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THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 6, 2008

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 49

THIS WEEK'S NUMBERS

25 07 41 03 35

THOUSAND
ENROLLMENT
BY 2020
NUMBER
OF NEW
NETWORK
SHOWS TO
CHECK OUT
THIS
SEASON

INCHES OF
SNOW METRO
DETROIT
RECIEVES
PER YEAR

NUMBER OF
OU MEN'S
BASKETBALL
BEAT
NORTH
DAKOTA
BY

NEW SPEED
LIMIT
POSTED
ON
WALTON

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PAGE 20

PAGE 22

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FILM SHOWING

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Tsar to Lenin

A documentary of the Russian Revolution,
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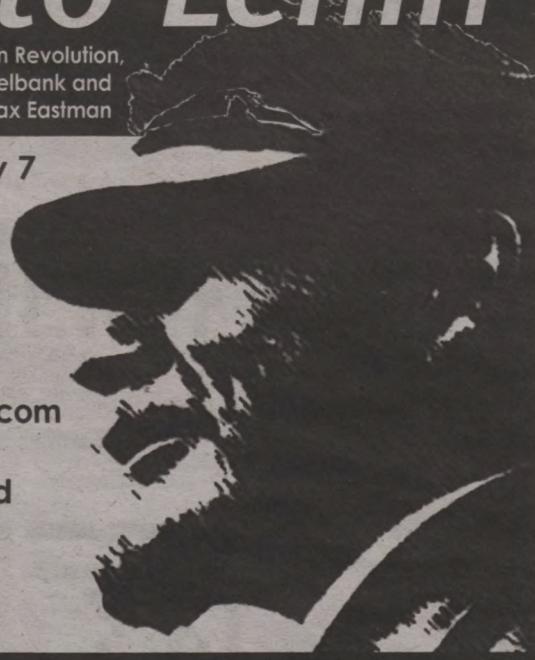
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THIS WEEK 2.06.08



Perspectives **page 4**

Still loading ... Webmail problems continue and the Post continues to take issue with it. Plus, the return of 4 on 4.



Campus **page 6**

Meadow Brook Mansion opens its doors to attendees of OU's annual Meadow Brook Ball. Plus, no charges are to be filed in the false police report case.



Local **page 10**

Can the movie industry save Michigan's economy? Gov. Jennifer Granholm is banking on it.



The Mix **page 12**

OU students share which world issues are most important to them and why.



you **page 14**

Introducing the Oakland Post's exclusive health column. Get a preview here and see more on the Web.



Sports **page 16**

Catch up on Golden Grizzlies hoops, and get club hockey, track and tennis results. Plus, photos from this week's hoops tailgating parties.



the Scene **page 20**

Get a rundown of new TV shows that will be airing during the Hollywood writers' strike.



MOUTHING OFF **page 22**

Snow is no longer a requirement for snow days. And, a childhood book report by Britney Spears may help save the world.



Nation | World **page 24**

Get the results from Super Tuesday elections. Plus, according to a recent report, suicides in the army are up as much as 20 percent.

THE OAKLAND POST
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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MEADOW BROOK BALL
photo spread
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Perspectives

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February 6, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Still Loading ...

We, here at the Oakland Post, don't want to take up your time with another 500 word column — Webmail has probably wasted enough of it. The problem with Webmail has yet to be rectified. Important information continues to be difficult to obtain. Thankfully there is a new issue of the Oakland Post to read.

Loading ... Loading ... Loading ...

See "Sluggish e-mail annoys students" on page 8



What do you think? Have a news tip? Send your comments to The Oakland Post.

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Letter to the Editor
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Rochester, MI 48309

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

Corrections from the last edition (Jan. 30, 2008) of The Oakland Post:

- The quotes and attributions for Colleen McCaffary and Jitty Chandy were placed under the incorrect photos in the Mix (page 14). They were reversed.

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

Four on Four

four panelists share their take on four topics



Brennon Edwards
Junior, Public Administration
Major, Co-president of
Students in Free Enterprise



Kalae Atwell
Sophomore, Anthropology
Major



Louie Popovski
Senior, Information
Technology Major



Mark Doman
Visiting Assistant Professor,
Human Resource Development

On Jan. 29, it was announced that the reported sexual assault that occurred on OU's campus was false. How do you think the situation was handled?

Honestly, when I first heard the allegations, I didn't believe it to be true. ... So, I think it was mishandled from the get-go. First, I think they should have made sure it was a legit allegation before they posted things. But I guess they had to do what they had to do.

Honestly, I don't know enough to answer that. I got an e-mail and saw the flyer.

I got the e-mail, saw the postings on the doors and got the second e-mail that said, "My bad." I think it was handled well.

I really don't have an opinion because I don't have enough facts. I saw the notice on the door and then an e-mail saying that it was false. That's the extent of my knowledge on it.

What are your thoughts on the current state of OU Webmail?

It's ridiculously slow. They don't have enough server space. I look at it in a positive way. OU is using its resources so well that we weren't prepared for this. We've grown so quick that there's not enough server space. That's one of the happy problems of growth.

I really don't check it enough to really hinder my use at all.

It's very slow. ... Being an IT student, talking to the head of the IT department, professor Rowe, she said we're considering moving to Gmail. If that occurs, it will definitely be a plus.

It's frustrating at times. I use it for all of my e-mail. You just have to be patient with it.

What are your thoughts on Super Bowl XLII?

I was hurting, my soul was deeply hurt. I wanted to see perfection. I usually pull for the underdog, but I'm a bigger fan of perfection. I wanted to see the Patriots go all the way. They didn't. I lost money.

I didn't watch it. It was my boyfriend's birthday and neither of us really like football, so we went out to dinner instead.

This was the first time in five years that I did not watch the Super Bowl. I was very tired and fell asleep. I am not a football fan, but I always like the underdog.

I was for the underdog, so I was pulling for the Giants. I'm also a Michigan State fan, so I was glad to see Plaxico Burress catch the winning touchdown. I thought it was an exciting game. ... But I think both quarterbacks were a little off.

Do you think the Bush administration's stimulus package, which would put between \$300 and \$600 in the hands of most taxpayers, will stimulate the economy?

I think that Bush is setting up the next person to take office for failure. By taking all that money out of the government and putting it back into people's hands, it's not going to help the economy that much. ... The economy is going to be even worse for the next person who takes office.

Absolutely not. I think that everything [Bush has] done up to this point, including the tax cuts for the rich, [hasn't worked]. The trickle down theory doesn't work. If Bush wants to help support people, he should raise taxes so that we can have actual programs.

If it does stimulate the economy, I don't think it will have that great of an impact. I think the reason he's trying to do this is to create a better image of himself.

I think it will stimulate the economy. ... My wife and I like to travel a lot, so maybe we'll use it to take an extra trip.

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Campus

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February 6, 2008



AMBER DIETZ/THE OAKLAND POST

(Right) Debra Jacman, a junior biology major at OU, and her date Larry Kalis, get a caricature drawn at 2008 Meadow Brook Ball, the second that the two have attended.



(Left) Members of OU's jazz band greeted attendees with jazz music as they entered Meadow Brook Mansion from 8 - 9 p.m. (Below) Freshman Patrick Hoenle gets his face painted by artist Faith Moore in Mr. Wilson's Study.

AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post



Meadow Brook Ball

By PAUL GULLY
Managing Editor

Annie Johnson spent hours readying herself in anticipation for a fun night with her boyfriend, Dan, and close friends at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Ball. She didn't realize that the silver and black dress she wore, a last minute choice, would be the dress she would be wearing when she got engaged.

Johnson was unexpectedly proposed to by her boyfriend of 5 years, Dan Driscoll, while the two were alone in one of the many rooms that were opened in Meadow Brook Mansion, the annual home of the ball.

"I was totally surprised when he did it," said Johnson. "It took a few minutes to get over

the shock."

This was just one of many notable events that took place during Meadow Brook Ball, one of OU's longest-running traditions.

Each year, Meadow Brook Mansion opens its doors and treats OU students to a night of dancing and entertainment. This year's theme, "A Splash of Jazz: A Black Tie Affair," called for attendees to dress to the nines for a classy night out.

Many of those in attendance noted the variety of the evening's entertainment options, a facet many felt was under-utilized in years

See Meadow Brook Ball on Page 7



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

(Above) Meadow Brook Ball attendees dance to music provided by DJ Adroit.

(Right) 2007 OU graduate Yvonne Szymczak applies lipstick to an audience member during the first of two "A Taste of Cabaret" performances.

Meadow Brook Ball

Featured entertainment included a face painter, a silhouette artist, a euchre tournament and a caricature artist — Chris Monley, a 1986 OU graduate. Senior Alex Cherup, along with Yvonne Szymczak, a 2007 graduate of OU, performed in a cabaret parody show that drew laughter from a standing-room only crowd.

Guests were greeted by jazz music played by members of the Oakland University Jazz Band (also known as the Geoff Blanchard Quartet).

"This has been a wonderful evening," said junior Carly Bates, who attended with her date, senior Brian House. "The food is amazing; the cabaret show was great. There's really a lot to do."

Music for the ball was provided by DJ Adroit, who played a variety of hip-hop music and added in other current and past hits for those on the dance floor. Featured songs included "Crank That" by Soulja Boy, "Living on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi, and "Mickey" by Toni Basil.

According to Jean Ann Miller, the director of the Center for Student Activities, in the past the ball used to be held twice a year, but due to lack of demand, only one has been scheduled in recent years.

However, response to this year's ball was an unexpected welcome to planners of the event.

Tickets for the ball sold out in little over a week, according to Alisha Bellows, president of the Meadow Brook Ball Committee. "People were stalking committee members for more tickets once it sold out," Bellows said. "The demand was so high that people were even trying to scalp tickets."

According to Bellows, there were 336 guests in attendance.

Bellows attributed some of the success of the evening to the internal organization of the event, which in the past, has been a hindrance.

"The whole night was great," said Johnson, who left the ball with her new fiancé shortly past 11 p.m. for a celebratory drink. "I really did enjoy the whole night. I couldn't stop smiling all night after the proposal. It obviously made the dance that much more special."



Photo courtesy of Annie Johnson

OU junior Annie Johnson with her fiance Dan Driscoll, who proposed to her at Meadow Brook Ball, Saturday, Feb. 2.

No charges to be filed in false police report case

By STEVE STAEGER
Senior Reporter

The OUPD will not press charges against the student who filed a false report and is letting the dean's office handle the situation, according to Chief of Police Samuel Lucido.

Dean of Students Glen McIntosh said the student's FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) rights will not allow him to comment on the consequences she will face.

FERPA prohibits the school from releasing personal information about the student without the student's permission.

While many students felt the university handled the case appropriately, a lack of an update on the situation did not sit well with some students.

"If they went as far as to e-mail everyone and make it such a big deal, then they should tell us what really happened to this girl for making what seems like a sick joke," said junior Saima Bhatti.

Freshman Angela Burgess agrees that the university should release more information about what will happen to the girl.

"It should be publicized because if someone is going to say that there is a potential rapist on campus when there really isn't, they should have consequences and they should be public,"

Burgess said.

McIntosh said the issue is being handled internally by the dean's office.

He said the process for deciding consequences for the accused student is based on a deep investigation into the issue and the student's background.

"We take all aspects of the student's background into account, including their mental status," said McIntosh.

McIntosh said that consequences could range from a reprimand to an expulsion.

"In some cases, students are given an interim suspension, where we ask them to leave the campus for their own safety," McIntosh said.

The interim suspension is meant for students to seek mental help and to stay away from potentially dangerous interaction with upset students, according to McIntosh.

He was pleased with the way the situation was handled by the different departments of the university.

"We acted in a unified fashion to ensure the safety of the campus community," McIntosh said.

Even though students wonder what the final consequence will be, they still feel the university did a good job handling the situation.

Bhatti said she felt the university handled the situation well, but it was all overdone.

"It's their job to overdo it, but at the

same time, some people are going to be scared out of their mind," Bhatti said.

But student Kristin Solt thinks that getting all the information out is important.

"A lot of campuses will hide things like what went on at Eastern Michigan University," Solt said.

Eastern Michigan's poor response to the murder of a student in the dorms lead to an investigation of their campus safety by the U.S. Department of Education.

"I think it should be confronted instead of hidden because it shows the honesty and integrity of the school," Solt said.

Junior Andrea Ligotti said she didn't get an e-mail after the incident occurred, but the flyers outside caught her attention.

"I think it would be hard for them to do anything else," said Ligotti. "I'm not sure if there was any other way."

Sophomore Emily Kuhlman works for the admissions office giving tours of the campus to prospective students.

She thinks the university handled the situation well, but wishes the whole thing never happened.

"You tell people that Oakland is one of the safest campuses in Michigan; no then someone fakes an incident and it makes us look really, really bad," Kuhlman said.

Russi delivers State of the University address

President looks fondly on successes, forward to challenges

Oakland University President Gary Russi looked toward the future in this year's university update, on Feb. 1. He also acknowledged that the current budget crisis that threatens state funding for OU will continue to get worse before it gets better.

Russi enumerated the goals OU has set for 2020, after recognizing the success of his vision for 2010 and the ongoing capital campaign, which has earned \$95 million of the \$110 million goal. The campaign, which is slated for five years, has two years remaining.

Goals for 2020 include:

- Exposure to a diverse learning environment, which includes increasing opportunities to study and live abroad.
- Expanding professional programs to meet the demands of the marketplace but keeping the liberal arts programs going strong.

• Building partnerships in the community to solve problems, to be a presence in the business and philanthropic communities and to create new opportunities for students.

• Broadening a research-intensive agenda, to enhance research opportunities, meet the needs of corporate partners, to expand funding and to increase the university's presence in the research community.

• Offering improved facilities, services, technologies and opportunities for OU students.

• Growing enrollment, with the goal of having 25,000 enrolled students, as well as expanding faculty, staff, services and technology to accommodate these new students.

• Developing satellite campuses and new partnerships with other colleges and universities.

• Corporate training and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

Sluggish e-mail annoys students

UTS has not yet decided on solution for slow student e-mail

By STEVE STAEGER
Senior Reporter

There are possible solutions on the table to speed up the Oakland University Webmail system, but it is unknown when a decision will be made, according to Terri Rowe, CIO for University Technological Services (UTS).

"The reason the system is operating slowly is because there are more people using the system and the volume of e-mail has gone up," Rowe said.

More people receiving a high volume of spam e-mail and Oakland's continually growing population are contributing to the sluggishness, according to Rowe.

"I wish we could just look at the server and speed it up, but we can't," Rowe said.

The only solution to speed up the e-mail would be to switch from the service the university currently uses.

One of the solutions is to switch the Webmail service provider from Mirapoint

to Gmail, but Rowe said this is only one of several options.

Rowe said she isn't sure when a final decision will be made or when e-mail will be operating at full capacity again.

"We are certainly not sitting on it," Rowe said. "No department at this university sits on anything."

"Every department at this university enthusiastically works hard to get things done for the students."

UTS posted a message on the Webmail Web site on Jan. 22 asking students to cut down on group e-mails before 5 p.m. and to reduce the amount of personal e-mail they send and receive.

But sophomore Josh Bihary chooses to ignore the plea to move his personal e-mail to another account.

"It's easier to have one e-mail account," Bihary said. "That way I don't have to look at a bunch of different accounts."

And Bihary, like many other OU students, uses one word to describe

Webmail's sluggishness: annoying.

"I hope they fix it soon," Bihary said. He is not alone.

"Trying to log into Webmail is like spending an hour trying to find the right key for a lock," said sophomore Mike Noto.

Noto has moved all of his personal e-mail over to another account on Hotmail.

"It's just an inconvenience," Noto said.

Sophomore Ashley Height uses Webmail for everything and has resorted to just wait it out.

"It can take anywhere from 20 seconds to a few minutes, but it's the only e-mail I use so I stick with it," Height said.

Senior Joshua Miller entered the URL for Webmail last Monday and it was taking so long to load that he decided to take a walk from his desk in the Oakland University Student Congress office.

According to Miller, he walked to North Foundation Hall and chatted with

a friend for 15 minutes before returning to his desk.

When he returned, the page was still loading.

After it finally loaded, he entered his username and password and then waited 10 minutes until he could finally read his messages.

Since then, he's forwarded all his e-mail to his personal Gmail account.

"They raised tuition nearly 14 percent and now we can't open e-mail," Miller said. "Get better equipment."

OUSC Vice President Jameelah Muhammad said the OUSC hasn't started working with UTS to find a solution yet, but slow e-mail is a problem that the OUSC will explore.

"It's something that we can address, but I encourage students to get in touch with UTS and the dean's office to voice their concerns," said Muhammad.

POLICEFILES

Police responded to a harassment complaint in Hamlin Hall on Jan. 29. Two students had alerted their RA that they had been receiving threatening messages on their voicemails and Facebook accounts from another student. The police met with the accused student, who admitted to making the threats but stated that there was never any intention of harming anyone.

Two non-students were arrested on campus Jan. 31 after a taxi driver who had driven them to campus contacted Police. The driver initially contacted police because the two people were acting suspiciously while they waited near O'Dowd Hall for a third person to come pay the driver. Upon investigation, police found two suspected crack pipes on the individuals and learned that they both had warrants for arrest in Detroit.

Police were called to Vandenberg Hall Feb. 2 to investigate marijuana use in a dorm room. Three students admitted to having used marijuana, but told police there were no drugs in their dorm room and allowed it to be searched. No drugs were discovered during the search and police issued "marijuana use" citations to the students.

Police were called to Hamlin Hall four separate times between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. on Feb. 3 to investigate possible minors in possession of alcohol. Breathalyzers were administered to all the suspects during the course of the night. Seven students and three other people were issued Minor in Possession citations.

This week in OU history

■ Ten years ago this week:

Russi delivers college progress

President Gary Russi, in his "State of the Campus" address, announced plans for a new student ID card. It is planned to be used as a declining-balance food card, a library card and as a means of access to the new "recreation center."

■ Fifteen years ago this week:

VP search process sparks controversy

Former OU president Sandra Packard was accused of strong-arm tactics in the nomination process for a new vice-president of academic affairs. One member of the search committee took exception to the inclusion of (current OU President) Gary Russi on the list of possible candidates, after his dossier was received later than the other four candidates, which "was less than exemplary according to committee members," as per reports by the Oakland Post.

■ Twenty-five years ago this week:

Majors in language down

A critical shortage of language majors was a problem at OU and nationwide, with the US needing Russian experts to replace those retiring. Preparing the new generation to communicate with the USSR was declared a top priority in higher education.

—Information taken from archived issues of the Oakland Post
—Compiled by Adam Roberts, Senior Reporter

Rec Center awaits cardio machine repairs

By C. L. NELSON
Contributing Reporter

Avid users of the Fitness Center in Oakland University's Recreational Center might notice that six of the 37 cardio machines are out of order.

The two bikes, two treadmills and two elliptical machines make up roughly 16 percent of the cardio equipment in the fitness center.

Director of Campus Recreation Gregory Jordan said that companies that service the equipment have been called.

He said the vast majority of equipment is serviced by All-Pro, an off-campus service company, and that they are generally here within 24 hours of the equipment breaking down.

Both elliptical machines need new parts and the company is waiting for them to come in. Jordan is still waiting for word on what's wrong with the treadmills, and he said he doesn't know if they're waiting on new parts or if it's a matter of the company just getting here.

The bikes, serviced by Star Track, are waiting for new display panels.

Jordan said that it's not unusual that cardio equipment goes out of order, but that it is "unfortunate that there are so many down at this time."

He said that cardio equipment is by far the most popular and that it's common for them to "wear out due to high use."

Repairs and preventative costs on cardio and strength equipment cost the Rec Center approximately \$10,000 a year. The Rec Center also budgeted \$40,000 to spend on new equipment this year.

In addition to repairing its broken down equipment, the Rec Center has ordered some new equipment for students.

Four new treadmills are being ordered, including the replacement, as well as a smith machine for strength training and two wave machines.

"We try to do as much as we can to meet the needs of our student population," Jordan said.

Jordan also explained that they order a variety of equipment to cater to student's personal preferences because exercise machines aren't "one size fits all."

Jordan estimates that 1,700 – 1,800 people walk into the Recreation Center each day.

"More than 50 percent of them go into the fitness center," Jordan said.

Peak usage of the Rec Center is usually Monday through Thursday after 4 p.m.

If students are looking to avoid the rush after 4 p.m., Jordan said mornings before noon are a great time to squeeze in a workout.

"We open at 5:30 a.m.," he said. The Rec Center is open seven days a week and further information can be found on Oakland University's Web site.

Business over break

The Board of Trustees meeting originally set for Feb. 6 has been rescheduled for Feb. 28, during OU's Winter Recess.

This meeting is the first since the results of the Michigan state legislature's revenue-estimating conference, held on Jan. 11. It is possible that the issue of the \$4.8 million deferred payment to OU will be addressed at the meeting.

The Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for March 5 has also been cancelled.

CSA

Center for Student Activities

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DANCING WITH the "OU" STARS

TODAY, February 6
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OU's version of Dancing with the Stars
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OU students will be paired with a professional dancer
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compete against each other.

Co-sponsored with Future Alumni Network (FAN's)
This event is part of African American Celebration Month 2008

**OUSC Student Body
Presidential Candidate**

'MEET & GREET'

Monday, February 18
5:30PM - 7:30PM
128-130, OC

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- Develop, implement, and supervise recreational and social activities.
- Supervise participants on short and extended field trips.
- Establish positive relationships with parents and other primary caretakers of Project participants.
- Uphold duty roster responsibilities.
- Implement activities that increase group cohesion, address concerns, and promote open communication.
- Assist in planning and implementing weekly dorm meetings.
- Clarify, monitor, and enforce Project policies/procedures, especially as related to student conduct.
- Train and supervise peer (participant) mediation teams. Serve on Residential Mediation Team.
- Conduct fire drills, tornado drills, building and room inspections, key and ID checks.
- Monitor visitor access and participant movement in and out of the building and between floors.
- Participate in nightly updates, weekly staff meetings, and weekly training sessions.
- Prepare participant behavior reports; track participant points; submit weekly activity reports.
- Develop cohesive relationships with the Academic Team (tutors).
- Assure that participants complete homework.
- Other responsibilities as assigned by the Head Resident or a Project Administrator.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS/PREREQUISITES

- Junior or higher class standing by the end of Spring Term 2008 given preference
- Verified 2.50 or higher cumulative GPA at any accredited college or university
- Demonstrate Standard English enunciation, pronunciation, proficiency
- Must have residential living (dorm) experience and no campus or legal restrictions.
- Evidence of appropriate leadership, communication, social, and role modeling skills
- Previous involvement with culturally diverse youth populations
- INTEGRITY & COMMITMENT
- A valid driver's license with a good driving record

CONSTRAINTS

NO CLASSES AFTER 3:00 p.m.
NO OTHER EMPLOYMENT (especially on-campus)

ALL EMPLOYMENT CANDIDATES MUST AGREE TO A BACKGROUND CHECK.

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Local

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

February 6, 2008

Movies to boost economy

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. (AP) A year ago, Michigan tried luring moviemakers to the state by giving them hefty tax rebates.

But it lost its competitive edge when other states started offering even better deals.

Now, state lawmakers and Gov. Jennifer Granholm are looking at increasing the size of the rebates and adding other incentives to leapfrog Michigan ahead of states such as Louisiana, New Mexico and Connecticut.

Michigan offers a tax rebate of up to 20 percent to production companies that shoot movies, TV shows and commercials in the state. But that no longer has the bling it once did, film industry insiders say.

"Twenty percent isn't going to do it. You really need to have a headline," says Mike Binder, a Detroit native who wrote and directed "The Upside of Anger," a 2005 film starring Joan Allen and Kevin Costner.

Binder visited Lansing recently to lobby lawmakers for a 40 percent rebate, which would be the country's highest.

"The fact is, in Hollywood, if you're not at the front, you might as well not even be in it at all," says Mitch Albom, a Detroit newspaper columnist whose books such as "Tuesdays With Morrie" have been adapted into TV movies.

With its array of visual images — urban landscapes, the Great Lakes, sandy shorelines, northern forests, vineyards — Michigan could be a film studio's

dream. Eminem shot his movie, "8 Mile," along the boulevard separating Detroit and the suburbs. "Road to Perdition" featured scenes shot in the Grand Rapids area.

But in the end, decisions on where to shoot are about the bottom line, with studios asking what tax payoffs they will get in return.

When legislators passed the initial tax rebates on the last day of session in December 2006, Michigan's incentives briefly ranked among the top five in the United States.

Other states leapfrogged Michigan in a matter of months, and it fell back to having the 15th- or 16th-best incentives for creating movies.

Lawmakers and Granholm agree Michigan must offer a new round of incentives if it wants to tap into more of the \$60 billion film industry, which is not exclusive to Los Angeles.

Granholm visited with industry officials during a November trip to California. Last week, she talked about passing the most robust incentives in the nation during her State of the State speech.

Along with bigger tax rebates, Michigan lawmakers are considering extra enticements for production companies that hire Michigan-based workers instead of flying in crew from outside the state. They also may dole out loans to movie projects and explore ways to train workers for movie jobs.

The time to get moving is short. Once the Hollywood writers' strike ends, there will be a backlog of potential projects

that have been waiting for the past three months to get going.

Many see the entertainment industry as another way to diversify a Michigan economy hurt by the reliance on the downsizing auto industry. Although Granholm is heavily promoting Michigan's move into alternative energy, filmmaking could offer a far quicker boost.

"This is an industry that can come in immediately. Wind power and alternative energy require an incredible investment in time and capital," says Scott Brooks, a partner with A-G Capital, an investment holding company in Holland. A-G is partially financing three movies set to be made in Michigan by another Holland company, TicTock Studios.

"They are waiting on the sidelines to come to Michigan. It is the buzz," Brooks says.

Moviemaking doesn't just infuse the local economy with increased hotel bookings and potential new jobs if local crew are hired. It also can attract tourists.

Iowa still is reaping the benefits of 1989's "Field of Dreams" and 1995's "Bridges of Madison County." "Sideways" put Southern California's wine country on the map.

But to get another "8 Mile" filmed in Michigan, the state will have to fend off competitors.

Ten states improved their incentives or offered new ones last year alone, says Angela Miele, vice president of tax policy for the Motion Picture Association of America. "Every state is trying to up the ante."

NEWS BRIEFS

SHOPPING CART MADNESS

MADISON HEIGHTS, Mich. (AP) Madison Heights is showing its displeasure with wayward shopping carts.

The Detroit Free Press reports anyone caught taking a cart from store premises could soon face a \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail.

City Council recently passed an ordinance on the issue that could take effect this month.

The city was growing tired of carts piled against apartment buildings, strewn through neighborhoods and occasionally rolling into traffic.

The newspaper says some other communities also have fines for taking carts.

MARIJUANA HITS MICHIGAN EN ROUTE TO INDIANA

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) Seven men have been charged in a scheme to bring more than 2,000 pounds of marijuana from Mexico to Michigan in 193 pieces of pottery.

Federal authorities found the marijuana Jan. 23 in a shipment of vase-shaped pottery at the Port of Baltimore in Maryland, The Herald-Palladium of St. Joseph and WOOD-TV reported.

Homeland Security agents posed as trucking company employees and delivered the drugs Jan. 28 to Edwardsburg, Mich., about 80 miles southwest of Grand Rapids.

The men were arrested after they took delivery of the drugs which were destined for a business in Elkhart, Ind. Six of the men are from Elkhart.

Humberto Mota, 34, is charged with conspiracy to import 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana, as well as conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute more than a ton of marijuana.

Jose Alfredo Sandoval, 19; Roberto Mota, 27; Roberto Hildalgo, 21; Antonio Herrera-Espinoza, 30; and Juan Carlos Torres, 19, pleaded not guilty Friday in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids to charges of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

Another suspect, Gavin James Herremans of Edwardsburg, was expected to be arraigned Tuesday.

Drivers slow down; construction picks up

By TRACY WAWRZYNIAK
Staff Intern

Drivers westbound on Walton Boulevard near Squirrel road, take notice of the posted speed limit. Unbeknownst to many students at Oakland University, the speed limit dropped to 35 mph.

"I've driven through there 20 to 25 times and never noticed," Health Sciences freshman Joshua Rutkowski admitted.

Walton Boulevard is in the process of getting a new look. The project, currently from Perry Street (just past Opdyke Road) to Squirrel Road, will culminate in two lanes in each direction and a

continuous center left-turn lane, stated in a November Oakland County Road Commission (OCRC) press release.

Junior Brandon Lewis admitted he didn't notice the change.

"I've been doing 45 the whole time," he said.

Craig Bryson, public information officer for the OCRC said the changes would be "far more apparent as construction progresses."

The construction, which began months ago, will involve a temporary lane, intermittent lane closures, reconstruction and widening of Walton Boulevard and the replacement of the bridge over Interstate

75. According to the press release, Walton Boulevard at the bridge will close in March when replacement is projected to begin.

"So far so good," said Bryson, noting that the work is on schedule. "We are in the process of moving the utilities for the water and sewer [underneath Walton]." Completion is projected for November of this year.

As for the speed limit, which might mean the difference between making it to class on time or being tardy, students can expect to see the old, familiar "Speed Limit 45" signs when the project is completed.

WSU saves funds for "rainy day"

As deferred payments are cashed in at a number of Michigan universities, the question becomes, "What will universities do with the money?" Take a look at how Wayne State University compares to Oakland University in its allocation of funding...

DETROIT (AP) Wayne State University's governing board has decided to keep the \$5.3 million students paid in contingency fees* ahead of anticipated state funding cuts this fall.

Instead, The Detroit News reports Monday that the money will help grow the university's rainy day fund, improve classrooms and pay off debt, among other uses*.

The board last year approved a 12.8 percent tuition increase*, plus a contingency fee* of \$13 per credit hour for students.

Students say the fee was designed to safeguard against a shortfall if the university didn't receive money it was promised from the state. But the state pulled through with the monthly appropriations*.

The university is dropping the contingency fee for the spring semester.

OU did not add contingency fees to tuition costs for the fall '07/winter '08 semesters.

Improving academic programs, updating facilities, refunding students and saving money to buffer future cuts are some of the ideas on the list of potential uses for OU's deferred payment.

OU's Board of Trustees approved a 13.9 percent tuition increase in July 2007.

According to the OU administration, the tuition increase was approved, in part, to compensate for funds that the state might fail to provide. An additional fee beyond the increase was not instituted.

OU received a deferred payment of \$4.8 million from the state in October 2007. The Board of Trustees has yet to officially determine how the money will be utilized.

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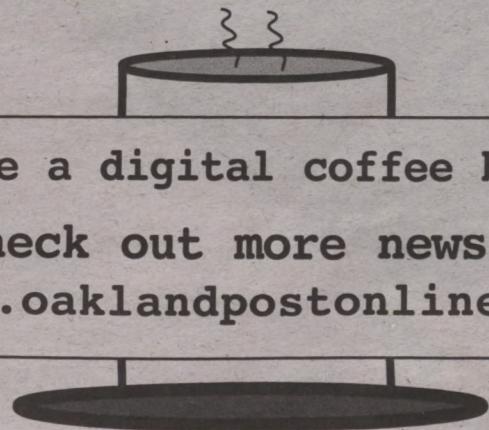
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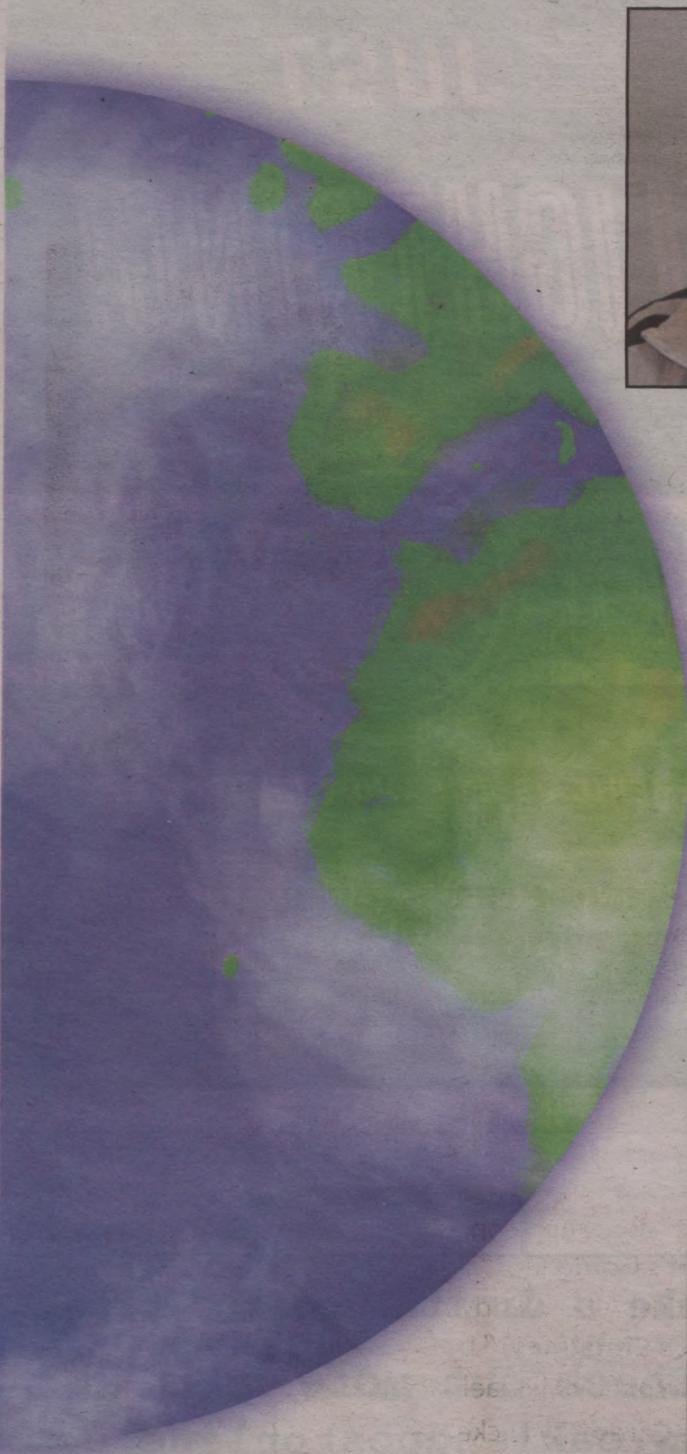
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Saving the world

What is the most important world issue to you at the moment and why?



"Cultural discrimination. I think people have a biased interpretation of different cultures and it sometimes gives them an attitude to other cultures and not taking other things into consideration."

Chris Cabato
Senior, Health Science



"The presidential race, because for the first time we have a woman and an African-American in the race and it shows that the U.S. is changing. The world will look at us in a different way and notice change is happening."

Melvin Hollowell
Sophomore, Anthropology



"Poverty, because it seems like what I've been learning in my classes, the more budgets are cut, the less educated people there are."

Earl Legree
Sophomore, History/Education

Helping others in need

What Third World country do you think needs the most help and why?



"The Ivory Coast because since their civil war, the economy of the country has gone down, much of the schools have closed and people can't find jobs like they used to."

Ibrahima Cisse
Junior, Business

"I would say Ethiopia because of the children and all the nutrition issues they have."

Lanita Sledge
Freshman, Psychology



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Finding the cure

If you could cure any disease, what would it be and why?



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Rania Al-Mufti
Senior, Elementary Ed.



"AIDS because I know people who have AIDS and I know how they suffer and what they go through to survive and how strong they could be."

Patrick Verano
Junior, Nursing



"Cancer because it affects too many people and there are so many different kinds. I've seen cancer take the lives of so many people I know."

Carly Bates
Junior, Chemistry

SONGS THAT RAISE AWARENESS

1. "Imagine" by John Lennon
2. "What's Going On?"
- by Artists Against AIDS Worldwide
3. "Do They Know It's Christmas?" by Band Aid
4. "Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson
5. "If Everyone Cared" by Nickelback
6. "How Far We've Come" by Matchbox Twenty
7. "Where Is the Love?" by Black Eyed Peas

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you

your stories
your words
your style
your health

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February 6, 2008



Stacie L. Bartman
Health Columnist

Here's to a healthier you

Columnist Stacie L. Bartman (certified EMT-B, chiropractic medical assistant and American Heart Association CPR instructor) launches her new health column, exclusive to the Oakland Post. Preview it here and keep up with the latest in health tips in the YOU section at www.oaklandpostonline.com. Here's to a new year...and a new, healthier you.

DEAR SLB: I see advertisements in magazines and hear them on the radio about "detoxification" and how it can improve your health. Can you tell me more about what detoxification is?

—CRAVING TO BE HEALTHY

DEAR CRAVING TO BE HEALTHY:

It's great that you want to be healthier, and following a good detoxification program properly can be very beneficial to your health. First, toxins are defined as "any compound that has a detrimental effect on cell function or structure," according to www.healthassist.net. Detoxification is a way to cleanse the body and organs of toxins that we take in through eating refined foods, drinking impure water or breathing in polluted air. Also, our body produces toxins in response to stressors. Various ways to detoxify the body naturally are to eat a balanced, healthy diet, eat food rich in antioxidants, drink water, take baths, and to use a sauna or steam room. Also, skin brushing, bowel cleansing, colon cleansing (known as "colonics") and regular exercise can all help with the detoxification process. If you're interested in herbs, a list of them can be found at www.healthassist.net/conditions/detoxification2.shtml. Whole Foods also carries a line of herbs beneficial to health and can be used in detoxification. The best idea is to talk to your doctor or a nutritionist first, discuss your overall goals and see what is recommended for you.

DEAR SLB: I am a full-time student and I work a full-time job. I drink two energy drinks a day and coffee to stay awake but it does not seem to be helping anymore. Why is this? Also, I get really bad headaches too if I don't have caffeine; could that be something serious?

—OVER CAFFEINATED

DEAR OVER CAFFEINATED,

Talk about a sugar and caffeine overload! I hope you're drinking water at least, because too much caffeine and not enough water can cause you to become dehydrated. What it sounds like you're experiencing is a caffeine withdrawal, and you probably have way too much sugar in your system too. Some side effects of caffeine withdrawal are headaches, depression and decreased concentration, according to WebMD. The site also notes that symptoms can last up to nine days after last consuming caffeine. Evaluate your eating habits and make sure you're getting proper nutrition and enough water in your diet. Too much sugar over a long period of time in your diet could possibly lead to health complications, according to WebMD. If you feel that your caffeine consumption is out of control, talk to your doctor and see what options are out there. If you want to try something natural, go to www.aworldofaromatherapy.com.

DEAR SLB: I take a lot of vitamins, but I don't eat a lot of vegetables. Is it better to take vitamins than to eat the food rich in particular vitamins?

—RICH IN VITAMINS

DEAR RICH IN VITAMINS,

Great question! Vitamins are very important in your diet (minerals too). "Vitamins and minerals are substances your body needs for normal growth and functioning. Some facilitate crucial chemical reactions, while others act as building blocks for the body," according to WebMD. The best source to get vitamins and minerals is through the food and liquids you consume. However, it is also recommended by health professionals to take a daily multi-vitamin. Some vitamins advertise that there is more than the recommended daily intake (RDI) of that specific vitamin or mineral. You need only the RDI of any vitamin unless your doctor has prescribed otherwise. For example, people who suffer from anemia need more iron than someone who does not suffer from it. Vitamins A, D, E and K are fat-soluble and stored in the body. If the levels of fat soluble vitamin get to a toxic level, it can cause symptoms similar to cirrhosis, according to a study found on www.webmd.com. A Web site with a reference guide to the RDI of vitamins and minerals can be found at www.fda.gov. Also, speaking with a dietitian can help you define a healthy eating pattern and make sure you're getting the proper amount of vitamins and minerals.

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Sports

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February 6, 2008

Sweeping the Dakotas

OAKLAND 77, NDSU 74
THURSDAY

Kangas' last second 3-pointer buries North Dakota State

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

ROCHESTER — After spending the majority of this season nursing and fighting through a broken collarbone, junior Erik Kangas proved why he was ranked 10th in the nation in three-point shooting last season by sinking the game-winning 3-pointer in the final seconds against North Dakota State University Thursday night, propelling Oakland University to a 77-74 victory.

"He wasn't feeling good about himself after a season full of injuries," head coach Greg Kampe said of Kangas. "He needed something like this to feel good about himself."

After Johnathon Jones knocked down a 3-pointer to kick off the contest in the first 30 seconds, the Bison (11-11 overall, 5-6 conference) blindsided Oakland (12-10, 7-4) with an 11-point run that had the Golden Grizzlies staring up at an 11-3 deficit five minutes into the game.

OU struggled in its attempt to regain the lead in the first half and trailed by as many as 14 points, thanks to North Dakota State's 6 for 7 three-point shooting, with guard Mike Nelson shooting 3 for 3.

Kangas nailed a 3-pointer with six seconds remaining in the first half to cut Oakland's deficit from eight to five points at the half, 41-36.

OU junior Derick Nelson, after a four-point first half, came alive in the second half, scoring 14 of his 18 total game points, including the offensive move that Kampe referred to as "the play of the game."

With 2:58 left on the clock and OU

behind 68-66, Jones was sent to the free throw line with a chance to even up the game.

But after both of his shots bounced off the rim, Nelson leaped from inside the paint to tip the second miss into the basket and tie the game.

"I don't know how he did that," Kampe said. "But if he hadn't, we would have probably lost that game."

From there, the Golden Grizzlies overcame two more ties until Jones sank a layup to give the Grizzlies a 74-72 lead with less than a minute to go. But a layup by Bison forward Josh Vaughan brought the game to its sixth tie, 74-74, with 31 second to go.

Kampe called a timeout to set up a play for Kangas, who had previously hit four of his last nine shots and was 3-for-6 from three-point territory.

Kangas came off a screen and as a Bison defender came at him, he drilled the deep three-point shot with 1.9 left on the clock. North Dakota State couldn't muster a last-second play, giving the Golden Grizzlies a 77-74 victory.

"I knew I had to put up a shot and I was pretty open," Kangas said. "I could see the defender's hand out of the right corner of my eye, but I knew he wasn't going to foul me so I took the shot."

Jones had no doubt that Kangas' game-winning shot was going to go in.

"I knew it was going in," he said. "He had been making a lot of his shots tonight."

Kangas finished the night with 18 points and Jones paved the way for the Golden Grizzlies with 21 points and eight assists. Redshirt freshman Keith Benson continued to make an impact as a starter, with 12 points, six rebounds and four blocks.

OAKLAND 78, SDSU 68
SATURDAY



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Johnathon Jones (23) rises up for a jump-shot in Oakland's 78-68 victory over SDSU Saturday night. Jones is second on the team in scoring behind Derick Nelson, averaging 15.1 points per game.

Jones, Kangas each net 19 points in win over SDSU

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

ROCHESTER — While Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter Saturday, the Golden Grizzlies saw a warmer side of Groundhog Day.

With four players in double figures and riding on 61 percent shooting in the second half, the Golden Grizzlies kept the visiting South Dakota State University Jackrabbits at bay to stamp in its third straight victory, 78-68.

"I think we played pretty darned good basketball," head coach Greg Kampe said.

From the opening tip, Oakland University was in the driver's seat for almost the entire first half. The Jackrabbits (7-15 overall, 2-9 conference) couldn't seem to find a way to pull ahead.

The Golden Grizzlies had a six-point lead at halftime with a score of 39-33, and they never let the lead up in the

second half.

The Jackrabbits would come within four points with 1:30 remaining, after a 6-0 run. But Oakland (12-10, 7-4) sank six straight free throws to close out the 78-68 victory.

With South Dakota State's defense focusing on OU's big men in the paint, the perimeter was wide-open for junior Erik Kangas and senior Brandon Cassise to make plays.

Kangas and sophomore Johnathon Jones led the Grizzlies in scoring with 19 points, with Kangas going 5 for 7 from the three-point arc. Cassise contributed seven points and shot a perfect 4-4 for the free throw line.

"With Kangas and Cassise on the court, that's a hard matchup," Jones said. "When we were pushing up the ball [those two players] got lost in transition a lot, so they had a lot of wide-open shots."

Although the Golden Grizzlies achieved the victory without major incident, turnovers remain a problem for OU.

After throwing the ball away only five times in Thursday's matchup against North Dakota State, OU more than doubled that figure by turning the ball over 15 times. The Jackrabbits took advantage, scoring 21 points off of them.

"We rarely get to a situation when we are up by 20 points in a game, because every time we get on the verge of pulling away, we make foolish mistakes down low and the other team climbs back into it," Kampe said. "We're an extremely young team, especially inside. I think we'll improve next year as this team learns and understands."

Other Golden Grizzlies in double-figures were Derick Nelson, who scored six of his 11 points in the second half, and junior Dan Waterstradt, who also tallied 11 points and pulled down a game high eight rebounds.

The Golden Grizzlies will next take on first place Oral Roberts University Thursday, Feb. 7. The Golden Eagles defeated OU 66-60 on Jan. 12.

Struggles continue for OU women's basketball

By TIM RATH
Contributing Reporter

ROCHESTER — Shooting a basketball is often similar to the snow of recent Michigan winters: sometimes it falls, sometimes it doesn't.

The Oakland University women's basketball team played what one might call a "global warming" game on Monday.

The Golden Grizzlies shot 35 percent from the field en route to their third consecutive close loss, a 58-54 defeat at the hands of North Dakota State.

"We got good shots, they just weren't falling," said junior guard Jessica Pike. "We weren't rebounding well and we weren't able to get fast breaks."

Pike led Oakland scorers with a team-high 14 points on 6 for 10 shooting and three assists.

Sophomore guard Melissa Jeltema notched her fourth double-double of the season, scoring ten points and grabbing ten rebounds.

Sophomore forward Hanna Reising scored ten points to round out

Grizzlies in double figures.

OU got off to a quick start against North Dakota State, leading by as many as 12 points after a fast break lay-up by Jeltema with 10:52 remaining in the first half. The Bison bounced back with a 12-2 run to pull within two at 22-20 with 5:59 remaining in the first half.

From there, the Bison kept Pike on the bench with two fouls and used their size advantage to keep the score close, going into halftime trailing OU by five at 33-28.

The Grizzlies led by as many as seven in the second half, but North Dakota State took advantage of an OU shooting slump to knot the game at 41-41 with 12:31 left on the clock.

OU surged ahead once more to lead 47-41 after a fast break layup from junior guard April Kidd, but once again, the Bison closed the gap and took a one-point lead at 49-50 with just over four minutes remaining.

A jumper from Reising put OU back in the lead at 54-52 with 2:30 to go, but North Dakota State managed to

keep the Grizzlies' offense silent for the rest of the game. Two layups from NDSU's 6-foot-2 center Jerri Penley gave the Bison the lead and the win 58-54.

OU managed to force 21 turnovers, but lost the rebounding advantage, 41-35, and passed for a season-low 11 assists.

NDSU held the Grizzlies to 1 for 14 shooting from beyond the arc, and only allowed OU to get to the foul line three times throughout the game.

"Our game plan is to get to the line," said head coach Beckie Francis. "We did the opposite."

Oakland played without senior forward Charlese Greer, who was out with an injury, but according to Francis, can be expected to play in OU's next game.

The loss drops the Grizzlies' record to 13-8 overall, and 6-5 in Summit League competition. They'll look to snap their skid Saturday, Feb. 9, as they travel to Shreveport, La., to take on Centenary. Tip-off is set for 4 p.m.

SUMMIT LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Conference	Overall
SDSU	9-2	16-6
Western Illinois	9-2	11-11
IUPUI	7-4	11-12
Oral Roberts	6-4	12-9
Oakland	6-5	13-8
NDSU	6-5	11-10
IPFW	6-5	9-13
Southern Utah	3-8	5-17
UMKC	2-9	9-13
Centenary	0-10	3-17



Reising's career-high not enough for OU

By DAN TALLANT
Contributing Reporter

ROCHESTER — On Saturday, the Golden Grizzlies women's basketball team battled back from being down by as many as 10 points, only to go down in overtime to the first-place South Dakota State Jackrabbits, 64-63.

It wasn't until sophomore Hanna Reising hit a 3-pointer with 2:31 left in the second half that the Golden Grizzlies weren't trailing in the game.

Defense was key in the win for South Dakota State. The Jackrabbits held junior Jessica Pike to eight points, who came into the game averaging 17.2 points per game.

"We knew coming in that they were a great defensive team," head coach Beckie Francis said. "They did a good job and took away Pike."

Oakland shot 35 percent from the field. SDSU entered the game shooting nearly 50 percent.

The game was a one-sided affair in the

first half with Oakland only scoring 27, compared to the Jackrabbits' 31 points.

The Grizzlies came out in the second half and dug themselves into a 10-point hole with nine minutes left. The team stormed back to tie the game late.

It was a late 3-pointer by Reising that knotted the game at 59 with 18 ticks on the clock.

Following the 3-pointer, Reising was then fouled and sent to the line. She converted on both, giving Oakland their first lead of the game.

The lead was short-lived, however, as South Dakota State's senior Andrea Verdegan hit a ten-footer with time expiring to send the contest into overtime.

"We started to be a little more aggressive offensively and our defense was great," Reising said. "We made some key stops on defense which allowed us to come back."

In overtime, an early foul by sophomore Melissa Jeltema sent South Dakota State sophomore Maria Boever to the

line, where she made one of two to give the Jackrabbits the one point advantage. Jeltema fouled out, leaving OU without a key offensive threat the rest of the game.

A missed shot at the other end of the court by the Grizzlies and a turnover by Pike allowed for Boever to score again, extending the SDSU lead out to three.

Junior April Kidd made a layup with two minutes remaining to put Oakland within one. A defensive stop for the Grizzlies with 30 seconds left allowed for a last-second field goal chance. Oakland took a timeout after controlling the ball with six seconds left to set up their play.

The ball was sent down low to Pike, but the strong defense of SDSU did not allow her to get a shot off in time.

The loss drops OU to a 13-7 record overall and 6-4 in the conference.

Leading the way for Oakland was Reising, who dropped a career-high 32 points in the effort. Reising's 32 points is the most scored by an Oakland player since Nov. 27, 2004 when Nicole Piggott scored 37 at San Francisco.



BOB KOSKA/The Oakland Post
Hanna Reising (32) looks to get around SDSU's Maria Boever (40) last Saturday. Reising netted 42 points over the past two games at the O'Rena. Reising hasn't missed a game in her career at OU.

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

Hanna Reising



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

Year: Sophomore
Major: Undecided

Reising notched a career high by knocking down 32 points in Saturday's loss to South Dakota State and recorded a double-double Monday with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

VIVA LAS VEGAS!

Check out our Oll tennis results from their trip to Vegas at our Web site:

www.oaklandpostonline.com

Oakland University AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION MONTH

As part of Oakland University's campus-wide African American Celebration Month 2008, Kresge Library will welcome Jerome Vaughn to speak on the importance of mentorship in the African American community:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH @ 12:00 P.M. in the LIBRARY'S STUDENT LOUNGE. THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



Mr. Vaughn is news director at WDET, Detroit's National Public Radio station. He is an award-winning journalist, who joined WDET in 1992 to help chronicle Detroit's comeback and to become a positive voice in the media--focusing on the improvements in his hometown. In addition to his role as news director, Mr. Vaughn is also in charge of the news department's internship program, as well as serving as a mentor for NPR's national Next Generation Radio Project. "It's so important to get the next generation of public radio radio news producers involved in the process right now...So, I'm doing my part to get young people around the country interested in what we do at WDET."

Club hockey loses one, takes one against rival Davenport University

By BRITTANY OCTHINSKY
Senior Reporter

Last season, Oakland University's club hockey team went winless in four games against Davenport University. This season, the Golden Grizzlies have remained neck-and-neck with the Panthers, splitting both series including last weekend's games.

Once again, the away team skated away with victories. Davenport came up with a 4-3 win last Friday at the Onyx, and Oakland notched a 4-3 shootout victory Saturday in Grand Rapids.

In Friday's game, defenseman Dennis Capa netted his first goal as a Grizzly to get Oakland on the board in the second period.

Brent Cooper and Kyle McMahon also scored for the Grizzlies, while Collin Chase made 26 saves in the loss.

The next night, the Grizzlies found themselves down 3-1 with three minutes remaining in the game. After pulling Chase, they reeled off two quick goals by Cooper and Kevin Kranner to force the game to overtime.

Overtime then turned into a seven-round shootout, where Cooper scored the deciding goal:

Chase stopped 36 shots through regulation and overtime and held off all seven shooters in the shootout. Brett Haugh scored Oakland's first goal.

The Grizzlies will host Michigan State at the Onyx Thursday at 8 p.m., and then travel to Munn Arena in East Lansing Saturday. A fifth game against the Panthers has been added Feb. 22 at the Onyx.

Records continue to break for men's and women's track and field

The women's track team continued to smash records last Saturday at the Michigan Intercollegiates held in Ann Arbor. School records were set by Sara Lieblein in the 3000-meter (10:20.46), Kayla Doan in the mile (5:19.44) and Jessica Ferguson in the 200-meter (27.67). Nine personal records were also set at the meet.

The men's track team broke a Summit League record and two other school records last Saturday at the Akron Open in Akron, Ohio. Jason Young's 15:18.80 finish in the 5000-meter was the fastest in the Summit League this season. Jason Bigelow (800-meter) and Zack Jones (3000-meter) set school records. Bigelow's 1:54.47 is fourth in the conference and Jones' 8:35.81 mark is the third in the Summit League this season.

—Brittany Ochtinsky, Senior Reporter

Women's tennis falls short in season openers

The women's tennis team opened their season 0-2 last weekend, falling to both Akron, 6-1, and Detroit-Mercy, 7-0, at Lifetime Fitness. In her debut last Friday, junior Lindsay Grimmer lost her first singles match 1-6, but came back to win the next two, 6-4 and 10-7. Grimmer dropped her matches 6-3, 3-6 and 10-6. Next up are Southern Utah and Dixie State Feb. 25-27 in Las Vegas.

—Brittany Ochtinsky, Senior Reporter

It's more fun than a goose and an owl.

No clue what we're talking about? Read extended coverage of men's hockey against Davenport on our Web site:

www.oaklandpostonline.com

Pre-game partying

On Jan. 31 and Feb. 4, Golden Grizzlies fans arrived at the Recreation Center in masses for tailgate parties before the men's and women's basketball teams took on North Dakota State University. In addition to plenty of food, there was entertainment from the cheer team and Images dance team, a performance by the pep band and a visit from the Grizz.



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

To get the crowd pumped up for both of the basketball games, the cheer team and Images dance team perform their signature moves as the pep band plays the Oakland University fight song. The song is a staple at home games, especially when the team needs a boost on the court.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

The Grizz meets with some of his younger fans before the women's basketball game Feb. 4 against North Dakota State University.



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post

Dr. Gary Russi enjoys some of the food at the men's basketball tailgate party. Russi is an avid Oakland basketball fan and is in attendance for almost every home game.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

There was plenty of free food on hand, including hotdogs and buffalo wings.

The Scene

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

February 6, 2008

Tune in to these new TV shows

By BRITTANY OCHTINSKY

Senior Reporter

As the Hollywood writers' strike enters its 13th week, most of the shows we've come to love over the past few years are running out of new episodes.

That narrows your viewing options down to ... "American Idol," "American Idol" and "American Idol."

But before you throw that remote across the room because you've fallen off the "Lost" bandwagon, calm yourself and check out these mid-season replacements.

NBC

"Lipstick Jungle," premieres Thursday, Feb. 7 at 10 p.m., starring: Brooke Shields, Christopher Wiehl, Julian Sands, Lindsay Price, Kim Raver and David Norona.

Based on the book by Candace Bushnell, whose other claim to fame is "Sex in the City," the comedy-drama "Lipstick Jungle" follows three girlfriends as they try to balance their lives as Manhattan's elite.

Wendy (Shields) is a movie executive trying to balance her career and her family. Nico (Raver) is the editor-in-chief of a fashion magazine and has dreams of working her way up to CEO, and finally Victory (Price) is a free-spirited designer trying to make her dreams come true and find Mr. Right in the process.

"Quarterlife," premieres Monday, Feb. 18 at 9 p.m., starring Scott Michael Foster, Kevin Christy, Maite Schwartz, Michelle Lombardo, David Walton and Bitsie Tulloch.

What originally began as a series of short-form episodes, the drama-comedy "Quarterlife" is now making the transformation to the small screen. The show follows the lives of six creative 20-somethings. Webisodes can be seen at www.quarterlife.com.

ABC

"Eli Stone," premiered Thursday, Jan. 31 at 10:00 p.m., starring: Johnny Lee Miller, Victor Garber, Natasha Henstridge, Loretta Devine, Sam Jaeger, James Saito, Matt Letscher and Julie Gonzalo.

Attorney Eli Stone (Miller) experiences a series of hallucinations, but is told by his neurologist brother, Nathan (Letscher), that there is nothing wrong with him. Determined to find out the cause, he seeks the advice of a pseudo-Chinese acupuncturist, Dr. Chen (Saito), who helps him recall important memories from his past. The drama series premiere can be seen online at www.abc.com.

FOX

"Unhitched," premieres Sunday, March 2 at 9:30 p.m., starring Shaun Majumder, Craig Bierko, Pat Finn, Johnny Sneed and Rashida Jones.

From executive producers the Farrelly brothers, the sit-com "Unhitched" follows a group of 30-somethings through the trials and tribulations of dating.

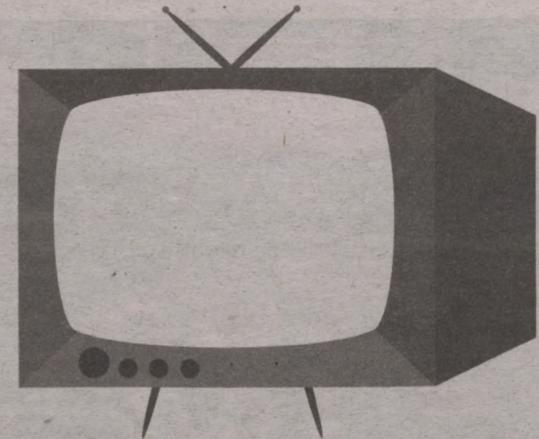
"The Return of Jezebel James," premieres Friday, March 14 at 8:30 p.m., starring Scott Cohen, Ron McLarty, Parker Posey, Lauren Ambrose and Michael Arden.

From "Gilmore Girls" creator Amy Sherman-Palladino, the sit-com "The Return of Jezebel James" reunites two estranged sisters (Posey and Ambrose) to raise a baby together.

CBS

"Jericho" begins its second season Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 10 p.m., starring Skeet Ulrich, Lennie James, Ashley Scott and Kenneth Mitchell.

When CBS threatened to cancel the drama "Jericho" after only its first season, fans came together and sent



Graphic by Celeste Filiatrault

Missing your favorite show? Tune into mid-season premieres.

over 20 tons of peanuts to the network in hopes of renewing the series for yet another season. Their efforts worked, as "Jericho" will return for at least seven episodes this season.

Beginning Feb. 11 the Sci-Fi Channel will play reruns of the first season, which focuses on a small town in Kansas that has to recover and survive after a series of terrorist attacks leave the U.S. in shambles.

"Welcome to the Captain," premiered Monday, Feb. 4 at 8:30 p.m., starring Fran Kranz, Chris Klein, Jeffrey Tambor, Raquel Welch, Al Madrigal, Valerie Azlynn and Joanna Garcia.

"Welcome to the Captain" is a comedy about the lives of eccentric residents of Hollywood's fabled El Capitan apartment building. If you missed the series premiere, check it out on www.cbs.com.

Beginning of the end for season four of 'Lost'

By BRENDAN LOSINSKI

Staff Intern

The popular television show "Lost" returned to the air this week.

The season finale last May certainly left its fans on the edge of their seats, wondering about their favorite marooned plane crash survivors.

Having finally found a way to contact a nearby ship and survived a showdown with "the Others" — the island's mysterious inhabitants — it looked like the season finale was going to give the survivors of Flight Oceanic 815 a happy ending.

But, it wouldn't be "Lost" if it didn't have a twist.

Last season ended with a dark vision of the future, where Jack (Matthew Fox), the leader of the survivors, was shown, after having escaped the island, as a shell of the man he once was, screaming pathetically about his obsession of returning to the island that he had worked so hard to escape.

Then came months of silence.

During an eight-month hiatus, fans could only guess what would happen next.

After spoilers of the finale appeared online, the show's writers entered what they called "radio silence," speaking to no one about the show.

Thursday night, viewers finally got a

chance to see what came next.

The season premiere featured a second flash-forward where another survivor, the good-humored Hurley (Jorge Garcia), had also escaped the island and is in pretty desperate shape.

He has been sent to a mental institution after seeing things that couldn't really be there. As he recalls the events back on the island, viewers quickly see that the would-be rescuers may not be who they say they are, and that leaving the island may have been a dire mistake.

The episode's title, "The Beginning of the End," is not only a turning point in the plot of the show, but also for the series as a whole.

Last season its producers announced that "Lost" would have three more seasons, the first of which began last Thursday.

As a result of the Writer's Guild strike, ABC will only be able to air the eight episodes that were completed before the strike began.

How long it could be before viewers will be able to see the end of the series is now anyone's guess.

With this imminent drought of episodes, adding to the growing mysteries now shown both on and off the island, fans of "Lost" may soon be getting fairly desperate themselves.

Transform into Travis Touchdown in 'Heroes'

REVIEW

By RORY McCARTY
Contributing Reporter

Travis Touchdown is a penniless geek living in a run-down motel in the city of Santa Destroy. But after he wins a beam katana — a futuristic weapon similar to a light saber — in an Internet auction, he naturally decides that the best way for him to make money is to become a professional hit man.

So he sets out to make a name for himself by killing the 10 assassins ranked higher than him in the United Assassin's Association.

That's the premise of the recently released Nintendo Wii game, "No More Heroes."

Players take control of the strangely-named Travis Touchdown as he cuts through endless waves of henchmen and rival assassins to become the number one-ranked hit man.

Travis' movement is controlled with

the Wii Nunchuck's thumb stick and beam katana slashes are done with a press of the A button.

Arrows appear onscreen that prompt players to swing the remote in a certain direction to perform finishing moves on near-death enemies, as well as perform professional wrestling moves on stunned ones.

It's a more engaging take on hack-and-slash games, like "Dynasty Warriors." The combat is intuitive and satisfying, and the strategy-based boss fights against the rival assassins are a blast to play.

As fun as they are to fight, the assassin boss characters are some of the weirdest in video game history. From the mailman-by-day, superhero-mercenary-by-night, Destroy Man, to the Grindhouse-esque Holly Summers, with a grenade launcher for a leg, they make up the oddest collection of guns-for-hire this side of a Quentin Tarantino movie.

In between missions you are free to travel around the city of Santa Destroy on Travis' anime-style motorcycle and

do things like take part-time jobs for extra money. But don't expect "Grand Theft Auto" levels of freedom from this city; the streets are desolate and there's little to do aside from earn extra money.

Part-time jobs, such as garbage collecting and gas pumping, are exactly as exciting as they sound and seriously detract from the pacing of the rest of the game. It's a bit jarring to slice through an army of armed thugs and then spend five minutes mowing lawns.

The game is rated Mature, and it definitely earned that rating. Decapitated enemies erupt like sanguine geysers, spraying the immediate area with more blood than could physically fit into a human body.

The subject matter is obviously mature and the characters curse almost as often as Jay and Silent Bob.

And when you need to recharge your beam katana by shaking the Wii remote, Travis does so in a blatantly sexually suggestive manner.

The game is certainly a departure



Amazon.com

from the typically family-oriented games that are available in abundance on the Wii.

But if you're a Nintendo Wii owner looking for a more mature title (in terms of gameplay and content, not in terms of narrative), you're not going to find a much more enjoyable game than "No More Heroes."

Nothing to Protest

REVIEW

By AMANDA MEADE
Contributing Reporter

According to punk rock band Protest the Hero's Web site, "Babies will cry on January 29," for this date marked the release of the band's second full-length album, "Fortress."

Two years after the debut release of "Kezia," the Canadian quintet is back with an incredible piece of work and a noticeable progression toward a more metal, technical sound.

Although Protest the Hero shares the Vagrant Records label with bands like Dashboard Confessional and Saves the Day, don't let that mislead you — this band is as hardcore as they come.

"Fortress" is capable of hooking its audience with its first 30 seconds.

The album is split into three separate movements, the first titled "On Conquest and Capture," which contains the first three songs, and "Isoceles" the movement of the last three songs.

Bassist and lyricist Arif Mirabdolbaghi spoke of the themes of the new album, which consist of goddess worship and the suppression of females.



Amazon.com

The sound the band brings in this album can be compared to the hardcore ways of Every Time I Die, and the guitars come close to those of Dragonforce.

In the track titled "Limb over Limb," Dragonforce's Vadim Pruzhanov actually accompanies the band with his talents on the keyboard. Protest the Hero's Rody Walker's vocal ability has always been amazing, although his throaty screams and singing talent are more polished than ever.

Every musical aspect of this band has progressed, especially the guitars, which promise to melt your face off.

Songs like "Sequoia Throne" and "Spoils" have intricate guitar work, which is unique to the band.

"Fortress" brings a raw, intense and hardcore sound, while being passionate and beautiful at the same time.

Protest the Hero is currently on a Canadian tour, but will make their way around the U.S. with Devil Wears Prada and Silverstein in the spring.

They will grace the stage of St. Andrew's Hall on March 28. Tickets are \$16.50.

Oakland University Eye Research Program

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MOUTHING OFF

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Febuary 6, 2008

Snow-free snow days

Today's snow days are not what they used to be

By STEVE STAEGER
Senior Reporter

"When I was a kid, I had to walk uphill 30 miles to school, in the rain, sleet and even SNOW."

We've all heard this classic complaint at least once from some sort of elder in our lives.

I always used to have the attitude of, "Well, it sucks to be you!"

But Thursday night, as I sat at a friend's house and caught a glimpse of the evening news with a scrolling list of school closings at the bottom of the screen, I found myself channeling my inner octogenarian.

"When I was a kid, snow days were a lot different," I moaned.

Don't throw me in the old folks' home or give me a coupon for Werther's Original candies just yet (although, I do love that 65 cent coffee at McDonalds).

Let me explain myself.

When I was a kid, it took more than a few inches to cancel school.

When we were young, snow days were a precious commodity, saved for days when there was enough snow piled on your car to build a snowman the size of Kwame Kilpatrick.

Last Friday's snowstorm only dumped a maximum of five inches on the Motor City and its surrounding areas.

Doesn't that seem like a small amount for a city and state which is known for its unpredictable and brutal winters?

After all, according to visitdetroit.com, our area gets an average of about 41 inches of snow every year. That's deeper than the shallow end of most swimming pools.

It seems a bit cowardly to call school off with so little snow.

That never would have happened in our time.

When I was a kid, you had to wait until the morning to see if you still had school.

I remember waking up to go to the bathroom extra early in the morning and peeking out the window to witness a sea of white.

Tens-of-inches of snow covered the bushes and the patio.

You see, that was part of the joy of a snow day — the surprise it brought in the morning.

I'd then go back to my bedroom, keeping my fingers crossed until my mom or dad came in and whispered that I could stay in bed.

Then joy and adrenaline would rush through my body, like the feeling you got when you opened that one present that you were really hoping for at Christmas (in my case, Nintendo 64).

But today's kids don't get that excitement because school administrations seem to be calling school the minute they see a snowflake on Chuck Gaidica's weather map.

That's the problem with school officials these days. They're putting faith in the only people on television news you shouldn't trust: Weathermen.

How many times this winter have we heard of a huge storm coming our way that never materialized or only left a slight dusting on the ground?

At the same time, it seems every big storm we've had this year has appeared under the radar — be it Doppler, Stormtracker or otherwise.

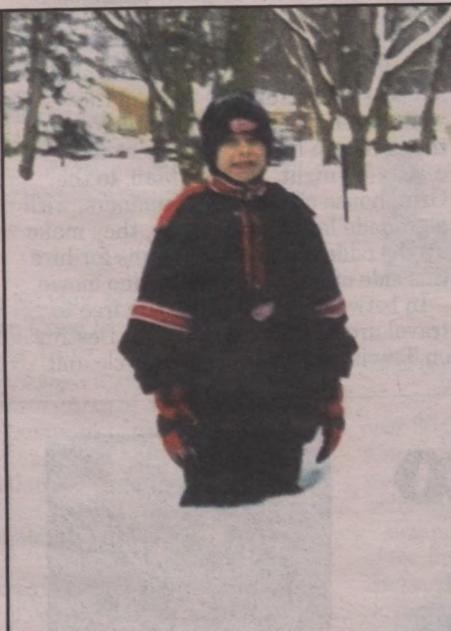


Photo Courtesy of Steve Staeger
THEN: "When I was a kid, it took more than a few inches to cancel school."



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post
NOW: An adult Steve Staeger enjoys some time in the few inches of snow.

When I was a kid, there actually had to be snow on the ground before school got cancelled.

When we were growing up, it seemed like everyone understood that meteorologists were just like Miss Cleo without the cheesy commercials (although some of the local news weather promos could compare pretty well with those "Call Me Now" commercials).

Today, the people who are cancelling school seem to think that weathermen are omnipotent: if they think there's going to be a storm, then gosh darn it, there will be one!

That's why when I flipped through the news Thursday night there was already a tremendous list of schools closed at 10 p.m., when the snow didn't even start

until around 2 a.m. Friday morning.

That's exactly the kind of thinking that gets schools closed THE AFTERNOON before a storm.

Kids know at school the day before they have a snow day.

I think that only happened once during my childhood and that was because it was already snowing pretty hard.

When I was a kid, I hoped I'd never reminisce about the hard times later in life like so many older people had done to me because I didn't want to sound like a grandpa.

But hand me my walker and turn me on some Matlock. I just can't help myself when it comes to snow days.

!*&@!~%!!



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Britney's humanitarian homework

By ALEX CHERUP
Mouthing Off Editor

Britney Spears used to do her homework. She also liked science fiction author Kurt Vonnegut. Therefore, the world will be a better place.

This may seem unrelated and illogical, but it will make sense in a minute.

Amazingly, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences will auction one of Britney's book reports, along with other rock star paraphernalia on Feb. 8 for charity in Los Angeles.

It just so happens that Spears' literary criticism is on Vonnegut's short story, "No Talent Kid."

Take a deep breath to avoid suffocating from humorous irony. And no, the story isn't about Spears.

I'm sure Spears' biographer is upset the title was already taken. I'm sure "True Brit: The Story of Singing Sensation Britney Spears" was at least second choice. Well, third. Dostoevsky already used "The Idiot."

Spears' homework assignment is projected to make between \$600 and \$800 for charity. At least it won't hit the charts. But paying this much for a school assignment from someone who is publicly deemed as crazy? I don't understand it.

I hope Jessica Simpson didn't throw away her chemistry notes, someone could make a fortune.

Anyway, some of Spears' words on Vonnegut include: "I liked this story. It was interesting ... The characters had great parts. The story was ultra comical."

Now it is fully understood why someone must write her material. Although Ms. Spears' review of Vonnegut is not the issue, it is worth mentioning.

The real problem is expecting \$600 for a mediocre piece of homework writ-

ten by the singer of "Toxic."

It reminds one of the time a piece of half-eaten French toast from Justin Timberlake was sold for over \$3000 on eBay. Spears also had experience with this sort of garbage, when a piece of her chewed gum was offered on the same Web site.

This is what it has come to. Using celebrity trash to raise money for charity and save the world.

Mother Teresa has been reincarnated as useless rubbish.

For instance, the cure for cancer could be addressed with Kelly Clarkson's old report cards and Angelina Jolie's used lipstick cartridges, which make good storage space.

I'm sure a much-needed rebuilding of Detroit could be spearheaded with Lindsay Lohan's empty beer bottles and Paris Hilton's old Q-Tips.

And the federal deficit, the biggest financial plague on America, could be squashed with Tom Cruise's psychiatric bills. There are no bills yet, because Scientology is against psychiatry, but it is inevitable the law will force psychiatrists to rush to Cruise's house soon.

Too bad Britney Spears doesn't wear underwear — the money raised by selling those trophies could feed all of Africa.

Overall, it is pitiful we need such things as a book report from an annoying pop star to raise money for donation. But, if we can save the world by selling famous people's junk, I guess there is a balance to the universe.

And for those of you hoping to become famous, remember to save all of your notes, homework and leftover food. One day, these items will be the best humanitarian tools.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm trying to find a good deal on Michael Jackson's Kleenex.

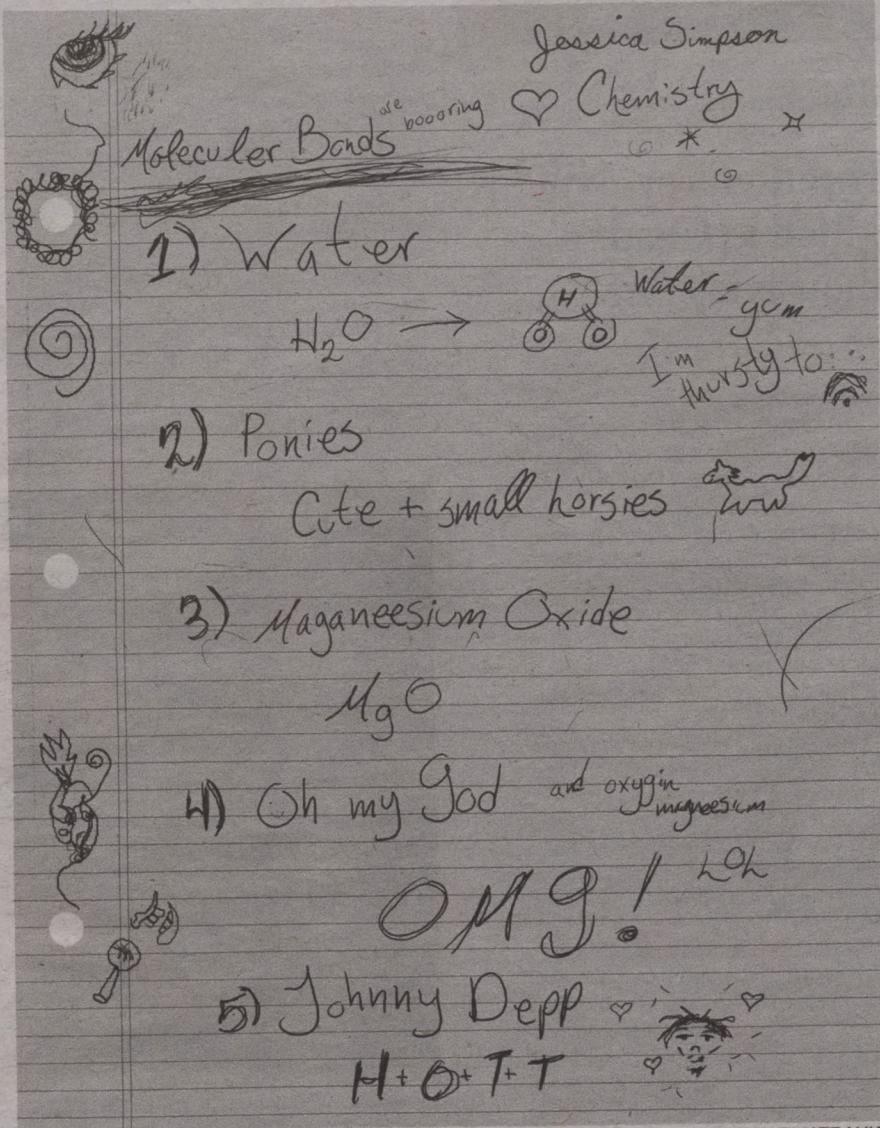


Photo illustration by CELESTE FILIATRAULT

Jessica Simpson's chemistry notes probably looked something like the page above. It's too bad the notes aren't real, one could have made a fortune.

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LEAVE WITH AN IDEA.

COME BACK WITH A STORY.



French Defense Ministry, HO/Associated Press
In this image released by France's Ministry of Defense Monday Feb. 4, 2008, French armored vehicles are seen N'Djamena, Chad, Feb. 3, 2008.

Hundreds of civilians killed in Chad, thousands flee

By TOM MALITI
Associated Press Writer

N'DJAMENA, Chad — Hundreds of civilians have been killed in a coup attempt by rebels in Chad, Red Cross officials said Tuesday. Soldiers blocked two bridges crossing into neighboring Cameroon, cutting off an escape route for thousands.

France said it was prepared to intervene militarily to help the government repel the insurgents if necessary. But the government said its forces had pushed the rebels back from the capital and it needed no foreign help.

Chadian soldiers blocked two bridges that thousands had been using to flee to Cameroon. A local reporter at the scene watched frightened civilians turned back by troops on Tuesday afternoon. The U.N. refugee agency says some 20,000 residents of the capital have fled to Cameroon since Monday.

Scattered gunfire rang out around N'Djamena, the country's capital, but the rebels who battled the army over the weekend were keeping to the edges of the city, French military spokesman Capt. Christophe Prazuck said.

"N'Djamena is calm," Chad's Foreign Minister Ahmad Allam-mi told reporters in Paris after talks with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner. "I think they are awaiting some reinforcements but all threat to the security of the city of N'Djamena can now be put aside."

Chad's government has accused neighboring Sudan of backing the rebels to prevent the deployment of a European peacekeeping force in a region along their border where more than 400,000 refugees are living. A Chadian official declared the fighting a "direct war" with the Sudanese president.

The Red Cross said more than 1,000 people were wounded. Bodies lay on the streets, which were also littered with the hulks of burned out tanks and other abandoned vehicles.

The fighting is the latest chapter in the oil-rich African country's long-standing conflict. It has threatened to further destabilize an already violent swath of Africa that bor-

McCain, Clinton, Obama: numbers strong

By DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON Sen. John McCain seized command of the race for the Republican presidential nomination early Wednesday, winning delegate-rich primaries from the East Coast to California. Democratic rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama traded victories in an epic struggle with no end in sight.

Clinton won the biggest state, California, for the Democrats, capitalizing on support from Hispanic voters.

McCain's own victory in the Republican race in the Golden State dealt a crushing blow to his closest pursuer, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

"We've won some of the biggest states in the country," McCain told cheering supporters at a rally in Phoenix, hours before

California made his Tuesday Super. An underdog for months, he proclaimed himself the front-runner at last, and added, "I don't really mind it one bit."

In the competition that counted the most, the Arizona senator had 497 delegates, more than 40 percent of the 1,191 needed for the nomination — and far ahead of his rivals.

Even so, Romney and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said they were staying in the race.

Neither Clinton nor Obama proclaimed overall victory on a Super Tuesday that sprawled across 23 states, and with good reason. Obama won 11 states and Clinton eight plus American Samoa. As of press time, winners were still to be declared in Missouri, New Mexico and Alaska.

"I look forward to continuing our campaign and our debate about how to leave

this country better off for the next generation," said the former first lady, looking ahead to the primaries and caucuses yet to come.

Obama was in Chicago, where he told a noisy election night rally, "Our time has come. Our movement is real. And change is coming to America."

Overall, Clinton was winning only a slight edge among women and white voters, groups that she had won handily in earlier contests, according to preliminary results from interviews with voters in 16 states leaving polling places.

Obama was collecting the overwhelming majority of votes cast by blacks — a factor in victories in Alabama and Georgia.

Clinton's continued strong appeal among Hispanics — she was winning nearly six in 10 of their votes — was a big factor in her California triumph.



Performers from the Vila Isabel samba school parade during carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008. The pageant honors the Amazon state of Amapa and its pre-Columbian civilizations.

Nation | World News BRIEFS

1-30 | Republican Rudy Giuliani drops out of presidential race, and endorses John McCain. | Democrat John Edwards drops out of presidential race. | Abu Laith al-Libi, one of al-Qaida's top commanders in Afghanistan has been killed, according to a Web site used by militant groups. The U.S. says he was likely behind the February 2007 bombing at the U.S. base in Afghanistan during a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney.

2-02 | Former Governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney wins the Maine Republican caucus.

2-03 | The New York Giants defeat the New England Patriots 17-14 in Super Bowl XXLI. The Giants victory ended the Patriots' bid for an undefeated season.

2-04 | The United States military says that it accidentally killed nine Iraqi civilians in an operation targeting al-Qaeda south of Baghdad.

Army suicides rise as much as 20 percent, report says

By PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — As many as 121 Army soldiers committed suicide in 2007, a jump of some 20 percent over the year before, officials said Thursday, Jan. 31.

The rise comes despite numerous efforts to improve the mental health of a force stressed by a longer-than-expected war in Iraq and the most deadly year yet in the six-year-old conflict in Afghanistan.

Internal briefing papers prepared by the Army's psychiatry consultant early this month show there were 89 confirmed suicides last year and 32 deaths that are sus-

pected suicides and still under investigation.

More than a quarter of those — about 34 — happened during deployments in Iraq, an increase from 27 in Iraq the previous year, according to the preliminary figures.

The report also shows an increase in the number of attempted suicides and self-injuries — some 2,100 in 2007 compared to less than 1,500 the previous year and less than 500 in 2002.

Officials said the rate of suicides per 100,000 active duty soldiers has not yet been calculated for 2007. But in a half million-person active duty Army, the 2006 toll of 102 translated to a rate of 17.5 suicides per 100,000, the highest since the Army started

counting in 1980, officials said. The rate has fluctuated over those years, with the low being 9.1 per 100,000 in 2001.

That toll and rate for 2006 is a revision from figures released in August because a number of pending cases have since been concluded.

Col. Elspeth Ritchie, the psychiatry consultant to the Army surgeon general, has said that officials found failed personal relationships, legal and financial problems and the stress of their jobs have been main factors in soldiers' suicides. Officials also have found that the number of days troops are deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan or nearby countries contributes to that stress.