

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 21, 2007

Volume 33, Number 22

THE SCENE

DETROIT AND HOLLYWOOD COLLIDE TO PROMOTE "THE LAST MIMZY," AND THE POST GETS INVITED TO THE PARTY

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LOCAL

AN UPLIFTING STORY ABOUT CONQUERING OBSTACLES THROUGH ART

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YOU

SCREWING AROUND? FIND OUT WHERE TO OBTAIN PEACE OF MIND IN THIS WEEK'S SEX COLUMN

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OU HOUSING PRESENTS EARLY SIGN-UP

The Residence Halls Fall Contract sign-up begins Monday, March 12, 2007

PHASE ONE: SAME HALL/SAME ROOM

Date: March 12-13, 2007

Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Location: Housing Office, Hamlin Hall

PHASE TWO: A). ROOMMATE PICK-UP

B). GROUP HOUSING

Date: March 15 - 16, 2007

Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Location: Housing Office



One lucky student will win
A FREE DOUBLE ROOM
(Fall Semester Only)

PHASE THREE: A). ANY HALL, ANY PLACE, ANY ROOM

B). USA Apartment Sign-up

Date: March 28 -30*

Time: 7:30am - 5:00pm

Location: March 28, OC Fireside Lounge

March 29-30, Housing Office

*Students can begin picking up their lottery numbers on March 12, 2007 for participation in Phase three. The office is open from 8:00am - 5:00pm.

STUDENTS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN EACH PHASE?

PHASE ONE:

- Hill Residents
- Van Wagoner Residents
- Vandenberg Residents
- Fitzgerald Residents

PHASE TWO:

- Groups of individuals who would like to live together of no fewer than 8 and no more than 12 (doubles only)
- Students chosen to room with residents who reclaimed their same room during Phase One

PHASE THREE:

- All Residents
- Commuter Students

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SIDE LOUNGE ON MARCH 28,
2007!!!**

THIS WEEK 03.21.07

THE OAKLAND POST
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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The lowdown on OU's "Rising Stars," a look into the activities of the student program board and loads more...



Perspectives page 10

A plea to make OU's administration more accessible, meet the dynamic duo who are running unopposed for the highest offices in student congress



you page 12

Before you discount the idea of taking a job in Boise, read that there's more to the town than farmland and spuds



The Mix page 14

See whose mugs we've got this week and tune into what Men's Basketball Head Coach Greg Kampe is listening to on his iPod



Local page 16

Miracles take the form of art in downtown Rochester and learn all about the governor's proposed "sin-tax"



Sports page 18

A senior basketball send-off, plus coverage on the WNIT



the Scene page 22

The two Hollywood powerhouses behind "The Last Mimzy" fondly remember old Detroit



MOUTHING OFF page 27

Why is the media fattening us up with a story on an overweight boy?

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The man who wasn't there...

President Russi and the administration have accomplished a great deal — so why aren't they as accessible and visible as they should be? Special Projects Reporter Kyle Magin attempts to draw back the curtain

Executives, whether they are presidents, chairpersons or CEOs, are by their very definition recognizable figures. Oakland University students can probably identify George Bush, Chrysler chairman Dieter Zetsche (Dr. Z) or Pistons President Joe Dumars.

Can you, however, pick Oakland University president Gary Russi out of a lineup?

Are you aware that he raised millions of dollars and added more than 40 majors during his 11 years in control of the school?

Or that last fall he received a raise worth \$15,000 per year, a \$7,500 bonus and a five-year extension?

No?

Not surprising, according to some Oakland students.

"I've never seen (Russi)," said junior Charlie Ko, "I sort of know his name but I don't know anything about him. I don't know what he does or who he is."

When asked to name his president, sophomore Jason Duclos' face went blank. "We have a president?" asked Duclos.

Freshman Brashanth Rajendran echoed Duclos, "I don't even know his name."

"He probably should be more visible," said freshman Amanda Pawlowski.

ACCOMPLISHED

Under the current president and board, Oakland is enjoying great success. The university has introduced more than 40 new majors, and 50 new faculty positions during this academic year alone. The Recreation Center, Elliot and Pawley halls, the Science and Engineering building and the University Student Apartments were constructed during Russi's tenure. Grizzly athletics made the leap to Division I status and Oakland men's basketball coach Greg Kampe is spearheading a campaign to raise \$55 million dollars for OU athletics. Also, in 2005 Oakland announced "Innovation and Opportunity - The campaign for Oakland University," with a stated goal of raising \$110 million for OU by 2010.

"His leadership in developing the university's ten year strategic plan and communicating its purpose has contributed inestimably to the success of our ongoing capital fund campaign,



C.M. GRASKI/The Oakland Post

which has raised over \$73 million for OU in a little more than two years," said Dennis Pawley, chair of Oakland's board of trustees. "As a board, we're thrilled that the president agreed to (the extension) and hope he will lead the university into a very challenging future."

The raise gives Russi \$230,827 per year, and the extension will guarantee his leadership through at least 2012.

Russi's salary isn't out of line. It rests exactly in the middle of those paid to other presidents in the state. His record, Pawley noted, warranted the raise.

Why the raise and contract extension were approved as part of a consent agenda (items

approved as a group) during a special formal meeting (not open to the public) held by teleconference on Nov. 1 is a mystery. Pawley excused it as being routine. But no record of attendance at the meeting or of discussion on the topic has been released. Russi's contract extension wasn't officially announced by the university until Nov. 27 in a press release which made no mention of the raise. A written record of the board action is available online, but it's not easily accessible.

MAN OF MYSTERY

Russi can be difficult to access as well; particularly to members of the student media

who seek timely comment on stories. He was not available for comment on this piece, and university Director of Media Relations Ted Montgomery indicated that his schedule was jammed until late April (the Post's last regular publication date is April 18).

Recently, Montgomery told WXOU, Oakland's radio station, that the president would not have time to sit with them until "fall semester at the earliest," according to the station's news manager Stevie Staeger.

"We got one e-mail back from (Montgomery) saying that Russi wouldn't be available until fall, and I was like 'fall? What the hell?'" Staeger said. "It's hard enough to get news on campus and this doesn't help us at all."

"Oakland has been especially egregious when it comes to open meetings and dealings with the press," said Dawn Hurtz, a First Amendment lawyer. "Usually the reason for being so secretive is because someone is trying to hide something."

PRESIDENTIAL PRECEDENCE

Presidents don't operate the same way at every Michigan university. At the State News, Michigan State's student newspaper, MSU president Lou Anna K. Simon has been directly quoted five times within the past month and a half. The State News' administrative reporter, Kristi Jourdan, confirmed that she has access to Simon's "home number, her cell phone number, her office number and everyone else who works for her, I have their information," Jourdan said.

MSU maintains a total enrollment of 45,520 according to its Web site, in contrast to OU's 17,737. At Central Michigan, a university closer to OU's size with a listed enrollment of 27,427, President Michael Rao will respond directly to student-media e-mails, confirmed CM-Life reporter Katie Mauer.

PACKED SCHEDULE

"The position of the presidency is a full time job," said current Oakland professor and former president Sandra Packard. "I worked seven days a week and the job requires 12 plus hour days. It's a very high stress position and I like to say the higher I climbed in the administration the less I made per hour."

continued on next page

"Oh? Gare-Bear?" laughed Student Congress president Madalyn Miller. "He's a very busy man. I periodically meet with him and if I need something he can usually make time, but he is a university president."

"This guy is up at the crack of dawn and goes straight through the rest of the day," said Montgomery.

BODY GUARD

Montgomery should know. His position requires him to handle any media contact with Russi, including e-mails directed to the president's account, which is listed on the school's Web site. Russi's listed phone number will lead the caller to a secretary, effectively leading again to Montgomery. He remains a stronger presence when attempting to reach the administration than the administrators themselves.

MSU's Jourdan also told the Post that she tried to reach administration officials at OU in regards to a story she worked on for the State News, adding that it "was like pulling teeth."

During research for this story, the Post sent questions to the president through Montgomery. One question posed regarded presidents at other universities taking time to interview with media outlets, and President Russi not doing so (see side bar). Montgomery contacted the Post, asserting the questions were inappropriate and should not be posed to a university president.

THICKLY VEILED

The president's office is so pointedly unmarked in Wilson Hall that it's conspicuous. The door isn't labeled and the adjacent window is always shuttered.

Despite the fact their office, in the same hallway, is marked, most members of the board of trustees are also difficult to contact. A student's best chance is to grab a member's attention after a board meeting. The university's Web site lists the contact information for only two members of OU's eight-member board of trustees. Listed is a phone number for Chairman Dennis Pawley and Vice Chair David Fischer at on-campus extension 3112. The number, though, leads to an office secretary and directly to neither of the board members.

HOW OTHERS OPERATE

Conversely, other state schools provide more comprehensive contact information for their board of trustees. Eastern Michigan supplies addresses; CMU, Michigan Tech, the University of Michigan and MSU give addresses, phone numbers and emails. For this story, MSU board member and former football coach George Perles was contacted by phone directly.

"For student newspapers and young people it's important that we're open to talk to, because it has a big effect on their life, we

deal with their tuition so I think that, yeah (openness) is healthy," said Perles.

Fellow MSU board member Donald Nugent echoed Perles. "We are a public institution dealing with public money," Nugent said, "It's important that the public is a part of that."

If you'd care to comment on this article, please send all feedback to oakposteditor@gmail.com, or call 248-370-4268.



Photo courtesy of The Oakland Press

Ted Montgomery, director of media relations. He's the guy you'd have to get through in order to talk to Russi directly — which is no easy task.



President Russi watches the first round of the WNIT unfold last Thursday. Russi is often a visible presence at home basketball games, showing his support for Grizzly athletics.

C.M. GRASKI/
The Oakland Post

The Post presented these five questions to President Russi Wed. March 14. They were received by Ted Montgomery; some were answered, some were deemed "innappropriate." Russi himself had yet to directly respond to any of these as of press time last night.

- 1. You've done a great deal for the university since your appointment, raising 73 million dollars in two years and increasing enrollment. What's the most important thing you've accomplished in your opinion?**
- 2. What are your goals for the length of the contract extension, what things do you hope to accomplish in the next five years?**
- 3. Other universities also provide contact information for all the trustees on their board, including email and personal contact information. OU does not. Why?**
- 4. Presidents at other state universities, such as MSU and CMU are available to the media. President Russi, you rarely give personal interviews to the media. Do you plan to change this practice during the next five years in office?**
- 5. The board reappointed you for five years in a consent agenda on November 1st, the details of that agenda were not provided in writing until November 27th. Why?**

Rising Stars face off

By **BRITTANY OCHTINSKY**
Contributing Reporter

Viewers across the country have fallen in love with "American Idol," and Student Video Productions hopes Oakland University will fall in love with "OU Rising Stars," their take on the popular reality TV show.

The outcome of the show will be determined this weekend as OU students will have a chance to vote for their favorite act Saturday night, but it won't actually air until the fall. Not only will it keep the student body in suspense, but it will also allow time for the show to be edited and pieced together.

What started off as a Battle of the Bands quickly turned into a reality TV show when Student Video Productions decided to tape the show.

"If you film a Battle of the Bands, it's not going to be very interesting," said Ryan D'Silva, who acts as the show's Ryan Seacrest. "It's basically a concert that airs once, so we said, 'Let's go all out and make it happen.'"

Auditions were held and the field was narrowed from nine acts to six. Each band or musician came in and played two songs in front of the judges, Demetrios Anastasiow, Courtney Brooks and Robb Lauzon. The judges then met behind closed doors to determine who would

make the cut, unlike American Idol where contestants are told on the spot whether they made it through to the next round.

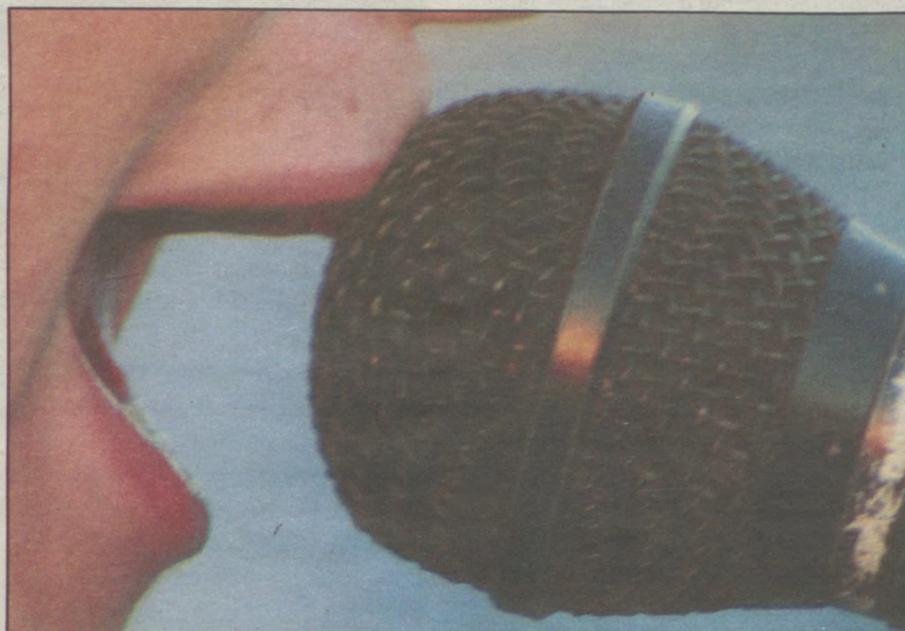
The judges' personalities correspond with those on "American Idol," with Brooks being the Paula Abdul of the group, while Anastasiow is the laid-back Randy Jackson and Lauzon falls into the role of a less harsh Simon Cowell.

"We decided when we started this show—because we wanted to help these bands out—that we didn't want to be demeaning," D'Silva said. "If any criticism was aired out, it was completely constructive."

While the object was not to limit the talent to just one genre, this year's show is geared more toward a rock/alternative feel. Even within that, there is a wide range of talent. The show opens up with three acoustic acts, the Sheeny Men, Pato Margetic and Tom Butwin, then transitions into three electric bands, Laleo, Love Lies Bleeding and closes with the heavy metal band Beyond the Grave.

"None of the hip-hop, pop, or R&B people came out, which I was a little disappointed about because our goal was to diversify it," D'Silva said. "Not too many girls came out either. We only had one, and, unfortunately, she didn't make the set, but maybe next year we can get that dynamic going."

When the show is broadcast this fall, each act will have its own episode with



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Six acts will compete Saturday as part of "OU Rising Stars," hosted by Student Video Productions.

clips from the audition, behind-the-scenes interviews, as well as footage from the concert. The last episode in the seven-part series will be the finale, which will recap the previous episodes, show the bands who didn't make it and reveal the winner. The grand prize is a music video produced by

Student Video Productions which will air on OUTV after the series ends.

The concert to choose the winner of the first "OU Rising Stars" will be held in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center Saturday night from 5:30-10:00 pm. The event is free and open to all.

African jazz offers a new beat

By **C.M. GRASKI**
Contributing Reporter

An ice storm can stop some, but not all, of the African jazz band Imaginary Homeland from performing. Mark Stone, special music instructor for Oakland University's music, theatre and dance department and founder of the band, performed without his Homeland bandmates Friday.

Stone has been immersed in the cultures of Africa and their diverse musical styles since he participated in an exchange program as an undergraduate

student at the University of Michigan.

"A friend had participated in the program, and the way he described it made me realize there was no other place I'd rather be the following semester. Since then, all of my work as a professor and musician has been directly influenced by the music of Africa," Stone said.

Stone directs Biakuye Unity Ensemble and Southpaw Isle Steelband at OU. Both of these bands perform at community events, public schools, festivals, art institutes and universities.

Stone performed with another Biakuye member, Richard Kofi Ameyaw, founder

and director of the band Sunkwa.Ameyaw is also the associate director of the African Ensemble at Eastern Michigan University.

A native of Ghana, Ameyaw started his career as a musician at the age of nine, and he rose quickly through the ranks of the Pan-African Youth Orchestra to the senior orchestra, which performs internationally. He also teaches different styles of African music throughout the country.

"I enjoy bringing happiness to people through my music. Unlike Western sheet music, the music of Africa involves some music theory and rehearsal, but no performance is ever the same," Ameyaw said.

Imaginary Homeland is an African jazz band because, as Stone says, "most people know that jazz music is heavily influenced by African music."

"This is where jazz finds its African roots, in the unscripted expression of emotion that imbues each performance with uniqueness and joy," Stone said.

Stone is also the director of Akwabe, or "Welcome," a community group comprised of OU students, but anyone is encouraged to join.

Ameyaw's African Ensemble will be performing on April 14 in Pease Auditorium at Eastern Michigan University.

SPB suffers scheduling flops

OU administration attempts to postpone mainstage performance

By **JESSE DUNSMORE**
Senior Reporter

Carlos Mencia, host and star of "Mind of Mencia" on Comedy Central, will not be coming to Oakland as the Mainstage Comedian this semester, said Student Program Board Chair Tamara Kukuk. At the moment, it seems no one will.

"You know we really had banked a lot on having a big comedian at the end of the Winter semester here," Kukuk said, adding that university administration asked them to postpone the event until next semester.

"They didn't feel we had enough time based on the amount of that event, the price tag of that event," Kukuk said. "We were going to have about 3,000 tickets. We expected a lot of people."

SPB's budget is a percentage of the Student Activities Fund that all OU students pay into. The board organizes and funds activities ranging from talent shows to lectures. In the past, SPB

has presented Dr. Drew from MTV's "Loveline," New York Liberty player Camille Cooper, health educator Deanna Latson, and comedian Dane Cook.

However, attempting to fill the April 13 time slot left vacant by Mencia has proven difficult for SPB.

Kukuk said they considered The Fray, O.A.R. and Motion City Soundtrack, but couldn't find someone available on that date.

The Mainstage Comedian is just one problem the board has encountered this school year.

"We've had a lot of potential really great events, and things have just seemed to go wrong," Kukuk said.

SPB had planned to bring musical artists Danity Kane and Cherish to OU last semester. According to Kukuk, Danity Kane canceled their performance three hours prior to the show, leaving only Cherish.

"We gave away a thousand tickets...so it was going to be packed out over in the

"We've had a lot of potentially great events, and things have just seemed to go wrong."

Tamara Kukuk
Student Program Board Chair

Pavilion, but they ended up canceling, so it affected the event," Kukuk said.

Another problem was scheduling a lecture by ESPN analyst Stephen A. Smith.

"The agency we dealt with first was a middle agent, and a crooked one at that," said Kukuk, "so we found out that [the agent] was overcharging us, and...wasn't

actually getting the contracts over to [Smith's] agent."

Eventually, Kukuk said, the lecture came together. "He came, and it was great, and everyone was really glad about it."

She described the board's goal for events as "bigger and better," emphasizing quality over quantity. Kukuk said it has to be to attract the many students who commute to OU. "They don't want to waste their time; they don't want to waste their money. And they want to come out to something that they can recognize."

But this goal has proven hard to achieve.

"It's difficult to work with the larger artists. It's difficult with our area, with competing venues," Kukuk said. "Working with administration...we have to make sure that everyone is on the same page and that we move along with this vision together, and I definitely think that it's getting there."

CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIP\$

**Commuter Involvement Award
Volunteer Service Award
Sidney Fink Memorial Award**

Nomination forms are available in the CSA Office - 49 OC and online at www.oakland.edu/csa (CSA Forms), CMI Office - 121 NFH, Dean of Students Office - 144 OC, OUSC Office - 62 OC, & Campus Recreation Center

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

**Friday, March 30
5:30 PM - 9 PM
Banquet Rooms, OC**

Experience food, displays, music and entertainment representing countries from around the world! Check out OU's multicultural student organizations!!!

Oakland University Student Congress OUSC Elections

Monday, March 26 - Wednesday, March 28

All currently registered students are invited to cast their ballot for the next president and vice president of the student body, as well as student-elected legislature positions.

Passport Fair

**Apply for a US Passport in person on
Monday, March 26
10 AM - 2 PM
Fireside Lounge, OC**

Student Program Board Presents

"Denim & Diamondz Affair"

**Friday, March 30
9 PM - 1 AM
Gold Rooms, OC**

Dancing, Entertainment, Food, Prizes and More! *Come dressed to impress in your denim and diamond attire.* Free & Open to All OU students. One guest per OU student.

Volunteer Once a Month: Campus Clean-Up

**Sunday, March 25
Noon**

Meet in the Fireside Lounge

Keep **OU**r Campus Clean!
Breakfast & supplies
will be provided.

Current Events

**Panel
TODAY**

**Noon - 1PM
Fireside Lounge, OC**

Featuring Panelists

Peter Trumbore & Dave Dulio,
Political Science Department,
& Don Matthews, History
Department

Student & Greek Organization RECOGNITION NIGHT

**Wednesday, April 11
6:30 PM
Banquet Rooms, OC**

**Awards Nomination Packets
are available in the CSA
Office, 49 OC**

GAMES NIGHT IN THE OAKLAND CENTER FRIDAY, MARCH 23 8 - 11 PM FREE! FREE! FREE!!!

Bumpers Games Room
FREE billiards & table tennis

Video & Board Games
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THE ULTIMATE GAME SHOW

If you like Fear Factor, Jeopardy & Who Wants to be a Millionaire, you'll love **FEAR!**
9 PM, Gold Rooms

CSA SERVICE WINDOW EVENTS

Discount tickets for the following shows and events are available to 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 OC.

- Turnanot
- Sweet Charity
- Swan Lake
- Camelot
- Abduction From Seraglio
- Romeo and Juliet

OU bands get big break

By ROBERT PYLAR
Contributing Reporter

Two bands with Oakland University connections, That Was Something and Usual Suspect were eliminated after placing in the Top 25 of the mtvU/Drive-Thru Records, "Best Music on Campus" contest according to the mtvU Web site.

The contest, one of several sponsored by MTV's 24-hour college network and Drive-Thru Records, offers unsigned college bands and solo acts the opportunity to launch careers by winning deals with record labels. In addition to Drive-Thru, Epitaph and Def Jux have also awarded deals to winning acts.

Initially, the "Best Music on Campus" contest was a five-week event that took place once a year. The popularity of the event and the talent that participated forced the network to look at expansion, according to Senior Vice-President of Programming at mtvU, Ross Martin.

"It was incredible to see how college students across the country would

rally around their favorite bands," said Martin. "It got the people at mtvU thinking, why in the world are we doing this for 5 weeks in a year only?"

"Best Music on Campus" allows college acts to build online profiles with songs, videos and pictures. Any college student can also set up a profile, and may then view the artist's profiles and vote on their favorite performers. The best and most popular musicians obtain exposure on MTV, mtvU and mtvU tours. In addition to the contests held every 6 weeks, the network will award an annual "Artist of the Year" prize, which includes promotion, music and video deals worth up to \$1.5 million and a May appearance on the "Conan O'Brien Show."

That Was Something entered the contest following a strong showing in a fall competition sponsored by Epitaph.

"We made the Top 25 in the Epitaph contest without any advance promotion," said John O'Neill, OU student and drummer for the band. "There are some good bands out there and we're

going to keep at it. We're out there now. We could never walk away from playing music."

That exposure is the main goal of the network and the contests. "The main focus for 'BMO' right now is to really blow it out and create massive success stories," Martin said. "There's great music on campuses across the country; we're finding it and blowing it out."

"The two finalists for OU are incredible bands — really talented."

The Top 25 bands were narrowed to 10, and that group will be trimmed down to 5 this week. Voting will conclude on March 23 and the winner will be determined by a combination of online votes and a panel comprised of representatives of MTV Networks on Campus and Drive-Thru Records and/or music industry executives, according to the mtvU Web site.

Drive-Thru maintains a proud track record of discovering new talent, originally signing artists such as Dashboard Confessional and New Found Glory. Current artists include The Early

November, HelloGoodbye and Steel Train.

Last year's winner, Say No More, from California State University-Northridge has been touring with The Early November and expects to release its label debut in the next few months.

The current success of the contests and the network as whole, as well as the future of mtvU — which broadcasts to 750 colleges across the country — is explained by Martin.

"College students, like many of us, live their lives for music. Music, which helps determine who we are, is never going to die. The music industry is more challenged than ever before, but it's at once a crisis and an opportunity. We are certainly at an inflection point, but if history is an example, it's just going to get better. The challenges we face in music, television, film and radio will inspire us to deliver content in new and compelling ways."

Managing Editor Kelly Kozlowski contributed to this report.

POLICEFILES

■ One student reported that she was assaulted while playing a game with a group of students Wednesday in South Hamlin Hall. The victim stated it was her turn to play and she put her arm up to block the suspect from walking to the front of the group. When the suspect grabbed the victim's arm, she in turn hit the suspect in the stomach. This triggered the suspect to hit her across the head with an open hand and the victim countered with a hit to the face. The fight was broken up by the other players. The suspect claimed he thought the victim was playing around, so he hit her "playfully" on the side of the head. Official statements were collected from the suspect, victim and witnesses, and a photograph was taken of a scratch on the victim's right arm.

■ Police responded to a property damage claim Wednesday. When one student broke up with her boyfriend, he left her apartment and kicked the door to building 6000 out of anger. The kick caused the latch of the door to break. In addition, there was a hole in the wall near the door, though the victim did not witness any damage to the wall, only to the door.

■ Police responded to a call made by a resident assistant in North Hamlin Hall Feb. 12 after she tried to warn a group of students to turn their music down. She waited five minutes after knocking and when the door was finally opened for her, she saw an open bottle of beer on the dresser. One student admitted to drinking the beer in question and all three students agreed to take a PBT test. In turn, all three were cited for minor in possession.

OUSCBRIEF

Student Congress plans to spend \$7,500 on three iMac computers and three workstations. The new computers are being purchased for the Student Technology Center located in the lower level of the Oakland Center. Congress has a substantial amount of uncategorized funds available in their Winter 2007 Budget. Financial Director Rob Meyer and Student Services Director Jordan Twardy have been working with the Student

Technology Center to put this plan into action. The bill proposed by Legislator Marc Griffin, which allows the use of this money, was unanimously passed at this Monday's meeting. The money will also be used for professional signs or news stands to promote OUSC within the Tech Center.

-By Owen Sexton
Senior Reporter

Women's Studies Program Presents



"*Female Chauvinist Pigs* is both a convincing expose of sex and desire in contemporary America and an important cultural history." -Cathleen Schine



Ariel Levy

Ms. Levy will sign copies of her book after her lecture

Tuesday—March 27, 2007
Student Breakfast: 8:30—10 AM
Kresge 100
Lecture: 12 Noon to 1 PM
Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center

Levy argues that "*Female Chauvinist Pigs*" are typical of a culture obsessed with Britney Spears, breast implants, and Brazilian bikini waxes. She coins the term "raunch culture" to define the spread of the aesthetics and values of a red light district into mainstream society and she argues that this trend has become so pervasive, we barely notice it in action.

Co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Department of Sociology & Anthropology. For more information contact reger@oakland.edu or call the Women's Studies office at 248-370-3221

What does OU do for you?

By **JOE COLLARINI**
Contributing Reporter

As college students, we are constantly on a quest for knowledge. Learning in the classroom can be taxing enough, but learning about Oakland's various student services and other internal operations are assignments all in themselves.

The Senate Human Relations Committee sent a little help our way Wednesday, March 14. A panel of speakers, made up of directors and representatives of various organizations, gathered in the Fireside Lounge to speak directly with students about their individual concerns, hoping to explain how OU can properly serve them.

Jean Ann Miller, Director of the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development, discussed how her department is always looking to help out students with new activities and to provide support for them. She mentioned the significant expansion in the number of registered student organizations here on campus, growing from 90 just 10 years ago, to over 160 today. However, letting students know just what is available is difficult. "I think that's one of our biggest challenges, making sure we get those out to all students, not just involved students," Miller said.

Like Miller, many of the speakers made a point to stress that there are great services available on campus that are simply under-utilized. There

is one, in particular, that hits us all in the gut: extra food options. Lionel Maten, Director of University Housing, emphasized that the dining facility at Vandenberg Hall is one of the most untapped resources at the university, especially for commuter students. Resident Dining Director Patrick Stryzinski added that, to help make things even easier, there are meal plans offered specifically for commuter students. Another added bonus: "Lunch is all you can eat," Maten said.

While most students interviewed said that their overall experience at Oakland was enjoyable, there were several services they said they would like to see added or areas which they felt could be improved.

"It would be marvelous if we had the Public Relations Student Society of America at OU," said senior Briana Gustafson.

With an eye towards life after college, senior Chad Green said, "I would like to see better job placement and internship services here."

Even though the need for increased student awareness is ever present, Director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives Omar Brown-El said students also must take the time to do a little work on their own, and to show some enthusiasm for what is offered. "You need to be excited about your institution," said Brown-El.

For more information about OU's offerings, check out the links at www.oakland.edu.

Some of OU's best kept secrets

WXOU-FM

Oakland University boasts its very own radio station. Tune in to 88.3 FM.

SPECIALTY FITNESS CLASSES

The OU Rec Center offers yoga, tai chi, karate, pilates and water aerobics classes for a small fee (\$15/half semester buys you a pass to all classes).

WRITING CENTER

The Joan Rosen Writing Studio can be found in the northwest corner of Kresge Library. Get help with writing assignments, proposals and theses.

FREE COUNSELING

Get career or personal counseling at the Oakland University Counseling Center. As a student, your first six sessions are free. Twelve dollars per visit after that.

CHEAP CONDOMS

The Graham Health Center sells condoms 10 for \$2.12.

FREE ART GALLERY

The Oakland University Art Gallery, located at 208 Wilson Hall, shows free exhibits regularly. Donations are appreciated but not required.

HELP FOR THE UNDECIDED

Visit the Advising Resource Center at 121 North Foundation to check out different majors. You can also take a personality test to determine what majors are best suited to you.

STUDENT CONGRESS

Get free scantrons, meet your legislators and share suggestions or complaints in the comfort of 62 Oakland Center.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Construction continues to disturb the campus setting, bringing orange tape, orange cones and plenty of mess to OU.

Construction junction *Renovations on campus continue*

By **ROB TATE**
Senior Reporter

With yesterday being the official start of spring, you might be expecting beautiful weather and the beautiful scenery around campus that the season brings.

Unfortunately, this year you won't be seeing flowers blooming or a beautiful landscape anytime soon. The construction on campus will continue around the Oakland Center, North and South Foundation Halls and expanding down to Kresge Library and the Science and Engineering building.

The construction is needed to upgrade the water distribution system and work will continue through the spring due to a few set backs caused by the freezing

weather this winter.

"Since it has warmed up a bit, the contractor is making good progress and we hope to be back on track very soon," Senior Project Manager Steve Zmich said. Zmich is in charge of capital planning and design for Oakland University.

According to Zmich, the major portion of the construction will be completed in May and all the affected areas will be landscaped and things should return back to normal.

"The campus community has been very patient with all the detours, fencing, snow, and of course now the mud. We are very appreciative of this, and are doing everything we can to accommodate the traffic and complete the work as quickly as possible," Zmich added.

Perspectives

10

www.oaklandpostonline.com

March 21, 2007

EDITORIAL

Let us know who you are and what you're about, President Russi — we'd be very impressed

Oakland University's administration is doing a good job. Enrollment is up, students receive a high-quality education and millions of dollars pour in to ensure the future of this school. President Russi fights to make sure state funding for Oakland University remains consistent with funding received at Michigan's largest universities.

However, the administration is not accessible. Student-media interview requests to President Russi are met by a third party public-relations representative, creating an "us versus them" division. We understand and appreciate that Russi maintains an incredibly busy schedule, but waiting for an interview entails not days or weeks, but months? It shows a lack of respect toward the students who sign large checks with Oakland University in the "for" line. It shows that Oakland administrators still view students as children, rather than the adults that a college environment hopes to foster. Part of growing up means finally learning how to deal with the highest levels of power, how to feel out people who've earned their place at the top. How can we learn to reciprocate respect and trust towards authority when we aren't shown the same?

Compared to other state universities, Russi and the board of trustees might as well live in timeshares on the dark side of the moon. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses for the president and board, Web site fixtures at many other in-state universities, are relatively non-existent at Oakland. What do they have to hide from? Is their time so valuable that they are unable to communicate with their own constituents?

Representing a university as president shouldn't just mean soliciting funds and testifying in Lansing. Those things are immeasurable, instrumental in both the present and future of OU. But, the administration should take time for the students. Besides graduation and basketball games, few Oakland students ever see Russi.

In appearing so distant, so unreachable, the

administration fosters suspicion. Hiding on that scale causes ears to perk and figurative noses to "smell something fishy."

Thomas Jefferson once said, "I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it." Jefferson recognized this centuries before television and the Internet, before a 24-hour news cycle and before the press kept an eye on every action of authority. Jefferson understood that openness earmarked democracy, that secrecy is detrimental to the whole.

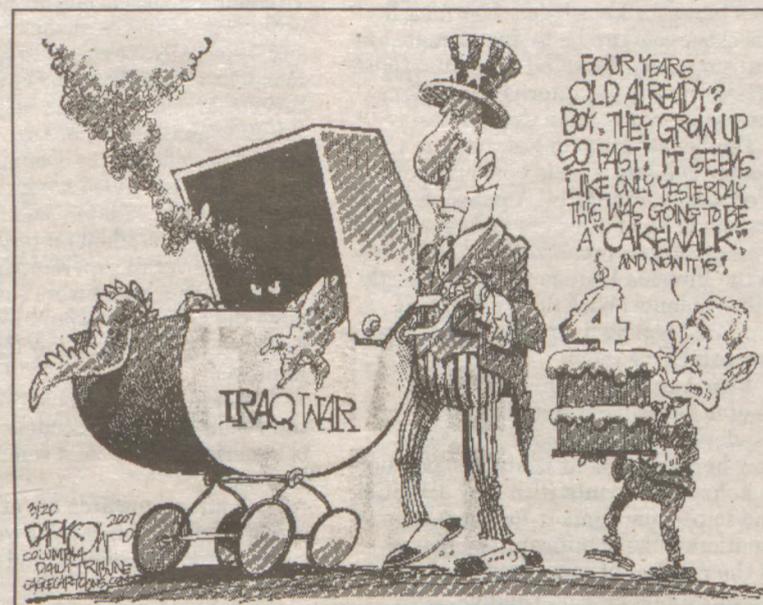
Russi and the board should take a page from the author of the declaration and err on the side of too much information, too much openness — instead of not enough.

Besides, they have little to hide from. Russi already raised \$73 million dollars towards Oakland's "Innovation and Opportunity Campaign for Oakland University," launched in 2005 with the goal of raising \$110 million by 2010. Oakland's basketball teams tasted NCAA tournament play during his tenure, while building after building rose on campus.

Students, we are just as culpable as the administration on this one. You must demand that those who make decisions with your money are called to action. Call your board members, attend meetings and get involved. Remember, they are accountable to you. You pay for their cars, put their children through college. Collectively, you are their boss.

President Russi, why not deal with your student-media outlets? What better way to connect with a student base that you are responsible for growing? Fostering good-faith through personal contact could be the key to piecing together a healthy student body. Forget the fact that more than 17,000 of us pay you thousands of dollars per year in tuition. Forget the fact that we, the students, grease the wheels of the Oakland machine. Simply remember that our success will determine your legacy.

— The Oakland Post



So much for a sweet victory. President Bush indicated yesterday that we still "can" achieve victory in Iraq. Quite different than his initial "we will" attitude.

What do you think? Have a news tip?

Send your comments to
The Oakland Post.

By e-mail:

editor@oakpostonline.com

By mail:

Letter to the Editor
The Oakland Post
61 Oakland Center
Rochester, MI 48309

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

Last week's cover illustration should have been credited to Celeste Filiatraut, our graphics editor and Web master. In the future all cover art will be credited.

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.

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

Dear EarthTalk: Do buildings with various "green" features cost more to build and operate than traditional buildings?

— Chris Wiedemann, New York, NY

It is difficult to do an apples-to-apples cost comparison of a "green" structure against one that is not due to differences in design, materials and other factors, including the location. But the general consensus is that a green building might well cost slightly more up front, but it will very likely reap the rewards of lower operating costs later.

The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program is the standard-bearer used today in evaluating the relative green-friendliness of building projects. A 2004

nationwide study conducted by Greg Kats of the research and consulting firm Capital E found that structures that qualified for the lowest LEED rating cost builders less than one percent more up-front than equivalent non-green buildings.

For projects with more ambitious green features that qualified for higher LEED ratings (silver, gold and the highest, platinum), the cost premiums went up from between 1.9 percent and 6.8 percent, still surprisingly low.

What surprised Kats even more, though, was the value of the payback. Kats found that the average cost premium for building green was about \$4 to \$5 per square foot, while the financial benefits derived over 20 years from incorporating sustainability features—such as lower energy and water bills—was in the range of \$49 to \$65 per square foot, or about 10 times the

value of the initial investment. Another 2004 study by Lisa Matthiessen of the consulting firm Davis Langdon came to similar conclusions. According to Matthiessen, incorporating sustainability elements in a project's design from the get-go — not layering them on later in the process—is essential to keeping the costs down.

Despite these financial benefits, Kats points out that there is unfortunately a "consistent disconnect" in peoples' minds between the higher up-front costs of building green and the ensuing savings in operating costs. He says that overcoming this is fundamental to understanding the value of green building.

And, of course, money is not the only issue. Transitioning to a greener built environment is important for the conservation of natural resources as well as for reducing pollution. According to statistics gathered by the U.S. Green Building Council, the 76 million residential and five million commercial buildings in the U.S. collectively consume 65 percent of America's electricity, 37 percent of its energy,

25 percent of its water supplies and 30 percent of its wood and materials. Likewise, buildings account for 35 percent of the nation's solid waste, 36 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, 46 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions, 19 percent of nitrous oxide emissions and 10 percent of fine particulate emissions.

Sustainable buildings, such as those that qualify for LEED certification, consume fewer resources, generate less waste, cost less to operate and provide healthier living and working environments for everyone — indoors and out.

**EARTH
TALK**
Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

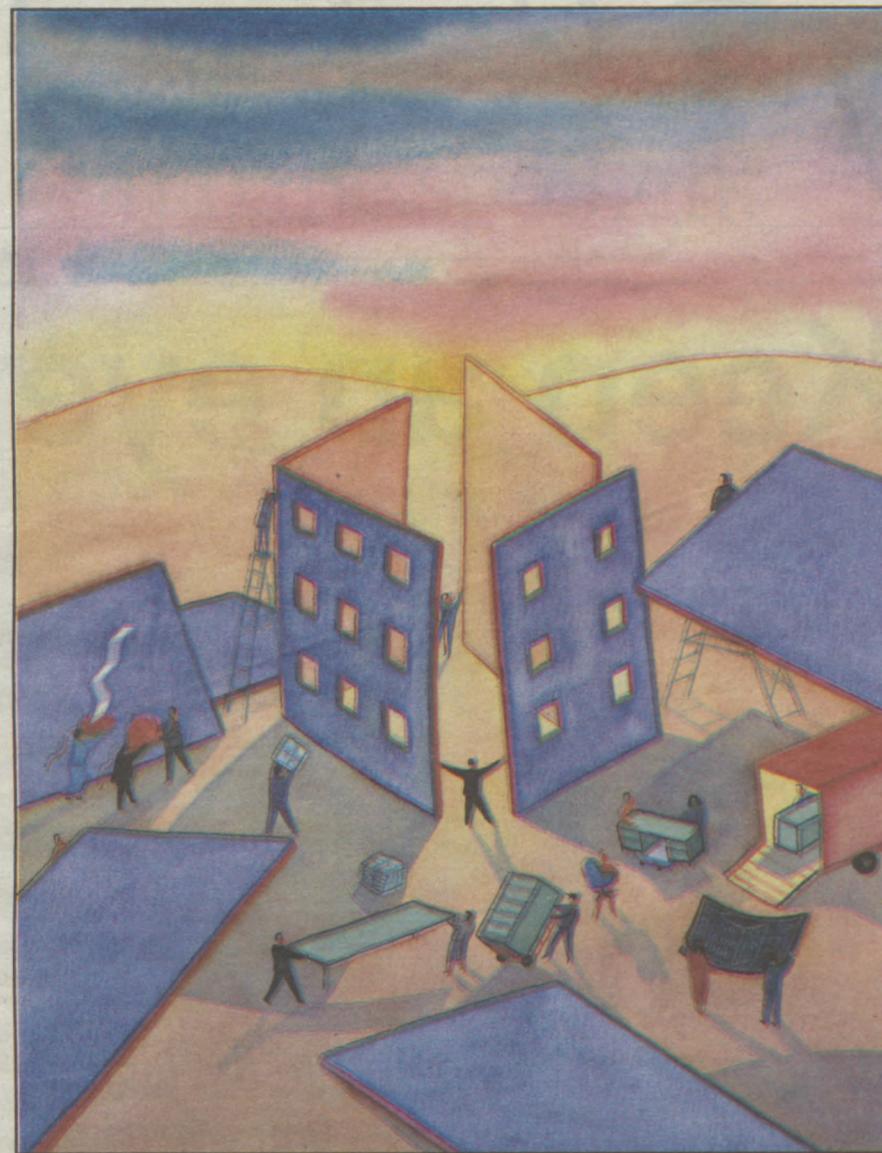


Illustration courtesy of Getty Images

Green building costs are kept lowest when features are incorporated into a project's design.

CONTACTS: U.S. Green Building Council, www.usgbc.org; Capital E's "Green Building Costs and Financial Benefits," www.cap-e.com/ewebeditpro/items/O59F3481.pdf.

GOT A QUESTION? Send it to: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

Unopposed candidate seeks change

By **ROB MEYER**
Guest Columnist

More student parking...increased library hours...better food options. Sound familiar? Students across Oakland University's campus express these concerns on a daily basis. But whose voice is going to be vocal enough to convey these concerns? With the student congress elections approaching rapidly, we need someone in office that will follow through with these common apprehensions.

Perhaps now would be an appropriate time to introduce myself. My name is Rob Meyer and I am running for student body president. I am currently the financial affairs director for Student Congress

Throughout my three years at Oakland,

I have seen little changes in student life on campus. Traditionally, Oakland has a preconceived conception as a commuter school. After all, a majority of students do commute to school and have not lived on campus before. Even I have not lived on campus before, but by no means does this mean I have no notion of what dorm life is like. As student body president, I want to revive student life on campus.

This will be done by revamping the Oakland Center, increasing commuter outreach programs and engaging students within Student Congress. More unity between Michigan universities is something I believe will be beneficial to all students. As president, I plan to work closely with neighboring universities to reestablish a new statewide student government

association where we as a university can gain innovative ideas and ways of bettering each other's respective universities. I would like to see more student programming on campus, amplified student attendance at all sporting events and to collectively draw away from the commuter reputation that Oakland University seems to have. If you have any further questions regarding myself, my running vice president, or my platform, I encourage you to send an email my way. (rjmeyer@oakland.edu). Voting takes place Monday, March 26 and goes until Wednesday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m., at www.oakland.edu/voteou. I would appreciate it if you and your friends would vote Meyer and Muhammad for student body president and vice president on the 2007 ticket.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Oakland Post,

I like your new format: easier to handle, and seems to have more and better stories. I think you missed the mark, though, when you did not include Professor Eddie Cheng, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, in your article this week, "OU faculty dress the part." He would surely win any contest for best dressed professor (and he's a great teacher, too, having just been selected by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America, as the best college or university math teacher in the state).

Professor Jerrold W. Grossman
Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics
Voicemail: 248-370-3443
Fax: 248-370-4184

you (your stories
your words
your style
your health)

Keep an eye



on Boise

If the prospect of moving to the big city after graduation leaves you covering your ears and coughing up imaginary smog, relax! Boise offers a growing job market, buzzing nightlife and clean mountain air.

By VICKY LEFEBVRE
Contributing Reporter

It isn't uncommon for college grads to have to pack up and move away for a job after graduation. The experience is undoubtedly life changing, and sometimes scary. But the transition can be easier when the new city has all the perks of a metropolis with the quiet atmosphere of a small town. Namely, Boise, Idaho.

But when someone mentions a city like Boise, what often comes to mind? Potatoes? Mountains? Um...potatoes? It's safe to say that Boise is not a city that most people are dying to move to post-graduation.

Tim Quick, a Boise-ite and former Michigan resident, moved to the city six years ago for a job in chemical engineer-

ing after graduating from Michigan Technological University. He and his new bride Tracey, who has lived in Boise since 1989, provided some inside information on the city that they say is one of the best-kept secrets.

Making a Living

Many of the job opportunities in Boise and most of the Northwest are in technology and engineering. Micron Technology, Hewlett-Packard, and Simplot Corporation are all headquartered in Boise.

The unemployment rate at the end of last year was 3.3% for the state, compared to the nation's 4.5% average, and jobs are expected to keep on growing, with a two percent annual increase for the next six years, according to the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor.

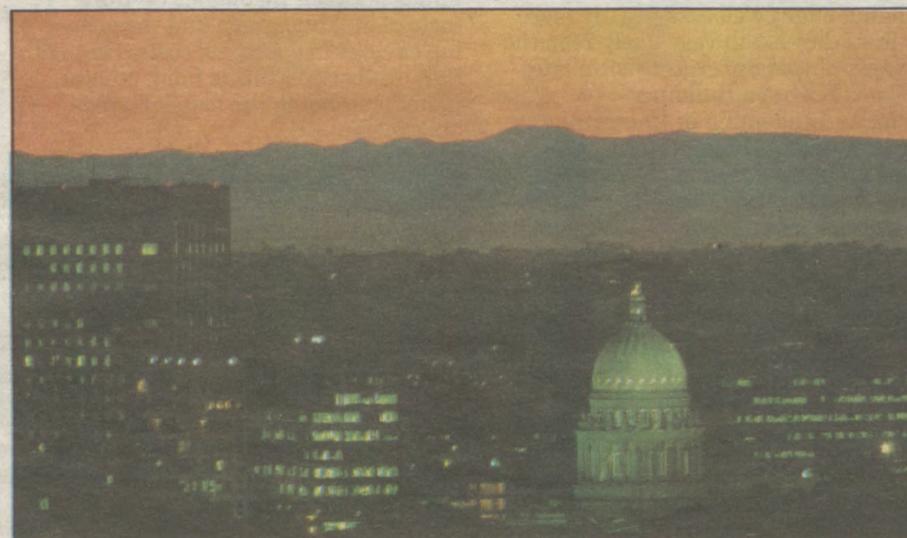


Photo courtesy Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau

Boise offers all of the attractions of a big city, but retains a small town atmosphere.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics says that jobs in construction, trade and transportation, and hospitality and leisure are on the rise in the city.

Home Sweet Home

Janeen Sanchez, a realtor at Coldwell Banker Aspen Realty in Nampa, Idaho near Boise, said that the majority of residents in the Boise area live in condos or houses. There are apartment complexes, but they are scarce.

"The North End community is really nice, and has a lot of homes to rent," said Sanchez. "The homes are older and have charm."

Sanchez recommended buying in Boise rather than renting. "With the way the prices are, you're better off to buy because sometimes rent costs as much as a house payment," she said.

Condos can range from \$98,000 to \$1 million, and most of them are in complexes like those in the Metro Detroit area. Sanchez said at least half of the homes that she would consider as good "starters" are in the lower \$100,000's.

The Quicks live in a small home near downtown, and say that the cost of living is "very reasonable."

Good Eats

The Quicks say one of their favorite places to eat is Satchel's Grill in downtown Boise.

"They show movies on their wall outside on evenings in the summer," said Tracey. The menu includes items like baked fries, veggie burgers, and hummus. The restaurant is also happy to adjust their meals

to fit dietary needs: those on various diets including South Beach and The Zone, as well as diabetics, can have their meal prepared a certain way.

Highlands Hollow Brewhouse, on the other hand, is all about comfort food. Located near Bogus Basin Ski Resort, about 16 miles from downtown Boise, Highlands Hollow is a favorite for skiers, hikers, and other outdoorsman. A popular dish at this brewpub is the "mess-o-chops": pork chops on top of a bed of fries smothered in molasses. They are also known for their unique tasting beers, including Spoon Tongue, Dooley's, and Hippie Shake.

Day Trips

The Boise Art Museum includes artwork that focuses on 20th century American art, and features many artists from the Pacific Northwest. The nature center gives visitors a taste of wild Idaho with game native to the area and various plants and brush. The Idaho Botanical Garden is the perfect place for garden lovers, offering unique plant collections and horticulture education. Though the sites in this garden are picturesque, only professional photographers with permission can take pictures.

In the summer months, there are farmer's markets every Saturday right in the downtown area, where local farmers and artisans sell goods including food, homemade soaps and lip balms, and artwork.

Continued on next page

Night on the Town

China Blue is a dance club downtown that plays mostly hip-hop music, and has viewing boxes and TV screens where shakers can watch themselves try their best moves. The ladies' bathroom features a small bar with a bartender for those that would rather drink privately than be bothered by some of the single guys with less-than-cool pick up lines. There's also a huge gong that alerts patrons when someone gives a big tip.

Across the street from China Blue is Tom Grainey's Sporting Pub, where the drinks are cheaper and the dance floor smaller than its neighbor's. Local bands can be found jamming at Grainey's regularly.

The Loft is another hot dance spot for bar hoppers 21 and up. On the weekends it's a popular bar, and during the week it transforms into a skate site for local skateboarders, with a large half pipe for boarders to practice and compete. So either way, people get their grind on.

The first Thursday of every month, local shops stay open later and serve up wine and tasty treats while music plays along the streets and storefronts.

The Great Outdoors

"Boise is great for anyone who likes the outdoors," said Tim. There are four ski resorts within a few hours of downtown Boise. The Boise River runs right through

the city, so kayaking and white-water rafting are pretty popular. In 2003, Bike Magazine ranked Boise the #1 city to live and mountain bike in. Because Boise is located at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, rock climbing and mountaineering are also popular.

The Little Big City

The Quicks said that the best thing about Boise is that it has all the perks of a big city, but also has the charm of a small town. Tim rides his bike to work regularly, because he says he actually gets there faster by bike than by car. Tracey says that the downtown area, despite being a capital city with a lot of traffic and hustle, is clean and that she feels safe there.

The crime rate is relatively low, with only two reported murders in the first quarter of 2006, according to Boise City Police statistics. The city was voted the most secure place to live in the US among large metro areas by Farmers Insurance Group in December 2006.

What makes Boise a diamond in the rough, according to the Quicks, is that the city is a just like any normal city but is also surrounded by nature. Mountains and rivers coincide with expressways and tall buildings. "We like our little big city," Tim said.

Out of the basement, into the spotlight

Two bands with OU members make it to mto-U's "Best Music on Campus" Top 25



By ROBERT PYLAR
Contributing Reporter

USUAL SUSPECT

THE BAND: Aaron Keck, 18, Bass and Vocals
Joe Giordimaina, 17, Guitar and Vocals
Jeff West, 17, Drums

OU CONNECTION: Keck, who is enrolled as a freshman and begins this fall, majoring in computer science

ON THE WEB: www.usualsuspectrock.com

MUST HEAR SONG: "Don't Cross the Line"

NEXT SHOW: April 21 at GS360, Warren, Mich.



Photos courtesy of bands

THAT WAS SOMETHING

THE BAND: John O'Neill, 19, Drums
Jon-Paul Bakaric, 20, Guitar & Vocals
Mark Warren, 18, Vocals
Ryan Kuehm, 23, Bass
Tyler Hardy, 18, Keys

OU CONNECTIONS: O'Neill, studying secondary education and art and Bakaric, a history major.

ON THE WEB: www.thattwassomething.com

MUST HEAR SONG: "The Wedding"

NEXT SHOW: April 1 at Premier Lanes & Theatre, Chesterfield, Mich.

For more information, check out:

- www.boise.org
- www.boisechamber.org
- www.downtownboise.org
- www.capitalcitypublicmarket.com



It's a good idea to get tested

If you suspect something's abnormal with your southern regions, be sure to do a little research before consulting a trained professional. Feeling out-of-sorts doesn't necessarily mean you have a disease. A source I use to pre-diagnose my ailments is the symptom checker at webMD.com. Once you come to the

conclusion that something is wrong with your usual sexual health, seek professional help.

An average visit at the Graham Health Center costs \$30. They offer gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes and syphilis testing. An HIV test costs \$10 and takes two weeks for test results. Walk-ins are welcome, but can only be helped as time allows.

Oakland County Health Division offers free services to Oakland County residents, businesses and educational communities including: testing and diagnosis, treatment, counseling and teaching. Walk-ins are welcome.

Public Health Nursing Supervisor Monica Raisanen recommended allowing yourself at least 20 to 30 minutes to fill out paperwork and be interviewed, after which you are tested.

"We are very discreet," said Raisanen. "We respect each patient's privacy (and) interview in a non-judgmental manner."

Raisanen stresses that one of the most important things someone should not do if they fear they may have a reproductive system ailment is self-diagnose and self-

treat the problem. An example of this would be thinking you have a yeast infection, skipping seeing a doctor and using over-the-counter medication. Instances like this may worsen the situation. When in doubt, get checked out!

Oakland County Health Division locations include:

- Pontiac (County Service Center) at 1200 North Telegraph, Building 36 East. (248) 858-1280
- Pontiac (Oakland Pointe) at 250 Elizabeth Lake Road, Suite 1520. (248)858-1280
- Southfield at 27725 Greenfield Road. (248) 424-7000
- Walled Lake at 1010 East West Maple. (248) 926-3300

Another option is downtown Pontiac's Mercy Place Clinic at 55 Clinton Street. It is a free outpatient clinic affiliated with St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and accepts patients by appointment only by calling (248) 333-0840.

Planned Parenthood of Southeast Michigan is a low-cost, non-profit cor-

poration with medical center locations in Detroit, Livonia, Clinton Township, Warren and Pontiac. The Pontiac clinic is located at Pontiac Medical Center, 132 Franklin Blvd. Suite 207 and can be reached at (248) 334-2616. They offer birth control counseling, emergency contraception, routine check-ups including pelvic/breast exams and Pap smears, pregnancy testing/counseling, STD testing/treatment, HIV testing/counseling and colposcopy (exam for cervical cancer). Patients are expected to pay at the time of the services.

If you have any questions, you can reach Oakland County Health Division's nurse on call at (248) 858-1406.

This is a bi-weekly column. Please email any questions, concerns or topic suggestions to cafilat@oakland.edu with the word "SEX" in the subject line or use the drop box located in front of The Oakland Post (the lower floor of the OC, next to the radio station).



Fear the Fro

Jury selection for the murder trial of legendary music producer Phil Spector began Monday, March 20. Famous for producing records like The Beatles' "Let it Be" and artists like Tina Turner and The Ramones, Spector was famous for his influence in the music work before he was charged with the murder of cult movie star Lana Clarkston.

Aside from Spector's musical clout, he is well known for his flamboyant and theatrical clothing and hair styles. According to The Associated Press, Spector's defense attorney has said, "I have never had a conversation with Mr. Spector about how he should dress in court and if I did he wouldn't pay attention."

Oakland students take a shot at naming one of his more notable hair days.



"A Jew-Fro. I'm Jewish and I can say that."

Emily Rose, sophomore
Music major



"Frizz-Fro."

Kurte Montte, senior
English major



"The Fuzzball."

Masud Rahman, freshman
undecided

Photos by DUSTIN ALEXANDER/
The Oakland Post

Where'd you get that?

What they're sportin' and where it's from



Rocawear Jacket - \$146

"I love Roca Wear coats. Everyone wears them."

Shawntae Wilson, sophomore Business major



Diesel blazer \$200

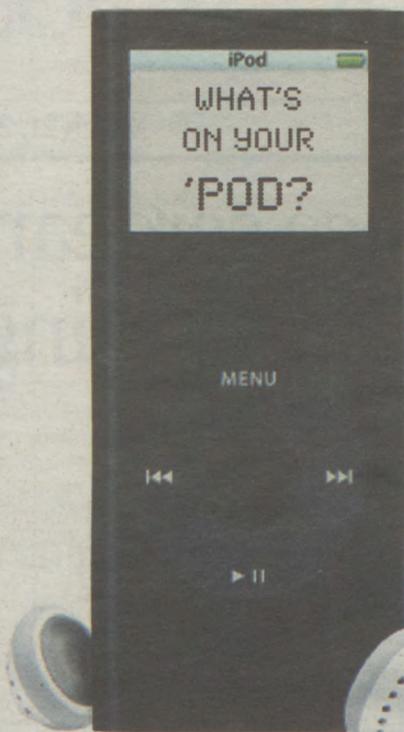
Abercrombie button down \$89

True Religion jeans \$200

Evan Hardy, freshman
Business Administration major

Greg Kampe

Men's Basketball Coach



1. Harry Chapin — Taxi
2. Barry Manilow — Weekend in New England
3. Hall and Oates — Sara Smile
4. The Guess Who — Clap for the Wolfman
5. Michael Crawford — All I Ask of You
6. Les Miserables Soundtrack — Who Am I
7. Michael Crawford — Music of the Night

8. Andrew Lloyd Webber — Tell Me on a Sunday Please
9. Don McLean — American Pie
10. Carly Simon — Coming Around Again
11. Burton Cummings — Stand Tall
12. Monkees — Last Train To Clarksville
13. The Average White Band — Schoolboy Crush
14. The O'Jays — Money, Money, Money
15. Harry Chapin - Cats in the Cradle



What are you looking at?

Students caught surfing



Chinese Yahoo!

Hui Min, junior Accounting major

"I was just browsing the news and some interesting questions caught my eye in the sidebar."

**GET
CAUGHT
GETTING
POSTED
AND
WIN!**

**WE'RE ON THE
LOOKOUT.**

If we catch you with a copy of the Oakland Post, we'll throw a gift card at you. That's a FREE newspaper and a free gift. IT'S REALLY THAT EASY.

FREE FLICKS

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP FILM SERIES
124 Wilson Hall - OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
March-April 2007

Upcoming Films:

Thursday, March 22, 7 pm
THE CORPORATION
(Mark Achbar & Jennifer Abbott, Canada, 2004)

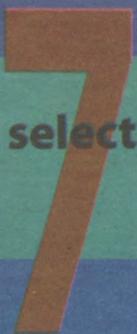
Sunday, March 25, 2 pm
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS
(Rachel Boynton, USA, 2006)

Thursday, March 29, 7 pm
THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER
(Eugene Jarecki, USA/UK/Denmark/France/Canada/Australia, 2002)

All films shown in 124 Wilson Hall
All films are free and open to the public.
Faculty led discussions will follow each film.

WHAT TO TELL YOUR BOSS/TEACHER WHEN THEY CATCH YOU CYBER-SLACKING

1. It's market research
2. Someone must have e-mailed me that naked lady "virus."
3. I'm just trying to understand our younger demographic.
4. Sudoku has *everything* to do with this!
5. March Madness only happens once a year
6. I just closed out of that spreadsheet
7. Oh ... why ... how'd that get there?





CARLOS OSORIO/The Associated Press

Cigarettes are one product to be affected by the proposed "sin taxes," raising the price per package by a nickel.

'Sin tax' plan upsets many

By **TIM MARTIN**
Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A pack-a-day-smoker in Michigan pays about \$730 a year in state cigarette taxes.

Polish off a \$22 bottle of vodka once every two weeks with some friends, and that costs roughly \$65 in state liquor taxes each year — not counting the state's general sales tax, which would push the total closer to \$100.

Michigan's liquor and cigarette taxes tend to be higher than those in many neighboring states, and the price tag could go up soon. Increases in those markups are part of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's plan to shake state government out of its financial doldrums.

Some Michigan drinkers and smokers already feel they shoulder too much of the burden for the state's budget woes. Bar and restaurant owners aren't happy either, saying the higher taxes would drive away business.

The Granholm plan to balance the state's books includes an increase to the liquor tax that could raise shelf prices by about 5 percent.

The extra money would be earmarked for the state's school aid fund. It could raise an additional \$28 million each year as the state tries to wiggle out of a projected \$900 million

budget deficit for the fiscal year.

Sen. Michael Switalski, a Democrat from Roseville, said the sin tax increases have proven to be more politically palatable than other types of proposed tax increases.

But the liquor industry is lobbying against the increase.

Michigan is one of a few states where the shelf price of liquor is dictated by the state.

Granholm wanted to raise the state's liquor tax in 2004, but she couldn't get the state Legislature to go along with the plan. She will face opposition again this time.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, is among the lawmakers who say the state should look for more ways to save money and make government more efficient before considering tax increases.

"With the economy the way it is, new taxes on these sorts of things are not going to go over so well," said Matt Marsden, a Bishop spokesman.

Granholm also proposed raising the state's cigarette tax another nickel per package to \$2.05, which would be the third highest in the nation based on rates from early 2006.

Granholm also wants to double the tax on smokeless tobacco and cigars. The new tobacco taxes combined could raise about \$57 million per year.

State police sergeant arrested in sex sting

By **DAVID RUNK**
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT (AP) — A Michigan State Police sergeant was arrested Monday in an Internet sting after authorities say he had a graphic sexual conversation with investigators he thought were girls ages 13 and 14.

Kevin Michael Hardoin, 45, of Macomb County's Chesterfield Township, was arrested at the state police post in Richmond, the attorney general's office said. He was arraigned before 42nd District Court Judge Paul Cassidy and released on \$50,000 personal bond.

Hardoin also propositioned investigators for the attorney general to watch a sexually explicit act via Web camera, Attorney General Mike Cox said in a statement, and a computer and Web camera were seized from Hardoin's home.

"We've seen time and time again that the people who engage inappropriate online activity toward children come from all walks of life," said Cox, whose Child and Public Protection Unit has arrested 127 suspected Internet sexual predators.

Hardoin faces eight counts of using a computer to accost and solicit a minor for immoral purposes, a 10-year felony, and five counts of using a computer to disseminate sexually explicit material to a minor, a four-year felony.

A preliminary examination was set for April 5.

State records show Hardoin was at one time a coordinator for the Monroe chapter of the Safe Kids initiative, a child accident prevention program responsible for events such as child safety seat inspections.

Hardoin has been suspended without pay pending the outcome of the case, Cox's office said.

"Behavior such as this from anyone is unacceptable," said Col. Peter Munoz, director of the Michigan State Police.

LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

1 dead, 3 injured in fire

DETROIT (AP) — One man died and three women were hospitalized Monday after an early morning apartment fire on the city's west side. Rescue workers found the 65-year-old man in a stairwell of Greenhouse Apartments. They believe he suffered a heart attack. One woman, 45, suffered smoke inhalation; an 81-year-old had chest pains; and a 68-year-old was treated for burns to her hands. Others were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, fire officials said. The fire, which began around 3 a.m., was contained to one unit on the ninth floor. Fire officials say the blaze was caused by a careless smoker.

Woman kept body, had connections to two OD victims

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Police in a Detroit suburb will reopen the case of a man who died last year of a drug overdose. He was living with a woman who authorities in another community said kept the corpse of an overdosed roommate for three weeks. Dearborn police said Christopher McCarthy, 33, who died in May, was staying with the woman who later lived with 19-year-old Ashley Pierce in Canton Township. Police found Pierce's body March 6 after receiving an anonymous tip. "Obviously, there's renewed interest in what's going on," Dearborn police Lt. William Leavens told the Detroit Free Press. "A lot of people can go a lifetime without something like this happening, but the fact there were two is suspicious."

Local business 'paints a miracle'

By **RENA PETRASHKO**
Contributing Reporter

Nestled behind La Dolce Vita salon in downtown Rochester is a small studio that offers a nurturing environment for the disabled to unleash their inner artist. Paint a Miracle opened its doors in June 2004, but its history began years before.

In 1985, Dr. Dale Propson was a successful pediatric dentist when a drunk driver hit his car. Propson sustained a serious brain injury and damage to his eyesight. The loss of his practice plunged him into depression. Annie Propson, Dale's wife, searched for meaningful activities that would inspire Dale and give him a sense of hope.

They discovered an art studio in Lake Orion. Owner Helen Cuniff had her own physical challenges and used painting as a form of therapy. When Dale arrived, he expressed his nervousness because he was legally blind and didn't know how to paint. Cuniff replied, "You don't need your eyesight to paint. It goes from your brain, to your heart, to your hands."

Attending the studio gave Dale a new lease on life. "Dad had a real sense of pride and ownership of his work," his daughter Shelly Tyshka said. "When dad came home from the studio, he would be whistling, his concentration improved, as did his eyesight from legally blind to sight-impaired."

When Cuniff died, Dale grieved, but he decided to start his own art studio. His wife and daughter committed to making that happen. Tyshka left her position as a non-profit corporate lawyer to help her father's vision become a reality.

Paint a Miracle held its first class in the fall of 2002 in a rented room of the Rochester Community House. More classes were added in other locations until they set up shop at their current location in June 2004.

Paint a Miracle now has four instructors and classes are held five days a week. The classes are open studio; students choose their media and the instructor is there to guide them. A ceramics class is offered on Fridays.

Rachel Deisenroth, an Oakland University graduate, is one of the studio's instructors.

"I love working here. I get to work with all kinds of people, and I learn so much from all my students," Deisenroth said.

Dale has since handed the reins over to Tyshka, but he still attends classes three times a week.

The students' disabilities run the spectrum from persons with brain injuries, to Down Syndrome, to quadriplegics on respirators — the studio can accommodate everyone. "We all have our own challenges and disabilities," said Tyshka. "It's the art that brings us together."

The students agree. Chad Bauer, 25, said, "Drawing is cool, but paint is my favorite."

Bernadette LaCrosse, 60, a survivor of two brain injuries, prefers acrylic paint. "I've been coming for 2 ½ years. I always liked art, but had never painted." Three of LaCrosse's paintings were proudly displayed on the wall of the studio.

Another Paint a Miracle student, Danny Kassab, 20, paints with a brush in his teeth. He was autographing the back of his finished work — a spiritual figure on a cross. Despite the dramatic painting, Danny's conversation was peppered with humor.

The proportion of the studio is small, but the effect it has on the students and observers is difficult to describe. Paint a Miracle is a solace for individuals with special needs, an inspiration for those who instruct and a generous helping of wonder for those who seek a connection to a greater good.

The studio will be hosting a spring luncheon open to the public on April 26. Call 248-652-2702 for ticket information. This non-profit organization always welcomes volunteers and donations. Visit their Web site at www.paintamiracle.org.



RENA PETRASHKO/The Oakland Post

Paint a Miracle art student Danny Kassab, 20, painted and autographed this picture of a spiritual figure on a cross by holding a paint brush in his teeth. Despite the dramatic theme of his painting, Kassab inserts an element of humor in all his conversations.



RENA PETRASHKO/The Oakland Post

Oakland University graduate and Paint a Miracle art instructor Rachel Deisenroth helps an art student sign his painting.



RENA PETRASHKO/The Oakland Post

The gallery at Paint a Miracle showcases the students' work. These paintings, along with others, are available for purchase.

Seniors sign off with style



MEL ROOT/
The Associated
Press
Vova
Severovas
drives the lane
against Oral
Roberts in
the Mid-Con
finals. He
was named to
the Mid-Con
first team this
season.

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

It was John Lennon who once sang, "Nothing golden can last forever."

And while the door has closed on the collegiate basketball careers of three Golden Grizzlies, another has been swung wide open for their future.

Let's take a moment to look back on the 2006-2007 season, a season where the Mid-Con and other media outlets had low expectations for them.

In October, the Golden Grizzlies were picked to finish fifth in the Mid-Con in a preseason poll after bouncing out of the first round of the Mid-Con tournament last season.

But Head Coach Greg Kampe didn't want to see this season as merely a continuation of the last. He wanted to start over new.

He wanted to go old-school.

"I see that we're going to have a lot of different guys that, on any given night, can score," he said in the preseason.

At the helm of this reformed Golden Grizzlies team were the three seniors: Mid-Con first team member Vova Severovas, "The Big Man" Shawn Hopes and Ohio State transfer Rick Billings.

"...There is no next year for those three guys," Kampe said in the preseason. "Those players were part of that losing season and don't like that they were a

part of that."

Not only did these three young men take the reigns of this Oakland University squad, but together, they led the Golden Grizzlies to their most successful season since entering Division I, with a 19-14 record.

Severovas was the man to turn to when the Golden Grizzlies needed fast points on the board. He fearlessly drove the lane to the basket to draw the foul and it almost always paid off. He shot 82 percent from the charity stripe, making a notable 202 of 246 free throws.

Speaking of lay ups, nobody had more of a presence in the paint than 6 foot 7 inch, 275 pound Hopes. He started in all 33 games this season and scored 406 points by using his brute strength.

Finally, Billings gracefully accepted his role as a sixth man about halfway through the season and came up huge for the Golden Grizzlies in the first round of the Mid-Con tournament, knocking down four 3-pointers and almost had a double-double with 14 points and nine rebounds.

All in all, these three seniors led Oakland all the way to the finals in the Mid-Con tournament as a number two seed and defied the odds against them.

While they will no longer wear the Grizzly black and gold, the leadership, dedication and hard work these three young men put forth will influence Golden Grizzly rosters to come.

By ROB TATE
Senior Reporter

Now that the sun has set on the women's basketball season with a loss last Thursday against Kentucky in the WNIT, it will be an emotional period for Head Coach Becki Francis as she says farewell to three seniors who have contributed greatly to the program.

Nicole Piggott, Bonnie Baker and Joya Puryear have been through a lot during their four seasons at Oakland. A coaching change, a Mid-Con Tournament championship, a first round loss to Ohio State in 2006 in the NCAA Tournament, and a regular season championship in 2007 were among the things these three ladies accomplished during their stay at Oakland.

Nicole Piggott

Piggott saw substantial playing time ever since joining the Golden Grizzlies in the 2003-04 season. Piggott helped the team clinch the 2006 Mid-Con championship, scoring 14 points and hauling in nine rebounds against Western Illinois. After taking home the Mid-Con championship, Piggott had a strong effort against number one seed Ohio State in the first round of NCAA Tournament, with a team high 14 points. In her senior season, Piggott was a great team leader and mentor to the younger players on the team. Piggott started all 32 games this season and averaged 14.5 points a game, including a team high 19 points in the WNIT against Kentucky. Piggott will graduate with a degree in Medical Lab Sciences.

Bonnie Baker

Baker found some quality minutes off the bench during her freshman and sophomore season. Although Baker only averaged 1.5 points per game her first two seasons combined, she played strong defense for the Golden Grizzlies, something that would carry over into her junior and senior seasons. Baker found her way into the starting line by her junior season where she averaged a career best 6.5 points per game and was a key to Oakland's Mid-Con championship. During her senior season, Baker really picked up her passing game, having a team high 101

assists on the season. Baker will earn a degree in Wellness Health Promotion and Injury Prevention.

Joya Puryear

Early in her career, Puryear played a lot, starting 28 games her sophomore season and averaging 2.4 points game. When Francis came back to Oakland to coach during Puryear's junior campaign, Francis thought that Puryear would be more valuable off the bench. Puryear became an excellent passer and one-on-one defender, and though she didn't get big numbers statistically, she became a great role player. Puryear's career high came in 2004 with 11 points vs. UMKC. Puryear will take home a degree in Management Information.

Check out page 20 to see how the seniors fared in their final game.



MEL ROOT/The Associated Press
Senior Nicole Piggott is stopped by an ORU defender in the Mid-Con finals. She led the team in scoring this 2006-2007 season.

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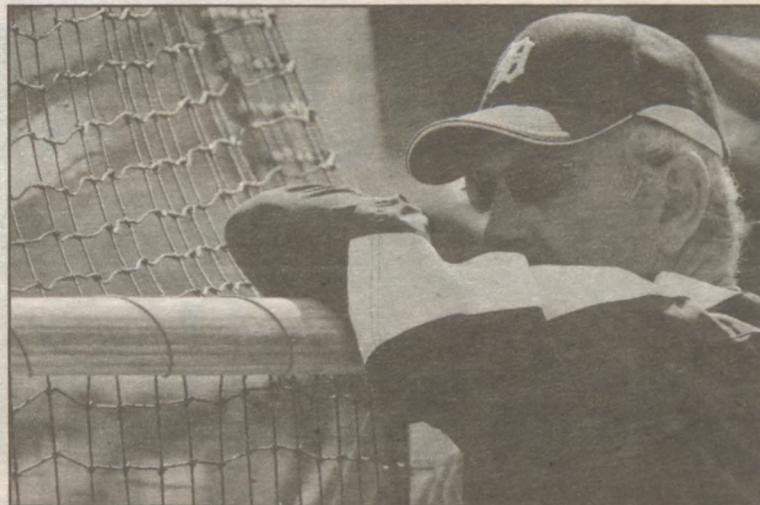
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JOE RANZE/The Associated Press
Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland watches batting practice at spring training in Lakeland, Fla.

We are all Tigers

City prepares for another season

By BRIAN BLEAU
Contributing Reporter

The City of Detroit has been bent but not broken, it has receded but not conceded; and in the form of a baseball team that holds true to the city's blue-collar tradition of hard work and resilience, a breath of life has been forced into its ceasing lungs.

Detroit has more than its share of problems.

A community that once thrived on its success within the automotive industry has been crippled by more lost jobs and higher crime rates than any city should bear.

Racial and ethnic tensions remain not only between communities, but within communities as well.

Even if it was only for a few cold weeks last October, it seemed that a calm was settling over the streets of the Motor City in the midst of a Tigermania that many have never seen before.

While we've seen championship celebrations for the Red Wings and Pistons in recent years, something much bigger and more meaningful could be on the horizon.

The Red Wings viewing demographic is made up of a majority of white suburbanites, and while the Pistons have a much more diverse group of fans, they play more than 30 miles away from the city— somewhat detaching themselves from the aura associated with being a Detroit team.

Our boys of summer play America's sport in the heart of Detroit. They play a sport that knows no cultural boundaries, a sport that celebrates the meaning of unity, a sport that has not seen a season of such high expectations in Detroit for far too long.

Baseball is a game, but to many people it's much more than that. It's a common ground between all people that knows no race or creed, it's a passion; something that cannot be bought or sold— only loved.

Fans see themselves in their teams. They identify with players and their attitudes toward the game just as they identify with their friends and their attitudes toward life.

Last fall, in a historic display of grit and heart, the Tigers humanized the soul of Detroit and sent one of the greatest lineups ever assembled back to the Bronx for an off-season that turned out to be much longer than expected; a result that hardly anybody outside of Michigan believed would come to pass.

Under the direction of Jim Leyland, last year's Tigers team exceeded the expectations of fans, media and even its own front office.

In a David vs. Goliath match-up, they stood with their backs against the wall on the largest stage in baseball and rebounded in a way that many never dreamed they would, giving us hope that no matter how bad things are, there is nothing that hard work, perseverance and teamwork cannot improve.

Although the outcome of the World Series was less than desirable, it somehow didn't take anything away from what the Tigers did last season.

Michigan's problems are much more complicated than throwing, hitting, or catching a ball, but the solution is not.

We could learn a lot from Jim Leyland and his Tigers, as it seems that they've learned a lot from us.

It's do or die time for a city and state on the brink. The Tigers have found their skipper, but we're still waiting on ours. Batter up.

SPORTS
RANT

Grizzlies fall to Wildcats

Oakland's WNIT run ends at the hands of Kentucky

By ROB TATE
Senior Reporter

In a perfect world, the Oakland University women's basketball team would've defeated Oral Roberts in the Mid-Con championship. The Golden Grizzlies would've been busy last Thursday night preparing for their first round opponent in the NCAA Tournament, instead of playing in Kentucky in the first round of the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

But things just didn't work out.

One factor that stood favorably for Oakland was one last chance, especially for the seniors, to play in front of a friendly crowd at the O'Rena. In fact, it was the largest all season with 1,030 in attendance.

But as New York Yankee great Yogi Berra once said, "This is Déjà vu all over again!" Oakland dropped a 65-56 decision to Kentucky, suffering their second tournament ending loss in the last two weeks.

Oakland was having a tough time from the start and it ultimately cost them the game.

Hypothetically, if Oakland didn't start out the game shooting 4 for 18 in the first 10 and a half minutes, we might be talking about how Oakland moved on to play Ball State in the second round of the WNIT over the weekend.

Oakland cleaned the glass on Kentucky all night long, out-rebounding the Wildcats 44-34, including an incredible 17-5 advantage in offensive rebounding.

But, again, things just didn't work out that way.

Senior Nicole Piggott held up well, ending her great career at Oakland with a 19-point and four-rebound effort.

Piggott, however, didn't get a lot of help scoring from her teammates. Freshman forward Hanna Reising came close to a double-double, but came up just short scoring nine points and adding a career high nine rebounds on the night.

Senior Bonnie Baker and sophomore Jessica Pike had a miserable night, combining for 1 of 11 shooting and two points.

There was still hope for Oakland coming out of halftime.

With all that went wrong in the first half, Kentucky was struggling along with them, only having a two point lead.

The Wildcats clawed their way to their biggest lead in the second half though. The Wildcats got out to as much as a 15-point lead with 3:33 left in the half.

"We just came out (in the second half) shell-shocked," Head Coach Becki Francis said.

Although things looked awfully grim for the Golden Grizzlies, they showed a lot of heart and went on their own nine point run to pull within six points with 52 seconds left in the game. Piggott had five of the nine points during the run.

Oakland was stopped as Kentucky pulled away at the free throw line, going five of six in the last minute.

Kentucky's leading scorers on the night were Jenny Pfeiffer with 21 and Samantha Mahoney with 14. Mahoney played high school ball locally at West Bloomfield High School.

"I'm so happy for the team, you can only ask that everyone goes out and fights to the end and I think we did that. I'm so proud them," Piggott said.

Despite the losses handed to the Golden Grizzlies these past weeks, Francis paid more attention to how far the team has come since November.

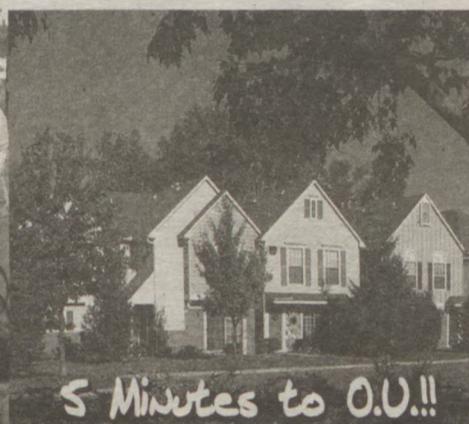
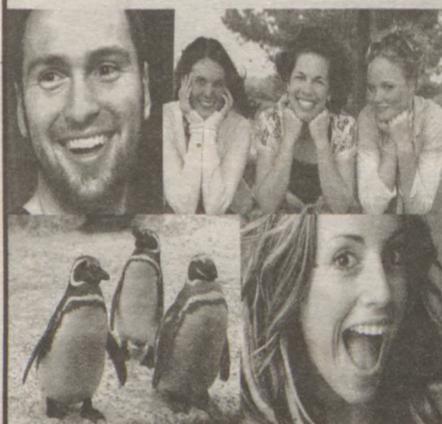
"I thought we had a great year, we just told the team that we won 15 out of 17 games, won 12 in-a-row and 7-0 on the road in the league," Francis said. "I really praised the seniors because they bonded this team."

Even though basketball season has wrapped up, there are still plenty of spring sports going on. Look for future coverage of baseball, softball, track, lacrosse and much more!



BOB KNOSKA/
The Oakland Post
Freshman Melissa Jeltema goes up for the layup against an aggressive Kentucky defender Thursday in the first round of the WNIT.

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In Case You Missed It:

Buckeyes give Grizzlies tough run in doubleheader

Oakland's softball team struggled against Ohio State last weekend, falling 9-1 and 5-0 to the Buckeyes in a doubleheader on Sunday. The Grizzlies got on the board in the first game off a run in the top of the third without a base hit. Ashley Sullivan walked, then Julie Owen was hit by a pitch. Lindsey Frederick hit a grounder that was misplayed by the Buckeye's third baseman, and Sullivan tied the game 1-1. The following game, Alex Perrino was the only Grizzly to make it to the bases with a leadoff walk. Buckeye's pitcher Jamee Juarez struck out 13 Grizzlies for the win.

Baseball has share of Ohio blues

The University of Ohio Bobcats defeated Oakland's baseball team in a double-header last Sunday, as they beat the Grizzlies 19-2 and 10-9. Oakland was only down 2-1 in the second, but the Bobcats exploded in the third inning with six runs and put the game out of reach. Rob Merkle hit his second home run of the year in the eighth inning, but it was too little, too late. The Grizzlies tied the second game 2-2 in the fourth when Drew Jenison and Kevin Carkeek rounded home plate. Ohio quickly regained the lead 5-2 in the bottom of the inning. That sparked a Grizzly comeback scoring five runs in the top of the fifth to take a 7-5 lead, followed by two more in the seventh. But the Bobcats tied it 9-9 in the eighth and eventually sent the game into extra innings where the Grizzlies surrendered a run in the bottom of the 12th inning.

Unold and Grizzlies find success at NCAA championships

Oakland University finished 35th in the NCAA Swimming Championships which wrapped up Saturday. The Grizzlies were represented by Marcin Unold, who scored 3.5 points in the meet. He placed 13th in the 100-meter backstroke on Friday, while finishing 17th in the 200-meter backstroke and just shy of scoring. Unold broke school records in both events, shattering his own school record in the 200, while setting a new school record in the prelims for the 100 backstroke.

Pistons ready to take on Texas powerhouses

The Detroit Pistons will prepare to saddle up and take on two teams in the Lone Star State Thursday and Friday. The Houston Rockets are ranked fifth in the Western Conference and the San Antonio Spurs are in a tie for third place. Chauncey Billups is currently day-to-day with a strained groin injury that kept him sidelined in a 88-92 loss to the Dallas Mavericks.

—By Samantha Franz and Brittany Ochtinsky
Sports Editor and Contributing Reporter

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COMMUTER INVOLVEMENT AWARD

The Commuter Involvement Award recognizes those commuter students who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of campus life through their participation in campus activities and student organizations. There are up to twenty \$500 activity-based awards available for commuter students registered for the 2007-2008 academic year.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The Volunteer Service Award recognizes individual students and student organizations that have been actively involved in community service activities on and off Oakland University's campus from May 1, 2006 until March 26, 2007. There are up to eight \$500 awards available to returning individual students and registered student organizations for the 2007-2008 academic year.

SIDNEY FINK MEMORIAL AWARD

The Sidney Fink Memorial Award is given to OU student employees who have demonstrated an on-going commitment to improve race relations on Oakland University's campus. There are up to four \$100-\$200 awards available to undergraduate and graduate students currently employed on OU's campus and registered for the 2007-2008 academic year.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MONDAY, MARCH 26,
TO THE CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES
(CSA) OFFICE, 49 OAKLAND CENTER.**

Applications are available at the CSA Office, 49 Oakland Center, or online at www.oakland.edu/csa (under CSA Forms). Questions about the Commuter Involvement Award, Volunteer Service Award, and the Sidney Fink Memorial Award can be directed to Jean Ann Miller, Director of The Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development, 49 Oakland Center, 248-370-4332, jam@oakland.edu.

The Scene

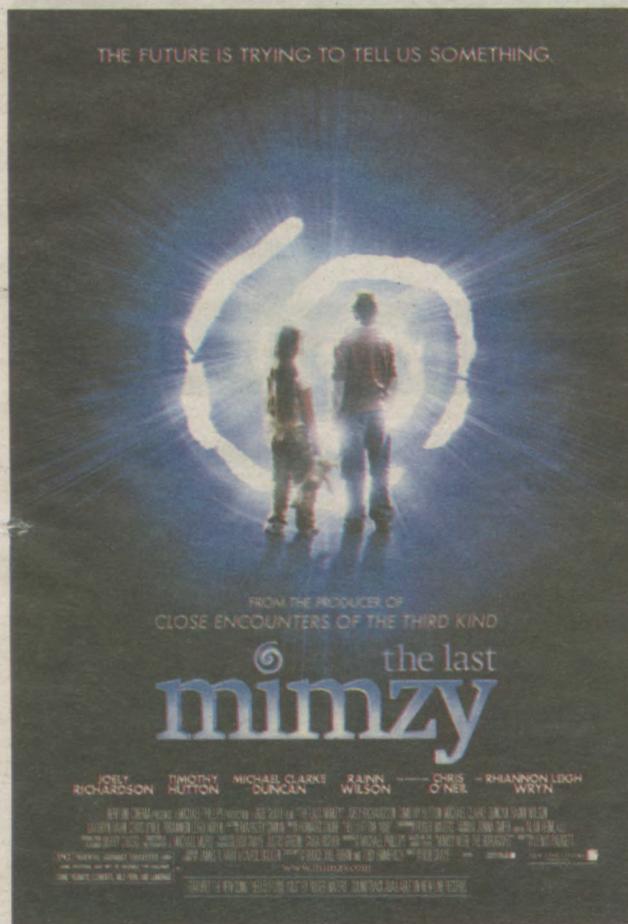
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March 21, 2007

Lessons of "Mimzy" tied to old Detroit

The Post snags an interview with a Detroit filmmaker and founder of New Line Cinema and an award winning screenwriter



By JEFF KRANITZ
Editor in Chief

Hollywood's over-the-top promotional machine invaded Dearborn's Ritz Carlton last week when New Line Cinema founder and co-chair Robert "Bob" Shaye and Oscar-winning screenwriter Bruce Joel Rubin were in town to promote "The Last Mimzy" — a wonderful and thought-provoking new family film directed by Shaye and co-written by Rubin. Although both men currently reside in La La land, their roots strongly remain in Detroit, where both spent their childhood. Below they reminisce about a time in Detroit's history that many of our readers are probably unfamiliar with — a time of total

freedom and magical fun for the youth of the city.

Q: So I hear you guys are from Detroit...

Robert Shaye: Livernois and Seven Mile, I don't know where he's from —

Bruce Joel Rubin: Schaeffer near Seven — close to Outer Drive, actually.

Q: Well, what is it like being back to promote the movie?

RS: It's always fun, but I miss Cunningham's and I miss Sanders and I miss Wilson's Dairy and I miss the Detroit Public Library — which was right at Livernois and Seven Mile — where I first read "The Last Mimzy." But the whole neighborhood and the whole Detroit experience for me was really incredible.

I used to go the Varsity Theater all the time because I could walk there, and I'd try to go to the Royal, but my mom would have to drop me off. Notwithstanding Quentin Tarantino's efforts to make a double feature, I actually was a participant in double features and had a great time doing it. I thought Detroit was a really, really important part of my upbringing.

BJR: I followed by about four years — but with the same experiences — The Royal Theater, the Varsity Theater, the Mercury ... taking the Hamilton bus downtown to all of the downtown theaters — the Madison, the Adams, the United Artists. They were great theaters, which I loved. I also loved

the legitimate theaters they had downtown and I worked at them — the Schubert and the Cass. I worked at the Northland Playhouse for four years. When I was a kid, going downtown to Hudson's was, like, the great outing — being in Detroit was wonderful. It was, for me, the BEST place to grow up.

RS: I stood on the construction site at Northland. I was a photographer when I was kid, and I made one of my favorite photographs — of a friend from Mumford (High School) standing on a mound of dirt where they were building Northland. So we go back a long way — at least 15 or 20 years. (followed by lots of laughter).

BJR: I would bicycle to Northland every week — to me, watching a mall go up — it was the first mall in America — watching it go up was magical to me. They had a Cunningham's there that I used to go to and I had an enormously wonderful time. Crystal Pool was out where I used to live.

RS: I bought my first Mickey Spillane book "I, the Jury" by sneaking into Cunningham's out of Livernois and Seven Mile and pretending that I was looking for something else. This was really what growing up was all about.

BJR: We had a kind of freedom growing up in Detroit that I don't think exists very much anymore. My parents would say, "Here's a dime — go to a bus stop, get on a bus and go downtown." I mean, I was 10 years old. And we'd go downtown and have a wonderful day: go to the movies, go to Sanders and have a great hot fudge sundae and a tuna fish sandwich and come home. Nobody wondered or worried — we just had this extraordinary life. We both (Rubin and Shaye) went to Mumford High School, which I think was also an extraordinarily wonderful place. It was like a college education in a high school — it was a beautiful place to be.

RS: This is a little bit of what "The Last Mimzy" is all about — losing our innocence, in a way. It's not a message



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

film or anything like that, but it does offer the thought that we are getting more and more desensitized and isolated by electronics and by media that is bringing home to us what is going on in the world in such a profound and powerful way. I think it's important that we know what's going on in the world, of course, but there's a lot of stuff that we can't deal with — I mean there's nothing that we can really do about some of it. Just to feel bad about it all the time — I think it does affect kids.

"UNDISCOVERED" REVEALED

There's wishful thinking built into the title



By **BRYAN EVERSON**
Contributing Reporter

His name is half James Blunt and half Jim Morrison but upon listening to James Morrison's recently released "Undiscovered" anyone from a casual music fan to the critical Simon Cowell can tell you that this James is completely original - and puts similar crooners like James Blunt to shame.

Morrison hails from the West Midlands of England, but "Undiscovered" proves the 22 year-old may as well have been dropped from the heavens by the gods of soul. Labels in the U.K. have recently been pumping out R&B artists, but none

will likely have the legitimacy or lasting power that Morrison's voice provides. With a full, raspy sound that could fit somewhere in your collection between Stevie Wonder and Rod Stewart, he avoids the whiney tone that many succumb to for a lack of talent.

With the exception of several ballads, many of the arrangements like his second single "Wonderful World" have a very nostalgic, uplifting feel to them.

The album achieves a pop-soul feel, full of orchestral arrangements and acoustic efforts such as "Better Man." As beautifully as Morrison executes the album, he may in fact remain undiscovered if he does not continue to challenge his voice — a voice with tremendous potential. "Call the Police" shows the true range of his vocals and paints a vivid lyrical picture as well (All I need is some truth, God help me/Before the devil buries me). Morrison's single "You Give Me Something," fittingly features his voice soaring over a plethora of orchestral backing and should propel Morrison into the spotlight here in the States.

With the right production and top-notch song writing, Morrison should rise to the cream of the crop of performers. "Undiscovered" is a step in the right direction and certainly worth a listen simply for his unique, soulful sound.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT

I think you should save your money

By **JOE COLLARINI**
Contributing Reporter

Sex deprivation can make anyone go a little crazy. Add that to balancing a wife and two kids with a demanding job and a new piece of eye candy, and someone might very well just lose it.

Maybe Chris Rock's movie career could benefit from a little action. After being propelled to comedy stardom with his HBO comedy special "Bring the Pain," Rock has had added numerous movie roles to his credits. However, absent from all of these are the rawness and the power that make him who he is.

"I Think I Love My Wife" lets us ride shotgun with Richard Cooper (Rock) as he tries to keep his sanity intact while dealing with a marriage absent of any physical enjoyment. Despite a

few laughs and the occasional plot twist, the movie left me feeling just like Richard after a night with his wife, extremely unsatisfied.

Rock, who also co-wrote and directed this movie, won an Emmy in 1999 for his writing on "The Chris Rock Show," but his talent doesn't shine through here. Most of the humor is over-exaggerated, without that naturally smooth feel you would expect from a man as talented as he is. Combine this with below average acting and single dimensional characters, and you have the perfect recipe for an easily forgettable experience.

Do yourself a favor and keep your eight dollars in your pocket. Just by finding out you shouldn't go see this, you've already gotten luckier than Richard Cooper.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



By **GRACE GAHMAN**
Contributing Reporter

The whimsical "Of Montreal" was hosted by one of Detroit's tiniest venues last Wednesday. Based out of Atlanta, Georgia, Of Montreal has gained many fans with its complex musical arrangements and electronic sound. Playing to a crowd of mostly cheery teens, this unabashedly odd ensemble presented a riveting performance. These neo-60s

glam rockers wore vibrant skin-tight shirts, angel wings, and frontman Kevin Barnes even had an on-stage costume change into sultan-like garb. And of course, this happened while Barnes was standing on a ladder, so that his outfit could reach the floor.

At the concert, both new and old Of Montreal enthusiasts bounced along to songs from their newest album "Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?" as well as some older tunes from the heavily synthesized "The Sunlandic Twins."

During one song, entitled "Forecast Fascist Future", the audience started a sing-a-long "May we never go, go mental/ May we always stay, stay gentle" which changed the tune into an anthem. The whole joint was jumpin', especially in this moment

Near the beginning of the gig, the band chose to cover The Fiery Furnaces' "Tropical Ice-land" giving an exceptional rendition, even tossing in a bit of The Talking Heads' "And She Was." David Bowie's eminent "Suffragette City" the final piece of the evening, was a splendid way to end an icy night in Detroit.



By **CELESTE FILIATRAULT**
Webmaster/Graphics

"How To Be A Megastar Tour 2.0" will be resonating off the walls of The Palace of Auburn Hills Saturday, March 24. The show starts at 8 p.m. with tickets ranging from \$57.50 to \$87.50; the main floor is sold out.

Accompanied by an eight-piece band, Blue Man Group will take audiences on a live, "step-by-step" lesson of how to be a rock star.

Renowned for their live shows, the group has been engaging their

audiences for over ten years with an unforgettable performance combining music, comedy and multimedia theatrics, an experience that I personally, will never forget.



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The Nice Device

WXOU birthday bash

WXOU-FM hosted its very own birthday party Tuesday to celebrate 41 years of on-air greatness. With performances by Bedford Drive, Schaeffer, The Nice Device and Almost Free, the party pumped up the OC banquet rooms in true rock and roll fashion. Promotional giveaways and free food added to the good times. Happy birthday, WXOU!



Schaeffer



Free popcorn!

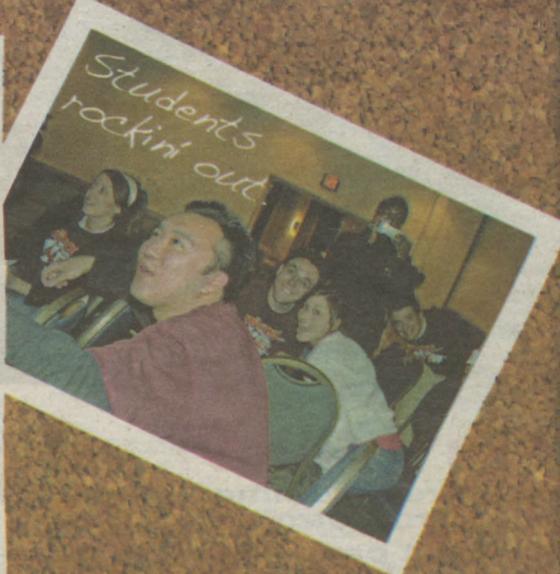


Free stuff!



Schaeffer

Danny Rossi



Students
rockin' out

MOUTHING OFF

March 21, 2007

www.oaklandpostonline.com

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Report cards no longer just for grade school

By **JESSE DUNSMORE**
Senior Reporter

As a middle schooler, I remember a kid on my bus who knew his report card was going to be in his mailbox before he got home. Like a private detective in a film noir who had better have a lot of tip money for his cabbie, this kid attempted to telepathically force the bus driver to "Follow that mail-truck!" I sympathize, though I have never had to beat my parents to my report card, as I was an honor roll student, unlike these guys, who were too busy with trivial things like their sports and their girlfriends and forming lasting friendships in social situations...crap like that.

But now some kids have the added stress of trying to keep their parents from finding out how fat they are.

Arkansas, Pennsylvania, California and a few other states are sending parents "obesity report cards," letting them know just how out of shape their kids have somehow become. (Pay no mind to the school lunch calendar—Mon: French fries and pizza; Tue: Crispy mashed potatoes and harder pizza; Wed: Italian cuisine—pizza cheese on crispy mashed potatoes)

I'm going to ignore the argument that this is bad for self esteem; I never had any, and I came out fine. Also, the mental image of an obese fifth-grader trying to waddle-run to the mailbox before Mom gets there amuses some dark, evil part of me.

If these reports inspire a parent to limit their son or daughter to one 20-piece of Fat Nuggets in their Morbidly Obese Meal, I'll be happy. Obviously

parents aren't going to care that their children are contributing to reduced planetary rotation speed unless someone else points it out.

Honestly, no one cares about anything unless someone makes them.

Here are some other things we need report cards for:

Driving: Pass your driver's test, and you get an A. That grade stays until you mess it up. Run a stop sign—honest mistake; you get dropped to a B. Speed in a residential area—that's bad; instant C. Drive 50 mph in the fast lane on I-75, you repeat driver's training. Drive drunk, and we expel you. You also stand in the corner for ten years.

Parenting: This is a pass-or-fail grade. You leave your kids locked in the car during the summer with the windows

up, you fail. You let your under-age teens go see an R-rated movie, you fail. If I can hear your children across the restaurant, you fail *and* buy my dinner.

Common sense: Sort of a gen-ed subject. I'll try to break it down. Filing a lawsuit because you were offended by something is at least a grade off your score. If you vote based on gender or race next election, you aren't passing this class. If you took up smoking within the last decade, we're putting you in the special class, just outside the doorway there. A little further away, please. Thank you.

Is everyone clear on our new grading standards? Consider this a new semester for your life. Put the paper down, pick your pencils up and stop being so stupid.

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Obese child sparks media feeding frenzy

By ALEX CHERUP
Guest Columnist

Connor McCreaddie will forever be remembered for having the heaviest 15 minutes of fame in history.

At 196 pounds, not only does this 8-year-old kid in Wallsend, England weigh three times the average weight of others his age, but the rest of the world knows about it. I know about it, and I have never left the United States. And if you didn't already know about Connor McCreaddie, you will now because of me. I am sorry.

In fact, I know more about Connor McCreaddie than I know about any other 8-year-old in the world, let alone Britain; he is the only real 8-year-old kid I know by first and last name, and I will never meet him.

Actually, the only other British kid I know is Harry Potter, and he's the product of a soccer mom's creative neurons.

In addition to his weight (in both pounds and kilograms), I know his mother's name and psychiatric history, what he eats for breakfast, lunch and dinner (fast food and four bags of chips at every meal) and what he does

every 20 minutes (snacks on cookies). I don't even know what I do every 20 minutes.

I have seen pictures of Connor McCreaddie shirtless more times than ever needed.

I can even deduce that Connor wears a D-cup and has breasts larger than most college girls I know.

But why do I know this? I've never asked young McCreaddie what he eats for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I never inquired as to what his bare stomach looked like when he is eating a chicken wing. Nevertheless, someone in the world thinks everyone has asked this.

So, why am I so special that I am privileged to such personal and vulnerable information?

Ask CNN, where I learned this supposedly valuable data when it played in the background on a television in a restaurant while I ate my omelet and toast.* The story made me cringe in the same manner I do when I hear William Hung sing. Here I am, not even remotely interested in the matter, in a different nation, and I am suddenly, acciden-

tally, aware of another's deeply personal problems because it was rudely flaunted by the news. You can even search "fat kid" under Google News and Connor is the first thing that pops up.

In response, what can we do? Sympathize with poor Connor McCreaddie, who is just an overfed guinea pig of the media. Why is this child's private life public domain? He is still a minor and cannot even autonomously decide if he wants this information released. It has hints of child pornography, only this is wholeheartedly accepted. Pete Townshend can now do his "research" in public. It is using someone's mere appearance to arouse disgust, shock and repulsion. However, the subject is barely in grade school. Essentially, he is "The Kindergarten Elephant Man," a member of the current carnie troupe that also includes a bald ex-Teen Idol and a recently deceased Marilyn Monroe wannabe.

Ultimately, there are millions of overweight adults and kids who are not made into a carnival by the media, so why did Connor



The Associated Press

Eight-year-old Connor McCreaddie poses with his mother Nicola McKeown.

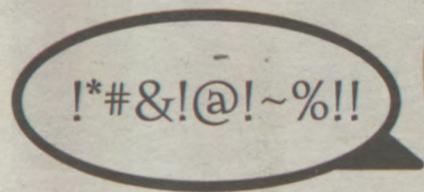
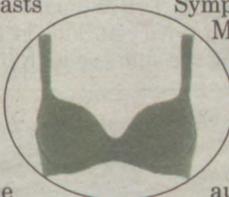
get the bad steak? If obesity was a claim to fame, plenty of Michiganders would be in the limelight, considering Michigan is the 11th fattest state. (Britain apparently is bringing some competition. Start eating folks!)

Is this really a news story — someone's obesity? If so, nearly half of the clients at every Wal-Mart are newsworthy. McCreaddie's privacy has been blatantly invaded — I certainly would not want my personal problems broadcast around the world. Connor will forever have the stigma of "the poster boy fat kid."

Fox News covered the story as well, and of course, the obvious question is, how can you be "Fair and Balanced" with a 196-pound kid on one end?

So, my message to the media: stay out of our fat lives.

* (My diet is provided, as that is apparently extremely important in the news. Also, I weigh 150 pounds and have supplied a picture of me shirtless for those interested and for those not interested. To save time, I wear an AAA-cup, unless I have a large box of Kleenexes and have had too much vodka, at which point I am a C-cup.



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