

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 30, 2008

Volume 33, Number 48

# ARE YOU GONNA EAT THAT?



Cover illustration by Dustin Alexander

Cover story on page 6-7

After further investigation, OUPD determines that a sexual assault was not committed at Hamlin Circle

**Campus**

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OU golfer Lindsay Scarlatelli battles eye cancer while pursuing her dream of becoming a basketball coach

**Sports**

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America has been "wussified"—find out exactly what that means in this week's Mouthing Off

**Mouthing Off**

**p. 27**



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# THIS WEEK 1.30.08

THE OAKLAND POST  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

## EDITORIAL

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## Perspectives page 4

The issue with Webmail is tackled in our staff editorial. A letter to the editor addresses a long-standing myth. Plus, the return of Four on Four.



## Campus page 8

OUPD determines that a sexual assault was not committed at Hamlin Circle. Plus, catch a review of Meadow Brook Theatre's "Rabbit Hole."



## you page 12

College life can be hectic enough. Find out how two OU students handle it as mothers.



## The Mix page 14

OU students imagine walking the red carpet at their favorite awards shows and choose leading actors for their bio-pics.



## Local page 16

Amid controversy, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick names a new deputy chief of staff. Plus, check out a photo spread of Fire and Ice ice sculptures.



## Sports page 20

Golfer Lindsay Scarlatelli lives life to the fullest despite illness. Also, check out how club hockey and men's and women's hoops fared last weekend.



## the Scene page 24

The Oakland Post gets an interview with director, writer and star of the film "Caramel." Plus, find out how a New York rock band cleared out a venue.



## MOUTHING OFF page 26

Phalluses, favoritism and sexual deviance at the Palace: the degradation of modern sports. Plus, grow some thicker skin, America.



## Nation | World page 28

President Bush delivers his final State of the Union address. Also, be sure to check Nation | World News Briefs for the latest in presidential politics.

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OUT WHAT STUDENTS ARE  
THINKING AND SUGGEST IDEAS  
FOR FUTURE POLLS.



# Perspectives

4

www.oaklandpostonline.com

January 30, 2008

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# University Webmail problems frustrate, no explanation given

Loading ... Loading ... Loading.  
Sit back, and stare into space. Feel familiar?

This is the daily routine of Oakland University students attempting to use their student Webmail account.

If you haven't noticed, the university Webmail has been operating at an unbelievably slow pace. So slow, that logging in to view one's Webmail is an all day affair.

Naturally, this is a serious matter. Oakland University Webmail is an essential tool for both students and faculty members. Some university business can only be conducted with the use of the Webmail account.

Thus, it is quite surprising that the university has been far from swift in providing a solution or an informative response.

Contacts provided little response and offered no new explanation.

Perhaps the response time is so slow because it has been sent over Webmail.

Nonetheless, the lethargic Webmail should be of the utmost concern for university administration.

Important billing information, grades and assignments are transported through Webmail.

Even reports involving campus security are made via Webmail.

There is no excuse — the Oakland Web site is kept up to date, along with a page devoted to technology news.

On Jan. 22, the Daily Technology News, located next to Webmail login, reported the issue of Webmail sloth. A posted statement read: "Systems continue to function, but the volume of e-mail has grown beyond our servers' ability to process it quickly. We ask for your assistance in reducing

volume by sending e-mails to large groups after 5 p.m., copying only those individuals who truly need to be copied and reducing the amount of personal e-mail sent to and received by your oakland.edu account. Thank you for your cooperation."

Loading ... Loading ... Loading.  
The explanation makes sense, but reflects poorly on the university.

If Oakland University is expanding and growing, a fact that the administration is very proud of, such problems should be weeded out immediately.

We are all given a certain amount of e-mail space, and should be able to utilize it for our endeavors. To not have a server that can accommodate such a request is unacceptable. What is this, dial-up Internet?

Also, the consistent encouragement for students and professors alike to use education tools like MOODLE is another issue.

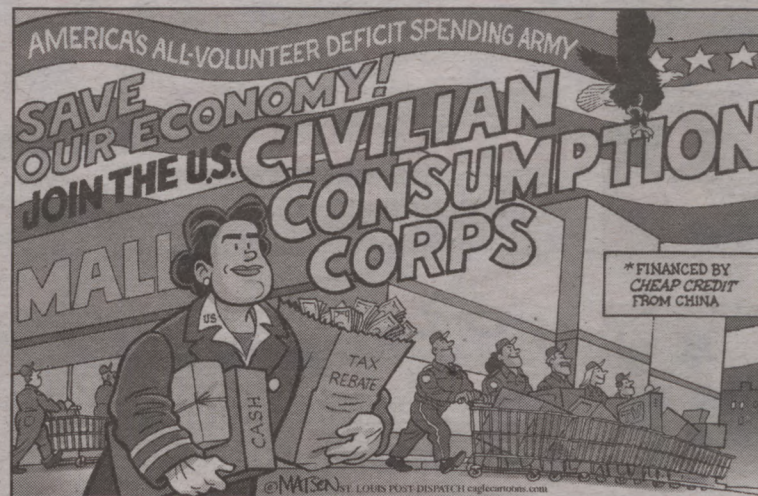
Communication through and with MOODLE involves a gargantuan amount of Webmail traffic with replicas of information available.

Ultimately, however, if a certain amount of space is provided for each student, all that can be done needs to be done to ensure that Webmail improves as student usage deems necessary.

Most importantly, better communication is needed. If certain authorities are contacted, an expedient response is required. At least, a prognosis could be provided.

The solution, however, is simple. The next time you login, take a copy of the Oakland Post with you. By the time you finish reading, you will finally be able to see your messages.

Loading ... Loading ... Loading.



RJ MATSON, The St. Louis Post Dispatch/Cagle Cartoons

## Because we can't afford to stop shopping!

**W**hat do you think? Have a news tip?

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Letter to the Editor  
The Oakland Post  
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Rochester, MI 48309

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

## CORRECTIONS CORNER

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

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

*— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*

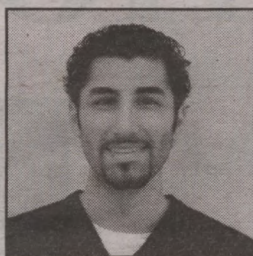


# Four on Four

four panelists share their take on four topics



**Allasandra Walkowiak**  
Sophomore, Biology Major



**Andrew Bashi**  
Junior, International  
Relations Major



**Jason Nowlen**  
Junior, Journalism Major



**Becky Schwartz**  
Senior, Health Science  
Major

**What, if anything, should be done to Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, in light of the recent controversy?**

Well, I think his law degree should be revoked, much like they did with Bill Clinton.

I think first of all he needs to admit to what he did. In the long run, I think he needs to step down, not just because he allegedly cheated on his wife. ... He lied in court, and he's had so many problems that have cost the city of Detroit a lot of money.

I think he should be repudiated, but I don't think he should be asked to leave office.

I think he should quit. They've got so much dirt on him. It's not good for a person of leadership to be getting into that kind of trouble. He's bringing more problems that Detroit doesn't need.

**Do you think nutritional content for food should be made available upon request at restaurants?**

Yes, especially because one of the leading causes of heart disease is obesity. If that information was made available, I think it could really help people.

Yeah, I think so. People should know what they're eating. If we want to know what's in it, why not? I don't think restaurants should be forced to publicly publish it, but they should have it upon request.

Yeah, I'd say so. If you're putting it in your face, you should probably know what it is.

Definitely, because if you want to know, it should be offered. ... It should be offered everywhere. ... Obesity is such a big deal, and it'd be nice if more people were aware.

**What are your thoughts on the FDA's decision to declare cloned animal products — mainly meat and milk — safe for food?**

I wouldn't eat a cloned animal. People should wait until the FDA does further, long-term testing.

I don't really trust the FDA all that much. ... They've been really quick to approve or deny things when they haven't been thoroughly tested. At this point, I think there needs to be more tests done by private institutions.

It's creepy, but maybe it'll help feed starving people by increasing food production.

I've been leaning more toward organic stuff. Cloning is kind of weird. I don't think I would eat cloned animal food.

**Do you think the media does a disservice by not allowing presidential candidates, such as Dennis Kucinich and Ron Paul, to participate in debates?**

Yes, we're not getting their point of view, so they're not getting a chance to change the way people think.

Absolutely, 100 percent. This is supposed to be a democracy and part of that is allowing people to hear different perspectives that are brought to the table. ... If the media showed these guys a lot more, they would have a lot more support.

Yes, because the whole idea of a democracy is to get differing views and when you have the same, watered-down versions of the same view on each side, it's a problem.

I think so. It'd be nice to see what people could offer to the country — even if it's crazy and outlandish. ... What is the point of them running if they can't debate?

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To The Oakland Post,

This letter is in regards to "Ready for some football," an article that ran on page 10 of the Jan. 23, 2008 edition of your newspaper.

Let me bring this matter right down to what is at stake: the values of the American youth being sold. Yes, I said it: SOLD.

Is it my imagination or was this school founded upon the stipulation that there would not be contact sports? Why, then, is the possible creation of a football team even in discussion? Who has neglected to inform our students the fundamentals that Mrs. Matilda Wilson stood for when donating her resources to Oakland

University and not to Michigan State?

By creating a football team, this school would be going against the direct principle of what it was built upon.

What will this lead too? Teaching our children to forget our principles may lead down a very dangerous path.

What if charities that helped the poor and sick decided to chase the almighty dollar, instead of the humanitarian values they were founded upon?

What if, God forbid, the U.S. decided to abandon the values and principles of its founding fathers? We might benefit in some areas perhaps, but at a cost immeasurable.

I will not stand for this anymore than I will stand for talks of banning

religion or the right to bear arms.

I will not stand for selling out our founding principles.

If the students want a football team, they are in the wrong school.

If Matilda could hear these children speak, she would be in disgust as am I today.

Take these words and consider the responsibility you have as a source of information to the people of this school.

What will you have them learn today? Will you take the responsibility of upholding principles or have them sold to history for another section in the sports page?

**Joel Baetens**

Electrical Engineering Student

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*The belief that there is a stipulation in Matilda Wilson's will prohibiting contact sports at Oakland University is inaccurate and is little more a long-standing myth. Wilson's will is available for viewing in Kresge Library and an electronic copy can be viewed at <http://library.oakland.edu/information/departments/archives/will.pdf>.*

*Ted Montgomery, OU's media relations director, confirmed through the general council's office, "that there is no clause in Mrs. Wilson's will prohibiting contact sports."*

*The Oakland Post ran an article entitled "OU history you may not know" in August of 2006, in which this issue was addressed.*

*Thank you for your feedback and for giving us the opportunity to address the issue once again.*



# Food for thought

By STACIE BARTMAN AND  
AMANDA SAOUD  
Staff Interns

"In your lifetime you will spend about six years eating — about 70,000 meals and 60 tons of food" according to "Core Concepts in Health," a book by Paul M. Insel and Walton T. Roth. That's a lot of food!

You already know that a good diet is important, but knowing how your diet affects your body and schoolwork is essential.

## Getting started

Stress with the concern of body image and opinions of others can affect some of the food choices students make. However, missing meals or overeating can lead to increased fatigue after a meal, which can affect your job or learning performance, according to Dr. Brian Goslin, Oakland University Program Director of Exercise Science and Health Sciences.

Students need to educate themselves on how nutrients affect the body.

"Being well and eating sensibly can take a huge load of stress off a person," Goslin said. Having a well-balanced diet can give you more energy, clearer thinking to learn material and can lead to improved grades.

## What to put in your cart

However, knowing the proper foods to pick can be confusing and overwhelming.

Some foods that you may think are healthy to eat actually may not be because they may be high in sodium or have hidden fats. When considering the option of foods that are low-fat, fat-free or low in sodium it is best to consider low-fat or no-fat according to Goslin.

"Only some people are affected by high levels of sodium in their food, while everyone is affected by high fat levels," he said.

Fatty foods such as chips, fast-food and food or drinks high in sugar can lead to heartburn, headache and even a stomach upset, which can distract you.

"Missing meals and going a long time between eating can lead to blood sugar levels dropping to quite low levels," Goslin said. This can further negatively affect your overall production in class and homework.

## Well-balanced what?

But what exactly does it mean to eat a well-balanced diet?

A well-balanced diet includes food from the five main food groups and in proper moderation according to [www.mypyramid.gov](http://www.mypyramid.gov); the USDA website. This Web site can help students make smart choices from every food group and find a balance between food and physical activity. This has changed in recent years from the older way of thinking that everyone needed the exact same thing in their diet. The new pyramid, "my pyramid," tailors dietary needs to the individual.

"I didn't know that it changed, but it makes a lot of sense," said

Trisha Buckley, senior anthropology major. "I've always tried to eat based on what I think my body may need and I've always been pretty healthy."

## Reaping body benefits

Nutritional choices that are made have both short-term and lasting long-term effects on your health.

"Since the brain uses only blood glucose as a fuel for functioning, brain function will be negatively affected by not eating regularly," Goslin said. This means your brain as well as your body needs food to help it function; cutting out specific foods and following a fad diet, eating once or twice a day or a diet that is not properly balanced can affect brain function unfavorably.

There are also health concerns with the long-term affects of an unbalanced diet. Some of these concerns can consist of "obesity, Type 2 Diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, heart disease and blood vessel disease," said Goslin. "Many of these chronic conditions take a long time to develop but eating well can help to prevent them."

A long-term well-balanced diet can help build a healthy response to protect against other illnesses such as arthritis and various types of cancer, according to the American Dietetic Association. In addition to implementing and maintaining a well-balanced diet it's important to know how the various nutrients benefit your body. For example, a diet rich in vitamins and minerals helps to support the immune system and fight disease according to the ADA.

"I try to eat the basic food groups," said Buckley. "I eat a lot of fruit, because I have a sweet tooth and it's better to get natural sugars than stuff from a bag."

## Too much of a good thing

Eating a normal, well-balanced diet will not lead to toxicity in otherwise healthy individuals. However, taking vitamin supplements that contain megadoses of vitamins A, D, E and K may lead to toxicity, according to the ADA.

Scott Gillam, junior, management information systems, said, "You get most of the vitamins you need through food, and supplements are for the ones you don't get through your foods." Gillam also said he reaches for an energy drink "because of the caffeine content."

Some students reach for energy drinks when they are feeling tired. Sobe Adrenaline Rush offers 200 percent of daily values of vitamin C and vitamin B12 and 480 percent of vitamin B6 daily value. It can be misleading you to think that by getting more vitamins into your diet you're getting more energy. Megadoses like this are not needed, as vitamins do not release energy directly. In fact, they assist the body in creating energy stored in carbohydrates, proteins and fats, according to Insel and Roth.

## In short

Eating is pretty simple to figure out. Apples and carrots are better for you than cheese fries and ice cream. Though there can be some tricky areas, it's hard to go wrong if you're an informed eater.

Sure, everyone reads a nutrition label once in a while, but what do all those statistics mean? Check out our list of "Nutrition Facts" below to find out what fiber does in your body, how sugar affects your appetite, what causes high blood pressure and more.

### Nutrition Facts

**Serving Size:** influences the number of calories in all the nutrient amounts listed.

**Calories:** a unit of measured energy, calories are needed for the body to survive.

**Calories From Fat:** a caloric measure of fat content that enables consumers to measure fat intake.

**Total Fat:** too much can cause significant health problems (such as obesity), but some fats are an important resource for the body.

**Saturated Fat:** a "bad fat" that raises cholesterol and increases a person's risk for developing heart disease.

**Trans Fat:** a "bad fat" that has been found to lead to heart disease.

**Unsaturated Fat:** a "good fat" that does not raise cholesterol levels.

**Cholesterol:** produces vitamin D, some hormones and many other important substances in the body. It can become a problem if the amount in the blood is too high because it can increase the risk of developing atherosclerosis.

**Sodium:** small amounts are necessary for keeping proper body fluid balance, but too much can contribute to high blood pressure.

**Total Carbohydrates:** an important source for energy for the brain, central nervous system and circulatory system; however, when consumed in amounts more than what the body needs, it is stored as fat.

**Dietary Fiber:** promotes bowel regularity and may help reduce the risk of colon cancer. It can also help reduce cholesterol levels.

**Sugars:** a diet rich in this could lead to increased appetite and, over a long term, may increase risk of diabetes and heart disease.

**Proteins:** muscles, skin and the immune system are made up of proteins. If the body doesn't get enough fat and carbohydrates, it can use protein for energy.

Information taken from [www.kidshhealth.org](http://www.kidshhealth.org) and [www.vim.cfsan.fda.gov](http://www.vim.cfsan.fda.gov)



# Before you munch, consider this

Dark chocolate is a surprisingly healthy food. Rich in antioxidants, this sweet treat has been found to aid in cell renewal and lowering blood pressure. Word to the wise: serving size should measure an ounce per day and the chocolate should contain at least 50 percent cocoa.

When it's not smothered in butter, popcorn is actually a healthy snack. Since it is a whole grain, it is high in fiber and protein.

Energy bars can be a convenient choice for students in a hurry, but they can contain some ingredients that aren't always healthy. Keep an eye on sugar content (the lower, the better) and fiber (big numbers equal big benefits).

Coffee is the number one source of antioxidants in the American diet. It has also been shown to improve brain function and short-term memory. However, in excess coffee can be harmful to your health, so make moderation key.

Though they've gotten a bad reputation with the onset of the "no carb craze," potatoes are actually a great source of iron and fiber.

Energy drinks can contain a number of ingredients not found in most other foods. Two of these common ingredients, Inositol and Gaurana, are considered completely safe by the Food and Drug Administration. Other ingredients however, Taurine, Maltodextrin, and Sorbitol, have not been studied by the FDA.

Information taken from www.americanheart.org and www.newscientist.com

## Top 3 healthiest and least healthy Selections at OU's Pioneer Food Court based on available fat and calorie contents.

\*Featuring meals offered at Subway, Chick-fil-A and Coyote Jack's

### THE GOOD!

**1. Six-inch Veggie Delight Sub**  
265 calories  
3 grams fat  
SUBWAY

**2. Chargrilled Chicken Sandwich**  
270 calories  
3.5 grams fat  
CHICK-FIL-A

**3. Chargrilled Chicken Breast Sandwich**  
320 calories  
7 grams fat  
COYOTE JACK'S

### THE BAD!

**1. Bacon Cheddar Burger**  
662 calories  
45 grams fat  
COYOTE JACK'S

**2. Six-inch Pastrami Sub**  
570 calories  
29 grams fat  
SUBWAY

**3. Chicken Strips (6 ct.)**  
470 calories  
23 grams fat  
CHICK-FIL-A

Information taken from nutritional guides supplied by individual restaurants.  
\*Pioneer Food Court venues not listed did not provide nutritional content.

## Classifieds

### Employment

EMPLOYMENT: Students needed to work with our autistic son. Great experience for social work, education, psychology and related majors. Flexible hours and training provided. Sterling Heights, 17 and Dequindre. (586) 795-9344.

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## OUPD: Crime did not occur

*Further investigation finds sexual assault charges to be untrue*

By STEVE STAEGER  
Senior Reporter

An attempted sexual assault reported on Oakland University's campus Saturday has been proven untrue after an investigation by the OUPD.

The OUPD released a statement to all students Tuesday saying "no assault or any other crime occurred."

According to the statement, the OUPD is now internally investigating the reason for filing the report.

"We are certainly relieved to have this issue resolved in the manner it was,"

Oakland University Police Chief Samuel Lucido told the Oakland Post Tuesday.

"I'm also pleased to reassure our campus community that Oakland University remains a very safe place."

The allegedly false report was received by the OUPD after a student said she was attacked on her way to eat lunch in Vandenberg Hall around noon Saturday.

In her report, she claimed that a man asked her for money then grabbed her and pulled down her pants and his own.

She reported that she then stomped on the assailant's foot and dug her nails in to his arm until he let her go and she

ran away.

Within hours of receiving the report, the OUPD posted alert flyers around campus including a composite sketch of the alleged attacker.

They also utilized a mass e-mail system to alert students of a possible sexual predator on Oakland's campus.

When asked whether the woman who filed the report would face consequences, Lucido said that the matter was being reviewed internally.

For more information on crime prevention tips, visit OUPD's Web site at [www.police.oakland.edu](http://www.police.oakland.edu).

For updates on this and  
other stories, go to  
[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

## Broadway play takes OU stage

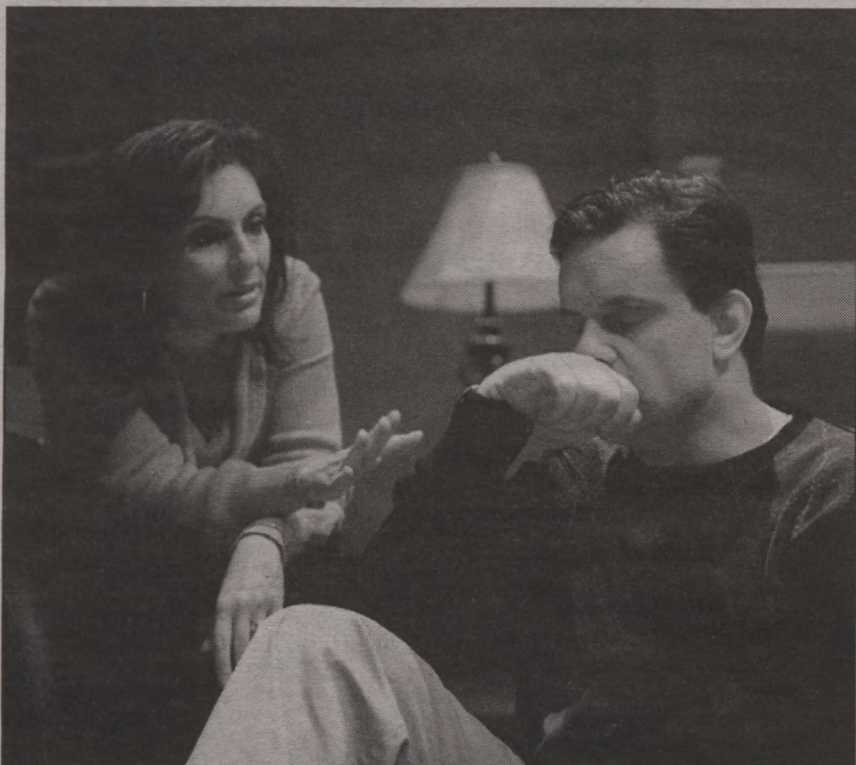


Photo courtesy of Meadow Brook Theatre  
Sarab Kamoo (Becca) and Chip DuFord (Howie) in "Rabbit Hole," showing now through Feb. 3.

By BRENDAN LOSINSKI  
Staff Intern

Meadow Brook Theatre's latest play "Rabbit Hole" is a vividly down-to-earth portrayal of the aftermath of tragedy filled with drama, emotion and humor. Written by David Lindsay-Abaire, this play is certain to touch audiences with its realism and the universality of its theme.

The play portrays the emotional uncertainty of two parents after their son is killed in a car accident. "Rabbit Hole" follows their differing ways of coping — or lack of coping — while facing the reality that their lives must continue on.

The play stars Sarab Kamoo as Becca, the child's mother, and Chip DuFord as Howie, the father. Also featured are Inga R. Wilson as Becca's pregnant sister Izzy, Henrietta Hermelin as Becca's mother, and Sean O'Reilly as the teenager that was involved in their son's accident.

Each of the performances are excellent in their own way. Hermelin's portrayal of Nat, Becca's mother, is especially noteworthy. The crew at Meadow Brook has also done a near-perfect job, particularly on the set. The home in which the action takes place looks as though it was taken

out of an average suburban home in nearby Rochester.

The play was directed by Leo Geter, an experienced writer and actor who has now taken a successful turn into directing. Geter believes that audiences will honestly connect with this play. "There's something suspenseful about grief," says Geter. "You're thinking to yourself: when is this going to change?"

This is the first time "Rabbit Hole" has been performed in Michigan. It was widely acclaimed after being performed on Broadway in 2006 and was nominated for five Tony Awards, as well as bringing in a Pulitzer Prize for David Lindsay-Abaire. Meadow Brook's version has thus far been well-received.

"It's one of the best plays I've ever seen," said Kitty Dubin, Oakland University's playwriting professor.

When Geter was asked what he wanted audiences to walk away with after seeing the play, he answered, "That it's work to be in a relationship... You have to put in the time; it's not easy."

"Rabbit Hole" will be performing through Feb. 3 at Meadow Brook Theatre. Ticket information can be found at [www.mbtheatre.com](http://www.mbtheatre.com) or by calling (248) 377-3300.



# WXOU reclaims its Web stream

By JESSE DUNSMORE  
Senior Reporter

Student-run radio station WXOU will likely begin streaming their programming again later this week, said WXOU Web/IT director Chuck Kanouse.

WXOU lost their streaming capabilities after an unknown person downloaded "Jackass 2.5" on Jan. 2 from the computer the station uses to put their programming online at [www.wxou.org](http://www.wxou.org).

A representative of Paramount Pictures Corporation, which produced the direct-to-video release of footage that was cut from "Jackass 2," contacted Oakland University later that day, requesting that the university "immediately remove or block access to the infringing material" and "insure the user refrains from using or sharing with others Paramount's materials in the future."

Kanouse said no legal threats were made.

According to a letter sent by OU to WXOU general manager Dave Kim on Jan. 3, the university disabled the offending computer's access to the OU network. As a result, the computer has been unable to stream since then.

Although the most obvious suspects were originally staff members, according to Kim security footage shows no one was in the station at the time of the download. The evidence is corroborated by records from the station's security keypad.

Kanouse said that University Technology Services now suspects a hacker accessed the computer externally, a process Kanouse said would be fairly easy for "anyone with an Internet connection" because of the firewall rules on the streaming computer, which differ from those on others on the network.

As part of the process to regain access to the network, the station paid \$100 into a fund set up to deal with on-campus piracy of copyrighted materials, said Assistant Dean of Students Karen Lloyd. "The idea is to work with students so that students can regain access to the Internet," said Lloyd.

Still, Kim is a bit irritated by the fee. "If we got hacked into, how is it our fault?" he said. "Are we going to be reimbursed? More than likely not."

Lloyd said that any reimbursement would have to be handled through an appeals process.

There seems to be some confusion over what exactly remains to be done before the computer is reconnected.

Dean of Student Affairs Glenn McIntosh said it was a matter of making sure the copyrighted material was no longer on the computer. "It's in effect a cleansing process that has to be done," he said.

Kim and Kanouse said they believe better firewall protection is going to be installed on the computer.

Fourier Ross, director of secure client services at UTS, declined to comment, saying the information was confidential.

Regardless, the general understanding, according to WXOU and McIntosh, is that streaming should be resumed by the end of the week.

"It still doesn't settle with me right," said WXOU faculty advisor Christine Cronauer, because they still don't know who was responsible for the illegal download. "If it's outside our control, we still get the penalty." She added that copyright infringement can cost a radio station their broadcasting license.

Kanouse does have an idea of what he'd like to say to the person who downloaded the movie. "Probably 'Don't do it again, you bastard,'" he said, laughing.

## Tune In

To hear WXOU programming  
via the Web, go to  
[www.wxou.org](http://www.wxou.org)

## This week in OU history

### Ten years ago this week-

#### Basement Renovation Beginning on Time

A \$1.9 million renovation of the lower OC was planned including a game room (Bumpers), new offices for WXOU and the Oakland Post, and an expanded TV viewing area.

### Fifteen years ago this week-

#### Input Sought on Minority Office Name, Services and Structure


The development of a Minority Affairs Office (now the Center for Multicultural Initiatives) was approved, and organization for the office began.

### Twenty-five years ago this week-

#### State Cuts Critical, Reductions Planned

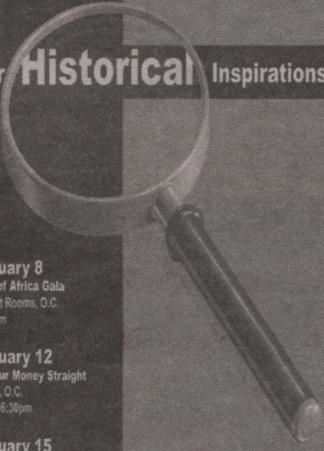
A \$25 million cut in higher education funding, announced by Gov. James Blanchard, has OU looking to save money on utility bills and by reducing raises for faculty and staff. Overall OU was set to lose \$790,000 in funding over a two year period.

-Information taken from archived issues of the Oakland Post  
-Compiled by Adam Roberts, Senior Reporter



# Oakland University

## AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION MONTH 2008



### "Reflecting Truth Through the Understanding of Our Historical Inspirations"

<b>January 21</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day March Hamilton Lounge, Hamilton Hall 9:30am	<b>February 1</b> The Birth of a New Nation Art Gallery Oakland Room 6pm-9pm	<b>February 8</b> Taste of Africa Gala Banquet Rooms, O.C. 4pm-7pm
<b>January 21</b> Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award Celebration Keynote Address: Harry Belafonte Banquet Rooms, O.C. 11:30am-1:30pm	<b>February 4</b> What is Our Purpose? Circle Discussion Gold Room C, O.C. 7pm-9pm	<b>February 12</b> Got Your Money Straight 129-130, O.C. 5:30pm-8:30pm
<b>January 21</b> MLK Day of Service Oakland Room, O.C. 1:30pm	<b>February 5</b> HIV/AIDS Devastating the African American Community 129-127, O.C. 3:00pm-4:30pm	<b>February 15</b> Xpressive B.T.Z Varner Recital Hall 7pm-9pm
<b>January 21</b> MLK Candle Light Vigil Hamilton Circle/Vandenberg Fishy Lounge 8pm-11pm	<b>February 5</b> Mock Wedding Heritage Room/Oakland Room, O.C. 6:30pm	<b>February 16</b> Our World Today Conference Oakland Center 8am-9pm
<b>January 24</b> Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Our Pillars Firestone Lounge, O.C. 10am-5pm	<b>February 6</b> Dancing with the OU Stars Gold Rooms, O.C. 7pm-9pm	<b>February 17</b> A.B.S. Fashion Show Varner Recital Hall 7:00pm
<b>January 30</b> Movie Night "The Hurricane" 129-130, O.C. 5:30pm	<b>February 7</b> "Mentorship: Imparting Knowledge & Insight Through Experience & Inspiration" Kresge Library 12pm-1pm	<b>February 21</b> Closing Ceremony A Tribute to Neo-Soul Gold Rooms, O.C. 7pm-10pm
<b>January 31</b> Diversity Career Fair Banquet Rooms, O.C. 11am-3pm	<b>February 7</b> "Race and Rust: The Transformation of Detroit" Lake Superior A, O.C. 7pm	

### AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION MONTH

**Committee 2008:**  
 Co-Chair: Theophilus Ogunyemi, Deidre Shagari  
 Student Co-Chair: Tawo Fletcher, Britani Hobbs

**Members:**  
 Patricia Clark, Helene Gombur, Kanyette Junior,  
 Carly Knazek, Angela Proffitt, Mervella Ramsey,  
 Chaele Smith, Corneille Smith

**Liaison:**  
 Omar Brown-El



# Entrepreneurship and business open to all

By ADAM ROBERTS  
Senior Reporter

Two new business minors will give all Oakland students a chance to be better prepared for life after college.

A new entrepreneurship minor will mix the real world experience of instructors with basic business theory, hopefully allowing students to form business plans and apply the theory to their majors.

"Dance majors might want to open their own studio, fine art majors might be interested in starting a gallery or physical therapy students could be interested in having their own clinic," Associate Dean of Business and Entrepreneurship Program Coordinator Ron Tracy said.

The other minor, in business, lets students get a feel for how businesses function. Both programs are for non-business majors, and they are designed to give students a broad spectrum of business classes.

The new minor programs also have no explicit prerequisites, and students can take classes without pre-applying for the minor. Both minors require stu-

dents to take six courses.

"It's our way of letting the business school better serve the rest of the university," Tracy said.

A previous minor in business is being eliminated because students were not getting a focused business education from it.

The new programs eliminate gaps in the curriculum that the previous minor overlooked.

While both minors are already being offered this semester, they are not mentioned in the current course catalogue and students have been slow to catch on.

While some classes have 15 to 20 students, others have struggled to get sufficient numbers of students signed up.

Students who are interested should make an appointment with their departmental advisors, Tracy said.

The changes were enacted when the Dean of Business decided to enforce prerequisites.

A departmental audit showed that many of the students taking business classes weren't being tracked because they were from other departments. Minors like these are also quite common at other universities, according to Tracy.


## POLICEFILES

Police responded to a fire alarm Jan. 23 in Varner Hall. Contractors working in the basement of Varner set off the fire alarm when steam was accidentally released from a heating tunnel. The Auburn Hills Fire Department was called to investigate the scene. After the building was secured, evacuees were allowed to return. No damage was caused to the building.

Police pulled over a student for a speeding violation Jan. 22. Officers discovered that the student had an arrest warrant for a larceny misdemeanor out of Pontiac. The student was apprehended by police and later released when the Pontiac Police Department declined to pick up the student.

Two students were involved in a car accident Jan. 24. A student driving East on Pioneer stopped when the traffic in front of him stopped. The student driving the car directly behind the first vehicle failed to stop in time and rear-ended the first car.

A student contacted police Jan. 22 concerned about the behavior of her ex-boyfriend. The student explained that the man had been calling her repeatedly, harassing and threatening her. She had also seen his car sitting in the parking lot of the 3000 Building of the Student Apartments. Police contacted the man and advised him to cease contact with the student.



They could solve nature's biggest mystery if they only had a clue.

# STRANGE WILDERNESS

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# Students running the show

## *Student Video Productions helps students in lieu of TV major*

By ADAM ROBERTS  
Senior Reporter

Whether you're an aspiring television host or just looking to get involved on campus, Student Video Productions (SVP) helps students reach their goals and have a few laughs along the way.

SVP is a club on campus that gives students a chance to learn from each other about broadcasting by producing content for other students.

Since a broadcast television major does not exist at OU, it's one of the few ways to get TV experience on campus.

Responsible for producing much of the content on OUTV, the club was formed nearly six years ago as a way for all students, regardless of major, to get involved with video production.

That tradition continues today.

"We're looking for creative students who have an idea and want to see it in action," said SVP President Courtney Brooks, who has been involved now for four years. "Even if they can only dedicate a very small amount of time to the organization, it would still be greatly appreciated."

An example of the diversity of SVP members is the organization's Vice President and Treasurer, Peter Banachowski. He is a math major and political science minor who sees the organization as a place to show his creativity.

Award-winning productions like Brooks' "Technology Today" program and "Grizz Dance" have garnered some buzz for the student organization. The recognition of winning Michigan Association of Broadcasters awards is a way to make an aspiring TV star's resumé stand out.

New club members often start out learning how to operate a camera and edit footage. Eventually they can work into on-air and producer positions.

SVP broadcasts are student-run and performed. Programs are seen on two new TVs installed in the exhibit lounge near the upstairs arcade of the Oakland Center, in the cafeteria area near the fishbowl in the Oakland Center, in Varner Hall, as well as on local Comcast Cable channel 74, OUTV.

"Members need to be very self motivated," Brooks said. "The preparation and behind the scenes process involves a lot of work."

All that hard work can end up paying off for volunteers. Several SVP graduates have gone on to become production assistants for television, including one who was hired by the Jerry Springer show.

"You may not be able to get a TV degree from OU, but having hours of demo footage to give to prospective employers helps set you apart from the crowd," Banachowski said.

Programs featured by SVP include sports shows, technology review programs, entertainment shows, and student congress meetings.

Interviews with business leaders and alumni are also often seen on OUTV, all featuring the hard work of student volunteers.

Another benefit of being a part of SVP invariably includes the people you meet.

"It's a great way to develop contacts, and [meet] people that might help further your career down the road," Brooks said.

The one thing SVP most looks for is interested students with fresh ideas. One aspiring on-air personality recently proposed doing a "Stephen Colbert"-style news show, which is now in the process of becoming a reality.

Anyone interested in getting involved with SVP can contact President Courtney Brooks at [cabrooks@oakland.edu](mailto:cabrooks@oakland.edu) or the organization in general at [oaklandsvp@yahoo.com](mailto:oaklandsvp@yahoo.com).

The organization is based in 104 Varner Hall, and they use the studio in 112 Varner Hall for recording.

Students are also welcome to attend one of their shows. An upcoming opportunity to see the process is OU Rising Stars, which pits student bands against each other.

Bands interested in competing can audition Feb. 2, 9, or 16. At least one member must be an OU student and the band must perform original material. E-mail [dganasta@oakland.edu](mailto:dganasta@oakland.edu) for more details on OU Rising Stars.

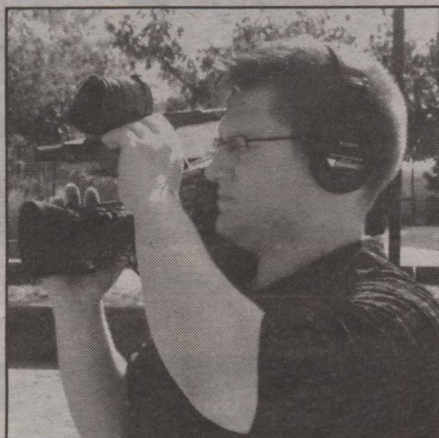


Photo courtesy of SVP  
Nathan Garcia, field shoot cameraman.



Photo courtesy of SVP  
SVP President Courtney Brooks directs and tech. directs the first season finale of "OU Rising Stars."

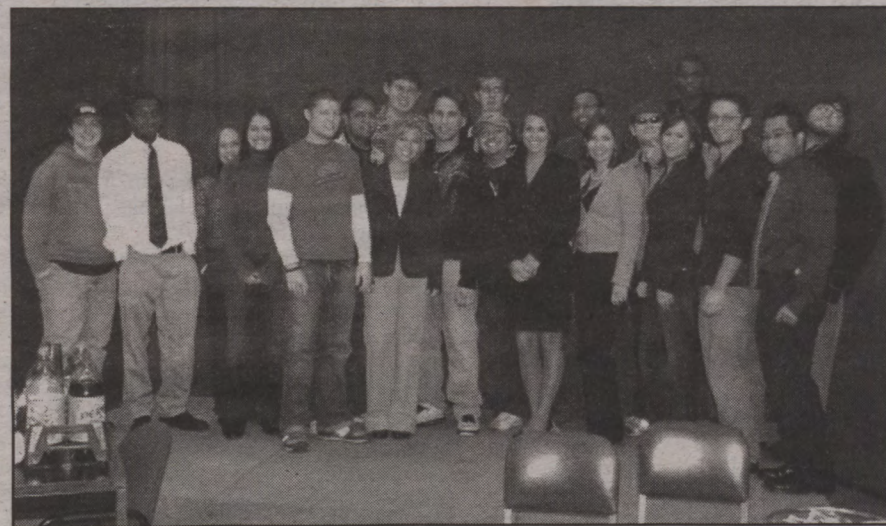


Photo courtesy of SVP  
SVP club members pose at the final meeting of the fall '07 semester.

Search the Student Video Productions Facebook group at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)



# Pushing the scholarly stroller

## Student moms share their stories

By KATIE LIEDER  
Contributing Reporter

We have all been there. Pinching the last penny to pay student tuition, pulling overnight study sessions before eight-hour workdays, scheduling demanding classes around hectic lives.

Imagine doing all of this while pregnant.

The presence of student mothers and fathers at OU is just one of the many demographics that make up the unique student body.

Amy Peterson, 21, a junior communication major, knew after she took a pregnancy test that her life would be changing in a big way.

Peterson's pregnancy, however, did not slow her down. In fact, it motivated her.

"Having a kid made me want to come to school," Peterson said. "I wanted to provide for her, not be a financial failure."

While pregnant, Peterson took 16 credits and worked full-time. She would often complete her homework at work or during breaks between classes.

"I even took an exam the day before I gave birth," she said.

After her daughter was born, Peterson had to cut her class load down to 12 credits.

She also works 38 hours each week at Grondin's Hair Center in Lake Orion.

"The hardest thing is missing my daughter during the days I'm working or at school," she said. "But I know I have to stay focused, finish school and earn some money in order to be there for her when it counts."

Peterson and her boyfriend christened their daughter Charlotte Sue Smith, who is now one-and-a-half years old.

According to Peterson, family members baby-sit when Peterson goes out.

"I don't like to be away from her so often, so I try to stay home when I can," she said.

Dana Muzia, 25, found out about her pregnancy after her boyfriend asked, "Aren't you a bit late?"

Muzia's pregnancy became so academically strenuous that she took time off.

"When you are pregnant, your memory just isn't the same," she said.

As her stomach grew, so did her discomfort level.

"There were days when I was just too swollen to come to class," she said, "and the desks became too uncomfortable."

When her son was born, Muzia returned to OU. She said the university offered her a social outlet.

"It was nice to come to class and talk to people my own age," she said, "It felt like life was back to normal for a couple of hours and that really helped."

Muzia's fiancé watched their son while she went to school, but soon they had to pay a babysitter when he began working.

"It was tough financially but the worst part was when my son wouldn't recognize me, when he would call me 'daddy,'" she said.

Parenting became her priority and Muzia found little time for socializing.

"It was good in the way that it forced me to study," she said, "but I had to wait until [my son] was asleep before I could accomplish anything."

Muzia's son, Sean Andrew Furance, will soon be turning two.

She graduated last semester with a communication degree and is currently a stay-at-home mom.

Apart from playing with Sean, Muzia spends her days planning for her upcoming wedding.

"If there's anything I can say about having Sean it's that he's bettered me as a student, as an adult, and as a mother," Muzia said.

Are you an OU student parent? Share your experience handling family and school at our exclusive forum coming next week to the Oakland Post Web site.

[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post  
Juggling college, work and motherhood can be hectic, as some OU students know first hand.

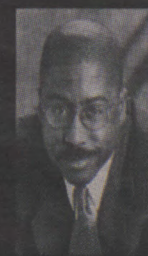


**Oakland University**  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN  
CELEBRATION MONTH**



As part of Oakland University's campus-wide African American Celebration Month 2008, Kresge Library will welcome Jerome Vaughn to speak on the importance of mentorship in the African American community:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH @ 12:00 P.M. in the LIBRARY'S STUDENT LOUNGE. THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



Mr. Vaughn is news director at WDET, Detroit's National Public Radio station. He is an award-winning journalist, who joined WDET in 1992 to help chronicle Detroit's comeback and to become a positive voice in the media--focusing on the improvements in his hometown. In addition to his role as news director, Mr. Vaughn is also in charge of the news department's internship program, as well as serving as a mentor for NPR's national Next Generation Radio Project. "It's so important to get the next generation of public radio news producers involved in the process right now...So, I'm doing my part to get young people around the country interested in what we do at WDET."



# Jet-setter's approach to college

*Studying abroad has reshaped the world views of OU students*

## COLUMN

By KELLY DURBIN  
Contributing Reporter

When two friends and I emerged from London's Underground mass transportation system on a mild July day, we stepped into the sunlight, onto the pavement in Notting Hill, and passed Keira Knightley, an actress I'd never cared about seeing, because I had never cared about seeing any celebrity.

For some reason we followed her (or stalked her) through Hyde Park for forty-five minutes.

We watched the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star stroll down sunny paths past other Britons who were jogging, playing cricket and paying her no special tribute.

As my fellow Knightley stalker Angie Walentovic put it, "I learned that they treat celebrities a lot differently. Stalking Knightley through Hyde Park seemed kind of fun to just us."

That was partly because we were on a day trip, taking a break from our studying at the University of Oxford, approximately a two-hour bus ride away, and we had completed our tourist checklist.

At this point, we were ready to explore as regulars, jumping on and off the Underground only because we hadn't seen that corner of London yet.

Since we were wanderers anyway, we may as well have seen, from a safe distance, that Keira Knightley arrived safely to some apartment in Lancaster Square.

About 15 other Oakland University

students and I picked up on the sometimes subtle, sometimes significant cultural differences between Americans and the British this summer during OU's British Studies at Oxford Program (BSOP).

Most of us, including myself, had never lived outside southeastern Michigan.

I learned things about myself I wouldn't have been able to if I hadn't been immersed in an alien culture surrounded by people who were not like Americans. I learned that I am creepier than I thought and willing to stalk celebrities under the proper circumstances.

"The majority of students at OU are here at OU because it's local and there are ... things that keep them here that make OU convenient," said professor Brian Connery, who runs the British Studies at Oxford Program.

"Going to OU is kind of an indication that the student lives in a very small world. The study abroad programs open up a whole new world to them," he said.

The BSOP did open a whole new world to us; Oxford is a different kind of college town, filled with a different kind of people, medieval architecture and cobblestone roads.

Within the castle-like walls of Brasenose College, we slept, dined and typed papers about Macbeth until 3 a.m. The course format allowed us to study the play in a classroom (where we jokingly believed Harry Potter was filmed) and then watch it performed at either the National Theatre or Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Oxford personnel enforced strict rules



Photo courtesy of Brian Connery  
Kelly Durbin and her friends pose for a picture at a July gala on their last night together at Oxford. OU students studied in England as a part of the British Studies at Oxford Program.

protecting the squares of grass within the university walls. A sign was posted on the grass indicating the times it could be used. When a student defiled the lawn by stepping on it after 2100 hours, a notice, including a bullet list outlining which activities were acceptable on the grass and when, was delivered to each of our bedrooms.

The majority of the students who studied at Oxford this summer were born and raised in southeastern Michigan, reflective of the majority of OU students. Oxford is the first place I've lived in outside Macomb County, which may account for why I was so thoroughly surprised at how different Oxford culture is.

"Because I come from ... the smallest town ever, I felt like I was missing out," said Walentovic of differences. "I feel like I can function in the world better."

My Oakland professors, especially those in the Honors College, encouraged me to study abroad.

OU offers many study abroad programs and opportunities to travel, and scholarships and research grants for presenting or conducting research abroad are available to students.

Walt and Donna Young provide funds for Honors College students to receive study abroad scholarships.

While the cost was steep, not a single BSOP student said it wasn't worth the money.

Michael Kaminski said he'll be paying off loans for the rest of his life, but it

was a once-in-a-lifetime experience he'll never forget.

"OU is very interested in giving students the international experience," said professor Margaret Pigott, OU's director of international education.

"Everyone does not think like Americans. The way to learn is to go abroad or to live abroad," she said.

Pigott and her husband started taking Oakland University students to study at Oxford 36 years ago. She handed the program over to Connery in 2006.

Tom Butwin went abroad for the first time through the BSOP because he wanted to learn to navigate a foreign country with other OU students through an OU program. He said it was a convenient way to prep him for more independent foreign travel.

Mary Wermouth, who taught English at Rochester High School from 1965 to 1974, helped the International Academy open its doors in Rochester in 1996 and played a prominent role in developing the OU Honors College. She is now a tour guide and continues to take students to locations abroad, including China.

She said when she watched American students sing "Bridge over Troubled Water" in China she knew her work was worthwhile.

"Even going to Canada or the state of Washington works," said Wermouth. "Just get out of your box."

## Traveler's Journal

By Tawnee Milko  
Contributing Reporter

In the midst of a maelstrom, my 14-hour flight landed in Auckland, New Zealand. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that, less than three weeks later, I would be jumping out of another plane with only a parachute to keep me alive. I was traveling with the International Student Volunteers, a well respected organization that brings together students from around the globe to work for social and environmental good.

Working in the midst of mud, rain and rainbows, my group had the opportunity to plant over 1,000 trees, clear several acres of thorny, invasive species choking out the natural fauna, share our conservation efforts with the disabled, and assimilate with the local Maori people at their familial homes, or Marae. Throughout this trip, my fellow volunteers became my family. Together we pushed ourselves to the edge through being in experiences that have connected us for life; I believe that the friendships I formed there will never fade.



## Hitting the red carpet

If you could attend any award show, what would it be and why?



"I would choose the Screen Actors Guild Awards because I think it's the one chance that peers get to vote for each other. It's unique."

Jitty Chandy  
Junior, Nursing

"The Oscars because it's a big event and I could see a lot of famous people."

Darius Minor  
Freshman, Undecided

"The MTV Awards because it would be a good experience to see people from our generation and meet celebrities I am familiar with."

Colleen McCaffary  
Junior, Biology



## Soundtrack to your life

What is one song you would put on the soundtrack of your life and why?

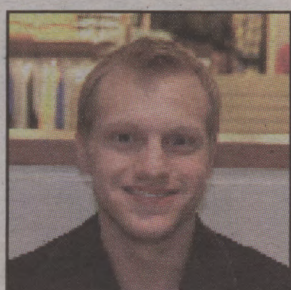
"'Hate That I Love You' by Rihanna and Ne-Yo because I love people that I shouldn't and I only keep them in my life because I love them."

Angel Burgess  
Freshman, Pre-law



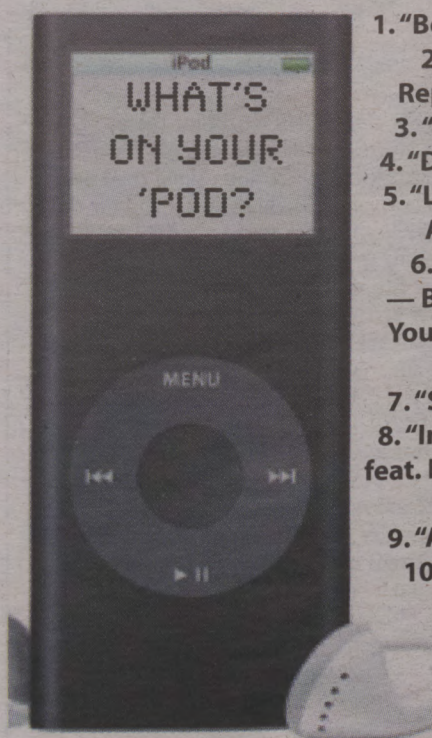
"'Conventional Wisdom' by Built to Spill because it is really upbeat with a catchy melody and has powerful guitar lines and I play the guitar."

Chris Basnett  
Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering



## JUNIOR, JOURNALISM MAJOR LATONIA GARRETT

A RECIPIENT OF THE KEEPER OF THE DREAM AWARD



1. "Believe That" — Lil Wayne
2. "Apologize" — One Republic feat. Timbaland
3. "Gone on Girl" — Ne-Yo
4. "Dey Know" — Shawty Lo
5. "Like You'll Never See Me Again" — Alicia Keys
6. "100 Million Dollars" — Birdman feat. Rick Ross, Young Jeezy, Lil Wayne, DJ Khaled & Dre
7. "Suffocate" — J. Holiday
8. "Independent" — Webbie feat. Lil Boosie & Lil Phat from 3 Deep
9. "Ask Them" — Lil Wayne
10. "Sensual Seduction" — Snoop Dogg

## Leading role

If you could choose any actor/actress to play you in a movie who would it be and why?



"Probably Kate Hudson because she's one of my favorite actresses and I think she's really cute and funny in all the movies she's in."

Megan Fraser  
Sophomore, Elementary Ed.

"I would pick Hugh Jackman because he kind of acts like me in a lot of his movies and when I grow my hair out, I kind of look like him."

Jon Joyce  
Junior, Computer Science



"Angela Bassett because in all the movies she's been in, she has had to overcome something, and that's what I am doing right now in college."

Lanita Sledge  
Freshman, Psychology



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## Kilpatrick finds replacement

### *Detroit Mayor selects new deputy chief of staff*

By COREY WILLIAMS  
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick named a new chief of staff on Tuesday, a day after the woman who previously held the post resigned amid allegations that she and the mayor lied under oath about an affair.

Kandia Milton, who has served as deputy chief of staff and liaison to Detroit's City Council, was appointed to Christine Beatty's job, Kilpatrick announced in a written statement released Tuesday.

The mayor's office also said Kilpatrick planned to address the city for the first time since the scandal broke. He was set to speak on Wednesday night from his church, Greater Immanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ.

He is not expected to answer questions from the media, spokesman James Canning said.

Kilpatrick met Tuesday morning with several city department heads at the mayor's official residence.

Afterward, Deputy Mayor Anthony Adams snickered when asked whether Kilpatrick would resign.

"He's the mayor. He's in charge of what's going on here," Adams said. "He's ready to speak to the people. He's anxious to speak to the people."

"He has to be cautious about what he says. He's very upbeat, and the people need to know that."

The Wayne County prosecutor's office has launched an investigation into the perjury allegations.

Meanwhile, a judge ruled that The Detroit News can join the Detroit Free Press in a lawsuit against the city to try to get to the bottom of whether a secret settlement exists in a whistle-blower lawsuit against the city.

Both newspapers will be allowed to depose attorney Michael Stefani on Wednesday.

Stefani represented former Deputy Police Chief Gary Brown and officer Harold Nelthorpe in their whistle-blower's lawsuit last summer that cost the

city more than \$9 million.

The City Council also decided Tuesday to wait until three other council members return to Detroit to discuss starting its own investigation into the matter, councilwoman Sheila Cockrel said.

Some council members want to learn if they were misled in the settlement of the lawsuit.

Cockrel supports waiting to see what actions the prosecutor's office takes in investigation.

"We have to let the judicial process play itself out first," she said.

Kilpatrick and Beatty gave testimony during that civil trial that they were not involved in a physical relationship in 2002-03 and that Brown was not fired for investigating claims that the mayor used his security unit to cover up extramarital affairs.

The text messages first reported by the Free Press offer a different story.

The 14,000 messages examined by the newspaper reveal the two carried on a flirty, sometimes sexually explicit dialogue about where to meet and how to conceal their numerous trysts.

"I'm madly in love with you," Kilpatrick wrote on Oct. 3, 2002.

"I hope you feel that way for a long time," Beatty replied. "In case you haven't noticed, I am madly in love with you, too!"

On Oct. 16, 2002, Kilpatrick wrote Beatty: "I've been dreaming all day about having you all to myself for 3 days. Relaxing, laughing, talking, sleeping and making love."

Kilpatrick is married with three children. Beatty was married at the time of the messages and has two children. She had served as the Kilpatrick administration's chief of staff since the mayor took office in 2002.

In a letter to Kilpatrick that was released by his office on Monday, Beatty said she no longer could effectively carry out her duties.

The two, both 37, have been friends since they attended the same Detroit high school.



RICARDO THOMAS/The Associated Press  
Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his ex-chief of staff Christine Beatty, left, meet with The Detroit News Editorial board in this May 15, 2007 file photo.

### Christine Beatty Resigns

The following is the full text of a resignation letter from Christine Beatty, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's chief of staff, dated Monday and released by the city of Detroit:

Dear Mayor Kilpatrick,

I would first like to thank you and the citizens of Detroit for the opportunity to have worked for the city that I love so much over the past six years.

Serving as Chief of Staff for the Kilpatrick administration since 2002 has been an honor and a privilege. I was born and raised in Detroit and my childhood goal was always to serve my city. I came back home after college to do just that. Serving our citizens and helping to transform Detroit into an even greater city is what I've been dedicated to everyday since January 2002.

As Chief of Staff, I managed key city departments in such areas as human services and labor relations as well as administering the day to day operation of the Mayor's office. I've served the administration and Detroit citizens with diligence, strength and perseverance and I hope that my efforts will one day show through above all else.

In spite of this, however, I believe that it is clear I can no longer effectively carry out the duties of Chief of Staff. Therefore, this letter serves as my resignation effective, February 8, 2008 to allow for an orderly transition of my duties with the new chief of staff. I painfully regret the devastation that the recent reports have caused to the citizens of Detroit, to my co-workers, to the Mayor's family and to my family and friends.

Again, I thank you and the citizens of Detroit for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

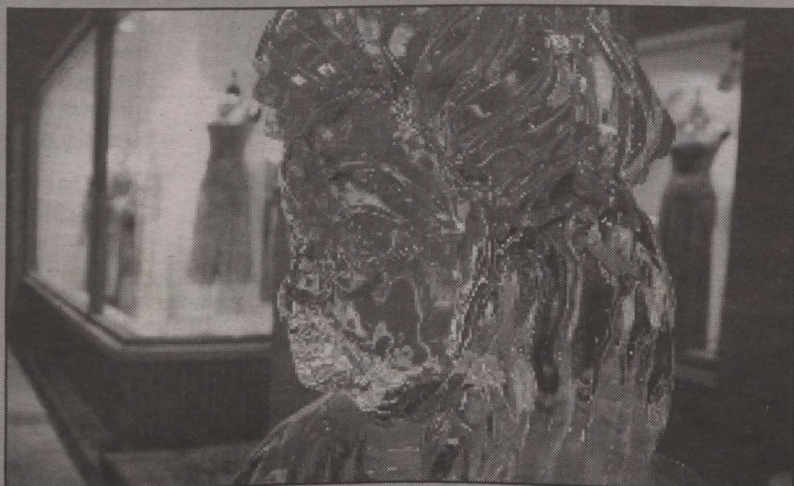
Christine L. Beatty

—The Associated Press



# Sizzling sculptures

On Jan. 25 and 26, downtown Rochester played host to the first annual Fire and Ice Fest, presented by Oakland County, the Rochester Downtown Development Authority and Oakland County Parks. The festival showcased ice-sculpting demonstrations that were displayed up and down Main Street. The 35 sculptures fit the theme of "heroes and villains," in an event that also featured live music, shopping specials, a skating rink and fireworks.



All photos by DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

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# Highlights from Granholm's State of the State address

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Highlights from the prepared text of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's State of the State address, delivered Tuesday night at the Capitol.

## ECONOMY

— Sees Michigan as a future leader in alternative energy including wind power, ethanol and fuel from wood waste. Michigan can create jobs by expanding its businesses dealing with materials used in solar panels, wind turbines and alternative-fuel cars.

— Proposed setting aside money that could be tapped to offer low-interest loans of up to \$4 million to lure new companies to the state. The Michigan Invests! Fund would be designed for young companies that want to grow in Michigan. At least \$300 million would be set aside for the fund from state pension funds.

— Proposed an economic stimulus package of nearly \$1 billion for infrastructure and building improvements, providing about 28,000 construction and other jobs over the next two years. The

package would be paid for by refinancing debt to take advantage of lower interest rates.

— Proposed expanding the No Worker Left Behind program by spending \$40 million in state dollars to offer free community college tuition to retrain laid-off workers.

— Called for the Senate to follow the House and pass bills allowing homeowners struggling to meet their mortgage payments to get fixed, low-rate loans through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The agency would sell tax-exempt bonds to finance the loans.

— Said she plans to appoint an advocate for insurance customers.

## EDUCATION

— Called for creating up to 100 small high schools with no more than 400 students each. The expansion of an existing pilot project would be funded by \$300 million raised by borrowing against future school aid revenue. The money would last three to five years. Granholm wants some of the schools opened by late 2009.

— Asked lawmakers to pass legislation requiring teenagers to stay in school until age 18 rather than 16 and making kindergarten mandatory. She also urged having all-day kindergarten.

— Proposed taking some of the money raised through property taxes to match private donations so school districts can copy Kalamazoo's free college tuition plan. Granholm made a similar proposal last year.

— Said she will propose a budget for next fiscal year that increases investment in K-12 schools and expand early childhood education.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

— Wants more work on legislation to protect the Great Lakes from water diversion.

— Wants 10 percent of electrical energy to come from renewable sources by 2015. That would increase to 25 percent by 2025.

— Said utilities will make major investments in alternative energy, mostly wind energy, creating 17,000 jobs, once legislation is passed.

## HEALTH CARE

— Said she will continue to push for federal help with a plan to expand coverage to the uninsured in Michigan, which so far hasn't materialized. She said that help might not come until President Bush is out of office.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

— Proposed adding 100 new state police troopers, helping to replace some of the law enforcement personnel who have retired in recent years.

## LEGAL REFORMS

— Called for eliminating the state's unique 1995 law shielding pharmaceutical makers from product liability lawsuits over drugs such as Vioxx. The House has passed the bills; the Senate hasn't.

## PRISONS

— Urged savings in the state's corrections system similar to those adopted in other Midwestern states. Last year, Granholm said the state could commute sentences or shorten prison terms for inmates who pose no safety threat to the public.

## Around the State

■ **FLINT, Mich.** — A Flint man has been sentenced to 18 to 27 years in prison in the 1995 slayings of two Grand Blanc men in a drug-related robbery.

Corey Frazier pleaded no contest in December to second-degree murder. He'll get credit for more than a decade of time already served.

Frazier will be eligible for parole in about eight years.

Frazier was convicted in 1996, but it was thrown out in 2003 because of ineffective legal counsel.

■ **ADRIAN, Mich.** — Authorities say a man drank two bottles of wine, then cut through a snowstorm on his lawnmower, riding down the center of the street to reach the liquor store.

Adrian police say they found 49-year-old Frank Kozumplik homeward bound on a John Deere tractor Saturday night, toting four bottles of wine in a paper bag.

He told officers his wife had taken their car to work, and the mower was the only way he could reach the store two miles from his home.

Police said Kozumplik's blood alcohol level was 2 1/2 times Michigan's legal limit of 0.08 percent. They arrested him on a drunken driving charge and confiscated the mower.

— Associated Press

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Education



# Miss America overcomes anorexia

By RYAN NAKASHIMA  
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Just three years ago, Michigan's Miss America-to-be Kirsten Haglund was eating tiny portions of food and became so thin her concerned parents "dragged me to the doctor."

The ballet dancer was diagnosed with anorexia, and the lack of nutrition caused her collar bones to stick out, her heart rate to drop and her relationships to suffer.

"I would feel fatigued walking up six stairs," the 19-year-old Haglund said Sunday, a day after being crowned Miss America 2008. "I was a completely different person. It's not a pretty sight."

On Saturday night, it was a different Haglund than the depressed girl who was obsessed with her body weight as a high school junior.

The Farmington Hills, Mich., native sang "Over the Rainbow" and walked a crowd-pleasing strut in a black and gold bikini to clinch the title.

"You have to have curves," she said

proudly. "You can't look like a stick-thin model."

The 5-foot-8-inch blonde doesn't talk about her weight in numbers to avoid setting standards for other troubled youths still obsessed by losing it.

She even stopped pursuing her dream to become a professional ballerina to escape an environment in which she was rewarded for being slim and an industry that Haglund said sweeps concerns about eating disorders under the rug.

Haglund says she is going to maintain her healthy lifestyle of Pilates exercises and treadmill workouts during her year-long reign as Miss America, as she attempts to raise awareness of eating disorders, promote the pageant and help the Children's Miracle Network.

Haglund's job begins right away, and on Sunday she caught a plane to New York for an interview the next day on "Live With Regis and Kelly."

While the teen said she wasn't about to "let myself go," she didn't plan to skip any meals over her crowning year.

"I'm going to enjoy my food," she said.



JAE C. HONG/The Associated Press  
Miss Michigan Kirsten Haglund, center, reacts as she is named Miss America 2008 during the Miss America Pageant at the Planet Hollywood hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008.

## Do You Want To Be The Next Student Body President?

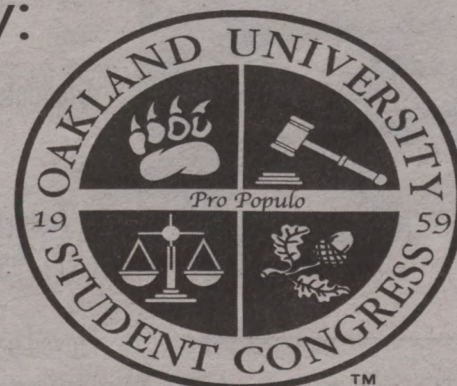
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Declare Candidacy By:

**February 4, 2008**

For more information go to the OUSC website:

**[www.oakland.edu/ousc](http://www.oakland.edu/ousc)**





## OU women's golfer fights on

*Golden Grizzly Lindsay Scarletelli doesn't let rare eye cancer bring her down*



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Scarletelli

Lindsay Scarletelli lines up a putt against the University of Detroit-Mercy this past season.

By BRITTANY OCHTINSKY  
Senior Reporter

One look at Lindsay Scarletelli and she appears to be a normal 19-year-old girl with a passion for sports.

As member of the women's golf team, a manager for the women's basketball team her freshman year and part of her sophomore year and all-around avid sports fan, Scarletelli dreams about one day becoming a college basketball coach.

You'd never know just by looking at Scarletelli that she has a form of cancer growing on her eyes.

In August 2000, at 11 years old, Scarletelli was diagnosed with lymphoid hyperplasia in her left eye. After having it successfully removed, it came back almost two years later in May 2002, this time on both eyes and eyelids.

Six years later in 2008, the cancer remains, but Scarletelli has continued to live her life as if nothing had ever happened.

"My parents always stressed academics, so when I was younger, my appointments were always around school," said Scarletelli. "Unfortunately, some of the hospital visits were at five or six in the morning or late at night, but they wanted to keep everything as normal as possible for me."

At a young age, Scarletelli turned to sports as a coping mechanism. She started playing basketball when she was three, and golf as soon as she could hold a club. She didn't give up on either as she battled through uncertain times.

"I played basketball year-round and it felt like I was always turning to a basketball court because it took my mind off things," she said. "Golf was also a big stress reliever. At the time, I didn't have a coach telling me what to do, what I had to shoot. I just went out there, did whatever I wanted to do, hit what I wanted to hit in a stress-free

environment."

Her passion for basketball has steered Scarletelli to pursue a career as a college basketball coach, and she seems to be taking steps in the right direction.

Through the women's basketball team, she's been able to make contacts with coaches across the country to network and hopefully get her foot in the door.

"I still e-mail a couple head coaches once a month, just to network, and a few have offered to help me out if I need it," Scarletelli said. "A couple coaches have said they'd love for me to come work their basketball camps over the summer, so that's something I'm looking forward to this summer, going out to Arizona and helping them out."

Still considered a walk-on to the golf team at OU, Scarletelli's golf career may be in jeopardy in the future because of a potentially career-ending back injury.

She tore a disc, herniated a disc and lost water in another. The torn disc is what worries doctors the most.

"Doctors think it is from the constant banging in basketball from high school as well as from golf and the pressure I put on my back," she said.

"The torn disc is what is the career ending part because the doctors are worried about it tearing completely and causing a chain reaction of problems in my back."

She has yet to be cleared to finish up the conference portion of the golf season this spring, but still has a positive outlook on life.

"I believe everything happens for a reason," Scarletelli said. "I love life, I enjoy living. I take everything one day at a time. Some days are better than others, but I think everyone has their fair share of bad days," she added.

See Scarletelli on Page 22

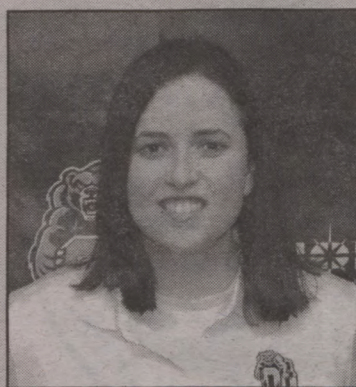
### THE GRIZZ FILES

Major: Communication  
Year: Sophomore

Graduated from Rochester Adams  
in 2006

Four-year letterwinner on the  
Highlanders golf team

Played on the Powerbilt junior tour



LINDSAY SCARLATELLI

Information and photo courtesy of  
OU Athletics



# Men's basketball bounces back

By **TIM RATH**  
Contributing Reporter

Maybe it's something in the water of Macomb, Ill. that makes the Oakland University men's basketball team play so well.

Since 2002, every game on the road against Western Illinois has ended in triumph for the Golden Grizzlies.

Whatever the reason, the trend continued on Saturday as five Golden Grizzlies reached double figures in the 85-71 victory that snapped OU's three-game losing streak.

Junior forward Derick Nelson led the Grizzlies with a game high 18 points off of 6 for 9 shooting, and six rebounds.

Senior guard Brandon Cassise added 15 points, including making 3-4 from three-point range, and reached a new career high with eight assists.

Redshirt freshman Keith Benson scored 14 points and blocked three shots, while sophomore guard Johnathon Jones tallied 11 points and eight assists.

Off the bench, junior Erik Kangas shot 3 for 3, scoring nine points, and freshman Tim Williams added 11.

OU's season high 69 percent field goal percentage proved to be the difference maker, as the Grizzlies improved their record to 10-10 with the win.

Although they never trailed, OU had the Leathernecks breathing down their necks in the second half, as a 6-0 run brought Western Illinois to within four points at 58-54.

However, with 11:07 left on the clock, Kangas hit a 3-pointer that ended the rally and began an 11-2 run for the Golden Grizzlies.

They never looked back.

OU pushed the lead to as many as 19 after a pair of fast-break layups by redshirt junior Dan Waterstradt, cruising to the final tally of 85-71.

The victory helped salvage an otherwise unsuccessful road trip for the Grizzlies, who fell to IUPUI on Thursday by an 82-69 margin.

Kangas led OU in that game with a game high 20 points off the bench, and matched a season high with eight three-pointers. Nelson scored 12 points, all in the second half, and Jones added 10 points for the Grizzlies.

It wasn't enough to compensate for the Jaguars' 65 percent shooting night.

OU responded to a five-point deficit at the break with a 7-2 run over the first three minutes of the second half to tie the game at 40.

The Jaguars responded with a 12-5 run to take a 52-45 lead with 10:10 on the clock, which the Grizzlies could not overcome.

IUPUI head coach Ron Hunter coached the game barefoot to collect shoes for Samaritan's Feet, a charity that provides shoes for those in need. The organization Soles4Soles answered the call by donating 40,000 pairs of shoes to Samaritan's Feet.

The Grizzlies return home on Thursday to play the South Dakota State Bison at the O'Rena. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m.

## SUMMIT LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Conference	Overall
Oral Roberts	9-0	14-5
IUPUI	7-2	15-5
North Dakota State	5-4	11-9
<b>Oakland</b>	<b>5-4</b>	<b>10-10</b>
Western Illinois	4-5	9-11
IPFW	4-5	7-13
Centenary	3-6	9-12
UMKC	3-6	8-14
Southern Utah	3-6	5-15
South Dakota State	2-7	7-13



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### DANCING WITH the "OU" STARS

Wednesday, February 6  
7PM - 9PM  
Gold Rooms, OC

OU's version of Dancing with the Stars  
with a Multicultural Twist!

OU students will be paired with a professional dancer  
from Energetic Souls &  
compete against each other.

Co-sponsored with Future Alumni Network (FAN's)  
This event is part of African American Celebration Month 2008

SPB & SLLB Present:

#### **DYSON vs DYSON:**

A Debate Concerning the State of Black America:  
Is Bill Cosby Right?

Monday, February 18 • 7PM • Banquet Rooms, OC

**Dr. Eric Michael Dyson vs. Rev. Marcia Dyson**

This event is part of African American Celebration Month 2008

### OUSC Student Body Presidential Candidate

#### 'MEET & GREET'

Monday, February 18  
5:30PM - 7:30PM  
128-130, OC

### SPB & RHC Present CASINO NIGHT

Saturday, February 9  
7PM - Midnight  
Oakland Center

Casino Games  
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Application packages may be obtained on line at  
<http://www.oakland.edu/eri>.

**Deadline for applications: MARCH 7, 2008**



# Youth movement

*Young guns lead the charge in matchups with WIU, IUPUI*

By TIM RATH  
Contributing Reporter

Any remaining doubt that the Oakland University women's basketball team is a force in the Summit League was left somewhere in Macomb, Ill. Saturday.

Disappointed after an upset loss at IPFW the week before, the Golden Grizzlies took their frustrations out on first-place Western Illinois.

Long before the 72-46 victory was decided, OU's statement was made.

OU sophomore guard Melissa Jeltrema notched her third double-double of the season, scoring 17 points and grabbing 11 rebounds to lead the Grizzlies in both categories.

Junior guard April Kidd tallied 13 points and six rebounds, and junior guard Jessica Pike added 10 points. Off the bench for the Grizzlies, freshman guard Stacy Farrell passed for eight assists in 12 minutes and senior Charlese Greer scored 10 points.

Oakland led throughout, beginning the game with a 13-0 run and going into halftime with an 11 point lead on the strength of 59 percent shooting.

The Grizzlies opened the half with a 15-4 run, pushing the lead to 22, and never looked back. WIU trimmed the lead to 17 with 7:48 left to play, but another OU run, fueled by the bench, ended the game with a 26-point blow-out win.

OU overpowered the taller Leathernecks lineup in the paint, grabbing 38 rebounds while holding them to 21, and moved the ball better, counting 25 assists on 32 baskets.

The road trip, however, didn't end as well as the Grizzlies could have hoped, as they fell to IUPUI on Monday.

Leading by five points with just over two minutes to play, OU couldn't finish off the Jaguars and lost in heartbreaking fashion, by a 64-61 score.

Jeltrema led the Grizzlies with a 16-point, eight-rebound game, while Pike added 11 points in the losing effort.

Sophomore forward Hanna Reising contributed 16 points, five rebounds, and five assists, but it wasn't enough as IUPUI took the lead on a layup with 12 seconds remaining.

Despite winning the rebounding battle by a 29-25 tally, and shooting 62 percent, the Grizzlies couldn't answer IUPUI's size advantage in the second half.

Helped by 6-foot-5 sophomore center Julia Whitted's 19 points and seven rebounds, the Jaguars held OU to 35 percent shooting and forced nine turnovers in the second half.

The loss dips OU's record to 13-6, 6-3 Summit League.

The Grizzlies return home on Thursday to play the South Dakota State Bison at the O'Rena. Tip-off is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

continued from Page 20

## SCARLATELLI

There is still a possibility that the lymphoid hyperplasia can come back later in life, as it's more common in adults over the age of 40 than in young kids, but her team of 12 doctors is not sure if and when it will come back and what would happen.

In the meantime, Scarlatelli does not make a big deal about her condition and says only her closest friends know what she went through as a kid.

"I definitely don't want sympathy or attention for it, it's not something I want to define me or people to feel bad for me for," she said. "Even growing up, I never let it interfere with being a normal kid and doing normal things. I've gotten past it, I'm bigger than it."

## UPCOMING OU BASKETBALL ACTION

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS.  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
AT 3:30 P.M.  
AT THE O'RENA

MEN'S BASKETBALL VS.  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
AT 6 P.M.  
AT THE O'RENA

*Saturday's double-header is a tale of opposites: the men's SDSU team is in last place in their conference, while the women's team rides atop the Summit League standings.*

## GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

**Keith Benson**

Year: Freshman (Redshirt)  
Major: Biology

After eight consecutive games with just 13 total points, Benson came alive, netting 14 points and tallying three blocks as starting center in Saturday's victory over Western Illinois University.

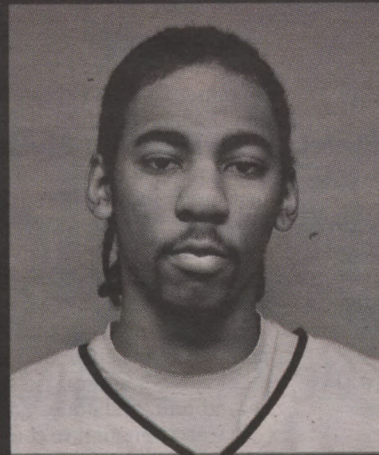


Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

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## Classifieds

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# Oakland hockey riding three-game winning streak

By **BRITTANY OCHTINSKY**  
Senior Reporter

ROCHESTER — It's easy to look at the University at Buffalo's stats and think that Oakland University would have steamrolled the Bulls last weekend.

But looks can be deceiving.

With a 5-17 record, a leading scorer who has fewer points (14) than Brent Cooper has goals (16), three goalies who average giving up four to five goals a game and a few double-digit losses, the Golden Grizzlies might have taken for granted this seemingly weak opponent.

But the Bulls proved to be a team that showed up big when they needed it and although Oakland (17-7-1) completed the weekend sweep with a 5-2 victory Friday and a 2-0 win Saturday, it was no easy going.

Chris Leja and Brent Cooper gave the Grizzlies a 2-0 lead in the second period in Friday's contest, but Buffalo's John Kulpa cut that lead in half early in the third, ruining OU goalie Andrew Hansen's bid at a second consecutive shutout.

John Parrish and Tony Yearego created some breathing room for Oakland, but the Bulls were able to capitalize on a two-man advantage.

With Dennis Capa already serving a minor penalty, Yearego was assessed a delay of game call when he knocked over his own net. On the penalty kill, Hansen was screened by his own defenseman, 6-foot-7-inch Todd Orlando, and Buffalo's Matthew Kiefer slid the puck past Hansen.

Jesse Worrell added an insurance goal for Oakland with 25 seconds left in the game. Hansen made 15 saves in the win, while the Grizzlies hammered 60 shots at Buffalo's Patrick Jones.

Coming off the previous weekend's series in Arizona with a raucous crowd, the intensity level was lacking at the Onyx. Playing in front of one of the

smallest crowds this season, head coach Sean Hogan believes that it had an effect on his team's performance.

"It was kind of a dead building tonight and the guys played dead themselves," said Hogan. "Crowds have huge effects on teams and we need to do a better job of creating our own momentum and excitement."

Buffalo continued the pressure Saturday night by taking away quality shots from Oakland. Through the first two periods, in which the game remained scoreless, the Grizzlies best attempt by Cooper was stoned by Chris Holtz in the second.

Cooper got his revenge in the third, when he broke through the scoreless stalemate, after 40 minutes and 53 seconds, with a power play goal.

But the game was far from over, as the Grizzlies had to outlast a 4 on 4 situation and kill off two penalties, including a crucial one in the final 2:23, when the Bulls pulled their goalie for an extra attacker in hopes of evening the score.

However, Steve Piccoli's wrist shot hit the empty net as the buzzer sounded and the referees deemed it good to give Oakland the 2-0 win.

"The defense played stellar and the goaltending was outstanding," Piccoli said. "We thought coming in here, we were going to blow Buffalo out, but they were actually a hard-working team."

Hogan opted to play Andrew Stewart in net Saturday night. Stewart stopped all 17 shots, collecting his first career shutout, the second for Oakland in the last three games.

"It feels absolutely amazing. It's been a long time coming. I've been in the system for three years and now I've finally got a puck," said Stewart, proudly displaying his game-winning puck.

"I don't get a lot of playing time, so I make sure every game counts. It's such an honor to be here right now and get this puck."



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

## SUPER BOWL XLII POST PICKS

**Samantha Franz**

Sports Editor

WHO WILL WIN

**NEW YORK**

After starting the season 0-2, the Giants became the little Wild Card team that could. They have the momentum to defeat the Pats after big wins over Green Bay and Dallas.

**SUPER BOWL MVP**

**ELI MANNING**

He will throw a key touchdown pass in the fourth quarter to seal the Giants' third Super Bowl title.

**FINAL SCORE**

New York-34  
New England-30

**Rob Tate**

Assistant Sports Editor

WHO WILL WIN

**NEW ENGLAND**

After beating the Giants in Week 17, New England will easily roll past New York again, making NFL history in the process. Move over 1972 Dolphins.

**SUPER BOWL MVP**

**TEDY BRUSCHI**

After suffering a stroke after winning the 2004 Super Bowl, Bruschi will come full circle with an interception for a touchdown.

**FINAL SCORE**

New England-38  
New York-14

**Brittany Ochtinsky**

Senior Reporter

WHO WILL WIN

**NEW ENGLAND**

The Giants will keep it close, but with 18 games undefeated and a close regular-season win over the Giants, what more motivation do the Patriots need to come up big?

**SUPER BOWL MVP**

**TOM BRADY**

After his sub-par performance against San Diego, Brady needs to save face after throwing a season-high three interceptions.

**FINAL SCORE**

New England-27  
New York-24

**Adam Roberts**

Senior Reporter

WHO WILL WIN

**NEW ENGLAND**

The Pats will be ready to play, focused and will likely show no mercy.

**SUPER BOWL MVP**

**RANDY MOSS**

The most talented player in the NFL has Brady throwing to him in the Super Bowl. Expect 200 yards receiving.

**FINAL SCORE**

New England-45  
New York--24

**Brad Doescher**

WXOU Sports

WHO WILL WIN

**NEW YORK**

I think the Patriots are going to come in with too much confidence. The Giants have two of the best pass rushers in the NFL and if Brady's ankle isn't 100 percent, it will cost the Pats.

**SUPER BOWL MVP**

**PLAXICO BURRESS**

I think he will end up having a big game. After all, he'll have to back up the statement he made.

**FINAL SCORE**

New York-27  
New England-14



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Assistant captain Steve Piccoli (23) scored an empty-netter in the final second against Buffalo Saturday. Piccoli has tallied six goals this season.



# The Scene

24

www.oaklandpostonline.com

January 30, 2008

## Director discusses first film project

By KATIE JACOB  
Contributing Reporter

Life goes on in spite of the war, according to Nadine Labaki.

In her new film, "Caramel," Labaki attempts to portray the other side of life in the Middle East — the human side.

Labaki, now 33, was only 17 when the civil war in Lebanon ended.

"I belong to a generation that wants to talk about something different ... something that is closer to the feelings that we know and the experiences that we have, than to war," Labaki said.

Unfortunately, one week after she finished shooting "Caramel" in the summer of 2006, a new war with Israel erupted.

Labaki had strong feelings of guilt about going forward with her movie under these circumstances but she told herself that "Caramel" was another way of surviving the war, of getting over it, of winning it and of getting revenge.

She also worried about the risk of releasing a movie when people were afraid to go out to the movies.

But she went ahead anyway.

Labaki said that people in Beirut are proud of the movie, saying that it seems as if everyone thinks of the film like it is their baby.

"Caramel" is the story of five female friends at

a beauty salon in Beirut. It is about the confusion modern women feel when faced with the constraints of traditional society.

The stories are the real life stories of women she knows. The actors are friends and acquaintances.

Labaki decided to focus on women because she wanted the story to be authentic.

"I am someone who is living the confusion," she said.

"[In Beirut], you are always aware of how people look at you, how people judge you," she added.

Labaki believes that this is because of the weight of tradition, religion, education and family.

She said that Lebanon is a place of contradictions and that women need to find the right balance between tradition and modernity.

Labaki was born in Lebanon and studied filmmaking at Saint Joseph University in Beirut. She started out directing commercials and music videos.

"There's no movie industry in Lebanon. It's like small ventures that each director has. There's no structure, there's no industry," Labaki said.

"I didn't know where to begin. Then I met my producer. He helped a lot."

"Caramel," which opens Feb. 8, is Labaki's first film.



Photo courtesy of Roadside Attractions  
First time writer and director Nadine Labaki also stars in "Caramel."

## 'Caramel' shows Beirut's beauty

### REVIEW

By KATIE JACOB  
Contributing Reporter

"Caramel," an exuberant new movie by first-time writer and director Nadine Labaki, will open just in time for Valentine's Day.

Ignoring the conflict that threatens her country and the rest of the Middle East, Lebanese-born Labaki focuses instead on life in the bustling, cluttered, colorful if — slightly decrepit — city of Beirut.

"Caramel" is her gorgeous, boisterous valentine to Beirut.

It is a story about five female friends whose lives intersect at the magical Si Belle, a beauty parlor, where people come and go in search of beauty and love.

The women struggle against the tension

created by clashing cultures and a jumble of religions in a city where tradition pushes back against the irresistible lure of modernity.

At Si Belle, the friends talk about their problems and look for solutions as they grapple with the dilemma of determining who they are.

Here Labaki attempts to answer the larger question: what is the identity of modern women in a traditional society?

The movie follows the lives of Layle, Nisrine, Rima, Jamal and Rose.

Labaki plays Layle, who is involved in an unhappy affair with a married man.

The equally beautiful Nisrine is about to get married, but worries about letting her boyfriend find out that she is not a virgin.

Tomboyish Rima comes to life as she shyly acknowledges her attraction for a beautiful client.

Jamal is desperate to hide her age.

Rose is older, but blossoms with beauty at the prospect of love.

The women attempt to put their lives in order as they weigh the need to conform against the need for love, truth and loyalty.

The camera has the unenviable task of trying to keep up with the characters as they frantically rush in and out of Si Belle toward the swirl of life in the colorful streets of Beirut.

Every scene is richly layered with clutter from the debris of living in an ancient city. The movie is a feast for the senses.

The title refers to hot sugar, used in the salon for sugar waxing, a painful process for removing hair. However, it is also a delicious treat.

"Caramel," like life in Beirut, is a source of both pleasure and pain. It is a reminder that love, truth and loyalty, like beauty, come at a cost.

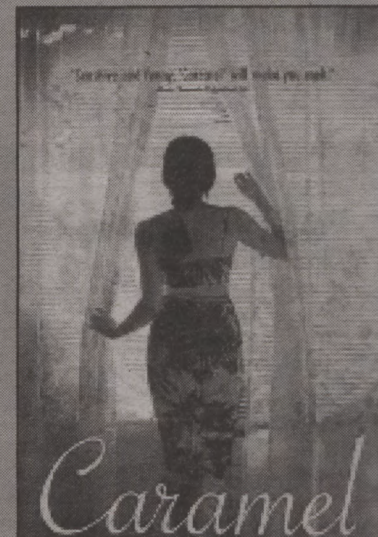


Photo courtesy of Roadside Attractions



# Small band, big disappointment

## REVIEW

By **ASHLEY DESROCHERS**  
Contributing Reporter

In a poorly put-together concert, The Virgins, who hail from New York City, played in Pontiac at The Crofoot Monday night.

As a result of the sloppy show, The Virgins got a lot of laughs. Many people left the show when they started playing their third song.

The Virgins had a satisfactory voice and sound, but they were very unorganized and unprofessional.

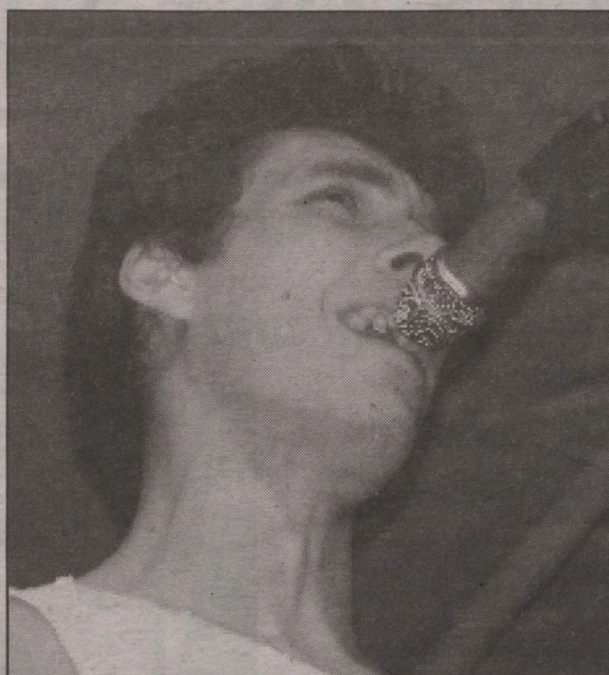
The first thing the lead singer of The Virgins did was belch into the microphone, which disgusted the other band members.

At the end of the first song, the band announced that they forgot the order of the songs that they were supposed to play. Then in the middle of the fourth song, the lead singer stopped the band and told everyone that he forgot the lyrics to the song.

By this time only 12 people were still at the Crofoot watching the show.

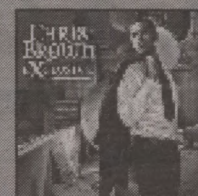
The Ghost Whisperer opened the show with pleasing music and a good performance. When their show ended they received praise from the audience.

Finishing up the show Ra Ra Riot was very entertaining and ended an evening that was going sour, on a better note.



ASHLEY DESROCHERS/The Oakland Post  
New York City natives The Virgins, took center stage in an unorganized performance at The Crofoot, Mon., Jan. 28.

HEY YOOUUUU!!



If you missed your chance to crank that with Soulja Boy, pop, lock and drop it with Chris Brown or bounce with Bow Wow at Saturdays illp Close and Personal/Holiday Exclusive Tour, check out a concert review on [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com).



All photos from Amazon.com

# Sophomore success

## REVIEW

By **OLIVIA OLSON**  
Contributing Reporter

After their 2005 debut, "Give 'Em All A Big Fat Lip," garage-rock band The Whigs made a name for themselves, as well as gaining an extensive host of fans, most notably in the form of Rolling Stone magazine.

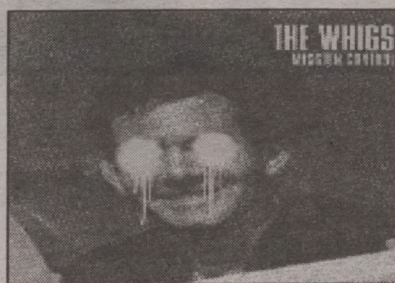
The Georgian rockers released their latest album, entitled "Mission Control," on Jan. 22.

If "Big Fat Lip" was a straight shot of whiskey, then "Mission Control" is a glass of Irish cream; it goes down easier, but it still packs a serious punch.

The vocals, with few exceptions, are sweeter and cleaner than the consistently bombastic singing front man Parker Gisbert has made into an art.

Sometimes they become all too clean, particularly on tunes such as "Never Want To Go Home" and "1,000 Wives," which seem to go unnoticed due to the lack of Gisbert's characteristic vocal instability.

"Vibration" works excellently as the opening tune, wasting no time delving into a guitar riff that recalls The Killers and The Strokes, owing to its operatic rock quality and persistent rhythm.



Amazon.com

The title track comes as a pleasant surprise as the very last on the album. The song's diversity is especially impressive, changing from sweeping to staccato one second to the next.

It is the ideal grand finale for "Mission Control," indicating the growth that the young band has made and their newfound ability to create a truly respectable rock anthem.

The true merit of this album lies in the fact that it effectively represents what The Whigs do best — building momentum in every song until you fear for its life.

The band is able to give the sense that they just barely have a hold of their raucous and ravenous music and at any time could let go and watch it spin madly away.

Thankfully, they never do.

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# MOUTHING OFF

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January 30, 2008

## The Palace of immorality

*Sporting events may be too crude and elitist for working-class families*

By PAUL GULLY  
Managing Editor

I recently went to a Pistons game in hopes of getting some good, clean entertainment.

I mean, what's better than some solid, exciting competition?

However, what I found at the Palace was appalling.

The injustices were rampant and the immorality was blatant.

No longer is a basketball game a wholesome event which the entire family can enjoy.

It has been robbed of its dignity and integrity, so much so that major league baseball casts a shameful eye upon it.

Had basketball existed in its current state in 1906, the meatpacking industry would have taken a backseat to it, and would have, no doubt, been the focus of Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle."

Now, you may be wondering what I'm talking about.

Many of you probably attend numerous games throughout the year and never notice any egregious exploitation.

Well, that's because you've been socially conditioned.

The immorality and injustices range far.

Liberals, conservatives, men, women, blacks, whites, religious and atheist; the travesties should offend all.

The first evidence of moral bankruptcy was none other than the T-shirt giveaway. Such a joyous event, right?

Yes, until you look for the social injustice in it. While the Pistons Palace Patrol was getting the fans riled up, shooting T-shirts into the stands, I noticed a discrepancy. The slinging devices that shot the T-shirts into the stands only had enough power to reach into the lower level of the stadium.

The fans sitting in the upper level were merely left to reach out and grasp at empty dreams, while the T-shirts landed

a good 100 feet away.

Where is the social uproar?

Who decided that those sitting court-side should be the only ones worthy enough for a shot at a sweatshop-made giveaway?

This is just one example of the rich feeding the rich and forgetting about the poor.

When did Kenneth Lay's ghost buy the Pistons?

The next atrocity I bore witness to took place while an opposing player was shooting free throws.

While he was focusing in on knocking down the free throw, the fans seated behind his target basket did something that down right shocked me.

While the player was in the process of shooting, fans began wildly waving blue and red phallic-shaped balloons to try and distract him! I was appalled! Yet, it seemed as if I was the only one who took issue.

What have we come to?

These men on the visiting team were merely trying to do their jobs.

Why subject them to such vagrancies? Is this what we have come to as a society? Trying to distract a hard-working man from doing his job, degrading him by waving a phallus at him?

Imagine if this behavior was permitted while others were attempting to complete their work.

Would you find it acceptable to waive a kielbasa in the face of a cop writing you a ticket?

Would you bust out a banana during a boring history lecture?

Waving a phallic-shaped balloon at these players? Come on! Lord knows how John Amaechi felt when he was hacked and knew he was going to the line for two.

Moving on. The next episode in which I was disgusted, and frankly so should anyone else who claims to have morals, took place during a time-out.

While both teams were talking things over on the benches, some entertainment



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

The phallic-shaped thundersticks are an annoyance in any work environment.

was sent onto the court for those in attendance.

And let me tell you, the next two events that I witnessed, quite honestly, made me feel sick.

First to take the court was the Spare Tires, a group of about 15 very large men, dressed in drag. If the sight of cross-dressing obese men wasn't enough, the Spare Tires began dancing. If that weren't enough, the Limbaugh-sized men began removing their clothes!

They threw off their wigs and proceeded to remove their shirts, exposing their oversized guts and moobs (man-boobs, for those of you who don't know).

I closed my eyes in disgust. However, others around my cheered the men on, even going so far as to whistle and clap for them.

What kind of examples are we setting for our youths?

That cross-dressing, obesity and exhibitionism should be celebrated and revered?

Will our next American hero be Dame Edna? (Seriously, look up a picture.)

I'll skip over the half-naked women holding pom-poms, who gyrated their bodies and performed a dance that they

clearly learned performing at high-end gentlemen's bars.

The final atrocity that I was forced to sit through was, by far, the most disturbing.

Phalluses, nudists and cross-dressers don't compare.

The culprit: The Voice, which is projected over a loudspeaker throughout the arena. There was blind obedience of The Voice.

"Make some noise," said The Voice. Thousands of people began screaming.

"Clap your hands," it demanded.

Hands were clapped.

"Deetroit basketball," The Voice proclaimed. The Pistons got the ball.

We are walking down a dangerous path. Why listen to The Voice? What authority does it have? The Voice has never won a fraudulent election.

And people wonder why no one questioned the current administration when they claimed there were WMDs in Iraq.

It is time to fight back! Pull back the curtain, à la "The Wizard of Oz."

From now on, if I'm looking for some good, clean, exciting entertainment, I'll turn on some WWE wrestling.



# Don't call me a skinny Porkchop!

*The 'home of the brave' is becoming the home of the hypersensitive*

By JESSE DUNSMORE  
Senior Reporter

I want to say right up front, this isn't a belated "Merry Christmas" vs. "Happy Holidays" column.

But as a jumping-off point for what I do want to talk about (fat people and Puerto Ricans), I should share an observation I recently made about the now-infamous Yuletide controversy.

One slow news day in December, a major news network read the following comment left on their Web site: "You can tell me Merry Christmas, and I'll just tell you I'm an atheist. It works both ways. I don't want to hear you any more than you want to hear me."

I like to think that when people comment to that guy on how nice the weather is, he replies with a cheery, "Cancer rates are up among people in your age group."

I'm a Christian. When someone wishes me Happy Holidays, I say, "Thanks, and Merry Christmas."

And everybody walks away happy, as far as I can tell. I wanted to know who in the world these people are that were offended by a pleasant Christmas greeting.

After checking the whole Internet for these hypersensitive humbugs, I realized: nobody is actually offended.

But you have not looked into the gaping maw of groupthink until you've been on a message board with 10,000 posts, all rallying against ... nobody.

And they are all very angry at nobody, as well as Wal-Mart. Because this is a war, and on the hypothetical enemy's front lines are geriatric door-greeters who don't use the door greeting the "MC-ers" want.

The argument: anybody who is offended by "Merry Christmas" is being stupid, because it's just a greeting wishing goodwill, unlike "Happy Holidays," which is code for "I hate American Jesus."

To me, this is one example of American Christians believing themselves to be

persecuted, while Chinese Christians worship from prison cells, and Middle Eastern Christians get the fast track to Heaven.

But that might be symptomatic of a larger American trend: total wussification.

According to an AOL news article, Starbucks' new "skinny" platform was a real "venti" problem for an employee. She wrote a five-page letter to the corporate office, citing several issues the new menu option would cause, such as confusion among staff and customers and the offense it would give to gravitationally challenged patrons.

Personally, I find certain flavors of coffee offensive, like the "cream" flavor, the "sugar" flavor and the "iced" flavor.

I'm also offended that the Starbucks logo adds \$15 to the price of a thermos.

But I'm trying to understand how the mere mention of the word "skinny" would ever be taken as an insult by anyone — of any weight — who frequently uses American English.

Are these same

people bothered when it comes up in conversations?

It seems if this was a real problem, it might have been mentioned before now, since we are the most overweight nation on Earth. You know that childhood idea that if you could get everyone in China to jump up and down at once, it'd throw the Earth out of orbit? Give me half the Midwest, and I will move the world.

Just because some weigh more than they should does not mean we should avoid using words that describe things that are less ... um ... Rubenesque.

Avoiding an obvious paragraph transition, a Philadelphia baseball team called the Ironpigs (the area is known for its iron-mining industry) managed to piss off a minority group in a way that can only be described as "nostalgically offensive."

The Ironpigs' mascot is a pig,

because it's part of the team name. The pig's name is Porkchop, because that's a food item made out of pig meat. Stop me if I'm going too fast.

Well, did you know that "Porkchop" is an old-school derogatory term for Puerto Ricans?

Don't feel dumb; neither did anyone else — except the ones who complained. Porkchop is now known as Ferrous, from "ferrum," the Latin word for iron, which is why "Fe" is the symbol for iron on the periodic table. This makes perfect sense; that's why every few years, someone tries to get the Pittsburgh Steelers renamed the Fe<sub>3</sub>C-ers.

"If my parents were alive, they'd be having fits," said local Guillermo Lopez to CBS News. "It meant much more to them than it does to Puerto Ricans now."

Good point, but do you know what really pissed people off in my parents' day? Interracial marriage. I like to think we've gotten over that.

"If [the name] offended a few, it's a few too many," the team manager said.

I can't say I agree. Somewhere along the line, people got this idea in their heads that they had a right to not be offended. It's like the First-and-a-half Amendment: Freedom of Not Letting You Say Things I Don't Like.

Well, bad news. Tact in semantics is a purely practical principle, used to avoid making a scene. No one is entitled to such courtesy, especially when the reasoning is moronic.

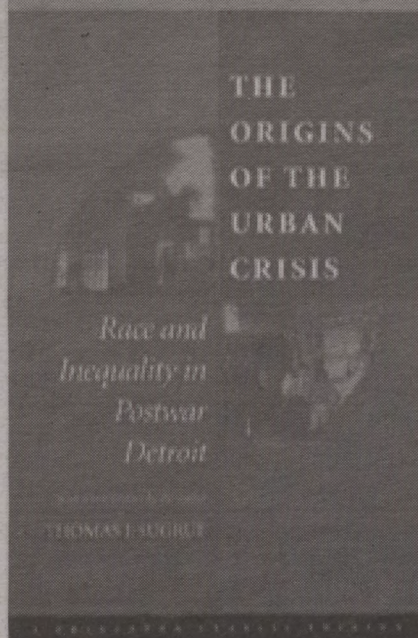
Maybe some words deserve such attention (though I seriously doubt it), but "Happy Holidays," "skinny" and "Porkchop" aren't these words.

Why concentrate on making a big deal out of silly words, when it's much simpler to ignore them, accept them, or embrace them ("geek" comes to mind) all of which require nothing more than your free will?

You'd think that the world's fattest nation would have some thicker skin.

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A worker shovels snow from a car showroom which collapsed after a heavy snowfall in Wuhan, in central China's Hubei province.

## Winter storm causes chaos, delays in China

By WILLIAM FOREMAN  
Associated Press Writer

GUANGZHOU, China — Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers desperate to get home for the Chinese New Year shivered in the cold under a sea of umbrellas outside train stations Tuesday, as the worst winter storms in half a century paralyzed China.

One of the world's biggest annual mass movements of humanity — a record 178.6 million people, more than the population of Russia — were expected to travel by train for the holiday, according to railway officials' estimates.

Most of those stranded at train stations were migrant workers trying to leave booming southern Guangdong province.

In China, the New Year holiday, which begins Feb. 7, is as important as Christmas is in the West. For most migrant workers, it's the only time of the year when they can visit their hometowns, and they often take a month off to feast with their families and perform a series of rituals.

The extreme weather showed no signs of letting up Tuesday, with cities blacked out, highways closed because of treacherous conditions and trains canceled. A bus crash on an icy road killed at least 25 people — the worst accident since the blizzards began, according to the State Administration of Work Safety.

Huge red banners hanging at the train station in the provincial capital, Guangzhou, urged migrant workers to cancel plans to return home, cash in their tickets and return to their factory dormitories. About 200,000 people took the advice and got ticket refunds, railway officials said, while about 200,000 others stayed at the station.

Just blocks from the station, migrants converged on an emergency shelter in the China Import and Export Fair exhibition center — a complex the size of three or four football fields. The place was packed with travelers sitting on their luggage.

But the nation's top leader, President Hu Jintao, warned of more bad weather and urged officials "be aware of the seriousness of the situation and be fully prepared to prevent and fight disasters."

## Bush delivers final State of Union

By TERENCE HUNT  
Associated Press White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush, standing before Congress one last time, urged the nation Monday night to persevere against gnawing fears of recession and stay patient with the long, grinding war in Iraq. He pressed Congress to quickly pass a plan to rescue the economy.

"We can all see that growth is slowing," Bush said in a blunt acknowledgment of rising food and gas prices, increasing unemployment and turmoil in the housing and financial markets.

He cautioned against accelerating U.S. troop withdrawals from Iraq, saying that would jeopardize progress achieved over the last year.

"We have unfinished business before us, and the American people expect us to get it

done," Bush declared. It was his final State of the Union address and he faced a hostile, Democratic-led Congress eager for the end of his term next January.

With his approval rating near its all-time low, Bush lacked the political clout to push bold ideas and he didn't try. He called on lawmakers to urgently approve a \$150 billion plan to avoid or soften any recession through tax rebates for families and incentives for businesses to invest in new plants and equipment.

"The actions of the 110th Congress will affect the security and prosperity of our nation long after this session has ended," the president said.

His speech lasted 53 minutes, interrupted frequently by applause, most often by Republican lawmakers.

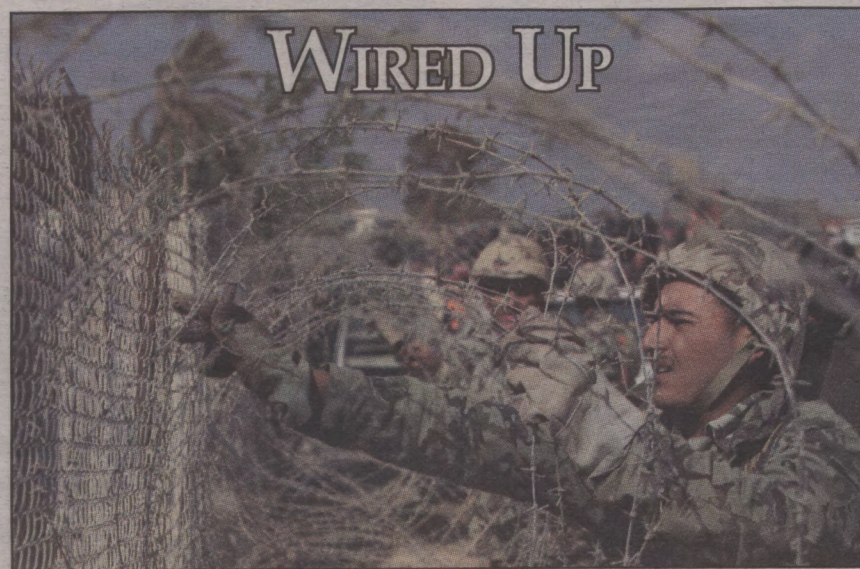
He made no commitment about withdrawing additional troops from Iraq, and he said

Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. general there, has warned that pulling Americans out too quickly could undermine Iraqi forces, allow al-Qaida to regroup and trigger an increase in violence.

A major challenge for Bush in his address was simply being heard when many Americans already are looking beyond him to the next president.

The president also planned to issue an executive order Tuesday ordering federal agencies to ignore earmarks that aren't explicitly enacted into law; prodded Congress to extend a law allowing surveillance on suspected terrorists, renew his education law and approve free-trade pacts with Colombia, Panama and South Korea; and also recycled ideas on alternative energy, affordable health care, housing reform and veterans' care.

Bush also renewed his ideas on climate change and stem cell research.



LEFTERIS PITRAKIS/Associated Press

A member of the Egyptian forces places barbed wire in a breached section of the border wall between Egypt and Rafah, in southern Gaza Strip, Monday Jan. 28, 2008. Egyptian security forces strung new barbed wire across one of the breaches in the border Monday in a sign that a six-day opening of the frontier may finally be reaching its conclusion.

## Nation | World News BRIEFS

1-23 | Scaled Composites SpaceShipTwo, being built for Virgin Galactic to become the world's first commercial spacecraft, is unveiled, and will begin test flights in mid-2008.

1-24 | Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi is forced to resign following a lost vote of confidence in the Senate.

1-25 | Ohio Congressman and Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich withdraws his candidacy.

1-26 | Illinois Senator Barack Obama wins the South Carolina Democratic primary.

1-28 | Thousands of machete-wielding youths hunted down members of President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe.

1-29 | Margaret Truman, the only child of former President Harry S. Truman dies at age 83. | Hillary Clinton and John McCain win the Florida primaries. However, no democratic party delegates were at stake in this election.

## Disabled spy satellite falling from orbit could hit Earth

By EILEEN SULLIVAN  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A large U.S. spy satellite has lost power and could hit the Earth in late February or early March, government officials said Saturday.

The satellite, which no longer can be controlled, could contain hazardous materials, and it is unknown where on the planet it might come down, they said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is classified as secret.

"Appropriate government agencies are monitoring the situation," said Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the National

Security Council, when asked about the situation after it was disclosed by other officials. "Numerous satellites over the years have come out of orbit and fallen harmlessly. We are looking at potential options to mitigate any possible damage this satellite may cause."

A senior government official said that lawmakers and other nations are being kept apprised of the situation.

The spacecraft contains hydrazine — which is rocket fuel — according to another government official who was not authorized to speak publicly but spoke on condition of anonymity. Hydrazine, a colorless liquid with an ammonia-like odor, is a toxic

chemical and can cause harm to anyone who contacts it.

Such an uncontrolled re-entry could risk exposure of U.S. secrets, said John Pike, a defense and intelligence expert. Spy satellites typically are disposed of through a controlled re-entry into the ocean so that no one else can access the spacecraft, he said.

Jeffrey Richelson, a senior fellow with the National Security Archive, said the spacecraft likely is a photo reconnaissance satellite. Such eyes in the sky are used to gather visual information from space about adversarial governments and terror groups, and can also be used to survey damage from hurricanes, fires and other natural disasters.