

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 7, 2009

Volume 35, Number 14

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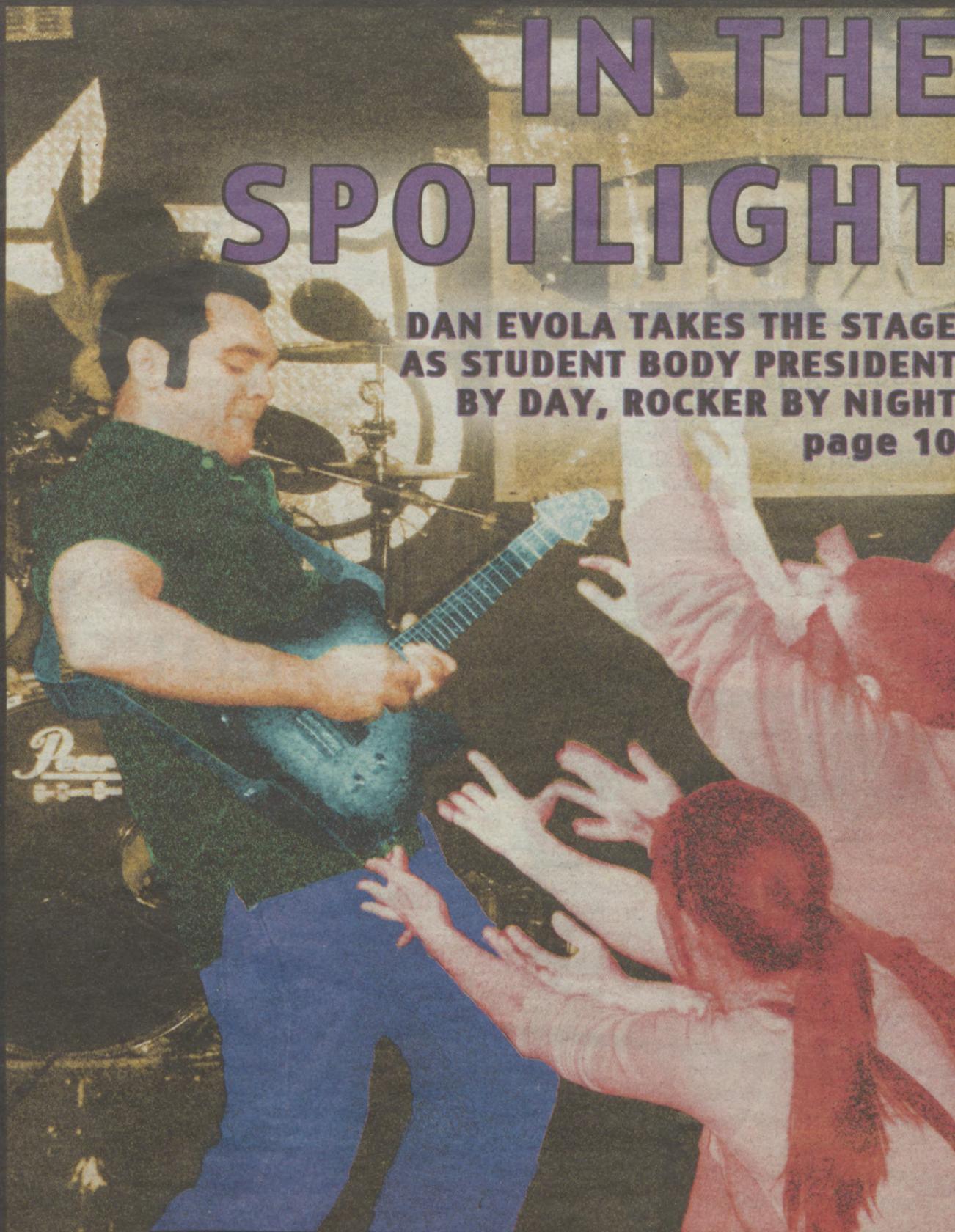
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New student body president moonlights as a rock star. See what Dan Evola's band The Madison Opera did on their vacation.



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Students show their self-control, or lack of it, while talking about New Year's resolutions.



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

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oaklandpostonline.com.

Perspectives

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January 7, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

Hills is shooting deer in the dark

Thump! A deer drops to the dirt after a .308 Winchester rips into its vital organs. No, it's not in somebody's backyard, but it's in Rochester Hills' backyard, the city which prides itself on its green space and where Oakland University resides.

On Dec. 15, 2008, the city acquired a 26.8-acre parcel of land to add to such green space. Mayor Bryan Barnett said in a release that the property has what is "vital for wildlife to flourish in an urban area." Yet this and similar areas in the city are probably going to be the site of the sharp shooting of up to 200 deer — a fifth of the city's herd — in January and February.

Since June 9, 2008, when representatives from the Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation to the city council about the deer population, there has been discussion about what to do to reduce deer-vehicle collisions. According to Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Rochester Hills reported 219 car accidents involving deer in 2007.

Does the council think that killing the number of deer involved in accidents last year will solve the deer-accident problem? It seems like a pretty rudimentary solution in that case, unless it's a coincidence.

What if the wrong deer are shot, the ones that actually look both ways before crossing the street? If the sharp shooters are going to do their hunts in secluded areas, it is possible that the deer killed will be the ones that never or rarely come into contact with busy roads.

The Oakland County Sheriff's office proposed to city council the use of their Special Response Team, similar to a SWAT team, to do hunts at night using Armalite .308 rifles with night scopes and silencers. The clincher, and probably the council's deciding factor when weighing the many other, less obtuse options provided by administration and citizens, would be that it's at "no cost to the city." This phrase is seen often in the public records pertaining to this matter, but the

Oakland County Sheriff's office is funded by taxpayer dollars. Money saved on ammunition, officer's payroll and equipment could be re-appropriated to more sustainable options.

Studies have shown that in order for this type of population control to work, it needs to be repeated annually. While other solutions such as improved signage, reflectors and fencing may be more costly, would not need to be repeated.

Grand Haven, Mich., was also approached by the DNR with the recommendation of sharp shooting. Their city council approved the cull of about 50 deer living in the city, which was bid out at \$4,800 by a government agency. The major difference between Grand Haven and Rochester Hills is the transparency. Grand Haven's city council said that they will be announcing the times and location of the kills in order to protect residents and the officers securing the perimeter.

The Oakland County Sheriff's office and the Rochester Hills city council, on the other hand, will not be releasing the information about time and place. They prefer to be in and out in the dark of night without letting residents know about it, supposedly for their own good and safety. They fear protest. They fear opposition. They fear it won't get done.

They fear for good reason, considering residents have been opposing the sharp shooting option for months. Instead of listening however, they decided to go along with the easy way out and closed the discussion by not releasing any information for anybody to protest against. It's impossible to fight the unknown.

Renowned reporter Bob Woodward, who broke the Watergate scandal, told Oakland University during his October 2007 visit that "Democracy dies in darkness." He said that the nation's greatest threat is government secrecy. "That's what will do us in ... There is an absolute obsession with keeping the truth from getting out."



DAVID FITZSIMMONS/Cagle Cartoons

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

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CORRECTIONS CORNER

In "STUD makes strides for students with disabilities," on page 8 of the Dec. 3, 2008, issue, the Disability Support Services director's name, Linda Sisson, was spelled incorrectly.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.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

Editor ditches the old standards for validation

Amanda Meade

Scene / Mix Editor



Today, it is common to see female police officers, doctors and even politicians. Yet, with all the freedoms that women are now entitled to, there are still some women who dream of being housewives.

They focus their lives on finding prince charming, to the point of putting other aspects of their lives on hold.

From a young age, women are exposed to movies, television shows and other media that influence their perception of their roles in society, and lead them to believe that expectations are different for women and men.

From Ariel in "The Little Mermaid" to Rapunzel of the fairy tale, women have often been portrayed as the damsel in distress, and taught that the only way to be happy or "saved" involves a man.

These days, women truly can do whatever a man can. We actually have every freedom that a man does. Therefore, there is no reason to rely on a man to be happy. Yet, so many women still do.

The "Honey, I'm home" concept of the husband "bringing home the bacon" and the wife having dinner on the table when he arrives is so two decades ago, or it should be at least.

Oddly enough, many still live by these rules and have these expectations. Just watch a few episodes of "Wife Swap" and you're bound to find examples of this.

A woman's plans shouldn't be based on when they are going to get married and have kids but rather, where their career is going and what kind of education and experience they need to be self-reliant.

There is nothing wrong with finding and having a boyfriend. But far too many women settle for someone completely wrong for them out of the fear of being alone. A relationship should be between two equals, two people committing to one another with a friendship for a foundation. Not just what the man can do for the woman, or vice versa.

On the other hand, compromise is completely normal in a relationship. But compromise doesn't mean one person in the relationship putting off or drastically changing their lives for the other.

Too many women concern themselves with finding that "right" guy to the point of pushing relationships that are probably not going to work out anyway. Instead, women could just let things happen naturally.

They will most likely be happier with that outcome.

A woman doesn't need a man to support her. If the female race is going to utilize its freedoms, which are identical to those of men, they can't have it both ways. They have to work just as hard, if not harder.

The grossly perverted Nickelback songs like "Something in your mouth" don't help either. Does a healthy relationship really start off with a guy picking up on a girl because she is dancing to a sexually explicit and demeaning song?

Women act the way they think they should to attract men, which can lead them to lose self-respect. And a

guy can't be blamed for picking up a woman that doesn't appear to care about herself.

All women need to realize is that, as soon as they are able

to love themselves and be comfortable with themselves, they will become irresistible to men. Most likely the better sort of men, rather than the ones they would pick up at the bar. People can pick up on, and are usually attracted to, a sense of self confidence.

Women don't have to find validation in a relationship. They need to find it within themselves. Whether they are training to be police officers or nurses, women should make themselves happy, and not try to find that happiness in someone else.

"Women act the way they think they should to attract men ..."

What's your perspective?

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An encore of 'The Trojan Women'

By JANICE WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

Audience members were filled with emotion, and tears for some, as the cast of the play *The Trojan Women* took their bow last Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 4-5.

Oakland University's production of this play was recently awarded the chance to premiere at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region III in Saginaw next week, one of eight plays to be performed there.

Karen Sheridan, an Oakland University theatre professor, was the director of the play. About 50 OU students, all a part of the music, theatre and dance department program, made up the cast and crew.

The play takes place in 1250 B.C. at the end of the Trojan War after the Greeks fooled the Trojans with their gift of a giant wooden horse. The people of Troy thought this was a symbol of victory and a peace offering from the Greeks. But after pulling the horse into the city gates and celebrating, the Trojans went to sleep and the Greeks emerged from the giant statue and killed all of the Trojan men, leaving all the women to wake up to captivity, which was the opening scene of this play.

"It's considered the first anti-war play in Western literature," Sheridan said.

The play has a subliminal message of how war affects everyone, which can be seen in the prologue and epilogue of the play as soldiers carrying a flag greet a mother and wife of a soldier at her doorstep.

"It's an important time, we had a national election coming up," Sheridan said. "We knew that when we were plan-



Photo Courtesy of Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance
A scene in the play where the women, sitting together, frightened and listening to the Queen of Troy Hecuba, talk of how their lives were now about to change.

ning the season this year and we thought it would be a good time to look at war and look at some of the serious aspects of being an American right now."

"Even though this is an ancient Greek play, the situations that occur today are very much like the same situations that were happening in 1250 B.C.," she said.

Grant Drager, an OU student who saw the play, said he had an emotional experience thinking about where war hits and all those it affects.

"No matter how you stand or feel about politics you can't help but to think about the homes that are affected, the people that are lost, and the multitude of people

that have to go on after they lose somebody," Drager said. "And that hits all levels no matter who you are and where you come from."

"I hope if anything, that everyone that comes to see this play leaves with a deeper understanding of what people actually go through when they're dealing with war," said Adrienne Podjun, who played the lead role as the Queen of Troy, Hecuba.

Actress and playwright Ellen McLaughlin adapted the play in 1996, from the original version written in 415 B.C. by Euripides', and the music, theatre and dance department brought it to

life once again.

"The Trojan Women" first debuted at OU on Nov. 13, and was performed three times. It was brought back to OU last weekend because of its entry to the festival. Ticket sales from the Jan. 4 and 5 shows will be used to help fund the trip to Saginaw.

The festival only picks eight plays to perform, meaning "The Trojan Women" is one of eight plays that were selected from five states and 50 shows to debut at the festival. They will perform the play three times next Saturday Jan. 10 at noon, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

"This is a big honor. We've already won — going to the festival is winning," Sheridan said. "It gets our programs and our students out there. The work of our students is going to be seen by graduate programs, a selection committee from the Kennedy Center, acting teachers, casting directors and stuff like that. It's a very public event for the theatre community."

The cast of "The Trojan Women" received positive feedback from audience members as well as a standing ovation.

"This time I started going on another plane almost, I was thinking of ways handling emotions and grief and how the characters dealt and represented different emotions," Drager said. "That's the beauty of this play, there's so much emotional depths to it that I saw."

The theatre department's next show is a comedy named "How Many Clowns Can You Fit In A Volkswagen."

It debuts Thursday Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. in Varner Hall's Studio Theatre and features two OU theatre professors. Student tickets are \$8 and for general public tickets are \$16.

Campus events to fill the time between classes (instead of sitting in the car)

Wednesday, Jan. 7

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Pioneer Food Court

Oakland University Spirit Day

Hang out with the Grizz Gang, meet the Grizz, listen to music, get free ice cream, get vouchers to go to the upcoming IPFW road trip to see OU's Men's and Women's Basketball teams. Those wearing OU clothing will have a chance to win a prize.

8 p.m. Meadow Brook Theatre

The musical "Beyond The Rainbow" based on Judy Garland's life. Tickets are \$60 each, the show runs from Jan. 7 - Feb. 1

Thursday, Jan. 8

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Oakland Center Fireside Lounge

Greek organization and student organization fair.

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. 106 Kresge Library

"That Time Of The Week" — a discussion of different topics hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Center.

Friday, Jan. 9

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. OC Banquet Rooms

Friday Night Live - a comedy show featuring Kivi Rogers.

8:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. OC Banquet Rooms

JD's Key Club Dueling Pianos (free food provided).

8 p.m. Onyx Arena

OU Hockey team's home game against IUP.

Saturday, Jan. 10

2 p.m. Recreation center

Men and Women's swim and dive meet.

8 p.m. Hamlin Hall lounge

Movie night at the resident hall, showing "Quarantine."

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Oakland University Art Gallery

Opening reception of "Internal Distances," an exhibit of Jae Won Lee, a Michigan ceramic and installation artist. Regular gallery hours are 12 - 5 p.m.

Take a SMART route to Rochester

Funding options being explored for bus route to service local area

By KATHLEEN QUANDT
Staff Intern

Oakland University and the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation are in the beginning stages of discussing a possible route connecting OU to Rochester and surrounding communities.

The route, which would stop at OU, at Walton and Adams, and along Main Street, had its beginnings when OU made a deal with the Royal Park Hotel to serve as its official conference center.

According to Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, the original idea of an expanded SMART service was initiated by the owner of the Royal Park Hotel, Mr. Roy Rewold. Royal Park Hotel recently partnered with OU to coordinate OU conferences and guest lodging.

"We need to be able to move people between the hotel and our campus with ease," she said.

According to Snyder, 2,300 students replied to a survey about whether they would use the bus service.

"The majority were in favor of bus service in the community and said they would definitely use it for work activities and leisure. Many also said they would use it for transportation to and from OU," Snyder said.

Students would not be the only ones at OU benefiting from such a route.

"The group that is looking at bus service is mainly interested in helping OU, and perhaps Oakland Community College and Rochester College students, get around Rochester and Rochester Hills more easily and with less cost as gasoline price increases," Snyder said.

OU is looking into different ways to fund the route.

"The annual cost for full-time service is around \$400,000," Snyder said. "The group is just beginning to review funding alternatives. Fares might be one funding option but there are others as well. All ideas are being explored."

Snyder said the university is trying to determine

the amount of funding with a wide variety of partners who would benefit. According to Snyder, Rochester businesses would benefit from a partnership.

Beth Dryden, SMART Bus representative, said they see this as a huge opportunity to connect students with community and all kinds of things.

The Royal Park Hotel could not be reached for comment at press time.

Interviewed OU students were of differing opinions on the possible route.

Ashley Krisfalusi, a sophomore psychology major, said she would use the route to Rochester. Krisfalusi said she would use the bus, "to save money on gas. Also, it cuts down on a lot of people's gas and it's good for the environment."

Krisfalusi likes to visit stores, bars and restaurants in Rochester.

"When I go to the Village I usually go to The Gap and J. Crew," she said.

"When I go downtown, I go to a bar or a restaurant at night. I usually don't go down there during the day."

Aaron Forcash, a junior psychology major, is in Rochester more often for school.

"I think it's convenient, for [some] people, that might not be too much of a help for me," he said. "I kind of live in the opposite direction."

Oakland University Student Congress had been working on starting a route to Rochester on their own, but the progress has been somewhat halted now.

Jordan Twardy, student body vice president, began

to work on this project after the 2008 student body elections, and started the Shuttle Service Exploratory Committee.

"This committee's mission was to discuss and investigate the feasibility of establishing an independent shuttle service for OU that would not only get students around campus but also local amenities such as Greek Row, The Village, downtown Rochester and the surrounding apartment complexes," Twardy said.

The committee came up with a draft survey that was scheduled to be put out this winter semester. OU was working with SMART at the same time.

OUSC advisor Jean Szura recommended that Twardy

suspend efforts to pursue an independent service and work with the committee that is discussing the route with SMART.

Twardy said he was pretty sure he would follow her advice, and would like to see the shuttle committee he started to either continue or merge with the committee that is

"The majority were in favor of bus service in the community and said they would definitely use it for work activities and leisure. Many also said they would use it for transportation to and from OU."

- Vice President of Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder.

negotiating with SMART.

"As long as this is done right, I think students would like it a great deal," Twardy said.

Snyder said that once the university gets funding they will involve the students in discussions.

The committee discussing the route with SMART meets once every 6 to 8 weeks. Snyder said OUSC will be involved in the discussion at the next meeting.

-Janice Williams and Masudur Rahman contributed to this report

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Approved deer cull will not affect campus

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Oakland University's deer can find a safe haven on campus. Rochester Hills City Council approved a measure to use sharpshooters to thin out the city's burgeoning deer population to prevent car collisions, starting this month.

The measure has sparked protests by groups such as Residents for Safe Deer Management who argue that the herd culling will be ineffective and guns firing inside the city will endanger citizens.

The council voted five to two in favor of the cull, which aims to eliminate 200 of the city's approximately 1,000 deer. Last year, there were 219 reported crashes caused by deer in Rochester Hills.

However, Oakland University Police Chief Samuel Lucido said such collisions are rare on OU's campus, due in part to lower speed limits and open spaces making deer more visible. He said he believes the deer don't present a problem for the campus currently.

"Since I've been chief, there've only been a handful of incidents," Lucido said.

Lucido also said that because OU is in a different jurisdiction from the rest of the city, OU grounds will be exempt

from the deer cull. If the deer population began to present a problem, he said OUPD would consider taking action.

Rochester Hills plans to use Oakland County's Special Response Team Sniper Unit to shoot deer with silenced rifles.

Alternate solutions for the deer problem include using reflectors and signs to deter deer from approaching roads and improving signs to warn motorists of deer crossing areas.

According to options outlined in a city council meeting, putting reflectors on roadsides would cost an estimated \$28,600 per mile, while sharpshooting would "be handled at no additional cost," at least for the trial year. The deer meat from the hunts will be donated to local food banks, according to the proposal.

The report also states that the herd culling will need to be repeated annually in order to maintain the population at previous levels.

The council voted last September to ban the feeding of deer and there is also a statewide ban for bating.

The sheriff's office said they will not release the dates and times of the hunts, in order to protect Rochester Hills citizens and prevent opponents from sabotaging the effort.



A couple members of the Oakland University deer herd bed down on the lawn for an afternoon rest next to the baseball diamond.

BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

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A royal connection

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Campus Editor

A first-class hotel in Rochester will now give Oakland University preference for holding conferences and accommodating guests.

On Monday, Dec. 8, officials of OU and Royal Park Hotel announced their new partnership, which made the hotel the official conference center of OU and its preferred guest hotel. It also includes OU staff getting event and conference management training from hotel staff.

The hotel, located at 600 University Drive in Rochester, is five miles from OU and about 10-15 minutes away.

OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery said he thinks it is great that OU's visiting guests can stay at the hotel. He said he was amazed by the facilities of the hotel when he visited it for the first time recently, and was excited that OU will be given preference in holding conferences "at a hotel with such first-class facilities."

"Big events happen all the time at OU," Montgomery said. "A lot of people come to OU all year, and we'll be having even more events in the future."

One such event, the First Midwest Stem Cell Conference, took place in

May. Hundreds of scientists and other guests drove and flew to OU from different parts of the U.S. and the world, and the conference was held at the Banquet Rooms in the Oakland Center.

Montgomery said OU has had partnerships with other businesses in Rochester for 6-7 years already. He said that the discussion about the hotel partnership has been ongoing for a while, and that part of the reasoning was OU partnering with the City of Rochester.

"It's crucial in these tough economic times that public and private institutions have partnerships and share resources," he said. "It's a smart thing to do."

Royal Park Hotel investor Roy Rewold said he believed that it will benefit OU and the hotel, as well as the Rochester community, according to an article in the OU News website.

"It's obviously going to bring a lot more traffic here in Rochester," the article quoted Rewold saying.

"It's important for a public university to connect with its surrounding community," Montgomery said.

This partnership has catalyzed an ongoing discussion with SMART Bus to establish a new route from OU to Rochester.

Disposed dining to be donated by Chartwells

Food contractor combats hunger with students' food waste

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Chartwells at Oakland University has begun donating some of its excess food to the food rescue program Forgotten Harvest, thanks to an initiative started by some OU students.

Chartwells, OU's official food vendor, provides cafeteria services to Pioneer Food Court and Vandenberg Dining Hall, has exclusive catering rights in the Oakland Center and caters food to many events held throughout campus.

Joel Baetens, an electrical engineering major at OU, is one of the students who helped start this development and said his personal experience was a factor.

Baetens said that there were times in his life when food was scarce, and he was sleeping in cars in church parking lots.

"What I learned is that I need to be thankful for everything I have. Therefore, when I am eating, I try to eat everything I put on my plate," he said.

Baetens said his attitude towards food waste got the attention of Stephanie Bair, a fellow OU student, while they were at an intervarsity summer camp.

He said he was eating anybody's food that they were going to throw away.

When Baetens ate dinner in the Vandenberg Dining Hall, he said he saw food being thrown away nightly. When he explained the situation to Bair, he said she "vowed right there to help me make a difference on campus."

They began to work on their proposal to Chartwells and OU in the summer of 2008, by talking to other students, faculty and their families.

When the proposal was ready, they sent OU President Garry Russi, OU benefactor Dennis Pawley, Oakland Center Director Richard Fekel and

head of OU Chartwells Andrew Willows each a copy explaining their plan to ask Chartwells to donate.

"Since Andrew was the one to make the decision, we asked him to be generous and help make donations of foods determined to be safe for reuse," Baetens said.

The proposal quoted part of OU's mission statement about helping the community, and suggested that OU could serve as an example for other schools to follow.

Ultimately, the proposal succeeded, and Chartwells began donating food around the end of the fall semester. A total of 385 pounds of food was donated last semester.

The OU branch of Chartwells has become one of over 350 organizations that donate to Forgotten Harvest, which Food Donations Relations Manager Demetrius Anderson says is a food rescue organization, not a food bank.

According to Anderson, the differ-

ence is that food rescue transports food directly where it's needed, with 80 percent of the pickups taken out the same day.

"It could end up at Focus Hope, it could be taken out to the Baldwin Center in Pontiac. There are many different places it could end up.

Anderson said that where the food goes also depends on the needs of the agencies that receive it.

"Our drivers are acquainted with the needs of the emergency food pantries," he said. "They know if there's been a request for a certain kind of food."

This semester Chartwells will be doing pickups for Forgotten Harvest with surplus food on Fridays, before breaks and after catered events.

Baetens said the next step he would want to see is daily pickups, or possibly getting other schools involved.

POLICEFILES

On Dec. 9, OUPD responded to a call alerting them of an attempted break-in at the University Student Apartments. The police identified a suspect who was subsequently questioned and arrested for trespassing. The accused said that he hopes to live in the University Student Apartments and wanted to tour them.

On Dec. 2, a female student in North Hamlin reported having a knife pulled on her by another female student. The victim said that she believed the suspect had been using drugs and was a threat to herself. OUPD called the Auburn Hills Fire Department to transport the

suspect for a psychiatric evaluation.

On Dec. 10 a student reported his bicycle stolen between Hannah Hall and Dodge Hall. The student said he locked his blue Specialized Stumpjumper – which he claimed to be worth around \$1,000 – on a rack between the two buildings. OUPD said there are no suspects.

On Dec. 9, OUPD was dispatched to Room 121A in the Oakland Center in response to a complaint about a counterfeit \$20 bill. The cashier who made the complaint said she initially did not know the bill was fake.

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING STUDENT AWARDS:

WILSON AWARDS

Nominees for the 2009 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in Winter 2009 or have graduated in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2008.

The awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders, and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. Nominees must have a strong academic record of a 3.5 or higher GPA.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in Winter 2009 or have graduated in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2008.

The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to inter-group understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community. The major consideration of the award is the individual's service to the community. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.

Nomination forms are available online at www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/ under "Scholarships and Awards" or at 144 Oakland Center. Call 370-3352 for more information.

Deadline for both awards is Monday, February 2, 2009.

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New president rocks 89X show

By COLLEEN J. MILLER
Managing Editor

He wears an Italia T-shirt to the office, but Oakland University's new Student Body President Dan Evola and his bandmates dressed in slacks, button downs and ties for their New Year's Eve concert. The Madison Opera took the stage just after 8 p.m. as partygoers were just starting to trickle into the massive ballroom at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

The opening spot for the 89X New Year's Eve Rock 'N' Roll Bash was up for grabs to local bands. But first, The Madison Opera had to battle it out at 89X Battle of the Bands held at TNT's Bar in Clinton Township. The Madison Opera made it through all three rounds, spanning three Saturdays in December.

"There were several really good bands [battling]," said Evola, the band's guitarist, singer and OU's newest student body president. "I thought we played one of the best shows we've ever played. We were spot on. I don't think there was one mistake and we had a great crowd there."

Evola said TNT's was packed on the final night of the battles and about a third of the people there were Madison Opera fans. The crowd was much thinner during their early set on New Year's Eve, but Evola said it was cool just to say they played such a big event.

In addition to running the show on the local rock circuit, Evola succeeded Steve Clark as student body vice president in late November after Clark resigned to pursue his soccer career. Evola has big plans for his new position and for his burgeoning band.

A band of friends

The Madison Opera has been together in its current form almost a year and is releasing its first EP in mid-January. With six tracks, it will be sold for \$5 online, at shows and in some local stores. "Stinger," a track off the new EP, hit the airwaves Sunday night on the 89X Homeboy Show as the band's radio debut.

Their style is eclectic; described by Evola as "radio-friendly rock," with tastes of pop, blues and reggae. They play mostly original music, but have been known to do covers.

"We tend to do covers that are kind of funny," Evola said. For example, they covered "Umbrella" by Rihanna at the last couple of shows they played and used to do "Baby one more time" by Britney Spears. The CD may only have six songs, but Evola said that they actually have more material than they can play right now.

Evola describes The Madison Opera as a power trio with Ryan Trombley on drums, Stefan Schram on bass and vocals, and himself on guitar and vocals.

Trombley and Evola were in another band together, the Links, and reunited for Madison Opera.

"We initially used a drummer from one of [Schram's]

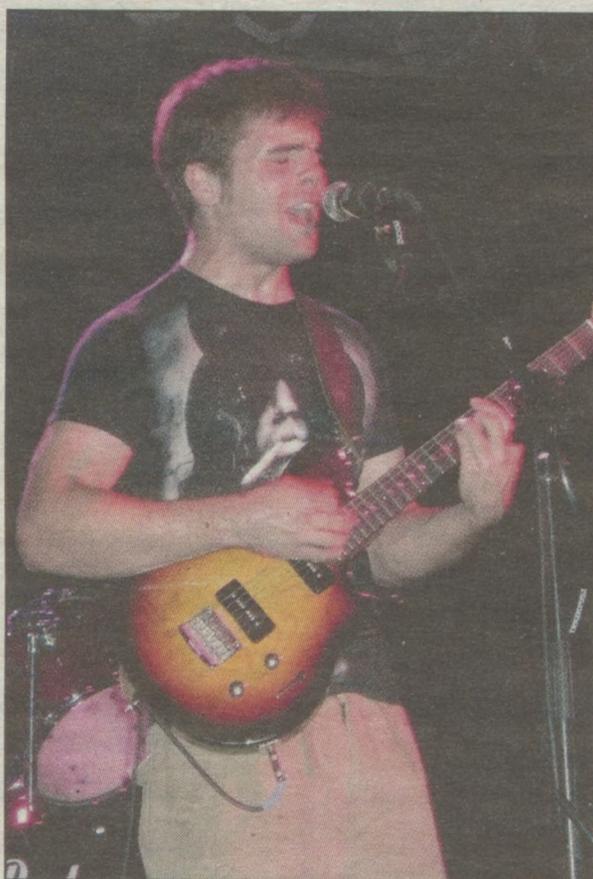


Photo courtesy of Ronda Evola
Oakland University's new Student Body President Dan Evola performs with his band The Madison Opera at St. Andrews Hall.

old bands called Opus Podunk ... That didn't work out and we brought in [Trombley] from my old band who I've been playing with since I was 13 years old and it's been going great ever since," Evola said.

"I've been [playing music with Evola] six years now and I love every second of it," Trombley said.

Schram found Evola online last year after his brother saw Evola perform with the Links.

"He wrote me an e-mail and we got together and things kind of clicked," Evola said.

Megan Avery, a senior elementary education major at Detroit Mercy was front and center at the New Year's Eve show. A good friend of Schram, she goes to most of The Madison Opera's concerts.

"[Schram] found Dan and Ryan and it was like the greatest thing," Avery said.

She credits the band's recent success to the way the three of them work together. "I honestly think that Dan has a lot more drive than the guys that [Schram] used to be with," Avery said

"I'd have to say that this [band] feels a little more right. I actually feel like they're my brothers. It's pretty strange because I've known them shorter than the other guys [from other bands]," Schram said.

While driving to the New Year's Eve show, stopped at a red light, the guys "had a moment" when they heard their band name in an advertisement for the party on 89X.

"We heard our name on the radio, that was really weird," Schram said. "It seriously felt like we were family. We did a little jumping in the car."

For Evola, it all started at a young age with the help of his parents. According to his mom, Ronda Evola, his music career got a slow start.

"We bought him a guitar because he really wanted it and he thought he would pick it up and play it. When he realized it wasn't instant gratification, that he had to actually work at it ... he was like, 'I don't like this, I want to sell it,'" she recalled. "I said to him, 'One day you're going to want that guitar so if you put it in your closet, one day it's going to call to you and you'll never put it back.' And that's exactly what happened and had I sold that guitar life would be different. Truly, he got it out one day when he was bored and he never put it down."

With a show booked for January, radio play, a CD on its way and the positive feedback from fans, Evola is optimistic about the band's future — but practical.

"I'm always hoping that the music thing takes off but obviously I do have another plan which is why I am here in school," he said. "To be successful in anything you need an education. I think that's just as true for music, music is an industry, it is a business."

If stardom doesn't pan out for the band, Evola said he's interested in going into broadcasting, which is why he is majoring in communications at OU.

One thing is certain though for Evola, "I know I don't want to be a doctor or a lawyer."

Hello Mr. President

His new position as student body president has added to Evola's responsibilities, but his band and co-workers alike seem confident in him.

"He's definitely matured a lot with his position and he's stepped into it," said Amanda Vanderford, student program board chair. "He's going to be a great leader."

Janelle Arbuckle, a public relations agent for OUSC, has been working with Evola since May.

"It's a lot of hard work and he expects a lot out of us. He's humorous, but knows when to work too. I love my job because of who I get to work with," she said.

His bandmates can even picture their guitarist as a student leader.

"He's a leader and yet he's a really friendly guy," said Trombley. There's no question for him that Evola is student body president material. "Of course, I mean it's Dan Evola."

"He's not all talk, I like that about him," said Schram. "He's one of the few people that says when he's going to get something done he'll do it, which has surprised me a couple times. In bands, you usually sit around talking about it."

As president, Evola said he works with administration, organizations and is "just trying to deal with the madness." He said he gets to work with students on issues that really matter. One of his projects for the new semester is to implement a safe rides program at OU to prevent drunk driving.

"Something like that could be beneficial to students and increase the safety of the community. So far I found that it's something students have been really interested in," he said.

A balancing act

Balancing two such contrasting responsibilities is almost like having two separate lives, Evola said. As polar opposite as being a rock star and a student body president seem, they go together quite well.

"It's some of the same skills I would say that you need to network and take care of things. We're not really making music [at OUSC], but I suppose from the side of setting up meetings and seeing things through, in some ways [they are similar]," he said. They both also deal with sending out a lot of e-mails.



COLLEEN MILLER/The Oakland Post
89X Battle of the Band champions The Madison Opera perform at the 89X New Years Eve Rock 'N' Roll Bash. The band's next scheduled performance is Jan. 30 at the Hayloft in Mt. Clemens.

His parents are supportive of all of his endeavors, which also include being a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

"We're actually in awe of our own child that he can take on that kind of responsibility," Ronda Evola said.

"You can do lots of different things as long as you know how to balance them and handle them," agreed Mark Evola, Dan's dad.

Evola said he has to budget his time to balance the two, but that it's not hard to do with the band being more of an

evening thing and OUSC being more of a daytime thing. Although it cuts back on his time to write songs, he doesn't anticipate any conflicts between his two "lives."

"He's pretty good with time management and prioritizing," said Schram. "Ryan doesn't even have a job and he's the one we're having trouble with scheduling conflicts. Dan's got all that on his plate and he manages."

The Madison Opera is scheduled to perform Jan. 30 at the Hayloft in Mt. Clemens. Visit www.myspace.com/themadisonopera for more information.

OUSC's new makeup

Crossing out the "vice" before "president" on Dan Evola's business card wasn't the only transition made at the student congress.



Twardy

"Everybody is really getting settled and comfortable in all their new positions," Evola said. Andrew Bashi, who ran against Steve Clark and Evola last year, is now student services director. Jordan Twardy, who also ran for president last year, is now vice president.

"I think it's fantastic that we have three people from all three tickets right now who are on the executive board," Evola said. "Those are the people that actually want to be doing stuff right now and everybody has the opportunity to."

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION! STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS!

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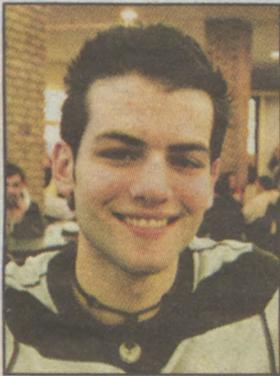
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Have you ever kept a New Year's resolution?



"Yes. When I was going into tenth grade I said I was going to run every day. I ran five miles a day my whole high school career."

Mike Stoyanoff
Senior, journalism



"No. [My resolution was to] not eat candy. There was cookies and stuff on New Year's Eve, I couldn't pass it up."

Vesna Atanasovski
Freshman, nursing



"No. [I didn't want to] get so angry with people. But it's just human nature to be angry."

Darius Minor
Sophomore, undecided



"Yes. Junior year of high school, my resolution was to get a good score on my ACT and I did."

Caryn Rochfort
Freshman, studio art



"No. [My resolution was to] work out more. And it didn't work, I got sore and stopped for a few days."

Justin Klein
Junior, accounting



"No." [My resolution was] to eat healthier. I already had fast food."

Elena Sikaleski
Freshman, nursing

Top 10

New Year's resolutions

according to about.com

1. Spend more time with family and friends
2. Exercise more
3. Lose weight
4. Quit smoking
5. Enjoy life more
6. Quit drinking
7. Get out of debt
8. Learn something new
9. Help others
10. Get organized

Every year, about 40-45 percent of Americans make at least one New Year's resolution, according to kolnkgin.com.

Unfortunately, only 10 percent of them will keep their resolutions, according to msnbc.msn.com.

Would you rather...

Live in 2009 or a different time period?



"Now. It helps make who I am. I don't know if I could live in a different time period."

1950 1980 2000 2010 2060
 Scott Woodward
 Sophomore, French



"The future. I want to see what technology is like then and I want to have a robot."

2010 2020 2030 2040 2060
 Shaun Moore
 Graduate student, English



The Oakland Post is starting a new photo contest for the winter semester.

Whether you're a photography buff or you just like to take pictures, submit your original works to the Scene/Mix Editor, Amanda Meade, at ammame33@gmail.com.

Two participants will be chosen every other week and appear in The Mix. Students will be able to vote on their favorites on www.oaklandpostonline.com.

At the end of the semester, the picture with the most votes will win a prize.

Good luck!

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Gaza protest draws 500

By **TIM RATH**
Managing Web Editor

Neither 10-degree temperatures nor a largely Jewish population residing near the corner of Orchard Lake and Maple roads in West Bloomfield kept a crowd of more than 500 from protesting the Israeli military strikes in Gaza Saturday.

The event, which was free of incident save for a few verbal altercations between the protestors and pro-Israeli supporters stopped at the intersection, was organized by a group of metro Detroit area university students and largely advertised for on social networking websites Facebook and MySpace.

"This whole thing came together in just two days," said Yusef Aref, a West Bloomfield resident and student at Wayne State University. "Just a group of friends that wanted a change in policies. We contacted news stations and received help from other organizations, but Facebook was most helpful to let people know about it quickly."

Organizers acknowledged that the event was in direct response to an Israeli ground offensive against Hamas launched late last week.

"We feel like American foreign policy has been to support Israel blindly," said Adam Siddiqui, a history major at Oakland University. "The amount of rockets being fired towards Israeli homes are disproportionate to the amount of killing that goes on in the Gaza Strip of innocent Palestinian civilians."

Organizers also acknowledged the poignancy of the event's location. The Department for Jewish Zionist Education estimates metro Detroit's Jewish population at 103,000, many of whom concentrated in and around West Bloomfield.

"We wanted to bring it closer to where there might be Jewish people ... and not just preaching to the choir," said Michael Naimi, a student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. "It would bring more controversy and other ideas to people that might not necessarily agree with us. [People in this area] are rich, they can make a change."

Despite the strong turnout, which slowed traffic to a crawl between 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. when the rally took place, several onlookers were unimpressed.

"If they think that this is going to lead to any policy change, they're sadly



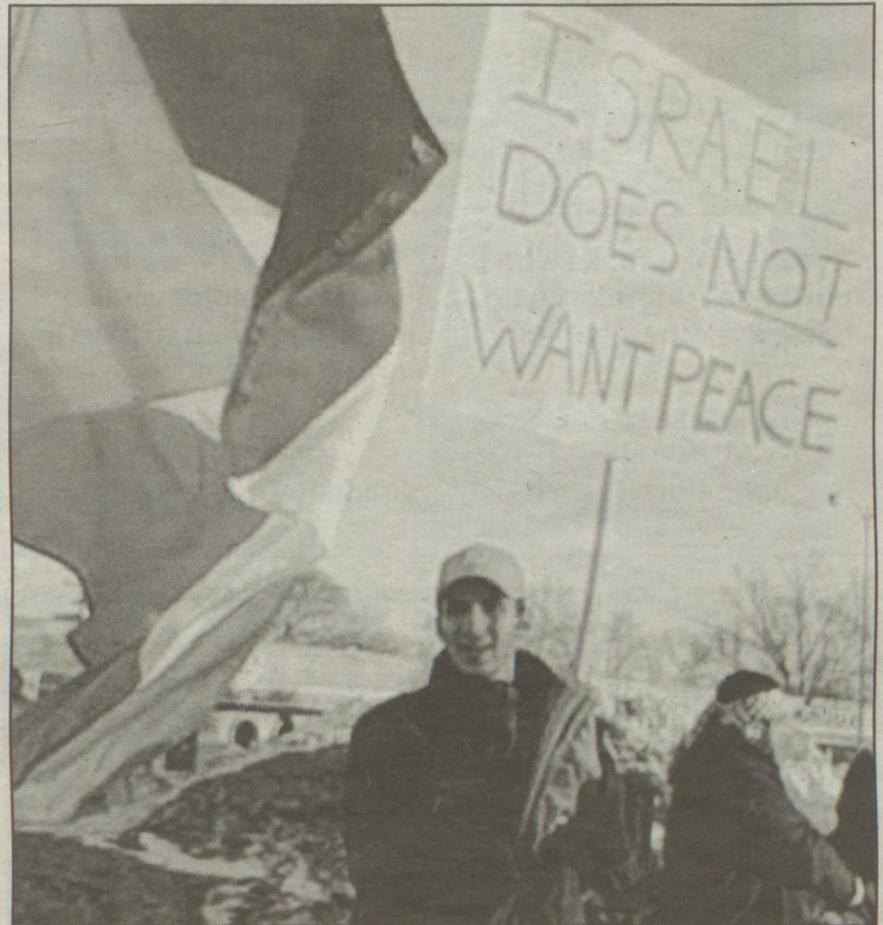
TIM RATH/The Oakland Post
Protestors showed their vitriol towards Israel with signs and chanting, but not violence.

mistaken," said Lisa Polk, a Farmington Hills resident who watched from across the street at Jax Kar Wash and identified herself as a Jewish Zionist. "I think it's disgusting that they chose to have the rally at this intersection, only three miles from the Holocaust Memorial Center."

"They're just trying to cause trouble, to make this like another 'Skokie Affair,'" she added, referring to the 1977 Supreme Court case dealing with a neo-Nazi group marching in the Village of Skokie, Ill., a largely Jewish community (see sidebar at right).

However, the organizers insisted that their aims were to educate rather than provoke.

"[In West Bloomfield], they don't really hear about what really goes on ... this is to inform, to incite people to say, 'Let me do some more research, to find out what's really going on,' rather than having an obstructed view," said Aref. "We're not really trying to bring controversy."



TIM RATH/The Oakland Post
Protestors held signs written in Hebrew, English and Arabic. "What we see on TV is truly terrible," said Yusef Aref. "We can't afford to let people go by without exposing the truth."

"Another Skokie?"

When Farmington Hills resident Lisa Polk described Saturday's protest, at the corner of Orchard Lake and Maple roads in West Bloomfield, of the Israeli military strikes in Gaza as "another Skokie Affair," she was remembering a small, but well-known demonstration in another area with a large Jewish population.

According to an article originally published in a 1977 edition of *The Skokie Life*, during 1977 and 1978, a small group of neo-Nazis from the National Socialist Party of America attempted to hold a rally in the Village of Skokie, Ill., a particularly poignant target given its large population of Jewish people, many of them survivors of the Holocaust.

Village officials resisted their efforts to demonstrate, first by passing a series of ordinances aimed at preventing distribution of their literature. The ordinances were ultimately overturned following a series of lawsuits filed by the NSPA and the interceding of the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the NSPA.

In 1981, the debate was dramatized into a television movie, "Skokie," starring Brian Dennehy and Danny Kaye (pictured above).



Photo courtesy of Amazon.com



Watch video from
the protest online

www.oaklandpostonline.com



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/Associated Press

The company sign hangs over an unsold 2009 Escape on display at a Ford dealership in Denver Sunday. Ford Motor Company said Monday that sales dropped 32 percent in December.

Ford, Toyota plunges

By TOM KRISHNER
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — Ford Motor Co.'s U.S. sales plummeted 32 percent in December and Toyota Motor Corp.'s fell 37 percent as car and truck buyers continued to steer clear of showrooms due to the dismal economy.

Ford's sales for 2008 fell 21 percent from a year earlier, keeping the Dearborn automaker in third place in the U.S. auto sales race, falling behind Japan's Toyota for the second straight year.

Toyota's 2008 sales fell 16 percent to 2.22 million, compared to Ford's 1.98 million.

Other automakers are to report U.S. sales for December and the full year later Monday, and analysts expect an industrywide drop of up to 40 percent as consumers remain uncertain about the economy and their jobs.

Subaru of America Inc. said its U.S. sales crept higher in 2008, poising the Japanese company to be the only major automaker with a yearly sales increase. Subaru's U.S. sales rose by 0.3 percent to 187,699 vehicles from 187,208 in 2007, as consumers snapped up its top-selling Forester and Impreza models.

Ford said it sold 138,458 light vehicles last month, down from 204,787 in December 2007. Though its sales were dismal, Ford said it expects to fare better than the industry overall.

The auto website edmunds.com predicted sales for the full year will total just over 13 million, down 18 percent from 2007 and the lowest level since 1992.

Poor industry sales continue to mean good deals for consumers, though. Aaron Bragman, automotive

marketing research analyst for IHS Global Insight in Troy, said large incentives such as zero percent financing and rebates will continue well into 2009 as automakers try everything they can to boost sales.

While that may bring deals for consumers, it's bad news for the automakers. General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC looked to the government for loans to hold off bankruptcy, and Ford says it may need government money if sales don't recover in 2009.

Bragman said sales drops are not unique to the U.S.-based automakers.

"This is a domestic market problem because we see the same kinds of declines at Toyota and Honda as we see at GM and Ford," he said. "It's not a matter of getting financing. It's a matter of getting shoppers."

Toyota said it sold 141,949 vehicles in December, down from 224,399 a year earlier.

Ford said it sold 43,087 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury cars last month, down 26 percent from December 2007. The company sold 90,418 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury light trucks in December, 34 percent fewer than the same month a year earlier.

George Pipas, Ford's top sales analyst, predicted that passenger cars will outsell trucks in the U.S. this year for the first time since 2000.

Ford said there was a glimmer of hope in its sales figures. Its market share was 14.6 percent, up 0.7 percentage point from December 2007 and the first time since 1997 that the company has seen its share go up three straight months.

It also sold 195,823 Focus compacts in 2008, the highest total since 2004 and a 13 percent increase from 2007.

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In case you missed them

The Golden Grizzlies continue to play with the classrooms empty

By JARED PURCELL
Sports Editor

Even though exams ended Dec. 13 and most everyone began a break of lounging and relaxation between semesters, the athletes of Oakland University still had work to do. Here are a few highlights of what you may have missed.

Men's Basketball

Pain at The Palace (12/20, 12/27) — Oakland hosted games against the University of Michigan and Michigan State University at The Palace of Auburn Hills over break and unfortunately came up short on both occasions.

In the first game against, OU was forced to match Michigan's unrelenting three-point shooting early on and managed to do so by taking an early 15-14 lead only to give up 18 straight points to the Wolverines after. The Golden Grizzlies managed to make the game close again but eventually fell 89-76.

One week later, OU was defeated by Michigan State 82-66 in a game where OU allowed an 18-2 run in the last four minutes and 12 seconds of the first half and never recovered.

"It was us and our defense, we didn't play our defensive slides right for the last five minutes and they

exposed us," said OU junior guard Jonathan Jones.

King Kangas (1/2) — OU senior guard Erik Kangas capped off a classic showdown between the Grizzlies and North Dakota State by making a three-point field goal in the waning seconds to win, 77-76.

Kangas sat out part of the game after getting kicked in the calf and suffering severe cramps.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Antonio and almost had another double-double with 16 points and nine rebounds against USC Upstate.

Dakota Winning (1/3, 1/5) — After beating North Dakota State 61-47, OU knocked off South Dakota State, two days later. SDSU was ranked #21 by the Associated Press poll and it was OU's first win over a ranked opponent in three tries this season.

Photo credit: BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Women's Basketball

Hola, Mexico (12/19-12/20) — The lady Grizzlies travelled 1,500 miles to Cozumel, Mexico to play for the Cozumel Cup. OU beat Texas-San Antonio 70-57 and USC Upstate 64-60 to take the crown.

Junior **Melissa Jeltema** had her fourth double-double of the season with 17 points and 11 rebounds against Texas-San



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Patrick Downing placed first in four relays for the men's swim team at the FIU Invitational over break.

Swimming and Diving

A thirst for first (1/3) — The men's and women's swimming team took first in every event in the Florida International University Invitational. The men swept each of the eight events they competed in with the women taking first in seven of eight events.

Junior Agnes Solan was a part of four first-place relay teams while junior Patrick Downing managed to accomplish the same feat for the men's team. Both teams easily took first place.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

- The women's basketball team went 6-1 from Dec. 13 to Jan. 6, averaging 69.4 points/game against the opponents 53.7 points/game.
- Erik Kangas shot 1-5 from three point range against North Dakota State. The only three pointer he made was the winning one.
- Before setting four records at the Oakland-Detroit-Macomb Open, the track and field team set six records the meet before.

Indoor Track & Field

For the record (12/12) — OK, so this may have been the day before break officially began, but it is worth the attention.

At the Oakland-Detroit-Macomb Open, the men and women runners of OU set four new records.

Junior Megan Willemsen broke two school records with first-place finishes

in the 60-meter dash and 200-meter dash with times of 7.95 seconds and 25 respectively.

Freshman, Emily Wickemeyer set the 800-meter school record with a time of 2:25.5 and sophomore Anthony Halfmann set the school record in the shot put with a throw of 48 feet, 11 inches.

Those records were a part of the nine first place finishes that OU racked up at the meet.

Injury sidelines Nelson for season

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

Senior forward Derick Nelson has decided to take a medical redshirt and will be out for the rest of the men's basketball season. He will be eligible to play next year. Nelson suffered a broken foot on Nov. 13.

"I was really looking forward to playing this year and being able to go out with my seniors [Erik] Kangas, Ricky [Bieszki] and Stradt [Dan Waterstradt]," Nelson said. "When I broke my foot before the first game I was really upset. I had never been injured before. I never sat out a game ever before in my life."

On Dec. 22, Nelson attempted to make a comeback playing eight minutes in a 66-53 win against Eastern Michigan, followed by playing nine minutes in an 82-66 loss against Michigan State Dec 27.

"I wanted to rush it back because I wanted to play so badly," Nelson said. "I realized that I'm not going to be able to play this season because it just hurts too much. It was really difficult to come to that decision."

Oakland University head coach Greg Kampe said that according to NCAA rules, a player can redshirt up to half-way through the season (15 games) as long as that player has competed in less than 30 percent of the team's games.

"He won't practice for three weeks," Kampe said. "He will be back in the boot for the next couple of weeks. Hopefully, in three weeks it will have healed 100 percent and we'll slowly get him on the bike and back on the floor, then by next year he'll be ready to go."

Throughout the season Kampe had

stated that there was a possibility that Nelson would attempt to play professionally in Europe next season, but Nelson recently confirmed to him that he wants to come back to OU.

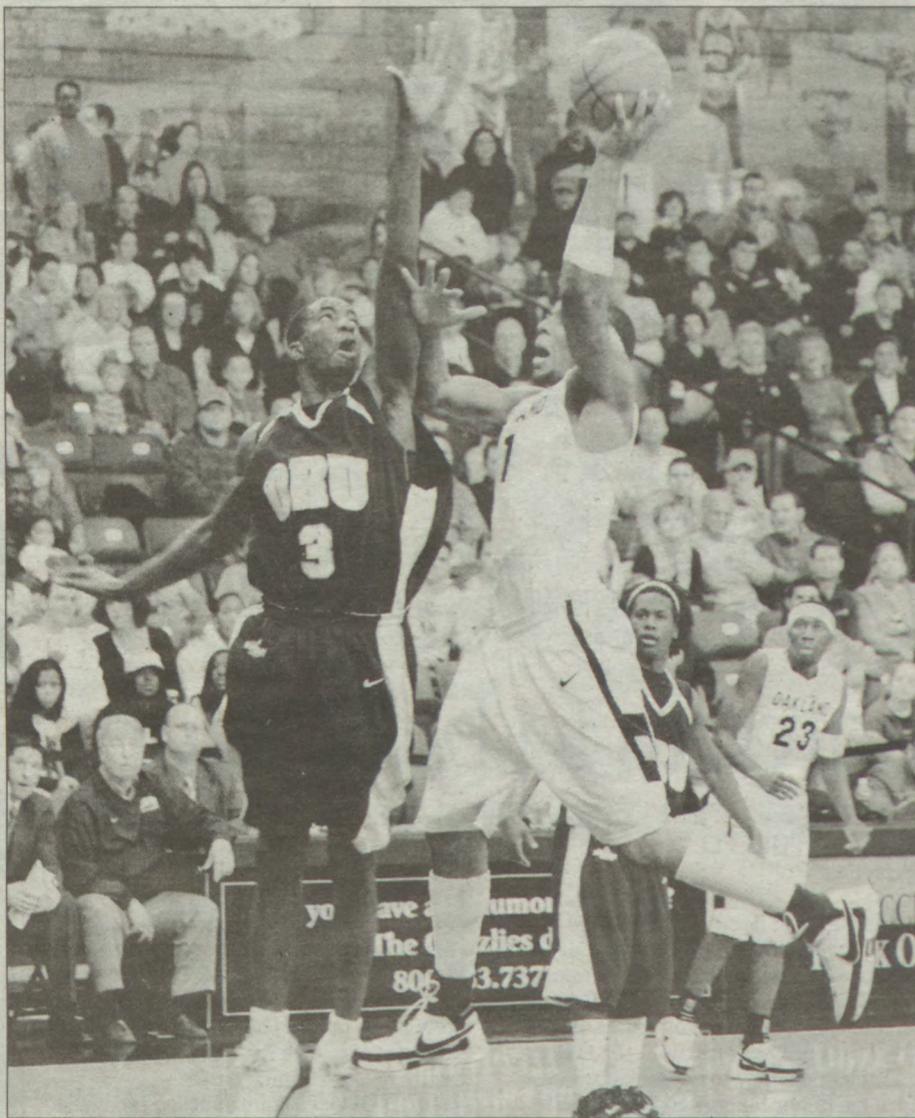
"My concern was that I didn't know if he wanted to come back," Kampe said. "He's going to graduate, he's got a kid. He wants to make money, he's been offered money to play in Europe. But he really knows that if he has a big senior year next year than he will make a lot more money and he wants to play in the NCAA tournament. That is a big goal of his."

Last season, Nelson averaged 17.3 points and 8.3 rebounds per game. He was voted first team All-Summit League. This year he was voted to the preseason All-Summit League first team. Nelson said that while he's disappointed he can't compete, he looks forward to completing his OU career next year.

"I want to finish my last year here," Nelson said. "I don't want to leave this year after being injured all year. I can do grad school for a year. There's always a positive. I mean, there is a reason this has happened so I'm not mad about it anymore."

Nelson's injury has meant that two freshman, Blake Cushingberry and Drew Maynard have had to step up and take over the role that Nelson was supposed to play for OU this season.

"Me getting hurt this year was one of the best things that could happen for Maynard and Cushingberry because they are getting a lot of valuable minutes," Nelson said. "I'm helping them, giving them pointers and tips during the game. That keeps me in the game. Basically, I'm a coach, that's what I gotta do."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Senior guard Derick Nelson took a medical redshirt for a broken foot that he sustained on Nov. 13.

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

April Kidd
Women's Basketball

Year: Senior
Major: Communications

Her double-double (14 points, 11 rebounds) against South Dakota State helped OU to a stunning 67-51 victory.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

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BOB KNOSKA/
The Oakland Post
Far left: Jessica Pike
calls for the ball
as Anna Patriitto
attempts to gain
control of the paint
in a game character-
ized by rough play.
Near left: Pike
attempts a shot as
the North Dakota
State closes in. Pike
played in the game
after missing the
previous one with
an ankle sprain.

Golden Grizzlies Game of the Week

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

OU wears out NDSU enroute to big victory

By JARED PURCELL
Sports Editor

Scoring 12 of her 14 points in the first half, sophomore center Brittany Carnago provided a foundation for her teammates to build off of as the OU Golden Grizzlies defeated the North Dakota State Bison 61-47 Saturday afternoon in the O'Rena.

"They knew how to get me open," said Carnago of her teammates. "We just stayed focused, kept trying to get stops on defense. We played Oakland basketball, we played our game."

OU managed to come away with the victory even though the team went nearly 14 minutes without making a field goal in the second half. Over the field-goalless stretch, OU went 15 for 21 from the free throw line while holding off any efforts of a NDSU team to come back.

"When the buckets weren't falling and we weren't scoring easy baskets, we were attacking, at least trying to draw fouls," said head coach Beckie Francis. "So I credit [the team] for being really smart and attacking."

Although OU had trouble getting points from the field in the second half, Francis was happy with the way the defense played and the efforts of freshman guard Sharise Calhoun, who played a team-high 36 minutes of floor time.

"I know that I can ride Sharise as long as I want to ride Sharise," Francis said. "She is one of the better defenders on our team. She's safe, she doesn't gamble and

that's what we like."

Carnago, who led the defense with three blocks, gave credit to Calhoun's speed and how she was able to maintain a fast pace to the game, keeping the intensity level high.

"With Sharise in [the game], it definitely picks up the pace of the game," Carnago said. "She likes to push it. It was more of a running game."

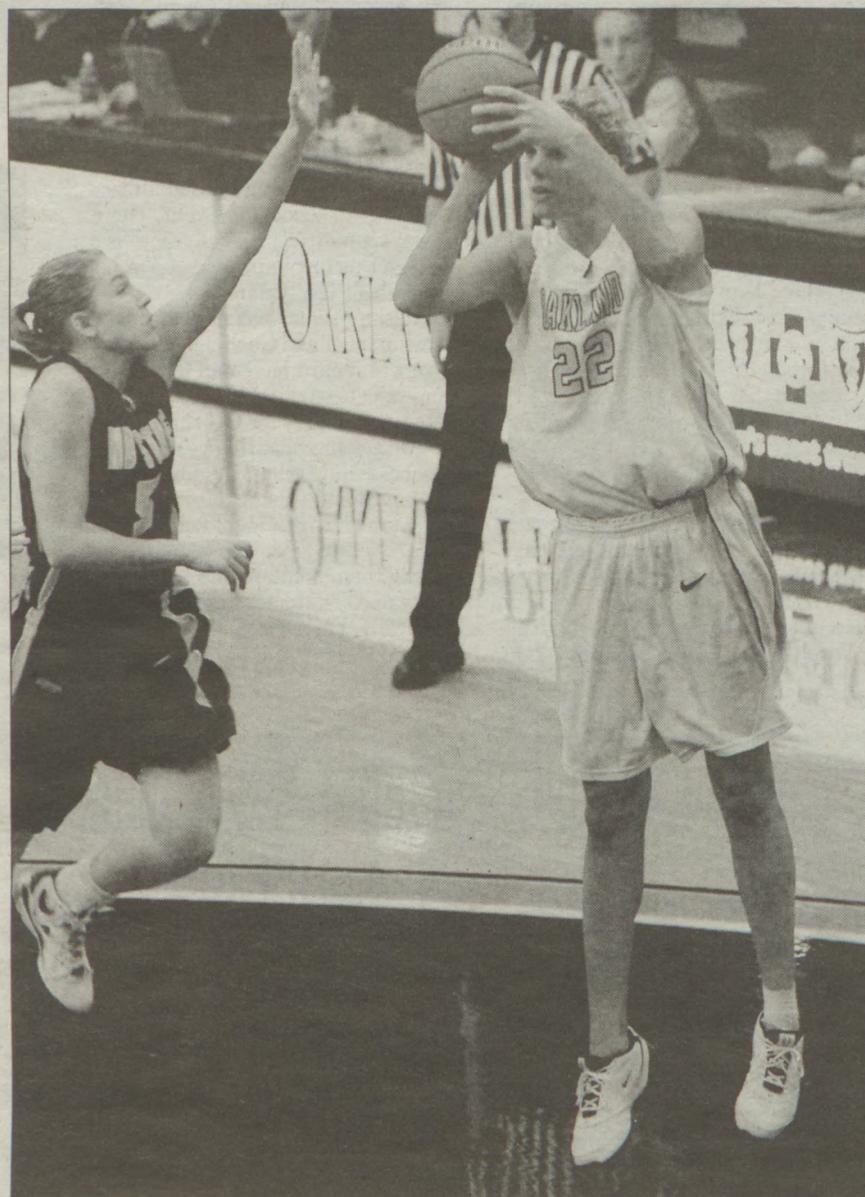
With NDSU without their leading scorer, OU took advantage of first-half mistakes made by NDSU. OU extended its lead to 15, midway through the first half, before having it cut to seven with 7:45 to go in the second half.

Although NDSU head coach Carolyn DeHoff was disappointed in her team for falling into an early deficit, she gave credit to her team for never giving up.

"That's been the consistency with this team, their fight instinct," DeHoff said. "Playing hard every timeout and not giving up ... these kids are fighters."

Senior guard Jessica Pike made her return to the lineup after missing last game with a sprained ankle. Although Francis thinks she was rusty from missing a week of practice, Pike is quickly getting back to normal.

"It showed in the first couple minutes that ... she wasn't herself," Francis said. "She was showing signs of frustration ... but I complimented Pike because when we needed her, she came through. She looked like 100 percent old Pike in the last four minutes."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Brittany Carnago takes a shot against North Dakota State. Twelve of Carnago's 14 points came in the first half as she helped establish a substantial lead that NDSU could not recovery from.

Coming attractions

GAME SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JAN. 7-13

Date, opponent, time (location)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

1/8 @ Centenary College — 9:00 p.m. (Shreveport, La.)
 1/10 @ Oral Roberts — 8:05 p.m. (Tulsa, Okla.)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

1/10 @ Oral Roberts — 3:05 p.m. (Tulsa, Okla.)
 1/12 @ Centenary College — 8:00 p.m. (Shreveport, La.)

SWIMMING AND DIVING

1/10 vs. Eastern Mich. — 2:00 p.m. (Rochester, Mich.)

HOCKEY

1/9 vs. IUP — 8:00 p.m. (Onyx Arena, Rochester, Mich.)

WRESTLING

1/10 @ Bowling Green State University — TBA (Bowling Green, Ohio)



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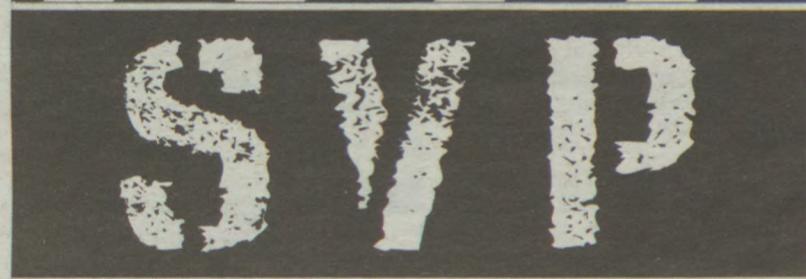
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The Scene

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January 7, 2009

Attack of the bridezillas

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

A woman's wedding is usually one of the best days of her life. For a woman taking part in her best friend's wedding is sometimes just as great.

The new movie "Bride Wars" depicts both of these occasions.

For best friends Liv (Kate Hudson) and Emma (Anne Hathaway), their special days were going to be that much more special since they were taking part in each other's wedding.

That is until they discovered both of their weddings were booked on the same day.

All hell breaks loose as the two are determined to get married when and where they want, and refuse to make any compromises.

Hudson and Hathaway took part in a college conference call that included The Oakland Post on Dec. 5, 2008.

The inner bridezilla

Both actresses were able to understand how a bride's mind worked and it wasn't hard for them to play the part.

"I tapped into my inner bridezilla by watching some of my friends go through some stuff, and understanding the stress of it myself when I got married," Hudson said.

"I think the other thing is just, as females we get really worked up. We're very emotional creatures," Hudson said.

Hathaway has never been married and credited the script with helping her to better understand her character's situation.

"The script was so great in providing a logical emotional backstory for the characters to explain why they go off the deep end the way that they do," Hathaway said.

Hudson said she enjoyed being able to poke fun at how crazy women could get at times like these.

"I think girls get crazy, but we can also laugh at ourselves really well," Hudson said. "We don't get the opportunity to do that very often in movies, so it was really fun to be able to do it with something as

important as your wedding day."

Attempted sabotage

Throughout the movie, the two former friends do everything they can do to ruin the other's big day.

"I think my favorite [prank] she pulled, because it was the meanest, was the weight gain. That's low," Hathaway said. "I know how hard I have to work to lose that last five pounds, so to kind of mess with that I think is wrong."

In the movie, Hudson's character decides to give Hathaway's a little more than she asked for while trying to get a bit of color for her wedding.

"I have to say the tanning

salon was fun. And part of it was on that day I wore what Liv's version of a disguise is, and every time we did a take, I'd do a different character," said Hudson.

"I was a Russian girl, I came down with some weird version of an Eastern European girl. I did a southern belle. I did all sorts of different characters, which hopefully will be on the DVD," Hudson said.

A little girl's dream

Hudson said her parents weren't married when she was growing up.

"We had it so ingrained in us that you didn't need to sign a piece of paper to say that you're a family or that

you love each other. Then, I meet Chris [Robinson], and I'm like, 'I'm getting married!'" Hudson said.

"For me it was really more about who was going to be the guy that I would spend the rest of my life with. I was very excited about possibly calling up Vera Wang and seeing what she could do for me," Hudson said.

Hathaway had other plans, which included a celebrity crush.

"I think that I, in my fantasy, Leonardo DiCaprio and I will meet at some point, and he'll just see me walking down the street and fall in love with me," Hathaway said.

"I just assumed that Leo and I would find some kind of happy medium between our two aesthetics, and have a glorious wedding. It doesn't look like that's going to happen, however," Hathaway said.

The learning process

Both actresses had much to say about each other, from their work ethic, what they learned from one another and personality in general.

"One thing I learned about Annie is that she is absolutely fearless. We're kind of similar in that way, which is that we're very open and honest about the things that are going on in our lives," Hudson said.

"Annie is a tough cookie, and I think I learned that professionalism that goes with living your life and going through things, and showing up," Hudson said.

Hathaway talked about how she was a fan of Hudson prior to working with her.

"One of the things that I learned from Kate was Kate does something which is so incredibly rare in an actress, which is they are able to find the balance between being professional and having fun," Hathaway said.

"Kate just — without sacrificing any of the work, without taking it any less seriously than anyone else — manages to just bring a sense of fun to absolutely everything," Hathaway said.

"Bride Wars" hits theaters Jan. 9. Find out more at

www.brideWars.com.



Photo courtesy of Alloy Media and Marketing

Tired of the same old reruns?

Tune in to these shows as they begin their new seasons

"Scrubs"



Premieres Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 9 p.m. on ABC.

The cast of "Scrubs" finds a new home on the ABC network for their eighth season, after spending

their first seven on NBC.

J.D. has survived his internship, and now has his own interns.

J.D., Turk, Carla and Elliot are still together at Sacred Heart Hospital. But, Dr. Bob Kelso is replaced by Dr. Maddox, played by guest star Courteney Cox.

Fans of the show can tune in and get their fill of "Scrubs" this season, for it will be its last.

"24"



Premieres Sunday and Monday, Jan. 11 and 12 on Fox.

Fans of "24" have been left hanging for the last year, due to the writer's strike. Kiefer Sutherland's stint in jail probably didn't help either.

But, "24" officially returns with its seventh season, fresh with a brand-new president, and a female one at that.

"Day seven" begins with a dismantled CTU and superman Jack Bauer on trial.

And Chloe fans need not fret, she will continue throughout the day's events even though CTU is no more.

After the four-hour, two-day premiere, "24" can be seen Monday nights at 9 p.m.

"Nip/Tuck"



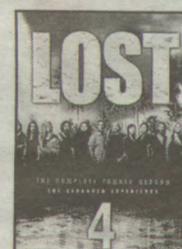
Premieres Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 10 p.m. on FX.

The first part of season five ended with Sean bleeding all over the floor, after being stabbed by a crazed fan.

Fans of "Nip/Tuck" can look forward to watching womanizer Christian finally deciding to settle down with one woman, and Sean finding love in a vulnerable situation.

Only eight new episodes will be released this year, to complete season five. Don't worry though, the show is scheduled to be on for two more years before it ends.

"Lost"



Premieres Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. on ABC.

The new season begins with a three-hour premiere, which includes a clip show and two new episodes.

This season might not be as confusing, since it will feature less flashbacks and flashforwards.

Season five of "Lost" begins with the remaining survivors feeling the effects of moving the island. Also, they find themselves under attack by some unknown force.

After the premiere, "Lost" will air on ABC Wednesday nights at 9 p.m.

Happy New Year!

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MOUTHING OFF

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January 7, 2009



Hoping for change in 2009

Resolutions for the new year that should be on these celebrities' lists

By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Editor in Chief

The clock struck midnight; the lucky ones shared a kiss. Dresses and ties became pajamas as cold hard floors became beds. Recovery began for the champagne induced hangover as America's celebration had just began for what looks to be the year of change: 2009.

Last year brought Americans an historic presidential race, a drunken "American Idol" judge, a Grammy winner who revolved through rehab doors dozens of times, a pop star on the verge of a comeback and an egotistical-paparazzi-abusing rap star.

After fighting public battles with the press, those who sought and resented the spotlight in 2008 must have something different lined up for 2009. With it being the New Year and all, I thought it might be helpful for some of America's favorite biggest names to take new year's resolution suggestions directly from the hand that feeds them.

President-elect Barack Obama: Not gonna light a cigarette.

Obama can't afford to meet the same demise as two of the featured Marlboro Men did, which is why he spent most of his time on the campaign trail chewing Nicorette gum. The media reported Obama falling off the wagon during the race to office in 2008.

Although Obama has said he does not intend to smoke in the White House, the stress of taking over the presidency during a recession and a war may prove

to be too much to allow him to kick the nicotine habit in the can.

While it may be suave for Hugh Hefner to puff on a pipe, cigarettes are not the hottest accessories for one of the most powerful men in the world.

Even though Obama's counterpart, Franklin D. Roosevelt, occasionally enjoyed nicotine highs during the New Deal era, a clear head is what Obama will need to pull America out of its economic woes. Stick to the Nicorette in 2009, Obama. The U.S. is counting on it.

"American Idol" judge, Paula Abdul: No more drinking on the job.

Rumors ran rampant during the last season of "American Idol" about Abdul's, um, odd behaviors.

Abdul had been outspoken about her strange ways since 2005, but last year's offensive against the media after she was criticized for being confused about which rounds "American Idol" contestants were participating in during a May taping, struck a bad note.

Abdul claimed her confusion had nothing to do with drugs, but it's up to the voters to decide what was in that Coke cup sitting on the judges' table.

With new judge Kara DioGuardi joining Abdul alongside the likes of Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson, Abdul has her work cut out for her. Let the new judge cause the controversy this year, Paula, and lay off the rum and Cokes.

Grammy winner Amy Winehouse: Help keep herself and others out of rehab.

Winehouse spent most of 2008 in and out of rehab despite the lyrics of her

smash single "Rehab." Battles with alcoholism, drug use and depression were only a handful of the problems that made Winehouse's personal life a running Lifetime "movie of the week."

In late November the media reported that Winehouse's husband Blake Fielder-Civil wanted to end the marriage. While Winehouse's reps were unaware of this fact, it could be the best thing to happen to the soulful singer. Fielder-Civil could have been enabling Winehouse's alcoholism and drug use as, he has been charged with possession of marijuana in the past.

Regardless of the past, 2009 could be Winehouse's year to tell her story and inspire others to keep from going back to rehab.

Britney Spears: Reduce the stress of a caged life.

Our congrats go out to Ms. Spears for her good behavior in 2008. Not only did she manage to keep a full head of hair, keep her panties on and avoid rehab, her new album, "Circus" looks to be one of her highest selling albums in recent years.

In what could potentially be the biggest year for the queen of pop since 2004, "Oops... I Did Again" cannot become her fall back excuse. She needs to learn to manage her stress better than her father Jamie Spears has managed her personal life.

His efforts to keep her as caged as the exotic animals in her video "Circus" could be remedied by working it out on the dance floor. Get back "in the zone" Britney, and work all of that stress out

in the studio and on stage.

Here's to hoping an injury won't deter her from her tour, her father won't become a psycho control freak and ex-husband Kevin Federline keeps her out of court.

Kanye West: Go into design to avoid a battery fine.

Last year was a big year for the rap superstar. He spent most of the year on tour promoting his 2007 album "Graduation," released the robotic inspired album "808's & Heartbreak" and spent much of the latter part of the year dueling paparazzi.

The self-proclaimed "voice of our generation" is looking to go out with the old — harassing the photogs — to bringing in the new as a design intern with a major fashion label this year.

His hopes are to land the coveted position at Louis Vuitton or Raf Simons but I don't think West's high end designer dreams will be able to "touch the sky." Shutter sunglasses and Dayglo leggings are not on the horizon for 2009 Spring Fashion Week.

Though it's possible that West's fashion venture could be successful for him. It will keep him distracted from sampling beats from obscure 1950s soul.

How will the egotistical maniac bode as the lowest on the design food chain? Running coffee orders and gathering fabrics will definitely be a freshman adjustment for him. Then again, he may get there and make the demands.

Whatever 2009 brings, fans can only hope the biggest names do it right this time around.

Diplomacy pushed for Mideast peace

By ALBERT AJI
Associated Press Writer

DAMASCUS, Syria — France sought Syrian help Tuesday to bring a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, while Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice went to the United Nations for meetings with Arab and European leaders.

The diplomacy drive showed little gains, though, as fighting in Gaza between the militant Palestinian group Hamas and Israeli forces raged for an 11th day, with almost 600 dead.

In the middle of a whirlwind Mideast tour, French President Nicolas Sarkozy urged his hosts in Syria to pressure Hamas to help end the fighting. Syria, along with Iran, is a key backer of Hamas, and it hosts the exiled political leadership of the group and other radical Palestinian factions.

"Syria must help us to convince Hamas to choose the voice of reason and peace," Sarkozy said, adding there can be no military solution.

Syrian President Bashar Assad did not respond to Sarkozy's call, instead slamming the Israeli offensive in Gaza as an "aggression" that must halt.

Assad said he agreed with Sarkozy on the need for a quick resolution to the "humanitarian tragedy" and for a cease-fire, Israeli withdrawal and lifting of the blockade of Gaza. He made no mention of Hamas stopping rocket attacks on Israel.

Sarkozy talked with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli leaders and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. He arrived later Tuesday in Lebanon and planned to return to Egypt.

Egyptian officials also increased pressure on the Syria-based Hamas leadership to accept a cease-fire.

Egypt wants Hamas to cooperate with international efforts to end the Gaza conflict, Egyptian officials close to the negotiations said Tuesday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

Meanwhile, Rice hoped to broker a "sustainable" cease-fire as soon as possible at the United Nations. She planned to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and attend a U.N. Security Council meeting on Gaza, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

In London, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called for Gaza's borders to be opened Monday. He said he had been talking to other world leaders to push for an immediate cease-fire.

Also, in Vatican City, Pope Benedict XVI said he wanted to encourage efforts for peace talks.



KOJI SASAHARA/Associated Press

A Toyota Motor Corp. worker kneels down to check a Lexus at the Japanese automaker's flagship production line for luxury Lexus models in Tahara, central Japan. Toyota said Tuesday, Jan. 6, it will suspend production at all of its Japanese plants for a total of 11 days in February and March because of faltering global demand.

Toyota to suspend Japan production in Feb. and March

By SHINO YUASA
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — Toyota is suspending production at all 12 of its Japan plants for 11 days over February and March, a stoppage of unprecedented scale for the nation's top automaker as it grapples with shrinking global demand.

The last time Toyota Motor Corp. halted production at all its Japan plants was in August 1993, when demand plunged because of a rising yen, and that was for only one day, according to the company.

A global economic downturn has hammered the auto industry in Japan and elsewhere, forcing carmakers to cut staff, lower production and delay new models. Major automakers in the U.S. had teetered on the brink of collapse until securing a multibillion dollar government lifeline.

"We are coping with a slump in global sales," Toyota spokesman Hideaki Homma said Tuesday. "Demand in the world auto market is so depressed that every model is falling sharply in sales."

Toyota said last year that it was stopping production at its 12 domestic plants for three days in January. But it decided on additional closures because of the global downturn. Toyota will stop output for six days in February and five days in March, it said.

NIW BRIEFS

01-01 | Delaware, Iowa, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Texas joined 17 other states mandating fire-safe, slow-burning cigarettes.

01-02 | The world's oldest woman, 115, dies in Portugal.

01-03 | A series of earthquakes in Indonesia kills at least four, sends small tsunamis to Japan's southeastern coast.

01-04 | The first Israeli fatality is reported in the ground offensive on Gaza Strip.

01-05 | A 6-year-old Virginia boy missed his school bus and drove 10 miles in his family's sedan before getting picked up by police. He only had minor injuries and was taken to school.

01-06 | Apple Inc. is cutting the price of some songs in its market-leading iTunes online store to as little as 69 cents and plans to make every track available without copy protection.

Mushing through the snow



JESSICA HILL/Associated Press

Darleen Plourde of Windsor calls to her team of dogs during a dog sled race in Willimantic, Conn., Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009. Two-and four-dog teams from the Connecticut Valley Siberian Husky Club participated in the event.

Alaska trooper says politics slowed drug arrest

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A drug investigator said authorities delayed the arrest of a woman tied to Gov. Sarah Palin's family until after the November election.

Sherry Johnston — whose son Levi Johnston is engaged to Palin's daughter, Bristol — was arrested Dec. 18 on six felony drug counts. She is accused of selling Oxycontin, a strong prescription painkiller, and pleaded not guilty Monday.

Investigator Kyle Young sent an e-mail to the Public Safety Employees Association saying the search warrant of Johnston's house was delayed for political reasons, the Anchorage Daily News

reported Monday.

"It was not allowed to progress in a normal fashion, the search warrant WAS delayed because of the pending election," Young wrote in the Dec. 30 e-mail.

The warrant was delivered the same day as Sherry Johnston's arrest.

Public Safety Commissioner Joe Masters insisted the case was handled fairly and said no one in the governor's office knew troopers were investigating until Johnston's house was searched.

Col. Audie Holloway, the troopers' director, also vigorously disputed that there was anything irregular in how the case was handled.

Palin and the Public Safety Employees

Association, which represents troopers, have sparred over a high-profile dispute that became known as Troopergate.

At the center was former commissioner Walt Monegan, whom some say was dismissed because he would not fire a trooper involved with a messy divorce with Palin's sister.

A legislative council found that Palin had abused her office but the firing was legal since Monegan was an at-will employee.

A subsequent investigation by the Alaska State Personnel Board found there was no probable cause to believe Palin or any other state official violated ethics laws.

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