

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 27, 2010

Volume 36, Number 21

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THE OAKLAND POST

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January 27, 2010

STAFF EDITORIAL

State of our union?

Cutting some spending isn't going to cut it

Yeah, that's a big, bold question mark at the end of that headline.

It's a ceremonious ritual, mandated by the U.S. Constitution that every year the president stands before us, interrupting our favorite prime time television slots to tell us where we stand.

Wednesday's scheduled address to the American public at 9 p.m., Obama's first official State of the Union, has received quite a bit of speculation. He seemed to tease us with "wait and see" type responses, like in his interview with Diane Sawyer on Monday.

Obama is expected to talk about a number of things from what has actually changed since he spoke to the nation a year ago about his goals for his presidency to new goals and proposals.

One of the most talked about is a proposal for Congress to "freeze spending on some domestic programs for three years," according to an Associated Press report. However, "the savings would total only a tiny fraction of the annual deficit," which is a staggering \$1.4 trillion. But does it make sense to cut spending everywhere we essentially

need it to spring back the economy?

Many economists believe we need more spending on the domestic front, not less, and that the 2009 stimulus was not big enough to get the economy rolling and put people back to work.

They believe the government should be investing in more infrastructure programs like Franklin D. Roosevelt did after the Great Depression. Is this proposal some sort of ploy to recreate the economic stimulus that World War II had? That's just kind of sick if it is.

Government spending needs to be the right kind of spending, from economic and socially responsible perspectives.

We need infrastructure programs for our dilapidated roads and bridges, and doing stuff we need to get done. We need to invest in alternative energy projects. It needs to be done for our security as well as our economy.

Besides, any of us can say we are not going to spend any money this year due to that ever-growing credit card and student loan balance, but we all know how well that usually works. Especially when somebody else is swiping our card

for us, as Congress metaphorically does.

Another huge issue is jobs, or a lack thereof. That's something many of us college students can certainly relate to, as graduation looms and we probably can't even get the job back that we quit in order to come to school to get a presumably better job.

Unemployment on the national level isn't budging from its 10 percent mark. There are six people looking for work for every job actually available, according to the New York Times. Forget moving out of Michigan for a job; better start looking at China.

Money and jobs are just two things, albeit two big things, that the president should address. We also have the health care bills and other pressing social issues Obama campaigned for.

The Oakland Post wants to hear your thoughts on what you think the state of the union is. What do you want to see happen in 2010, your ideas for "change"?

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- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Corporate America has reached the promised land



Daud Yar
guest columnist

A new era is upon us. The U.S. Supreme Court passed judgment over Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission. To sum up the repercussions, corporations will be allowed to advertise — without limits — for political candidates seeking office.

What does this mean? Well since the media has decided to explain the situation in terms only a lawyer could understand, I will take some time now for perspective.

In 1947 — thanks to the Taft-Hartley Labor Act — corporations and labor unions were prohibited from making any contribution or expenditure to federal campaigns. Those were the days. The big businesses started creeping in by 1971 with the Federal Election Campaign Act, which allowed for contributions through political action committees, commonly referred to as PACs. Only corporate executives, shareholders and their families can give to PACs and not in excess of \$5,000 individually. Of course, there are loopholes, but this process only accounted for 30 percent of campaign finance for nearly 40 years. With the exception of FECA, no law has provided any freedom for political corporate spending. All that changed last Thursday.

With the recent decision by the highest court in the land, corporations will freely, and legally, influence elec-

tions so significantly that the capitol might as well be Exxon's or AIG's headquarters. How did this happen? And why?

The justices in favor of Citizens United argued for First Amendment rights. A corporation, according to our law and statutes, is a person or individual. Thus, under the Constitution of the United States, we must provide corporations and any other special interest groups with the same rights any U.S. citizen is guaranteed. Our Founding Fathers would be proud. We have finally allowed big businesses the right to freedom of speech. Don't be surprised to see companies shouting in favor of their ideal candidate over the TV and radio airwaves.

I really feel bad for the FEC. I'm sure they thought this was a slam dunk case. Clearly Citizens United broke a law dating back more than 60 years ago and their only defense was "it's unconstitutional." So FEC goes to court expecting "swish." Of course they lost — "swish" to "brick." The beginning of the end; congressmen to corporate spokesman.

Unfortunately this is not just a domestic problem. Foreign influence will find its way into the U.S. political arena, whether it is U.S. companies backed by international corporations or alien enterprises themselves. The court decision passed will tragically allow foreign entities an opportunity to influence domestic policy.

Think of it like this: Russian companies could run ads for Sarah Palin to improve her 2012 presidential campaign. After all, during her governorship, Russia and Palin were basically neighbors.

Sadly, Sarah Palin and others like her will benefit

in the upcoming elections. Republicans will reap the benefits in 2010, 2012 and on. One thing is for sure: Democrats need to recognize corporate advertising power and quickly change their game plan. Make no mistake though, future incoming Republicans to Congress will raise thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court. Republicans will be storming into office in no time because business taxing is not in their agenda. Unions and special interest groups will advertise for Democrats, but corporate money is more vast. It's like comparing a single tree to an entire forest.

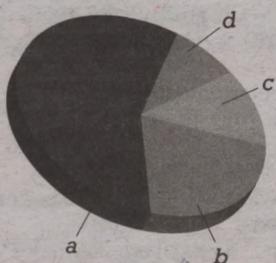
Don't fret though. Oakland University has been given a golden opportunity. Funds are hard to come by nowadays, especially for Michigan. The board of trustees can run a couple ads for one or all of the gubernatorial candidates this year in exchange for special treatment when educational funds are being dispersed to state, private and local schools.

See, everything is not all bad. OU just needs to get a good beat on the projected winner, advertise for him or her and BHAM! Medical school paid for ... literally.

Like I said, this is a new era. As OU students, we need to make a choice. I will be honest: ads only work on the ignorant. The information is out there to make an informed decision about political candidates. Do we want career politicians bowing to the power of corporate influence, or do we want leaders who will fight for their personal values? As far as I'm concerned, the normal politician just went from crooked to corporate puppet. As Americans, think before being persuaded by an ad. You never know. Wal-Mart could be buying your vote.

poll of the week

last issue's results Total Votes: 25 | Poll conducted at oaklandpostonline.com



What are your thoughts on donating to disaster relief causes?

- a) I think it's important that I do my part!
14 votes | 56%
- b) I don't have any money to spare on strangers.
6 votes | 24%
- c) I wouldn't mind donating, except for the fact that I hate that I'm expected to.
3 votes | 12%
- d) I don't care and I don't want to donate, and I hate people trying to guilt me into doing so.
2 votes | 8%

current poll

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What kind of impact will the Supreme Court's decision have on the way campaigns are funded? The decision allows corporations to advertise for political candidates. Read about it in Daud Yar's column above.

- a) I think it will drastically change the way campaigns are run.
- b) I don't think it will change anything.
- c) It may make a difference, but not that much.



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Sheriff Bouchard pays a visit

Gubernatorial candidate begins his bid with OU community

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard spoke in front of a room full of Oakland University students on Monday as part of his campaign for governor.

In the Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge, Bouchard gave a brief speech about what he hopes to achieve in his gubernatorial campaign, and then answered students' questions for the rest of the time.

"You've got to support the hometown team. It's the law," Bouchard joked. "If it's not, I'll make it the law."

Bouchard began by talking about his past as a Michigan senator, police officer, and as Oakland County's sheriff.

He made the case that among the candidates for governor, he's the only one who has the proper experience running a large government organization.

Throughout his speech, Bouchard stressed the need to do more with the money that the government already has, especially with the current state of the economy.

"We can't ask people for more money in this environment," he said. "It's incumbent on us in the government to stretch your dollar."

Bouchard cited as an example a plan to bid out state rest stops to private companies.

"There are hundreds of millions of dollars to find if you do things differently," he said.

Bouchard focused on the need to fund safety and education as a way to bring jobs back to Michigan.

One student asked if Bouchard could do anything to address OU's recent tuition hike, and another student asked if it was possible to get the Promise Scholarship back. Bouchard replied that "a promise is a promise."

"If we don't put money in education, we short change our students," he said.

He also said that although the Promise Scholarship will probably not come up again this year, when it does come back to the table, he will vote for it.

However, on the issue of giving equal funding to Michigan schools to help struggling schools in Detroit, Bouchard rejected the idea that more funding results in better school performance.

"That's a fallacy," Bouchard said. "In the city of Detroit there's a tremendous amount of money, but there's a lot of abuse."

Bouchard cited the example of Detroit area schools giving out paychecks to faculty that didn't actually work there.

He said that it would take a long time and that many tough cuts and decisions would be made before Michigan can improve its economy, and the governor has to be able to do their job without worrying about the need to get reelected to do the job properly.

"You've got to till the soil, plant the seeds, and care for the land a long time, and the farmer that does all



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Mike Bouchard addresses students in the Fireside Lounge. He tackled hard-hitting issues that affect Michigan and the OU community.

the work may not get to enjoy the shade of the tree he's planted," he said.

A war veteran attending OU said that he had gotten financial assistance to enroll in classes, but the state government had recently revoked his benefits.

"A promise is a promise," Bouchard said again, "Especially for those young men and women who put their lives on the line."

Bouchard said that he knew of police officers who went to fight in the war and came back without limbs.

When one student asked what Bouchard would do on his first day in office if elected, he said the first order of business would be to "stop and freeze all nonessential government spending."

At the same time, Bouchard proposed a statewide tax cut to help the state remain competitive, saying that the current government has gone out of control with its spending.

"They're spending like drunken sailors and even giving drunken sailors a bad reputation," he said.

Bouchard said he's in favor of tax incentives like the one currently provided to movie producers in Michigan, but businesses need those tax incentives because they can't currently make money, and they could better be served by a "broad-based tax cut."

Another way to rein in spending was Bouchard's plan for a switch to a part-time legislature in order to "fix Lansing."

He said that the senate and house are cycling through people too quickly, and proposed an elimination of health care and retirement benefits to save money.

Bouchard touched on the issue of environment preservation, saying that it's especially important to the home of the Great Lakes.

"Four years ago, I said we need to do something about the carp," Bouchard said. "Now everyone's talking carp."

Bouchard ending his talk to OU students by discussing his achievements as sheriff preparing him for the role of governor.

He said that though law enforcement has changed a lot since he started as a police officer, bringing in the need to deal with terrorism, he's adapted the Oakland County Sheriff's office to address the problem.

Bouchard concluded by saying his goal is to be better prepared, but with less money.

"He didn't use a lot of 'ums,'" political science major Alan Aiello said. "It affirms to me that he knows what he's talking about."

While some of the crowd were there to support Bouchard, not everyone agreed with his policy stances.

During the meet and greet session following the open forum, an attendee gestured rudely to Bouchard and raised his middle finger.

According to student body vice president Saman Waquad, the man cited Bouchard's policies on gay rights as the reason for his action.

"We had a good turnout," Waquad said. "A lot of good questions came up."

Other gubernatorial candidates have been approached by the Oakland University Student Congress to participate in similar events in the coming months before the election.

Celebration highlights heritage

By GABI JAYE
Staff Reporter

If Oakland University students are looking for activities throughout the cold months of January and February, then they need to look no further than OU's own African American Celebration 2010.

Events will give people a chance to learn and understand the family, spirituality, politics and culture of Africa.

The Center for Multicultural Initiatives will be hosting these activities. The month long event will offer a wide range of events that are free and open to the public.

"It is a wonderful thing that OU hosts African-American Celebration each year," Center for Multicultural Initiatives Student Assistant Juquatta Brewer said. "Not only does it embrace and enrich the culture here at OU, it also shows we are an openly diverse school that celebrates every one of all backgrounds."

The celebration began on Jan. 18 with the Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award Celebration and its keynote speaker, Editor Emeritus of Essence Magazine Susan L. Taylor.

Three students were honored for their work and promotion with different interracial organizations.

On Jan. 26, students had the opportunity to watch an Akanni Omowale African Drum and Dance Ensemble.

Thursday, Jan. 28 —

Later this week, the documentary "Happily Ever After" will be played at



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Attendees participated in dance lessons during an event featuring the Akanni Omowale ensemble.

6 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. After the viewing, students can take part in a panel discussion. The discussion and documentary will offer a look at the relationship between Africans and America.

Friday, Jan. 29 —

There is a presentation on Americans in Popular Culture Symposium in the Oakland Room of the Oakland Center.

Monday, Feb. 1 —

February will start off with a discussion of "Lucy's Story" by Larry Hamilton. This event will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

Tuesday Feb. 2 —

Students have chance to listen to lectures from Hubert G. Locke, dean and professor emeritus of the Graduate

School of Public Affairs from the University of Washington. Locke will discuss the case study of celebrating the African American community.

There will also be the History of Black Stereotyping in the Media: From Amos and Andy to Dave Chappelle.

Thursday Feb. 4 —

The History of Black Stereotyping in the Media will continue with the documentary "Hip Hop: Beyond the Beats and Rhymes."

Like "Happily Ever After," this film will be followed by a panel discussion in rooms 128-130 at 5 p.m. in the OC.

Monday Feb. 8 —

A lecture regarding the creation of the African America Community will be

given by Captain Orlando Gregory at 12 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge of the OC.

Thursday Feb. 11 —

A panel will discuss Female Gender Mutilation and how the nation can overcome it.

They will also talk about promoting healthy relationships within the African and African American societies.

Friday Feb. 12 —

Students and the public can get a true taste of Africa starting at 4 p.m. Participants can personally experience what African food tastes like.

There will be a performance by the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. The dress rehearsal will be open to students for free.

Tickets for the performance may be purchased at the Varner Box Office and cost \$21 for general admission and \$11 for students. The performance will also take place on Saturday, Feb. 13.

Thursday Feb. 18 —

To wrap up the month, there will be an AAC Closing Ceremony. The ceremony will host the Psychedelic Shack — a '70s Party at 5 p.m. in the OC's Gold Rooms.

"I am looking forward to all of (the events)," Brewer said. "I have either witnessed the planning or participated in the other events to know that they are going to be amazing!"

Students that want more information about the events can go to www.oakland.edu/aacm/. There, they can also find out more about the Center for Multicultural Initiatives.

Campus community comes together for blood drive

By RORY MCCARTY
Staff Reporter

The Red Cross will be collecting blood donations through Thursday, Jan. 28, in the Oakland Center.

Bridget Tuohey, communications manager for the Red Cross, said that downturn in economy has affected the donations they normally get from companies like the "Big Three" automakers.

They've turned to college students increasingly to pick up the slack and she says they've answered the call.

"I find that younger people are more philanthropically inclined, but they have no money," Tuohey said. "This is a great way to help that doesn't cost anything."

Students planning to donate should know a few things beforehand.

Those with new tattoos must wait 12 months before donating, and those with piercings must have had them done by licensed piercers.

Tuohey also suggests that donors eat and drink plenty of water before going in to make the process go more smoothly.

"I think it's one of the most selfless acts a person can do," Tuohey said.

On Tuesday, students were scheduling times to come time and donate and the donation schedule was packed.

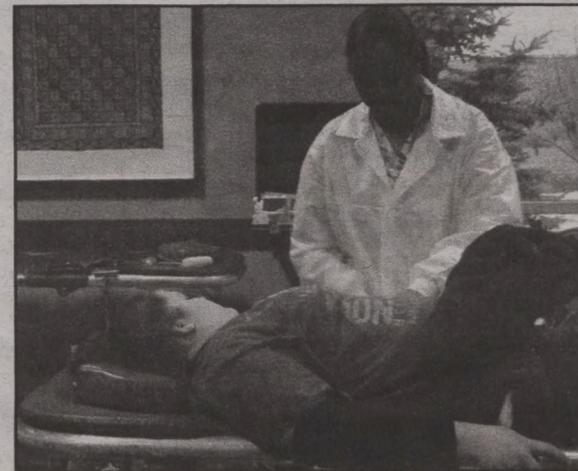
Brad Roemmick, a member of Theta Chi, said that his fraternity helps out at the blood drive every year. Roemmick said this year the drive has seemed to be busier for longer this year.

Thomas Butler, a psychology major, said that he works in the CSA office coordinating the drive. He said he's donated blood since sophomore year.

"Why not? It's a great way to save lives," Butler said. Post-baccalaureate student Whitney Coulson said that she came to donate once she saw the sign out front.

Health sciences major Edward Thompson-Matthews said he wanted to get involved because he knows there's a demand of Type O blood. Type O-negative blood can be donated to anyone, and O-positive can be donated to 84 percent of the population.

Donors can give blood up to six times a year, and according to the Red Cross, each donation helps three people.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

According to the Red Cross, the economic downturn in Michigan has affected the amount of donations that come from large corporations.

Interest spurs new program

New graphic design minor announced

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY
Copy Editor

The small closet of opportunities for an Oakland University art student has just opened another door as OU has announced a minor in graphic design. Due to strong student and community interest, the art and art history department is in the process of proposing a new bachelor of arts major in graphic design.

Graphic design is the first art minor offered at Oakland University other than studio art and art history, which are both also offered as a major.

The minor includes basics such as studies in design theory and history, materials and processes, and also incorporates graphic design studio and professional industry standards and applications.

There is presently no time frame for the possible major.

Courses toward the minor are currently being offered for the 2010 winter semester and the intro course will be offered in the summer.

"Approximately 65 percent of (the) fall 2009 introduction to graphic design enrollment was comprised of students seeking a minor in graphic design," said Lynn Galbreath Fausone, assistant art and art history professor. "All of the required courses fill fast; full enrollment in each currently is between 10 and 14 (students)."

Fausone heads the graphic design minor and also teaches the fundamental courses as well as many of the advanced classes. Her excitement for the minor began last year when it was still in debate among the academic board. With a personal goal of offering the fine art student the knowledge needed to supplement the fine art profession, she hopes to apply this to her graphic design teachings as well.

Just like many other OU minors, 24 credits are required and the student must achieve a 3.0 GPA in the class for it to be counted toward the degree. Foundations in media, studio and graphic design begin the study and are followed by a course in each web design, graphic design, and typography.

Web design was first offered this winter semester; due to its popularity, the administration opened up another course, which filled as quickly as the original.

"Students are actually postponing their degrees to stick around for the (graphic design) minor," Fausone said. "There has been a lot of interest already."

Two students currently enrolled in



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post
Derek Roberts is a senior graphic design minor and majoring in advertising and marketing.

the second web design course, Ashley Nicholson and Monica Cotton, have great expectations for the benefits of a graphic design minor.

Both Cotton and Nicholson originally heard about the minor from Fausone and other department professors. While they both have high dreams, a degree in graphic design holds extra opportunities for the future.

Nicholson, carrying an associate degree in liberal and fine arts from Oakland Community College, decided to pick up graphic design as a minor to accompany a studio art major after deciding to switch out from a degree in new media education.

"I have always wanted to work in the art field," Nicholson said. "Since the art world can be difficult to make money in, I began looking into artistic careers that could provide me with more stability and found graphic design to be one of those options."

Like Nicholson, Cotton added the minor to accompany her major. Her interest was piqued by the intro course and has continued through her classes.

"I think having a graphic design minor will give me an opportunity to work in other fields or just do side jobs," she said. I hope to be an art teacher when I graduate, but maybe (I) could do graphic design on the side or even teach it in high school."

The art department hopes to expand outside of the Wilson Hall basement as art degrees continue to grow. New 27-inch iMac computers, lockers and art essentials have been added to the department recently.

Art students have semester-long access to these, as well as a dark room for photographers.

The role of a graphic designer — even

a student with a minor in graphic design — goes far beyond just designing an advertisement in a magazine. Designers may also have jobs such as still and animated graphics for television news broadcasts, brochures for top companies, photography based design, and web design.

The average salary for graphic designer is \$46,095 in the United States as of April 2009, according to www.salary.com.

Students interested in graphic design can take the Intro to Graphic Design course without declaring a minor.

Junior Aimee Young is a studio art major who is currently taking Foundations of Media Art as a required course.

While her interest is particularly in Asian art and canvas-based works, when informed about the new minor, she admits, "If I hadn't already chosen my minor, I would probably consider it."

Young had planned on incorporating a minor in Japanese to be prepared for where her career in studio art may take her and expresses similar feelings about a minor in graphic design.

While she comments that graphic design goes hand in hand with an art-based major, she believes that a major in journalism, advertising or a related degree might also benefit from the additional background of digital art.

"I personally think (graphic design) should be a major too," Young said. "Everything is so computer-based now."

Young believes offering the graphic design minor is another step for the University to encompass a wider range of student interest.

Interested students should contact Professor Fausone at 248-370-3381.

Students help Haiti

By MAS RAHMAN
Staff Reporter

Much of the international community united to help Haitians after the earthquake in Haiti two weeks ago, and Oakland University was no exception.

The biggest fundraiser was the Haiti-Palooza 12-hour live concert held in Pioneer Food Court in the Oakland Center, hosted by the student radio station WXOU.

OU's President Gary Russi said that the president's office will match the students donations with \$3,400.

OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery said \$1,700 will be given each to American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan chapter and to Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Divisional Headquarters.

"I was heartened to see Oakland students and the entire campus community respond so quickly and so generously to the relief efforts in Haiti," Russi said. "I think it says a great deal about the quality of people we have here, and I commend all who stepped forward to organize and contribute to this worthy cause."

Jean Ann Miller, Center for Student Activities director, said the funds raised at the general donations table totaled \$6900. Miller donated to round up the total.

Different jugs represented the Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Doctors Without Borders, and Partners in Health.

The Oakland Post raised \$353.26, which will be split among the four agencies as well.

SIFE garnered \$387.66 for Partners in Health by selling posters.

Food service provider Chartwells collected \$578, while another \$135.64 came from an undesignated source.

Rodrina Moore, an apartment community assistant, said the assistants collected 1,143 returnables from people living in University Student Apartments and Matthews Court Apartments on Monday, which amounts to \$114.30 to be donated to Compassion International.

Some efforts are just starting up. Komal Patel said members of the student organization American Political Enlightenment will hold a clothing drive this Monday through Wednesday, likely in the Fireside Lounge.

Saman Waquad, OU Student Congress vice president, said OUSC is trying to hold a collection at its tailgate tent during homecoming, in the parking lot across from the O'Rena.

POLICE FILES

Lost Property: On Jan. 19 an officer took a lost property report in the Public Safety Services building lobby. The woman said she left her purse in a stall of the women's restroom near the food court in the Oakland Center. She returned to the restroom and was unable to locate the purse. The woman stated her purse contained about \$3, her driver's license and eight to ten credit cards. The officer advised her to contact her financial institutions regarding the credit cards.

Medical Emergency: On Jan. 20 two officers arrived at Vandenberg cafeteria food preparation area in reference to a medical emergency where a subject was having lower chest pains. Auburn Hills Rescue checked him over and transported him to Crittenton Hospital.

Medical Assistance: On Jan. 21 dispatch received a call from a woman in the Wayne County Crisis call center advising that her co-worker has been on the phone with a suicidal subject. Two officers arrived to the scene and observed the subject sitting at the top of the stairs. The student was crying and talking on the phone. The student had been speaking with the Wayne County Crisis Center for the past half hour. He had made several references to the fact that he was going to kill himself by crashing his car. The student claimed he had seven beers that night. The officer had the student transported to Crittenton Hospital to speak with a counselor.

Medical Assistance: On Jan. 24 two officers were dispatched to the Wilson Hall auditorium. There was a report issued stating an elderly woman fell down the stairs. Officers met with the woman who said she missed a step and fell down, hitting her head on a chair and possibly injuring her hip. Auburn Hills Fire Department arrived and examined the lady, who was then transported to Huron Valley Hospital for further care.

Larceny in Building: On Jan. 24 an officer reported to East Vandenberg Hall to take a complaint from two students about missing money. One student said she returned to her room and found her door unlocked with several items in the room out of place. The student said she called the other and told her about the incident. She was missing her debit card and some cash, which she kept in her desk drawer. The roommate returned an hour later when contacted by the student. She also noticed money missing from her desk drawer. Both claimed they were very careful when it came to locking the door. The hall director was contacted because the two residents did not feel they could stay in the same room together. One of the students began to get very shaky and was losing focus with slurred speech. The student said she is on multiple medications and often forgets to eat because of it. The Hall Director and officer asked the student to take her medication and eat. The student did and her condition improved. However, after several minutes, the student began to get sick. The student said she would stay with a friend in another dorm for the night. She took some food with her to eat under her friend's supervision. Both students will meet with representatives from the housing office in an attempt to clear the issue. There are no suspects at this time.

— Compiled by staff reporter Gabi Jaye from OUPD's media logs

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Wilson Hall and Graham Health Center suffered a heat loss on Monday, Jan. 25, but everything's back to normal now.

John Beaghan, Oakland University's vice president for finance and administration, said in an e-mail to students, staff and faculty on Monday that this was because a high temperature hot water line servicing the two buildings had a leak.

To repair them, the lines had to be turned off, which meant a loss of heat during repairing time.

Classes were held as scheduled during this time.

The original estimate for repairs was two or three days, but Beaghan said that repairs were completed around midnight on Monday and buildings were back to normal temperature late afternoon Tuesday.

Beaghan said east-bound Wilson Boulevard was closed from noon to midnight Monday because some repairs were considered related to the water line problem, but these repairs were not needed, so the road was reopened.

— Mas Rahman, staff reporter

ATTENTION JOURNALISM MAJORS!

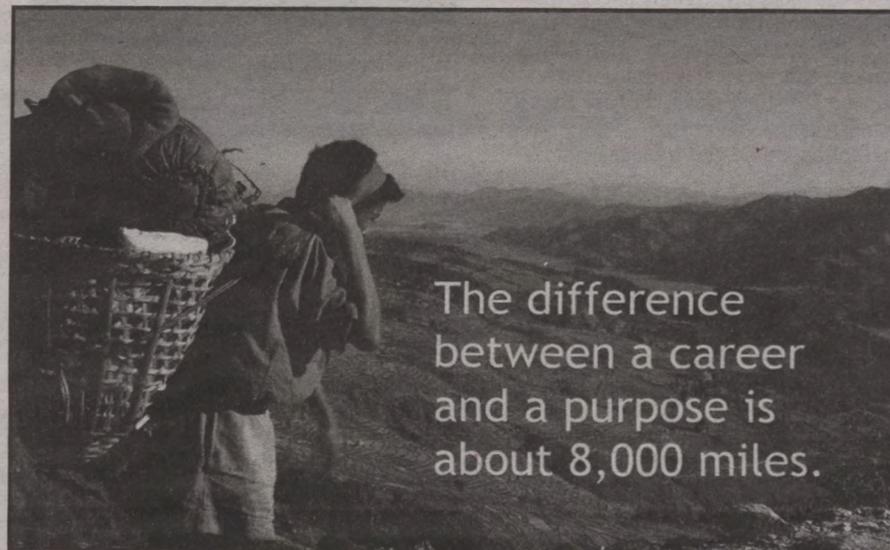
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Life is calling. How far will you go?

Media gets recognized

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

For students at WXOU, an ordinary Tuesday turned into a day of celebration.

This past Tuesday, the station received word that they earned four awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation. The awards recognize significant achievements in high school and college radio.

The station got first place for Daily Newscast/News Feature. Students Steve Wiseman, Katie Hepfingher and Erik Anderson were recognized for their coverage of the strike from the day it began until it was settled.

Adviser Christine Stover was particularly proud of the recognition for the newscast.

"I'm quite excited, because that's honestly the most prestigious part of any radio organization," Stover said. "You have to have high quality news before you can call yourself a quality radio station, so I'm super thrilled to see that we won first place there."

Hepfingher said she was shocked the WXOU newscast won.

"I screamed," Hepfingher said. "I just couldn't believe we won. I've heard so many good things about MSU that I just assumed they would win. I was so surprised we got first."

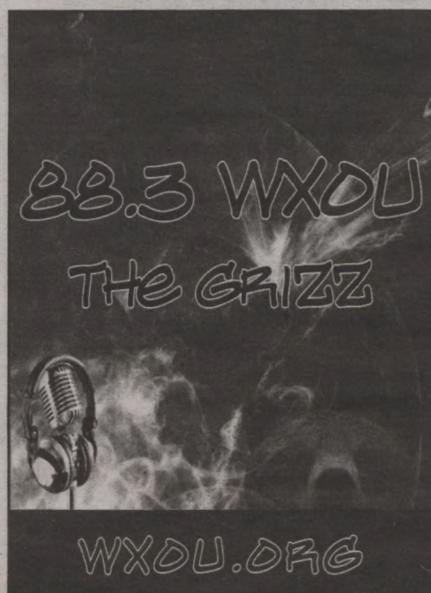
Hepfingher is a sophomore communications major. In high school, she did competitive forensics. A trip to the state finals in her senior year made her realize she wanted to pursue a career in radio. She's also considering film now.

From the newscast award, she hopes students and other people on campus will realize the value of WXOU as a news source.

"I'd like for people to think we've got the right news, the news you want to listen to," Hepfingher said. "You can get all the news you need right at OU and know that we care about the news. We're not just some corporation. We do this because we love it."

Matt Pocket, a sophomore communications major, received second place in the Sportscast/Sports Play-by-Play for a three-minute clip from the second half of the Oakland University versus Michigan State University men's basketball game last fall.

Pocket has received MAB awards for



Graphic by Steve Wiseman
WXOU recently won four Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation awards for their work this past year. They are in the running for MAB Station of the Year.

the past three years, including during his senior year in high school. Last year he won first in the Play-by-Play category. He said this year is the first time he entered a story without a commentator.

"It was my first solo clip that I've submitted, and it's cool to send something that's just me so I can get a measure of where I stand as a solo broadcaster," Pocket said.

Anderson, general manager of WXOU, received second place for the station activities report.

Last year WXOU got an honorable mention in the station activities category, so Anderson said he is proud of the progress made this year.

"It just seems like after everything we did with the strike, everything fell into place," Anderson said. "A couple years ago, we were not at this level. It's good to see we're making progress."

Anderson, a senior communication major, credits WXOU as being one of the main reasons he chose to attend OU.

"I saw the station as a great asset to the university and a chance for me to get involved," Anderson said.

Wiseman, a cinema studies major with prior studies at Macomb Community College and Specs Howard, received hon-

orable mention for his air check. An air check is a three-minute audio portfolio of a radio personality's best talking pieces.

"It's material that makes you sound upbeat and happy," Wiseman said. "You tailor them differently depending on the job you're applying for."

Wiseman credits some of his success with his submission to review from his colleagues at WOMC, where he started as an intern.

"I actually took everything I submitted to the people at WOMC to listen to," Wiseman said. "These people are radio professionals. They've been in the business longer than I've been alive."

This year, WXOU entered submissions into all seven of the categories for the awards. In order to be considered for the Station of the Year award, stations must enter all categories.

Each station receives one point for honorable mention, two points for second place in a category and three points for first place. The school with the highest total is named Station of the Year at the ceremony in March.

"The last two years, we've entered every category," Stover said. "Prior to that there have been holes, some categories we didn't enter to, but I've been encouraging them to enter every category to put us in the running for Station of the Year."

Stover, an OU graduate who also attended Central Michigan University for her masters, said she has tried to bring some of the professional tactics she learned at CMU's radio station to WXOU.

"I kind of learned how they did things there and then implanted that here

when I got a job and that seems to be working as far as recognition goes," Stover said.

Anderson and Stover both speculate that, based on the point system, MSU will win the Station of the Year award, Anderson thinks that WXOU will most likely be third in the competition, behind MSU and CMU.

"You just never know how well you're going to do, though," Anderson said.

He said he hopes the recognition will add to the station's reputation as a media organization.

"Hopefully people will see we've won these awards, tune in and we can have bragging rights," Anderson said. "The awards are there to back us up now when we tell people we're really good."

Pocket hopes that the station is able to use the MAB recognition to improve their overall quality.

"It depends on how everyone approaches this, but it can either be something we just use for our resumes or something we can really, really go gung ho with and use this to say, 'Look at us and what we're doing,'" Pocket said. "It's something we can use to get interest and excitement in the station."

Wiseman said he thinks the updates to the website, the station's Twitter and the Facebook pages for the shows also help boost listenership. He hopes the recognition for the awards will help draw more listeners, especially since he thinks the station has something to offer for everyone.

"It's like Michigan weather," Wiseman said. "If you don't like what's on right now, tune in again in ten minutes, you might hear something different."

The Oakland Post received General Excellence award

The Michigan Press Association awarded The Oakland Post with a "General Excellence" award.

"I think it's about time that our staff is recognized for their hard work and their professionalism," said Holly Gilbert, adjunct journalism instructor and professional advisor to The Oakland Post. "The paper's editorial content and its design are exceptional, and this year the website has been brought to a new level."

The award was one of a handful in the state and the only in Division 2, the division for weekly papers. The Oakland Post won three awards from MPA last year in addition to a Newspaper Pacemaker Finalist Award.

Lead ads manager Jillian Field will be accepting the award at the MPA's Winter Convention in Grand Rapids on Saturday, Jan. 30.

— Mike Sandula, Senior Reporter

New social networking site comes to life

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Staff Writer

Walking around campus, it's common for students to run into people they may want to talk to, but they just can't think of anything to say to them.

Thanks to enterprising freshmen Chuck Kelly and Ben Caprara, that could become a situation of the past.

Kelly and Caprara are co-founders of Buhz Hyve, a two-part social network composed of a mobile phone application as well as a central website.

For nearly two years, the concept of Buhz Hyve was just an idea in the back of Kelly's head.

"Back then, it wasn't Buhz Hyve — it was a technical name," Kelly said. "I called it proximity texting, but bringing it to life back then wasn't possible."

He also said his access to certain technologies hindered his ability to develop the idea.

"Application development from third party developers wasn't mainstream and I didn't have the resources of companies like T-Mobile and Samsung, so the idea just sat in my head for a long time," Kelly said. "It wasn't until the last few months that I really started to think of it as a reality."

Buhz, the mobile phone application, will allow users to sign onto their accounts using their smartphones.

From there, they can message their current friends and check their account, much like Facebook and Myspace.

"Buhzing" will allow the user to see anyone within proximity of them — Kelly and Caprara are aiming for

30 feet — and message them without needing to know phone numbers or usernames. The recipient of the Buhz will see a picture of the sender as well as meters like approval and similar interests.

"The meters serve several purposes and add a deeper dimension to the service," Kelly said. "Similar interests will use a mix of different things from the user's profile, such as class standing, major, music and movie preferences; this will determine what you might have in common with the people around you. Approval will be calculated by how often a user gets accepted when Buhzing and average conversation length."

From this point, that person can either accept the conversation request and become "Buhds" with the sender or deny the conversation request. Kelly and Caprara plan to add more features on this aspect, but as of right now, this is the main focus of Buhz.

The Hyve — the central website — will be much like other social networking sites with a chat feature, music, fan groups and reviews. In addition to these amenities,

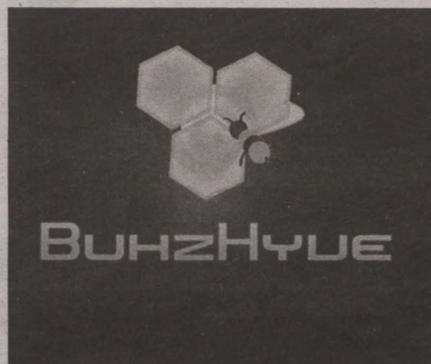


Photo Courtesy of Chuck Kelly
Buhz Hyve, a social networking site, is the brainchild of freshmen Chuck Kelly and Ben Caprara.

users will be able see any Buhds that they might have missed during the day, allowing them a second chance to contact them.

The Hyve will also act as a digital sandbox for each user to create their profile, editing pictures, information, and interests. These changes will also be visible on the mobile phone application.

Like other social networking sites, Buhz Hyve is trying to differentiate itself from the rest of the digital pack. The creative duo is hoping that their innovative plans and unique approach to social networking will pay off.

"I wouldn't say we want to replace them, but we aren't trying to work along with them either," Caprara said. "Social networks seem to have a rise and demise.

Myspace was, in my mind, the first big social network, but within the last two years, it has been overtaken by Facebook. We're trying to become the next big social network."

The ambitious endeavor hasn't been completely problem-free for Kelly and Caprara, however.

"Something like this takes a lot of work. We have a plan of having a beta app before the end of the semester, but I think in the next month or so we plan on having a better release date," Caprara said.

Anyone interested in helping with development or promotional work can contact Kelly or Caprara through Buhz Hyve's Facebook page.

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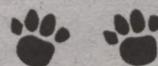


Stephanie Baron and "Jack" the cat
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AUTOSHOW OVERVIEW >>>

The 2010 North American International Auto Show was a very important market barometer for the automotive industry. With bailouts, sell-offs, opening and closing of companies in the last year, a successful show was key to bringing back a positive vibe to Detroit. New to the show this year was Electric Avenue, a place where the consumer could hop into electric vehicles to feel the comparison to the old standard of gasoline engines. Most of the main players of the show were present although the displays had been trimmed in the face of the struggling industry. However all eyes were on the American Big Three to see if they could return America to its status as an automotive powerhouse.

ADDITIONAL SIGHTS



Cadillac XTS Platinum Concept



2010 Chrysler 300

DRIVING FORWARD

A test for the American automotive industry

<article & photos by Bryan Culver> <designed by Jason Willis>

SHOW STOPPER COMES IN BLUE THIS YEAR

Ford Motor Company received most of the attention this year at the North American International Auto Show. As the only one of the Big Three not to take Troubled Asset Relief Program bailout from the government, they started ahead of both General Motors and Chrysler but not by much. The money they received from selling off both Jaguar and Land Rover was put towards a full-fledged marketing campaign and research and development,



The 2010 North American Car of the Year, Ford Fusion Hybrid.

and if the turnout at the show is any indication, it was money well spent.

Ford has a car geared toward almost every demographic. Construction, commercial, family, refined and even the new drivers. If it was not a new car, it was a new take on old technology. Keeping

in mind that a large amount of the Detroit market affiliates with the automotive industry, Ford displayed the new inner workings of their cars, a showcase of transparency that was refreshing to see. A mock simulation of the Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with Cross Traffic Alert demonstrates intelligent abilities of luxury cars brought by Ford to mainstream vehicles. BLIS notifies you if another vehicle sitting in your blind spot when changing lanes and the Cross Traffic Alert warns you if there is another vehicle passing behind you when backing up.

Different battery and charging technologies for their hybrid and electric vehicles were on display at Ford, such as the nickel-metal hydride battery, a non-memory battery that would result in a longer-living battery and less frequent replacements.

Commercial and construction vehicles saw advancements and improvements called collectively, Ford Work Solutions. In-dash computers allow workers to fill out forms on the go and do away with the pen and paper. Cable Lock tethers tools to the vehicle storage areas to prevent theft when off the jobsite. Tool Link uses innovative RFID tags so you can quickly see which tools are not back in the truck and should be. And Crew Chief allows managers to keep track of their employees, update them on their next service location and provides vehicle information such as speeding, idle time and fuel consumption. All technologies are partnerships with other companies. This highlights Ford's desire to bring in the best technology in the business to make great products.

Ford left out no demographic this year at the NAIAS and they

AVOIDING EXPENSES COST CHRYSLER AT NAIAS

With the overwhelming fear of going under last year, Chrysler didn't want to spend money to fund research and development, fearing their efforts would be wasted. But, after receiving \$6.6 billion in government aid for the sale of their assets, making them 9.8 percent share holders, and a deal with Fiat, which gave Fiat 20 percent ownership in the company,

they are now on overdrive to create a new array of vehicles. But Chrysler's presence at the North American International Auto Show was no more than the standard showroom appearance. Few vehicles received a facelift or touch up from the previous year. That is not to say, however, that Chrysler is out of the game. They remain in the spotlight right now with



2010 Dodge Ram.

the auctioning off of a Chrysler 300C signed by the attendees of the Golden Globes for Haiti relief, which is expected to raise approximately 1 million dollars. If Chrysler can release several new cars and designs in the next year, potentially using social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter to obtain responses and opinions, they could bring up the rear of an American automotive comeback.

BIG SWING, SLIGHT MISSTEP FROM GM

General Motors spent most of the year cleaning house, cutting the fat and reducing overhead as they sold off or closed down some of their brands including Pontiac and Saturn. Any NAIAS attendee of years prior may have noticed a change this year with GM's display, but may not have been able to pinpoint it: Spacious.

Lacking nearly half of their typical brands year after year, GM had plenty of space for product this year, yet their display was a bit jumbled. Chevy had an entire half to itself, which admittedly is their "everybody" car now that Pontiac and Saturn are gone, but most people were huddled around the Bumblebee Camaro, a copy of the Transformers movie's famous vehicle. With nothing drastically new in the Chevy lineup aside from improved gas mileage, most people did not seem interested. It is too early to tell if there will or will not be new vehicles in the coming months.

GM has, however, focused

on their overall hottest fleet, especially abroad, which is the Buick. With both the new Lacrosse, released mid last year, and the brand new Regal, a car that has been away from the U.S. market since 2004, GM has refreshed cars that will help them stay afloat. They also displayed their new concept car, the GMC Granite, which already has won an EyesOn Design Award for concept vehicles.

GM has a lot left to prove to the American population as to whether their bailout was the right thing to do, but they are certainly on their way.



EyesOn Design award winner, GM Granite Concept.

were the most popular booth at the show. They even walked away with North American Car and Truck of the Year awards for the Fusion Hybrid and Transit Connect respectively. It was recently announced as well that the new Ford Mustang has been chosen as the new Daytona 500 pace car, the first Ford to be a Daytona 500 pace car in 40 years.

One of Ford's biggest accomplishments is bringing the customer back into the showroom, especially the youth, which they have seen as their key market. Ford knows that the older generation is going to be harder to convince than the new influx of college graduates who never experienced the poor quality of production in the 1980s and 1990s. Speakers in the booths all wore nametags that had their Twitter URLs instead of their names on them and there were plenty of interactive activities for auto show visitors. Ford might make 2010 the year of the American car comeback.



The 2010 North American Truck of the Year, Ford Transit Connect.

Rochester readies for festival

By COURTNEY UMBRAS
Staff Intern

Students and families looking for free fun this weekend can head to downtown Rochester.

The Fire and Ice Festival in Rochester is scheduled on Friday, Jan. 29 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 30 from noon - 9 p.m.

The festival offers opportunities for people of all ages. Popular events at the festival include ice sculpting shows, ice skating, ice carving demonstrations, horse-drawn carriage rides, a scavenger hunt, dogsled demos and rides, snowman and snow angel making, Broom Ball demonstrations and a shopping extravaganza. Most events are free.

"It was a goal to make it affordable for everyone," said Stacey Keast, DDA event coordinator. "Everything but the TasteFest is free. I think the highest priced item for that is about \$7."

A spaghetti dinner during the festival is also a paid event, but it is a fundraiser for the Rochester Area Youth Association. Adults get in for \$8 and kids for \$4.

This is the third year the festival has taken place. Even though it's a local event, it draws large crowds from all over.

"We had around 20,000 to 25,000 people come out last year," Keast said.

Even though the economy is down, she thinks attendance will remain steady.

"It's a great way to get out and enjoy winter for all its worth," Keast said. "We have so many different activi-



Photo Courtesy of Stacey Keast
A sculptor carves a seahorse out of ice as part of the Fire and Ice Festival in downtown Rochester.

ties going on; there really is something for everybody."

The event she thinks tends to draw the most attention to the Fire and Ice festival is the firework display.

"Most people don't get to experience fireworks in winter," Keast said. "We also have a tubing hill this year instead of just a toboggan hill, which we anticipate will be a popular event."

For those who prefer to not participate in winter



Photo Courtesy of Stacey Keast
Dogsledding demos and rides are offered throughout the festival. The festival takes place Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29 and 30.

activities, there are other events to enjoy at the festival.

The TasteFest, which includes a variety of cuisine from local vendors, takes place all weekend. This year is the first time the TasteFest will also feature alcohol selections.

In conjunction with the festival, local stores are offering a shopping extravaganza, in which they will have several special deals. There is also the Big, Bright Lights Show, which is a holiday light display throughout downtown Rochester, made up of about 1.2 million lights. The Big, Bright Lights Trolley will be available to take all those interested through the light displays if they don't feel like walking it all.

The festival is still looking for volunteers.

For information or to volunteer, visit the festival's website at www.downtownrochestermi.com.

Senate OKs texting ban

By TIM MARTIN
Associated Press Writer

LANSING — Michigan lawmakers took a key step Tuesday toward prohibiting the use of cell phones to send or read text messages while driving, but some say the measure is watered down and wouldn't do enough to crack down on distracted motorists.

The Senate passed two bills by 31-6 votes that would make texting a secondary offense, which means police would need another reason to pull over motorists — such as speeding or careless driving — before they could be cited for texting. Some lawmakers say that weakens the measure and ties the hands of police officers trying to prevent accidents.

The House has passed nearly identical legislation. Leaders in the chambers will have to figure out bill sponsorship and take votes on a compromise measure before it could be sent to Gov. Jennifer Granholm for her signature, who will sign the legislation if it reaches her desk, spokeswoman Megan Brown said.

An amendment that would have made texting while driving a primary offense narrowly failed in the Senate.

"We must make this a real law, not just perfume on a pig," said Sen. Bruce

Patterson, the amendment's sponsor.

Sponsors of the bipartisan legislation said making texting a secondary offense was proper, noting other driving laws in Michigan have taken a similar path.

Failure to wear a seat belt in Michigan, for example, was a secondary offense before becoming a primary offense.

"It's an evolutionary process," said Sen. Buzz Thomas, one of the legislation's sponsors.

Several proposals to limit drivers' use of cell phones have fizzled in the past few years.

The Senate-approved bill would prohibit reading, writing or sending a text message on a device held by hand or on a driver's lap. The fine would be \$200 for a first offense.

The Senate vote came the same day as a U.S. Transportation Department announcement that truck and bus drivers are prohibited from sending text messages on hand-held devices while operating commercial vehicles.

The prohibition, which applies to drivers of interstate buses and trucks over 10,000 pounds, is effective immediately. Truck and bus drivers who text while driving commercial vehicles may be subject to civil or criminal penalties of up to \$2,750, the department said.

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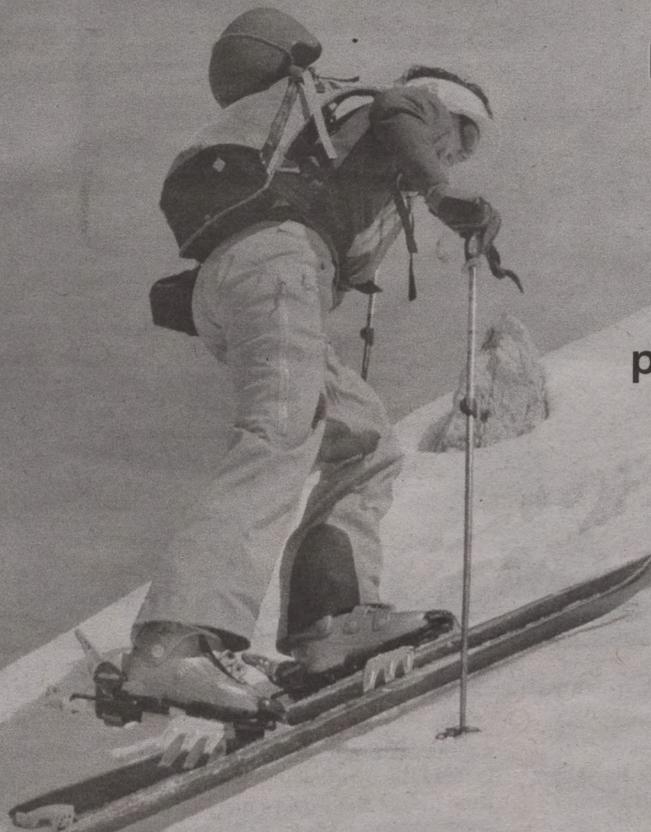
With the Winter Olympics beginning Feb. 12, students brave the cold and get active

What winter sport do you play?



"I snowboard at Mt. Holly. It's a thrill flying by people."

Paul Schwalbe
Freshman
undecided



"I play ice hockey for OU at the Onyx arena."

Dennis Capa
Senior
political science



"I ski at Pine Knob, as I live ten minutes away from there."

James Kaminski
Sophomore
pre-law

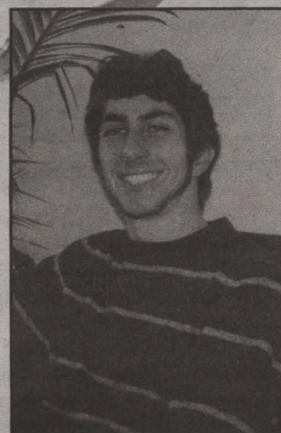


Photo courtesy of stock.xchng

Survey conducted by Brad Slazinski, Contributing Reporter

The Scene

16

www.oaklandpostonline.com

January 27, 2010

Magical mystery of the mashup

The Beatles vs. Wu-Tang Clan in new album

By KYLE PHANEUF
Contributing Reporter

ALBUM REVIEW

Back in the heady days of 2004, DJ Danger Mouse made a name for himself by combining the a cappellas from Jay-Z's "Black Album" with the music of the Beatles' album, commonly known as "the White Album."

"The Grey Album," as it came to be known, gained a massive amount of notoriety, largely because EMI Music saw the sampling of the Beatles' seminal masterpiece as a cardinal sin worthy of the maximum punishment by law, but the beats themselves weren't anything exceptional beyond the initial pun.

These days, sampling has become so commonplace that no one even bats an eye when someone like Gregg "Girl Talk" Gillis crafts entire symphonies out of Top 40 hits, but the art form has grown by leaps and bounds, and there's perhaps no better example than Tom Caruana's "Enter the Magical Mystery Chambers."

"Chambers" again combines lush Beatles' samples with hip-hop a cappellas, but this time, arguably the greatest rock band of all time is soundtracking arguably the greatest hip-hop group: Shaolin's own Wu-Tang Clan.

And the beats aren't just culled from the Beatles' own catalogue. There's extensive and creative use of covers, renditions, symphonic compositions and re-appropriated news interviews and fan frenzies. The results are a work that references the mythologies of two venerable institutions from two very different musical genres and eras at once.

They're also immensely listenable.

The sort of laissez-faire acceptance of sampling today means "Enter the Magical Mystery Chambers" won't receive nearly as much attention as the far inferior "Grey Album" from six years prior, but if it's a just world, it'll still end up being the sleeper sensation of 2010. It's seriously that good.

The early brilliance of combining The Beatles' "You Never Give Me Your Money" with Ol' Dirty Bastard's club banger "Got Your Money" suggest the album's going to peak early, when it turns out to be merely the tip of the ice-

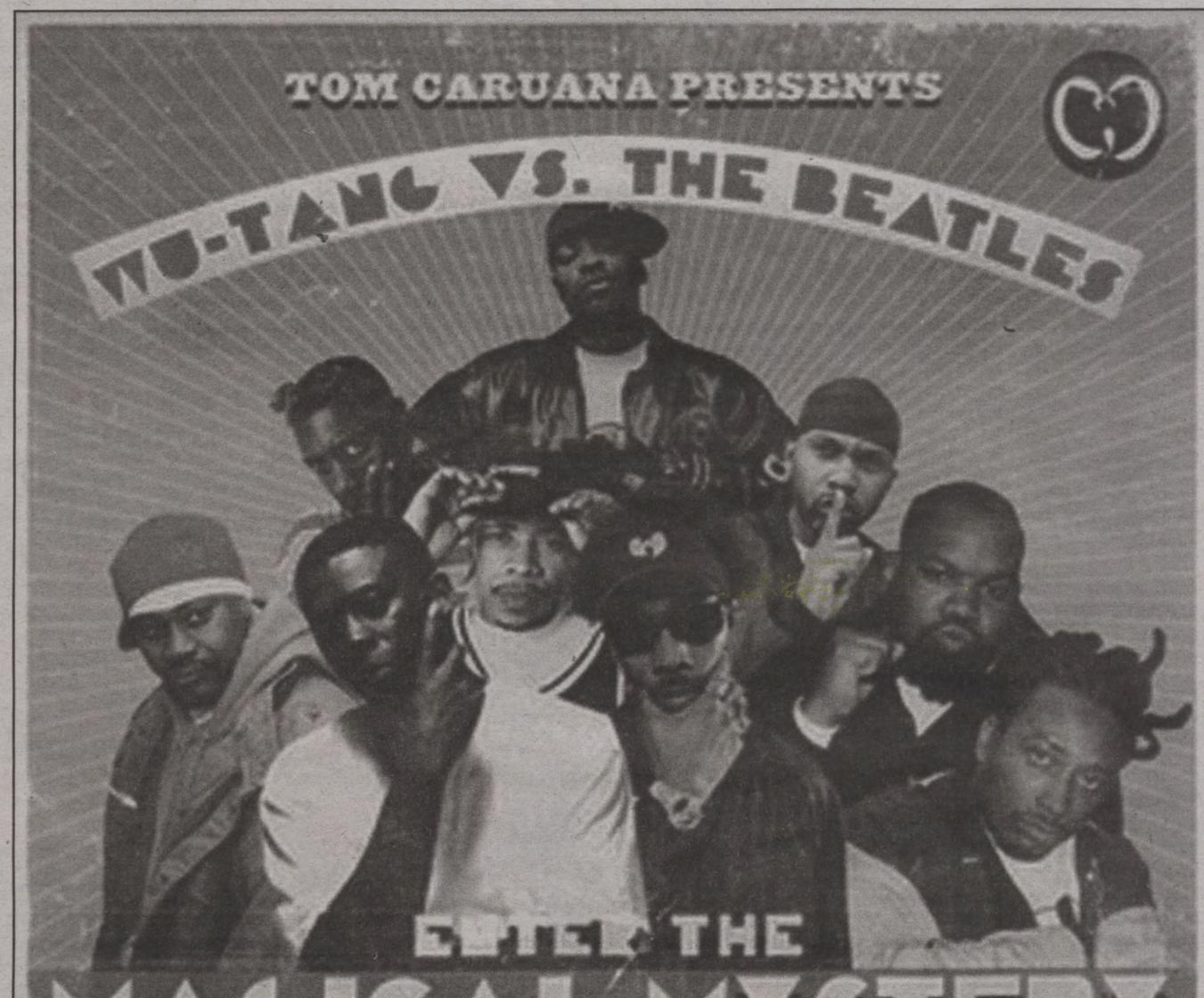


Photo courtesy of teasearecords.com/cover art by Logan Walters

"Enter the Magical Mystery Chambers" is a remix album by Tom Caruana. He reports over 27,000 downloads on his website and kudos from Raekwon.

berg. Some other highlights: Dirty harmonizing with John and Paul on the album centerpiece "Wu Vs. Beatles," Ghostface Killah's escape anthem "Run" becoming a laid-back funk groove and late-period Wu hit "Uzi (Pinky Ring)" converted into a veritable Beatles showcase, challenging even the biggest Beatlemaniacs to name every sample participating.

Unlike "The Grey Album," which let

a gimmick carry it to fame, "Chambers" is virtually overflowing with innovation, hiding the world's most famous pop songs among elaborate compositions that somehow make four lads from Liverpool sound like they recorded music for the explicit purpose of having nine MCs from Staten Island spit over it 30 years later.

It's a rich, inviting work that rewards the fandom of both groups and practically demands repeat listenings, if not in

attempt to name each tune in use then to enjoy their new lives as pitch-perfect hip-hop hooks.

It's not unlikely Caruana created "Chambers" in a bid to publicize his own beat-making skills and get his name to go viral online. What he instead, perhaps inadvertently, did was create the most essential hip-hop album in recent memory. So everyone wins. To download the album go to teasearecords.net.



By ALEXIS TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

COLUMN

I recently moved into a new apartment and thought it was unnecessary to purchase cable. For the first couple weeks I felt pretty free. The TV trap was over: No infomercials, no falling asleep to trash TV, no paternity tests, no Bravo marathons. I set out to do some pretty amazing things with my newfound free time. I even got up some mornings, drank my coffee and read the dictionary for kicks. I loved it.

A couple weeks later I got Internet. Poor decision. With all my extra free time, which could be devoted to learning languages, interacting with humans, actually doing homework or writing the next great American novel, I have instead started watching TV online. And ... now I'm going to write a column about television. Ugh.

Are my own life's dramatic plot twists so dependent on television that I can't spend more than three weeks in the real world? Not the "Real World."

First of all, watching TV online is horrible. It could be my Internet connection, but watching one half hour show takes me about four hours. I basically watch screen shots. A flipbook is faster than this.

When I do find something that works, MegaVideo cuts me off at 45 minutes, leaving me to search for the last 15 minutes of the show for two more hours. With this waiting game on my hands, I've had nothing but time to overanalyze shows for your reading enjoyment.

Let me commence.

"My Life as Liz." Kind of hated high school? Still had funny times with good friends? "My Life as Liz" is one of MTV's new socially-aware shows, along with "The Buried Life." While "The Buried Life," a show about four guys and one bucket list, makes me want to write my own "100 things to do before I die" list and be an awesome adult, "My Life as Liz" takes me back to high school and makes me realize growing up in a boring, culture-less small town made me more determined to get out and do something different.

The show is a faux documentary about Liz Lee, a high school senior whose transition from Texan "Barbie" to cynical hipster has left her feeling a little raw. Enter camera crew. Begin MTV typecasting.

Right now, I'm trying to get through a full episode of it. I've watched the first halves of two episodes available on MTV's website, but they keep cutting out after the Tide advertisement. I think I like it. Yes, I mildly relate to it. Yes, I sort of dress like that. Yes, I grew up in a small town. Besides all the obvious reasons I might like this show; it's got a certain quirky charm about it. It gives me hope that MTV can still champion Daria-like morals in the wake of "Jersey Shore."

"My Life as Liz" is a colorful version of "My So-Called Life," with better clothes and a less depressed heroine. Unlike CW's ungodly dose of teen scandal, "Liz" treats things like they are. In "Liz," no one is getting syphilis in the ravine (Degraasi!) and Texas isn't populated with coiffed trust fund babies or sex-crazed vampires. For her, life is just frustrating at times. She doesn't fit in with the athletic crowd, the Southern belles or the Texan teen evangelists. Who is she? It is this question she pursues, yet it's this question that's never fully developed. MTV could make this into an interesting show, unfortunately, it's all smoke and mirrors. They stop at concept and resort to their tired old typecasting.

This is "The Hills" for Texas. Err wait no, it's a sitcom about stereotypes. Great, a "Juno" encore.

I have no idea if the show is real or not. It attempts to be, but it can't be. I know you're having a really important discussion about Valentine's Day in class right now, but ... your teacher must mind the giant distraction of a camera crew. To each her own interpretation.

By the end, there are a lot of reasons to hate this show. Bad one-liners, forced interaction, stereotype reinforcement, no clear message. But whatever, there is worse television to hate, and in the goofiest corners of my heart, I like this show.

3 Thumbs.

The
Politics of Economic Security

Jennifer Klein
Prof. of History at Yale University

Healthcare
Are We Secure?
WAR ON TERROR
Wall Street

February 1st
Student Lunch Q&A
11:30-1pm Oakland Room
Lecture & Reception
3-5:30 Banquet Room A

Sponsored by the Sociology Club & Department Cosponsors CLUBS: Anthropology, Philosophy & Social Work. PAD/Pre-Law Fraternity, Student Chapter of Human Resource management DEPARTMENTS: Anthropology, History, Political Science, Communications & Journalism PROGRAMS: Decision & Information Science, Privacy & Security, Social Work, Surveillance, Women & Gender studies & A Faculty Learning Community & the Journal "Critical Sociology"

Recruit pays early dividends

Freshman has produced big numbers for OU this season

By ZACH HALLMAN
Staff Reporter

Throughout freshman Bethany Watterworth's basketball career at Lake Orion High School, Golden Grizzlies head coach Beckie Francis made it no secret that she wanted to recruit her to play at Oakland University.

"We have been following her for the past two to three years," Francis said. "We followed her all over the country; some people call it baby sitting because we had to make sure that we got her. She is just one of the more heralded recruits we have ever had."

Coming into the season, Watterworth was expected to garner steady playing time in a reserve role, but this plan went out the window when all-league center Brittany Carnago was seriously injured moments into Oakland's exhibition game, just days before the season opener.

The injury launched Watterworth into a starting role on a team with championship aspirations.

"Carnago went down and I was called in for a substitute," Watterworth said. "I was kneeling at the scorer's table and then I realized that my role was going to change and that I really had to step up and accept my role."

With little time to wrap her mind around her new status as a starter, Watterworth scored 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in her career debut against Detroit Mercy Nov. 13. Two games later, she topped that with a career-high 24 points versus Toledo.

Since stepping into a more prominent role, Watterworth has made an immediate impact during her freshman season.

A starter in every game, she ranks second on the team in two major categories, averaging nearly 14 points and seven rebounds per game.

Her success, however, has not come as a surprise to Francis or her teammates.

"It is not that I don't play a lot of freshmen; it's that usually the upperclassmen have more experience within our offense. But Bethany has thrown such a haymaker punch (with her talent) that it is so obvious she needs to be out there making an impact as a player," Francis said.

Senior captain Melissa Jeltema took notice of her teammate's talents before the season began.

"Starting practices (this fall) it was clear that Beth was going to be a great player and a vital asset to the team," Jeltema said. "She has both lived up to and exceeded expectations."

While Watterworth has been able to replace

much of Carnago's scoring, she said she is having a more difficult time filling in for Carnago on the defensive end.

Watterworth, who at 5-11, is four inches shorter than Carnago, often finds herself facing opponents who are even taller.

"In high school, I was the center and was probably the tallest player in every game," Watterworth said. "Here I am the center too, but the girls we play are all (taller than me). That right there is a big change, trying to guard the taller girls, but I use my quickness to front them and get around them."

Watterworth said she had some adjusting to do, playing at a higher level of competition. After four years of high school basketball, she found herself stepping onto the floor against the likes of Penn State, Marquette and Wisconsin — all perennial national contenders.

"The speed of going up and down the court is so different in high school and college," Watterworth said. "The girls are so much stronger so that much more effort has to go into lifting and conditioning."

Even though Oakland failed to win any of its games against top-level competition this season, Watterworth said she believes that playing those teams prepared them well for their ultimate goal, winning the Summit League Championship.

"I think right around the Penn State game is when we started to peak; just doing so well against a top team, we knew we could tear it up against any conference team," Watterworth said. "I would rather play those types of games than kill teams by 30 points because they prepare us for our league games, and the whole purpose of the season is to win the conference and the Summit League Championship."

Watterworth's ability to put the ball in the basket and fill in at center are not the only two ways in which she leads the Grizzlies.

She has willingly embraced her role as a team leader on and off the court, despite being a freshman on a team with several veterans.

"It is kind of weird (being a leader), because normally your typical freshmen don't get that much playing time," Watterworth said. "But the girls on the team, the seniors especially, have really helped me with the transition."

Francis believes, though, that Watterworth's personality is one that simply just does not come around very often.

"That is what is so refreshing about her," Francis said. "Her self-confidence and inner-drive (allows her to) handle taking big shots."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Watterworth averaged 21.5 points and 10 rebounds per game in her senior season at Lake Orion High School before coming to the Grizzlies this fall.

Swim teams' season taking stride

By DAN FENNER and
REANNA DOUGLAS
Sports Editor / Staff Intern

With the end of the season fast approaching, Oakland University's swimming and diving teams are rounding into shape under the guidance of head coach Pete Hovland as the Summit League Championships are now less than a month away.

Oakland has continually placed first at the conference championships for both the men's and women's teams for the better part of the last decade, and this season isn't likely to be an exception.

"Winning the conference championship is the team's goal. Qualifying an individual or two for the NCAA Championships is also a goal," Hovland said. "Whether a relay team makes it this year, I am not sure yet. But that's always big if a relay (team) gets invited."

With all of the talent that moved on due to graduation last season, Hovland said he faces a unique situation this year with his team in a bit of a rebuilding mode, though not in the sense that it's a down year for the program. He said the team is right about where it should be and has met his expectations.

"There's been a lot of teaching, and there is a lot of heartache that goes with the success and the growth," Hovland said. "I think we'll do extremely well once we get to the championships."

Women's team

The women's team is strong once again this season, with several standout performers on the team.

"They have a chance in the next three weeks to compete, and depending on how well they perform, this could be one of those seasons they remember for a long time," Hovland said.

The most accomplished swimmer among the group is senior Agnes Solan, an international recruit from Poland.

Solan has narrowly missed qualifying for the NCAA Championships in recent seasons, but Hovland said he expects her to get there this year. She holds several school and conference records, specializing in the backstroke events.

"She's the one that leads our team," Hovland said.

A strong candidate for the conference Newcomer of the Year award is freshman Sandra Czarska, also from Poland. Czarska has not lost a single event this

year in the dual-meet's she has participated in.

"She's having a banner year and we go into every meet knowing we have a good shot at winning because of her," Hovland said.

For the diving team, junior Chelsea Oates has also had an impressive season, recently breaking the school's 3-meter diving record against Eastern Michigan, something that Hovland said is practically unheard of in the dual-meet season. Heading into the conference championships, Oates is atop the leaderboards for female divers.

Men's team

The men's team graduated two-thirds of its members from last season, and experienced a bit of an adjustment period early in the season.

"We've taken a few bumps along the way as far as the dual-meet season is concerned, but I think with this team, as young as it is, will be a very good championship-type team," Hovland said.

Leading the way for the men's team is last season's standout swimmer Anders Jensen. A native of Denmark, Jensen was a Division I All-American last year, a rare feat for a freshman.

Hovland said he thinks Jensen can improve on his times from last season simply because he will be competing for the second time, and will be more comfortable having "been there, done that" last season.

"I think there's a lot to be said for (experience)," Hovland said. "As much as it's a cliché, it's a cliché because it's true."

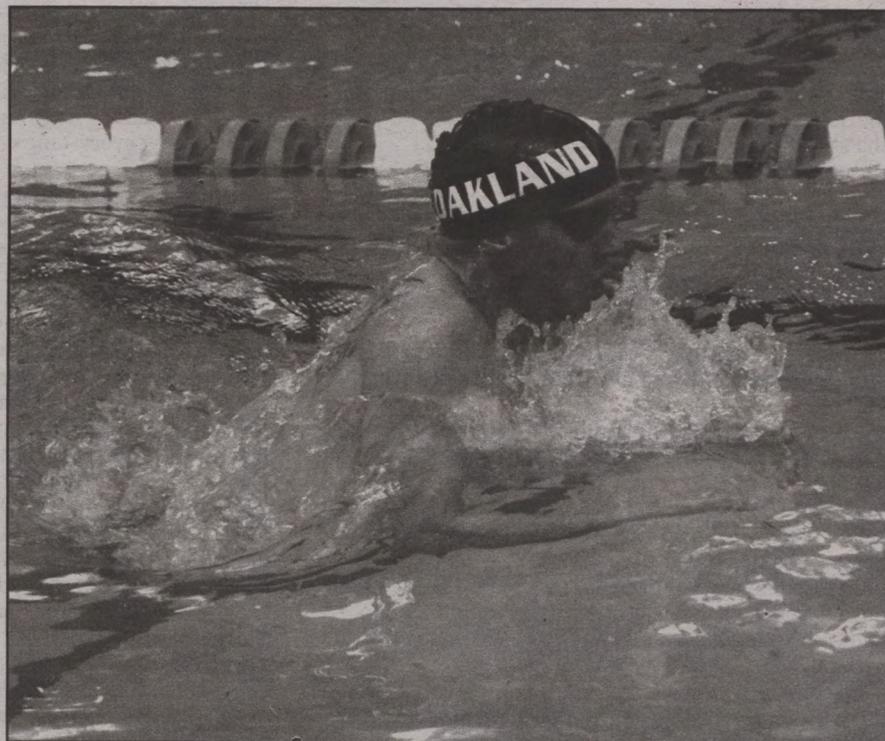
Some of this season's other standouts have been seniors Pat Downing and Eddie Toro.

Things to come

Oakland will compete in three more meets in the coming weeks before the championship season begins. The Grizzlies will host Cleveland State University Friday for a dual-meet before traveling to face in-state rival Michigan State Saturday.

"These last three meets that we have will really help them fine-tune things. It will be their last opportunity so that they really feel good about themselves ... we just hope that they start building up steam," Hovland said.

The Summit League Championships take place in Indianapolis Feb. 18-20.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

At their most recent event last Saturday, the Grizzlies swept Kenyon College, one of the premier Division III schools in the country. Oakland won 26 events overall.

GOLDEN GRIZZLIES

COMING ATTRACTIONS

GAME SCHEDULE FOR JAN. 27 - FEB. 2

MEN'S BASKETBALL

1/28 at IUPUI
1/30 at Western Illinois

CLUB WRESTLING

1/30 NCWA Team Nationals
in Tennessee

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

1/30 at Western Illinois
2/1 at IUPUI

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

1/29 Findlay Classic in Ohio
1/30 Central Michigan Chippewa
Invitational

CLUB HOCKEY

1/29 vs. Central Mich. 8:40 p.m.
1/30 vs. Central Mich. 8:40 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING

1/29 vs. Cleveland State 6 p.m.
1/30 at Michigan State



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additional coverage throughout the week

Grizzlies closing in on two major records

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

The Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team has a singular goal this season — to win the Summit League tournament and take part in March Madness for just the second time in school history.

But on its way to the championship game, Oakland is racking up some impressive regular season feats. Saturday's win over South Dakota State gave OU its 16th consecutive win over a Summit League opponent dating back to last season. The streak is tied with Cleveland State (1992-93) for the longest in conference history.

"I really think that (record) is important, and it's a milestone worth playing for," head coach Greg Kampe said.

A win over IUPUI this Thursday would give Oakland sole possession of this Summit League record, as well as a school-record 10th consecutive win overall. Last season, the team won nine straight games for the first time before falling to North Dakota State in the Summit League championship.

Oakland is now 9-0 in conference play. The Grizzlies have defeated each of the other nine conference opponents once this season and have a rematch against all of them before the season ends.

No Summit League team has ever gone undefeated in its conference schedule, but the players aren't focusing on the possibility of a 16-0 conference record.

"We try not to look that far ahead and just take it one

game at a time," senior captain Johnathon Jones said.

The team knows that its opponents will bring their "A" games every night, trying to knock off the top-ranked Grizzlies the second time around.

"I think people will look at how we beat them the first time and they'll try and counter that," Kampe said. "We're seeing everything on how teams are guarding Keith Benson."

Some teams have double and triple-teamed the Grizzlies' center, trying to neutralize him, while other teams have defended to take away Oakland's perimeter shooting and allow Benson a little more space.

Thursday's game at IUPUI is arguably the team's toughest game left. OU won the first matchup 85-82 in a thriller at the O'Rena Jan. 2.

First place will be on the line this week as the Jaguars are just a game back in the standings.

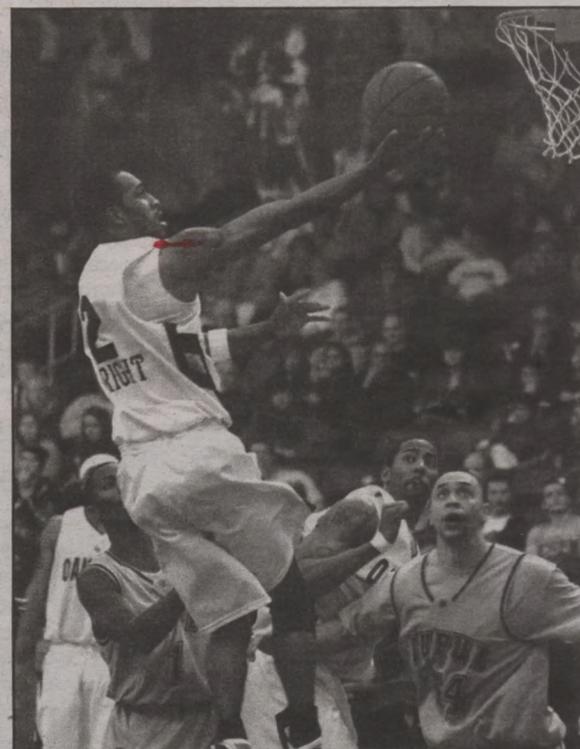
"In coach speak, it's a bigger game for them than us; they have to defend their home court," Kampe said.

The Grizzlies' remaining schedule features four road games and five home games.

"In this conference, it's so hard to win on the road that you can't overlook any team out there," Jones said. "When we went out to the Dakotas, we knew they were going to play us hard because we're Oakland and we've got a bulls-eye on our back."

With OU on such a roll, practice time is spent refining its approach to playing each team a second time.

"That's what we're trying to do now is find little things that we can go to when we get in trouble," Kampe said.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

In nine conference games this season, Oakland is out-scoring its opponents by an average of 15 points per game.

SCORES FROM THE ROAD

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

A recap of the out of town scores from the past week:

Men's basketball

Jan. 21 — The Golden Grizzlies began a four-game road trip Thursday with a 85-79 win over North Dakota State, giving head coach Greg Kampe his 100th career victory in Summit League play.

Oakland University held a 15-point lead with under 10 minutes to play in the second half, but the Bison cut their deficit down to just two points with 1:29 remaining, making for an exciting finish. With North Dakota State forced to foul, the Grizzlies went 8-of-8 from the free-throw line in the final minute to put the game away for good.

Junior center Keith Benson recorded

his conference-leading eleventh double-double of the season, with 22 points and 12 rebounds, as well as four blocks.

Coming off the bench, freshman guard Ledrick Eackles scored 18 points, marking the fifth time in six games he's scored in double figures.

Junior Larry Wright put up 13 points on 5-of-10 shooting, which included three 3-pointers. The Grizzlies as a team shot 40 percent from behind the arc and just shy of 50 percent overall.

Johnathon Jones also contributed 16 points and eight assists in the victory.

Jan. 23 — In a game where the Grizzlies trailed by as many as 13 points, Oakland rallied back to defeat South Dakota State 85-82 Saturday evening to remain perfect in league play.

OU steadily worked its way back into the contest toward the end of the first half, going into the break down by five

points. The final 10 minutes of the game saw six ties and three lead changes before the Grizzlies took the lead for good with just over two minutes to play.

The team shot terribly from the free throw line in the first half (8-of-19), but improved that percentage in the second half enough to put the game away.

With the win, Oakland improved to 9-0 against Summit League opponents and is riding a nine-game winning streak overall, pushing their record to 15-7.

Benson scored a game-high 23 points and had 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies. Three other Grizzlies — Jones, Eackles, and Derick Nelson — scored in double figures for OU.

Jones' Summit League record of 43 consecutive free throws made came to an end in the second half.

Women's basketball

Jan. 23 — The Golden Grizzlies women's basketball fell at South Dakota State Saturday afternoon, losing 66-59 to fall to 8-11 (5-3 in conference) on the season.

Oakland trailed by as many as 23 points, but rallied to make the game somewhat competitive at the end.

Senior forward Hanna Reising scored a season-high 19 points on 7-of-10 shooting to lead the way for OU.

Other contributions came from Melissa Jeltema with eight points, and Sharise

Calhoun with 10 rebounds.

The Grizzlies had trouble shooting the ball both from the field (36 percent) and at the free-throw line (53 percent). The team was behind from the opening basket of the game and never led.

Jan. 25 — Oakland withstood a North Dakota State comeback in the final minutes on the road Monday night, hanging on for a 54-52 win to improve its conference record to 6-3.

The Grizzlies led 52-41 with 5:20 left to play when the Bison went on a scoring run. OU scored just two points, both off free throws, in the closing minutes, allowing North Dakota State to pull within two points with a chance to tie or take the lead on the last possession. But Oakland got the defensive stop it needed to close out the game.

Forward Bethany Watterworth contributed a game-high 14 points to go with five rebounds, while Reising scored nine points for OU.

The team will return to action Saturday at Western Illinois.



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Iraq: new tactics hitting harder

By BRIAN MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — Militant groups are finding new ways to foil Iraqi security — hiding explosives in the chassis of vehicles or tucking them into secret compartments, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said Tuesday as Baghdad was again hit by a suicide car bomb that sheared off the front of the main crime lab. At least 22 people were killed.

The attack came a day after car bombings struck three Baghdad hotels favored by Western journalists and security contractors. The back-to-back blasts were the latest in a series of major assaults since August that underscore an evolving tactic by suspected Sunni militants to target high-profile government sites with attacks involving high degrees of planning and coordination.

The aim appears twofold: maximize the blows to the Shiite-led government and exploit security gaps with Iraqi forces now almost entirely in control of checkpoints and patrols as the U.S. military draws down.

Any signs of backsliding on security would hurt the American-backed administration of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who is using the drop in overall violence across Iraq as one of the pillars of his campaign in March 7 national elections. But al-Maliki is also under pressure to reach out to Sunnis — who were once favored by Saddam Hussein — to fend off Shiite

rivals in upcoming voting.

Insurgents such as al-Qaida in Iraq "have become more creative at how to conduct attacks," the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, told reporters.

The methods include wrapping explosives into the gears and slats of vehicle chassis or into carefully concealed chambers, he said.

He said Iraqi authorities have requested scanners capable of looking inside sealed portions of vehicles. Iraqi forces have been reluctant to expand the use of bomb-sniffing dogs because of the widely held Muslim tradition that avoids contact with dogs.

"They are willing to use them against vehicles," he said. "They don't want to use them against people."

Odierno's comments came as Iraq defended the use of a British-supplied bomb-detection device that is the subject of probes about whether it actually works. Britain has banned its export to Iraq and Afghanistan, but Iraqi security forces continue to operate the hand-held units at checkpoints.

The blasts left officials again facing accusations of security lapses. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

In other recent major attacks in Baghdad — in August, October and December — a group linked to al-Qaida said it carried out the bombings. Each wave of blasts targeted government sites, such as ministries and courts, and each claimed more than 100 lives.

Man caught with rifle, grenade launcher

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press Writer

SOMERVILLE, N.J. — A call from a convenience store clerk about a suspicious person led to an arrest and a frightening discovery: The man was wearing a bulletproof vest and carrying a loaded assault rifle and four magazines of ammunition.

Back in the man's motel room, authorities found a grenade launcher, more rifles, a night-vision scope and, ominously, a map of the Fort Drum Army base in upstate New York.

Prosecutors have not said what 43-year-old Lloyd Woodson was doing with the arsenal. The FBI said Woodson did not appear to have any connection to terrorist groups.

But the weapons and the map raised questions about whether the former Navy man may have been planning some kind of attack.

Authorities did not say why he had a map of Fort Drum, where active duty and reserve soldiers are trained and deployed. The base is about a 5-hour drive from Branchburg, where Woodson was staying.

An executive for the Quick Chek convenience store chain, based in Whitehouse Station, said the clerk's call "averted a possible problem at our store and certainly averted a problem somewhere else."

Mike Murphy, a senior vice president for the company, said prosecutors asked him not to say what raised the worker's suspicions.

Woodson was jailed on state weapons charges. Somerset County Prosecutor Wayne Forrest would not identify either the military facility or the town shown on the maps, other than to say the community was not in New Jersey.

Federal authorities said Tuesday evening that the military facility on the map was Fort Drum. That disclosure came as they announced they had charged Woodson with possessing guns even though he was previously convicted of a weapons offense.

A New Jersey state judge on Tuesday set bail for Woodson at \$75,000, and he appeared in court for an arraignment that lasted only a moment.

Woodson, wearing shackles and a jail jumpsuit, had no lawyer present and spoke only to acknowledge the judge. The prosecutor did not speak and did not take a position on the bail.

Woodson was staying at the Red Mill Inn, a motel along a busy suburban highway that runs through an area with many pharmaceutical companies. It's unclear whether he was living at the motel, which advertises weekly rates, or just passing through.

Prosecutors said his last known address was Reston, Va. But the New York-born man appears to have a string of former addresses in Brooklyn and Queens, as well as Maryland.

The Navy says he enlisted in 1988, deserted a little over a year later and spent eight years on the run before returning briefly to Navy custody in 1997. He was soon discharged.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Woodson was convicted in 1997 of illegal weapons possession.

NIW BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

1-26 | HILLSBOROUGH, Northern Ireland — The prime ministers of Britain and Ireland presented rival Catholic and Protestant leaders with last-ditch proposals Tuesday designed to keep their power-sharing government from unraveling. The 2 1/2-year-old coalition at the heart of Northern Ireland peacemaking is on the brink of collapse following a long-running dispute over when it will take responsibility from Britain for the province's police and justice system. The Irish Catholics of Sinn Fein say the move is years overdue and are threatening to withdraw from the coalition, triggering its destruction. The prime ministers, Gordon Brown of Britain and Brian Cowen of Ireland, also want the Protestants to stop stalling, as does U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who telephoned Brown and Sinn Fein leaders during the course of Tuesday's negotiations.

1-26 | BEIRUT — The pilot of a doomed Ethiopian Airlines flight made a "fast and strange turn" minutes after takeoff from Beirut in a thunderstorm, Lebanon's transportation minister said Tuesday, revealing new clues about the plane's few minutes in flight. The minister cautioned, however, against making any conclusions about the cause of the crash, saying it was far too early and investigators still need to find the black boxes. All 90 people on board the plane bound for Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, were feared dead from the crash, which happened at around 2:30 a.m. Monday. A second day of rescue operations using sonar-equipped boats and divers turned up only a few body parts, extinguishing hope of finding any survivors.

1-26 | OKLAHOMA CITY — A woman was found beaten to death in a motor home who recently sought a protective order against her estranged husband, an ex-convict who was charged Tuesday with killing her and kidnapping her 7-year-old daughter. Comanche County prosecutors charged Lester William Hobbs, 46, with first-degree murder and kidnapping in the killing of Tonya Hobbs and disappearance of her daughter, Aja Daniell Johnson. Lester Hobbs and the missing girl, who is not his biological daughter, were last seen Saturday night.

1-26 | ALEXANDRIA, La. — Alexandria police said a man stopped for riding his bicycle at night without a headlight was carrying a weapon made from a butcher knife attached to a pool cue. They said the 51-year-old man also had a razor blade in his hat. He was booked with illegally carrying a weapon, doing so after a felony conviction, resisting an officer, public intoxication and at least five outstanding warrants. The police report said the suspect originally gave police a fake name. An officer patted him down and found a metal push rod that appeared to be used for smoking crack cocaine. They also found a prescription painkiller in someone else's name.

Mouthing Off

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

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January 27, 2010

Remarks on the "SarcMark"

The Post's sarcasm savant shares his thoughts about pointless punctuation

By DAN SIMONS
Mouthing Off Editor

Sometimes people make my job too damn easy.

The corresponding letter was on my desk, sent to our office by the company Sarcasm, Inc. (www.SarcMark.com), located in Washington Twp., Mich., and they are clearly going to fix the economy with this idea.

Did you catch that? That last bit about the economy? That was sarcasm. They won't really really fix the economy, I was making a joke. A sarcastic joke.

Sarcasm is a form of comedy where what is said isn't really what is meant, noted by subtle changes and usually shows contempt. Sarcasm is usually associated with irony and satire. The word sarcasm comes from the Greek word "sarkazo," meaning "to flay or to tear flesh." Those witty Greeks.

The key here is subtlety. You say something sarcastic with a change in your inflection or a roll of the eyes. You let the non-verbals convey that you're kidding. Understandably this is hard to do in text based communication, but with the SarcMark, they are trying to kick subtlety right in the head.

"I'm glad I'm paying thousands of dollars for this class," is all that you need. It does not need to be followed up with "Just kidding guys, that was sarcasm. I was joking."

Adding something like the SarcMark is like explaining a joke. If you didn't get it at first, it won't be funny if you have to explain it to someone.

You don't need to put a giant, smiling picture of Leonardo Da Vinci giving a thumbs up next to fine art to point out that it's a good painting.

But hey, at least it's an interesting and provocative symbol.

That, again, was sarcasm. See how annoying it is when someone points it out? Now imagine a world where people point it out with a gaudy, unsightly mark.

The mark itself looks like a half-assed hypnotist's wheel, or the child of an at symbol (@) that drank while pregnant, or a question mark that took a nasty spill down a flight a stairs when it heard about the newest and stupidest addition to punctuation marks. One blog says it

looks like an inverted fetus.

The period in the middle was added because most other punctuation marks include a period. You know what else most punctuation have? A legitimate reason to exist.

I'd use the actual mark in this column but it requires downloading the software and I'm lazy. If you don't get the mark free through promotion, you have to pay \$1.99 for it.

Yes. You have to buy this thing.

Some of the first media organizations to criticize the SarcMark were, of course, British. The same country that brought us "Monty Python," the original "The Office," and various other sanctuaries of sarcasm have choice words to say about the SarcMark. The Queen is probably pretty pissed off about this.

This isn't the first time someone has tried to create a punctuation mark to denote sarcasm in written form. If you're watching closed-captioned television, they indicate sarcasm with an exclamation mark in brackets [!]. Some languages use an upside-down exclamation mark to show sarcasm, irony, and a fantasy scenario, which means it comes in real handy when talking about a unicorn who stubbed his nose.

Other attempts at a sarcasm mark include using HTML tags and ending a sentence with either `</sarcasm>` or just `/s`. This works, but only if the person you are messaging is dorky enough to get it.

Which means me and most of my friends. That wasn't sarcastic, but could have been — do I invert the SarcMark in this case?

It must be pointed out that the domain for the official SarcMark website was used before back in 2005, when someone else had a SarcMark that was an exclamation point with an asterisk at the bottom instead of a period. It looks like a normal exclamation mark on steroids, or someone pointing out a very small explosion.

I know some people want a mark like this, and I too have had to explain to someone in a text message or on Facebook chat that I wasn't serious when I thought their relationship problems were important or their movie idea could make millions. A SarcMark is going to help.

Did I mention the other goodies on the

SarcMark @
Tell them how you really feel

The following is a real letter sent to our office:

Dear The Oakland Post,

We're sending this letter and a cube of Post-It Notes to inform you of the newest punctuation mark that identifies a sentence as being sarcastic. Its called the SarcMark, and it looks like this: (insert SarcMark here) We've developed software that allows the SarcMark to be added to e-mails, instant messages, letters, and text messages.

While writing articles, you may have found yourself wondering if the reader would understand the sarcastic remark you made. Because you're unsure, you may have opted to leave that sarcastic remark out. That is a shame, but doesn't need to be the case anymore. The time has come for the SarcMark.

We hope that you will accept these free download codes:
(removed for legal reasons)

From our website at www.SarcMark.com these free download codes will allow you to download the software and try it out for yourself. There is one for you and one for a colleague, friend, or whoever. We hope you enjoy our software, and the new punctuation mark that allows you to be sarcastic when you write.

Tell them how you really feel. Sarcasm...Punctuate it (insert SarcMark here)

site? They are selling shirts and mugs and all sorts of things with sarcastic remarks redundantly SarcMark'd. I really think that more shirts with funny sayings on them is what we need.

DID YOU GET THAT? THAT WAS SARCASM. JUST MAKING SURE YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT.

The crap-tastic cherry on top of all this is the commercial. Again, I cannot make this stuff up.

The YouTube video features some sort of super hero with the SarcMark on his chest. He then takes a sledge hammer sized device and after saying something

sarcastic, he bludgeons people to leave a SarcMark on them.

Bludgeoning and sarcasm do not go together. Ever. At all. A real sarcasm superhero (like IronyMan AKA Tony Sarc) wouldn't beat people with sarcasm, more like pump it into the room as a clear, odorless gas.

The sad thing is, reports indicate Sarcasm, Inc. has already made "thousands." They are legitimately profiting off this.

Oh well, I really hope they succeed and wind up altering the English language one SarcMark at a time. /sarcasm
Punctuate this, SarcMark.

Alumna/former Postie gives OU thanks/no thanks

By **DONNA LANGE-TUCKER**

Former Copy Editor, currently still paying for school

I have finally graduated and left Oakland University's hallowed halls of higher learning, but some of my more poignant Oakland memories deserve a second look.

Academia: Sometimes I felt like I was back in high school, but more often than not, my classes were conducted as true university classes. As usual, it's all about the people.

Thanks — The vast majority of my instructors, especially the ones who intrigued and inspired me with their knowledge, pushing me to work harder than I really wanted. You made it all worthwhile.

Classrooms with tables and chairs instead of those combo contraptions that made me feel like Papa Bear or Alice in Wonderland after she ate the cake. Some of us have continued to grow since our long-ago high school graduations.

Instructors and students who patiently indulged and accommodated my bewilderment when the subject was technology. Someday I may even learn how to use Facebook or Twitter.

Then there is the very basic laptop I finally bought two years into my college re-entry, allowing me to do my homework while my kids, on our dinosaur desktop, downloaded music to their hearts' content.

No thanks — Instructors with PhDs who insisted on being called "Doctor." Give me a break.

Spoiled rich kids who had new Coach purses or North Face jackets every week but came to class without paper, pen, Scantron or Blue Book and asked to borrow one. Oxymoron (frequently): college adults.

Being distracted in class by a nearby student sending text messages every 10 minutes and cell phones that rang during class, including the ones in instructors' pockets or purses.

Kids who brought laptops to class to look like serious note-takers but spent the entire period surfing the Internet and sending e-mails. You're not fooling anyone, you know.

Surviving a class with a particularly annoying student who asked meaningless questions to appear intelligent, and then finding that same student in one of your classes the following semester. Of all the gin joints ...

Paying an astronomically inflated price for a textbook that was rarely, if ever used in class then trying to sell that \$150 textbook and being offered \$1 because the brand new edition was being used for the next semester.

Et cetera: Sometimes college is not just about classes and homework. For me, much of the experience was about the little things that contributed to the entire campus atmosphere.

Thanks — Walking into the OC on a bitterly cold afternoon and being enveloped in the delicious steamy aroma of fresh, hot coffee from Café O' Bear's. I didn't even have to spend \$6 to enjoy it.

The free newspaper box at SFH, which was always full. Doesn't anyone else read a paper?

Seeing a family of deer grazing down on the baseball fields or nibbling on crabapple trees 10 feet from Kresge's parking lot.

And then there were the wild turkeys that liked to hang out by married housing and the trash-foraging raccoons bordered on being nasty. I think the deer were here before the college.

Drivers of cars on campus who actually stopped for pedestrians trying to cross the street. I was tempted to keep rocks in my pockets for those who didn't give me and other walkers the right of way, but I settled for thanking them with a one-finger salute while yelling at their closed windows.

Young men who held doors open for me, allowing me to go through first. Your parents would be proud.

No thanks — Those hideously ugly turkey vultures that perched on the glass ceiling of O'Dowd. They had heads like mangled red rubber and faces like rotten raw meat.

Guys who wore flip-flops on campus, exposing their ugly man-feet. Some things just aren't meant to be seen in public.

The vomit-like stench in Vandenberg when the heat was switched on.

The Post: Oh, those crazy kids. Every week, amid all the insanity, the talented staff managed to put out an always decent and often exceptional paper.

Somehow their antics and frivolity managed to make me feel young again and much older at the same time. Even the students still clinging to a shred of sanity surprised me sometimes. They've left me with moments I'll remember forever, no matter how hard I try to forget.

Lastly, I'd like to acknowledge the journalism department at OU and all my co-workers at The Post, who welcomed me into the fold.

It was truly a pleasure to spend time with an intelligent and creative group of people who can get the job done and still have fun doing it. You were a big part of my OU life and I think I miss you already.

Thanks.

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING STUDENT AWARDS:

WILSON AWARDS

Nominees for the 2010 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in winter 2010 or have graduated in summer or fall 2009. The awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. Nominees must have a strong academic record of a 3.5 or higher GPA.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in winter 2010 or have graduated in summer or fall 2009. The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to inter-group understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community. The major consideration of the award is the individual's service to the community. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.OAKLAND.EDU/DEANOFSTUDENTS/

UNDER "SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS"

OR AT 144 OAKLAND CENTER.

CALL (248) 370-3352 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

DEADLINE FOR BOTH AWARDS IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

csa@oakland.edu
248-370-2400

Center for Student Activities

CSA

www.oakland.edu/csa

OU BLOOD DRIVE

Sign up at: www.oakland.edu/oublood

January 26-28, Oakland Room, OC

Hosted by Theta Chi Fraternity

GOT LEADERSHIP? *StrengthsQuest*

The workshop is on Tuesday, February 9, from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Sign up at: www.oakland.edu/strengthsquest

Leadership & Technology Conference

The conference is on Saturday, March 20.

Sign up at: www.oakland.edu/LTC

Free to ALL OU STUDENTS!

Got an event?

Submit it to the CSA Events Calendar @

www.oakland.edu/csa/events

PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY FOR A SHOT AT GREAT PRIZES FROM:

Oakland Post

METRO DETROIT

Fill out our online survey @

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Deadline is February 20, 2010!

SHERWOOD BREWING COMPANY, CHARTWELLS, GUIDO'S PIZZA, BARNES & NOBLE, THE CROFOOT BUMPERS GAME ROOM, BUDDY'S PIZZA, & THE OU ID CARD OFFICE!

To be eligible you must be an OU student and cannot be a staff member of The Oakland Post. You must provide your name, phone number, and e-mail to be automatically entered in the drawing. One entry per person.