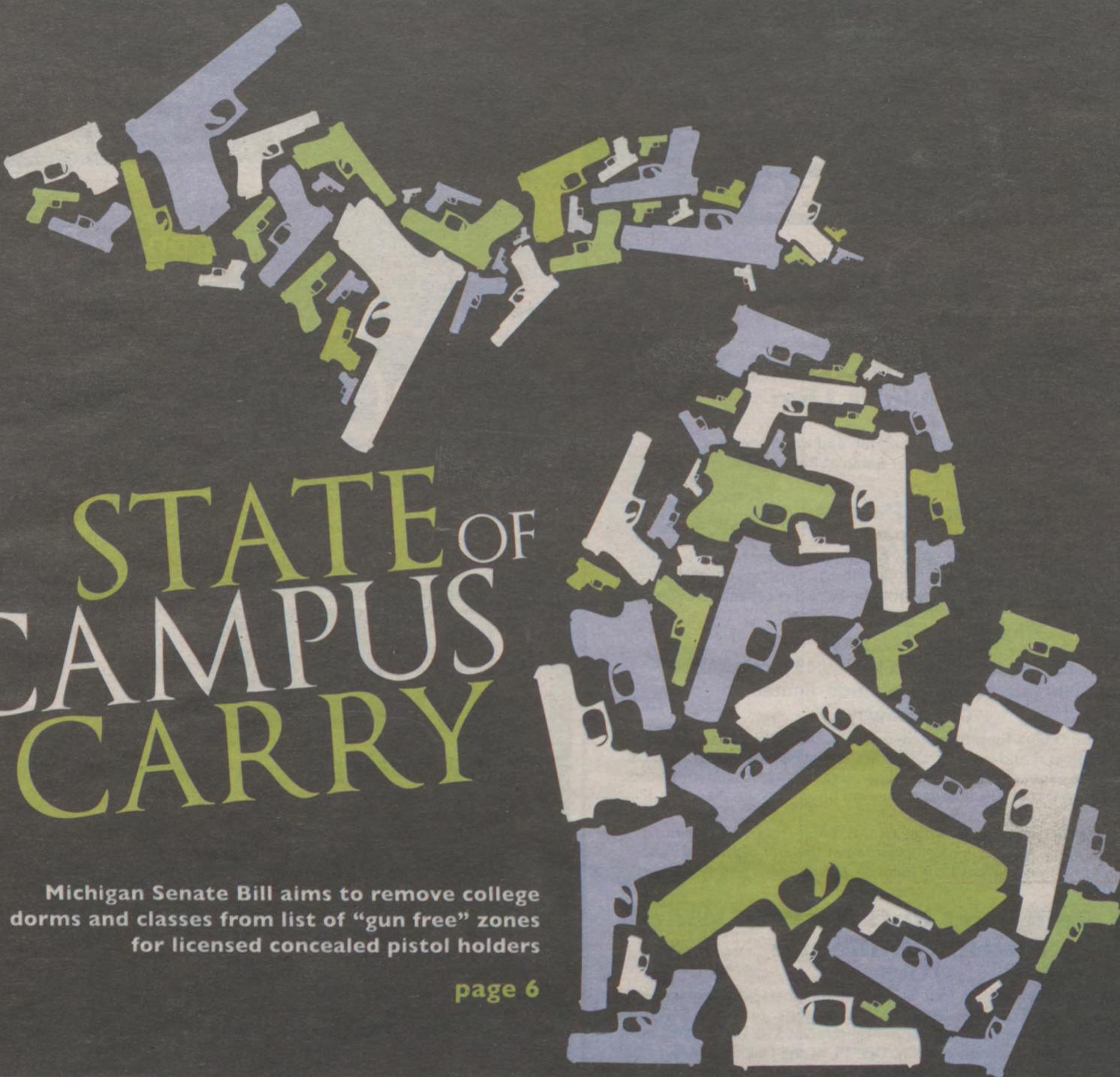


THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

October 7, 2009

Volume 36, Number 9



STATE OF CAMPUS CARRY

Michigan Senate Bill aims to remove college dorms and classes from list of "gun free" zones for licensed concealed pistol holders

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LOCAL

Pull-out guide to nearby cider mills.

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SCENE

Space-age band mixes electronics and theatrics.

page 16



SPORTS

Kampe discusses newest recruits.

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Midnite MADNEZZ

at OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

TAKIN' CARE OF GRIZZNESS

Midnite Madnezz marks the official start of the college basketball season. The Golden Grizzlies men's and women's basketball teams will celebrate the occasion with a pep rally on

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Friday Night Live
7 p.m.

Featuring comedians Rob Stapleton and Hassan Minhaj
in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

Block Party
8:30 p.m.

Before the pep rally, join your fellow Golden Grizzlies fans in the P-16 parking lot, across from the O'rena. FREE FOOD, DJ AND DANCING, meet the Grizz, and performances by OU's dance and cheer teams.

Pep Rally

10 p.m. (DOORS OPEN AT 9:45 p.m.)

First 1,000 fans will receive a free, limited-edition
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Students: Win one of two tuition awards. Enter from 9 to 10 p.m. at the Block Party. Awards will be presented at the end of the pep rally. Must be present to win.

**Grizz Gang and Buffalo Wild Wings
Blazin' Challenge**
11 p.m.

Come to the O'rena to watch four Grizz Gang members battle their way through the last round of the championship. The winner receives a \$100 gift card to Buffalo Wild Wings and the runner up receives \$50. Participants must register from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Oakland Center food court. Elimination rounds take place Oct. 15-16.



ATH-211 10/09

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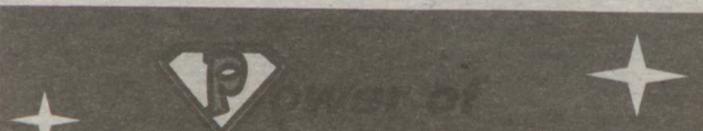
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THIS WEEK

October 7-13, 2009

Cover design by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

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Get your cider and doughnuts on

Take this guide to area cider mills with you to fulfil that seasonal urge for warm, gooey cinnamon treats and cool, fresh cider.

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THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives

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October 7, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

Gun bill for campus carry waits quietly

Guns. Is your heart racing yet? Gun control is one of the most polarizing, divisive issues and people on both sides take it very personally.

Yet a bill introduced in the state Senate in August has managed to fly under the radar despite its relevance to college students, faculty and staff.

The bill aims to remove college classrooms and dorms from the list of exceptions to where citizens with Concealed Pistol Licenses can carry their guns.

In general, the other existing exceptions are schools, child care centers, sports arenas and stadiums, bars with alcohol as a primary source of income, religious properties, large entertainment facilities and hospitals. There are also 263 additional pages of rules and regulations for firearms in Michigan.

It's easy to get into a fiery debate about what is and isn't "common sense" regulation of guns. Common sense being one of the most relative and vague adjectives, while at the same time the most widely used one for gun laws.

But it's hard to find somebody with the ability to do anything about it, who wants to touch the topic with a 10-foot pole.

However, we would think that since there's a bill in the state legislature that could have an impact on the university, that Oakland University would be rep-

resented in that discussion.

The Post had little luck getting an official stance on the proposed bill from the OU administration. Not even the government relations office was comfortable talking about it.

OU Police Chief Sam Lucido did discuss it with us, and he said the thought of students carrying handguns made him wary, with the larceny and crime that already occurs on campus.

But if people considered that this bill — and most other gun laws — are really only going to influence people who follow the law, there's less to be afraid of.

People who would be affected by this change in CPL exceptions are the law-abiding citizens we encounter every day at work, at Meijer, the bank — without incident and without ever knowing they're carrying.

As stated in the cover story on page 6, Lucido explained his opposition to the bill as partly a concern about people's judgment with firearms, in relation to the varying levels of maturity found on a college campus.

Understood, but setting personal fear aside to objectively study the bill would reveal that those who would be allowed to carry on campus have already proved a level of maturity to the state and the FBI by getting their carry licenses.

The bill doesn't make it any more or

less likely for sex offenders, felons, the mentally unstable and others who don't bother obtaining the lawful license to carry a gun, from doing so on campus or in a dorm.

The bill is unrelated to that problem except for the fact that those carrying would be able to protect themselves from criminals on campus, as they already do most other places.

If the point of opposing this regulation is to keep criminals from doing harm, you're doing it wrong. If anything is frightening, it's that resources are being used to oppose a bill when they could be used thinking of ways to combat crime.

The classic argument against guns on campus is that an unstable student will get upset over a test grade and open fire. What this argument fails to recognize is that those most likely to commit do that will not be the same sort of person who would let a CPL exception stop them at the door.

But the debate which sends a wedge down a good chunk of the electorate cannot be settled in a one-sided conversation, and certainly not on this editorial page.

We are simply asking the OU community to have an open mind, put aside emotions, and have a thoughtful conversation about whether the current law should change.

What do you think? Send your comments to The Oakland Post or stop in the office, 61 Oakland Center or by any of the methods below.

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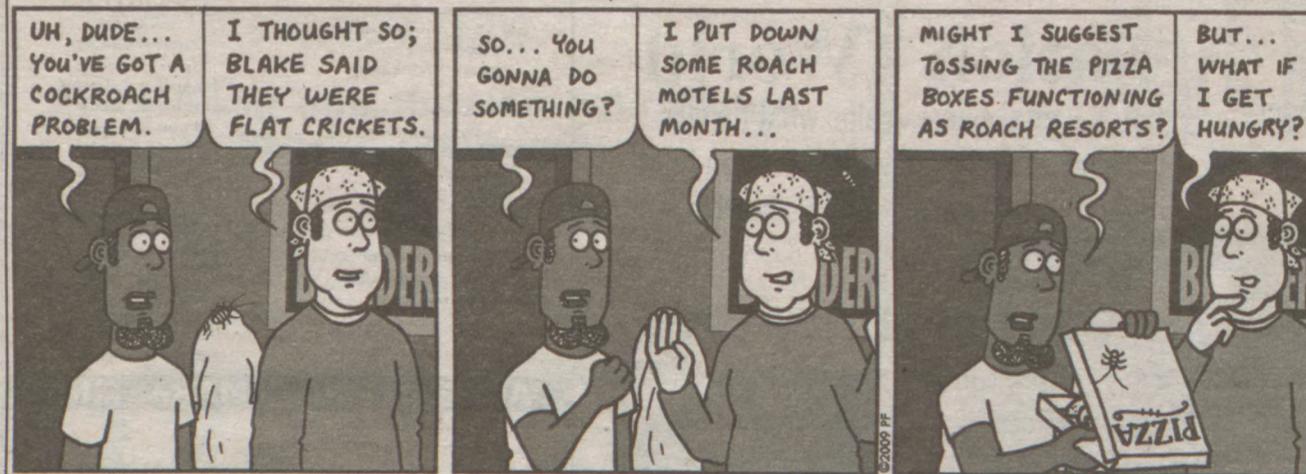
Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

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Don't cut the cord; students crave the connection



Katie Wolf
managing editor

"When I'm a professor, I'm going to do things differently."

That's a phrase I've started to utter almost regularly. I want to be a professor of journalism someday. And while I know there's no such thing as a perfect professor, I know there are great ones out there. I've been lucky to have many at Oakland University.

In my experience at OU, I've learned a lot of techniques I hope to employ if I'm fortunate enough to teach classes of my own. But I have developed one very specific problem with some of my professors, one that I hope I will never impose on my students. I imagine this isn't an OU-specific phenomenon, but it definitely happens on our campus. I can almost guarantee that any person reading this column has run into this.

I'm really frustrated when my professors tell me to turn off my technology in class.

I have the utmost respect for our teachers. My column "Education is too precious to waste on Facebook" printed Jan. 29 earlier this year can attest to that. In fact, in that column I chided students for screwing around in class. But there is a distinction between what I spoke of then and what I'm saying now.

I am more than just a student. I'm a daughter, a sister, an employee, a friend, and most importantly: an adult. I have responsibilities outside the classroom, and sometimes they need tending to.

A lot of us have jobs on which we depend. Using the most basic common sense, without paying jobs, we wouldn't have the gas money to drive to class. I work at a newspaper. News does not slow down or sleep for class. If I need to occasionally glance at my phone to make sure I don't have dozens of missed calls from my editor, so be it. Sometimes I really do need to reply to an e-mail because I'm on deadline, and unfortunately that deadline is smack-dab in the middle of class.

Recently both of my parents were in the hospital at the same time. During that time, my cell phone could only be turned off over my dead body.

After all, it's my money

I'm also paying a lot of money to attend my classes. I can't imagine anything more offensive coming out of my professors' mouths than "OK, you just paid \$1,279 (the cost of a 4-credit class for a senior) for this class, and now you have to turn off your phone and laptop because I don't want it to be on." I'm paying for my college experience, so it's really my prerogative and responsibility to make sure I pay attention. I'm not a child; if I miss an important part of the lecture because I was too busy sending a text, that's my own fault. Let me handle it.

Even OU is on board with text messages. They encourage students to sign up for their emergency alert system (www.oakland.edu/ready). I hope there won't ever be another emergency when OUPD would implement this system. But if there is a threatening situation on campus, I don't want to miss the details because my professor insisted my phone stay off. In fact, in an e-mail sent to faculty by OU administration, OU told its professors that they're not supposed to ask student to turn off their cell phones during class.

I sympathize with professors when they have to deal

with students who text message furiously in the middle of a lecture (that little click noise from the keys can never be completely silenced). It's rude, no doubt about it. Students should know there's a time and place when using technology for personal reasons, and the classroom is not it.

However, it is less disruptive to send a sentence-long text message than to get up, leave the room, make a call, and come back.

Facebook is obviously not the reason to use a laptop in class. Many good students use their laptops to take notes. I'm a faster typist than I am a writer, and I'm sure that's the case for many students. I only use my laptop in class on days when I'm expecting an important e-mail. When it comes to pen and paper, I can get the notes I missed from a classmate. I admit it: I am one of those students who lets the temptation of Facebook seduce me, and I fall into the lull of Internet surfing when I should be paying attention to my professor. That's why I leave the laptop at home unless absolutely necessary — I know my limits.

Without missing a beat

This does bring up an interesting development, though. Some students don't have limits. We were blessed, or cursed (depending on how you see it), with being raised in the era of information overload. Some students truly can multitask. They can text message, Facebook, eat a snack and take notes all at the same time and without breaking a sweat. Maybe this is something I won't even need to be concerned with if I become a professor, with the way technology is so rapidly moving forward.

In the meantime, my recommendation is this: students, keep your phones on vibrate or silent. It's disruptive to everyone when your phone starts singing Lady Gaga's "Love Games" in the middle of a lecture. Also, keep your text messaging to a minimum. Save the full-length conversations for before and after class.

If you need to use your laptop in class, sit in the back of the room. That way if you happen to stray and find yourself on a web site more interesting than the class, you aren't distracting the students sitting behind you.

Professors, please realize that as important as your class is, it is only a small part of the big picture. Sometimes the big

I am more than just a student. I'm a daughter, a sister, an employee, a friend, and most importantly: an adult.

picture is more important. We are so much more than just your students, and we can't pretend otherwise. We can't put our lives on hold at the door, only to be picked back up when class is over. Life doesn't wait for class.

Want to throw in your two cents? Answer our online poll!

What do you think about technology in the classroom?



a) It's annoying, and it should be shut off at all times.

b) It should be used for emergencies only.

c) Students have the right to keep their technology on in class.

d) Let people do what they want.

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Concealed guns could be allowed on campus

By JENNIFER WOOD
Staff Reporter

In the Michigan state Senate, a bill is in the works that would remove universities and college campuses from the list of "gun-free zones."

On Aug. 19, Sen. Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, introduced a bill to amend Senate Bill 747 to allow Concealed Pistol License holders to carry their registered handguns in college dormitories and classrooms, two of several listed exceptions to the current concealed carry laws in Michigan. Richardville said the bill would allow people to be able to protect themselves on college campuses.

He also said that this wouldn't be the first time that citizens licensed to carry concealed weapons would be able to do so on all parts of campus.

"There was no restrictions made until the 2000s, we are just looking to reinstate rights back to responsible gun owners," said Richardville.

On the senator's website he further discusses his support for the bill, stating that those who have permits to carry a weapon have undergone proper training as well as extensive background checks.

To be "properly trained" in Michigan means one must participate in eight hours of training with both classroom and range components, as well as meet specific requirements listed on the Michigan State Police website.

Some of the requirements include being 21 years old, being a Michigan citizen for at least six months, having no prior felony record, and having not been diagnosed with a mental illness.

While Oakland University administration declined to comment on the issue, feelings on campus are mixed.

Junior and concealed carry permit holder, Alexander Kolanek, is strongly in favor of the bill.

"I would be able to keep not only myself, but also my classmates safe in a worst case scenario situation," said Kolanek. "Police can't be everywhere."

Kolanek, who has been a competitive shooter since he was young, feels that the those who go through the process of obtaining a Concealed Pistol License would be level-headed people.

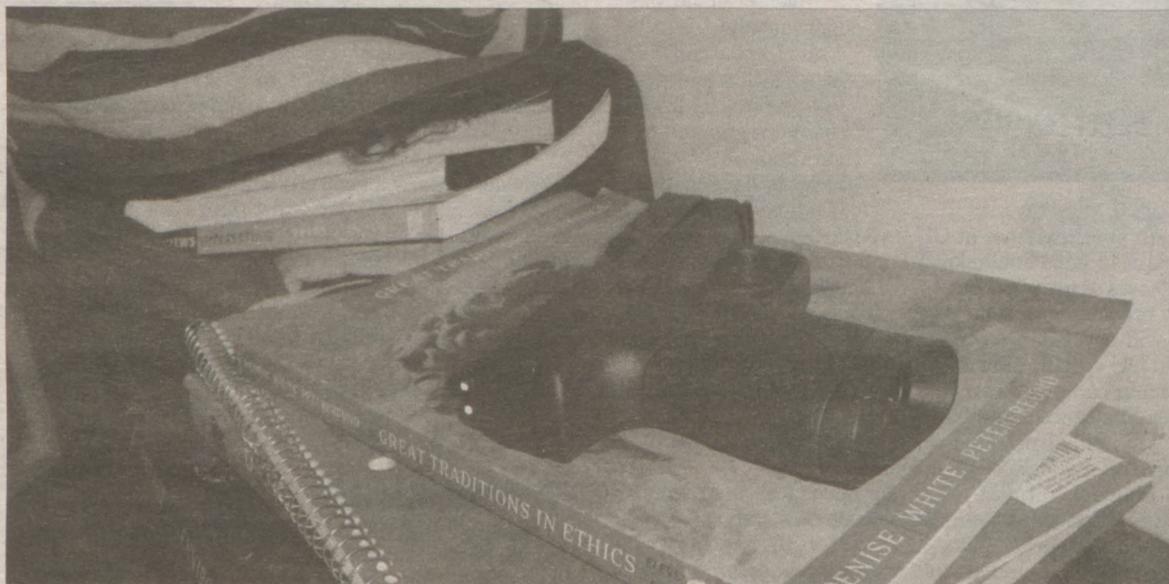
"Basically everyone who carries one is a law-abiding person already and has a background check from not only the State Police, but also the FBI. It's not like they just give them away," said Kolanek.

Senior Nickie Molinaro agrees. "Everyone I know that carries is very level-headed ... there is a point in many laws where it says, 'Use force when necessary.' If you see someone arguing, is it necessary at that point? No. It takes good judgment which is a part of the class."

Molinaro also believes that laws requiring license are contrary to his Second Amendment rights.

"Initially I didn't want to get one because it is my right as a state citizen and U.S. national to be able to carry a gun," Molinaro said.

Under current Michigan law, students and visitors are prohibited from carrying weapons into dorms and classrooms only. While OU forbids students and visitors to carry firearms anywhere on campus, other Michigan universities are not making additional exceptions.



The Oakland Post File Photo

Along with textbooks and school supplies, students may soon be able to bring concealed weapons into the classroom and dormitories.

This past June, Michigan State University's board of trustees voted that those with permits for their guns be allowed to carry them on campus, with the current statewide exclusion of classrooms and dormitories.

Paul Kubicek, chairman of OU's political science department, finds the bill to be "unnecessary and extremely risky."

"The idea that individuals who carry concealed weapons would be able to handle a crisis effectively without escalating a situation and causing harm to other people is very, very dubious," Kubicek said.

Oakland University Police Chief, Sam Lucido, joins in Kubicek's opposition.

"A large portion of our campus community is young, and people mature at different ages and levels. After almost 40 years in law enforcement, I remain concerned about judgment when it comes to the possession of firearms," Lucido said.

Lucido believes that while in most confrontations that occur on campus, "cooler heads usually prevail," having firearms on campus is an avoidable danger.

"Larceny remains our number one crime problem. While most students are responsible, we still have a theft problem involving laptops, cell phones and iPods. I wouldn't want to add firearms to that category of commonly lost or stolen property," Lucido said.

In the past, OU has had occasional problems with excessive alcohol consumption and Lucido thinks there is an even larger danger when you pair firearms and alcohol. "Alcohol and firearms do not mix and I am concerned about throwing the possible possession of firearms into that type of scenario."

Graduate student Kevin McKenna is also concerned about the combination of students and firearms that could occur if SB 747 is passed.

"College campuses have young people and alcohol, and I am not comfortable adding guns to the mix. There

are reasons firearms should not be permitted on campuses, just as they are banned in bars," McKenna said. "If the bill passes, maybe parents will put leverage on the individual universities to ban them by choice."

Molinaro and Kolanek disagree and feel that alcohol consumption should not be brought into the decision due to the fact that it is already illegal for those carrying weapons to consume alcohol, as well as illegal under the "zero-tolerance" alcohol policy at Oakland.

Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, who have student representatives in all 50 states, including one at Oakland Community College, feel that the restriction of carrying guns on campuses serves to "disarm only those law-abiding citizens who might otherwise be able to protect themselves."

"In other states where lawful concealed carry has been permitted for some time in all areas of the campus environment, such as at all public colleges and universities in Utah and at Colorado State University, no problems with those carrying in accordance with the law have been reported," said Al Baker, vice president of SCCC.

Sophomore Elisa Malile disagrees with the idea that allowing guns on campuses would be beneficial for the safety of students and believes that there are more important things the government should be doing for colleges and universities.

"This bill is promoting violence. I think our government should be focusing on setting up programs that prevent violence and better lockdown methods for schools," Malile said.

There has currently been no progress on the bill, in either direction, since it was referred to the Judiciary Committee in August.

"After looking at the bill we want to have good input and hear everyone's concerns. We're looking to increase safety, not decrease it," Richardville said.

Student of the Month

Lucia Tourianski

German Language and Literature

Year: Senior



Lucia Tourianski is involved in the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and German Club at Oakland University. She is also a member of the pep band. In addition to balancing her extracurricular activities with 20 credits of schoolwork, Tourianski is also actively involved with her church youth group.

Student named champion of the disabled

Micah Fialka-Feldman was honored by the Michigan chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild as one of two winners of the Champions of the Disabled award. Fialka-Feldman, a cognitively impaired student who takes classes at Oakland University through the OPTIONS program, sued OU after the university revoked his admission into campus housing. He received the award this Saturday at the Mabry Center in Warren, along with Judge Deborah Thomas who has polio. Fialka-Feldman's case against the university is currently in the discovery stage, with a tentative trial date set for January.

—Sean Garner, Senior Reporter

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State budget changes likely will not stifle OU funding

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Michigan legislators are working to balance the next budget, and it's still unclear how much funding public higher education institutions like Oakland University will receive from the state, as of press time Tuesday night.

Even if the state gives OU and other public universities and community colleges 3 percent less than it did last year, which is most likely to happen, these institutions are still likely to get about the same amount of money from the government overall, because they will take portions of the federal stimulus package.

But an Rochelle Black, OU's vice president for government relations, said that after this year, OU may have a harder time with state funding.

On Oct. 1, the state Congress approved and Governor Jennifer Granholm signed into law an interim budget, which is valid for a month, while the actual budget debate goes on.

Granholm said the interim budget doesn't give enough funding to help students afford to go to college, which is one of her three priorities for the new budget.

Black said in an interview with The Oakland Post that relative to some institutions, public universities are doing pretty well this year.

Black said most likely, OU's and other public universities' fundings are in pretty secure positions this year.

But she warned that this could change because everything is on the table until Granholm signs it. Even if legislators tentatively agree to give one organization a certain amount of money, they could increase or decrease that amount while the discussions are going on.

"It's crazy and chaotic up there right now" in Lansing, Black said.

According to the OU general fund budget and tuition rate document presented by the administration and approved by the board of trustees on July 29, OU projected that the state will give all public universities a 3 percent decrease in funding from last year.

That's about \$50.7 million in state appropriations — taxpayer money the state gives towards the budget — instead of the \$51.9 million it got last year. But it also accounted for getting about \$1.1 million from the federal stimulus funds, for a total of about \$51.7 million.

Black said this was because of the

maintenance of effort provisions clause in the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which is part of the government stimulus package American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Black said even if the state cuts appropriations to OU by 3 percent, it will be required to use federal stimulus money to do a "backfill" and give the other 3 percent to OU.

She said states can apply for a waiver to this clause, and some states have, but Michigan has not done this as of now.

"This is a one-time fix, not an ongoing solution," she said of using the federal funds, because the state will be back at the budget discussions again next year, deciding how much to give to higher education and other public institutions. And it won't have the stimulus money to fall back on.

So she believes next year and the year after, higher education will take a hit, because Michigan's economy may not recover yet from the downfall of the automotive industry, unemployment, home value depreciation and other problems.

Lower funding from the state means higher tuition rates for students, unless the school decreases its spending.

The portion of OU's budget that isn't

from the state must be paid by the revenue generated by student tuition.

Over the last four decades, the percentage of OU's operating budget that is funded by the state taxpayer money has been decreasing every year, and OU's budget has been increasing.

That's why the student tuition has been increasing every year.

In 1972, 26 percent of OU's budget was paid by student tuition, and 71 percent by the state.

But by 2009, the figures almost flipped around. This year, 72 percent of OU's budget was paid by the student tuition, and only 27 percent by the state.

Legislators are also considering cutting from aid to local government, Medicaid, Michigan Promise Scholarship, libraries and other public institutions. Black said that relative to some institutions, public universities have done pretty well.

"I don't think there's anyone who wants to cut these things," she said. "But typically, the public also doesn't want a tax increase."

See how the budget affects the state on page 11

State Budget

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Greeks grow as new organizations form

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

While many fraternities and sororities on campus are just finishing with their recruitment process, the newest Greek organizations are still going through the process of attracting new members.

The process of bringing a new Greek organization to campus is complicated.

Once a Greek organization has received permission to come to campus, they start out as an "interest group" and begin to reach the minimum number of members, which varies from one Greek organization to another. Advisors from the Greek national organization typically help with this process.

They can apply for student organization status to become official with the university, and then later apply to their nationals, to become a colony. Finally, when certain requirements are met, they can get a charter and become an independent chapter fully recognized by their nationals.

Each level brings new privileges as well as new responsibilities, and OU has fledgling Greek organizations at all stages of development.

Though they've only been on campus for a few weeks, OU's newest fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi, has already become a colony with 20 pledged members, and is hoping to get another 15 by November.

Sophomore Ryan Gentry is the interim president for Alpha Sigma Phi until they hold regular elections later in the year. He said when he started at OU he had no plans to join a fraternity, but he now plans to run for fraternity president when the time comes.

Though Gentry described Alpha Sigma Phi's recruitment and colonization as a very "quick and efficient" process, he

said that technically, none of the pledged members will be officially initiated until next year, to ensure their nationals that the colony is settled.

Although there's a lot for the new fraternity brothers to learn, Gentry said the other Greek organizations have been very kind.

"I don't feel burdened at all; I've had a lot of help," he said.

Gentry said they're currently planning activities for Greek Week and Make a Difference Day, as well as doing philanthropic events for charities like LiveStrong, the Lance Armstrong foundation.

Gentry said that one of their biggest goals is to get OU more involved in Greek society currently. OU has fewer than 3 percent of students involved in Greek activities, according to Josh Snell, president of the Greek Council.

Phi Sigma Kappa, the other new fraternity on campus this year, has finished doing initial recruitment as well, bringing in 10 new members, and recently named freshman John Trenchard as their new president.

Trenchard said he's had little exposure to Greek society, and his last leadership position was as captain of his high school Science Olympiad team. But even though there are a lot of things to learn, Trenchard said he's ready to take on the task.

"It's an honor and a challenge," he said. "It's a lot of responsibility. But that's what I want right now."

Currently Trenchard said one of his main duties is acting as the face of Phi Sigma Kappa, and rallying the members together. He said their advisor, John Bowker, is helping to take some of the pressure off him initially, but gradually easing the fraternity's OU chapter into

being independent.

Bowker has asked that any Phi Sigma Kappa alumni in the area that can help the chapter get situated lend a hand.

Currently, Phi Sigma Kappa is considered only a student organization, although they are fully participating members of Greek Council. Trenchard said that they plan to "get a good footing" on campus before they take on colony status and the financial obligations to their nationals that come with it.

Trenchard said they plan to become a colony in January and hope to be chartered by fall of next year.

Tau Kappa Epsilon, which started at OU last fall, also finished initial recruitment with 10 new members, bringing their total to 23. TKE is currently in colony status, working to meet the requirements of becoming a full chapter.

TKE president Matthew Mulka said over the last year, they've learned a lot about how to run a fraternity. Like Trenchard, Mulka said when they first started, they had no experience in Greek affairs.

For the next year TKE plans to have more large-scale, off-campus events to bring in more members. But they still want to get to know rushes before they extend a bid, and make sure they can handle the obligations it brings.

"We don't want them to do it if it's not best for them. The idea of a fraternity is to make people better," Mulka said.

Alpha Sigma Tau is in a unique situation as well. Although not technically a new sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau went through a complete restructuring over the last year, and now has 12 members, all of them new. Contrary to rumor, they never re-colonized and retain their status as a full chapter, but with a few exceptions.

Janelle Arbuckle became Alpha Sigma Tau president recently, having decided over the summer she wanted to join up with a sorority.

"I definitely knew this was something I wanted to do, but I couldn't pick which [sorority] I liked the most," Arbuckle said. She said she has friends in the existing sororities, and not wanting to favor one, she chose to join the group that was starting from scratch.

"It's very much into making women to be very independent, strong, confident, and successful in the future," she said.

Arbuckle said there's a lot of work to take on as the president, though she has experience being on student council from last year. But she said everyone at the newly reborn Alpha Sigma Tau is working hard to get things going.

"I have a bunch of little leaders, and I'm proud to be their president," Arbuckle said.

One thing that all of the newest Greek organizations agree on is that the other Greeks have been very helpful in getting them settled and making them feel welcome on campus.

Alpha Sigma Tau, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Sigma Kappa, and Alpha Sigma Phi, along with OU's historically black Greek organizations, Delta Sigma Theta and Sigma Gamma Rho, will be working together on a single team during the Greek Week festivities (see infobox).

Organization presidents are already talking about their efforts to band together and show what they're capable of.

Dan Evola, president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon offered a piece of advice to the budding Greek organizations. "The advice I would give is, recruit people better than yourself, and your fraternity will always grow," Evola said.

GREEK WEEK 2009 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 12-16

MONDAY

Wendy Fox New member seminar/comedy show:

This event is mandatory for all new-greek organization members and is highly encouraged that everyone else attends

7 p.m., Banquet Rooms

TUESDAY

Greek Row Iron Chef:

Each team will have access to one

of the houses on Greek Row to do all the necessary cooking. Each team must submit an appetizer, main course, dessert, and a beverage. In keeping with Iron Chef tradition, each course will have a mandatory ingredient that the teams must include.

Mandatory ingredients are: Appetizer (spinach), main course (rice), dessert (apple), beverage (strawberry).

7 p.m., Greek Row

WEDNESDAY

SPB/Greek Council Talent Show:

Each team is required to submit one act into the talent show.

There is no maximum or minimum for the number of people allowed to participate.

The deadline to have an act submitted is Thursday, Oct. 8. The act must be submitted to Greek Council in order to gain approval.

7 p.m., Banquet Rooms

THURSDAY

Greek Olympics:

Games will be revealed at event 6:30 p.m., Outside OC

FRIDAY

Spirit Boat Competition/ Midnite Madnezz:

Each team will be provided a large square piece of foam, a small wooden mast, and an anchor.

8:00pm

Twitter Scavenger Hunt

By **MIKE SANDULA**
Staff Reporter

To kick off the 2009 fall semester at Oakland University, Credit Union ONE gave away \$1,200 in a Twitter Scavenger hunt.

"We always try to do something fun and creative every year to welcome the OU students back to campus and familiarize them with Credit Union ONE's products and services," said Neetu Singh, CUO database marketing manager. "We'd love to do the scavenger hunt again, based on the positive feedback we received."

From Sept. 14-16, CUO's OU branch tweeted clues from its Twitter page at www.twitter.com/OU_OU.

The clues led students to three locations on campus: the stairwell in the O'Rena, the wooden bear statue in Café O'Bears and the bulletin board on the second floor of the Oakland Center.

One tweet read: "Good morning, tweeps! Are you up and at 'em yet today? Coffee helps :)"

Each location had a card with a five-digit number on it. The first student to tweet that number back to CUO's

Twitter page won \$250, the second \$100 and the third \$50.

Gabrielle Whitmore, a senior majoring in social work, found out about the contest through a friend who works at CUO.

She won \$250 when she was the first to find the card located in the stairwell of the O'Rena.

"It took me forever," Whitmore said. "I walked around the whole O'Rena and Rec Center. I somehow ended up in the basement of the O'Rena and took the stairs up to the main floor and that's when I found it."

Whitmore said OU's fight song, which is written on the wall of that stairwell, was one of the clues. She said she plans on spending the money on textbooks and possibly an OU hoodie.

"Our goal ... was to engage the students, and with the activity we were able to reach a large number of both new and existing students," said Singh. "They were actively listening to what we had to say, asking questions, and eager to take advantage of the scavenger hunt to explore their campus."



POLICE FILES

On Sept. 29, OUPD was called to North Hamlin Hall by a resident assistant who smelled alcohol on a resident not of drinking age. When OUPD arrived, two students were in the room. With the residents' permission, OUPD entered the room and gave preliminary breath tests. One resident had a .00 blood alcohol content, the other .027. The student was given another PBT test, and then scored .03. This student was given a minor in possession citation. He said he was already on probation for a prior MIP citation.

On Oct. 2, an employee of the Student Technology Center in the Oakland Center reported that a student stole a video camera. The employee said the student showed his ID card and requested to rent the camera, started filling out the paperwork, but then started walking out of the room with the equipment before finishing the paperwork. The employee said he told the student to finish the process, but the student still left. The employee said he recognized the student from previous equipment rentals. OUPD tried various ways to reach the student, but were unsuccessful. This incident was labeled as a larceny.

On Oct. 3, a coach reported that there was political graffiti spray-painted on two sides of the sports dome. OUPD took pictures of the graffiti there, and also of graffiti found on the sidewalks between the Oakland Center and O'Dowd Hall, and on the sides of the port-a-potties set up on Walton Blvd. For the Brookside Way Run. OUPD is not releasing the content of the graffiti.

— Compiled by senior reporter Masudur Rahman, from Oakland University Police Department's media logs

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State budget talks are ongoing

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Michigan legislators are working to balance the next budget, and it's still unclear how much funding public institutions will receive from the state.

As of Tuesday, Oct. 6, none of the budget bills have been signed into law by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Due to the economy, Michigan has to choose between cutting some funding, increasing revenue through taxes and/or dipping into more of the one-time stimulus package from the federal government to fund programs.

The state of Michigan Senate and House of Representatives had until midnight Wednesday, Sept. 30, to decide on a budget for the fiscal year. Since an agreement wasn't reached in the House and the Senate, then signed by Granholm into law, the state government was to shut down, like it did for a few hours in 2007.

Last Thursday, the government was technically shut down for a few hours because the budget had not been approved by midnight Wednesday.

State congress passed and Granholm signed into law an interim budget, while the actual budget debate continues. However it is only valid for a month.

"The constitutional deadline has been met, but the work on this budget is far from over," Granholm said in a press release. "This budget not only has the

wrong priorities, it's a fiscal house of cards that relies on one-time federal revenues from President Obama that can't be sustained into the future."

Granholm criticized the interim budget and said it doesn't have enough funding for three priority matters: diversifying the economy to create jobs, funding police and firefighters, and helping students afford a college education.

She said she will veto any proposed budgets, either as a whole or as line-by-line items, passed by the state Congress if it doesn't have those programs funded.

"The governor is prepared to use the veto pen," said Liz Boyd, a spokesperson of the governor.

The budget as a whole consists of several separate bills, each giving a portion of the budget to different types of state institutions, including public universities. As of Tuesday, six of these bills were in the Senate, one was in the conference committee (made up of three House and three Senate members), and eight were on the governor's desk.

The governor has not yet signed any of the bills. She is waiting until the budget as a whole is decided upon. If she signed any of the bills they would take immediate effect and then the budget discussions would be less flexible.

The House has a Democratic majority led by Andy Dillon, and the Senate's Republican majority is led by Mike Bishop.

Generally, Michigan Republicans say

the Democrats are unwilling to cut funding for unessential programs despite the tough economy and that increased taxes will not be welcomed. Democrats say the Republicans want to cut funding for some essential programs.

About half of the projected \$2.8 billion deficit in Michigan is expected to be made up with funds from the federal stimulus package, the American Recovery Act of 2009, which is one-time only.

"Using all of the stimulus money is not the answer," said Matt Marsden, Bishop's spokesperson. "It leaves a bigger hole, it's harder to manage and there's nothing to bail us out."

A long-term solution would need budget cuts and/or new sources of revenue through increased taxes.

The interim budget passed does not include any tax increases.

Most Michigan universities formed their budgets by August, and predicted that the state will give all higher education institutions a 3 percent decrease in funding from last year. In light of these expectations, they adjusted their budgets accordingly. According to Oakland University, this looks likely to happen. Officials also believe the 3 percent decrease can likely be made up by the stimulus funds.

The House's approved bill for higher education indicated the stimulus funds will help make up the difference. The bill is now being debated in the Senate.

The Michigan Promise Scholarship is one thing that is potentially on the chopping block this year, along with other financial aid programs that come to a total of about \$140 million, said Rochelle Black, OU's vice president for government relations.

In a press release, Granholm promised to veto any budget that didn't fund the Promise Scholarship.

Legislators are also considering cutting aid to local government, health care, libraries, and other public institutions. Granholm said that relative to some institutions, public universities have done pretty well.

"I don't think there's anyone who wants to cut these things," Black said. "But typically, the public also doesn't want a tax increase."

The K-12 public schools' budget hasn't been agreed upon yet.

An 11 percent decrease in funding for cities, towns and counties was approved by both Senate and House, but is still awaiting approval from Granholm. The status is the same for a 8 percent decrease in Medicaid, the public health care system.

Visit www.legislature.mi.gov to read details and status of the budget bills.

See how the state budget affects OU on page 8

State Budget

OUPD works to stop deer-related accidents

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

In cooperation with the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland University grounds management recently completed an effort to clear shrubs near campus in order to reduce the number of vehicle and deer collisions that occur on Adams Road.

Jon Barth, manager of building and grounds, said that the clearing effort was centered at the corner of Adams and Avon roads, in a wooded area where deer would gather and cross the road.

He said that the head of building and grounds management, Terry Stollsteimer, was approached by the city to address the problem with deer-auto collisions at the corner.

"After much discussion with the city and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, we decided we would clear out some of the smaller sap trees," Barth said.

According to Barth, a 300-square-foot patch of road was cleared by grounds staff and community service participants over the course of two weekends.

Barth said they received only a couple of complaint calls during the clearing operation, but he said he is glad that they went through with the project.

He said that when they reached the tree line to begin work, there were about 12 deer standing in the woods watching them. They've taken it as a sign that the work will have an impact on the number of deer collisions in that area.

"I'm confident that it will help; I'm just not sure how

much," Barth said.

Lt. Melvin Gilroy of the OU Police Department said deer-related auto accidents on campus are rare.

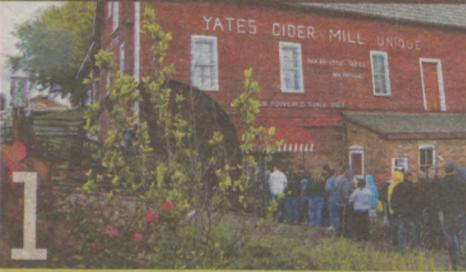
"Most of these [deer collisions] occur on the perimeter roadways; we very seldom have deer hit on campus roadways, per se," Gilroy said.

With more visibility at the cleared corner, drivers should have more opportunity to stop when deer run out into traffic.

Officials won't, however, know the program's effectiveness in reducing accidents until they get updated collision statistics from Rochester Hills. The Rochester Hills Police Department said that they get around 100 reports of deer collisions annually.

"I think the deer will just cross where they want to cross," Barth said.

Yates



A Rochester landmark since 1863, Yates Cider Mill offers customers an experience far beyond the run-of-the-mill. In addition to the conventional doughnuts, cider and caramel apples, Yates also serves Mackinac Island ice cream, Frankenmuth Fudge Shoppe fudge, taffy and other sweets. The historic water-powered mill is situated on the Clinton River trail. Families can walk or bike the trail, as well as enjoy pony rides, a petting zoo, and both an apple and pumpkin tent. They encourage students to stop by and enjoy one of their packages of apple crisps, which are "perfect for college students." Yates will welcome the Shadgrass Bluegrass band Saturday, Oct. 10. Yates is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the week and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends.

**1990 E. Avon Rd.
Rochester, MI 48307**

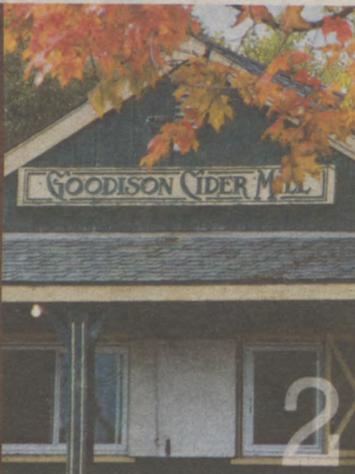
the best of fall flavors

your guide to Rochester area cider mills

written by Jennifer Wood | photos and design by Jason Willis



Goodison



Described as a mom-and-pop-outlet by employee Bob Rowland, Goodison Cider Mill operates out of a small house on Orion Road. Not only does Goodison sell fresh



cider and baked goods, it is also the only cider mill in the area to offer freshly baked blueberry doughnuts. "On most Sundays in October, we're out by 2 p.m.," said manager Jan Krueger of the 30 dozen blueberry doughnuts prepared the night before. Goodison is open until Christmas 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the week and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends.

**4295 Orion Rd.
Rochester, MI 48306**



Rochester



3

Rochester Cider Mill offers customers not only fresh, ice-cold unpasteurized cider, but also a chance to see how a farm would run in past centuries. The walls are decorated with antique farm equipment and a table with farm-themed toys allows kids to get a taste of life on

the farm. The mill is also usually less packed and has a shorter wait than many Rochester cider mills. Fresh



produce, baked goods and apples are available, as well as hay bales, pumpkins and gourds for fall decorating. Tours are available for individuals or small groups. Rochester Cider Mill is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

**5125 Rochester Rd.
Rochester, MI, 48306**

Middleton

MIDDLETON FARMS
CIDER MILL



4

For 50 years, Middleton Cider Mill has offered customers a quiet place to spend the afternoon. The small mill has freshly pressed cider, a variety of doughnuts and pies as well as fresh-picked apples for sale. Handmade candles ranging in scents from banana



nut bread to baby powder are an additional staple of Middleton. Guests can grab popcorn and hot cider and purchase

bags of corn to feed the ducks and geese. Middleton is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

**46462 Dequindre Rd.
Shelby Twp., MI 48317**

Paint Creek



5

Open September through December, the Paint Creek Cider Mill sits right on the nine-mile long Paint Creek Trail. Customers can enjoy the fresh cider, donuts, pies and pistachio nut bread in rain or shine, as Paint Creek's facility features a giant covered patio in addition to picnic tables along the creek. On the weekends, Paint Creek often has magician performances, along with face painting and balloon animals. Paint Creek Cider Mill also sells mums and pumpkins throughout the season and is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the week and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends.



**4480 Orion Rd.
Rochester, MI 48306**

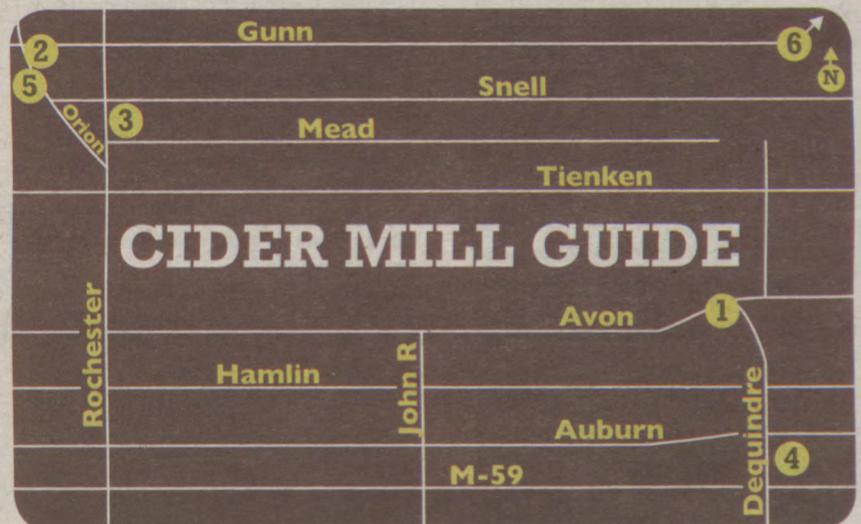
Westview Orchards

Much more than a cider mill, Westview Orchards is a fully functioning farm. Owned by sisters and Oakland University graduates Katrina Roy Schumacher and Abby

Jacobson, Westview Orchards prides itself on having "real cider"—non-pasteurized cider made only from apples picked fresh off the tree. On the 18-acre farm, guests can enjoy a variety of activities including a 5-acre corn maze, hayrides, and both apple and pumpkin picking. Guests can also try the orchard's exclusive cherry-apple and peach-apple cider blends, along with traditional cider, doughnuts, fudge, ice cream and other treats. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.



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Grizzlies offer to serve

Nonprofit organizations see increase in student applicants

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

A year ago, Kim Bonk didn't think she would be doing this for a paycheck.

The Oakland University alum, who graduated in May with a BA in psychology, just got home from a 12-hour day at Hoffman Middle School in inner-city Houston, where she teaches seventh grade Texas history.

Just because she has left the classroom does not mean her work is done.

"When I come home, I don't just relax," Bonk said. "I lesson plan, call parents, grade papers, fill out paperwork, and try to do research about the things I have to teach. You lose a lot of 'personal' time. I work harder than I ever have in my life."

Without having taken a single education class, Bonk is now teaching through the highly competitive Teach for America corps, a federal program aimed at recruiting recent college graduates to teach at struggling inner-city schools.

"I saw that there was a huge discrepancy between the quality of education children in Detroit were receiving compared to those in the suburbs," Bonk said. "It made me angry that students in Detroit did not even have necessary supplies to get through the school day. I believe education is the key to success in life and all children deserve the best education possible. I wanted to join TFA to do something about it."

Bonk is not the only college graduate with a strong desire to give back.

In light of the national economic situation and service programs promoted by President Barack Obama, students who would have typically entered the private workforce upon graduation are opting instead to serve. These students work for 12 to 27 months at service organizations like TFA, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps.

Applications for TFA reached their highest levels in its 20-year history with over 35,000 applicants competing for just 4,100 positions. Applications for the Peace Corps in 2009 are up 12 percent from 2008.



Kim Bonk, second from left, with some of her Teach for America colleagues during summer training in one of the Houston middle school classrooms they now teach in.

Other organizations are experiencing similar increases in interest.

Lorraine Anderson, TFA managing director for regional communications, credited the sudden spike in interest to a renewed national sense of civic duty.

"We see multiple causes for this increase in applicants, including the growing enthusiasm among young people to enter public service — propelled by President Obama's call to service," Anderson said. "Additionally, in these challenging times, young people are taking time to evaluate what is really important to them and are seeing an opportunity to pursue more meaningful careers that they may not have considered previously."

Christine Torres, public affairs specialist for the Peace Corps, echoed Anderson's sentiment. She also cited President Obama's United We Serve initiative as a rallying point for young Americans who opt for these programs.

"The younger generation has grown up in a culture that encourages service, with many young people performing

service hours from a young age on and an increased emphasis on international awareness and service learning on college campuses. [The] Peace Corps can be seen as an outgrowth of that emphasis/culture," Torres said. "We expect this trend to continue."

While Bonk is attempting to transcend economic and social barriers in her own country, Nathan Sigler is busy trying to overcome the language barrier overseas.

Sigler, a 2007 OU graduate with a major in economics, has been teaching English to students in South Korea through ESL Park, a private nonprofit organization that recruits native English speakers from U.S., Canada, the UK, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia.

Sigler said when he first heard about the opportunity he had little interest.

"When I first got the e-mail, I didn't give it more than a few minutes thought," Sigler said. "At the time I had a girlfriend, and was making pretty good money as a bartender. It wasn't an ideal job, and definitely not what I went to school for."

However, Sigler and his girlfriend broke up, and he grew weary of his "dead end" job. He had considered going back to school to get certified as a secondary education teacher, and figured ESL Park would be a good way to test the waters.

"I had been considering it before I came here," Sigler said when asked whether he wished to pursue education as a career. "Now I'm almost 100 percent certain that I'll be going back to school for secondary ed when I'm done teaching here."

Alex Cherup, a 2008 graduate with a major in philosophy, entered the AmeriCorps VISTA program in Las Vegas after graduation and now serves as a supervisor, assisting people with disabilities and helping them find work. According to Cherup, only 20 percent of people with disabilities are employed.

He said his involvement has given his life a new sense of direction.

"My experience with VISTA in Las Vegas has given me the opportunity to fully immerse myself in an effort to improve community," Cherup said. "The experience has not only been personally rewarding, but has given me an enriched outlook on how to view, interact and participate in community."

Bonk, Sigler and Cherup all claim they are committed and whole heartedly embrace the ideals of their groups, saying it takes a special kind of person to serve in the way they serve.

"You have to be strong willed and believe that you can make a difference," Bonk said. "Some days go by and you truly feel defeated. You have to know however, that every day, you are influencing a child's life in one way or another. I also have to be extremely humble because to be honest, I am far from being a 'great' teacher."



To see the extended story, visit
www.oaklandpostonline.com

What do you think about students being able to carry concealed weapons into dorms and classrooms?



"I don't see any reason as to why anyone would carry one around. It seems unnecessary."

Ben Broquet
Senior, Japanese



"I wouldn't be too comfortable knowing somebody could have a weapon (in dorms or classrooms)."

Eric Paulsen
Senior, computer science



"I don't think it should be allowed, especially weapons."

Nina Castellana
Freshman, undecided



"I think it'd be a bad idea. A weapon in your dorm doesn't sound safe to me."

Erin Mozer
Senior, journalism

What's your view? Take the online poll at oaklandpostonline.com

Campus gun bill's talking points

• A bill is in the works in the Michigan Senate that would take universities and college campuses off the list of "gun-free zones."

• Sen. Randy Richardville, R-Monroe introduced the bill August 19.

Requirements for carrying a concealed weapon:

- Being 21 years old
- Lived as a Michigan resident for six months
- Having no previous felony record
- Not having been diagnosed with a mental illness

Under current Michigan law, students are prohibited from carrying weapons into dorms and classrooms.

The Scene

16

www.oaklandpostonline.com

October 7, 2009

Space-age Johnny in Detroit

Michigan rockers celebrate EP release

By ALEXIS TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

REVIEW

Johnny Headband. Is it man? Is it alien? Or is it the outrageous, electro-rockers from Detroit? While the latter is correct, all three options have some validity in Johnny Headband. Because they are like that dream you had; too strange to speak aloud.

Their synth-charged sounds poeticize alternate dimensions and materialize into something that might sound and look like the characters of "Rocky Horror" pooling talents to make a space-age recording.

On Saturday, Oct. 10, they will return from their recent mini-tour to play Detroit's Magic Stick at 8 p.m. This show is a celebration of sorts, as fans dance it out to the new songs of their long-awaited EP release, "Phase 3," released Oct. 6.

It has been three years since Headband has released an album. Their 2006 full-length debut, "Happiness is Underrated," was given a giant stamp of approval by Detroit's music community.

But, rewind to the origins of Johnny Headband and the story begins with two brothers. The Thompson brothers, Chad and Keith, came up with the concept of Headband after graduating from college. Instead of settling into an office, Chad and Keith used their creative soul power to backpedal the wheels of domestication and turn their prospective interests into musical performance art.

Chad, the singer and keyboardist in the group, had interests in the recording and visual arts, while Keith (bassist and also a new member of big Detroit rockers, Electric Six!) was into film and video. Converging all areas into a band led to the creation of a music venue/performance space in their living room, with nightly fans gathering to partake in their audio odyssey.

New members were added to their project, including "Pan!c" from Detroit's indie sweetheart band PAS/CAL and drummer "RGS." With rising acclaim came bizarre set designs as backdrops in their live shows, and in one musical minute, hearing became seeing.

"In general, we like to take people out of their comfort zones. The biggest thing (in our live shows) is that there is a great deal of energy expended through movement, dancing and theatrics," Keith Thompson said.

As most music critics lament on the "maturing" of a band's sound, I won't walk that tired route. And anyway, Johnny Headband is not applicable to that critique. Their musical quality is one of a highly-medicated child, left alone with a drum-kit — their sound doesn't "mature" — it just expands with repeated banging. That said, "Phase 3" is a solid effort.

Many EPs are momentary hiccups of genius to listeners, easily forgotten until the next full-length album appears. Again, in Headband's case, I retract that statement. Their three-song EP is like reading a fairy tale with its final pages torn out, or your music machine breaking down as soon as you've found a comfortable vibe. You just want more.

In "Phase 3," Headband is very good at essentially raising your senses from the dead. The name "Phase 3" is literal.

"We refer to each incarnation of our show as a phase, not unlike a teenager would go through phases," Keith said.

"Wastin' Time," the first track off the EP, tells of "wastin' time night and day" and how "I've got to start again." The gruff sound of the instruments stand as a firm entry into Headband's world. Their beat is dead-on, just the kind of sound Detroit has perfected and become known for in the last six years — raw with a danceable melody.

"Fly Song" is a dreamy, space-like ode that weaves sound up and down in a harmo-



Photo courtesy of Doug Coombe

The boys of Johnny Headband from left: RGS, Chad Thompson, Keith Thompson and Pan!c.

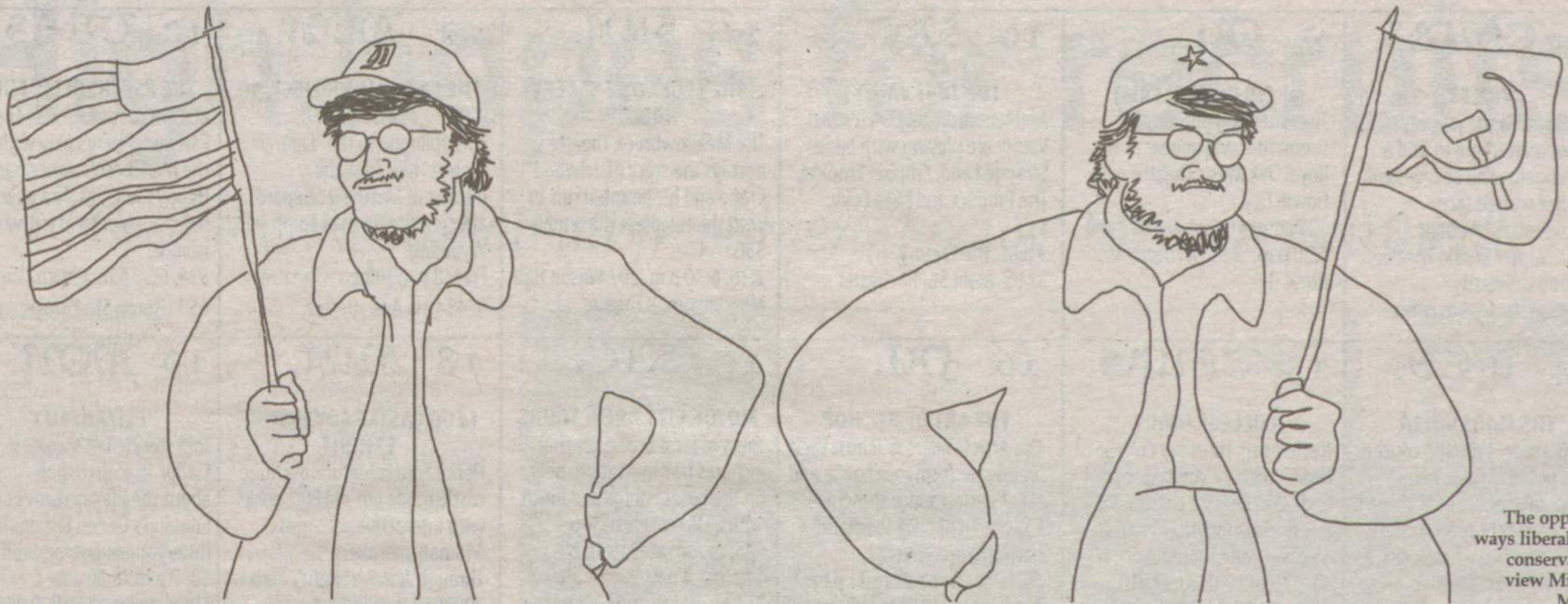
nious, weightless emotion.

"Death of a disco beat" is a darker noise, at least in the beginning, that heightens suspense until the storm calms into a surprising, but pleasant vocalization. It's almost ghoulish start prepares your ears for a rough ride, but in a slight pause after Chad's chants of "Death of a disco beat, death of a disco beat," the song retreats into a surfy twang that leads listeners into a chorus of ethereal, streamlined proportions. It is appropriately chosen as the final rush in an all-too-short EP.

"We're going to record and do more shows when I get home (from tour). We don't really have hard plans or goals that we stick to. We take opportunities that challenge as they come," Keith said.

The guys land on Earth Oct. 10 at the Magic Stick in Detroit at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7 and Headband is playing with opening bands, Silverghost and Hidden Ghost Balloon Ship.

Dueling sides see "Capitalism"



The opposing ways liberals and conservatives view Michael Moore.

Kyle Phaneuf/THE OAKLAND POST

By **KYLE PHANEUF**
Contributing Reporter
MOVIE REVIEW

The problem with Michael Moore is that he's become too famous. Not too famous for his career, of course. As the most successful documentarian in the history of movie making, Moore still receives more critical recognition and box office numbers than anyone else in the genre. But he has become too famous for his films to reach their intended audiences.

Like him or not, the fact is you already have an opinion of Michael Moore. And though he's seen by many as a champion for the people, constantly defending the rights of the poor, the weak and the forgotten against the evils and everyday hypocrisies of capitalism, there's just as many who view him as a snarky, self-important blowhard whose ideas are dangerous for the economy and the country as a whole.

To be fair, Moore had a hand in making people hate him. One of his most famous films, "Fahrenheit 9/11," has a premise that boils down to "Look how stupid the president of our country is." And there's a valid argument to be made there, because his stupidity led to disastrous wars in the Middle East and thousands of American lives lost. Still, it isn't the best way to make friends on the right.

Of course, most of Moore's films ignore politics altogether and discuss issues only as they affect the average citizen.

Consider something like "Downsize This," which points out the unfair way blue collar workers are allowed to be abandoned by companies they've been loyal to for years or even decades.

Or Moore's last effort, "Sicko," the premise of which is essentially "People should not be allowed to suffer and die from an inability to receive medical care, especially if those people are already covered by medical insurance."

You would think such a unitarian and humanist viewpoint would be embraced by everyone, regardless of their political leanings. But look no further than the current health care debate — which, by the way, Moore himself had no small part in starting — to see that simply isn't true. It seems anything Moore says will be met with both respect and rage, regardless of what he's actually saying.

So, reasons Moore, why not go for broke and say precisely what's wrong with this country and modern society as a whole? And thus, we have "Capitalism: A Love Story."

The premise? Capitalism is an inherently evil, anachronistic and out-of-control system that is beyond repair and, therefore, must be destroyed. It's essentially saying that everything the conservative right believes in is wrong, although that's not to say it's a Democratic film any more than it is a Republican one. In fact, Democrats receive some of the film's harshest criticisms.

In "Capitalism," Moore is offering a nonpartisan middle finger to the govern-

ment, both left and right, who either argue for the ability of capitalism to bypass regulation publicly (Republicans) or who simply sign the checks in private (Democrats).

They're both wrong, argues Moore, and it's absurd to continue worshipping at the shrine of an economic system that can charitably be described as broken, and less charitably described as a sin — fundamentally opposed to the teachings of every major religion.

But he only hints at another option. He repeatedly calls for democracy, but what he's really talking about is socialism — which is as democratic as any economic system could ever be — and if we can't even socialize something as simple and essential as health care, how are we ever going to socialize the entire political and economic systems of America? It's a problem Moore chooses not to address, probably because it's such a losing battle there's really no point in even fighting it.

As a film, "Capitalism" is decidedly another Michael Moore movie, which is fine. He should do what he does best and, this late in the game, veering wildly off course would only seem like a cop-out. So expect lots of archived footage and personal stories told under Moore's narration.

But there is an absence of the now infamous Michael Moore stunt, and the ones that made it in (like attempting to make a citizen arrest of the CEOs of the largest banking corporations) probably should have been left out. They don't sell his point nearly as well as the true sto-

ries he tells.

And those stories do sell his point, incredibly well and in heartbreaking detail. But does "Capitalism" succeed as a rallying call? That still remains to be seen.

It's an incredibly effective film: It explains and backs up its hypothesis well and it's entertaining in the process. But the film ends in what seems to be a call to arms, directly addressing the viewer to take action in the citizen revolt Moore seems to think is soon coming.

And maybe he's right. Perhaps "Capitalism" will pick up speed, people will see it and recommend it to their friends, families and co-workers and before too long a sizable portion of the population will be angry. Maybe all these angry people will quit their jobs and occupy their days instead by throwing trash cans through shop fronts and burning down chain coffee shops.

Maybe the capitalist system we've had since the founding of this country will be dismantled by the people, replaced instead with a socialist system so democratic and equal it resurrects Karl Marx from the dead like an even bushier-bearded Jesus.

Or maybe, the biggest reaction this film will see is a crowd of already like-minded moviegoers nodding their heads in agreement, and then going back to work at their minimum wage jobs, further inflating the stocks and salaries of multi-national corporate CEOs. Moore deserves credit for trying, but if this is the revolution, it's just not going to cut it.

October events in metro Detroit

8 THURS.	9 FRI.	10 SAT.	11 SUN.	12 MON.	13 TUES.
<p>VIOLET The play tells the journey of a woman trying to find a televangelist she believes will heal her scarred face. \$9 students/\$17 public 8 p.m., Varner Studio Theatre, Oakland University Tickets at Varner box office</p>	<p>COLBIE CAILLAT The emerging pop singer/songwriter will appear at the Royal Oak Music Theatre with Howie Day. \$25 advance/\$28 day of show 6:30 p.m., 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak</p>	<p>IT'S JUST VANITY Ambient indie rockers It's Just Vanity are playing with bands Strange Land, Empire! Empire!, The Product and I the Envy. \$5, 9 p.m., The Factory 334 S. Main St., Rochester</p>	<p>THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW The Meadowbrook Theatre portays the story of Ichabod Crane and his haunted run-in with the Headless Horseman. \$30 2:30, 6:30 p.m. 207 Wilson Hall Meadowbrook Theatre</p>	<p>THE LARAMIE PROJECT: 10 YEARS LATER This epilogue to the "Laramie Project" tells how the murder of Matthew Shepard affected the town of Laramie, Wyoming. Free, 8 p.m. Hilberry Theatre 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit</p>	<p>THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS 80s alternative rockers The Psychedelic Furs play with the Manchester dance band, Happy Mondays. The opening band are Montreal natives, Islands. \$25, 6:30 p.m., Clutch Cargo's 65 E. Huron St., Pontiac</p>
14 WED.	15 THURS.	16 FRI.	17 SAT.	18 SUN.	19 MON.
<p>THE MARS VOLTA The Grammy-winning concept band out of El Paso, Texas spend an evening in Michigan with a mystery special guest. \$35, 7 p.m., Clutch Cargo's 65 E. Huron St., Pontiac</p>	<p>COLLEGE NIGHT Necto hosts Thursday College Nights with \$2 vodka drinks and \$2 Miller Lite bottles. DJ Hardy plays top 40. 18 and up. \$5 cover, ladies free before 11:30 p.m. with college ID. Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor</p>	<p>THE ART OF HIP HOP The Artist Village will host their weekly performance battle and artist performance showcase. Call ahead of time to reserve a performance. \$5, ladies free before 11 p.m. Artist Village, 17340 Lahser, Detroit</p>	<p>MOTOR CITY BREW TOURS Tours of local breweries that includes transportation, beer on the bus, tastings and lunch with a Q&A at each stop. \$45, group rates available 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pick-up at 5th and Lafayette parking structure, Detroit</p>	<p>LEGO CASTLE ADVENTURE EXHIBIT Henry Ford is featuring a huge castle made out of LEGO bricks with interactive activities. \$15 non-members Through Jan. 3 at Henry Ford 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn</p>	<p>ELIZABETH I Join storyteller, Maureen Esther, in a discussion about the life and times of England's Queen Elizabeth I. Reservations not required. \$8, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Meadow Brook Hall, Oakland University</p>

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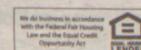
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High hopes for recruits

Three men's basketball freshmen discuss their recruitment.

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Contributing Reporter

For years the best high school basketball players in the state of Michigan would look past Oakland University when signing their letters of intent. Only in recent seasons has the prospect of donning the Grizzlies' black and gold jersey become such an appealing option for players looking to compete nationally at the college level.

In Greg Kampe's 26 seasons as head coach, he has steadily built the OU men's basketball program into a perennial winner, and with that success came better recruits.

"I think the growth and success of our program is enabling us to get more involved with higher-ranked players," Kampe said. "I just think that we've made a mark on the college basketball scene."

That mark can be seen clearly in the last two recruiting classes he's brought in. This year's crop of freshmen is a strong follow-up to last season's haul which included three top 10 in-state recruits — Blake Cushingberry, Drew Maynard and Jay Thames. Maynard and Cushingberry became solid contributors last season, while Thames will look to make an impact this year after a year of development.

For avid followers of high school basketball in the state of Michigan, two of Oakland's 2009 recruits will likely sound familiar.

Drew Valentine, a two-sport athlete from Sexton High School in Lansing, received offers from out-of-state schools like Drake and George Mason universities until he sustained a serious knee injury in September 2008 while playing football. Most of the schools that sent him offers to play basketball pulled them off the table. Oakland's offer remained.

"I always wanted to play Division I basketball and after I hurt my knee during the football season, Oakland was one of the only few schools that still wanted to recruit me," Valentine said. "I knew they were going to be loyal to me, after that."

Valentine, who is projected to play small forward, averaged a double-double throughout his junior season in high school.

Another of Oakland's recruits, Travis Bader, received offers from schools like Lake Superior State, Northwood and Central Michigan. The 6-foot-4-inch shooting guard went to Okemos High School — the same school that current Grizzlies point guard, Johnathon Jones attended.

While the two of them never played on a team together, Jones had an impact on Bader's commitment to Oakland.

"He talked to me a little bit, mainly about what I wanted to do for college. He pointed me more toward



Drew Valentine (pictured left) played for the Michigan Mustangs in the Amateur Athletic Union before joining the Golden Grizzlies. Photo courtesy of Drew Valentine

Oakland and showed me the positive aspects," Bader said.

The third recruit of the 2009 class, Ledrick Eackles, is a name not likely to ring a bell for basketball fans in Michigan. Eackles attended high school in Louisiana — a part of the country that Oakland, in the past, would have had trouble recruiting from. He received offers from BCS conference schools such as Tulane, Nebraska, and Southern Miss, but chose to attend OU instead.

Eackles, whose father played in the NBA for seven seasons, may surprise you when he talks about the biggest adjustment he faces these days.

"The weather is way, way different [in Michigan]. I think I'm already sick," Eackles said with a laugh.

He said that his teammates are helping to ensure that he settles in to his new home at OU, over 1,000 miles north of Louisiana.

"I spend a lot of time with all my teammates; we're just like a big family, we always do things together. There's never a time when we're not with each other," Eackles said.

With more exposure and higher-level recruits comes a greater pressure to perform. Many basketball publications and websites are picking Oakland as the odds-on favorite to win the Summit League Championship this season, and that point isn't lost on these incoming freshmen.

"Definitely, I feel like there's pressure no matter what your role is. As a practice player or anything else, you have to perform your best and make sure the team is ready to go," Bader said.

See Recruits on page 20

Continued from page 19

RECRUITS

Each recruit has individual skill sets that should mesh well into the fabric of this veteran-laden team, leaving Kampe and his coaching staff with some tough decisions when assigning redshirts and playing time. This is a problem, however, that plenty of college basketball coaches would love to have.

It was mostly Bader's shooting ability — 49 percent overall, 43 percent from three-point range during his senior season — that most helped him gain admirers from college scouts.

At Sexton, Valentine was a hybrid forward who was able to provide a lot of energy for his team. That mindset hasn't changed since his transition to Oakland.

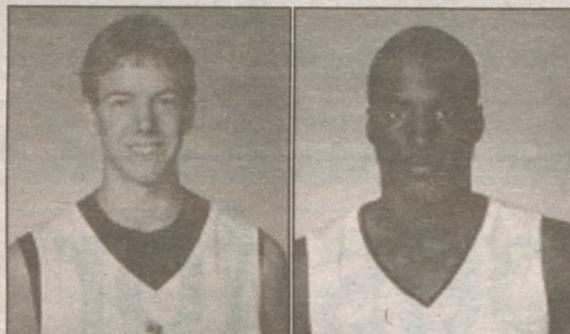
"I just try to go out there and do the little things, the small stuff that nobody notices," Valentine said.

Eackles has been described by several scouting services as a threat on both the offensive and defensive ends of the court, preferring to drive the lane and create contact. Like Valentine, he also said he considers himself an energy player.

"I love energy and dunking the ball. I consider myself a scorer, but take more pride in my defense," Eackles said.

One thing that all the recruits stressed was the commitment and dedication they receive from Kampe and the rest of the coaching staff.

The roles of these players remain undefined for the upcoming season. No decision has been made on



Travis Bader (pictured left) and Ledrick Eackles (right)
Photos courtesy of OU Athletics

whether any of them will take a redshirt season for developmental purposes. Kampe said he would likely make that decision by early November.

"I would suspect that one or two of the three [freshmen] will get minutes and play a role for us. Maybe all three of them will get minutes and play a role," Kampe said. "As far as freshmen redshirting, I think you're always a lot better when you're 23 than you are when you're 18, so I think redshirts [can be] good."

Kampe also said that he has never used 12 players in a season with any regularity in his career.

"All three are going to play an important role in Oakland basketball over the next four or five years," Kampe said. "I hope they don't play an important role this year, you know, because if you've got to rely on freshmen, that means you're not going to be very good. And we think we're going to be pretty good."

—Dan Fenner contributed to this report

GRIZZLIES OF THE WEEK

Mitch Hildebrandt

Men's soccer

Year: Sophomore

Hildebrandt has recorded three consecutive shutouts, including one against Michigan Sept. 30 in which he had to make 14 saves. He has been in net for every minute of every game this season for the Golden Grizzlies.

Deanna Colarossi

Women's soccer

Year: Sophomore

Colarossi has scored three goals in the last two games for the Grizzlies. In Friday's win over UMKC, she had two of Oakland's eight goals, and also added an assist.

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Something to strive for again

By ZACH HALLMAN
Staff Reporter

For Matt Fitzhenry and Harry Saville, captains of the Oakland University men's club lacrosse team, competing in Division II is simply not enough.

The upcoming season will be just the second year that the lacrosse program will play in Division II and both captains are doing what they can to ensure that it is one of their last.

"The motivating factor in all that we do is to get back to Division I," said Fitzhenry, a senior majoring in physical therapy.

By all accounts, the 2008 season was not a memorable one for the team. As a result of their down year, the team was demoted from Division I to Division II for the 2009 spring season. The team went undefeated against divisional opponents last season, but lost a one-run match against Hope College in the first round of the playoffs.

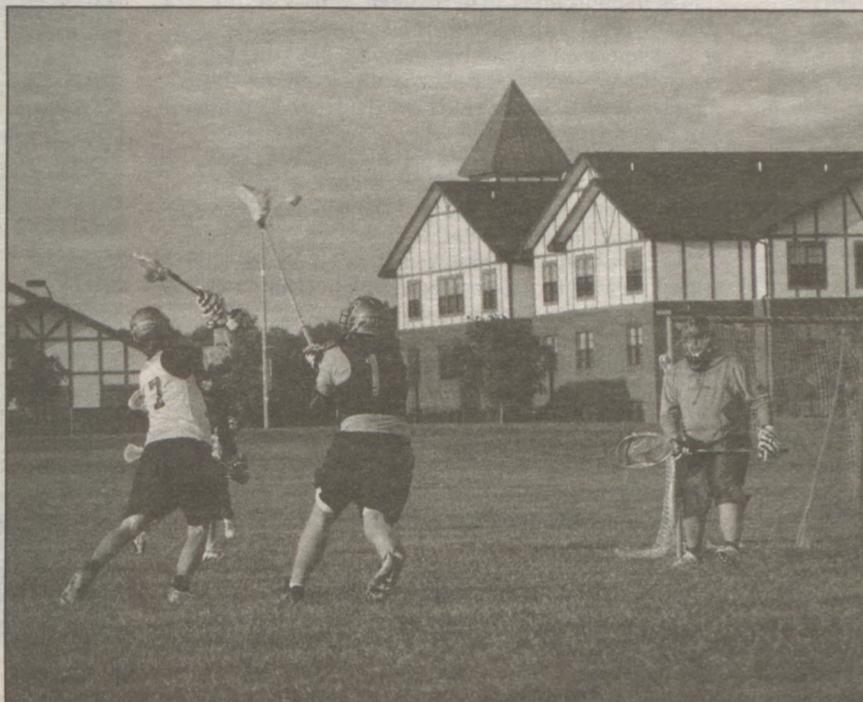
Saville said his goal for the team this season is a national championship.

But Fitzhenry said he thinks his own expectations are a little more realistic.

"We still see ourselves as a Division I team and that is where our goal is. We want to advance further than we did last year and make it to the national playoffs," Fitzhenry said.

Both players did agree, however, that the very young team has a long way to go before either of their goals can be realized.

All of the starting defenders from last year's team are gone from the new squad. Fitzhenry said he believes in the



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

The men's lacrosse team is spending their offseason practicing weekly at the athletics fields in preparation for the spring 2010 season.

new core group of defenders, but that it's going to take a lot of practice to get things right.

"Individually they all look fine, but the key is to get them to play together as a team," he said.

The captains will have an opportunity to see their team in game action Saturday, Oct. 10 at Western Michigan University as OU takes on Eastern

Michigan, Western Michigan, Central Michigan and Purdue universities in an annual fall lacrosse tournament.

Although Saville and Fitzhenry would like to win the tournament, they each said they're placing a higher priority on seeing the players develop as a team and mesh together.

"Winning is always the main goal, but it would be nice to see where the players

are at," Saville said.

The team has not had a full roster at any practices yet this fall. Fitzhenry said he really believes the tournament will tell him a lot about the progress of the team.

Getting players to the practice field is not the only struggle that OU's lacrosse team has to endure because of its status as a club sport. The team is also responsible for its own fundraising. The team is holding a bowling fundraiser Nov. 27.

In addition to being on the field, Fitzhenry and Saville also function as coaches for the better part of the off-season since the team cannot afford to pay a full-time coach.

"We don't start practicing with head coach Nate Reynolds until winter time," Saville said. Until that time, team practices are held at the players' discretion.

Scouting is another area in which the Oakland men's lacrosse team is lacking.

"We don't have any scouts so most of the guys we have on our team we get through word of mouth," Fitzhenry said.

The club's Facebook group and website, www.oaklandlacrosse.com, help raise awareness, but Fitzhenry said most of the new recruits are friends of guys already on the team.

"As long as someone goes to school at Oakland they are free to come out and practice with us. Our practices serve as tryouts," he said.

Despite the hardships of being a club team, Oakland men's lacrosse team has enjoyed success in the past in Division I and would love nothing more than to get back to where they believe that they belong.

MEN'S SOCCER

10/7 vs. Ohio State 4 p.m.
10/10 vs. IPFW 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

10/9 at South Dakota State
10/11 at North Dakota State

CROSS COUNTRY

10/9 Michigan Intercollegiate
Championship in Grand Rapids

Golden Grizzlies **COMING**
ATTRACTIONS

GAME SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 7 - 13

MEN'S GOLF

10/12 - 10/13 Bearcat Invitational
in Hebron, Ky.

WOMEN'S GOLF

10/12 - 10/13 Mid-American
Conference Preview in Fishers,
Ind.

VOLLEYBALL

10/9 vs. IUPUI 7 p.m.
10/10 vs. Western Illinois 5 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING

10/9 Dennis Stark Relays (Men)
in South Bend, Ind.

CLUB HOCKEY

ACHA Showcase in Youngstown,
Ohio
10/9 vs. Rutgers
10/10 vs. Mercyhurst
10/11 vs. Duquesne

Win streak ends as Grizzlies fall

GAME OF THE WEEK

By ZACH HALLMAN
Staff Reporter

One second half comeback was not enough Sunday for the Oakland University women's soccer team to extend their win streak to three games. After going into halftime with a 2-0 deficit, the Golden Grizzlies fought back to tie the game before eventually losing 4-2 to the Southern Utah Thunderbirds.

The loss marked the first time in 10 tries that Southern Utah had ever defeated Oakland.

Midway through the first half, SU was able to put one past Oakland's goalkeeper Shannon Coley off of a rebound. The Thunderbirds badly outshot the Grizzlies in the first half and controlled much of the possession.

With less than two minutes to play before halftime, the Thunderbirds capitalized on a corner kick with a header that trickled past Coley, extending their lead to two.

Head coach Nick O'Shea attributed his team's first half deficit to a lack of hustle and effort.

"We just did not play in the first half. Soccer involves running and that is something that nobody on our team did in the first half," he said.

Oakland came out strong in the second half by controlling possession and outshooting Southern Utah with

nine shots compared to the Thunderbirds' five.

Five minutes into the second half, Southern Utah's goalie collided with one of her defenders while trying to get her hands on an Oakland lob pass. Both SU players went down and Oakland's Sarah Lynch casually knocked the ball in the net to get the Grizzlies on the scoreboard.

In the 66th minute, OU tied the game 2-2 apiece when sophomore Deanna Colarossi got free from a couple of defenders and volleyed the ball out of the air and into the back of the net.

"We have been and were again today a second half team," said team captain Lindsay Blair. "Our team does not always realize how hard we have to work to win."

Oakland's loss in this game could be largely attributed to inefficient defense of set-piece plays since three of the Thunderbirds four goals resulted from them.

"On set plays we just fall asleep and nobody takes charge," O'Shea said after the game. "We gave up three set piece goals against Michigan [Sept. 16] and gave up three again today."

Blair attributes the team's set-piece weaknesses to the same cause.

"Players are just not going to the ball. They do not want to have to do it themselves," she said.

With the loss, OU's season record fell to 4-6 overall, 1-1 in conference. The Golden Grizzlies will play their next game Oct. 9, when they take on South Dakota State in Brookings, S.D.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Deanna Colarossi, who scored Oakland's second goal Sunday, now leads the team in goals (seven) and shots (24) this season.



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Can Letterman turn embarrassment into TV triumph?

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — David Letterman had his Hugh Grant moment. The question is whether his personal embarrassment will help fuel further professional triumph.

How he deals with the situation at hand in the nights ahead, could prove to be a defining chapter in his long TV career. With any luck, it could clinch his recent ratings victory in late-night TV.

The intensely private Letterman surely didn't want to be swept up in this maelstrom, which he dropped on "Late Show" viewers last Thursday with his startling revelations of having sex with women on his staff — a disclosure prompted by a \$2 million blackmail threat against him.

But the flood of attention was inevitable.

For a celebrity the caliber of Hugh Grant, publicity — including speculation about career suicide — was certainly unavoidable 14 years ago, when he was arrested with a prostitute on Hollywood's Sunset Strip. Very embarrassing. But then he retreated to NBC's "The Tonight Show" for image rehab.

Host Jay Leno wasted no time before asking his instant classic of a question: "What were you thinking?"

Grant's appearance vaulted ratings runner-up "Tonight" past Letterman's CBS "Late Show," a leadership position Leno held through his retirement from

late night earlier this year.

Since then, Letterman has reclaimed a ratings edge over new "Tonight" host Conan O'Brien.

And now, Letterman may have truly sealed the deal. With his masterful monologue last Thursday, he took control of a dicey situation. He promised his audience "a little story" and delivered in spades. He acknowledged his own past "creepy" behavior. He reminded everyone that he's a guy "motivated by nothing but guilt."

Seated at his desk, he single-handedly gave a TV performance to equal the Jay-and-Hugh moment. Implicit in everything Dave said about his own behavior was the unspoken question: "What was I thinking?"

It could be that Letterman's carefully calibrated act of self-disclosure has put him in the best spot possible to weather the situation — and even to milk it. Beloved by viewers and critics for decades, he has abruptly freshened the vintage David Letterman brand.

A humorist who mocks the world while holding it at arm's length, Letterman has demonstrated he still has the ability to surprise even fans who thought they knew him thoroughly.

And he has everybody talking.

Consider the women of ABC's "The View" on Monday.

Joy Behar said Letterman "jumped the gun."

Politicians should take a page from his book. He was smart, PR-wise.

Co-host Sherri Shepherd called Dave "a standup guy."

Then Shepherd suggested that maybe his workplace sex partner "really liked him."

"Come on," Ling scoffed. And on it went.

But guest co-host Lisa Ling declared, "When you're the boss, you should keep your thing in your pants."

Most of the audience members waiting to enter the Ed Sullivan Theater for Monday's "Late Show" taping were excited about being there and not so troubled by Letterman's personal life.

"He did a really classy job of announcing it to everyone," said Keely Ahearn, who came from Minneapolis with her friend Adam Melchert. "I don't think he should have to say that much about it."

Melchert said he understood that such attention is part of being in the spotlight, but said, ultimately, "it's his business. I didn't ever watch the show because he was a moral compass for me."

Meanwhile, a legendary late-night host has nothing but praise for Letterman's skill at crisis management.

"To me, it seems Dave Letterman's handling of this is impeccable," Dick Cavett said in an e-mail. "Brave, direct, and — dare I say it? — manly. He has set a real example here of exactly how to behave when assaulted in such a sleazy operation."

To judge from last week's tour-de-force confessional ("I know what you're saying: 'I'll be darned, Dave had sex'"), Letterman will now be making more jokes at his own expense.

NIW BRIEFS

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Washington, D.C., city councilman introduced a bill that would allow same-sex couples to marry. D.C. Councilman David Catania introduced the bill Tuesday at a council meeting. The District of Columbia already recognizes same-sex marriages performed in states that allow them. The new proposal would let couples wed in the city. The bill is expected to pass the 13-member city council, and it has support from the city's mayor. However, the bill will also have to get by Congress, which can overturn District legislation.

DELAWARE (AP) — An Ohio woman was sentenced Tuesday to eight years in prison for scamming family and friends out of tens of thousands of dollars by claiming her husband was sick with cancer. Thirty-year-old Melanie Chen, of Columbus, also was ordered to pay more than \$792,000 in restitution to the 13 victims, plus court costs. In August, the mother of six pleaded guilty to one count of theft. In exchange for her plea, a charge of receiving stolen property was dismissed. She could have received up to 10 years in prison. Her husband, 38-year-old Philip Chen, also is charged in the case, but prosecutors have agreed to drop his charges if he passes a lie-detector test.

LONDON (AP) — The discovery of a small prehistoric circle of stones near Stonehenge may confirm the theory that the mysterious monument in southwest England was part of a massive funeral complex built around a river, researchers said Tuesday. The new find shows that the second stone circle — dubbed "Bluehenge" because it was built with bluestones — once stood next to the River Avon about 1.75 miles (2.8 kilometers) from Stonehenge, one of Britain's best loved and least understood landmarks. Researchers did not find the actual stones used to mark the smaller circle found by the river, but they did find holes left behind when the stones were removed. Rare excavation work at the actual Stonehenge site was begun last year in a coordinated effort to unearth materials that could be used to establish a firm date for when the first set of bluestones was put in place there.

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October 7, 2009

Putting a new spin on media convergence: Dating

Mouthing Off hopes that
OP + WXOU = LOL.



A word to the Wiseman about dating being A-O-Kay: At least someone in these damned offices can shut up about finding someone. JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

By STEVE WISEMAN
WXOU IT Director/Webmaster/old guy

First dates to me have always been a horrible experience. I am always nervous: Did I talk too much? Is she having fun? Am I having fun? Do I try and kiss her? What if she tries to kiss me?

Horrible, but if you want a second date and beyond, you muscle through the night. With this occasion I really wasn't nervous — which made me nervous.

I picked up Kay for our date, dinner and a movie. On the way to dinner, the first hiccup happened. Kay got that "I am going to tell you just enough to get you nervous, but give you no real information" phone call from her mother about something on Kay's computer. I guess I am lucky being a guy in the sense that my parents really aren't worried about me on dates.

We pull into the fanciest of dining locations in all of Sterling Heights: Max and Erma's. Walking in, Kay says "Oh, hey — my ex works here, but he might not be here." An ex is an ex for a reason, so I'm not worried, even if he is working.

Hiccup number two, he is working. Our order is taken by our server, but does she bring us our food? Nope, that would just make things too simple. Captain Overzealous Ex to the rescue with our order. While writing this I realize I probably should have checked my food before I ate.

Who's waiting, holding the door open for us when we leave? Yup, it's the captain again. He commands we "HAVE A GREAT NIGHT, GUYS!" as we make way to my car. A couple beeps chirp from Kay's phone, and the Captain strikes again! I laugh, asking Kay what he said.

"He's really old," Kay laughs as she reads. Now, I spelled old correctly. This fine young gentleman used seven d's.

Just to clear this up, I am older than Kay. I am 24. That is not old. I guess a teenager seeing me out with his ex would categorize me because I do look older

than I really am and I dress like an adult when I go out. Age isn't a problem, right?

Kay and I make our movie. No one else is in our screening, so I joke a bit about how we are never going to be able to find seats. She laughs. Wow, she laughs at my stupid half-assed jokes — definitely taking her out again. As we are watching the movie, I keep thinking on whether I should try and hold her hand. By the time I decide "Yes, do it you idiot," the movie is over. Crap.

It's still early so we go to Rochester for Oktoberfest, to meet up with friends. We talk and joke about the restaurant with little to no awkward moments of silence. I finally find a parking spot and at this point in the evening, I am really enjoying myself and Kay seems to be as well.

RING! It's Kay's phone again. "My mom wants me home right now and she won't say why." Hiccup number three. Wanting to see Kay again and not make her parents mad, I take her home.

This car ride was a little more nervous than before. I could tell Kay was nervous, which made me nervous. We pull up in her driveway, talk for a second, and do the "I want to kiss you, but I'm gonna pull a hug instead."

Before going in she tells me to go hang out with our friends in Rochester. It was 9:05 on a Friday night, so yes, I was going to hang out.

I meet with everyone at the fest and get "How'd it go, what happened?" questions.

"Good, except for the ex and her mom." And here comes the final hiccup. Kay sent a text to our friend Katie. "Her mom found out how old you are," Katie said. Mama Nguyen Facebook stalked me and saw I was 24.

It was a good first date, minus the little snags that came up. Despite what the "age critics" say, we are both very happy and are dating. Anyone who sees our goofy-ass smiles when we are together knows we are together and happy. At least, I think she's happy. Hiccup four.

By KAY NGUYEN
Campus Editor/overly-mothered girl

First dates are always awkward.

First dates are even harder for me. After being out of the dating game for so long, I not only had to put the lid back on my pint of Ben & Jerry's Phish Food, but common courtesy also had me get out of my ex-boyfriend's oversized hoodie and sweatpants? That's a pretty tough routine to break just to go on an awkward journey. Let's break it down.

There's the awkwardness of the asking. The conversation dotted with "umms," sweaty palms, and sideways glances leading up to the asking is almost always the same. Don't even get me started on asking through text messages, AOL instant messenger, Facebook chat and the like; unless it is completely necessary, don't even think about it. Luckily, Mr. Wiseman and I did not need to do that since we were set up by our trusty *Mouthing Off* editor Dan Simons.

Then there's the awkwardness of the actual date. You're constantly trying to figure the other person out; it's practically a game of chess, which really sucks because I don't know how to play chess. I cannot anticipate nor can I ever read a face. You can guarantee there is at least one moment like this in every first date. Go ahead: fold your hands and keep them in your lap trying to make small talk in the car.

Want more awkwardness? Throw in an ex. That's right: Mr. Wiseman and

I were joined by my ex, known to some as Skillet Punk, since he works at the restaurant we went to. Funnily enough, he was not our server, yet brought our food out and checked up on us. Thanks, buddy. I'm sure he also meant it when he told us to enjoy our evening while sending me a text message that read "He is olldddd."

Throw a parent into the evening if you're feeling adventurous. My mother called 20 minutes into the date to tell me to come home ASAP, as she had something to discuss. Turns out I'm not supposed to hang out with guys named Steve Wiseman. Thanks, Mom. She also ended the night when she called again. At 9:05 p.m. I am apparently 10 years old.

Movies are never awkward unless you make them. It's a solid 90 plus minutes of sitting next to someone in darkness and staring up at a screen. That might very well be the only not-awkward part of a first date, which is why a movie is always such a great date idea. Just don't try the sixth grade yawn-and-stretch. You know what I'm talking about.

Then we get to the awkward goodbye. I am definitely the person that makes it crazy awkward: butt-out hug and all. Augmenting the awkwardness on this date was the fact that my mother was inside waiting to threaten me with a huge meat cleaver (word of advice: every Asian mother has one). Quick awkward side hug? Check. Cut to me running across my lawn like a scared puppy dog, awkward first date completed.

EDITORS NOTE
By DAN SIMONS
Mouthing Off Editor/apparent matchmaker

After weeks of people in my office moaning and complaining about the stupidity, difficulty, and absurdity of trying to date in college, I felt that I, as the perpetually

single *Mouthing Off* editor, needed to give the topic a humorous treatment by forcing the Campus editor to go on a date with one of the radio guys next door. This ought to be funny, right? Tiny little Kay with the towering Wiseman? Print and radio?

It worked. Holy crap. I've heard of media convergence but this is ridiculous.