew



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The new scoreboard displays colorful in-game statistics and a live feed of the game action on the court.

Maynard catches an alley-oop pass from Johnathon Jones.

The board has received high praise from fans and alumni since its installation.

"The (scoreboard) committee spent countless hours on figuring out what we

wanted and how we were going to go about getting it," MacDonald said. "After months of discussions and recommendations, we decided to go with Daktronics because they could provide us with a one turnkey solution, along with having customer service right in our backyard."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The Grizzlies have won 14 consecutive regular season league games dating back to last season.

Win streak reaches seven as long road trip begins

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

Through the first 20 games of the season, the Oakland University men's basketball team has lived up to its lofty expectations. And while every member of the team will tell you that it's the conference tournament in early March that will dictate the ultimate success of the season, the Grizzlies are a confident group at this juncture.

Riding a seven-game winning streak, Oakland is a perfect 7-0 in the Summit League, making this its best start to conference play in school history.

"We knew that we were playing a tough non-conference schedule and that when we played in conference it would all come together," junior center Keith Benson said. "But we are trying not to get too happy about this win streak. We are just trying to stay focused for the tournament so we can win the games that matter."

Junior guard Larry Wright said he thinks his teammates are really coming together and the team's chemistry is improving as the season wears on.

"I just feel like we are getting to know each other more — what every person can do on the court, where people like to catch the ball, where they feel comfortable, who drives, who kicks. We know what everyone is going to do on this team and it's helping out a lot," Wright said.

The Grizzlies have maneuvered the early part of their conference schedule rather easily. OU has won five of its seven Summit League games by eight points or more, only running into diffi-

culty at home against IUPUI and on the road against Oral Roberts.

With each passing game, the team seems to be honing its identity, and figuring out the right balance and style of play that will take them where they want to go this season.

"We had to learn early on in the year how we were going to play," head coach Greg Kampe said. "We didn't know who was going to take the shot at the end of the game to win, and we didn't know who we were going to run our offense through."

But those questions appear to have been answered. The offensive game plan begins with getting the ball to Benson in the paint. As for the question of who will take the important shots at the end of games, the answer is varied, with several players demonstrating the ability to make the tough shot at critical moments of games.

One of the biggest elements that Oakland has working in its favor this season is its depth. OU boasts a roster full of players just waiting for an opportunity to be inserted into the lineup.

"I have never felt uncomfortable when someone is on the floor unlike in past years when someone gets in foul trouble and you are down to your ninth man and they don't have experience. I think we have a group of kids that can play," Kampe said.

The Grizzlies will play their next four games on the road, and if they make it through that stretch unscathed, they have a good chance to become the first Summit League team to go undefeated in its conference season.

COMING GOLDEN GRIZZLIES ATTRACTIONS

GAME SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 20-26

MEN'S BASKETBALL

1/21 at North Dakota State
1/23 at South Dakota State

CLUB WRESTLING

No events this week, season resumes Jan. 30

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

1/23 at South Dakota State
1/25 at North Dakota State

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

1/22 Bob Eubanks Open
1/23 Don Wright Invitational at Western Ontario University

CLUB HOCKEY

1/22 at Ohio University
1/23 at Ohio University

SWIMMING & DIVING

1/23 vs. Kenyon College 1 p.m.
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GRIZZ OF THE WEEK



Sharise Calhoun

Women's basketball

Sophomore

The Grizzlies guard put up the two highest scoring games of her career this week, scoring 18 points Saturday against Southern Utah and 17 points versus UMKC Monday.

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Raising questions about the Tigers' offseason plan

By **DAN FENNER**
Sports Editor

COLUMN

This week, the Detroit Tigers left fans and baseball pundits everywhere scratching their heads with the signing of veteran closer Jose Valverde to a multi-year contract. Undoubtedly, Valverde helps the Tigers, but his addition is a contradiction of everything the team worked toward previously this off-season — cost-cutting and an emphasis on becoming a younger team.

Sure, the Tigers have their closer for at least the next two seasons, but \$7 million a season is too rich for a team that was said to be in dire financial straights thanks to declining ticket sales, the economy and frivolous spending in recent seasons.

Perhaps of bigger significance than all of the money they committed to Valverde is the accompanying loss of the Tigers' first round draft pick that was forfeited to Houston.

Detroit's minor league system is among the bottom tier of teams in Major League Baseball, lacking both depth and more than a couple of prospects with impact potential. The team needs all of the draft picks it can get.

The Tigers offense, which was nearly nonexistent for so much of last season, appears considerably worse as it stands now. The team has no viable leadoff hitter with Curtis Granderson and Placido Polanco no longer on the roster, and just a single player, Miguel Cabrera, who will pose any sizeable challenge to opposing pitchers.

Ah, but they've got themselves a closer!

The team will apparently make due with a middle infield consisting of the light-hitting Adam Everett and a completely untested rookie, in Scott Sizemore, at second base. Another rookie with no big league experience, Austin Jackson, has been pegged to start in center field.

That's either really bold or really stupid.

The offense is going to be painful to watch once again this season. General manager Dave Dombrowski's biggest mistake has been ignoring the problems with the everyday lineup and instead choosing to allocate even more of his resources and money into the pitching staff.

Dombrowski foolishly opted not to offer free agent-to-be Polanco arbitration for fear of the improbability that he'd accept it and cost the Tigers the money they supposedly didn't

have. This decision cost Detroit a first round compensation pick of its own.

Well played, sir.

Every move the Tigers have made this winter prior to Valverde's signing indicated that the team was in unfavorable financial circumstances and it had to slash payroll figures immediately.

The blockbuster trade in December that sent all-stars Granderson and Edwin Jackson elsewhere was infuriating to fans, but could be rationalized given the team's expressed need to shed salaries and desire to acquire younger talent.

Dombrowski's decision to commit \$14 million over the next two seasons to a guy who will pitch, at most, 120 innings, is absolutely perplexing. The Tigers' greatest asset in the minor leagues is their glut of young bullpen pitchers, one of whom could have assumed the club's closer position before long. Between Ryan Perry, the team's closer of the future, and Joel Zumaya, the team could have survived enough ninth innings to remain in the thick of a lousy American League Central Division race.

Consider some other ways the team could have spent the \$7 million that magically became available. In this down economy, teams are reluctant to commit multi-year contracts to even some of the best free agent hitters. The Tigers could have used a veteran second baseman, a designated hitter with some power, or a much-needed left-handed hitter for a lineup that is almost exclusively right-handed.

Instead, we got a player that will only be inserted into the game when the team carries a lead into the ninth inning. And, with the team's anemic offense, it's hard to imagine that'll be often enough to justify his cost.

Sounds like a gross mismanagement of money and resources to me.

Dombrowski has been a polarizing general manager during his time in Detroit. He built a team that went to the World Series four years ago, but he also signed several of the wrong players to lengthy and expensive contract extensions and dealt away countless prospects in trades for veterans. One minute he's a genius and the next he's the goat.

When Dombrowski was with the Florida Marlins a decade ago, he assembled a championship team with a fraction of the payroll to work with. But with Tigers owner Mike Ilitch's money to spend, he's become far too reckless.



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Nation | World

January 20, 2010

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GOP Brown wins Kennedy seat

By GLEN JOHNSON and LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press Writers

BOSTON — In an epic upset in liberal Massachusetts, Republican Scott Brown rode a wave of voter anger to win the U.S. Senate seat held by the late Edward M. Kennedy for nearly half a century, leaving President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in doubt and marring the end of his first year in office.

The loss by the once-favored Democrat Martha Coakley in the Democratic stronghold was a stunning embarrassment for the White House after Obama rushed to Boston on Sunday to try to save the foundering candidate. Her defeat signaled big political problems for the president's party this fall when House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates are on the ballot nationwide.

"I have no interest in sugarcoating what happened in Massachusetts," said Sen. Robert Menendez, the head of the Senate Democrats' campaign committee. "There is a lot of anxiety in the country right now. Americans are understandably impatient."

Brown will become the 41st Republican in the 100-member Senate, which could allow the GOP to block the president's health care legislation and the rest of his agenda. Democrats needed Coakley to win for a 60th vote to thwart Republican filibusters.

One day shy of the first anniversary of Obama's swearing-in, the election played out amid a backdrop

of animosity and resentment from voters over persistently high unemployment, Wall Street bailouts, exploding federal budget deficits and partisan wrangling over health care.

For weeks considered a long shot, Brown seized on voter discontent to draw even with Coakley in the campaign's final stretch. His candidacy energized Republicans, including backers of the grass-roots "tea party" movement, while attracting disappointed Democrats and independents uneasy with where they felt the nation was heading.

A cornerstone of Brown's campaign was his promise to vote against the health care plan.

Though the president wasn't on the ballot, he was on many voters' minds.

"I voted for Obama because I wanted change. ... I thought he'd bring it to us, but I just don't like the direction that he's heading," said John Triolo, 38, a registered independent who voted in Fitchburg.

He said his frustrations, including what he considered the too-quick pace of health care legislation, led him to vote for Brown.

But Robert Hickman, 55, of New Bedford, said he backed Coakley "to stay on the same page with the president."

Even before the first results were announced, administration officials were privately accusing Coakley of a poorly run campaign and playing down the notion that Obama or a toxic political landscape had much to do with the outcome.

Govt. takes aim at Bible quotes on guns

By RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Army officials said Tuesday they will investigate whether a Michigan defense contractor violated federal procurement rules by stamping references to Bible verses on combat rifle sights used by American forces to kill enemy fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Marine Corps, another major customer of the telescoping sights that allow troops to pinpoint targets day or night, says service acquisition officials plan to meet with the contractor, Trijicon of Wixom, Mich., to discuss future purchases of the company's gear.

The references have stoked concerns by a watch dog group about whether the inscriptions break a government rule that bars proselytizing by American troops. But military officials said the citations don't violate the ban and they won't stop using the tens of thousands of telescoping sights that have already been bought.

Trijicon said it has been longstanding company practice to put the Scripture citations on equipment. Tom Munson, Trijicon's director of sales and marketing, said the company has never received any complaints until now.

"We don't publicize this," Munson said in a recent interview. "It's not something we make a big deal out of. But when asked, we say, 'Yes, it's there.'"

The inscriptions are subtle and appear in raised lettering at the end of the stock number. Trijicon's rifle sights use tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen, to create light and help shooters hit what they're aiming for.

Markings on the Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight, which is standard issue to U.S. special operations forces, include "JN8:12," a reference to John 8:12: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, 'I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life,'" according to the King James version of the Bible.

The Trijicon Reflex sight is stamped with 2COR4:6, a reference to part of the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ," the King James version reads.

Photos posted on a Defense Department web site show Iraqi forces training with rifles equipped with the inscribed sights.

The Defense Department is a major customer of Trijicon's. In 2009 alone, the Marine Corps signed deals worth \$66 million for the company's products. Trijicon's scopes and optical devices for guns range in cost from a few hundred dollars to \$13,000, according to the company's web site.

Mikey Weinstein, president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, says the Trijicon sights could give the Taliban and other enemy forces a propaganda tool: that American troops are Christian crusaders invading Muslim countries.

"I don't have to wonder for a nanosecond how the American public would react if citations from the Quran were being inscribed onto these U.S. armed forces gun sights instead of New Testament citations," Weinstein said.

NIW BRIEFS

1-19 | CAIRO — Archaeologists have unearthed a 2,000-year-old temple that may have been dedicated to the ancient Egyptian cat goddess, Bastet, the Supreme Council of Antiquities said Tuesday. The ruins of the Ptolemaic-era temple were discovered by Egyptian archaeologists in the heart of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C. The city was the seat of the Greek-speaking Ptolemaic Dynasty, which ruled over Egypt for 300 years until the suicide of Queen Cleopatra. The statement said the temple was thought to belong to Queen Berenice, wife of King Ptolemy III who ruled Egypt in the 3rd century B.C.

1-19 | VIENNA — Iran has told the head of the U.N. nuclear agency that it does not accept an international proposal committing it to quickly export most of the material it would need to make a nuclear warhead, diplomats said Tuesday. For months, Iranian officials have used the media to criticize the plan backed by most of the world's major powers and to offer alternatives to one of its main conditions — that the Islamic republic ship out most of its stock of enriched uranium and then wait for up to a year for its return in the form of fuel rods for its Tehran research reactor. While critical of such statements, the United States and its allies noted that Iran had yet to respond to the International Atomic Agency regarding the plan.

1-19 | WASHINGTON — American military officials are pressing ahead with a new infusion of troops in a bid to break a logjam blocking critical supplies from reaching desperate Haitian earthquake refugees. Some 800 Marines moved ashore Tuesday in Haiti, ferrying supplies on helicopters and Humvees as the U.S. military force there swelled to as many as 11,000. The influx of troops comes as the military struggles to distribute aid throughout the country without setting off street riots. Defense officials last week ruled out air drops directly into unsecured populated areas because of the fear of street rioting. But in some cases, large swarms of people have kept helicopters from landing, and troops were forced to drop water bottles into the populated areas instead of distributing them on the ground.

Source: Associated Press

Mouthing Off

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

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January 20, 2010

Going rabid for the Grizzlies

GO OU - editor gets fanatic about going to see home basketball games

By DAN SIMONS
Mouthing Off editor

The parking lots near the O'Rena are filling up. The noise of the crowd and the sound system spills into the campus air. OUPD is making sure nothing goes wrong and a giant bus from out of state waits in the darkness.

It's game night at Oakland University.

Aside from being known for our strikes, bad slogans and a newspaper with a hilarious satire section, OU is known for its basketball teams.

I grew up sticking with only two teams: The Detroit Red Wings and the Michigan State Spartans. My high school had a piss-poor excuse of an athletics program and our best team that competed against other schools was the marching band.

So for me, I finally get to call a team my own. These are my Grizzlies.

My first Grizzlies game was against Michigan State, when they played at The Palace of Auburn Hills in 2008. I bought my Spartan alumni dad tickets as a Christmas gift. In a sea of green-and-white, I was one of only a handful of black-and-gold clad underdogs.

Yeah, my team lost, and yeah, dad rubbed it in my face the entire ride home, but it was still awesome. Since then I've tried to go to as many games as a commuter such as myself can.

Last week I went to the men's basketball game against UMKC. The fighting... kangaroos?

Listen, I don't mean to brag, except for right now when I'm blatantly going to brag. Our mascot is a flesh hungry, man-killing threat to America — in gold. Not only are we badass, but we're badass with bling.

Kangaroos are the goofy looking symbol of a country a lot of people forget about. Why the hell they are the mascot of a Missouri school is beyond me.

I went to the tailgating event held inside the Rec Center. I felt weird eating pizza and hot chocolate while everyone around us was burning calories, but it was free, and therefore delicious.

I then found a seat in the student section and sat behind the OU men's swim team, clad only in their swim briefs, bringing a whole new meaning to "showing your support."

When the Grizz tossed free shirts into the audience, I was hoping to get one. The girl three seats to my left got one, and then looked at the tag.

"Oh, extra large, um, here you go," she said, handing it to me. Score, the big guy wins again.

At some games, you can find Clawzz, our team's pretty pointless secondary mascot. He's a darker bear with a small head and really nothing more to talk about. The Grizz could easily kick his ass. I'd pay to see that.

They have these fun little games for students to play during "media time outs." I know we're a big enough school to have media attention for our games, but we're small enough where "media time out" means the cameraman has to pee.

These games include a damned impossible full-court mini-putt attempt and having little kids dance for gift certificates. It's always the smallest and therefore cutest kid that wins the audience over.

The OU cheerleading and dance teams are there to pump up the crowd. I'll keep it classy and just say that watching them move made me curse every scratch and defect in my glasses.

There's something about being part of a large group chanting and clapping at the same time. It's the closest thing you can get to an angry mob without all the chaos and destruction. Screaming "Warm up the bus" in unison with hundreds of people when we clearly won is awesome, a sadistic glee normally reserved for beating someone up. Not that I would know.

Watching Drew Maynard dunk, Johnathon Jones shooting 3-pointers, Keith Benson and Ilija Milutinovic making the other team look like midgets, and Coach Kampe creating brand new profanities to use on the refs are all things that could only happen at the O'Rena. Anyone who says Oakland's president Dr. Gary Russi is elusive obviously hasn't seen him sitting courtside at almost every home game.

We wound up beating UMKC 87-73. It got close toward the end, but we still dominated. It was so much fun I decided to go back two days later when we played against the Southern Utah University Thunderbirds. No, seriously, they are called the Thunderbirds.

I don't know much about Utah aside from Salt Lake City and the whole Mormon thing, but I now know this: Clearly, they don't play much basketball in Utah. We trounced, trampled, decimated, obliterated, and various other ways of saying embarrassingly outplayed them, 99-53.

There are two types of fun games to be a part of. UMKC-style games, where it's at least close, there is a sense of struggle, and every point matters. And then there are SUU-style games with a hilarious blowout, with the entire collection of Grizzlies fans laughing in smug awesomeness.

If OU scores over 80 points in a game, the whole crowd gets coupons for a \$4 medium pizza from Hungry Howies. If we make at least five 3-pointers, we all get \$5 off at BD's Mongolian Grill. Free pizza before the game, free clothes, coupons for money off food, AND our team is number one in the Summit League, completely free to students — Why wouldn't you go to a game?

And it's not just the men's games that are fun to go to; our women's team is still strong in the conference and impressive on the court. I was at the game when star player Carnago unfortunately injured her knee. When she hit the ground, I joined the rest of the O'Rena in thinking "Holy crap that had to hurt."

Whenever I ask sports editor Dan Fenner if I can tag along for the post-game press conferences, he tells me I wouldn't be interested. Clearly he is lying to me and covering up. I'm guessing the team opens up champagne and brings in strippers and wild animals and stuff.

The coolest part of the O'Rena now has to be the giant-ass screen we just got for our scoreboard. The student section is on the opposite side of the court from the screen, but it still looked amazing.

I kept thinking, how hard could it be to set up a DVD player to that screen and the loud system and play a movie? Move the nets, dim the lights, charge people a dollar or two and play something college kids will like, maybe "The Hangover" or "The Departed." Movie night in the O'Rena? Have the frats and student orgs volunteer to run the thing and donate all the money to Haiti or a local charity or something. We can totally do this, athletics department. You can borrow my

DVDs if you want, we'll just ignore the copyright infringement.

When you go to a nOU basketball game, you become part of something bigger. You become the screaming, win-hungry mob following a dominating steamroller of a team which is steadily on it's way to winning the Summit League and into the NCAA basketball tournament.

The next home game isn't until Feb. 4, which should be another easy win against Centenary College, followed by our Feb. 6 Homecoming game against the soulless, baby-hating, tax-evading evildoers of Oral Roberts University.

I'll see you at the games. We are an amazing university with amazing teams. We are the Golden Grizzlies, hear us roar. And enjoy free stuff.

The top 10 reasons you should attend a basketball game at OU:

1. To see if one of the players will go flying out of bounds into a crowd of cheerleaders seated dangerously close to the action.
2. Jonas Jerebko and Mario Impemba sightings.
3. A REAL Russi Watch (he often sits courtside).
4. In hopes the amazing John Kast will make an appearance off the bench.
5. To watch Clawzz jump errantly off a trampoline attempting to dunk the basketball.
6. For Thirsty Thursdays — with \$1 soda (don't get too excited, folks).
7. To earn invaluable Grizz Gang points — can't put a price on those.
8. To hear the sultry tones of Kevin Beers, the O'Rena game announcer.
9. To witness Coach Kampe's sideline theatrics.
10. To hear what ridiculous and unsportsmanlike chants the student section will come up with next.

Cuckoo for Coco: a fan's take on late night fight

A brief history of the conflict at NBC and the battles between the talk show hosts

By ERIK ANDERSON

WXOU General Manager / Late night TV junkie

People of Earth,

I'm with Coco! Just say no to "Big Jaw" Leno.

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've probably heard about the ongoing crisis in late night programming over at the National Broadcasting Company.

But, just in case you don't own a TV, radio, computer, newspaper, or simply have no idea what I'm talking about, let me bring you up to speed.

A long, long time ago (roughly seven months ago) in a galaxy (CEO's office) far, far away, a deal that had been made back in 2004 went into effect. NBC gave Conan O'Brien the chance to host The Tonight Show, NBC's long running and usually No. 1 rated late night TV program.

In order to make room for Conan, NBC pushed aside the previous host of The Tonight Show, Jay Leno.

Three months later, in exchange for giving up Tonight, Leno would be given his own prime-time 10 p.m. talk show. If this doesn't make sense to you, join the club.

The original deal was made in order to keep both stars at the peacock network and was expected to attract younger viewers to The Tonight Show while keeping Jay's audience at 10 p.m.

Jay's audience being, of course, old people who wouldn't know funny if it bit them in the ass.

In that seven months, here's what's transpired: both stars have had problems building an audience, which has caused local NBC affiliates to have lower ratings for their 11 p.m. local newscasts. Affiliates have been screaming at NBC to do something about the low ratings.

The network blames Conan, Conan blames Leno, and Leno retreats into his garage to play with his cars and smiles like a rich, oblivious child.

To be fair, it takes awhile to build an audience.

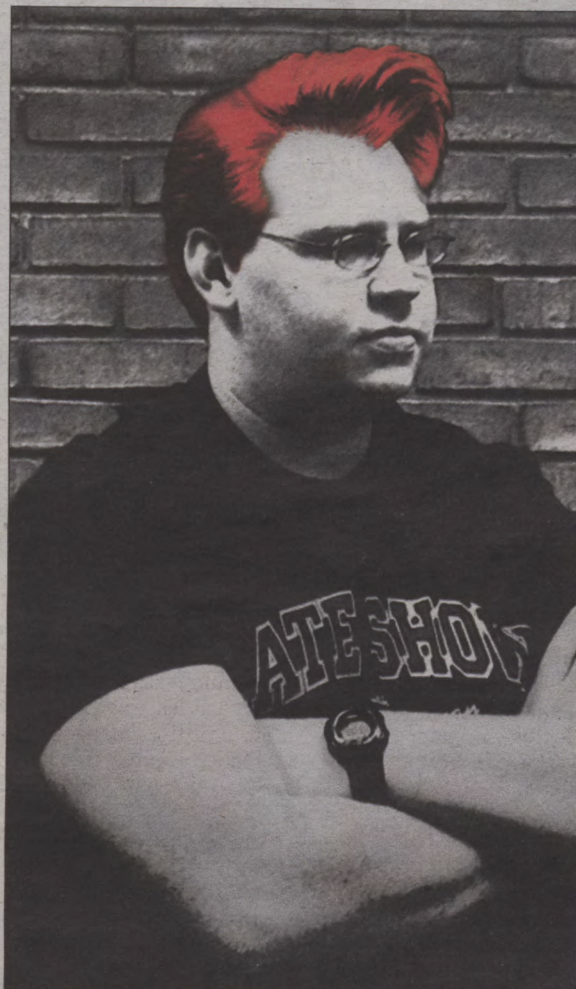
When Leno first took over for the original king of late night Johnny Carson in 1992, his ratings were in the crapper for the first 18 months. Leno was consistently beat by David Letterman, who had jumped ship from NBC to CBS to begin hosting The Late Show at 11:35 p.m. The ratings beating continued until Leno had actor Hugh Grant on to discuss being arrested for picking up prostitutes.

Leno began beating Letterman in the ratings. Oh, the magic of prostitutes.

Conan, during all this, had to swim his ratings out of the toilet when he took over Letterman's show when Letterman moved to CBS. Conan's ratings were so bad that NBC renewed his contract on a week to week basis while they looked for a replacement. Letterman showed support for Conan by sending his standby audience over to fill seats in Conan's studio. Conan had to keep his job by amusing another man's leftover audience.

Over time, both Conan and Leno were able to build a following, but it didn't happen overnight. Eventually NBC had a stable and ratings-winning late night duo.

So what's NBC's solution to the current debacle? Restore The Jay Leno Show at 11:35 p.m. slot, pushing Conan's Tonight Show back to 12:05 a.m., pushing Late Night with Jimmy Fallon back to 1:05 a.m., and pushing Last Call with Carson Daily (Yes, somehow he still has a show) back to 2:05 a.m.



BRYAN CULVER/The Oakland Post

Fun fact: We didn't do anything to his hair; he calls it the "Coco."

The decision by NBC has everyone working in late night up in arms. Leno jokes about being canceled, Conan is visibly angry on-air and takes shots at NBC and Leno, and over on CBS, Letterman relives his own battle with NBC and Leno in 1992 taking shots at NBC and Leno.

ABC's Jimmy Kimmel went as far as coming out dressed as Leno and doing his ABC late night show impersonating Leno for the entire show. Kimmel also appeared on Leno's program and took shots at him during his segment, joking about leaving Conan alone.

Leno made the mistake of asking Kimmel what the best prank he ever pulled was.

"I told a guy that 'five years from now, I'm going to give you my show.' And then when the five years came, I gave it to him. And then I took it back almost instantly. I think he works at Fox or something now," responded Kimmel.

Conan released a statement last week addressed to "People of Earth" with his thoughts on the matter.

He explains that he refuses to do a 12:05 a.m. show for NBC saying he felt the move would be the destruction of The Tonight Show's 60 year franchise.

He also apologized for his hair, saying "It's always been that way."

I'm concerned for the future of my beloved Coco.

Rumors say Conan is currently pursuing an option to move to another network, most specifically, FOX. The problem with that is, the last time FOX had a late night show, they chose Chevy Chase to be its late night front-man.

The show lasted for five painfully unfunny weeks.

Conan is great, but when I think of late night TV, I don't think about FOX. If Conan goes to FOX, if anything, it should be in his old position as one of the head writers on *The Simpsons*. The show hasn't been as funny since he left for the talk show.

If the FOX offer isn't an option, stranger offers have come in. Conan says he received an actual offer to star in an adult film. The script says that in his big love making scene he's replaced by Jay Leno at the last moment.

Conan has also gone as far as saying on-air that he's selling his "barely used" late night TV set on Craigslist for the best offer he can get, or Coldplay tickets.

I sent in an offer to pay \$1 for the set and the rights for Conan to host his own 11:35 p.m. show on WXOU (without pay of course). We'll see what happens. I'm pretty hopeful about this.

Two things are abundantly clear. One, everyone hates working at NBC, and two, everyone hates Jay Leno.

The Internet is completely up in arms regarding the NBC's move. A simple Facebook and Twitter search turns up an abundance of people who claim to be on "Team Conan" or fans saying "I'm With Coco," one of the nicknames given to Conan during his first week of hosting The Tonight Show.

It's very hard to find a Leno fan anywhere on Facebook or Twitter. My guess is that they are old enough to think the Internet is an evil spirit. One fan site claims 80 percent of the Internet is on Team Conan. I believe it.

It's no secret, I'm a Conan fan. The self-decapitation by already struggling NBC is stupid. For the past two years I've been actively involved in managing the day-to-day operations at WXOU. While I haven't had to deal with issues the size that NBC has, I've certainly had my fair share of problems to deal with.

As a college radio programmer it's my opinion that NBC should leave Conan alone and let Jay walk (no pun intended).

Jay just isn't funny to me. He spends way too much time getting everyone to like him. Leno has an aging viewer demographic while Conan has the younger viewers. I want the audience that's going to be around for 30 years, and not the audience who can't hear the unfunny over their breathing machines. It's my opinion that when Leno goes back to 11:35 p.m. the audience will not return with him. History has shown once an audience is gone, it rarely returns. What's the network going to do when Leno fails again?

Well, aside from giving me and Mouthing Off Editor Dan Simons our own hour long talk show. Just an idea.

To summarize, NBC needs to give Conan more time to develop. Just like Leno had 18 months, Conan should have the same. Seven months is not enough time. You need at least a year. If NBC executives have a problem letting Leno go, hire me! I have no problem firing a comedian who isn't funny. In this business you've got to know when to get the hell off the stage and when it's time to cut your loses. For Leno, the show is over.

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