

Read about the pending change to the helmet law on A5.



Read about people who adopt soldiers deployed overseas on B3.

April 20, 2005

www.oakpostonline.com

50 cents

# WHITE SMOKE SIGNALS NEW POPE

By LIBBY BAKER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After one of the fastest elections in the past century, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected to lead the Roman Catholic Church as the 265th pope yesterday in Rome.

Ringed bells from the Vatican and white smoke from the Sistine Chapel's chimney signaled to the world that the cardinals had reached their decision.

The decision was announced around 6 p.m. (12 p.m. EST).

Ratzinger, who took the name Pope Benedict XVI, was greeted by cheers from the thousands of people gathered in

St. Peter's Square.

Ratzinger, who turned 78 last Saturday, waved to the crowd from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica where he gave his first blessing.

"The cardinals have elected me — a simple, humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord," the pope said in his address. "I entrust myself to your prayers."

Ratzinger, the first German pope since the 11th century, replaces Pope John Paul II, who died April 2 at age 84. Ratzinger delivered the homily at Pope John Paul II's funeral.

The new pope formerly served as head of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith under John Paul and was the Dean of the College of Cardinals.

The conclave of 115 cardinals voted once Monday night and twice Tuesday morning before electing Ratzinger.

He needed two-thirds of the votes to be elected.

Leaders from around the world responded to the cardinals' decision.

Speaking from the White House, Please see POPE on A2

## Rock adds his edge to "The Longest Yard"

By ELIZABETH GORECKI  
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

"I want people to walk out of the movie and think, 'That guy was funny.'"

That's what actor, comedian and director Chris Rock hopes people are saying when they walk out of the theaters May 30, the day two movies featuring Rock — "Madagascar" and "The Longest Yard" — open.

Rock doesn't have too high of expectations for his career, just to do what he loves and make people laugh.

And that's exactly what he's been up to.

In "The Longest Yard," a remake of a 1974 film of the same name in which prison inmates challenge a team of prison guards to a football game, Rock plays Caretaker, originally played by James Hampton.

"I think I'm a little funnier than Jim Hampton," Rock said.

He said it wasn't hard to make the character his own because he added "Chris Rock edge" to it.

Also starring in the film is Adam Sandler, a long-time friend and co-star to Rock.

"It's Adam's movie more or less," Rock said. "It was great working with Sandler and his guys because they knew what they were doing."

The movie also features a number of pro football players and pro wrestlers.

"I had a ball with those guys," Rock said. "With a cast of actors, you're not really impressed because you act too. With athletes, you respect them and think, 'I can't do that.'"

Rock said the remake is different from the original because this one is "primarily a comedy while

the original was a really rough action movie. A remake is a good idea as long as people can improve upon the old and make a new movie," he said. "A lot of young people have never seen the original so this is a new movie to them."

Rock also said director Peter Segal was a major influence in the movie as well as in his character. "He was very available to talk about the character and tone of the movie," he said. "I would definitely work with him again."

"I only had to worry about me being funny," Rock said about working with such a diverse crew. "In my movies, I have to make sure everyone is funny."

Rock said comedy has played a big role in his life. "Movies are very different than standup," he said. "People don't realize that you can't do in a movie what you do in stand up."

Rock said he loves comedy and is thankful for his start at Saturday Night Live.

"In stand up, it's like I have my real wife, who's a lovely woman and a mother, and my comedy wife who's a crazy \$%#@ that won't have sex with me, and one wife laughs at the other."

Rock has taken his share of criticism lately, especially before Oscar time, but he said he doesn't mind.

"I don't really react to the critics. I accept the good and the bad. If I accept it when people are going to say 'He's so funny,' I have to accept it when they say the bad things."

Rock said he truly enjoys all the movies he's done as well as his stand up.

"No one tells you to do a movie, they tell you to sell a movie, and no one wants to sell a movie they didn't like," he said.

Please see ROCK on A2

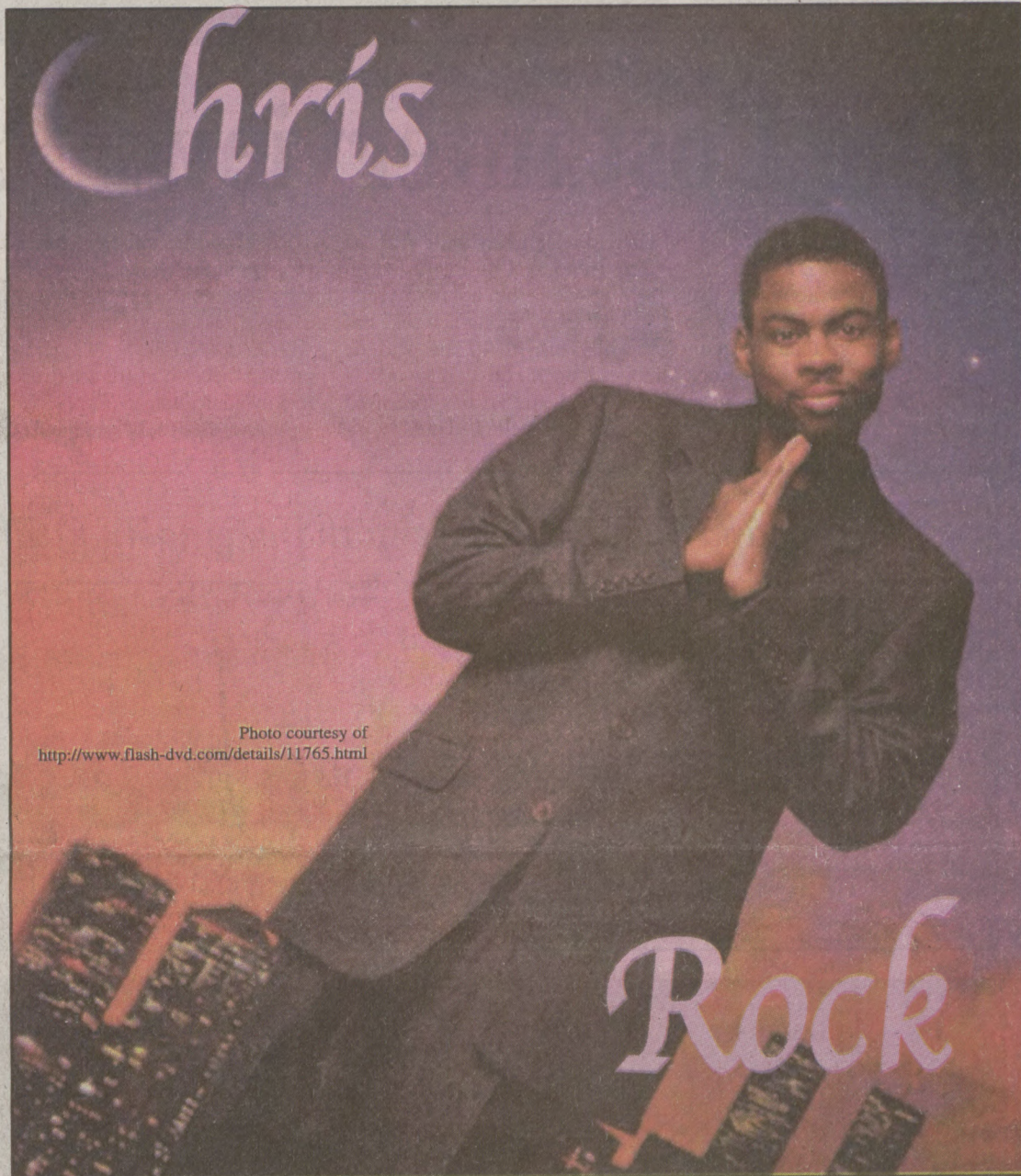


Photo courtesy of  
<http://www.flash-dvd.com/details/11765.html>

## Downing steps down, but not out

By ALLISON BRUNNER  
SENIOR NEWS WRITER

The rumor of Dean David Downing retiring is just that. A rumor.

Downing will officially step down May 1, 2005 and continue his tenured position in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

He was selected as the Dean of the College of Arts and Science about 10 years ago with the understanding that the position was provisional and one day he would move to another position.

Downing said that based on the feedback from his recent review, he is at the point where he would best serve the interest of the college in a new position.

Downing is also exploring other administrative options that may become available.

Julie Lichtenberg, development officer of the College of Arts and Sciences, has worked with Downing for the past five years.

"I have the greatest respect for his leadership and vision, particularly to have the liberal arts be a central part of the education of all students, with a particular focus on the visual and performing arts," Lichtenberg said.

Vice President of Student Affairs and Provost, Virinder Moudgil said Downing did great things for OU, including establishing the Center for Biomedical

Please see DOWNING on A8

# PSP sales stumble

By MICHELLE BLAHNIK  
THE OAKLAND POST

Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc.'s PlayStation Portable (PSP) video game system seemed to be quite a hit in its first week of sales, but the console's minor glitches and malfunctions may be the cause to much slower sales in the following weeks.

Following the March 24 debut of the PSP, Sony released statements claiming the launch was everything their company had hoped for.

"PSP is having an immediate impact across the entire industry as consumers are clearly voting it the product of the year in 2005," stated President and Chief

Please see PSP on A8

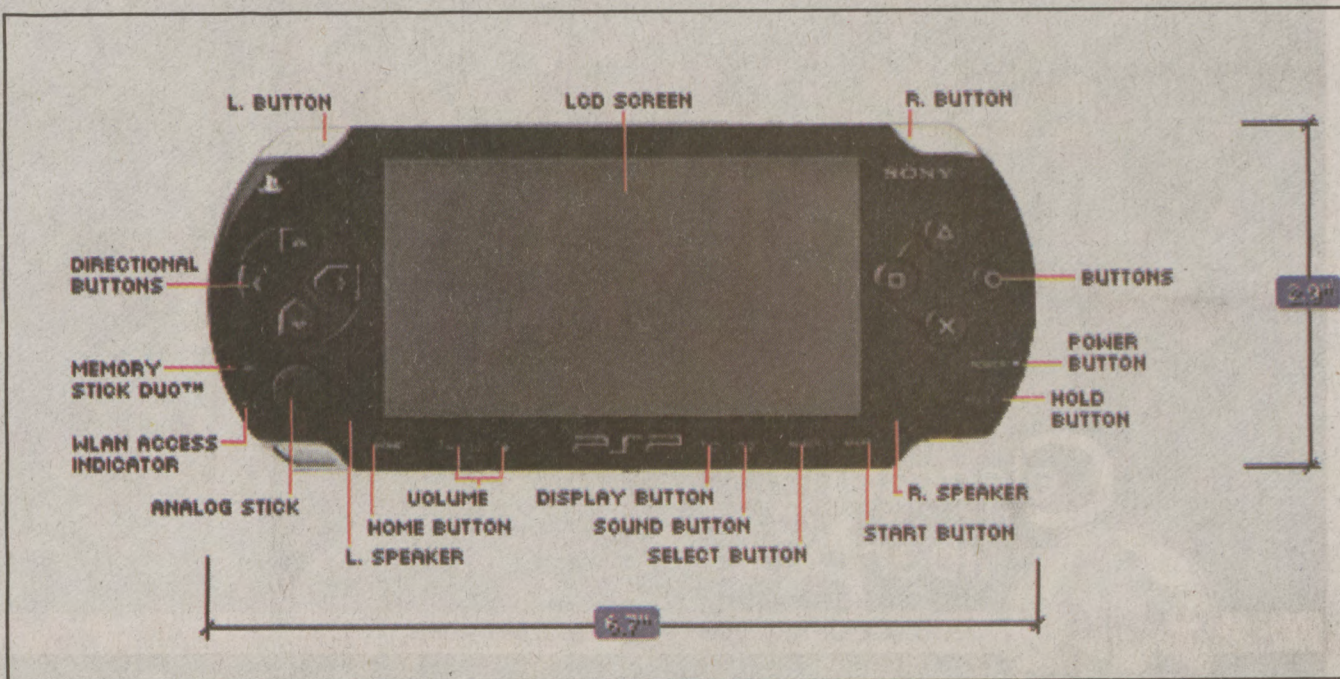


Photo courtesy of <http://www.sony.com>

## OU may see Grizz statue this fall

By ALLISON BRUNNER  
SENIOR NEWS WRITER

The second OUSC meeting with the new legislative body began with a review of Robert's Rules of Order by Legislator Joshua Miller.

The horseshoe shaped table in the Oakland Room Monday had many new faces sitting around it, and all got to practice proper meeting etiquette during the budget talks.

The biggest topic of discussion surrounding the budget was

OUSC's contribution to the Grizz statue.

The statue's base will cost \$35,000 and will weigh around 3,000 pounds. Its total cost is approximately \$50,000.

The funding has and will come from various parties,

including \$5,000 each from the Athletic Department, Presidents Office and the Student Affairs Office.

OUSC has contributed a total of \$15,000, taking the total received to \$35,000.

Legislator Montrell Porter

said "we are at a point where we can make this a reality or not."

"I think it's completely asinine that OUSC should foot 30 percent of the bill," Legislator George Nahas said,

Legislators debated about the Please see OUSC on A8

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### WEEKEND OUTLOOK

Friday  
HIGH 58  
LOW 38

Few Showers

Saturday  
HIGH 49  
LOW 34

Few Showers

Sunday  
HIGH 55  
LOW 38  
Partly Cloudy



# Conclave elects Ratzinger as Pope

**POPE**  
Continued from A1

President George W. Bush said, "He's a man who serves the Lord."

Some responded with disappointment and surprise.

According to MSNBC, a nun in Maryland told the Associated Press the election of Ratzinger, who is strictly conservative, was "devastating" for those who think the Church should be more accepting on social issues.

Pope Benedict's inaugural mass will take place Sunday at 10 a.m. (4 a.m. EST).



People linger in St. Peter's Square on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, after it was announced that Germany's Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger had been elected pope.

Romain Blanquart/Detroit Free Press/KRT

## The Post interviews Rock about new movies

**ROCK**  
Continued from A1

"I just try to write an act that doesn't bore me. I'm going to hear it a lot more than the audience so I have to like it," Rock said. "There's no deeper message there that I want the audi-

ence to walk away with. I'm not like Bono - I'm interested in saving Africa, but not in my act."

And even though Rock has recently turned 40, he said he hopes it doesn't effect his work. "I don't think my art has mellowed out, but I've mellowed out."

Rock said he currently has no projects in the works, but is reading over scripts. He also divulged a secret; he has been "working with Eddie Murphy, collaborating on a project soon, directed at a mainly adult audience."

Above all Rock said he is a

pretty regular guy. "On Saturday nights I stay in and watch DVDs and play with the kids," he said.

Rock's life is not a standup routine. "I don't go to Farmer Jack and throw some jokes at the checkout lady. I just buy my Mountain Dew."

Rock said he is definitely interested in directing again and has his eyes on an action film.

"It might happen sometime next year. Probably a black 'Ocean's Eleven' heist-type film."

For now, Rock has two movies opening on May 30, one an action-

comedy and one a cartoon. "It's going to be a good day," Rock said. "Having two movies opening on the same day is better than having nothing coming up."

No matter what comes next for Rock, audiences can expect it to have a "Chris Rock edge."

*The Oakland Post would like to thank outgoing staff members Libby Baker, Ed Feys, Liz Gorecki, Gina Lovisa, Brendan Stevens, Aaron Walker and Sara Weigold for their hard work and dedication. We wish you the best in your futures.*

*A special thank you to The Oakland Post advisor, Holly Shreve Gilbert.*

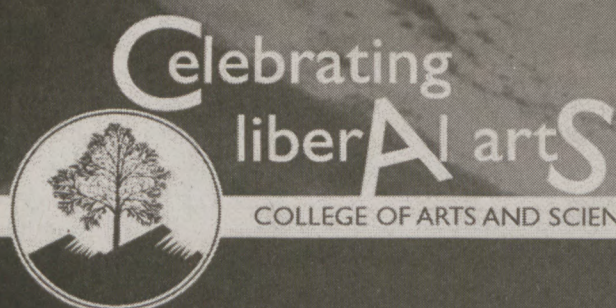
*The Post would like to welcome its new 2005-06 staff.*

Join the discussion about

Invasive species...

Greenhouse gases and  
climate change...

Genetically modified foods  
and organic foods...



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES 2005 - 06

### Environmental Exploration

Take a class, join a student organization, change the world! Explore the biological, social and cultural conditions that influence our world and shape our environment.

#### You won't want to miss:

- Nationally known speakers on environmental issues, including Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
- *The Future of Life*, the 2005-06 community book for first-year rhetoric classes
- The inaugural Burke Lecture featuring a talk on environmental ethics by Holmes Rolston, a noted author and ethicist
- An environmental photography exhibit at Meadow Brook Art Gallery
- A presentation on climate change by geologists from Kent State University
- Student activities, including writing contests, campus cleanup and nature observation, and informational fairs
- A full spectrum of presentations by environmental experts from campus and community groups, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and coalitions, and industry specialists

Brought to you by OU's College of Arts and Sciences, with support from the Divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, this global perspective on the environment emphasizes the multidisciplinary knowledge exploration aspect of your Oakland education.



Check for details on the  
Environmental Exploration Web site:  
[www2.oakland.edu/oakland/environmental](http://www2.oakland.edu/oakland/environmental)



April 20, 2005

The Oakland Post  
www.oakpostonline.com

A3

## Women take back the night

BY LOREEN BAHRI  
THE OAKLAND POST

Kristen David stood in front of a crowd wearing a green ribbon on her arm and singing "Hung Over." The ribbon symbolized that she was a survivor of sexual assault, and the song was about her experience. "The song really did help me ... the first time I had to get up in front of everyone at a show and say rape into the mic was the first time that I admitted that it happened to me," said the lead singer of the band Lazy Sunday.

David's fellow bandmates Susie Giang, Liz

Holowasko and Hana Malhaus wore white ribbons to symbolize their support for Take Back the Night, an event that takes a stand to end violence against women.

Sponsored by OU and HAVEN, a nonprofit organization against sexual assault and domestic violence, Take Back The Night was held last Wednesday.

The program opened with a rally, for which Stacy Swandersk, a Farmington Hills Police Department detective, delivered the welcoming, followed by a guest speaker who shared her experience of surviving a sexual assault.

A march followed the rally, and marchers expressed their support for ending violence against women.

The last portion of the event was devoted to Speak Out, which allowed sexual assault survivors to share their stories with the audience, followed by a candlelight vigil.

This is the fourth year Take Back The Night has been held at OU and was part of National Sexual Assault Awareness month.

Throughout the day, HAVEN and the Women's Issue Forum had tables set up in the OC where students could obtain information about Take Back

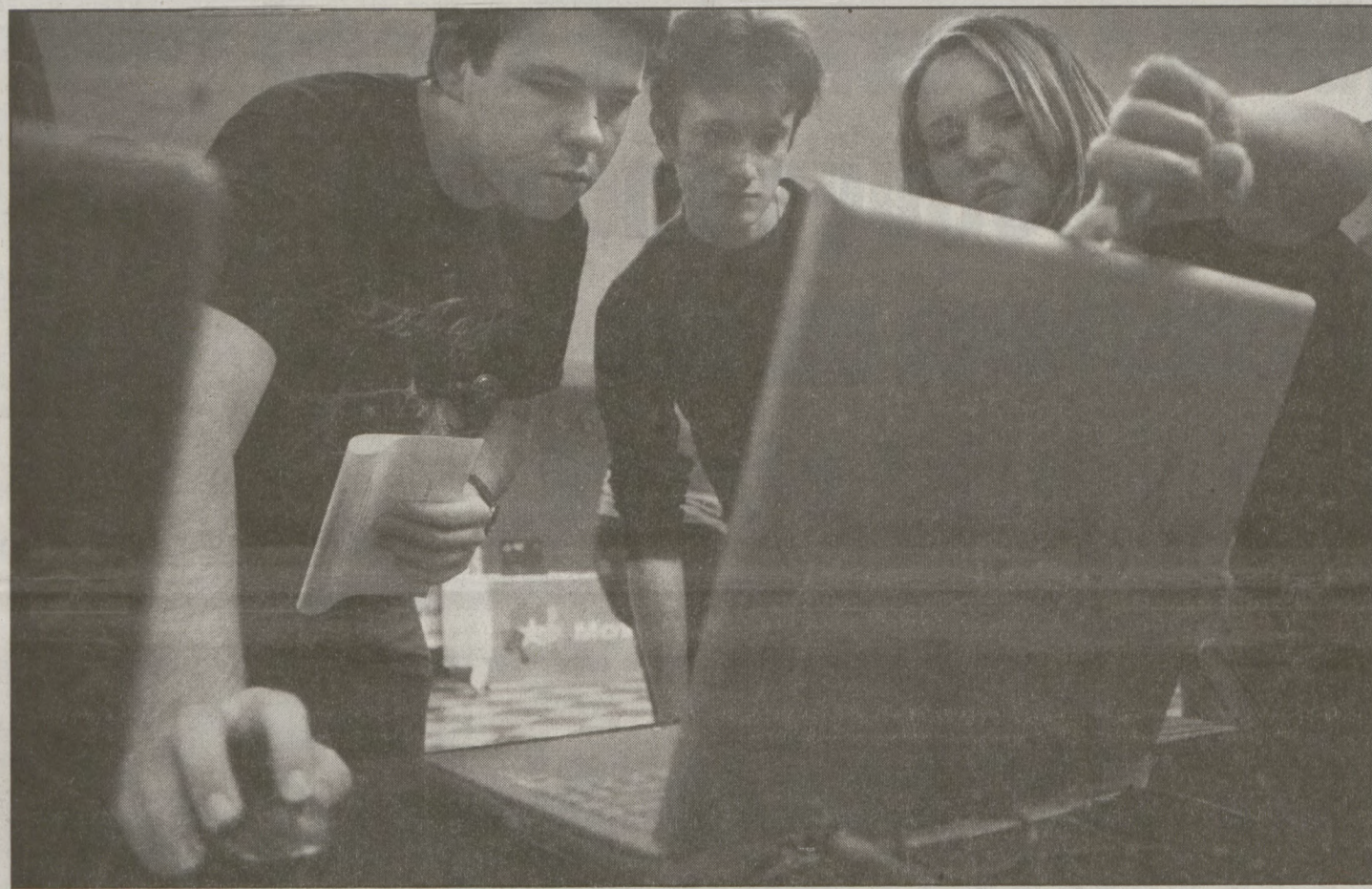
The Night or purchase T-shirts, CDs and pins.

Meredith Newman, development associate for HAVEN, said that the red wooden statues that were placed around the OC are called silent witnesses, memorials for women who have died from violent acts.

Alpha Delta Pi - Upsilon chapter, Center for Student Activities and the OUPD were some of the student organizations involved in Take Back The Night.

"Every year has a different mix and this year a lot more men attended, which is a good thing," said OUPD officer Nan Gelman.

## Students can search for jobs in pajamas



Using Michigan's Virtual Job Fair, students can now search for jobs at any computer with Internet service.

Dawn Major/St. Louis Post-Dispatch/KRT

BY HEIDI ROMAN  
THE OAKLAND POST

OU students and alumni have searched for employment from the comfort of their own homes by visiting the Michigan Collegiate Virtual Job Fair.

The Web site is a free service for students and alumni which links local employers with prospective applicants.

Job seekers view employment postings and company information, then choose which position to apply for.

"The virtual job fair provides another avenue for applicants to contact us through," said Nicole Colpitts, college recruiter for Quicken Loans/Rock Financial.

The mortgage lending company, voted 13th best company to work for in the United States by Fortune magazine, was seeking to fill a full-time branch banker position, as well as a Web banker with a starting salary of \$55,000.

"We've had four or five really good applicants, and three of them are actually employed here now," Colpitts said.

The companies review the submitted resumes and then contact the applicant or interview them online in a virtual chat room.

"We liked the ease of communicating with students via the chat room," said Dennis Koczara, recruiting manager for MetLife Financial Services.

Although Koczara doesn't believe that an online chat is a sufficient interview, he said it will allow him to inform the can-

didate of upcoming seminars and events.

MetLife Financial Services has not received a good response to the financial sales positions they hope to fill, he said, adding that he hopes candidates will continue to submit resumes before the May 1 deadline.

Tami Puckett, a representative from one of the participating companies who refused to disclose its name, said she was pleased with the response from the job fair.

"We wanted to try something different. A couple of sales positions opened up, and we wanted to reach as many candidates as possible," Puckett said, adding that a handful of well-qualified individuals have submitted resumes.

The company did not make use of the chat room feature, but chose to conduct interviews in person.

The long list of employers who participated in the virtual job fair includes DaimlerChrysler, AFLAC, American Express Financial Advisors, Belle Tire, Brio Advertising, Pepsi Bottling Group, UPS and the US Army Reserve.

Each employer posted company information on their virtual "booth" along with a listing of available employment and qualifications.

The job fair was sponsored by the Michigan Association of Collegiate Career and Employment Services, the Michigan Collegiate Job Fair and the Michigan Council for Cooperative Education.

For more information, visit <http://www.mcvcj.org>.

## Women aren't from Venus, men aren't from Mars

BY RACHAEL BIERMANN AND  
LOREEN BAHRI  
THE OAKLAND POST

We've all heard the argument of the best-selling self-help book "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" written by John Gray. According to Gray, men and women are so unlike that they might as well be from different planets.

Sociologist Michael Kimmel refuted the popular idea of gender roles on Friday at a lecture he gave at OU.

"The reality is that we are more similar than we think ... what we know in our day-to-day experience is that men and women are more similar," he said.

According to Kimmel, women have changed drastically over the past 40 years and in doing so, have made gender visible.

The entering of women into the work force is one of the major changes that has made gender differences visible.

What it means to be a woman has also changed over time. On the other hand, what it means to be a man hasn't changed.

Kimmel finds that society has expected men to not be sissies (or not be women), to have big paychecks, to be tough during a crisis and to take risks.

"I think the invisibility of gender to men is political," he said. "Privilege is invisible to those who have it."

Kimmell touched on how the ideology of masculinity seems to have remained the same even though the circumstances have changed.

For example, the workforce has seen an increase in female bosses, but because the dominant power is always privileged, these gender issues go unnoticed by many men.

A similar argument that Kimmel said had changed his life was when he heard a white woman say that all women share the same oppression.

A black woman replied by asking the white woman what she saw in the mirror when she woke up in the morning, adding afterward that she not only sees

a woman, but she sees a black woman.

Not everyone sees race, and it is a privilege for white women to not have to think about race, just as it is a privilege for men to not have to think about gender, Kimmel said.

"Women can't have it all because men do," Kimmel said, adding that he finds that gender equality is in men's best interest.

But in order for men to understand that, society needs to realize a man's idea of entitlement. Because women often feel they have to choose between work and family, Kimmel suggests that by men helping in household chores, both will be happier and healthier.

The children of the families that partake in joint household duties will also be happier, healthier and do better in school.

Kimmel ended with a quote from 1916 by Floyd Dell saying "Feminism will make it possible for the first time for men to be free."

Kimmel has been lecturing at colleges and universities for approximately 12 years.

According to his Web site, <http://www.michealkimmel.com>, he has written many books regarding masculinity, such as "Manhood in America: A Cultural History" and "The Politics of Manhood."

## Pope touches lives of many

BY LOREEN BAHRI  
THE OAKLAND POST

The death of Pope John Paul II sparked discussion among many, and OU students took part as well in the Current Events Panel held last week.

The concerns of selecting a new Pope was the highlight of the discussion led by Peter Trumbore, professor of political science, and Don Matthews, professor of history.

Cardinals will gather in the Sistine Chapel behind closed

doors and are shut away from the outside world until the voting process is over.

Matthews touched on how John Paul II was the first to reach out to Muslims and Jews in a way that no other Christian leader had done before.

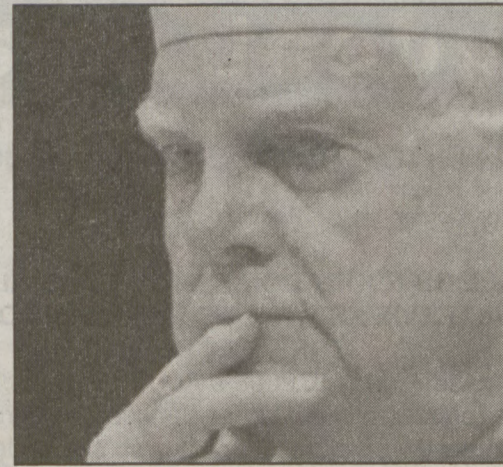
Aside from the public wanting to pick, choose and disagree with the Pope's politics, Trumbore finds that the acclaim received after his death has been genuine, adding that the nation is saddened by his death.

"I was glad there was a chance

for all students to get together to discuss the Pope's life and religion," said sophomore Monica Majcher.

"The professors are knowledgeable and their viewpoint is important, but they are not there to just lecture," said Paul Franklin, coordinator of campus programs for the Center for Student Activities.

"The panel should be an interactive discussion between the students and speakers. It's important for OU students to become aware of current events," he added.



Cardinal Bernard Law presides over the celebration of the third of the nine masses at St. Peter's Basilica for Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on Monday, April 11, 2005.

Romain Blaquant/  
Detroit Free Press/KRT

police

files

•OU's Police Department issued two warrants to two resident students who were charged with possession of and intent to deliver marijuana.

An unknown individual or individuals notified OUPD of suspected narcotic activity in Fitzgerald House.

Based on evidence found by OUPD, the two individuals were arraigned and later released on personal bond.

Preliminary examina-

tions are scheduled for the end of this month.

•A male parked his vehicle on the north side of the 1000 University Student Apartment building and left the key in the ignition.

He said he returned to the scene seven hours later and found his car missing.

He said he often leaves the key in the ignition and uses a remote to get back into the car.

Officers found no sign of broken glass in the area.

•A male left his wallet under his baseball hat on the bleachers of the Rec Center and noticed it was missing upon his return.

~~~~~  
Have a wonderful  
spring and summer!

The Post will have one  
issue, and be back weekly  
in the fall!

Thanks for the great year!

~~~~~



# JOIN US!!!

**The Oakland Post, yOUr student newspaper, is seeking individuals to join the Editorial Board as community members for the 2005-06 year.**

**Board members are asked to attend weekly board meetings and offer their opinions on the paper's editorial stance.**

**Students, faculty, staff and local community members are invited to join.  
E-mail [editor@oakpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oakpostonline.com)**



Oakland University's

## Student Affairs

Weekly  
column

**updating yOU every week!**

144 Oakland Center Rochester, Michigan (248) 370-3352

**ATTENTION ALL OU EDUCATION SENIORS AND ALUMNI! PARTICIPATE IN SCHEDULED INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS! EDUCATOR'S RECRUITING DAY**

Wednesday, May 3, 2005 9 AM - 4 PM, OC Banquet Room

-Must be registered with Career Services' eRecruiting to participate.

-Sign up for interview schedules on our web site under eRecruiting@OU now through April 22nd.

A few of the registered school districts include Algonac Community Schools, Bloomfield Hills Schools, Grand Blanc School District, Rochester Community Schools, Utica Community Schools and many more! Contact Career Services at 248-370-3250 for further details.

### SEEKING AN INTERNSHIP, CO-OP, OR PART-TIME POSITION THIS SUMMER?

Register with Career Services and learn about internship/co-op opportunities through attending a Career Experience Information Session. Internship and co-op positions provide great opportunities to gain paid, career-related experience. All sessions are held in room 158 West Vandenberg Hall and last approximately 45 minutes. No appointment is necessary. A spring/summer schedule will soon be

available on our web site at  
[www.oakland.edu/careerservices](http://www.oakland.edu/careerservices) under  
"Career Experience."

### CONGRATULATIONS 2005 ORIENTATION STAFF

#### Orientation Group Leaders

Sean Buono, Fred DeNault, Angie Freeman, Chris Goeth, Simon Keleel, Aaron Kochenderfer, Lauren McIntyre, Heather Mulrenan, Adam Panchenko, Naasshon Phifer, Matt Sawicki, Ashley Thomas, Christina Valeri, Saman Waquad,

#### Orientation Assistants

O'Juan Edwards, Emily Fox, Amanda Housden, Lindsay McCullough, Jameelah Muhammad

#### Orientation Interns

LaToya Hearn, Danny Johnston, Chris Lutz, Jukie Wojciechowski

#### Orientation Coordinators

Bryan Austin, Laura Christensen

**Congratulations to all students graduating at May 7th Commencement!**

### GRADUATING AND STILL NEED A JOB?

If you have not yet secured employment, feel free to utilize Career Services for your job search. Take advantage of the various services offered, such as the Web Resume Book and Job Postings sections of eRecruiting, job postings and job search resource links on our home page, and individual career advising appointments with staff specializing in your career field. Call us at 248-370-3250 to schedule an appointment with an advisor and visit our web site at [www.oakland.edu/careerservices](http://www.oakland.edu/careerservices).

**The Staff in the Division of Student Affairs would like to wish OU students the best of luck on final exams. We also hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer!**



## Oklahoma City: *10 years later*

By HOWARD WITT  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

What is the value of an American life claimed by terrorists? The answer, it turns out, depends on where and when you die. Congress gave the families of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks generous federal compensation payments. Most ended up millionaires.

Congress gave the families of victims of the April 19, 1995 Oklahoma City bombing a two-year reprieve on their federal income taxes. Some ended up losing their homes.

The families of victims of future terrorist attacks may get nothing at all.

For all the nation's focus on homeland security and the probability that the United States could some day be struck again by terrorists, the vexing question of what would happen afterward, whom the government should try to make whole, remains unasked.

And the lesson of Oklahoma City remains unlearned.

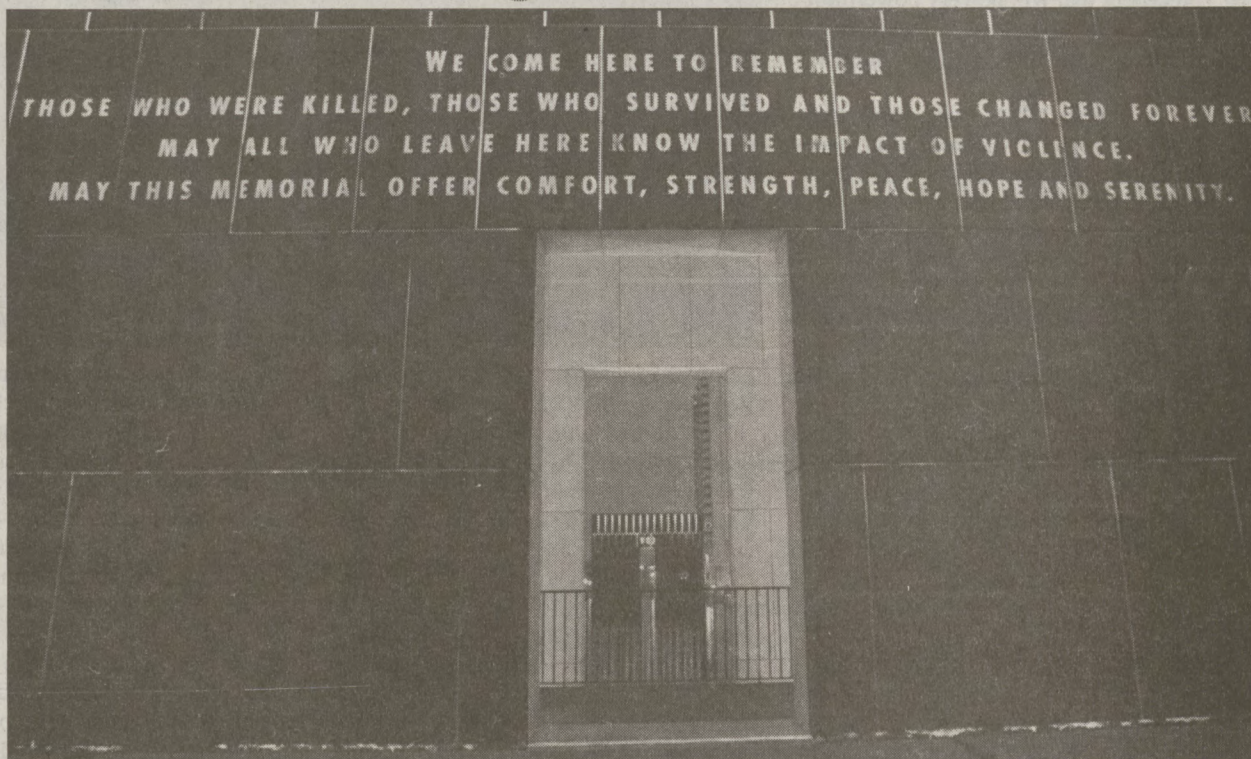
"Everybody thought that all the people from the bombing were taken care of," said Tim Hearn, who quit a promising college basketball career to return home and care for his four younger siblings after his mother was killed in the bombing. "That's how the media made it look. But it wasn't nothing like that. We're living day by day."

The site where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood was long ago covered over by a striking memorial. A modernistic — and blast-resistant — new federal building stands defiantly across the way. The scarred downtown has been sleekly remade.

But 10 years after the Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 168 people and injured 842 others, the shock waves are still radiating outward.

Despite more than \$40 million in donations that streamed into Oklahoma City in the days after the bombing to help the victims, more than 60 families of modest means were thrown into such poverty as a result of deaths or injuries that they must still rely on charities to meet their basic needs. Another 70 victims are still receiving psychiatric care.

Theirs are not the stories most likely to be heard this week as the nation momentarily returns its attention to this heartland city in solemn commemoration of the bombing. Instead, the ceremonies at



the Oklahoma City National Memorial, titled a National Week of Hope, will focus on "stories of life moving forward."

It turns out, though, that while the Sept. 11 attacks were vastly more devastating in both human and economic terms, the Oklahoma City bombing was a more intimate crime. Officials here estimate that more than one-third of the 1 million people in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area knew someone who was killed or injured in the bombing.

The Oklahoma City attack also struck a more vulnerable population. While the World Trade Center towers in New York were gleaming icons of American prosperity occupied largely by office workers, executives and stockbrokers, the Murrah Federal Building was a dowdier destination, a place where workaday government employees served working-class constituents.

Please see OKLAHOMA on A6



Above: A stone monument honors those that were killed in the home-town terrorist attack.

Left: Pins commemorating the 1995 event are an ever-present reminder of the tragedy.

KRTCampus



Photo Courtesy of Michigan.gov

Michigan Secretary of State, Terri Lynn Land, demonstrates the ease of using the new Self-Service Station to a customer in the Grand Rapids Area SUPER!Center. The ATM-style machine lets eligible customers renew their vehicle tabs in seconds, without waiting in line for service at the counter.

## Renew tabs with touch of a finger

By LAURA WEINER  
THE OAKLAND POST

Ah, the pesky to-do list: cleaning, home-work, laundry, it goes on and on. And once a year something else comes up, renewing vehicle tabs. You know, that thing that creeps up on you, causing you to wait in long lines behind people who are confused about everything from how to spell their name to when to smile.

Well, things have just gotten easier. Automated self-service stations are now popping up throughout Michigan. Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land announced the ATM-style machines last month. These machines give the customer the option of renewing tabs more quickly and efficiently than at the counter. "Your time is valuable," Land said in a statement. "Don't spend it waiting in line if you can help it."

Customers will follow the touch screen directions and their tabs will print out from the machines. Although you cannot renew motorcycle and Gross Vehicle Weight tabs, all other vehicles are permitted.

All someone needs is their renewal notice and a valid Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card. Just scan the bar code on your renewal notice, verify information and pay with your credit card. The directions are simple, but when in doubt, there will still be service agents on hand to help.

These machines are located at PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers. There are currently 10 PLUS offices and two SUPER!Centers in Michigan. Twenty-two PLUS offices and five more SUPER!Centers are in the works. These branches offer convenience above and beyond what traditional branches can give you. SUPER!Centers have Saturday hours, and both offices have on-site services where customers can purchase their own driving records.

Land credits the Department of Information Technology for their help with this project. "The Department of Information Technology provided us with valuable experience and support," she said. She also notes that these services come at no extra cost to taxpayers.

Residents can fore go the trip to any office also and renew their tabs through the mail, internet, or by phone. These new facilities are a good alternative to those who have waited too long to do the above. To find a PLUS office or a SUPER!Center near you, logon to <http://www.Michigan.gov/sos>.

So far, changes in the lines at the offices are yet to be seen. "I haven't noticed any improvement yet," a Lansing Area PLUS branch worker said. He did say, however, that calls have been coming in asking about the machines, and so far the people using them seem to be having no trouble at all.

## No more helmet-hair in Michigan

By PAUL KAMPE  
THE OAKLAND POST

In a move inspiring much controversy, the state Senate passed bill number 297. SB 297, passed on March 15, has since been passed on to the House Transportation Committee.

It would allow motorcycle drivers 21 and older to ride without wearing a helmet, amending the current 36-year-old mandate. The stipulation is that people who want to ride without a helmet need motorcycle experience and training, either through safety courses or by having driven for two years.

Opponents of the change are quick to point to the "helmets save lives!" motto. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration citing crash statistics say that, on average, riders wearing helmets have a 29 percent better chance of surviving a crash than those who didn't wear a helmet that fateful day. On the other hand, the proponents say that helmets actually cause crashes by limiting the driver's ability to see and hear traffic.

Dave Brown, the vice president of the American Bikers Aiming Toward Education, makes a point that some might not have noticed. "You can't get a driver's license without taking driver's training, why should you get a motorcycle license without it?" As it stands, you don't have to take any class to get

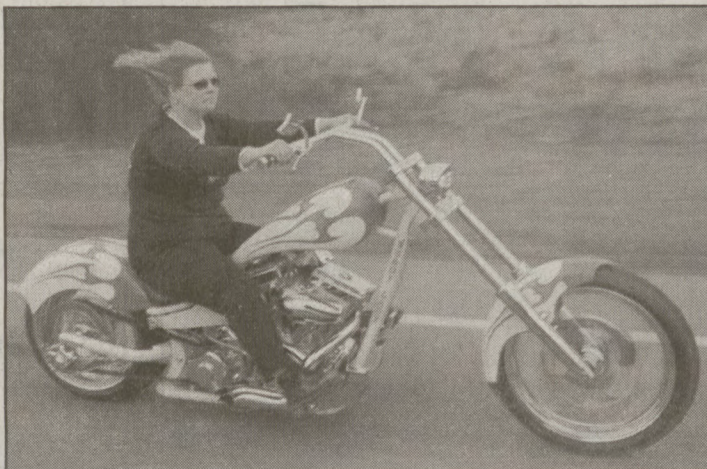
approved to ride a motorcycle. Brown says, "Get the riders trained before they get a license."

AAA reports that a 2004 study by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute found that 44 percent of motorcyclists involved in crashes weren't legally licensed to ride their motorbikes.

The Community Safety Services Director for AAA of Michigan, Richard J. Miller, said "It makes absolutely no sense to make optional the only validated personal safety device available to a motorcycle rider." Miller also declared that in other states that decided against helmets, their use dropped 42 percent. He said that if that happened here, the same percentage of lives would be lost, lives that would have been saved with helmets.

One potential barrier to the bill is the governor. It is known that Gov. Jennifer Granholm is opposed to the idea of riders taking their bikes out without protecting their craniums, citing health and safety reasons. She can choose to veto the bill.

The move has become a hot-button issue, similar to the click-it or ticket campaign that forced a clash over seatbelt use. The way that some drivers feel about being forced to wear a seatbelt is the way that motorcyclists feel about being forced to wear helmets, Brown said. "It's just up to the individual," whether they will use a helmet.



A female biker cruises down the highway with no helmet and her hair blowing in the wind.

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### COLUMN

## Saying goodbye



LIZ  
GORECKI  
Local  
Editor

When I started at Oakland four years ago, I never thought I would be leaving as Local News Editor of The Oakland Post. Partly because I never read The Post. After all, who does.

But after being convinced by my gorgeous predecessor to join the staff, I found not only my calling but my place at OU.

I remember the days before The Post, where I would spend my spring Monday afternoons out in the sun and my Tuesday nights sleeping soundly.

Now, gone are my Post days, where I would spend Mondays hidden away in the Post's cavelike office and Tuesdays lying awake worrying about misquoting Paul Walker or George W. Bush.

But along with the insomnia, ulcers and low paycheck came the best days of my college career.

Now, thanks to Global Glance, I can carry on an intelligent conversation about the Haitian rebellion or the governmental issues in Egypt at a cocktail party.

I can correctly identify and pronounce the names of each and every Latin American president or dictator, which is more than our "fearless leader" can do.

I now not only have strong opinions on everything from religion to politics to food, but I can back up my opinions with facts, quotes and statistics, which is more than many outspoken college kids can do.

But between the president's press conference and phone calls to the president of Brazil (Luis Ignacio da Silva; Loo-ees Ig-nah-see-oh dah Sil-vah), I also made some of the greatest memories of my college career.

And I'm not talking about the time I interviewed Paul Walker, you know, the really hot actor from Too Fast, Too Furious. Although, that is something I like to bring up every now and again...

I'm talking about going to a college writer's conference in Nashville and spending five entire days with The Post staff.

Sure we had our arguments, but isn't it the same with any family? Yeah, we get on each others' nerves, hit on each other, wear each others' clothes and make fun of each other, but that's what best friends do.

And I'm talking about riding around in the jeep with the top off and sitting on the roll bar just to get some good shots of the KFC bucket sign.

Those are the things I'll remember about college.

And that's what four years and \$50,000 of higher education has taught me. That there is no greater learning experience than life.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that my classes were a total washout.

Well, I guess that astronomy class that didn't count toward anything was.

I guess you know you're getting old and are ready to leave when cheesy sayings start making sense like "The journey is more important than the destination."

But cheesy or not, the journey, the time I have spent here and the friends I have made along the way have made me who I am.

... But I do have that degree in Arts and Sciences now, just in case.



## OKLAHOMA

Continued from A5

Yet in a state buffeted throughout its history by oil booms and economic busts and Dust Bowl droughts and killer tornadoes, deep religious faith and unblinking middle American values seem to have guided many Oklahoma City bombing victims to a quiet acceptance of their fates.

How else to explain the equanimity of a man like Hearn, 37, whose life was upended by the death of his mother, Castine Deveroux, 49, an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"I think the reason why we went through the situation is to get close to God," he said. "We had a lot of evil in our life. The devil was in this house a lot of times. But we always found something positive out of everything."

Concerned about what would happen to his siblings, Hearn gave up his basketball scholarship at the University of New Mexico to move back home to raise them.

When the bills became overwhelming, Hearn sought help from one of the principal charities designated to help bombing victims, the Oklahoma City chapter of the American Red Cross, which assisted with some mortgage payments.

Hearn has accomplished his main goal; keeping his family together.

But he's not sure how much longer he can provide for everyone. He believes,

like many

here, that

Congress

should com-

pensate the

Oklahoma City

families just as

it did the Sept.

11 families.

"I felt like

my mom

worked for the

government

and she died

for the govern-

ment and they

should have

stepped in and

helped her

kids," he said.

It is a faint

hope.

In the weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks,

Congress swiftly approved a \$7 billion

compensation package for the victims,

whose families received an average of

\$2.1 million each. But every time the

issue of compensation for other terror-

ism victims has been raised since then, lawmakers have ducked.

In 2002 and 2003, Congress declined to reopen the question of compensating victims of past terrorist attacks such as the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Lawmakers have refused to provide any budget funding for a terror victims' compensation fund that Congress itself voted to establish.

A Senate committee conducted one hearing to examine a Bush administration proposal to set a standard compensation award for future victims of terrorism. Then it promptly dropped the matter.

Congress' decision to compensate the Sept. 11 families "set an incredible precedent that will be very powerful if a large event like this happens in the future," said Lloyd Dixon, an analyst at the RAND Institute for Civil Justice in Santa Monica, Calif., who conducted a study of Sept. 11 compensation issues. "But the bottom line is: There really isn't any ongoing strategy at this point of how we're going to deal with compensation if this happens again."

The lingering equity questions have embittered many Oklahoma City families, who wonder why Congress left them to rely on charities or struggle with insurance claims.

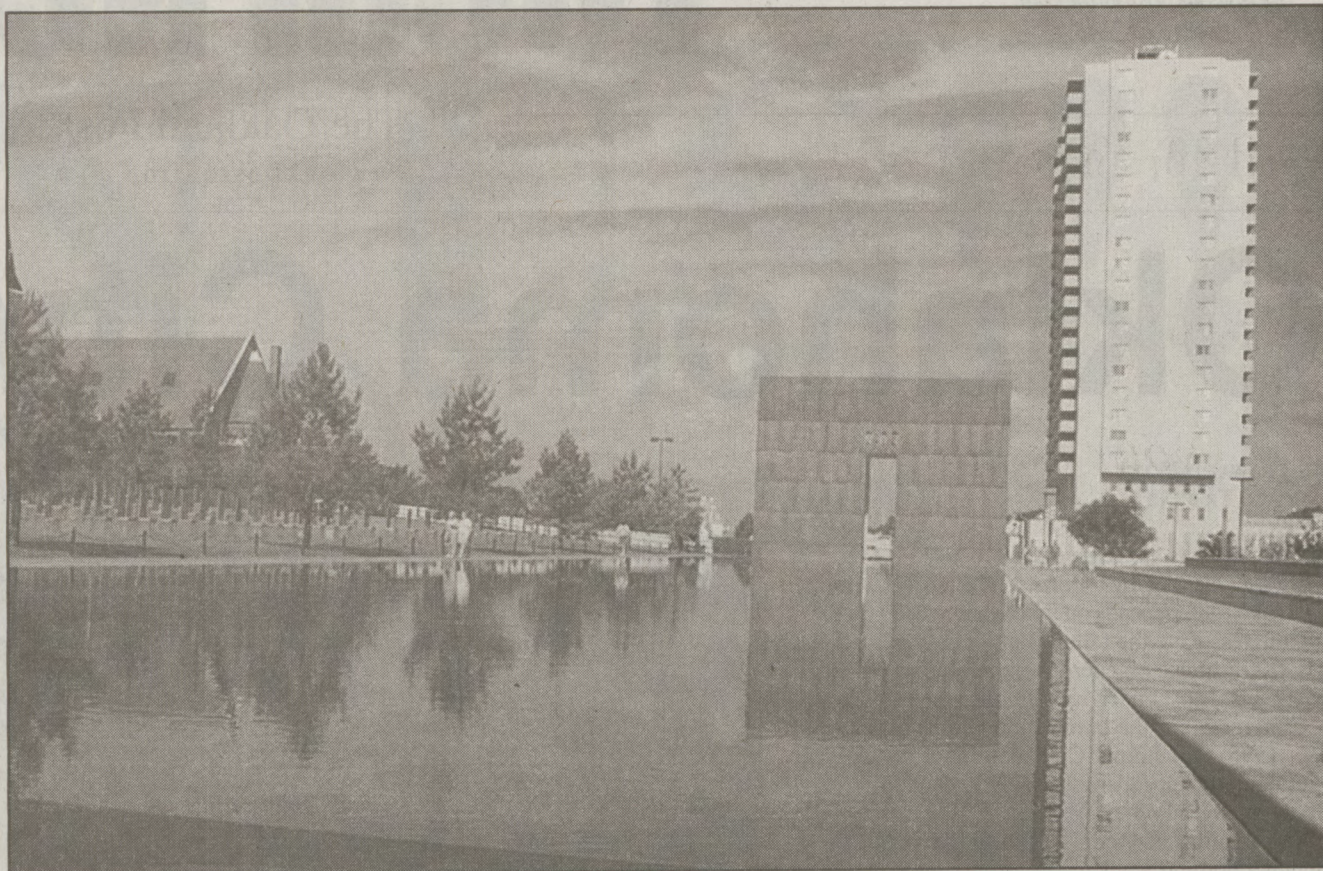
"You don't count," is how Randy Ledger, an Oklahoma City survivor, says he and other victims of the attack interpreted the snub from Congress. "You're just a bunch of redneck hicks down in Oklahoma."

Ledger, 48, a custodian in the Murrah building, suffered multiple skull fractures, brain damage and hearing loss, and has two chunks of glass embedded so near his spine that surgeons are reluctant to operate. Other shards periodically still work their way out through his skin.

After 10 years, he is still battling the federal Department of

Labor over a worker's compensation claim.

The Oklahoma City bombing was no Sept. 11, of course. The singular horror of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and a collective national desire to respond were among the principal motives cited by lawmak-



ers as they sped the victim compensation package through Congress.

"Vengeful philanthropy" is the description used by Kenneth Feinberg, the special master of the Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund, to describe the compensation package.

"I completely agree with the victims in Oklahoma City, or the USS Cole, or the Kenya bombing: 'Why not us?'" Feinberg said. "If you're looking at the victims, I don't know why not you. If you're looking at the impact of the tragedy on the American psyche, I think 9/11 stands in a very unique category with Pearl Harbor, the American Civil War and the assassination of President Kennedy."

There was also an urgent economic imperative: The nation's troubled airline industry faced collapse under the potential weight of thousands of Sept. 11 lawsuits. Congress averted that crisis by offering victims generous compensation in exchange for their surrendering the right to sue the airlines.

The Oklahoma City victims also lost out in Congress for reasons that had more to do with their political naivete and lack of clout than the merits of their claims.

Feinberg believes Oklahomans suffered because of their essential prairie stoicism, the same "Oklahoma spirit" for which they were lauded in the aftermath of the bombing, when Oklahomans demonstrated extraordinary decency,

humility and bootstrap resiliency.

"I really do think that the character of Oklahoma is different than the character of New York," Feinberg said. "New Yorkers are in your face. We want compensation for something that wasn't our fault. But Oklahomans thought, 'Hey, we run risks for the last hundred years out here. There's always something. Life is filled with misfortune.'"

Some \$18 million of the charitable funds donated to Oklahoma City victims remain, including enough money to fulfill a promise to provide a college education for each of the 219 children who lost one or both parents in the bombing.

Early on, local officials responsible for distributing the funds made a strategic, and controversial, decision not to try to compensate every victim individually. But choosing that approach over lump-sum distributions meant that bombing victims with some means had to rely on their own resources to get by, a decision that angered many.

"The perception of people, unfortunately, is that you need to give people money and that money will make them feel better," said Nancy Anthony, executive director of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, the city's umbrella charity.

"Well, it probably does make them feel better. But heroin makes them feel better for a short time too. ... But it's the services that really help them go for-



Above: Oklahoma City fire Capt. Chris Fields carries 1-year-old Baylee Almon, injured in the bombing, April, 19, 1995 in downtown Oklahoma City. The child died of her injuries.

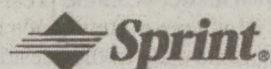
AP Photo/Charles H. Porter IV

Top: This is the beautifully designed and tasteful memorial built to the memory of those who died during the Oklahoma City bombing.

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ward. That's what we really focused on: What services do we need to put in place for people to help them begin to turn their lives around and go forward?"

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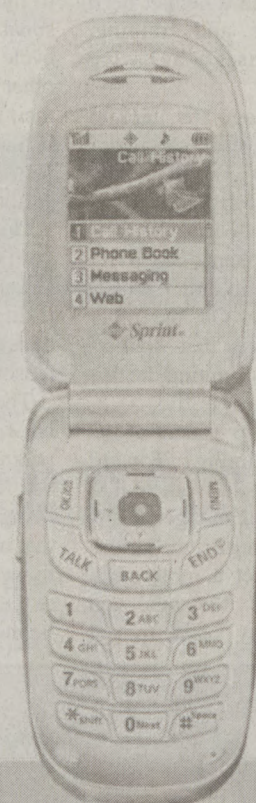
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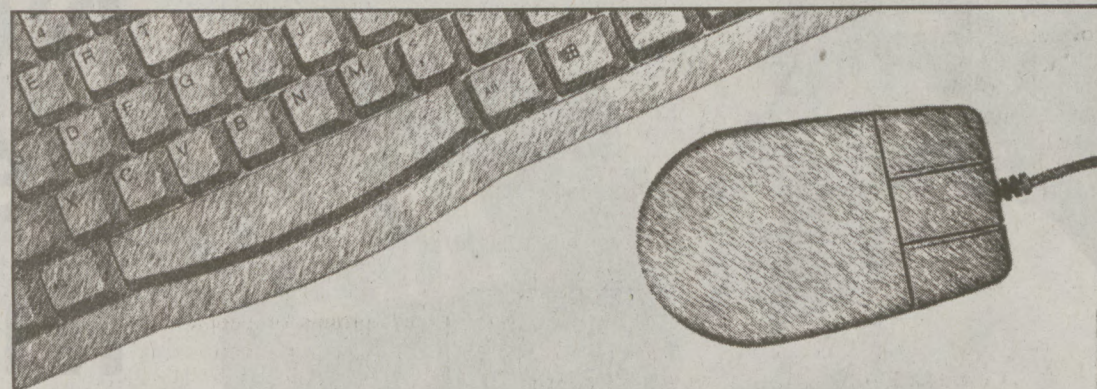
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## OU announces IMPORTANT INFORMATION for Fall 2005

Remember, check your Oakland e-mail account throughout the spring and summer for updates and more details!

### Register for Fall 2005 classes

- SAIL registration by class standing for Fall 2005 classes begins Monday, May 9, 2005. Check your registration schedule for specific dates.
- Open registration is May 14 - June 17 and August 18 - August 31
- Graduate students may also register May 14 - August 31

Check OU's Web site for the online Schedule of Classes for Fall 2005. Visit [www.oakland.edu](http://www.oakland.edu), click on the SAIL button and select Class Schedule.

The Fall 2005 Schedule of Classes includes OU's new general education requirements for incoming freshmen. OU's new general education program introduces students to the knowledge and skills today's employers demand.

### Fall 2005 important dates

- Fall 2005 classes begin 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 31 (the Wednesday before Labor Day)
- Classes are not in session Labor Day, Monday, September 5
- The Fall term ends 10 p.m., Wednesday, December 7
- Study day is Thursday, December 8
- Final exams will be held Friday, December 9, through Thursday, December 15
- Commencement will be held Saturday, December 17



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Employee Discount: Discount is applied to monthly recurring charges (wireless phone calling plan and any optional services that are billed monthly). Prices shown are after program discount. Activation and early termination fees apply. Proof of employment at Oakland University is required to receive the Employee Discount. Free Phone Offer: Based on credit review, in certain circumstances, Preferred Credit class customers will receive a service credit on their first invoice (the amount will vary based on model of phone chosen). Free phone requires 2-year service agreement. Offer expires 5/31/05. Additional terms and conditions apply. Federal, state and local taxes and surcharges not included. The offer is subject to change without notice. Unlimited Nights & Weekends<sup>SM</sup> applies to most, but not all, calling plans. NWP discount may be subject to change without notice. Not available in all areas or outside the U.S. ©2005 Sprint. All rights reserved. Sprint and the diamond logo are property of Sprint Communications Company, L.P. All other marks are property of their respective owners.



April 20, 2005

The Oakland Post  
www.oakpostonline.com

A7

## EDITORIAL

### Repealed helmet law, not only bad for the hair, but your melon, too

BY DANTE CIULLO

I'd rather have a bad hair day. I'm not really sure what the anti-motorcycle helmet crowds are thinking, but Senate Bill 297 is a bad idea!

On March 15, 2005 a bill passed the Michigan Senate that could repeal the 36-year-old helmet law in Michigan. Of course, the bill still has to pass all the way through Governor Granholm to become law. But, if it does become law, there are pros and cons one might want to consider.

First the pros. No more helmet-hair! Yes! Because we all know how dreadful it would be to show up to a formal in tails and helmet-hair.

Now you can hear if loud pipes really do save lives! That is if you can hear anything through the terrible ringing in your ears caused by your buddy revving up his bike next to you at a stop light.

Lastly, there's no need to worry about road rash if you wipe out! It's likely you're head will pop like a watermelon at a Gallagher show when it hits the pavement so you won't have time to think about road rash.

Now for the cons. Without a helmet to protect your head, you might as well get rid of your leathers, too. Again, road rash should no longer be a concern to those who no longer wear helmets. The aforementioned popping watermelon... need I say more?

Loud pipes don't save lives, they piss off gun owners! Simple law of physics people, see if you can stay with me. Sound travels in waves directly away from its source. So, if your pipes are pointed behind you, how do the people you're approaching hear them? Answer: THEY DON'T! I know this is tough to grasp, after all it is hard to think with your fillings rattling their way out of your head and the constant ringing in your ears.

Funeral costs are on the rise. How is that a con? Let me explain.

I'm looking forward to my cousin's funeral. He's anti-helmet, but I'm not sure why. Just a few years ago he had to dump his bike when a Jeep pulled out in front of him. At 50 mph he laid the bike on its side and slid across Groesbeck Highway on his back. Trying to stabilize and slow himself down, his gloves ripped through and he suffered pretty bad road rash on his hands. His helmet, albeit banged up pretty bad, was still usable. That day the helmet saved his life.

When and if the current law is repealed, he'll ditch his helmet faster than a dress on prom night. It won't be long after the helmet is tossed into the corner that he'll likely end up a pro-helmet-law statistic. I wonder if anyone from his club will be able to carry the casket. After all, they might be horizontal in the funeral home next door.

So, remember: Loud pipes don't save lives, they annoy gun owners. Popping watermelons are best left to Gallagher. And, I'll take the bad hair day.

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### What do you think?

Send comments to

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OC, Rochester, MI 48309.

Include name, class rank, phone number  
and field of study. Please limit letters to 350  
words. Letters may be edited for content  
and length. The Oakland Post uses  
discretion and may reject any letter for any  
reason.

### Former student disappointed in this year's election process

Dear Editor and OU students,

I have been following the happenings of this year's elections for two reasons.

The first is that I had been the elections commissioner in the year of 2001 and also served in following years on the Elections Commission and the Validations Commission.

Secondly, I was especially interested to see so many viable candidates running for the honorary positions.

I am writing today because I want to express my utter disappointment with the way things have gone down this year.

First, it is the job of the elections commissioner to make sure that the election is run smoothly and without fault.

It is a tough job, believe me, but it is one that needs to be taken seriously.

The job of the Elections Commission (i.e. the only people that should be running voting booths) is to play fair.

It is their job to represent the Oakland University Student Congress and the students in an honorable way. If any member of the commission is not taking the job seriously, it is then up to the commissioner to take action immediately for the good of the student body and the elections.

Just so the student body knows, the commissions (both Validations and Elections) are approved by the Student Congress legislature and both commissions follow strict guidelines also approved by the legislature.

If everyone does his/her job correctly, the people filling these roles should be prepared to handle any situation that arises.

Secondly, if at any time during the elections, something happens that is "unfair" or "against policy," it is to be documented immediately and brought up for the Validations Commission to be reviewed.

I find it extremely disheartening from everything I've heard about these elections that both groups of people, including the elections commissioner, had let it get out of hand so fast.

On top of both commissions and the elections commissioner, there are others that help run the elections.

This is the person that you call your Student Body president, who works to serve the students and make sure things run smoothly.

I'm only going to say this once so everyone involved heed my advice: "It's your job not to lose control."

That is exactly what you let happen in this election. You lost control of what the candidates were doing and how they were campaigning.

From being in your shoes and having had ran an election, served on the commission, and had been an active member of Congress for many years, I find it unnerving to see that you are disrespecting the students of OU in this manner.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is a sad day to find that you don't have the courage to permit justice within your own system.

Finally, have you ever heard of the saying, "Lead by example?"

If the candidates you just elected into office are there by unethical standards and the commissions are letting this happen, then what kind of example are they setting?

What are they telling the students of OU about OUSC and the accountability? The student body elections are more than a race for votes and political signs.

It is a race to find people, dedicated to serving the 17,000 students for little pay and many hours.

Who wants it more? Who can do the job the best, in a manner that is ethical and honest?

Better luck next year!

Sincerely,

**Kelly A. Cole**  
December 2004 graduate  
Elementary education  
OUSC alumna

### Bush leading nation down wrong path

Dear Editor,

Weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and freedom; all of these have been reasons for the Bush administration involving the U.S. in Iraq.

Who, what, where and why are not the major questions now. What is going on now in Iraq and how it is affecting Americans today is.

There have been nearly 1,600 American casualties in Iraq since the beginning of the war. That is the highest amount of casualties since Vietnam.

In fact, the Vietnam War started with a lower death rate. The United States had been involved in Vietnam for six years before total fatalities reached 500 in 1965.

More than 11,000 men and women have been wounded in Iraq. President Bush, according to Dr. Philip H.J. Davies, plans to cut governmental expenses by cutting medical treatment to injured and disabled veterans and closing veterans hospitals.

"This is not pure bombast," noted Davies. "The establishment Press has reported that wounded soldiers returning from Iraq have been kept at facilities a great distance from home and have been released without any insurance long before the wounds have healed."

Is this how we treat our fighting men and women?

The U.S. military remains fighting in Iraq, the "transition" has failed to win Iraqi support.

According to the Pentagon, the number of Iraqi resistance fighters has quadrupled between November 2003 and early September 2004, from 5,000 to 20,000.

The Deputy Commander of Coalition forces in Iraq, British Major General Andrew Graham, indicated to Time magazine in early September that he thinks the 20,000 estimate is too low; he estimates Iraqi resistance strength

at 40,000-50,000.

Brookings Institution estimates that an additional 24,000 Iraqi resistance fighters have been arrested or killed between May 2003 and August 2004.

With this type of resistance, the price of the war will rise as well.

The Bush administration told Americans and Congress that the war would cost the taxpayers around \$82 billion.

Bush's former economic advisor, Laurence Lindsey, estimated to The Wall Street Journal that the war would cost between \$100-\$200 billion.

In 2003 the military budget was \$407 billion. Adding the cost of the war, homeland security and military construction, the budget for 2005 could almost be \$600 billion.

This will cost each family almost \$3,000 each.

What is the war in Iraq doing for Americans today, tomorrow and forever?

Well, today I pay \$2.39 a gallon for gas. The price has risen nearly 75 percent since the start of the war.

I do not feel any safer as an American. As a matter of fact, I do not want to travel anywhere in the world because there is so much resentment toward Americans that I fear being kidnapped or discriminated against simply because I am an American.

What good is coming out of Iraq for Americans? Will the ends justify the means?

Sincerely,

**David Core**  
Journalism  
Junior

### Student Leader of the Year thanks students, faculty

Dear Editor,

Today I was awarded Student Leader of the Year.

I am very grateful for this award. But as I began to think about all I've been a part of this year, I couldn't help but think about so many other people.

I have grown so much this year, and I have been through a lot.

So many people have helped me through this year and because this is the last issue of the semester, I thought I would honor some student leaders and staff that have had an impact on me.

Duane Hurt, you are an inspiration to many. Thank you for everything. I admire your strength. Remember, integrity is better than a thousand awards. I will miss you dearly.

Sarah Cook, thanks for your friendship. You have taught me a lot and made me laugh a lot.

I will miss you so much. It was a pleasure working with you.

Brendan Stevens, we make an awesome team. Continue to make a difference here at Oakland, despite the obstacles.

You have given me a new appreciation for WXOU. Thank you for being you.

Michelle Bailey, you have grown so much in the past year. It makes me happy to see you taking on new roles of leadership.

Thank you for the nights I slept in Hill, thank you for your love and support. But most importantly, thank you for your prayers.

Kristina Butler, I think we have more in common than any other pair on campus. I am well aware that God has brought us together. Thank you for everything. I admire your boldness. I look forward to many years of friendship.

Libby Baker, you are an amazing woman. I am so thankful for meeting you. You are truly a gift from God.

Alicia Feys, thank you for the rescue missions. Thank you for listening. Thank you for always standing for truth. You are a dear friend.

Jonathan Parks, you told me about this thing called SAFFB, and so I joined, and look where I am today. Thank you for your guidance. Thanks for the laughter.

Shay Binion, congrats on your engagement. You deserve it. Thank you for all you've done. Thanks for the encouraging words when they were most needed.

David Lauber, you are my buddy. Our friendship has grown so much since we've met. Thank you for all the food! I love you. You've been a big brother to me. Thanks for celebrating my victories, mourning my losses and always being there for me.

Doug Merriam, thank you for shaking up Congress. I am sure it would have been a lot more boring without you this year. I admire your willingness to be ridiculed for what's right. That's a notable trait many people lack.

Brian Koss, my other brother. You are a great leader. Your passion for politics is inspiring. Thanks for everything.

Ra'Sheedah Halley, it's been a rough year, but remember the fire only makes the gold purer. You bring sunshine to my dark days. Thank you for being a friend.

Roqaya Eshamawi, you are so sweet. I am so glad that I met you. You have brought a new perspective to my life.

Professor Dulio, thank you for being you. I know its not easy being the only conservative surrounded by Dems and liberals, but I have so much respect for you. You are an awesome teacher and you actually care about the students. You leave the classroom and spend time with us. I can say that about only a handful of professors, thank you for being an example to me.

Jean Ann Miller, thank you for letting me cry on your shoulders. Thank you for encouraging me to step into the realm of the unknown.

Thank you for being a leader that I am proud to follow. Oakland is very blessed to have you on board.

This year has been an awesome one. Thank you to all the named above and even those whose name I didn't mention.

I am very grateful to have people that inspire me.

May God bless all of you as you go on in your future endeavors!!

Sincerely,

**Charity Renee Jones**  
Political science  
Junior

## College is more than just grades



**LIBBY BAKER**  
Editor in Chief

I've come to a bittersweet point in my life. In three weeks I will finally be a college graduate, and although I'm extremely happy, I'm also a little bit sad.

College wasn't exactly an easy journey for me. I transferred to OU, took time off and changed majors more than a couple times.

In the beginning I wasn't always happy to be here. Like countless others, I was one of those students who came to campus only

to attend class.

I never stayed longer than I had to and didn't know many people. For me, college was nothing more than a place to get an education.

Three years later, I realize how wrong this approach is, because college is so much more than earning enough credits to graduate.

Fortunately for me, I decided to change my ways and get involved in something, and I'm really happy I did.

I met a lot of really great people, had a lot of fun and learned to appreciate everything this university has to offer.

In the meantime, I also learned a lot about myself, too.

I learned the most important lessons aren't taught in the classroom. Instead, they come from the people you meet and the friends you

make, and it's these memories that I'll cherish the rest of my life.

In 10 years it won't be the classroom experiences I remember. Instead I'll remember the friends who shared in both my joys and sorrows and the friends who gave advice when I needed it. I'll remember the times at The Post when we laughed so hard we cried, the funny quotes we taped all over our newsroom, a trip to Nashville last semester and random pictures of me "hugging" trees.

I've often felt disappointed it took me six years to complete my degree, but had I graduated sooner, I wouldn't have learned the most important lesson: The people you meet and the experiences you have are what really matter in life.

It was well worth the wait.



# Downing takes on new responsibility

## DOWNING Continued from A1

Research and the Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities series and joining the Meeting of Minds consortium.

"I am extremely proud of the many accomplishments we have achieved over the past years," Downing said.

Some highlights include new degrees, unprecedented start-up packages for new faculty, success in

"Celebrating the Liberal Arts," an expanded undergraduate involvement in research, new endowments for scholarships and significantly greater community involvement and visibility.

There was also substantial progress made for a new Performing Arts Complex.

"[It is] a project that I know in my heart will come to fruition eventually," Downing said.

Downing said serving as dean

has been a milestone in his academic career, and he is enthusiastic about new responsibilities and opportunities.

Downing began serving Oakland as both acting dean and associate dean.

Moudgil said Downing possesses institutional knowledge that is valuable and he wishes him well as he seeks new opportunities.

"I will truly miss him as a mentor and colleague," Lichtenberg said.

# Student Congress approves spring/summer '06 budget

## OUSC Continued from A1

need for an interfaith worship room, and decided to strike any funding from OUSC for such a room from the budget.

A round of applause erupted after the amended budget for spring and summer passed.

A total of almost \$3,400 was placed in the uncategorized funds line item for

unexpected needs that come up during the spring and summer months.

### In Other Business:

• OUSC's executive board was selected and approved for the 2005/2006 administration.

It consists of the following: Crystal Allen, administrative assistant; Brendan J. Stevens, financial affairs

director; Saman Waquad, legislative and multicultural affairs director; Lindsay McCullough, Student Activities Funding Board chair; Madalyn Miller, Student Program Board chair; Kathryn Miller, student services director; James Gammicchia, transition coordinator; Krupa Ujla, publicity agent.

• Kristina Butler and George Nahas were

approved to the disciplinary committee.

• The discussion topic for the next meeting is students' feelings about an interfaith worship room.

• Carnival for Change raised \$378.22

• The schedule for OUSC spring and summer meetings are as follows: May 16, 5 p.m.; June 20, 5 p.m.; July 25, 5 p.m.; Aug. 29, 4 p.m.

# Consumers find problems with their PSP consoles

Executive Officer of Sony Kaz Hirai, in a press release earlier this month.

Nationally recognized video game stores also commented on PSP's initial sales success in the press release.

"The overall entertainment value of PSP is giving it a mass appeal beyond any other product we have ever carried," said Dan DeMatteo, Vice-Chairman and Chief Operational Officer of GameStop, Inc.

But while Sony was reporting the PSP debut as a total success, generating over \$150 million in the first week of sales, many consumers were busy talking about the minor problems involved with their new consoles.

Many Internet message boards were filled with comments from gamers reporting stockpiles of PSP units in some of their favorite video game stores and in other retailers like Target and Wal-Mart.

Many critics say this could be due to the high cost of the PSP and malfunctions in a number of units.

In some stores, the PSP unit was only available in expensive value and bundle packs.

EB Games, located in The Village

of Rochester Hills is selling their PSP units in a value pack retailed at \$249.99 plus tax.

The pack includes the system, a soft case, headphones, a 32-megabyte memory card and a cloth to keep the screen clean.

The price of this pack is high for some considering games are around \$50 each.

Other stores like GameStop are also offering bundle packs that include games, but range from \$320 with two games to \$520 with five games.

Many consumers have also been complaining of defects within their newly purchased PSPs.

EB games sales associate Chris Lockwood said he had to purchase three PSPs before receiving one in perfect condition.

"My first PSP had a defective 'left' button. I returned it, and when I got the second one it had a defective 'right' button," Lockwood said.

"Plus, the soft case that came with my PSP scratched the screen," he added.

Lockwood continued to say that many consumers have been complaining about dead pixels in the

screens of their PSPs.

The 4.3-inch wide screen is a TFT screen, or a thin film transistor screen, a type of LCD flat panel screen that provides the best resolution of all flat panel screens.

However, when a TFT screen has dead pixels, these pixels appear just that, dead.

Lockwood said these pixels are "stuck" on the colors red, blue, green or white.

Some believe the dead pixels are caused by rushed quality control during the manufacturing process of the unit, like getting dust or debris on the screen.

Sony has assured consumers that if they experience large clusters of dead pixels, Sony will replace the PSP unit within the one-year warranty period.

Freshman Adrienne Ratti said despite the common defects of the PSP, she is still interested in purchasing one.

"I like that the PSP acts as an iPod too, storing mp3s and pictures while I can still play video games. I think it would be convenient and fun to have," she said.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### HELP WANTED

AVON Representatives Needed. Earn 50% commission. Sell mark or Avon to your friends & family. \$15 or less start up fee. Call Denise @ 586-786-9466

Legal Assistants: Part time and flexible hours. Troy law firm. (248)643-4440

### PERSONAL TRAINERS

Seeking individuals with passion for fitness and experience in weight training. Personal training studio in Rochester. Flexible hours. Respond by phone (248)651-5810, fax (248)651-5791 or email philanderson@fitnesstogether.com.

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### SUMMER JOBS.

Painter positions available. Work in a fun environment with other students during the summer in your hometown 30-50 hrs. wk, \$7-\$9/hr, no experience necessary. Positions available all over Michigan. Call (888)839-3385

"SPEND THIS SUMMER ON THE WATER" PERFECT COLLEGE JOB Part Time / Flex Time Year round boat maintenance at private marine complex in Harrison Twp. Great schedule and wages. Fax resume to: (586)772-8250

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### FOR SALE

DORM LOFT For Sale before end of semester. Great Price! For details please contact Caren at cliclinks@oakland.edu or ext. X8765 on-campus

### CHILDCARE CONT.

Part-time babysitter needed for summer - 3 kids ages 15, 13, and 10. Own transportation required. References needed. I need someone with flexible days, times and hours, for transporting kids to and from activities, and supervision. Please call 248-797-1069.

Working Mother Needs A Hand.... Seeking a reliable, fun loving person to care for an 8 yrs. old girl in our Bloomfield Twp. home. Enjoys arts & crafts, computers, bike riding and 2nd grade homework. After school hours, excellent pay. Email response to: ablender@comcast.net

### WANTED - IN HOME SUMMER CHILD CARE GIVER

Looking for responsible, creative college student for summer child care in my Clinton Township home. 3 days per week for 3 children ages 13, 11 and 8. Experience preferred. Please call for interview (586)263-1932 or (586)822-9919

In need of a summertime nanny full or part time for 3 children in Lake Orion Non Smoker Dependable Transportation Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Subdivision offers swimming pool / lake for fishing / playground / tennis courts. If interested, please call Jeanne Helzer @ (248)375-7930 during the day; (248)393-0777 in the evening.

Daytime sitter needed in my home for two children, ages 3 and one month. Flexible hours and days. Contact Tara at (248) 841-2006

### FOR RENT

Newly built 1st floor townhouse condominium conveniently located at M-59 and Adams. Everything's new, featuring 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen with all appliances, basement with washer and dryer, and attached 1 car garage. Also included is access to clubhouse and its facilities. \$1,195/mo. 3933 Forester Blvd (248)613-5074

### CONDO FOR SALE

1-1/2 miles from OU 2 Bdrms, 1 Full + 2 Half Baths Natural Fireplace Finished Basement w/Walkout to Patio (can be used as separate living/office area) Deck, Attached Carport All Appliances Included, \$142,900 (248)853-4826 (daytime) (248)475-5866 (evenings)

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## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2005 BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE

## CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

49 Oakland Center, Rochester, MI 48309-4401  
(248) 370-2400 csa@oakland.edu www3.oakland.edu/oakland/currentstudents/csa

### CSA SERVICE WINDOW RESERVATIONS FOR:

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

- Margaret Garner (May 6)
- Hairspray (May 1, 5 & 15)
- Riverdance (May 17)
- Little Shop of Horrors (May 19 & June 5)
- The Daughter of the Regiment (June 8 & 10)

## Congratulations!

The CSA Office would like to congratulate all organizations and individuals who were nominated and received awards at the 2005 Student Organization Recognition Night!

### Outstanding Organization Awards

**Student Organization of the Year:** Students In Free Enterprise  
**New Student Organization of the Year:** Graduate Student Physical Therapy Association  
**Greek Organization of the Year:** College Panhellenic

### Outstanding Leadership Awards

**Student Organization President of the Year (Female)**  
Stacey Perkowski- American Marketing Association  
**Student Organization President of the Year (Male)**  
Jitesh Singh- Students In Free Enterprise  
**Gregory Marrs Greek of the Year**  
Danielle Zucarro, Phi Sigma Sigma  
**Student Leader of the Year (Female)**  
Charity Jones  
**Student Leader of the Year (Male)**  
Mike McGuinness

### SAFB Awards

**Fantastic Forms**  
American Marketing Association  
**Creative Within "Caps"**  
Phi Sigma Sigma- Mr. PhiSignificant  
**Event of the Year**  
Sigma Pi- Pig Roast

### Advisor Awards

**Student Organization Advisor of the Year**  
Christine Cronaaur, WXOU  
Mark Simon, SIFE  
**Greek Advisor of the Year**  
Robin Althaver, Phi Sigma Sigma

### Volunteer Service Award

Lisa Gajeski  
Hava Leichtman  
Kathryn Miller  
Heather Mulrenan  
Vanessa Page  
Jenny Poma  
Miriam Schreiber  
REACH

### Sidney Fink Memorial Award

Michael Lerchenfeldt  
Michael McGuinness

### OUSC Resident Involvement Award

Michelle Bailey  
Heather Brewer  
Elise Castle  
Jameelah Muhammad  
Temetria Reid

### Commuter Involvement Award

Stephanie Bahoura  
Kristina Butler  
Lisa Gajeski  
Jim Gammicchia  
Sanjay Guha  
Christopher Hofman  
Ginger Houghton  
Alexandria Kelly  
Tamara Kukuk  
Nicole Leahey  
Stelanie Marshall  
Michael McGuinness  
Maria Mora Bowen  
Jeffrey Owens  
Brijesh Patel  
Kathleen Pernak  
Brandon Svenson  
Christina Valeri  
Lynn Witherell  
Julie Wojciechowski

### Outstanding Program Awards

**Outstanding Academic/Educational Program**  
CPH- "Mock Accident" Alcohol Awareness  
**Outstanding Multicultural/Diversity Program**  
SPB- The Mystical Arts of Tibet: Mandala Sand Painting  
**Outstanding Religious Program**  
Latter Day Saint Student Association- What is a Mormon?  
**Outstanding Political/Social Awareness Program**  
Women's Issues Forum- Women's Fair  
**Outstanding Recreational/Club Sport Program**  
OUSC, SPB, & SAFB- March Madness: Road Trip to NC  
**Outstanding Co-Sponsored Program**  
Women's Issues Forum, GSA, ASB, SAFE, College Democrats  
- Equal Rights Rally  
**Outstanding Traditional Program**  
Phi Sigma Sigma- Mr. Phi Significant  
**Outstanding Community Service Program**  
SIFE- 10 Day Entrepreneurship Camp for At-Risk 11<sup>th</sup> Graders  
**Outstanding Fundraising Program**  
Indian Students Association- Tsunami Fundraiser  
**Outstanding Social Program**  
Welcome Week Activities 2004



April 20, 2005

The Oakland Post  
www.oakpostonline.com

B 1

PHOTOS AND STORY BY DANTE CIULLO  
PHOTO EDITOR

Point, click, wait. Click, wait, stare.  
Ponder. Click, wait ... It's deleted, start again. In the "gotta have it now," fast food mentality of America today, this process is repeated over and over by an estimated 54 million digital camera owners, and "CWD (click, wait, delete) Syndrome" is on the rise.

In the modern world of instant coffee, instant replay and drive-through fast food restaurants, it's certainly no wonder that digital camera sales have skyrocketed. For four years, digital camera sales outnumbered film camera sales. About two-thirds of the cameras sold in 2004 were digital. This is a three percent increase from 2003, according to 2003-2004 PMA U.S. Industry Trends Report: Retail Markets.

In 1992, Leaf Products pioneered the latest evolution in photography - digital - with the first high-end digital camera for professional studio photography. At \$45,000, the technology saw a limited market in which only the busiest professionals could afford to shoot digital.

Though the cost of this technology is dropping, consumers' lack of understanding of not only their own needs but of the technology itself is the largest shortfall in digital photography. For the snap-shooter and professionals, digital cameras can provide instant feedback, not unlike the Polaroid Land Camera that debuted in 1948.

"You've got greater control over the color of things, color temperatures if you will," said Mike Robinson of Robinson Photography in Mount Clemens. "You could have multiple light sources and take an exposure with each light source and bring them together as one, all adjusted. So the latitude of exposure can be controlled."

For users with a lot of patience and an extra \$650 to buy Adobe Photoshop, precision control over highlight and shadow detail is possible. But for the average snap-shooter, this post processing is something likely to be out of their comfort zone.

"One of the capabilities I like best about digital is the fact that you can shoot 1600 and 3200 speeds and get a really interesting look," Robinson said. "It's unlike film because there's no grain... it has noise, you get a little noise in it, but you can do night shots like things I've never seen before."

Users who can take advantage of features that allow them to correct for different light sources, which is called "white balancing." Though, there are times when all the white balancing in the world won't replace good, old-fashioned film.

In the article "Shooting the DIX for National Geographic," Eamon Hickey recounts professional photographer Joe McNally's experiences photographing the spread "100 Years of Flight" for National Geographic. McNally discovered his high-priced Nikon D1X had limits. McNally had the assembly line for the 777 airliner shut down while trying to capture how the plane's fuselage is aligned with a laser. The camera's CMOS sensor was unable to acquire the visual spectrum in which the laser's color laid.

"A dime store laser pointer, substituted for Boeing's industrial unit, eventually did the trick," McNally said. This is one of many technological concerns that may need to be addressed before plunking down hard-earned cash to have the instant gratification of digital.

"The cost of the technology is the downside," Robinson said. To get really high-quality, professional-level

images, you have to get into higher priced cameras that range from \$2,000 to \$30,000, he said.

Higher-priced cameras include the ability to acquire images in file formats such as RAW or TIF. These file formats, unlike the JPG file format found in lower priced digital cameras, take on a greater range of color-depth, more accurate bit-depth, with a more finite level of control. Image quality is not limited simply by file formats, bit-depth or pixel count.

"The biggest difference between those (amateur cameras) and what you might call a 'Pro' camera is that the chip is not the same quality," Robinson said. "It may have the size (in mega pixels), but it's not going to be the same quality and clarity. In fact, they aren't even the same chip, they are much smaller chips with more pixels (packed) in them."

Digital cameras' storage media is both a blessing and a bane. Some media, like one gigabyte compact flash (GB), can store hundreds or thousands of images (depending on the file type). Generally, this media is stable, but it can be damaged by electrical surges, though it is rare. The manufacturers of this media generally label the media's life at about 100,000 writes. For a casual user, that may be the life of a camera or two.

"The biggest thing with digital is the fact that if you don't save it, or if you hit (delete), or even (jar the camera) during shooting (images could be lost)" Robinson said. Micro drives, or tiny hard drives, are susceptible to damage from even mild impact against the camera. "The device that is capturing it, the memory card, (etc.), is going to be considered a pretty fragile item until you can get that to a safer storage device, be it a hard drive, CD, DVD or something like that."

The final storage media: hard drive, CD-ROM and DVD also suffer from longevity issues. Hard drives crash, older CD-ROMs have been known to oxidize, and some media just becomes unreadable due to antiquity, such as the 5.25 inch floppy.

This is not to say that film isn't vulnerable. Film is very fragile and susceptible to damage before, during and after processing. That said, there are glass plate negatives from the U.S. Civil War that can still be printed from, while there are some CDs from the 1980s that are unreadable. In either case, film or digital, storage and preservation techniques must be employed.

One of the unique and possibly most annoying "features" of digital cameras is the lag between when you press the shutter release button and when the picture is actually taken. This lag can cause the user to miss the photos they intend to capture, further ingraining the "Point, click, wait. Click, wait, stare. Ponder. Click, wait ... It's deleted, start again" method into the user's photographic repertoire.

Cameras such as the Canon EOS 20D, a camera with interchangeable lenses targeted at the advanced amateur or professional, have had their lag time decreased to a mere 65 milliseconds. At about \$1,500 for just the camera body, consumers can reduce CWD Syndrome to the minimum of current technology.

This is not to say that users cannot get acceptable images out of lower-priced digital cameras.

"For lower-end cameras, you're not going to get superior results but you're going to get something usable," Robinson said.

The decision to buy a digital or film camera really should be based on the end needs of the consumer, not instant gratification.

"If it's just going to be for your computer, then digital is definitely a good way to start out because it's already in the format for that," Robinson said.

For certain tasks, one technology will do a faster, better job. In the end, the tool used to achieve the desired results must be based on simply more than just "film or digital," but rather proper knowledge and training.

"Just because it's a digital camera doesn't mean it's going to make the photo any better," Robinson said. "You still have to have an understanding of what you're photographing (and) how you're going to photograph it."

Before joining the "Point, click, wait. Click, wait, stare. Ponder. Click, wait ... It's deleted, start again" crowd, one should consider getting a solid foundation of basic photographic concepts so the best possible results can be achieved regardless of the medium.

Point, click, wait. Click, wait, stare. Ponder. Click, wait ...  
It's deleted, start again.



## Bubble Bliss bursts with boba tea flavors

By MICHELLE BLAHNIK  
THE OAKLAND POST

For years people have been drinking an interesting and delicious drink known as "bubble tea," a refreshing and sweet beverage with tapioca pearls sitting at the bottom of a clear cup.

The drink has been spreading like wild fire across Asia, Hawaii and the West Coast since first originating in Taiwan in the early 1980s.

What many students do not know is that bubble tea is available right here in Rochester.

Downtown Rochester's Bubble Bliss tea café, located at 125 South Main Street, is where students can find a humble atmosphere to enjoy their own bubble tea drink.

Taking over the café two years ago, owners Rick Wang and Ms. Lee offer a variety of flavors such as strawberry, banana, cherry, taro, mango, almond and cantaloupe. They also have a vast menu with drinks like smoothies, icees,

tea lattes, blended ice coffees and fusion teas, or flavor fused teas with the flavor of your choice.

But many still wonder what that dark-colored bubble is sitting at the bottom of the drink. Owner Rick Wang's father and Bubble Bliss manager Li Wang said the bubbles are made primarily of tapioca, but get their dark color from a mixture of sweet potato, cassava root and caramel.

The consistency of tapioca pearls sipped through a straw is unlike any other. Some might say that it is a cross between firm Jell-O and soft Gummi Bears.

In other places bubble tea is also known as "pearl drink" or even "boba tea" in Western China, as they compare the texture of the pearls to the texture of female breasts.

Senior Mandy Coates may not agree with Western China's "boba" comparison, however, she admits the pearls' consistency is unique.

"The texture is very interesting and real chewy. I was hesitant at first to try it, but now that I have, I can't get enough," Coates said.

"The tapioca bubbles are very healthy for you too," said manager Wang, as they are high in fiber from the sweet potatoes.

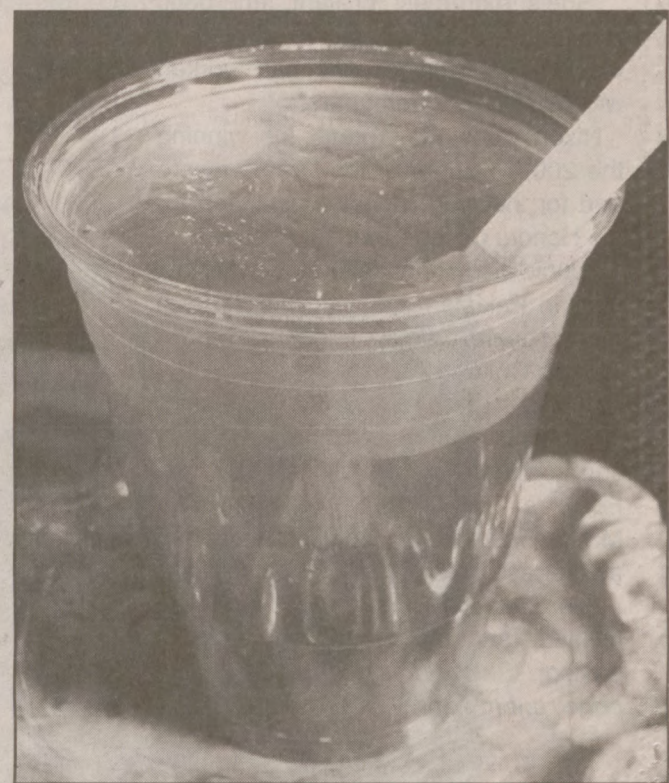
Bubble Bliss gets its fair share of business. The café is relaxing for its customers with several couches and comfortable chairs. The café is decorated with many bamboo plants and an array of Asian décor.

"Many of our customers stay and sit. Sometimes they play the games that we offer," Wang said.

The games include board games, chess and backgammon. The café also offers wireless Internet for those interested in surfing the net.

"It's a really cool place," Coates said. "I plan to go back as often as I can."

Call Bubble Bliss for hours at (248) 651-7282.



Dante Ciullo/The Oakland Post

Downtown Rochester's Bubble Bliss tea café offers a variety of beverages with numerous flavors. But their most popular beverage is known as "boba tea," a drink with tiny tapioca balls sitting at the bottom. "Boba tea" or "bubble tea" has a gelatin consistency made of sweet potato, cassava root and caramel.

## Fact-based plot comes short of thrills

By ANDREW GAINES  
THE OAKLAND POST

Can you imagine moving into an affordable, spacious and attractive dream house with your family, only to move out in 28 days leaving behind your most prized possessions?

This may sound crazy, but according to the movie "The Amityville Horror," based on a true story, a small family of five was kicked out of their own residence by frightening ghosts.

"The Amityville Horror" is a remake of the 1979

classic horror film, which involves the Lutz family moving into a house where the six members of the DeFeo family were murdered execution-style by Ronald DeFeo Jr.

The movie sets itself back in the 1970s when the rock band "Kiss" was popular and smoking pot was an average high for teens.

This horror film chronicles the night when Ronald DeFeo Jr. slaughtered the DeFeo family like lambs while they slept comfortably in their beds on Nov. 13, 1973. Soon after, police received a frantic phone call that led them to a terrifying

crime scene at the DeFeo residence in Amityville, New York. Ronald DeFeo Jr. confessed to meticulously killing his parents and four siblings with a rifle, saying haunting voices in the house drove him to the massacre.

Although the movie started off on a high note imitating the gruesome murders of the DeFeo family, the scenes to come shortly after were not so great. For 15 minutes after the killing, monster-like images flash quickly before you, which is highly irritating. As a matter of fact, if you were to narrow your eyes tightly and try to read this article, it

would remind you of some of the images and scenes in the movie.

One year later, George (Ryan Reynolds) and Kathy Lutz (Melissa George) and their children move into the house thinking it would be their dream home. Soon the haunting voices begin and the family becomes restless in their own home.

Visions of ghosts haunt the Lutz family. The family becomes petrified when their youngest daughter Chelsea Lutz (Chloe Moretz) befriends a

Please see HORROR on B3



Libby Baker  
Editor In Chief

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(248)370-4268

# The Post mix

THE COUNTDOWN:

There are only three days until  
the winter semester ends.

Congratulations and good luck  
to the class of 2005!

B2

www.oakpostonline.com

April 20, 2005

## Two Minutes With

SUMEERA YOUNIS



Blythe Simmons/The Oakland Post

By LAURA ANGUS  
THE OAKLAND POST

Wedding plans, an upcoming graduation, law school applications, classes and involvement in more than five campus organizations may seem overwhelming to most students.

To senior Sumeera Younis, it's all in a day's work.

The sociology and women's studies major will graduate this May and then it's off to the altar and then law school.

She has applied to several law schools, including UCLA, U of M and her top pick, Berkeley, which she said has more of a "communal" atmosphere.

Younis said she doesn't know where she will go after law school, but wants to be involved in international law.

"I want to be where I can help the most," she said. She said she'll probably specialize in human rights.

During her time at law school, Younis will also be a newlywed after marrying Feraz Ashraf of Dearborn on May 29.

She and Ashraf have been married under Islam for more than a year and a half, and in May they will have their cultural ceremony. After the cultural ceremony, they will begin living together.

"There's so much to do," Younis said.

She doesn't like anything she does to be typical, so her wedding flowers and decorations will be funky and different.

And Younis has not just been busy for the past few months - she's been involved in the Honors College, Student Congress, the Muslim Student Association (MSA), Golden Key and other organizations at OU.

"She's extremely brilliant, energetic and funny," said Jude Nixon, director of the Honors College, who had worked with Younis for three years.

Nixon applauds Younis for winning the 2003 Keeper of the Dream award and for initiating a new constitution for the Honors College Student Association.

Younis also spent several months last year in Pakistan, studying the state of mental health care in the country for her Honors College thesis.

"It was a great experience," she said.

Younis is most proud of her collaboration in events like the Women's Issues Forum's "The Vagina Monologues," MSA's Fast-A-Thon and for spreading awareness of Islam on OU's campus.

"Her leadership of the MSA will be missed," said Mohamed Zohdy, MSA's advisor. "She seems to combine knowledge, energy and vision."

## Out and About

Music, Theater, Dance

Meadow Brook Theatre has announced the lineup for its 40th anniversary season (2005-2006).

Along with the holiday favorite, "A Christmas Carol," MBT is presenting the cult musical, "Rocky Horror Show," the Michigan premier of the romantic comedy, "Syncopation" and the musical

presentation of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" and "No Way to Treat a Lady."

If you're familiar with the tragic Donner party expedition of 1847 and the cannibalism that transpired, you'll be drawn to MBT's production of "Devour the Snow," which brings together several of the survivors in a court case that examines the ultimate struggle to live, as well as the price of survival.

For ticket information, call the MBT Box Office at (248) 377-3300 or visit <http://www.mbttheatre.com>.

Also, make sure to catch the Music, Theatre and Dance student-directed productions as they take the stage at Varner Lab Theatre on April 28 and 29 at 8 p.m. and April 30 at 2 p.m. All tickets are \$6.

For more information, call (248) 370-3013.

—Compiled by Linda Curatolo

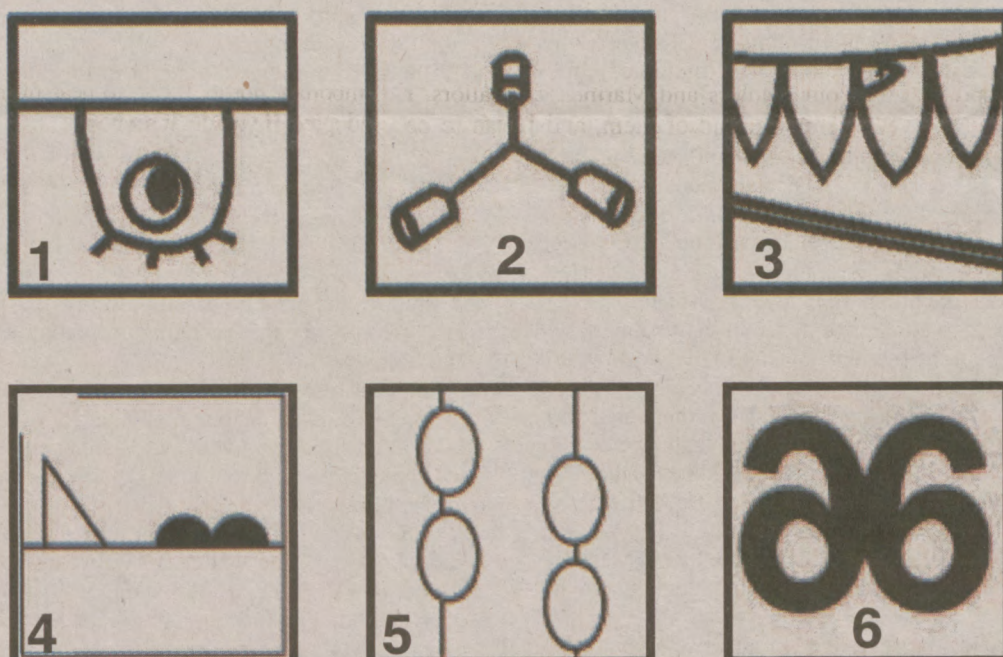
## DANTE'S ENIGMA

By Dante Ciullo

Puzzle #1: What is the next symbol in the sequence?



Puzzle #2: Figure out what is happening in each Doodle (a combination of a doodle and riddle).



Puzzles courtesy of Puzzles.com and Doodles.com

### ANSWERS

Puzzle #1: Each symbol is actually a mirror-imaged number. Draw a line down the center of each symbol and look at the right half. The answer to the puzzle is Doodle #6. Puzzle #2: 1.) A monster looking under his bed. 2.) A cup and string phone with three-way calling. 3.) A whale about to floss. 4.) A shark returning from Disneyland. 5.) A koala climbing a tree. 6.) Not a doodle, but the answer to puzzle #1.

## Clean Up Your Act

ENVIRONMENT

The 35th annual Earth Day celebration is April 22. Each one of us has a responsibility to care for the earth we live on. Here are just a few easy and beneficial suggestions for ways you can do your part to protect the environment:

✓ Use natural pesticide alternatives if bugs are a menace to your garden.

✓ Plant a tree or shrubs along the side of your house. It acts as a natural insulator, keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

✓ Leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing. They act as a natural fertilizer when they decompose and this prevents them from occupying space in landfills.

Courtesy of Lara Jill Rosenblith and About.com  
<http://www.about.com>

Nancy Hatherley has long since been out of the college scene. In fact, she graduated from OU in 1974. Both of her children go to OU, and she still comes on campus to see what kinds of improvements have been made and how different things look.

When the dishes are washed, the laundry is done and her husband has fallen asleep in the recliner, Hatherley picks up a book and reads. Her recent favorite book, "The DaVinci Code" by Dan Brown, mixes her two favorite kinds of novels: mystery and history.

"It had all the elements for a great novel: mystery, drama and intrigue. And the historical parts peaked your interest in a very different way," Hatherley said.

Author Dan Brown started DaVinci mania with his religiously controversial historic mystery novel. Although the book is fiction, the story pieces together historical and biblical facts to create a mystery involving secret societies, the Catholic faith and the work of Leonardo DaVinci.

The idea Hatherley liked the most was that the author proposes the prospect that contrary to what we're taught, women, not men, were worshipped in the olden times.

—Allie Brunner

# 4

good reasons to hit the door  
during the coming week

### WENESDAY 20

Get a break from studying with "OU Student Days at the Ballpark" as OU hosts Eastern Michigan University. Admission is free!



Take me out to the ball game



Time to relax

### THURSDAY 21

Enjoy a massage and carnival games at SPB's De-stress Spring Fest from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. between Kresge Library and the OC.

### THURSDAY 21

Come celebrate the end of the semester at the Habitat for Humanity ice cream social from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the OC.



Ice cream is yummy



Happy Founder's Day

### FRIDAY 22

Commemorate the contributions of Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson to OU by attending the Founder's Day events on campus!



**HORROR***Continued from B1.*

ghost with a bullet wound in her head. It is odd that Chelsea would befriend a ghost, who could be easily feared.

The ghosts appear to be real and cause a bone-chilling effect as you watch the ghosts terrorize the Lutz family.

Then George begins to do what the voices tell him to do, which involves him lashing out at his family.

This horror remake is more digitally advanced than the 1979 classic film. The houses in both movies are replicas of the original house in which the DeFeo family was killed.

The best part of the movie is when the house comes alive in a terrifying climax that shocks the Lutz family.

The movie was based on a book written by Ric Osuna entitled "The Night the DeFeos Died: Reinvestigating the Amityville Murders." The book gives accurate descriptions of the Lutz's 28-day experience in the DeFeo's house. This may add to the film's horrific elements and even allow the audience to be spooked beyond measure.

Although the film causes its audience to jump due to images that appear instantly, you can bet on being pulled into the movie by its scary tactics and mechanisms.

However, you may wonder if you should pay to see this or just wait until it comes to television. This movie had a predictable plot with an inevitable ending.

If you've seen all seven Nightmare on Elm Street movies, just slap a based-on-a-true-story sticker on them all, and you've got your Amityville Horror.

# "Angels" lift spirit of soldiers

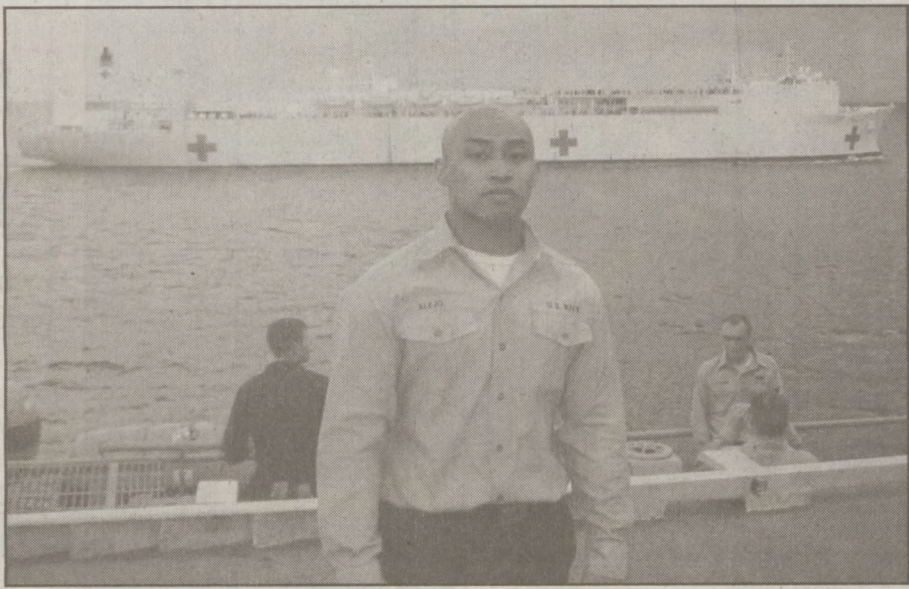


Photo courtesy of Soldiers' Angels  
A sailor in the U.S. Navy, Albert (his last name cannot be disclosed) was previously stationed on the USS Lincoln, which aided with tsunami relief efforts in the Indian Ocean.

By LIBBY BAKER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

In a nation bitterly divided over foreign policy decisions, sometimes the important things, like the thousands of troops stationed overseas, are forgotten.

That's where Soldiers' Angels comes in. In 2003, Patti Bader, whose son Brandon Varn was serving in Iraq at the time, founded Soldiers' Angels, a non-profit organization.

According to the Soldiers' Angels Web site, Varn wrote home during the summer of 2003 expressing concern that some soldiers were not receiving letters or support from home.

Bader began contacting friends and relatives and asking them to write letters to soldiers, and within a few months, thousands of individuals had volunteered to help.

Angels, as volunteers are called, sign up to adopt a soldier, although many adopt more than one. By adopting a soldier, angels commit to sending letters and care packages to their adoptee.

Less than two years later, Soldiers' Angels is a network of more than 20,000 people, but the organization is in desperate need of more volunteers.

"With the third deployment of troops underway ... we're getting more and more names submitted to us for support," said Jennifer Krzys, a post-baccalaureate stu-

dent in OU's alternative elementary teacher certification program. "We want to make sure that each soldier, Marine or sailor receives an angel, someone to care about them while they're deployed."

Krzys adopted her first soldier at the end of last year.

"I wanted to do something to help them, but I wasn't sure what," she said. She did a Web search and discovered the Soldiers' Angels Web site.

"All it takes is one letter a week and one care package a month, and you can make a huge difference in the life and morale of a service member," she said.

Soldiers' Angels is a great way for college students or student organizations to make a difference in the world, she said.

"Becoming an Angel is a way to truly make a difference in the life of a hero fighting overseas," she said. "Our soldiers, Marines and sailors are just like OU students, except they've been thrust into the middle of a war zone."

Krzys, who admits to not fully agreeing with the politics involved in the decision to go to war, said it doesn't matter what your personal feelings are, you can still support the men and women who risk their lives every day.

"Being a Soldiers' Angel is not about supporting the war, it's about supporting our soldiers and Marines and sailors. I am so proud of them, and I plan to be

## Letters from soldiers stationed around the world

All letters were sent to volunteers in the Soldiers' Angels organization.  
Names are not disclosed

"You already knew my family has been MIA since day one ... I was embarrassed thinking about mail call and never getting anything and having everyone looking at me and feeling sorry for me. But thanks to you I look forward to mail call."

"I cannot help but smile when I read your letter. I have kept your letter close by since I received it so that I could respond when the opportunity presented itself. This is my third tour in a combat environment, and every time it amazes me when I receive letters like yours. America has no idea the virtue of its wealth when it comes to our citizens. Thanks for being a special angel to soldiers like me."

"I got the package yesterday. I have never been so proud to be an American. We hear so much negative stories about people in the news, but the truth is that there are plenty of great people. My only regret is that it wasn't like this for the soldiers of the Vietnam and Korean wars. We are doing O.K. here."

"I never realized how much we take things for granted back in our country until I came over here and saw how things were. There are a lot of things that people, including myself, never seem to appreciate for being in the country that we have. We are very lucky to have the freedoms we have and the opportunity to decide how we live our lives.

"I really appreciate you taking the time out of your day to write me a letter. It's people like you that keep us over here fighting, knowing that we have the support of our own people behind us. It takes a lot of time and courage to be able to write and send things to the soldiers over here. When it comes down to it, you are the hero. You keep the morale up by writing soldiers and make us realize what we have. Thank you."

here for them until they all come home safely," Krzys said.

Krzys currently has three adoptees, two of whom are stationed in Iraq. The other serves on the USS Duluth, and because of security reasons, Krzys is unaware of his location.

She talks to one regularly, but said it's important not to expect to hear from your adoptee. If you do, it's a bonus.

"When you get a response from someone that you've written a letter to, it literally brings tears to your eyes every single time," Krzys said. "These men and women are so incredibly grateful that someone back home is thinking of them, that a complete stranger has taken the time to write to them."

For more information on the Soldiers' Angels program or to adopt a soldier, visit <http://www.soldiersangels.com>.

The Student Life Lecture Board  
is looking for a Student Co-Chair!  
Applications, now available at the CSA  
Office, are due on Friday, April 22.

Come be a part of the organization responsible for sponsoring:  
President Jimmy Carter, Dr. Ruth, Montel Williams, Oprah Winfrey, Andrew Young, Jean Michael Cousteau, Greg Louganis, Abba Eban, Maya Angelou, Myrlie Williams-Evers, Mitch Albom, Kurt Vonnegut, Alex Haley, Edward James Olmos, Terry Waite, Michael Dyson, Dennis Archer, Al Roker, Gloria Steinem, Kweisi Mfume, Jennifer Granholm, Ernie Harwell, Lech Walesa, Kevin Powell, Naomi Wolf, Tavis Smiley, Barbara Ehrenreich, J.C. Watts, and Nancy Cartwright.

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**Oakland University Student Congress**

Join us for a meeting on:

**Monday May 16, 2005**

@ 4PM

Oakland Room of the Oakland Center

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Campus Viewing Party on Thursday April 21st, 6:00pm  
Held at the Oakland Center in the Lake Michigan Room



# Baseball wins one:

## Salvages series against Oral Roberts

By DAVE PEMBERTON  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Golden Grizzlies had a rough start to their home stand against Oral Roberts University, falling in the first three games. They were able to salvage game four and hand ORU its first conference loss of the season.

Sophomore pitcher Paul Phillips pitched in game one of the doubleheader on Saturday and allowed one earned run in eight innings. OU was not able to capitalize on Phillips' great start and lost 2-1.

ORU's junior pitcher Taylor McIntyre allowed one run in six innings, and Daniel Greenwalt pitched three scoreless innings to pick up the win.

OU's offense continued to have a rough day and had only two hits in game two of the doubleheader. ORU's offense did not have as much trouble scoring in game two as they did against Phillips.

The Golden Eagles scored 10 runs on 16 hits and hit three home runs to take the 10-0 win.

Senior Rene Recio had a huge day going 3-for-4 with two home runs, five RBIs and two runs for the Golden Eagles. ORU's senior Dennis Bigley

pitched six scoreless innings and went 2-for-3 with a home run and two RBIs.

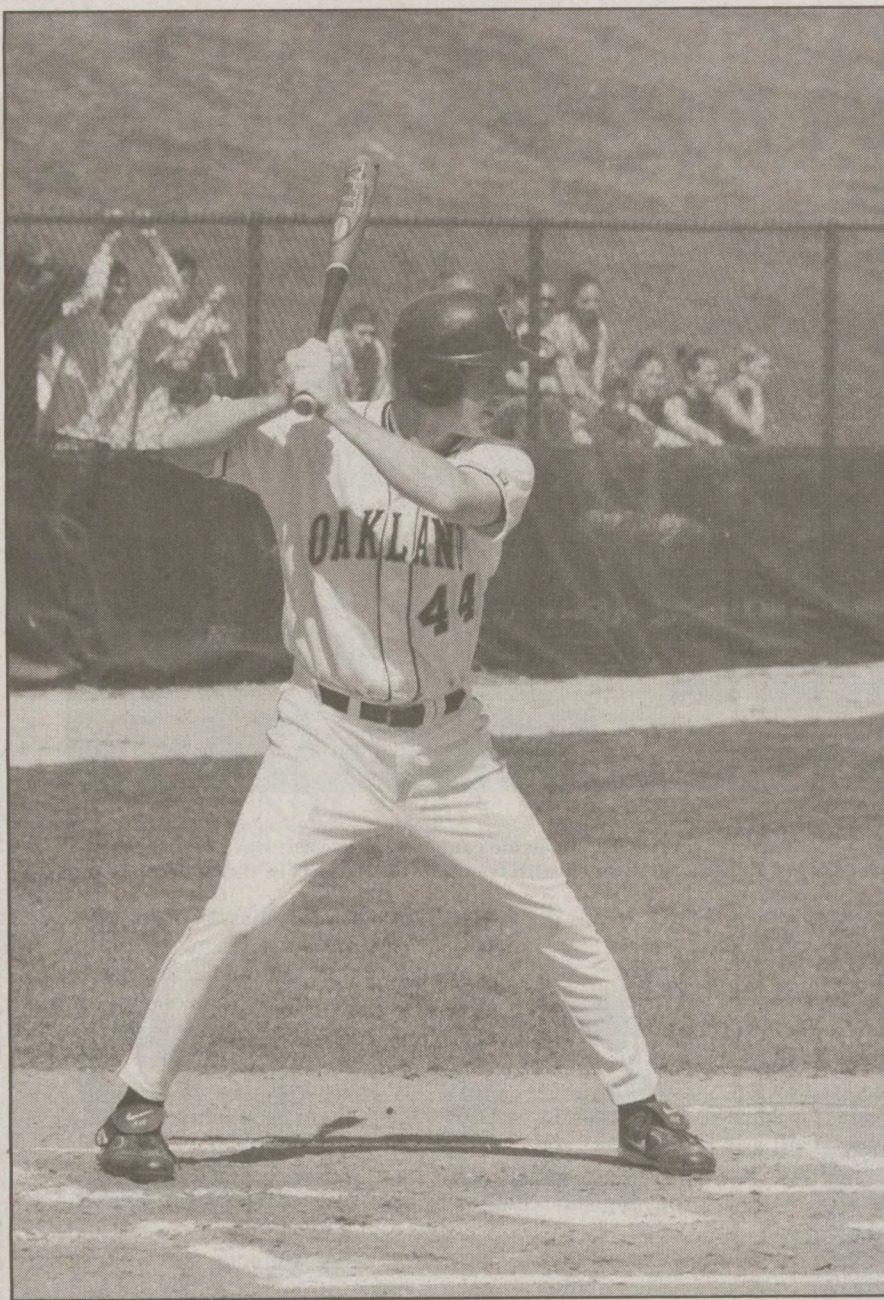
In the first game of the doubleheader on Sunday, the Grizzlies ran into some more great pitching. The Golden Eagles' junior pitcher Nick Jones pitched a complete game shutout, allowing only two hits in nine innings and striking out 13.

Senior Michael Hollimon went 1-for-4 with a home run and three RBIs, and junior right fielder Travis DeBontt went 3-for-4 with four RBIs to lead ORU to a 9-0 win.

In Sunday's second game and final game of the series, OU's offense was able to turn things around. Tim Doig hit an RBI single in the second to help OU take a 2-1 lead.

ORU tied the game in the top of the fourth, but OU took back the lead in the bottom of the fourth when third baseman Chad Winkler hit a sacrifice bunt that scored Ty Herriott. Doig added to the lead with an RBI double, which scored Winkler.

Catcher Nate Recknagel added to the lead in the fifth with an RBI single. ORU scored a run in the sixth to cut the lead to 5-3, but pitcher Bryan Bishop came in for OU to get the final out in the sixth and pitched a scoreless seventh to pick up the save.



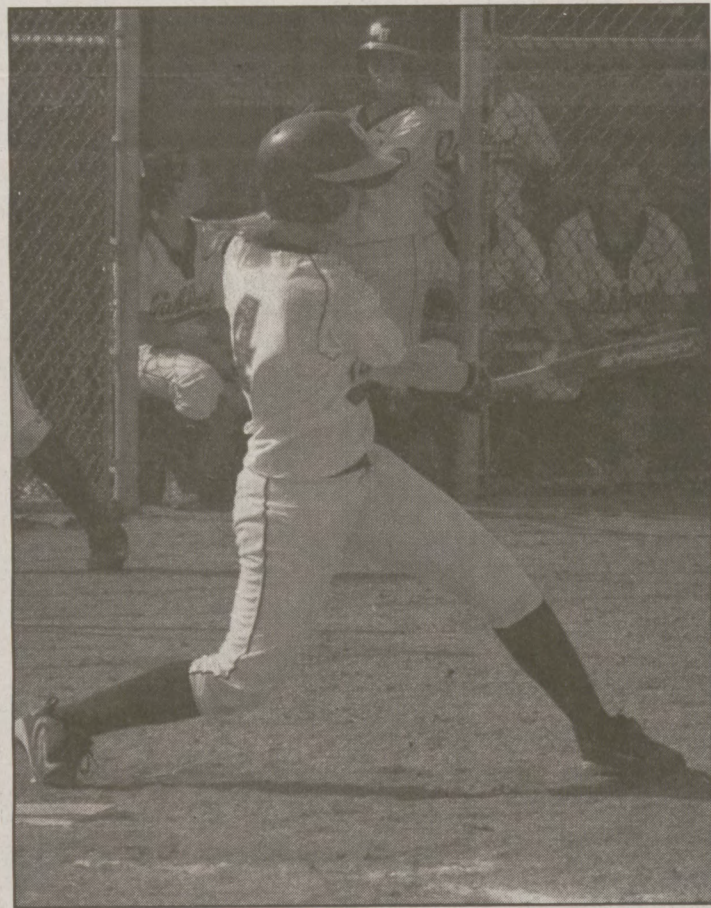
Bob Knoska/The Oakland Post  
Grizzlies' junior outfielder Tim Doig gets ready for a pitch in one of the OU baseball team's four games against Oral Roberts University, in which OU went 1-3.

Pitcher Kevin Hale allowed two runs in four innings of work to pick up his second win of the season. Center fielder Will Tollison went 2-for-3, and Herriott went 2-for-2 with two runs scored for the Grizzlies.

With the win, OU's record is now 4-23

and 2-6 in the Mid-Con. OU takes on Eastern Michigan University at 3 p.m. today at the OU baseball field. The Grizzlies then head to Chicago State on Saturday and Sunday for more Mid-Con action.

# Students enticed by Grizz



Bob Knoska/The Oakland Post  
OU junior outfielder Camie Knorr takes a swing during a game against the University of Detroit-Mercy on April 5 at OU.

By BRENDAN J. STEVENS  
SPORTS EDITOR

With classes winding down and spring in the air, the athletics department is looking for ways to spark interest.

A chance to see the Grizz one last time is just one way the OU community is being enticed to come watch the baseball and softball team's this week.

"OU Student Days at the Ballpark" officially kicked off Tuesday at 3 p.m. when the softball squad took on Michigan State University in a doubleheader.

The festivities will continue Wednesday at 3 p.m. when the baseball team faces Eastern Michigan University for just one game on the Lower Fields.

Admission to all softball and baseball games is always free but, as an added incentive, refreshments will be provided and there was rumor of the Grizz making an appearance.

Senior Ty Herriot of the baseball team and sophomore Maria Benza addressed OU Student Congress Monday afternoon, publicizing "OU Students Days

at the Ballpark" while handing out flyers and posters.

Results for Tuesday's softball games against MSU were unavailable at this issue's deadline.

The OU softball squad heads to Ohio on Thursday for a doubleheader against the University of Toledo starting at 3 p.m.

The Grizzlies then come home for five games total.

OU returns to Mid-Con Conference action with back-to-back doubleheaders against the Crusaders of Valparaiso University.

At 3 p.m. on Friday, the teams will square off in the first of its two games. Then, at noon on Saturday, the squads will wrap up their series with the final two contests.

The homestand will be concluded with a 3 p.m. game against Western Michigan University next Wednesday.

After traveling to face Western Illinois University, the Grizzlies will finish off the regular season with one double header against EMU (May 4) and a four-game series against Centenary College (May 6-7).

## Stuard makes history at Mid-Con Championship

With a birdie on the first playoff hole, senior Brian Stuard won the Men's Mid-Con Golfing Championship.

Stuard is the first golfer in OU history to win the title, which automatically comes with Mid-Con Player of the Year honors.

Stuard's 216 (69-73-74) put him in a tie for first after three rounds, but he claimed the individual title on the first extra hole by hitting his three-foot birdie putt.

The OU men's golf squad finished in sixth place in the team competition with a total of 912, ten strokes behind team champion IUPUI.

In the women's competition, Oral Roberts University earned its eighth consecutive team title by finishing 50 strokes ahead of the second-place Grizzly squad.

Sophomore Christina Cibrario, junior Patricia Ellsworth and sophomore Stacey Goins were named to the All Mid-Con Second Team.

# U-M dominates club lacrosse

By BRENDAN J. STEVENS  
SPORTS EDITOR

In a rematch of last year's Central Collegiate Lacrosse Association double overtime semifinal, the University of Michigan club lacrosse squad shut-down OU.

The Wolverines matched their goal-total from their 12-11 loss in the CCLA tournament, but the Grizzlies were unable to keep pace in U-M's 11-1 victory.

OU went down a man early in the first period, and the Wolverines capitalized when senior attacker Ryan Clark netted the game's first goal off an assist from sophomore Matt Hudson.

Clark, in fact, had a hand in U-M's next three goals to help his team gain an early advantage.

He assisted sophomore Evan Fox's goal, scored the Wolverines' third goal off an assist from Fox and picked up the helper on a goal by Hudson that gave U-M a four-goal lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Wolverines netted their fifth goal of the game midway through the second quarter when freshman Bobby Morales

beat Grizzly goaltender Chris Wood.

OU finally took its goose egg off the scoreboard when junior attacker Nate Reynolds put a rebound past U-M senior goalie Dan Webber. But that would be the last time the Grizzlies tickled the twine.

Fox scored his second goal, assisted by junior Jim Constantine, with 17 seconds to play in the first half to give the Wolverines a 6-1 advantage at the half-time break.

In the second half, U-M continued to dominate competition scoring six more goals en route to its double-digit victory.

Fox finished the game with three goals, while Clark, Morales, Hudson and freshman Peter Krauss had two goals each for the Wolverines.

Clark and Fox also tallied five points, with Hudson and Constantine recording three points. Krauss and Morales each posted two points.

In a rematch of last season's CCLA Championship, the Grizzlies rebounded from the overwhelming loss to U-M with a 20-11 victory over the University of Miami-OH on Sunday.

The Grizzlies now place fourth in the



Bob Knoska/The Oakland Post  
The OU club lacrosse team's defense tries to shut down a University of Purdue offensive player in the teams' match on April 9, which OU won, 16-6.

CCLA Division A standings behind three undefeated teams in conference play: U-M, the University of Pittsburgh and Michigan State University.

Results for OU's game against MSU in

East Lansing on Tuesday were unavailable at this issue's deadline.

The Grizzlies wrap up the regular season with a contest against Western Michigan University at 7 p.m. Saturday.

# Tennis claims season finale

By BRENDAN J. STEVENS  
SPORTS EDITOR

With a 5-2 win over the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in its regular season finale on Friday, the OU women's tennis team recorded back-to-back wins for the first time since its inaugural season at the Division I level.

In the 1999-2000 season, the Golden Grizzlies went 10-9 for the year, but have not been over .500 for the last five seasons. This year, OU finished with a 3-15 record.

The Grizzlies have continued to build the tennis program since its initial Div. I success and has a strong foundation of youth in place to move toward success.

OU only has one junior, Lisa Pellafone, with three sophomores and two freshmen comprising the squad.

With that kind of youth movement, the Grizzlies have no where to go but up.

Freshman Teuta Lulgjuraj has been one of the brightest spots for OU this season, taking over the number one singles position six matches into the season.

Lulgjuraj posted a 10-8 record this season, including a 5-3 mark in conference competition.

She picked up her 10th win of the year with a 6-1, 6-4 win over U-W-M's Tammie Spiel on Friday.

Pellafone may have lost her number-one singles spot, but put together a solid season in the second singles slot, improving her record to 4-8 on the year with a victory over the Panthers' Margie Van Lieshout, 6-1, 6-4.

Sophomores Jessica Erickson and Angela Trecola also dealt with some flip-flopping in the third and fourth singles slots.

Erickson started the year in the third singles position, but struggled and went 0-4, while Trecola put up a 2-2 record in her fourth singles matches.

That's when head coach Heather Redshaw made the switch.

Both players benefited, with Trecola posting a 5-9 record in her third singles matches and Erickson went 7-7 in the fourth singles slot.

More importantly, both players put up 4-4 records in conference play.

Trecola and Erickson finished the season on a high note, winning their matches against U-W-M on Friday.

In the third singles match, Trecola took the first set, 6-4, withstood a comeback by the Panthers' Traci Litscher in the second set, 3-6, to take the third set, 6-2, and the match.

Erickson had less trouble, winning the fourth singles match in straight sets, 6-2, 7-5, over Shayna Illingworth.

Sophomore Lauren Sanchez-Murphy also enjoyed success this season, posting a 7-7 record, including a 4-4 mark in Mid-Con competition.

Sanchez-Murphy earned her seventh win with a comeback victory over U-W-M's Jenna McConnell.

After dropping the first set, 2-6, Sanchez-Murphy won the next two sets easily, 6-2, 6-1, to earn the win.

Freshman Laura Blankenship fell short of picking up her third victory of the season, falling to the Panthers' Erin Felber, 6-1, 6-1. With the loss, Blankenship ended the season with a 2-11 record, including 1-6 in league play.

U-W-M earned its other point by sweeping all three doubles matches.

OU will now take the summer off before returning to competition in the fall.

The schedule for the 2005-2006 season has not yet been released.

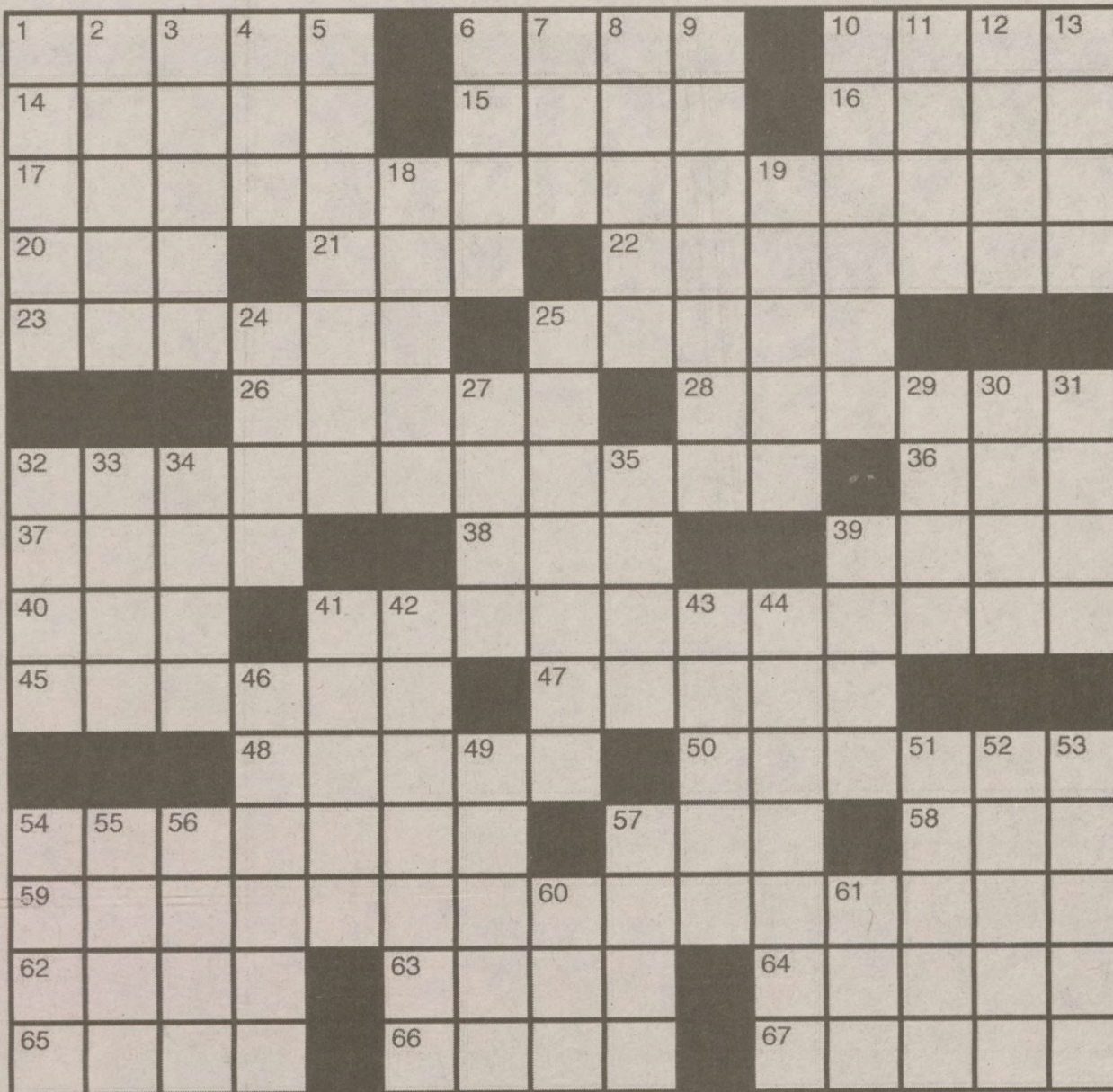
Check <http://www.ougrizzlies.com> for more details.



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

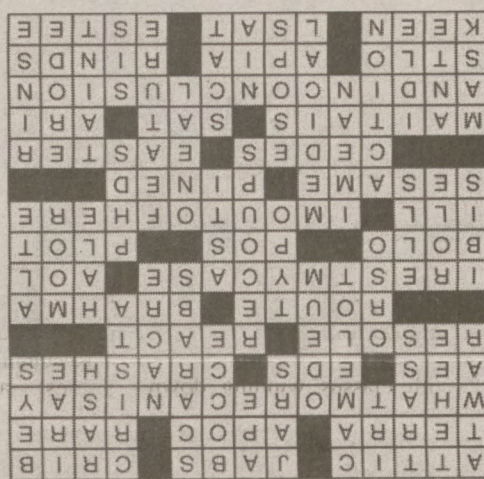
- 1 Top floor
- 6 Pokes
- 10 Baby's bed
- 14 \_\_\_ firma
- 15 Bk. of Revelations
- 16 Uncommon
- 17 That's all folks!
- 20 Dem. of the '50s
- 21 Begley and Wynn
- 22 Undergoes sudden damage
- 23 Do cobbling
- 25 Respond to a stimulus
- 26 AAA suggestion
- 28 Cohort of Vishnu and Siva
- 32 That's all folks!
- 36 Leading ISP
- 37 Manila machete
- 38 Opp. of neg.
- 39 Cemetery piece
- 40 "\_\_\_ Fly Away"
- 41 That's all folks!
- 45 Oil-yielding seed
- 47 Yearned
- 48 Surrenders by treaty
- 50 Lent end
- 54 Rum cocktails
- 57 Took a chair
- 58 "Exodus" hero
- 59 That's all folks!
- 62 WWI battle site
- 63 Samoan capital
- 64 Cheese coats
- 65 Zealous
- 66 Future atty's hurdle
- 67 First name in cosmetics



## DOWN

- 1 Fighting battles
- 2 Small titler
- 3 Powdery volcanic rock
- 4 NYC subway line
- 5 King Arthur's court
- 6 Unsettles
- 7 Imitator
- 8 Italian bowling game
- 9 Egyptian beetles
- 10 Ridge on a bone
- 11 Impetuous
- 12 "Dies \_\_\_"
- 13 Tunisian rulers

- 18 Ancient Greek bandstand
- 19 Mother-of-pearl
- 24 Roughly
- 25 Makes up for
- 27 Key blunder
- 29 Robust
- 30 Wasteland
- 31 Der \_\_\_ (Adenauer)
- 32 Nile wader
- 33 Part in a play
- 34 Building wings
- 35 Italian wine center
- 39 Advanced degs.
- 41 Words of clarification
- 42 One kind of insurance
- 43 Ryan or Tatum
- 44 Face part
- 46 Movement
- 49 Internal buy-out letters
- 51 Sully
- 52 Eat away
- 53 Hose off
- 54 Halloween wear
- 55 Pot starter
- 56 Out of work
- 57 Buzz off!
- 60 Actress Peeples
- 61 Female sib



# Horoscopes

By LINDA C. BLACK  
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

**Today's Birthday (04-20-05).** Postpone the long vacation this year, and take care of the job instead. Draw in ideas from far away. Don't travel; have them come to you.

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

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** Today is a 7: Concentrate on doing the very best job you can. You need to be proud of the products you produce, and the services you provide. Besides, your business will thrive.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Today is a 7: The Sun is coming into your sign, a lovely development. This is the perfect excuse for a private celebration in a beautiful setting.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Today is a 6: Start by cleaning out an area small enough to be manageable. Don't throw away things that belong to others, however. Get them involved in the process.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Today is an 8: Friends can help you understand a complicated subject. Don't try to use what you're learning quite yet; it takes a lot more practice to gain expertise.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Today is a 7: There's more money coming in, but less time to spend on romance. This is a temporary condition. Set your date for later in the week.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Today is an 8: It should be getting obvious, what will work and what won't. You've tried a lot of different things. Now, pare down to the best.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Today is a 6: Figure out how much you've spent and what your income's been over the past few weeks. You didn't have time to do it then, but now you do.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Today is a 7: For the next several weeks, you'll find yourself drawn into solid relationships. They'll be in business and your personal life. Pick the best.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Today is a 7: Hopefully, you're doing work you love. That way, you can trick yourself into thinking you're not working at all. Meanwhile, trick the boss into thinking you are.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Today is a 9: As each old fear comes up again, gently speak it out. A beloved counselor helps you spread them out in the sun, where they evaporate.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Today is a 5: Conditions are excellent for counting the money and sorting it into categories. Decide how much you can afford to spend. Don't buy everything; cut the fluff.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Today is an 8: For the next several weeks, you'll find it easier to pay attention. This is a wonderful thing, since you are often easily distracted. Use the phase wisely.

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# Saying goodbye after four years

BY BRENDAN J. STEVENS  
SPORTS EDITOR



The OU men's basketball team celebrates after winning the Mid-Con Championship.  
Jose Juarez/File Photo

It's been a long, strange trip.

From the day I showed up at The Oakland Post's office hoping just to write one story and ending up covering a lecture by one of my heroes, Ernie Harwell, to the joy of watching the men's basketball team during March Madness.



Brendan J. Stevens

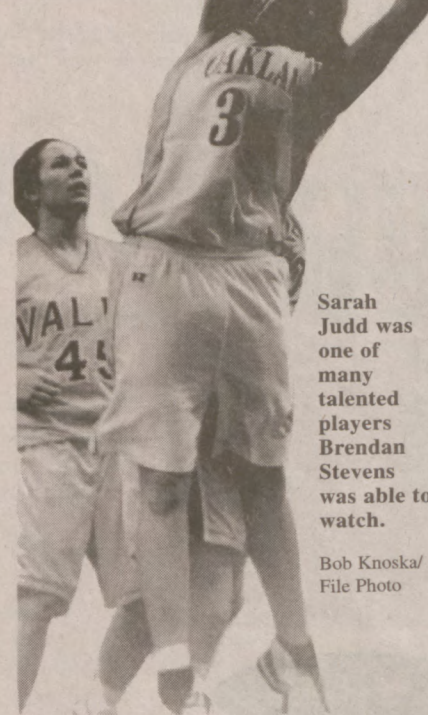
I never could have expected to be where I am today, especially since I was a mathematics major with hopes of getting into the education program when I first stepped foot on campus.

Now, I reluctantly step away from The Post, although I still have one year left at OU, after eight semesters working here, seven of which I was on staff.

As Editor in Chief and Sports Editor alike, I learned how to be a better journalist, employee and person. Now it is time to put those skills to work.

But before I fix my eyes toward the future, I must reflect on all I've been fortunate enough to witness in my four years at The Post.

I've watched an athletics program and university grow while, in some small way, being a part of it myself.



Sarah Judd was one of many talented players Brendan Stevens was able to watch.

Bob Knoska/  
File Photo



Senior Ron Kolito takes a shot. Brendan Stevens followed the men's club hockey team to their national tournament his sophomore year.  
Bob Knoska/File Photo

## FRESHMAN YEAR (2001-02):

So it begins. I didn't know what to expect out of college, especially since I was commuting.

I anticipated slow drives through traffic in the morning and slower drives through bumper-to-bumper gridlocks in the afternoon after classes.

I was hoping to break up the monotony of the daily grind by getting involved on campus, but I had no idea where.

"Are there such things as math clubs in college?" I thought.

I've always liked sports.

That's an understatement. I didn't gain any knowledge of sports until I was around 10 years old, but then I grew to love and appreciate sports.

So I decided to see what it took to get involved in the school newspaper.

Before I knew it, I was covering the hockey beat, sitting in The Post's office until 11 p.m. every Monday and Tuesday for no pay and loving every minute of it.

During that winter break, the Editor in Chief, Cara Plowman, asked me to take over as sports editor.

That's when the fun started.

Attending my first Mid-Con Conference Basketball Tournament, I witnessed the women's squad win the championship and traveled with the team to Nashville for the NCAA Tournament.

While it took three more years for the

men to match the feat, I credit the women's team for showing me why I love being a sports journalist. I will never forget that experience.

## SOPHOMORE YEAR (2002-03):

After the high of the NCAA Tournament, sophomore year could have been disappointing. But with a school-record six Mid-Con Championships, there was plenty to keep the Sports Editor busy.

Both the men's and women's soccer teams qualified for their NCAA Tournaments, five swimmers from both squads competed at the NCAA Championships and the softball squad earned a spot in its NCAA tourney.

Despite all the success, however, there were teams that struggled. Sometimes even a great deal.

The experience of covering teams who lost consistently gave me an opportunity to learn what it meant to be an objective journalist, not a fan.

But there was no shortage of success.

Brent Brown was chosen by the Anaheim Angels in the 22nd round of the Major League Baseball Draft.

Mike Helms gained national recognition by earning Division I All-American Honorable Mention.

The men's swimming and diving contingent finished a school-best 27th at the NCAA Championships.

It was a year of growth, for the school and myself.

## JUNIOR YEAR (2003-04):

On paper, it may not have been the most successful of my four years, but the progress was evident to anyone who looked closely.

While half as many teams won Mid-Con Championships, five squads were represented at the championship level.

Kristie Kieffer became the first cross country runner from OU to earn a spot in the NCAA Championships.

Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams sent representatives to the NCAA Championships.

More athletes worked their way to the next level, getting drafted by professional teams in both baseball and soccer.

Jason Perry was selected in the fifth round of the Major League Soccer draft by the Los Angeles Galaxy, while Dominic Carmosino, Kyle Boehm and Brad Morenko were taken in the MLB draft.

It was also the first year I realized what a commitment to academics the



Jason Perry (right) was one of many athletes drafted while Brendan Stevens was on staff.  
Bob Knoska/File Photo

athletics department and its teams has. Ninety-five student-athletes earned Academic All-Mid-Con honors, which was more than the previous two years.

## SENIOR YEAR (2004-05):

It's undeniable to say I feel privileged to have been a witness to the men's basketball team's amazing run to the NCAA Tournament.

But the real privilege has been getting to be a part of such a wonderful student production for four years.

It would be impossible to properly thank all the people I've worked with here, because they've all helped make me the journalist and person I am today.

I would like to, however, extend my sincerest thanks to the current staff of The Oakland Post, which has arguably been the most supportive and friendly group I've worked with in my four years.

Without them, nothing I've accomplished this year would have been possible.

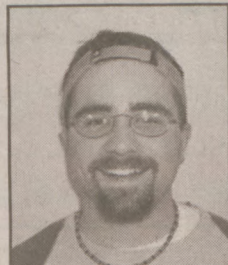
They were more than just co-workers, they are my friends.

I wish them all the best of luck and look forward to seeing what they come up with for next year.

## From beginning to end

Sports Editor  
Brendan J. Stevens  
(left) sits alongside  
former Sports Editor  
Chad Mack at the former's first-ever OU  
basketball game.

Bob Knoska/File Photo



FRESHMAN YEAR:  
Oh how young and foolish that crazy kid was!

SOPHOMORE YEAR:  
Brendan decided to get a bit more serious, but really just looks silly.



JUNIOR YEAR:  
Honestly, what was he thinking?

NOW:  
You would think he would have grown up by now.

