

BY ALLISON BRUNNER
SENIOR NEWS WRITER

• Brandon Glatfelter and Aaron Kochenderfer were

Please see OUSC on A8



Photo courtesy of Oakland University
Former congressman J.C. Watts will speak at OU on Monday, Jan. 17, as part of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

BY SHEILA KOSZTOWNY
SENIOR LIFE WRITER

Watts' own leadership led him to be an

During his years in Congress, Watts

OU political science professor David Dulio worked for eight months in 2002 as a congressional fellow in Watts' leadership office while attending graduate school.

Please see WATTS on A8

**BY TIM JOHNSON
AND RON HUTCHESON**
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Islamic militants have been fighting to establish an independent Islamic state in Sumatra since the mid-1970s. The government and the Free Aceh Movement, known by its Indonesian initials GAM, signed a peace agreement in late

A photograph showing three soldiers in a small inflatable boat on a body of water. They are surrounded by a large pile of debris, including sticks and plastic waste. One soldier is standing and holding a long pole, while two others are leaning over the side of the boat, reaching into the debris.

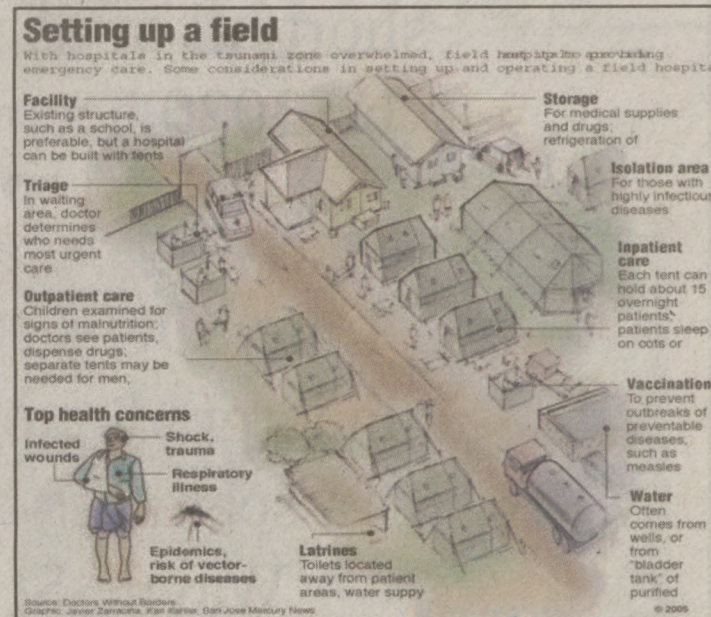
KHAMPHA BOUAPHANH/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM (KRT)

A senior Indonesian official said 1,556 of Aceh province's 5,862 villages "were wiped out" and 200,000 people were missing. Police officers in the coastal city of Meulaboh, he said, "only 20 remain" alive.

Please see TSUNAMI on A8

"You can imagine the devastation and impact on local governments," said Alwi Shihab, the coordinating minister of people's welfare and a senior aide to the president. Of 400 police officers in the coastal city of Meulaboh, he said, "only 20 remain" alive.

Please see TSUNAMI on A8



BY ANTHONY MARTINEZ BEVEN
THE OAKLAND POST

That day a nation mourned the death of a man regarded as one of the greatest civil rights leaders the world has ever seen. It was also the day that widow and mother of four, Coretta Scott King,

Mrs. King has been named OU's keynote speaker at the 2005 Keeper of the Dream Awards Banquet, which is set to take place at the Shottwell-Gustafson Pavilion Feb. 17 during OU's African-American celebration. The award ceremony, sponsored by the DaimlerChrysler Corporation, will recognize students who have found a mission in breaking racial barriers like Martin Luther King Jr.

Last year's distinguished speaker was David G. Mulhern; past presenters have included: Edsel B. Ford, Martin Luther King Jr. III, Oakland County Circuit Judge Denise Langford-Morris and former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer.

Born and raised on a cotton farm in Marion, AL, Mrs. King studied music and education at Ohio's Antioch College.

Please see DREAM on A8

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School of Health Sciences, Oakland University,
Rochester, Michigan

January 12, 2005

The Oakland Post
www.oakpostonline.com

A3

The war against cancer focuses on a key gene

By ROBERT S. BOYD
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

In the long, frustrating battle against cancer, one gene has emerged as a key, both to the cause of the disease and to its prevention.

This master gene watches out for cells whose DNA has been corrupted by tobacco smoke, ultraviolet light, toxic chemicals or other carcinogens.

If it detects a damaged cell, it triggers a process that blocks that cell from reproducing and possibly giving birth to a malignant tumor.

But if the gene itself is defective, it can't do its job. Cancer is often the result.

The gene's official name is "p53," but some scientists call it

the "guardian of the genome," the sum of all 25,000 or so genes in the human body.

"You can call p53 the guardian because it's the common denominator in virtually all human tumors," said Bert Vogelstein, a leading cancer expert at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore.

"It's almost impossible to develop cancer in most organs unless p53 is inactivated."

Researchers are looking for drugs that can restore damaged p53, so it can get back to its job of defending us against cancer.

"A number of mechanisms are now being explored to use p53 to kill tumor cells," Karen Vousden, a cancer researcher at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, said in an e-mail message.

The gene has been the subject of more than 300,000 scientific reports since it was discovered 25 years ago.

The flood of papers, which even some experts find daunting, shows no sign of abating.

"As one of our key defenses against cancer, p53 lies at the heart of a massive research effort that has generated an avalanche of papers," Vousden said.

A collection of reports summarizing the state of p53 science appeared in a special edition of the journal Nature on Nov. 18.

The research "is helping to define the roots of malignancies and shows promise for the development of better cancer therapies," wrote Joan Massague, a cancer biologist at the Memorial

Please see CANCER on A4

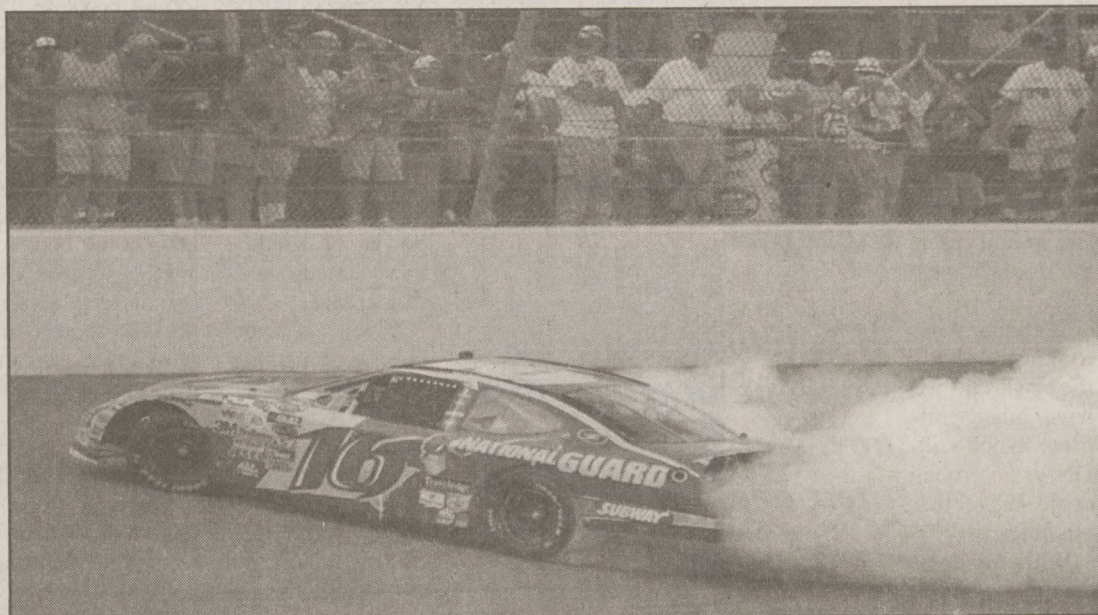


Photo courtesy of Kirthmon P. Dozier/Detroit Free Press/KRT Campus
Toxic pollutants, such as those produced by commercial and leisure cars, may be a cause of cancer.

Cold war: how to fight back during the sick season

By RHODA FUKUSHIMA
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Recently, pharmacist John Hoeschen felt a cold coming on.

He wasn't surprised, since his four kids were feeling under the weather.

He immediately started drinking extra fluids and taking echinacea.

Four days later, he was symptom-free: no coughing, no congestion.

Hoeschen's strategy to combat a cold is simple: Hit it hard, hit it early.

"It can take a normal, nasty cold down to minimal symptoms," says Hoeschen, of St. Paul. "But by the time many people start thinking about a cold, they have a head full of snot."

Cold and flu season is here. And so is the season for over-the-counter (OTC) medications.

But just because these medicines are available without a prescription doesn't mean everyone should reach for them.

A cold virus replicates in the

cells in your nose or throat, either destroying or damaging them. That's why you get a sore throat.

"Most of the time, it's going to run its course, and then people will be fine," says Dr. Robert Stroebel, assistant professor of medicine at the Mayo College of Medicine.

"And they'll save the co-pay visiting the doctor."

Typically, symptoms last four to five days. OTC medicines essentially relieve symptoms; they don't cure the cold.

The most common OTC medications are decongestants, antihistamines, cough suppressants and expectorants.

"If you start taking something, you think it's working, but it's likely because your cold is getting better," says Dr. Don Uden, professor of pharmaceutical care and health systems at the University of Minnesota and a former member of the FDA's nonprescription drug advisory committee.

Please see COLD on A4

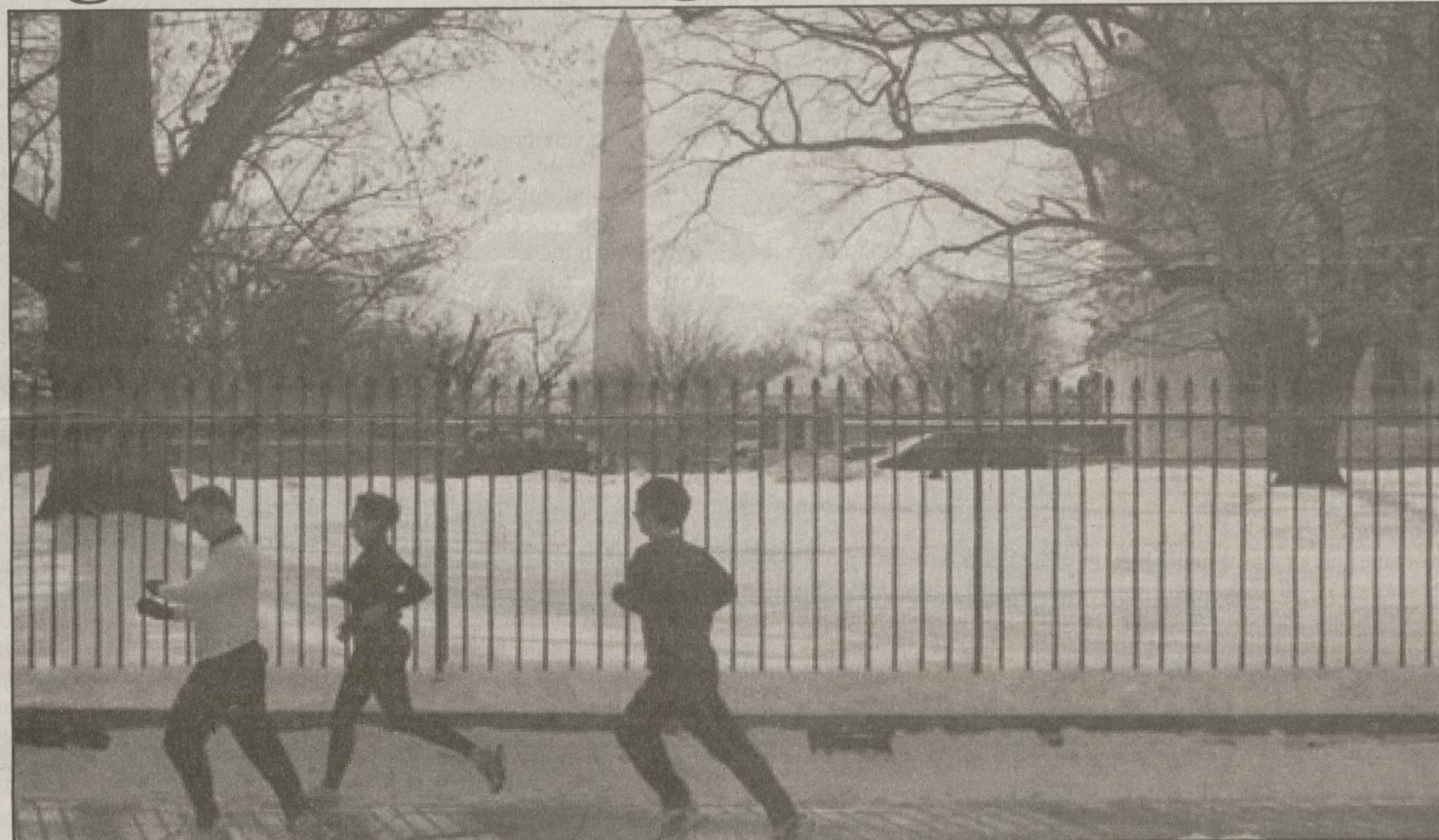


Photo courtesy of Chuck Kennedy/KRT Campus
Cold weather brings with it the cold and flu season. Those exposed to the cold may be more susceptible to falling ill.

Portion control prevents obesity

By MICHAEL PRECKER
KRT CAMPUS

Donna Ihms didn't want to seem weird, and her date didn't want to seem cheap.

Neither of them was sure the restaurant would allow it. But two entrees just seemed like too much food.

"So one of us said, 'Why don't we just split something?'" says Ihms, who lives in Dallas.

"It just made sense not to stuff ourselves or leave so much food behind. Then it dawned on me what we were doing."

What they were doing was portion control, a buzzword in America's battle against obesity.

And eating out in a supersized world presents a buffet of challenges.

"A typical restaurant portion might be two or three servings," says Jennifer Neily, a dietitian at the Cooper Clinic.

"And that's before the rolls and the chips and all the other extras."

Those factors can make calorie-counting at a restaurant next to impossible.

Most fast-food chains now reveal their nutritional

Please see OBESITY on A4

Hospital patents DNA probes, new hope for genetic disorders

By ALAN BAVLEY
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

A husband-and-wife team of researchers at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City has pulled off the genetic equivalent of finding a needle in a haystack.

By developing groundbreaking refinements to lab tools called DNA probes, geneticists Joan Knoll and Peter Rogan can pinpoint abnormalities even within a single gene.

That is far greater precision than was possible before with such probes.

The probes could make it much easier for doctors to decide which chemotherapy drugs to prescribe to cancer patients, what kind of rehabilitation to offer developmentally disabled children, or what advice to give families with a history of genetic disorders.

"We have the means to very precisely probe chromosome abnormalities," Rogan said. "We have enormous confidence that the probe we make is capable of making the distinctions."

Rogan and Knoll were granted a patent last week on their DNA probe technology.

The researchers already have devised about 400 probes for about 100 genetic diseases.

Their next step is to make the probes easier for lab technicians to analyze.

Within a few years, they hope to be manufacturing probes doctors can use to diagnose literally hundreds of disorders.

"It's incredibly exciting that we can define things at a smaller and smaller

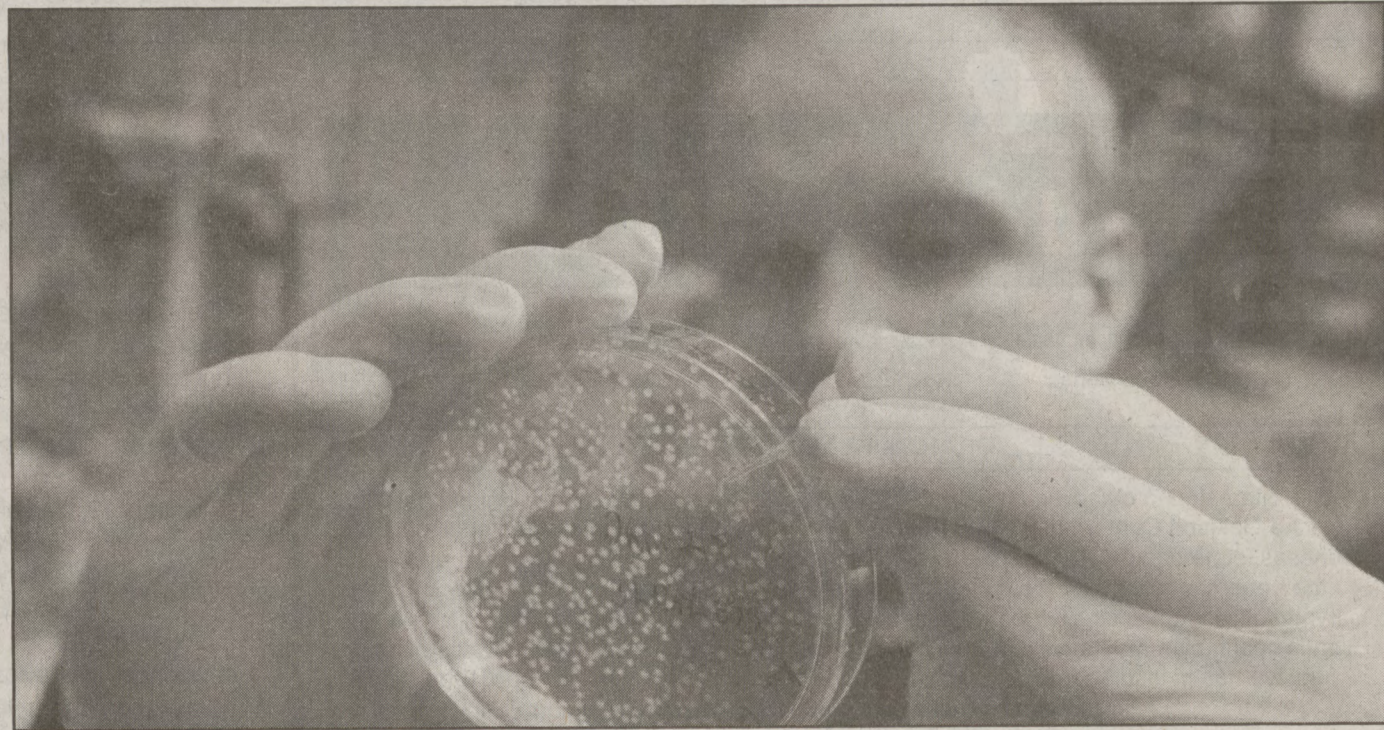


Photo courtesy of Rodger Mallison/Fort Worth Star-Telegram/KRT Campus
Genetic cells research has led to paramount discoveries in the past decades, including spotting abnormalities in a single gene.

scale, and hone in on single genes," said Dayna Wolff, a geneticist at the Medical University of South Carolina who is familiar with Rogan and Knoll's work.

Genetic disorders number in the thousands.

They include such relatively well-known conditions as sickle-cell disease, cystic fibrosis and Down's syndrome, as well as a host of rare disorders.

Treatment of these conditions can vary

greatly depending upon a patient's genetic makeup.

Family-planning decisions also can hinge on a parent's genetic background. Those are the kinds of situations where Rogan and Knoll expect doctors to put their DNA probes to use.

For example:

A new drug called Gleevec has proved highly successful at treating a blood cancer called chronic myeloid leukemia.

But about 20 percent of patients do not respond well to the therapy.

Knoll and Rogan are working on genetic probes to determine which patients are less likely to be helped by the drug.

"Our goal is to customize cancer therapy," Knoll said. "Each time you put someone on a round of chemotherapy, you compromise their health."

Prader-Willi syndrome and Angelman

Please see DNA on A4

CANCER

Continued from A3

development of better cancer therapies," wrote Joan Massague, a cancer biologist at the MemorialSloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. "Recent progress in these areas is so extensive."

Despite this vast scientific effort, the details of how p53 works are still imperfectly understood, according to Scott Lowe, a cancer specialist at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

on Long Island, N.Y.

"We have only recently begun to glimpse the diversity and complexity of (these) mechanisms," Lowe said.

A gene such as p53 – a little strip of DNA in the nucleus of the cell – can't do anything on its own.

Instead, it contains the instructions to produce a protein – a chain of molecules in the outer body of the cell – that performs the actual work. The protein is also called p53.

The p53 gene and its protein are the hub of a complex network of other genes and proteins that act as a team to detect and prevent cancer.

Members of the network cooperate to stop a flawed cell from dividing in order to allow other proteins to try to repair the damage.

If that can't be done, p53 triggers a form of cell suicide known as apoptosis, eliminating the risk that the cell will turn cancerous.

In effect, p53 acts as a "supreme judge" that decides the fates of cells and guarantees their good behavior, as a Russian scientist, P.M. Chumakov, once described it.

"These tumor-suppressing mechanisms are remarkably effective," Lowe wrote in Nature.

"On average, cancers arise less than once in a human lifetime, despite trillions of potential target cells, each harboring hundreds of susceptible, cancer-

causing genes, all subject to a significant mutation rate."

The core of the process is the cell cycle. This is a series of four steps every cell must pass through before it divides to produce two new cells, an essential act in life.

During one of these steps, known as G1, the process halts briefly, giving time for the p53 network to detect errors in the DNA.

Later, a second delay, known as G2, is when the cell decides whether it should continue

dividing, repair itself or commit suicide.

"We are only just beginning to understand how the cell cycle works," Massague said.

Discovered in 1979, the p53 gene consists of 2,538 chemical units strung along chromosome 17 in the cell's nucleus.

Similar genes are found in creatures from mammals, fish and birds to worms and flies, indicating that control of cell division was crucial throughout evolution.

DNA

Continued from A3

syndrome are developmental disorders that cause mental retardation and other problems.

It is uncommon, though, for parents of a child who has one of these disorders to have a second child with the disorder. But in rare cases, the risk is 50 percent.

"Parents want to know what's the risk if we have other children," Knoll said. DNA probes could make that possible.

Williams syndrome causes narrowing of the aorta, one of the heart's major arteries.

But depending on their genetic make-up, some children with the disorder also

experience delayed mental development.

Determining which children have that additional problem is the target of another of the researchers' DNA probes.

"If you can determine if there are cognitive delays, then you can get the children into remedial programs," Knoll said.

"This is the real power of genetics, to marshal the power of predictive medicine," Rogan said.

"Even if you look at something as common as Down's syndrome, there is so much variation.

Being able to know what specialists they need to see and when is valuable."

DNA probes have been available commercially for about 10 years.

While they may employ different

technologies, they all work this way:

Imagine the double helix of a DNA molecule as a kind of zipper. Each half of the DNA zipper has a long row of molecular teeth, called nucleotides, that link with certain nucleotides on the other half.

DNA has four kinds of nucleotides, and the order in which they appear along the DNA zipper forms the code for regulating what happens in the cells of our bodies.

DNA probes can pinpoint where certain teeth appear on the DNA zipper. If a tooth is missing or is in the wrong place, it can indicate a genetic disorder.

The probes are manufactured in a laboratory to contain a small section from each half of the DNA zipper.

When a probe is mixed with a patient's DNA in the laboratory, its teeth link with the other half of the zipper.

Under a microscope, the probes appear as colored dots, so researchers can see whether they're in the right place.

Commercially produced DNA probes examine large sections of DNA, as many as several hundred thousand nucleotides. That is fine for discovering

"This is the real power of genetics, to marshal the power of predictive medicine.

"... there is so much variation. Being able to know what specialists they need to see and what is valuable."

Geneticist Peter Rogan

many genetic disorders.

But some of these disorders have small variations that commercial

probes are too large to detect.

Knoll and Rogan's probes contain just 1,200 to 5,000 nucleotides. That should allow doctors to fine-tune their diagnoses.

Knoll and Rogan plan to license their probe technology broadly. They also are working on a business of their own that could include an online catalog of made-to-order DNA probes. A year from now, they could be ready to provide probes to researchers. A few years after that, they could have probes for doctors to use to diagnose patients.

"There are simply some patients who can't be diagnosed with the existing probes on the market," Rogan said.

COLD

Continued from A3

for their advice in using OTC medications. Here are their suggestions:

- Keep it simple. If you take several multisymptom products at once, you may be overdoing it, says Hoeschen, who owns St. Paul Corner Drug.

- "With viral colds, take fluids, decongestant, expectorant," he says. "That's about all you need."

- Be careful if you're taking medications for other condi-

tions. For example, decongestants may increase blood pressure.

- "It's always safest to check with your doctor if you have questions about it," Stroebel says.

- Use as directed. This seems like a no-brainer, but some people continue to think more is better.

- But beware. For example, if you use topical decongestants for more than five days, they can irritate and damage cells and cause swelling and fluid in

your nose, Uden says.

- Monitor your symptoms. Battling a virus can make you more susceptible to other infections.

- If you start running a fever of 101.5 to 102 degrees, have a bad sore throat and difficulty swallowing, call the doctor.

- People with diabetes or those on immune suppressants or chemotherapy are more susceptible to bacterial infections, Stroebel says.

- Avoid spreading germs in the first place. "I think a per-

son's best defense is good hand-washing," Stroebel says.

- Consider other promising products on the market, including zinc lozenges. "Zinc is pretty interesting," Uden says.

- "There is some information that zinc might prevent the viruses from multiplying."

- Not everyone jumps on the OTC bandwagon. Uden, for one, advocates not using them.

- He points to the medical literature for colds and cough.

- "There's no data that antihistamine products are convincing-

ly effective. Colds are not histamine-based," he says.

- "Symptoms are due to the virus killing normal cells.

- "(An antihistamine) is not going to deal with the virus, and it's not effective for symptoms."

- So, what does Uden do when his throat starts to tickle?

- He may use a decongestant nasal spray but only if he's having trouble sleeping, and he uses it for no more than five days.

- Otherwise, he's a big fan of lemon drops and gargling with tepid salt water.

COLD FACTS

- In an average year, Americans suffer 1 billion colds.
- Students lose 22 million school days annually from colds.
- The flu causes 38 million missed school days and more than 20 million lost workdays each year.
- Nearly everyone will get at least one cold this winter.
- One in five people who travel will catch a cold within a week of flying.

OBESITY

Continued from A3

content, either in a pamphlet at the restaurant or on Web sites.

Moreover, they're served in specific portions, so the totals are easy to add up.

But head upscale on the food chain and that's no longer true.

From all-you-can-eat buffets to endless pasta bowls to restaurants that give you lots of food for your money, there's no telling how much fat, cholesterol and calories you're piling up.

"When we were younger and got to go out for dinner, it was a real special occasion," says Lori Goodman, a Weight Watchers group leader in Dallas. "It was a special treat, so you didn't have to worry about it so much."

"But with our busy lifestyles now, it's a necessity to eat out a lot," she says.

"So you need to make better choices."

Researchers have documented that portion sizes have ballooned at many restaurants as Americans' appetites grow along with their desire to feel that they're getting their money's worth.

And when presented with more food, says Barbara Rolls, professor of nutritional science at Penn State University, we're likely to eat it.

"As a species, we're very bad at resisting temptation," says Rolls, whose studies have shown that larger portions lead to more consumption.

"Customers like this food, and we're so concerned about value that we can't be expected to leave it on the plate," Rolls says.

"But we're in the midst of an obesity epidemic which is going to overwhelm our health-care system, and

something needs to be done."

Nutrition advocates are pressing the restaurant industry to make nutritional information more available to customers and offer more options to eat less.

In the meantime, Rolls says, "If you eat out a lot, you really need to have defensive strategies."

Goodman's advice includes not arriving too hungry, previewing the menu to scout the best options, asking for healthier substitutions and getting every sauce and dressing on the side.

"You'll get a taste and you'll be amazed what you have left," she says.

"It's just part of being more mindful, and it's absolutely something you have to practice."

But the hardest part may be downsizing the notion of what constitutes a serving.

Nutritionists recommend visualizing a meat portion as the size of a deck of cards, a starch portion as the size of your fist.

Neily says you should look at your plate as having four quarters: one-fourth meat portion, one-fourth complex carbohydrate such as pasta or potato, and one-half vegetables.

If a big restaurant portion is on the way, the simplest solution is to split it.

If you don't have a dining partner, Goodman says, have the waiter bring the to-go box with the meal.

"If you cut your food in half right away and put half in your box, you won't miss it," she says.

"Out of sight, out of mind. But if it's still in front of you, you'll keep picking at it."

Weight Watchers tends to provide

catchy phrases to reinforce good habits, and portion control is no exception.

If there's too much on your plate, Goodman says, "we say you can waste your food, or you can waist your food."

Ihms says she and her boyfriend regularly share restaurant meals, "and it's opened up all sorts of possibilities."

"Our goal wasn't to save money, but sometimes it works out that way," she says.

"You can order an appetizer or dessert, or get something else on the side."

And when they're finished, Ihms says, "there's still almost always something left over."

"We'll say to each other, 'How can one person eat all this?'"

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Weekly column

GRAHAM HEALTH CENTER

Still interested in obtaining a flu shot? The visiting Nurses Association will hold a flu clinic in the Oakland Center on 1-13-05 from 1-4 PM. Through redistribution and additional purchases, state and federal agencies have been able to provide additional doses available to the general public. With the flu season just starting in our area it is not too late to protect yourself with a vaccine. Hope to see you there. Many students insured through their parent's health plan may have lost health insurance coverage on 12-31-04. Low cost, comprehensive health insurance is available to students through the Maksin Group. Stop by GHC for more info or visit their web site at www.maksin.com

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FRESHMAN OUTLOOK

Start the winter semester off on the right foot! Freshman Outlook is back and better than ever, freshly stocked with tips and advice for your first year of college life.

To check the Freshman Outlook just log in to www.oaklandfreshmanoutlook.com, where you'll find resources and information you need to succeed at Oakland University. Remember that by logging in and reading all of the semester's Freshman Outlook messages you automatically qualify to win one of two \$250 prizes!

CAREER SERVICES
UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Career Prep Month 2005

Let Career Services be your link to employment success this winter! Career Services is hosting Winter Career Prep Month throughout January and february to assist you with your job search and employment success.

January 12, Career Services Open House
January 13 & 25, Senior Job Search Seminar
Various Dates/Times, Career Experience Information Sessions

January 13, 20, 25, Resume Writing Clinics
January 20, Behavioral Interview Presentation by a Daimler Chrysler Rep

January 24, marketing Yourself at Career Fairs and Beyond Seminar

January 26, Diversity Panel Discussion: Reality in Job Trends

Visit the Career Services website at www.oakland.edu/careerservices for scheduled times and a description of all activities.

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CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL
INITIATIVES (CMI)

Welcome and congratulations to Michelle Southward, CMI's new retention coordinator. African American Celebration Kickoff 2005 is January 18 at noon, Fireside lounge, OC.

January 12, 2005

The Oakland Post
www.oakpostonline.com

A5

Waves of destruction

BY ELIZABETH GORECKI
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

As the death toll from massive tsunamis, triggered by a 9.0 earthquake that tore through coastal areas from Malaysia to Tanzania, rises spirits fall as hopes of recovering the nearly 40,000 missing and unaccounted for people fade with each passing day. Friday, the confirmed death toll soared from about 140,000 to more than 160,000 after Indonesian officials raised its estimates from 94,000 to more than 113,000. "We will never know the exact magnitude of how many men, women and children have perished in the 11 days since the tsunami. The real figure is likely to exceed 150,000," United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Jan. 6 at a press conference at the tsunami summit in

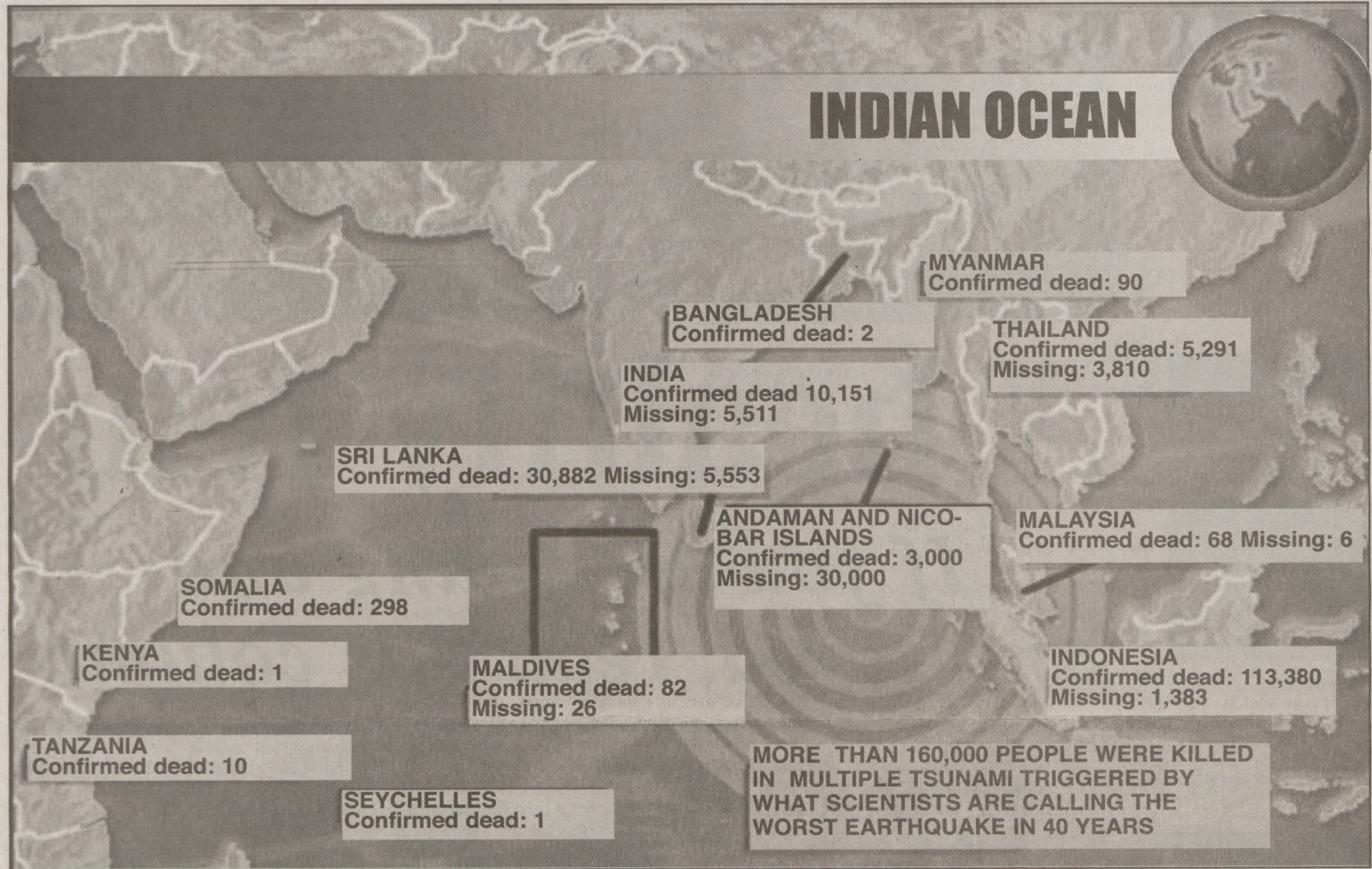
Jakarta, Indonesia. Despite the rising casualties, not everyone is losing faith in finding their loved ones. A six-year-old Taiwanese girl was found alive and reunited with her father after surviving the killer tidal waves that battered Thailand by clinging to a coconut tree. Her mother, though, was washed away by the tsunami and is still missing, according to Agence France-Presse. But many have given up on the search for the tens of thousands of missing, now presumed dead. "I have been waiting for my husband and brother," 38-year-old Narasamma said crying on the destroyed beach of Mypadu. "I am not sure they will come back." Efforts have shifted in many parts of the region from search and rescue to recovery and relief.

"We have a duty to the survivors to stop the tsunami from being followed by a second wave of death this time from preventable causes," Annan said. The World Health Organization warns the toll could double if aid doesn't reach survivors soon with the 6 million people left homeless and the threat of waterborne illness, respiratory and skin conditions and trauma. "Whole communities have disappeared," Annan said. "Millions in Asia, Africa and even in faraway countries, are suffering unimaginable trauma and psychological wounds that will take a long time to heal. Families have been torn apart. "The disaster was so brutal, so quick and so far-reaching, that we are still struggling to comprehend it," Annan added, stressing the need for "pledges to be converted into cash quickly ... It is a race against time."

Governments around the world have pledged more than \$4 billion to help the Indian Ocean nations hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunamis. Including private donations, more than \$7 billion have been pledged. Below is a list of monetary donations pledged by each country. Private donations are in parenthesis where available.

(in millions of U.S. dollars)	
Asian Development Bank	675
African Union	0.1
Algeria	2
Australia	815 (106)
Austria	66.16 (25.8)
Bahrain	2
Belgium	16.32
Britain	140.8 (187)
Bulgaria	0.14
Canada	425 (122.3)
China	83
Croatia	0.69 (0.148)
Cyprus	0.37
Czech Republic	9.33 (8.03)
Denmark	76.83 (34.36)
EU	529.3
Finland	66.16 (22.42)
France	64.57 (49)
Germany	660 (333)
Greece	1.34 (22.5)
Hungary	1.25
India	25
Ireland	13.62 (28.1)
Italy	95
Japan	540
Kuwait	100
Libya	2
Luxembourg	6.8
Mali	0.2
Netherlands	34 (148.2)
New Zealand	3.6
Niger	0.25
North Korea	0.15
Norway	181.9 (61)
Poland	1 (1.3)
Portugal	10.59 (4.63)
Qatar	25
Saudi Arabia	30 (101.13)
Senegal	0.2
Singapore	23.1
Slovakia	0.23
Slovenia	0.24 (0.7)
South Korea	50
Spain	68.02
Sweden	80
Switzerland	23.81 (110.3)
Taiwan	50.25
Turkey	1.25
UAE	20
USA	350 (324)
Venezuela	2
World Bank	25
TOTAL:	\$5,598,880,000 (\$1,923,920,000)

Source: Reuters Jan. 11



A 9.0 earthquake on Dec. 26 originated off the West coast of Northern Sumatra. The earthquake spawned a tsunami that hit many coastal African and Asian nations. Eight severe aftershocks followed. Maldives, the world's lowest lying country has been dramatically altered geographically with many of its 1,190 islands completely submerged.

It could happen here

BY PAUL H.B. SHIN
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK — A tsunami triggered by a volcanic eruption on an island off the coast of Africa could result in mountainous waves up to 75 feet high crashing into New York and other East Coast cities, scientists are warning. A 12-mile-wide chunk of the Cumbre Vieja volcano on the Canary Islands rattled loose during a previous eruption and is at risk of smashing into the Atlantic Ocean, triggering what could be one of the largest tidal waves in recorded history, researchers told Britain's Royal Institution earlier this month. "It's not a matter of if, but when," said Prof. Bill McGuire, director of the Benfield Grieg Hazard Research Centre at University College in London. In the deep seas, a tidal wave created by such a landslide would travel at the speed of a jetliner, up to 600 mph, meaning U.S. coastal cities would have eight to 10 hours of warning before a mountainous wall of water reared up on its shores, McGuire said. "Once it's happened, it would be extremely difficult to evacuate all those people out in time," McGuire told The Daily News. The Cumbre Vieja volcano on the island of La Palma has been the most active volcano on the Canary Islands. A 1949 eruption shook loose the western flank of the 6,300-foot volcano that is now at risk of tumbling into the sea. The last eruption happened in 1971 on the southern tip of the island. A similar catastrophe was responsible for the death of more than 2,000 people in Papua New Guinea on July 17, 1998, when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake triggered a landslide that in turn

touched off a 50-foot-tall tsunami. Other experts agreed that Cumbre Vieja could trigger a similar event. "If you peel off a side of a volcano and let it slide into the deep ocean, yes, it's going to generate a tidal wave. And from that location it will travel to the U.S.," said John Mutter, a seismologist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. But without close monitoring of the volcano, it's impossible to predict whether the next eruption will be next week or decades away, Mutter said. "They are seldom periodic. You're not going to be able to set your clock by it," he said. If it does happen, however, computer models have shown the tidal wave could pack a devastating punch, said Philip Watts, a private engineer in Long Beach, Calif., who has helped researchers estimate the impact of tsunamis. "The good news is this wave might break while traveling over the continental shelf and lose a lot of its energy by the time it reaches the shoreline," Watts said. "But there will still be places where it will hit considerably hard." McGuire noted that such a tsunami could travel several miles inland, wreaking havoc on everything and everyone in its path. "The waves would be hitting all along the East Coast of North America," McGuire said. For every 300 feet of shoreline, the waves would dump "the same amount of energy as generated by the collapse of the World Trade Center." "We need to get advanced warning because in the Eastern U.S. and the Caribbean, we have to get an enormous number of people away from the coastline," he said.



Survivors walk through debris on Phi Phi Island, Dec. 30, 2004. The Dec. 26 9.0 magnitude quake struck just off the coast of Sumatra, near the Indian archipelago, sending walls of water racing across the Indian Ocean and wiping out coasts in 11 nations.

What is a tsunami and how does it occur?

TSUNAMI
(soo•NAH•mee); A very large ocean wave caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption.

•What does 'tsunami' mean?
Tsunami is a Japanese word that translates as "harbor wave." It is usually caused by a sudden rise or fall in part of the earth's crust under or near the ocean.

•What is a tsunami?
A tsunami is a series of waves that can travel at speeds of more than 500 mph. As it approaches the coast, its velocity slows but its height increases.

•Is there a tsunami warning?
An early warning system for the Pacific was set up in 1968 but there is no communications network currently in place to relay info to the Indian Ocean countries.

did you
KNOW

Student Voices

How did you ring in the New Year?

"I spent my New Year's in Miami Beach at the most beautiful house I have ever seen. I went parasailing and swam with dolphins and I loved every minute I was there!"



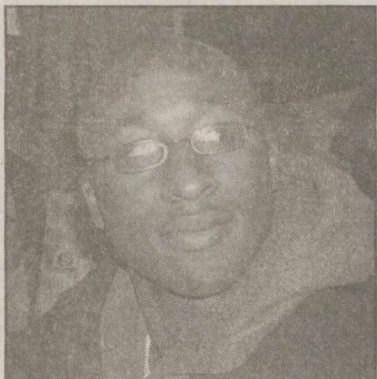
Naomi Bertolino
Junior



"We just went from party to party!"

Michelle Smith and Steph Thomas
Juniors

"I did some Dance Dance Revolution, played some poker, did a little more dancing, and a couple of drinking games, even with DDR."



Chris Daniels
Junior

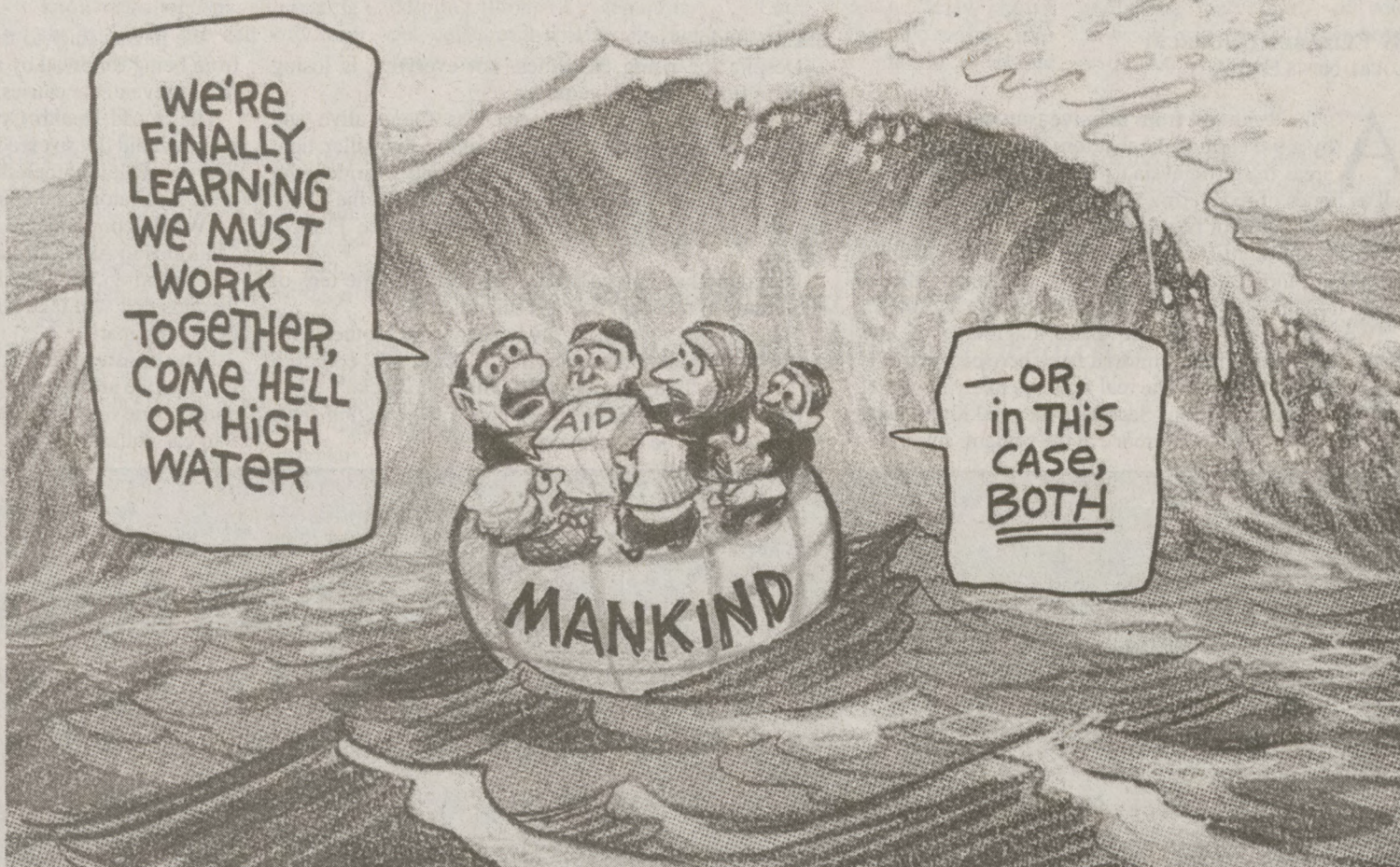


"I (Jared) went to Spain and spent New Year's Eve partying with my parents, sister and 3,000 other people in a building that could hold probably 200, while my girlfriend (pictured) was home working in Michigan."

Jared Wood
Senior and
Jenni Gurgul
Junior

What questions would you like answered? Send them to editor@oakpostonline.com.

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K



A healthy fear

If you are young and uninsured, read this column

BY DREW AVERY
THE SEATTLE TIMES/NEXT

Like oxygen and fire escapes, health care is something you rarely think about until you need it.

I am going to postulate then that most readers don't spend much time considering health care. I can promise this writer hadn't — until an incident involving my belly button and a few incredibly high hospital bills.

Most of us in our teens and 20s take good health for granted. We assume that disease, infection and serious bodily harm will be put on hold at least until we can find a job with health bennies.

So while politicians and senior citizens talk about health care, we shut down our sense and wait for the talk to return to education and the job market.

In fact, people ages 18 to 24 should be listening more than seniors when the topic is health care.

Why? Because in Washington state, 18-to-24-year-olds are twice as likely to be uninsured

as older nonretired adults, according to the Health Policy Analysis Program.

Count me in that group.

As a recent college graduate in the process of looking for a job (i.e., one with benefits), I was just planning to stay healthy. Then I got an abscess, an infected or irritated area that collects puss, often for no real reason. (I hope you're not reading this at the breakfast table.)

I just happened to get one in my navel.

Though I tried to see if time really would heal all wounds and even attempted to find cures on the Internet, it wasn't long before I was in the emergency room with an IV, getting prepped for a CAT scan.

The real fun started when I got the hospital bill, which made me cuss out loud and wonder if I had signed my belly up for a semester of college rather than spent an afternoon in the emergency room.

Yes, this true story is intended to scare you into thinking about health care. There is no guarantee for good health, but there are ways to guarantee being able to pay for health-care costs.

A good resource for general advice on

health insurance is your state's office of the insurance commissioner.

Individual health-care plans can vary depending on where you live. These resources can discuss your options.

Several programs in Washington state help the uninsured. Basic Health is a state program that helps low-income residents get coverage, though the waiting list is frighteningly long.

Several groups offer short-term insurance. Check with your university's alumni association — the University of Washington's association offers such help. And don't forget to check out doctors who work on a sliding scale.

If worse comes to worse and you are in the hospital before you could think about health insurance, there's always Charity Care.

Charity Care is offered in most hospitals and works similarly to a scholarship program. You apply for the service after your visit and if you meet the low-income criteria, you will most likely receive help paying your bill.

Health problems are bad enough. Wondering how you will pay to have them fixed is even worse. Start thinking about health care now.

Corrections:

If you see any mistakes in The Post, please let us know by sending a description of the mistake to editor@oakpostonline or calling our office at (248) 370-4268. We appreciate your help in making The Post better.

The Oakland Post

61 Oakland Center
Rochester, MI 48309

Brendan J. Stevens
Editor in Chief
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Libby Baker
Managing Editor
managing@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-2537

Roqaya Eshmawi
Campus News Editor
news@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4267

Elizabeth Gorecki
Local News Editor
local@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-2848

Allison Brunner
Senior News Writer
news@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4267

Blythe Simmons
News Writer
news@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4267

Sara Weigold
Copy Editor
copyeditor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Dave Pemberton
Sports Editor
sports@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4263

Dana Utz
Senior Sports Writer
sports@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4263

Sheila Kosztowny
Senior Life Writer
life@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4266

Aaron Walker
Lead Ad Manager
advertising@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4269

Gina Lovisa
Ad Manager
advertising@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4269

Holly Shreve Gilbert
Advisor
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

GUEST COLUMN

OUSC serving body well

Impressive accomplishments made in Fall semester



**MICHAEL
MCGUINNESS**

OUSC Vice President

As we've passed the midpoint for the main academic year at Oakland University, now would be an appropriate time to assess how your student government has done in meeting the student body's needs as well as what lies ahead.

Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) is here to be your voice and to provide worthwhile services, which is exactly what it has been doing.

Most timely is OUSC's Book Swap, the online buying and selling point for students to recoup some of their money on textbook returns and save on a new semester's purchases. Check out this initiative at www2.oakland.edu/bookswap and take part.

Your Student Program Board (SPB), a branch of

OUSC, has put forward outstanding, highly attended events from well-known comedian Darrell Hammond to the lively Talent Show (co-sponsored by the Association of Black Students) and the Stress-Free Zone.

Much more is in store for winter. The hard working members of SPB look forward to you turning out.

Always of great assistance to student organizations and club sports, OUSC's Student Activities Funding Board (SAFB) has done an effective job of distributing funds fairly and efficiently.

Unlike past years, SAFB has not gone in debt and a strong set of guidelines, passed by legislators in the spring, has helped ensure stable funding for organizations on our campus.

Meanwhile, OUSC's Scholarship Committee awarded eight students with \$250 scholarships, each based upon their essay submissions.

Further scholarship activity is in store, so be certain to apply when that opportunity arises again.

A great deal of attention was paid to the OUSC-sponsored voter registration drive conducted at the beginning of last semester.

Due to diligent efforts and investigation, we were able to assist hundreds of students in taking part in their first election and address questions that arose as a part of the complicated process.

In relation to that issue, OUSC passed a resolution calling for changes in the voter registration and absentee ballot process, so that student voters have fewer roadblocks to casting their ballots.

Lobbying efforts at the state level, in coordination with other universities, are still underway.

Another stand that OUSC took last semester was on the Proposal 2 ballot issue.

While this drew some opposition, the principled decision led to vigorous campus discussion.

When students expressed concern that further explanation was needed, OUSC legislators responded by adapting their stance with an effort to inform.

In general, your legislators deserve a good deal of praise for their service to you, the student body.

Not only have we had a nearly full body, which hasn't been the case in recent years, but they've also been very active with their duties.

Many issues, from campus safety to voluntary segregation to smarter ways of utilizing student funds and more, have been discussed and addressed.

An ongoing new initiative from OUSC's Student Services is the Student of the Month Parking Spot.

Students that have applied and were selected got themselves a prime parking spot and avoided headaches.

That parking spot could still be yours.

Stop by the OUSC office at 62 OC (in the basement) or get an application from the OUSC Web site at: www.oakland.edu/ousc.

While on the site, take notice of the many changes implemented lately. OUSC publicity has improved greatly from past years.

Always looking to gather feedback on student issues, OUSC will be conducting an Open Forum at noon on Friday in the Fireside Lounge of the OC.

Please come and share your valuable opinions. If you've got issues, OUSC is here to address them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Current, former and possible students call for Gender and Sexuality Center

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to call for the development of a Gender and Sexuality Center on Oakland University's campus.

As an institution of higher learning in Michigan, as well as the nation, we are very much behind the times in not having such an office or center.

Even Oakland Community College has a Women's Center. Oakland University needs to get with the program and have a Gender and Sexuality Center.

Sincerely,
Steven Johnson
Sophomore
Elementary Education

Dear Editor:

Recently I visited Oakland University's campus and was given a tour by a group of students. As a Central Michigan University student, I was shocked that Oakland did not have an office that offered services for women on campus and/or gay and lesbian students. At Central, we have an Office of Gay and Lesbian Programs as well as a Women's Center.

I understand that different schools have different formats of providing such services, but why doesn't Oakland University offer those services at all?

It is a shame that an outstanding institution such as OU does not reach out to all of its students with the tools needed to excel.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Linindoll
Central Michigan University

Dear Editor:

I've been a student at Oakland Community College and am now transferring to Grand Valley State University (GVSU).

I'm hoping to work in their Women's Center and, frankly, that office is what ultimately led me to choose GVSU.

The fact that they offered such a facility was incentive enough for me to choose their institution over Oakland University. As a female student that is also dealing with my sexuality, this is an important resource for me to utilize.

There are a lot of things that I liked about OU, but the absence of an office that dealt with gender and sexuality issues was a big detraction for me.

For the sake of future potential students, I hope there will be

such an office.

Sincerely,
Jessica Preville
Grand Valley State University

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my opinion that Oakland University needs a Gender and Sexuality Center.

As an Oakland University student, I've witnessed many instances where the work of a Gender and Sexuality Center would've helped.

I've heard remarks about Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendereds (a.k.a. GLBT's) that range from derogatory to simple naivete.

As a gay man, students have used belittling remarks (like F** in response to my style of dress or my mannerisms.)

Sometimes, students assume that I'm promiscuous (which I am not) based solely on the fact that I am gay.

I try to counter these attitudes with everyone I meet, but I think a center that works to combat issues like this by educating the whole university about what it really means to be GLBT would be more effective.

Not only would this center be a resource for the GLBT community, but it also would address women's issues.

While attending OU, I have come in contact with a significant number of male AND female students that hold little respect for women.

This is not only about hurtful words or hidden prejudices; I've come to know many women at OU who have been victims of abuse or sexual assault.

There's a need for a center that raises awareness of these issues, because silence is abuse's greatest ally.

As a foundation of education, I believe Oakland University has a role in raising awareness of and providing insight into these issues. Part of higher learning is to bring your mind to a level where you see everyone as equals.

Thank You For Your Time,
Jeremy Bruce
Senior
Communication

Dear Editor:

We really need to step up to the next level if we want to be a truly strong and widely recognized university. Here's my

thought on how we can do that: let's get a Gender and Sexuality Center on Oakland's campus. The students are raising their voices and making it clear. We want services and resources dealing with gender and sexuality issues. Let's get it done and make Oakland University the stronger for it.

Sincerely,
Dan Major
Sophomore
East Asian Studies Major

Dear Editor:

It is important that we have a resource center for issues concerning gender and sexuality.

Both male and female students would benefit from these services. Both straight and gay students would benefit from these services.

All throughout Michigan, universities have such centers or offices. Currently, Oakland University does not.

We need to change that.

Sincerely,
Joseph Coppola
Freshman
Communications

Dear Editor:

Serving as Residence Halls Council Vice President has given me a lot of perspective when it comes to the concerns of my fellow students, especially those that live on campus. On top of that, I've been a student congress legislator in the past and listened to the concerns of many Oakland students.

Issues that I've heard come up, time and time again, deal with gender and sexuality. Students have expressed their fear of being open with their sexuality on campus, for fear of verbal abuse or even physical harm.

Many female students are frustrated that there is no center or office, or even a university staff member, whose duties focus on dealing with rape and sexual assault issues on our campus. We must do better in providing for our students.

As was reported in The Oakland Post's recent edition, a few brave women have had the courage to come forward and tell about their traumatic rape experiences. Unfortunately, nearly 90 percent of rape victims don't come forward and report the incident.

Also reported in The Oakland

Post last year was the story about how no rapes happened on campus. What should've been made crystal clear was that, according to the OUPD crime statistics at that point, there were no reported rapes.

That story of a rape-free campus ran and was read by females who had been raped shortly before then. If you don't believe me, then perhaps some real investigative reporting is in order.

All of these very serious concerns could be addressed by a Gender and Sexuality Center on campus. Sadly, there currently exists no such outlet at Oakland University. It's time for that to change.

Sincerely,
Matthew Kelly
RHC Vice President
Sophomore
Music major

Dear Editor:

I've seen a lot of the world and experienced quite a bit.

With my time as an Oakland University student so far, I've also enjoyed a lot of new experiences. This is part of what college is all about.

In terms of the amenities offered on our campus, though, we are clearly lacking in one area. That is the commitment of the university to our female students and to our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning students.

This is a glaring inadequacy.

As a student, I am calling for something to be done. Progress in this area is needed and I think that Oakland University can get it done.

Thank you,
Geoffrey Hampson
Freshman
History

Dear Editor:

Even though my time as an OU student has now come to an end, I wanted to express my support for a Gender and Sexuality Center on campus.

The degree I've earned will have more personal meaning to me if I know that my alma mater actively supports the success of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) students.

I was proud to be a Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equality (S.A.F.E.) On-Campus

ally while at Oakland.

Although a recent program, it is absolutely crucial and I witnessed its ability to help students struggling with their sexuality on campus.

We need to build on this smaller program to ensure that diversity needs in terms of gender and sexuality are being properly met.

Right now they aren't and I am speaking as a student that was very involved.

I look forward to the day when I can read about the opening of a Gender and Sexuality Center in the pages of this paper.

Sincerely,
Sean Engler
2004 OU graduate
Bachelor of Science, Marketing

Dear Editor:

I call for a Gender and Sexuality Center to be established on our campus. Oakland University must address the needs of its students and it must provide essential services and resources.

Thank you for including my letter and, to those reading, thank you for taking the time to consider the issue of a Gender and Sexuality Center at Oakland University.

It is important that we rise to the occasion and do what is best for the students.

Sincerely,
George Nikopolitis
Sophomore
Communication

Dear Editor:

I'm considering enrolling at Oakland University in the near future. Currently, I attend classes at Macomb Community College, but recognize that being a Golden Grizzly would be something special.

My friends that go there now speak highly of the education that is possible at OU and their campus experiences.

In talking with them, though, one thing that concerns me is that Oakland does not have a women's center. That is something that would appeal to me as a female student.

A university that has an office, center or even employees that are focused on my success and understanding as a female student is a university that is attractive to me.

I know that as something of an outsider, my viewpoint may not

be given as much weight.

As someone that reads The Oakland Post consistently, though, I hope that some coverage can be given to the drive for a Gender and Sexuality Center on campus.

Sincerely,
Jenae Whipple
Macomb Community College

Dear Editor:

I am writing on behalf of, and as a member of, the Students for the Development of a Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC).

It is high time that Oakland University joined Michigan's other publicly-funded universities and provided students with such a center; currently, we are the only one in the state without a GSC or something similar.

But many may ask, "Why is this necessary?"

By providing the students, faculty and staff of OU with a center, the administration would be showing that it is truly committed to the "OU in 2010" vision that was laid out a few years ago.

A GSC would be able to provide the university community with internships, research opportunities, possible grants and volunteer opportunities, while at the same time providing support and referrals to victims of rape and hate crimes.

If this university truly aims to grow to 20,000 students, then it must continue to prepare for that growth in terms of the services it provides.

Many will argue that a GSC is not necessary; that the services it would provide are already provided by other departments and/or offices within OU.

If that is truly so, then why does no one, not even myself, know about them?

Which office(s) can deal with issues ranging from rape to assisting in researching a paper on human sexuality?

The answer is, of course, none.

A GSC would be able to provide all of this in one office, with a staff specially trained to deal with such a variety of issues.

It is time for a Gender and Sexuality Center at Oakland University.

Sincerely,
Joshua Miller
OUSC Legislator
Secretary, Gay Straight Alliance
Member, Students for the
Development of a Gender and
Sexuality Center

Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@oakpostonline.com or mailed to 61 OC, Rochester, MI 48309. All letters to the editor must include a name, class rank and field of study or OU affiliation. Please limit letters to 350 words. Letters may be edited for content and length. The Oakland Post uses discretion and may reject any letter for any reason. Letters become property of The Oakland Post.

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

- FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

WATTS

Continued from A1

"What I did is work with the folks in the House Republican Conference office, basically on the message for the House Republican and the message that they wanted to spread," Dulio said. "We were trying to make sure that the presentations that were made communicated the right message."

Dulio landed the job that began in January 2002 through a fellowship with the American Political Science Association.

"He's a very caring and thoughtful person," Dulio said of Watts. "He was always interested in what the folks who were working for him were up to...wanted to know if he could do anything."

After eight years in the House of Representatives, Watts continued being an active Republican by joining the GOP Political Action Committee, a training organization for the Republican political candidates, as its chairman. On the GOPAC Web site, Watts marks his duty as a "golden opportunity" to

"help recruit, train, mobilize and elect Republicans in state and local governments."

Prior to his political career, Watts was star quarterback for the University of Oklahoma Sooners, in which he led them to two Orange Bowl victories and Big Eight titles. In 1980 and 1981, he was named Most Valuable Player of the Orange Bowl. From there, Watts played professional football in Canada and was named Most Valuable Player of Canada's equivalent of the Super Bowl, the Grey Cup.

He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in journalism, however, his beliefs as a Baptist led him to the ministry before making his way to public service.

Watts also wrote his book, "What Color Is A Conservative?" based on his personal experiences and his career as a politician.

In his chairmanship of GOPAC, Watts started his own business as the chairman of J.C. Watts Companies, based in Washington, D.C. and in

Norman, Oklahoma.

J.C. Watts Companies is aimed at corporations with a desire to communicate effectively in the workplace and in public, emerging market ventures, seeking business advisors and public affairs.

His company promotes new market development in the inner city as well as across the Atlantic Ocean in Africa. Watts wants to relieve the issues that face Africa and is co-chairman of the Coalition for AIDS Relief in Africa.

His African-American roots have helped spark an effort to establish the National Museum of African-American History in the Smithsonian Institute, a project that was completed in 2003 with the aid of fellow congressmen.

Watts was born in 1957 in Eufaula, Oklahoma. He is married and has four children. He lives in Norman, Oklahoma.

The lecture will be held at the Meadow Brook Theatre at noon on Monday. Tickets are free but are required for entry.

OUSC

Continued from A1

approved to OUSC as legislators.

• Mike Lerchenfeldt was approved to SAFB.

• OUSC will hold an open forum at noon on Friday in the Fireside Lounge.

• Classes are suspended Jan. 17 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and J.C. Watts will be speaking at noon at Meadow Brook Theatre.

• Jan. 18 is the African American Celebration Month Kickoff Event.

• OUSC's \$250 scholarship winners were: Carla Focht, Jeffrey Randall, Paul Edwards, Meghan Ferdon, Florencia Nespole, Christiana Paige, Ronee Harvey and Stephanie Pool.

• On Jan. 27 and 28 Vandenberg Residence Hall is presenting its "Hall of Oppression" in which each floor displays a different "-ism," such as sexism or racism.

Want to make a few dollars to deliver The Post? E-mail editor@oakpostonline.com or call 248-370-4268.

TSUNAMI

Continued from A1

Shihab said rescuers are still finding and burying hundreds – and sometimes thousands – of bodies a day. After collecting and burying 2,500 bodies Sunday, workers have now buried 58,281 bodies. The government believes 50,000 more people are still waiting to be buried.

Despite the security concerns, President Bush used a visit to USAID headquarters Monday to underscore America's commitment to the tsunami-relief effort.

"This is one of those projects that's not going to happen overnight," Bush told government aid workers and top officials from two dozen private relief organizations. "Our commitment is a long-term commitment."

Bush also urged Americans to make certain their donations to tsunami relief are in addition to their usual charitable giving. Humanitarian groups worry that the outpouring of aid for tsunami victims could hurt donations to other charities.

"It is essential that your contributions you're making. ... You should view the tsunami relief effort as extra help," Bush said.

Some aid workers viewed the security warnings skeptically, suggesting they stemmed from the Indonesian

military's concerns about the presence of foreigners in an area that had been off-limits to outsiders until the earthquake and tsunami.

Under military emergency powers, the armed forces have had nearly a free hand to seek the group's extermination. The U.S. State Department and other outside groups have repeatedly protested human rights violations by the military in the troubled region. The rebels are believed to number between 800 and 2,000.

But some United Nations relief officials said they were impressed that the country was allowing so many foreign relief workers into the region.

"They've been extremely open. It's amazing, compared to where we were three weeks ago. This area was a zone of conflict," said Joel Boutroue, the U.N. coordinator for Aceh relief efforts.

Despite security concerns, U.S. officials said there was no evidence of any foul play in the Monday morning crash of a Seahawk helicopter. The helicopter, arriving in Banda Aceh from the USS Abraham Lincoln, crashed in a rice paddy near the airport, injuring 10 Navy crewmen. The crash disrupted activity at the airport for about an hour.

"There is absolutely no indication that a hostile act caused the aircraft to crash," Lt. Cmdr. John Bernard said.

champion of women's and gay rights, also serving as an advisor to several world leaders, including Nelson Mandela.

Perhaps one of her greatest accomplishments has been in bringing Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of peace and hope to future generations with the development of the King Center in Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthplace of Atlanta, Ga. The center, which houses Dr. King's tomb, is visited annually by scores of visitors. The public can learn about Martin Luther King Jr.'s peaceful protests through exhibits illustrating his life and teachings.

Because of her undying commitment to the betterment of society,

Mrs. King has been bestowed with more than 60 honorary degrees from various universities. She also authored three books and a nationally syndicated column.

In an article that ran in an edition of the Philadelphia News earlier this year, Mrs. King acknowledged her achievements with a humbling sense of dignity.

"I would like to be thought of as a complex, three-dimensional, flesh-and-blood human being with a rich storehouse of experiences, much like everyone else yet unique in my own way..."

For ticket information, contact the Office of Special Events at (248) 370-3077.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Legal Assistants - Part time & flexible hrs. Troy Law firm. (248)643-4440

Photographer for online clothing retailer - Entry level, 10-15 hrs/wk, flexible days/times - Equipment provided - Resumes to kristinam@amothersplace.com or fax (248)588-0480

An **immediate need** for a **director of a new preschool**. Must have background in Early Childhood or Elementary Education. Some experience in writing state license requirements and lesson plans needed. Completed degree not a requirement at this point. Please call Nanci at (248)814-1193

CHILDCARE

Neighborhood Child Care Center in Rochester is seeking creative individuals for full and part time positions. Experience and knowledge of child development preferred. Contact: Todd Greenbaum, (248)652-1132

Live-out Child Care needed in Rochester area for 3 school-aged children. Monday-Friday afternoons with additional hours available. Must have own transportation. Pay to reflect experience. Contact: (248)608-8514 or klmatthews4747@comcast.net.

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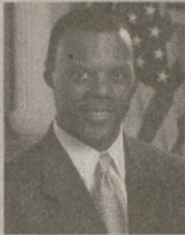
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Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 17

J.C. Watts, Former U.S. Congress Member

Noon; Meadow Brook Theatre
Tickets are free and available at the CSA Service Window, 49 OC.
(Presented by Student Life Lecture Board)



Panel Discussion: "When Dreams Become Nightmares"

2 PM; Banquet Rooms, OC
(Presented by Association of Black Students and Oakland University Student Congress)

African American Celebration 2005 Opening Ceremony

Tuesday, January 18
Noon; Fireside Lounge, OC
(Presented by African American Celebration Month Committee)

2005 Winter Blood Drive

January 24-25
9 AM – 9 PM
Gold Rooms, OC

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www.givelife.org (sponsor code: oublood)
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College Bowl

Win up to \$400 and the chance to compete in the Regional Competition!

Teams of 4 must sign-up at the CSA Service Window, 49 OC, by January 20 and pay a \$20 entry fee.

OU Campus Competition
January 22
9:30 AM
Oakland Center

College Bowl Demo
January 19
Noon
Fireside Lounge, OC

CSA SERVICE WINDOW

RESERVATIONS FOR:

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

• The King and I (Jan. 30)
• Oliver (Jan. 25)
• Trumbo (Feb. 5)

• Disney's On The Record (Feb. 13)
• A Celebration of Contemporary African American Dance (Feb. 15, 17 & 20)
• Phantom of the Opera (Mar. 13 & 23)

TICKETS AND SIGN-UPS:

• J.C. Watts (Jan. 17)
• College Bowl (Jan. 22)
• Voices from the Street: Countdown to a March (Jan. 22)

Oakland University's Welcome Week 2: OAKLAND UNITED!

Wednesday, January 12

• Career Services Open House
11 AM-1 PM; Fireside Lounge, OC
• Orientation Group Leader Info Table
Noon-1 PM; Main Hallway, OC
• NBC's "Last Comic Standing" Finalist: ANT
8-10 PM; Gold Rooms, OC

Thursday, January 13

• Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Founder's Day 92nd Anniversary Celebration
11 AM; Main Hallway, OC
• Video Rental Demonstration with FREE candy and discounts on video rentals
11 AM – 2 PM; Expansion Food Court, OC
• Senior Job Search Seminar
Noon-12:45 PM; Gold Room A, OC
• Professor Joe Martin, "Tricks of the Grade"
Noon-1 PM; Fireside Lounge, OC
• Resume Writing Clinic
5-6 PM; Gold Room A, OC
• Orientation Group Leader Info Table
Noon-1 PM; Main Hallway, OC

Friday, January 14

• "Good Morning, Commuters!" with FREE hot chocolate
9-11 AM; Fishbowl, SFH
• OUSC Open Forum
Noon-1 PM; Fireside Lounge, OC
• Orientation Group Leader Info Table
Noon-1 PM; Main Hallway, OC
• Dance Dance Revolution Tournament
3-6 PM; Bumpers Game Room, OC
• FNL: Comedian Rick Bronson
7 PM; Vandenberg Dining Center, VBH
• ABS Icebreaker Dance II
9 PM – 1 AM; Banquet Rooms, OC

Saturday, January 15

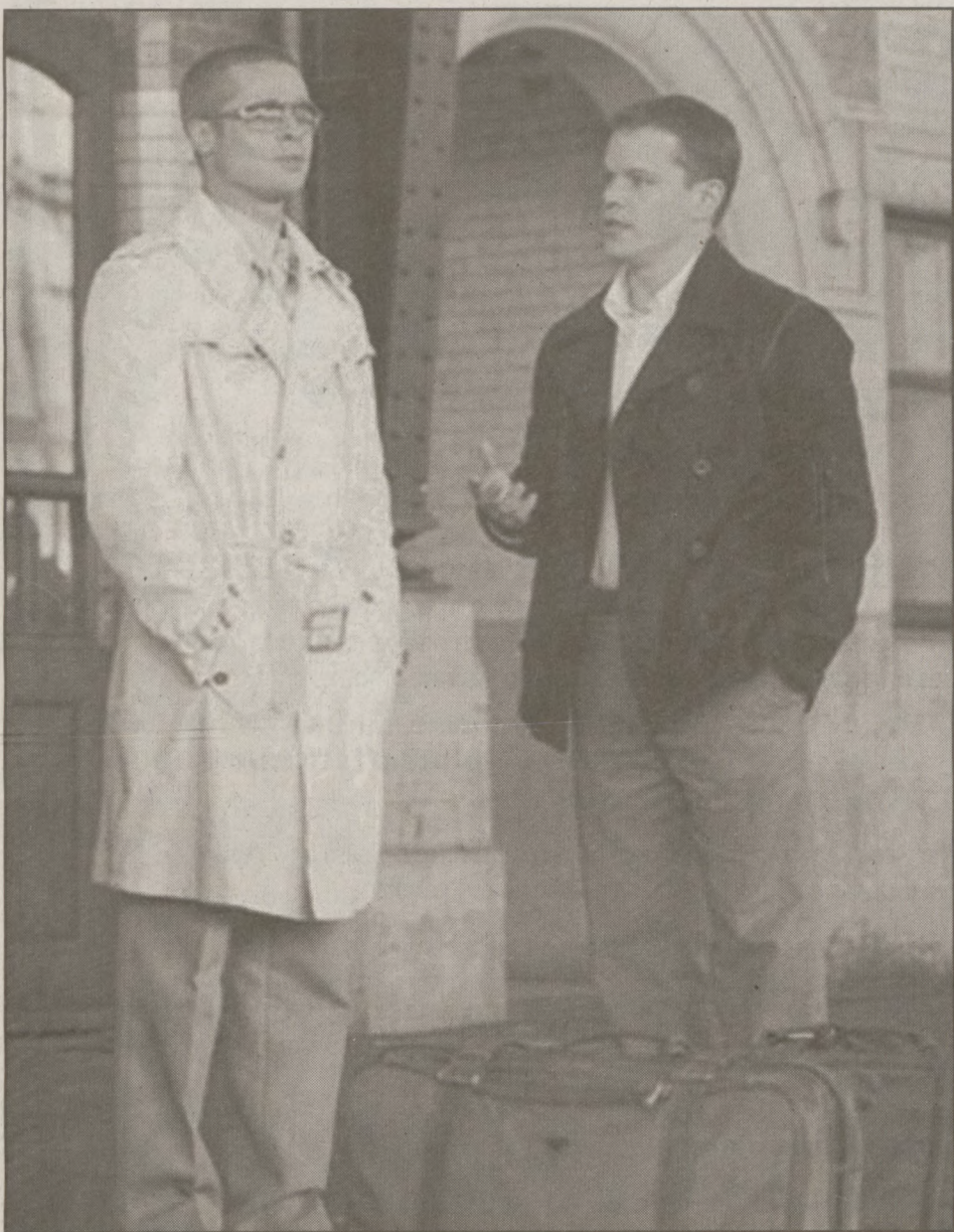
• OU Women's and Men's Swimming & Diving: OU vs. Eastern Michigan
1 PM; Aquatics Center, RAC
• OU Men's Basketball: OU vs. Chicago St.
(100 FREE student tickets available at the Grizz Outlet, 113 VBH)
6 PM; O'Rena, RAC

January 12, 2005

The Oakland Post
www.oakpostonline.com

B 1

Ocean's 12 pulls heist on audience



By ROQAYA ESHMAWI
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The talented cast of "Ocean's Twelve" will stunningly pull their heist on you this time.

Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia) pays a visit to Tess Ocean (Julia Roberts) on her "second third anniversary."

He rings the bell as Tess is on the phone with her husband Danny (George Clooney), making plans for their anniversary.

Benedict — who owns Bellagio, a casino in Las Vegas — wants the 11 men to return the money they stole, but with interest ... or else.

That adds up to approximately \$19 million each.

So the gang heads off to Europe for another heist, where they find police inspector Isabel Lahiri (Catherine Zeta-Jones) on their case.

It doesn't help that Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt) used to date her.

How do you get all these actors into one movie?

Director Soderbergh doesn't seem to have a problem at all.

He has a witty way of introducing each of the characters as he did in "Ocean's Eleven," and he directs the mid-film jail face-spanning scene to include them all.

The characters' charm works well for the movie. Ocean and Ryan have that suave personality the audience loves.

And Linus (Matt Damon) is an innocent sincere character; hardly a fit for the sly Ocean gang, but he does add a nice touch.

He has a fast hand, but Linus isn't the cunning type; watch as he does nothing but nod his head when Ocean and Ryan take him to an important meeting with an underworld contact, played by Robbie Coltraine.

Watch out for Roberts' role in this heist, it fits her perfectly.

And a special appearance is made by Bruce Willis, just to add on to the twist.

It won't keep you on the edge of your seat, but after the first 10 minutes you won't be able to take your eyes off the screen.

You won't want to miss the witty lines, characters' charm and of course, the heist.

Try to not let the crew pull a heist on you, but the talented group probably will.

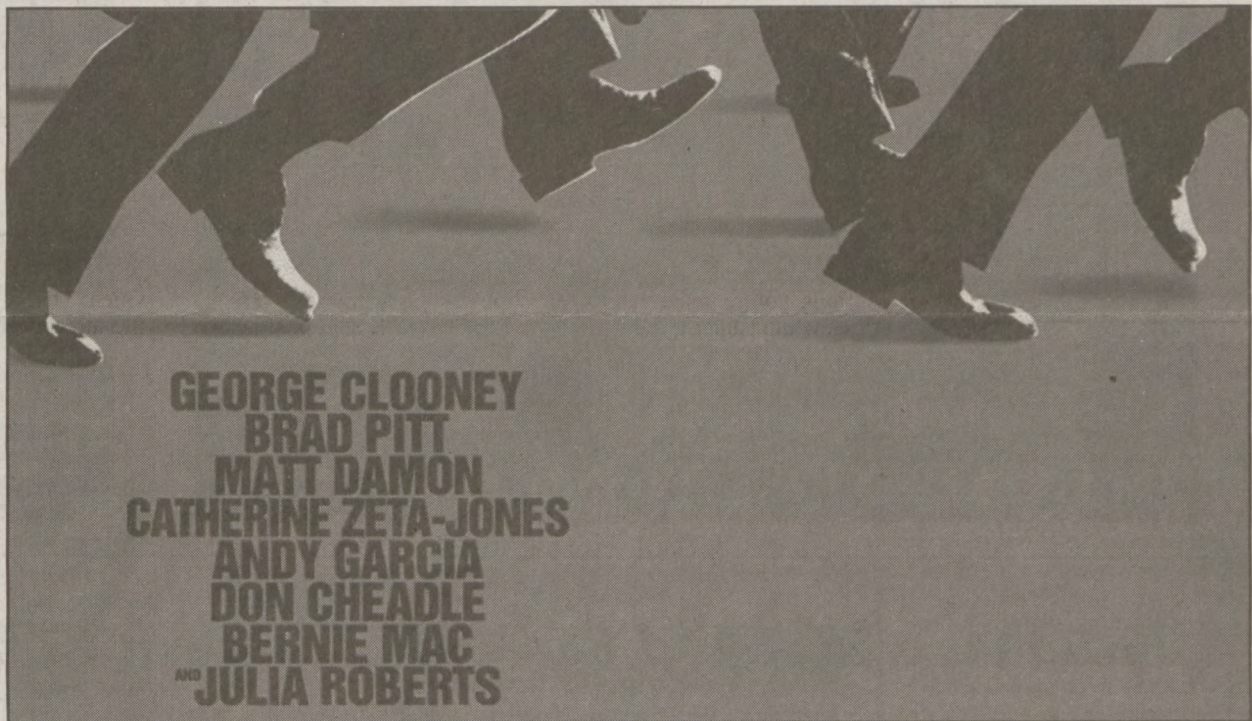
If you haven't seen "Ocean's Eleven," make sure you see it first, and if you have, it might be nice to refresh your memory.

Crime is glamorized once again, and for the second time, you find yourself cheering on the "bad guy," which is definitely not a good thing.

If influential and adored actors are being cheered on for malicious crime, who is going to model good behavior?

Photos courtesy of <http://movies.yahoo.com/Warner Bros. and Warner Bros.>

Left: As they wait, Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt) refuses to comment on a mysterious someone to Linus (Matt Damon), who tries to engage Ryan in discussion. In an earlier scene, Linus asks Ryan for a "more central role," which Ryan and Danny Ocean (George Clooney) both agree to let him have.



OPINIONS



Actors who sing: Why?

By JIM FARBER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Everyone has a voice. But does that mean everyone has to cut an album? Hollywood stars think so.

The record-store cut-out bins and private kitsch collections are bursting with releases from actors who, in a blur of hubris, mistook themselves for singers.

Even Phyllis Diller. Wait, it gets better. On her album, she covered the Stones' "Satisfaction."

Equally surreal moments include a recording of "Proud Mary" by Leonard Nimoy, a spoken-word take on "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" by William Shatner, and a version of "Stand By Me" by Muhammad Ali.

(Partial excuse: The fighter was still Cassius Clay at the time.)

You can hear all these inadvertently brilliant recordings on Rhino's "Golden Throats" CDs.

But now a trio of prominent thespians, Robert Downey Jr., Minnie Driver and Kevin Spacey, have all risked critical ridicule this season with debut CDs.

Spacey is taking the most daring leap by doing his own singing as Bobby Darin in the movie "Beyond the Sea," which opens this month.

And he's performing Darin's music live in venues around the country.

So, if nothing else, you have to give the guy credit for nerve.

Here's how the latest batch of actors-turned-chanteurs really sound:

Kevin Spacey

"Beyond the Sea" soundtrack.

Those who watch late-night talk shows know Spacey as a terrific mimic.

But why listen to what

amounts to an "I Can't Believe It's Not Bobby Darin" CD when you could just as easily play the actual thing?

Viewed this way, Spacey's recording becomes something of a stunt, if a relatively accurate one.

Spacey has the rhythmic chops to navigate Darin's brisk phrasing, no mean feat, although he clearly lacks the earlier star's elan.

You can measure the limits of his voice to his ballads.

His take on "Mack the Knife" has more smarm than charm.

The album's producer, Phil Ramone, set Spacey's voice in some nice arrangements and surrounded him with enough echo to give his singing a bit of shimmer.

Of course, if you've never bought a Bobby Darin album, and the movie inspires you, it

would be a sin to start here.

Robert Downey Jr.
"The Futurist"

Joni Mitchell fans probably still haven't forgiven Downey for his mewling cover of "River," which he moped through on "Ally McBeal" some years back.

And they shouldn't. But that recording was a sweet memory compared to Downey's solo debut, which appears, puzzlingly, on Sony's snazzy Classical imprint.

Downey offers mainly original pieces, performed on spare acoustic guitar or piano.

But it's not Downey's eccentric melodies that make his record unlistenable. It's his way overarticulated singing.

He sounds like "SNL's" Jimmy Fallon doing a vicious

satire of Dave Matthews.

Downey leans into the husky end of his voice, then shoots up for a cracked falsetto with such self-consciousness, it's impossible to hear the tune.

Minnie Driver
"Everything I've Got in My Pocket"

Driver owns an iffy instrument with little wind power and less distinction.

Her pale tones aren't done any favors by her drowsy country-tinged tunes.

The album has so little momentum, it makes the Cowboy Junkies seem manic.

Even her cover of Springsteen's "Hungry Heart" threaten to lapse into a coma.

Ultimately, her record isn't as much ear-achingly bad as it is a stone-cold bore.

White Noise: tune in to static

By ROQAYA ESHMAWI
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Turn on the TV and flip to a channel where all you see is static. Or turn on the radio and flip to a staticky station.

Then wait for a message from the "dead," because they're trying to contact you and their loved ones.

But be careful. They might come out of the TV and try to hurt you ... or even kill you, like they do to several of the characters in White Noise.

Right.

Jonathan Rivers' (Michael Keaton) wife dies and her body is found in a river upstream, quite a distance from her car.

Several mornings later, Rivers finds Electronic Voice

Phenomenon specialist Ray Price (Ian McNeice) parked outside his house and later sitting outside his office building.

Price has a message for Rivers ... and it's from his wife.

Rivers won't take that kind of business, until he receives a call from his wife's cell phone while in a dark, stalled elevator.

He doesn't pick up and the elevator finally starts up again.

Upon reaching his destination, a random character asks Rivers if everything is okay.

Keep your eyes on him. He'll show up again later.

Rivers rushes home and finds that his wife's cell phone hasn't been touched.

So who called him from her cell phone? And how?

Time to call Price, whose

interest in EVP sparked after his son died and started contacting him through TV and radio.

After Price dies of a mysterious accident, Keaton takes on the role, transmitting messages from those who have passed on.

He even finds himself saving people's lives ... but is he really?

The movie's only positive aspect is Keaton, who makes you cry as he weeps after his wife dies.

Keaton did the movie justice; but it did him injustice.

If you really want to see it, consider waiting until it comes out on video. Watching it on TV might add more suspense, just because someone might come out after you.

Or you can just flip to a staticky TV channel or radio station.



Jonathan Rivers (Michael Keaton) plays a tape on his VCR. He leaves the VCR on to record any possible messages while out. After Ray Price (Ian McNeice) dies, Rivers takes responsibility for delivering messages.

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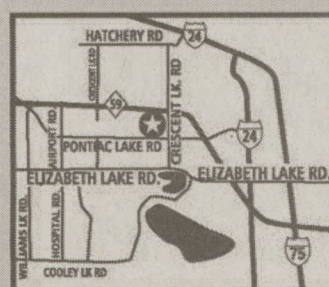


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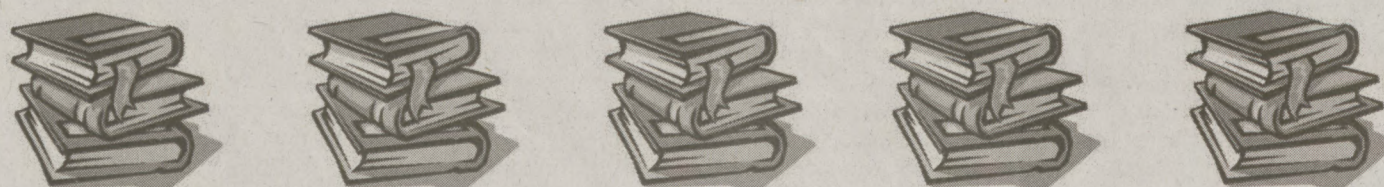


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The Oakland Post – Postion Openings

Availability on Mondays and Tuesdays required. Applications due Wednesday Jan. 12 at 61 Oakland Center.

Feature Editor:

Job description: Plan and execute a weekly feature section for the Oakland Post. Office hours mandatory on Mondays and Tuesdays. Must be flexible in order to work with writers and photographers. We need an idea person who isn't afraid of doing something new.

Experience: Significant writing and editing experience. Substantial knowledge of newspaper design, proficiency in QuarkXPress and Photoshop, completion of JRN 440 and JRN 300 preferable. Editing skills, ideas and willingness to work with staff writers and freelancers. Photo skills a plus.

Photo Editor:

Job description: Oversee the photo department of The Oakland Post. Recruit and train team of photographers. Must be flexible in order to work with current staff and other photographers.

Experience: Photography experience along with knowledge of Photoshop and possibly Quark. Some professional training preferred.

Sports editor:

Job description: Organize and oversee the weekly sports section of The Oakland Post. Mandatory office hours on Mondays and Tuesdays, along with requirement to attend sporting events related to Oakland University and its community.

January 12, 2005

Unity is the goal of Welcome Week II

BY LAURA ANGUS
THE OAKLAND POST

Welcome Week II festivities are heating up the beginning of the winter semester. Activities have been going on all week and will continue into the weekend.

"We had a great response today," said Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, as the events started to take off this week. Miller encouraged students to read the banners placed around campus and to pick up flyers to attend the events.

"It is an introduction to campus life," Miller said of new students and regenerates returning students. "It's so great that we have so much and it creates a college atmosphere. Even as a commuter, students can have campus connection."

From 11 a.m.-1 p.m. today, Career Services will have an open house in the Fireside Lounge of the Oakland Center. Students can learn about the services offered by Career Services, including mentoring programs and job search pages.

Tonight, SPB Mainstage welcomes comedian Ant from the show "Last Comic Standing." He will take the stage from 8-10 p.m. in the OC Gold Rooms. The show is free to all students.

"I'm going to some of the events with my floor," said Susan Jackson, a senior at

OU who lives on campus. Jackson looks forward to attending the "Last Comic Standing."

Tomorrow from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Delta Sigma Theta will be handing out free cake in the OC main hallway in celebration of its founding.

Ever wonder how to use the video rental machine near Café O'Bears in the OC? Tomorrow from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. there will be demonstrations on how it works, discounts on rentals and free candy.

SPB Lecture and Special Events presents Professor Joe Martin, a visiting professor from Florida A&M, lecturing on "Tricks of the Trade." Martin is the president and founder of RealWorld University, a Web site devoted to providing tips and advice to college students.

Graduating seniors will want to check out the senior job search seminar hosted by Career Services from noon-12:45 in Gold Room A of the OC. The seminar will discuss on-campus recruiting, networking and job search techniques.

Career Services will also host a resume writing clinic from 5-6 p.m. in Gold Room A of the OC. Career Services staff will help outline a good format for resumes.

Friday morning, students passing through the fishbowl area of South Foundation Hall from 9-11 a.m. can get a

free cup of hot chocolate from "Good Morning Commuters."

"I like the Friday event," Vivek Natarajan said referring to the "Good Morning Commuters," hosted by the Center for Student Activities (CSA). "They gave us hot chocolate, doughnuts and stuff," said Natarajan, who is a senior this year and is the president of OU's Indian Students Association.

Student Congress will host an open forum from noon-1 p.m. Friday in the Fireside Lounge of the Oakland Center. Roughly 20 Student Congress members will be on hand to address concerns about OU, said Vice President Michael McGuinness, junior.

"We just want to provide an outlet for students to have their voices heard," he said.

The OC will be hosting a Dance Dance Revolution Tournament at Bumper's Game Room at 2 p.m. Friday. Those participating in the arcade game dance contest can win a \$50 gift certificate to Game Stop for first place and a \$25 gift certification to the OU Bookstore for second place.

Comedian Rick Bronson will be on hand for Friday Night Live from 7-9 p.m. in the Vandenberg Dining Center.

"I went to the comedian last year," said senior Trevor Machuga. "It was awesome." Last year, Darrell Hammond

of Saturday Night Live entertained students with his political humor.

After that, students can head over to the OC Banquet Rooms for the Association of Black Students Icebreaker Dance II, being held from 9a.m.-1 p.m. The cost for the dance is \$5 for OU students and \$10 for each accompanied guest.

Welcome Week II comes to a close on Saturday with two athletic events. The men's and women's swimming and diving teams take to the pool versus Eastern Michigan University at 1 p.m. in the OU Aquatics Center.

At 6 p.m., the Men's basketball team will play Chicago State in the O'Rena. There will be 100 free student tickets available for this game. Pick one up at the Grizz Outlet in Vandenberg Hall.

"If you try something, you'll get hooked," Miller said. She said that after students go to an event they ask themselves, "Why didn't I do this as a freshman?"

"I think it's neat, especially for the first time students," said senior Heather Messina, of Welcome Week II.

For information on the Welcome Week II events, call the CSA at (248) 370-2400.

—Senior Life Writer Sheila Kosztowny contributed to this story.

THE LOW DOWN

Wednesday, Jan. 12

The Career Services office is extending their service to direct students in their career path with an Open House from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge of the OC.

The Student Program Board's Mainstage Committee is sponsoring "Last Comic Standing," in which NBC finalist Ant will perform in the Gold Rooms of the OC from 8-10 p.m. The event is free of charge.

Thursday, Jan. 13

The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority are celebrating their 92nd anniversary with cake for all.

Professor Joe Martin presents "Tricks of the Trade," in his advice for success for college students. Martin will be speaking from noon-1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge of the OC.

The Visiting Nurse Association and the Graham Health Center are providing flu shots in the Exhibit Lounge at the Oakland Center from 1-4 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 14

Last day for 100% tuition reimbursement for the Winter 2005 semester, but does not include the \$57.00 registration fee.

The Association of Black Students will hold their Icebreaker Dance II for students who enjoy dancing and meeting fellow students. The dance will be in the Banquet Rooms of the OC with an entry fee of \$5 and \$10 for guests.

Saturday, Jan. 15

Canadian Photographer Julie Sando will present her perspective on the life of the career woman as opposed to the domestic woman in her collaboration of photos. "Shopping for Pleasure" will be held from noon-5 p.m. in 208 Wilson Hall and the presentation will continue through February 27.

Monday, Jan. 17

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Classes Suspended

The Student Life Lecture Board will host a lecture at noon in Meadow Brook Theatre featuring former U.S. Congress member J.C. Watts as a celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Tickets are free and can be picked up at the CSA service window.

A panel discussion entitled "When Dreams Become Nightmares" will be held at 2 p.m. in the banquet rooms of the Oakland Center by the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Women's basketball vs. UMKC at 7p.m. in the Athletics Center O'Rena. Reserved seats are \$5 and OU student tickets are \$2.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

The African American Celebration 2005 Opening Ceremony will be held from noon-1p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. This event is sponsored by the CMI and is free to all students.

Sisters of Success will hold its general body meeting and professional clothing drive in rooms 126 and 127 of the OC from 4-5p.m. Clothing collected will be distributed to students in need at 6 p.m.

There will be an information session from 12-1 p.m. in rooms 128-130 of the OC for students interested in becoming Orientation Group Leaders.

Compiled by: Sheila Kosztowny
Senior Life Writer

BY LINDA C. BLACK
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Today's Birthday (01/12/05). You can earn a higher wage this year, without doing more heavy labor. Work smarter instead of harder, and you will naturally rise to the top.

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

Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 6: You have more responsibilities, and that requires you learn how to set priorities and even delegate. Yes, you can.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 6: Developing your natural talents will naturally lead you into a position where others ask for your advice. Do the homework to make sure you're right.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is an 8: It's a good day for talking things over, but all the words in the world are not going to make something work that won't. Listen to a pragmatist.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is a 6: You've won a higher place through your hard work, so go ahead and get something to celebrate your rise in status. You've earned it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is an 8: You don't have to solve every problem yourself. Encourage the people around you to come up with creative ideas, and they will. And, you can have some of the credit.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 7: The work's creative and the money's good, so don't complain. This will make it possible for you to get something you want, for the family. Plan a delicious reward.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6: Link up with an intellectual who can help you make up your mind. You like to consider all points of view, but one of them is better.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 7: A curious mind and an old master help you bring out your natural talent. Be careful and realistic and accomplish a surprising victory.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 6: Push yourself to try something you're not sure you can do. You're growing now, so don't be stopped by your old limits. They don't apply any more. Ignore them.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7: Finish up that final nasty bit of work you've been avoiding. It's a phone call or a favor you promised to somebody ages ago. It's inhibiting your creativity.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 7: You're not in this mess all by yourself. You have very intelligent, creative and powerful friends. Call them up to get a few more good ideas.

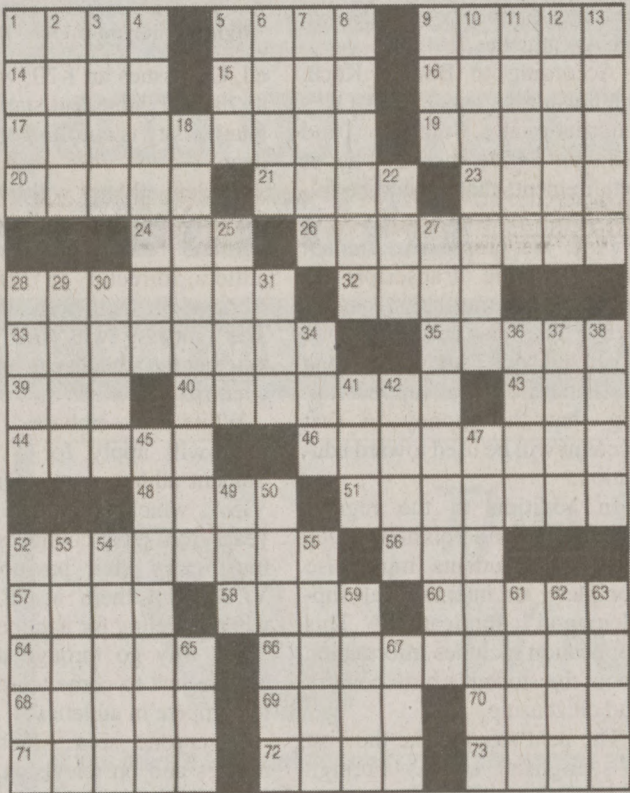
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 6: You're starting to ask "how" and "why," instead of just accepting what is. You're apt to find some good reasons, too. Tap into the main power source.

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Roe source
5 Former fast fliers
9 Benefit
14 Fabled also-ran
15 Cosmetic ingredient
16 San Diego pro
17 Remove
19 City near Bremen
20 Family car
21 Tableland
23 Atlantic, facetiously
24 Sgt. or Cpl.
26 Mechanical servants
28 Tympanic membrane
32 Sport
33 Went behind closed doors
35 Stable sound
39 Secreted
40 Bedazzle
43 Genetics letters
44 Desert stopovers
46 Huge
48 Senator Domenici
51 In opposition to
52 Plaiting
56 Stray from the straight and narrow
57 Ladder stage
58 Entreaty
60 "Star Wars" director
64 Cancel the mission
66 Unyielding
68 Lining wood
69 Makes a lap
70 Writer Ferber
71 Foe
72 Group working together
73 Burn the surface of

DOWN
1 Females
2 Patriot Nathan
3 Like the Sahara
4 Requirements
5 Jose, CA
6 Criticize harshly
7 Clan emblem
8 Vacillate
9 Copy
10 Bloodsucking evil creature
11 Supplement
12 Goodnight girl
13 Acts as banker
18 Amplified
22 Eagle on a par three
25 Baseball trio
27 Banisters
28 Reverberate
29 Inter (among others)
30 Steiger and Stewart
31 Shea player
34 John or Jane's last name?

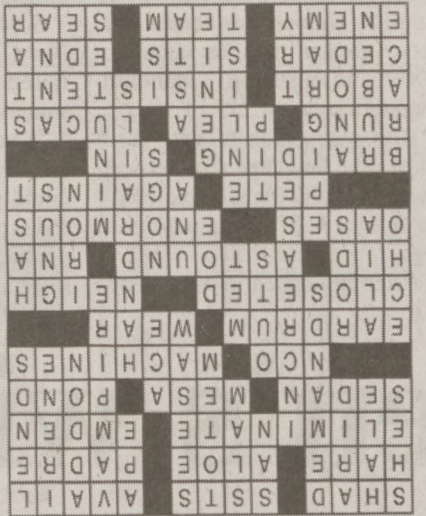
36 Press
37 Wildebeests
38 "Why ___ Thou forsaken me?"
41 Actress Merkel
42 Yuletide drinks
45 Clever saying



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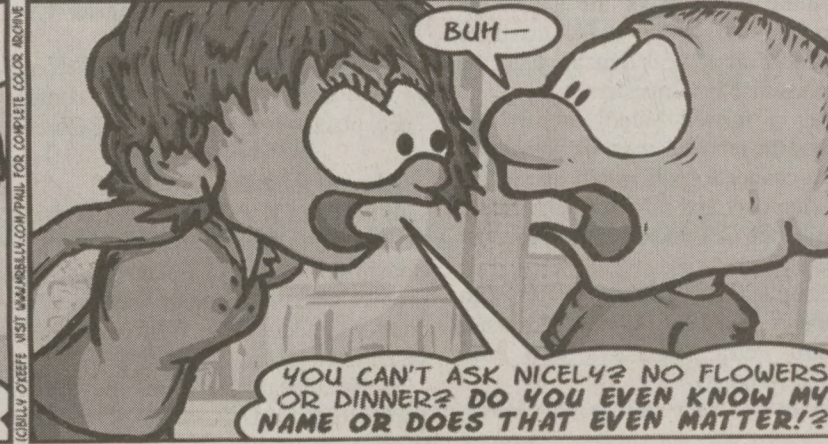
01/12/05

Solutions



47 Hour fractions
49 Gratuity
50 Sign up
52 Buttress
53 Entertainer
54 Battery terminal
55 Bottle denizen
59 Cinema canine
61 Relinquish
62 Dancer Pavlova
63 Night light
65 Go for the gold
67 Doctrine ending

PAUL



International student athletes adapt to OU

BY MIKE GURLIDES, ROB RANKAU, STEVE REED, ALICIA SOSSI AND PAUL VENTURA
THE OAKLAND POST

Silje Peltopera grew up in Karasjok, Norway, a small town of only 3,000 people, just north of the Arctic Circle. There were no opportunities to play soccer where she grew up, so Peltopera moved to southern Norway where she attended the Norwegian High School for Top Athletes.

After graduating high school, she received an offer to play soccer at the collegiate level in Kentucky. Two weeks before she was due to leave her hometown, Peltopera decided she wasn't ready to leave her homeland just yet.

After attending a university in Norway for a year, Peltopera's friend Marcus Halland, who is also from Norway and is on OU's men's soccer team, told the coaching staff about her.

An assistant coach from the women's team traveled to Norway to see Peltopera play in a game. After the game, Peltopera was made an offer she couldn't refuse. OU offered Peltopera an 80 percent athletic scholarship.

"Since I didn't go to Kentucky, I didn't want to lose another chance because I didn't know if I would get another one," she said.

Peltopera is one of 116 international undergraduate students who attend OU. Among them, 24 compete in athletics for OU.

Almost half of the international athletes are from Canada, with others coming from Scotland, Norway, Israel, Egypt, Hungary, Venezuela, the Czech Republic, Denmark and Germany. Seven of the 14 sports in the athletic department have international athletes.

So how is it possible for all these international athletes to attend OU? Each sport has its own method of recruiting athletes from overseas.

OU men's soccer head coach Gary Parsons has developed many international contacts, including coaches and agencies. Some former players have also gone back to their homeland and have provided Parsons names of the premier athletes in the area.

Parsons also has a contact with an agency in Scotland that will recommend OU to athletes looking to come to the U.S. to play soccer.

Each sport has its own method of recruiting overseas, however.

"We don't spend a lot of time, effort and energy because we don't have the staff or budget to recruit overseas. So we generally find them by word of mouth and a lot of other obscure ways," OU swimming and diving coach

Pete Hovland said.

Other forms of recruiting include e-mails, online services from other countries and basic networking.

Junior swimmer Line Jensen, from Denmark, had an American coach send her swim times to OU. Hovland was impressed with what he saw and contacted her.

"I accepted the offer because I wasn't ready to stop swimming," Jensen said.

In Denmark, education and athletics are not combined and Jensen really liked the fact that she could get an education in a setting that also supports athletics.

The idea of collegiate athletics was also enticing to women's basketball player Petra Manakova. The coach of her high school team had connections and recommended OU because her daughter played there.

Former women's basketball coach Beckie Francis recruited Manakova, but she was forced to attend Illinois Central Junior College for two years because she failed to meet language requirements.

Language requirements are only one of the many obstacles international athletes need to overcome before they can become eligible to compete in NCAA athletics.

According to Bonnie Koch, administrative assistant at OU's International Students and Scholars Office, there is a list of requirements that need to be fulfilled.

First, the prospective student must provide transcripts in English (the translation cost is \$150). They also need to provide notarized bank statements, along with an affidavit of support saying that the money in that account will be used toward education.

In addition to the regular application for admission to OU, interested students must also complete an international supplemental application. This application includes information about the student's birth country and citizenship.

The next step is take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam. According to the TOEFL Web site, 800,000 people worldwide register for this exam each year.

The TOEFL tests the student's ability to read, write and speak English. Universities accept any score greater than or equal to 190; immigration standard require a score of 213.

However, students may also satisfy the language requirement by earning 24 transferable credits from a U.S. community college.

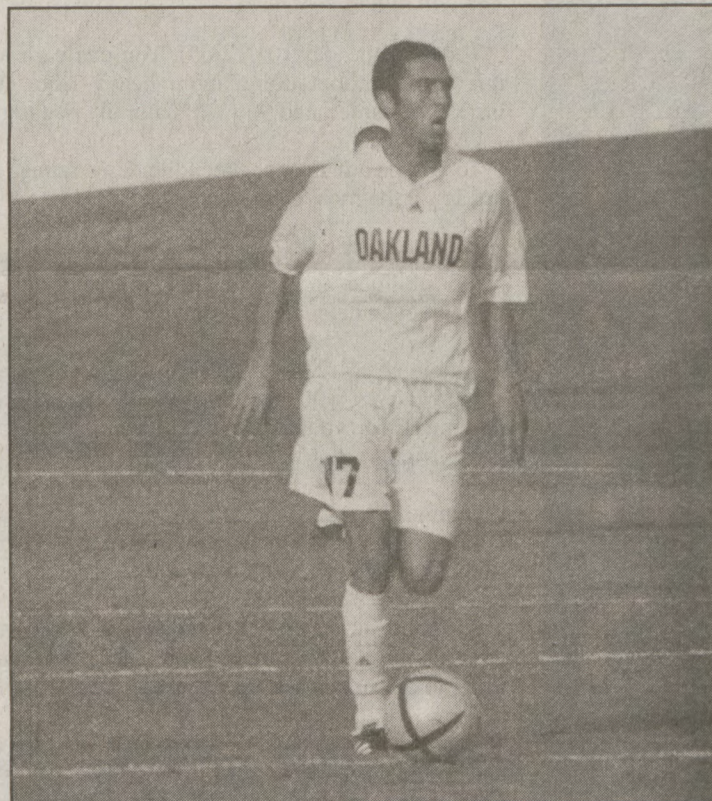
After an application is accept-



Bob Knoska/The Oakland Post

Above: Junior midfielder Silje Peltopera dribbles the ball in one of the women's soccer team's games this season.

Right: Senior midfielder Shahar Ktovim looks upfield.



ed, OU issues an I-20, which is an official document stating that a university is enrolling that student.

Student athletes will then take the I-20, along with their passport and the offer letter from the athletic director to the U.S. embassy in their home country. The embassy will then decide whether the student can leave the country.

While at the embassy, the student will apply for a VISA. Student athletes are given an F VISA, which is good for five years from most countries. They must carry their passport and VISA with them at all times when traveling for a game.

So, why go through all this trouble just to come to America to compete in athletics?

"Everyone sees America in movies and on television," said junior soccer player Chris Edwards, who was born and raised in Scotland. "I saw many more opportunities to be successful here, in this country, than at home."

Sophomore swimmer Aroldo Nery, born in Columbia, and raised in Venezuela, feels the same way.

"I've always wanted to come to America because I knew I could go to school and swim at the same time," he said.

The recurring theme is that international athletes find

schools in America attractive because they combine education and athletics. This is something that is not made available in most foreign countries, because in a majority of them, people can only play club sports.

Adapting to the American culture may not be as easy as it sounds. In fact, these athletes must also adjust to the typical college life, such as doing laundry and cooking their own meals, while also adapting to American culture.

Many of the athletes say the adaptation is made easier because of support from their teammates. But they also find it difficult to get used to certain things.

For Halland, it was the people, the malls and the size of food servings and highways that differed from his native Norway.

Manakova, a citizen of the Czech Republic, found the language barrier the most difficult. But with time, she adjusted.

Another aspect that takes adapting is the way sports are played in America.

"It's a lot more about winning and losing here," Jensen said. "It's less individual in America, and much more about the team."

Senior Shahar Ktovim, a soccer player from Israel, feels the entire sport is different.

"The level (of competition) is much higher in Israel because

soccer is all around, like basketball or baseball is here," he said.

All of the foreign athletes have made their own mark on OU. Whether it is sharing their culture with friends and teammates or bringing different styles of play to American soil, each has had a positive effect.

"It's a huge benefit to the American kids to be exposed to people from other countries," Hovland said.

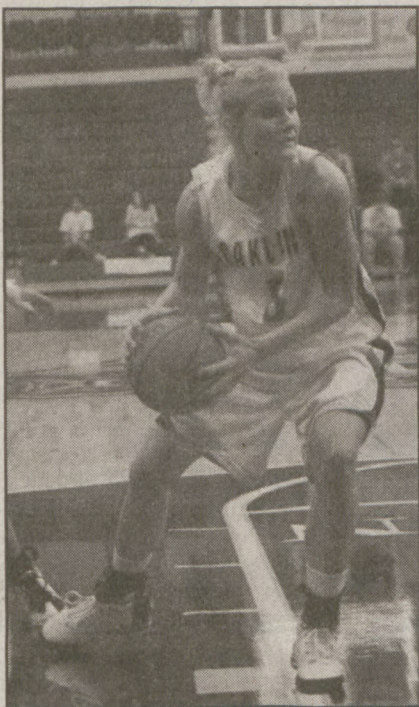
Both the American and foreign athletes benefit. The foreign athletes get to come to school and earn a degree while experiencing

a new culture and playing the sports they love. Americans are introduced to new techniques in their sports.

Looking back, Peltopera is very happy with her decision to come to the United States. She has learned to speak a new language and also met new people, including Katie Arnott from Newfoundland, one of her best friends and soccer teammates.

"Later in life, I will have connections everywhere because I went (to school) abroad," Peltopera said.

Women's winning streak



Bob Knoska/The Oakland Post

Sophomore forward Nicole Piggott drives to the basket earlier this season against Western Illinois University.

BY BRENDAN STEVENS
SPORTS EDITOR

While on a five-game win streak, that included a victory over the University of Michigan, the OU women's basketball team showed it has talent.

With a 74-62 win over Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis (IUPUI), the Golden Grizzlies also showed their resilience.

A strong team effort, four players in double figures, led OU over the Jaguars and put the Grizzlies back on the winning track.

Senior forward Amanda Batcha and sophomore forward Nicole Piggott led OU's offense with 19 points each.

Batcha recorded a double-double, hauling in 14 rebounds in the victory.

Junior Anne Hafeli added 16 points and junior guard Jayme Wilson contributed 14 points to the winning effort.

While IUPUI's junior forward Brooke McAfee had the hot hand for the Jaguars, recording 28 points on 13-25 shooting, the Grizzlies were able to control the rest of the team.

Oakland 74

IUPUI 62

IUPUI junior forward Kia Hayes, with 12 points, was the only other Jaguar to score more than six points.

The win over IUPUI helped put a difficult 68-63 loss to Valparaiso University (Valpo) behind the team.

Trailing for most of the game, the Grizzlies brought the deficit to three with more than 1:30 remaining in the game against the Crusaders.

After a missed Valpo jumper, OU grabbed the rebound and took possession with a chance to pull within one or tie. But a turnover and subsequent transition layup by the Crusaders put the game out of reach.

Wilson led the Grizzlies' offense with 18 points, paced by Hafeli's 17. Senior forward Petra Manakova also contributed 10 points.

Batcha was held scoreless but was a

presence under the boards with a game-high 11 rebounds.

Senior forward Jenna Stangler led Valpo with a game-high 23 points. The Crusaders also got double-digit production from junior guard Lauren Bechtold, 17, and sophomore Tamra Braun, 11.

OU will continue with Mid-Con competition at 8 p.m. tonight (7 p.m. CST) against the Chicago State University Cougars on the road.

The Grizzlies then return to the O'Rena for a 7 p.m. tip-off against the University of Missouri-Kansas City Kangaroos on Monday.

Currently, OU has an overall record of 10-4 with a 2-1 mark in the conference, placing it third in the Mid-Con.

Alumni joins coaching staff

With Petra Knoche taking a position at the International Student Center, a coaching vacancy opened on the women's team. The spot was filled by former standout Katie Wolfe, who graduated from OU in 2003.

Wolfe appears on 10 of the team's career record lists.

Grizzlies sweep Mid-Con swimming title for sixth straight year

Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams came away with victories at the Mid-Con Conference Championships early in December.

There were 11 Golden Grizzlies who came away with first-place finishes in their individual events along with the men's and women's 400-yard freestyle relay teams.

Both teams kept leads throughout the week and at the end of the week, the men's side claimed the top seat over runner-up Western Illinois University (WIU) with a score of 808-643, and the women's team also defeated WIU, 996-614.

OU's next dual meet will be January 15 at 1 p.m. at Eastern Michigan University.

DANA UTZ
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER



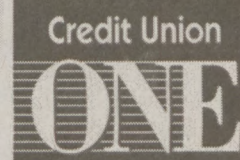
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WILSON AWARDS

Nominees for the 2005 Matilda R. Wilson and Alfred G. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in April 2005 or have graduated in June, August, or December 2004. 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, usually a 3.3 or higher GPA.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in April 2005 or have graduated in June, August, or December 2004. 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.

Nomination forms are available online at www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/ under "Scholarships and Awards" or at 144 Oakland Center. Call 370-3352 for more information.

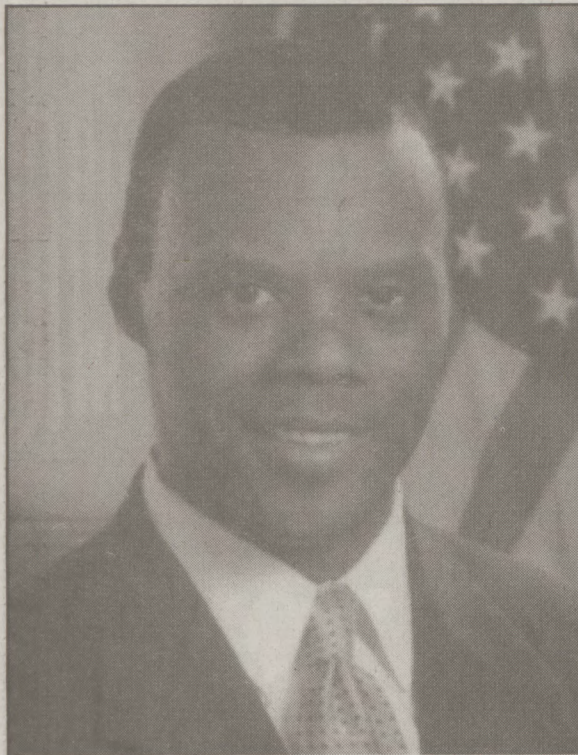
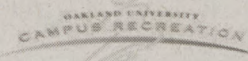
Deadline for both awards is Friday, January 28, 2005.



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Valpo win streak now at 14

BY DAVE PEMBERTON
SPORTS EDITOR

OU head coach Greg Kampe has never publicly put an emphasis on winning against Valparaiso University (Valpo), even though his team has never defeated the Crusaders.

This year he decided to call it a 'must win game' with hopes the 13-game losing streak to Valpo would end.

The change could not end the Valpo curse, however, as OU (3-10, 1-2) fell to Valpo (6-9, 2-1), 87-78, on Monday night.

"We tried to make this game an important game this year. We have never done that before," Kampe said.

"We have always said it's just one game. It's just one of the 16 games and it's not going to determine what happens.

"We didn't do that this year because we felt we were tired of answering these questions. I felt we had to cure this thing," he said.

Senior Rawle Marshall said OU expects to win against everyone they play.

"Of course there's going to be an emphasis on this game because it's Valpo and we never beat them. We really thought today was going to be the day we end their streak," he said.

Senior forward Courtney Scott also thought OU could end Valpo's winning streak.

"I think a lot of our young guys don't realize the history of Valparaiso," Scott said.

"I know (Pierre) Dukes is hurting bad and Marshall is hurting bad. I don't think the rest of the guys really felt it like I felt it. They really don't understand the history."

Valpo head coach Homer Drew said his team has been very fortunate to beat OU 14 straight times.

"I have a lot of respect for the coach here at Oakland

University, Greg Kampe. I admire how he handles a tough situation," Drew said.

"We have been very fortunate coming up here and winning. There will be a day when that changes and they will reverse it and have a winning streak on us."

In the past, strange things have happened when OU faced Valpo, but that was not the case in Monday's loss.

"You can ask about the thousand in a row or whatever it is now, but nothing went wrong tonight," Kampe said. "They just beat us and they beat us good. They beat us from the beginning until the end."

Valpo jumped out to an early 15-8 lead, but OU was able to take a 17-15 lead after a 9-0 run.

However, that would be OU's last lead of the game. Valpo's junior guard Ron Howard quickly gave the Crusaders the lead back by hitting a three less than 30 seconds later.

Valpo, already short-handed because of injuries, took a hit in the first half when sophomore Jimmie Miles hurt his ankle and did not return. But they were able to hold together and take a 40-30 lead into halftime.

Marshall and Scott came out after halftime strong, combining to score 15 points in the first five minutes.

OU was able to pull within one, 48-47, when freshman forward David Carson hit a layup with 14:01 left to play.

The Crusaders then went on a 14-6 run led by a pair of junior Seth Colclasure 3-pointers.

The Golden Grizzlies could not recover.

Kampe said he was disappointed in his team's defense and was surprised Valpo was able to break the zone so easily.

Valparaiso 87

Oakland 78

"They were going by us like we didn't exist," Kampe said. "We couldn't keep them in front of us. I think that had a lot to do with why we rebounded so poorly, because our rebounders were chasing the ball."

Homer Drew said he was really impressed with his team's guard play. Especially Colclasure, who finished with 10 points and 10 assists.

Kampe said he was disappointed with his team's rebounding.

"They missed 20 shots and had nine offensive rebounds," Kampe said.

"There is only so often you can say the ball bounces the other way. I just think they out-hustled us and outplayed us. It's very disappointing."

Marshall finished with 30 points and Scott added 24 points. No other Grizzly scored in double figures.

Marshall and Scott combined to shoot 16-28, while the rest of the team shot 7-29.

"It's a home game. We expect to win," Marshall said. "They had us playing catch-up all game and we couldn't get over that hump."

Valpo's offense was a different story, shooting over 65 percent in the second half and 60 percent for the entire game.

The Crusaders also had 22 assists on their 30 field goals.

Junior forward Dan Oppland led four Crusaders in double digit scoring with 23 points.

The Grizzlies will attempt to rebound when they face Chicago State University at 6 p.m. on Saturday in the O'rena.

"We have Chicago State coming in on Saturday. We are going to take some time off; then come back and regroup, try to get that win and go on to the next one. There is still 13 of them left," Kampe said.



Bob Knoska/The Oakland Post

Rawle Marshall scored 30 points against Valparaiso, but it was not enough to lead OU to victory.

Transition still work in progress

BY LIBBY BAKER, DAVE PEMBERTON, DUSTIN FRUCCI, AND MARK SCHROEDER
THE OAKLAND POST

OU wanted to be a pioneer. It wanted to distinguish itself from other area schools. It wanted its students to not have to answer questions about how the weather was in California.

OU wanted national visibility and it knew change was the only way it was going to come.

Most programs across the nation would be hesitant to make a switch to Division I athletics, especially while being so successful in Division II. But OU knew the athletics side of the switch would only be the beginning of a much larger transition.

Former athletic director and current men's basketball head coach Greg Kampe had been with the university 13 years prior to the switch.

"One reason we did make the move to Div. I is for name recognition. The university wanted to go away from being the Oakland County school and become a regional institution, and athletics can be your front porch to that," Kampe said.

In order for OU to make the transition it had to expand the athletic department as a whole. At the Div. I level, coaches could not be administrators, too.

OU decided to hire a new athletic director and chose Jack Mehl, who had led the transition to Div. I at Florida Atlantic University.

Mehl had a vision, but was sur-

prised with some of the things he encountered on campus at OU.

"When I first came here our student athletes would work out and I would see them in all kinds of shirts. They would have Alabama, Michigan, you know, they'd have everything on," Mehl said.

"One of the first things I did when I got here was I said, nope that's enough of that stuff. We're not doing that. If you want to lift in the weight room (with a Michigan shirt on,) you go to Michigan and lift in their weight room and wear their shirt down there, but you don't come into my house and wear someone else's stuff," he said.

To get student athletes, as well as everyday students, to wear OU apparel, the school had to make an impact in Div. I and find a source of pride for its students.

Making a name for itself

OU was fortunate enough to join the Mid-Continent Conference right away, which allowed OU to enjoy immediate success.

Joining a conference gave OU a chance to compete against other schools that have similar budgets, resources and students.

"Getting into a league was (one) of the highest priorities," Kampe said. "I don't think we could have had the success we've had if we weren't able to get into a league."

"There's a lot of schools out there that go Div. I, but they can't find a league that will accept them. We were fortunate to find a league. If the league

would have said no, I don't know what we would have done."

Being in a conference allowed OU to schedule big name opponents, which led to coverage in various newspapers, radio stations and on television.

OU was a national powerhouse in Div. II, but never received that type of exposure. The conference affiliation put OU in a position to market itself.

Athletes were able to compete for individual honors within the league, something that they would be recognized for on a national level.

The exposure in the various media outlets was free advertisements for the university. Every time OU was mentioned in the media, positive or negative, it helped the university make a name for itself.

OU was able to use the exposure to expand the university as a whole.

"One of the grand things about the move to Div. I is the excitement that it has generated within the corporate community," Mehl said. "Big companies that hire people are now involved with us. 'Everything from Chrysler to Pepsi, which is not to say they weren't involved with us during the Div. II, they probably were, but you know it's a whole different game here now.'"

Improvements still needed

As successful as OU has been, there is still more work to be done.

Improvements need to be made so OU can compete at the Div. I level in all 14 of its varsity sports.

"We are not fully funded yet at the Div. I level. We still have a number of part-time coaches," Mehl said.

"We're not up to the NCAA Div. I level on grant aids for the sports that we have. So we have been busy really trying to make the Div. I enhancement a success." The soccer program has been

one of the most successful, but is still without a stadium, as are the baseball and softball teams.

"We need to improve, specifically, our outdoor facilities, baseball and soccer facilities," Mehl said.

Men's soccer head coach Gary Parsons said it's hard to recruit because he has to compete against schools that have stadiums.

Recruiting is also difficult because the OU name is relatively young.

"We are evolving as a university but it is an awfully young university," Parsons said. "I have to get the same quality of player as (the University of) Michigan gets because I have to compete against those guys."

"We have to go up against the high profile schools and we have to have enough talent to compete against those schools."

"That's where the recruiting gets really difficult. We were after six kids in (the state of) Michigan this year that (the University of) Michigan was after and they got all six. The only reason they got all six is because they're Michigan and we're Oakland."

In Div. II, OU's men's basketball was one of the elite programs. Recruiting was not a big issue because most students who didn't get Div. I scholarships came to OU.

Today, OU has to compete against schools with larger budgets and longer tradition for recruits.

"Now every recruit is a battle," Kampe said. "Every recruit that we get has been a battle to get. It's a lot of time, energy and money to do that."

"Today our recruiting budget is (around) \$45,000. Back in Div. II days it was about \$2,000.

If I tried to recruit on \$2,000 now, I would have no players."

With the state budget affecting funding, OU is in a constant struggle to determine where funding goes.

According to Assistant Athletic Director Simon Dover, who handles all the athletic department's finances, the budget has been cut the last few years because of statewide budget cuts.

Despite the cuts, OU has been able to increase some staffing.

OU's head trainer Tom Ford said he has his first full-time assistant this year. The sports information department has also added a full-time assistant.

Mehl said the athletic department has talked about adding other sports, but it's difficult because of funding.

"I think the addition of other sports will continue to draw other students to the institution and keep students involved with campus activities," Mehl said.

Affects on campus life

The transition has been just as much about student life and academics as it has been about athletics.

Over the past six years, enrollment numbers are up, a new Recreation and Athletics Center arena opened and student apartment buildings were built.

Pete Nacy, associate vice president of enrollment services, said the transition to Div. I has been a contributing factor to the increased enrollment.

"When we mention to students that we are Div. I, there's a little bit of a different look on their face," he said.

In addition, with the transition

in the late 1990s, the university got a new nickname and mascot: the Golden Grizzlies.

"We looked at it (the old mascot) and thought, 'Would it serve us in Div. I? Is it a Div. I mascot?' And the conclusion was, no it isn't," said Geoff Upward, director of communications and marketing.

Mehl said in the Div. II years at OU he never saw anyone wearing OU apparel.

"Now I see that," Mehl said. Administrators hope student pride and excitement continue to grow in the coming years.

By 2010 the university hopes to be recognized as a university with a distinctive undergraduate experience.

"You come here to be challenged in ways that you never, ever envisioned. Sometimes you succeed and sometimes you fail, but nine times out of ten if you stick the thing through you're going to graduate and when you walk across the stage, you walk across the stage with your head held high," Mehl said.

The future

OU is not content with where the athletic department is and is always looking for ways to make improvements.

One of the main reason's OU went Div. I was to gain exposure for the university and expand the Oakland name.

"The reason that I think Oakland did it was to be able to increase the visibility of the institution and from the perspective of graduates that's really kind of important because it improves your marketability, it enables the institution to kind of function at a whole different level with regards to recruiting perspective students, it places itself a little bit better politically within the landscape of the state of Michigan," Mehl said.