

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 23, 2008

Volume 33, Number 47

\$4.8 MILLION WINDFALL



When Will It Blow
Students' Way?



Coverage on pages 7-10



PAGE 6

Six students are awarded scholarships and **Harry Belafonte** gives the keynote address at the

*2008 Keeper of the Dream
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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Students have a responsibility to voice their opinions concerning the distribution of the \$4.8 million deferred payment.



Campus page 6

The Post chats with OU President Gary Russi again. Plus, check out a recap of the Keeper of the Dream Award Ceremony.



Local page 12

Automakers are hopeful for an economic turnaround in the near future.



The Mix page 14

Check out how students kill time on Facebook. Plus, the return of What's On Your 'Pod with OU professor Susan Evans.



Sports page 17

Read the story of a men's basketball's senior Pat McCloskey. Also, both basketball teams fall unexpectedly, but swimming and diving shine.



you page 21

Learn the ins and outs of applying for graduation, and why investing at a young age is something to considered.



the Scene page 23

Flirty Fashions, a new boutique, opens in downtown Rochester. Plus, new monster-flick "Cloverfield" is reviewed.



MOUTHING OFF page 26

Do you smell what Barack is cookin'? The presidential primaries have become a prime source of entertainment.



Nation | World page 28

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf announces that Pakistan will hold "fair elections" next month.

President Russi
sits down
with the
Oakland Post
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Perspectives

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January 23, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Students should take a vested interest in the \$4.8 million payment

College is expensive.

The costs of running universities are quite high, and in these days of economic turmoil, this is even more apparent.

This is why the news that \$4.8 million was returned to the university from the state government should be the talk of campus. We aren't talking pennies — \$4.8 million can pay for quite a few Gen Ed courses.

The deferred payment, which was supposed to come in last summer, but did not reach OU until October of last year, was one of the main reasons behind the tuition increase.

According to Oakland University President Gary Russi, on Jan. 11, 2008, a revenue-estimating conference concluded that the state may be short revenue in 2009, which may cause another tuition increase. To counteract another forecasted tuition hike, Russi proposed, among other options, using the deferred payment, in part, to mitigate an increase in tuition.

Another suggestion that is being considered involves a reimbursement to students, in the form of a check.

Either way, President Russi maintains that the money is for the students. The objective is to put the money to use in a way that can best assist students.

In the past, money of this nature was used to renovate South Foundation Hall and increase financial aid funds.

In any case, though the options most likely to be adopted would benefit most students, they inevitably leave some students out. If the mitigation of the 2009 tuition is chosen, any student graduating before next year will not benefit directly.

The same holds true if a reimbursement check were to be given. Those in 2009 may lose the future advantages, if, there was an increase.

The pros and cons are obvious; however, the debate and dialogue between students, thus far, has been minimal. There is little conversation and even less voice amongst the aggregate student body regarding what direction to take.

The administration has the desire to implement the action that will assist students the most. Naturally, if this is the desired outcome, the students should have the final say.

The decisions are now being made for the students without much input from the students. This should be a time of active participation with the administrative body in order to develop a goal that is in favor, as explicitly as possible, of the students.

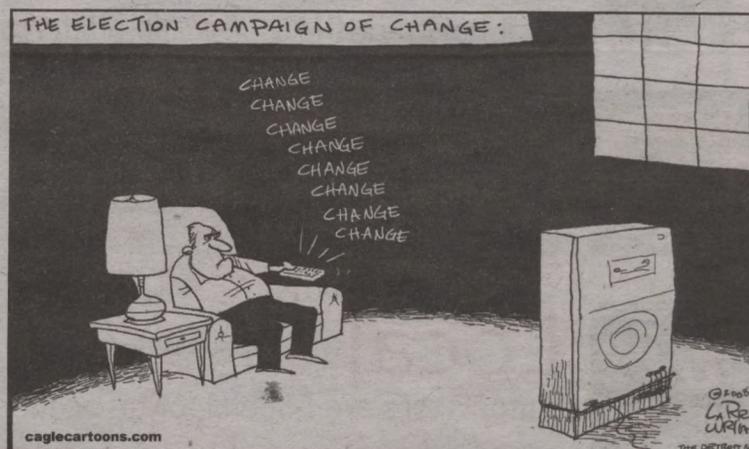
Students should offer their opinions on the matter and question in detail the proposals concerning the money and its ultimate purpose.

The president, financial aid office, student leaders and others can be e-mailed, contacted by phone and spoken to directly, in order to get the most out of one's time as an Oakland University student. Meetings with OUSC can be attended and researched.

Unless students are to give control of their money to administrative personnel and the student congress, complacency does not seem like the best option.

Students should stay up to date with matters that directly affect them. Simply accepting a decision is not enough — students should demand to view the arithmetic and paperwork behind such a decision before it is made.

Since students voiced much concern over the tuition increase, it follows that in the rare instance that the university returns money, they should greet the matter with the same devotion.



LARRY WRIGHT, The Detroit News/Cagle Cartoons

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

Corrections from the last edition (Jan. 16, 2008) of The Oakland Post:

- The caption for the top-left photo on page 17 stated that Sen. Joe Lieberman was in the photo with Sen. John McCain. Lieberman was cropped out of the photo.
- Staff intern Amanda Saoud was not given credit for her work on "Professor fondly remembered" (page 6).
- The deadline for TAP entries is Feb. 8. It was incorrectly reported that the due date was Feb. 1.
- The Police Files that were printed were actually were repeated from August, 2007.

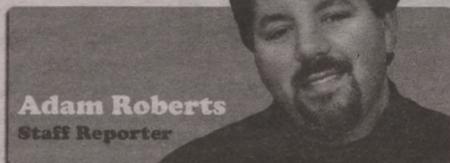
The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail editor@oakpostonline.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Homosexuality still an issue in U.S.

While Americans celebrate the civil rights movement, the rights of homosexuals continue to be infringed upon



Adam Roberts
Staff Reporter

It is not OK to be gay in America.

As we celebrate the successes of the civil rights movement, and as racial barriers crumble with a new generation of color-blind leaders rising up, there is still a group in this country that lives in fear.

The stigma of homosexuality rests in the hearts and minds of children on the playground, in the souls of God-fearing citizens throughout this great nation.

We tell our children that race doesn't matter, but no one says that gay is OK.

Where is the prominent gay leader that rises up and galvanizes a movement for change? Why hasn't there been a gay MLK?

For the most part, the gay individual is forced to live a life on the outskirts of mainstream culture.

Although now, more than ever, it is more acceptable for gays to date normally or show affection in public, this is not the case, nationwide.

Too often gays are not allowed to believe in the same family values that gay-bashers uphold.

When the protection of marriage amendment was passed in 2004, I could see the fear and anger in the eyes of a young lesbian who one day hoped to get married and raise a family.

There are no joint custody gay adoptions in Michigan. Gay partners don't share health insurance benefits. They don't get the same tax leverage that straight couples enjoy.

On the campus of Oakland University, there is one group that some students would dare not go near.

The average Oakland Student probably has an Arab-American friend or an African-American friend.

Those same people probably don't have an openly gay friend.

All too often, homosexuals are treated like lepers. Society stows them away making them our own peculiar group of untouchables.

Change will not come from politicians who have their hands buried in the moral-majority cookie jar.

The effort has to start with people like you and me, straight young college students.

This movement needs a voice that changes the hearts and minds of the American people. The only way this is possible is with a true gay-straight coalition.

Gay people are good enough to die for our country in Iraq, so long as they keep their sexuality a secret. It's this hypocrisy that characterizes everyday life for homosexuals.

It's fine to be gay in America, as long as you don't rub our faces in it.

Iran has no homosexuals, because openly gay men there are stoned to death. In America, our death sentence is slower and more cruel.

Gay men and women hide who they are, not able to live the kind of life everyone should have the right to live.

How can you say a gay couple lacks family values if you deny them the fundamental right to be just that, a family?

Surveys estimate that between 4 and 8 percent of the population is homosexual. That means chances are good that at least one person in each of your classes is gay.

Look around and ask yourself, "How would I feel if the person next to me were gay?"

It's the duty of our generation to make it acceptable for that person to be openly gay.

Shooting down a faulty argument

A guest columnist responds to perceived inconsistencies in frequent contributor Mike Palmer's past columns



Todd Butkovich
Guest Columnist

RESPONSE COLUMN

First off, let me begin by saying that I am typically a fan of frequent guest columnist Michael Palmer.

In fact, aside from superficially scanning the Post for my own name, his columns are the only reason I read this paper. From topics ranging from politics to religion, I always find his commentary interesting and insightful (although that one photo featuring the strategically-placed laptop left me feeling a little uneasy).

This is why when I felt so disap-

pointed when I found what appears to be a glaring inconsistency between two of his columns.

In a piece featured in last week's edition ("Reload the Second Amendment"), Palmer argued for an end to all gun control laws for the reason that they are unconstitutional.

I am all for this and support the right of every would-be Ted Nugent to arm themselves with whatever firearms they so choose. However, in a column published in December ("The Cold War is over, but the arms race isn't"), Palmer also declared that nuclear weapons be banned the world over, including in the United States.

What?

Just to be clear, I don't want a nuclear bomb. Partly because I just don't have the room for one. Nor am I comfortable with the thought of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spooning with one on a cold winter's evening.

But I do strongly uphold the rights given to us by our Founding Fathers,

including the right to bear arms (although I'm sure Alexander Hamilton wished he could have exempted Aaron Burr from that particular liberty), and like Mr. Palmer's most recent article, I believe that that right should be unlimited.

That's right — semiautomatics and handguns should be kept perfectly legal, despite the wishes of many currently slogging the campaign trail in the presidential primaries.

Using these weapons in the commission of a crime, however, should remain illegal. Thus, I believe using a nuclear warhead to mug someone in downtown Detroit should carry at least a weekend in the county jail, or perhaps as much as a month.

As our Constitution makes no distinction between arms as far as what is and is not illegal, I see no reason to arbitrarily limit our rights at just short of Little Man and Little Boy.

After all, what better way to arm a well-regulated militia? Imagine the

warmer reception the revolting colonists would have gotten from King George had the Continental Congress held a "Boston Enriched Uranium Party."

One of the primary reasons we hold the Second Amendment sacred is for reasons of personal protection.

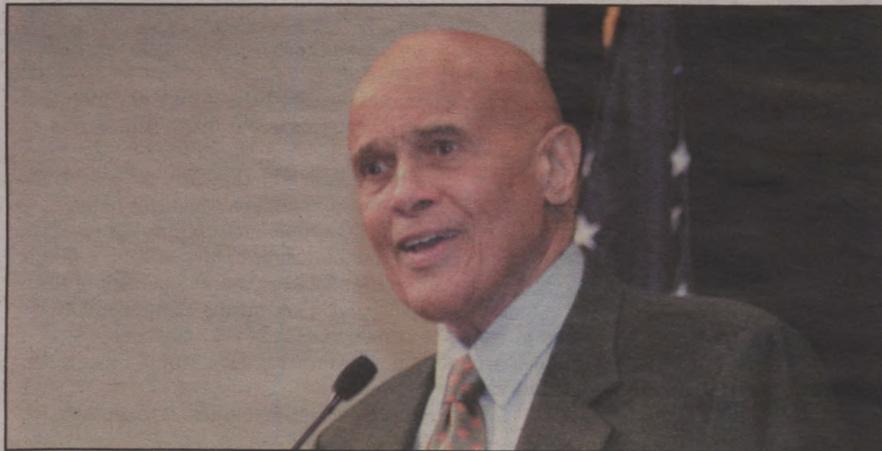
In an ever more scary and dangerous world, we as a nation and as a people need increased protection. For this reason, our nation needs to keep its nuclear arsenal to prevent us from being defenseless in the nuclear age.

Despite what anyone may say about Washington D.C. and current politicians, I'd entrust George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton, and John McCain with nuclear capabilities over the infamously unstable Pakistani regime and other countries who, as I write, have fingers inches away from the proverbial button.

One final point: although I find Mr. Palmer's views on bearing arms to be somewhat contradictory, I don't mean to offend him.

After all, I hear he's got a gun.

Perpetuating the dream



Harry Belafonte gave the keynote address at this year's Keeper of the Dream award ceremony Monday.

AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

By ADAM ROBERTS
Senior Reporter

Entertainer Harry Belafonte spoke about race, poverty and his experience in the civil rights movement when he visited Oakland University Monday as part of OU's Martin Luther King Jr. Day festivities.

The event was not about Belafonte though; it was about six OU students who set themselves apart by promoting tolerance and understanding here at Oakland.

The 16th annual Keeper of the Dream award ceremony brought together the OU Community to remember the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognize those who are living up to his spirit.

Belafonte looked back on his final conversation with Dr. King, recalling that King's eternal optimism was wearing thin.

He remembers King prophesizing that the civil rights movement was fighting to "integrate into a burning house."

When Belafonte asked what they were supposed to do about it and what their mission should be, King said, "We're just going to have to become firemen."

With 40 years of experience putting out racial fires, Belafonte has also grown weary.

"There's an indifference in this country that most blinds us. We're so caught up in our hedonistic pursuits, we so need

to have another car, to have another television set. We have abandoned our feelings, our need to have a greater purpose," said Belafonte about the attitude in today's culture.

The six individuals who won awards this year personify the effort that Belafonte asks for from young people.

Belafonte spoke out about poverty, saying that it is this mission that continues today.

"Never go to bed at the end of a day knowing that you didn't do something to try to make a difference in what's happening to poor people," Belafonte remembers his mother telling him.

He passed that message along to the capacity crowd, while also urging them to speak out about juvenile incarceration.

OU alumni David Baker Lewis introduced Belafonte, saying "Harry Belafonte personifies what it means to keep the dream alive."

His speech urged young people to take action though, saying "There is a lot of work left to be done."

This year's award-winners were Yakela Roberson, Jinae Stoudamire, Latonia Garrett, Avery Neale, Denise R. Jones, and Ronée Harvey.

As President Gary Russi congratulated the winners, handing them certificates of recognition for the work they had done, it was evident that the job that started with Dr. King, and with others, like Harry Belafonte, still continues today.

Meet the Keepers...



Avery Neale

"I impacted students by showing them that people really do care."



Denise R. Jones

"I make it a priority to listen twice as much as I speak."



Jinea Stoudemire

"[I] encourage my mentees to go outside of their comfort zones and reach out to other ethnicities."



Latonia Garrett

"Inviting my friends to interact with different backgrounds usually leads to a conversation or even friendship."



Ronée Harvey

"I hope to encourage others to step away from what they are accustomed to."



Yakela Roberson

"The common misinterpretation is that people automatically experience diversity."

Debating \$4.8 million deferred payment

By PAUL GULLY & KELLY KOZLOWSKI

Managing Editor & Editor in Chief

Three months is a long time to sit on millions of dollars. So it stands to reason that Oakland University administrators must have a good explanation of their decision to do just that.

Oakland University President Gary Russi will begin to meet with student leaders to discuss the allocation of the \$4.8 million deferred payment OU received from the state in October 2007.

The payment, which is money that OU was shorted from the 2007 state budget, was a primary factor in the decision to raise tuition by 13.9 percent last semester.

Oakland University Student Congress President Rob Meyer, Vice President Jameelah Muhammad, and student liaisons to OU's Board of Trustees Samir Hanna and Aaron Kochenderfer are the student leaders Russi plans to meet with in order to hear the student body's ideas for fund allocation.

Last fall, members of the OU Board

of Trustees agreed that if they indeed received the deferred payment from the state, it would be returned to the students.

The Oakland Post reported in an August issue (2007) that "According to [Trustee Chair Dennis] Pawley, in the case that the university does receive its state funding, the board also has set up a clause in which they would attempt to give money back to students. He said, 'We did commit to this in the event that it happens.'"

Meyer plans to hold them to their word.

According to Russi (see the Q&A in this edition of the Post), the state is projecting that it will not have enough revenue to balance the 2009 budget, a problem which would leave universities scrambling to make up the funding. Russi referenced a "revenue-estimating conference" held Jan. 11 in Lansing, which projected estimates of many categories of state funding in Michigan, including the "General fund general purpose." According to the agency that publishes a complete report of the conference findings (House Fiscal Agency),

the general fund is the primary source of state funding for secondary education. Projecting future funds available in this category, however, won't necessarily give universities an accurate picture of what their individual needs will be because it is allocated to other expenses in addition to higher education.

According to Russi, "They're [the conference data] saying that the likelihood of a cut is probably not strong for 2008, but get ready for 2009...[it's] not going to be a good year. It is going to be a very challenging year for the state."

However, when contacted to confirm this information, representatives from the House Fiscal Agency said that the conference "did not specify budget cuts" and "until the governor announces her [budget] plan, there's no starting point."

Furthermore, Vice Chair of the higher education appropriations committee and Michigan State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) said that he foresees "a little less than level spending" as the worst case scenario in 2009. Essentially, level spending implies that the dollar amount of state fund-

ing remains the same, though inflation and individual university costs may increase. Such a situation may appear to be the result of a budget cut, when in reality it is the result of an increase in operating costs.

According to Russi, the administration is considering whether to "release all or a portion of the \$4.8 million to the students in some form or to ... use that to help mitigate tuition increases for 2009."

This could be considered a modest move by the university — an effort to buffer against future budget cuts at the state level. But according to State Board of Education Member Casandra Ulbrich, "The revenue is estimated, so every year, really, you can make the claim 'we don't know what to expect.'"

According to Meyer, student leaders are looking into several options, which include updating SCB laboratories, renovating Center for Student Activities and Student Resource Center, upgrad-

See PAYMENT on Page 10

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Catching up with Russi

By KELLY KOZLOWSKI & PAUL GULLY
Editor in Chief & Managing Editor

The Oakland Post recently sat down with Oakland University President Gary Russi as part of our regular installment of interviews with administrators. Find out what Russi had to say about athletics, academics and the future of OU.

The question:

What is going to make 2008 a big year for Oakland University? What are people going to be talking about?

The answer:

Probably the most important thing we're doing strategically is the medical school. The thing that will make 2008 an important year is that we have to submit the accreditation ... portfolio to the accrediting body for the medical school. We have to do that before the end of the year. ... They will come back in 2009 and will determine whether we get our initial accreditation. If that all works, we'll begin the process of admissions in the fall of 2009. And that is huge this year, for us to get that accreditation.

The process is going well. We've got teams all over the place working. The process is pretty well dictated by the accrediting body. It includes everything from accreditation to staffing, to facilities, to equipment and budgets, and everything else. We have to deal with each and every one of those and make sure we have a full response to each. It doesn't mean that everything has to be done ... but there has to be a strong enough plan. ... Then they come back in two years and relook at us and see if we did what we told them we were going to do. And then they will make a judgment whether we will get full accreditation.

Students want to come to a school that is accredited, so you need that initial accreditation.

Our med school placement rate is the highest in the country. That's because we have incredible preparation in the sciences and we have laboratory experiences and research experiences that set our students apart. I would say the thing that sets us apart as a single item is the fact that almost all of the pre-med students do an undergraduate research project. ... Most others in the country don't have that. We're sitting in the mid-70s in our placement rate and the average is 40-something percent.

I can't foresee any big problems with our initial accreditation. It's moving along well. I can report to you that the consultant that is working with us in the accreditation is a former medical school dean and says we're ahead of the process.

What it means for you:

Your medical degree will be worth more if it comes from an accredited university. Currently, more than 70 percent of OU students applying for med school get in. That's way above the national average.

The question:

When we talked to you (in October of 2007) you discussed the capital campaign. How has that been going since we last spoke?

The answer:

It's going great. You will see an announcement very soon that we are at \$84 million out of a projected \$110 million, and we've been in it just over 2 1/2 years. That is

a campaign that is slated to go until 2010. We're very satisfied with the progress. We are extremely supportive and indebted to the people who are supporting us. ... And it's not corporations, it's individual people.

We'll be announcing some other major gifts that I can't share now, that will bring us even closer to that goal.*

*Four days after this interview was conducted, Russi announced a \$15 million anonymous gift to the OU capital campaign. It is, according to Russi, "the largest single gift to the university in our history." Eleven million dollars will "fund student scholarships, research endowments and program support," while the remaining \$4 million will go toward the medical school. It is a combination direct estate gift and planned gift annuity.

What it means for you:

Your university is bringing in a lot of money to grow the school, its offerings and its facilities.

The question:

Both basketball programs have had some big wins the past few months, both beating top-25 teams. What are your expectations for the Summit League tournament, and possibly, beyond that?

The answer:

Let's first acknowledge that both the men's and women's teams have had great years. ... The story really will be told in the next four weeks. We have a lot of competition. I am very optimistic that we will see success. ... The desired position in the league tournament for both teams is to go in as team 1 or 2, because you play the seventh- or eighth- ranked team. So you have a better chance to succeed in that first game. ... It would be unbelievable to get both teams, in the same year, into the NCAA tournament.

Athletics is just another outlet to showcase OU and bring attention to the school.

The question:

What intentions do you have for the \$4.8 million delayed payment OU received from the state?

The answer:

The questions what do we do with it and how quickly we release it. They've (the state) cut us since 2002. We're uncertain whether there is going to be a cut for this current budget. There was a revenue-estimating conference last Friday Jan. 11 and that conference said that it doesn't look good for Michigan, it doesn't look good for this current year and they'll have to come up with some money to balance the current year's budget. They did find \$365 million and they think that any shortfall in 2008, this current year's budget, we'd be covered by that \$365 million. They're saying that the likelihood of a cut is probably not strong for 2008, but get ready for 2009. Two thousand and nine is not going to be a good year. It is going to be a very challenging year for the state. ... And so the question is [will they] have enough revenue to balance their budget?

At the end of the day, the issue for us is, do we release all or a portion of the \$4.8 million to the students in some form or do we use that to help mitigate tuition increases for 2009? That's what we're debating.

Now in that conversation, Rob [Meyer, OUSC President] is going to be sitting at that table with his leadership, and the student liaisons will be at the table. They started that conversation the other day.

If we get a comfort level that we will not be slammed big-time in 2008 and the cut in 2009 is not going to be enormous, where we have to really push up tuition, then we might be able to release a portion of that money. Then we're asking the students to help us decide where that money should go.

What it means for you:

The administration hasn't made a definite decision regarding the repayment and its usage. Potential budget cuts in the future could put OU at risk for further tuition increases. You still have time to tell student leaders (OUSC) what you would like to see done with the money. *See story on page 7.

The question:

If the decision is to not release a portion of the payment to students in an effort to mitigate a tuition increase in 2009, what would your response to students be who say, 'I'm not even going to be here, I'm paying tuition this year. I want to see results this year'?

The answer:

That's a difficult answer. I'm kind of sensitive because they've paid tuition for multiple years. They've got us to this point, they've helped us to get to this point. ... The reason tuition went up as much as it did, is because the state cut us. They took away that \$4.8 million. ... Ultimately, if we can convince the students that the money should go [to mitigate future cuts], hopefully the students who don't receive benefit from that, who leave the university before that, they'll see wisdom in putting the money back there.

Years before, here's what's happened: When we've got money back, we've worked with students and they've given us some ideas. The first time we did this, the students agreed that we put it back into financial aid, so we did. And the students got money back that way. The second time it happened, that we had some money back from the state, the students worked with us, and we agreed, again collectively, to put the money into South Foundation Hall to upgrade those classrooms to try to do environmental improvements for the students for when they go into classrooms. This time, where do we put it? There's a lot of options.

Ultimately, the goal is to get it to the students. Whether you decrease tuition increases, or give back something in classrooms, an instructional laboratory, financial aid, or you send them a check - now the check will be small, maybe \$15, or so, per person, but it's \$15.

But the key is the dialogue with the students.

What it means for you:

You might see some of the money returned to students directly. If not, you may be saved from a tuition increase in the future or able to benefit from the further development of programs and/or facilities. But if you're graduating this spring, you'll miss the perks of such development.

The question:

What's the scope of OU marketing? Is it focused just within the state, or is OU expanding?

The answer:

Our primary marketing has been in three counties. It's been Oakland, Macomb and Wayne. And for many years the recruiting effort and the visibility effort has been focused on those three counties. ... Our effort now is to go beyond and have students represented from every county in Michigan. I am pleased to report that we are 2/3 of the way there. ... In addition to that, we're picking selected markets around the country and we have admissions staff going to those markets and beginning to develop relationships to recruit from those areas. ... We're concentrating heavily to get the name of OU outside of the primary market. ... We need to expand the base.

What it means for you:

Don't be surprised if you run into the Grizz on your next cross-country road trip.

The question:

How is marketing primarily done?

The answer:

It's everything you can imagine. You name it, we're doing it. TV, radio, billboards, print media, electronic media, billboards, and something we're having fun with is "new media." [We have] a team put together to devise ways to communicate to prospective students and their families using new media.

The fact is students in high school these days don't read brochures, they get their stuff online. ... A lot of students are communicating through Facebook ... and blogs and such.

What it means for you:

Oakland University just might Facebook friend you.

The question:

Cooley Law School has moved to their new location since the last time we talked. How has the relationship been with them?

The answer:

It's great. There are three things that I will share with you that we'll be announcing soon. ... Here are the things that are happening that will [strengthen] our relationship: The first thing that is going to happen is that we will signal to the world that we are both educational partners. Very soon, when you go over to their campus, you will see a sign that says, "Oakland University is our educational partner." As part of their main sign. Very soon, you will see a sign on Oakland's campus saying, "Cooley Law is our educational partner." It's a branding step to signal to the world that we are educational partners.

The second is this: A preferred admissions program. If students meet certain criteria there will be spaces made available to Oakland students. This is important because we want to have more and more options for our students to pursue careers they want to pursue. If they want to go into law, and if they want Cooley, they can be guaranteed admissions into that school if they meet certain criteria. ...

The third area of partnership is a student support system. Our students can use their facilities ... for a number of things and can participate with them. And their students can participate at Oakland and Oakland activities. They can be given an option to live on campus, they attend the Rec. Center, they can use our library, we can use their library. So, it's a symbiotic student-services-support system. ... If you look at those three initiatives, it would be hard for anyone to say that we're not connected hip-to-hip. We are a true partner with them.

What it means for you:

So long as you meet certain criteria, Cooley Law School could be holding a spot for you, thanks to their preferred admissions program. Plus, you'll be able to rub elbows with Cooley students in their library.

The question:

What are your thoughts on politics and student involvement? Do you feel that it's alive here on campus?

The answer:

More so than I've ever seen it since I've been here. The interest and advocacy for their candidates, their visibility is really, really good.

Let me tell you how it's really played out though. Student government has been so active in helping us secure funds at the state level. ... Our student leaders have taken it upon themselves to go to Lansing on behalf of OU.

Go to www.oaklandpostonline.com for further updates

continued from Page 7

PAYMENT

ing the Career Services program, or possibly refunding the deferred payment in the form of a check.

"I think that this money needs to get back into the students' pockets, whether it goes into the students' pockets directly or into new resources that all students can utilize," Meyer said. "I think it is important that students know that their money from the delayed payment, arrived back in October," he added.

In the past, when the university has received payment back from the state, the money has gone to financial aid and to make improvements to South Foundation Hall, according to Russi.

There is some confusion about just how much of the \$4.8 million will be made available to students. Meyer said that he "hasn't been told a direct answer," when he has asked the administration.

Russi, in an interview with the Oakland Post, said that if it was decided that students should receive the money directly in the form of a check, "the check will be small, maybe \$15, or so, per person." It was later suggested by the administration that the estimated amount would work out to \$10 per credit hour per student.

Meyer was previously told that a check in the amount of \$50 or \$60 would be given to students if that option was chosen.

If every student were to receive a \$60 refund, taking into account there are approximately 18,000 students enrolled at OU, the amount refunded would total \$1,080,000. A \$15 check would equate to a total of \$270,000. Either way, the university is left with a figure between three and four million dollars to be used elsewhere.

"I think they're being very conservative with the budget, which isn't necessarily a good thing," Meyer said.

Meyer wants to hear students' thoughts on the matter and plans on meeting with the Board of Trustees to

weigh in on the issue.

"The most important thing is getting the money back to the students," Meyer said. "The Board promised us that money and I want to hold them to their promise."

Meyer also said he was considering holding a forum, open to both students and the administration, to open a dialogue between the two parties. Furthermore, OUSC is planning on circulating a survey for students as a way to garner feedback.

Hanna and Kochenderfer are to present student opinions on what should be done with the money at a future Board of Trustees meeting.

"I want to do whatever the students want. I've heard a variety of things so far and I'm always up for hearing what students have to say," said Hanna.

Hanna can be reached via e-mail at shanna@oakland.edu.

Rob Meyer can be reached e-mail@oakland.edu or at the OUSC office, located in the basement of the Oakland Center, at (248) 370-4292.

Ready for some football

Oakland students voice their gridiron interest in an OUSC-distributed survey

By **JESSE DUNSMORE**
Senior Reporter

An overwhelming majority of students surveyed by Student Congress at the end of last semester said they would support the establishment of an Oakland University football team — but local pigs don't need to guard their skins just yet.

OU legislator Craig Brown said he was approached at the RAC by other students who knew he was on OUSC. "They asked me, 'If you're on Student Congress, why don't you guys do something about getting us a football team?'"

Brown brought the matter to Congress, and the Research and Review Committee, chaired by Todd Fitzsimmons.

According to Fitzsimmons, the committee distributed between 600 and 700 surveys, and kept them out for three weeks, beginning just before finals week last semester. OUSC received 578 back, which he said was a very high return rate.

The results were positive; 86 per-

cent said they would support the establishment of a football program and attend games. Eighty percent had no problem paying for tickets or parking fees; 79 percent would attend football games more than other events, and only 22 percent objected to higher enrollment rates and larger class sizes.

Brown said the supply of surveys posted at the RAC ran out twice, and people were still asking for more at the beginning of this semester.

"If we could have kept it up for another couple weeks," he said, "we'd have had 10,000."

According to Student Body President Rob Meyer, there is also administrative support for the idea of a football team, but there are concerns, the major one being funding.

Meyer said he spoke with University President Gary Russi, who told him the costs associated with a football team would run to \$200 million. The university would need to find donors to afford such an endeavor, and only 50 percent of students surveyed said they would agree to a

tuition increase to help fund a football program.

Meyer said he would likely be presenting the survey results to the Board of Trustees at their April meeting, though if the Board meets in February, he'll present then instead.

Though some, such as Meyer, feel there is a clear fan base, Brown would like a referendum on the issue to get a larger sample of OU's 18,000 students.

"Come on," said Meyer, "there's [OU] football shirts at Meijer."

And even if the Board moved forward with a plan to start a football program, the process couldn't happen overnight. With the need for donors, as well as the establishment of a venue, coaching staff, scholarships, and a myriad of other expenses, Meyer and Brown acknowledge that a team would be years away.

"If it takes five to 10 years, so be it," said Brown, "but if someone had started this five to 10 years ago, maybe now, as a grad student, I could go to a football game."

Brand new home, sweet home?

By **JESSE DUNSMORE**
Senior Reporter

Although no decisions have been made regarding capacity, location, appearance or anything else, Director of University Housing Lionel Maten said a new residence hall is in Oakland University's future.

So far, the only completed step has been a feasibility study conducted by the consulting firm Brailsford and Dunlavey. Maten said the university is still examining the feasibility, including a survey of students.

Regardless of when the university takes action toward building a new residence hall, Maten said more on-campus housing is inevitable. "The university is looking to expand," said Maten, "and housing is part of that growth."

He said that new housing is typically constructed every five or six years, but the last time Oakland expanded its living space, it was with the construction of the University Student Apartments in 2001.

According to Maten, President Russi's 2020 plan for Oakland includes an ultimate goal of having capacity to house 2500 students on campus. Currently there is space for a little over 1800.

Though a single residence hall wouldn't bring the capacity up to 2500, Maten said it'd be a step in the right direction.

The building could boast some features unique to OU housing.

One specific idea Maten has is a room capable of being converted for multiple uses: a study room, an exercise area, a TV lounge with stadium seating—all in one.

Some students may have input as well. Last semester, Maten met with Jordan Twardy, Chair of OUSC's Student Services Committee, who organized this year's Technology Advancement Program (TAP). Student teams participating in TAP are competing to design an energy efficient residence hall. Ideas discussed have included the orientation of the building to maximize sunlight, and window positioning for insulation.

Maten said that ideas generated by TAP could potentially be integrated into the new building. He has been invited to be a judge at the TAP competition in February.

"We've got to look to build a residence hall capable of adapting to the changes of students as we go forward," said Maten.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

One night shines a little brighter

Angelica Proffett, president of OU's Association of Black Students, poses outside of Vandenberg Hall with one of the candles held in a vigil honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday night in Hamlin Circle. "This is our first time doing the candlelight vigil," Proffett said. "We wanted a change, something new, more adventurous. We also wanted to get more students involved, and we thought this might be a good way to get students to show their respect to Dr. King and his role in change and diversity in America."

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Large turnout for Nathan's Blankets

By AMANDA SAOUD
Staff Intern

More than 100 hospitalized children will be a little warmer this week. Nathan's Blankets, the campus community service project of the month, gave Oakland University students the opportunity to help sick and injured children.

During the event, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity and United Hope, students made more than 100 fleece blankets, which will be donated to cancer and burn victims at Detroit Children's Hospital.

"We chose to do the event on Martin Luther King Jr. Day because it's supposed to be a day of service," explained Alisha Bellows, United Hope President.

Bellows, a sophomore education major, originally started Nathan's Blankets two years ago, as a senior at Utica High School.

"I was working in an elementary classroom and one of the kids, Nathan, was diagnosed with cancer. I felt that we had to do something to help him and other children who had to stay in the hospital for a long time." She contacted the head nurse at Detroit Children's Hospital, and after a long conversation, decided that what the kids needed most was something to make them feel better, some-

thing warm and cuddly – a blanket.

"The fleece blankets are really easy to make, they don't take a lot of time or a lot of tools so they're great for a large project like this. Everyone who was involved with it in high school was really excited about it, but I figured it was a one time thing, I never planned to do it again."

As a freshman last year at Oakland, Bellows started the organization United Hope, designed to help cancer victims and their families, and decided to host Nathan's Blankets at Oakland. "At first I was worried because I didn't know how the turnout would be, but it was fantastic. So many different groups of people from different organizations came to help out, and I think everyone had a fun time," said Bellows.

The event went so well in fact, that it won the award for Best Campus Volunteer Project for the 2006-2007 school year.

"After last year I knew it was something we would keep doing, something that would keep growing, and co-sponsoring with Habitat for Humanity this year really made that possible. We were supposed to be here from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., but there were so many volunteers, everything was done by 3:30."

Automakers optimistic

Despite economic woes, auto industry is hopeful about future

By TOM KRISHER
Associated Press Auto Writer

DETROIT — Domestic automakers, faced with growing evidence of a recession in the United States, said Tuesday they were optimistic they can weather a downturn even if the economy falters farther this year.

The auto industry is traditionally hit harder by recessions and economic turbulence compared to other sectors, but executives said they were unfazed by an early slide on Wall Street from rattled investors. The Dow Jones industrials lost 128.11 points, or 1.06 percent, for the day.

"This year is going to be a tough year, its going to be challenging. The market obviously is going to be difficult for all of us," Jim Press, Chrysler LLC's vice chairman, said at the Washington auto show. "But at the same time, it's going to give us a chance to show how good we really are."

Ford Motor Co. Chief Executive Alan Mulally said the automaker had enough liquidity to deal with a recession and the company remained confident in its restructuring plan that calls for a return to profitability in 2009.

"The plan we put in place is absolutely the right plan," he said during an appearance at the Automotive News World Congress in Detroit.

Auto executives applauded the Federal Reserve's three-quarters of a percentage point cut in the federal funds rate and said they were supportive of discussions on an economic stimulus plan in Congress. The surprise reduction in the federal funds rate from 4.25 down to 3.5 percent marked the biggest funds rate cut on record going back to 1990.

"I think we have validation now that the Fed and the government are going to move aggressively," said Mark LaNeve, General Motors Corp.'s vice president of North American sales and marketing. He told reporters in Washington that he expected the industry to recover later this year.

LaNeve said the auto industry has been in "somewhat of a recession" for the past 18 months as sales fell to about 16.1 million vehicles in 2007, the lowest since 1998 as consumers worried about high gas prices, falling home values and the economy. Sales were down from 16.6 million in 2006.

"If anything, I think I look for us to start recovering sometime this year, probably in the latter part of the year," LaNeve said.



Bill Ford Jr., executive chairman of Ford, speaks at the North American International Auto Show Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008 in Detroit.

CARLOS OSORIO/Associated Press

Shares of General Motors closed at \$23.65, up 13 cents, or 0.55 percent, after falling earlier in the day to \$22.25. Ford's shares dropped briefly to a 52-week low of \$5.50 in morning trading before rebounding to close at \$5.93, up 1 cent.

Chrysler, which is now a private company, has planned for auto sales of 15.5 million to 16 million vehicles in the U.S. this year and was "very realistic in setting our goals and objectives," Press said.

"When we set our plans out, we were really hoping that we would have the best-case outcome but planning for the worst-case," Press said. "It seems like what we thought was ... pretty conservative is about where it's going to come out."

Press said he hoped that Chrysler would not need to offer massive buyouts to reduce costs, similar to a move announced last week by GM to offer early retirement or buyout packages to all of its hourly workers.

"We sure hope we can avoid that. You never know where the economy is going to wind up going. We, last year, made some tough calls, very difficult decisions that were necessary to make the company strong going forward," Press said.

Mulally said Ford's plan for a potential recession is to adjust its current restructuring plan, matching factory capacity with consumer demand and continuing to invest in new products.

He wouldn't talk about any further plant closings or other reductions that might be in the works.

"We really don't know how it's going to turn out, and we have such a range, as you know, in forecasts on the

volume," he said. "We're just going to watch it carefully like we have been and then move decisively and not end up building up excess inventory."

Mulally also likes the possibility of an economic stimulus package and said he trusts the federal government to come up with the right solution.

Also during the speech, Mulally said a new Ford Taurus, once the best-selling car in the U.S., is coming in 2009, although when asked about it later he said: "I probably said too much."

Ford's car sales plummeted 24 percent for all of 2007 as some models like the Ford Mustang aged and a new Taurus sedan was unable to match the volumes of the older version. Ford also cut rental-car sales by 32 percent over the year.

Ford stopped making the Taurus in October 2006 after 21 years and sales of nearly 7 million cars, but brought it back last fall by renaming the Five Hundred sedan and the Freestyle crossover vehicle. Taurus sales were down 19 percent last year compared with sales in 2006.

Mulally also said the company on Thursday would announce the details of another round of buyouts and early retirement packages for hourly workers when it releases its 2007 earnings and projections for the future.

Ford lost \$12.6 billion in 2006, but earned \$88 million in the first nine months of 2007.

The company has shed 33,600 hourly workers and 10,600 salaried workers since the end of 2005 as part of its restructuring plan, mainly through buyouts and early retirement offers.

Renewable energy is state's priority

By **TIM MARTIN**
Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. — A clean energy proposal outlined Tuesday may be another sign that state lawmakers plan to make 2008 the year Michigan gets serious about renewable and alternative power.

A bipartisan proposal anchored by Senate Republicans would use tax credits for utilities to create and buy clean energy. The proposals aim to help projects such a power plant planned for Alma, which would use coal more cleanly than traditional plants.

The proposals add to a host of ideas already introduced and yet to come from lawmakers and Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Most state policymakers agree clean, alternative and renewable energy is crucial to the future of Michigan's economy and environment. But there are competing roadmaps to reach those broad goals, and Michigan's policymakers have yet to agree on the best path.

"We all understand the future of the state of Michigan requires a comprehensive energy plan," said Senate Majority

Leader Mike Bishop, a Republican from Rochester. "And it is going to require cooperation between Republicans and Democrats."

Lawmakers from both parties would like to reach agreement on a plan this year.

"Not only do we think we can reach a consensus this year, we think it can be reached early in the year," said Liz Boyd, a spokeswoman for Granholm, a Democrat who has made renewable and alternative energy a priority.

Several bills related to clean and renewable energy have been introduced in the Legislature and more are on the way. Wind, solar, biomass, cleaner coal and other fuels all are competing for their own piece of Michigan's energy future.

Some of the key upcoming decisions include whether Michigan should require a certain percentage of its electrical power to be generated by renewable resources. A restructuring of the state law that governs utilities could be considered, as could requirements to reduce energy use and promote efficiency.

The plan outlined by Bishop and others

Tuesday includes the creation of renaissance energy zones. Tax credits would encourage the development of clean and renewable energy power plants, and utilities would have incentives for buying electricity from cleaner sources.

Officials with M&M Energy — scheduled to meet with members of the Granholm administration Wednesday — say they need the legislation to make their plans for a power plant in Alma a reality. The facility would treat coal chemically to create a cleaner-burning synthetic gas, reducing pollution. Company officials say the project would boost the mid-Michigan economy.

"This is an investment in the future," M&M President Mike Sawruk said. "It's a game-changer."

But some environmentalists say the process is unproven and potentially expensive, in part because they expect new regulations related to carbon emissions in the near future. And the plan still relies on coal, which Michigan has to import from other states.

Anne Woiwode, director of the Sierra Club's Michigan chapter, said the state should focus on its own renewable

resources.

Woiwode supports legislation to be introduced by some House Democrats that aims to make sure the costs of investing in coal-powered plants would not be borne by ratepayers. The plan would require utilities and corporate shareholders to pick up the tab.

"Not unlike a lot of forks in the road, this is not a matter of going to the left or right," said Rep. Fred Miller, a Democrat from Mount Clemens and a sponsor of the legislation. "Right now the choice we have is whether we go backward or forward as a state."

Last year, then-Michigan Public Service Commission Chairman J. Peter Lark said the state needs a new power plant — likely fueled by coal — within eight years to meet power demands. He also urged the state to push for power generated by renewable resources.

At least seven power companies have sought to build new coal plants or expand existing coal plants in the state in the past year.

Some environmental groups say they aren't convinced Michigan needs a new power plant.

Around the State

■ **GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.** — A man convicted of killing a Kent County Jail cellmate whom he suspected of stealing his snack cake will spend the next 25 to 75 years in prison.

Prosecutors say 19-year-old Benny Rochelle dragged 46-year-old Jose Estrada from the top bunk of his bed after discovering his Honey Bun snack cake was missing, sending him headfirst onto the concrete floor of their jail cell. He died two days after leaving jail in November 2006.

■ **PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP, Mich.** — A man is accused of burning his 8-week-old daughter with a hand held blow-dryer.

The Detroit News reports that 28-year-old Shawn Treadwell was arrested Sunday by Plymouth Township police and charged with first-degree child abuse.

Police say she had second-degree burns to her face. Burn impressions from the end of a hair dryer's metal grate also were on her arm and leg. The newspaper reports that Treadwell is a four-time felon.

— The Associated Press

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The writing's on the wall

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Edit My Profile

I am online now.

Photos 2 of 4 albums. See All

Networks: Oakland University '08

Sex: Female

Interested In: Men

Relationship Status: Single

Mini-Feed

Displaying 10 stories. See All

"Checking new notifications."

Anna Affar
Sophomore, Psychology

Groups

Displaying 12 groups. See All

"Looking at pictures posted by my friends that I haven't seen in a while."

Mandy McDonnell
Senior, Nursing

"I like making my own Facebook groups and tagging myself in pictures."

Ryan D'Silvia
Senior, Communication

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5. "Washing Machine Is Speaking" — Ellen Allien
6. "Hot on the Heels of Love" — Throbbing Gristle
7. "Barbarella (Deep Dish Mix)" — Sven Väth
8. "Negrito Filomino" — Yma Sumac
9. "My Pal Foot Foot" — The Shaggs
10. "God Save the Queen" — The Sex Pistols

Technology you have to have

What is one type of communication technology that you couldn't live without?



"The Internet because I am able to research, communicate with people or job search. I can't imagine living without it."

Demetrios Anastasiow
Senior, Communication

"Cell phone because it keeps me connected with everybody."

Emory Wright
Freshman, Undecided



"E-mail. It is easy and there are so many free e-mail account services."

Jason Newman
Freshman, Business

Invent this!

What invention do you think has had the greatest impact on society and why?



"The traffic light because without it everyone would get into a lot of accidents."

Clayton Day
Freshman, Undecided

"The cell phone because it's an easy way to get a hold of people, good for emergencies, keeps people social and it's affordable for most people."

Stephanie St. Croix
Sophomore, Communication



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Quietly making noise

Kampe: 'He plays the way you'd want your son to play'

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

There is an expression in theatre that states, "There are no small roles, only small actors."

This year, men's basketball senior Patrick McCloskey's hoops career will be coming to an end, but the hard-working, undersized 6-foot-7 center has certainly made the most of his time on the hardwood. McCloskey has gone from high school star to key role-player for OU, never complaining along the way.

SCHOOL DAYS

Every athlete has a story and McCloskey's basketball odyssey began on the high school hardwood of Marshall High School in Marshall, Mich., a small town of 7,459 residents about 14 miles outside of Battle Creek.

Marshall High School varsity boys basketball coach Dan Coddens knew he had something special on his hands when McCloskey came to shoot around with the varsity team in his first year of high school.

"In eighth grade, we saw he was pretty good," Coddens said. "But when he came to open gym in ninth grade, my two captains said they wanted him on the team."

Things only looked up from there.

McCloskey became Coddens's only four-year varsity player in his 12 years as head coach and made first-team All State as a senior. Along the way, he led his team to three straight district titles and a 42-5 record his junior and senior years.

According to Coddens, McCloskey played the game with his eyes on the prize and didn't mind sharing the spotlight with his teammates, despite scoring more than 1,000 points in his high school career.

"Patrick wasn't a very emotional player; he was about business," Coddens said. "His highs were never too high and his lows never too low. He was all-business and his teammates looked up to him. If someone else was scoring points, that didn't bother him. He just wanted to win the game."

GOING TO GRIZZLY COUNTRY

When it came time to choose a college, several factors went into McCloskey's decision. In addition to being a four-year letter winner in basketball, he was also a two-year letter winner for Marshall's football team and he contemplated which sport to play at the collegiate level and where.

"It was between playing basketball at Oakland and playing football," McCloskey said. "They [OU] had been recruiting me early in high school and I had a few visits and liked what I saw. I was being recruited by some Big Ten schools to play football, but I had only played two years in high school and I wasn't sure if I loved football. So I stuck with basketball."

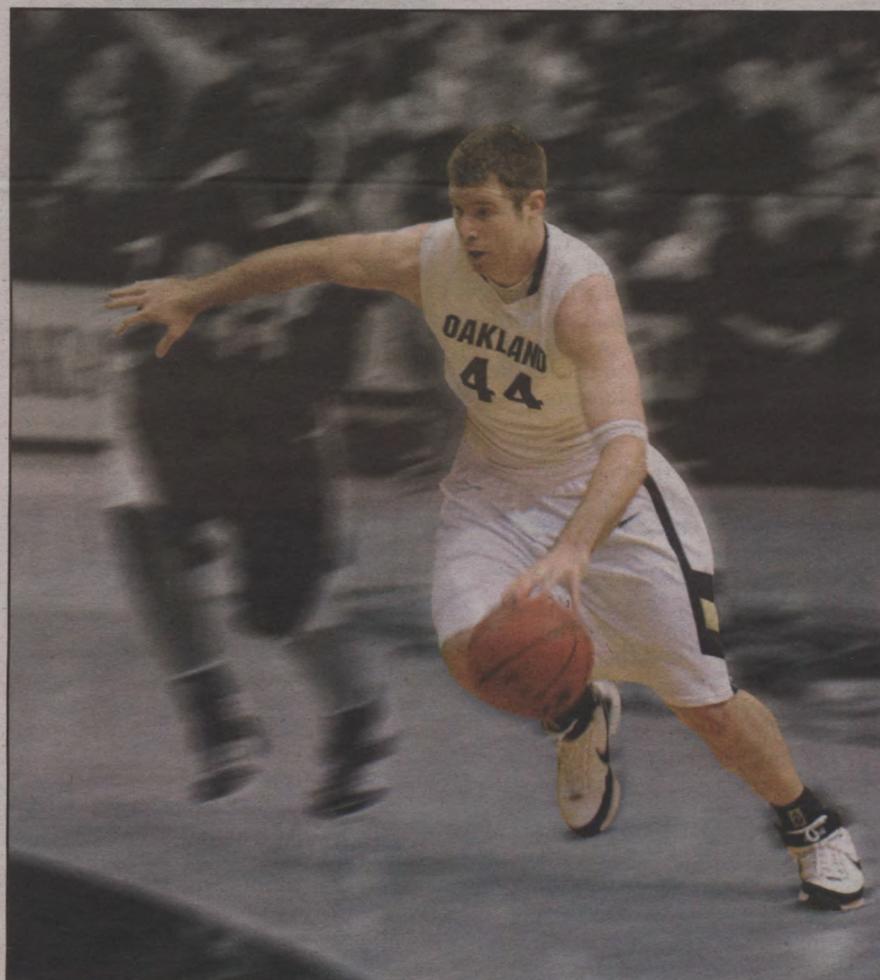
So the decision was made. McCloskey donned the number 44 in black and gold in 2004 and played in all 32 games with 16 starts in his freshman season. It was also in his first season that Oakland University took the conference title and won the play-in game against Alabama A&M to earn a seed in the NCAA tournament, an event Coddens calls one of his "proudest moments as a coach."

The 2004-05 season was also his introduction to head coach Greg Kampe, arguably one of the most spirited coaches in Division I basketball.

"He's an intense guy," McCloskey said. "He tells you straight up; he's not going to lie to you, so you know what to expect from him. You can respect that."

For the next two years, McCloskey took a role off the bench as Kampe brought in other big men.

"He doesn't draw fanfare, but he does his job," Kampe said. "He's our best defender in the post and you know whenever a shot goes up, he's going to go for the rebound."



BOB KNOSKA/ Oakland Post file photo. Illustration by Dustin Alexander
Patrick McCloskey has no qualms about throwing his body into the game. Kampe stated that he feels comfortable with McCloskey defending any opponent because he is "a rough, tough kid who can take the banging and beating inside."

He does all the little things right. He does have some limitations in scoring the ball, which is what makes him a role-player and keeps him from being in the limelight all the time."

McCloskey has made some key plays for the Golden Grizzlies as of late, among them his 11 rebounds in the statement-making victory over then 21-ranked University of Oregon Dec. 22 and a momentum-building layup at the buzzer to cut Oral Roberts's halftime lead to three points on Jan. 12.

"It's basically my job to come bring intensity and energy every game," McCloskey said. "I get rebounds, do a lot of the dirty work, put up some put-backs and do whatever I can for the team."

See McCloskey on Page 20

Double the disappointment

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Waterstradt ties career high in 77-69 OU loss

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Saturday's conference matchup between Oakland University and IPFW had "win" written all over it for the Golden Grizzlies. With a student bus of several hundred Oakland University students traveling into enemy territory and senior Brandon Cassise back in the lineup after serving a suspension, a pumped up Golden Grizzlies team was ready to get back on the winning track after a hard loss to rival Oral Roberts last weekend.

But the Mastodons (7-11 overall, 4-3 conferece) lit up the floor with 61 percent shooting in the second half to down the Golden Grizzlies 77-69 after an OU-dominated first half.

IPFW gave Oakland (9-9, 4-3) a scare in the opening five minutes of the first half with an 8-0 run, but the Golden Grizzlies found their groove and responded with a 15-2 run of their own that rocketed them to a 28-19 lead with just over six minutes to go.

IPFW finished the half by scoring the half's final seven points, leading Oakland into the locker room with a nine-point cushion, 37-28.

The second half was an entirely different ball game for the Golden Grizzlies. IPFW, a team that was not supposed to win slowly drove the Golden Grizzlies into the ground as the minutes ticked away.

Oakland saw its shooting grow ice-cold as they shot 12-for-37 in the second half and the Mastodons set the nets on fire with 61 percent shooting, making it the second consecutive game OU has allowed a team to shoot more than 60 percent in the second half.

"Nobody stepped up to make shots," head coach Greg Kampe said. "We had a lot of wide-open looks and nobody made shots."

After nine lead changes in the game's final 10 minutes, the Golden Grizzlies came within one point twice in the last two minutes, but Mastodon



BOB KNOSKA/Oakland Post File Photo
Junior Dan Waterstradt (45) played well against IPFW Saturday, tying a career high with 12 points against the Mastodons.

sixth man Chris Perkins wouldn't allow the game to slip away, as he nailed seven free throws in the final 1:23 of the game to seal the upset for the Summit League newcomer.

IPFW's Jaraun Burrows tallied a new career high 23 points, pulled down eight rebounds and had three steals. Former Golden Grizzly David Carson came just short of a double-double against his old teammates, scoring 15 points and pulling down nine rebounds for the Mastodons.

One of the lighter notes for Oakland was the second half performance of junior Dan Waterstradt, who matched his career high in points with 12, all coming in the second half, on 5-for-9 shooting.

"I think he had a very good second half," head coach Greg Kampe said of the 6-foot-10 center. "He played with great energy."

Sophomore Johnathon Jones led all Oakland scorers with 17 points and junior Erik Kangas shot 3-for-6 from behind the three-point arc to contribute 13 points on the game. Cassise scored 11 points and tallied six assists in his first game back from suspension.

The Golden Grizzlies will continue their road swing with matchups against second place IUPUI (13-5, 1-3) Thursday and Western Illinois (8-10, 3-4) Saturday.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Mastodons' early three-point shooting beats OU women

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — On paper, the IPFW Mastodons appeared to be easy competition for Oakland University. IPFW had only won five games thus far this season, compared to Oakland's 12, and coming into the game, the Mastodons were among the lower-ranked teams in the conference.

But IPFW (6-11, 4-3) senior Johnna Lewis-Carter's 3-pointer in the game's first 10 seconds would set the tone for the entire first half, as OU would never gain the lead in those first 20 minutes.

The Mastodons rode the wave of 5-for-9 three-point shooting in the first half and held OU to 40 percent shooting from the floor. The Golden Grizzlies (12-5, 5-2) got as close as a two-point deficit in the first half, but they appeared to be running on an empty tank and couldn't muster the momentum to surpass the Mastodons, trailing 36-29 at the half.

"We felt like we came out with a lack of energy," head coach Beckie Francis said. "They were mad that they dug themselves a hole and were down seven, so they knew that had to come out with more energy. They admitted they didn't come out as energized as they should have."

Oakland rebooted in the second half and after falling into a 14-point hole with 18:26 on the clock, OU sophomore Hanna Reising scored five consecutive points to spark the Golden Grizzlies. They brought IPFW's lead down to seven points, 43-35, with about 16 minutes to go.

After that, key plays from sophomore Melissa Jeltema and junior April Kidd brought the score to 49-47.

But OU would fall into another scoring drought and IPFW would be up by as many as nine points before the Golden Grizzlies gained their first lead with 6:47 remaining in the game, thanks to a pair of free throws that made the score 59-58.

The game would see saw with four



BOB KNOSKA/Oakland Post File Photo
Hanna Reising's (32) strong effort against IPFW just wasn't enough for an OU win. Coming off an ankle injury against Centenary on Jan. 14, Reising scored a game-high 16 points while adding 10 rebounds.

more ties in the next four minutes until Mastodon freshman Jordan Zuppe sank a key jump shot at 2:06 to bring the score to 69-67.

Free throws further propelled the Mastodons to a 73-67 lead with approximately 37 seconds to go. Reising knocked down a 3-pointer from the top of the arc to bring the score to 73-70. But it would be fouls that would bring the Golden Grizzlies down for good, as Zuppe nailed two more freebies and the Golden Grizzlies simply ran out of time to catch up, falling 75-70.

Some questionable calls on the court sent the Mastodons to the free throw line multiple times in the second half, which counted for 13 of IPFW's second half points. But Francis says its all a part of playing on the road.

"I always tell them on the road, it's a 10-point difference, so if you get a call here and there, you have to expect that on the road," Francis said. "We've got to be that much better [to overcome that] and we dug ourselves such a hole that we couldn't get that much better."

The Golden Grizzlies still have two more games in their road swing, with first place Western Illinois (8-9, 6-0) and IUPUI (7-11, 3-3) on the horizon. But Francis feels this game will be a strong motivator for them rather than a downer.

"We get really pissed off when we lose and I have no doubt we're going to come back energized," she said.

OU swims past Cincinnati



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Senior Zoltan Horvath has consistently been one of the top performers for the Golden Grizzlies this season, earning eight first place finishes in his past three swim meets.

By DAN TALLANT
Contributing Reporter

Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams faced off with the University of Cincinnati Jan. 19 and claimed victories in their first home meets since Nov. 3.

The men's team defeated the Bearcats by a score of 172-121. The Golden Grizzlies were led by senior Ryan Kish who set two season bests and won both the one- and three-meter springboard events. The scores posted by Kish (332.48, 340.05) qualified him for the NCAA Zone C Diving Championships.

Along with the success of Kish, four other swimmers also had first place finishes. Junior Aaron Holdsworth placed first in the 200-yard butterfly (1:52.55), junior David Tatarczyk in the 200-yard freestyle (1:43.06), senior Chris Tansel in the 100-yard butterfly (50.26) and senior Zoltan Horvath, who was the only other double victor, winning the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events (57.21, 2:04.95).

By winning the one- and three-meter springboard events (294, 263.55), fresh-

man Chelsea Oates led the women's team to a 167-128 victory over Cincinnati. Oates' one-meter springboard score was also enough to qualify for the NCAA Zone C Regional Diving Championships.

The Grizzlies received added success from sophomore Sarah Ludema and freshman Emily Wike, who were the double victors for the women.

Ludema won the 50-yard freestyle (24.31) and the 200-yard backstroke (2:08.23) while Wike placed first in 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events (1:07.35, 2:26.99).

Other first place finishers included junior Sophia Gustafsson in the 200-yard butterfly (2:08.23), senior Carolyn Routh in the 1000-yard freestyle (10:37.76), sophomore Agnes Sloan in the 200-yard freestyle (1:54.41), and senior Katie Wilke in the 500-yard freestyle (5:14.28).

The victories put both teams back in the win column after coming off losses in their last meet against Notre Dame.

Both teams travel to Michigan State University to take on the Spartans Friday, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m.

Feeling the heat

Golden Grizzlies bounce back with win Saturday after 7-4 defeat Friday night in Tucson, Ariz.

By BRITTANY OCHTINSKY
Senior Reporter

Oakland University's hockey team left the frigid Michigan weather behind last weekend when the Golden Grizzlies hopped on a plane and headed to Tucson, Ariz. Their reception, however, was less than sunny as they dropped Friday's game against the University of Arizona, 7-4.

Robbie Nowinski almost single-handedly won the game for the Icecats, netting five goals. He scored once in the first period, once in the second and three times in the third.

Down 3-2 after the first period, head coach Sean Hogan pulled goaltender Collin Chase in favor of Andrew Hansen, who was eventually charged with his first loss of the season.

"We brought Collin out after the first period, but that was actually his choice," said Hogan. "He came to us and said 'I'm fighting the puck, I'm not really feeling it today.' He's entitled to an off night, it just happens."

Kevin Kranker and Brett Haugh scored two first period goals for the

Grizzlies. After Nowinski reeled off four straight goals, Todd Orlando retaliated with two of his own in the third period, 18 seconds apart.

But the Grizzlies failed to capitalize on three straight 5-on-3 opportunities at the end of the game and Nowinski sealed the deal by hitting an empty netter with 1:26 remaining.

In a rare occurrence for the position, Arizona goaltender Nick Boddy was assessed a 10-minute misconduct penalty in the second period, which he was forced to serve himself. Luke Edwall was brought in to replace him until the penalty had expired. Edwall stopped all five shots he faced.

The Grizzlies returned Saturday night with the focus they had lacked the night before and it showed, as they silenced the Icecats and their taunting fans with a 5-0 shutout victory.

Brent Cooper put up a pair of goals to bring his total to a team-leading 16 on the season. Cody Austin and Colin Ronayne each netted their first goals as Grizzlies since joining the team Jan. 4 and Matt Kowalczyk added one final goal with five seconds left on the clock.

"Goals don't come by often for me, so I told the boys before, 'If I score, you're going to see the worst celebration ever,' and I think I gave it to them," said Ronayne. "I had nothing but smiles after that."

Hansen was granted the start in net and picked up his first career shutout, stopping all 40 shots by Arizona.

"It felt good to play and it felt even better to win. The shutout was just nice so we didn't have to hear the fans taunt us anymore," said Hansen, whose shutout was Oakland's first since Chase blanked Western Michigan University Jan. 5, 2007.

Ronayne also became the first Grizzly to receive a fighting disqualification since the infamous WMU brawl Nov. 24, 2006, in which three players were suspended for dropping the gloves. Ronayne will sit out this Friday's game against the University at Buffalo.

With the end of the season nearing, there are still plenty of kinks to be ironed out before nationals, if the team can remain one of the top 16 teams.

"We've got a thing with splitting, if we could figure out one night or the other,

it would make it a lot easier on us," said Cooper. "Every game is a new lesson; we just have to come out prepared every night."

ACHA DIVISION I RANKINGS*

1	Illinois	21-0-0
2	Penn State	22-1-4
3	Lindenwood	18-5-1
4	Oklahoma	22-2-1
5	Liberty	16-5-1
6	Delaware	18-5-1
7	Rhode Island	19-8-1
8	Ohio	17-10-0
9	West Chester	16-5-2
10	Kent State	17-9-0
12	Oakland	15-7-1

*Rankings as of Jan. 18

continued from Page 17

McCLOSKEY

McCloskey is especially motivated to play hard since, at 6-foot-7 and 229 pounds, he is undersized for a Division I center.

"There's been some tough games for me, going against some 6-11, seven-foot guys at the college level, so that was a bit of an adjustment," McCloskey said of starting at center as a freshman. "But I think that's what helped me with all the energy I bring because I had to work my butt off to compete with those guys."

McCloskey has been back in the starting lineup recently, earning his fourth consecutive start against IPFW Jan. 19.

"We just decided this is his senior year and we're giving him a chance to remember his senior year and make a name for himself," Kampe said. "He plays the game the way you'd want your son to play. He's plays hard, does all the right things and everybody looks at him and thinks, 'Now that's a good kid.'"

2008 AND BEYOND

In addition to finishing up his basketball career at OU this year, McCloskey completed another milestone this past

semester, earning his undergraduate degree in December in marketing. He's now entering his first year of graduate studies at Oakland, looking to earn his MBA with a concentration in supply chain management.

"He takes his career at Oakland seriously," Coddens said. "He is a role model for my current high school players. I can brag about him at home that he is a very good player and a good student."

Even with his eligibility concluding at the end of this season, McCloskey only sees the Oakland University basketball program growing stronger.

"Every year, the talent is getting better and better," he said. "They do a great job of recruiting and as people can see, we are competing with top-tier teams now and I think it's only going to continue to get better."

Coddens, who still visits with McCloskey on occasion, foresees his former star growing stronger as well.

"He's been successful on the basketball court for eight years and I expect bigger and better things out of him as a person," Coddens said. "I know in his career of choice he will be successful."

OU rides fast track in Ontario Invitational

Oakland University's men's track team scored 64 points at the Don Wright Invitational last Saturday in London, Ontario to finish second. School records were broken by Joe Goike in the 600-meter, Jason Bigelow in the 1500-meter, Jack Coleman in the 300-meter dash and Adam Grubis in the 35 lb. weight. The 800-meter relay team (Randy Moore, Brandon Elliott, Garrett Taffe and Khalid Wells) and the 1600-meter relay squad (Wells, Coleman, Andy Baurhenn and Goike) also squashed school records.

On the women's side, the Golden Grizzlies accumulated 52 points for a third-place finish. In total, seven school records were broken, including individual performances by Melissa Martinez in the 300-meter dash, Dayne Cline in the 1500, Jenna Leach in the 600, Maria Mets in the 60-meter hurdles, Marisa Nay in the triple jump and Sasha Whitaker in the 60-meter dash. The 800-meter relay team (Shannon Murray, Whitaker, Jenna Kempf and Jessica Ferguson) and 3200-meter relay team (Sara Leiblin, Claire Leigh-Monstevens, Elizabeth Jones and Cline) also set school records.

—Brittany Ochtinsky, Senior Reporter

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK**Ryan Kish**
Men's Diving

Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

Year: Senior
Major: Biology

Kish set two season best records in the one- and three-meter springboard events Jan. 19. His scores qualified him for the NCAA Zone C Diving Regional Championships in March.

IN THE RECORD BOOKS...

During his four years at Marshall High School, McCloskey made his mark in the Michigan High School Athletic Association all-time records:

FREE THROWS MADE (CAREER)

16TH ALL-TIME

338 MADE

REBOUNDS (CAREER)

19TH ALL-TIME

810

Other current Golden Grizzlies in the record books:
Erik Kangas, DeWitt, Seven 3-pointers in one game (8th all-time), 83 three-point field goals in a season (17th all time), 90.7 percent free throw percentage (5th all time)

Johnathon Jones, Okemos, 38 points in a single game (10th all time)

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TODAY, January 23

Noon – 1PM

Fireside Lounge, OC

- 2008 Presidential Election • Mid East Peace Conference • Bush's Mid East Trip • the economy
- and various other current events will be DEBATED & DISCUSSED!

OU Blood Drive • January 21 – 23 •
9AM – 9PM • Gold Rooms, OC

S.A.F.E.

(Students, Administrators & Faculty for Equality)

On Campus ALLY TRAINING

TODAY, January 23

2PM – 3:30PM

Lake Superior B, OC

CSA Leadership Lecture Series:**DAN MULHERN**

Michigan's First Gentleman

Emerging as a leader in today's world!

Thursday, January 24

Noon – 1PM

Banquet Room B, OC

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
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Thursday, January 24

10AM – 5PM

Fireside Lounge, OC

Display highlighting prominent African American members of the "Divine Nine," the council of historically black fraternities and sororities.

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January 23, 2008

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Learning how to walk

The ins and outs of applying for graduation at OU

By KRISTEN ANN SZYDLOSKI
Contributing Reporter

You finally made it.

Regardless of how long it took you, you're ready to sign up for your last semester of classes and apply for graduation.

The only question that remains: "How?"

Though the process may seem intimidating at first, with the right instructions, help from the records office and know-how, applying for graduation is easier than you might expect.

What students may not know is that there is a helpful graduation link located on the Oakland University homepage. All you have to do is click on "Current Students" and you will see a tab titled "Graduation & Beyond."

You can then click on "Commencement" and you will be directed to the page where you can apply for graduation and gather other pertinent information on the graduating process.

Information about the Alumni Association, Career Services, graduate admissions and more can also be found under Graduation & Beyond.

According to Jennifer Gilroy, Senior Associate from the Registrar's Office, the most confusing part of graduation

for many students is the difference between graduation and commencement.

"Degrees are awarded at the end of each semester but commencement is held only twice each year," Gilroy said.

Commencement is held in May for those students whose degrees are awarded in April and June, and in December, for those students whose degrees are awarded in either August or December.

The time to apply for graduation commencement is as follows: the last Friday in January for winter and spring candidates, the last Friday in June for summer candidates, and the last Friday in September for fall candidates.

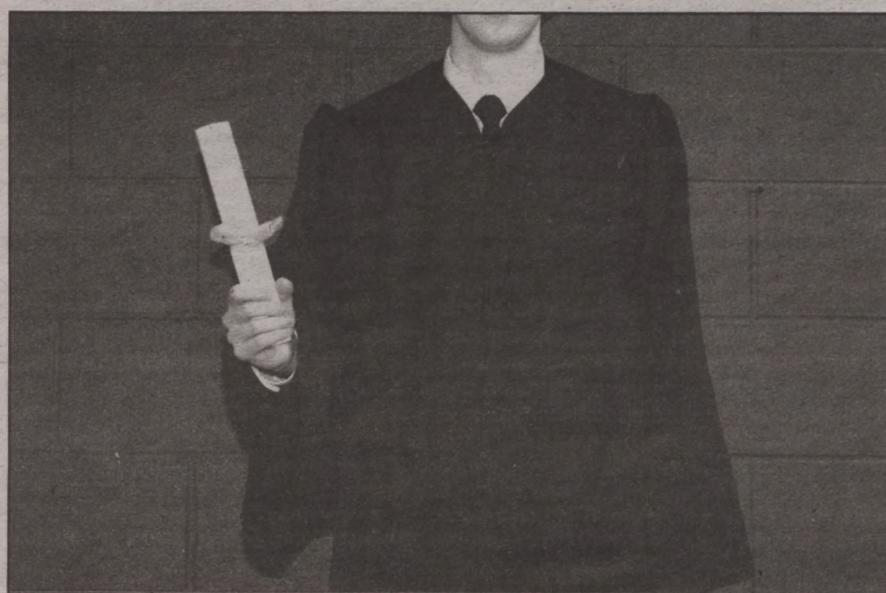
Gilroy also said that "graduate students who are submitting theses or dissertations should contact the Office of Graduate Study."

Like many students, you may be anticipating a phone call or an e-mail stating that you are eligible to graduate.

According to the registrar's office, they will notify students of any deficiencies for graduation and do not contact students who do not have deficiencies and are ready to graduate.

In order to receive your degree, a senior audit must be conducted.

After you've applied for graduation,



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

Caps and gowns will be available for purchase at the OU Bookstore during their Graduation Extravaganza on March 10 and 11, where students can expect to see discounts.

the record office will send the degree audits to the academic units during the week after grades, at the end of each term.

"The academic units generally have two weeks to reply to us approving or denying the majors, minors and concentrations for which degree candidates have applied," Gilroy said.

Once the senior audit is completed, the record office will then do a final audit and then post the degrees. For specific questions, contact graduation auditor Renee Jaques.

You should also be aware that in order to participate in commencement after you've applied for graduation, you'll need to purchase the cap and gown.

Those items will not be available until the OU Bookstore's Graduation Extravaganza, March 10 and 11.

"We usually wait until later in the year to stock those items so that we can have a bigger event for the vendors," said Adam Burns, general merchandise

manager for the OU Bookstore.

The event, which includes groups like Liberty Mutual and the Alumni Association, features giveaways, better prices and a photographer to take graduation photos.

"It was a big success last year, a lot of [merchandise] will be 10-percent off," Burns said.

A cap, gown and tassel together are priced differently depending on the level of the graduate, running from \$48.98 to \$55.98.

Specialty frames for degrees and graduation T-shirts are also available at the OU Bookstore.

"Applying for graduation is easy, but you just have to make sure that you're following the right steps," said John Reyes, senior finance major.

"I would tell students to check the degree evaluation in SAIL before applying so you don't have to pay the application fee," he said.

How to apply for graduation

1. Determine if you can apply for graduation by using the new degree evaluation feature on SAIL. To find the degree evaluation feature, select Student Services and Financial Aid, then Student Records, then Degree Evaluation.
2. If you meet the degree evaluation requirements, it's time to apply!
3. Go to <http://www2.oakland.edu/registrar/graduation.cfm> and select either graduate or undergraduate to complete the degree application.

Addressing your financial future

It's never too early to start investing your money

By KATEY MEISNER
Contributing Reporter

All you need to become an investor is \$25 a month, time and a little patience, according to Sean Hetherton, financial advisor for Edward Jones in Walled Lake.

Investing young has become progressively more important as the Social Security Administration is projecting a 26 percent decrease in benefits for Americans retiring after 2040.

This percentage is expected to continue to rise each year thereafter, according to Hetherton.

Achieving success as an investor relies largely on the state of the economy. However, by the same token, involvement by individuals in the economy is of great benefit to its health.

"Many investors are shocked at what their money can grow to," Hetherton said of modest investors.

Hetherton advises young investors to start early and start simple.

"Invest for the long term and in something that is of interest to you," he said.

Investing is something that can be done without the help of an advisor if an individual has the knowledge and time to commit to it. If not, financial advisors like Hetherton are available to help manage investments.

Hetherton recommends that a potential investor start by interviewing more than one advisor. Investors should discuss their needs and expectations with the advisor.

What to buy should never be discussed in a preliminary meeting. More importantly, an investor should discuss expectations as far as contact with the advisor and payment options.

Financial advisors can be compensated several ways depending on the client, so it is important to discuss this before making a decision.

Following the interview process, and once an advisor has been selected, the investor should deposit their investment into an account, be it \$25 or \$2500. From there, the investor could expect to receive regular statements showing activity on the account.

"The process is easy," Hetherton said.

He warns not to be overly concerned about day-to-day dips in the stock market. Instead, he suggests an investor be concerned with the long term, and more importantly, overall state of the stock market as retirement approaches.

For a young investor, Hetherton recommends a mutual fund. He described a mutual fund as investing in an assortment of stocks to form a well-rounded portfolio, as opposed to investing in one individual stock. This is called diversification and it is a style of investing that often proves more successful in the long run.

Using this logic, an investor would not be devastated by the decline of one stock since the investment is split into as many as 100 to 150 stocks.

Leanne Caliendo, a 22-year-old senior at Oakland University, began investing in the stock market seven years ago. She originally invested with the help of her father, but later took control of her own investments.

"I started doing it on my own when I was 18," Caliendo said.

Caliendo is invested in mutual funds and has watched her investments grow over the years.

Kevin Blades, a manager from Livonia, is an investor who began saving and investing independently in his mid-20s.

"I keep my investment level fairly consistent, and then I increase it by investing tax returns and annual salary increases," he said.

"Mutual funds are my favorite because their risk is lower and they're managed by people smarter than me," Blades said.

According to Blades, he is much more comfortable with his prospects for retirement having started investing at a relatively young age.

Ajay Babar, an economics professor at Oakland University said that, as a seasoned investor "being conscious is the first step in planning for a sound financial future."

Babar began investing at the age of 35 and thinks that students should be aware of the financial challenges that they will face at different points in their lives.

According to Babar, his students understand the economic environment and he hopes that they realize that every action has a consequence.

"The security is knowing that I'll have enough savings to live comfortably and maintain my current lifestyle in retirement," Babar said.

For more information on investing for beginners, visit the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Web site at: www.sec.gov/investor/pubs/begininvest.htm.



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

With Social Security due to be cut significantly in the future, it is a good idea for students to consider investing their money. The advice of financial advisors can help even the smallest portfolio.

Classifieds

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The Scene

January 23, 2008

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Fun, flirty and fashionable

Downtown Rochester gets a unique new boutique

By SHANEIA CALDWELL
Contributing Reporter

Downtown Rochester is home to a host of clothing stores. Flirty Fashions has recently been added to the list and is now the new store on the block.

As you step through the door, expect to experience a warm greeting and an associate available to answer all of your questions and show you the latest items that will cater to your personal tastes.

If you decide to bring a friend, they can relax on a leather couch as you take your time looking through one-of-a-kind pieces.

All of the silhouettes are categorized and neatly placed on racks. If you feel the urge to share this experience, throw a fashion party inside of the store, free of charge.

The trendy unisex clothier is in a league of its own, with a glass chandelier hanging from the ceiling, casual lounge area, purple and green floors and matching décor.

"Rochester didn't have anything like this," said owner Diane Fornari.

The city's community-oriented feel played a role in attracting the fashion-forward store.

"The city does things to promote and bring people downtown, which a lot of cities don't do," Fornari said.

Flirty Fashions opened its doors on Nov. 16, just 14 days after owner Fornari signed the contract.

"It was a leap of faith for me," Fornari said. She seemingly soared into fashion retail overnight after being a realtor for 13 years.

In five weeks the store sold 1,500 items, according to Fornari.

"We're doing really well," Fornari said, while wearing a double-breasted leopard print jacket which retails for \$139 in the store.

As customers enter the fashion house, Fornari gladly welcomes them with a warm smile and greeting.

She works alongside five other employees. The laid-back atmosphere allows customers to get to know associates on a personal level.

"I rather they [customers] walk out

with nothing than something that doesn't look right," said Reem Bitrus, associate manager at Flirty Fashions. Bitrus said she is always honest with customers when they ask for advice.

As Fornari defines it, the fun, flirty and fashionable boutique encompasses everything from women's denim, wool coats, whimsical cocktail dresses, business attire, high-waisted skirts, an array of handbags and women's accessories to men's sunglasses, scarves and money clips.

A men's clothing line will soon hit the racks.

Every thread is unique and original. "Everything speaks for itself," said Bitrus. "You can always expect something different."

The catalog of labels includes New London Jeans, Adrianna Peppell, Sue Wang, London Times, Aria and Kensie.

The prices range from \$10-\$450.

"Our whole feel is that you could walk out with an outfit, head-to-toe, for under \$150," Fornari said.

The clothing is imported from New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Las Vegas, Atlanta and Dallas, and Canada will soon be added to the list.

Although most of the clothing is shipped, Fornari hand picks many of the garments. "I personally like to pick everything out. I like to touch it and feel it to make sure it's a good quality," she said.

The goal of Flirty Fashions is to meet the needs of the vast majority and be reasonably priced.

"We want to make everything affordable," Fornari said. "We're not Target or Kohl's but we're not Nordstrom either."

The stylish store owner plans to not only team up with local organizations for fashion shows but also to host fashion parties in the store's lounge area. Fornari has hopes of opening a couple more stores in the Metro Detroit area, too.

Shop at Flirty Fashions from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Flirty Fashions is located on 121 East Third Street.



Photos by Shaneia Caldwell
Graphic by Dustin Alexander

FLIRTY FASHION'S TOP FIVE

1. RED FEDORA HAT

This bright colored fedora is upgraded with the stitching woven around it. The item can top any winter outfit or can be paired with spring dresses. The hat is priced at \$20 and is also sold in black and grey.

2. CHARCOAL GREY SWEATER DRESS BY KENSIE

This dress is the season's newest neutral and sold with an attached white colored shirt. A similar dress was spotted in designer Christian Lacroix's Fall collection. The Kensie dress retails at \$78.

3. NEW LONDON JEANS

These stonewash jeans are slimming and enhance the right spots. The denim is sold in a variety of styles including trouser, boyfriend, boot fit and original flare. Each style features a different back pocket design. They are sold in sizes 0-14 and priced at \$88.

4. BELTED HANDBAG

The perfect piece that every woman craves when enjoying the nightlife or shopping. Say goodbye to lugging a purse onto the dance floor or trying to carry a handbag plus shopping bags. The chain belt wraps around the waist and is large enough to carry all the necessities. The savvy studded pocketbook is sold in silver, black and white for \$30.

5. WOOL COAT WITH FUR

The black and grey wool coat is detailed with over-sized bronze buttons. It is a winter must-have with its warm lining. End the season in style with this coat and a pair of leather fur gloves. The coat is priced at \$169.

Monster attacks the Big Apple, again

REVIEW

By **ANDY KOZLOWSKI**
Contributing Reporter

It's nighttime in New York City.

Hipsters mingle at an apartment surprise party, waiting for their friend Rob (Michael Stahl-David) to arrive so they can wish him well on his move to Tokyo.

But Rob's heart is broken when Beth (Odette Yustman), the girl he loves, shows up with another guy because Rob kept putting his job first.

Then, as is typical of horror films with hot people, a giant monster swings by to kill everyone.

Perhaps drawn by the cologne and pheromones, the beastie begins demolishing downtown Manhattan, mere blocks away from the party.

A deafening roar is heard, followed by explosions, and soon the Statue of Liberty's severed head is tumbling down the street.

The Big Apple is under attack. How original.

Only it is original.

"Cloverfield" produced by "Lost" creator J.J. Abrams and director Matt Reeves, takes the giant monster movie and shows it from the perspective of the people running in the streets screaming, "Godzilla!"

Borrowing a page from "The Blair Witch Project," the whole movie is footage shot on a handheld camera by Rob's buddy, Hud (T.J. Miller).

Only in this case you see the monster and see it often. The result is a dark and dangerous thrill ride with you-are-there intensity.

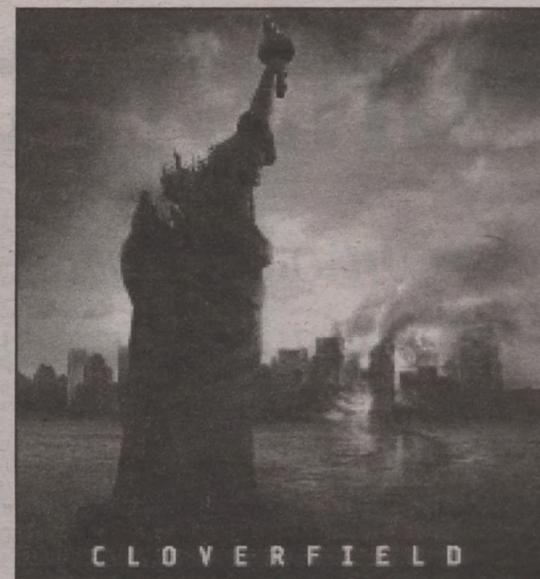
Remember the bloodcurdling experience of watching news on 9/11? Nobody will admit it, but that's the perverse appeal of this film.

It's not making light of that tragic day but it's channeling the same sense of chaos and confusion, of vulnerability in a world flipped upside-down.

The story follows Rob and his friends as they go against the flow of fleeing citizens and delve into the heart of the city in an attempt to save Beth, who is stranded at an apartment.

Along the way they'll witness military engagements with the monster and struggle to survive attacks by the beast and its body lice, spidery creatures that fall to the ground to hunt and kill.

A landmark creature feature that's epic yet intimate at the same time, "Cloverfield" is a rush worth experiencing.



Amazon.com

Bells will be ringing



Amazon.com

REVIEW

By **STACIE L. BARTMAN**
Staff Intern

In what seems to be a typical romantic comedy, the cast of "27 Dresses" offers a twist that leaves you thinking anything can happen in love.

Directed by Anne Fletcher, who also directed "Step Up," "27 Dresses" is a story of an emotionally suppressed singleton who cannot never tell anyone "no."

Jane (Katherine Heigl), having been in a total of 27 weddings as a bridesmaid, finds herself in more weddings than there are hours in a day.

Jane's boss, George (Ed Burns), is the caring boss with whom Jane is madly and secretly in love. However, when Jane's "model" sister, Tess, comes into town from California, she and George spot each other and fall in love.

The engagement between George and Tess is immediate and a heartbroken Jane is left to plan it.

During the bouquet toss at one of the weddings, Jane's eyes are wide with excitement and fear when suddenly

she is ambushed and knocked down by crazed single woman hoping to be "the one" to catch it.

She opens her eyes to a heroic, handsome Kevin (James Marsden) kneeling over her.

Kevin is a writer for the Commitments column in the New York Journal and covers weddings.

Kevin and Jane are off to a rough start, as his cynicism and Jane's love for the excitement of weddings clash.

Jane is on a one-woman mission to reclaim herself.

This movie consists of a few quick, witty one-liners that will make you laugh and remember it.

There are lasting moments when you feel Jane's happiness and bear the hardship of her frustrations.

There are other times you're enduring the repetitive scenes of another chick flick that you have seen a hundred times before, sitting in the middle of an estrogen festival with the sound of popcorn being munched in your ears.

'Mad Money' is bad investment

REVIEW

By **LAURYN TORINA**
Contributing Reporter

They say that money doesn't buy happiness.

Well, in "Mad Money," the exact opposite is the case. Aside from being well-cast and having a few one-liners, Callie Khouri's latest film, "Mad Money" was a financial blunder.

The film tells the story of three working, blue-collar women, Bridget (Diane Keaton), Jackie (Katie Holmes), and Nina (Queen Latifa) who, for their own reasons, decide to steal money retired from the Kansas State Federal Bank.

Bridget wants the money to pay off her debts and house payments because her husband lost his job.

Nina wishes to send her kids to a

private school in hopes of giving them a higher education.

Jackie just wants in for the risk, but would like a new home for herself and her husband.

Eventually, the money goes to Bridget's head and the plan falls through.

Will the three women, along with their spouses, spend the rest of their lives in jail? Will Nina's children be placed in foster care?

Only time will tell. Though the answers may not be worth your time.

"Money" begins with some potential, riding on the popularity of its cast members. However, the plot fails to live up to expectations, leaving viewers with little more than a few chuckles.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

Hollywood's most glamorous night is on it's way. The Oscar nominations have been announced.

Who will take home the Oscar?

You'll have to wait until Feb. 24.

To view a list of the nominees, visit

www.oaklandpostonline.com

Hard rocking band plays the Crofoot

OU student showcases musical talent in The Tom Butwin Band

REVIEW

By OLIVIA OLSON
Contributing Reporter

Pontiac's Crofoot Ballroom hosted a handful of local bands this Saturday, one of which was The Tom Butwin Band, comprised of OU student and singer/songwriter Tom Butwin, drummer David Dionise, and bassist John Garland.

The theme of the night was rock, which inspired many instances of lead singers pandering to the drunk and disgruntled with warnings before the slower tunes and promises of "speeding it right back up again" afterward.

Butwin, however, chose a different approach.

Normally of the Dave Matthews school of acoustic alt-rock, Butwin showcased his musical versatility by covering bluesier tunes and by re-arranging his own compositions to fit more comfortably into the hard rock genre that seemed the general focus of the evening.

While this can be a dangerous move for many young musicians and can often result in compromising the integrity of the original tune, Butwin's songs seemed enhanced and empowered by their more electric arrangements.

The stripped-down and rocked-out version of "I'll Never Learn From Yesterday" was a particularly impressive improvement. The messier sounds of the electric guitar complemented the purity of Butwin's vocals, giving it just enough imperfection to pass for rock and roll.

The most satisfying moments of the performance occurred when the band delved into different genres with their covers.

The undeniable crowd favorite was the band's flawless version of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," which was performed with funk undertones that added variety to a mostly hard rock showcase.

The guitar creatively showcased during their rendition of Otis Redding's "Mr. Pitiful" hinted at the band's ability to create The Black Keys-esque blues-based rock, which would be a welcome addition to any future release from the rock outlet.

The show was another successful event in the Crofoot's ongoing effort to give exposure to local bands and performers and to improve and encourage the teeming music scene in Metro Detroit.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Olson
OU student Tom Butwin performed at the Crofoot Jan. 19 with his band, The Tom Butwin Band.

JANUARY

15 Career Services Open House
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. @
Fireside Lounge, OC

22 Behavioral Interviewing
with Quicken Loans
5:00 - 6:30 p.m. @
Gold Room C, OC

23 FMA / Career Services
Resume Writing Workshop
Noon - 1:00 p.m. @
Gold Rooms, OC

24 ePortfolio Workshop
Noon - 1:00 p.m. @
Student Tech Center, OC

28 Market Yourself at a Career
Fair and Beyond
Noon - 1:00 p.m. @
Rooms 128-130, OC

31 Diversity Career Fair
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. @
Banquet Rooms, OC

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FEBRUARY

07 Internship Panel
Noon - 1:00 p.m. @
Gold Rooms, OC

08 Mock Interviews
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. @
275 W. Vandenberg Hall

14 From Student to Professional:
A Transitional Workshop
Noon - 1:00 p.m. @
Gold Rooms, OC

19 Where the Jobs Are
Noon - 1:00 p.m. @
Oakland Room, OC

21 Disney Presentations
Noon - 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. @
Rooms 126 & 127, OC

MARCH

20 Etiquette Dinner
5:00 - 7:30 p.m. @
Banquet Rooms, OC

APRIL

02 Health Sciences Career Exploration Day
Noon - 2:00 p.m. @
Gold Rooms, OC

30 Educators Recruiting Day
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. @
Banquet Rooms, OC

MOUTHING OFF

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

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January 23, 2008

Presidential primary concerns

Primaries beg the question: Do you smell what Barack is cookin'?

By ALEX CHERUP
Mouthing Off Editor

After the past few weeks, I wish the election was over.

The reality is Super Tuesday is still on the horizon, and I am quite seriously ill from the coverage thus far.

With a plethora of primaries past, it feels as if there are five presidents ready to take the office in 2005. McCain has won. Hillary has won. Obama has won. Even Mike Huckabee has won.

How can a group of losers have so many winners? Enough with all this winning!

Even though it has become so confusing, at least I know that Mike Gravel has not won anything — yet.

Obsessive Coverage

Each state's primary has been given stellar, breaking news coverage worthy of an actual presidential election.

It even overshadows wars, weather and Lindsay Lohan. This is the true sign that this primary thing must be important.

For instance, when the New Hampshire primary occurred on Jan. 8, it seemed as if the New Hampshireans, New Hampshireites or New Hampshirenese, or whatever they are called, were going to reach the answer to the meaning of life. The intensity was unbearable.

It was completely removed from reality. The CNN set appeared to have a higher budget than most action movies, with high tech maps, gadgets and devices.

I'm surprised there wasn't a stunt double for Lou Dobbs.

Fox News even had a spinning gold statue of South Carolina, right in the

no-spin zone. It has become too much for me to handle.

Each voting district of New Hampshire was analyzed, interviewed and searched. I learned more about some voting districts in New Hampshire than the one I currently live in. It almost feels like a second home.

Not only was the coverage ridiculous, it personified the voting districts.

New Hampshire: Guidance Counselor

Essentially, CNN and Fox News have made the discussion of New Hampshire or other primary state counties like a sports broadcast.

"Coos County is coming off a rough injury, and hopefully will be able to perform strong this election season."

The most irritating element of these early primaries is the location.

When has anyone ever asked, cared or sought advice from New Hampshire?

Through all of the other news stories, events and important issues, no one has



Photo Illustration by CELESTE FILIATRAULT

ever consulted New Hampshire or Iowa.

When you needed dating counsel, has the thought "let's poll the aggregate population of New Hampshire for guidance" ever crossed your mind?

When trying to decide which college you would like to attend, did your mind ever ask "I wonder what the wonderful Democrats and Republicans of Coos County would choose."

Of course not, unless Coos Community College is on your top-ten list.

Nevertheless, when one of the most important decisions of a citizen comes around, the most valuable data in the world is what those in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada think.

I will admit, however, last week my ego felt great after Wolf Blitzer wanted to hear what someone in Madison Heights had to say. That's a few miles from my house and the mainstream media actually cared what I thought. It is a powerful feeling — it almost felt like my vote was going to count.

Election 08: The Movie

The media has made the whole ordeal so epic; I cannot help but imagine that a movie will be made about this election. Here are possible candidates to play the candidates:

Democrats:

1) *Hillary Clinton*: This dynamic candidate must be played by six different actors, to embody the different personas. 1) *The First Lady*: Nicole Kidman. 2) *The Senator*: Meryl Streep. 3) *The Cry Baby*: Britney Spears. 4) *The Wife*: Jamie Lee Curtis. 5) *The Bitch*: Ann Coulter. 6) *The Man*: Bill Clinton.

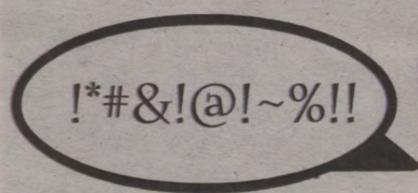
2) *Dennis Kucinich*: Martin Short. Kucinich looks like a Short character, although you wouldn't get a chance to see the resemblance at the Nevada debate because he wasn't allowed to speak ... those fascists!

3) *John Edwards*: Tom Cruise. However, conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh classifies Edwards as a woman, so then the role would go to Ellen DeGeneres.

4) *Bill Richardson*: Keanu Reeves in a fat suit. I know Richardson has been out of the race for a while — but it's so true.

5) *Barack Obama*: The Rock. Listen to Barack and the Rock back-to-back. It is impossible to tell the difference. And, of course, the best campaign line: "If you can smell what Barack is cookin'?"

6) *Mike Gravel*: An angry old man.



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Republicans:

1) *Mike Huckabee:* Kevin Spacey. Huckabee looks like an unimpressive and unkempt Spacey. If Spacey declines, Huckabee's biggest fan Chuck Norris can shave and play the part. I'm sure Norris has nothing better to do.

2) *Mitt Romney:* Bela Lugosi. I am convinced Romney is a vampire. I genuinely am shocked when I see him campaigning during the day.

3) *Ron Paul:* Woody Allen. The next time Paul goes on one of his rants against the IRS, imagine him with Woody Allen's signature glasses and you will see the genius of this suggestion. Allen should really endorse Paul. The similarities are amazing. Both are the same age, seventy-two, both have an anxious manner of speaking, and both have two firsts names. Uncanny.

4) *Rudy Guiliani:* Christopher Walken. This selection would keep the constant statements of "9/11" from becoming tedious.

5) *Fred Thompson:* Kelsey Grammer (the guy from Frasier). Not only does he resemble a more

stirring and non-boring Thompson, he is also a Republican.

6) *John McCain:* Fred Thompson. After Thompson's recent removal from the presidential race, he will be looking for work.

And Kelsey Grammar would already have beaten Fred Thompson for the role of Fred Thompson.

The movie would be a hit, and probably shown on CNN and Fox over and over and over again during the interludes between Paris Hilton coverage. One hitch ... I'm sure the casting would have to be approved by Iowa and New Hampshire first.

Enough is Enough

Ultimately, I am already burnt out from the election coverage.

It seems like there is another debate every hour, where each person says the same comments over and over and over again.

It's like watching reruns of NASCAR races.

Some candidates are not even allowed to appear in the debate, which makes it a dog-and-pony show that is controlled by the pow-

ers-that-be.

How can a debate be called a debate if some are chosen to lose before the debate has begun?

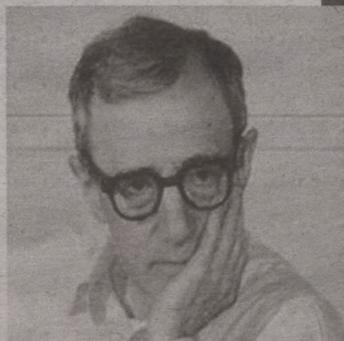
I'd have a debate with you about it, however I've already decided you cannot be in the debate and so, you loose.

For all intents and purposes, I am done with the 2008 election.

In fact, I have already begun campaigning for 2012.

That way, my man Kucinich might victoriously get two percent of the vote.

So, all I have left to say is~ remember to vote in 2012!



Amazon.

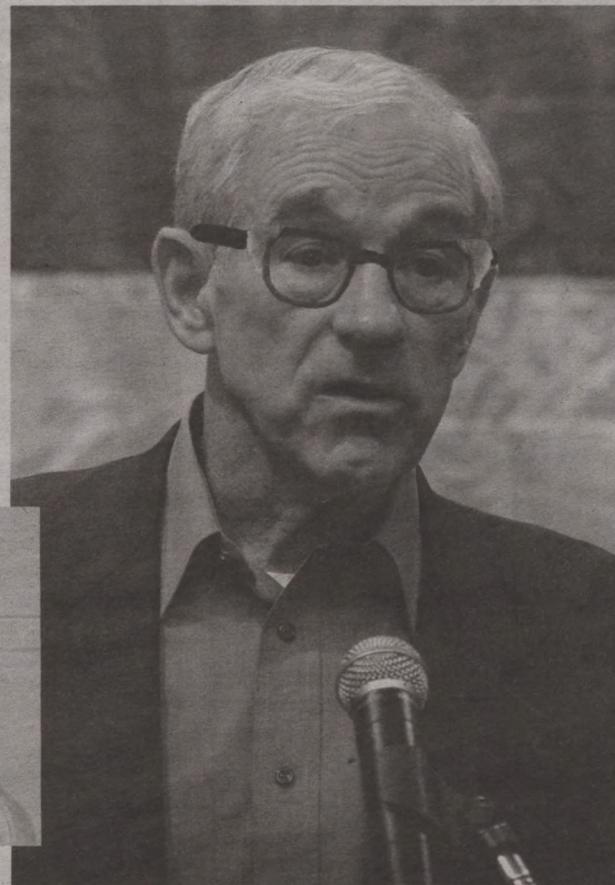


Photo Illustration by CELESTE FILIATRAULT

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DAVID GUTTENFELDER/Associated Press
Joshua Milton Blahyi, a former Liberian factional fighter threatens a fellow combatant with a knife in Liberia in this 1996 file photo.

Liberian ex-rebel leader confesses to killing thousands

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH
Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia — One of Liberia's most notorious rebel commanders, known as Gen. Butt Naked for charging into battle wearing only boots, has returned to confess his role in terrorizing the nation, saying he is responsible for 20,000 deaths.

Joshua Milton Blahyi, who now lives in Ghana, returned last week to face his homeland's truth and reconciliation commission, this time wearing a suit and tie. His nom de guerre is derived from his platoon's practice of charging naked into battle, a technique meant to terrify the enemy.

Other former warlords, though, have refused to ask forgiveness, dismissing a commission many in Liberia see as toothless. Blahyi is urging other former killers to come forward as the country struggles to recover from past horrors.

"I could be electrocuted. I could be hanged. I could be given any other punishment," the 37-year-old Blahyi said in a weekend interview following his truth commission appearance last week. "But I think forgiveness and reconciliation is the right way to go."

The civil war, which killed an estimated 250,000 people, was characterized by the eating of human hearts and soccer matches played with human skulls. Drugged fighters waltzed into battle wearing women's wigs, flowing gowns and carrying dainty purses stolen from civilians.

Before he led his fighters into battle, wearing only a pair of lace-up boots, Blahyi said he made a human sacrifice to the devil.

The sacrifice was typically "the killing of an innocent child and plucking out the heart which was divided into pieces for us to eat," he said on Saturday. He appeared before the commission Jan. 15 — and put a figure to his killing spree for the first time.

"More than 20,000 people fell victim (to me and my men)," said Blahyi, who dated the beginning of his murders to 1982, when he was ordained as a ritual priest responsible for making human sacrifices before battle.

Musharraf promises free elections

By ROBERT WIELAARD
Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium — President Pervez Musharraf promised Monday that Pakistan will hold fair elections next month and urged the West to be more patient with his nation's efforts to achieve higher standards of human rights.

He also sought to ease worries about Pakistan's nuclear arsenal as Islamic extremists step up their fight with his government, insisting that tight security would prevent the weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.

"We have a multilayer custodial and command system," Musharraf told the European Parliament as he began an eight-day European trip by meeting with senior EU and NATO officials.

Musharraf said Pakistan is a largely

tribal society struggling to be a democracy and taking on the role of a front-line player in the global fight against terrorism.

Speaking of what he called an "obsession" with democracy in the West, Musharraf said: "You have taken centuries to reach where you have come. Allow us time for going for the value that you have reached for yourself."

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said after meeting with Musharraf that Feb. 18 parliamentary elections must be "free, fair and secure" and that their conduct would determine the bloc's relations and engagement with Pakistan.

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told Musharraf that a stable Pakistan was crucial for both the alliance and neighboring Afghanistan.

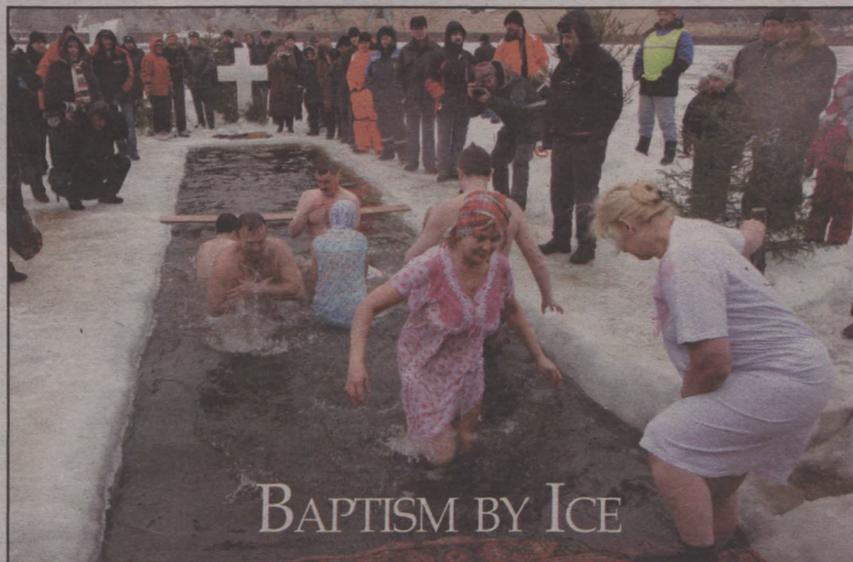
Musharraf's trip is aimed at assuring

European leaders that Pakistan is a reliable and indispensable ally in the fight against terrorist groups.

He said Pakistan suffers from "misperceptions, misunderstandings and distortions" in Western capitals and pleaded for understanding that his country faces a thorny path to raising standards of civil liberties.

The former army chief, who seized power in a 1999 coup, Musharraf has been criticized for briefly imposing emergency rule late in 2007. Pakistan's political turmoil, with growing opposition to Musharraf's leadership, was compounded by the Dec. 27 assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

Musharraf acknowledged that 2007 was a "turbulent" year, but he rejected those who blame his government for playing a role in Bhutto's murder.



IVAN SEKRETAREV/Associated Press
Russian Orthodox believers get into icy water celebrating Orthodox Epiphany in Moscow, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008. Russians celebrate the Orthodox holiday and keep up an annual ritual by jumping into holes cut in thick ice on rivers and ponds to cleanse themselves with water deemed holy for the day.

Nation | World News BRIEFS

- 1-17 | Reclusive chess champion Bobby Fischer dies at the age of 64.
- 1-20 | Israel blocks fuel to the Gaza City power plant, cutting about one third of Gaza's energy intake.
- 1-21 | YouTube is banned by a Turkish court for the second time because of clips deemed disrespectful to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
- 1-22 | Former Tennessee Senator and 2008 presidential hopeful Fred Thompson withdraws his candidacy. | Actor Heath Ledger was found dead at a downtown Manhattan residence in what authorities say is a possible drug-related death. | A judge said Tuesday he would approve the bankruptcy exit plan of auto parts supplier Delphi Corp. once it drastically reduces the total payout of cash bonuses to top executives.

FDA says cloned animals are safe for food

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Just over a decade after scientists cloned the first animal, the last major barrier to selling meat and milk from clones has fallen: The U.S. government declared this food safe Tuesday.

Now, will people buy it?

Consumer anxiety about cloning is serious enough that several major food companies, including the big dairy producer Dean Foods Co. and Smithfield Foods Inc., say they aren't planning to sell products from cloned animals.

And the industry says most Americans

would never eat a cloned animal for sheer economic reasons: At \$10,000 to \$20,000 per cloned cow — compared with \$1,000 for an ordinary steer — they're too valuable. They would be used primarily for breeding, to produce a steady supply of cattle that are particularly tender, for instance, or for prize dairy cows. It would be offspring of clones that consumers would eat.

But it will be hard to tell which foods do contain ingredients originating from cloned animals. The Food and Drug Administration ruled that labels won't have to reveal whether the food comes from cloned cows, pigs or goats, or the clones' offspring, because those ingredients are no

different than meat or milk from livestock bred the old-fashioned way.

"We found nothing in the food that could potentially be hazardous. The food in every respect is indistinguishable from food from any other animal," FDA food safety chief Dr. Stephen Sundlof said. "It is beyond our imagination to even find a theory that would cause the food to be unsafe."

Still, the government asked producers to continue a voluntary moratorium on sales of meat or milk from clones for a little longer, for marketing reasons. The Agriculture Department said it needed a transition period to get the safety findings to foreign trade partners and food companies.