



2 cars stolen

POLICE: Theft reports continue to rise on campus

By KRISTIN SOMMER
Senior Reporter

Two cars were stolen from Oakland University's parking lot P-5 last week, and five others were damaged according to OU Police Department reports.

The windows of four cars were broken and audio equipment was stolen, totaling \$7,450 in merchandise. Only the audio equipment was stolen from one car, which was left unlocked.

Neither the two cars nor the stolen merchandise have been recovered, OUPD reported on Tuesday.

Several incidents of the same nature had occurred during the last few weeks; this recent wave started Nov. 19.

OUPD is looking into a possible connection between the equipment

How can you protect your car against theft and vandalism?

- Park in a well lit area
- Park close to a building and away from the roads
- Enable the car alarm, if you have one
- Lock your car
- Check on your car periodically
- Remove or hide valuable items in your car

Sources: OUPD and University Housing

thefts and 15 similar incidents from late October in the same lot.

Although the police have fingerprints, there is no lead on suspects, OUPD Lieutenant Mel Gilroy said.

Please see THEFT on A8

Russi addresses lack of funding

By JEFF KRANITZ
Contributing Reporter

State funding to Oakland University has been slipping due to Michigan's economic difficulties and finding ways to offset diminished state funding is a challenge facing the university, OU President Garry Russi said at the University Update Tuesday.

Although OU was one of three Michigan universities to receive substantial state funding this year, it will have to be proactive in finding other ways to fund research since the federal government has recently been providing funds at a lower rate, Russi said.

"It's going to be important for OU to spend a great deal of time and energy to recruit those funds for our students ... and we are succeeding," Russi said. "The money is still there."



Russi

In order to plan for the future, Russi said he has been working closely with university deans and department heads to plan strategies that will sustain OU's growth and continued development.

"Our ultimate goal is to continue to advance this great university," Russi said.

One way will be through OU's Smartzone program, he said.

The university has been instrumental in forming the initiative, which combines skills and innovation of university researchers with the production of businesses and the tax support of cities to expand existing technology labs and attract research opportunities.

"This will propel our research program forward in ways that were never done before," Russi said. "We have many businesses beating on our doors."

Russi praised the rise in OU's growth, visibility and stature during his delivery in Varner's Recital Hall.

He emphasized the excellence of OU's faculty, which has risen from

Please see RUSSI on A6



Dante Clullo/Photo Editor

After falling behind by 17 points with 10 minutes left in the first half, OU rallied to pull within one point with six minutes left in the game. Unfortunately, Shawn Hopes and OU's interior defense wasn't enough as Miami (Ohio) escaped with a 78-66 win.

Early deficit grounds Grizzlies

Kampe: 'We're not ready for prime time.'

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Contributing Reporter

After a November to remember, the men's basketball team was so supposed to carry its momentum into the holiday season. Unfortunately, Miami (Ohio) gave Oakland University a rather rude season's greeting.

Calvin Wooten's four second half 3-

pointers couldn't save OU as the RedHawks snapped the Golden Grizzlies four-game winning streak with a final score of 78-66.

The momentum of the game was set rather quickly as Miami (Ohio) senior William Hatcher nailed a 3-pointer and a jump shot right off the bat.

Things got only worse for OU, as

their shots wouldn't fall and the Redhawks couldn't seem to miss. At the 10:36 mark, the Grizzlies faced a 17-point deficit.

The Grizzlies finally found their shot with 2:46 left in the first half, as freshman Derick Wilson scored four easy buckets, and junior Calvin

Please see HAWKS on A8

BOT denies prof tenure

Despite unanimous positive reviews

By ROQAYA ESHMAWI
Editor in Chief

Oakland University's chapter of the American Association of University Professors has filed a grievance concerning OU's board of trustees' decision to deny tenure to a biology professor popular with students and colleagues.

The AAUP Executive Committee stated it

was "aggrieved by the decision reached by Oakland" not to award Stryker tenure and promote her to associate professor rank.

"The AAUP believes Professor Stryker's record merits tenure and this opinion agrees with the recommendations of the tenured faculty in the department of biological sciences, the CAS, CAP and the FRPC," said Joel Russel, OU's AAUP grievance officer.

The grievance has been through two internal hearings, in which all arguments on her behalf were rejected by the administration and will now be decided by an external arbitrator.

Please see TENURE on A6



Dan Wilkinson/Photographer

George Watson of Hadley shops in Target for Christmas gifts. "Even though the economy isn't that good, I try to do the same for each of the kids," he said.

Holiday sales surge

By PAUL KAMPE
Local News Editor

Senior Kristin Ripari is planning on spending \$500-\$600 dollars on more than 20 friends and family members.

Some of her shopping will be done on the Internet.

"It's faster and convenient," Ripari said. But she did admit that it has at least one setback, "You don't get to view the product in person."

Ripari said she will use her debit card for approximately 90 percent of her transactions.

Holiday spending predicted to rise as confidence levels increase post-hurricane

On the heels of declining gasoline prices comes the holiday shopping season, which at first glance at the end of summer, may not have been so optimistic.

The Conference Board recently released the November Consumer Confidence Index, which posted a more than 13-point increase from October, find-

Please see SPENDING on A8

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News tip? Call (248) 370-4268.



pondering what to do in your free time?

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CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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CSA SERVICE WINDOW EVENTS:

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

- Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular With the "Rockettes" (Dec 22)
- DSO: Ode to Joy (Dec 15)
- Russian National Ballet Company: Swan Lake (Jan 8)
- Stomp (Jan 29)
- Chicago (Feb 28, March 5)
- Three Mo Tenors (March 14, 26)
- Aida (April 26, 28)
- Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (May 25, 28)
- Wicked (May 31, June 1, 4, 8, 11, 18)
- Annie (Feb 21)
- Les Grans Ballets Canadiens (April 7)
- Cinderella (May 17, 19)
- Salome (June 7, 9)

SAVE THE DATE!!!

The CSA Leadership Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of **March 24-25, 2006**. Please do not schedule any other events on that date so you or your members may attend!

Welcome Week

II

is Coming to OU!
January 2-13, 2006
Are you ready?

Meadow Brook Ball

February 11, 2006

"A Touch of Class"

\$20 per couple, \$10 per single

Get tickets now @

the CSA Service Window

Bus Trip to Valpo!

OU Men's Basketball Team vs Valparaiso
Open to ALL OU students, faculty,
staff & alumni!

Bus leaves OU at 1 p.m. Jan 2.

Game starts at 7:05 p.m. (Indiana time)

Bus arrives back at OU at 3 a.m. Jan 3.

(OU classes start Jan 4.)

\$10 per student; \$15 for faculty, staff & alumni
(nonrefundable)

Cost includes transportation, game ticket, snacks

and OU reception/dinner at Valpo.

Sign up at the CSA Service Window

limited seating for 48 passengers

OU Winter Blood Drive

Monday - Wednesday

January 23-25

Gold Rooms, OC

9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

(In case the Gold Room reconstruction is not complete,
it will be held in the Heritage Room.)

How to make an appointment:

1) Online -
www.givelife.org/index.cfm?group=registration&hlc=oublood
You will need to provide some basic information,
but will be able to make an appointment on a day
and time of your choice.

2) Call the CSA Office at (248) 370-2400. We will
ask you the same info as the online system.

3) Sign up at a donor recruitment table in the OC
and Residence Halls several times in January.

The American Red Cross needs donors to give
blood. During the winter months, blood donations
typically go down while the need for blood remains
constant or in some cases increases. Southeast
Michigan is usually a blood importer as opposed to
being self sufficient for blood. That means there is
not enough blood to take care of the needs of this
region, let alone assisting in areas of need such as
the area devastated by hurricanes this past
year. Every pint of blood collected at the blood drive
has the potential to save three people's lives. The
basic requirements for one to donate are to be a
minimum of 18 years old, weigh a minimum of 110
lbs and to be in generally good health.

Oakland University's

Student Affairs

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from the Student Affairs Staff!

GRAHAM HEALTH CENTER

The turkey is all gone and so is the
stuffing. What's next? Christmas!
Graham Health Center wishes to remind its
patients that we will be closed December 23
through January 2.

Please make sure you have your
prescriptions or injections prior to our holi-
day break. Call GHC at ext. 2341 for refills,
an appointment, or any medical questions
you may have.

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for a Healthy Me!
370-2441

www.oakland.edu/GHC/

American Lung Association's FREEDOM FROM SMOKING CLINIC hosted by Graham Health Center

When: Thursday, 1/12/06 through
Thursday, 3/9/06

Where: Graham Health Center
Time: 12-1:30pm

Cost: \$50 for enrolled students, \$70 for
staff and community

Free orientation will be held Thursday,
1/12/06, 12-1:30pm at GHC

To register or obtain
more information call 248-370-2341

The program is a multi-pronged approach
to stop smoking based on the assumption

that smoking is a learned habit; therefore, people
can unlearn the smoking habit. The clinic offers a
step-by-step individualized plan to stop smoking.
Although the program is behaviorally based, the
addictive component of smoking is also recog-
nized. Through educational, group, and pharma-
cological support participants are assisted to move
through tobacco dependency to independence.

CAMPUS RECREATION

Aquatics: Register now for Swim for Malaria
on December 10 at the Rec Center.
Join the fun and fight the cause!

Call 248-370-4532 for additional information.

Membership: Break Passes are on sale now for the holiday season.
Prevent the holiday weight gain, stuff a stocking, or just form a
healthy habit with the Holiday Break Pass at the Rec Center.
Passes are \$45, and are good for entry from 12/5/06-1/8/06.

Anyone eligible to purchase a regular membership or a current mem-
ber who has family visiting and would like to have them enjoy the
Rec while in town may purchase a Break Pass.
Call 248-370-4732 for additional information.

Holiday Hours: Holiday break hours will begin after exams.
Please check the web site for daily hours or call 248-370-4732.

The Rec will be closed:

Saturday, December 17th for Fall Commencement.

Congratulations graduates!

Friday, December 23rd -Monday, December 26th

for the Christmas Holiday

Saturday, December 31st-Monday, January 2nd

for the New Year Holiday

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Break!

WANTED—RESIDENT ASSISTANTS!

University Housing is now recruiting for
Resident Assistants for the 2006-2007 academic
year. Applications are available in
448 Hamlin Hall (Housing Office).
All applicants must attend an informational
meeting. Call ext. 3570 for details
or pick up an application.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OFFICE

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Become an OU Ambassador today.

For more information contact Petra Knoche at
248-370-3352 or ppankova@oakland.edu or stop by
157 North Foundation Hall.

Good luck to all students on their final exams!
Congratulations to all students who will graduate
at the December 17th commencement!!

Bye, bye paper bills Hello eBill!

December student billing e-mail notifications will be sent before the holiday break.
Remember, OU no longer mails paper bills via the United States Postal Service.

Oakland University notifies students of their monthly bill through an electronic billing presentment system known as eBill.
To provide quick, convenient service and eliminate mailing delays, Student Business Services sends billing notifications
electronically to each student's OU e-mail address.

If you have a prior balance on your student account
or registered for Winter 2006 classes before 5 p.m.
on December 12, 2005, please check your OU e-mail
account - on December 14, 2005 or later - for an
e-mail notifying you that your bill is ready to view.
If you DO NOT receive an e-mail, contact Student
Business Services at (248) 370-2550 or
ebill@oakland.edu. December bills are
due January 10, 2006.

You will receive important information from OU via your
official OU e-mail address including grades availability,
registration information, student bills, current news,
financial aid status and events information.

For more information on eBill, payment options, and
university policies and procedures regarding your student
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at www.oakland.edu/sbs.

You are responsible for checking and
reading all messages sent to your
Oakland e-mail account.

For more information on Webmail and your OU e-mail
account, go to www3.oakland.edu/oakland/studentemail.

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Alicia Sossi
Senior Reporter

Prizes given for good deeds

By ALICIA SOSSI
Senior Reporter

An internship with Tom Wilson, president and CEO of Palace Sports & Entertainment, and \$15,000 in scholarship money — that's what several Oakland University students and dozens of local college students are competing for this holiday season.

For the first time, the Salvation Army of Eastern Michigan has partnered with Palace Sports & Entertainment to hold "The Internship" competition, in which students must successfully run one of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle

sites in hopes of receiving the ultimate prize. The competition began Nov. 18 and ends Dec. 24.

Alan Jaros, a freshman at OU, is one of those who decided to get involved in the competition.

He thought participating would be a great way to earn money for himself and enlisted his coworker, OU student Krissy Howard, to be on his team.

Together, along with a student from Lawrence Technological University, they form one of two teams with OU members.

Sophomore Warren Beard, along with two other students, form the other competing team.

Teams are made up of three students each and are given a variety of responsibilities, including staffing a designated Red Kettle site with volunteers. Jaros' team mans the kettle at the Farmer Jack in Bloomfield Hills, and Beard's team is in charge of the Hollywood

Market site in Royal Oak. At the initial stage of the competition, the teams attended an orientation and had to formulate a business plan, showing their plans for recruiting volunteer bell ringers at their site or any local site.

The goal of the program, created by Jason Hale, director of the Christmas Campaign and volunteers at the Salvation Army, was to have students staff their kettles with volunteers for each shift. This would promote the red kettle fundraiser to the younger generation and generate more money for the organization.

But both teams have had difficulties getting volunteers to commit.

"We learned quickly that wasn't possible," Jaros said about staffing the kettle with all volunteers. His team has recruited

volunteers at churches, high schools and workplaces.

While they've had some success, "we've found that many people aren't apt to give up even one hour of their time," Howard said.

Now their goal is to staff their kettle with volunteers on weekends, when people seem to be more available.

When one of the group's volunteers is not working, the Salvation Army provides a paid worker to ring the bell.

Because of difficulties and the time it takes to participate, many of the original teams have dropped out of the competition, Jaros said.

His team is now the only one representing the Pontiac district of the Salvation Army,

"We've found that many people aren't apt to give up even one hour of their time."

Krissy Howard
OU Student



The Associated Press
Two student teams consisting of OU students compete to run Salvation Army Red Kettle stations. The teams' kettles are located at the Farmer Jack in Bloomfield Hills and the Hollywood Market in Royal Oak. The teams have been recruiting volunteers to handle bell-ringing. Above, bell-ringer Haleigh Akin, 4, checks the red kettle after a donation was made in front of the Broadway Square Mall in Tyler, Texas.

"We decided to just stick with it," he said. "In the end, if we don't win, at least we're doing something good."

The Red Kettle fundraiser is a 114-year-old tradition for the Salvation Army,

which provides meals and shelter to millions of homeless people across the state.

Jaros, Howard and Beard admitted that the cash prize of \$15,000, which is split among the three win-

ning team members, was their reason for joining the competition.

However, all agreed that the experience of helping others is a most rewarding one.

Asbestos found during renovations

Red tape covered the doors of the Oakland Center Gold Rooms Tuesday as workers removed asbestos from the walls. The material, when broken up into air-borne fibers, has been linked to various lung diseases, including cancer. Asbestos was discovered in the fire proofing that was sprayed on the roof decking, Richard Fekel, director of the OC, said. The Gold Rooms were the first addition to the OC, completed in the 1960s. "It's not uncommon for asbestos to be found in construction from that era," Fekel said. Scheduled construction on the rooms began a few weeks ago to remodel and update the second-largest meeting rooms in the OC. Certified workers began removing the asbestos Tuesday in order to make construction safe for workers. Since the asbestos did not release into the air, student health is not at risk, Fekel said. The removal should be done by Thursday. Construction will resume on the Gold Rooms, which are scheduled to open in mid-to-late January.

—Alicia Sossi,
Senior Reporter



As renovations projects occur in certain areas of campus, asbestos must be cleaned up for the safety of workers and students. Asbestos has recently been found during the renovations of the OC's Gold Rooms. Cleanup of the dangerous material also occurred in the Vandenberg Cafeteria, which was updated over the spring and summer semesters.

Dante Ciullo/
Photo Editor

Students 'all-in' for poker

By LAUREN COMAIANNI
Contributing Reporter

"Will you be bold, or will you fold?" That is the slogan for the All-In Poker Club at Oakland University, where students come to master their skills in one of the most popular card games in the country.

Up to 25 students meet every Wednesday night in the Oakland Center for pizza, pop and a no-limit Texas Hold'em tournament.

Six players are assigned to each table where they bet and bluff to accumulate the most chips possible.

Players say they use their own personal strategies to outsmart the competition.

"At the beginning, I'm going to play badly so I'll throw people off," said junior Erica Jackson.

Although the tournament is competitive, players of all skill levels are welcome.

Adam McChesney, vice president of the club, encourages anyone who is interested to join. "It's a great place to play

poker on campus," McChesney said.

Instead of playing for money, the winning is based on a ranking system. The top 10 players from each tournament accumulate points.

At the end of the tournament, the four players with the highest amount of points will represent OU at the College Poker Bowl in Ohio.

Texas Hold'em has become increasingly popular in the last few years.

The World Poker Tour appeared on the Travel channel this year, as well as the World Series of Poker on ESPN.

Internet poker sites now allow you to play without leaving the house.

Unfamiliar with Texas Hold'em? Here are the basics. After each player is dealt two individual cards, betting takes place.

Depending on how strong or weak a player's cards are, they have the choice to bet, check or fold. The dealer then deals three community cards face up on the table.

"At the beginning, I'm going to play badly so I'll throw people off."

Erica Jackson
Junior

Another round of betting takes place, before a fourth community card is dealt face up. Players once again are able to bet. The fifth and last community card is then dealt face up, and players engage in their last round of betting.

At the end, the player with the best hand wins and takes all the chips that have been bet.

McChesney advises students who want to become better players to not be intimidated.

"Don't be afraid to have fun, because that's what it's all about," he said.

For more information about how you can join the All-In Poker Club, visit their Web site at <http://www.oakland.edu/org/pokerclub>.

What beats what?

- Royal Flush
- Straight Flush
- Four of a Kind
- Full House
- Flush
- Straight
- Three of a Kind
- Two pair
- One Pair
- High Card

POLICEFILES

■ While working out, a student's wallet was stolen from an unlocked locker in the

Recreation Center. It contained \$11 cash, two credit cards, a debit card, her license and social security card. There are no suspects at this time.

■ Oakland University Police

were dispatched to Hamlin Hall last Tuesday for a fight that had taken place between two male. One was not a student.

■ A student reported to OUPD that he had left his wallet in a

locker in the Recreation Center and when he returned, his money was gone. The student said \$300 was taken from his wallet.

■ OUPD was dispatched to the parking lot outside the 3000

building of the student apartments after a report of misuse of a fire extinguisher. The extinguisher was found on the lower level of the student apartments parking lot. A car was seen leaving the space located near

the extinguisher on the ground. OUPD followed the student onto Walton Boulevard and pulled him over. The student admitted to spraying the extinguisher. He was given a misdemeanor ticket.

Studying early can avoid finals meltdown

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Contributing Reporter

You know the feeling. You have piles of paperwork in front of you, and you have no idea how to begin studying.

But don't reach for the espresso maker just yet. Nobody says you have to pull an all-nighter.

"Students should prepare for an exam two weeks ahead of time," said Ivy Horn, assistant director at the Academic Skills Center. Horn offered many suggestions for how students can study for their final exams.

"Re-typing your lecture notes, along with incorporating the facts from the book, can help you understand the material more clearly," she said. She also recommends using the highlighting feature to color-code your notes.

For essay tests, some professors will pass out a study guide of what types of questions may be asked. Horn says to use these guides to your advantage.

"Prepare your answers in concise, factual paragraphs, just as you would on the real exam," she said.

For multiple choice, Horn recommends making up a practice test with your notes and a study guide, if you were given one.

"Practice taking the test in the time that would normally be allotted," Horn said. "This will prepare you and help build your confidence."

Some OU students keep studying for exams simple.

"I just look over the terms," said freshman Keith Smith.

However, junior Amanda Gates chooses a different method.

"When I read, I highlight my notes," she said. "Then I reread the highlighted sections in my text and rewrite them. It's a lot of work, but it helps."

"I'm a big fan of note cards," said junior Diane Rosenthal. "Note cards make it easy for me to quiz myself, which helps me get a better feel for the concepts and terms I am actually holding onto."

But, according to Horn, the most important thing is to know what kind of learner you are.

"You really have to learn yourself," she said. "Many students are not sure what kind of learners they are unless they were given those types of assessments."

Another thing students should take into account is what time of the day they are most awake.

"Students should design a pattern to when they are most alert and focused," Horn said.

So, if you are most in tune during the afternoon, don't pull an all-nighter.

However, if you are a morning person, don't wait until later in the day to crack open the books.

Students should also give their minds a rest while preparing for exams.

"If you're studying for an hour, take a five-minute break here and there," Horn said. "Just remember to get back to studying."

There are many tests on the Web to help you figure out what type of learning you respond to the best. One such Web site is <http://www.tickle.com>, which offers various tests, and many of them Ph.D. certified.

Students can learn more about studying techniques and test taking by visiting the Academic Skills Center at 103 North Foundation Hall or calling (248) 370-4215.

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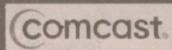
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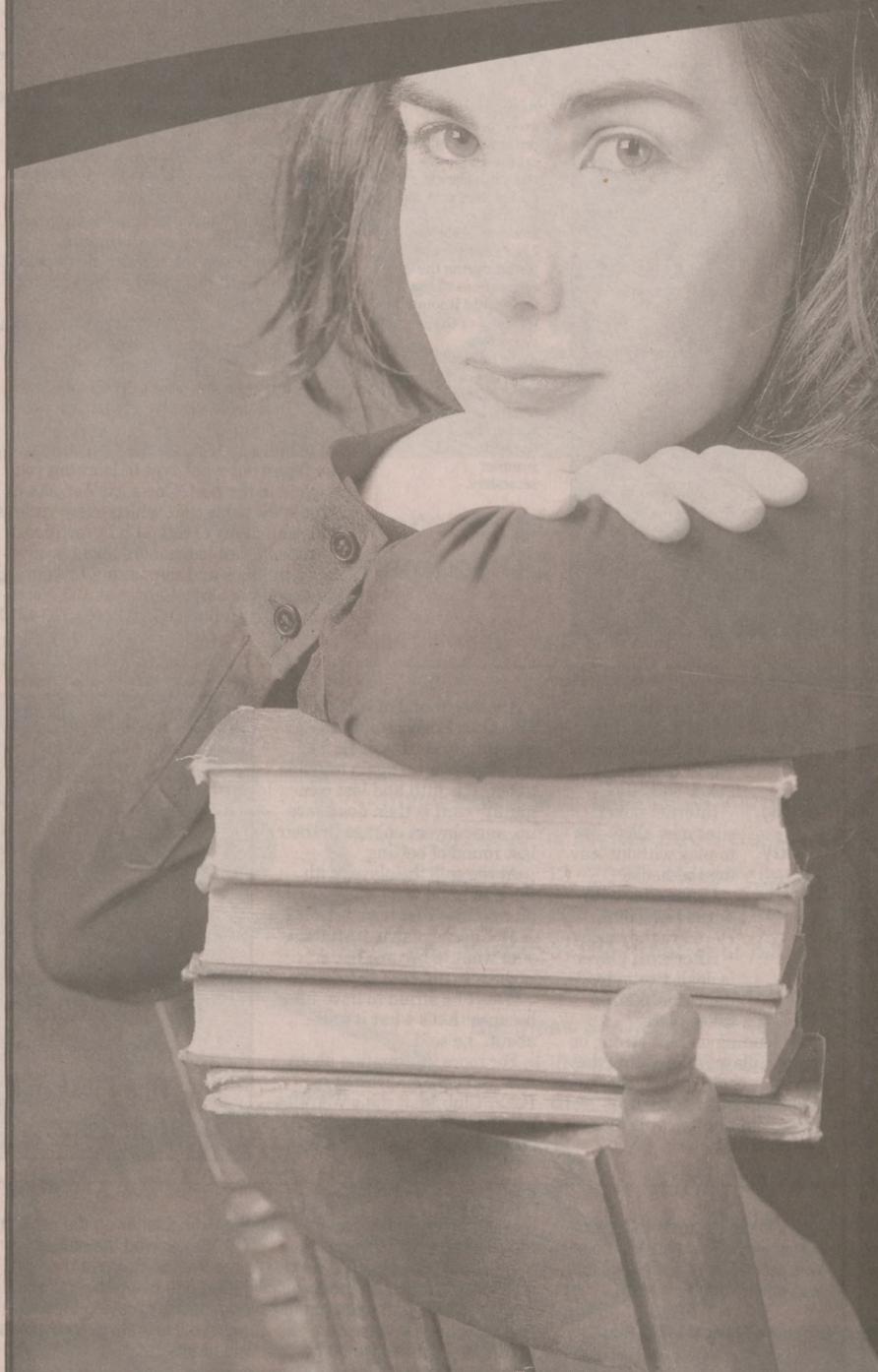
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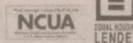
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GM plans to revive line as cuts are announced

By CRAIG A. COLE
Contributing Reporter

In what seems to be a proverbial banana in the tailpipe scenario, there has been much speculation regarding General Motors, the world's largest automaker, nearing an explosion in the form of bankruptcy.

The speculation is a result of declining profits and plant closures, restating of earnings from 2001 and dropping stock prices, as well as the health care concessions needed from the United Auto Workers.

"We have no plans to declare bankruptcy. We know what the issues in North America are, we know what the challenges are, and we're addressing them," said Jerry Dubrowski, GM's director of Financial Communications.

GM's recent decline in market share has been rapid. In the third quarter of 2005, GM captured 25.6 percent of North American car sales. One year ago they managed 28.5 percent.

GM's profits have also fallen. According to its Web site, GM of North America reported a 2005 third quarter loss of \$1.6 billion, compared to a loss of \$88 million one year ago.

With profits sagging, stock prices have also taken a nosedive. In January, GM's shares traded around \$40. Now they are hovering near \$23 per share.

Over the past five years, GM has steadily lost ground to European and Asian competitors in the North American Market.

Dwindling market share, declining profits, a negative quality stigma and the high price of employee benefits are some of the challenges facing GM.

One problem facing GM is the public's perception of its quality.

"People still have that stig-

ma that imports have higher quality," said Tom Flory, General Sales manager at Shelton Pontiac/Buick/GMC in Rochester Hills.

However, GM's product quality has never been better he said, adding that GM has three of the highest rated plants for quality.

Despite their troubles, GM has some popular new cars on the market or soon to be released.

An all new Cadillac Escalade with a 403 horsepower V-8 and 6-speed automatic transmission is set to debut in January.

Another newly released vehicle is one of the hottest selling: Pontiac's 2006 Solstice. The sporty rear-wheel drive two-seat convertible is set to compete with vehicles like Mazda's Miata.

"Every (Solstice) that comes in is sold. It's a vehicle that's just been a huge success," Flory said. "There has not been one negative point on the vehicle."

The supply of the car is limited, and Shelton Pontiac will only receive around 20 for the entire year, all of which have already been sold, Flory said.

Sales in the Cadillac division have been strong, said Debbie Meiorow, saleswoman at Crestview Cadillac in Rochester.

"We're stealing everyday from BMW and Lexus ... most of our customers are repeat business," she said.

The success of the Cadillac Division and of the Solstice is good news for GM, but the company is not yet out of the woods.

GM Chief Executive Officer Rick Wagoner announced days before Thanksgiving that as many as 30,000 jobs will be cut.

He also said that as many as nine North American plants may be closed.



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

As GM plans more cuts, a new line of vehicles are announced to help revive the automaker's sales.

These measures are meant to halt receding numbers and return GM to profitability, but it is more bad news in the wake of Delphi's October bankruptcy.

Eroding market share and high labor costs have taken the wind out of Ford's sails, as well.

Ford recently announced that it may trim as many as 4,000 salaried positions in a bid to cut costs.

Dubrowski said it's important to remember that GM performs well globally.

However, he acknowledged that the North American market is GM's largest and is the source of its problems.

GM has issued a four-point turn-around plan.

The first step covers increasing vehicle sales, improving products and revitalizing sales and marketing strategies.

The second step involves getting customers to focus on vehicles, not on incentives.

GM has invested an additional \$8 billion in capital spending earmarked for vehicle improvement, Dubrowski said.

Step three is possible because of the recent UAW's health care concessions, which have cut the company's health care costs in half, a savings of \$3 billion annually,

he said.

The final step is to reduce GM's capacity. Dubrowski said there would be plant idling and a reduction in employment.

GM's redesigned full-size pickup trucks with available 6-speed automatic transmissions are scheduled to reach dealers in around one year.

"They just want to keep doing new products, targeting all ages," Meiorow said. She added that with the Cadillac line, GM plans to "keep everything exciting and innovative."

Flory said he feels the media is partly the cause of GM's problems.

Meiorow, who echoed this, also expressed disapproval at the negativity in the media regarding GM.

"I'm really burned out by it. It's always doom and gloom," she said.

What do you think?
Will GM's hot new vehicles spur you to buy a GM product?

E-mail your responses to editor
@oakpostonline.com.



The Associated Press

Denise Nichols checks to make sure her sight is free of snow during the first ever deer hunt at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005, in Muskegon, Mich.

Deer hunting balances environment

By KALEE IACOANGELI
Contributing Reporter

Hundreds of years ago, it was a way of life — a necessity. Although it is no longer essential to the survival of most, hunting is still an important activity for both the environment and the economy, especially in Michigan.

A 2001 report by the U.S. Census Bureau shows that hunters in Michigan alone spent more than \$490 million on hunting equipment, ammunition, food, lodging, transportation and other hunting necessities.

Another study conducted by the Census Bureau in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 2001 found Michigan to be seventh in the nation in retail sales generated by hunters, who spent \$671.6 million annually.

On average, hunters spend almost \$1,896 per year, and the purchases they make create \$2.4 billion worth of income taxes for those businesses, the report said.

During that time, sporting goods stores, taxidermists and meat processing businesses generate more than a quarter of their annual revenues.

Hunting is not only an important part of Michigan's economy, but, according to Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, it also helps create balance in the environment.

The 2005 estimated deer population is 1.7 million, the DNR reports. Expecting numbers similar to 2004, it figures about 450,000 deer will be harvested during the season. They say that should help keep the population under control.

"If it weren't for hunters taking a balanced number

of deer each year, the deer would face over-population and starvation," said sophomore Jeff Hering, who has been an avid hunter for more than seven years.

In order to prevent problems such as starvation, the DNR has developed population goals to ensure that the environment can support the herds.

The population goal for Michigan's southern lower peninsula, which includes Oakland County, ranges from 501,000 to 602,000 deer. The 2005 actual population estimate, however, is much larger at 868,000.

The over-population could help explain why Oakland County has one of the highest vehicle-deer crash rates in the state.

Statistics gathered by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments show that Oakland County had the most vehicle-deer accidents in Southeast Michigan, and the sixth most such crashes in the state.

Rochester Hills had the highest number of accidents involving deer in the past two years, 178 in 2003 and 154 in 2004. The city of 68,825, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, accounted for almost 10 percent of Oakland County's vehicle-deer crashes in 2004.

Considering that most of the damage occurs to the front end of a vehicle, many of the cars are left inoperable. Insurance claims average \$2,000 in damages, costing Michigan drivers at least \$125 million per year.

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies reported in June that those crashes cause \$1 billion in damages every year.

Crash reduction strategies, such as keeping ditches mowed and constructing fences along roadways have helped, but hunters can also play a role by maintaining ideal population sizes.

Stern gets 'Sirius'

By PAUL KAMPE
Local News Editor

"If you don't like it, then change the channel," a phrase which might have originated from supporters of the "King of all media" Howard Stern will finally be playing out, with a significant change coming for the morning radio disc jockey.

For nearly a decade, WKRR 97.1 FM has aired the Howard Stern Show, a program notorious for what has been called indecent material.

After Dec. 16, listeners will no longer be able to receive the Stern Show on the FM dial. Stern announced in Oct. 2004 that he will be taking his show and crew to Sirius Satellite Radio, where the company has given him two of his own stations.

One problem is that Stern has yet to complete his contract with Infinity Broadcasting, and he has been censored for promoting his upcoming gig, which starts Jan. 9 on the pay radio service.

In the Detroit market, such programs as "The Morning X with Dave and Chuck the Freak," "Drew and Mike" and Stern's replacement "Rover's Morning Glory" will be seeking to acquire the displaced Stern listeners.

Some listeners are disappointed with the relocation to Sirius, because they would have to purchase home or vehicle stereos equipped with technology to receive the programming, along with a subscription to the service.

Rover will be syndicated from Cleveland by Infinity, while that morning time slot will be filled in other areas by David Lee Roth's show on the east coast and Adam Carolla in the west.

"We anticipate that listeners will grow to like Rover as much as Howard," said Craig Schwab, program director for 97.1, newly dubbed Free-FM.

"He's a legend (Stern,) and no one can take his place," Schwab said, adding that the station hopes listeners appreciate what Rover does.

Doug Podell, program director for 101.1 FM WRIF said many of

Stern's listeners will not make the transition to Sirius.

"We've looked into that a bit, I do believe that 'Drew and Mike' will be able to pick up a bit of the audience left behind. The shows are similar," he said.

Podell said the station has conducted its own research into the morning show departure by conducting independent research with listeners ages 18 to 44, but said that WRIF is confident with the lineup that it has in place.

"Part of our success is our consistency," he said, saying that ratings are strong in favor of WRIF.

Murray Brookshaw, program director for 88.7 FM, said "The Morning X" welcomes all ex-Howard Stern listeners.

"We will continue to make a fun product to be a viable alternative to listen to," Brookshaw said.

In years prior to the realization of satellite radio, Stern had criticized the Federal Communications Commission for the restrictions and fines placed on his program.

Decades before "Nipplegate," Stern and his cohorts were earning fines from the FCC for their parent company, Infinity Broadcasting. All the while, Stern earned himself the title of "shock jock" while he transformed traditional talk radio.

The Howard Stern Show has also been available in different variations on television. His radio program has been tape recorded for E! Entertainment channel and has had over 2,000 of its episodes aired since 1994.

Stern has also been a long time political sponsor, having endorsed several campaigns including Sen. John Kerry's run for the presidency in 2004.

Stern took his own stab at politics during the 1994 New York mayoral election. However, he later withdrew his candidacy.

Stern is also a best-selling author, having penned his autobiography, "Private Parts," which was transformed to the silver screen in 1997, as well as "Miss America."

For more information about Sirius radio, see our story on A9.

TENURE
Cont. from A1

Despite unanimous positive votes on all levels of review, the board received an agenda at its Aug. 3 meeting with a recommendation made by Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil to "not re-employ" Stryker, who joined OU as an associate professor of biology six years ago.

"The recommendation made by the Provost to deny tenure and promotion to Dr. Stryker — after uniformly positive peer reviews at all levels — is a shameful abuse of authority by the Provost, as well as a hypocritical action," said Fay Hansen, associate professor of biological sciences, who spoke on behalf of Stryker before the board.

The Provost previously recommended promotions and tenure for faculty whose poor reviews had been negative or mixed, she added.

When asked why he made the recommendation, Moudgil said the university does not comment on personnel issues.

Based on her previous interactions with Moudgil as chair of the Department of Biology and her knowledge of his interactions with other faculty, Hansen said she feels his negative recommendation may be a result of Stryker's outspokenness on certain issues in the department.

"It would not be the first time that an outspoken member of the biology department has met with career difficulties under his leadership," she said, adding "it is highly likely that there is an ulterior personal motive to his negative recommendation."

Stryker agreed, saying she feels Moudgil "bears a personal animus" against her "based on clashes over department issues between the two of us when he was the chairman of the biology department."

Stryker said her tenure denial came as a "complete shock" to her, adding that Moudgil "used his power over the tenure process to punish me for not being properly deferential to him."

Stryker had been assured by many faculty members that she would be granted tenure because of the favorable reviews of her tenure package, she said, adding that she was also told the Provost would "not dare" go against the unanimous recommendations of the faculty review committees.

"However, Provost Moudgil ignored the faculty's recommendations and denied me tenure," Stryker said. "His action, I feel, should be viewed as a slap in their face by every faculty member at OU."

The recommendation against Stryker's re-employment is an "unjustified evaluation by our fair provost who feels he knows better than the

cross-section of the OU faculty who partook in the vote," said Sheldon Gordon, professor of biology.

"It is almost outrageous that he can go against the faculty, and that the board lets the administration run wild," he said.

Brooks Gross, a graduate student, said he came to OU from the University of Michigan to work on research with Stryker.

Denial of Stryker's tenure "will greatly affect us and future students coming to work on graduate work," Gross said.

Fred Berg, a non-traditional student, said several medical schools had recommended Stryker to him. "To lose her is devastating," he said.

At the meeting, board members listened to statements in favor of Stryker made by Hansen and Barbara Oakley, associate professor of engineering.

However, the board unanimously approved the agenda without discussion of Stryker's case.

"The decision of the BOT to unanimously approve the 'consent agenda' on faculty actions — including denial of Stryker's tenure/promotion after being informed — probably for the first time — that her case had received unanimous support throughout — shows an appalling ignorance," Hansen said.

"When the BOT chooses to exercise their power to deny tenure or promotion, thus changing a person's career, they should take the responsibility to investigate the facts themselves, not rely solely on the opinion of the Provost and or President," she said.

Board members did not respond to questions regarding their decision to approve the agenda without discussion of Stryker's case.

The process of application for Stryker's tenure started when a review committee — established on Sept. 28, 2004 — evaluated her research, teaching effectiveness and service to the department, and made a recommendation to Thaddeus Grudzien, acting chair of the department of biological sciences, that she be promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.

Grudzien then presented a memorandum to the College of Arts and Sciences' Committee and Appointment and Promotion representing the review committee's recommendation.

CAP reviewed the material and presented a memorandum to the Faculty Re-employment and Promotion Committee saying it "concurs with the department's recommendation."

FRPC then presented a report to Moudgil stating that Stryker meets the department of biological science's criteria in the areas of teaching, scholarship and service, and recommends her for tenure and promotion.

The American Association of

Throughout the semester, students have addressed The Oakland Post with their concerns regarding Professor Gabrielle Stryker's denial of tenure. They have also sent e-mails to OU President Garry Russi, copying Post editors onto the e-mails. Below are some excerpts from e-mails sent to The Post.

"I am currently in my second year of dental school at the University of Detroit-Mercy. I have had three separate courses related to immunity so far and most of what I know I learned in Dr. Stryker's single class. I even find myself referring back to her excellent notes for clarification from time to time. Having had classes with Dr. Stryker inspired me to approach my studies more seriously. I honestly feel that I would not be able to handle my current course load of 10 classes for 26 credits if it had not been for the indelible imprints left upon me by my experiences with Drs. Stryker and Tracy-Bee."

Chad Baker
OU alumnus

"Dr. Stryker not only challenged my mind, but she entertained my classmates and me with real world examples to show us — hey this stuff is real. Likely the strongest characteristics that Dr. Stryker possessed was something other professors often lacked — openness and approachability. I was not the top student in her class, but felt great ease to speak to her on the complexities of the subject matter and ways to improve my intake of the material. She was a professor that I could go to with not only problems in Parasitology, but also other biological sciences ... It is so hard for me to grasp why if when so many from the university faculty and staff saw the need for OU to keep her in their arms, that the ultimate decision went against majority opinion."

Kelly L. Cole
Biology Senior

I finished M.S. in biological sciences under the guidance of Dr. Gabrielle Stryker, and I am currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology at Michigan State University. I came to OU in fall 2002 as an international student from India. Dr. Stryker gave me an opportunity to work in her laboratory and that was by far one of the best things happened to me in my educational career. Working with Dr. Stryker was a great experience and that opened a lot of other opportunities for me. I published four conference proceedings articles and one journal article during my master's program along with other colleagues. Being an international student, I understand the importance of having an excellent advisor, and I appreciate Dr.

Stryker's effort to help me through difficult times. Her collaborations with different departments show her dedication to research and willingness to get different faculty involved to produce better results. Her research is directly related to a lot of different departments at OU, which would potentially be affected if she is not granted tenure."

Sachin Kandlikar
Doctoral candidate — Pharmacology and Toxicology

"As a teacher myself, I can tell that Dr. Stryker is an exquisite instructor. She is able to explain complicated ideas to students no matter what level of science they have had. As an instructor Dr. Stryker is one of the best. Her knowledge of biology is phenomenal, and she is able to connect this information to cutting-edge developments in computer science and engineering. It is very rare that someone could have such knowledge over multiple disciplines."

Holly N. Minoletti
Graduate Student

I am aware that three separate boards voted in favor of Dr. Stryker's tenure, yet that it was denied at the provost level. It is hard for me to grasp why if when so many from the university faculty and staff saw the need for OU to keep her in their arms, that the ultimate decision went against majority opinion. It is my hope that university realizes that losing a professional like Dr. Stryker would not only hinder the university's advancement, but would be a great disservice to all of the young minds that she could challenge and engage.

Shaunda Scruggs
Environmental Scientist
OU alumna

How do you think the board of trustees handled the provost's recommendation to deny Dr. Stryker tenure? E-mail editor @oakpostonline.com

University Professors, an organization started in 1915 to ensure academic freedom for faculty members, states that university and college professors are "citizens, members of a learned profession and officers of an educational institution."

As such, the AAUP finds that professors should be free from institutional censorship or discipline when they speak or write as citizens.

Any faculty member has a right to file a grievance against the administration if he or she feels unable to correct a problem related to items covered in the collective bargaining agreement, Russel said.

The collective bargaining agreement, which established the tenure review process, guarantees faculty that they will be provided with a clear understanding of the criteria and standards that will be used to assess their suitability for tenure, re-employ-

ment or promotion.

In the past, OU's administration used a general set of criteria and standards to encompass all disciplines in addition to the specific department or school criteria, Russel said.

During the last negotiations in 2003, the administration agreed to use the department or school criteria as standards for each discipline once they had approved the department or school statements, he said.

In theory, all personnel decisions at the university are made by the BOT.

However, "in practice, the board delegates this study to the administration and merely oversees how the administration fulfills this responsibility in keeping with board policies," Russel said.

For faculty decisions, the administrator with ultimate responsibility is

the vice president for Academic Affairs and Provost.

"For the ultimate decisions to be fair, non-arbitrary and consistent, it is essential that the provost work from the same materials the faculty review bodies used to reach their recommendations," Russel said.

In making a tenure decision, if the provost considers factors outside the profession merits — such as major declines in enrollments — these factors should be known in advance of reviews and communicated to all involved, he said.

Information gathered by the provost is unknown, however, and can only be challenged if revealed during a tenure arbitration.

The date set for Stryker's arbitration is March 28, and it may not be until May before Stryker finds out if she will be able to continue her profession at OU.

RUSSI
Cont. from A1

374 members in 1995 to 473 in 2005.

The president also announced that 50 new faculty positions are going to be created for the fall semester of 2007.

Special mention was made of OU's 2001 Carnegie Classification promotion.

OU moved from a Comprehensive University to a Doctoral Research university.

The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education uses this classification to describe the institutional diversity in U.S. higher education.

In order to meet the demands of the new classification, Russi said OU has added 40 new degree programs since 1995.

The largest amount of growth

has occurred in the number of masters and doctoral programs offered by the university.

The campus landscape has also seen tremendous growth and change.

Nine new buildings have been added using the \$250 million that the university has allocated for capital enhancements since 1995.

"OU is the second fastest growing university in the

state," Russi said. "The community sees the development and knows the university is on the move."

What do you think about the president's university update? E-mail editor @oakpostonline.com.



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Eminem to wed again?

(AP) — Eminem, born Marshall Mathers III, went through an ugly divorce and custody battle over his young daughter with Kimberly Mathers.

"We have reconciled and are probably going to remarry," Eminem told Detroit radio station WKQI-FM's "Mojo in the Morning" show.

During the interview, he referred to Kimberly Mathers, 30, as "my wife Kim."

Eminem's label Interscope Records said the interview was the only one that Eminem had planned for now. The rapper's greatest-hits album titled "Curtain Call" was released Tuesday.

Eminem also discussed his stay earlier this year at a hospital to undergo treatment for sleep medication dependency. Word of the hospitalization came in August after he canceled his European tour.

"When I went into rehab, I kind of went into it ... with the notion of I'm gonna get clean, I'm gonna get off this stuff before it gets too out of hand," he said. "I want to nip it in bud."

In July, Eminem denied an impending retirement but hinted at taking a breather. On Tuesday, the 33-year-old, who lives in suburban Detroit, spoke more about his uncertain future.

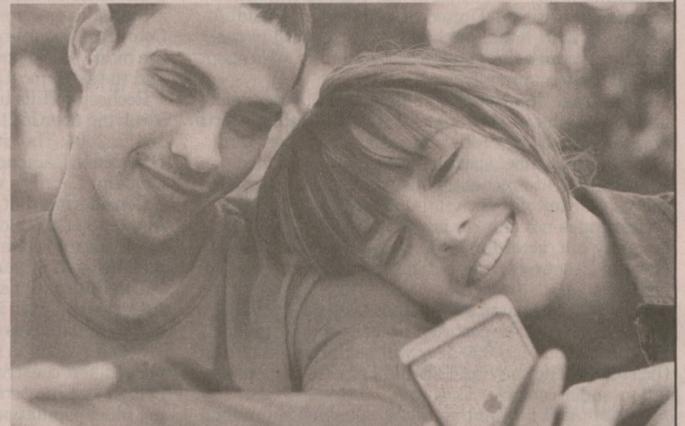
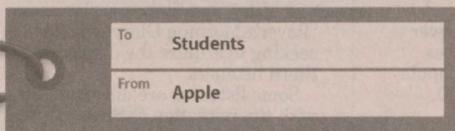
"I'm at a point in my life right now where I feel like I don't know where my career is going right now," he said.



Stop in. Stock up. Head home.

Use your education discount to save on Apple products.

Visit an Authorized Campus Store, an Apple Store near you, or our online Apple Store at www.apple.com/students.



EDITORIAL

Persistence pays off for grads

As another crop of OU graduates is preparing to enter into a tough job market, it will be vital for them to remember a few important strategies to ensure their success. Michigan's economy is facing tough times, and entry-level members of the workforce are going to face stiff competition. Don't be discouraged if you face some initial disappointment. Display tenaci-

ty and a positive mental attitude and your break will eventually come.

Always be pro-active and try to do more than the next person, as most employers value these qualities as much as they value one's educational background.

Congratulations and good luck to all grads this semester!

— THE OAKLAND POST

GUEST COLUMN

Engineering degree opens many doors for students



By BILL EDWARDS
OU Alumnus

Va-Va Vrooommm! If you like tinkering with cars, inventing gadgets, the aerospace phenomena SR-71 Blackbird and the History Channel's "Modern Marvels," engineering could be your calling.

Maybe you've heard of challenging times ahead and are concerned about the future of engineering.

Automotive engineering has been the ride of my life — a ride I'd love to share with you as you contemplate this exciting career possibility.

The world of engineering has been kind to me. In 1990 I graduated from Oakland University with majors in mechanical and electrical engineering. I was recruited through OU's campus into Ford Engine Design in Dearborn.

It was an exciting time. Ford was redesigning nearly all their engines for emission challenges.

I started working in the Supercharged Engine Group and rotated through Large Truck Engine Design and Engine Accessories. I drove Supercharged Thunderbirds, Prototype Mustangs and even a NASCAR Pickup Truck with an 8.3L 650 HP souped-up version of an engine the Transmission Testing Laboratories called the "Transmission Buster."

This Truck left two 100-foot strips of rubber in Dearborn to commemorate the event. Times were good.

However, in the mid- to late '90s, the business aspect of engineering came to the forefront. The reality is that companies must make profits, and cost-cutting is sometimes necessary.

Unique ways to reduce expense were being investigated. I understood this. However, a new opportunity emerged.

In 1997, Chrysler formed a joint venture with BMW to build an engine plant in Brazil. I was privileged to work on a brand new engine program as the lead engineer for the Supercharged version of this engine.

I was responsible for the design, development and testing of all unique engine components in the new BMW Mini — crankshaft, pistons, connecting rods and other engine components.

As the program finished its launch phase, I was promoted into DaimlerChrysler's Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Organization. This problem-solving "SWAT" team rotates to Chrysler's plants for three to four months to increase production efficiencies.

This job added to my people management skills and overall knowledge of Chrysler's big business picture.

Along the way, I also realized the value of con-

tinuing to learn and grow, both formally and informally. Starting later than most traditional students, I got my master's degree in engineering. I'm currently working on my Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. With my background, industry talks and some foresight, I offer you my insights concerning the future of engineering.

Engineering is ever-changing. In the future, automotive engineering will become more global. Local engineers will become more like project managers.

A greater demand should develop for low-volume eclectic cars in this country (6.1L Hemi Chargers), electronic stability controls and accident avoidance equipment, as well as in-car customer electronics like the Global Positioning System navigation equipment. With the new low-sulfur emission diesel fuels, we should see an increase in diesel vehicles.

Fuel cells, solar and alternative energy will be heavily researched. Hybrids will show growth. Interestingly, the largest potential growth for hybrids may not be in the automotive consumer market, but will be within the Department of Defense — quiet fuel efficient armored vehicles.

The Department of Defense, aerospace and Homeland Security will be particularly strong areas for engineers. Autonomous vehicles, terrorist detection and countermeasures, as well as enhanced field soldier communication and armament will be in the works — and that's just the beginning.

I predict another area of opportunity will be in leisure products.

America has a large amount of discretionary income and is willing to spend money on items like electronics and communications. In years ahead, perhaps the most exciting change for U.S. engineers will be in the bio-medical industry.

Expect to see artificial heart pumps, insulin pumps placed inside the body, better artificial knees/prosthetics and robotic assistance in surgical procedures.

Finally, engineering can increasingly be viewed as a stepping stone to other careers by providing a fundamental foundation for many careers, including patent law, teaching, business, medicine and medical equipment design.

My engineering career began with my education at OU — the smaller class sizes, the professors who took the time to ensure students learned the material and important participatory opportunities (such as Tau Beta Pi, Theta Tau, SAE and Golden Key). Coming from OU, you can make a difference. Get Involved.

Are you an engineer in the making? Hop on board for an exciting ride.

The future of engineering is brighter than ever.

Bill Edwards is a DaimlerChrysler Advanced Manufacturing Engineering manager, recently supporting the launch of the new Jeep Commander.

"My engineering career began with my education at OU."

Bill Edwards
OU Alumnus



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Campus ATM offers no surcharge

Dear Editor,
In a Nov. 16 article of The Oakland Post, "Credit or Debit? Students get options in food court," reference was made to the \$1.25 service charge for use of the ATM in the Oakland Center operated by Credit Union One.

Your readers need to know that the OU Branch of the MSU Federal Credit Union provides the only surcharge free ATM on the campus.

It is located in the kiosk between North and South Foundation Halls, and unlike other financial institutions both on and off campus, our ATM's are always surcharge free — so students, faculty, staff and guests of the university can access their accounts at any financial institution without penalty.

John M. Savio
Vice President
Credit Union One

McGuinness should not take credit

Dear Editor,
The board of trustees did not lower tuition rates due to Mr. McGuinness' urging, they were lowered in thanks to our Governor Jennie "from the block" Granholm. The board of trustees lowered tuition rates

because they were forced to by the governor.

In order for universities in Michigan to receive added money to their budgets, universities were limited to the amount of added increases to student's tuition.

Does any one really believe that the board of trustees really listened to Mr. McGuinness' complaints, and in turn lowered tuition based on his remarks? That's a hard pill to swallow! Last week's letter in The Oakland Post gave credit to Mr. McGuinness for lowering tuition is a farce, it was a lousy attempt at clouding the issue of student body president compensation.

Mr. McGuinness is still the highest paid student body president in the nation at the end of the day.

Grant Allen
Public Administration
and Public Policy

Car thieves are not welcome here

Dear Mischievous Criminal,
You are not wanted on this campus. To put it bluntly you are not welcome nor have you ever been welcome here at Oakland. You have done nothing but cause fights, break into cars, and your latest move impressed us all: stealing two cars from the Resident Hall parking lot. We, as OU students, realize

there is a high probability that you are not a fellow Grizzly, but merely a friend of an OU student.

We would love to explain to your friend these simple facts: if they do not stop bringing you to our campus there is going to be another banning of student events. We all remember last year when the same thing happened. Administration told us that we were not allowed to bring guest to events, and dances were no longer allowed.

Hey, friend of the mischievous criminal, do you not understand that by you bringing your friend to our campus you are wrecking everything for everyone else?

Do you not understand that we are paying good money that we worked hard or saved hard for to enjoy a fun yet safe campus? Do you not understand that we, the OU student body, do not want your mischievous friend here? Do you understand that we hold you just as responsible as your criminal friends?

So, Mr. Criminal, do you get the point yet? Your scandalous behavior is completely unwanted. We will tell you directly, go away! Go away and come back when you are ready to become an asset to this community. Go away and come back when you realize this wonderful place is home to wonderful people not low-lives like yourself.

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What do you think? Or got a news tip?

Send your comments to
The Oakland Post.

Letter Policy: Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

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

In last week's issue in the Perspectives section, Bryan Austin's column was inaccurately named "Token' and smokin' the maryjane can lead to a dead end." The article did not focus solely on the usage of marijuana but rather all drugs in general.

The Oakland Post is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press.

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

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

FBI: Michigan ranks third in number of reported hate crimes

(AP) — A group of law enforcement and civil rights organizations held a news conference Tuesday in Detroit to try to stem the increase, pointing out their enforcement and education efforts against bias.

"The more these things occur, the more resources we're going to pour into them," U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said.

Michigan had 556 hate crimes in 2004, ranking it behind only New Jersey and California, the FBI said. The 2004 number in Michigan was a 30 percent increase over the 427 reported in 2003.

Daniel Roberts, special agent in charge of the Detroit FBI office, said Michigan's increase could be due to better reporting by local law enforcement agencies.

But Linda Parker, director of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, said her staff has seen numbers rise, including a spike during the past summer that prompted officials to call the news conference.

The state agency has an intervention team that responds to communities where hate crimes have surfaced, and it has handled more incidents than in previous years, Parker said.

A commission spokesman said it only recently started tracking hate crime complaints and responses, and specific numbers weren't available.

Parker said Michigan is among the most segregated states in the nation, and that con-

tributes to hate crimes.

"Most Michigan citizens seldom interact on any significant level with people who are different from them," Parker said.

Murphy pointed out that his office recently won guilty pleas from two men accused of threatening Muslims who attend an area Islamic center, and another man was sentenced to prison for lying to FBI agents about a racially motivated arson case.

"If you violate civil rights laws in this district, you'll be prosecuted and you'll be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," he said.

Of the hate crimes reported in Michigan in 2004, 65 percent, or 366, were motivated by racial bias, Roberts said.

Heaster Wheeler, executive director of the Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the best way to stop racially motivated and other hate crimes is for people to speak up against bias and for victims to report crimes to authorities.

"We call upon all people of goodwill to stand with us and speak up against any behavior that violates fairness and decency," he said. "Nobody should be subject to or victims of threats, attacks, intimidation, violence or even death because they are different," he said.

California, the nation's most populous state, reported 1,393 hate crimes in 2004 to lead the nation. New Jersey was second with 769.

SPENDING

Cont. from A1

ing its way up to 98.9 points.

"The key is 90 or 100 or above," said Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board Consumer Research Center, "(it's) indicative of a healthy economy."

Franco said that the figures posted can be affected by any shock, such as a natural disaster.

"It was a double whammy with Katrina and Rita," and those resulted in a huge spike in gas prices, Franco said. "Shock is a temporary impact."

She added that the index has seen rebound months in the past.

She said that October yielded a pessimistic outlook, and November's decrease in gasoline has helped the outlook.

The CCI fell in September after reaching 105.5 in August, to a meek 86.5, the report's lowest level since Oct. 2003.

The University of Michigan's survey of consumers for November saw a rise in the Index of Consumer Sentiment as it reached 81.6, up 7.4 from October, but less than the 92.8 recorded in November 2004.

"December is when the spending spike happens," said Fuad Hasanov, assistant professor of economics. "It's hard to say, it's up to how the consumers perceive the economy."

He said consumers might also be cautious this holiday season because of the potential for a harsh winter, one that could cause the cost of fuel to rise again.

Another reason that Michiganders may be more cautious is due to a weak labor market; the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a loss of almost 50,000 jobs in the last year.

Michigan was one of only three states to lose jobs in the last year, the other two are Louisiana and Mississippi, which the bureau attributes to Hurricane Katrina.

The National Retail Federation is predicting good things for this holiday shopping season.

The NRF is predicting a 6 percent increase over holiday season 2004, with 2005 spending expected to total \$439.5 billion. This is a 1 percent jump from the NRF's early prediction in late September, the first time it has raised its prediction. That figure is down slightly from the 6.7 percent increase last holiday season, which was the largest since 1999. The NRF reports that the retail industry sees 20 percent of its annual sales in November and December.

The NRF reported that "Black Friday" weekend sales, starting Thanksgiving Day and extending through Sunday, Nov. 27, saw an estimated increase of almost 22 percent in sales over 2004, at 27.8 billion. More than 60 million shoppers took part in the annual holi-

day shopping kickoff.

The Conference Board predicts that American households will spend an average of \$466 on gifts this season.

Shop.org predicted that nearly 59 million shoppers would hit the Internet on "Cyber Monday," the day following the kickoff weekend where customers browse different inventories from the comfort of their own home, or place of business.

Consumer sentiment at Oakland University seems mixed in regards to online commerce, regardless of how much is being spent overall on gift items.

"Shopping online is convenient, you don't have to go to the mall and stand in line," said freshman Shawna Jarubas, who plans on spending between \$200-\$300 this holiday, predicting that about half of that would be online buying.

"It's crowded, and it can be hard to find things," she added of the malls, but she said that she does go to view the decorations.

"When you get to this time of year it gets so busy, the malls are so packed," said junior Patrick Winkel. "You can't find anything."

Winkel said he plans on spending around \$100 this season.

The same reasoning can be used to head out to the malls, "Everything you find online, you can find in stores anyway," said sophomore Stephanie Ferdig.

She said that she will use her credit card to accomplish her list of 20 gift recipients, which should total between \$200-\$300.

Sophomore Evan McCausland feels that shopping in stores is better because, "The product is in my hands, and I know what it is."

He does like to use sites online to do his own product research and to view customer feedback.

"I'm at home, and I can narrow it down, I like to have that down pat before I go to the store," McCausland said he does, however, shop on Ebay for items that are not available in the United States. McCausland said he uses cash for his purchases, BIGresearch.com said that 25.9 percent of shoppers used greenbacks last holiday.

The same figures show that cash payments have been replaced by debit/check card spending, while credit cards have been a close second choice the last two seasons.

The NRF reports that online holiday sales increased 23.8 percent in 2004, and a similar increase is expected this year, 22 percent, for a total of \$172.4 billion (including online travel purchases).

The CCI is an average of five different questions posed each month to a different 5,000 household panel based on current business conditions, employment conditions and total family income.

HAWKS

Cont. from A1

Wooten hit his first 3-pointer of the game.

By halftime, OU narrowed the gap to a seven points, with a score of 38-31.

The second half started out promising for the Grizzlies.

Sophomore David Carson hit a 3-pointer, and Wooten had three treys of his own.

But every time OU bounced back, the RedHawks were always a step ahead of them.

With 13:09 remaining, Wooten scored a layup, bringing the home team within one. But their hopes of gaining the lead diminished when Miami (Ohio) sophomore Tim

Pollitz made two layups back to back, giving the RedHawks a 5-point lead.

In fact, Pollitz was the RedHawks' go-to man in the post, finishing the game with 23 points, 20 of those coming on layups.

OU's situation only got worse, as Miami (Ohio) found themselves with a comfortable 12-point lead with 1:57 remaining in the game.

Even last-ditch efforts from Wooten and Carson weren't enough to keep the Golden Grizzlies afloat.

Wooten finished with 23 points, Carson added 18, and Nelson chipped in with 13.

For the Redhawks, in addition to Pollitz's 23, junior Nathan Peavy was right

behind him with 20, and Hatcher finished with 15.

OU head coach Greg Kampe was not pleased with his team's performance.

"We're not ready for prime time," he said. "We'll be ready for it soon."

Also, Kampe did not like his team's attitude.

"We became a we-hope-Cal-gets-us-back-in-the-game team," he said. "And we can't do that."

Wooten shot just 8-25 from the field.

"Coach told me there'd be days like these," Wooten said. "He said to keep my head up and keep shooting the ball."

OU's next game is Dec. 10 against St. Louis at 6 p.m. in the O'Rena.

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Demolition



A garage next to the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority house on Adams Road across from Oakland University was destroyed last month. The destruction of the garage, which was part of the Meadow Brook Hall Historic District, was ordered because lack of maintenance had caused the structure to deteriorate. Dan Wilkinson/Photographer

THEFT

Cont. from A1

"Based on the location of the cars, we cannot discount that it's the same people doing it," he said.

The closed-circuit television cameras that monitor the lot were reviewed, but the examination did not reveal any additional information on suspects, Gilroy said.

The recent thefts have more damage than previous incidents, Gilroy said.

However, there is no estimate available for the cost of damage done.

Four of the cars vandalized this past week had several windows broken; only one window was broken in the previous incidents.

In most of the cases of theft and vandalism, the targeted cars were parked away from lights and buildings.

The string of crimes has left students concerned for their safety and protection of their cars, and some have taken precaution.

"I park in the student apartments (lot) now," said freshman Mike Kondratek. "Someone needs to do something to secure the parking lot better."

Since the acts, University Housing has been working closely with OUPD to keep students safe and informed.

A flyer explaining the situation was distributed to all resident students and is posted at every entrance to the dorms.

"Creating awareness is by far our best weapon," said Jeff Frankowiak, Vandenberg Hall director. "We're just trying to be as proactive as possible."

Freshman Chris Cheng said he would feel safer if OUPD was more visible and alert.

"It's not just informing. At night, you don't even see OUPD in the lot," he said.

Gilroy said patrols have been increased in the lot, however. "The police are committing all available resources to resolving this situation," he said.

Other students are concerned, but they have not taken any measures to protect their cars. "I think there are so many cars, what are the odds of it happening to me?" said freshman Martin Heitkamp.

"I feel pretty safe, I don't have a CD player," said freshman Jessica Pirrone. "If it happened to me, I'd be mad, but I have to have my car here."

If you have any information on the incidents, please call OUPD at (248) 370-3331.

The Oakland Post will be on holiday break until Jan. 11. Enjoy your break and stay safe!

Students share their 2005 favorites

Remember the last time you left home without your iPod or laptop? How about the last time you sat down to do your homework but ended up browsing Facebook or Myspace instead?

This past year, these habits and a variety of others have become a common part of life for many Oakland University students.

In a survey conducted of approximately 100 students in the Oakland Center, students were asked to name their favorite things of 2005.

Answers varied. Some had started eating different foods, frequenting new places, using updated technology and even studying more.

But no matter the response, there's one thing on which all students agreed: It's difficult to picture their current lives without these new favorites. Here is what OU students found to be their favorite new trends of 2005:

- iPods
- Cell phones
- Laptops
- Eating Subway everyday
- Facebook
- Myspace
- Wednesday's at JD's Key Club
- Maggie Moo's at The Village of Rochester Hills
- Shopping at The Village of Rochester Hills
- Going to La Shish across from school
- TGI Friday's on weekends
- Drinking Mountain Dew
- Playing video games
- Eating in the Oakland Center
- Drinking Red Bull and other energy drinks
- Skipping class
- Caffeine
- Online poker
- Playing cards in the Oakland Center
- Playing table tennis and raquetball in the Rec
- Going to OU hockey games

Information compiled by Senior Reporter Alicia Sossi

"My iPod helps motivate me when I'm working out."
— Senior Chrisovalanto Moschouris



CAMERA PHONE
"I take pictures of everything. I want to capture each moment."
— Senior Simon Thomas



MYSPACE
"You can see friends and get in touch with people you haven't seen in a while."
— Freshmen Kelly Bryks and Allison Seeley



"I go downstairs, put on some music and work out. It makes me feel healthier."
— Freshman Nadia Caparso



FACEBOOK
"It's the reason why my homework is never complete."
— Sophomore Andy Hansen



"A relationship is not official until it's on facebook."
— Senor Kevin Zagorski

Your life

"Laptops are mobile. They let you maximize the time you have between classes."
— Senior Cadari Taylor



"I made the OU cheerleading team this year. It's something I really love to do."
— Sophomore Stacey Rybinski



"Subway is open late, so it gives easy access to students who live on campus."
— Junior Kristina Anctil



MORE STUDYING
"I'm getting more into school now and it means more because I know what I'm doing."
— Sophomore Nicole Lansberry



JD'S KEY CLUB
"It's \$3 to park, \$4 to get in, thank God it's dollar beers."
— Senior Doug Rice



Satellite radio: It's like Cable television for your ears

By KRYSTLE CZAJKOWSKI
Contributing Reporter

Radio, records, 8-tracks, compact discs, MP3 players and now satellite radio. With radio host Howard Stern and companies such as E! Entertainment, Maxim and ESPN getting in on the market, but should the rest of the country? Is satellite radio worth all the hype, or should the public just keep to the plain and simple AM/FM radio? To enjoy satellite radio, you need the "satellite" radio itself, you need to decide on a payment plan, and you need to get your radio activated.

Sirius Satellite Radio

Sirius satellite radio projects by the end of 2005, both Sirius and XM providers will reach 9 million subscribers. According to Sirius.com, purchasing a radio can cost as low as \$49.99 or as high as \$1500, depending on how lavish a listener wants to go. They offer assorted car stereos, portable units and home units.

Just like cell phones and Cable TV, satellite radio requires a payment plan. For example, subscribers can pay a monthly charge of \$12.95 a month or pay one payment of \$499.99 to become a lifetime member for Sirius Satellite Radio.

Lastly, subscribers have to activate their radio for a fee ranging from \$9.99 to \$15.

Senior Patrick Hayes bought his girlfriend XM satellite radio for \$120 and pays \$30 for three months of listening.

"I think the radio I bought is \$50 now," he said. So what will these purchases get you? Sirius and XM radio are both 100 percent commercial free. Sirius offers 125 consecutive chan-

nels ranging from Howard 100 News to Raw Dog: Comedy Uncensored to the Sirius Trucking Network: Talk for Truckers. Among the 125 channels on Sirius Satellite Radio, the music styles include pop, rock, dance, Christian, jazz, blues, classical and more.

XM Satellite Radio

According to XMradio.com, consumers can get receivers for their satellite radio that range from \$49.99 to \$149.99. XM's plans are comparable to those of Sirius. A one-year plan can be purchased at \$142.45 or \$11.87 per month. Larger packages are also available.

The longer you subscribe to XM, the lower the price. XM radio also offers additional plans that customers can purchase. The plans include traffic, weather and XM for your business.

Does the FCC regulate content on satellite radio?

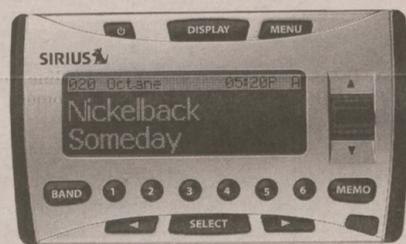
"Satellite radio is a freer medium," said Jim Collins, vice president of Communications for Sirius Satellite Radio. "We don't have all the same FCC regulations as regular radio."

"It's not content regulated, just like Cable and satellite TV," Collins said. "But we offer parental controls just the same for children."

With the endless amount of stations and a freer medium is satellite radio going to end AM/FM radio, as we know it? Collins said no.

"It was never our goal. Regular radio is very well entrenched all over," Collins said. "We don't cover all cities. We cover the top 22 markets in the country."

In an article in the Boston Globe titled "My View from Satellite Radio," Bob Edwards, who



Photos courtesy of <http://www.Sirius.com> and <http://www.xmsatelliteradio.com>. Graphic by Dante Ciullo/Photo Editor. Sirius and XM Satellite Radio offer a plethora of stations that are all 100 percent commercial free

recently switched from hosting the morning show on NPR to XM Satellite Radio to host "The Bob Edwards Show," voiced his opinion on satellite radio.

"Subscribing to XM doesn't mean that people will abandon public radio," Edwards said. "I tell my listeners to support their local public radio station. I find it upsetting that NPR sees me as competition."

So is satellite radio worth the money?

"It's cheap. It is annoying when you lose reception, but like your cell phone, you're not going to stop using it just because you lose reception sometimes," Hayes said.

Senior Lawrence Technological University student Ryan Murphy said he wouldn't subscribe.

"I'm not going to pay for something that I can already get for free," he said. "Regular radio is getting better with their long music blocks. If you're that concerned about commercials, get an MP3 player."

Christmas spirit alive at MBT

By KIM PETRYLKA
Contributing Reporter

Everyone has a specific adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" that they identify with. It could be the book, the movie or even Mickey's version of "A Christmas Carol."

With each adaptation, there is a familiarity. So, prior to even setting foot into the Meadow Brook Theatre, you already have your own set of expectations of this classic.

The lights dim; I hear carolers singing Carol of the Bells. Immediately, I am captivated. The revolving set displays Ebenezer Scrooge's office, the Cratchit's home and Mr. Fezziwig's Christmas party from year's past. The costumes and the set accurately portray 19th century England.

Whether it was the echoing voice of Jacob Marley or the wind in the distance when a spirit was coming, the sights and sounds of the play engage

the audience. My favorite character of the play was Thomas D. Mahard as Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge is a complex character. It was not that he never had cared for anyone, but rather that he forgot how to care and be happy. Mahard kept the audience's attention from beginning to end as Scrooge.

I don't know if it was the

Christmas songs playing as I walked into the theatre or the smell of the Old World Roasted Nuts, but this play made me think about the spirit of Christmas.

At the end of the play, the cast was given a standing ovation. As I left the theatre, I kept hearing praise from the audience.

Everyone was impressed with the whole experience, including myself.

review

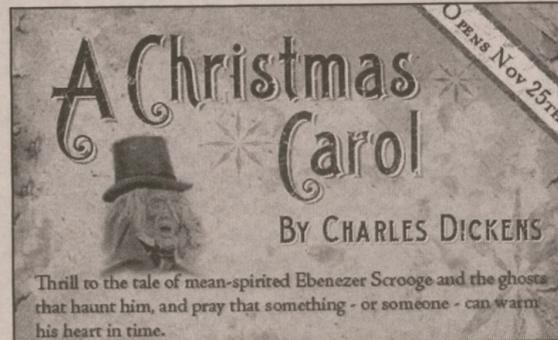


Image courtesy of <http://www.mbtheater.com>

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SPORTS

OU swims past field at Miami Invitational

The men's swimming and diving team avalanched its way to a 225-point title winning performance over the weekend. Building its lead each day, OU had swimmers qualify for the "A" final in every swimming event. Senior Chris Sullivan won the 100-yard butterfly with time of 48.64. Sophomore Chris Tansel took fourth in the same event, finishing just over a second behind Sullivan. Sullivan also won the 100-yard freestyle in 44.82. Sullivan, senior Eric Lynn, sophomore Zoltan Horvath and junior Bryon Tansel also won the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:30.31. OU will not be in action again until Jan. 7 in the OU Aquatics Center.

Hafeli and OU hot for a half

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Contributing Reporter

After leading by as many as 16 points in the first half and having four players score in double figures, the Golden Grizzlies fell to the visiting Wisconsin-Green Bay Phoenix 74-72 in their home-opener.

The Golden Grizzlies came out strong from the opening tip, scoring 10 unanswered points right out of the gate, including senior Anne Hafeli's first two 3-pointers. Hafeli was 7-7 from the arc in the first half and lead all players with 23 points going into halftime.

At the 14:55 mark, Oakland University led with 16 points, and WGB was searching for offense.

But the Phoenix's shots began to fall, including 11 points from junior Natalie Berglin, and began to close the gap on OU's lead. Nevertheless, the Golden Grizzlies never lost their command of the game and went into halftime leading 44-33.

The second half appeared to bring out a whole new WGB team. The Phoenix rallied with 13 points, including a 3-pointer from junior Amanda Popp and six points from junior Nicole Soulis, which brought them to within two points at 15:10 mark.

Furthermore, Hafeli, who had a hot hand in the first half, was held to only two points in the second.

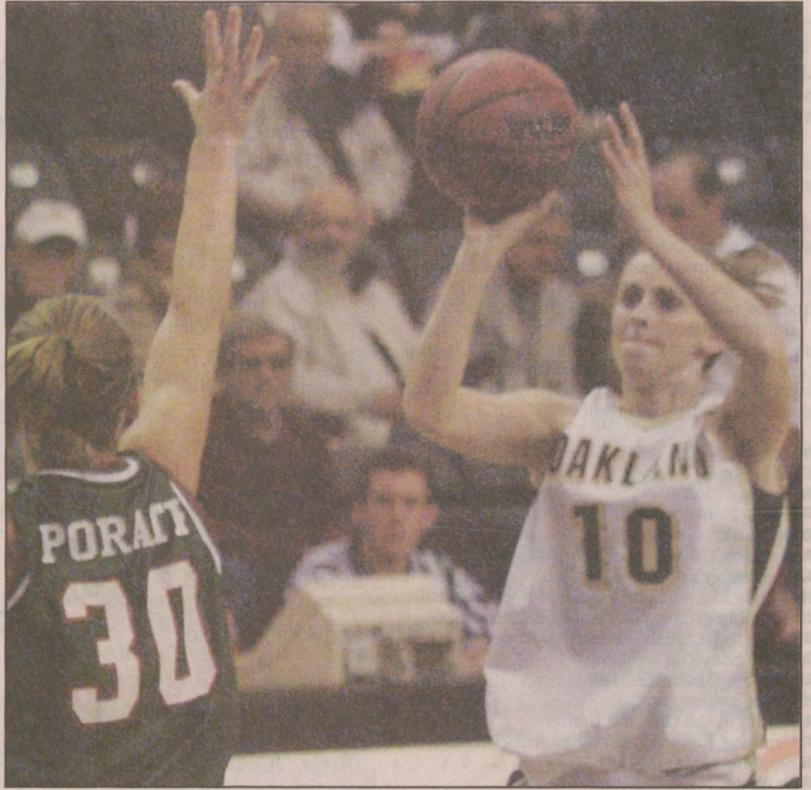
Senior Riikka Terava nailed a 3-pointer at 14:43, but WGB sophomore Kayla Groh answered right back with a trey of her own. From that point on, it was a fight to the finish for both teams.

After tying twice, WGB took the lead for the first time with a 3-pointer from Popp with 7:05 remaining in the game. Points from junior Nicole Piggott and treys from Terava and senior Jayme Wilson brought the lead back up to six, making the score 64-58 in favor of the Grizzlies.

But the Phoenix took the lead with only 3:60 remaining with a lay-up from freshman Lavesa Glover and didn't look back.

Ten second half points from Wilson brought the game within one point with four seconds left, 73-72. But Berglin made the first of her two free throws with one second to go and WGB held on, 74-72.

Hafeli led both teams with 25 points.



Senior Anne Hafeli scored 23 points in the first half on 7-7 shooting from long range, but OU wasn't able to hold its halftime lead and eventually fell to Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Wilson scored 12, Terava had 11, and Piggott banked 10 points for the Grizzlies.

For WGB, Berglin scored 23 points, Popp had 16, and Soulis finished with 10.

"We didn't come out attacking (in the second half)," said head coach Beckie Francis. "We came out more passive."

One of the key factors in the game was free throws. OU only went to the free-throw line once the entire game and WGB scored 11 of their points from the charity stripe.

"We've got to get to the line more than

the threes we make," said Francis.

Piggott feels that it is time for OU to step up. "We've got to take over in those close games," she said. "We're getting into our season now, so we can't use many excuses."

Francis gives WGB credit for their comeback in the second half.

"They were well-coached and have been to the NCAA Tournament in their conference seven years in a row," she said. "They are a solid, solid team."

The next home game will be Dec. 10 versus Illinois State at the O'Rena.

Detroit Sentiments?



Composite by Dante Ciullo with images from The Associated Press. During the Detroit Lions vs. Minnesota Vikings game, one in which they lost 21-16, an unidentified fan circled Ford Field with a "Fire Millen" sign. The fan was cheered loudly as many shared his same sentiments. Millen, president of the Lions, is responsible for the worst record in football since 2001.

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