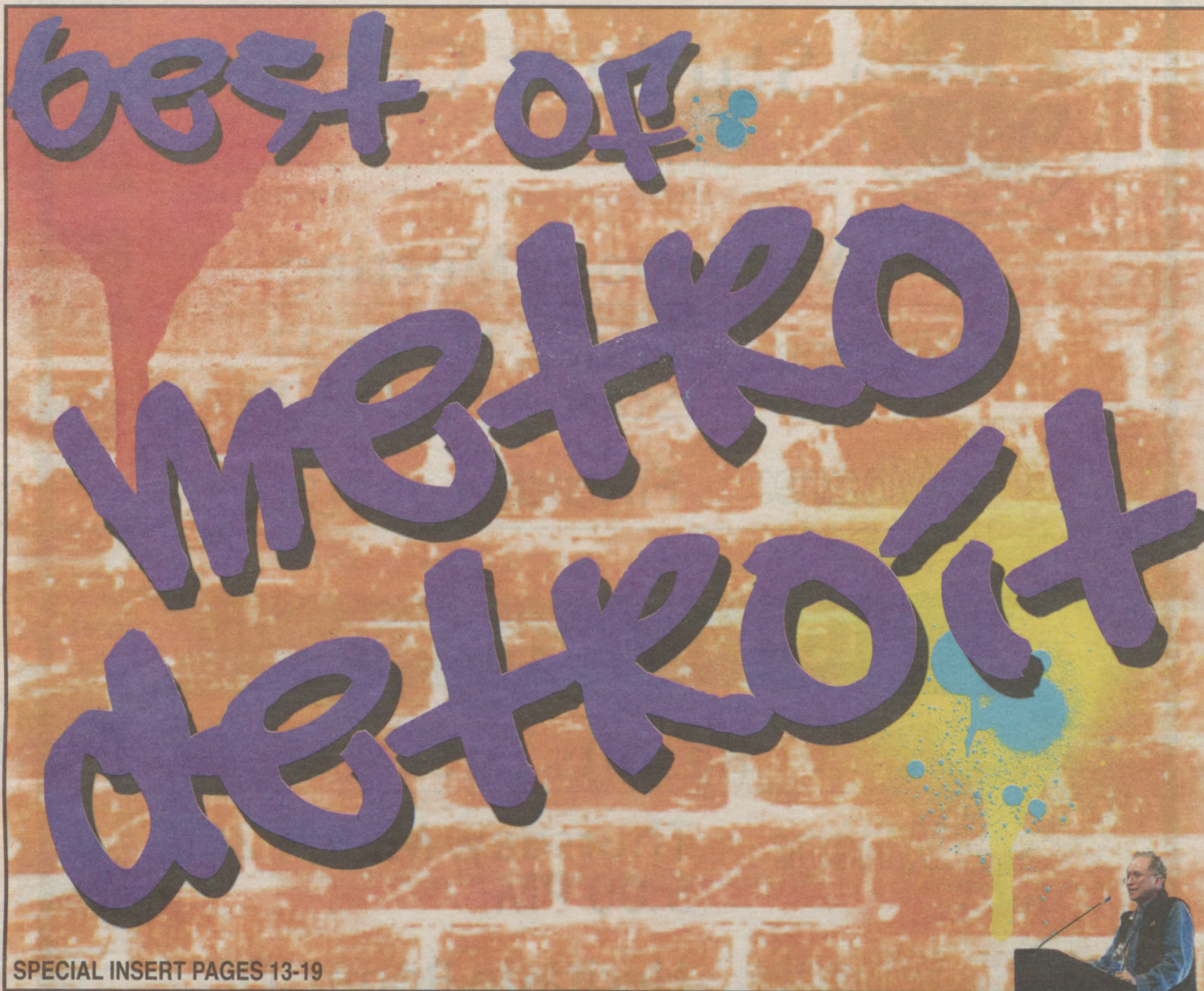


THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 25, 2009

Volume 35, Number 24



SPECIAL INSERT PAGES 13-19

CAMPUS

Former radical Bill Ayers speaks in the Oakland Center about equality in education amid protests

page 6





Student Congress

Validations Meeting

When: Friday, March 27
Starting at NOON

Where: Fireside Lounge

LOTS OF FREE FOOD!

Results Show

When: Thursday, March 26
5:00 PM

Where: Heritage Room, OC



COME MEET THE STUDENTS WHO REPRESENT YOU!

THIS WEEK 3.25.09

THE OAKLAND POST
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIAL

Lindsey Wojcik
Editor in Chief
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-4268

Colleen Miller
Managing Editor
oakpostmanaging@gmail.com
(248) 370-2537

Dan Fenner
Sports Editor
oakpostsports@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

John Gardner
Web Master
(248) 370-4266

Brooke Hug
Photo Editor
oakpostphoto@gmail.com
(248) 370-4266

COPY EDITORS
Katie Jacob
Donna Lange-Tucker
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2849

Amanda Meade
Scene/Mix Editor
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

SENIOR REPORTERS
Sean Garner
Joe Guzman
Rory McCarty
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2849

Masudur Rahman
Campus Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

STAFF REPORTERS
Kay Nguyen
Mackenzie Roger

Tim Rath
Web Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

STAFF INTERNS
Wibke Richter
Kathleen Quandt
Ashleigh Quinn
Brad Slazinski

Thomas Rowland
Multimedia Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

ADVISOR
Holly Gilbert
Dept. of Journalism
shreve@oakland.edu
(248) 370-4268

ADVERTISING | MARKETING

Sarah Lang
Lead Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Steve St. Germain
Marketing Director
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-426

Jillian Field
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Mallory Lapanowski
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Cover illustration by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post



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See what students had to say about the OUSC elections after they put in their votes for legislators, student body president and vice president. Page 7



Local page 11

A Commerce Township grocery store celebrates Michigan products.



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The series on how academic departments are preparing students for a changing economy looks at the School of Business.



Sports page 22

Anders Jensen looks to finish off his freshman swimming campaign with a strong showing at the Summit League Championships.



the Scene page 26

The Oakland Post interviews the director of "Knowing," a movie about the end of the world.



The Mix page 28

Litter is everywhere — especially on campus. Students discuss littering and recycling.



MOUTHING OFF page 30

Creating your own spray deodorant is easier and more profitable than you could have ever imagined. Senior Reporter Rory McCarty explains how.



Nation | World page 32

A plane crash in Montana kills 14 people and the crash of a FedEx cargo plane kills two.

Best of 2009

Check out an
interactive map with
photos and video on
select Best of venues
seen on pages 13-20

Only on
oaklandpostonline.com

Do we only vote if we're bought?

– The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Pope wrongly condemns condoms

Katie Wolf
Guest Columnist



On March 17 my day started out like any other day. It was a Tuesday, so that meant I had to go to my Radio-TV Newswriting class. Every Tuesday we have a news quiz. One of the questions on the quiz was something along the lines of "who said today that condoms will not help solve the AIDS crisis in Africa?" I was in shock. Who would be so stupid to say that? I didn't know the answer, so I wrote a joke instead, hoping to at least get a laugh from the professor for partial credit.

For those of you who haven't heard about this story yet, the correct answer is "The Pope." It was Pope Benedict XVI who said HIV/AIDS is "a tragedy that cannot be overcome by money alone, that cannot be overcome through the distribution of condoms, which can even increase the problem."

This has sparked a lot of anger across the world. BBC News reports that many states of the European Union are criticizing the pope for his remarks.

CNN's Roland S. Martin wrote a heated article regarding this as well, saying, "Frankly, Pope Benedict clearly shows he doesn't get it."

My favorite commentary on this issue was from The Daily Show's Jon Stewart: "The pope went on to say that smoking cures cancer, and that if you're looking for a quick morning pick-me-up, try heroin ... But who am I to argue with the pope? I mean, if anyone is the expert on sex ...," he trailed off as the audience began to laugh.

Picking up where Stewart left off, I'm going to go out on a limb here and say the pope should stick to things he knows. Sex is not one of them. And if he's going to do otherwise, he should at least be intelligent. He completely missed the mark on this one.

In an area that's heavily influenced by the spread of HIV/AIDS, it's frustrating that this is the route the pope is choosing to take. It's completely naïve, if not irresponsible, to withhold information and resources on safe sex under the assumption that people are listening to what Catholicism teaches in regards to sex. It's the concept of theory versus practice: Abstinence and marital fidelity are great in theory.

Surely those methods are the best ways to prevent the spread of all STDs (I don't think there's any argument about that). But this theory is rarely put into practice — especially when according to Vatican figures, baptized Catholics make up only about 17 percent of the population in Africa.

This issue runs deeper than the pope's ignorant com-

"But who am I to argue with the pope? I mean, if anyone is the expert on sex ..."

— Jon Stewart, The Daily Show

ment. Clearly the use of condoms will not spread HIV/AIDS. I suppose what he meant was that endorsing the use of condoms will promote sexual activity, which puts people at a higher risk of contracting the disease.

We get it already! The pope doesn't approve of pre-marital sex and infidelity. But come on, we have to be realistic. It's time to stop this fairy tale where all people abstain from sex unless they're married. Until the pope can find a way to stop sex from feeling good, people are still going to have sex.

Time.com ran an interesting article on March 19 about sex education, titled "How to End the War over Sex Ed." I think the pope would be a better man for reading it. Or at least he would be a smarter man.

Many people will argue about which and how much information needs to be provided when it comes to sex. But I think that we all want people to be healthy and safe. In order for this to happen, we need to stop sweeping the issue of sex under the rug and face it head on. "Don't do it" just isn't cutting it anymore. Sex can be fun. Sex can be dangerous. Sex, above all else, should not be taken lightly. That's the message we need to be sending.

If any of you are wondering what my answer on the news quiz was, I wrote this: "An idiot." I stand by my answer completely.

Counting the little things

Wibke Richter
Web Intern

Heading home on I-75 after a long day on campus filled with you-have-to-know-this-for-the-exam lectures, something nice and unexpected happened to me a few days ago. No, no one called me on my old-fashioned flip phone to tell me that I won an iPhone. And no, the potholes between Exit 79 and 74 did not disappear just because bailout dollars for improving Michigan's infrastructure are in sight.

Instead, something really simple happened: a truck driver smiled and gave a friendly wave so that I could safely change lanes after I was squeezed in between his and another truck. He must have seen my stressed and scared look while my brain was feverishly working on a quick solution to find my way out of the uncomfortable BLT sandwich situation.

It might sound weird, but the fact that someone did something nice for me after a tiring day turned my otherwise dull commute into an uplifting ride and made me smile. Once at home, I felt like socializing. I grabbed my laptop and walked over to my neighbor's

for a coffee and to show her some pictures from my spring break in Europe. She just had a baby and for her, a chat with a friend must have been like the truck driver's smiling gesture for me: something nice.

On the way home, I met my other neighbor walking on the sidewalk to her daughter's house for dinner. She is a cute old Russian lady in her 90s who doesn't speak any English. When she saw me, she started talking excitedly, opened her arms and gave me a hug. For a few seconds, I didn't know what was going on. But her behavior made my heart jump. She pointed on the ground and then I understood.

The contractor who is building a new house on the street had finally repaired the wide gap in the sidewalk that the snow melt created. After I saw my neighbor walking in the street to avoid tripping, I called the city to take care of the problem. After all, people in Michigan shouldn't walk in the street if even driving in a car can be a dangerous undertaking.

While the day seemed to be a gray one first, I felt really awesome in the evening. I was reminded that little things make me feel happy and fortunate. Those who don't come across smiling truck drivers or cute old ladies and who find it hard to cheer up, should check out www.1000awesomethings.com and reconsider the bright and sunny side of life.

Loose Threads

Thanks Leno

"I think what Leno is doing is totally awesome because the people that are struggling in our poor economy really deserve a break!! I think that more entertainers should get involved and this might help boost the moral of the people."

— mfrancov

(In response to the Entertainment blog "Leno bringing a new 'Plan' to Detroit")

Disturbed

"While reading the 'Mouthing Off' section of the OP during the week of 3/15, I found this article to be disturbingly inflammatory even for a column, especially for a newspaper I feel liberally advocates equality on every page."

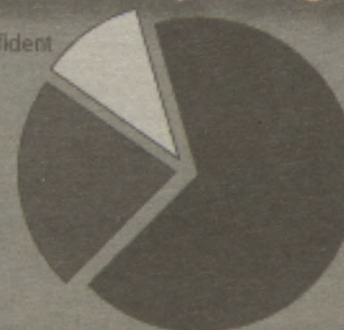
— Mark LeMerise

How confident are you in finding a job in your area of study after graduation?

11.1% — I'm confident in myself and my abilities and not worried at all.

22.2% — I haven't even begun thinking about it yet.

66.7% — I'm freaking out, man.



Bill Ayers stresses equality

By KAY NGUYEN
Staff Reporter

Supporters cheered and protestors jeered as Bill Ayers took the stage Tuesday on the Oakland University campus to talk about equality in education.

About 150 students, faculty, staff, community members and local media gathered in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms to see Ayers, an author and University of Illinois at Chicago education professor and senior scholar.

Some came to hear his views on education reform and democracy.

Others came to protest his appearance, taking issue with his "terrorist" past.

He was involved with the radical-left 1960s organization, the Weather Underground, and participated in bombings of the Capitol building, the Pentagon and the New York City Police Headquarters in the 70s. The criminal charges against him were dropped.

Chris Kobus, associate professor of mechanical engineering at OU, said he was a student when a pipe bomb blew up parts of OU's Kresge Library and South Foundation hall in 1990.

He did not think OU should be bringing a "terrorist" onto OU's campus, especially because an OU student detonated a pipe bomb on campus 19 years ago. He carried a sign that read "OU bombed in 1990 - bombed again on 3-24-09."

Ayers openly discussed his anti-war activism during the 1960s and 1970s when presented with questions and banter from protestors.

"I do not regret anything I did to protest the war," said Ayers in response to an audience member's question. "We need more ways to oppose these injustices, just in new ways."

OU Police Department officers kept everything under control, and aside from the occasional comments from protestors, the event went smoothly.

The event was sponsored by OU's Students for a Democratic Society, along with the departments of history, sociology, political science, communication and journalism, and the School of Education and Human Resources.

Andrew Bashii, SDS president, said he hopes that events like these will stimulate student thinking, especially with regard to democracy.

A key topic of Ayers' lecture was the urban school system, as Ayers is tied to the Chicago Public School System. Many audience members brought up the recent

events of the Pontiac School District as well as Detroit Public Schools.

Ayers spoke of the education decisions the "wisest and most privileged of parents" make for their children. He also spoke of schools in the CPS district that could spend only a fraction of what a public school district further north could and the inequalities of the arrangement.

"All of us have to create a conversation where we change our thinking that has dominated our thought for so long," Ayers said. "Every human being has immeasurable value."

About 20 students, faculty, alumni and local community members gathered in the back of the room to protest Ayers' appearance on campus. They held signs with statements like "keep terrorists off OU" and "terrorists aren't teachers."

The majority of the audience simply sat to listen to Ayers talk. His appearance elicited a wide range of reactions as he was greeted with "boos" and a chorus of hands clapping.

"We cannot stop him from coming, but we just plan on showing that people do not approve of him, his methods, and of him coming to speak," said senior political science major and OU's College Republicans member Jim Arapostathis. "He is a terrorist for crying out loud."

The department of communication and journalism had been inundated with calls and e-mails during the weeks before the event, in favor of and against it.

"I am delighted that they are protesting; a university has to spark thinking," said communications and journalism department chair Sharon Howell. "Thinking is not hearing what you already agree with."

A Freedom of Information Act request was made for any documents and e-mails pertaining to Ayers' visit.

"As a taxpayers' advocate, it is shameful to see people applauding him," said Glenn Clark, chair of the Michigan 9th district Republican committee. "Our tax dollars are paying this man who has committed terrorist acts."

Howell said Ayers did not take a speaker fee, but the catering bill was \$500, funded by host departments, which are partially funded by taxpayer money.

A specialist in elementary education theory, Ayers spoke of the inequalities in the American education system.

SDS member Micah Fialka-Feldman was instrumental to the planning of the event, as Ayers is a family friend. Ayers referred to Fialka-Feldman and his



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
People sit and listen to Bill Ayers, and some hold protest signs and flags in the back of the room.



BRAD SLAZINSKI/The Oakland Post
Bill Ayers answers questions from audience.



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
Protesters hold signs outside the Gold Rooms.

struggle with campus housing and equality during his talk.

Fialka-Feldman is currently embroiled in a lawsuit with OU after making many attempts to live on campus. He has been denied access to campus housing because he is not an admitted student, but attends OU through the OPTIONS program, which lets students with cognitive disabilities audit classes.

Ayers has written letters in support of Fialka-Feldman's fight to university officials and the board of trustees.

"Not every student is treated equally," said Ayers of Fialka-Feldman. "It is still happening here at [OU], one of the most forward universities with regards to welcoming people with disabilities."

"Every one of us has to open our eyes and do something," Ayers said about equality in education. "When we are celebrating the anniversary of Brown v.

Board, what are we really celebrating?"

Before his speech, Ayers did a podcast for OU and Galileo Institute's Podcasts for Leadership Schools, and had an discussion with students and faculty. After his speech, he answered questions from the audience for more than an hour.

Audience members clapped as many protestors rolled their eyes and fervently waved their American flags and signs.

A junior communications major at OU and CPS alumni, Sara Koperdak-Meekins connected with Ayers and his message of a democratic education. She agreed with Ayers' views about the discrepancies between CPS and the wealthier schools of Chicago's North Shore.

"Everything he said really hit home," said Koperdak-Meekins. "In school systems, a single component is blamed, but the entire education system is rarely to blame."

Legislators speak up

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Voting for the new president of Oakland University Student Congress is this week, but new legislator positions are being voted on too. Because there are 25 open seats and only 22 people have applied, it's a given that everyone who's run for the position will get the job. But the legislators are running for the position for a variety of reasons.

"I would like to see a student congress that works for the students, and one that is going to not just vote 'Yes' on everything because they want a quick meeting or they did not do their homework," said Eric Sturgis, an English major who is running for a legislator position.

Sturgis said he was running on a platform that includes having club sports as a part of the student budget, transparency in what student congress is voting about, and making things on campus more handicap-accessible. He is one of several candidates who are pushing for club sports and working with Chartwells.

He is one of the candidates who are in

Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Dan Evola, SAE President and the current OUSC president, has decided not to run for reelection and instead is running for one of the legislator positions.

"This year, I had a couple of different things I wanted to focus on, like I was appointed president of my fraternity, and I want to focus on my band," Evola said. Evola was unsure, but said there are about 10 SAE members applying for OUSC legislator positions.

Mike Diedrich, a freshman biology major and SAE member, is also applying for a legislator position.

"I have noticed that there are both positive and negative things happening around campus right now and if elected I know that I bring these problems to light and present them to the student council," Diedrich said.

Candidate Brandon Gustafson, a sophomore, said he wanted to work with Chartwells and urban farming.

"I would like to be a legislator because I want to take an active role in the policy and programs run by the student congress," Gustafson said.

Looking for liaisons

By KATHLEEN QUANDT
Staff Intern

Being the voice of student opinions to the Oakland University board of trustees is the job of student liaisons to the board.

Tawnee Milko and Samir Hanna are both current OU student liaisons.

Milko will continue to serve as liaison next year, but Hanna is finishing up his two-year term this semester, and they are looking for someone to replace him.

"I really liked being able to act as a bridge between students, faculty and administration, and I've always been involved with the schools I attend," Milko said. "So when I heard about the student liaison position, applying seemed like the natural next leadership step for me."

She said she tries to stay neutral and represent the entire student body. Because of her work as a liaison, she talks with student groups and a variety of people she meets on a daily basis, asking their perspectives on what's happening around the university, she said.

Milko's main project this year has been encouraging open dialogue between the administration and students. She arranged and mediated a two-hour, one-on-one meeting between the Provost and a dozen pre-med students who were interested in the medical school, she said.

Hanna's pet project is starting a bike program on campus. With this program there would be 50 to 100 bikes available

for free on campus that would be open for the students to use. He hopes to also start a bike rental program in the future in which bikes could be used off campus.

"The cool thing about it is there's so much more you can do," Hannah said of his student liaison position.

Hanna has also been involved in the tuition hike issue, and he has researched students at OU to better represent them. It's important that a liaison understands they represent 18,000 students, he said.

"You have a lot of independence to set up programs you're passionate about, or to facilitate interaction between administration and students," Milko said.

"Providing students with opportunities to personally interact with the administrative leaders of Oakland U., and vice versa, is very valuable," she said.

"These include going over a great deal of financial, academic and business information beforehand and giving periodic reports to the board about student opinions," Milko said.

"I would recommend it to anyone who cares about OU and would like to learn more about how this university works," she said.

Applicants must have 2.5 GPA, 56 undergraduate or 18 graduate credits, not hold any other major elected campus office, and serve from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 or 2011. Applications are available at 144 Oakland Center, 62 OC, 49 OC and on www.oakland.edu/bot.



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
A student votes in a laptop set up in a voting booth in the Oakland Center from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Last chance to vote

By BRAD SLAZINSKI
Staff Intern

On second day of voting for student congress, the election was clearly advertised, at least in the Oakland Center.

There were paper foldouts on the tables in the Pioneer Food Court and elsewhere in the OC.

On Monday and Tuesday, election volunteers sat at tables with computers, asking passerby students to vote.

"Turnout has been pretty good today," said Jennifer Doptis, election manager, on Tuesday, March 24. "Yesterday went well also but we don't have the exact numbers yet."

She said the exact numbers of voters won't be ready until Thursday, and the results will be announced Friday, March 27 in the OC Fireside Lounge at noon.

Many students had different views on the election. Some were well informed while others were either apathetic or unaware of the elections.

"A lot of people were talking about the election, but only one candidate talked to me about their campaign," sophomore Sylvia Chetcuti said, referring to presidential candidate Anthony Ivone.

Others are voting for Kristin Dayag.

"They [Dayag and Saman Waquad] were the only ones that took the initiative to get opinions, I know that they are very active on campus," said junior Curshaw Jackson.

"I worked with Saman and Kristin in the past and I think that they have great initiatives," said senior Bree Kopson. "They are very involved and have worked in different capacities."

Sophomore Stephan Vanderford, picked Janelle Arbuckle for president.

"Her opinions and views can help shape Oakland to make it a better university," Vanderford said.

Junior Erik Anderson is backing Mark Medaugh for president.

"I voted for Mark because he's making real promises," Anderson said. "I like that he wants Kresge Library open for 24 hours because I'm here during the off hours and I might want to study at 2 a.m."

Some students on the other hand, are not voting.

"I really don't care about the elections," said freshman Keara Bradley.

"I'm not voting because I don't know enough about the candidates and I haven't done an adequate job researching them," said junior Dan Orow.

Last time to vote: Wednesday, March 25, by midnight
Vote at: www.oakland.edu/voteou

Student Activities Funding proposal, if approved, would change the percentage distribution of a portion of tuition money as outlined below:

Student Activities Funding Board 29 %

Student Program Board 26 %

Student Congress: 17 %

WXOU radio station: 11 %

The Oakland Post: 7 %

Student Video Productions: 5 %

Student Life Lecture Board: 3 %

Special Projects Fund: 2 %

OU - Macomb offers several new programs

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

Starting this fall, several degree programs available at Oakland University will be extended to the satellite campus in Macomb County.

The new degree programs will be the centerpiece of OU-Macomb's open house Thursday, April 2 at its Clinton Township campus.

Some of the new degrees offered include a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, a Bachelor of Integrative Studies, a Master of Training and Development, a Master in Communication, Music, Theatre, Dance, Applied Health Sciences, RN to BSN and Geriatric Nursing Certificate.

Students working toward an integrative studies degree can work with an advisor to design their own curriculum.

Julie Dichtel, regional director of enrollment at the Macomb campus, said the open house is designed to familiarize students with the satellite campus.

"The purpose of the open house is really to introduce them to the Macomb location and staff and let them learn more about the services that we provide," Dichtel said. "If they want more information we can direct them towards advising that we provide on campus."

Pamela Kellett, the assistant vice president of outreach at Macomb, said degrees such as integrative studies will allow students with diverse interests or narrow goals to tailor their educational structure to satisfy those demands.

"It allows them to take experiences that they have in several different areas and combine them," Kellett said.

"For instance, you can do a communications and human resources development minor to build a career pathway

that is more specific," she said.

According to Dichtel, Macomb County residents have different educational needs and demands, and the flexibility of a number of the new programs will help OU better serve this community.

"We're really looking to target the needs of the adult learners," Dichtel said. "There's a huge population of adults in Macomb County that have started their college education but have never finished a degree."

"The bachelors of integrative studies will be particularly attractive to them, and they can also tap into a number of the resources we already provide here."

According to Kellett, students wishing to complete degrees already in progress in the programs offered at the Macomb campus can do so without ever attending classes at the Rochester campus.

Kellett said that although the satellite campus does not offer 100 and 200 level general education courses, students who have completed fewer than 32 credits can take those courses at Macomb Community College through the Macomb 2 Oakland program at a fraction of the price.

Kellett said that it is important for OU to serve the residents of Macomb County, because the two entities' interests are intertwined in a number of ways.

"This isn't a new relationship. We have been in Macomb County for over 20 years," Kellett said. "What we're doing is expanding on an existing relationship."

"Currently, approximately 30 percent of students at Oakland come from Macomb County," she said. "This is an existing student market that, if we could help them, hopefully it helps Oakland overall."

Now Accepting.....

Applications and Nominations for:

Student Liaison to the Oakland University Board of Trustees

The role of the Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees is to serve as a non-voting resource on all student issues at monthly meetings of the Board.



Term of Office:

- ✓ July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 or 2011
- ✓ Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- ✓ Must have earned 56 undergraduate or 18 graduate credit hours (of which 28 are at Oakland University)
- ✓ Must not hold any other major elected campus office

Applications are available at:

Student Affairs Office – 144 Oakland Center
Student Congress Office – 62 Oakland Center
Center for Student Activities – 49 Oakland Center
Oakland University Board of Trustees Web Page

Applications are due in the Student Affairs Office by March 31, 2009

For questions, please call: 248-370-4200



Web Exclusives this week:

- Find out which candidates will be the new OU student body president and vice president as soon as the results are announced Friday at noon.
- How do you write resumes the right way?
- What happened at the active shooter simulation last Friday? Get the full, expanded account.

- OUSC vice presidential candidates debated last Wednesday. What did they say? Plus, watch video of the entire debate, courtesy of Student Video Productions.

Find these and more only on
www.oaklandpostonline.com

- Blogs on 8 topics updated daily.

Dancing the night away

By MACKENZIE ROGER
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of people gathered in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms on Friday night for the second annual Middle Eastern Festival.

The Festival was planned and hosted by the Lebanese Club of Oakland University, Arab American Student Organization and the Chaldean American Student Organization.

It featured a variety of dance and song performances, some by OU students, and several by other people of Middle Eastern descent.

"We wanted to try and represent most of the cultures in the Middle East," said host and OU senior Sarah Fram. "Our goal was to educate those who didn't know a lot about our culture and entertain those that already did."

Fram belongs to both the AASO and the Lebanese Club, where she is the secretary. She, along with student Zeinab Ahmad, and incoming students Judith Farah and Inas Eraqi, performed a five-song Middle Eastern medley.

Also featured was Detroit Belly Dance, and the newly-formed E'Rootha Dance Troupe, that has several OU members.

"Dancing is in our culture," said OU sophomore and AASO president Matt Rabah. "It's something we all grew up with. It expresses our culture."

Big-A, a Lebanese immigrant, rapped



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
A belly dancer took the floor several times.

about world hunger, poverty and politics with fellow rapper Zhao-Ski. He promoted his new record "Conscious Gangster."

The main attractions of the night were music sets by Joe Arabbo and JAD. Each performance lasted approximately an hour, and gave attendees a chance to go on stage and dance.

OU senior Kevin Costakes attended the festival and last year's. He said the free food and chance to experience other cultures enticed him.

"I think it was all done really nicely," said Costakes. "The dancing was my favorite."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Prof heads to Congress to appeal for science funding

Dr. Rasul Chaudhry, a professor of biological sciences at Oakland University, is in Washington, D.C. to talk to politicians to lobby for more funding for National Science Foundation. Chaudhry said he and some other scientists around the U.S. will talk to the Science Appropriation Committee March 24-25.

"Science funding has suffered greatly during the past several years and U.S. has been losing its edge while many other countries are gaining lead with increase in funding for science and R&D," he said. "President Obama has promised to change the trend by improving funding for federal agencies that provide support for basic science and scholarly activities."

— Masudur Rahman, Campus Editor

Student congress petitions for MIP amnesty

OUSC decided at the Monday, March 23 meeting to petition for a Medical Amnesty Proposal. The proposal, if enacted, would provide protection to OU students who call for medical help because they are dangerously drunk or on behalf of someone else who is drunk, especially for Minors In Possession. It was proposed by Jordan Twardy, OU student body vice president, and supported by OUSC members.

— Masudur Rahman, Campus Editor

Poetry writing contest deadline approaching

The deadline for Ekphrasis contest is Wednesday, April 1 at 5 p.m., and is open to students, faculty and staff. A maximum of three less-than-100-words poems describing an art piece can be submitted to the English Department at 506 O'Dowd Hall in a sealed envelope and a cover letter with name, address, phone number and e-mail. Three cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be given to three winners on April 15.

— Brad Slazinski, Staff Intern

STUDENT & ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS

Nominations Forms available at

www.oakland.edu/csa
click on "Student Organizations"

Due: Friday, March 27th by 5:00 PM

It's never too late to recognize their effort



BACKPACK DRIVE



Drop off school supplies at the CSA service window that will be donated to Pontiac school children

Backpacks
Calculators
Highlighters
Markers
Folders, etc



Center for Student Activities

CSA

Contact: (248) 370-2400, csa@oakland.edu, www.oakland.edu/csa

Rochelle Riley

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Student Video Productions

Evaluating safety

By COLLEEN J. MILLER
Managing Editor

Oakland University Police Department closed Hannah Hall's second floor Friday morning to conduct a simulated response to having an active shooter on campus.

Officers responded to a planned phone call into the dispatch reporting "shots fired" and were in the building within minutes, suited up and armed.

Dozens of student volunteers participated in the exercise. According to Police Chief Sam Lucido, one group was in a classroom that followed proper lock down procedure while another group of students was in a classroom that did not, "designed to be mass chaos."

"When we looked at the difference between what happened in the locked down classroom and the unlocked classroom, [there were] huge different approaches to the police department and police officers," Captain Mark Gordon said. "Please know your lock down policies, be familiar with them, be ready to implement them at any time. It's huge in assuring the safety of the students."

Two other groups of students were staged to run through the halls as officers moved through the building looking for the "shooter." The entire exercise,

from the initial call to "shooter down," was over in less than a half hour.

The exercise was part of a series of initiatives to make OU safer and more prepared. Similar exercises have been done successfully in empty buildings at night, but this was the first one to be done during the day with occupants.

Captain Gordon was the coordinator of Friday's exercise, which tested five objectives for emergency response: police response, dispatch response, university lock down policy for academics, the emergency notification system and notification to the crisis management team.

"We had certain goals for each one and I think we met them," Gordon said.

But the official results won't be in for a couple of weeks. Associate professor of political science, Pat Piskulich, is evaluating the exercise to fulfill requirements of the grant.

As part of the evaluation, OU Student Congress legislator Craig Brown sat in with the dispatch during the exercise.

"The biggest problem that I saw in the dispatch center was the radio system," he said.

Go to www.oaklandpostonline.com to read an expanded version of this article, including more about Friday's exercise and about future OUPD plans.

POLICE FILES

On March 13, OUPD responded to a report of minors drinking alcohol in an undisclosed dormitory. Upon contact from the officers, each of the three minors refused to take a preliminary breath test. At least two of the suspects received citations for being a minor in possession of alcohol.

On March 14, OUPD pulled over a vehicle going 42 miles per hour by Vandenberg Hall, where the speed limit is 15 miles per hour. The driver told OUPD he wasn't sure if his license was valid. The officer conducted his obligatory background check, and discovered that the driver had two prior convictions for Driving while License Suspended and two warrants in Canton. The driver was arrested and transported to the Canton Police Department.

On March 14, OUPD was dispatched to the University Student Apartments after a smoke alarm was activated on the first floor. The officers determined the alarm was caused by a discharged fire extinguisher. People on the scene said they did not witness the extinguisher being discharged.

GSC puts rape on trial

By KAY NGUYEN
Staff Reporter

Monday, March 23, a jury of Oakland University students "convicted" Dominic DeGrazia of criminal sexual conduct.

The setting was not a courtroom, however, but the Oakland Center Gold Rooms. The crime was not real and there were no real victims or perpetrators.

An event to commemorate Woman's History Month, the mock jury trial for rape tied in to the Gender and Sexuality Center's theme of "Love and Sex."

"It is important to talk about the things people do not want to talk about," said GSC coordinator Joann Bautti-Roche of the topics of rape and sex.

For the sixth year in a row, the OU Police Department sponsored the mock trial event. This was the first year the GSC co-sponsored the event.

Jury members were chosen from the audience to interactively participate with the trial.

Volunteers from the organization Help Against Violent Encounters Now also took part in the trial.

"The purpose of the trial was to create conversation and awareness," said OUPD officer Nan Gelman.

"Hopefully we can keep you from getting into that situation," Gelman said.

Haven's Rene Dell played the part of a rape victim, while DeGrazia was the defendant. Judge Lisa Asadoorian, prosecutor Thomas Beadle and judge Cheryl Matthews served as prosecuting attorney, defense attorney and judge.

Beadle was not accustomed to sitting on the other side of the courtroom and not representing 'the people.'

Matthews dramatically pounded the table and lent dramatic flair as she stepped out of her judge's chair and into the prosecuting role.

Asadoorian was also able to interject and give instructions to audience members and mock jury members, her insight and thoughts not normally expressed in a formal courtroom.

Although the mood was light, audience members and participants alike were reminded of the seriousness of criminal sexual conduct, a felony offense in Michigan.

"You do not want to be in that situation and have everybody literally looking at you inside and out," said Asadoorian.

"This is not a laughing matter and it happens all the time on Any Campus, USA," she said.

Coming Up On Campus

• "WXOU 43rd Birthday Bash"
— Wednesday, March 25, 6-10 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Rooms. Concert with Triple Crown, Manna & Quail, Citizen Smile and Oscillating Fan Club.

• "Foreign Policy Discussion Forum" — Thursday, March 26, noon - 1:30 p.m., OC Fireside Lounge. Political science professors Paul Kubicek and Alan Epstein will discuss Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, and other pressing issues.

• "International Night 2009" — Thursday, March 26, 5-7:30 p.m., OC Banquet Rooms. Organizations and departments highlight different cultures.

• "Nadine Deleury & Mary Siciliano concert" — Thursday, March 26, 8 p.m., Varner Recital Hall. OU applied instructors will play classical cello and piano music.

• "Mr PhiSignificant: male charm pageant" — Friday, March 27, 7 p.m., Varner Recital Hall. The theme is Rock 'n' Roll 50's.

• "Center for Biomedical Research Festival" — Tuesday, March 31, 2-4 p.m., 201 Dodge Hall. Learn about OU biomedical research.

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Michigan grows its own

Hiller's highlights on local products

By THOMAS ROWLAND
Multimedia Editor

This weekend Hiller's Market in Commerce Township held its first Local Food Fair. The two day event was organized by Jim Hiller, CEO of Hiller's Markets, to showcase various products available at his stores that have a significant connection to the state of Michigan.

Vendors at the fair included Absopure Water Co., Bosco's Pizza Co., Better Made, Garden Fresh Salsa, Jiffy and Sanders, among others.

Even the cleaning aisle isn't devoid of Michigan products. A company called pHurity Inc. based in Franklin, Mich., makes environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Hiller's Market was founded in 1941 by Sid Hiller, Jim Hiller's father. Jim Hiller practiced law for 18 years before joining his family's business in the late 1980s. Lately, Hiller has been paying greater attention to local products.

"We decided about 10 months ago to change our paradigm of business and to begin focusing on local suppliers as a way of making some impact on the economy here in southeast Michigan," Hiller said.

Not all of the products are necessarily of 100 percent Michigan origin.

"Obviously there are limitations. The state of Michigan does not produce ocean fish or sea food," he said. "So we don't carry oysters from Michigan."

But as many as possible have what Hiller calls "a rational nexus," where there is a point of contact, whether it be the manufacturing, the packaging or the distribution.

"When you look at all of that we feel that we will have an economic impact in Michigan in excess of \$30 million this year."



Photos by THOMAS ROWLAND/The Oakland Post

(Above) Bethany and Leanne serve up the Towne Club, a Detroit-based soda, at Hiller's in Commerce Township. (Right) Michigan companies are prominently highlighted on the shelves at the grocery store so consumers can actively purchase local goods.

The Michigan connected products are tagged on the shelves with a green label in the shape of the state to inform customers that the product has a local connection. Jessica Fraiser of West Bloomfield was at the fair and appreciated the signage.

"It's really great to see so many Michigan products, and it's nice that they are labeled so you know you are supporting local business."

Hiller's currently carries over 1,000 products that have some connection to the state.

Hiller's Markets are located in Ann Arbor, Berkley, Commerce Township, Northville, Plymouth, Union Lake and West Bloomfield.



NEWS

Probation for counterfeit Coke case

A suburban Detroit man who sold generic soda syrup as Coca-Cola will be on probation for a year. Cecil St. Pierre of Warren was sentenced Monday in federal court in Detroit. He admitted selling fountain-drink syrup with the Coca-Cola label in 2006 and 2007.

St. Pierre pleaded guilty in October to trafficking in counterfeit goods. The retail value was more than \$2,000 but less than \$5,000.

St. Pierre did business as Cecil's Fine Syrup in Oak Park. He's agreed to give up the sticky stuff for five years as part of his plea deal.

Finance team appointed to DPS

Detroit Public Schools has a new team in place to help turn around the struggling district's finances. Recently appointed emergency financial manager Robert Bobb announced Monday that he is adding Ricardo Kisner as chief financial officer, John Bell Jr. as inspector general and Odell Bailey as auditor general.

Bobb said Bell will investigate and audit waste, fraud or abuse throughout the district. Teams of investigators and auditors will work within Bell's division.

Bobb has said the district's deficit is higher than an expected \$139 million. Layoffs and school closings are likely. His office says in a release that he plans to pres-

ent deficit information and his plans to the community early next month.

Man's 200-mile ski raises \$11k

A 34-year-old Ann Arbor man has finished skiing 200 miles across northern Michigan to raise money for his Pennsylvania mother-in-law's bone marrow transplant.

Knut Hill spent one to two days a week for two months skiing across the northern lower peninsula. He started in Oscoda and arrived Sunday in Empire, 225 miles northwest of Detroit. Hill's Web site www.margytransplant.org says he's raised \$11,000.

Source: The Associated Press

Group calls for tests on Tasers after death of teen

By DAVID N. GOODMAN
Associated Press

DETROIT — Amnesty International, an outspoken critic of Tasers, said Tuesday that a 15-year-old boy who died shortly after police used the electroshock weapon to subdue him illustrates its dangers.

Bay City police answered a disturbance call about 3:40 a.m. Sunday and said an officer used a Taser on Brett Elder after he tried to fight with them. The teen would have turned 16 Tuesday.

An autopsy was conducted on Monday, but a cause of death has not yet been determined, said Lt. John Card, commander of the state police's Bay City post. He said the investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Amnesty International's London office issued a statement Tuesday saying the death "reinforces the need for greater caution" before Tasers are distributed more widely.

The group issued a call for further tests of the safety of the weapon.

"Tasers should only be used in life-threatening situations, and this doesn't appear to be such an instance," said Oliver Sprague, director of Amnesty International's arms program in Britain.

Bay City police turned the case over to Michigan State Police for investigation and placed one officer on administrative leave while it conducts an internal probe of whether its rules were followed.

City police Chief Michael Cecchini defended his officers' actions at a news conference Tuesday. Cecchini said officers were trying to settle a verbal dispute between Elder and a man.

Officers stepped in when the youth became unruly and took a "fighting stance" against the police, the chief said.

The youth "attempted to go after the other man he was arguing with," Cecchini said. "Officers intervened, and a Taser electronic control device was deployed for one five-second cycle to subdue Brett."

The officers handcuffed Elder but saw he was having a medical problem and gave assistance while calling an emer-



OCTAVIAN CANTILLI/Times, AP Photo

Eugene Elder Sr., father of Brett Elder, is overcome with emotion at his home in Bay City, Monday, March 23, while talking about what happened to his son. Brett Elder died after the Bay City Police stunned him with a Taser Sunday morning. State police said Monday they have started an investigation into the death of the 15-year-old.

gency medical crew.

Amnesty is "inappropriately jumping to conclusions" about the incident in Bay City, said Steve Tuttle, spokesman for Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Taser International.

"The Taser itself has saved thousands of lives, and medical science has shown it to be the safer alternative compared to any other tool on an officer's belt today," Tuttle said.

Elder's father, Eugene Elder, told The Bay City Times that while his son was

unruly, police shouldn't have used the Taser on him.

"There's no reason to kill my boy," the father said.

Amnesty International said the death was the second of a minor in the U.S. this year and one of 351 deaths after use of a Taser in the U.S. since June 2001. Tuttle said the Taser has been exonerated as a cause or contributing factor in the vast majority of deaths.

-AP Writer Ben Leubsdorf contributed to this report.

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The Oakland Post's

BEST OF 2009



14/BEST OF
BEST OF
2009

PLACE TO LIVE:

Student Apartments

PLACE TO LIVE OFF CAMPUS:

Beacon Hill Apartments

PLACE TO STUDY: Kresge Library



BEST ON CAMPUS

FOOD: Subway, OC Food Court



EVENT: Men's Basketball Games

MEN'S BATHROOM: OC Basement



NAP: Recliner Lounge, OC Basement



DISTRACTION: Internet



WOMEN'S BATHROOM: OC, by Cafe O'Bears



BEST OF/15

DINING

Coney:

National Coney Island
Locations vary, www.nationalconeyisland.com.
Whether it's a Hani Deluxe at 3 a.m. or eggs and coffee at 10, Coney always comes through in the clutch.

Italian:

Olive Garden,
Locations vary, www.olivegarden.com. The Never-ending Pasta Bowl is just the right recipe for the depressed Michigan economy.

Mexican:

Mexican Village,
2600 Bagley St., Detroit,
(313) 237-0333. No trip to Detroit is complete without refried beans and rice.

Greek:

Pegasus Taverna,
558 Monroe St., Detroit,
(313) 964-6800. OPA! Pegasus offers the finest saganaki around.

Thai:

Bangkok Cuisine,
Locations vary, www.bangkokcuisine.com. Huge portions and reasonable pricing gives Bangkok Cuisine the nod. Just be careful with the spices.

Sandwich Shop:

Jimmy John's, Locations vary, www.jimmyjohns.com. From quick delivery to great subs and giant pickles, Jimmy John's covers all the bases.

Appetizers:

Applebee's, Locations vary www.applebees.com. Before, during or after the game, Applebee's is the place for apps.

Steakhouse:

Outback Steakhouse,
Locations vary,

www.outback.com.

Outback brings the thunder from Down Under.

Burgers:

Burger King, Locations vary, www.burgerking.com. OU students support The King, now available in Shots.

Coffee:

Starbucks, Locations vary, www.starbucks.com. Was it the free coffee on Election Day or the great service? Either way, Starbucks comes through with a jolt.

Vegetarian:

Inn Season, 500 E. 4th St., Royal Oak, (248) 547-7916. Unlike other "healthy choice restaurants," Inn Season provides a range of options from pizza to Mexican.

Ice Cream:

Coldstone, Locations vary, www.coldstonecreamery.com. If you want ordinary ice cream, stay away. If you want the full ice cream experience, check out Coldstone.

Pizza:

Jets, Locations vary, www.jetspizza.com. Either at 2 a.m. or dinner time, the thick, bread-y goodness that is Jet's hits the spot.

Chinese:

P.F. Changs, Locations vary www.pfchangs.com. Generous portions and peaceful atmosphere abound at P.F. Chang's.



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

BEST SUSHI SUMO SUSHI

Sumo Sushi offers an American take on traditional Japanese cuisine, including udon, teriyaki, and tempura in addition to the sushi they offer. According to the website, they cater to sushi newbies as well as vegetarians and kids.

One of the biggest draws to Sumo Sushi is the atmosphere, which is very casual.

"The rolls you get here, you can get at any sushi restaurant," server Cortney Labbe said. "I would have to say the atmosphere we create is really what sets us apart from other restaurants."

The restaurant has a young server base and no dress code, according to Labbe, lending to the casual atmosphere.

-Rory McCarty

16/BEST OF BEST OF 2009

BARS

BEST PLACE TO CELEBRATE 21ST BIRTHDAY COYOTE JOES, JD'S KEY CLUB



TIM RATH/The Oakland Post
Coyote girls grace the stage with their moves at Coyote Joe's located in Shelby Township.

With over 10,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor dancing and drinking space, Shelby Township's country bar **Coyote Joe's** is unlike any other bar in the metro area, mostly because of the music. The DJ mixes hot new songs (while the videos play on the screens throughout the bar) for line dancing and free style. But the biggest names in country sometimes grace the stage.

Twenty-five big screen TVs keep you entertained and there's always something to watch whether you're shooting pool in the back bar, bellied up to the main

bar waiting for the Coyote girls to kick up their heels right in front of you, or doing some boot scootin' yourself on the dance floor.

Among the channels is the one tuned to the mechanical bull. Riding the bull should be on the "to do" list for Coyote Joe's, especially for birthday girls and boys, bachelorettes and anyone else out for a wild time. The bull is also popular on Thursdays when ladies ride free, have no cover charge and get dollar drinks until 10 p.m. For more information visit www.coyotejoes.com.

— Colleen J. Miller

Sports Bar:

Buffalo Wild Wings, 1234 Walton Road, Rochester, (248) 651-3999, buffalowildwings.com. With 45 TVs it's nearly impossible to miss a moment of the big game. Drink specials include \$3 domestic beer and well drinks along with \$2 Pucker shots that start at 10 p.m.

Martini Bar:

Goodnight Gracie, 224 S. Sherman Ave., Royal Oak, (248) 544-7490, www.goodnightgracie.com. Sip on a smooth martini while listening to jazz at the original Royal Oak location. Drinks are half off from 5-7 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Hookah Bar:

Lava Hookah Lounge, 45655 Hayes Road, Shelby Twp., (586) 532-5282. Nothing like your local Smoker's Choice, Lava Lounge

provides nearly 11 hookah flavors and nine mixed flavors including Red Bull, Pina Colada and Mango. If you're not in the mood to smoke, their extensive food menu includes American and Middle Eastern dishes.

Bar with Live Music:

JD's Key Club, 1 North Saginaw, Pontiac, (248) 338-7337. JD's is always 18 and up with an all-request dueling piano show featuring a variety of music anywhere from the 60s to something you'd hear on 95.5.

Best Happy Hour:

T.G.I. Fridays, 2443 N Squirrel Rd., Auburn Hills, (248) 340-9771. From 4-7 p.m. and 9 p.m.-close, T.G.I. Fridays drink specials hit the spot with students. Long Island Ice Teas and Margaritas run \$4, premium pints and bottles run \$3, domestic beers run \$2 and there is \$1 off premium spirits. A \$2.50 daily drink special changes each day.



TIM RATH/The Oakland Post
Rochester Mills manager and part owner, Jerry Barnewold.

BEST MICRO BREWERY ROCHESTER MILLS

Rochester Mills Beer Co. wins again this year with its combination of American cuisine with a twist and broad selection of handcrafted beers. Housed in a former Rochester knitting mill, "The Mills" retains its historical integrity while giving customers a relaxing 'anything goes' bar atmosphere. There is also private seating available for parties or guests wanting a quieter meal. The exposed brick walls and hardwood floors are dotted with televisions and pool tables.

Owned by the Pleszure Food Group Co., "The Mills" has also become more eco-friendly since the addition of another Pleszure friendly restaurant: Mind, Body, and Spirits where cooking oil is recycled for use as biodiesel and the brewery has also ventured into organic craft beers.

The menu's traditional fare of soup, salads, brewery favorites, sandwiches and brick over pizzas is also augmented with a veggie burger (borrowed from its sister restaurant), seasonal options and gluten-free options like the seafood pasta primavera.

— Kay Nguyen

MUSIC & CULTURE

Best Local Getaway:

Frankenmuth, Frankenmuth might be about 70 miles and an hour drive from Oakland University's campus, but that didn't stop OU's students from choosing "Michigan's Little Bavaria" as the best local weekend getaway. Frankenmuth can fill a student's summer with the many different festivals the town offers, like the World Expo of Beer, Bavarian Festival and Oktoberfest.

Art Gallery:

Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. With over 100 galleries, the United States' fifth-largest fine arts museum can always be rediscovered.

Theater:

AMC 30, 44681 Mound Road, Sterling Heights Sit back and relax in one of the 30 theatres and enjoy an IMAX experience. Save money by going on the weekdays when tickets are \$5, but the prices go up to \$10 on weekends.

BEST LOCAL BAND YOURS TRULY, THE DECKS, MADISON OPERA

Local band Yours Truly consists of Nico G. and Greg Klein and their guitars. The guys strip it down to just the sound of their instruments and their voices in an acoustic rock manner.

Complete with acoustic covers of "Wake Up" by Coheed and Cambria and "Love in This Club" by Usher, these guys also currently offer several original tracks on their Myspace.

The guys will be performing at the Crofoot on Saturday, March 28 at 9 p.m. For more info on Yours Truly go to www.myspace.com/yourstrulyhw.

— Amanda Meade



Photo courtesy of Grant Zoschnick

Voted one of the best local bands, Yours Truly is set to perform at the Crofoot on Saturday, March 28 at 9 p.m.

Bowling Alley:

Classic Lanes, 2145 Avon Industrial Dr., Rochester Hills. Reasonable prices, cosmic bowling and a proximity to Ram's Horn make Classic Lanes a good late-night hangout.

Concert Venue:

DTE Energy Music Theater, Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. Chill out in the summer and listen to cool music at this outdoor venue.

MEDIA

TV Station:

Channel 7 ABC, Students tune in to watch everything from the cult favorite "Lost" and (admit it) "Dancing with the Stars."

TV Morning Show:

Good Morning America
GMA provides a healthy dose of news, talk, weather and special interest stories each morning with Diana Sawyer.

TV News Source:

Channel 7 ABC, Channel 7 Action News is "on your side" with the latest in sports, entertainment, traffic and weather reports from Jerry Hodak.

Newspaper:

Detroit Free Press
Detroit's largest daily newspaper delivers another best-of nod.

Best Scandal:

Kwame Kilpatrick, In early 2008, the Detroit Free Press published intimate text messages between Kilpatrick and his chief of staff, Christine Beatty detailing an affair between them. In March of 2008, Kilpatrick was charged with official misconduct, perjury and obstruction of justice.

BEST DOWNTOWN DETROIT

You love it. You hate it. You love to hate it. Regardless of the love/hate relationship, students voted Detroit the best downtown.

Home to the Detroit Lions, the Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers and many concert venues, the city is the best place for students to experience cultural events they may not find at OU.

The People Mover will take you anywhere (within reason) you want to go including Greektown Casino (park there for free), the Renaissance Center and Campus Martius Park.

Cuisine to match anyone's needs can be found around the city as well as hopping bars to suck back the perfect nightcap.

— Lindsey Wojcik



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

BEST OF/18 BEST OF 2009

SHOPPING

Mall:

Somerset, 2800 Big Beaver Road, Troy, (248) 643-6360. Michigan's most upscale shopping mall gives OU students the best in fashion, food and fun just a jaunt down I-75.

Retail store:

Target, Locations vary, www.target.com. With the best in convenience and fashion at an affordable price, Target is the place to go for recession-era shopping.

Jeans:

American Eagle, Locations vary, www.ae.com. With a vintage flair that will never go out of style, AE jeans are the standard for timeless fashion.

Shoes:

DSW, Locations vary, www.dsw.com. With so many in-season choices at reasonable prices, it's very easy to find oneself in DSW for much longer than expected.

Accessories:

Claire's, Locations vary, www.clares.com. If you're the type that has more fun getting ready than actually going out, Claire's is the place to be.

Thrift shop:

Salvation Army, Locations vary, www.salvationarmyusa.org. With a world of variety available at ridiculously low prices that go toward a good cause, the Salvation Army is the mecca for hipsters and fashionistas alike.

Used bookstore:

Textbook Outlet, 2592 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, (248) 377-2884. If textbook prices have you headed for the bread lines, Textbook Outlet is the place to be for homework necessities and OU gear as well.

SELF

Mani/pedi:

Le Nail, Locations vary, (800) 992-9500. Great service and reasonable prices make Le Nail the top choice for all of your pampering needs.

Fitness center:

Lifetime Fitness, Locations vary, www.lifetimefitness.com. When you want to feel good physically and financially, Lifetime is there for fitness at an affordable rate.

Tattoo:

XS, 105 East Second Street, Rochester, (248) 656-5740. When you're looking for a tattoo shop, you want cleanliness and quality. XS delivers on both counts.

Piercing:

Claire's, Locations vary, www.clares.com. With locations seemingly in every mall, Claire's is ready for you whenever inspiration for new piercings strike.

Yoga studio:

OU Rec Center. You don't have to look far to find the best in yoga, the Rec Center provides convenience and relaxation.



MEGAN MARCOUX/The Oakland Post

BEST LOCAL MUSIC STORE ROCK-A-BILLY'S

CD sales are down, but Rock-A-Billy's owner Bill O'Keefe isn't letting that slow Saturday mornings at his Utica record store. Rock-A-Billy's is focusing more on vinyl these days, which are flooding from the milk crates that they use to attempt to organize them. T-shirt sales are also up, literally, as the place is so packed with stock that the shirts get displayed above CD racks and along the walls. Not with just new apparel, but carefully hunted, unique shirts that may never have been officially released. Thriftiness enables him to sell them at a reasonable cost.

From solving the world's problems over music, to giving dating advice to teenagers, to holding free shows in the back of the store — it's a place for people to get together over a common interest.

"You gotta be a little bit of something to a lot of people," O'Keefe said.

On Saturday, April 18, Rock-A-Billy's will be participating in the second annual Record Store Day, a celebration of the independent music store culture. There will be free shows and limited and rare editions made available. For more information go to www.rockabillys.com.

— Colleen J. Miller

BEST OF 2009

BEST OF/19

ATHLETICS

WORST SPORTS TEAM DETROIT LIONS

You may think that the historic 2008 0-16 record season may have been the last of the Detroit Lions' many indignities over the past decade, but alas, Oakland University students overwhelmingly voted the Lions as metro Detroit's worst sports team. Word from the Ford family is that help is soon on the way. The Lions have two first-round picks in the upcoming 2009 NFL Draft, including the first pick overall that is rumored to be star Georgia quarterback Matthew Stafford. Let's just hope and pray that they don't opt for another wide receiver.

— Tim Rath



Associated Press Photo

Best Mascot:

The Grizz

(Oakland University)

Really, what competition did he have? Hooper? Get Real. The Grizz's blend of gaiety and ferocity make him one of the most underrated mascots in the country.

Best Sports Team:

Red Wings, Fresh off winning Lord Stanley's Cup in '08, the Wings are once again on the cusp of claiming the regular season Western Conference crown and positioning themselves for another run at the cup.

Best Stadium:

The Palace of Auburn Hills, 3 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, (248) 377-0469. It may look like a hatbox from the outside, but its structure makes for easy navigation, and there's not a bad seat in the joint. The downside: \$9 Budweisers and \$5 Dippin' Dots.



Need help mapping out your Best Of Metro Detroit results? Visit www.oaklandpostonline.com for an interactive Google map featuring Flickr slide-shows, videos and a whole host of other goodies.



The second annual "Best Of" issue garnered nearly 250 responses from Oakland University's student body. We set out to find where students like to spend their time and what is the best of the best. We would like to thank those who took their time to fill out our survey on oaklandpostonline.com.

For your efforts a random drawing determined winners of the following prizes:

T-SHIRTS

Sharvin Simuel
Taylor Parks
Jason Willis
Charrie McFadden
Daniel Engerer
Kierra Smith
Shaleen Freeman
Jeremy Waterman
Linda Camen
Heather Koontz

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BARNES AND NOBLE**
Nicolai Mansoori

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CARIBOU COFFEE**
Jessica Hardmen
Brianna Nicol
Andrew Grieve

NINTENDO WII
Kirk Akers

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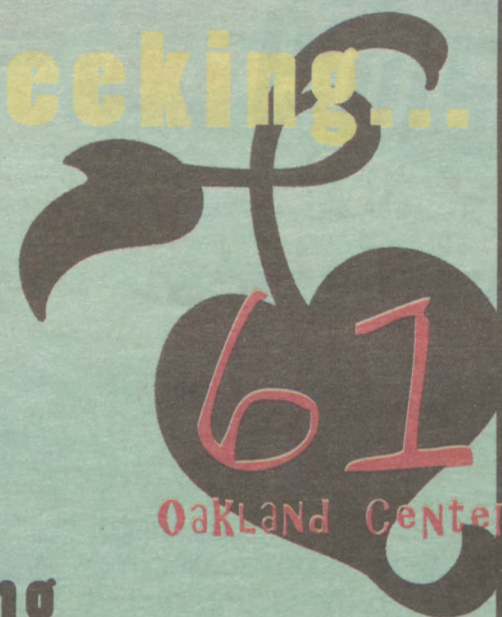
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Minding changes in business

SBA adds programs to prepare students for a changing economy

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

As Ale Hejase was sitting in his Beirut, Lebanon home in 2005 talking to his father about his future, he knew what he wanted to study. Four years later, the 22-year-old Oakland University senior finance major thinks he might have made a mistake.

Hejase entered the School of Business Administration in August 2005 with the intent of finding a job in the thriving investment sector. Now, as he prepares to graduate from OU in May, economic recession has hit his chosen profession as hard as any other field.

As if sobering economic realities were not enough, Hejase, who came to OU after his father recommended he study under finance professor Austin Murphy, said he is less than impressed with the way OU has prepared him for the job market.

"That one professor, Austin Murphy, yes he did [live up to his reputation]," Hejase said. "Honestly ... the rest of the university wasn't exactly what I thought [it would be]."

Hejase said OU did not do an adequate job in allowing him to gain the practical experience that would make him competitive in the job market. Hejase said that he was interested in developing software skills at OU, but could not find a program or sufficient courses to assist him in attaining those skills. He said he was even more dismayed when he heard about the Applied Technology in Business minor within the SBA.

"I basically heard about this ATiB program last semester, at the end of it, and I could not really get into it, because it's for second-year students," Hejase said.

Softer side of business

Perhaps Hejase would have gotten more out of his education had he been starting in SBA now rather than four years ago. Mohan Tanniru, the dean of SBA, said OU is adapting quickly to the increasingly competitive global market and offering more expansive services to

provide students with the skills needed to possess and maintain a job.

"We always trained our students well, but there has been greater emphasis recently on giving them more opportunities to gain additional skills such as experiential learning, global interactions, leadership, etc.," Tanniru said. "Our programs like ACHIEVE and SCHOLARS, and global reach are intended to make our students competitive. We are also changing some of our graduate programs, so that they can be completed in a shorter time frame and attract international students."

ACHIEVE is a program new to SBA as of this year. It is a required part of the curriculum, and requires freshmen to attend sessions on topics such as business etiquette and networking, as well as participating in mock job interviews.

According to Laurie Shano, an academic advisor for SBA, the

top priority of ACHIEVE is helping students find career paths that are compatible with their interests and abilities.

"It is meant to hone their soft skills, expose them to resources, provide networking opportunities and, most of all, enable them to learn about the majors in business so that they can choose the one that they realize they are best suited for," Shano said.

Shano said ACHIEVE events like Networking with Professionals help instruct students on how to communicate with accomplished businesspeople long before they ever have to worry about making business cards.

"They're learning how to craft their own self-introduction," Shano said. "Simple things like eye contact, handshakes, being able to speak eloquently without your voice shaking, those things are critical and aren't necessarily learned unless they are taught and practiced."

Hejase said he wishes there were more opportunities offered during his academic career and said he could have benefited from developing his "soft skills."

Partnering up

On top of preparing students for a cut-throat job market, SBA officials said they are committed to helping combat recent economic trends.

OU recently announced the development of the Center for Integrated Business Research and Education, which allows students and faculty to participate in collaborative educational and professional projects. Tanniru said CIBRE could become one of SBA's most valuable resources.

"CIBRE is developed to provide a single focal point for the business school," Tanniru said. "Businesses and community leaders can work with us to support advances in business

research, educate business students to become successful business professionals and leaders, and address continuing educational needs of the community."

Still, a number of students are feeling the effects of the beaten economy.

Jeff Wajer, a junior marketing major who works full time with a digital marketing firm closely tied to the auto industry, said he is worried that people in his field are becoming more expendable as economic times get tough.

"We've felt the impact quite a bit," Wajer said. "Usually in the business environment, the marketing people and the salespeople are the first to get cut in a structure like that."

Tanniru said the recession is hampering SBA in significant direct ways, forcing them to be creative when trying to institute new programs.

Wajer said that although the economy

is rough, he thinks a business degree is one of the most useful degrees to have because of the options it provides.

"It's a pretty versatile degree," Wajer said. "I feel that, with a business degree, you can do a wide range of different career paths. If you're going into nursing or something, you're kind of just stuck in that one field of work."

Marketing yourself

Some students feel that with the job market as competitive as ever, it is even more important for students to be able to market themselves.

Wajer is a member of the business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi, and said that he is exposed to a number of real world business situations and makes connections with employers through the fraternity, which he believes will make him more marketable when he graduates.

One of Wajer's fraternity brothers, junior finance major Kevin DeBastos, said that Alpha Kappa Psi is "a lot like ACHIEVE, just on a higher level."

DeBastos said he has really enjoyed his academic experience in SBA, and feels he has had opportunities to develop his business skills.

"If you have time, they're always willing to talk to you about an assignment or whatever you need," DeBastos said. "We have a few executives in house ... you can talk to them and pick their brains. That's a huge advantage that a lot of students aren't taking the opportunity to do."

DeBastos said he is in the process of working with his advisor to apply for internships. Unlike DeBastos, Hejase, said he tried to use SBA resources to help him find an internship, but was on his own when looking for one.

Hejase said that when he graduates in May, his degree will only offer him limited opportunities.

"Basically, it's a good degree to have if you just want to stay in the immediate Detroit area," Hejase said. "If you want to do something else, the degree doesn't mean that much ... When it comes to recent college graduates, I feel that I am on the lower end of the division."

Jensen's journey to OU

Freshman swimmer becomes a focal point for the championship

By JOE GUZMAN
Senior Reporter

When Oakland University swimmer Anders Jensen travels to College Station, Texas, this weekend to compete in the NCAA Championships, his coach's expectations will be high.

His performance during last month's Summit League Swimming and Diving Championships earned him Summit League Athlete of the Month honors for February, as the team captured its 10th straight conference championship.

The native of Copenhagen, Denmark, hit two NCAA automatic "A" qualifying standards in the 100 and 200-yard backstroke events, and was named Summit League Newcomer of the Year and Swimmer of the Year.

According to head swimming coach Pete Hovland, if Jensen were a typical freshman, Hovland's expectations for the 21-year-old would be a bit more reserved. He said with a typical freshman the feeling is that you hope they do well, but you're not really sure. But with Jensen, he feels comfortable that he won't be as awestruck by the event.

"He's got international experience, he's a little bit older, a little more mature, and this was his goal from day one," Hovland said. "It's not like, 'I just hope I get there' or 'I'm happy to be there,' [with Jensen]." The feeling is more like, "I'm going to get there and I'm going to do well when I get there. I'm going there and I'm there to swim fast or even faster."

Jensen believes his success is due to a strong work ethic he developed while growing up and training in Denmark, working towards his dream of swimming competitively for an American university.

Swimming Career Begins

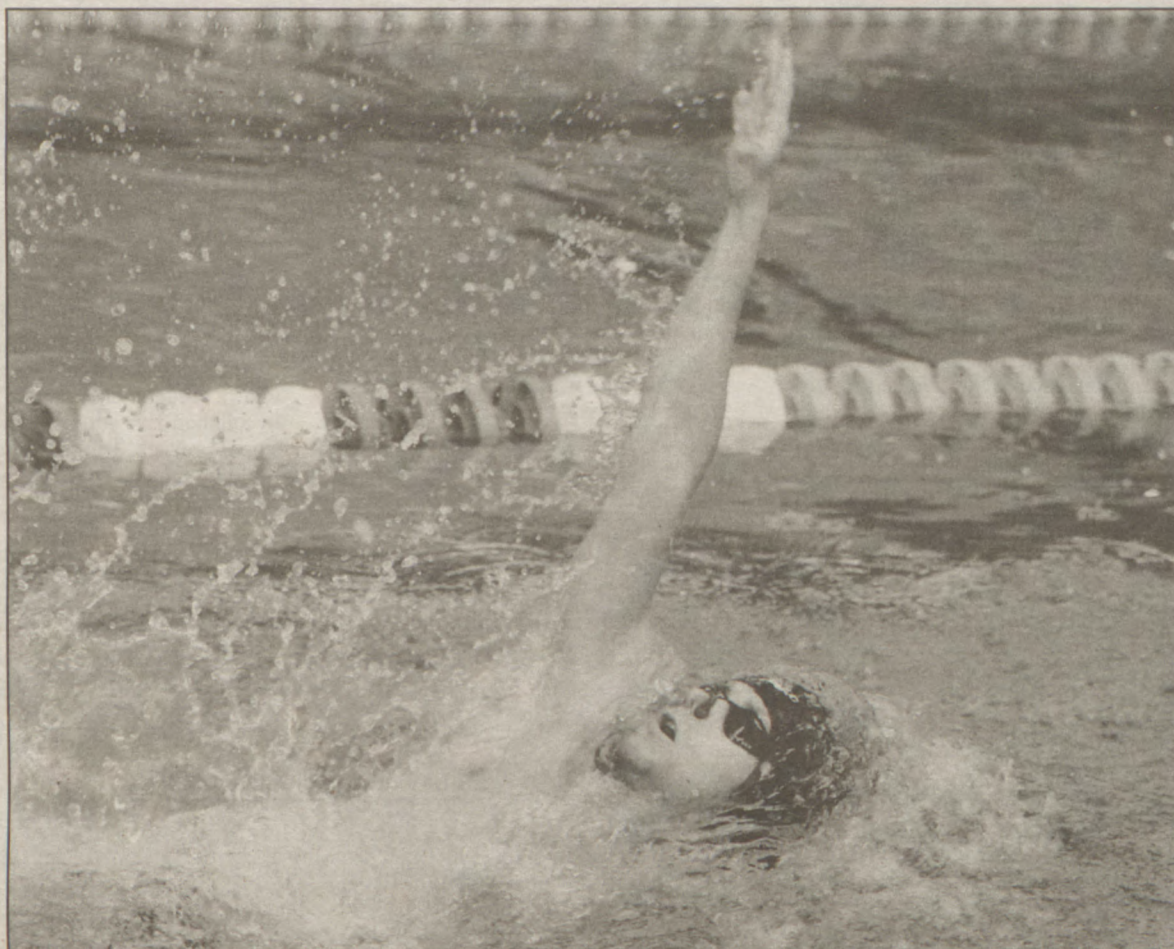
His desire to come to America and compete at the collegiate level grew when he joined the Falkonergergades Gymnasium elite center and experienced national recognition as he won the National Danish Junior Championships in 2006 and 2007.

In Denmark there are no college swimming teams, so for someone to pursue it professionally, they join club teams while training at elite centers.

According to Jensen, elite centers are not unlike colleges in that athletes live together in dorm-like housing where they train with other swimmers that may or may not be part of the same club team.

When he finished his four years at the elite center he sat down and converted his times to yards, because he didn't have yard length pools in Denmark, then he sent letters to several prospective universities.

"It has been my big dream to come to the States and



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post File Photo

Freshman Anders Jensen has two brothers, Tim and Mads, that both swim at the national level back in his home in Denmark.

swim at college and still study, but it is hard to do both in Denmark," said Jensen. "Of course you can swim, but you still go to university, it's tougher because it's separate and it's on your free time."

Jensen, who received responses from five different schools, admitted that he wasn't aware of OU's recent success. He said his choice to come to Oakland had more to do with the scholarship he was offered and his communication with Hovland.

"I spoke to Pete [Hovland] a lot and he was a really nice guy. I saw the team, and saw some good people I would want to train with in Marcin Unold and Edie Toro, and they were just stacked in the backstroke," said Jensen.

Hovland equates signing Jensen to what would have

been a top-ranked American swimmer.

"Anders was probably faster than any kid in high school. If he were an American kid he would have been ranked number one out of high school in the 200 backstroke, so that is like me signing the best kid in the country."

College Life at Oakland

When Jensen moved here in August, he was a little shy, as would be expected for a 20-year-old who had never set foot on American soil.

His father joined him for the first 10 days to ease him into the reality that he would be living without his family by his side. Jensen said the hardest part was to learn to speak English every day, but the foreign

presence on the team assisted in his transition.

"[The Gustafsson sisters] from Sweden could speak a little bit of Danish, and I understand Swedish so that helped. But, it was easy to speak English with my friends, but it was hard to understand teachers or formulate questions for them," he said.

Jensen said that being around students his own age all the time helped him and according to fellow freshman and roommate Tim Montague, he adjusted to the life of a poor college student in no time.

"We've kind of taken a liking to \$5 Fridays at Rio Wraps, and \$5 Hot-N-Ready pizzas from Little Caesars. The freshman class here is really close," said Montague.

Jensen said the American college environment made him more relaxed, and that helped his swimming.

"Being more relaxed helped my confidence, in that I can go into the water and just have fun, and do what I have to do," Jensen said.

Wise beyond his years

Montague said that Jensen's work ethic is really what sets him apart from the rest of the freshmen they live with.

"He's the organized one, while I can be messy. He sometimes checks with me to see if I have my keys and stuff when we go out," Montague said.

Jensen's discipline is what has impressed Montague the most. He said that Jensen focuses on kicking eight times for every turn.

"He makes me feel lazy. He just has it drilled into his head that it's just what he does, and that's hard for a lot of swimmers to do," Montague said. "I mean, at the that level he's at, to have it as a no-brainer to do that, I hope to get to that level some day."

This mentality even impressed Hovland.

"[Jensen and I] don't get into things that deep a lot of times, so it's interesting to hear that because it gives me a little more insight into [Jensen's mind], because he is kind of quiet and reserved.

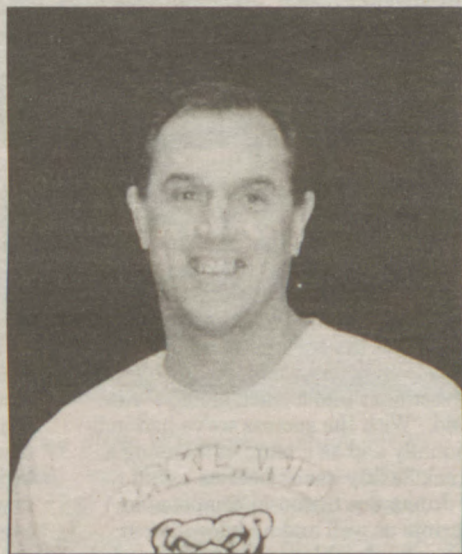
"His work ethic is second to none, he's extremely focused, his approach to everything you can see, it's calculated and thought out," said Hovland.

His experience and maturity have made things easier for Hovland, allowing them a good working relationship, where he can ask for Jensen's input on how to approach his training.

"A lot of freshmen come in and they have no idea, and you just say 'look, let's just do this for this year and follow my plan, get through it, and see where we are at the end of the year and adjust from there.' With Anders it's a partnership, where there is definitely some give-and-take, so when he does give me input I certainly listen to it, and try to implement it into what we're doing with him."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Jensen recently won Summit League Newcomer of the Year and Swimmer of the Year honors, awarded earlier this month.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Head coach Pete Hovland said he has higher expectations for Jensen than of other freshmen.

OU's basketball season ends in a controversy

Are fans still paying for 2005?

By TIM RATH
Web Editor

COLUMN

How much longer will Oakland University men's basketball fans be tortured?

Since the 2005 Mid-Continent Conference championship game against Oral Roberts, when Golden Grizzlies guard Pierre Dukes hit a 3-pointer with 1.3 seconds left to send the Grizzlies to the 2005 NCAA Tournament, OU has been dealt a historically harsh hand that came to a head Monday night.

In the CollegeInsider.com Tournament quarterfinal match on the road against Bradley, OU junior Johnathon Jones hit a brilliant jump shot with 0.9 seconds left in the game to put his team ahead 75-73. What happened next was nothing short of highway robbery, as Bradley's Chris Roberts took the inbounds pass at his own foul line and with mere tenths of a second left on the clock, launched a two-hand, 75-foot 3-pointer that banked in to send OU home with a score of 76-75.

Replays clearly showed that Roberts took at least two steps without dribbling and head coach Greg Kampe has filed a formal complaint with tournament officials.

I would only hope that CIT officials take the complaint seriously and send OU to its rightful place in the semi-finals, if only for a proper send-off to three great OU careers.

Seniors Ricky Bieszki, Dan Waterstradt and Erik Kangas have left it all on the floor in the past two years and to see their careers finish up on a disputed, sour note should be painful, not only for Grizzlies fans but basketball fans in general.

This year's indignity comes almost a year to the day after OU was eliminated in the Summit League Tournament semi-finals after being without guard Brandon Cassise, who was not allowed to compete due to a violation of team rules.

Even if the result is overturned, shame



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Senior center Dan Waterstradt scored eight points in the season-ending loss at Bradley on Monday.

on the CIT officials for allowing such a travesty to occur in the first place. This is the first time that the CIT has been played and my best guess is, OU will not be attending any time in the future. If results like this continue, it's safe to say that the CIT could soon be a one-year wonder.

That would make it a stark contrast to the careers of the OU seniors, which are greater than any game score. The three have broken numerous records en route to capturing the hearts of the OU community and it's sorry to see that they won't get a chance to do the same on a national stage.

If only Oakland had made the NCAA Tournament, then, just maybe, this injustice wouldn't go unnoticed.

Losses tarnish season

By JOE GUZMAN
Senior Reporter

COLUMN

What does a 26-5 regular season record really mean when you lose the two games that meant the most during the post season?

In the pros they call it choking.

It is understood that student athletes deserve lighter treatment, and that the Oakland University women's basketball program is still in the process of making a name for itself, but after three consecutive 20-plus win campaigns, including the program's overall best record this season, it was time for a conference championship.

Despite heading into the Summit League Championship on a 10-game winning streak, and leading No. 1 seeded South Dakota State by 10 at halftime, losing could be justified. And after witnessing the die-hard fans fill to the rafters in Sioux Falls, one could even accept the loss.

Still, the women had an opportunity to rebound, receiving a berth in the Women's National Invitation last Thursday against Dayton at the O'Rena. And considering that the arena in Sioux Falls was filled to the rafters with die-hard fans, you could even accept the loss.

The criticism toward the team isn't simply for coming up short for the league title. It's the way the lady Grizzlies finished their historic season, with consecutive second-half letdowns.

It's heart wrenching to think that the Jack Rabbits erased OU's 10-point halftime lead in less than seven minutes and proceeded to win the game by 10. To watch them enter the second half against Dayton, and play the most uninspired half of their season was an equally disappointing and lousy way to end the season.

In the second halves of their last two games, OU was outscored by 20 and 16 points, respectively.

With the way everything transpired in the end, it makes you question whether true progress was made this season.

Progress tracked

OU looks to establish a track facility on campus

By HILLARY SAWCHUK
Contributing Reporter

Four years ago, when Oakland University established an intercollegiate track program, the athletic department's first goal was simply to become competitive.

Complicating matters in pursuit of this goal, however, is the absence of a track and field facility on campus.

Track practice is currently held a few miles from the university at Avondale High School.

Many of Oakland's track and field athletes are beginning to wonder if and when a track will be built on campus.

Senior Brandon Elliot competes in sprints and said he would like to see the university have its own track.

"It will really put more of a face on the program," Elliot said.

In spring of 2011, OU will have the opportunity to host the Summit League Championship. All conference universities are put into the rotation whether they have their own track or not.

According to head coach Paul Rice, if OU doesn't have a facility by then, the university would have to rent a facility.

Rice said the program would like to be able to host the league meet and believes that track could also be utilized in other ways as well.

"The students can use it," Rice said. "There are ways to host high school-level meets and different meets to bring in revenue."

But the decision is not solely up to Rice. Although there have been discussions with the administration, the down economy is playing a major role in having the necessary funds.

"The university is not really in the position to build or put money up to build a track facility," Rice said.

Tracy Huth, Oakland's athletic director, said that while the goal is to eventually have on-campus facilities for all intercollegiate sports, no timetable currently exists for building a track.

"As the university has only recently added track, there was never a specific need for a facility," Huth said. "In consideration of adding track, the ability to build a facility was cost prohibitive."

"The decision to start a varsity track program was still a positive decision based on the ability to use local facilities," Huth said.

The team started out with the majority of the athletes being distance runners who did not compete on a track.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Oakland University's track team currently practices at Avondale High School in Auburn Hills.

Now that the program has grown, it has gained more athletes who compete in sprints, hurdles and field events.

"We just wanted to get a program started at the track level and see how it evolved before we made any big-time investment into a track facility," Rice said. "With the success we've had individually and as a team, not having a track facility hasn't held us back."

Junior Joe Suchoski competes in sprints as well and he knows some other track athletes who have decided to run for different universities because they had their own campus facilities.

"I think having a track would do wonders," Suchoski said. "OU would recruit more heavily."

The university currently has athletic facilities for many of its sports teams.

"There are always talks about adding things and trying to expand our facilities but we don't have any concrete plans right now," Rice said.

But this doesn't mean Rice and his

team aren't talking about it. Rice said he doesn't plan on leaving anytime soon and would like to see a track built in his time as a coach at OU.

"We're a new program and I think we're finally developed to the point where we have a really good student-athlete base with our track program now," Rice said. "Obviously the next logical step to take our program to a new level is to have new facilities on campus."

Although Rice said he would love to train on campus full time, he is content with the situation today.

"For now, it's working out fine," Rice said. "I know down the line, it'll happen at some point."

Oakland's track team will travel to California this weekend for the Stanford Invitational.

— Dan Fenner and Jared Purcell contributed to this report.

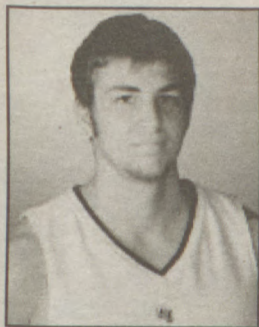
TRACK AND FIELD3/27 Stanford Invitational in
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at Texas A&M**WOMEN'S GOLF**3/30 - 3/31 Tina Barrett Longwood
Invitational in Farmville, Virginia**MEN'S GOLF**3/28 - 3/29 Ball State Cardinal
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3/27 vs. Concordia 3 p.m.
3/31 at Western Michigan 3 p.m.**MEN'S LACROSSE**3/29 vs. Grand Valley State
(Notre Dame Prep)**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**3/25 vs. Michigan (Pontiac) 9 p.m.
3/28 vs. Saginaw Valley (Troy) 2 p.m.
3/28 vs. Bowling Green (Troy) 3:30
p.m.**SOFTBALL**3/28 vs. UMKC 12 p.m. *
3/29 vs. UMKC 12 p.m.

*Doubleheader

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

**Erik Kangas**

Basketball

Major: Business Administration

Year: Senior

Kangas scored 23 points in both games of
the **CollegeInsider.com** Tournament this
week, capping off his career at Oakland.

Photo courtesy of OU Athletics

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Proyas predicts the future

By LAUREN YALDOO
Contributing Reporter

In the past, several disaster movies have emerged and reached the surface of the film world. The latest edition of this movie genre, "Knowing," just may foretell the true end of the world as we know it.

According to boxofficemojo.com, "Knowing" was the No. 1 movie over its opening weekend, March 20-22.

The movie begins in 1958 when a group of students from an elementary school draw pictures and place them in a time capsule. One student compiles a list of what seems to be random numbers.

The time capsule is opened 50 years later and grade-school student Caleb Koestler (Chandler Canterbury) interprets the student's message as a mathematical puzzle.

Caleb's father, elementary teacher John Koestler (Nicolas Cage), makes the breakthrough that the numbers are predictions of the future and ultimately a warning to everyone.

The pattern, as John reveals, is the accurate number of dates, deaths and coordinates of every major disaster in the last five decades. In a race against time, John attempts to prevent these prophecies from becoming a reality.

The Oakland Post was included in a conference call with director Alex Proyas.

Proyas, accredited as the director of many movies including "The Crow," "Dark City" and "I, Robot," said that while the movie briefly touched on 9/11, it wasn't based on those events.

"The original script screenplay was written before those tragic events occurred," Proyas said.

"But obviously in the wake of 9/11 it's an impossible event to ignore when you are telling the story about all the major disasters that have occurred in the last 50 [years], it's an impossible tragedy to ignore."

Proyas said while the film is suspenseful, it's also emotional and intimate.

"It is about these large-scale events that occur in the story and there's an aspect of action and certainly it's a suspense thriller. Suspense drives the movie forward," Proyas said.

"It really is a very intimate story about a father and son and that's kind of what appealed to me."

Proyas said he took a different approach from his usual choice of fantasy

in his previous films.

"Science fiction is often a little bit more grounded in the rules of the real world," Proyas said.

Proyas has also written many of the films he has directed.

"I get as involved as I possibly can. Some projects I initiate, others I come in at a later stage, like in the case of 'Knowing,' and rewrite substantially. I do like to have as much involvement with the script as possible," Proyas said.

The director talked about how the casting process for the film included two leads: Cage and Rose Byrne (Diana Wayland), two actors he said he has wanted to work with. Proyas said Cage illustrated the main character, and he is a versatile actor.

"He really embraces his characters and runs with them," Proyas said.

Other than the disaster aspect of this film there is the spiritual quest of Cage's character.

"[He] starts off believing that the universe is a meaningless place that functions on the basis of randomness and chaos and comes to realize that perhaps there is meaning to his life on Earth," Proyas said.

"Knowing" was filmed in a different way than most movies, and with a different camera.

"In this instance I used a camera called a red camera which I was really impressed with. That was a big learning curve for me and for my entire crew but a really wonderfully exciting one, and we're very pleased with the results," Proyas said. "That definitely felt like I was back in film school for awhile."

Proyas said he had a premise for the set of events that occurred in the movie.

"I really wanted to make them as visceral and as real and as unsettling as possible," Proyas said.

"There is a course that it takes that I really believe will take people by surprise and take them to a hopefully very satisfying conclusion both dramatically and philosophically," Proyas said.

Proyas said he felt the film symbolically predicted a viable end of the world.

"I think it's this whole notion of the world ending suddenly. Sadly, I do believe that if the world ends, civilization ends, it will probably be at the hands of mankind," Proyas said.

"Knowing" opened in theaters Friday, March 20.



Photos courtesy of Vince Valitutti

(Above) Nicolas Cage and Rose Byrne star in "Knowing," which was No. 1 at the box office March 20-22. (Below) The director of the film, Alex Proyas, also directed "The Crow" and "I, Robot."



QUICK HITS

Reviews in 30 seconds

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

"Resident Evil 5"



Video Game Review

"Resident Evil 5" continues the series in the spirit established in RE4, but with the added constant cooperative game play. You have the option to play the entire game with a friend or a computer-controlled partner.

The "scary" aspect of Resident Evil is basically gone from the series at this point, except for fighting zombies. Mobs of infected people come at you in broad daylight, with little suspense. The only frightening part comes from the terror you feel when you, for example, try to pass off a box of machine gun bullets to your partner in real time, while a 7-foot tall man wearing a burlap sack on his head barrels down on you with a chainsaw. If either player gets killed, the game is over.

Although some parts of the game can become frustrating, RE5 is still a blast for two players to tackle cooperatively.

By TIM RATH
Web Editor

"Watchmen"



Movie Review

From the My Chemical Romance version of "Desolation Row" to the fact that Zack Snyder (of "300" infamy) was signed on to direct, something just didn't seem right about the much-hyped "Watchmen" movie.

The film struggles from beginning to end. Fans of Alan Moore's graphic novel will pine for greater depth of main characters like Rorschach and Ozymandias while casual moviegoers will struggle to catch up with the intricate plot. Despite Snyder's supposed dedication to retaining the integrity of the novel, a key scene is edited for casual action-flick fans, thus digging a ditch too deep for the incredible cinematography to dig the film out of.

"Watchmen" had great potential to explore the political divisions that keep us apart today, but seems content to be an image of a distant past, an image as muddled as Snyder's intentions. This is truly as great a disappointment as any other in the history of American cinema.

By JOE GUZMAN
Senior Reporter

"Role Models"



DVD Review

Sean William Scott and a very cynical Paul Rudd star in this aptly named "Role Models." Another "Frat-Pack" and "bro-mance" vehicle scores high once again with Rudd's smarmy and smartass quips, along with Scott's frat boy persona.

The two are sales reps for Minotaur Energy Drink, pitching it to high school students, disguising their pitch as an anti-drug tour. Of course the odd couple scenario plays out here, when they are appointed "Big Brother" to foul-mouthed Ronnie and medieval obsessed Augie.

Each character has their own personal drama that connects to the viewers, and the comedy throughout the movie makes it a good buy. You won't watch it over and over, but when you're in the mood for a strictly entertaining comedy, these "Frat-Pack" movies are definitely "role models" for a fun movie.

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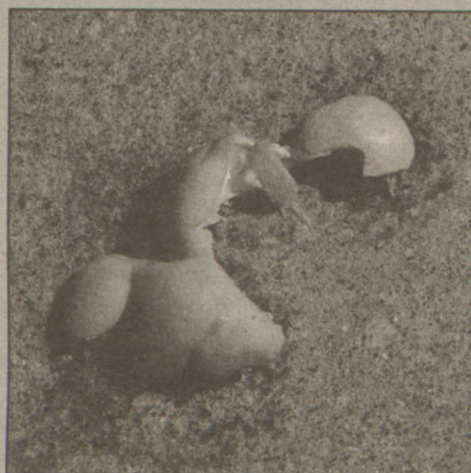
TRASH TALKS

The Post found random (and gross) acts of littering around our school.



A not-so-charming bush accessory: a plastic grocery bag.

A condom in the grass. We're really hoping it wasn't used.



An orange peel. We don't expect anyone to digest the rind, but that's what trash cans are for.

What is the worst thing you've ever seen as litter?



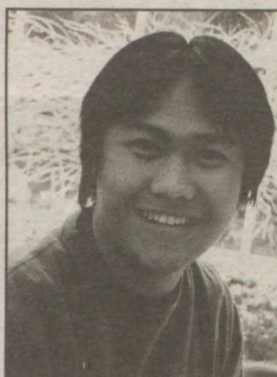
"A bed frame. People will move out and they just throw their stuff to the curb, knowing full well that the trash companies will not pick them up."

Drew Ewing
Sophomore, music



"I've seen what looked to be used condoms lying on the ground."

Lauren Redlowsk
Junior, communication/marketing



"Pop cans that can be recycled. I think those are the worst."

Jonathan Gusilatar
Junior, clinical laboratory science



"Around my apartment there's always couches and chairs, actually pretty nice stuff that people have just thrown out. People could always use them."

Melissa Baker
Sophomore, pre-med

The Michigan littering fine ranges from \$800 to \$2,500 depending on volume of litter.

Is this fine too high or too low?



"It's pretty high. You don't even get speeding tickets that high. That's a lot for throwing out an apple core."

Manny Katakis
Junior, journalism



"I think that's a bit high. I think people should be fined for a lot of other things. Littering is a big problem, but I think there are a lot worse problems."

Janaye Dixon
Junior, communications

Would you rather...

Everyone be forced to recycle by law or be able to continue to recycle freely?



"I think if you made it a law it would be way too hard to regulate. I think people just need to keep in mind that this is our planet, we need to take care of it."

Eric Frontiera
Senior, journalism



"I think they should make it more user-friendly. I want to recycle at my house, and we don't have a bucket for it and it's hard to figure out what to do."

Janell Hallauer
Senior, pre-med

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MOUTHING OFF

March 25, 2009

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

30

Cover the spring stink

Creating the right deodorant can have more perks than just smelling good

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Spring is finally here. The flowers are blooming, the bees are trying to have sex with them and the birds are chirping. But unfortunately, a rise in temperature brings on a new problem: a rise in body odor.

If you're anything like me, you smell. Men create a steady supply of body odor that, if unchecked, will threaten to suffocate the people you call friends. If advertising for men's deodorant is to be believed, the simple act of raising your arm to wave hello, hail a taxi, or shield your face from the sun can lay waste to an entire crowd of people.

This is serious business and for that reason I can walk you through the process of creating your very own spray deodorant, which you can and should carry on you at all times. Then I'll

explain the process of marketing it to the general public to ensure that society has easy access to these products to stem the bodily funk epidemic. It's prof-

itable, and it's entirely necessary to our survival as a species.

The first and most important step of creating a deodorant is to choose the name. Spray deodorants almost always have the name of something that can hurt you. Axe and Edge are prime examples. This is not just to try and make personal hygiene sound more like medieval combat; there is a reason for this.

The first spray deodorant was actually an accident, like penicillin, the potato chip, or LSD. Legend has it that a Dutch weapons manufacturer was attempting to make pepper spray, or mace, to be used defensively against muggers. Needless to say, some ingredients got mixed up, and the end result was not a blinding agent, but a powerfully fragrant spray. Some quick PR maneuvering changed the mace into Axe, and the rest is history.

However, it is interesting to note that if you spray Axe directly into your eyes, it has a similar effect as mace.

The next thing you need to come up with is a name for the fragrances themselves. Now, unlike women's deodorants, men's deodorants aren't named after actual smells so much as they are named after forces of nature. Axe body sprays come in varieties with names like Phoenix, Dimension and Gravity. Not many people can describe the smell of gravity, but I'll be damned if the odorologists at Axe haven't managed to bottle it. Right Guard and Degree have smells named after temperatures, such as Arctic Chill, Fresh Blast and Silver Ice. Both brands even have a scent simply called, "Extreme."

What does Extreme smell like? Don't think about it for more than a few moments, or your brain may start to leak out of your ears. It's one of those incomprehensible things, like "If a tree falls in the woods, does it make a sound?" or "Why do people keep going to see M. Night Shyamalan movies?"

The trick here is to keep people standing in front of the deodorant display for as long as possible. A man could conceivably spend hours in a drug store wonder-



BROOK HUG/The Oakland Post

Senior Reporter Rory McCarty learned how spray deodorant can attract his female coworkers. McCarty knows first hand that spray deodorant 'will make hot women molest you.'

ing. "Which natural disaster do I want to smell like: Tsunami or Avalanche?" After several hours of contemplating that fallacy, most people will break down into tears and buy everything in front of them.

Finally, the marketing. It's not good enough to tell people that your deodorant covers up the natural reek that they create, you need to sell it as a device to attract women. In many commercials, otherwise completely unattractive men with gelled hair apply body sprays to their person, and then instantly get tackled by the first supermodel they come into contact with. In extreme cases, it seems to function as a long-range, multi-personnel date-rape drug. Tag body spray's implicit suggestion is, "Tag Body Spray: It will make hot women molest you."

It's important to stress two things

here: that this deodorant makes you desirable only to attractive women, and that it is super manly. Old Spice learned this first lesson when they made an ad with the tagline, "Old Spice: It attracts homely girls and grandmas, too!"

As for the second point, if anyone doubts the manliness of the product, be sure to put it in a phallus shaped can, as most body sprays are.

There you have it. You have done humanity a favor by producing a potentially lifesaving deodorant. All that's left to do is make the deodorant. And since there is no combination of things that can accurately simulate the aroma of "Cool Instinct," any series of ingredients put into an aerosol can work provided that they both: (1) smell strong enough to cover up your BO and (2) don't cause instant paralysis.



How browsing can screw up your life

Fmylife.com may not intend on ruining social skills but one has learned it can

By JARED PURCELL
Guest Columnist

Today, I was on **fmylife.com** during class when my professor asked me a question. Since I was in the middle of reading another awkward tale of woe on the hilarious website, I had no clue what my teacher had asked. I responded with some random answer and the whole class laughed at me. FML.

The latest craze, **fmylife.com** is a website where people can talk about their most embarrassing and unfortunate moments — basically moments that make them say, "f*** my life." You'd be amazed at how many people feel ready to spill out what happened to them.

Even though users can post anonymously, each post offers options for the reader to tell them that "I agree, your life is f***ed" or "you deserved that one." And my, have the readers have been pouring in. According to **alexa.com**'s site tracking, **fmylife.com** has seen a 49,100 percent increase over the last three months in global Internet users who visit the site. Damn.

Maybe the reason why the website is so popular is that everyone loves a train wreck. Some of the posts are so bad that you can't look away.

Yet, **fmylife.com** could be all the rage because it helps many of the people who visit the site feel better about themselves. At least people can feel better about their own day after reading about someone walking in on his parents having sex. And you're not as bad off as the guy who was dumped by his girlfriend — for another girl.

It's so addictive. Suspense, comedy, instant gratification — this site has it all. The only thing is, it should have come with a disclaimer because, well, it's almost too addictive.

Like today, I was reading FML at home and read a blurb that made me laugh really hard. My mom walked into the room while I was still laughing but I had minimized the web page. Unfortunately, I forgot I left a web page open behind it so my mom saw a headline "five dead in car crash" on my computer and me laughing on the floor. My first therapy appointment is scheduled

for next week. FML.

The other day, I was at work reading FML when my boss came by my desk. I had copied and pasted an FML post into an e-mail to send to a friend because it reminded me of something that had once happened to her. My boss looked at the screen and saw the e-mail that read:

"Today, my boyfriend and I had sex for the first time. I started stroking the back of his neck with both of my hands. He told me, 'Your hands are nice and smooth like my grandmother's.' FML."

Now, my boss is cutting my pay for a month for not using the office equipment in appropriate matters and plus he thinks I'm gay. I'm not gay. FML.

Or last week, I was at my grandparent's house using my laptop. I had set it down to help get the table ready for dinner. My grandpa sat down by my laptop and decided to move it. When he moved it, the screen came out of sleep mode. Of course, FML was the webpage that was open and one of the posts was about someone who hated visiting his grandmother with Alzheimer's disease. My grandpa read it and kicked me out

of the house because my grandma has Alzheimer's. FML.

Or recently, I was in a Starbucks browsing FML on my laptop when an attractive girl walked in. She smiled at me while waiting in line for her coffee and then came over and sat across from me. After a few minutes of some great smooth talk on my part, she came over and sat beside me. So stunned by this girl who looked like Keira Knightly, I forgot that I was on FML and was reading things under the "sex" category. If you haven't read those, they are the most graphic.

Apparently, the smokin' hot girl sitting next to me thought that FML was a place for sex addicts to share their most awkward and disgusting fantasies. I tried to explain but she stormed away calling me a "perv." FML.

You see, my addiction to **fmylife.com** has actually f***ed my life. The fact that I was innocent in each instance is one thing; the fact that I am still visiting the site just tells you that I will be saying "FML" many more times in the future. FML.

Classifieds

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WWII A-bomb survivor recognized

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press writer

TOKYO — A 93-year-old Japanese man has become the first person certified as a survivor of both U.S. atomic bombings at the end of World War II, officials said Tuesday.

Tsutomu Yamaguchi had already been a certified "hibakusha," or radiation survivor, of the Aug. 9, 1945, atomic bombing in Nagasaki, but has now been confirmed as surviving the attack on Hiroshima three days earlier as well, city officials said.

Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima on a business trip on Aug. 6, 1945, when a U.S. B-29 dropped an atomic bomb on the city. He suffered serious burns to his upper body and spent the night in the city. He then returned to his hometown

of Nagasaki just in time for the second attack, city officials said.

"As far as we know, he is the first one to be officially recognized as a survivor of atomic bombings in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Nagasaki city official Toshiro Miyamoto said. "It's such an unfortunate case, but it is possible that there are more people like him."

Certification qualifies survivors for government compensation — including monthly allowances, free medical check-ups and funeral costs — but Yamaguchi's compensation will not increase, Miyamoto said.

Yet, Yamaguchi is satisfied that his record is now a historical fact.

"My double radiation exposure is now an official government record. It can tell the younger generation the horrifying history of the atomic bombings even after

I die," Yamaguchi was quoted as saying by the nationwide Mainichi newspaper.

Japan is the only country to have suffered atomic bomb attacks. About 140,000 people were killed in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki.

Yamaguchi is one of about 260,000 people who survived the attacks. Bombing survivors have developed various illnesses from radiation exposure, including cancer and liver illnesses.

Thousands of survivors continue to seek official recognition after the government rejected their eligibility for compensation.

The government last year eased requirements for being certified as a survivor, following criticism that the rules were too strict and neglected many who developed illnesses that doctors linked to radiation.



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/Associated Press

An Israeli Arab demonstrator carries a Palestinian flag as he walks through tear gas fired by Israeli troops during clashes following a protest by Israel right-wing extremists in the northern Israeli Arab village of Umm El-Fahm, Tuesday, March 24.

Extremist march provokes clash

By SEBASTIAN SCHEINER
Associated Press Writer

UMM EL-FAHM, Israel — Jewish extremists marched Tuesday through an Israeli-Arab town to demand residents show loyalty to Israel, setting off stone-throwing protests by Arab youths that police dispersed with stun grenades and tear gas.

The clashes in the northern Israeli town of Umm el-Fahm came at a time of increasing tensions between Israel's Jewish majority and its Arab minority, and residents said the march was a provocation. The leader of the Israeli demonstrators, settler activist Baruch Marzel, has been involved in violent attacks against Palestinians.

No serious injuries were reported. Dozens of Arab youths, their faces covered with checkered Palestinian scarves, heaved rocks at heavily armed black-clad police holding up shields, who responded by lobbing tear gas.

Police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld said 16 policemen were lightly wounded and 10 protesters were arrested. Another 15 protesters were lightly wounded, said the town's deputy mayor, Mustafa Suheil.

The violence erupted after police tried to push back protesters attempting to block a bus filled with the Israeli demonstrators, Suheil said.

"We came to say that the state of Israel is a Jewish state. We came in a show of loyalty and to say whoever is loyal, welcome. But people who flout the law should get out of here," said Itamar Ben-Gvir, a Jewish ultranationalist who helped lead the event.

N | W BRIEFS

03-20 | A nuclear-powered United States submarine collided with a Navy warship early Friday in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow passage through which much of the world's oil must pass on its way to market.

03-21 | The California single mother who gave birth to octuplets apologized in a video to the father of all 14 of her children, promising she would never reveal his identity.

03-22 | Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez called President Obama "ignorant," saying he has a lot to learn about Latin America.

03-23 | The parents of a 7-year-old boy who died at New York amusement park Playland's Ye Old Mill ride settled for \$1.25 million. | Tata Motors said the world's cheapest car will retail for just over \$2,000 in India by July. | A FedEx cargo plane ran off a runway in Tokyo and burst into flames, killing two crew members.

Cleaning up the fatal wreckage



MIKE ALBANS/Associated Press

A worker carries a piece of propeller as NTSB investigators and local authorities scour the scene at Holy Cross Cemetery, scene of the fatal plane crash which killed 14 people on Sunday, adjacent to the Butte Airport in Butte, Mont., on Tuesday, March 24.

Calif. mechanic shoots 2, is killed by police

Associated Press Report

SAN DIEGO — A mechanic at a bus depot in downtown San Diego shot a co-worker to death and critically injured another early Tuesday before being killed by police, authorities said.

After finishing his shift around 2 a.m., the Metropolitan Transit System worker walked into a lounge area and shouted "nobody's going to leave" before heading out to a parking lot and firing several shots, police Capt. Jim Collins said.

Arriving officers found a dead man on the ground at the facility and the mechanic holding a handgun at his side. He ignored repeated demands to drop the

weapon and used his other hand to make a phone call, Lt. Kevin Rooney said.

"When the call ended, he started to raise the gun at the officers and they shot him," Rooney said.

Three officers fired their weapons. Rooney said the officers were not close enough to hear what the man said during the phone call, and investigators were trying to find out who the gunman called.

After the gunman was shot, employees alerted officers to a second victim who was critically wounded in an office. The injured man was taken to a hospital and placed on life support, Rooney said.

Neither the gunman's nor the victims'

names were immediately released.

Rooney said investigators have "some indication" of the motive for the shooting, but he declined to elaborate.

The shooter was identified as a mechanic on automated bus fare boxes who had worked for the transit system for about 30 years, agency spokesman Rob Schupp said.

The wounded man was a bus mechanic who worked for the transit system for 31 years. The slain employee had been a foreman for about four years, Schupp said.

The transit system provides bus and rail services to the 3 million residents of San Diego County.