

# THE OAKLAND POST

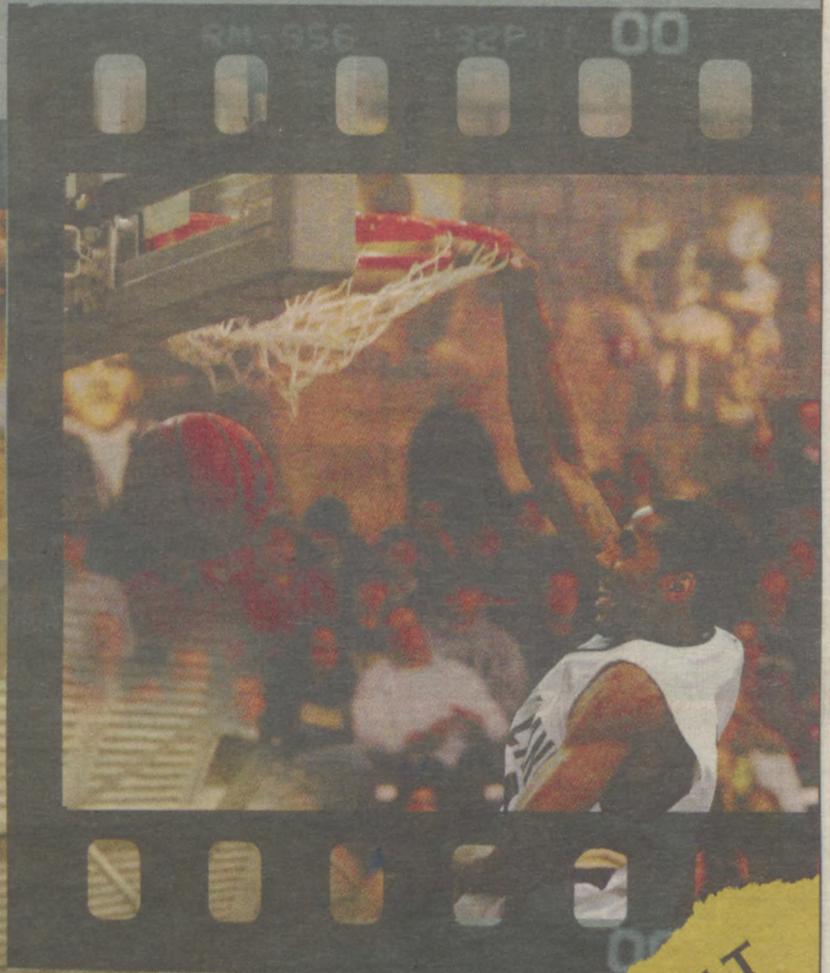
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 4, 2009

Volume 35, Number 21

## PICTURING THE SUMMIT

AS THE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT APPROACHES, OU MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS AND FANS HEAD TO SIOUX FALLS  
CHECK OUT SPORTS ON PAGE 20



BOMB THREAT  
CLOSES TWO  
BUILDINGS  
ON CAMPUS  
TUESDAY  
PAGE 6



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# THIS WEEK 3.04.09

THE OAKLAND POST  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Cover illustration by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post



## Perspectives page 4

Scene/Mix editor gripes about the dangers of parking at OU and the managing editor offers etiquette tips for quitting a job. Page 5



## Campus page 6

Student Congress election campaigning officially kicks off and candidates share their plans for getting their message out to students. Page 8



## Local page 13

Gov. Jennifer Granholm pushes for green jobs this week.



## The Mix page 16

Students talk about what kind of aid they received for their freshman year, and how they pay their tuition.



## you page 18

Students reflect on their alternative spring break experiences with Habitat for Humanity.



## Sports page 20

From bench warmer a year ago to impact player now, Keith Benson prepares for another shot at the Summit League Championships. Page 23



## the Scene page 26

The Post catches an exclusive interview with singer/songwriter Lenka.



## MOUTHING OFF page 29

Web Editor dives into his subconscious to pull out the kind of college hoops analysis that can be expected two weeks before tip-off.



## Nation | World page 31

The president of Guinea-Bissau is assassinated by soldiers.

### Exclusive Video

The Oakland Post shot exclusive video of student reactions and a university official after the threats that closed two campus buildings Tuesday

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# Perspectives

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March 4, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

## Students bomb, the system shines

By now, it is hoped that you've all been informed of the bomb threat directed against O'Dowd Hall and the Oakland Center Tuesday, March 3. Classes were canceled, the buildings were closed and bomb-sniffing dogs were brought in.

First of all, we want to give a huge shout out and thank you to the Oakland University Police Department for their quick reactions, prompt evacuations and timely text message alerts. We appreciate feeling safe and protected at times like these.

Secondly, an additional thank you for the text message alert system implemented by University Technology Services. We are grateful to have this extra layer of communication so we can be informed about what is happening in a timely fashion that might not be readily available at other colleges.

Although, there is always something to be improved upon. For the future, it might be better to clarify in the text messages which buildings specifically have been threatened. Many students felt unnerved and were frightened when they received texts in class but didn't know whether or not the building they were in was one that had been threatened.

We also feel reassured that surrounding communities provide extra resources. The Auburn Hills Fire Department was contacted and was on call to assist when the fire alarms went off, and the Sterling Heights Canine Unit brought in bomb-sniffing dogs to search both O'Dowd and the Oakland Center.

However, we were quite disappointed with fellow students who felt it necessary to cheer when they heard classes in

O'Dowd were being canceled. We were let down by the sight of people rejoicing at a time when we should have been concerned that lives were being threatened.

Are we that desensitized to these threats? For all we know, this could very well have been a prank. We have been exposed to several threats in the past year. But, like "The boy who cried wolf," how do we differentiate between a prank and something much more serious?

And, if this was just a prank, the person playing this "joke" got exactly what they wanted — a few hours off from school. This is ironic, considering we did just finish spring break. We wonder, were there any students disappointed at classes being canceled? Most of us are paying an arm and a leg for tuition, after all.

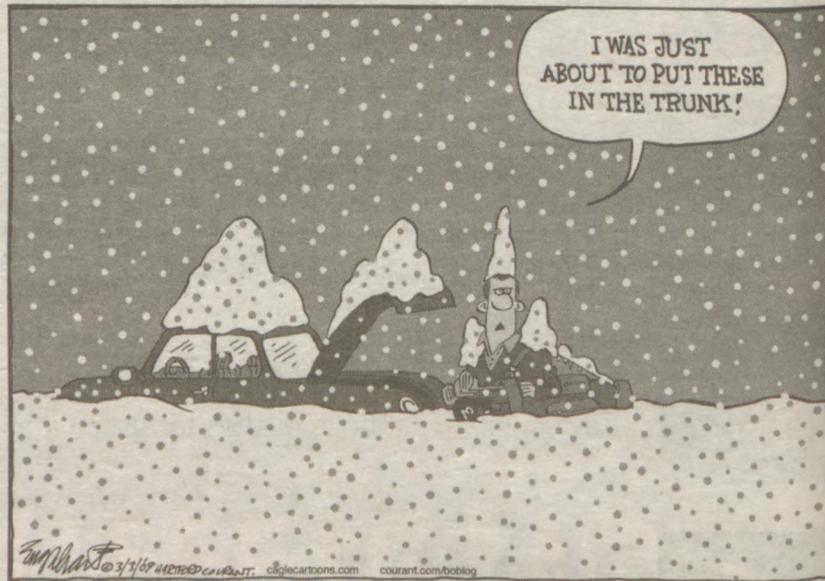
Think about this — someone might think that it is clever to be able to disrupt classes, but it really isn't funny when you take away from students' college educations, tie up costly security resources and terrify other students. And you might want to stop and think about what would happen if you get caught — this is a crime you are committing, one which could result in a fine or a hefty jail sentence. And threats like these inspire copycats. A bad joke could easily turn into something much worse.

The Oakland Post is located in the OC, so when the staff was evacuated they began reporting on the events as they unfolded via twitter posts and uploading the story on [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com). In the case of future events similar to these, refer to those resources for up to date information.

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BOB ENGLEHART/The Harford Courant, Cagle Cartoons

**W**hat do you think? Send your comments to The Oakland Post or stop in the office, 61 Oakland Center.

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

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### CORRECTIONS CORNER

- The photo caption for "Play shows other side of 'King Kong'" on page 8 of the Feb. 18 issue should read: Sally, played by Kady Zadora, fakes a smile as Sig Higgenbottom, played by Christo Savals, lights her cigarette.
- The column "O'Brien moves to Leno's spot" on page 24 of the Feb. 18 issue should say O'Brien was on NBC's 12:35 a.m. time slot for 16 years.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail [oakpostmanaging@gmail.com](mailto:oakpostmanaging@gmail.com) or call (248) 370-2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*

*— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*

# Campus parking lots 101

Drivers on the road today run stop signs, disregard stoplights and cut off other drivers more than ever, and it's getting to be a real problem.

According to [michigantrafficcrashfacts.org](http://michigantrafficcrashfacts.org), 324,174 crashes occurred in Michigan in 2007, that's one every 97 seconds. One person was killed in a crash every eight hours and five minutes.



**Amanda Meade**

Mix/Scene Editor

One pedestrian was injured every four hours and 21 minutes. Imagine this — for every four hour class that you attend each week, another fellow student is injured by a vehicle.

On a daily basis in the parking lots of Oakland University, students have to deal with the "squatters," "stalkers" and parking spot "stealers." On an overly crowded commuter campus, these are the kind of things we're forced to tolerate. I was recently walking to the Oakland Center and as I began to walk across the white painted lines in the road (you know, the ones that usually mean to yield for pedestrians, but apparently it's only when

the driver feels like it) I was viciously cut off by a fellow student. To make things worse, the driver thought it was the funniest thing she had seen in her life.

As for OU's maintenance crew, I acknowledge our snow-free parking lots and sidewalks. Yet, it seems to never fail — every time I turn a corner in a parking lot, a large OU truck with a plow on the front is inches away from hitting my car because the driver was going far too fast.

Yes, parking what seems like five miles away from your destination probably isn't the most attractive idea. But, I have a feeling that for a large percentage of us on campus, it wouldn't kill us to walk a little further to our classes. Instead of potentially injuring someone else over a parking spot, get a little exercise.

If you have the time to sit and wait in your car for a spot to open up, then you surely have enough time to find a different spot, even if it is further away.

The five extra seconds you will lose from your extremely busy lives by stopping at a crosswalk could save you money, time and unneeded grief. And the 10 minute walk from a further parking spot to your destination would make for a less stressful time.

Share your parking lot gripes an experience by commenting on this column on [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com).

**Colleen Miller**  
Managing Editor



# Quitting etiquette

It may seem odd to you to be reading a column about quitting a job while everyone else is preparing you to find one.

But I think that the getting-the-job part has been covered by Yahoo! news' interview tips and Oakland University's networking opportunities. So as managing editor of The Oakland Post, and an experienced quitter of many a job, I'd like to share some quitting tips for when you're ready to have a go at a different life experience.

- First things first — if after the interview you realize you don't really want the job, for whatever reason, don't accept it just because it's offered to you. This will save you, the boss, your interim co-workers and the payroll department a lot of grief.

- If you have a modicum of gratitude or respect for your co-workers and the work that they do, give them ample notice, catch up and organize your work for an easier transition. If you've been there a long time and are the only one that knows what's going on, it's only decent to offer to train your replacement. Make your last impression a good one because you could work with those people again some day. Besides, why have all your hard work wasted if nobody there will be a lasting contact or reference?

- Have another job lined up, if not overlapping your last couple weeks. It's a terrible place to be when you quit a job for greener pastures and it ends up being a huge mistake. Have a quit tip? Comment on this column on [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)



## Really, what do you have better to do? **OAKLAND POST OPEN HOUSE!**

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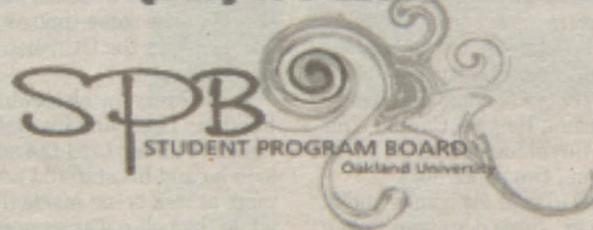
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## Threat closes buildings

*After canine units investigate, Oakland Center and O'Dowd reopen*

By THE OAKLAND POST STAFF

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff were evacuated the Oakland Center and O'Dowd Hall after a bomb threat was made targeting the two buildings. Just over two hours later, the buildings were reopened.

According to the Oakland University Police Department, the threat was phoned in to an undisclosed building on campus at 12:46 p.m. At 1:02 p.m., OUPD alerted students and faculty with a text message and voice message with a notification of a vague bomb threat.

Officials on the scene said the buildings were expected to be closed for several hours but they reopened within 90 minutes, at around 3 p.m.

OUPD Chief Sam Lucido said the threat was specific enough to confine the search to only the two buildings as opposed to shutting down the entire campus, as they did in April 2008 in response to threatening graffiti messages.

"There is really no comparison between that case and this one at all," Lucido said. "In April, there were threats in three different buildings. We decided the threat here didn't rise to that level."

OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery said that the university is sometimes weary of shutting the school down, fearing that some students might make a threat for no purpose other than getting the school to close.

"We don't want someone partying all night, sleeping in on their final and phoning in a bomb threat to get the school shut down," Montgomery said. "Other operations are going on on campus as scheduled."

OUPD worked with a number of outside law enforcement agencies, including the sheriffs' departments of Oakland County and Macomb County. OUPD also enlisted the services of bomb detecting dogs from Sterling Heights Canine Unit to survey the threatened areas.

Around 2 p.m., two police dogs entered the OC to sniff for bombs and at around 2:10 p.m., three dogs were taken into O'Dowd. The two buildings were reopened by 2:55 p.m. after canine units searched the grounds and left.

Lucido said the procedure adhered to

protocol and commended his staff for a smooth and expeditious performance.

"We called for a very thorough search of the premises, and our officers did a very professional job," Lucido said. "Of course, we couldn't have done this without assistance from outside agencies. They were a big help."

While the OC and O'Dowd were locked down, many classes went on as scheduled in North and South Foundation halls, the buildings connecting to the OC. However, some professors in SFH evacuated classes, most likely because of the text message alert system.

Sociology professor Terri Orbuch had just started her 1 p.m. interpersonal relations class when several of her students received the text message alert.

While she decided to proceed with class, Orbuch said the mood was quite tense, making it difficult for students to focus on the subject matter.

"I'm going to probably have to go over all the class material again," Orbuch said. "It was very difficult to stay on track, to not have everybody look outside, for me not to ask 'Did anyone get a new alert?' The whole event was just very distracting. Everybody was on edge."

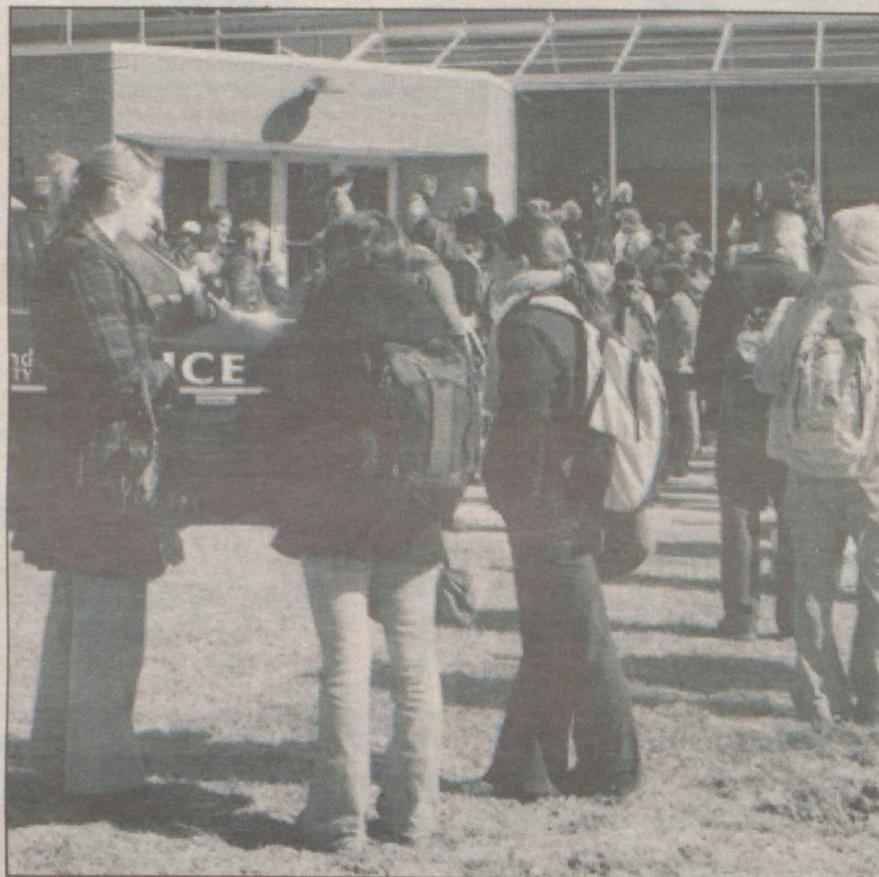
For philosophy major Stacey Watrobski, the classroom atmosphere was considerably lighter. She said she thought it might have had something to do with the subject matter of her class.

"We talked a little bit about if we were going to die that we shouldn't be afraid because we're philosophers," Watrobski said. "The mood didn't really change at all. We just kind of went about our business."

Richard Fekel, the building manager of the OC, said he found out about the threat at the same time as the rest of the people in the OC when the fire alarm was activated.

While everyone else evacuated the building, Fekel and his staff stayed inside to understand the situation. Fekel said he and his staff did not feel any more at risk being inside the building while the police was examining the OC.

"I think it might depend upon the circumstances at hand, but this time I certainly don't think anybody felt uncomfortable," Fekel said. "The whole process



Hundreds of students gathered outside the Oakland Center and O'Dowd Hall after the buildings were evacuated on Tuesday, March 3. Many of them were standing around and talking to people, while some talked on the phone or texted. Some students who signed up for the emergency alert notification system were also checking text messages and voicemails sent by OUPD.

was very smooth and very orderly as well."

Brian Sweet, manager of the bookstore in the OC, had to stay inside to let the police in to survey the store. Sweet said there was not an exceptionally high level of anxiety among his employees, and that he was impressed with the expediency with which the police conducted their duties.

"It's really difficult to evacuate a building as crowded as this one especially during lunchtime with all the people coming in and out, but I think they did a fantastic job," Sweet said. "It didn't seem to be a grave situation, but they seemed

to be taking it very seriously."

Sweet said all bookstore employees will be paid for the time they were restricted out of the building.

For more photo and video coverage of the bomb threat scare, you can visit [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com). You can also check out live minute-by-minute status updates of the event at [www.twitter.com/theoaklandpost](http://www.twitter.com/theoaklandpost)

— Sean Garner, Lindsey Wojcik, Colleen Miller, Tim Rath, Jared Purcell, Thomas Rowland, Kay Nguyen, Brad Slazinski and Steve St. Germain contributed to this report.

# Nanotech research center created

By SEAN GARNER  
Senior Reporter

For years, Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State have been known informally as the Big Three when it comes to major research universities in Michigan. Now, an Oakland University professor said OU is attempting to carve itself a spot in that elite tier.

The recently established Nanotechnology Research & Development Institute is the latest aspect of an ambitious technological research initiative at OU that includes the Biomedical Research Center, the OU Beaumont School of Medicine and the proposed \$16 million research park.

T.C. Yih, vice provost of research and engineering, was appointed chairperson of the Nanotech Institute and said the institute will help put OU on the cutting edge of a sector that will drive the national economy in the near future.

"If you put all this together, we are actually working into the future right now," Yih said.

"I believe in the next 10 or 15 years as you project it, we will be a major player, at least in Michigan. Right now we have

the Big Three — UM, MSU, Wayne State — I believe OU will be on the map."

Provost Virinder Moudgil said Yih was the best choice to lead this new project.

"Dr. Yih is a nationally recognized leader in nanotechnology research," Moudgil said. "Along with his current and past administrative experiences, Dr. Yih has first-hand experience and is eminently qualified to lead the Nanotech R&D Institute."

Until taking his current position at the Nanotech Institute, Yih was a co-editor in chief of the journal, "Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology and Medicine." In 2008, he also edited the book, "Micro and Nano Manipulations for Biomedical Applications," which Moudgil, who has a background in the medical field, called "a book widely seen to be the authoritative volume on nanobiotechnology."

People in the nanotechnology field deal with the manipulation of tiny particles. The prefix nano is derived from Latin for "dwarf" and denotes one-billionth.

"When we talk about nanoscale we are trying to observe and manipulate objects at the subatomic and molecular levels. What we try to do is change the building blocks for all physical objects," Yih said.

Yih said several professors have been working in nano fields for years, such as Raul Chaudry with his stem cell research. According to Yih, one of the priorities of the Nanotech Institute will be to provide better funding for the professors currently engaged in nano research.

Moudgil said the establishment of the Nanotech Institute will lead to greater research opportunities for students. "One of the objectives of the Institute is to enrich university curriculum and student research experience, at both undergraduate and graduate levels," Moudgil said. "We intend to recruit students from different disciplines to participate in different R&D projects in collaboration with other academic units at OU and outside industrial and business partners."

Yih said that this work will help generate federal funding by way of the 2000 National Nanotechnology Initiative.

"The so-called research projects that are funded by the federal agencies, would love to see student involvement which means we are required to recruit students into our projects," Yih said.

"We really need to train and educate students for our future needs in nanotechnology fields."

Both Moudgil and Yih said that the Nanotech Institute will be heavily involved in collaborations with area businesses.

"The Institute has already secured research funding from the Michigan University Commercialization Initiative as well as from a couple of regional companies," Moudgil said. "We'll continue to seek expanding our resource base in collaboration with the state and private organizations."

Yih said the institute will attempt to work with students and faculty in the school of business to develop sales and marketing strategies. He also said he even hopes to work with Cooley Law School to address intellectual property issues.

The recent investment in research and technology at OU has Yih excited and confident that OU is thinking forward on important issues.

"This is really the third industrial revolution," Yih said. "I credit [OU President] Dr. [Gary] Russi and Dr. Moudgil for being visionaries. They understand what Oakland needs to do in order to not just stay static, but to grow and expand and be viable in the future."

## Creating an organic farm in an urban setting

By KAY NGUYEN  
Staff Reporter

Students at Oakland University and two Pontiac high schools have started an organic farm and the students are trying to create another on campus.

While the initiative for the farm on OU is still in its planning stages, members of Students In Free Enterprise and Environmental Coalition hope that it will soon become a reality.

"We have to go through a lot of red tape now," said SIFE member Jason Taylor. "We have gotten everyone we need to be on board. All that is left is up to [campus officials]."

Students plan to team up with the national Urban Farming organization. The organization would provide training and raw materials to students in order to successfully cultivate the gardens.

A movement that started in Detroit, the aim of the urban farming program is to essentially take the concept of a "victory garden" and use any dead space to grow and cultivate. The organization takes interest in non-traditional spaces like walls and plant holders.

"During WWI, Americans grew 40 percent of produce through victory gardens," said SIFE president Brennon Edwards. "We can be better and we can do even more."

While nothing is set in stone, SIFE and Environmental Coalition are in the nascent stages of a partnership with campus food-service provider Chartwells. Students hope to sell their organic product to Chartwells.

"We would grow the fresh produce and herbs and sell it to Chartwells," said Edwards. "Students would in turn eat student-grown produce, making a circle of green living."

Edwards said the students have been able to obtain agreement from campus housing for a parcel of land.

Taylor is also a mentor and the vice president of the Bridge to Life mentor program. Through the Bridge to Life program, SIFE and the Environmental Coalition members have already started an organic garden initiative with Urban Farming.

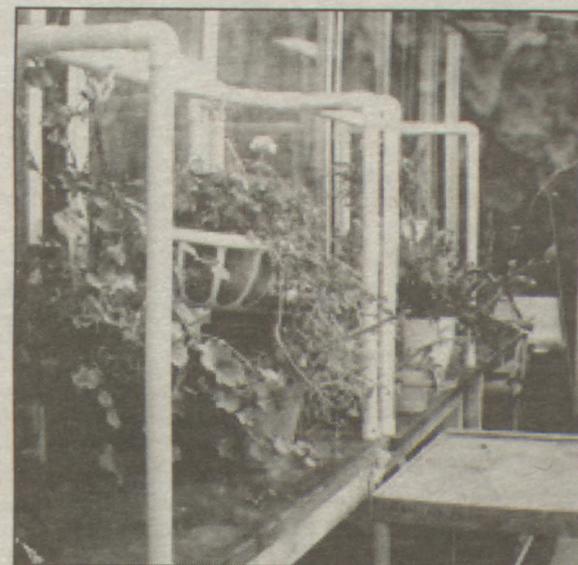
SIFE and Environmental Coalition students mentor students through the Bridge to Life program at Pontiac Central and Pontiac Northern high schools. A joint effort with the Urban Farming organization has resulted in an agreement to refurbish a growing space in addition to raw materials.

Students in the after-school program at Pontiac Northern High School will grow organic produce in an abandoned school greenhouse and hope to donate it.

"We have already cleaned out the greenhouse and I am so excited about the organic garden," said Pontiac Northern sophomore Javontae Jones. "Anything we can do to be green and help the earth will be helpful to future generations."

Bridge to Life advisor Roslyn Taylor hopes that the project will fulfill the program's goal of teaching entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

"Having students plant some vegetables and seeing their peers eating them will change them," Taylor said. "I want the students to believe that they can change the



KAY NGUYEN/The Oakland Post  
The urban farm will be placed in this greenhouse in Pontiac.

world and that they can be a part of the community."

Environmental sustainability is a goal of Bridge to Life, SIFE, the Environmental Coalition and Urban Farming. Students and advisors hope that a successful pilot program at Pontiac Northern High School will expand to other area schools, especially OU.

# Student congress election officially starts off

By **MASUDUR RAHMAN**  
Campus Editor

Campaigning for the Oakland University Student Congress elections officially began on Monday, March 2 at around 4:30 p.m. The candidates for Student Body President and Student Body Vice President are starting to get their messages out to students.

The candidates have different things to offer and are going to campaign in different ways, but there are some similarities.

All of the candidates said that they will be trying to reach the students on a personal level, hoping to find out what the students want out of OUSC.

"We have opinions, but we're just two people," said Janelle Arbuckle, who's running for president with Nick McCormick as vice president.

The candidates are planning on having several events for the students to get to know them and what they stand for.

The first such event is the Meet and Greet on Thursday, March 5, at 6 p.m. in the Oakland Center. Students are invited to come and meet the candidates hoping to represent them in 2009-10.

There is also a debate for the presiden-

tial candidates planned for noon Monday, March 9 in the OC Fireside lounge, and a debate for the vice-presidential candidates is scheduled for noon Tuesday, March 10, in the cafeteria in the OC.

Along with the events, the candidates said they will try to reach students in other ways, like approaching them in the OC or talking to people after class.

Each of the candidacy tickets also have a Facebook group for their campaign, and are encouraging students to reach them via Facebook, e-mail and other ways.

"We're going to exhaust every PR possibility," said Kristin Dayag, who's running for president with Saman Waquad as vice president.

"We're going to have building meetings in the dorms," said Jackie Craite, who is running as vice president with Anthony Ivone as president.

"We have a big word of mouth campaign," said Mark Medaugh, who's running as president with Ashley Marthen as vice president.

The candidates haven't picked times for the meetings, but said they will soon.

Check out The Oakland Post's next issue on March 11 for further coverage.

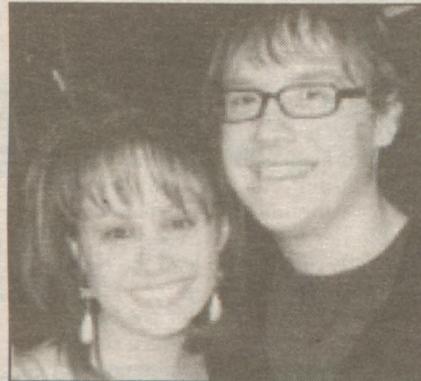


Photo Courtesy of Janelle Arbuckle  
Janelle Arbuckle and Nick McCormick.



Photo by MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post  
Ashley Marthen and Mark Medaugh.

A photo of Anthony Ivone and Jackie Craite together was not obtained by press time.



To read the official campaign platforms of all the candidates, and for links to each of their Facebook groups, visit [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

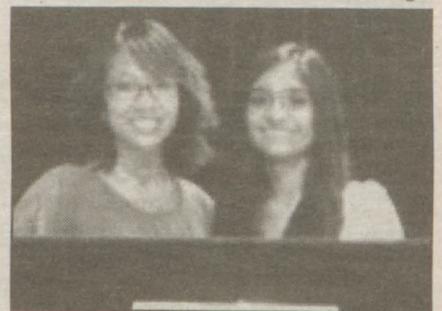


Photo Courtesy of Kristin Dayag  
Kristin Dayag and Saman Waquad.

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The role of the Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees is to serve as a non-voting resource on all student issues at monthly meetings of the Board.

**Term of Office:**

- ◆ July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 or 2011
- ◆ Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- ◆ Must have earned 56 undergraduate or 18 graduate credit hours (of which 28 are at Oakland University)
- ◆ Must not hold any other major elected campus office

**Applications are available at:**

Student Affairs Office – 144 Oakland Center  
Student Congress Office – 62 Oakland Center  
Center for Student Activities – 49 Oakland Center  
Oakland University Board of Trustees Web Page

**Applications are due in the Student Affairs Office by March 31, 2009**

For questions, please call: 248-370-4200

# Zaslow gives lecture about 'The Last Lecture'

By KAY NGUYEN  
Staff Reporter

Jeffrey Zaslow, a columnist for The Wall Street Journal who co-authored "The Last Lecture" along with the late Randy Pausch, spoke at Oakland University on Tuesday, March 3, about his career and experiences working with Pausch.

About 100 people attended the lecture held in the Oakland Center's Gold Rooms at 6:30 p.m. The event was co-sponsored by Oakland University's journalism program and The Oakland Post.

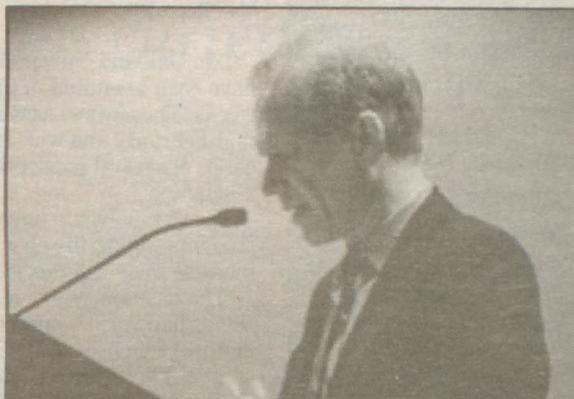
Zaslow offered to waive his usual speaking fee and requested that donations be made to benefit the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. The event was followed by a book signing and raised over \$250 for the charity.

"He is a storyteller, a journalist and a nice guy," said OU journalism professor Holly Gilbert, the main organizer of the event. "To me, that is greatness."

Zaslow explained that his love of simply telling stories is strong enough to travel.

"Wherever I am asked, I go. It's nice to know people care," Zaslow said. "I want to pass on Randy's story."

Zaslow began by sharing some anecdotes about his time as an advice columnist and his current job. Zaslow's WSJ column "Moving On" features tales of difficult life transitions and was named the best general-interest column by the National Society of Newspaper



JACKSON GILBERT/The Oakland Post  
Jeffrey Zaslow is the co-author of the book "The Last Lecture."

Columnists in 2003 and 2005.

"I write about the key moments in a person's life," said Zaslow of his column. "I'm always looking for that moment."

One of those moments came when Zaslow's editor told him about Pausch, a Carnegie Mellon professor, and his battle with pancreatic cancer. He suggested that he simply call him after the lecture.

"I thought there was something in his story," said Zaslow of his decision to drive 300 miles from Detroit to Pittsburgh.

Zaslow attended the dying professor's final presentation in 2007. He then wrote a column and follow-up that would bring the story outside of the classroom.

Zaslow's columns in WSJ, with a video highlights from the lecture posted on the Internet, brought Pausch's words of wisdom to the world.

Pausch's final lecture did not focus on death, but on achieving childhood dreams. Zaslow's dream was to be a writer.

"To write a book that touched the world — it's bittersweet since Randy's gone now," said Zaslow. "Randy knew he was giving me that dream."

Subsequently, "The Last Lecture" was then written over the course of 53 cell phone calls made to Zaslow during hour-long bike rides. The book expanded on his lecture and became an international bestseller.

"I wanted to tell the story of what happened to this man," said Zaslow. "He wanted to say goodbye to his family and students and look what happened."

"The Last Lecture" has since been translated into 44 languages and video of the lecture has been viewed over 14 million times on Carnegie Mellon's website and YouTube. Zaslow spoke of the lessons he learned from Pausch and of the impact that "remarkable and astonishing afternoon" had on his life.

Zaslow's latest book "The Girls from Ames" is slated to appear in bookstores in April. The nonfiction work follows 11 women from Ames, Iowa who have been friends their whole lives.

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(248) 370-3450

Remember, financial aid is available throughout the year. A summer application is available at [www.oakland.edu/financialaid](http://www.oakland.edu/financialaid). A federal application for fall 2009 is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Questions?

- **About financial aid, payment plans or a bill:** contact the Office of Student Financial Services, 120 North Foundation Hall, call (248) 370-2550, e-mail [finaid@oakland.edu](mailto:finaid@oakland.edu) or visit [www.oakland.edu/financialaid](http://www.oakland.edu/financialaid).
- **About course selection:** contact your academic adviser or [www.oakland.edu/advisingcontact](http://www.oakland.edu/advisingcontact). Graduate students should contact their academic department for advising.
- **About registration:** contact the Registrar's Office, 100 O'Dowd Hall, call (248) 370-3450 or e-mail [registra@oakland.edu](mailto:registra@oakland.edu).



## POLICE FILES

On Feb. 17, a student reported to OUPD that his wallet was stolen. He said that at first he thought he might have lost the wallet, but after a few days, he believed that the wallet was stolen. He said he did not remember where he might have lost it or had it stolen. He has not reported finding the wallet to OUPD yet.

On Feb. 18, OUPD received a call from a student who said he saw a threat carved in a men's bathroom in a building on campus. OUPD is not disclosing the location, the building it was in or the nature of the threat. Two OUPD officers went to the building and saw the threatening words carved into the handicap stall. They checked the other

men's bathrooms in Dodge Hall, Hannah Hall and Science and Engineering Building, but saw no other threats. OUPD also checked the women's bathrooms, but nothing else. They also checked the bathrooms in all the residential buildings, but as of Feb. 19, found no other threatening messages. The student who reported the threat said he first saw it on Feb. 16, but did not report it to OUPD because he didn't know OUPD's phone number, office address, and was busy with school and work until Feb. 18. OUPD took the class schedule of the student who reported it, to investigate further. Nobody has been charged with a crime.

## Assaulted at home

By MACKENZIE ROGER  
Staff Reporter

Two Oakland University students have been assaulted in the past three weeks. The earliest assault came in mid-February and was the first in a series of several incidents in student residences.

The recent events have left many students wondering about the sudden increase in on-campus violence.

"The past few weeks make me wonder why it happened," said OU senior Paul Santini, who lives in the student apartments. "I'm going to be more cautious about watching out for people and just being more aware on campus."

On Feb. 18, an OU junior was attacked in his apartment by two masked assailants, neither of whom he was able to identify, according to an OU Police Department report.

After being woken at 4 a.m. by loud knocking, the student opened the door and the assailants ran in and began beating him, the report said.

The report said that the student was unable to fight off the attackers and received a blow to the head from his guitar. Eventually he managed to break free, ran to a friend's apartment and contacted OUPD.

For students who worry that similar incidents may happen to them, the OUPD claim that the assault was not a random event. An ongoing investigation has revealed more details.

"We are reasonably certain that this was not a random event," said OU Police Chief Sam Lucido. "Therefore, we'd like to reassure the residential population that OU remains very safe."

Two days later on Feb. 20, a student in Fitzgerald House reported another assault, this time from a known assailant, her former boyfriend.

According to the OUPD report, OUPD dispatched an officer to Fitzgerald, where the victim told the officer about a series of threats and physical violence by her ex-boyfriend.

"The OUPD will seek a domestic violence warrant," said Officer Brett Vanderford. "The victim was given a copy of the Information for Victims of Domestic Violence form."

In the same incident, OUPD recovered a loaded magazine from a handgun, which the victim alleges her assailant carries with him at all times.

"We want to address all concerns," Lucido said. "We rely on our community to inform us."

Police investigations are ongoing for both incidents, and students are encouraged to call or text OUPD at 248-370-3333 or dial 911 from any campus phone if they see any suspicious behavior or crimes in progress.

Students are also suggested to save the OUPD number into their cell phones, and sign up for the alert notification at [www.oakland.edu/ready](http://www.oakland.edu/ready), which sends text messages and/or voice-mails to phones in emergencies.

## Banned from campus

By MACKENZIE ROGER  
Staff Reporter

Harry Quincy Nguyen, who is not a student at Oakland University, has been banned from the campus.

According to an OU Police Department report, Nguyen arrived at an off-campus event several weeks ago, and was seen harassing several OU students.

Last Thursday, Nguyen visited the Center for Student Activities office in the Oakland Center.

Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh said that after displaying erratic and inappropriate behavior while talking to a female CSA worker, he was deemed an immediate threat to OU.

McIntosh banned him from campus, which McIntosh has the power to do.

The 42 year-old Nguyen stands 5-foot-6 and weighs approximately 135 lbs.

Nguyen has brown eyes, black hair, and wears glasses.

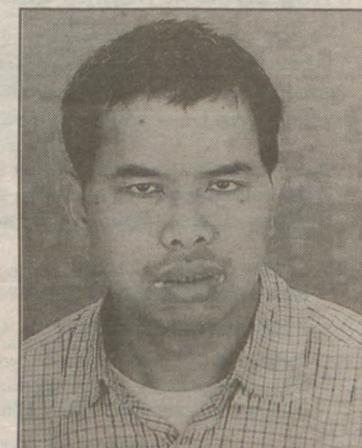


Photo by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post  
OUPD hung up posters with this picture of Henry Nguyen in buildings.

People are encouraged to contact the OU police at 248-370-3333, or dial 911 from any campus phone, should Nguyen be seen anywhere on campus.

<p><b>THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES</b></p> <p>Saturday, March 7 - 8:00pm Sunday, March 8 - 2:00pm 201 Dodge Hall Tickets are \$10 Available @ the CSA Service Window</p>	<p><b>Love &amp; Relationships with the Love Doctor (Dr. Terri Orbuch)</b></p> <p>Tuesday, March 10 Noon - 1:00pm Gold Room C, OC</p> <p>Join us for a lively discussion and find out all you ever wanted to know about relationships, but were afraid to ask.</p>
<p><b>SPRING INTO SOPHOMORE YEAR</b></p> <p><b>TUESDAY, MARCH 10</b> 11:30am to 2:00pm Gold Room B Oakland Center</p> <p><b>Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about what OU has to offer</b></p> <p>For more information contact Jaime Green at <a href="mailto:jgreen@oakland.edu">jgreen@oakland.edu</a></p> <p><b>CSA</b> Center for Student Activities</p> <p>(248) 370-2400 <a href="mailto:csa@oakland.edu">csa@oakland.edu</a> <a href="http://www.oakland.edu/csa">www.oakland.edu/csa</a></p>	<p><b>Leadership &amp; Technology Conference 2009</b></p> <p>Date: Saturday, March 14 Time: 10:00am - 4:30pm Location: Elliott Hall (Lunch Provided)</p> <p>Open to all OU students.</p> <p>For more information &amp; Online Registration: <a href="http://www.oakland.edu/csa">www.oakland.edu/csa</a></p>

# Unions work without deals

*Three OU labor groups currently at the table*

By SEAN GARNER  
Senior Reporter

The people cleaning the grounds, the police officers patrolling campus in their squad cars and the people responsible for organizing the staff offices all have one thing in common. They are all working without a contract.

The contracts between Oakland University and three workers' unions — OU Professional Support Association, OU Campus Maintenance and Trade, and the Police Officers Association of Michigan — are all in the process of negotiating deals with the university since their contracts expired last summer and fall.

Assistant Vice President of Human Resources Ronald Watson said that the university is working hard to reach an agreement that will satisfy all parties involved in these separate negotiations, and there is no reason to expect a strike.

"A work stoppage is not anticipated," Watson said. "The university administration has an excellent relationship with the unions and employees and expects to reach an amicable resolution."

At the last board of trustees meeting on Feb. 4, OU announced that an agreement had been reached between the university and the Police Officers Labor Council, whose members had been working without a contract since June.

The members of POLC are sergeants in the OU Police Department and are not associated with POAM which is responsible for OUPD patrol officers.

Richard Tomczak, president of the POLC, declined comment for a previous story, citing fears that information he would reveal could contaminate the ongoing negotiations. Despite the agreement, the POLC contract linked through the website of OU Human Resources is still the expired one.

Under their current agreement, the sergeants agreed to suspend any pay increases for two years after their 3 percent raise at the end of this year.

According to Watson, the agreement with the police sergeants could be a positive development for the remaining contract settlements.

"We negotiate each agreement separately," Watson said. "However, both economic and non-economic issues are often quite similar."

Watson declined to comment on the current negotiations, claiming it would violate negotiating etiquette.

Likewise, no union member contacted for this story would give a comment.

Elsewhere on campus, the contract for American Association of University Professors is set to expire Aug. 14. Per contract policy, AAUP will not be able to negotiate a new contract until May.



## Web Exclusives this week:

• Exclusive video coverage of the bomb threat Tuesday.

• Read the official campaign platforms of all of the Oakland University Student Congress Presidential/Vice-Presidential candidates.

• Watch a video interview of members of all four student body election tickets, telling you how you can find out more about them and get involved.

For all these and more, visit [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

# Women's History Month celebrated with 'Love and Sex' poetry reading

By KATHLEEN QUANDT  
Staff Intern

The Love and Sex poetry reading kicked off Women's History Month in the Kresge Library Monday, March 2.

Students, staff and faculty read poems from authors like E.E. Cummings, Sara Teasdale and Frances E.W. Harper.

Erin Downes, senior English and women's studies major, is an intern at the Gender and Sexuality Center and put the poetry reading together for Women's History Month.

"I feel like poetry is ignored a lot as an art form, and it's a wonderful art form. And it's a wonderful way to communicate feminism which is kind of a little bit what women's history month is about," Downes said.

The poems were about love, sex, lust, betrayal, motherly love and a range of other emotions.

A poem by Francis E.W. Harper, "A Double Standard," was about a woman who cheated and was blamed for her actions while the man was not.

In addition to poems, participants read letters from poet Paul Dunbar to his wife and from his wife to him. The letters, written in February 1898, described their desires and emotions for each other.

Anne Switzer, outreach librarian, said she tried to choose not just romantic poems, but to explore the theme of love and the many different facets of it.

Downes read several poems from E.E. Cummings among other authors.

## Women's History Month campus calendar

- "What Does It Mean to be a Transgender Woman?" — Thursday, March 5, at noon-1 p.m. in Gold Room B in the Oakland Center.
- "The Vagina Monologues" — Saturday, March 7, at 8 p.m. in 201 Dodge Hall, and Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m. in Dodge Hall.
- "Love and Relationships with the Love Doctor" — Tuesday, March 10, at noon-1 p.m. in Gold Room C in the OC.
- "Self-Love Spa Day" — Thursday, March 19, at 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Oakland Room in the OC.
- "Consensual Sex or Rape? A Mock Trial" — Monday, March 23, at 7-10 p.m. in the Gold Rooms in the OC.
- "Bell Hooks — Keynote Speaker for Women's History Month" — Thursday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Gold Rooms in the OC.

"I love E.E. Cummings. I was going through some of my poetry. His I felt best fit with our theme. Because it's love and sex and there's a billion poems about love and not so many about sex, so I found some about sex," Downes said.

Switzer said the library is a comfortable atmosphere for the poetry reading.

"I think any opportunity to hear poetry read on campus is an important opportunity. To bring us together for women's history month too," Switzer said.

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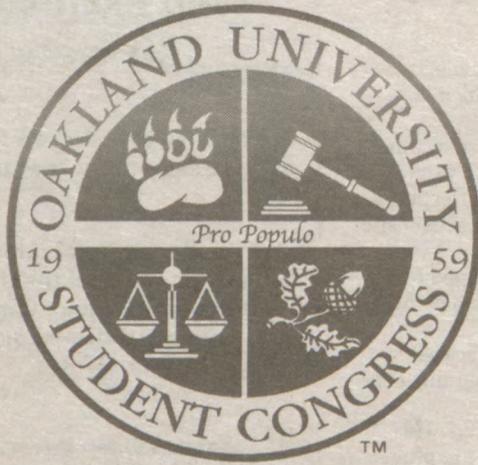
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Contact Jennifer Doptis for more information: [jldoptis@oakland.edu](mailto:jldoptis@oakland.edu)

## Granhholm focuses on green jobs

By DAVID EGGERT  
Associated Press Writer

LANSING — Gov. Jennifer Granholm is pushing hard this week to plug Michigan's flagging economy into alternative energy.

The Democratic governor was in Washington, D.C., Tuesday for a climate change symposium led by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Experts at the event focused on adding jobs through U.S. climate change policies.

A wind energy conference was held in Detroit Tuesday and will continue Wednesday.

And Thursday, Granholm will speak at a University of Michigan conference about low-carbon manufacturing in the Midwest. Senior executives from Ford, Whirlpool and advanced battery companies also plan to speak at the event held in partnership with the Royal Danish Embassy.

Granholm praised Denmark for focusing on the renewable energy industry to lower its unemployment rate. She plans to sign an agreement with Denmark's climate and energy minister to work together to create a "low-carbon economy."

"The point of this is really to focus on how we can really put the pedal to the metal, especially with the stimulus and the fact there is an incoming energy bill which will create policy that will generate jobs," she told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

Also Tuesday, state lawmakers announced bipartisan legislation to offer another \$200 million in tax breaks to encourage the development of advanced battery technology in Michigan. Granholm signed a law in January offering \$335 million in refundable tax credits for developing, manufacturing and assembling the batteries at the heart of next-generation electric vehicles.

The governor said the biggest barrier to growing the renewable energy industry is banks that refuse to lend money.

"A lot of wind turbine manufacturers have put their



JEFF SCHRIER/The Saginaw News, AP

In this August 2008 file photo, Gov. Jennifer Granholm gives a thumbs up as she signs legislation designed to encourage continued growth and expansion of Dow Corning's Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation. This week she has pushed for increased green jobs.

plans on hold," Granholm said.

But she expects the financial industry to rebound and is excited that both the state and federal governments are investing more in renewable energy and the "green" economy. She cited the federal stimulus, especially the chance to compete with other states for \$2 billion in grants for advanced batteries for electric vehicles.

"We intend to take advantage of every bit of it," Granholm said.

Asked about the extra costs of electricity generated by wind and solar as opposed to traditional fossil fuels, Granholm said they will be offset by weatherization and energy-efficiency programs. She also encouraged utili-

ties to pursue technology to bury carbon dioxide from power plants deep beneath the ground.

Critics complain that businesses and residents could lose out if they have higher energy costs, while others say good-paying jobs are available at wind turbine companies and the like.

Consumers Energy, the state's second-biggest utility, said Tuesday it was inviting companies to submit bids to participate in new energy-efficiency programs expected to start up later this year.

The Jackson-based utility said hundreds of jobs will be added in energy auditing, equipment installation and other areas.

## By the millions: news briefs straight from the capitol

### \$2.6 million of stimulus money to benefit Mich. health centers

LANSING — Health centers in Lansing and Inkster will benefit from the latest round of federal stimulus money being released.

The White House said Monday that the \$2.6 million going to the Ingham County Health Department and the Western Wayne Family Health Center should allow the two centers to serve nearly 14,000 additional patients.

The health centers primarily serve low-income patients, many of them uninsured. They offer primary and preventative health care services and immunizations. Charges for services are set on a sliding scale according to income.

The White House estimates the stimulus package grants could help the state create 105 jobs. The federal government already provides some of the funding for the two centers.

### \$144.9 million in losses equals increased health insurance rates

LANSING — Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is reporting that it lost \$144.9 million in 2008.

The state's largest health insurer said Monday most of its losses were because of policies sold to individuals who aren't insured by their employers. Blue Cross officials again demanded changes to state law that haven't been approved.

Blue Cross said losses in the individual health market are growing because it's tough to raise rates, and competitors can reject less healthy applicants and send them to Blue Cross, which is the state's insurer of last resort.

Blue Cross requested rate increases on its health insurance plans last month.

About 400,000 people who buy their own health coverage through Blue Cross would be affected by the rate increases if approved.

Source: The Associated Press

# States control costs by parolling prisoners

By DAVID CRARY  
AP National Writer

The number of people on parole and probation across the United States has surged past 5 million, according to a new report which says financially struggling states can save money in the long run by investing in better supervision of these offenders.

The Pew Center on the States report, released Monday, said the number of people on probation or parole more than tripled to 5.1 million between 1982 and 2007. Including jail and prison inmates, the total population of the U.S. corrections system now exceeds 7.3 million — one of every 31 U.S. adults, it said.

The report also noted huge discrepancies among the states in regard to the total corrections population — one of every 13 adults in Georgia at one end of the scale, one of every 88 in New Hampshire at the other extreme. The racial gap also was stark — one of every 11 black adults is under correctional supervision, one of every 27 Hispanic adults, one of every 45 white adults.

Michigan has the country's 13th-highest rate of adults behind bars or under community supervision. One of every 27 adults is a prisoner, jail inmate, probationer or parolee. In 1982, one of every 110 Michigan adults was in the corrections system.

Michigan ranks 10th among states in the rate of adults on probation or parole and 26th in the rate of adults in prison or jail. Thirty-five percent of Michigan's state and federal prisoners come from Wayne County.

The report notes that construction of new prisons will

be increasingly rare as most states grapple with budget crises. It said improved community-supervision strategies represent one of the most feasible ways for states to limit corrections spending and reduce recidivism.

"A crisis is a terrible thing to waste," said Susan Urahn, managing director of the Center on the States. "The economy opens a window of opportunity to do things that are not always easy to do."

At present, according to the report, prisons consume nearly 90 percent of state corrections spending, even though two-thirds of offenders under supervision are on parole or probation. Costs per year for a prison inmate average nearly \$29,000, while average costs for managing parolees and probationers range from \$1,250 to \$2,750 a year.

Adam Gelb, director of Pew's Public Safety Performance Project, stressed that violent and incorrigible criminals need to be locked up, but contended that many prison inmates could be safely overseen in their communities at far lower cost.

"New community supervision strategies and technologies need to be strengthened and expanded, not scaled back," he said. "Cutting them may appear to save a few dollars, but it doesn't. It will fuel the cycle of more crime, more victims, more arrests, more prosecutions, and still more imprisonment."

The report cited a probation program in Hawaii as a positive example. Under that program, which offers extensive counseling and treatment, failure to comply with random drug tests, office visits and treatment requirements is met with immediate sanctions — typi-

cally a few days in jail. Participants have proven far less likely than others on probation to be arrested for new crimes and sent back to prison.

The Pew report said strong community supervision programs for low-risk offenders not only cost much less than incarceration but, when properly funded and managed, can cut recidivism by as much as 30 percent. That could be a huge boon to the states, which, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers, spent a record \$51.7 billion on corrections last fiscal year — up 300 percent over two decades.

The five states with the highest rate of adults under correctional supervision were Georgia, Idaho, Texas, Massachusetts and Ohio, the report said. Those with lowest rates were New Hampshire, Maine, West Virginia, Utah and North Dakota.

Pew's figures cited that Idaho had 48,663 people on probation in 2007 — the key factor in its ranking. Idaho corrections officials said the figure was too high, based on their count of about 26,900 offenders on supervised probation, but they did not immediately provide figures on additional offenders on unsupervised probation.

Gelb said advanced technology could be used to improve supervision without necessarily hiring more personnel. For example, he said some states now allow parolees and probationers to periodically report to an ATM-like kiosk, rather than to a person in a state office.

In any case, said Gelb, states could double or triple the amount they spend supervising parolees and probationers, and still come out ahead financially if the result was a reduced prison population.



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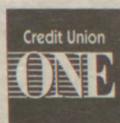
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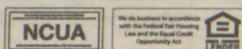
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# GM to buy back a part of Delphi

By TOM KRISHER AND BREE FOWLER  
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT — Delphi Corp. said Tuesday it has agreed to sell its global steering business back to former parent General Motors Corp. as part of its plan to raise cash and shed noncore businesses in hopes of eventually emerging from bankruptcy protection.

Terms of the deal for the Saginaw based business, which makes critical parts for the troubled Detroit-based automaker, were not disclosed. In connection with the agreement, GM agreed to increase its credit commitments to Delphi to \$450 million from \$300 million, effective March 24.

Delphi said the sale of the business, the speeding up of payments from GM and support from its lenders will give it enough cash to keep it running into May. The companies hope to close the deal, which is subject to bankruptcy court approval and a review by federal officials overseeing GM's federal loans, by April 30.

Delphi was spun off as a separate company in 1999 by GM. The parts maker went into bankruptcy protection in October 2005 and has yet to emerge.

The two companies said they would work together to continue to supply the factory's non-GM customers with parts after the sale goes through. In addition, Delphi will provide GM with certain transition services through the end of 2012.

John Sheehan, Delphi's chief financial officer, said in a statement that GM's commitment will give Delphi



PAUL SANCYA/Associated Press  
Delphi Corp. in Troy, which has been under bankruptcy protection since 2005, has agreed to sell its steering business to GM.

access to additional cash to fund its U.S. operations, along with a "liquidity runway" to finish discussions with its stakeholders and get court approval of changes to its reorganization plan.

GM Chief Operating Officer Fritz Henderson said in February that GM and Delphi must solve Delphi's financial woes and says GM's restructuring plan has money set aside for that purpose. But he said GM could take back an unstated number of plants and inject cash

into Delphi, which has been unable to get financing to emerge from bankruptcy protection.

Last week, Delphi Executive Chairman Steve Miller testified at a bankruptcy court hearing that Delphi was still in talks with GM about handing over key plants to the automaker. But Miller said that the discussions were "far from complete" and a deal wasn't certain.

GM presented a survival plan on Feb. 17 that includes closing five U.S. factories and cutting 47,000 jobs worldwide by the end of the year. The automaker also asked the federal government for up to \$30 billion in loans. GM already has received \$13.4 billion in federal loan money.

Delphi put the steering division up for sale after identifying it as a non-core business. It had been in talks with Platinum Equity, a Los Angeles-based private-equity firm, but a deal could not be reached.

The steering operation employs about 7,730 people globally, including 3,080 in Saginaw, Mich., and operates 17 plants worldwide. GM said Tuesday that the business, which posted sales of \$2.1 billion last year, will become a GM subsidiary and continue to operate as a stand-alone business, at least in the near-term.

The long-term future of the business will hinge on its ability to attract a variety of customers and fund its own operations, GM said.

Delphi Steering President Bob Remenar, who will continue to head the business, said in a statement Tuesday that the steering business will continue to aggressively pursue new business and technologies.

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According to [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).

For the 2009-10 school year, OU has upped scholarship awards for freshman by \$1,000 per student.

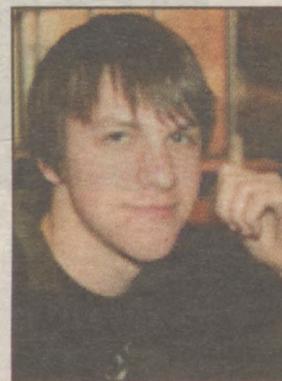
The 100% Tuition Grant program helps residents who apply for financial aid and are found to have need according to government standards will receive a grant covering tuition, after other financial aid and EFC.

According to [www4.oakland.edu](http://www4.oakland.edu).



**"Not from the university, I received an Asian Pacific scholarship."**

**Khou Thao**  
Freshman, pre-natal science



**"No, I didn't. I transferred from University of Colorado where I received a \$2,500 a semester academic scholarship."**

**Mitchell Haba**  
Freshman, undecided



**"Yes, for my MME and ACT scores, and for my GPA, academic scholarships."**

**Carly Silver**  
Freshman, health science

## What methods help you pay for tuition?



**"I got half in a student loan this year and paid half out of my own pocket."**

**Mark Silver**  
Freshman, undecided



**"My mom works here at the university. She's a nursing professor, so I receive free tuition and I work to pay for my books."**

**Jennifer Doucet**  
Freshman, business

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**Kirsten Edison  
Junior, nursing**



**"I'd rather go four years, six is too long for me."**

**Yang Lor  
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# Breaking out of norms

## *Students spend spring break with Habitat for Humanity*

By RORY MCCARTY  
Senior Reporter

Wielding sledgehammers, sporting flannel shirts and sleeping in church pews are not ways most students spent their spring break.

But this year, two different groups at Oakland University partnered with Habitat for Humanity for an alternative spring break.

An alternative spring break usually involves college students spending their spring break doing volunteer activities, such as building homes in communities abroad, rather than typical spring break fare.

The OU group Alternative Spring Break was one of the two groups that got involved by going to Mount Pleasant, South Carolina to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity. During their stay, they were hosted by the Isle of Palms Baptist Church. Jennifer Doptis, a special education major, was one of the members who went.

Doptis and 11 other students spent four days in South Carolina working on a house for a single mother, doing things like digging up and pouring cement for the driveway and sanding and painting the interior and exterior of the house. Each week was a different university's turn to help out.

One of the biggest projects the group undertook was the building of the driveway.

"It was amazing starting with a pile of dirt and ending up with a driveway," Doptis said.

Doptis said she remembered she and the other students standing around with shovels waiting to spread the concrete as a huge truck backed up to the driveway.

Alternative spring break participant Janelle Arbuckle, a political science and international relations major, was also moved by the trip.

The group also had to get up on ladders and paint all the walls of the house. Arbuckle said that painting the entire house was one of the more tedious aspects of the job, but also rewarding.

"It made you want to work harder," Arbuckle said.

Arbuckle said they worked from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at which point they would sometimes go into Charleston for dinner, but little else. "By the time we got done, we were dead tired," she said.

In spite of all the hard work, Doptis said she would jump at the chance to do it a second time.

"I'd do it again in a second," she said.

Doptis and Arbuckle both spoke of the memories they had of working on the house. Doptis said that some senior citizens who would come by and help Habitat for Humanity regularly were great fun to be around.

She also said that working on the house for a single



A group of volunteers take a break from the hard work put in over spring break with Habitat for Humanity in South Carolina.

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Doptis

mother helped remind her of what's important. She said she saw how hard the mother was working to help.

"It was a very humbling experience," Doptis said.

But one of the things they did get to do was go on a "ghost tour" of Charleston, which highlighted places in the city said to be haunted.

A completely different alternative spring break was put together by OU's own Habitat for Humanity group, which went to build a home in New Mexico. Like the Alternative Spring Break group, student Lisa Egle said they also stayed in a church, sleeping on the pews at night.

Egle, one of the students who participated in the Habitat for Humanity trip, said that they worked on a home, building a roof and preparing walls to be plastered. She said that their supervisor, named Ricky Martin, read the group humorous safety speeches during their breaks.

Egle said Habitat for Humanity also helped wire electricity for the house with the assistance of an electrician, Melecio, who taught them to speak Spanish as well.

Like the members of the other Alternative Spring Break group, Egle said that one of the most rewarding parts of the trip for her was meeting the woman who



Janelle Arbuckle takes a rest from shoveling on her spring break.

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Doptis



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Doptis

Jennifer Doptis breaks ground with other volunteers on spring break in South Carolina.

was going to live in the house.

"After meeting her, I found myself working even harder than I already had been because I wanted everything to be so perfect for her and her two daughters," Egle said.

Like Doptis and Arbuckle, Egle also had a memory from a senior citizen, an old man named Carl who imparted to her the bit of wisdom: "Always wear flannel! Live your life."

Egle said there was little to do after they finished working.

"Though the area was essentially deserted, there was such a peace during each and every workday. There's absolutely nothing like being able to turn around and see the most gorgeous

mountains behind you. It was so surreal and picture perfect," she said.

The Habitat for Humanity group also had a day specifically set aside to relax, where according to Egle, they had the choice between going hiking or going snowboarding and skiing. Egle said she went skiing for her very first time.

Habitat for Humanity will be raising money for another build project called Youth United beginning with a Mongolian Barbecue Night fundraiser on March 11.

According to Habitat for Humanity president Jenna Bourdeau, work on the Youth United build will begin in 2010. Tickets to the Mongolian Barbecue fundraiser will be sold on March 10.

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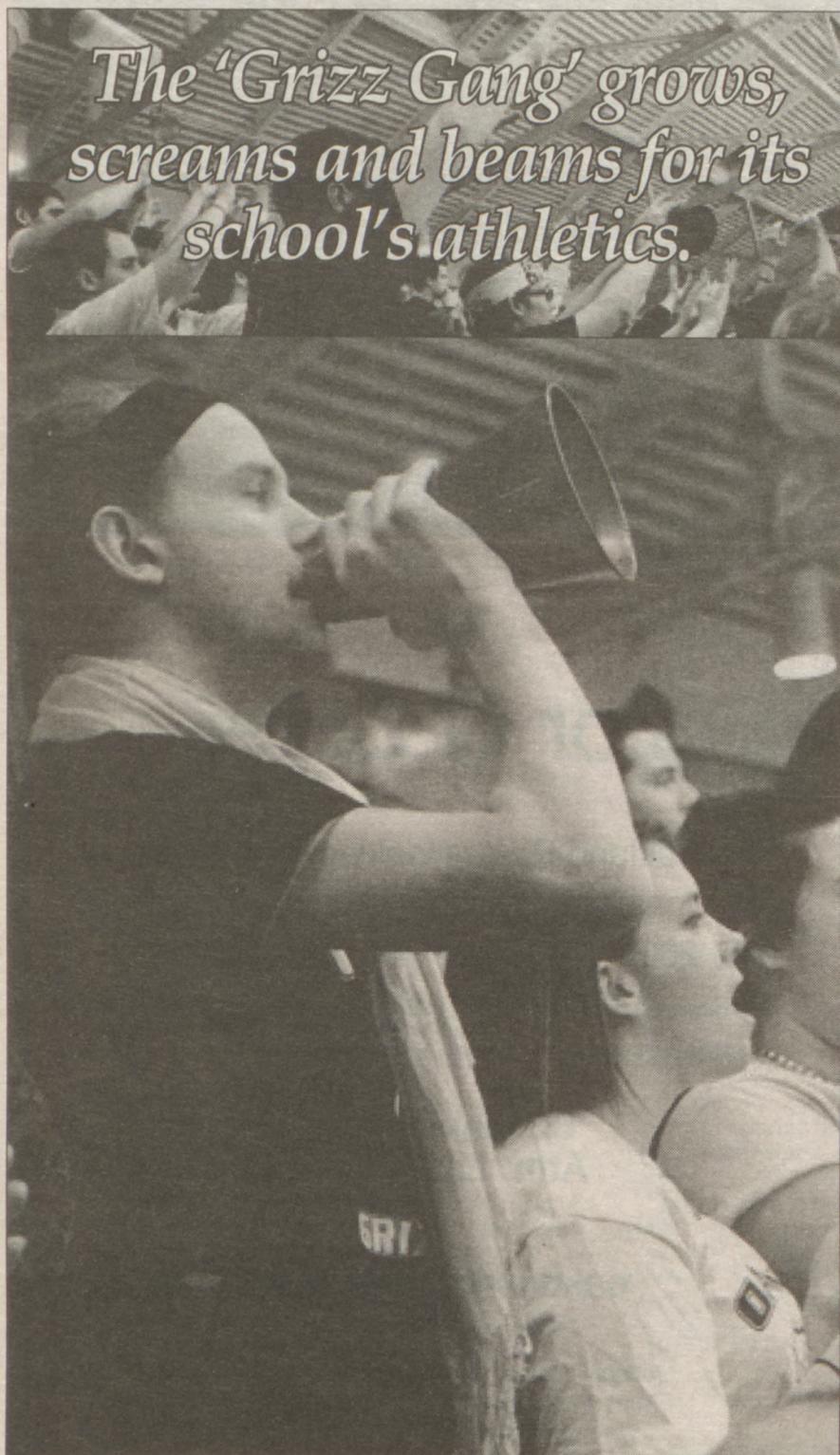
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## 'Gang'ing up for Oakland



*The 'Grizz Gang' grows, screams and beams for its school's athletics.*

By **TIM RATH**  
Web Editor

Most people probably think Danny Malendowski is out of his mind. I used to think so myself.

"OK, if you're not going to the games tonight, you are seriously missing an event, man," he told me as I casually mentioned that I had no plans to attend that afternoon's OU basketball double-header, thus putting me in about an 80 percent majority on campus.

"First of all, this is your last chance to see arguably the best shooter in the entire country and one of the all-time greats at OU, Erik Kangas," he said.

I could hear his voice quickly rising to a near-shout as he continued the pitch.

"Second of all, you need to see if OU is going to finish out this entire home season undefeated. Third of all, that's the longest streak in the Summit League and we need to see them off well before they go to the tournament next week."

I realized then that Malendowski, a sophomore public administration major, isn't crazy, despite his unusual enthusiasm towards OU sports and his tendency to paint his body at games he attends.

He's simply more suited to a time and place in which his vitriol and baritone can be better appreciated than on OU's campus. Perhaps he would be better suited as an accomplice to Paul Revere on his famous Midnight Ride through Massachusetts, or as a carnival barker in the earliest days of the Ringling Brothers.

However, Malendowski may soon find himself in the majority if the Grizz Gang continues to expand their numbers as they have been lately. According to Coordinator of Athletics Marketing and Promotions Kate Burke, the Grizz Gang has evolved from a small-but-hardy group of dedicated fans in December 2007 into an officially recognized student organization and a syndicate of support totaling 800 members and growing.

"When I started here last year, we had a group that did a great job ... but the athletics department looked to expand it and create ownership," she said. "Since last year, we've developed a Spirit Squad of five great officers and 800 members, all working towards the same common purpose of growing OU athletics and making it more like a real university experience."

### For the love of the game

One Spirit Squad officer, senior human resource development major Darius Gary, might offer that there is a different common purpose afoot: diehard college basketball fandom.

Although Grizz Gang members receive varying amounts of credit (and thereby, an assortment of prizes) for attending any OU varsity athletic event, Gary and several other members signify the allegiance toward the Golden Grizzlies teams. Such an allegiance eludes students influenced by the "commuter school" mentality that hovers over the campus.

"I've always been a fan of college basketball, so the Grizz Gang was fitting for me seeing as I love it so much. I read all the stats and game reports before I started going here anyway, so it was just a natural fit," he said.

Malendowski agreed.

"When I came to OU, I was already big into college basketball and I saw OU as kind of a hidden gem [for basketball fans]," he said. "Especially for a smaller school like OU, I knew going in that home court advantage is indispensable, so I try to come prepared for different games and make the other team feel demoralized."

It certainly appears to be working. The OU men's hoops team enjoyed an unprecedented streak of 13 straight home victories stretching back to the 2007-08 season, including every game at the O'Rena this season. The women's hoops team has enjoyed similar success, running to a 10-game home winning streak this year.

The Grizz Gang effect isn't confined to the hardwood, either. The men's soccer team was undefeated at home this past season before falling to UMKC in the Summit League Championship Game in a shootout and the women's soccer team used a late-season three-game home winning streak to propel themselves into the Summit League Championship Game.

The players and coaches recognize the correlation between the growth of the Grizz Gang and their recent success at home. They fully agree with the old, simple truth that there are more people in the stands than on the playing surface and that there is power in numbers.

"When I go to other schools and they have a section like [the Grizz Gang], it's annoying," said women's basketball head

Photos by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

Trevor Pike (bottom) cheers on the Golden Grizzlies at a men's basketball game in the O'Rena.

coach Beckie Francis. "I'm glad that we have one so that when people come to our house, they have a little bit of interference and some noise behind them."

Dan Waterstradt, a senior communications major and center on the men's basketball team, agreed with the sentiment and compared OU's student section favorably with others in the Summit League.

"I think that so far, out of all of the other schools that we've played at, our student section is the biggest and loudest," he said. "Oral Roberts is big and so is North Dakota State, but night in and out, we draw huge numbers and they surpass any other school that I've seen so far."

### Road trippin'

Members of the Grizz Gang aren't

content to merely inspire and/or slightly disturb Grizzlies fans with their chants and antics.

They have traveled to the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne twice in the past two seasons on official road trips to watch the men's and women's basketball teams, in addition to several unofficial jaunts into enemy territory.

Mark LeMerise, a sophomore who shares the floor of 5 West Vandenberg Hall with Malendowski, was one of the 200 OU students, alumni and staff that took the most recent trip to IPFW Jan. 17 to see senior guard Erik Kangas hang a career-high 39 points on the Mastodons in a 93-88 Grizzlies victory, while the OU women cruised to a 79-64 win.

"The overwhelming attendance of Grizz Gang members compared to their meager and strangely dressed student section congealed OU's student section as a legitimate factor in games," he said.

LeMerise and Malendowski joined their RA at 5 West, Corey Schmidt, on an unofficial road trip to Cleveland to watch the men's basketball team's season opener Nov. 15 against Cleveland

State. Although the Grizzlies fell by a score of 58-55, the venture wasn't a total loss for the super fans.

"[Cleveland State] had no student section and very little community support," Schmidt said. "There were a few scattered OU fans throughout their arena, which showed that OU fans will travel if the road games are close by."

"After seeing their student section, a disorganized band of students countable on my fingers, my respect for the spirit and membership of the Grizz Gang grew," LeMerise said.

### On the road again

The Grizz Gang and the Spirit Squad have one more official road trip planned this season, to the Summit League Tournament in Sioux Falls, S.D. This comes on the heels of last season's trip to Tulsa, Okla. to watch

the men's and women's basketball teams in the 2007-08 Summit League Tournament that brought a record number of Grizz Gang members on the road.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Grizz Gang is sending only two students to Sioux Falls, along with the five officers of the Spirit Squad. Despite the lack of a tangible bear-like presence at

the Summit League Tournament, the Grizz Gang is confident in their teams to come away victorious.

"I expect the OU men's team to beat ORU by around seven of eight, even though [ORU] won the championship last season," Malendowski said. "Then they should go on and beat NDSU, even though it'll be crazy tight. Then it's on to the NCAA Championship Tournament and hey, who knows? I think they'll lose but I guess anything's possible."

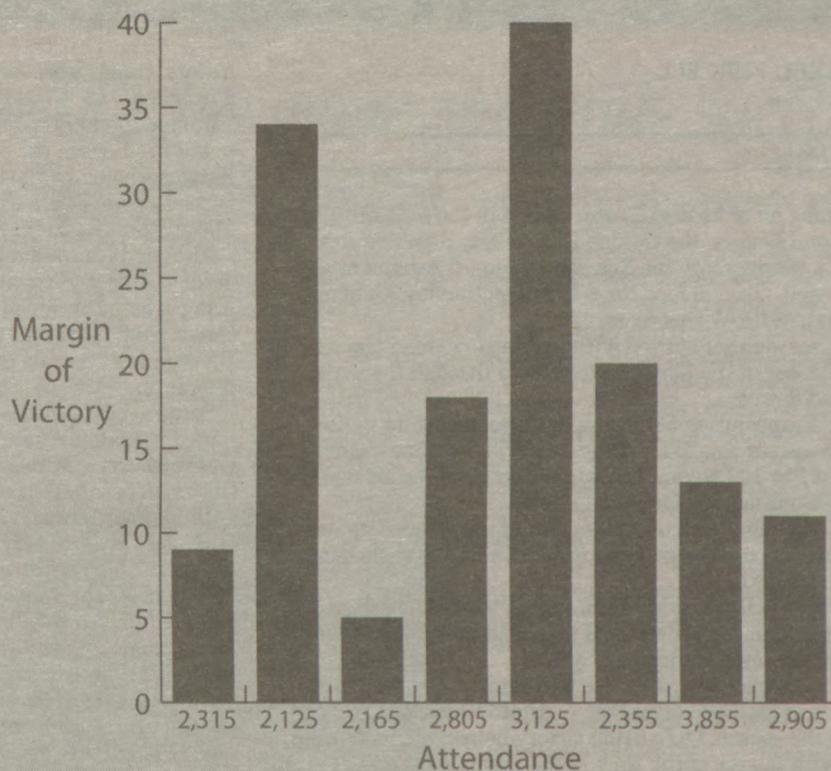
Gary, who will be attending the Summit League Tournament, agreed that it may be best to expect the Grizz Gang to make an impact.

"We're going to make an impact on how the games go," he said. "They definitely feed off the energy that we provide and we're excited to go."



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post  
Spirit Squad officer Darius Gary.

## Graphing the Grizz Gang



Graph and statistics compiled by Brad Slazinski and Amanda Meade

Here we see that in most cases, the higher the attendance at OU home games, the larger the margin of victory.

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Be sure to check out Tom Murphy Jr.'s web exclusive piece of a light-hearted look into the life of men's basketball four-year bench warmer, senior Ricky Bieszki.

# The climb **MEN'S** to the summit

By JARED PURCELL  
Sports Editor

## COLUMN

Coming off of its first 20-win season in the school's Division I history, the Oakland University men's basketball team is heading into the Summit League Tournament as the No. 3 seed. OU will face No. 6 IPFW on Sunday. Oakland is 2-0 against IPFW this season.

In a season that started with a nine-game road trip and saw the loss of OU players, OU played through the many ups and downs.

The disappointing 58-55 loss to Cleveland State in the season opener was followed by an 82-79 overtime victory against Pac-10 Oregon. The win marked the second win in two seasons against Oregon.

Yet, Oakland went on to lose four of the next six games and OU was teetering on the brink of a disastrously disappointing season.

However, OU put together a season where they were undefeated in the O'Rena and will head into the tournament on a seven-game winning streak.

OU's marquee win this year was against archrival Oral Roberts in the O'Rena on Feb. 5. After OU lost to ORU earlier in the season, OU's 81-69 victory helped the team keep pace with the top of the pack in the Summit League. It also sparked the current seven-game win streak.

With all five of the previous season's starters returning and one of the most highly praised recruiting classes in OU's

history, things were looking up for the Golden Grizzlies from day one.

Junior Johnathon Jones and Derick Nelson were named to the Pre-Season All-Summit League First Team and Erik Kangas was named to the Pre-Season All-Summit League Second Team. Jones was also named to the Preseason Mid-Major Men's Basketball All-America Team.

Although Nelson broke his foot just before the start of the season and eventually was redshirted, Jones and Kangas both continued to contribute. The pair hit the 1,000 career point mark. Kangas became the eighth player in the Division I era for OU to hit the mark and Jones followed as the ninth.

Because of Nelson's absence from the team, the highly touted in-state recruits Drew Maynard and Blake Cushingberry saw more playing time than expected. The freshmen pair have combined for 437 points on the season with Maynard ranked fourth on the team in points per game (7.6) and Cushingberry fifth (6.5).

Another big recruit that Oakland had landed was Ilija Milutinovic. The 7-foot, 255-pound center from Serbia was expected to be a solid backup to sophomore Keith Benson this season. Yet, Milutinovic wound up missing a bulk of time with a broken foot.

Kangas' hot streak in the final stretch of the season included three consecutive games where he scored 39, 33 and 27 points. He also climbed to No. 3 in the nation in 3-pointers made. Kangas also now holds the Summit League record for 3-pointers made in a season with 119.

Oakland can potentially play Oral Roberts in the second round of the tournament if both teams win in the first round.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post  
Johnathon Jones has a chance to lead OU to glory.

# The climb **WOMEN'S** to the summit

By JARED PURCELL  
Sports Editor

## COLUMN

With the Summit League Championships approaching and a possible NCAA or NIT tournament bid following, Oakland University women's basketball team is going into the postseason with its best record ever (24-5). The success of OU has been rewarded with a No. 2 seed bid for the Tournament this Saturday. The first team OU will face is No. 7 UMKC.

After two victories to start the season, the Golden Grizzlies had to face two ranked opponents in as many games. OU played a close game against then No. 23 Georgia but lost 64-61. OU then stumbled into No. 21 Purdue and lost once again 68-40.

After shaking off the tough losses and winning two more games in a row, OU opened its much anticipated Summit League season against Southern Utah. OU lost another close game, losing 73-72.

Even though the team started the Summit League season on a sour note, they went on to compile a 20-2 record. Nineteen of OU's 24 victories were double-digit victories.

The team's biggest win of the season came over South Dakota State on Jan. 15. Ranked No. 21 nationally at the time, OU ran away with a 67-51 victory.

The team came into the season with Summit League Preseason Player of the Year, senior guard Jessica Pike. Pike currently leads the team in scoring (15.7 points/game),

free throw shooting (.894) and 3-point percentage (.485). Pike is currently three 3-pointers away from 100 attempts. If she maintains her current percentage, Pike will rank second in the nation in 3-point percentage among players with at least 100 attempts.

Junior Melissa Jeltema returned after a breakout sophomore year and has had continued success as the team's second leading scorer (13.9 points/game) and rebounder (8.6/game). She ranks first or second in most major statistical categories.

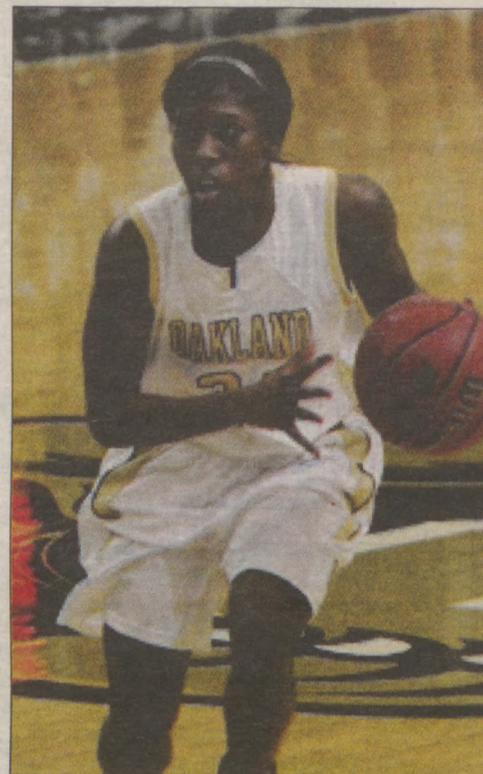
With regular senior starter Riikka Terava falling out of the line-up due to injury early in the season, freshman Sharise Calhoun began seeing more and more time. Not a dependable scorer yet, Calhoun's .304 shooting percentage ranks last on the team among players who have started.

Still, Calhoun averages 24.7 minutes per game because of her defense. Recruited by Big Ten schools to run track, Calhoun showed her endurance by racking up 38 minutes against IUPUI on Jan. 26 this year.

Senior April Kidd is second on the team in shooting (.482) and her 84 steals lead the team by far. Her 91 assists currently leads the team.

Perhaps the most impressive story this season surrounds the play of sophomore Brittany Carnago. She is in the top 15 in the country and first in the league with 78 blocks and posted the first triple-double in the Summit League since December of 2006. She's also tied for third on the team in scoring (10.1 points/game).

An anticipated match up of the tournament is the possibility of an OU vs. SDSU final. Both team's are 1-1 against each other on the season.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post  
Sharise Calhoun is the stand-out freshman for OU.

# Benson breaks through his flaws

*The redshirt sophomore has stepped up his game and finds success*

By **JOE GUZMAN**  
Senior Reporter

Exactly one year after being benched for the Summit League Championship Tournament, redshirt sophomore Keith Benson's emotional and physical growth has placed him among the best big-men in the league.

"It bothered me a lot," he said about being benched. "It was hard not playing [consistently] the whole year, and then not getting to play in those last two games."

Benson said that he wasn't exactly sure what the cause was for his benching, but used it as motivation to attack off-season workouts with purpose through a more committed work ethic.

Through his efforts, he came into the season prepared to prove himself as a legitimate force in college basketball. Now, as OU heads into the Summit League Championship Tournament as the No. 3 seed, Benson seeks redemption.

## Nowhere to go but up

Last season came to a disappointing end for Benson and the Grizzlies after losing in the second round of the Summit League Tournament. Benson watched from the bench as OU lost 80-65 to IUPUI. After the game, head coach Greg Kampe said the reason behind benching Benson was that his defense was simply not good enough.

"You win a championship with defense. He's a freshman and a very good player, but we came here to win and I don't think the way he defends was good enough for us to win," Kampe said.

As the season winded down, Kampe made the decision to sit him, even though he was one block away from setting the single season school record. He wanted to send a message to Benson; and today he feels that it was the best thing he could have done for him.

"I didn't like how he went about his business," he said. "I didn't like how he was defending. So what I wanted to find out was if he would choose to say 'screw Kampe' or say 'why is he doing this and what do I have to do so this never happens again.' He chose the right way."

Benson got the message, hungry to prove that he had what it took to be a starter; he worked out to get bigger, stronger and improve his endurance. He and teammate Will Hudson joined each other for workouts at the hill behind the O'Rena.

"Running up and down the hill with weights, it helps you get mentally tough,"



In only his second year playing for OU, Keith Benson has set the OU career record for blocks.

BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Benson said. "If you can push yourself to do that, you can push yourself on the court."

At 6-foot-9, sophomore forward Hudson teams up with Benson to form OU's own version of the twin towers. Hudson saw that being benched for the end of last season bothered him, but thinks that Kampe was simply using it to set an example, to let him know that he has to be better defensively.

"Even though [Benson] didn't like it, I think it has helped him out," Hudson said. "He's a great defender now, and not only that, he's also scoring, which is forcing teams to double him [and] opens me up to score."

The work he put in this summer shows in his production on the court. He went from playing around 15 minutes a game last year, to playing 20 early this year, to 25-30 towards the end. With more playing time and confidence as a consistent starter, Benson's stats have improved.

Benson's points per game and rebounding have jumped from 5.2 ppg and 3.5 rpg last season to 14.4 ppg and 7.4 rpg this season, not to mention finishing this year with 75 blocked shots (2.4 per game).

As Benson's play gradually became more consistent, Benson began earning the trust of his coach and his teammates.

"Trusting him is a function of his play, and his growth and his maturity," Kampe said. "What he does in a game not only makes me trust him, but the players trust him. They know they can throw it to him and he's going to score; they know he's turning into a viable option for us."

## Taking a chance

In 2005, Benson averaged 6.9 points and 4.5 rebounds as a senior, starting for Birmingham Detroit Country Day High School.

According to Kampe, Benson's role

with the team caused him to be overlooked by recruiters.

"He was a starter, but he wasn't a guy that got the ball, he didn't score a lot of points," Kampe said. He also said that Benson had grown a lot and didn't build enough muscle on his growing frame.

Yet, what most attracted Kampe to Benson was his athleticism and length, which was a combination that OU's roster lacked. Kampe admits that he didn't see the potential initially, so they red-shirted him, allowing him time to ease into college game.

"We hoped there was potential there, so we took a chance," Kampe said. "But, he could have gone to a Division II school where it would have been safer for him, so we both took a chance on each other, and it has paid off for both of us."

Benson said that the toughest part of transitioning from high school to college was the strength factor and adjusting to the next level.

"Everybody is the best player from where they came from, so I just had to step my game up," he said.

The pay-off was on display when he followed his performance against Centenary. Benson scored 23 points and nine rebounds in 36 minutes of play as OU beat IPFW, 83-72. With his six blocks, he tied the school record with 101 blocks for a career, in just his sophomore year.

After the game, he was asked about the team's chances for the tournament. In a quiet and simple tone, he stated that he felt that OU should run through the Summit League tournament, and even get a couple games in the NCAA tournament. A statement that sparked his coach to respond, "We should?"

Such bold words were unexpected coming from Benson. Kampe was impressed that he even spoke, let alone declare such expectations so matter-of-factly.

"He doesn't talk much, so this is good, I get to hear him talk," Kampe said with a hint of sarcasm.

## Finding a voice

Benson's reserved demeanor offers little insight into his personality, but symbolizes the humbling start to his career. During games, the most emotion you may see out of him is a clap of the hands out of frustration, or a high five to a teammate. Benson simply doesn't wear his emotions on his sleeve.

See Benson on pg 25

# Friendship motivates senior duo

*Seniors Jessica Pike and April Kidd take a final shot at winning a championship*

By JARED PURCELL  
Sports Editor

As the Oakland University women's basketball team prepares for another Summit League Tournament run, senior guards Jessica Pike and April Kidd are ready for their final shot at a championship in Sioux Falls, SD starting this Saturday. The two seniors have grown into two of the top talents and leaders on the most successful team in the school's Division I history.

Yet beyond all of the honors and accomplishments that the two have earned over the last four seasons, Pike and Kidd have developed a friendship that will last long after they no longer take the court.

"[We] sit next to each other in the locker room and we have for four years," Pike said. "[Ending my college career] with Kidd, I wouldn't have it any other way. There would be no other person in the world I'd rather come in day one and go out last day with."

The story of Kidd and Pike's friendship began during their senior years in high school. They played each other in an AAU game — and didn't even realize it until after the game.

"I didn't even know about it until after the game when the coach that recruited [Kidd and I] told me that I played my future teammate," Pike said.

Kidd, found out the same way and remembered who Pike was from the way she played.

"I remember saying, 'who is this girl?'" Kidd said. "I was getting frustrated because no one could stop her. Pike killed us that game and I didn't even know that she was my future teammate."

"We won," Pike said with a laugh.

After that, Pike and Kidd began spending time together as friends at OU.

"Pike is very loyal," Kidd said. "She's probably the first person I would go to if I was having a problem. She knows how to give advice. Pike is very funny too ... I like the fact that she is a person you can lean on. I wouldn't trade Pike for the world."

## Double the leadership

Now, in their final year, the obligation to lead each other, and the team, to one last run at success is something Pike knew they needed to do.

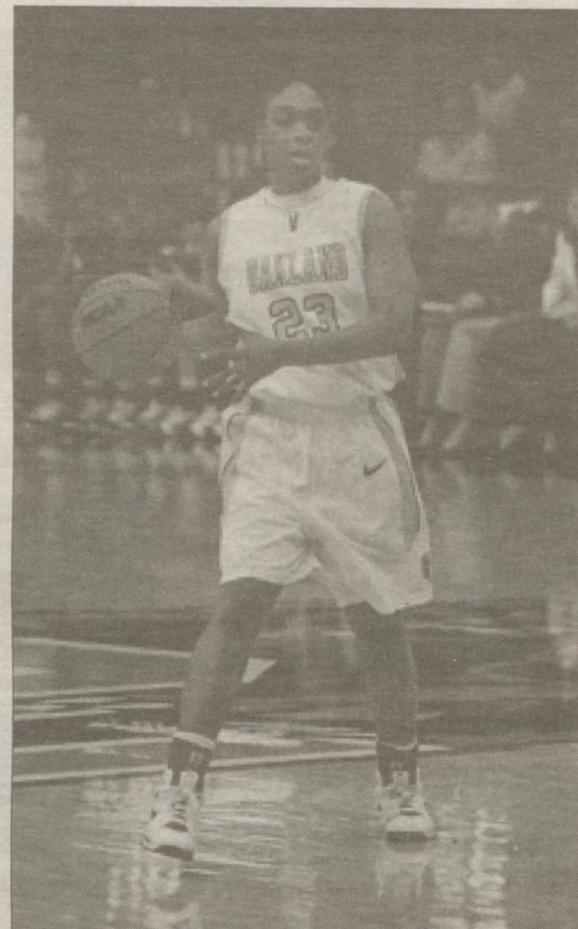
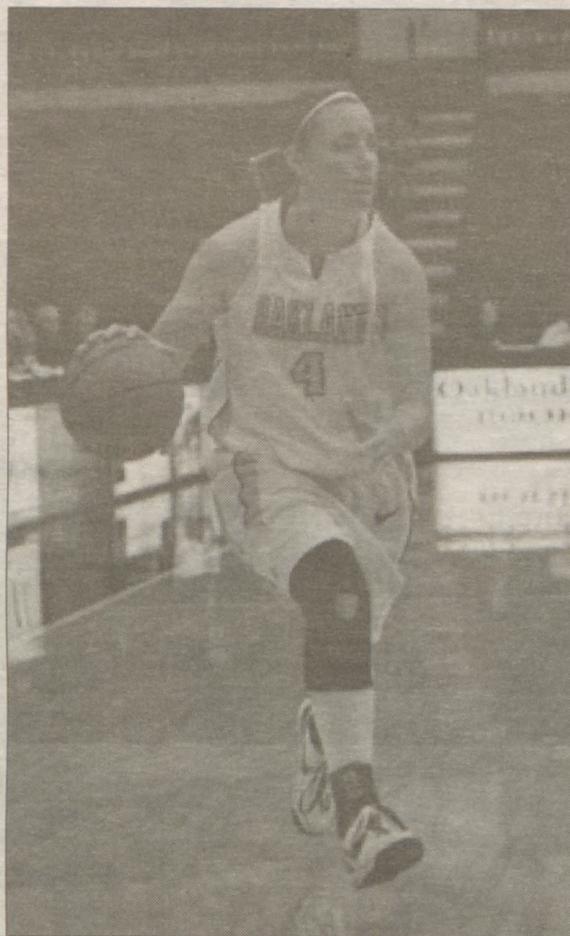
"We know that this team really needs both of us to succeed this year," Pike said. No one had to push us to step up and take the challenge and lead. We just knew from the end of last year, we knew it was going to be us that leads this team to a championship and we were ready for it."

Kidd believes that the leadership the pair has comes from what they've learned over the years as followers of former teammates.

"It comes along with experience," Kidd said. "It just kind of grows on you. You're here for four years and you see other players and you learn from their experiences — especially the seniors. And they teach you and you learn from them and you see what it's like. When you're a senior, you just automatically know what it takes to win a championship."

OU head coach Beckie Francis thinks that the friendship between Kidd and Pike is something that benefits the whole team.

"Whenever you have two leaders who are two of your



Jessica Pike (left) is known by Kidd (right) as "a person you can lean on." Pike believes that Kidd is "the heart" of the team. BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

better players getting along well instead of being jealous of each other's accomplishments, it trickles down to the team," Francis said. "They set the tone and the style of unselfishness for all of us and our team feeds off of that."

The chemistry that the two have developed on the court is something that they enjoy.

"I think a lot of that comes along with the fact that we've played together for four years," Pike said. "We know each other a little better than we do our other teammates. In practice when we get to pick teams, Kidd is always my first pick."

## Double the talent

Separate they are great players; together they are driving forces behind a team that is defined by its depth. While Pike came into her final season touting the title of Summit League Preseason Player of the Year, Pike credits Kidd as the team's pulse.

"I've pretty much told her from day one that I really think she is the heart of this team," Pike said. "She's the spark plug that, when Kidd gets excited about something, I'm right there behind her and just as excited as she is."

Kidd's sparkplug attitude is reflected in her speed and big-play ability. Her team-leading 88 steals is just one sign of that.

## Double the fun

With a Summit League Championship as their goal, Kidd and Pike have also looked to make sure to enjoy every moment along the way in their final season.

"It's just about having fun," Pike said. "You can tend to take things too seriously your first couple years and you get down on yourself a lot more. Then, you realize that the end is in sight and you decide that it's all or nothing at that point. All you want to do is remember it. So we just decided that this year, we're going to go out with a bang and we were going to have as much fun as possible doing it."

Francis has also noticed Kidd and Pike enjoying their games more.

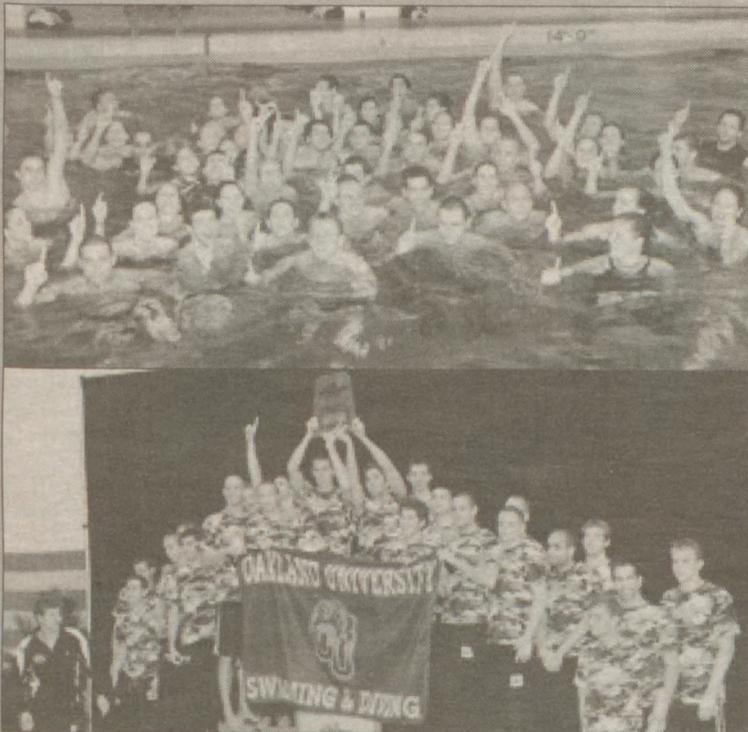
"I see them talking more and conversing more on the court during games and having kind of fun little moments together," Francis said. "I see some smiles and some camaraderie and some connection that is really fun to watch."

With all they've been through, Pike and Kidd believe that their friendship will continue to grow even though their time as teammates is dwindling.

"It's too hard to lose a relationship like that," Kidd said. "I'm sure we'll be seeing each other a lot more than we think we will. It's coming to an end for our season but not our friendship."

## A decade of champions

On Feb. 21, the Oakland University men's and women's swimming and diving teams both won the Summit League Championships for the 10th straight year. The men compiled 1,077 points and the women earned 1,011 points. The men's 526 point margin of victory and the women's 412 were the largest in OU Div. I history. Freshman Anders Jensen won swimmer of the year for the men while senior Sophia Gustafsson won swimmer of the year for the women and Alyssa Vela took newcomer of the year. Head coach Pete Hovland won men's coach of the year.



Photos by BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Continued from page 23

### BENSON

"That was one of the problems I had with him last year," Kampe said. "We have to communicate on the court, so he had to learn, if you don't communicate, you're not going to play."

Benson admits that early in his career he found it difficult when Kampe yelled, which he admits caused some of his problems.

"I used to get yelled at a lot and I would think about every mistake I'd make, and would just compound the mistakes," he said. "Coach still yells, but now I take the positive feedback out of what he is saying, and just relax and continue to play."

Hudson agrees that one of the biggest differences with Benson's play this year has been how he allows the game to come to him.

"I don't think he's even thinking

anymore," Hudson said. "It's so tough to play college basketball with all the off-the-court stuff, then on the court it's such a quick pace, and he's just out there playing and having fun."

Benson knows that people can confuse his lack of emotion on the court as a lack of a desire to win, but he said that the game isn't complete unless he wins. He said that when he struggles, he focuses on the defensive side of the ball to rally the team — the same part of his game that got him benched just one year ago.

"I try to give us an energy boost on defense by blocking shots, and that can feed the fast break," he said.

But Kampe still would like to see Benson be more vocal, because he simply doesn't believe that you can lead by example in the game of basketball.

"I'm not a big lead-by-example guy," Kampe said. "Communication is a very important part of life. But he got over it because he really wants to play, and he wants to be good and because of that, he is, and he's blossoming into something special."



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# The Scene

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March 4, 2009

## Australian native heads to Michigan

By AMANDA MEADE  
Scene/Mix Editor

If you haven't heard her song "The Show" on the radio, chances are you've heard it on an Old Navy commercial or an advertisement for an episode of "Ugly Betty."

Singer/songwriter Lenka hails from Australia, where she was once a television actress on shows like "GP," a drama series, and hosted "Cheez TV," a children's show. She was also part of the Australian experimental-electronic band Decoder Ring, as the band's vocalist and keyboardist.

Lenka is touring with Missy Higgins and Justin Nozuka and will be at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on March 11. The Oakland Post interviewed the artist Feb. 24.

**The Post:** In the past it seemed like you had a lot going on in Australia — what made you want to move to California?

**Lenka:** It was kind of accidental actually. I came over with the band Decoder Ring in 2006 to do South by Southwest and I never really expected to like it, I guess. I felt like I wanted to go somewhere different from Australia. If it hadn't been America it probably would have been Europe. I felt like I wanted to have an adventure.

I came back over and I did some writing with people. One thing led to another and I ended up getting a good response to what I was doing and finding a record deal. It was kind of accidental, but a very happy accident.

**The Post:** What messages do you hope to send with your music?

**Lenka:** Generally this album ["Lenka"] has a positive message and the main thing I'm trying to do is cheer people up with the music or help put things into perspective for people, which is something that I love about music; it's always really helped me get through situations and times of depression. I really wanted to try and do that with my first album, but at the same time there's some more complex things that I'm dealing with in the songs and situations that I would be in, so it's not always necessarily happy, but I tried to give it a happy tone.

**The Post:** You write your own songs; could you give a description of the mean-

ings behind a couple of your favorites?

**Lenka:** The song "Trouble is a Friend," I was feeling really kind of miserable and angry at myself for once again stuffing up everything in my life seemingly. That song is trying to deal with that idea and maybe take the responsibility off myself a little bit and put it onto this make-believe character that comes into my life sometimes.

The song "The Show" is about feeling out of control in your life and if life feels kind of crazy, sometimes the best thing to do is just sit back and be an audience member rather than try to control it. In general, I'm trying to give myself advice and using the music to work it out in my head.

**The Post:** Hardcore metal fans have confessed to loving your music. Do you have any guilty pleasures?

**Lenka:** I don't know about "guilty," 'cause I don't really feel that ashamed for liking some really commercial pop music. Every so often a song comes on that wouldn't necessarily be my style but I just love it, like Danity Kane or something. I really dig people like Rihanna and Beyoncé and sometimes they come out with something really cool.

People would probably be surprised to know that I listen to much darker kind of music stuff like Tom Waits and Pink Floyd and Nick Drake, much more male, not necessarily metal or like hardcore rock 'n' roll, but definitely music that does not sound anything like mine.

**The Post:** What advice would you give to those hoping to pursue a career in acting or music?

**Lenka:** I'd say go on and do it if you really, really have to and really, really want to because it is a bitch of a career to try and pursue. I don't want to discourage anyone that loves it, but it is something very challenging to take on.

My next advice is if you really, really love it, just don't give up. Keep trying and make your own work. I think that's very hard when you're an actor and I've struggled with that. I was bored because I was waiting to be hired.

When you're a musician you've got to keep writing songs and recording them and playing live and initiating your own art. It's both empowering because you're part of the scene but also it gives you a chance to get what you're doing out there into the world and have people see you.

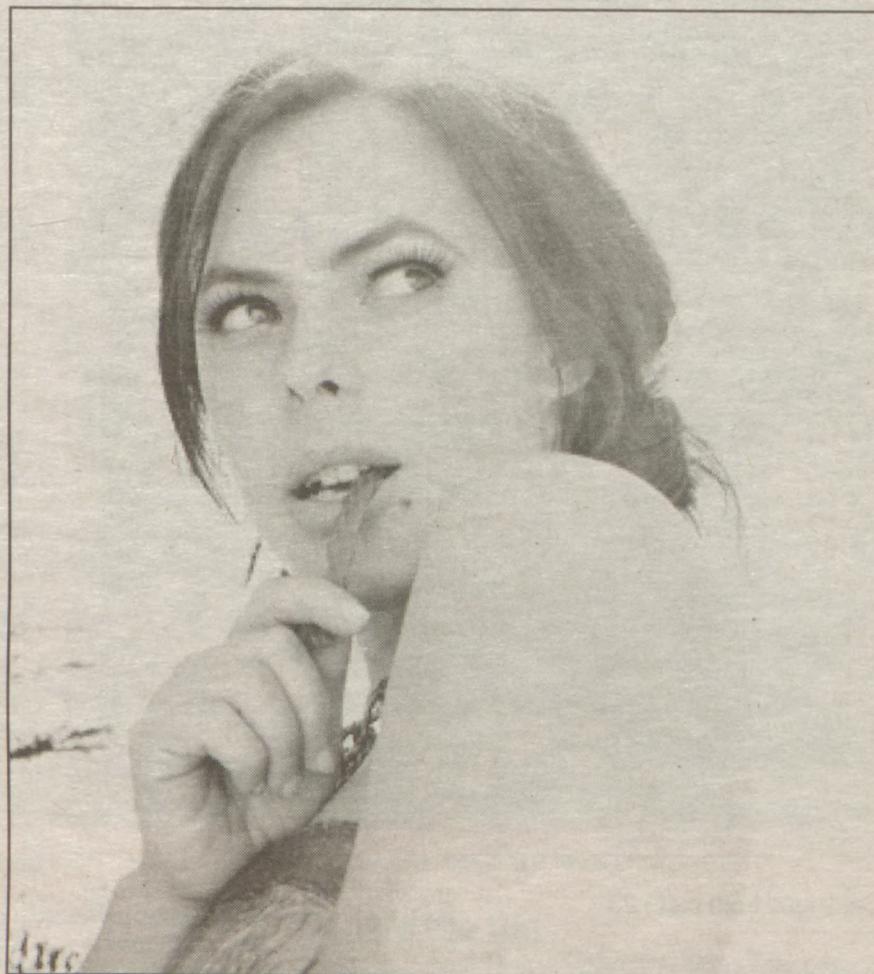


Photo courtesy of Big Hassle Media  
Australian singer/songwriter Lenka is set to perform at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on March 11.

**The Post:** What would be your dream tour?

**Lenka:** It could be a four-band line up with me, The Shins, Gnarls Barkley and the Guerrillas. I like all those groups; I think they're doing really interesting stuff. Visual and melodic and not very similar to me but I feel like that would be a great night out watching music.

**The Post:** Are you hoping to achieve a better image for the younger generation?

**Lenka:** I don't want to send the wrong message, but I'm not famous so I don't really have to think about it too much, thank God. What I would like to do is relate to young girls and women, let them know that everybody is flawed, everybody has problems and everybody has aspirations and that's all OK.

This idea of perfection is so far

removed from who we really are as people.

**The Post:** What are your five-year plans?

**Lenka:** I would have liked to have released two albums by then; I've only released one at this point. I'd like to have been around most of the world playing music and I'd really like to be at a place in my career where I have enough money and notoriety to be able to do any project with anyone in the world, the power to green light projects. That would be cool, and it would be like the playground of creative art.

More info on Lenka can be found on [www.myspace.com/lenkamusic](http://www.myspace.com/lenkamusic) and [www.lenkamusic.com](http://www.lenkamusic.com).

# QUICK HITS

Reviews in 30 seconds

By JARED PURCELL  
Sports Editor

"Taken"



**Movie Review**

After playing Batman's mentor in "Batman Begins" and doing the voice of the god-like lion in "Chronicles of Narnia," Liam Neeson took the bad-ass level up another notch with his latest movie "Taken." Playing the role of Bryan Mills, a former CIA "pre-venter" as he put it, he must rescue his daughter who was kidnapped by Albanian slave traffickers who turn unsuspecting women tourists into cocaine-addicted prostitutes. You can't make stuff like this up.

Anyway, Neeson gives the Jack Bauer's of the world a run for their money by shooting everything in sight and throat chopping the heck out of people.

The movie ends because actually runs out of people to shoot. He makes decent time since the movie is only 93 minutes long.

By DUSTIN ALEXANDER  
Contributing Reporter

Dj Psycho  
"Piggy McTiggers"



**Album Review**

Imagine Jay-Z mixed with Depeche Mode. If you can't picture what that would sound like, listen to the new mix album "Piggy McTiggers" by Detroit native and underground legend, Dj Psycho. Much like his other albums, it's split up into six parts, each one with its own distinct mash-up style and finesse. What makes this album different than his others is its (hidden) original 36th hip-hop track named "Untitled," produced by Dj Psycho himself and featuring samples from the original TV series "The Incredible Hulk." This being Psycho's last album, it really seems to capstone his career by playing tracks ranging from Kid & Play to new and classic Detroit techno to new music by artists such as Common. It's truly the icing on Dj Psycho's career cake.

By KATIE JACOB  
Copy Editor

"He's Just Not That Into You"



**Movie Review**

The audience was probably not "that into" "He's Just Not That Into You" either. It was marginally entertaining to watch an ensemble that includes Ben Affleck, Jennifer Aniston, Drew Barrymore, Justin Long and Ginnifer Goodwin.

It's kind of obnoxious that they're still making movies about girls chasing guys because they are desperate to get married, while the guys are laughing in their faces and behind their backs.

It isn't cute either, to watch married men fall into the arms of hippy bimbos like Scarlett Johansson as though they never thought of doing anything like that before.

Goodwin refuses to give up in spite of never getting past the first date while pal Long tries to teach her how to avoid jerks like him.

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# Trekkies rejoice

## Star Trek exhibition opens in Detroit

By RORY MCCARTY  
Senior Reporter

Star Trek: The Exhibition, which opened at the Detroit Science Center last month has a huge collection of Star Trek props, sets and information collected from the five television shows and 10 movies in the history of Star Trek, dating back to the 1960s. The exhibit showcases uniforms from the crew members, technological equipment and a complete recreation of the bridge from the original Star Trek.

Todd Slisher, VP of Science Programs at the museum, explained that much of the show's technology has at least some basis in the world of physical possibility.

"Star Trek has a lot of connections to real life science," Slisher said.

Throughout the exhibit, interspersed with phasers used by Captain Jean-Luc Picard and sashes worn by the Klingon warriors, are factoids about the actual history of space travel, and explanations as to whether or not the many shows' technologies were feasible.

Slisher said that although even in reality, people may not be capable of traveling at the speed of light, the show's creators took the physics of the situation into account.

"They realize that if you decelerate from light speed to zero, the inertia would crush everyone on the ship," Slisher said.

So the Starship Enterprise is equipped with "inertial dampeners" to keep the crew from being flattened during space travel.

One of the most impossible technologies of Star Trek to replicate, according to the exhibit, is that of the transporter. While the transporter instantaneously teleports users from one location to another by breaking them down into their individual atoms, the Heisenberg uncertainty principle states that there's no way to know where those atoms are or what state they are in.

The show compensates for this using the aptly named "Heisenberg compensator."

However, not all of the technology is beyond realization. It's said that one of the technologies from Star Trek, the handheld communicator, inspired the design of some cellular phones.

Since the opening of the exhibit, vice president of media relations Kelly Fulford said that the exhibit has brought in about double the regular weekend attendance, among them

both fans of the series and people only somewhat familiar with the show.

"Even if you're not a Trekkie, there's something special about Star Trek," Fulford said. "It has a message of hope and cooperation."

Another visitor, Janet Jedro, was impressed with the replica of the original Star Trek series bridge that was on display.

"I've never been into Star Trek, but I remember seeing the original one with my father," Jedro said.

Rita Leverett also enjoyed the exhibit, and identified herself as a fan of the show. She said that it didn't tell her anything she didn't already know.

Visitor James Mariconi said that it was neat to see the original props, although many of them look weird or dated up close. In reference to the props from the original Star Trek, visitor James Sand said, "It's amazing to see what they were able to do with so little money."

But most of the visitors to the exhibit seemed to agree on the idea that Star Trek has become a cultural icon. They also said that Star Trek: The Exhibition is probably best viewed by someone who has at least some knowledge of the Star Trek universe.

"If you had no interest in it, I think you'd get bored really quick," Leverett said.

Leverett may be right. It would indeed prove difficult to comprehend the exhibit's description for Tholians, which states that "Tholians from the Mirror Universe" were responsible for "blowing up a dead star to create an interphase rift to hijack a Federation vessel from the future."

But the exhibit has certainly attracted big fans of the show. Slisher said he's seen people come in full Starfleet regalia, dressed as Romulans or Vulcans.

In fact, when the exhibit opened on Valentine's Day weekend, the museum invited couples to come and get engaged in the exhibit.

Nine couples took them up on the offer, and they are now entered in a Detroit Science Center sponsored contest.

People can read the couples' stories on their website and vote for which of the couples they think should win a Star Trek wedding to take place in the exhibit.

"They could choose to get married on the bridge if they wanted," Fulford said.



Graphic courtesy of Amazon.com.

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# MOUTHING OFF

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March 4, 2009

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## College hoops crazed fantasy

By **TIM RATH**  
Web Editor

This is the month: March. Beginning of the end. The world, by some strange tilt of the Earth's axis, starts to work itself from a state of snowed-in, controlled mania into a savage anarchy that won't fully manifest itself until the summer months, when euphoria reigns supreme over responsibility. Until then, it's March. Mob rule.

It's almost like some sort of sick joke was planted in the cosmos specifically for fashion designers, ancient Roman emperors and kings of hardwood: when your respective industries are at their rowdiest, the collective citizenry will all be in the midst of this animalistic abnormality of in-between time. It is in this state of fixed chaos that the phrase "March Madness" has been coined.

Yours truly is not averse. Indeed, in-between the pressures of cramming for midterms, deadlines at The Oakland Post and returning back to civilized behavior after winter break, my bosses want me to use this space to preview the 2009 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship, which is still a full two weeks from tip-off.

The stress has left me afflicted with the incurable malady that is March Madness. As such, here is my version of "Bracketology," perfectly infected with the stains on my mind, relying on little more than hearsay, conjecture and the influence of various pink pills of varying power, used to preview what may or may not happen in each individual region. Gamblers beware.

### West Bracket (Arizona)

I have the North Carolina Tar Heels sliding easily into the first seed of this bracket, in a pick that should impress very few hoops analysts. However, in a game that should shake the very foundation upon which renowned color commentator Dick Vitale lays his head at night, I predict that UNC falls to the previously-unknown, not-yet-16 seed Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks.

However, I don't expect the Skyhawks reign to last long. I expect to see the Purdue Boilermakers topple them in the Elite Eight round to win the West Bracket behind an onslaught of 3-pointers from sophomore forward Robbie

Hummel, similar to the way that I expect the world to end in December 2012 behind an onslaught of fire and ice.

### South Bracket (Memphis)

It seems as in this year of college basketball, no team plans on "stopping" Oklahoma's 6-foot-10 sophomore forward Blake Griffin per se, they only hope to "contain" him. However, I believe that the Central Intelligence Agency has been working on a specific brand of barbituate designed to take out "Blake the Great."

I believe that this elaborate plan will be set forth before the first round matchup, which should see the No. 1 Sooners take on President Obama's alma mater, the No. 16 Columbia Lions. With Griffin more concerned with hallucinatory pink elephants and wildebeests than the real live Lions eating his defense alive, the Lions should romp to an easy victory.

However, that sweet taste will be short-lived when Columbia falls to the No. 3 Wake Forest Demon Deacons in the Sweet Sixteen round behind the play of freshman forward Al-Farouq Aminu. Aminu has been outperforming himself lately, making a good impression on NBA scouts in addition to speaking to me through the television. Aminu has been telling me that I am too beautiful to stay in Michigan much longer, that I should drop out of my classes at OU and move to Milan with him to pursue a career in the modeling business.

I would take him up on the offer, but I expect his team to fall to Louisville in the Elite Eight matchup for a trip to the Final Four. I cannot be associated with failure.

### Midwest Bracket (Indianapolis)

All that I've been hearing since I stripped myself nude, coated myself in red and blue paint and held up a sign on the corner of Walton and Squirrel with "KANSAS IS GOING TO WIN THE MIDWEST BRACKET!" written on it is, "Tim Rath, you're crazy!"

I beg to differ. Who wants a piece of the defending champions right now? Certainly not the Pittsburgh Panthers, who I predict will be awarded the No. 1 seed only to fall to the upstart Xavier Musketeers in the second round (Aminu has agreed that that is a good call). Nor the Villanova Wildcats, who I predict are hiding the body of Jimmy Hoffa under-



Graphic Illustration by THOMAS ROWLAND

Web Editor Tim Rath begins his descent into an unstable state of mind as he processes all that could happen during the 2009 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship that begins in two weeks.

neath the parquet floor of their practice facility.

"What about the Davidson Wildcats?" you may be saying right now. "They were the darlings of last year's tournament and they have Stephen Curry back for another shot at the championship." Give me a break. They have no interior defense.

### East Bracket (Boston)

Welcome to the "bracket of death." When I woke up this morning and saw Tupac Shakur having a conversation about Middle East peace relations with The Notorious B.I.G. at my bedside, I asked the first question that was on my mind: "Who am I to predict will win the East Bracket?" Between such high-profile programs as Tennessee, Duke, Connecticut, UCLA and Michigan State possibly competing for the same Final

Four slot, I had no idea who to choose.

The two rappers had no idea, but the breakfast burrito that walked in my room shortly thereafter gave me a piece of advice that I will carry with me through the rest of my days and pass along to Aminu: "Have some school spirit, man!"

With that in mind, I predict and therefore fully expect the OU Golden Grizzlies to place into the East Bracket after winning the Summit League Tournament this weekend. They will march in Boston and pick off college basketball powerhouses one by one, until they are left in the Final Four with the likes of Bracket champions Purdue, Kansas and Louisville.

Rather than choose a National Champion, my plan is to voluntarily check myself into the psychiatric ward of the nearest hospital to watch the Final Four games in peace. Go Grizzlies.

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## Guinea-Bissau president killed

By ASSIMO BALDE  
Associated Press Writer

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau — Soldiers assassinated the president of Guinea-Bissau in his palace Monday hours after a bomb blast killed the army chief who had been his political rival for decades.

A military statement broadcast on state radio attributed President Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira's death to an "isolated" group of unidentified soldiers whom the armed forces said they were now hunting down. It said the military was not planning a coup in the West Africa nation, which has been a transit point for the cocaine trade to Europe.

The capital, Bissau, was calm despite the pre-dawn gunfight at the palace, which erupted hours after armed forces

chief of staff Gen. Batiste Tagme na Waie — a longtime rival of the president — was killed by a bomb blast at his headquarters.

Following an emergency Cabinet meeting on Monday, military spokesman Zamora Induta said top military brass told government officials "this was not a coup d'etat."

"We reaffirmed our intention to respect the democratically elected power and the constitution of the Republic," Induta said. "The people who killed President Vieira have not been arrested, but we are pursuing them. They are an isolated group. The situation is under control."

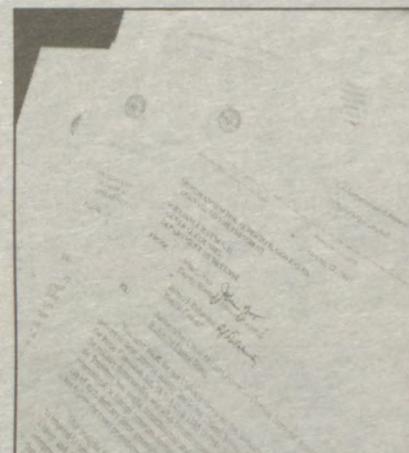
The constitution calls for parliament chief Raimundo Pereira to succeed the president in the event of his death.

Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Jr.

said the fact that the military did not go through with a coup deserves praise. "The military showed their patriotism by not seizing power," he said, adding that both Vieira and Waie will receive state funerals in the coming days.

Vieira had ruled the impoverished nation for 23 of the past 29 years. He came to power in the 1980 coup, but was forced out 19 years later at the onset of the country's civil war. He later returned from exile in Portugal to run in the country's 2005 election and won the vote.

The armed forces' statement dismissed claims that the military killed Vieira in retaliation for Waie's assassination late Sunday. The two men were considered staunch political and ethnic rivals and both had survived recent assassination attempts.



ALEX BRANDON/Associated Press  
The Justice Department on Monday, March 2, released a long-secret legal document from 2001 in which the Bush administration claimed the military could search and seize terror suspects in the United States without warrants.

## Memos say CIA destroyed tapes

By DEVLIN BARRETT AND MATT APUZZO

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration threw open the curtain on years of Bush-era secrets Monday, revealing memos that claimed exceptional search-and-seizure powers and divulging that the CIA destroyed nearly 100 videotapes of interrogations and other treatment of terror suspects.

The Justice Department released nine legal opinions showing that, following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Bush administration determined that certain constitutional rights would not apply during the coming fight.

Within two weeks, government lawyers were discussing ways to wiretap U.S. conversations without warrants.

"Too often over the past decade, the fight against terrorism has been viewed as a zero-sum battle with our civil liberties," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a speech a few hours before the documents were released.

The Obama administration also acknowledged in court documents Monday that the CIA destroyed 92 videos involving terror suspects, including interrogations — far more than had been known. Congressional Democrats and other critics have charged that some of the harsh interrogation techniques amounted to torture, a contention President George W. Bush and other Bush officials rejected.

The new administration pledged turn over documents related to the videos to a federal judge and to make as much information public as possible.

### N I W BRIEFS

02-25 | Two statues missing from China for 150 years sell for \$18 million each in an auction of the late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent's art collection.

02-26 | A man in California allegedly steals an ambulance that arrives at the scene of his car accident. | An Ohio woman has been charged with child endangerment after another motorist reported her driving while talking on the phone and breast feeding.

02-27 | The head of budget for European airline Ryanair said they are considering pay toilets on aircrafts to lower ticket costs.

02-28 | Police in Longview, Texas, found three bodies in an apparent murder-suicide.

03-01 | Suspected U.S. missiles kill seven people in a Pakistani Taliban stronghold.

03-02 | A Belgian court fines Yahoo! \$69,300 for failing to turn over information on users suspected of fraud.

## Naked man crosses L.A. skyline



RICHARD VOGEL/Associated Press  
An unidentified naked man sits atop a cross on the West Bethel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles as fire and police talk him down Sunday, March 1. Why he was up there is unconfirmed.

## Obama taps Sebelius as health chief

By RICARDO ALONZO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama turned to Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius Monday to help him overhaul a health care system, the cost of which has risen four times as fast as people's wages in recent years.

Obama said as he introduced Sebelius as his choice to be secretary of health and human services and Nancy-Ann DeParle, a health policy figure during the Clinton administration, to head the White House Office for Health Reform.

"There's no easy formula for fixing

our health care system," Obama conceded. But he added: "I came here to deliver the sweeping change that they demanded when they went to the polls in November."

The president also said he would release \$155 million of the \$787 billion economic stimulus measure to support 126 new health centers to give people more access to primary and preventive health care services.

Sebelius, who must be confirmed by the Senate, and DeParle, will fill roles that the president wanted former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to hold as he tries to shepherd his health overhaul

agenda through Congress.

If confirmed, Sebelius will assume her new role as the recession has taken its toll on Medicare, which provides health care for older people and the disabled. Plunging tax revenues have weakened the program's giant hospital fund, accelerating its projected insolvency to as early as 2016.

Obama made his opening move on a health care overhaul last week: his speech to Congress and a budget that set aside \$634 billion over 10 years as a goal that could ultimately cost \$1 trillion or more.

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