



Church group demonstrates on campus for peace
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ON THE BENCH

Watterworth injured, out for season

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Engineering school partners with China
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Sitting down with Adam DeVine from 'Workaholics'
PAGE 17

thisweek

January 16, 2013 // Volume 39 Issue 14



ontheweb

NAIAS has returned to Detroit. Go online to see exclusive video coverage, interviews and more.

www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

GAME NIGHT // OUCARES and ASA/OCC, a support group for people 18 years and older who have Asperger's, held the event "After Hours" Tuesday night. The event offered pizza, board games and an opportunity for conversation. The group meets every third Tuesday of the month (except during January and February.)

DYLAN DULBERG// *The Oakland Post*

Submit a photo to editor@oaklandpostonline.com or tweet with the hashtag [#postphotooftheweek](https://twitter.com/#postphotooftheweek) for a chance to be featured on this page. View all submissions at www.oaklandpostonline.com



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SAVOR THE FLAVOR

Rapper Flavor Flav opened his diner in Sterling Heights last week. Flav's Chicken & Ribs offers broasted chicken, fresh-cut fries and other side dishes.



18

BAG SNAG

Oakland University students show off their favorite purses — with different colors, styles and patterns, the classic must-have is always changing.



20

UNREALISTIC LOVE

Life Editor Katie Williams blames her unrealistic expectations on the life lessons of Walt Disney and other fairytales. (You're to blame too, John Mayer.)

POLL OF THE WEEK

Which social media site do you frequent the most?

- A Facebook
- B Twitter
- C Other
- D I do not use social media sites

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What is your stance on the availability and ownership of assault rifles in the U.S.?

- A) I think everyone has the right to own one
6 votes | 11%
- B) I think it should be allowed, but with limitations
29 votes | 51%
- C) I'm against it
22 votes | 39%
- D) I don't care
0 votes | 0%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JANUARY 21, 1966

Oakland University began seeking accreditation with the Northcentral Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, in addition to their state accreditation.

JANUARY 22, 1965

Rev. James MacAlpine hosted a series of four lectures on campus about the dangers of premarital sex.

JANUARY 17, 1977

Oakland University hosted its first homecoming basketball game, "Newcoming."

**BY THE
NUMBERS**
FACEBOOK

130
average number of
friends per user

42
million
pages hosted

25%
of users do not use
privacy settings

488
million regularly use Facebook's
mobile app

250
million photos uploaded
everyday

STAFF EDITORIAL

Be professional or GTFO

During winter break, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder passed a law prohibiting Michigan educational institutions and employers from asking students and employees (both current and prospective) to provide account information — including usernames and passwords — for social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

As millennials, we're very familiar with how the Internet works.

We grew up with computers and quickly learned how to construct an opinion in 140 characters or less.

We're fluent in text speak, and some of us even text so often that we've acquired an addiction to the technological communication avenue.

That's not our fault. It's what we were born into. Our natural way of life ... our predisposition — but not everyone realizes just who's seeing their updates, posts and check-ins.

Though the law, now known as Public Act 478 of 2012, also disciplines any educational institutions that dismiss or refuse to admit a student because they do not provide such personal information, it doesn't mean you should take advantage of it.

Even though Snyder's law

prohibits someone from asking for a password, that doesn't mean they still can't Google you and uncover personal details.

prohibits someone from asking for a password, that doesn't mean they still can't Google you and uncover personal details.

For every private, password-protected piece of data you've posted online, several more are publicly available, needing no online credentials to see them.

Every public tweet, shared image, blog post, FourSquare check-in, status update and forum post can be viewed by anyone with a Web connection.

Gov. Snyder's bill may help hide private messages and posts, but won't automatically cover the treasure trove of information that's left to the public eye.

Even those pieces marked "private" or "friends-only" can be spread and saved by those you've allowed to see them.

Before posting anything, ask yourself how much you trust your online "friends"

to keep your private information to themselves.

Think about every compromising photo of yourself that's on the Internet, every inflammatory status update you've made and every politically incorrect joke you've shared.

If one person can see it, everyone else is just a "share" or "forward" away.

This is not meant to warn you against having political beliefs or a private life. Instead, this is meant to caution you about who you share these details with. After all, it's called a private life for a reason.

We live in an ever-growing world of communication — one where every personal detail of our lives can be shared with others at the push of a button.

With that growth, simultaneously comes the growing importance of privacy. And smarts.

All it takes is for someone you know to take a screen shot of an image, retweet you or share whatever you posted. Once that's done, it can go anywhere.

And oftentimes it does. So handle yourselves wisely.

The staff editorial is written weekly by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.



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Corrections Corner

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

• The Bear Bus program is adding 12 signs and five shelters.

Letters to the Editor

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



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Shootings would have occurred even with more rules

Ethan Arten
Junior, anthropology

I have been a competitive shooter since the age of 14. During those years, I have competed at the National Pistol Championships six times and won national titles twice.

When I am shooting, I am safe, careful and responsible for my actions. There are millions of others who are the same — hunters, shooters and competitors.

None of these people ("the shooting community") have, to my knowledge, ever condoned, planned or carried out a mass murder.

Murder is the province of evil.

The recent mass shootings, and indeed all other large-scale acts of violence, were carried out by evil individuals. They would likely have occurred in one form or another regardless of any weapons bans en-

acted by the U.S. Government.

You see, evil does not care what restrictions you place upon it — evil does not concern itself with legality, morality or conscience.

Two of the deadliest attacks on United States soil (the Oklahoma City bombing and 9/11) involved no firearms of any kind. Evil people will find a way to kill.

In response to last week's "A nation in need of gun control" editorial claim that "assault rifles" are "solely manufactured to cause mass carnage." I ask you to research the shooting community before having the temerity to make claims about the tools that we use.

Better yet, interview Jerry Miculek (professional shooter for firearms manufacturer Smith & Wesson), Daniel Horner (professional shooter of the Army Marksmanship Unit), or Keith Garcia (professional shooter for Hornady Ammunition and firearms

THE RECENT MASS SHOOTINGS, AND INDEED ALL OTHER LARGE-SCALE ACTS OF VIOLENCE, WERE CARRIED OUT BY EVIL INDIVIDUALS. THEY WOULD LIKELY HAVE OCCURRED IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER REGARDLESS OF ANY WEAPON BANS ENACTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

manufacturer FNH USA, among others), and ask them if they use their competition AR-15 rifles to "cause mass carnage."

You could also inquire about the thousands of competitors who, every year, legally and safely fire in the National Rifle & Pistol Championships with what you assume to be "assault rifles."

These rifles do not cause carnage, nor are they designed for anything of the sort — is a hammer, designed for driving nails, thus also designed for driving nails into people?

The human mind, using a tool, decides what the purpose of that tool

is, not the tool itself.

That is why a ban on what the non-shooting public perceives as "assault rifles" will never be effective.

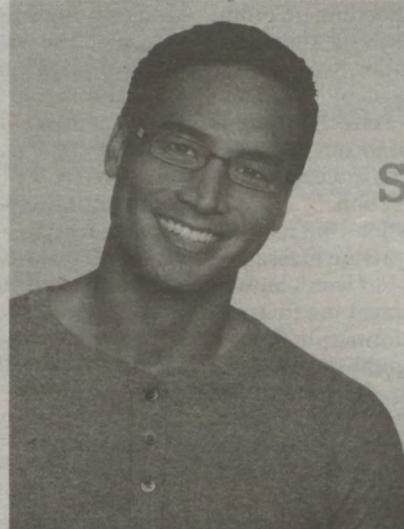
The restrictions of such a ban apply only to those who feel obligated to be bound by them in the first place; again evil does not care.

Such a legal action directly attacks the shooting community as a whole, propagates a sense of mistrust between the government, the general public, and the shooting community and limits only already law-abiding individuals from their Constitutional rights to self-defense, hunting ability and sporting purpose.

WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

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PEARLE VISION
Diversity Different

Campus

Demonstrators give peace a chance

Church group seeks to put an end to war

By Ashley Mohler
Staff Intern

On the corner of University Drive and Squirrel Road on Oakland University's campus, demonstrators have smiled and waved at cars driving past every second Friday each month for the last eight years.

Beginning at 4 p.m. in the winter and 5 p.m. when the weather warms up, the group stands on the corner for one hour to rally for peace.

The group of activists stem from the Peace and Justice Group of St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish, located on Walton Boulevard in Auburn Hills, but the idea to protest violence came at a farther reach.

How they got started

When the war in Iraq began, a group from the congregation decided to express their feelings about those being deployed overseas. They drew inspiration from Women in Black, a group from Iraq.

Women in Black is not an organization but a way for women across the globe to express themselves in their hope for peace.

"It was the whole idea of sacrificing our young men and women for killing other young men and women and civilians, I mean we just think (war is) morally wrong," said Joanne Stroebel, an original member of the group.

The number of active members ranges from 10 to 25. Recently the group added American flags and signs that read, "Honk for Peace." The additions came when the demonstrators realized the public may not understand their purpose, according to Stroebel.

The group knows some drivers do not agree with what they



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

A group of activists from St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish stand on the corner of University Drive and Squirrel Road to rally for peace.

"IT WAS THE WHOLE IDEA OF SACRIFICING OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FOR KILLING OTHER MEN AND WOMEN AND CIVILIANS. WE JUST THINK (WAR IS) MORALLY WRONG."

— JOANNE STROEBEL,
DEMONSTRATOR

are doing, but they do not let that discourage them.

"We know some people think we are crazy, but we aren't doing it as a popularity contest. We are doing it to show people who feel like we do that there are people who are willing to do this," said Liz Loria, an original member of the group.

Expanding their group

The protest group started from the church but soon add-

ed members of the community without regard to political preference or religion.

They want to include as many people as possible in their search for an end to violence.

For more information about the rally for peace, contact St. John Fisher's Chapel University Parish at 248-370-2189.

Contact Staff Intern Ashley Mohler via email at anmohler@oakland.edu



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

The group from the church has used OU as their location to send their message for eight years. They got their start after the war in Iraq began.

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Snyder, Daymond John to speak at Keeper of the Dream

By Jennifer Holychuk
Senior Reporter

Oakland University will welcome Gov. Rick Snyder as a guest speaker Jan. 21, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, for OU's 21st annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Celebration.

Entrepreneur Daymond John of ABC's "Shark Tank" will also be featured as keynote speaker.

"The Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards celebration is in many ways an event designed to promote social justice, and we're happy to have two very special guests who will certainly have valuable insights to share about making the most of Dr. King's Dream," said Omar Brown-El, director of OU's Center for Multicultural Initiatives and organizer of the Keeper of the Dream celebration, in a press release.

The celebration will be held in the Banquet Rooms of the Oak-

land Center at 11:30 a.m. and will recognize three OU students as recipients of the Keeper of the Dream scholarship award.

The award recipients

Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, said students Bria Ellis, Charlie Lapastora and Steven Wynne were selected among many applicants to receive this year's awards for their "contribution to diversity on OU's campus."

"Students submit an application, and then there is a selection process based upon the application, academics and an interview," she said.

What to expect

Miller said the event's keynote speaker and business shark, John, was the original featured guest of the event, but Gov. Snyder will be speaking briefly before John takes the stage.

Miller credits Brown-El as being instrumental in the arrange-

"I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN THIS CELEBRATION OF DR. KING'S VISION OF ADVANCING EQUALITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL."

Rick Snyder,
Governor of Michigan

ments for John to speak at the event.

Gov. Snyder's office contacted OU and asked to speak at Monday's Keeper of the Dream event.

Each year, the governor visits a different Michigan university every Martin Luther King Day, she said.

Miller said he was interested in what service opportunities OU was doing, and his focus is a non-political speech focusing on service.

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to take part in this celebration of Dr. King's vision of advancing equality, social justice and opportunity for all," Gov. Snyder said in a press release. "I'm sure the three students selected for this esteemed award will use their passion and leadership abilities to continue this mission for their generation."

A change in tradition

According to Miller, OU's MLK Day of Service is traditionally held on Martin Luther King Day as well but was moved to Saturday, Jan. 19 in light of the 57th presidential inauguration.

Miller said both Snyder and John are entrepreneurs and excellent examples for students, their presence adding to what she calls "a very special day."

"It's the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as Martin Luther King Jr. Day," Miller said. "What better

to reflect what the United States is all about, and what Oakland University is all about."

Contact Senior Reporter Jennifer Holychuk via email jholychuk@gmail.com

EVENT DETAILS

WHAT

Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration

WHEN

Monday, Jan. 21 at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE

Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center

WHO

Keynote speaker, Daymond John, and Gov. Rick Snyder.



Scholarships Available for Fall 2013 - Winter 2014

The Oakland University Alumni Association will be accepting scholarship applications for the 2013-14 academic year.

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- \$5000 - Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration award
- \$3000 - Thomas A. Yatooma School of Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Memorial award
- \$3000 - Legacy Scholarship award
- \$2000 - Working Student Scholarship award

Over 35 scholarships were awarded last year!!

Contact Erin Sudrovec at (248) 364-6136 or sudrovec@oakland.edu for more information. Completed applications for all OUAA scholarships must be submitted by **March 1, 2013** to the OU Alumni Association, 202 John Dodge House (east side of campus).

POLICE FILES

Marijuana use in West Vandenberg Hall

Police officers were dispatched to West Vandenberg Hall Jan. 8 at 1:05 p.m. for an odor investigation call.

Officers arrived on scene and made contact with the complainant who said people in a dorm room have smoked marijuana a few times before, and he just decided to call OUPD.

An officer made contact with a male student in the room. Upon entering his dorm room, police detected the faint odor of marijuana.

They asked the student if he had been smoking in his room, and he said he did not but was unsure if his roommate had.

After searching the room, police found marijuana residue on the window sill.

Police searched the student's dresser and found no contraband, but found a pill bottle with mari-

juana in it on a different dresser.

Police confiscated the container, which belonged to the student's roommate and contained marijuana in it.

The roommate came to OU Police Department Jan. 9 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the matter.

When asked about the pill bottle, he admitted to smoking marijuana in the past.

The student said he signed up for a Narcotics Anonymous class through housing and was issued a misdemeanor citation for marijuana use.

Forced entry in Ann V. Nicholson Apartments

Police responded to the Ann V. Nicholson Apartment complex Jan. 9 at 5:44 p.m. for a breaking and entering report.

The female student told police she and her roommate had trouble entering their apartment, and the door was still closed and locked

when she returned.

The two roommates noticed it was bent and the frame of the door had two pry marks. The wood frame was cracked and split.

The student told police nothing was missing from the apartment, and she was unsure if the incident happened that day because she had trouble opening the door since Jan. 7.

She said she only noticed the damage today because she had to use force to enter her apartment.

The manager of the apartment complex was notified, and the door frame was repaired by 8:20 p.m.

The scene was cleared without further incident.

Reckless driving in P3

OU police officers were called to parking lot 3 for a reckless driving incident Jan. 10 on 1:15 p.m.

Dispatch was advised that a Ford Escape had collided with a Dodge Intrepid and caused dam-

age along with another parked vehicle.

When police arrived on scene, they observed the female driver of the Ford yelling at the female driver of the Dodge.

Police observed the Ford was scraping the rear passenger side of the bumper of a Pontiac Grand Prix.

The driver of Ford said the interaction was over a parking spot.

She said she was in front of the Human Health Building when a student walked out toward a spot to leave.

She followed the student and said that's when the Dodge pulled out and cut her off.

When the student started to pull into the spot, the driver of the Dodge pulled in and hit her bumper.

She told police she attempted to straighten her vehicle, but she kept getting trapped by the Dodge.

She then attempted to pull forward and that is when she scraped

the Pontiac.

The driver of the Dodge said she was in the parking lot when she saw someone walking to a parking spot.

She began to follow the student, when the driver of the Ford swerved around her to take the spot.

She then passed the driver of the Ford to continue to follow the person, when the Ford driver swerved around her again on the left side.

The Ford skimmed the side of the Dodge, and the student said the driver of the Ford hit a parked car trying to get into the spot.

From surveillance footage of the area, it appeared the driver of the Ford was the aggressor.

The driver of the Ford was issued a misdemeanor for reckless driving.

—Compiled by Natalie Popovski, Campus Editor

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Photo courtesy of Oakland University

Changchun University, located in the Jilin province of China, has partnered with Oakland University to attract more students to the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Crossing countries to enhance the classroom

School of Engineering partners with Changchun University to attract students for fall 2014

By Kevin Graham
Senior Reporter

A series of partnerships spanning the Pacific is beginning to make students interested in automotive engineering applications, from China to Oakland University.

The latest of these agreements involves the Changchun University of Technology. Changchun, a city in the northeastern province of Jilin, is a major hub of the Chinese automotive industry.

Lianxiang Yang, a professor in the mechanical engineering department at OU, explained the shared automotive connection of the two regions.

"Oakland University is located in the automotive center in North America, and Changchun is the capital city of the Jilin province and is also an automotive city," he said. "The First Automotive Manufactory of China is one of the two largest automotive manufacturing plants and is located in the city. The faculty members of both universities have similar research interests and the students are very (interested) in automotive engineering."

Gary Barber, also a professor in mechanical engineering, coordinates the

program with Yang. He said Changchun University's president, Pan Fulin, first approached OU about developing a "two plus two" program about two and-a-half years ago.

In the program, students take their first two years of classes in China before transferring to OU for their junior and senior years.

Upon completion of the program, students receive a bachelor's degree from both universities.

Changchun joins two other OU partner universities in Beijing.

The program is currently attracting both mechanical and computer engineering majors.

New frontiers

Previously, the engineering department had only dealt with graduate students.

"Graduate students specialize only in engineering, mathematics and science courses, so communication hasn't been much of an issue," Barber said.

For the first time in the last year, five engineering undergraduate students came to OU from Beijing.

This year, 15 more students have joined them from both Changchun

and Beijing.

Barber said educating undergraduate students presents a different set of challenges.

"At undergrad level, to get a degree from OU or any other U.S. university, the students have to pass the English writing requirements and to complete all of our general education requirements," Barber said. "Students do better in their engineering classes than they do in their general education classes."

Despite communication challenges, Barber said most students in the program average a 3.0 GPA and are extremely motivated.

A global profession

Barber said having international students in class helps other OU students learn to work in an industry that is increasingly spread throughout the globe.

"Engineering is becoming a global profession," he said. "Engineers now interact with other engineers at various points in the world. Just by having students in our classrooms from other countries, this will help our students become more globally aware."

The enrollment of these students

also brings a new source of revenue to the university. Barber said engineering enrollments tend to go up and down with the state of the automotive industry in Michigan.

"They're on their way back up now, but they're still far from our peak," Barber said. "We do have available seats for students."

Prepping for expansion

Beginning fall 2014, Barber expects roughly 100 students from the partner universities to enroll at OU.

They expect the new Engineering Center, which is scheduled to be completed by July or August 2014, to provide a supportive environment for the students.

Yang hopes the university's plan for new housing will be enough to accommodate the newcomers.

"A problem might be a shortage in the housing space according to the current situation. But I believe OU is planning to build more student apartments, and we can also help these international students find apartments (surrounding) the campus," Yang said.

Contact Senior Reporter Kevin Graham via email at kpgraham@oakland.edu

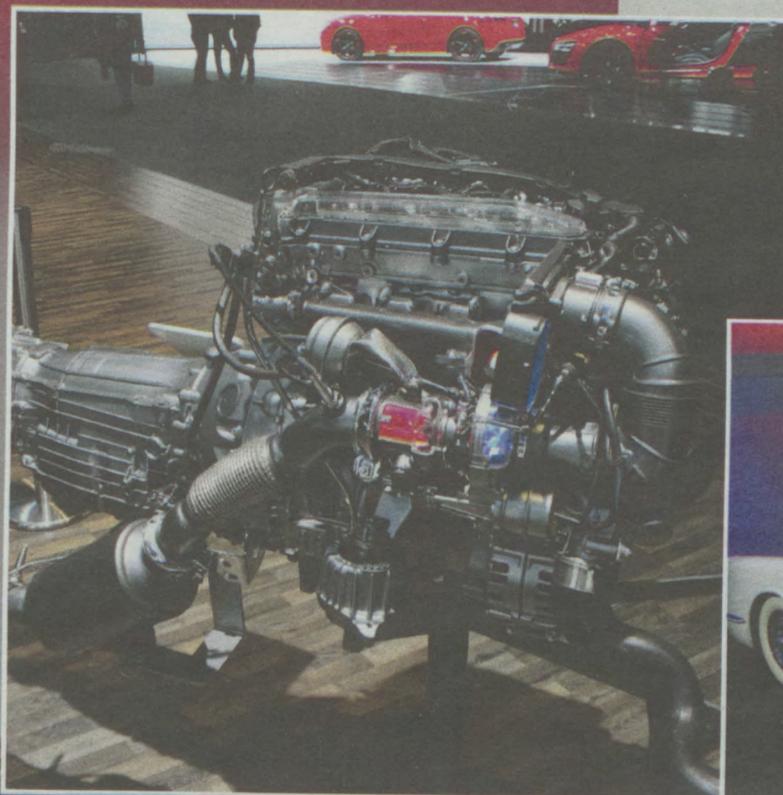


CORVETTE

Gaining 'a traction' to the Motor City

*North American International
Auto Show kicks off in Metro Detroit*

By Allen Jordan / Staff Reporter
Photography by Stephanie Preweda / Staff Reporter
Designed by Nichole Seguin / Editor-in-Chief



FAR LEFT Auto Show participants are able to see complete engines, some of which are taken out of the vehicles. **MIDDLE** A 1948 Ford F-150 is part of the Ford display. **LEFT** A Chrysler 1954 Corvette is featured as part of the show. **ABOVE** A good amount of cars at the show are hybrid, including the 2013 Ford Fusion.

STEPHANIE PREWEDA/The Oakland Post

The 2013 North American International Auto Show will be rolling through downtown Detroit this weekend, showcasing its annual event with the world watching.

The 2013 Cadillac ATS and 2013 Dodge Ram 1500 were named car and truck of the year by JD Power

and Associates, beating out the Ford Fusion and Mazda CX-5 for the honor.

The win for Cadillac is the first for the luxury American car company and the first for Dodge since 1984.

New features for the ATS were inspired by the company and its idea to expand into the entry-luxury concept taking aim at luxury competitors such as the BMW 3 series and Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

Cadillac looks to get in on the eco-friendly fuel movement offering the 2013 ELR model. The battery-driven coupe is based on the same technology as the Chevy Volt with both being produced at the GM Detroit-Hamtramack plant in a \$1 billion dollar investment venture that includes both vehicles.

The new Ram includes the addition of an eco-diesel engine with a 8-speed transmission. Inside car features include voice-connector software in Chrysler's latest version of the Uconnect infotainment system.

Jeep's 2013 Grand Cherokee goes in a different direction this year with the change to a Eco-diesel engine in the mid-sized SUV.

Both Chrysler-Dodge models will be produced at the Detroit Jefferson Assembly Plant in Detroit.

The 2013 Ford Fusion looks to capture patrons attention offering the option of buyers to choose between three gas engines as well as a hybrid engine and plug-in hybrid version.

Ford and Chevy take a trip back in time with the F-150 and Corvette lines. Ford will be showcasing its 1948 model of the classic truck in hopes of

"WHAT WE WANTED TO DO THIS YEAR WAS GIVE PATRONS A FEEL FOR THE PRODUCT BEFORE THEY SEE THE CAR."

Paul Hemsworth,
Executive Creative Director
George P. Johnson Experience Marketing

sparking renewed interest in the pickup and Chevy will be unveiling its new 2013 Chevy Corvette Stingray version of the vintage sports car.

Automakers look to be more interactive with customers this year with more hands-on activity for fans to take part in with touchscreen displays and Mac computers that serve as a guide models being showcased.

"What we wanted to do this year was give patrons a feel for the product before they see the car," said Paul Hemsworth, executive creative director for George P. Johnson Experience Marketing Agency.

The local business, located in Auburn Hills, works directly with Chrysler in designing their displays for events such as the auto show. The Chrysler display will be featured at upcoming shows in Chicago and Cleveland.

The event runs from Saturday until Jan. 27 and is open to the public from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. with no admittance after 9 p.m. every day, except the 27th when it will be closed at 7 p.m. with no admittance after 6 p.m.

GOING, GOING, GONE

WHAT The 2013 North American International Auto Show.

WHEN Jan. 19 through Jan. 27.

HOW MUCH \$12 for adults, \$6 for adults and seniors.

General Motors unveiled its 2014 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray — the first new version of the vehicle since 2005 and seventh generation of the classic American sports car.



Photo courtesy of Oakland women's lacrosse team

The Oakland women's lacrosse team began practices this week in preparation for their season opener at the University of Michigan.

Defending their crown

Led by the Preseason Player of the Year, the women's lacrosse team aims for seventh straight division title

By **Lindsay Beaver**
Senior Reporter

Oakland University's women's lacrosse team kicks off their season with a game against the University of Michigan Feb. 7 in Ann Arbor. Practice is underway as the team aims for a national championship.

"We're playing a very intense national schedule," head coach Towbey Kassa said. "If we work hard and do what we're supposed to do, there's no reason why this can't be our year that we win the national championship."

Senior midfielder Desiree Messina was voted among peers and coaches as the WCLA Preseason Player of the Year.

"To be acknowledged by the league reassures me that my hard work has truly paid off," Messina said. "I couldn't have gotten this far or have worked this hard without the help of my teammates."

The Grizzlies have won six straight division championships, dating

back to 2007. This season, they'll try to secure their fifth straight Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League (WCLL) Division II Championship.

Oakland heads into the 2013 season ranked number six in the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Associates (WCLA) standings.

"It's a good stepping stone," Kassa said. "I think it's kind of where we want to be."

The team's second game of the season isn't until March 7 when they take on Wayne State at home. After that match up, Oakland will play eight home games in a row. Coach Kassa said there is a reason behind the long home stretch.

"As we progress as a team, we're noticing more teams want to travel to Oakland," Kassa said. "We're able to showcase our team to high schools so they can see what we're about."

According to Coach Kassa, the home games in March will prepare the team for the tough games they'll play in April.

One of their biggest rival games comes April 4 against Michigan State

University. It's a home game for Oakland where the teams will compete for the Battle of the Brown Jug. "We want all of our fans to come out for that one," Kassa said. "It's going to be a blackout game."

After the nine game home stretch, Oakland will travel to Toledo, Ohio, to play Indiana, West Virginia and Central Michigan. The following week is the Pomerstone Classic in Martinsville, Va.

"We have set a lot of new rules in place for this season, and I believe this on top of off season training have been a big part of our preparation for the upcoming season," Messina said. "Everyone has been working really hard before the season starts both mentally and physically, and there's nothing more we could ask of the team. I think we're in great shape for the upcoming season."

The WCLL Championship will be held April 20-21 at Ohio State University. The WDIA Division 2 Championship takes place May 9 in Colorado Springs.

"The girls are coming back (from the offseason) strong," Kassa said. "They are playing together, enjoying themselves and looking forward to playing hard. The coaching staff likes what they see."

Contact Senior Reporter Lindsay Beaver via email at ltbeave2@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @lindsaybeavs

SPORTING BLITZ

Polidori named Preseason Player of the Year

In anticipation of the softball season next month, Erika Polidori was named Preseason Field Player of the Year in the Summit League by College Sports Madness.



Polidori

Polidori, a junior, led Oakland last season with a .379 batting average, a .647 slugging percentage, 44 hits and six home runs.

Track and Field team open 2013 with CMU Open

Oakland started the new year with a strong showing on Saturday night, earning three individual first-place finishes at the CMU Open.

Andrew Stebbins, a junior, won the shot put competition with a throw of 49 feet, 5.75 inches. Sophomore David Koponen took first in the 600m run, finishing with a time of 1:24.15. Jake Scheffler, a freshman, finished third in the high jump with a season-best mark of 6 feet, 3.5 inches.

For the women, freshman Karli Keur won the 800m run with a time of 2:19.28. Senior Brittni Hutton earned two second-place finishes, in the 3,000m run with a time of 10:30.28 and the one mile run in 5:14.40.

Tennis team picked fifth in preseason poll

The Oakland women's tennis team earned their highest preseason ranking in program history, finishing fifth in the Summit League preseason poll.

Oakland garnered 24 points in the poll, which ranked all eight teams in the conference. Kansas City is the early favorite, earning 46 points, including five first-place votes.

The season opens Jan. 19 at Michigan State.

— Compiled by Timothy Pontzer,
Sports Editor

A key contributor

Junior college transfer giving Oakland much-needed energy off the bench

By Allen Jordan
Staff Reporter

In every sport, each team has that x-factor which can provide the spark of energy at any moment on any given night. For the Oakland University men's basketball team, that boost comes in the form of 6-foot-9 reserve forward Raphael Carter.

Big fish, small pond

Coming out of Olentangy High School in Lewis Center, Ohio, Carter took a different course than the average top recruit, opting out of the chance to play with U-M star Trey Burke and Boston Celtics forward Jared Sullinger in choosing to attend the private institution.

"I just wanted to be on my own," Carter said. "Even though I would have a chance to play those guys, I knew it would be better for my development to go somewhere I could be the main guy."

Eventually Carter got the chance to play with Burke as the teammates led the All-Ohio Red team in 2009 to the Amateur Athletic Union 16-and-under national championship over Nike Team Florida.

"Being the main guy doesn't bother me at all. Just being able to be on a team is a blessing, and I'm looking to contribute in any way I can."

Raphael Carter,
Forward

On the heels of the AAU championship, in his senior season, Carter only played six games, averaging 15 points and 12 rebounds during those games.

"The opportunity against the Florida team helped me grow in so many ways," Carter said. "Although I only played in six games, that summer experience helped motivate me coming into my senior year. I just felt it was me being in the wrong place at the wrong time."



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post

Coming off the bench, Raphael Carter has averaged 10.5 minutes a game. He leads the Grizzlies with a field goal percentage of .720.

A big adjustment

With the brief setback his senior year, Carter eventually chose to attend Diablo Community College in California with the goal in mind to put his education first and obtain an associate degree.

On the court, Carter did not miss a beat during his freshman year. He averaging 10 points, eight rebounds and two blocks to help lead the Vikings to a Big 8 conference title in 2011. He followed that up with a productive seven point, eight rebounds a game average including 75 blocked shots for a 2.8 average a game during his sophomore season.

Playing in a smaller conference, the forward stood tall amongst other players. Carter registered as the tallest player in the conference at 6-foot-9. Now playing against Division I competition, the challenge has been bigger than expected.

"It's been a bit of a process," Carter said. "Going from a situation where everyone is smaller than you and now

everyone is just as big and athletic, you have to change your game and the way that you prepare to yourself for the competition."

Better late than never

After two productive seasons at the junior college, Carter chose to transfer to Oakland just a few weeks before the 2012 season began for the Golden Grizzlies.

"I take pride in academics so the most difficult part for me was starting school a week late and having to catch up in the classroom," Carter said.

"We hardly recruit through the junior college rankings," Grizzlies' head coach Greg Kampe said. "After losing Kyle Sikora in March and our two recruits, the team was in a situation where we needed a backup post player, and after receiving a couple calls, Carter caught our attention."

Kampe cited Carter's skills as a welcome addition to his squad.

"His athleticism, ability to rebound and block shots really caught our eye

and added a dimension and spark to our team that we lacked."

The transfer was delayed due to an issue of transferring credits from DCC. With that delay, it has been part of a season full of ups and downs through injury and illness including a bout with bronchitis and fever.

After getting his first start against Pittsburgh and in a recent win against IUPUI, where he played a season-high 21 minutes scoring 12 points, the key reserve has landed the role as the sixth man for the Golden Grizzlies.

Going from star recruit to another one of the guys has been an experience that the 20-year-old feels he can only appreciate being part of anyone's team at all.

"Being the main guy doesn't bother me at all," Carter said. "Just being able to be on a team is a blessing, and I'm looking to contribute in any way I can."

Contact Staff Reporter Allen Jordan via email at ajordan2@oakland.edu



CHELSEA BISTUE/The Oakland Post

Oakland's lone senior, Watterworth was named Preseason Summit League Player of the Year.

Watterworth to sit out rest of season, seeks redshirt

Star senior will miss the rest of the year due to a back injury

By Timothy Pontzer
Sports Editor

The Oakland University women's basketball team learned Monday that senior Bethany Watterworth will miss the remainder of the season.

The star forward averaged over 18 points per game last season and was named the Preseason Summit League Player of the Year for 2012-13. However, in the offseason, Watterworth sustained a back injury which has sidelined her for the entire season.

"This is the right decision for Bethany," head coach Beckie Francis said. "A player's health and safety has to come first and this isn't something we wanted her to try and rush back from."

In her absence, the Golden Grizzlies have gone 7-10 this year, managing only one win in conference play. Their 1-4 record places them dead last in the Summit League standings.

"Losing a player like Bethany is never easy," Francis said. "But I think that it will allow some of our younger players to develop. Even without her in the lineup this year, I still have high expectations for this Oakland team."

That young talent has been on full display this season, with the top three Oakland scorers being freshman. Elena

Popkey has scored 11.3 points per game, Olivia Nash has chipped in 11.1 and Annemarie Hamlet averages 9.3.

While Watterworth will not suit up this season, her Oakland career may not be over. The three-time All-Summit League player is pursuing a medical redshirt. If granted, this season would not count against her four years of eligibility, and Watterworth could play as a fifth-year senior during the 2013-14 campaign.

John Cebelak, the Compliance Coordinator of Oakland athletics, explained the aspects of Watterworth's situation.

"Bethany's 'medical redshirt' year is actually considered to be a 'redshirt year' based on being medically unable to compete," Cebelak said. "Student-athletes have a 'five year clock' (which starts when they first enroll full-time at any college) to use four 'seasons of competition,' which is defined as any intercollegiate competition (even one second of one game)."

Cebelak stated that since Bethany did not compete at all this season, NCAA rules dictate she still has one season remaining on her 'Five year clock' to participate as a college athlete.

"Our office doesn't even need to apply for a medical waiver in this situation," Cebelak said. "We just need to show she never competed," Cebelak said.

OU looks to climb out of the league cellar with a three game road trip starting on Thursday. The Grizzlies will visit Kansas City, South Dakota and Fort Wayne to close out their January schedule.

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Where the runway ends

Alum loses Miss America title to Miss New York

By Stephanie Preweda
Staff Reporter

Fifty-three floor-length dresses, fifty-three pairs of high heels, fifty-three women and just one crown.

Miss Michigan close to home

Among the women who competed for the crown was an Oakland University graduate. Angela Venditti, Miss Michigan, graduated from OU with a bachelor's degree in communication.

While at Oakland, she participated in the American Marketing Association and went to the international collegiate conference in New Orleans.

According to Venditti, in order to have a state title, one must win a local pageant first then compete for the state title.

Though she didn't win Miss America, Venditti said she competed three times before winning Miss Michigan in June 2012.

A full-time job

"It is considered (a) full-time (job) to get ready for Miss America and to make all of your appearances," she said. "There is pressure. Everyone is watching to make sure you fulfill your responsibilities."

In the past year, Miss Michigan has made appearances for her sponsors, Children's Miracle Hospitals and community service.

"To win a state title you have to quit your job and school for a year to prepare for the Miss America competition," she said. "I get to meet so many people and kids. I get to go to so many cities and places I might not have ever been able to go to if I weren't Miss Michigan."

Competing for the title

The competition has five different sections — private interview, evening gown, on-stage question, talent and swimsuit.

Since 1921, women have been competing for the chance to wear the dia-



Courtesy of Miss Michigan Website

OU alumni Angela Venditti was crowned Miss Michigan in June 2012, at the pageant in Muskegon, MI. Venditti didn't make it to the semi-finals of Miss America.

mond-encrusted crown, which represents Miss America. The pageant is the world's largest scholarship program in the world, with a \$50,000 scholarship to go toward further education.

"(The interview is) my favorite because you get to know judges," Venditti said.

To prepare, she went through a series of mock interviews, talent practice, sorting and readying outfits as well as working out.

Tap dancing was Venditti's talent. She said she has been tap dancing since she was three years old, competing throughout junior high and high school.

According to Venditti, a state title is for one year and all 53 women com-

pete for Miss America. If the winner is unable to fulfill the responsibilities, the state title goes to the runner-up. These same rules apply for Miss America.

Miss New York, Mallory Hynes Hagan, was crowned Miss America.

Venditti said if she were to have won, she would have used the scholarship money toward a master's degree in marketing.

"I am bummed she didn't make it, but so proud that she even got there," Christina Venditti, her sister, said.

Contact Staff Reporter Stephanie Preweda via email at sdprewed@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @stephsocool



ANGELA VENDITTI

- Communication major from OU class of 2011
- Brought three suitcases and two boxes filled with clothes for the Miss America competition
- Currently 24 years old
- Started tap dancing at 3-years-old
- Competed in three local pageants before being named Miss Michigan
- Her largest sponsors include Citgo Oil, GM, Dr. Pepper Snapple group and Viper Apparel
- While at Oakland, she said her favorite memory was when she went to the international collegiate conference in New Orleans with the American Marketing Association
- Each day of the pageant started with breakfast at 7 a.m.
- The girls got together before each show to say a prayer

BY THE NUMBERS
MISS AMERICA

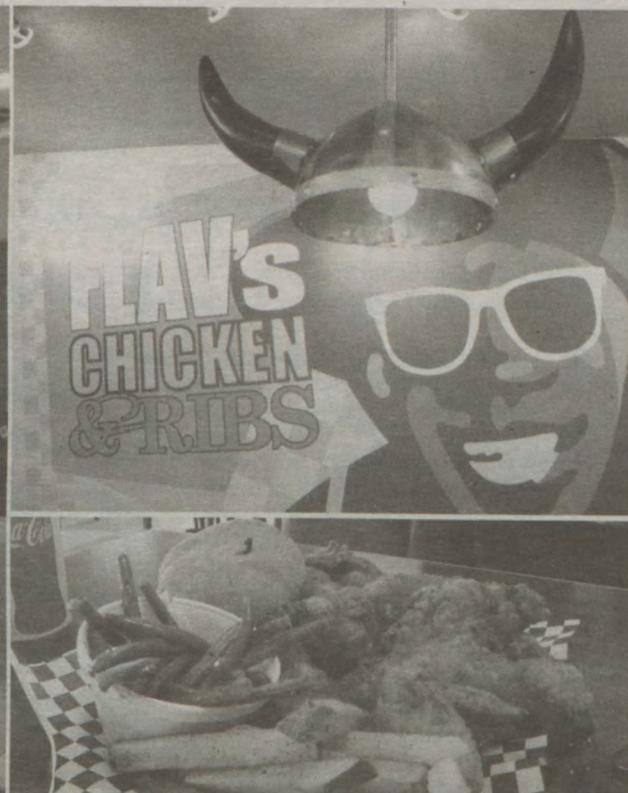
1921
first Miss America Pageant

15
finalists are chosen from 53 to be narrowed down

1
diamond encrusted crown given to Miss America

\$50,000
scholarship money given to Miss America

17
minimum age to compete



LEFT Flav's Chicken and Ribs is located at 15 Mile and Van Dyke in Sterling Heights. **TOP** Operations Coordinator Michael Mazzenga said Flav is very involved at the restaurant "(Flav) also got involved in the kitchen and took his role in every hand we have here," Mazzenga said. **BOTTOM** All foods are made fresh, according to Mazzenga. Broasted chicken is a popular menu item.

STEPHANIE SOKOL/The Oakland Post

Bringing 'Flavor' to Sterling Heights

Flavor Flav's new chicken and rib diner serves fresh food to fans, community

By Kevin Graham
and Misha Mayhand
Senior Reporter
and Multimedia Reporter

There's a new flavor in town. Flavor Flav's Chicken and Ribs, located in Sterling Heights, offers a variety of home-cooked menu items.

According to Men's Health Magazine, 53-year-old Flav (William Johnathan Drayton Jr.), founder of Public Enemy with Chuck D and former star in the VH1 reality series "Flavor of Love" and "The Surreal Life," went to culinary school. His father ran a soul food diner when he was growing up.

'The chicken you crave'

Chris Small, director of marketing for restaurant and hospitality management group Forza Development, said food quality should set Flav's apart.

"Everything is made in-house, fresh, by chef Craig," Michael Mazzenga, operations coordinator at the restaurant said. "He's designed our menu from top to bottom. The one special thing is

the seasoning for our chicken, which is actually Flav's secret recipe. He brought that to the table and it is fantastic — it's the chicken you crave, perfected by Flav."

Recipes are made in collaboration between Flav and the restaurant staff, led by kitchen manager Craig Szmigiel. Szmigiel said all of the chicken, and the ribs are cooked with sauce or dry-rub.

"It's pressure-fried. It's definitely different from a standard fryer, an open fryer," he said. "The broaster actually pressurizes the chicken, seals the coating on it and locks in the moisture on the inside of the chicken."

The menu includes, smoked ribs with Flav's homemade dry rub or sauce, mashed potatoes with gravy, baked macaroni and cheese, fresh-cut fries, broasted chicken and sandwiches.

"My personal recommendation has to be the barbeque sandwich — chicken with our house barbeque sauce — but the thing that makes it a little different is the cole slaw on the sandwich," Mazzenga said. "It's a really nice fresh flavor."

Fans of Flav's food

For many fans, this was not their first trip to the restaurant.

"This is our third time here and we got carry-out earlier," said Marlene Cydetko, Sterling Heights resident. "We had chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans, and I love it. The ribs are also to die for."

Workers at Flav's say they like the atmosphere.

"Honestly I love it here," worker Cody Davis said. "When I first heard about it, I thought it was a neat idea to see someone like Flavor Flav open up his own restaurant. I like chicken and ribs personally, so of course I'm going to like working here. All the staff is good — everyone is nice to each other and we all work as a team."

Flav visited the restaurant twice — once during the grand opening on Dec. 21, 2012 and again last weekend, according to Mazzenga.

"We're anticipating having (Flav) here probably a weekend out of every month," Mazzenga said. "He's very emotionally involved in everything

"(Flav is) very emotionally involved in everything we're doing. He's not your typical Hollywood. He talks to everyone, won't let a kid leave without an autograph."

Michael Mazzenga,
Operations Coordinator

we're doing. He's not your typical Hollywood. He talks to everyone, won't let a kid leave without an autograph. He was way different than I anticipated."

Looking to the future

Owners bank on hope that it will do better than two previous franchises backed by the entertainer. Small thinks the new location will help them avoid a similar fate.

"I would say demographically, being in Sterling Heights, which is the fourth-biggest city in Michigan, that was a huge part in declaring where we're going to put our restaurant," he said.



The Deals have performed throughout Metro Detroit, and will travel to Memphis, Tenn. for a national competition Feb. 1w.

Photo courtesy of The Deals

Have blues, will travel

Local band to compete in International Youth Blues Challenge

By Jennifer Holychuk
Senior Reporter

Sometimes, singing the blues can have a happy ending.

Students John Bivens, Christian Brendel, Kyle Marker and their band The Deals are proof.

The trio took first place in the International Youth Blues Challenge in August and is now traveling to Memphis for the national level of the contest.

Marker, an OU junior studying classical guitar, is the band's guitarist and vocalist. Bivens, a general studies major at OCC, plays drums and OCC student Brendel leads as the main vocalist and bass player.

The trio took first place in the Detroit Blues Society's best blues band contest in October and is now traveling to Memphis, Tenn. for a national competition.

Blues beginnings

The band's three members attended Oxford High School, where they met and decided to form a blues band. They have been making music together since 2009.

Marker said Brendel's love for famous blues artist B. B. King prompted his search for members to start a blues band.

As for "the deal behind The Deals," Marker said the group's name came about in an odd way.

The trio arranged a list of about one hundred names and settled on The Deals because of the significance of "getting a good deal" in pop culture.

"If you turn on the radio, all you hear about are the deals at Meijer or 'great deals at Dixieland Flea Market,'" Marker said.

Next stop: Memphis

The International Blues Challenge hosted a youth competition for bands in the greater Detroit area in August 2012, and Marker and Becker said The Deals couldn't pass up the opportunity to enter.

Competing bands were required to perform a 25-minute set including at least one traditional blues song.

"It was a competition between us and four other bands to represent Detroit in the International Blues Challenge," he said.

The Deals won the competition and was granted a spot in the Youth Blues Showcase in Memphis, Tenn. in February.

Marker said the Memphis level of the competition is not a contest and "there isn't a national winner."

Instead, each of the selected bands will play at different blues venues throughout the city. The Deals are set to perform Feb. 1.

"The idea is to showcase us to all of the big promoters and talent scouts," Bivens said.

Now for the real challenge — financing their trip to the south.

Bowling for blues

To pay for the 11-hour drive to Tenn., a fundraiser will be held at Classic Lanes Bowling Alley in Rochester Hills Jan. 20.

For \$10, participants can bowl for three hours, enjoy blues music and rent shoes for 50 cents. The cost to attend without bowling is \$5. The Deals will perform alongside Macomb blues band Trace of Lime.

Chris Murray, community relations director at Classic Lanes, became connected with the band when she attended the blues challenge and offered to help host a fundraiser to cover some of their travel expenses.

"I'm always out wherever there will be a bunch of bands," she said. "I figure I can meet some new ones to play at the bowling alley."

According to Murray, 30 percent of each \$10 cover will go back to the band.

Making it big

Bivens said the ultimate goal of the trip to Memphis is to gain recognition as a band and eventually become career musicians.

"We want to be up on the lighted stage rocking," he said. "I think that's every musician's goal."

Contact Senior Reporter Jennifer Holychuk via email at jholychuk@gmail.com

Don't be butthurt, bro

'Workaholics' star Adam DeVine offers his advice to fellow dudes

By Clare La Torre
Managing Editor

"Workaholics" writer and star Adam DeVine spoke with colleges across the country about the upcoming season, movie collaborations and just plain gettin' weird.



Adam DeVine, comedian

Q: Why do college students relate to the show so well?

A: I figure the premise of the show is so relatable to people in college because you're kind of at the point in your life that you're about to be a grown-up and it's scary as shit 'cause grownup-hood sucks. So, you're like, 'I wanna stay a kid forever, I wanna be with my friends, these are the best friends of my life, I don't wanna become an adult yet,' and that's kind of what the characters on the show have done. They're just gonna stay in arrested development where they're just having the best time of their lives, working this shitty job and hanging out with their friends. And that's kind of what I think we all want to do to some extent, until all of a sudden, you're having a baby and things get real. We're trying not to have babies on the show for as long as possible. And in real life, actually.

Q: How closely do you resemble your character on the show?

A: The core of the person I fill is pretty close. Like, I'm a little bit of a maniac. Blake is a little bit of a sweet-heart. And Ders is a little bit uptight. I'm not as dumb as my character, unfortunately. I think I would be dead. People ask me this all of the time, I don't think Adam DeVine could survive in the real world. He's always chuggin' stuff you're not supposed to chug, and jumping off things you're not supposed to jump off, and falling off things you're not supposed to fall off of for that matter. It goes hand-in-hand with his dangerous rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

Q: For students pursuing the same career as you, what advice would you give them?

A: If you want to be an actor or a producer or a writer, you just have to do as much as possible and practice... get on YouTube and make videos. One video might suck but come back and make another one and make another one... Keep making content, and you know, you make 100 videos and 60 of those videos are really funny, people are going to notice... they won't notice the 40 shitty videos. Just make as much as you can and try to make it as best as you can and take it seriously. I really give it up to the guys, especially Ders, for bringing some professionalism to our crew. We were just making videos, pretty lacks daisy-ly, and then when Ders came in, he was like, 'let's take this really seriously and try to take it somewhere.' And then we started taking it more seriously and having pitch meetings once a week, and I'm not saying we weren't drunk when we were at those meetings, but you know, we came to the table with ideas and tried to be as funny and efficient as possible.

Season 3 of Workaholics begins Wednesday Jan. 16 at 10 p.m. on Comedy Central.



It's in the bag

Young women around campus like to express themselves, and one easy way to do this is with a stylish handbag. The accessory never goes out of style. Purses can be used year-round in a variety of colors, styles and patterns to match any outfit.

Bag styles vary from small satchels to carry-all totes. Bright colors, including egg-plant, fuchsia and yellow hues are popular.

Patterns are also trendy in the purse community and many brands prominently feature patterns. Brands like Coach and Vera Bradley are top choices among students.

—written and photographed by Lily Reid and Stephanie Sokol

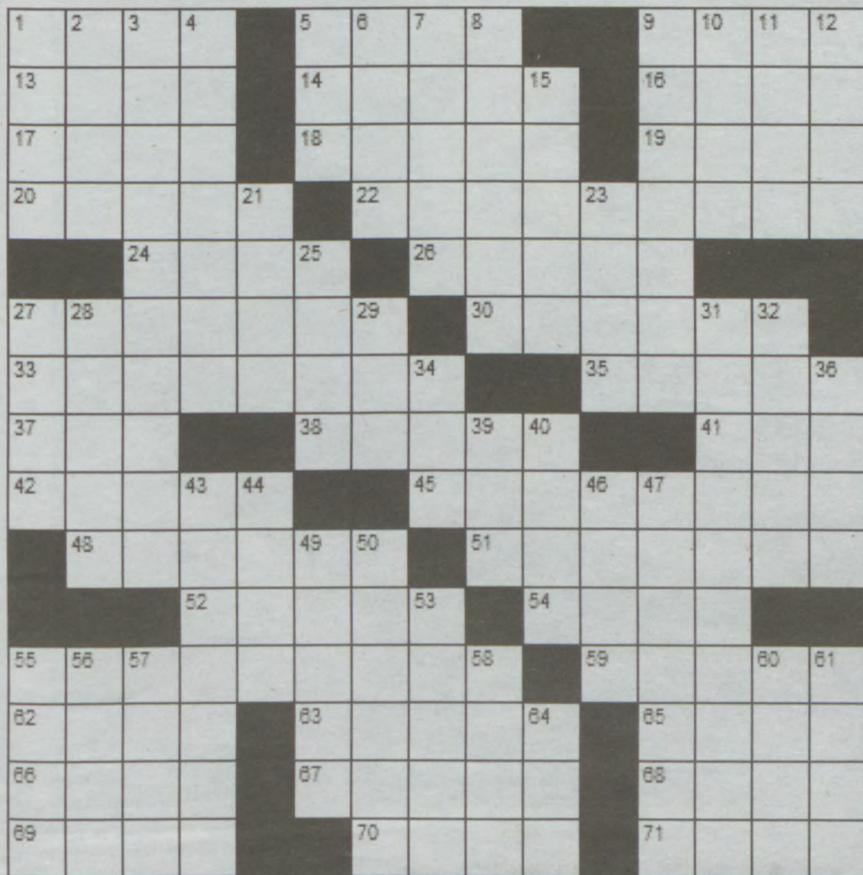


"I use my Vera Bradley handbag year-round. Its patterns and colors help brighten any season."

— Freshman Tricia McCall

op WEEKLY PUZZLES

Answers are available online at www.oaklandpostonline.com



ACROSS

- 1. Probabilities
- 5. Twin sister of Ares
- 9. Nonvascular plant
- 13. 8 in Roman numerals
- 14. Even
- 16. Found in some lotions
- 17. At one time (archaic)
- 18. Anagram of "Diary"
- 19. Violent disturbance
- 20. Happen again
- 22. Responses
- 24. Praise
- 26. Small fatty European fish
- 27. Dimensional
- 30. Pester
- 33. From the far east
- 35. Catapulted
- 37. Mother
- 38. Glorify
- 41. Spelling contest
- 42. Colonic
- 45. Zealot

- 48. Wears away
- 51. Hawkish
- 52. Stagnated
- 54. Mildew
- 55. Music genre
- 59. Considers
- 62. Parental sister
- 63. Lugged
- 65. Annoying insect
- 66. Blackthorn
- 67. Go in
- 68. Highest point
- 69. Distinctive flair
- 70. Small boat
- 71. Jump

DOWN

- 1. Not under
- 2. Calamitous
- 3. Disavowal
- 4. Place
- 5. A late time of life
- 6. Back
- 7. Wall climbers
- 8. Angel
- 9. Matrimonial
- 10. Hodgepodge
- 11. Any day now
- 12. Collections
- 15. An elastic fabric

- 21. Wreckage
- 23. Sailors
- 25. A romantic meeting
- 27. A few
- 28. Lying facedown
- 29. Lenient
- 31. An abatement in intensity
- 32. Move stealthily
- 34. One time around
- 36. Heredity unit
- 39. Legislation
- 40. Streetcar
- 43. Dampen
- 44. Contributes
- 46. Stepped
- 47. Against the law
- 49. High society
- 50. Not first
- 53. Philippine tribal chief
- 55. Carryall
- 56. Quiet time
- 57. Dwarf buffalo
- 58. Lascivious look
- 60. Mother
- 61. Stair
- 64. Not wet

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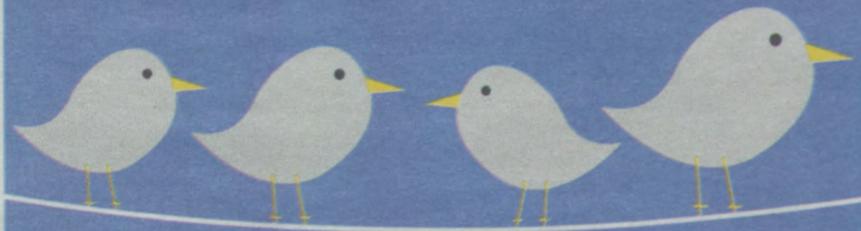
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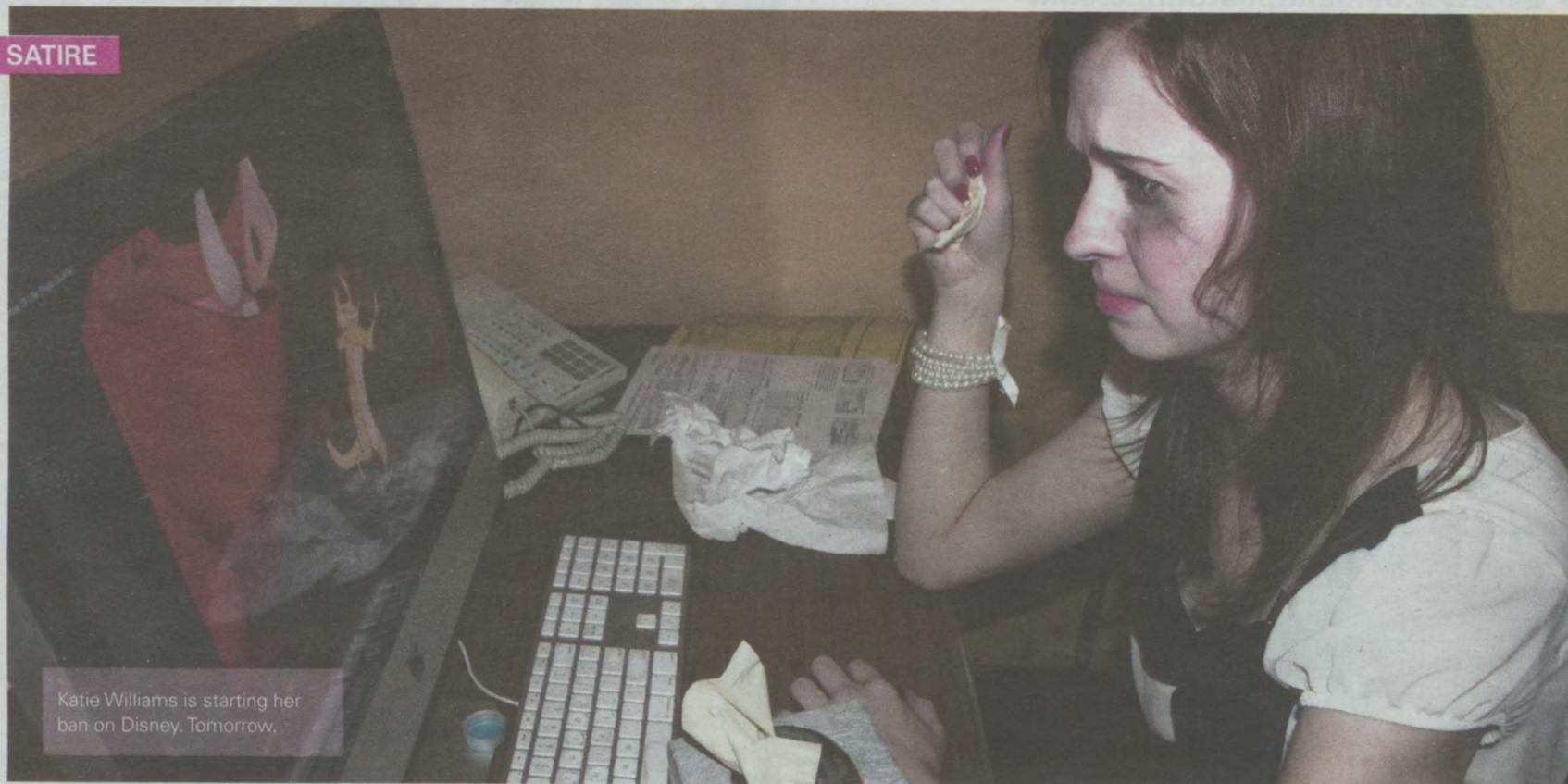


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SATIRE



Katie Williams is starting her ban on Disney. Tomorrow.

I'M NOT A PRINCESS

And this definitely is not a fairytale

By Katie Williams
Life Editor/Basketcase

Last week, a tragedy of sorts occurred. I hit a squirrel while I was driving home. His death was senseless, but not the first of its kind.

I was having a perfectly good day, when something snapped. The opening notes to "Someone Like You" came on the radio.

My initial reaction was, 'I thought we were done with this song. We've endured a dance remix and thrown a dozen Grammys at Adele to console her petulant whining.'

My second thought was, 'Must.

"ANYONE EXPOSED TO DISNEY MOVIES OR ACOUSTIC GUITARS OR SHIRTLESS MEN AS A CHILD MAY SNAP WHEN FORCED TO CONFRONT THEIR OWN REALITIES."

Feel. Sad.' Then I joined the wailing, wishing nothing but the best for some nameless, faceless guy that my hormones are hardwired to cry about.

Dammit. Adele had turned up uninvited, and even though I've given up my man-hating habits, I started sobbing uncontrollably. Things got ugly quick.

I flashed back to third grade: A magic carpet ride. Men with perfect hair who dance.

Moonlit montages set to Elton John ballads. Finding "The One" in 90 minutes or less.

Living happily ever after in a sparkly castle. Princes who encourage shoe obsessions.

White horses that never poop. A bachelor pad with a library complete with a sliding ladder from which we can sing to each other.

Well played, Mr. Disney, well played.

There were boogers flying everywhere and mascara bleeding down to my shins when a gray squirrel ran out in front of me.

Bump. He would run no more.

A group of kids walking home from school watched me stop the car and stand over its lifeless body in horror, trying to figure out how I could have done such a thing.

Those kids, and all Americans really, should understand — it's not my fault.

Someone or something needs to be blamed for my behavior.

Therefore, I propose a ban on all Disney movies. The legislation should include anything that has ever made anyone feel or think — or think about feeling or thinking — for our own safety.

It had to have been something — a miniscule part of the complex whole — from my childhood that resulted in my basketcase disposi-

tion as an adult. Adele's whining must have triggered the ugly part of my subconscious that has not accepted the difference between fantasy and reality.

Also included in the ban would be the collected works of one Nicholas Sparks, the entire John Mayer discography and anything starring anyone named Ryan (films starring either Reynolds or Gosling must be handed over to the government for proper disposal.)

We can no longer poison the minds of our children with this paraphernalia because it directly results in tragedy. Anyone exposed to Disney movies or acoustic guitars or shirtless men as a child may snap when forced to confront their own realities.

It's a risk I'm not willing to take.

Contact Life Editor Katie Williams via email at kjwilli2@oakland.edu