

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 4, 2009

Volume 35, Number 18

CAMPUS

The provost talks to The Post about projects OU has in the works

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LOCAL

A fraternity and other local groups walk to keep homes warm

Page 12

YOU

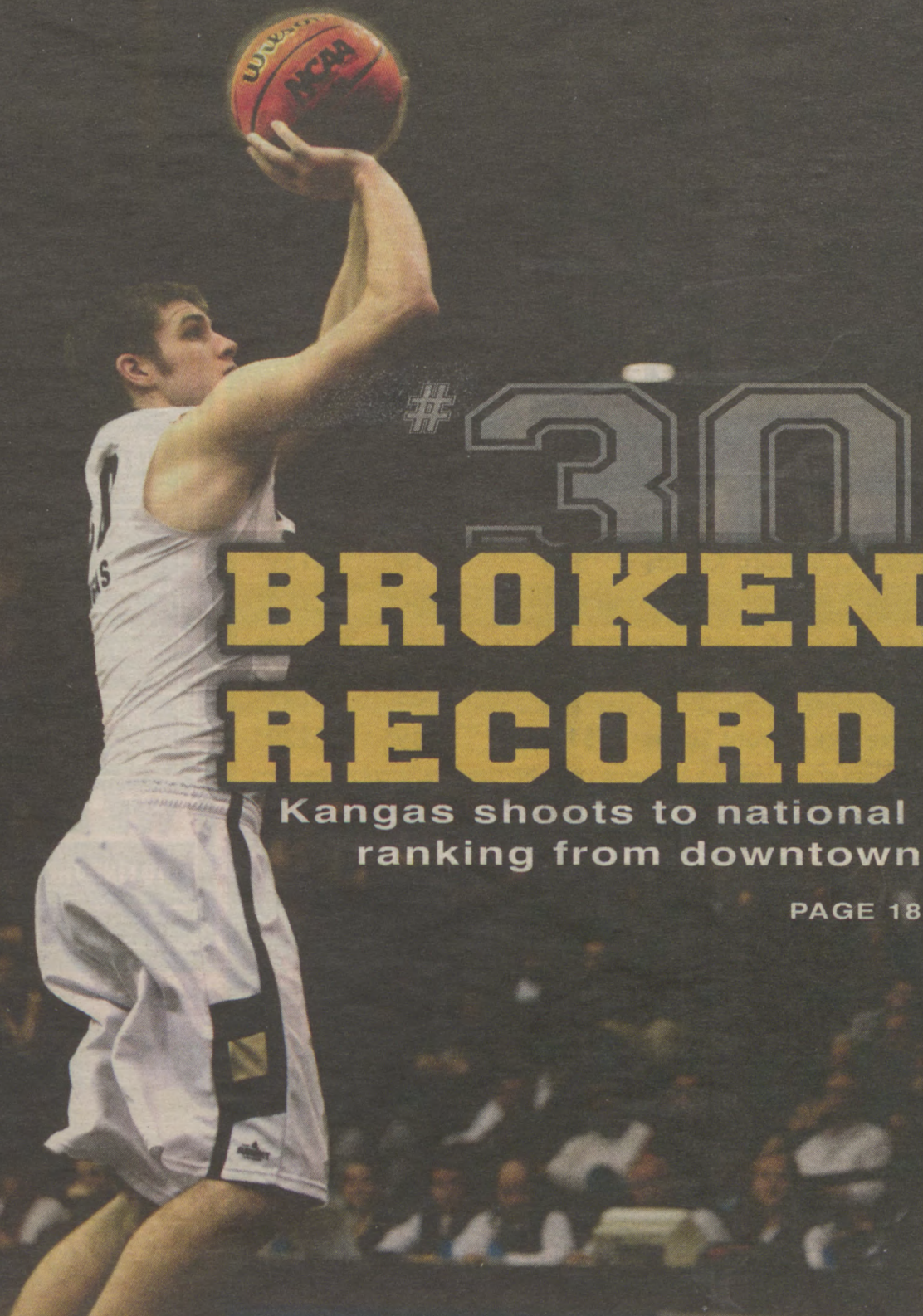
Passive, lethargic, no interest? Winter blues may be affected yOU

Page 16

THE SCENE

OU students and alum are hitting the road and dropping records

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THIS WEEK 2.04.09



Perspectives page 4

An OU alumna writes in with five reasons why the Rochester Hills deer cull should be stopped.



Campus page 6

Students have "A Night of Endless Dreams" at the annual Meadow Brook Ball.



Local page 12

Gov. Granholm and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson deliver their State of the State and State of the County addresses.



The Mix page 14

Check out who OU students said they would pick as winners from this year's Grammy nominees.



you page 16

Winter Blues are real, according to a few experts, and there are real ways to deal too — but the cause is up for discussion.



Sports page 18

At 6 feet 3 inches, Brittany Carnago is one of the reasons for OU's success in women's basketball this season.



the Scene page 23

They aren't just taking exams anymore: OU students rock out with their bands.



MOUTHING OFF page 25

The Post's sports editor isn't afraid of global warming or asteroids; he's pretty certain that technology is taking over.



Nation | World page 27

The House passes a stimulus package, but it still needs to work its way through the Senate.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIAL

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

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

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

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

Jared Purcell
Sports Editor
oakpostsports@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

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

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

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

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

SENIOR REPORTERS
Sean Garner
Rory McCarty
Tom Murphy Jr.
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2849

STAFF REPORTERS
Joe Guzman
Kay Nguyen
Mackenzie Roger
Janice Williams

STAFF INTERNS
Brad Slazinski
Kathleen Quandt
Ashleigh Quinn

John Gardner
Web Master
(248) 370-4266

ADVERTISING | MARKETING

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

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

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

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

Steve St. Germain
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Cover photo by BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Get Posted!

Where do your classmates commute from? What time does your professor go to bed? Find answers to these questions and more daily as The Oakland Post begins to blog.

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oaklandpostonline.com.

Perspectives

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February 4, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

Put your trust in your own future

It's nice to know that although we as Oakland University students are sure to continue procrastinating on our homework, administrators and politicians have not been procrastinating when it comes to helping us pay for our classes.

We applaud the efforts of President Barack Obama, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and OU president Gary Russi, to make it easier for college students to pay their tuition in trying times.

However, it's up to us as students to ensure that the same emergency situation is not repeated in the next generation.

We can hear the snickers from the back already: "I can barely afford my Friday nights out. What makes you think you can convince me to start saving now for some squirt that I haven't conceived yet?"

We understand that all-too-common thought process and sure enough, we're not excited about giving up our \$1,200 MacBooks just yet either. However, if it weren't for that same lack of foresight of our generation's parents, we wouldn't be in this emergency situation.

The Michigan Education Trust began in 1988 as a trust fund, offering parents the chance to prepay for college tuition at the current rate for any children they have. Children can then go to college at the rate their parents paid for, whenever they decide to go to college. When the MET increased tuition rates Sunday, a light bulb should have gone off for parents taking classes at OU: Take advantage of this program now so your children don't face the problems tomorrow that you are saddled with today.

For the multitude of OU students who are not parents or have not even considered that possibility, the MET is only one way to ensure a more secure financial future.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Commerce Department reported last

week that in December alone, American consumption decreased by 1 percent while personal savings increased by 3.6 percent.

That's a good sign — we are recognizing the necessity of saving in tough economic times. We can make sure that this idea becomes a habit rather than a trend by weaning ourselves of unnecessary luxuries: quitting the \$6-a-pack cigarette habit, packing a lunch as opposed to eating fast food and concerning ourselves with function more than fashion.

Meanwhile, administrators and politicians are working hard to ease our current struggles with tuition payments.

Obama, for example, has proposed an American Opportunity Tax Credit for tuition in exchange for community service.

Gov. Granholm advocated a tuition freeze in her State of the State address Tuesday to help students and their families cope with the recession.

Closer to home, Russi announced the creation of a Special Tuition Assistance Fund for students at risk of dropping out due to drastically changing economic circumstances.

Presently, 60 percent of OU students get some kind of financial aid, but the need is sure to swell as the year continues.

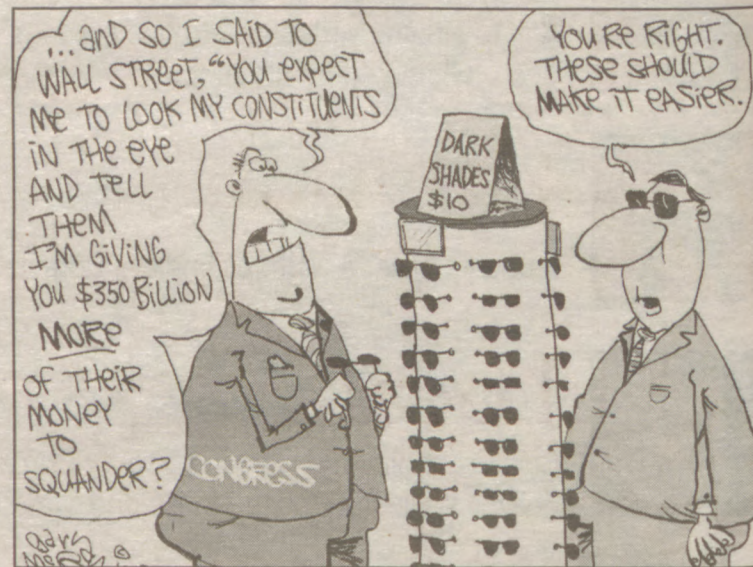
There have already been over 650 inquiries into the fund since it was announced in December and so far 15 students have received assistance. There will be funding to cover the program through 2010. If you need help, be proactive. Nobody's going to come to you. Go in and find out what your options are.

The American dream is in danger. The idea that each successive generation can do better than the last is fading, but we shouldn't let it die. It's hard to save when you're struggling to make ends meet but we should spend our money wisely, on the things that give us the biggest bang for our buck, like our education.

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Lindsey Wojcik
Colleen Miller • Tim Rath
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comments, concerns, questions:
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GARY MCCOY/Cagle Cartoons

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Letter Policy:

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

Society for Human Resource Management was the organization that invited the OUPD to give the presentation "Surviving an Active Shooter Incident" in the story on page 7 of the Jan. 28, 2009 issue.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Five reasons to stop the deer cull

Guest Columnist

Agnes Domaska

OU Alumni

Residents for safe Deer Management- Rochester Hills

The deer kill in Rochester Hills has started!

Every Wednesday, for three weeks in a row, snipers from the Oakland County Sheriff police department have been killing deer at the Environmental Education Center located at Avon and Livernois roads. The shootings have taken place at rush hour (starting around 6 p.m.), just a few feet away from bumper to bumper traffic and close to subdivisions. No streets were secured; no neighbors were alerted to stay at home.

Since last July, numerous efforts have been made by residents to persuade the mayor and city council to stop (or at least postpone) the kill and give alternatives a try. Residents worked with different communities and did extensive research and analysis of deer-vehicle crash data to offer city officials a comprehensive packet with information on why culling is a bad idea and available alternatives. Many residents have contacted city officials, signed petitions and attended several city council meetings to express their opposition and offer their time and expertise to form a committee with the

city and work together toward better solutions.

A business owner had offered to donate more than \$20,000 to cover the cost and installation of two miles of deer reflectors (which have proven effective in reducing deer-vehicle crashes in other communities), as well as free expert services to oversee the installation and fundraising to cover additional areas. Unfortunately, the council turned down this and all other proposals.

There are five good reasons to stop the culling:

1. Unsafe — Culling in densely populated areas is a safety hazard for residents, their families, their animal companions and other wildlife. Stray bullets can travel miles. Accidents involving the police force in a culling operation have happened in nearby communities such as Flint. Wounded or frightened deer jumping into traffic could cause an additional hazard, and they already have according a resident that spoke at a recent city council meeting.

2. Ineffective — Deer culling has been proven to be an ineffective method of deer herd reduction. Remaining deer have less competition and more food. They quickly adapt and become stronger, resulting in increased reproduction rates (called Compensatory Rebound Effect). A one-year cull will become a never-ending annual slaughter.

3. Unnecessary — Significant reduction of deer-vehicle accidents can be achieved with a combination of non-lethal methods such as reflectors, improved signage, speed limit reduction, proper landscaping of

road sides, improved lighting, etc. implemented in high accident areas.

4. Inhumane — There is evidence proving some of the Rochester Hills animals suffered a long agonizing death (see SafeRochester on youtube.com).

5. Costly — Communities where culling has been implemented have become direct contributors to deer overpopulation and have spent years and hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer money on a vicious circle of killing that has failed to significantly reduce deer-vehicle crashes.

It's true a comprehensive package of solutions is necessary to reduce deer-vehicle accidents. We commend the city on enacting a feeding ban and starting an education outreach program.

However, culling has no place in this plan. Non-lethal methods that don't create an additional safety hazard to residents, such as the reflectors, have proven to be successful in reducing accidents.

We need your help! Please urge city officials to try the reflectors and other non-lethal alternatives before allowing the cull to continue.

Write letters to Mayor Bryan K. Barnett at mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org, city council at citycouncil@rochesterhills.org and Sheriff Michael Bouchard at ocso@oakgov.com.

For more information and to get involved, please contact us at saferochester@gmail.com. Let's protect our city, its residents and our cherished wildlife!

Tisk, tisk my fellow students

Guest Columnist

Stephanie Gross

**Sophomore
East Asian Studies**

As 7 p.m. rolls around on a Thursday, my friends and I stroll into the Asian American Association event that is taking place in the Oakland Center. We're the last ones to show up, leaving us no choice but to sit in the very back of an extremely crowded room. Being the petite girl that I am, even on tippy-toes, I could barely see.

The event began smoothly with small breaks between each part of the show. That's where things got a little out of hand.

During one of the breaks, a group to the left of me began talking rather loudly and being somewhat disruptive. The same time as the break ended and an older man with a traditional Chinese instrument came out for his part, but they didn't take notice.

So now, not only was I unable to see, but I could no longer hear what was going on. Their voices grew louder and people nearby were clearly getting frustrated by the rude display. Finally, one of the directors of the event came over and told them to quiet down.

Their silence lasted a split second until he walked away and then they continued to chatter.

It disappoints me that people come to these events physically, but mentally leave their manners at home. Many of us are here by choice, and it is a privilege to enjoy such fine events brought to us college students.

In Katie Wolf's guest column "Education is too precious to waste on Facebook," Wolf talked about the opportunities people waste. She talked about students wasting precious money by skipping or sleeping in class. While that is bad, it's almost worse that people show up to an event that is not required and waste other people's time.

The moral of this story is to ask students to be respectful to people who actually go to events to enjoy them. Be considerate and think about how you would feel if someone went to event that you wanted to be at and treated it as though they really didn't want to be there.

These are some of the greatest experiences of our lives. No point in missing out on them by having a conversation that you could have elsewhere.

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Tuition freeze: Too soon to tell

By MASUDUR RAHMAN and SEAN GARNER

Campus Editor and Senior Reporter

Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced Tuesday during her State of the State address that she will ask public universities in Michigan to halt tuition rate increase for next year and ask Michigan legislature to give complying universities monetary incentive.

If this proposal passes and Oakland University maintains the 2008-09 student tuition rate for 2009-10, it will receive part of the \$819 billion stimulus package that's currently in the United States Senate.

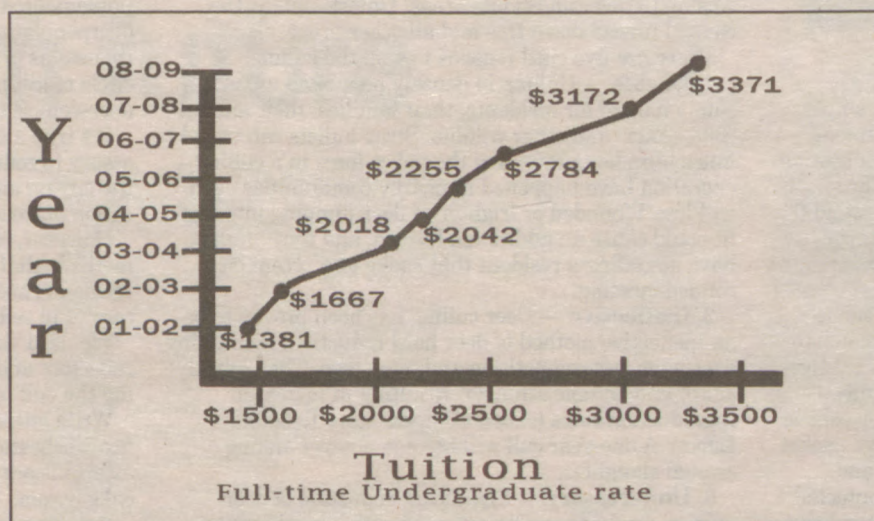
Oakland University spokesperson Ted Montgomery said it's too soon to tell if OU will maintain the current tuition rate if the tuition freeze proposal passes.

Granholm announced this proposal during her yearly address on Feb. 4. She also spoke about Michigan's economy, education and state government.

Uncertainty

Granholm stressed that education be affordable, especially in tough times.

"As we accelerate this push to get more of our kids to go to college, we cannot have them priced out of the market by



The increase of OU's undergraduate tuition rate for students taking 12 credits over the past eight years

tuition increases," Granholm said.

Montgomery said OU President Gary Russi and his executive cabinet will examine Granholm's proposal as they discuss OU's budget in upcoming weeks.

He said OU doesn't know what it can expect from the federal stimulus package yet because Granholm's budget recommendation is not yet known.

"Oakland University is in good shape

because of conservative, prudent budgeting over the past several years," he said. "That said, the state budget picture looks bleak and doesn't promise to improve significantly in the near-term."

Student thoughts

OU tuition increased steadily in recent years, with a 13.9 percent jump last year. Students said they would have trouble

paying tuition if it increases in 2009.

"I would have to work more, take more loans and probably have to take a bit longer to finish my education if tuition increased," said junior Shawn Murphy.

"More problems with people not paying their bill when they come up," said senior Jon Mick. "It would also have people opt for a community college route."

Mick said the tuition freeze would be a "good start," and that he is "starting to believe in the European idea of having college tuition paid for."

Other education proposals

Granholm said she plans to double the number of college graduates in Michigan and that she was optimistic.

"To attract and grow quality jobs, we must have the best trained, the best educated work force," she said.

To do this, she proposed creating "Promise Zones," where impoverished students get tuition paid by the state.

She said a college degree is becoming less of a luxury and more of a necessity.

None of these proposals have passed yet because they were just introduced on Tuesday during the address.

Granholm did not give any specific details on the proposals yet, but said she will provide more details soon.

Business students to get more opportunities

By SEAN GARNER

Senior Reporter

In the midst of a harsh economic recession and statewide unemployment near 10 percent, Oakland University's School of Business Administration has established a program to help students network with local enterprises.

The SBA has created the Center for Integrated Business Research and Education in what SBA spokesperson Robin Michel said is an effort to connect local businesses and non-profit organizations with faculty and students. Michel said CIBRE will enable OU to take an active role in solving some of the dilemmas that affect industrial decision making.

"When there are as many companies as there are out there, they're going to have some problematic situations when you look at the economy they're facing," Michel said. "What we're able to do is work together across many fields — engineering, business, education — to have a whole different viewpoint in what is going on in a business as opposed to just sitting back and saying

'Oh, we don't know what to do about such and such.'"

CIBRE was also created to provide students with the opportunity to develop connections with local employers. Lori Crose, director of operations and development of SBA, said a main mission will be to "re-educate the workforce so that they will be more competitive."

Crose said she will be working with local business leaders and economists to detect future trends and paradigm shifts in the economy.

"It's going to be more focused on current needs," Crose said. "It will hopefully be more reactive to what's going on in the economic environment to keep this pool of businesses moving forward."

Crose said CIBRE is also working with Michigan WORKS to assist OU alumni who have either lost their job or taken a pay cut because of the recession. She said alumni suffering because the skills they honed at OU are no longer in as high demand will be eligible for programs that will re-train them for a more lucrative field.

As for students still trying to earn their bachelor's degree, Michel said CIBRE will make it easier for students to network with employers, thus making the post-graduate job search less strenuous.

"Opportunities for learning are going to be expanded at companies," Michel said. "It will be in [the businesses'] best interest, because students are young, they are energetic. Businesses need interns and students need internships."

The idea for CIBRE was spearheaded by SBA director Dr. Mohan Tanniru. Tanniru was on vacation and could not be reached for comment, but he expressed eagerness for the new project in a press release.

"This is a place where business leaders, researchers, professionals and students come together to share resources and ideas to ... support economic development in the community and the world," Tanniru said.

CIBRE has already begun a collaboration with YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit to help teach children about financial literacy. Crose said financial illiteracy often shows up when students graduate from college and are not ready to make financially independent decisions.

"A lot of people just don't have a clue what they're looking at when they go to apply for a loan or things of that nature," Crose said. "We want people to be as prepared as they possibly can be, and a big part of that in financial literacy."

Provost Moudgil speaks about OU

By TIM RATH AND COLLEEN MILLER
Web Editor and Managing Editor

Last week, The Oakland Post sat down with Virinder Moudgil, Oakland University's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost of academic affairs. Moudgil talked about the growth and direction of OU, which highlight the university's commitment and influence on the local economy.



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

On OU's impact to the local economy

"Oakland was always community oriented but the extent and the depth of that involvement is highest now.

For example, when Oakland University started we had the culture outlets such as Meadow Brook Music Festival, Meadow Brook Theatre ... But it was basically driven on its own. There was no proactive approach until our president, [Dr. Gary] Russi, took over ... Plus the economic time we are living in now actually demands that we do that.

We cannot be asking the state and our donors and our friends 'give us more money give us more scholarships,' you've got to return something to the community ... [It] is very important for us to understand that Oakland does better than most, if not all, universities — 87 percent of our graduates live and work and serve this state ... Which means the Michigan taxpayer is benefiting from the support that comes from tax dollars to Oakland, by returning it back to the community.

So these graduates they work, they raise families, they pay taxes, they buy homes, groceries [and contribute to the state's] economic development."

"We welcomed over 40 faculty last year, about the same number this year and this includes new and replacements, some that are retiring we obviously replaced them ...

Oakland continues to grow, both in student body and faculty. And this allows us to keep our student-faculty ratio at a desired level and maintain big campus opportunity and small campus environment. Students can interact, professors are available for consult, to go to lunch with, that is one thing other universities may lack."

On growth and bringing in new faculty

On fulfilling community needs

"Well we have multiple projects, [only one] has been funded, others are in the development ... [The Human Health Building] will house both School of Nursing and School of Science, which have grown more aggressively than any other unit on our campus. And this also reflects a very interesting trend in Michigan and state economy...

Many of our faculty and students actually have researched projects at Chrysler or GM and a number of our faculty do internships ... faculty work with [automakers] directly to solve the [current engineering] problems ...

Then we have multiple programs of trying to engage the displaced workers from auto or other industries ... Our school of nursing has launched ... an accelerated nursing program — if you have a bachelor's degree in arts, journalism, biology, whatever, they make you a nurse in one year ... Here, in one year you are re-trained to get into

a profession which I believe no one is unemployed ... [Another] reason we have a shortage of

nurses is because there [aren't enough] educators. So we started a doctoral program in nursing which is the first online doctoral program in the state ...

Then there are other programs, School of Nursing and business administration are planning to engage displaced workers or to reeducate and retool them in other disciplines ... For example, we have just learned that 75 percent of the displaced workers in Chrysler have a bachelor degree, which means Oakland University becomes a great resource for them to train into a master or bachelor programs ...

So these are some of the multiple ways in Oakland believes we need to give back to the community. We've got to engage in this effort to reenergize the economic state of Michigan."

Chartwells brings \$5 footlongs and adds Zoup

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Visitors to the Pioneer Food Court in the Oakland Center may have noticed some changes in the Chartwell's cafeteria. The addition of Zoup to the food options and the introduction of \$5 footlong subs at Subway are the most recent in a series of changes Chartwells is making to their food selections and pricing this semester.

Chartwells is the food vendor for the cafeterias in the OC and Vandenberg Dining Hall, and provides catering services throughout campus. Chartwells started working more closely with students to resolve issues after many students complained about services and food at an OU Student Congress meeting in October 2008.

Andrew Willows, Chartwells' resident district manager, said it is "working with the students to help them understand how they can use us as a resource."

Willows said the addition of Zoup to the Pioneer Food Court came from a survey that was taken in the spring of 2008. Chartwells brought out samples of Zoup products for students to try and asked if they'd be interested

in having it added to the OC's cafeteria. He said the response was overwhelmingly positive.

Another change in the Pioneer Food Court is the addition of \$5 footlong sub sandwiches to the Subway. Most Subways have adopted this pricing for specific subs from its menu late last year, but OU's Subway remained exempt from the deal. Now, Pioneer Food Court's subway has dropped its prices not only for the \$5 footlongs, but for other subs as well.

"Because of the \$5 subs, we've reduced the pricing on other subs, to keep our pricing in balance," said Michelle Brown, Chartwells' assistant retail manager.

The introduction of the price switch at Subway is one of the results of Chartwells working with Oakland University Student Congress to work out solutions to student complaints about Chartwells.

One thing they've done is establish a student focus group. Chartwells is having its first meeting this Friday with the group to discuss services, menu and prices.

Other changes Chartwells made include providing healthier and vegetarian options in the Vandenberg Dining Hall and catering services. Willows said they've begun using biodegradable packaging and coffee cups

in cooperation with Sustainability Outreach Peer Educators. And in February, they plan to begin selling reusable mugs that can be refilled at a discounted price.

"The goal is to give the student body ownership over pricing and menu items that they would like to see," Willows said.

Andrew Bashi, OUSC student services director, said that Chartwells has been improving, but he has more ideas on what they can do next. Bashi has proposed to have Chartwells buy organic produce from a planned student-run garden.

Another idea is creating GrizzCounts: a student discount program that would work at nearby restaurants off campus, similar to what schools like the University of Michigan Ann Arbor has.

"That way we can say, hey, if Chartwells isn't willing to give us cheaper food, we'll go somewhere else," he said. He hopes to have the program implemented by the end of the semester.

Though optimistic about the changes Chartwells has made, Bashi said it's too soon to celebrate.

"We need to maintain pressure on them, or it's going to be a one time thing," he said.



(Left) Meadow Brook Ball attendees dance to Cupid's "Cupid Shuffle" at the 2009 dance. (Below) A living statue greeted ballgoers as they entered Meadow Brook Hall on Saturday, Feb. 1. The human statue was among many of the entertaining activities the ball provided for OU students.



(Above) Face painting was among many of the activities students could participate in at the 2009 Meadow Brook Ball. Other activities included a psychic palm reader and Texas Hold 'em tournament. (Right) After getting engaged nearly a year ago, OU students Annie Johnson and Dan Driscoll return to the annual Meadow Brook Ball. Johnson said that Meadow Brook Hall will always be special to the couple. "We also had our engagement photos taken on the meadow brook property around the mansion back in November since we couldn't get any inside photos of Mr. Wilson's study," she said.



All photos by
BROOKE HUG/
The Oakland Post

An 'enchanted' night

Nearly a year after Annie Johnson's fiancé Dan Driscoll proposed to her, the couple returned to Oakland University's annual Meadow Brook Ball.

"It was a 'this is where it all began' kind of moment," Johnson said about returning to the ball. "The mansion will now have a special place in our hearts and memories."

Although there were no proposals this year at the ball Saturday Feb. 1, the theme was "Everything Enchanted: A Night of Endless Dreams."

Students were offered a glimpse into their futures by a psychic palm reader.

Johnson said the palm reader was the highlight of her night. "Both our palms stated that our marriage will be long lasting with no divorce," she said.

One of the mood-setting feature was the living statue who startled students

by suddenly moving after standing stone-still.

The ball lasted from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and other activities included a tour of the mansion, a Texas Hold 'em tournament, a body painter and a caricature artist.

But for a large number of attendees the DJ did not add to the enchantment. Guests, like senior Lauren Tenney, said last year's DJ was better, but didn't let that ruin anything.

"We had a lot of fun dancing," said Tenney, who was with her date, senior James Olekszyk.

First time attendee, junior Josh Beaghan agreed. "It was a fun night here with friends," he said.

— Contributing Reporter Daniel Stecher and Editor in Chief Lindsey Wojcik contributed to this report.



Meadow Brook Ball attendees bring down the pace for a slow dance.

Vandal ordered fine

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

The former Oakland University student convicted and expelled for graffiti vandalism reached an out-of-court settlement with the OU Police Department last week to pay the university \$500 for damages.

Tory Dantuma, a former diver on the OU swim team, was sued by OUPD for \$1,500 for damages and police compensation for the April 15 incident in which he left a message on a bathroom wall threatening a shooting on the level of the 2007 Virginia Tech attack.

OUPD said Dantuma's message was the "efforts of a prankster or copycat."

Dantuma pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge in October, and is now serving two years of probation.

OUPD Lt. Mel Gilroy said that the initial amount was to reimburse the OUPD for overtime it had to pay its officers as well as the costs of removing the message.

Gilroy said OUPD compromised, in part because it might have been unrealistic to expect the court to reward them the entire sum.

"We were not sure we had the legal underpinnings to have the court actually order all of the money to come in for this particular statute," Gilroy said.

The court date for the suit was Jan. 28, but a settlement was made on Jan. 27.

Dantuma's mother, Shelly, said her son settled because the costs of fighting the suit would have exceeded \$500. She also said that a protracted case might have forced Dantuma to make several trips from his home in Grand Rapids to the court in Troy.

Shelly said Dantuma is working full time for Federal Express and hopes to return to college in the near future. Dantuma would be eligible to reapply to OU at the end of his probation.

Two days before Dantuma's message, there were messages at two other campus locations that led to the temporary shutdown of the university for safety. OUPD believed Dantuma's message was not related to the other messages, and did not shut down the university again because it believed Dantuma's threat was not credible.

OUPD has not yet found the person who was responsible for the original threats.

POLICEFILES

On Jan. 23, a female driver was involved in a traffic accident. The driver was uninjured except for a bitten lip, but her passenger was unconscious when police arrived. She later woke up and was transported by Auburn Hills Fire Department to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

On Jan. 24, a woman in the athletics building reported to OUPD that four males stole a BlackBerry Bold at the O'Rena. After searching the male suspects whom the woman identified, OUPD found that they did not have the phone and let them go.



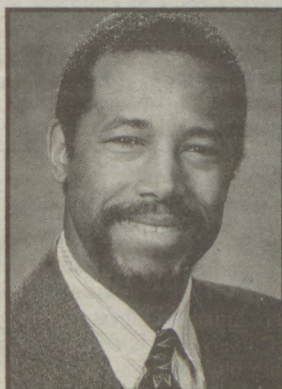
Web Exclusives this week:

- Watch a video of a talk artist Jae Won Lee gave about her art exhibit "Internal Distance(s)" in OU Art Gallery.
- Read how students celebrated the Chinese New Year.
- Read about what jobs were offered at the Winter Career Fair.
- Blogs on 10 different topics updated daily.

For all these and more, visit www.oaklandpostonline.com

2008-09 Lecture Series

Presented by OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S Student Life Lecture Board



DR. BEN CARSON

Ben Carson knows what it means to feel overwhelmed by life. As the son of a single mother from the inner city of Detroit, Carson was running with the wrong crowd and failing in school – feeling as though he had no way out. He could easily have spiraled downward, but instead, he chose another path.

Driven by a passion for science and helping those less fortunate than himself, Carson pursued an academic career – an unlikely aspiration for someone with his limited resources. Carson graduated from Detroit's Southwestern High School with honors, and then attended Yale University, where he earned a degree in psychology. From there he went to the University of Michigan Medical School. While at U of M, his interest shifted to neurosurgery, and after medical school, he went to work at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where he became the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at only 33 years old.

Carson is one of the most respected pediatric neurosurgeons in the world, and is renowned for separating conjoined twins and performing other medical miracles. In 2008, he was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Now, he also provides audiences with an inspirational look at the philosophy that helped him meet life's obstacles and leap right over them. Prescribing his personal formula for success, Carson demonstrates that maintaining discipline and exhibiting good character are at the core of true success, while stressing the importance of using personal success to benefit others.

Thursday, February 5, 2009

7 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center

This lecture is free; no tickets are required. Seating is on a first-come basis.

The Oakland Center is located on the main campus of Oakland University, one mile east of I-75 off the University Drive exit. Free parking is available in lot P-1.

For more information about this program, or to request special assistance with attending this lecture, please call the Center for Student Activities at (248) 370-2400. Additional information can also be found on Oakland University's Web site at www.oakland.edu/csa.

This program is co-sponsored with the Student Program Board and presented with the support of student tuition and the Division of Student Affairs.



Center for Student Activities

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csa@oakland.edu

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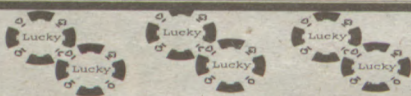
Visit www.oakland.edu/comehome for more information.

A future without affirmative action



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

Very few people showed up for the discussion panel "Affirmative action: How its absence will affect future minority generations," but there was still an active discussion. Read more about it in the web exclusive story on www.oaklandpostonline.com



Enjoy a night of casino fun featuring games, prizes, special events, food & guest appearances from Elvis, Rod Stewart and many more Vegas celebrities.

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University Housing & Grizzdance

February 7th
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Banquet Rooms, OC

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Deadline extended

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Campus Editor

The deadline for turning in candidate applications for Oakland University Student Congress was extended from Feb. 4 to Feb. 11.

Jennifer Doptis, head of the election committee, said this was to get more applicants for 2009-2010.

Some currently on the OUSC executive board are running for a position, like Kristin Dayag, OUSC director of multicultural affairs, who said she will run for president.

Others, like OUSC student services director Andrew Bashi, are graduating this semester.

Bashi said he believes they will get more applicants this year.

"Originally, we wanted to give the candidates more time to campaign," he said. They thought it was more important to get more applicants.

"It's going to be an interesting election, that's for sure," Bashi said. "Lot of people will be interested in running, but are they the right people?"

Applications are outside the OUSC office in 62 Oakland Center.



Student Congress is in need of a new student body President and Vice President!

Pick up your packets today at 62 Oakland Center, and turn into Jennifer Doptis by February 16th, 2009.

Orientation Dates:

Wednesday, February 4th, 3:00 pm (Lake Huron Room)

Thursday, February 5th, 3:00 pm (Room 126)

Friday, February 6th, 3:00 pm (Lake Huron Room)

Wednesday, February 11th, 3:00 pm (Gold Room B)

Thursday, February 12th, 5:00 pm (Room 125)

Friday, February 13th, 3:00 pm (Gold Room B)

Contact Jennifer Doptis for more information: jldoptis@oakland.edu

Walking for Warmth at the Palace

By COLLEEN J. MILLER
Managing Editor

Freezing to death isn't just a saying anymore; it has become a reality and the subject of several headlines in metro Detroit.

"A lot of people are having to choose between heating their homes or eating," said Dan Evola, Oakland University's student body president.

Evola is also a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, a fraternity that has required its members to participate in the Walk for Warmth as its "True Gentlemen Day of Service." This will be SAE's first year participating in the 19th annual Walk for Warmth, which raises funds for Oakland County residents who cannot pay their heating bills. The walk will be held at the Palace of Auburn Hills this Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

According to Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, the organization that hosts the walk, Michigan households are projected to spend \$470 more on natural gas heating costs this year than last year.

"What we are hearing from many people is a sad but brave fact: They have never had to ask for help before, but due to recent trends in the economy, which is affecting everything, that is rapidly changing," said Ron Borngesser, chief executive officer at OLHSA. "They are finding the courage to ask for help to keep their homes warm, because they cannot do it themselves."

SAE alumni and founding father Lon Bone suggested the fraternity participate in the Walk for Warmth as part of its philanthropic efforts.

"I think it's great that young people get involved in helping communities," Bone said.

To raise money for the cause, Sigma Alpha Epsilon is selling plush penguins with logos that read "Warm a heart, heat a home" for \$10. According to Chris Cerrini, president of SAE, every brother has been asked to sell at least five penguins with a goal of raising \$2,000 for



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post
Sigma Alpha Epsilon is selling plush penguins for \$10 each with a goal of raising \$2,000 to donate to Walk for Warmth.

Walk for Warmth.

"We wanted to help out our [alumnus] member, and our chapter liked the idea of helping people in surrounding counties," Cerrini said.

Bone works for Genisys Credit Union, which is where he heard about the walk.

"We at Genisys Credit Union have been with Walk for Warmth since day one," Bone said. "The majority of the people going through the program only need help once ... that's the key ... I've known several people that have used the program; it's got them through the tough times that they've had."

Adela Knedlik, assistant director for public relations at OLHSA, said the program has seen more first-time callers so far this year than ever before.

"We consider the Walk for Warmth a way to give our neighbors a hand up, not a hand out. The participants are not assisted two years in a row; usually, they come to us because one single thing has caused them to get behind and they need to ask for help."

Knedlik said that OLHSA refers all of their Walk for Warmth clients to its weatherization program.

"In a lot of cases, weatherizing a home can cut energy bills by as much as 60 percent," Knedlik said. OLHSA Housing and Energy staff will be giving green tips and ways to weatherize homes at the walk.

OLHSA hopes to raise \$160,000 at the event — the amount raised last year, which helped 1,082 Oakland County residents in 383 houses according to a news release. Knedlik said they have helped heat an estimated 10,000 homes in Oakland and Livingston counties over 19 years.

The fraternity is just one of several organizations, businesses and even bands that are stepping up for the cause. Along with a DJ, there will be performances by The Strangers (a local cover band consisting of all OU alumni) and the Sunshine Cadavers (who describe themselves as jazz/experimental/progressive on MySpace.com/sunshinecadavers).

Registration for the walk will begin at 9 a.m. with a kick-off including a performance by Southwestern High School JROTC Color Guard at 9:15 a.m. The route is the concourse of the Palace with bands and entertainers along the way. A light breakfast and coffee will also be served. One hundred percent of the funds raised will be donated, but there is no minimum donation required to attend the event.

A Walk for Warmth to benefit residents of Livingston County will be held Saturday, Feb. 14 from 9-11 a.m. at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center in Howell. For information visit www.olhsa.org/walk-4warmth.

— Katie Wolf contributed to this report

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PAUL SANCYA/The Associated Press

(At left) Ex-Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick leaves the Wayne County Andrew C. Baird Detention Facility in Detroit, Tuesday, Feb. 3, after serving 99 days in jail. Kilpatrick will be on five years' probation after a plea to two criminal charges.



Photo courtesy of CORDELL L. WILLIS PHOTOGRAPHY

(At left) Detroit's Winter Blast will be held this weekend, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., with the events centered around Campus Martius Park. Free ice-skating, professional skating demonstrations, sculptures in the Ice Garden and marshmallow roasting are among some of the attractions. More than 60 Detroit restaurants will offer 15 percent off their food bills as part of the "Dine in the D" promotion and there will be a Taste of Detroit tent. Over 50 entertainment acts will be performing over the weekend, including a Detroit Electronic Music Festival preview on Friday and Saturday nights. Attendees can heat up about every 150 feet with heated tents and warming stations in buildings. More than 450,000 people are expected to attend this year.

Granholm outlines energy plans

By KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN
Associated Press Writer

LANSING — Gov. Jennifer Granholm wants to make it harder for utilities to justify building new coal-fired power plants, encouraging them to instead rely on more energy conservation.

Speaking Tuesday in her seventh annual State of the State speech, Granholm called for reducing the state's reliance on electric plants powered by coal and natural gas by 45 percent by '20.

The Democrat said she wants to see 100,000 homes and 1,000 schools in the state weatherized to reduce energy consumption, and get more homes and schools to install solar and wind energy systems. She suggested the monthly savings would pay for the cost of the improvements. Some of that weatherization work can be done by people who have lost their jobs, she added.

Four companies have requests before the state Department of Environmental Quality to build new coal-fired power plants, the most requests for new coal plants anywhere in the country. The state already has 19 coal-fired plants; the average one is 50 years old.

The plan is not a moratorium on building more coal-fired plants. But environmental groups are hoping it could make it much harder to get them approved.

"We have tremendous potential in wind. We probably have more potential in solar than people give us credit for," said Anne Woiwode, director of the Sierra Club's state chapter. "Governor Granholm's move is bold, because we're looking at a bigger push here than anywhere else."

Cyndi Roper, Michigan director of Clean Water Action, said the governor is taking the state in the right direction by emphasizing alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power over coal.

"What the governor is doing today is really charting a course for Michigan toward a future filled with clean energy, renewable energy and all of the jobs that go along with that. She's turning her back on the dirty past," Roper said. "Today marks the beginning of a totally new era for Michigan."

Granholm has made alternative energy a centerpiece in her efforts to boost Michigan's economy and make it less dependent on the shrinking auto industry. An energy law she signed into law

in October requires that more electricity come from renewable sources and that utilities sell less energy by helping customers use more efficient light bulbs and appliances.

The law, however, also is based on a 2007 energy plan that estimated at least one new baseload plant capable of running 24 hours a day — likely coal-fired — would be needed no later than 2015. Power companies say the state will need both traditional and renewable power, and point out that new coal-fired plants will be better for the environment than existing plants.

In making it harder for companies to build new power plants that rely on coal, Michigan is following the example of other states. Wisconsin officials recently rejected a request for a new coal-fired power plant, and Kansas officials have rejected proposals to build two plants in the southwest corner of the state.

It's possible one of the four proposals now before Michigan DEQ could win approval. But all are being sent back and asked to prove that there are no "prudent and feasible" alternatives to using coal, which emits carbon dioxide that contributes to global warming.

Status Update:



L. Brooks Patterson gives State of the County address Tuesday, Feb. 3.

- One in every 47 homes is foreclosed in Oakland County; 9,200 were in the last year.
- Oakland County will become the first county in the U.S. to implement a triennial budget.
- Help for displaced workers: Workforce Development Division to team up with Oakland Community College, Oakland University, Lawrence Tech and University of Detroit Mercy.
- Twenty-four of 28 school districts in Oakland County teach Mandarin Chinese after Patterson pushed for it two years ago.
- **Oakgov.com** was named the No. 1 government website in the nation by the Center for Digital Government.
- Oakland County International Airport will feature the county's first "certifiably green building" and won't be funded by taxpayers.

Source: Oakgov.com



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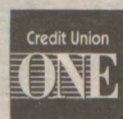
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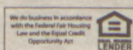
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Grizzlies predict the Grammy envelope

Record of the Year Nominees

"Chasing Pavements"

• Adele

"Viva La Vida"

• Coldplay

"Bleeding Love"

• Leona Lewis

"Paper Planes"

• M.I.A.

"Please Read the Letter"

• Robert Plant & Alison Krauss



"M.I.A. because she's able to stand up and say how she feels. It's nice to know there are artists who perform what they feel in their own style."

Michael Harris
Freshman, musical theater



"Probably Coldplay because every album they come out with is unique."

Lauren Bechard
Sophomore, public relations



"'I'm Yours' by Jason Mraz, I really like the song, it's refreshing and cute. A nice song without degrading women or anything."

Megan Hryckowian
Junior, health sciences



"'Love Song' because it's catchy, it gets stuck in your head even if you don't like it."

Aziza Abdelrahman
Sophomore, nursing

Album of the Year Nominees

"Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends"

• Coldplay

"Tha Carter III"

• Lil Wayne

"Year of the Gentleman"

• Ne-Yo

"Raising Sand"

• Robert Plant & Alison Krauss

"In Rainbows"

• Radiohead



"I'm gonna have to say Ne-Yo because he writes his own songs and he can relate to anyone's situations."

Ronald Robinson
Junior,
computer engineering



"'Tha Carter III,' Lil Wayne because it was a really good CD, one of the best."

Marsela Tona
Sophomore,
secondary education



"The Jonas Brothers because they're associated with Walt Disney."

Mark Christopher
Sophomore, business



"Duffy, I really liked her 'Warwick Avenue' song."

Ashley Breeding
Sophomore, nursing

Song of the Year Nominees

"American Boy"

• Estelle featuring Kanye West

"Chasing Pavements"

• Adele

"I'm Yours"

• Jason Mraz

"Love Song"

• Sara Bareilles

"Viva La Vida"

• Coldplay

Best New Artist Nominees

• Adele

• Duffy

• Jonas Brothers

• Lady Antebellum

• Jazmine Sullivan

Graphic illustration by BROOKE HUG. Mug shots by AMBER DIETZ. Graphics courtesy of Amazon.com.

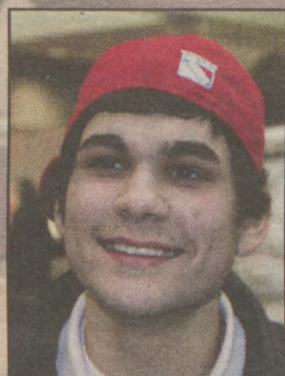
Would you rather...

Watch the Grammys or the Academy Awards?



"I'd rather watch the Academy Awards because I am more into movies than I am music."

Bobby Viviano
Sophomore, political science



"I would rather watch the Grammys because there [are] more new people coming out in music than new people in movies at award ceremonies. It's the same people in movies every year."

Terry Johnson
Freshman, business

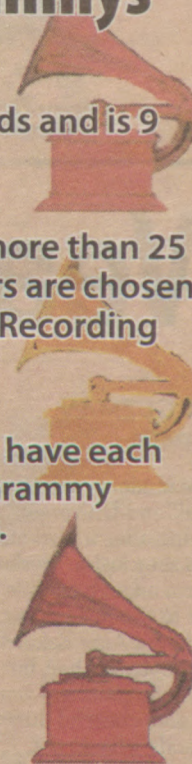
All about the Grammys

According to CBS.com

- The Grammy award weighs 6 pounds and is 9 inches tall.
- The categories of Grammys span more than 25 different musical genres. The winners are chosen by qualified voting members of The Recording Academy.
- Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder have each performed 11 times on the annual Grammy Awards telecasts, more than anyone.

Most Grammy wins:

Male artist — Sir Georg Solti — 31
Female artist — Alison Krauss — 20
Group — U2 — 8



Graduate Open House

January 31,
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
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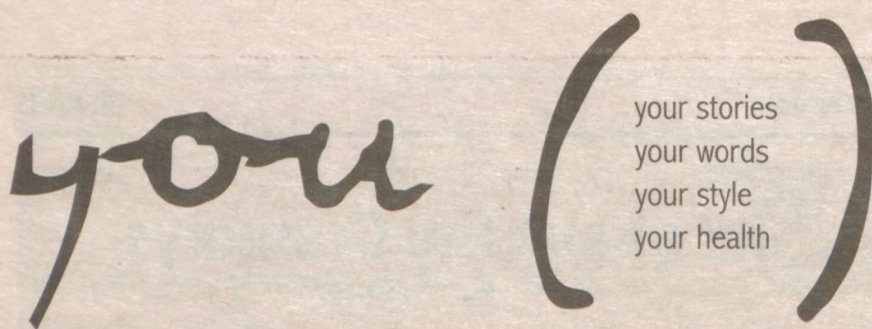


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Weathering the winter woes

By JOE GUZMAN
Staff Reporter

Three students sit in the hallway outside Oakland University's Rec Center, stretching after a workout. Two of them explain they lost a "workout buddy" until it's warm enough outside to walk from her car to the Rec Center.

Freshman Amy Eckardt, admits that winter depresses her, but she insists that because she routinely works out she is much more cheerful during winter than her friends who do not.

"It makes you feel better about yourself," she said. "They are fat and lazy and you're toned and athletic."

However, some students are not so lucky when it comes to seasonal blues. While it is common for people to develop some cabin fever during winter's shorter days and limited exposure to sunlight, some may experience varying levels of depression, lethargy and fatigue.

This is a recognized condition, Seasonal Affective Disorder, which is defined by Mayo Clinic as a type of depression intensified by a reaction to the seasonal transition.

A season change, a mood swing

Symptoms of SAD correspond with many consistent with general depression; a person may have deep feelings of hopelessness, anxiety, loss of energy, change in eating and sleeping habits and a significant social withdrawal.

According to James Franklin, Ph. D, a clinical psychologist at the Graham Health and Counseling Center, OU's clinic typically observes September and October as the lighter season, then people hit mid-term exams right around the time the season changes.

"People start freaking out about passing their courses that they hadn't necessarily been paying much attention to previously, so stress intensifies," he said.

He acknowledged that the number of students that seek help from the clinic during the fall and winter months is skewed because the campus's population is at its peak; but said there is no doubt that the clinic sees a significant amount of people that come in with symptoms that correspond to SAD.

Where the sadness comes from

While an individual's genetics, mental health status and personal family history are significant factors in any case of depression, SAD is a legitimate form of depression with its own set of defined symptoms intensified by a very real reaction to the change in season. Still, the verdict is out on what exactly causes this seasonal reaction.

The Mayo Clinic's website presents three theories that tie occurrences of depression with a person's exposure to sunlight.

One theory is that reduced levels of sunlight disrupt a person's circadian rhythm, the regulation of the body's internal clock that lets you know when to sleep or wake.

Researchers also consider that SAD may be tied to Melatonin, a hormone related to sleep that increases during long winter nights. While others have found that reduced sunlight causes a decrease in Serotonin production, a neurotransmitter of the brain.

A theory addressed by Franklin is an instinctual desire for the body and mind to slow down and hibernate as a reaction to low temperatures, and the change in duration and intensity of sunlight, not unlike bears.

"What happens is a person consumes more carbohydrates, slowing down their metabolism, gaining weight, becoming sluggish and irritable," he said. "This is comparable to what bears do."

The difference is that bears accept it and hibernate, whereas people cannot, so the body fights these feelings. Those who continuously dread the imminent winter weather and allow everyday stresses to build up can be more susceptible to symptoms of depression.

"Those who tend to go with it tend to

fair better than those who try to lead an unaltered lifestyle that they lead in the summer," Franklin said.

Getting over the blues

Treatment for SAD varies based on the intensity of depression. Antidepressants are effective, but can cause a dependency. There are light therapies, where a lamp acts as a sun simulator, which is not offered at OU and Franklin acknowledges can be a poor substitute for natural ambient sunlight.

He insists that it can be therapeutic to simply relax, give yourself treats and allow yourself an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, to the extent that you can without losing your job or flunking out of school.

No matter what a person's inclination for depressing thoughts, or the causes and intensity of depression, Franklin said that it is important to listen to the signs your body is

"Depression tends to make oneself passive, lethargic, lose interest in things. So if you can make yourself get involved, it will get your energy up."

— James Franklin, Ph.D. Graham Health Center

giving.

"Generally speaking, with most kinds of depression, whatever it makes you feel most like doing, that's probably what you shouldn't be doing," Franklin said.

"Depression tends to make oneself passive, lethargic, lose interest in things," he said "So if you can make yourself get involved, it will get your energy up."

Mila Padgett, the assistant director for programs at the OU Fitness Center, agrees that the lack of sunlight does affect a person's mood, which is why exercising is one of the best ways to minimize winter's power to confine people indoors.

"The endorphins that are released are an automatic feel good," she said.

"Your body feels good, you feel good about your accomplishment, you sweat, you breathe out carbon dioxide, it takes your mind off things, so you are really

only focused on you."

She feels that if not for the health benefits, at the very least exercising can help a person's overall outlook and perception of living in Michigan.

"It is what it is; we live in that kind of environment," said Padgett. "So you have to somehow do something that will help you cope with that."

She insisted that the number of students using the Fitness Center has increased this winter more than other winters she can remember, yet there are people who would rather complain about the inconvenient nature of the winter weather, rather than embrace it.

Padgett hears complaints from people about having to walk outside to get to the Rec Center, but she believes it's more than laziness that keeps people away.

"It seems that people are often wired to be pessimistic," she said. "It's easy to complain, and it is very difficult to look at the good side of things."

What you think

But a group of students passing the time in the basement of the OC, doing homework and eating together, think differently about seasonal mood changes. They seem to think an individual's attitude is the overriding factor in making the best of an inconvenient situation.

Some students seemed to agree that giving this phenomenon a label and telling people that winter causes depression is like the full moon causing lunacy.

"We may notice strange things during a full moon because we are looking for them," said grad student Erin Klitzke. "Society has attuned us to look for this, now society is attuning us to look for depressive things during the winter."

"I love snow, and I love the winter. I could never live in a place where there wasn't snow, I don't believe [the weather] has an impact," Klitzke said.

Senior Alexis Gentile argues that the only reason the season could be the legitimate cause of depression is that it consists of the holiday season.

"If you tend to be a depressed person anyway, then you start to feel that you don't have it as good as everybody else," she said. "Everyone else is having a better time than you, then you would be a little more down."



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Oakland Center

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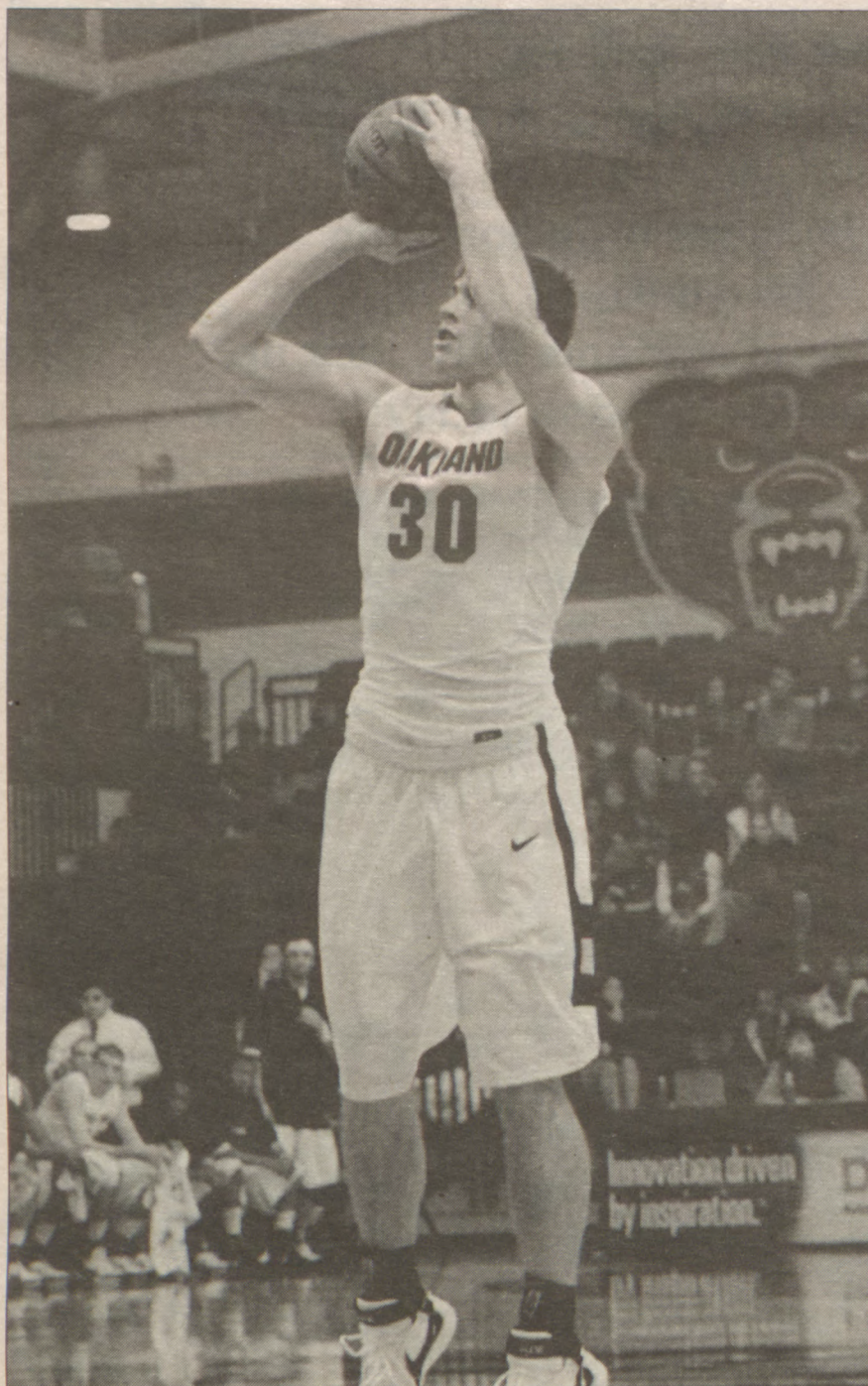
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The reign of King Kangas

Quiet leader has developed into one of OLU's most prolific shooters



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Kangas' skills can lead people to believe that he was born to play. "I don't really know if people are born with the ability to shoot or not but I do know that I've always been a shooter," Kangas said.

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

Down by two points and only seconds remaining in the game, it's safe to bet that the basketball is going to Oakland University's senior guard Erik Kangas. After all, Kangas is currently the fourth ranked player in the nation when it comes to hitting 3-pointers.

"He's a big shot guy," said OU head coach Greg Kampe. "He's made a lot of big shots. He's the guy you go to in the clutch, somebody you believe in that's going to make them. That's probably the legacy that he's going to leave here is that he's a big shot guy, Mr. Clutch."

Kangas has 88 3-pointers so far this season and is shooting .415 from beyond the arc. On Jan. 24, he became the OU career leader in three pointers with 301, breaking the old record of 292 held by Jason Rozycki (1998-02).

"It's a really great honor to hold that record," Kangas said. "When I came here, I can't say I really ever thought a record like that was even possible for me to reach. I think that when I look back on my career, this is one thing I will be extremely proud of so I'm glad that I was able to accomplish it."

In good company

His 88 3-pointers put him above some prolific names in the world of college basketball. In fact, ranked immediately behind Kangas is Davidson College's Stephen Curry — projected as a NBA

first-round draft pick this summer according to NBADraft.net — who has made 85 3-point shots.

"Being ranked ahead of Curry is also pretty cool because he is considered the best shooter in the country by a lot of people," Kangas said. "So I guess you can say that puts me in pretty good company."

Being that good, of course, can draw some attention.

"I always think it is really cool to see my name in the top five on espn.com for the top 3-point shooters," Kangas said. "I think I set the standard my sophomore year when I was consistently on that list. Ever since, I've expected myself to perform at that level so I'm pleased with where I am at so far this season."

The perks of Kangas' success also benefit the coaching staff's recruiting process.

"Well what I think it's going to do is if you're a high school kid that can shoot, we are going to show him what Erik Kangas did here," Kampe said. "And, if you're a smart guy — shooters like to shoot — you're going to see that they're going to have the ability to do that here."

'Mr. Clutch'

Kangas said that he thrives in pressure situations.

"I've always wanted to be the guy to take the last shot," Kangas said. "It's not that I don't trust my teammates to make shots, because I do, but it would kill me inside if I didn't take it. I want to be the



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Kangas has sustained injuries but manages to always press on. "It's all about toughness," Kangas said.

guy to decide the game."

Kangas got his wish on Jan. 2 this season against North Dakota State by hitting a game-winning three with seven seconds left, giving the Grizzlies a one-point victory.

At different points throughout his playing career, Kangas has felt the glory of being the hero while having to deal with the pain of injuries.

"Last year, he was injured and played through a season of injuries," Kampe said. "His sophomore year, if you look at the stats, he made 109 that year which is more than he's made this year. Now, we still got seven or eight games to go here so hopefully he's going to pass that."

Kangas said that he has been a shooter ever since he started playing the game.

"I don't really know if people are born with the ability to shoot or not but I do know that I've always been a shooter," Kangas said. "When I was bored when I was younger, I would go out and shoot. That's what I did. It didn't matter what the weather was like — I'd do it in the winter too."

As a high school standout in DeWitt, Mich., Kangas became well known as a shooter. During the 2004-05 season Kangas' junior year, he led his team to the state championship game setting a Michigan high school record with 17 3-pointers made during the final three games of competition.

His senior year, he shot 35 percent from behind the 3-point line while averaging 17.7 points per game and was named as a Mr. Basketball nominee as one of the top ranked high school players in the state.

Building a legacy

Kangas said that he chose OU over Eastern Michigan because after weighing all the issues, he decided that OU was the best fit for him. Kampe made sure to pitch OU's offensive game surrounding the 3-point shot.

"I told Erik when he came here that he could shoot 200 three's a year," Kampe said. "I'm a coach that's fairly offensive minded, a coach that believes in the 3-point shot and, in recruiting, he knew that and I think it's one of the reasons he chose us."

During his first season at OU, 2005-06, Kangas played sparingly. He said the transition from high school star to freshman reserve player was difficult.

"It was a big transition for me," Kangas said. "You go from being 'the man' in high school and kind of getting to do what you want. Freshman year was a wake up call. I didn't play a whole lot. These guys were bigger, stronger and faster than me. I had to get tougher."

After the 2005-06 season, Kampe told Kangas that he would be the starting shooting guard going into the next season but it was up to him to keep the spot.

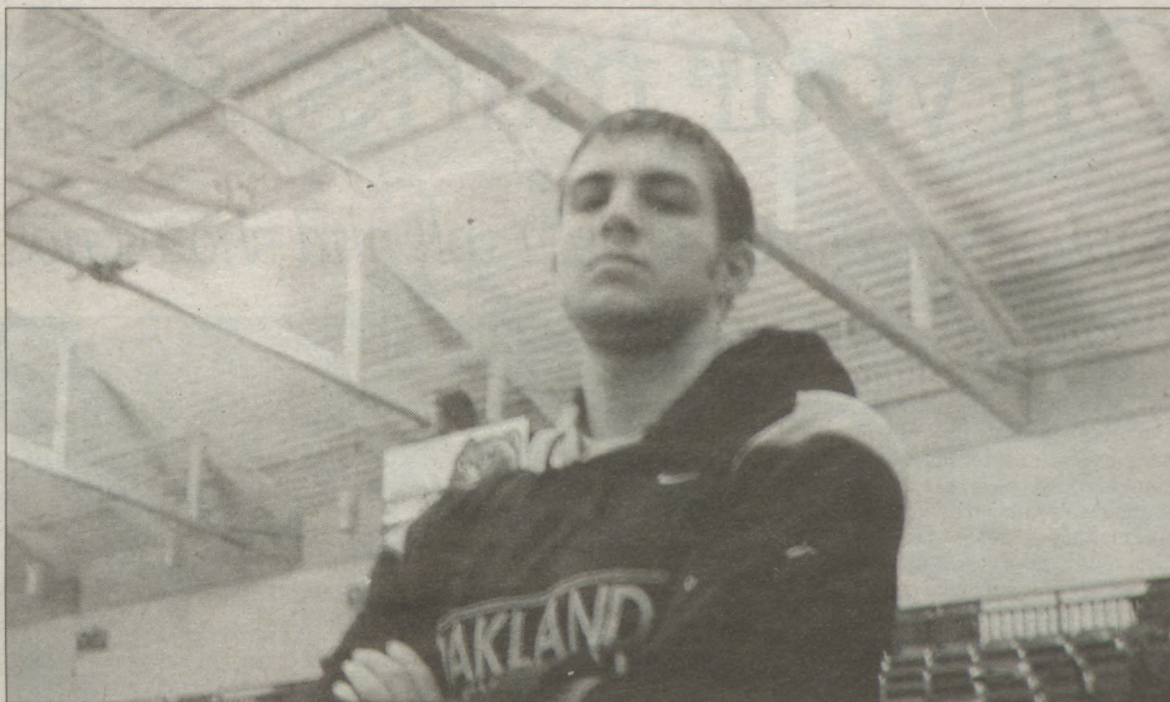
"I took that off-season really seriously," Kangas said. "[Kampe] was giving me a great opportunity and I had to take it and go with it."

Kangas started every game during his sophomore season. He broke the OU record for 3-pointers made in a single season with 109. He shot 43 percent from behind the 3-point line.

Still, disappointment came at the end of the season when OU lost to Oral Roberts in the Summit League championship game 71-67 — just missing a coveted spot in the NCAA Tournament.

"We were right there," Kangas said. "We had a lead at halftime we felt good about ourselves. They made a couple clutch plays in the end. It hurt even more because it was to Oral Roberts, they beat us three times that year and that should never happen. To be that close and not get it was crushing."

Kangas found himself as the team's lone 3-point threat after the loss of Brandon Cassise last season. Yet, Kangas felt like he was ready for that role all along and took the role in stride.



Kangas has solidified himself as OU's go-to guy, earning himself the nickname "Mr. Clutch." "I've always wanted to be the guy to take the last shot," Kangas said. "It's not that I don't trust my teammates to make shots ... I want to be the guy to decide the game."

"I don't think my role really changed at all," Kangas said. "Brandon did a good job of being a team leader and knocking down shots coming off the bench and [he] probably took some pressure off of me in that way but I don't think that it changed my role as a player."

Kangas' junior season began with him being sidelined with an injury. He missed four of the first five games. He worked his way back into the starting lineup and finished the season averaging 14.6 points per game.

"It's all about toughness," Kangas said. "It really doesn't matter if you're hurt or not, if you're out there you have to get the job done. You can make excuses all you want but it's not going to help you."

Once again, disappointment was felt at the end of the season as OU was upset in the second round of the Summit League tournament by IUPUI.

Oh captain, my captain

Kampe said that after that season, he and the rest of the coaching staff felt there wasn't enough leadership on the team so they decided to name captains for the next season, something that the Grizzlies haven't done in a long time.

Senior center Dan Waterstradt, junior point guard Johnathon Jones, along with Kangas were named captains. Kampe said that Kangas really took the leadership role to heart.

Waterstradt said he has seen Kangas evolve from a quiet player to a vocal leader.

"Over the summer we met once or twice a week, us three [captains] and a couple of the coaches and we went over what a great leader has," Waterstradt said. "We spoke with guys like [Palace Sports and Entertainment president] Tom Wilson, we spoke with a bunch of different people that were in big time positions and he picked up on a lot of that."

It was about that time when Kangas began to lead in a more vocal way.

"I think he understood that for us to be a great team he needs to help out with the vocal side of the leadership as well as doing what he does," Waterstradt said.

Kangas and the rest of the Grizzlies came into this season motivated to win a championship. With all five starters returning plus a host of incoming talented

freshman, the season began with a lot of promise.

So far, it has proven to be a season full of ups and downs. It began with the loss of Tim Williams, who was kicked off the team for violating team and department policy. Then, senior forward Derick Nelson was lost for the season with a foot injury and freshman forward Ilija Milutinovic also suffered a foot injury that has sidelined him for most of the season.

"Well I think you have to give a lot of credit to [Kangas], Waterstradt and Jones. They are the three captains of the team and I think they've rallied this team through a lot of adversity," Kampe said. "We've lost three players that were going to play major roles on our team in Williams, Nelson and Ilija and that's a lot of players to lose in one year. Our team has done a great job of overcoming that and you have to give those three kids credit. Kangas is a big part of that."

Kangas realized that the team's situation called for him to enhance his lead-by-example abilities by improving his court skills to fill the voids left behind.

"I have never really been the biggest verbal leader so I did what I could and worked hard to step up my level of play," Kangas said. "I've also focused a lot more on defense because that is another thing we lost when we knew Williams and Nelson wouldn't be playing with us this year."

This season started with nine road games in which they struggled to a 4-5 record. Kangas and the rest of the Golden Grizzlies forged through the early road-blocks and ended the non-conference season with a winning record. In conference play, the Grizzlies are 6-5 and in third place in the Summit League.

"It's tough," said Kangas about the roller coaster season that the Grizzlies are having. "You win two and you're way up here and then you lose two and you're way down here. You feel like your season's over. But the main thing that I try to do is stay consistent, approach every game the same, don't change your mindset."

No matter how tough the road may become for OU in the remaining games this season, Kampe believes that he can rely on Kangas to always do his job when needed the most.

"That's just part of being in the role that [Kangas] is in," Kampe said. "Is he going to be taking the big shots for us? Absolutely."

On your marks, set, Carnago...

Sophomore center is on a roll and shows no signs of slowing down

By JARED PURCELL
Sports Editor

While sitting in the visitor's locker room after a victory over Centenary, senior Jessica Pike recalls bursting out in laughter. No one cracked a joke; no one pulled a prank on anyone. But Pike was laughing — and she couldn't stop.

The reason for Pike's laughter was because she was suddenly caught off guard. Her teammate, Brittany Carnago, had just recorded a triple-double that included 14 points, 10 rebounds and 11 blocks.

"It's almost unheard of," Pike said. "I couldn't stop laughing ... Seeing that [she had] 11 blocks was like, 'Oh my gosh, that's like something you see in the NBA.'"

As surprising as the news was, Pike and the rest of the team were not surprised with Carnago's talent.

"The thing is though, we know she can do that any given night," Pike said.

Breaking out

Carnago's triple-double is just one of the accomplishments in her remarkable transition from freshman bench player to sophomore sensation. The triple-double was the first in just over two years in the Summit League and she is currently in the top 10 in the country this season with 64 blocks.

As a freshman, she played 22 games and came off the bench in all but one game. She had 25 blocks in the season and averaged 4.5 points per game.

When asked about what helped her breakout this season, Carnago gives credit to her teammates.

"My teammates just give me the ball more," Carnago said. "Playing together more over the summer helped a lot."

Pike noticed a change in Carnago's game right away.

"You just saw her confidence really go up from freshman to sophomore year," Pike said. "She went down with a stress fracture [last season] really early on and pretty much missed the big chunk of the season. But this year you just saw that she was really confident in herself and that made us more confident."

Being a 6-foot-3-inch center, Carnago gets described as a lot of things — even if they are nonhuman descriptions. Freshman teammate Sharise Calhoun calls her "daddy long legs" and head coach Beckie Francis thinks she "runs like a deer."

To be more technical, her offense and



The basketballs used in OU games have been well acquainted with the swatting hands of Carnago who is in the top 10 in the nation in blocks with 64. JARED PURCELL/The Oakland Post

defense have been a key factor in the team's success this season.

"She's definitely a presence in the paint," Francis said. "She has elevated our defense to another level. Our guards get can very aggressive because they know they can rely on Brit because she's there in the paint for them."

Oh, happy day

Carnago came to Oakland after receiving other Division 1 scholarship offers after her standout career at St. Clair High School in St. Clair. Although she was all-state and nominated for the Michigan Miss Basketball award, Carnago realized that the level of dominance she was used to putting on her opponents was going to change.

"Coming into college level is definitely different than high school," Carnago said. "It's a quicker pace, bigger girls, post players that can shoot threes. It's just a different game so I was kind of intimi-

dated by it a little bit and I knew I had a lot of things to work on."

Francis knew that Carnago was going to be a big gain for Oakland and was ecstatic when Carnago signed with the team.

"We were really excited," Francis said. "You can put that in capital letters if you want. We knew that we were really intense in recruiting [against] some bigger conference schools."

Carnago chose Oakland because she liked the idea of staying close to home and she felt like she could develop a good relationship with the team.

"I liked the girls and I liked the coaches," Carnago said. "It's a good area, I like the distance from my house to here."

Although she didn't get the playing time she hoped for in her freshman season, Carnago knew that she was going to have her shot.

"Coming here and not getting that many minutes was kind of frustrating," Carnago said. "But I knew that I was

playing behind some really talented players so I knew that it would just take patience and take time."

The missing piece

Francis said that with the outside presence of Pike and junior Hanna Reising — along with the speed of senior April Kidd and Calhoun — Carnago has made Oakland into an all-around team.

"She is a big reason why we are successful," Francis said. "No one will ever really know — and we don't want to find out — what it'd be like to not have her ... She is a really important piece of our puzzle. She gives us that inside presence that Oakland really hasn't had."

Calhoun sees Carnago as someone to count on when things aren't going well for the other teammates.

See Carnago on page 21

Golden Grizzlies Game of the Week

SWIMMING AND DIVING VS. MICHIGAN STATE

Seniors go out on top in season's final dual

By MACKENZIE ROGER
Staff Reporter

Oakland University and Michigan State University have had an intense rivalry since both teams' inception. In the last several years, both teams have gone back and forth with victories.

On Saturday, OU's Senior Day, the victory belonged to OU. The women's team eked out a win against MSU 151-149, lifting its record to 7-2, while the men's team finished with a 153-145 victory, also lifting its record to 10-1.

OU started the meet in dominating fashion, with three first place finishes in the first four events. With the next four events, though, MSU pulled back to within 10 points. From then on, the two teams were in a dead heat.

Junior Agnes Solan added valuable

points starting with 200-yard medley relay she helped lead to victory. Five events later, she also won the 100-yard backstroke, in a blistering time of 56.45 seconds. Continuing her streak, Solan won the 200-yard backstroke as well, in 2 minutes, 2.72 seconds.

Not to be outdone by her teammate, senior **Sophia Gustafsson** won both the 500 and 1000-yard freestyle distance events, the latter in 10:24.84. It was Gustafsson's final dual meet as a Golden Grizzly.

"I'm sad, of course," said Gustafsson. "But I'm glad we did so well."

Her comments come on the heels of a four-year swimming career at OU. Gustafsson will graduate this spring with a degree in marketing.

Fellow senior Aaron Holdsworth contributed valuable points to the OU effort, winning the 200-yard butterfly in



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Oakland's senior swimmers together after the men's and women's victories over Michigan State.

1:51.06. Holdsworth was touched out by MSU's Marcus Poteete in the 100-yard freestyle. Poteete finished in 49.64, with Holdsworth just coming in second with a time of 49.70.

With two relays to go, OU trailed MSU, the women by seven points, and the men by one. Following the score announcement, both OU teams kicked

into high gear, with both relays coming in first and third place in the men's and women's events.

Head Coach Pete Hovland was impressed by his teams' performances, but will be sad to see the seniors leave.

"It was a bittersweet victory," he said. "I'll be melancholy all weekend, but this was a great run for every senior."

Continued from page 20

CARNAGO

"When you know that you have a 6-foot-3-inch post player that you can count on, just in case you get beat by a blocked shot, it helps us out so much," Calhoun said. "Not only offensively but now defensively she gets the job done."

Carnago also brings a silent leadership aspect to the team that her teammates have learned to respect.

"I've learned to become a better leader," Carnago said. "I think every girl on our team is a leader in a different way and so I think I've learned to step up my leadership also."

Calhoun is just one of the players to have learned something from Carnago's presence on the court.

"I've learned so much from Brittany," Calhoun said. "I've learned leadership doesn't have to be vocal. Brittany is a leader by example and I think that is one quality that she exhibits on the court."

Pike, who has long been considered the main leader of the team, said she has learned a few things from Carnago as well.

"I've learned that, regardless of who you are on a

team, you need everyone," Pike said. "Just by taking Brit out of a game, I know that we need her. Last year, even though she wasn't playing, we still needed Brit there with us."

Although Carnago has made great strides and accomplished so much in the sport since she started playing in sixth grade, she doesn't let her success go to her head.

"I kind of just go out there and play," said Carnago of the extra attention she's been getting. "It's just something going on in the background. I just look forward to the next game that's coming up."

Francis said that as talented as Carnago is, she doesn't take anything for granted.

"You know, some players could say 'Well, you know I'm the only true center they have so I can take it easy,'" Francis said. "But she works just as hard as everyone else and doesn't take anything for granted and works for everything she gets."

Besides her talent and intangibles that Carnago brings as a player, her humility and virtues as a person are also why Francis and the team enjoy having her.

"She's a really good person," Francis said. "I just love her as a friend and as a teammate to the others. She's never about herself, she's always concerned about other players and making sure everyone is happy. Whenever she has a high-scoring game, she's always praising her teammates. I just love her attitude."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Carnago's numbers have doubled or tripled in many stat categories.

A hello to homecoming

By JARED PURCELL
Sports Editor

For the first time this Saturday, Oakland University will be celebrating its first homecoming games in the school's history. The men's and women's basketball games are set to be the highlight of OU's new celebration.

"I think athletic events always give the opportunity to give a fun, enjoyable, grade-A atmosphere," said Tracy Huth, director of athletics at OU. "So the basketball games on Saturday can certainly be the opportunity to bring the people here."

The idea for a homecoming was tossed around in the past. After seeing that other universities were celebrating winter homecomings rather than in the fall, consideration increased.

"There had been some talk [about a homecoming] here and there but it never really formalized until within the last year," Huth said.

Huth said that this is a chance for the university to bridge the gap between generations and bring OU's history up with the present.

"I think if we can get people back,

they can see what it once was and I think it's great for the folks that are here now to try and meet and mingle with them to see what Oakland was back then as opposed to what it is now," Huth said.

Men's head basketball coach Greg Kampe believes that there is more to celebrate than basketball games.

"It's a showcase of all the great things that have been happening around here and how we're changing as a university daily," Kampe said. "We want to get our alums back to see this."

One of the celebration's events is an OU homecoming pep rally at 11:30 a.m. this Friday in the food court of the Oakland Center.

"These events are going to be student related as well as community related. With that, we hope we can bring in the rest of the university community and alumni together."

Huth thinks this is a great way for everyone who has been a part of Oakland University's development over the years to enjoy an athletic and social event.

"Here's a chance for you to take pride in Oakland."

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

Oakland University Wrestling Club

In only its second year in existence, OU's wrestling club team placed 4th at the NCWA National Duals meet on Saturday in Murfreesboro, Tenn. OU lost to eventual champions, Grand Valley State University, in the semi-finals. Oakland was one of only 16 teams invited to compete out of over 100 NCWA teams.



Courtesy of the Oakland University Wrestling Club.

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The Scene

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The real schoolhouse rock 'n' roll

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

While most Oakland University students are focused on doing our homework, studying for that big test or even graduating, some add being in a band to the equation.

Local acts like Atavan, Citizen Smile and the Tom Butwin Band have recorded albums, played shows and gone on tour in addition to hitting the books.

Atavan

When Joshua Goff isn't working on his business management major at OU, he plays the guitar, keys and provides vocals for the local band Atavan.

Accompanying him are Christian Skirmont, Jimmy Czech, Joesph Marks



Photo courtesy of Atavan
Atavan is on tour with band Forever In A Day through February.

and Teddy Amsbaugh.

Their sound: "We're driving pop/rock. We sound like a mix between Yellowcard, Saosin and The All American Rejects," Skirmont said.

Their inspirations: "We all listen to a variety of music. Our inspiration is the kids that keep coming to our shows. And the touring. Touring is the most fun part of being in the band," Skirmont said.

What to hear: Their CD "With the World Asleep" was released last year. "Our next CD, a full-length, will be recorded in June in Minneapolis. The scheduled release date is in August," Skirmont said.

When to see them: "We are about to start touring with a band called Forever In A Day. We're going for two weeks but we have been on tour for the past three months and have easily 250 more shows planned for this year," Skirmont said.

To check them out:
www.myspace.com/atavan.

Citizen Smile

Two members of Citizen Smile, James Brown and Kory Kopchick, also hit the books at OU. Brown is an English and secondary education major while Kopchick is a history major.

Their sound: "Citizen Smile is an indie-rock band



Photo courtesy of Phillip Southern

Citizen Smile will perform at the Madison Opera release party on Friday, Feb. 6 at TNT's.

with pop sensibility. That's what we say, anyway. We all bring different styles to the table, so the music is very diverse," Brown said.

When to see them: Citizen Smile will accompany The Madison Opera Friday, Feb. 6 at the latter's CD release party. They'll also appear at the Metro Times Blowout.

"The Blowout is one of the coolest things that happens annually in this state. It is held in Hamtramck beginning Wednesday, March 4 and ending that Saturday. It's a great time, and with a wristband you can go from venue to venue — there are probably about

20 — and see hundreds of bands in one weekend," Brown said.

What they're working on: "We'll probably be releasing another EP by the end of this year," Brown said.

"Someday we'll do a full-length, but we're afraid that people don't have a long enough attention span these days to really appreciate a full-length. I guess that's our cop-out for being broke and unable to afford recording a full length."

To check them out: www.myspace.com/citizensmile.

See OU Bands on page 24

A presidential record release party

By ASHLEIGH QUINN
Staff Intern

After beating out all of their competitors at the 89X Battle of the Bands, The Madison Opera landed the spot as the opening act for 89X's New Years Rock 'N' Roll Bash.

Dan Evola and his bandmates, Stefan Schram and Ryan Trombley, are gearing up for their album release party Feb. 6.

This comes just three months after Evola, a communications major at OU, took over as student body president after his predecessor Steve Clark stepped down in November.

In his presidential office, where "Dan Evola" in large letters adorns a dry erase board behind his desk, Evola sat down to talk about what we can expect at the party and from the album.

"Five bands in total will be playing [including] a couple of our very close friends' bands," Evola said of the party, which will include Liquid Mojo, Fighting With Rabbits, Odayin and Citizen Smile.

"It should be a good night; I'm excited about the line up of bands. It should be an inexpensive night of good local talent," Evola said.

Their new EP entitled "Brace Yourself" is "an independent effort"

Evola said. The album will be sold in some local stores, at shows and online for \$5.

"It's a blend of a lot of different styles — pop, rock, blues to reggae, all in six songs," he said. "We recorded the entire album in two days. Not what you would consider two days — more like 48 straight hours. We were in the studio until like 4 a.m."

The Madison Opera's album release party will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6 at TNT's in Clinton Township. There will be a \$5 cover for those 21 and up.

For more info on the band visit www.myspace.com/themadisonopera.



Photo courtesy of Nicole Ridgley

Left to right: Dan Evola, Ryan Trombley and Stefan Schram make up The Madison Opera.

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OU BANDS

Tom Butwin Band

Tom Butwin may no longer walk down the halls at OU, but since graduating last May, he and his band have continued to play shows and recently released an album.

Their sound: "It's a mix of acoustic pop, rock and blues. Think Dave Matthews Band combined with Eric Clapton, plus a little bit of Motown," Butwin said.

What to hear: "The tentative release date for the full length [album] is May 15. We just released a live album entitled 'Live & Acoustic 12-27-08.' It features the band doing a set with guitar, piano, upright bass and mandolin," Butwin said. "It is available for download at CDBaby.com and will be on Apple iTunes at the end of February."

What to expect: "The forthcoming album will be the first studio release to feature the full band in its current form," Butwin said.

"The songs are going to really span a wide range of styles. Anything from a sort of country tune to a modern rock song to very poppy stuff," Butwin said.



Photo courtesy of Tom Butwin

"Also, because each member is such a strong instrumentalist in their own right, you'll find at least one moment that each instrument is heavily featured on the new album."

When to see them: The Tom Butwin Band will be playing the Andiamo in Royal Oak on Feb. 7.

To check them out: www.myspace.com/tombutwin.

QUICK HITS

Reviews in 30 seconds

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

"My Bloody Valentine 3D"



Movie Review

Just when you thought every aspect of a horror film had been overdone and nothing could truly scare you anymore, a slightly predictable horror movie threw in a pair of 3-D shades and it made all the difference.

"My Bloody Valentine 3D" follows an angry mine worker who loses all his mining buddies in an accident and seeks revenge on the entire town. He attacks the naked girl in the hotel room, the town cop's pretty wife and other stereotypical horror film characters.

Theaters offer the movie in non 3-D, and one could only wonder why anyone would want to see this cinematic adventure without the suspense and thrill of pickaxes coming at your face and the flesh and blood of the miner's victims splashing all over you. The audience might spend half the movie cringing, but that's a good thing.

By JARED PURCELL
Sports Editor

Fiction Family Self-titled



Album Review

Fiction Family is a new band composed of Jon Foreman of Switchfoot and Sean Watkins of Nickel Creek. The duo's self-titled debut album is the result of what started as a random side-project between the two that eventually grew.

The two trade off the lead vocals throughout the album and keep things interesting. The sounds can range from docile acoustics to borderline bizarre effects and instruments. It's a bold attempt at combining two different styles and expect them to work.

Foreman and Watkins work well together and make some good tracks but this album doesn't have that home run track that'll blow the listener away. In fact, it may take a complete listen or two to warm up to the album fully.

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MOUTHING OFF

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Technology takeover

Online overload could ultimately lead to Earth's demise

By JARED PURCELL
Sports Editor

The world is slowly coming to an end. Not from some giant asteroid. No, global warming won't do it either. Our own technology is going to do us in, and Keanu Reeves, Will Smith, or Linda Hamilton will not be there to save you — like that Terminator guy tried to do for Sarah Connor.

It all started when I got Wii Fit, the new game for the Nintendo Wii game console. It's a game designed to keep you in shape while you enjoy the perks of playing a video game system. Couch potatoes and those afraid of human interaction are rejoicing at such an invention.

Screw the gym, I'm playing video games. Yoga class at 6 a.m.? No, video games! Pilates after dinner? Not for me, I want video games!

But I am much more wary of what these technologies are providing for us.

Online lifeline

It seems like the push for personal convenience these days is getting out of control. You really don't have to leave your house to do anything now.

For example, I can wake up in the morning, take a shower, get dressed and go to class — online. Once I'm done with class, I can have some lunch from Jimmy Johns — delivered thanks to JJ's number in an online directory.

After that, the rest of the day's schedule is full. I buy a few books for class, add new threads to my wardrobe, find time to watch my favorite afternoon soap opera, do some homework, laugh with friends, check the latest headlines, play some games and take care of business by answering my work e-mail — online.

After an exhausting day of point and click, I find the time to work out on Wii Fit. The walk from my computer to my TV is a workout in itself. Then I cook some Easy Mac that I bought in bulk online. Then I can catch my favorite prime time television on — well, you get it. Oh, and instead of going out to find the girl of my dreams at a bar or club, I'll browse e-Harmony profiles.

When the youth of our current generation reach their final years, they won't be able to tell their grandkids that they

walked 10 miles in the snow, uphill both ways. Instead they will say "When I was your age, I once threw a snowball at my friend ... on Facebook. Good times."

I'm waiting for the day when teleportation booths are invented. That way, walking to your car on the other side of campus in 12 degree weather will be out of the question. Or maybe we'll all end up like fat blobs in robotic chairs with hologram television perpetually displayed 6

inches from our faces. Hey, it happened in the movie "Wall-E."

Even worse, we'll be so entranced by the ever-growing flexibility of the television that our brains will turn to mush — and then get enslaved by robots.

Warning signs

Movies like "The Matrix," "Stealth" and "I Robot" are seen as fantasy, but seriously, those are just warnings.

One day in the near future, you'll wake up and notice that your robotic chair no longer wants you sitting in it and ejects you into the ceiling; that your robotic personal maid is tired of cleaning your toilets and punches you through a wall. The car that talks to you and drives for you will become fed up with your demands and run itself into a tree.



Amazon.com



Graphic illustration by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

Computers have given consumers the world at their fingertips. So much so that mall shopping, newspaper reading and board game playing have become almost obsolete when it can be done online.

The blame lies on man and the reckless idea that better technology equals a better life. Oh, the irony.

Madness. Chaos. Machines.

Skeptics think that mankind will know when to pull the plug. That, if we created them, we are smart enough to know how to stop a robotic rebellion before it gets out of hand.

If we don't, the aliens will

But will it stop the aliens from finishing us off? Didn't anyone pay attention to that Hulu.com commercial with Alec Baldwin during the Super Bowl?

Baldwin said that Hulu offers free TV to entertain us — and turn our brains into a soft mushy substance. Why? Because he is an alien that is one of many set on disabling the minds of mankind so they can take us over!

Are we just going to sit around and

allow that to happen? If you're reading this online, you're adding to the problem.

But then again, if you're reading it on oaklandpostonline.com please continue to do so. Our website loves traffic.

Please, I beg you, set down the remote, leave your video games in the drawers, go "Office Space" on your computers, printers and scanners. You might as well kick the crap out of your fax machine — you can never be too sure.

If you've always wanted to crash an electric guitar into random objects, you know what to do.

There is a world out there to enjoy so don't let it slowly get stolen away from you.

Sure, you can call me irrational, paranoid or even crazy. But let me just say ahead of time that I told you so.

Thanks to my Wii Fit, at least I can say this: It's the end of the world as we know it, and I'm in shape.

Hairbrush agony at Palace concert

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

Four concert tickets: \$190
Restaurant/bar tab: \$160
T-shirt: \$35

Getting yelled at for enjoying our favorite band: not worth it.

I've been a fan of Coheed and Cambria for well over six years. This says a lot for someone like me, who grew up liking a different band every other week. When I found out they would be performing at the Palace of Auburn Hills with Slipknot and Trivium, I got excited for about two seconds until I realized how much money it was going to cost. Fortunately, my mom sprang for our tickets at the last minute.

As we arrived on our school bus shuttle from the Post Bar to the Palace, I walked in and immediately got patted down and had my purse checked. This is routine for the Palace of Auburn Hills, and I had expected it.

I'm not the type to start trouble or bring bombs into arenas full of people, so I didn't mind. That was until the usher asked me to take out my favorite hair brush and told me that I'd have to get rid of it, for it was considered a "projectile."

I then threw it in to the large bucket of confiscated materials from other concertgoers, as a way of demonstrating the brush's projectile ways.

As I walked away, I started to doubt the brush's actual flying capabilities, and how bad it could really hurt its target. I then decided that if I felt the need to throw objects through the crowd, I'd just take off my shoes and "project" them instead.

I do consider myself a music snob, and I fully embrace the title. But, I'm more than open to a plethora of different music genres, and while I'm not the biggest Slipknot fan, I was excited to get to see them.

I was under the impression that Coheed and Cambria would be co-headlining the show, since I thought they were just as popular as Slipknot.

But, I was wrong. My number two favorite band only played five songs. The lights of the venue came on before I had a chance to figure out what was going on.

When Coheed and Cambria hit the stage, the three other people in my group and I stood up, since that's usually what you do at a concert when you want to enjoy yourself. At least at the concerts that I attend — if you want to sit down,

go to a movie.

Five minutes into the set, I saw a scantily-clad girl, dressed to let everyone know she was a Slipknot fan, grab my 6-foot-5-inch tall boyfriend by his shoulders. She told him, "Hey, we didn't pay money to see your back, no one else is standing up, so sit the [expletive] down!"

As far as I'm concerned, that girl should consider herself lucky that my hair brush had been taken away. We continued to enjoy ourselves to the best of our ability, yet it did put a damper on the event.

By the end of the set she was booing the band off the stage. I found this ironic because earlier she threw a fit when she couldn't see the band, and also because we were definitely not within earshot of the guys on stage.

I found it quite disheartening that people from different musical backgrounds feel the need to judge or even get mad at others for liking a certain band or kind of music. Whatever happened to people getting along at concerts?

The night wasn't completely lacking, and the highlight was meeting local celebrities Tony and Corrie Labrie. Avid watchers of "Wife Swap" know who the couple is — Corrie was portrayed as a

baby for crying a lot after being attacked by a country man, her daughter was the spoiled brat and her husband came out looking fantastic.

It just so happens that as several people were approaching Corrie saying "Oh my god, you were on 'Wife Swap,'" I started talking to her because I've been a huge fan of her husband since my freshman year of high school when he was a rock radio station DJ in my hometown. I even started a petition to get Radio X back on the air after Flint's Banana 101.5 bought them out.

Corrie then took me over to meet Tony, and we got our picture taken with him. She totally told me she was going to put it on their MySpace. I probably came off looking like a stalker, after confessing my love for him and repeating things he'd said on the air years ago. I couldn't help but think about how my brush would have been the perfect object for Mr. Labrie to autograph.

Due to my terrible experience at the Palace, suffice it to say I probably won't be returning anytime soon. I'm half tempted to make the venue pay me an \$8 "convenience charge" for the perfectly good hair brush I was forced to throw away.

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Republicans block boost for road building

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans on Tuesday blocked the addition of \$25 billion for highways, mass transit, and water projects to President Barack Obama's economic recovery program.

Already unhappy over the size of the measure, Republicans insisted additional infrastructure projects be paid for with cuts elsewhere in the bill.

But the Democratic amendment garnered 58 votes, just shy of the supermajority needed under Senate budget rules, and many more efforts to increase the measure's size are sure to follow.

"We can't add to the size of this bill," said Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla. "The amount is just inconceivable to most people."

At issue was a plan by Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to increase the highway funding in the bill to \$40 billion, which reflected complaints from lawmakers in both parties that Obama's plan doesn't do enough to relieve a backlog of unfinished projects. The duo also wanted to increase mass transit programs by \$5 billion and boost water projects by \$7 billion.

"Our highways are jammed. People go to work in gridlock," Feinstein said Tuesday.

Just two Republicans supported the move.

Senate debate unfolded as Obama issued another call for swift action on the measure, urging lawmakers to act "with the same sense of urgency Americans feel every day."

Republicans, for their part, readied a

plan to lower mortgage costs to try to jolt the housing market out of its slump.

The \$885 billion Senate economic plan faces assaults from both parties during debate this week, as lawmakers aim to kill ideas that won't immediately jolt the economy.

"The goal is to shape a package that is more targeted, that would be smaller in size and that would be truly focused on saving or creating jobs and turning the economy around," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. She said ideas like \$870 million to combat bird flu should be dumped.

In the Capitol, Republicans said their goal was to change the bill, not to block it. "Nobody that I know of is trying to keep a package from passing," said Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader.



CHRIS GARDNER/Associated Press

In this file photo, Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps speaks to reporters after pleading guilty to drunk driving charges. Phelps acknowledged "regrettable" behavior after a photo in a British newspaper Sunday showed him hitting a marijuana pipe.

NEW BRIEFS

01-28 | The U.S. House passed a stimulus package worth about \$819 billion without a single vote from Republican members.

01-29 | Senior defense officials announced that suicides among U.S. soldiers are at a nearly three-decade high.

01-30 | An Ohio dad pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 16 years in prison for disciplining his children with a dog shock collar.

01-31 | A nursing home fire in northwestern Russia killed at least 23 people.

02-01 | At least 111 people are killed and 200 are wounded in Kenya by an overturned oil tanker that exploded.

02-02 | A man convicted of murdering four people in a house in a botched 2004 robbery plot was sentenced to death.

02-04 | Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity, died.

Circus artists gift two lions



PETAR PETROV/Associated Press

Nine-month old lion Stella is seen at the zoo in the town of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, Tuesday, Feb. 3. The zoo has received two lions, Simba and Stella, as a gift from Bulgarian circus artists.

Phelps may face charges for pot

By MEG KINNARD
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Olympic superstar Michael Phelps could face criminal charges as part of the fallout from a photo showing the swimmer smoking from a marijuana pipe at a University of South Carolina house party.

The photo first shown in British tabloid News of the World on Sunday was snapped during a November party while Phelps was visiting the university, according to the paper.

Phelps, 23, and his team have not disputed the photo's accuracy. Phelps has issued a public apology, acknowledging "regrettable" behavior and "bad judgment" after the photo appeared.

One of Phelps' agents, Drew Johnson, said authorities had not contacted the swimmer. "So we really can't speculate," he said.

The Richland County sheriff can pursue charges as long as the party was in the county, the spokesman said.

"The bottom line is, if he broke the law, and he did it in Richland County, he's going to be charged," Cowan said. "And there's no difference between Michael Phelps and several other people that we arrest for the same type of a charge everyday."

Under South Carolina law, possession of one ounce or less of marijuana is a misdemeanor that carries a fine up to \$200 and 30 days in jail for the first offense. Possession of paraphernalia is a \$500 fine.

Man arrested in suspicious powder mailings

By JEFF CARLTON
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — A 47-year-old New Mexico man has been arrested on charges alleging he mailed threatening letters containing suspicious powder to banks and federal offices around the country, federal officials announced Tuesday.

Richard Leon Goyette was arrested at the Albuquerque, N.M., airport Monday, the U.S. Attorney's office in Dallas said. He is charged with knowingly and intentionally conveying false and misleading information.

"Mr. Goyette's alleged criminal actions caused emergency responders and

hazardous response teams immense unnecessary labor and expense, diverted personnel from actual emergencies, completely disrupted business at these financial institutions, and caused untold emotional distress to those who received letters," said James T. Jacks, acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas.

Goyette is accused of mailing 65 threatening letters in October to financial institutions and federal regulatory offices in 12 states. Sixty-four of the letters contained an unidentified white powder that later tested negative for any hazardous materials.

The letters, postmarked Amarillo,


Texas, included the message "It's pay-back time" and promised death within 10 days, according to the FBI.

Goyette waived his rights to detention and identification hearings Tuesday during an initial appearance in Albuquerque and will be returned to Texas to face the charges. He did not have an attorney present at the initial appearance.

Letters were opened in the offices of Chase Bank branches, the FDIC and the U.S. Office of Thrift Supervision, which regulates all federal and many state thrift institutions.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service offered a reward of up to \$100,000 for help in arresting the letter mailers.

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