

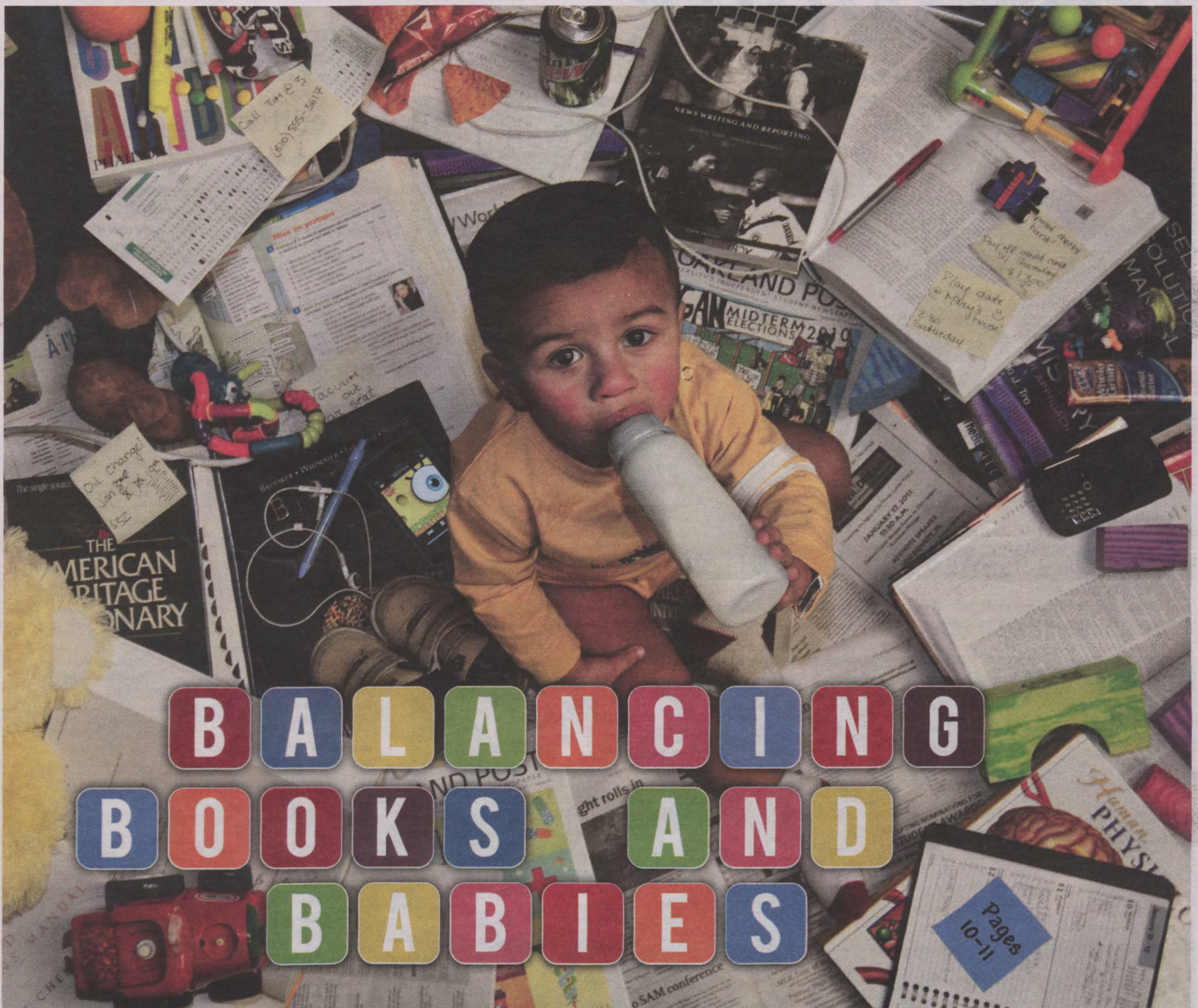
THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 19, 2011

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Volume 37 // Issue 19



BALANCING BOOKS AND BABIES



CAMPUS

Students celebrate
Martin Luther King Day
with music and dance

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Two high school
teammates crack the
starting lineup as
freshmen

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MOUTHING OFF

One editor combats an
identity crisis after his
Zodiac sign changes

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this week

January 19 - January 25, 2011



Winter weather warfare // Friday, Jan. 14

KAITLYN CHORNOBY/The Oakland Post

Organized by Duke Wang (right), a group of students gathered between Kresge Library and South Foundation Hall for a snowball fight on Friday, Jan. 14. After classes let out at 12:47 p.m., approximately 30 students were packing snow and getting cold. Wang said he hopes to organize a similar event for the future and looks forward to a larger turnout.



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CAMPUS // Oakland University's Formula SAE team displays its race car at the 2011 North American International Auto Show.



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CENTER FEATURE // The story of three student-mothers and their efforts to balance child care and their education.



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SPORTS // Students and alumni cheered the Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team to victory Saturday at the fourth annual road trip to IPFW.



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LOCAL // A new addition to The Oakland Post, Police Blotter highlights recent criminal activity in surrounding cities.



The Oakland Post is looking for contributing writers for the Mouthing Off section and a Multimedia Editor to produce video and web content.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Cover photo by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

STAFF EDITORIAL

Bans aren't always bad

When was the last time you needed to fire over 30 rounds of ammunition in a matter of seconds?

The perennial hot-button issue of gun control often misses the point.

"The right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," states the latter half of the Second Amendment.

But in light of the recent events in Tucson, Ariz., we have to ask why a citizen would ever need to legally own a high-volume magazine of ammunition. Jared Lee Loughner, 22, who killed six and wounded 14, was allegedly carrying a Glock 19 that could hold 33 rounds.

True, Loughner has been deemed mentally unstable, but really: Why would anyone need to fire that many rounds so quickly? The only reason would be to take human life.

A 1994 assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004, prohibited such clips.

Now the national debate has turned to whether Congress will again pass similar legislation.

It is not a partisan issue; it's an issue of human life.

While there are national and state laws that apply to every citizen when it comes to gun control, the campus debate is a

whole different story.

State laws allow gun owners to openly carry legally registered firearms, but licensed individuals are prohibited from carrying concealed weapons in college classrooms and dorms. Bills were introduced in 2009 in the Michigan House and Senate to amend Senate Bill 747 to remove those areas from the list of prohibited premises.

Gun control is not a partisan issue; it's an issue of human life.

Oakland University Police Chief Samuel Lucido said it's a matter of local control, and we agree.

While the bills are stalled, Lucido believes a new Michigan legislature will most likely act on them.

According to Lucido, firearms of any sort are prohibited from campus.

While organizations like OU Students for Concealed Carry on Campus advocate for the passage of the bill and oppose infringement of the right to carry firearms, we believe the rules in place at OU are

correct.

Colleges and universities are first and foremost a learning environment. Campus security and safety are priorities for all, especially the administration and police department.

OUPD has training and equipment in place to immediately respond to emergency situations including shooting incidents like those that occurred at Columbine High School and Virginia Tech.

Lucido said the OUPD is equipped and hopes to do their "best to be prepared for any emergency — to respond to any emergency event."

The university has made its stance on the gun issue clear and Lucido echoes those sentiments.

"OU believes our rules regulating firearms are correct," Lucido said.

His claim is backed up, too.

A recent Virginia Supreme Court decision unanimously ruled that a ban on guns in buildings and at campus events at George Mason University does not indeed violate the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

We hope that national bans on unnecessary weapons are considered again — and this time stay in place.

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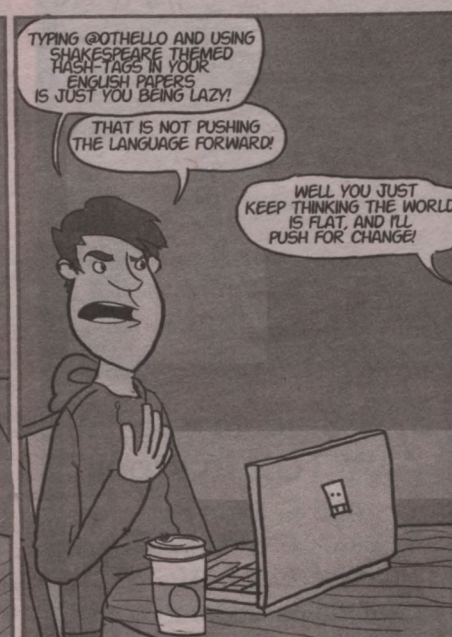
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Letter Policy:

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.



'Tiger mother' is more than a bad parent

Boy am I glad I didn't grow up under the iron fist of an Amy Chua-esque Asian "Tiger" mother. Also, I don't think she is a mother at all.

In a Wall Street Journal piece entitled "Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior," Chua explains her parenting skills and how everyone could use them to ensure their children become math and music phenoms.

The way the Professor of Law at Yale Law School handles parenting is actually a hands-off approach, believe it or not.

Tactics for Chua's "successful" child-rearing include not allowing her daughters to attend sleepovers, go on playdates, do extracurricular activities other than those approved, watch TV and play computer games, get bad grades and play instruments aside from the piano and violin.

That makes the 30 minutes of daily TV time I got seem luxurious and reminds me of the fun sleepovers I got to attend.

While her daughters may be accomplished piano and violin players who both get perfect grades, Chua has not taught anything to them. That includes work ethic.



Kay Nguyen
Editor-in-Chief

By depriving her daughters Louisa and Sophia of any perceived distractions, she has done them a disservice.

They have not been thrust into real-world situations, and even if they are able to obtain the Ivy League degrees and academic statuses their parents obtained, they will never reach the pinnacle of success.

A well-rounded person must be book smart, street smart and be able to navigate through situations that arise in real life.

Being able to focus in on only one or two things at a time is hardly an in-demand skill.

As a person who has oftentimes been stereotyped as an overachieving Asian-

American kid, I have to speak out and say Chua's style of parenting is definitely not the norm.

My parents always joke about the fact that I stayed in violin and piano lessons for only a few months and while they always stressed that a strong background in mathematics and the sciences was important, it was never the determining factor of my success.

Chua's perpetuation of the stereotype in a major publication — one that is often backed up by data and facts about test scores and intelligence quotient numbers — is not a good representation of the typical Asian parent.

The excerpt of Chua's book, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," has caused an uproar and I am not going to even touch on some of the juicy stuff.

I shouldn't even have to argue about why calling your child "garbage" is wrong and does nothing but hinder their self-esteem.

I'm not scared to speak about cultural stereotypes and know there are Chinese, or Asian-American parents in general, who do

not fulfill the image Chua puts out.

While there has to be an emphasis on school education, it has to be balanced with educating children on life choices.

While the Journal excerpt is only one part of her memoir and does not intend to dish out advice, Chua hasn't exactly said she exaggerated the specific passage.

What irks me is the fact that Chua's column generated over 4,000 comments on **WSJ.com**

Most are about her strict approach to parenting, which I don't believe is a form of parenting at all.

I applaud parents like those featured in this week's center feature on pages 10 and 11 who are able to balance their lives between school, work and children.

Do you have a Perspective to share? E-mail your ideas or completed opinion columns to editor@oaklandpostonline.com and you could see your piece published in an edition of The Oakland Post.

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no — 20 (87%)

CURRENT POLL //

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

What are your thoughts on the possible reinstatement of an assault weapons ban?

I support it

I am against it

I don't care

CORRECTIONS CORNER ■■

- In last week's column, "Don't be too quick to tweet," we mistakenly identified Jared Lee Loughner's age as 21. Loughner is 22.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact.

If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.4268.

Honoring MLK

Students awarded Keeper of the Dream scholarships

By MEGAN SEMERAZ

Staff Reporter

Students, faculty and members of the community joined together on Monday afternoon to recognize four students at the 19th annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration.

This year the keynote speech was presented by Oscar-winning actor and founder of The Eracism Foundation, Lou Gossett Jr.

Emily Tissot, Gerald Son, Rodrina Moore and Aiana Scott were individually honored with scholarships for all that they have accomplished as individuals.

The event packed the OU banquet rooms with friends, family and mentors of the award recipients.

"We think the event was hugely successful by the attendance, and by Lou Gossett Jr.'s presentation," Omar Brown-El, director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives said. "Our students were presented with their KOD scholarship award certificates today for the great achievements that they've accomplished on campus."

The KOD Award is presented each year in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to students who illustrate his vision.

"One of Martin Luther's greatest attributes was that he loved people and he loved to serve, and that is what I feel is really important," Tissot said.

The recipients are considered leaders on campus and in their communities who break down stereotypes while excelling academically.

In his speech, Gossett spoke in-depth about King's life, respect and eliminating racism to create diversity.

"Any award like that, that has to do with Dr. King and keeping the dream is very important," Gossett said.

In addition to the scholarship, this year's recipients were also presented with a certificate of special recognition signed by Congressman Gary C. Peters.

The certificate was "in acknowledgment of their commitment to promoting diver-

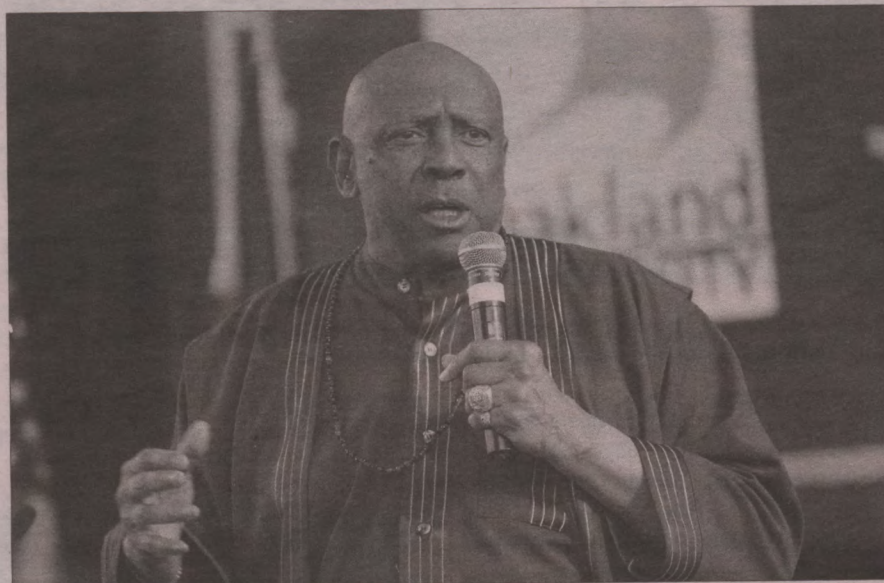


Photo courtesy of OU Communications and Marketing

Lou Gossett Jr. delivered the keynote speech at the award celebration. Gossett is an Oscar-winning actor and the founder of The Eracism Foundation.

sity and social justice in our community," University President Gary Russi said.

Two of the students found out about their award in roundabout ways.

Assistant director of the CMI initially told Scott that she didn't win.

"I was excited, and Bridget told me that I lost as a joke. Then told me I won afterwards," Scott said.

Tissot said Green made her meet in person before sharing the news.

"When I got into the office (Green) pretended that I had not won the scholarship. She smiled and announced that I was one of the scholarship recipients," Tissot said. "I yelled, jumped and hugged everyone near me; it was an incredible moment."

The scholarship meant something different to each of the winners. Tissot, a Spanish and literature major, felt encouraged by the award.

"It is a great encouragement to continue doing the work that I love and feel is so important," Tissot said.

For Moore, who is a nontraditional student majoring in business administration, the award made her feel like coming to OU

was the right choice.

"The KOD award reinforces my journey through higher education," Moore said. "Being a nontraditional student is sometimes very difficult; (winning) really makes me feel like I made the right decision when I came to Oakland."

After having the award in his hands, Son was thankful to those who had helped him be successful.

"It's really hard to explain; I'm grateful that I'm awarded," Son said. "I just thank everyone who has been there for me so that I could get this award."

Tissot felt relief after the event had concluded, but she also felt the award was more than material.

"It wasn't about the four of us getting pieces of paper, but it was about calling out people on working together, on loving each other and living together," Tissot said.

Gossett offered his advice to OU students and young people in general.

"The motto for the young: there is no such thing as impossible. Say it three times every morning, especially when times get tough," he said.

campus briefs

Detroit Tigers at OU

The Detroit Tigers' annual Winter Caravan will visit OU at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 21, with appearances from a group of players and coaches.

The event will be held in the O'rena and the program will include performances by OU's Pep Band, Dance Team and Cheer Squad. There will also be a Q&A session with the players. The event is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 1 p.m.

Whose borders are they?

Professor Pierre Englebert, of Pomona College will deliver a lecture about the borders and international boundaries in modern Africa on Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 7p.m. The event will be held in Banquet Room A in the Oakland Center and is open to the public.

Afternoon with Regina Carter

OU alumna and violinist Regina Carter will perform with the Oakland Jazz Quartet on Sunday, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. in Meadow Brook Hall. Tickets are \$17 and the seating is limited. Call 248-370-2020 for more ticket information.

Thrown off a plane

Johnnie Tuitel, a motivational speaker with cerebral palsy who was removed from a plane for being "too handicapped to fly alone," will share his story on overcoming obstacles as part of the African-American Celebration Month festivities at OU.

The event will be held at the Fireside Lounge in the Oakland Center from noon - 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 24.

— Compiled by Lauryn Andrews,
Staff Intern

SAE presents racing car at auto show

By **ANDREW CRAIG**
Staff Reporter

Although patrons of the 2011 North American International Auto Show can expect to see concepts from around the world, they will also witness familiar tones of home at this year's event. Oakland University will have a feature of its own on display.

The Oakland University Formula SAE team will be on hand each day of the annual Detroit spectacle at Cobo Center.

From Jan. 10-23, SAE members from OU and other representatives from the university will answer questions and provide information to show goers regarding the Grizzlies Racing Team and Oakland University as well.

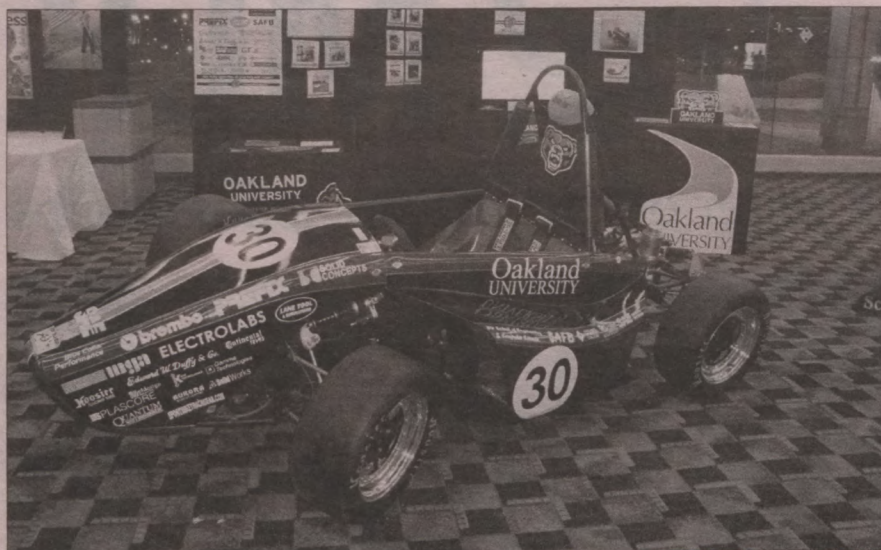
Each year, OU students find themselves in competition with student groups from all over the world to design and build a formula car.

Throughout the season, students race the cars against one another on autocross courses.

Additionally, testing and safety requirements are also incorporated into the evaluation of an institution's design.

OU SAE's 2011 car will be displayed this year along with cars from Michigan State University and Lawrence Technological University.

No entry fees were required for participation because of the group's non-profit status.



ANDREW CRAIG/The Oakland Post

This is the first year that SAE has had a display at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The car is on display until January 23.

"Money still goes into what we do, but we have to operate on a budget," said Evan Fischer, second year member and marketing manager for Grizzlies Racing.

Co-President Katy Cunningham emphasized the amount of work required to be successful.

"We're run as a full company," Cunningham said. "It took a lot of organization to get this together and to do it well."

OU SAE members didn't have the luxury of time to waste when preparing for the event this year.

According to members, the group was unaware of the opportunity to participate

until just before Christmas. Even with a shortage of prep time, the display continues to draw viewers daily at the Detroit show's halfway point.

Oakland's involvement in the auto show and its SAE competition car stand to showcase the technical programs available at the university.

Fischer understands that prospective students are mixed in with the auto show crowds.

"It's definitely exciting for us," Fischer said. "It's boosting our recognition as a university as well when you suddenly see Oakland in competition with other tech

schools. It's good for us (Grizzlies Racing Team) and it's good for the school."

The OU SAE's emergence into a more public forum this year helps show more of what Oakland has to offer students. One of Oakland's oldest student organizations, it is one of many extra-curriculars offered to students.

"There's a lot of opportunity here," Cunningham said.

The OU SAE exhibit could affect students looking for schools to attend. Companies and individuals looking for interns or employees can also use the auto show opportunity to find candidates for those openings.

OU senior Mike Dudek stopped at the display Sunday night to see Oakland's contribution to the massive event.

"I was really surprised to see Oakland down here, actually," Dudek said. "I think it's great though. It's exposure for the university that I wasn't expecting to see from (OU)."

The students behind the design of the exhibit, like the car, are committed to producing a superb design.

"If what we're doing here looks dumb," Cunningham said, "then there's no point in being here."

The last day to see the OU display and the 2011 car is Jan. 23.

More information on the Grizzlies Racing Team can be found at www.grizzliesracing.com

Auto show dates and times are listed at www.naias.com

Pediatric retinal research lab to open in Dodge Hall

By **ALI ARMSTRONG**
Staff Reporter

Renovations are being made in Dodge Hall to house the country's first laboratory dedicated to pediatric retinal research.

After donations totaling around \$2 million were made to the university from the Clohset and Bergquist families through Dr. Michael Trese of Beaumont Hospital and the ROPARD Foundation (The Association for Retinopathy and Related Diseases), construction began on lab, an addition to the Oakland University's Eye Research Institute.

The primary focus of the Virginia and Clarence Clohset Pediatric Retinal Research Laboratory will be on treatments for retinopathy of prematurity, a blinding disease in infants.

"As of now there are no cures for any of the blinding eye diseases ... Dr. Trese, Dr. Anthony Capone and Dr. Kimberly Drenser have hypotheses which will hopefully lead to agents that can provide better treatment for the infants," said Dr. Frank Giblin, ERI director.

Funds from the donation will allow the ERI to order sophisticated equipment to aide in the development of drugs for ROP.

The ERI has already ordered a state-of-the-art retinal imaging system, which will allow the imaging of the retinas of small animals.

PERRL's research will be lead by Dr. Trese, Dr. Capone and Dr. Drenser. Twelve clinical ERI faculty are also from Beaumont Hospitals.

The ERI has had a longtime affiliation with the Department of Ophthalmology at Beaumont Hospitals.

"We've had a formal affiliation with the Department of Ophthalmology at Beaumont Hospital since 1989," Giblin said. "We give lectures to their residents of ophthalmology and their residents come here and lecture our students, and we collaborate with them on research projects ... it's a very active collaboration."

Students contributing to ERI research under Dr. Drenser will have multiple opportunities to work in the new PERRL lab.

Students involved in the ERI's Summer Undergraduate Program in Eye Research (SUPER) will also have future opportunities to work in the lab.

"We have a lot of students working on this floor ... students will definitely be involved," Giblin said.

The target completion date for the PERRL lab is the end of January.

Event kicks off with music, dance

By LAURYN ANDREWS
Staff intern

Sounds of steel drums and rhythmic beats filled Pioneer Food Court as the community gathered on Monday, Jan. 17, to mark the beginning of OU's African American Celebration Month.

The African American Celebration Month opening ceremonies paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through food, music, dance and fellowship.

Sean Dobbins, the assistant coordinator of jazz studies, and the pan jazz class at OU started the celebration by playing one of Dr. King's favorite songs.

"We are playing 'Lift Every Voice and Sing,' also called 'the Black National Anthem,'" Dobbins said.



LAURYN ANDREWS/The Oakland Post
A dancer performs in the Pioneer Food Court to kick-off the African American Celebration Week.

"It is an honor to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through our craft. It's huge."

Members of OU's dance department also shared their talents in the celebration.

"It was great to show on the

dance side what we are capable of," said Vivan Costello, a dance major. "I am glad we could be incorporated in this celebration."

Freshman Sean Cannady volunteered at the ceremony in an

effort to become more involved in the Center for Multicultural Initiatives.

Cannady said that he wants to encourage understanding the issues surrounding race.

"The only meaning race has is what we assign it," Cannady said.

Rodrina Moore, a Keeper of the Dream Award recipient and an African American Celebration Month committee member, said that she would like to see students "learn the importance of diversity and inclusion."

"I would hope that students could take information from the month's events that would allow them to help make our community a better place," Moore said. "I trust that it will be an eye opening experience for many."

Police Files

Rec Center laptop larceny

On Tuesday, Jan. 11, an Oakland University Police Department officer was dispatched to the Rec Center to investigate a stolen laptop and backpack. The student who reported the missing property placed his backpack under a nearby bench while he proceeded to play ping-pong. When the student returned, his bag and belongings were missing. There is video surveillance at the Center but there are no suspects at this time.

Craigslist scandal

On Saturday, Jan. 15, a student reported that she had purchased a vehicle through the Detroit Craigslist site and had not yet received the vehicle. The student began looking for vehicles at the beginning of the month and found a 1999 Acura for \$900.

Upon contacting the seller, the student was instructed to forward her information, including e-mail, mailing address and phone number. The student then received an e-mail from what has been called an eBay imposter, which further instructed her to mail her payment to a specific location in the United Kingdom.

On Jan. 10, the student sent \$900 to the designated recipient in the form of a Western Union payment. Within two days, she received a receipt confirmation that her payment had arrived. But the student never received the vehicle, as promised, so she contacted the eBay fraud department.

eBay personnel confirmed that the transaction was a scam. She has contacted Western Union to open a fraud case.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Local Editor

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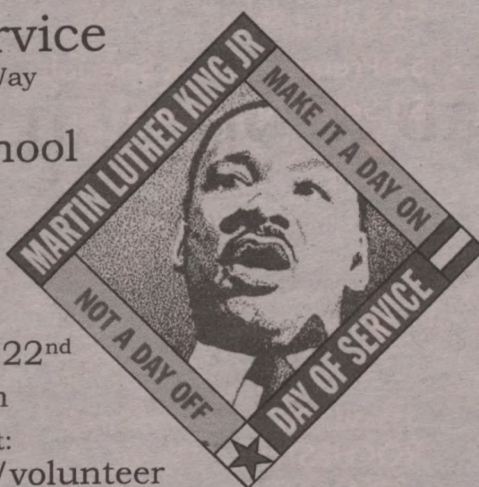
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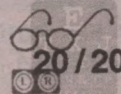
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'Report and Support' seeks to minimize harm

By KAY NGUYEN
Editor-in-Chief

Serious conversations about better assessing campus safety began at Oakland University well before Jared Lee Loughner's troubled past and displays of erratic behavior on an Arizona community college campus were brought into the public eye.

According to OUPD Chief Samuel Lucido, a joint recommendation from the Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education was given in 2004 to establish threat assessment teams at schools. This sparked a national conversation about how to better evaluate minor problems before they became major incidents.

OU administrators wanted to do a better job of assessing situations that could potentially lead to violence, said Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder.

Snyder said that a discussion between various university professionals began shortly after the Columbine shootings.

"Oakland has an excellent system of communication with people who deal with behavioral issues," Snyder said.

The "Report and Support" form on OU's website allows students, staff and faculty to report any abnormal behaviors that may be

exhibited by other members of the campus community. That is not limited to fellow students alone.

Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh said it was important the program was far-reaching and did not target students only and that it was "necessary for this to be a fair procedure."

Once reported on the online form, inquiries are sent to an assessment team made up of Snyder, McIntosh, OUPD Lieutenant Mel Gilroy and two psychologists. The measures were put in place after the 2007 shooting on the campus of Virginia Tech.

"(The team) only comes together if (a situation) has raised questions in the mind of the person who is observing something or made aware of a situation to the level of this is more serious than what we normally handle in the course of our work," Snyder said.

Loughner's recent rampage then made the program more crucial than ever.

In a campus-wide e-mail, Snyder said "tragedies such as the Tucson incident can never completely be prevented," but believes that threats could be minimized through the usage of "Report and Support."

Students, staff and faculty have the option of filling out the online form anonymously, though the Dean of Students office

and OUPD also receive similar reports every day. The office and police station both also become depositories for the types of reports that "Report and Support" seeks to collect.

"Sometimes you get the bystander effect," McIntosh said of people not always reporting strange behaviors they see on campus. "That's the opportunity to safely impact our entire campus community."

Someone who is struggling will often begin to act out in different areas of campus and the assessment team may also become aware of people who pose a potential threat to surrounding community members or themselves because of that.

President Gary Russi has delegated the responsibility of stabilizing threatening non-emergency situations to the assessment team chaired by Snyder. Once a report is collected about a potential problem, the person is taken aside to meet with the team.

Psychological assessment may be necessary to better identify potential issues the student may have and better dictate the actions of the panel.

"There is a team approach to evaluating the behavior and that's why we have the psychologists give a recommendation based

on what they know about human behavior," Snyder said. "It's been very helpful."

McIntosh said the panel then has the authority to make the recommendation that a person poses enough of a threat to campus and must therefore be removed via a medical withdrawal.

He said it is not a suspension per se, but that the person must go through a process to re-enter campus that includes documentation of their mental health.

A refund of tuition would be issued if the person were a student and housing fees would be prorated in the case of a withdrawal.

"We are not positioning the student for financial hardship," McIntosh said.

McIntosh and Snyder both said they have had to call the assessment group together to examine four or five cases in the past year.

"We've done a very good job here," Snyder said. "We don't overreact but we certainly don't want to underreact either."

To report behavioral concerns online at the Report and Support website, visit www.oakland.edu/behavioralconcern. Concerns can also be reported via phone to the Dean of Student's office at 248-370-3352 or OUPD at 248-370-3331. In case of emergency, call 911.

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 STUDENT AWARDS

WILSON AWARDS

Nominees for the 2011 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in **Winter 2011** or have graduated in **Summer or Fall 2010**. The awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders, and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. Nominees must have a strong academic record of **3.5** or higher GPA.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in **Winter 2011** or have graduated in **Summer or Fall 2010**. The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to inter-group understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community. The major consideration of the award is the individual's service to the community. A minimum GPA of **2.5** is required.

Nomination forms are available online at www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/ under "Awards and Scholarships" or at 144 Oakland Center. Call 248.370.3352 for more information. **Nominations due by Monday, February 7, 2011.**

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A jump to the next level

Grizzlies' starting lineup bolstered by a pair of high school teammates

By JAKE THIELEN
Sports Editor

On March 20, 2010, Malika Glover and Zakiya Miniffee celebrated East Lansing High School's 65-54 victory in the Class A state championship. Just 10 months later, the two high school teammates are in search of a different kind of championship — a Summit League championship as members of the Oakland University basketball team.

Despite being freshmen, Glover and Miniffee are both key contributors to an Oakland team that is currently tied for second place in the conference race.

Glover is averaging 5.8 points per game for the season, but has doubled that average since she moved into the starting lineup on Jan. 8 against Western Illinois.

Meanwhile, Miniffee is averaging 7.8 points per game and is second on the team with 6.4 rebounds per game. She began the season in the starting lineup, and has since become a fixture of the starting five. Miniffee said stepping into the starting lineup was difficult at first, but her teammates helped ease the transition.

"Coach (Beckie) Francis kind of surprised me for our first game telling me that I was starting," Miniffee said. "The first couple games were really nerve-wracking, trying to make sure I didn't mess up, where I was fitting in, that type of thing, but the team made it really smooth. They never made me feel like I was out of place in any way, so it just was like playing basketball all over again."

Glover also credited her teammates for helping her make the jump to the starting lineup.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Oakland University freshmen Zakiya Miniffee (left) and Malika Glover are key contributors for the Grizzlies (11-7) this season. Miniffee and Glover were teammates last year for East Lansing High School.

"I was starting to feel a lot better about the way I was playing, so it was pretty comfortable coming in," Glover said. "The team's really helpful with making you feel like you belong there."

Francis said she has been impressed with the poise shown by the two freshman and their ability to contribute from day one.

"It shows a lot of mental toughness," Francis said. "It shows maturity, but I think it (also) shows hard work on their part and good attitudes."

Rob Smith, who coached Miniffee and Glover in high school, said he's not surprised that either of them are off to such a produc-

tive start in college.

"Malika played like 'Miss Basketball' throughout the state tournament," Smith said. "She did a lot in terms of transition, running the offense and shooting. She became a passionate leader for our team."

"Zakiya rebounded like no one I've ever seen for her size," Smith said. "We called her 'The Beast.' She's one of the most intelligent players I've ever coached."

Smith said the two had great chemistry during their time at East Lansing.

"They played together ever since middle school and they were on the same AAU team," Smith said. "They had a real good feel

for what they were going to do, and they had a really good idea of what we wanted to do in our system. They were good at bringing younger kids into the mix and maturing into leadership roles."

It's possible that the Grizzlies' starting lineup could have featured three players from East Lansing High School, if it were not for an injury.

Sophomore guard Victoria Lipscomb started 23 games for Oakland last season, but has been limited to just three games this season due to a long-term knee injury suffered in November.

Glover and Miniffee said Lipscomb was instrumental in help-

ing them choose to attend OU.

"Victoria is a year older than us, and she's from East Lansing too," Miniffee said. "She talked about how much she loved it and how well the team got along, so it just made it more comfortable to know someone also at the same time."

Once Miniffee signed with OU, Glover quickly followed suit, largely for a chance to reunite with her teammate.

"I knew Victoria had (committed) here, and then (Zakiya) committed," Glover said. "I really liked the environment and everything like that, so I just decided to join them."

Francis said she hopes to continue building a good relationship with the East Lansing program to hopefully land more recruits in the future.

"I really like their program, and it's kind of obvious that it's a good program because of the fact that they won the Class A state championship," Francis said. "It really helps also because I think Rob Smith is a really great coach and very similar in style (to us), so the learning curve is reduced when I sign East Lansing players. That's why Victoria could start last year, and that's why Zakiya and Malika could step right in because they're just so well-coached."

Smith said he has worked with Oakland during recruiting for the last four years.

"We feel like they're in a great place (at Oakland)," Smith said. "Whatever they learn here, Beckie can take them to the next level. I've heard nothing but good things from parents, not just about basketball, but about academics and the school as well."

Huggies and Honu

By Tiffany Sood
Staff Reporter

Three OU students successfully manage to raise k

On Kim Urbanowski's sweater rests a honu pendant — a likeness of the Hawaiian green sea turtle — that tells a piece of the story of her life.

A story that placed her all over the United States, brought her back to Michigan and back to school balancing studying at Oakland University — all while raising her three daughters.

Jasmine Cowl's patterned zip-up sweat-shirt, jeans and long, curly hair braided to the side and fashionably draped over one shoulder make her appear to be a typical 21-year-old college student.

But she goes to class and goes home. She studies, does dishes and cleans. She does homework on the couch and when Michael, her 17-month-old son, crawls into her lap and parks himself next to her pregnant belly and asks what she's doing, she answers.

Jaky Van Dox wasn't supposed to have a child. And it seemed unlikely for her to ever go back to school.

However, she sits in OU's student center, proudly pointing out the scars that pepper the top of her right hand. These thin marks remind her every day that she has a

driven, successful daughter.

Two obvious characteristics make these three women similar: they are each students and mothers, trying to create the perfect balance between the two.

But, they each have very different stories.

Three's company

Urbanowski has figured out how to take care of her children and her schooling simultaneously.

The "military brat" has lived in eight states. The Navy took her father and, thus, her mother, brother and sister, all over the United States, including Hawaii, where the gold pendant was purchased.

She has lived in Michigan with her three daughters — Kirstie, 17, Audrey, 8, and Evelyn, 6 — for the last 16 years. School and her daughters are both jobs for Urbanowski.

"I have two jobs, and they are both equally important, for different reasons," Urbanowski said. "But my kids and their needs, not their wants, always come first."

Urbanowski struggles most with organizing time most. But she's got it down. She has come to appreciate crock-pots that prepare meals in the early part of the day as well as her strict bedtime rules.

Often, she finds her study periods cannot begin until Audrey and Evelyn's bedtime at 8:30 p.m. and homework is sometimes put on pause when other family duties arise.

Kirstie, who is on a slightly later schedule than the rest of the house, sometimes needs to wind down her day of talking with her mother at night.

Sometimes she finds it hard to

put her school first and to tell her kids "no," but says it has to be done. She finds she has to fit everything in with her kids, who are ultimately her first priority.

She lives by her Outlook calendar and her BlackBerry. She thrives on chaos and said quiet drives her crazy.

But after attending Eastern Michigan University, owning "Urban Gourmet" (her own gourmet sweets shop) and being in the Navy, she is going to get the communications degree she wants.

"I wanted the choice of what I wanted to do, not what I had to do," Urbanowski said.

Another on the way

Life is slightly different for Cowl, though no less hectic. Other than expecting another baby boy and having one at home, she's a typical college student.

Cowl, like Urbanowski, is back in school. After her year off to get married and have Michael in 2009, she returned to finish and earn the credentials to be able to teach in an elementary school.

Unfortunately for Cowl, elementary education requires a lot of time outside of school.

After 30 hours volunteering at an elementary school each semester for an education course requirement, Cowl must find time to go to school and find someone to watch Michael while her husband Mitchell works 50 hours a week and takes three classes himself.

So, she strategizes.

Currently, she isn't taking any education courses. Next semester, she hopes to complete her 30 hours in five weeks instead of 10 by volunteering two days a week instead of one.

That's only the beginning for Jasmine, though.

On top of the 30 hours each semester an education class is taken, 70 additional hours of volunteering in an education field must be completed before she can apply to the school.

She said it's difficult not only to make a schedule, but also to find time for everyday things like cooking and cleaning, which make her eyebrows furrow.

But the smile on her face remains.

"Trying to find a parking spot and then having to walk a half mile to class, while pregnant and carrying a giant bag full of books is not fun at all," Cowl said. "By the time I'm halfway to class I'm already feeling like I'm going to die."

Back to school

Van Dox balances school, an internship and a daughter.

Van Dox's situation is different than Urbanowski and Cowl's. She is the mother of a daughter who should have never been.

Van Dox was told very young she had a condition that could endanger both her child and herself if she were to ever become pregnant.

She says now, however, she wouldn't change her decision to have Mae, 28, for the world. After Van Dox put her through college for her bachelor's of science in environmental science, Mae went back for her master's of environmental economics and policy from Columbia University.

"She is my greatest achievement," Van Dox said.

As a single mother, Van Dox set aside her own career in order for Mae to attend college



Jasmine Cowl and her son, Michael

1 box (124 ct.)
of Huggies Little
Movers and 6
pack (25.7 oz.) of
Gerber formula
=\$184.53

Cost of having
natural birth at
hospital
(uninsured)
=\$9-17,000

4-in-1
convertible crib
and stroller with
car seat
=\$439.98

1 Campbell
Biology book,
9th edition
=\$178.40

Homework

se kids and get a college education

and get an education of her own.

After high school, she took two years off from college to ride in the rodeo, where she was sponsored by Anheuser-Busch.

Her riding came to an abrupt end when she and her horse, Jak, had an accident during one of the shows, leaving her with a knee injury that put her in a wheelchair for a year.

On the heels of her recovery, Van Dox became pregnant. The pregnancy went well for her until the last couple of months, which she spent in the hospital with a terrible anemia.

I.V.s left her hands with a constant reminder of the risk she had taken, but in the end, she and her husband had a baby girl.

During Mae's childhood, Van Dox worked hard to support her family, even working four jobs at once, but never missed the important parts of her daughter's life.

"I was always there for her," Van Dox said. "I was her Brownie leader, Girl Scout troop leader, I mean, I did not miss out."

Now, it's her turn.

After creating retail and department store windows, and serving as Creative Director for Ralph Lauren in New York and Nordstrom's lead stylist, she is ready to make her next mark. Her degree will be in journalism, with a focus on advertising.

She currently interns at Driven Solutions, Inc., where she has possibly created the tag line for the new Camaro. She is set to graduate in August.

Van Dox is a firm believer that if you want something badly enough, you will fight for it.

"I can go back (and) get the degree I've al-

ways wanted," Van Dox said. My daughter is grown and it's my turn. I'm 50-plus years old and I'm like, cool I get two lives. Everyone only gets one; I'm going on two."



Kim Urbanowski and her three daughters
Kirstie, Audrey and Evelyn



Jaky Van Dox and her daughter, Mae

1 year of lower
level tuition
(in state) at OU
=\$8,666

1 lower level
credit hour
(in state) at OU
=\$309.50

Professors

have kids,
too

Having kids and going to school may be an unfathomable idea for some people, but it isn't entirely impossible.

"I had two of my three children in graduate school and it was challenging," said Amanda Burgess-Proctor, assistant professor of sociology. "It took a lot of sacrifice and creativity to get things done. I was at a very supportive department at my school and my husband and family were always there too. It was really a team effort, that's for sure."

When Burgess-Proctor was teaching, she brought her infant in while she lectured. She has also allowed other students to bring in their kids when it was necessary.

"I have had (students) bring in younger children," Burgess-Proctor said. "One asked for permission to bring in an infant, which was fine by me if she left when he cried. It didn't affect the class at all."

Burgess-Proctor said she has had to make adjustments to schedules for a variety of reasons, including children issues, but she doesn't give those with kids more of a break.

Even though she has had her own experience with babies and school, Burgess-Proctor doesn't think the girls should give up.

"Don't be afraid to ask for help," she said. "I'm sure people are afraid of asking to bring a child to class, but (professors) are helpful. Also, cut yourself some slack. You have lots of opportunities to feel guilty or like it's impossible, but have confidence in your ability as a mother."

— Nichole Seguin, Features Editor

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Figure skating club offers collegiate skating options

By EMMA CLAUCHERTY
Staff Reporter

Every Sunday evening, the distinct hiss of sharp blades on smooth ice echoes through the Onyx Ice Arena in Rochester. The Figure Skating Club of Oakland University practices there every week from September until mid-February.

The club was founded in 2006 and was previously known as the Synchronized Skating Club of Oakland University, which only offered team-style skating. The team began participating in different disciplines of competitive figure skating in 2010.

Figure Skating Club president Stephanie Hiltunen, a junior health science major, said the club now offers ice dancing and freestyle skating in addition to synchronized skating.

"(Figure skating) is a fantastic sport," Hiltunen said. "To me, there's nothing else like it. I've been skating for about 16 years now, and I just can't imagine a greater feeling than when I step out onto the ice. The team is very welcoming, and it's just a great way to meet new people and get involved."

Sarah Feldt, the club's coach, said reshaping the focus of the team was a challenge at the beginning of the club's season.

"We began the year hoping to field a synchronized skating team, as we have had for the past four years," Feldt said. "By early October, we did not have enough skaters to field a competitive synchronized team, so we decided to go in a different direction. We opted to compete as an intercollegiate freestyle team."

Competing at the intercollegiate level allowed the club's skaters to compete in solo ice dancing and freestyle, as opposed to the open collegiate level of synchronized skating.

"This past season we did intercollegiate competitions and it was great," Hiltunen said. "We could each compete in a different event, and then the points we would earn would get pooled together for the school as a team."

Hiltunen said the team aspect of figure skating is important.

"This is a very team-oriented sport," Hiltunen said. "While we might each be competing in different events, we are there to help and support one another at all times."

The skating club competes about once per month both in and out of the state.

"Different schools and rinks hold competitions every season," Hiltunen said.

The club competes against schools such as the University of Michigan, Western Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Indiana University, Miami University and Grand Valley State University.



STEVE WISEMAN/The Oakland Post

Club president Stephanie Hiltunen performs her program at the Bronco Challenge Cup at Western Michigan University.

Feldt said this season has been a good one despite all the changes the club has gone through.

"Overall it has been a positive experience, and the skaters have all really enjoyed working together as a team and improving their team performance as well as their individual skills," Feldt said. "It has been great to see new friendships form and hear the encouragement and support that each skater has for their teammates. It's exciting to represent Oakland at competitions, and to be a part of collegiate athletics. There's something really unique about skating at the college level."

In the future, the club hopes to expand its program to consist of more than one skating team.

"This season there are seven girls on the team, but we are always looking for more," Hiltunen said. "To compete in open collegiate synchronized skating we need a minimum of eight girls, and we would love for the program to grow enough so we could have two definite intercollegiate and open collegiate teams."

To learn more about the OU skating club and find out when they perform, visit the club's website at www.oufsc.com or visit the Figure Skating Club of Oakland University Facebook page. To get involved with the team, e-mail Hiltunen, at sahiltun@oakland.edu

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Fans cheer Grizzlies to road win

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

In front of approximately 225 students, alumni and faculty, the Oakland University men's basketball team (12-8, 7-0) defeated IPFW 86-68 on the road Saturday to stay perfect in the Summit League conference standings.

In its fourth year, the growing, university-sponsored road trip brought the OU faithful to Fort Wayne to cheer on the team.

"Every year it's grown bigger and bigger, and I think it's primarily because we ask students to get involved — student congress, student leaders and organizations — so more people talk about it," said OU President Gary Russi. "It's been pretty positive."

Russi said before the game that he expected the team to do well, and after a close first half, they didn't disappoint.

In a crucial game with first place on the line against the Mastodons (11-6, 5-2), the Golden Grizzlies found themselves up 19-8 just eight minutes into the game.

Junior Reggie Hamilton, who led the team with a career-high 31 points, had 11 in those first eight minutes. He also contributed five assists and six rebounds.

After controlling most of the first half, OU found themselves up 32-22 with just less than six minutes left in the half. IPFW would come back, however, with a 7-0 run late to cut the Grizzlies' halftime lead to just three, 35-32.

The Mastodons would continue their fight back after the break, eventually leading 44-42 with 16:29 left in the game. After several minutes of back-and-forth play and two lead changes, the Grizzlies used a 13-0 run to take control of the game.

Five players scored during the game-de-



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Saturday's 86-68 road win against IPFW was attended by Oakland University students and alumni as part of the fourth annual road trip to Fort Wayne, Ind.

ciding run, including freshman Ryan Bass, who had an emphatic fast-break dunk.

Partly because of early foul trouble to sophomore Drew Valentine and freshman Travis Bader, Bass played a season-high 15 minutes and scored a career-high 11 points.

"We were in foul trouble, but (Ryan) Bass was unbelievable," Oakland coach Greg Kampe said. "We have a deep team, a good team and we just keep playing."

Despite the early foul trouble, Valentine added 11 points, reaching double figures in

scoring for the sixth time in seven league games.

Senior Keith Benson narrowly missed another double-double, scoring 10 points and grabbing eight rebounds. He also blocked four shots, which gave him a share of the Summit League record with 317 career blocks.

The victory was the men's 18th straight win over a league opponent, as well as their 32nd consecutive league win when leading at halftime.

Oakland takes early lead in Nike's Campus Roar Contest

Nike has created a Campus Roar contest that allows students to submit a phrase, or roar, that Facebook users can vote on.

The top 16 roars will be featured on Nike T-shirts that will be released in March in time for the NCAA Basketball tournament.

Jeff Sondergaard and Lucas Johnson, two members of Oakland University's Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, have started a campaign to help OU capture the top spot.

Sondergaard's submission of "Oh Yeah, OU!" is in first place as of Jan. 18 with more than 1,500 votes.

The Grizzlies' slogan held a 500 vote lead over second place Florida Atlantic University at print time. The contest runs through March 1.

Interested voters must go to www.nike.com/nikeos/p/nike-basketball/en_US/campusroar/ and connect the campus roar site to their Facebook accounts. Once connected, users can vote on existing roars or submit their own.

The Facebook event created by the two students can be found by searching for the "Oh, Yeah OU!" T-shirt campaign.

YOUR ROAR COULD BE THE NEXT NIKE T-SHIRT
Back your school by writing the mantra that could carry your team to the national championship.

#1	O	OH YEAH, OU!
#2	FAU	IT'S OWL TIME!
#3	PITT	JUST ZOO IT.
#4	X	X GONNA GIVE IT TO YA
#5	SLU	SLU IS TRUE BLUE

Screen capture taken from nike.com

A LOOK AT THE SUMMIT

Summit League standings
as of Jan. 18

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Oakland 7-0
IPFW 5-2
IUPUI 5-2
Oral Roberts 5-3
South Dakota St. 4-3
UMKC 3-4
North Dakota St. 3-4
Western Illinois 2-5
Southern Utah 2-5
Centenary 0-8

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

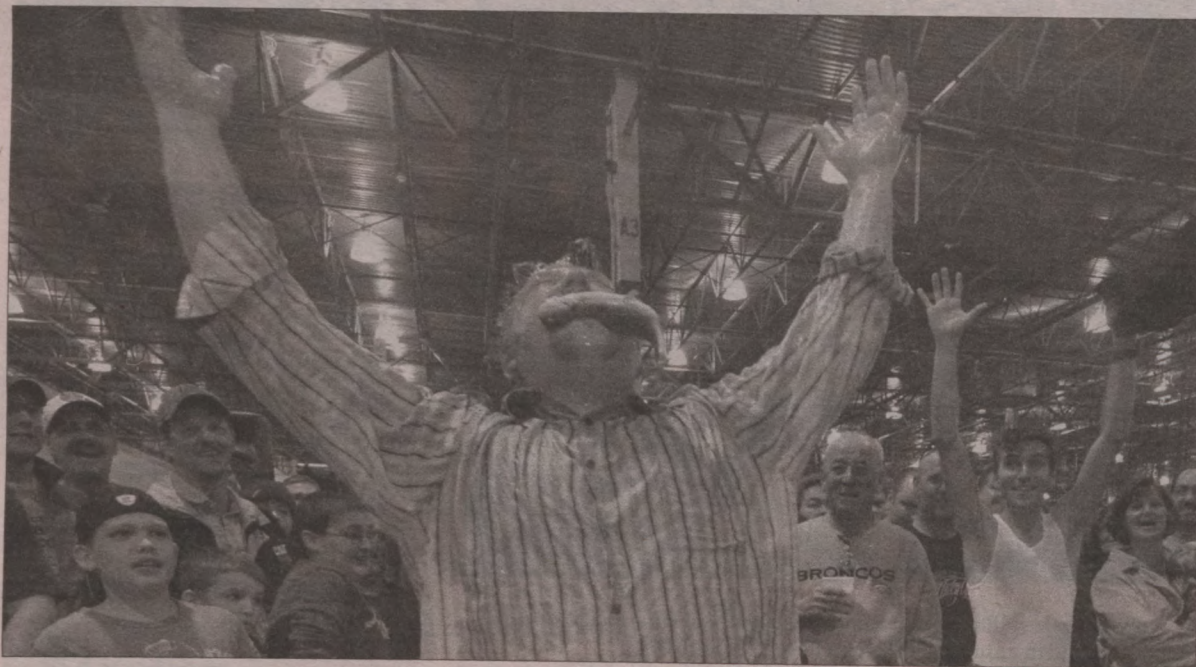
Oral Roberts 8-0
IPFW 5-2
Oakland 5-2
Southern Utah 4-3
North Dakota St. 4-3
South Dakota St. 4-3
Western Illinois 3-4
UMKC 2-5
IUPUI 1-6
Centenary 0-8

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Men's basketball
1/20 at South Dakota State
1/22 at North Dakota State

Women's basketball
1/22 at North Dakota State
1/24 at South Dakota State

Bobbing for trout



A man grabs a live trout with his mouth while participating in the "Bobbing for Trout" competition at the Ultimate Fishing Show held last weekend at the Rock Financial Showroom in Novi. The expo is the state's largest fishing show and included a trout pond for children, casting competitions, boat sales, fishing tackle vendors and more.

Photo courtesy of Tom Huggler

police blotter

Rochester

CREDIT CARD LARCENY:

On Jan. 8, police were notified that a Rochester resident had her credit card information stolen and \$400 was fraudulently charged to the card in New York. There are no suspects at this time.

CHOCOLATE MILK HOME VANDALISM:

On Jan. 8, a Rochester resident in the 300 block of Wesley Street reported that someone had vandalized their house by intentionally pouring chocolate milk on their property. There are currently no suspects and the investigation continues.

OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED:

On Jan. 8, Rochester police observed a vehicle that ran a posted stop sign at Walnut Boulevard and Second Street. The driver, a 27-year-old female from Lapeer, was found to be operating the vehicle under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and later released with a citation for OWI.

Troy

MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:

On Jan. 11, it was reported that the air and electrical lines to a brake system on a semi trailer, which was parked on E. 14 Mile Road, were severed. There are no suspects at this time.

KROGER THEFT:

On Jan. 11, the Troy Police Department was notified that two subjects had participated in gift card theft at Kroger, located on John R Road. The two suspects took several Kroger gift cards by concealing them in a designer purse. The two left the store without activating the cards through a checkout lane.

HOME INVASION:

On Jan. 12, a home invasion was reported on the 1000 block of Charrington Drive. Two TVs, a laptop, iPod, VCR and DVD player and more were taken.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor

Snyder's first State of the State Address: What it means to Michiganders

By JEN BUCCIARELLI
Local Editor

Rick Snyder will give his first State of the State Address today at 7 p.m. as Michigan's new governor. Coverage of the address can be found on Michigan Government Television — MGTV — beginning at 6 p.m.

Many expect the new governor to discuss the state's economic standing, including the deficit for the upcoming fiscal year that begins on Oct. 1 and is estimated to be roughly \$1.8 billion.

"Most, if not all states are in a similar situation, but our economic numbers have been worse than most for some time now," Pat Piskulich, associate professor of political science, said.

Others agree that the governor must address "plans to turn around the state economically, diversify and grow new industries, create a better climate for business and make sure investments are made in infrastructure, health and education," political science professor Paul Kubicek said.

With Snyder's business background, many Michigan residents are looking forward to hearing about his plan for state business tax.

"I think there is greater interest for this one given that we have a new governor whose business past is familiar to many residents," said Alan Epstein, special instructor of political science. His "promise to run the state as a business and to treat citizens as customers sparks both hope and concern."

Political science professor John Klemanski said, "This is the time for government to be innovative and to consider lots of different options. Since he's not a career politician, he can offer possible solutions that might seem a little wild. But I think voters want that — they don't want government to keep doing the same things it's done for 30 years."

According to AnnArbor.com, the Michigan Education Association recently released a five-point plan for education reform that includes increasing efficiency for districts to get the greatest return on investments for students, boosting graduation rates and more.

Klemanski said he tends to pay more attention to such speeches "because I know contained in these State of the State Addresses will be a series of proposals that will become bills submitted to the state legislature for their action and reaction."

More residents might be more inclined to watch this year's address because "people don't necessarily know what to expect from Rick Snyder," Klemanski said.

"I expect the new governor to talk more specifically about his agenda to make Michigan 'a great state again,'" Epstein said.

Global News

ON JANUARY 19 IN HISTORY:

1807 - Robert E. Lee, general of the Confederate army in the Civil War, was born
1809 - Famous American writer and poet Edgar Allan Poe was born
1966 - Indira Ghandi, iconic civil rights leader, became India's prime minister
1993 - Production began on the popular Pixar/Disney film, "Toy Story"
2007 - McDonald's opened its first drive-through in Beijing, China

1 Chicago

Small dogs beware. A 4-pound Chihuahua in suburban Chicago was attacked by a great horned owl when his owner took him for a late-night walk. The owl reportedly swooped down upon the canine and attempted to fly away with it. His owner, George Kalomiris, kept a hold on the dog's leash and successfully scared the owl away. The 3-year-old Chihuahua is still traumatized and refuses to go outside at night, according to Kalomiris.

2 Haiti

Ex-dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier was taken from his hotel this morning by Haitian police and brought to court. The charges and circumstances surrounding the occurrence are still uncertain. The ex-dictator was forced into exile in France due to a mass uprising in 1986 and returned to Haiti in a surprise visit this Sunday. Duvalier supporters tried to prevent the former dictator from being taken away by throwing trash cans and rocks in the police envoy's path.

3 Tunisia

Four of the ministers to the newly appointed government in Tunisia resigned Tuesday. The new government was established Monday after President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's oppressive regime crumbled. The new government is made up of 40 full and junior ministers, and it is unclear whether the recent resignations will affect the new government. Violent protests in central Tunisia broke out following the resignations.

4 Poland

Polish authorities are responding negatively to Russian accusations that the plane crash on April 10 last year in Smolensk, Russia — killing President Lech Kaczynski and most of his cabinet — was entirely Poland's fault due to the pilot's decision to land in dense fog. Polish investigators claimed Tuesday that it was Russian air traffic controllers' fault for not warning the plane's crew that it was off course shortly before the crash. The event revives conflicts the two countries recently have worked to resolve.

— Compiled by Sarah Wojcik,
Senior Reporter, from AP Reports

5 Egypt

A startling number of self-immolations, or setting oneself on fire, have occurred in recent days across North Africa, in Egypt and other countries, including Mauritania and Algeria. Authorities believe that the suicides stem from recent events in Tunisia, when but unemployed Tunisian man set himself ablaze after police harassed him for selling produce without a permit. A widespread revolt ensued and the country's president was overthrown.

6 Russia

A 240-year-old Russian prison, infamous for its inhumane treatment of inmates, is adding a new addition: tanning beds. Federal prison serviceman Viktor Dezhurov is quoted by the ITAR-Tass news agency as saying that the tanning beds are meant to compensate for the lack of sunlight in the prison cells. However, inmates have to pay to use them: 10 rubles (33 cents) per minute. The average monthly salary in Russia is under \$1,000.



WORLD IN NUMBERS

700 People dead last week in Brazil after mudslides caused by flooding

30 Present death toll after flooding last week in Queensland in northeastern Australia

2/3 Fraction of Queensland, Australia left under water after the floods



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

When attempting a relationship with a best friend, sometimes it can be a difficult feat for one of the people involved.

Transforming friendships Going from 'best friend' to 'boyfriend'

By **NICHOLE SEGUIN**
Features Editor

They met while he was working. Throughout her teenage years, she had the biggest crush on him. When they finally started dating, they clicked. Senior Ashley Uhl and her best friend/boyfriend will celebrate their four year anniversary this April.

"We have had our hard times, but I wouldn't change anything in the relationship," Uhl said. "Times were tough and life wasn't easy, but it's the hard times that prove just how strong your relationship is."

Junior Brooke Belbot and her boyfriend also met at work, and though they have had difficulties in the past, they now describe their current relationship as great.

"I feel 100 percent myself around him because we were such good friends before we were ever in a serious relationship," Belbot said. "The only challenges I think we have is that we are so much alike that it sometimes frustrates us. We are both pretty indecisive, so it's sometimes hard to come to decisions about certain things. Other than that, I think we complement each other well."

For these two Oakland University students, their best friends turned into the loves of their lives. But that isn't the case for everyone.

"One of my friends started dating her best friend after over a year of him being madly in love with her," said Lisa Coppola, a junior majoring in mathematics. "They weren't even in a relationship for a year and just broke up last week. It was terrible. They don't even talk anymore and I'm just thrown in the middle of it."

According to Dr. Terri Orbuch, professor of sociology and "The Love Doctor" on Fox News every Saturday, having a relationship with a best friend is difficult and often impossible.

When sex is thrown in to the mix, like in the upcoming Ashton Kutcher and Natalie Portman movie, "No Strings Attached," she said that it can sometimes mean more for one person than the other.

"I think that what is important is that both people need to sit down ahead of time and talk, so one person doesn't get the wrong idea," Orbuch said. "It will also ensure that one person doesn't have the wrong expectations. It's very important if that's what the two people want."

Orbuch said that the difference between a friendship and a romantic relationship is a different set of rules for each type of relationship.

"Love is a more intense feeling," Orbuch said. "Two people that are in a romantic relationship spend more time with each other and when the boundaries are blurred, some rules get confusing. Friends don't know if they should feel jealous of other people or if they're supposed to run to the other one for support. Sometimes adding sex to a previous friendship can break it up, which happens a lot, unfortunately."

Orbuch's list says that friends are less exclusive and do not feel the need to get jealous of other relationships or if they're supposed to be on call for support. Love is also more intense and those two people spend most of their time together.

Though Orbuch argues that men are more likely to have sex to gain emotional commitment or closeness and women need emotional commitment or closeness to have sex, there are various other factors that play in the decision-making, she said.

"It's more likely to be a cohort difference rather than an age difference," Orbuch said. "When you're raised, your standards of sex, what the media was like and what was okay and not is different. College also influences people to have much more of a 'now' situation."

Although voyaging into a deeper relationship may be a troubling idea for some people, others like Uhl wouldn't have it any other way.

"I wouldn't change anything in our relationship," Uhl said. "Dating your best friend can be a double-edge sword, but it will work out for you if it's meant to be."

Though dating your best friend might be a challenge, some couples are finding it entirely possible.

4.0 professor profiles ✓ Weekly spotlight on OU professors

Jennifer Lucarelli
Assistant Professor, Health Science

It is not uncommon for students to change majors, minors and even entire career paths over the course of their collegiate careers. Finding the perfect use for a broad scope of interests is often one the most challenging pursuits the journey. This was true for Jennifer Lucarelli, assistant professor of health science.



During college, Lucarelli pursued multiple areas of study, acquiring a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree exercise science and a Ph.D in nutrition, all of which proved to be relevant in the health science field.

"People often look at me like I'm crazy and they say, 'You couldn't make up your mind, why couldn't you just pick a field and go with it?'" Lucarelli said. "But I'm actually glad that I went around the block and got all three degrees because they are all so related to health behaviors."

OU's class sizes are the perfect fit for Lucarelli, whose previous experience with college enrollment at Central Michigan University and Michigan State University made her value teaching at a university with a classroom setting that would allow her to foster strong relationships with her students.

Lucarelli has a great sense of humor and loves finding ways to incorporate fun learning into her classes.

"Everybody's had that class that you dread going to ... so if I can make people want to come learn and make what we're learning relatable to them then it makes the whole experience more enjoyable, it makes people want to come to Oakland and be proud of their degree," Lucarelli said.

Aside from the university, Lucarelli is also passionate about traveling with her husband in his pursuit to run marathons in all 50 states. Her favorite destination so far has been Hawaii, where they scheduled their wedding so that the honeymoon weekend would coincide with a marathon. Although she prefers to cheer on her husband from the sidelines, Lucarelli has participated in numerous sprint triathlons and is interested in advancing her running abilities this summer.

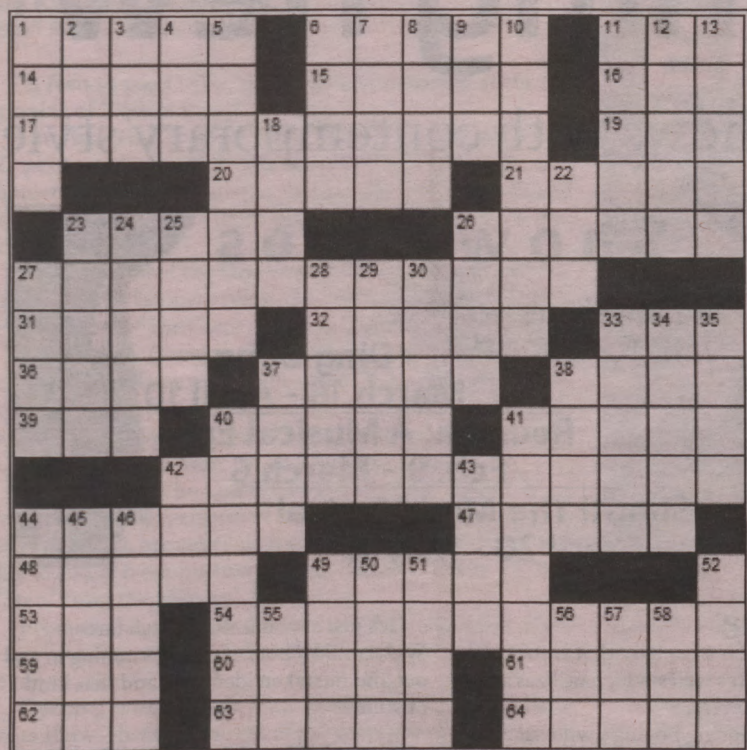
— Nicole Friess-Peters, Staff Intern



WEEKLY CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Cancel
6. Command
11. Rodent
14. Wavelike design
15. Interlace
16. How old one is
17. Enforced
19. Vitality
20. Fritter away
21. Puppy
23. Kind of spray
26. A bathroom necessity
27. A voluntary gift
31. Requested
32. Not married
33. Tattered cloth
36. Brown algae
37. Supplemented
38. Prefix for "After" or "Beyond"
39. Center of a hurricane
40. Ire
41. Tart citrus fruit
42. Marked by initiative
44. What's left behind
47. Marble
48. The sound of a bagpipe
49. Gash

DOWN

1. In the center of
2. French for "Name"
3. Bite
4. Web site address
5. Away from the wind
6. Is indebted to
7. Apartment payment
8. Romantic encounter
9. Biblical first woman
10. Sequoia
11. "Bolero" composer
12. Nimble
13. Entice
18. Landlocked republic in NW Africa
22. Ancient unit of liquid measure
23. Inquisitive
24. The joint just above the foot
25. Stair
26. Fastened
27. A birthday dessert
28. Move very slightly
29. Not over
30. Pipsqueak
33. Send, as payment
34. Do penance
35. An association of criminals
37. Initial wager
38. Big butte
40. Deer horns
41. Cigarette igniter
42. Hearing organ
43. Reckless
44. An analytic literary composition
45. Go blading
46. Periodic rise and fall of the sea
49. Killed
50. Not pre-recorded
51. Matured
52. Graven image
55. Prefix meaning "New"
56. Before
57. Short sleep
58. French for "Summer"

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'A little something new'

Meadow Brook Theatre brings Broadway shows with contemporary style

By SARAH WOJCIK
Senior Reporter

Travis Walter, the artistic director at Meadow Brook Theatre, said he is working hard to restore the theater's world class reputation.

This semester, he is directing each of the four productions Meadow Brook Theatre is putting on: "39 Steps," "Reunion: A Musical Epic," "Ding Dong" and "Shout! The Mod Musical."

"I'm trying to give our audience something new—that's sort of what my theme has been," Walter said. "A little something new that is reminiscent of the past and the shows that (the audience) likes."

Walter is successfully striving to bring many Michigan and North American premieres to the theater, including "39 Steps" and "Ding Dong," from a large number of sources, including Broadway and London. "(We are) trying to show (the audience) that there are other people that are still writing out there that are contemporary, who still write in the style that (they) like," Walter said.

The normal age group ranges from 30 to 60, according to Walter. However, the theater would love to have more students.

Meadow Brook Theatre offers \$10 student tickets with ID at the door the day of the show.

The run time of shows is approximately two hours, with a 15-minute intermission.

'39 Steps'

"The 39 Steps" follows the plot of the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock film, however, while it is still a suspense thriller, Walter likes to call it a "comedic thriller" because four people play all of the characters in the production.

The result is lots of quick changes and comic bits throughout the show.

Several of the actors play well over a dozen characters, including some inanimate objects.

"It's been really fun watching the audience too because they're just laughing nonstop through the entire show," Walter said. "It's pretty fabulous."

The plot follows the story of an unassuming man who takes a woman home and finds out she's a spy.

When she dies, he is accused of the murder and has to go on the run, looking for the information she told him could clear his name.

'Reunion: A Musical Epic'

"Reunion" is fundamentally a retelling of the Civil War as seen through the eyes of the North.

What makes the piece unique is its authenticity. All of the words in the show are actually pulled from letters, memoirs, diary entries and newspapers that were written by men and women living during the Civil War.

Walter calls it a "living documentary."

Showtimes

The 39 Steps on sale now!
Jan. 5 - 30

Ding Dong
March 16 - April 10

Reunion: A Musical Epic
Feb. 9 - March 6

Shout! The Mod Musical
April 20 - May 15

'Ding Dong'

"Ding Dong" is a comedy that is part of Marc Camoletti's series which utilizes all of the same characters.

Because of Boeing Boeing's wild success at Meadow Brook Theatre last year, the theater is choosing to showcase another of the playwright's comedies.

The show has only been performed in London, but Walter attained permission to produce it as a North American premiere.

The show is about a man who discovers his wife is cheating on him. The wife's lover tells the man that, as a businessman, he needs compensation and gives him the choice of either allowing him to have an affair with his wife or death. The man consents and brings a hired call girl to their arranged dinner to pretend to be his wife, but his wife shows up later in the show.

"It's just a wonderful French farce," Walter said. "Lots of people running in and out and mistaken identities and that kind of stuff."

'Shout! The Mod Musical'

"Shout!" is a musical about the 1960s.

"It has all the Dusty Springfield music, Lulu and Petula Clark and stuff like that," Walter said, "but it goes into the 1960s fashions as well."

The show is about five women, all from different walks of life, that come together to reminisce about the '60s.

Meadow Brook Theatre chose to end the season with "Shout!" because the flashback factor and high-energy spirit will close spring out with a bang.

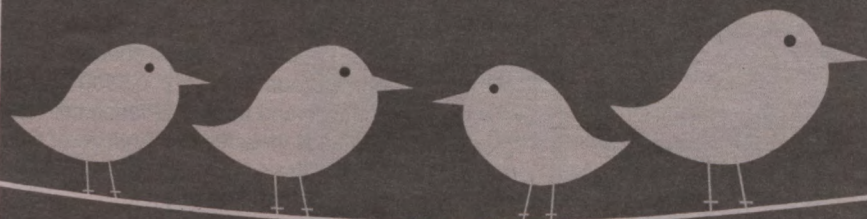
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Eminem, local and live

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Staff Reporter

"It feels so good to be back!" Eminem screamed at the beginning of "Square Dance."

Late last year, Detroit native Eminem, along with Jay-Z, performed a pair of concerts each in their respective hometowns. Featuring other artists like Drake, B.o.B and Kanye West among others, each show had their own special guests.

What separated the Detroit show from the NYC performance is that Eminem released a free live album from that evening titled "The Comeria Park Mixtape."

While "The Comeria Park Mixtape" is not the entire concert from that evening in Detroit, it does feature the entire Eminem set and a few songs from sets of 50 Cent, D12 and Dr. Dre, overall 22 tracks (each track contains two to three songs) and almost two full hours of music.

What makes "The Comeria Park Mixtape" special is the variety of songs performed. Eminem features songs from every point in his career such as "Renegade," which features Jay-Z and is from his first album, The Slim Shady LP, and "Stan," from the Marshall Mathers LP.

From the beginning of the mixtape, Eminem is full of energy and shows his love for the city and his fans in almost every track.

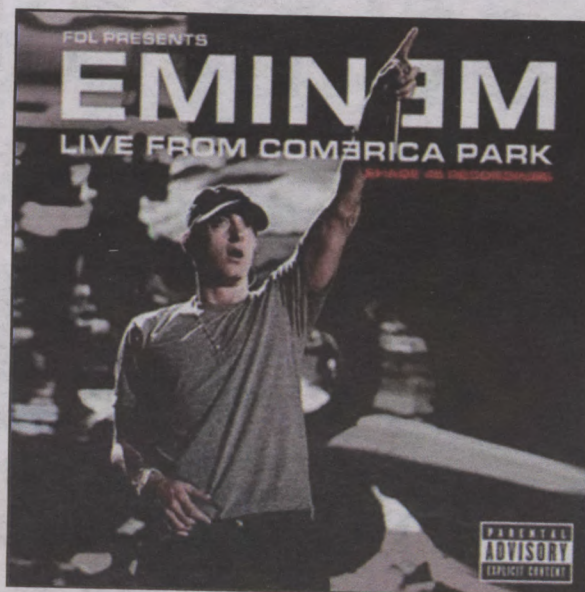
Opening with "Won't Back Down" and "3 A.M.," Eminem shows that his time out of the spotlight in Rehab hasn't slowed him down at all.

Midway through the show, he brought on his crew D12 to perform "Fight Music," "Purple Pills" and "My Band" from their 2004 album.

Soon after the D12 set, the audience was surprised with Young Money member Drake and Eminem performing their verses in "Forever" without Lil Wayne, who was serving time in jail.

"I'm so honored to be here tonight," said Drake, at the end of Forever, giving respect to his musical counterpart. "This is history in the making and I want you to make some noise for the legend, Eminem."

Considerably one of the great moments on the mixtape



is when Eminem and Dr. Dre performed the classic hip-hop song "Nuthin' But a 'G' Thang" with Eminem rapping Snoop Dogg's verse with the same smooth vocals as the Long Beach native.

Ending with a song from the movie "8 Mile," "Lose Yourself," Eminem concluded the show with a bang, and it seemed fitting the show ended with a song that brought his career to a whole new level.

"Everybody in here, I want to thank you for the support you have shown me, and for not giving up on me," said Eminem. "Especially you Detroit. I love you!"

Even for those who aren't a fan of Eminem, respect for his influence on the image of the city and state is deserved. This night was one that shouldn't be forgotten in the history of music in Detroit.

Luckily, because of this album, even those not present at the concert can be a part of it.

"The Comeria Park Mixtape" is available at www.987ampradio.radio.com

records & reels

THE SCRIPT // "Science and Faith"



Following up their critically acclaimed self-titled debut, the members of The Script are returning with the melodies and epic hooks that made them a success.

Recorded in both London and Dublin over a period of a year, "Science & Faith" is sure to please.

THE DECEMBERISTS // "The King is Dead"

Indie favorite The Decemberists return with "The King is Dead," an album of 10 country-based tracks.

Featuring Americana vocalist Gillian Welch and legendary R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck, this new album shows the growth of the band.



THE COMPANY MEN // 113 min. // R



Bobby Walker (Ben Affleck) has everything a man could want: a decent job, a family and a home. When corporate downsizing leaves him and his co-workers out on the street, the men are forced to define their newly unemployed life

not only as workers, but as human beings.

NO STRINGS ATTACHED // 132 min. // R

Emma (Natalie Portman) and Adam (Ashton Kutcher) almost ruin their friendship of many years by having sex, but decide to keep their friendship as "no strings attached." While doing whatever they want seems great, what happens when one starts to fall in love?



— Compiled by Kevin Romanchik, Staff Reporter

New methods of charging, even on the go

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY
Scene Editor

In a world fueled by laptops and smartphones, one of the most aggravating annoyances can be credited to a red battery icon, signaling an imminent death of the device.

Thankfully, many companies have taken significant steps in implementing new methods of charging the devices many people use daily.

As of this Monday, the FastMac TruePower UCS Socket began shipping to various places of the world, allowing those who purchase the wall accessory to power electrical gadgets via USB and three prong outlets.

The wall socket features a pair of

110-volt power outlets, standard to most household sockets, as well as two USB ports to charge electronics such as mobile phones, iPods and digital cameras.

The U-Socket sells for under \$20 and can be installed on any existing wall outlet.

The U-socket can be found for purchase at store.fastmac.com

For charging on the go, solar powered backpacks use rays from the sun to charge up devices when no outlets are available.

While higher-end models cost a pretty penny, some are available for under \$100.

For one specific brand, Voltaic Systems, the solar pocket estimates four

watts of solar power, or one hour in the sun, will power devices for three hours of talk time.

An included universal USB battery stores power to charge up to 19 hours of talk time or 48 hours of music playback.

The V-Dimension solar powered backpack, available for \$100 at Best Buy, features eight charger connections, powered off of a single grid of panels on the back of the bag.

For students who want to charge the standard way, OUSC introduced charging stations to the Oakland Center. Students can drop off devices, along with the charger, to the Welcome Center in the OC for the device to safely gather juice.

Hey, what's your sign?

The answer is far more ambiguous than you think

By **DAN FENNER**

Senior Editor / identity crisis survivor

I've been living a lie.

For 22 years, I've happily adhered to the path set forth by the ancient astrologers and their infinite wisdom of the Zodiac.

Thanks to the astrological signs, which are assigned by birth date, I've known exactly what type of person I am, who I am compatible with and why I am prone to behaving as I do.

All of this made for a splendidly convenient way to combat my indecisive tendencies. Living life was easier when I could start each day by simply reading my horoscope to brace myself for what was to come.

But last Thursday, some Astro-jerks from the Minnesota Planetarium Society had to go and ruin the fun for everybody. By now I'm sure you've heard.

Apparently, due to 2,000 years of the moon's gravitational pull on the Earth and some other complex, scientific happenstance, the stars realigned and shuffled the Babylonians' sign assignments.

In an instant, I went from being a practical, hard-working Capricorn to a blindly optimistic, tactless Sagittarius.

The proverbial rug had been pulled from underneath me. I became an aimless ship coasting in uncharted waters, crewed by a bunch of drunken sailors. And who could blame them for guzzling the sauce? They too were probably thrown into disarray when they caught wind of the news.

Introducing Ophiuchus

The biggest revelation was the addition of a 13th sign, Ophiuchus. How are we to understand the traits and nuances of this new sign if we can't even pronounce it? OPP-I-KUS? OFF-UH-CHUS? UFF-I-CUSS? Who is to say what's what?

Those unfortunate enough to be burdened with this new, mysterious sign — those born between Nov. 29 and Dec. 17 — are now left without an identity. They are a faceless people left to toil in uncertainty.

The plight of the Ophiuchusians to forge a new selfhood will provide a fascinating case study for the droves of anthropologists in search of actual work to do.

Little is known about the inherent demeanor of these people, though I've



SARAH WOJCIK/The Oakland Post

When news of a 13th astrological sign broke last week, Senior Editor Dan Fenner looked to a higher power for guidance. At last we heard, he's still waiting for reply.

read they are generally trustworthy and talented. Maybe a little too talented. Like obnoxiously talented. It's like, "Okay, Oph, we get it. You're really good with a Rubik's Cube."

Adding a 13th sign just throws the whole thing off. It's like a last-minute addition to a party planned for 12. Everyone gets a little less elbow room at the dinner table as they try not to sneer at the guy who's responsible.

The number 13 is just unsettling. Who the hell wants a baker's dozen anyway? Surely not the 12 Apostles or the 12 Angry Men. Try forcing another year of grade school on a high school senior. See how that goes over.

George Clooney learned the hard way when he made "Ocean's Thirteen." Sometimes you've just gotta know when to

throw in the towel.

The Ophiuchus constellation depicts a man wrestling with a serpent, which will automatically draw the ire of the people who got stuck with the Cancer sign. In terms of badassery, a snake wrestler trumps just about everything.

Refuting refuting reports

Within hours of the controversial claims by the moony-Minnesotans, a war was raging between astrologists and their sworn enemies — real scientists.

The mudslinging began when renowned star-gazer Stella McStarlet wrote a scathing letter to the editor to the aptly named Minnesota Star Tribune, which first broke the news.

"This nonsense is 2,000 years old," McStarlet wrote. "You can't rewrite history

and throw millions of avid horoscope readers' lives into chaos."

In reply, historians turned to the ancient writings of Aristotle for his limitless wisdom. They were discouraged, however, when translators unveiled a single line of theorizing from the famous bearded sage: "Hell if I know!"

The greatest effects of this constellation conundrum were seen on social networking sites where the Internet played host to an endless stream of panic-stricken Tweets and status updates.

"I don't know who I am anymore," people cried. Thousands of people donning cliché Zodiac tattoos instantly became even more foolish-looking when their cherished emblem migrated over to a new group of unsuspecting simpletons.

More interesting is the necessary reinterpretation of the classic pickup line, "Hey good looking, what's your sign?" Answering the question is no longer as simple as backing away slowly from the inquisitive creeper. The duality of the answer as you contemplate your signs, old and new, will have you staring blankly into space.

And what about all of those people who were banking on astrological compatibility when they chose their spouse? Do the changes constitute grounds for divorce?

Also, feel free to cite an acute identity crisis as your all-purpose excuse for misbehavior and general laziness.

A whole new approach

So where do I go from here? My fellow sea goats-turned-archers and I must learn to embrace our newly-adopted personality traits. Sixty seconds of Internet research suggested that I should turn my romantic sights to Taureans and bid farewell to the Aries contingent.

This sudden shift in mindset has admittedly been difficult to accept.

Upon hearing the news, I immediately began questioning the entirety of my life, wondering what could (or should) have been had I always lived by the Sagittarian code.

So I did what any red-blooded American man would do: I got out my telescope and contemplated the stars, hoping to find solace in the vast, infinite abyss of the skies.

But I found no answers.

You folks are on your own.