

Men and women mount big leads in  
Summit League Championship  
but fall short.

Pages 18 & 19



# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 11, 2009

Volume 34, Number 22

## Connect Four



OUSC student body presidential candidates  
stress community in debates

Page 6





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# THIS WEEK 3.11.09



## Perspectives page 4

Accounting students write in to invite others to learn how to get the competitive edge when transitioning from college to career. Page 5



## Campus page 6

Students feel hunger pangs after participating in a banquet that served up rationed portions. Page 10



## Local page 11

President Obama's auto task force visits Detroit automakers.



## The Mix page 14

Student body presidential elections are coming. The Post asks what makes a good president.



## you page 16

It's tax time. Students and tax professionals share their tips for preparing taxes.



## Sports page 18

A new season for OU baseball. New challenges for coach John Musachio. Page 20



## the Scene page 23

Director Zack Snyder talks about his latest film "Watchmen."



## MOUTHING OFF page 25

For those yearning for the '80s, don't fret, you're living in them.



## Nation | World page 28

Clamp down on drugs in Mexico progresses, but not without violent side effects.

THE OAKLAND POST  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# Perspectives

4

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March 11, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

## A message about your bottled water

Bottled water is so last year.

Unless it's a 5-gallon jug that you refill at mom's because the water at your place smells like rotten eggs, there's no reason for bottled water. There's this thing they invented recently that routes water from lakes into the cities: it's called plumbing.

We get why bottled water was popular for a while — the same reason yuppies drive Hummers in the suburbs and Americans drink green beer and some women think douching is healthy — because it's available and there are some really good advertising agencies out there. But this is a new era.

Luckily, we can say we go to a school that is embracing the need for environmental responsibility. Oakland University and the Oakland Center in particular, have been making simple changes to reduce our footprint.

According to the director of the OC, Richard Fekel, the building has been making eco-friendly improvements since as far back as '97 when a cardboard bailer was purchased. Some improvements to the OC over just the last few years include the installation of automatic faucets, light motion sensors, compact fluorescent lighting and increased recycling.

There are also several other initiatives on the table right now that are being researched for the future. One of those is the installation of water bottle refilling stations, similar to those in Vandenberg's dining hall, meant to reduce the amount of trash created by one-time-use bottled water.

The OU Environmental Coalition is creating a lot of the steam that's driving

OU's eco-friendly engine. The coalition is hosting "Green Week" on campus through March 13, pushing the ideas of rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle and recharge.

While the rain canceled the scheduled demonstration Tuesday to show how many plastic bottles get dumped into U.S. landfills every minute, student and OU Environmental Coalition member Edward Thompson-Matthews said that the number was at about 40,000 in 2007 and is rising.

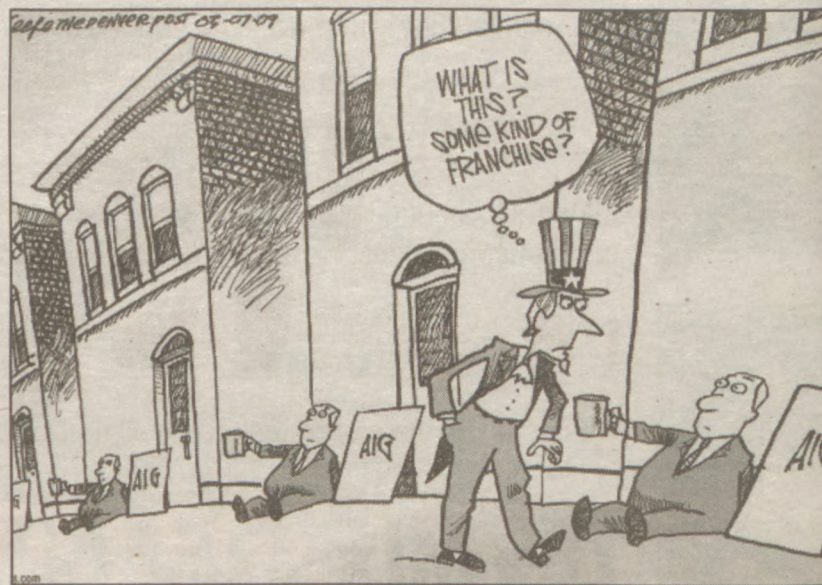
The consumption of bottled water wouldn't be as disturbing if the plastic was just recycled. Fekel said that despite the recycling bins located throughout the buildings, the biggest challenge is educating students where to discard recyclables and garbage. Once trash contaminates the recyclables, all of the contents need to be thrown away.

Unfortunately, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs' initiative to expand the Michigan bottle deposits to water and juice containers failed this past summer.

The MUCC has said that while 97 percent of citizens recycle bottles and cans with deposits, they only recycle 20 percent of those without deposit and 80 percent of those end up in landfills or critical wildlife habitats.

When you're thirsty, try refraining from investing your last \$1.50 on your future children's problem. Instead, invest in a refillable bottle.

For more on OU's environmental efforts read our Editorial Board blog at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com).



MIKE KEEFE/The Denver Post, 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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### Letter Policy:

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.

### CORRECTIONS CORNER

• On page 10 of the March 4 issue, "Assaulted at home" incorrectly attributed quotes to Officer Brett Vanderford.

• On page 10 of the March 4 issue, "Banned from campus" incorrectly reported the series of events and timeline leading up to OUPD banning Harry Quincy Nguyen from campus. For the correct information, see page 7 of this issue.

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.

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*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*



# Letter to the students:

What makes you different from the student sitting next to you in class? When it comes to jobs searches, it's imperative that you're able to convey your strengths and weaknesses to an interviewer effectively.

You may think you're in this alone, but Oakland University has provided great resources to its students. Career Services is aimed at the transition from campus to the workforce. Career Services and Beta Alpha Psi (an on-campus honorary academic organization focused on accounting, finance and MIS) are co-sponsoring an event to highlight some techniques for getting the competitive edge. "Job Search Strategies for Tough Times" will be held Thursday, March 12 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Oakland Room of the Oakland Center and will have presentations on techniques for finding jobs in our current economic state.

Participation in such events can help students surpass and differentiate themselves from their classmates. For students just starting out, you may not think that this pertains to you yet, but the sooner you can differentiate yourself from the rest, the greater your competitive advantage will be.

One of the simplest ways to do this is through volunteer work. Employers love to see applicants who give back to the community. Not only do you gain valuable knowledge in a field that may not be related to your major, but it shows that you are mindful about helping the community. Consider a student with a major in marketing but who likes to work with animals. Volunteering at an animal shelter tells a future employer, possibly a veterinary clinic, that you have compassion and would be better at marketing their business than someone without your experiences.

Another more involved way to promote yourself to prospective employers is to demonstrate leadership skills. On campus, organizations offer endless opportunities to become involved. By managing a group of people in support of a common goal, you can gain perspective on what it takes to coordinate an event or meet an objective. It also builds confidence and the ability to make decisions; traits that employers love to see.

We hope to see you March 12.

— Mike Paye and Samantha Snell  
Beta Alpha Psi members

## Colleen Miller Managing Editor



## Customer dissatisfaction

I've figured out why it's so hard for so many hard-working people to get a job. It's because there are so many incompetent business models that are making that impossible.

The car rental and credit card industries are prime examples of how big companies lose sight of customer service and as a result can't afford to hire more employees, on this side of the Atlantic anyway.

Over an hour of my winter break was spent wondering how Budget Car Rental stayed in business. We had to stand in line for an hour just to hand the rep our reservation, we had to listen to her talk to her friend on her cell phone as we waited for the car to be "detailed" and then pulled around. If they just washed the cars as they were returned and took reservation confirmations upon arrival, they could budget their time better and possibly hire more people. I'm going to try Hertz next time.

I'm also trying out a new credit card company, since Chase clearly didn't invest my \$40 late fees in customer service. If anybody knows a credit card company that still offers zero percent interest when you threaten to cancel, let me know. It's management 101; there's no point in having a customer service department if the people working in it have no authority to serve the customers.

In a time where every customer makes a difference and people like me will go to the grocery store with cleaner bottle machines (sorry Farmer Jack, but you pink-slipped me for refusing to work Labor Day '99), companies seem to have no interest in customer satisfaction.

They are losing customers and laying off good people because of their back-assward priorities. And instead of evaluating the problem, the new trend is to have their estranged customers bail them out.



## Editor in Chief

The Oakland Post is looking for a student (any major) to manage the newspaper staff May 2009-10. To apply for the position, please submit your resume, writing clips and references to:

61 Oakland Center  
Attn: Lindsey Wojcik

or

[oakposteditor@gmail.com](mailto:oakposteditor@gmail.com)

All applicants must be enrolled through May 2010. Start date: May 2009. Position is paid with tuition reimbursement. DEADLINE: March 19, 2009.

Really, what do you have better to do?

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## Campaigning for involvement

*Presidential hopefuls discuss student apathy at sparsely attended debates*

By SEAN GARNER  
Senior Reporter

Campaign season is underway for the four candidates running for Oakland University Student Congress president. The thing all four of them have in common is that they would like to see OU students view the school as more than just a place to get a degree.

Mark Medaugh, Kristin Dayag, Janelle Arbuckle and Anthony Ivone began their campaigns for office with a pair of debates in the Oakland Center Monday and Tuesday. The student body presidential candidates answered questions from the audience about their leadership qualities and their plans to change OU.

All the candidates said in the first debate that many OU students are disconnected from the campus outside of their courses, and that this needs to be addressed.

Dayag, a sophomore political science major who currently serves as OUSC multicultural director, said this starts with OU changing how it perceives itself.

"The thing about the typical Oakland University student is that our goal is to transform what that image is," Dayag said. "Rather than have that typical Oakland University student that we all agree is a commuter student that is not as active in this community, we want to have people feel a part of this community. Ten years down the line, we don't just want to remember our college days as being in class."

In keeping with the theme of student apathy, the Monday debate was sparsely attended, with only about 15 people seated in the gallery at the Fireside Lounge in the OC, where several incidental bystanders were in audible range of the debate.

Ivone said the opportunity to win the highest office at OUSC appeals to him because of a hard-wired inclination toward achievement.

"I have a more intrinsic motivation [than the rest of the candidates]," Ivone said. "I'm just an extremely competitive person. I want to succeed at everything I do and I want to do it the best I can. My experiences up to this point with school and work show me you really have to go



(From left) Presidential candidates Mark Medaugh, Kristin Dayag, Janelle Arbuckle and Anthony Ivone before their second debate on Tuesday.

BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

after things you want, you really have to attack it."

Ivone is a political science major, and the only presidential candidate who has not held a position in OUSC.

Eric Sturgis, a junior secondary education major who is running for a seat on the OUSC legislature, attended the Monday debate and said it was a good opportunity to find out how the candidates' previous experiences qualified them to be president.

"Since I'm running for legislator, I wanted to know what our next student body president had to say and what their plans for the university are," Sturgis said. "I think it was a very good debate. I know all of them have a vast amount of experience in different activities, and I was just interested to hear what those activities were and how they can use those experiences if they get elected."

Tuesday's debate was held in Pioneer Food Court in the OC, in front of a larger but significantly less attentive audience. Only a handful of students sitting closest to the podium on the east end of the food court had their eyes set on the debate.

This debate dealt with issues more directly related to the OU students like multicultural understanding, fiscal policies and raising awareness for other stu-

dent organizations.

Dayag and Arbuckle pointed to OUSC's negotiations with food service provider Chartwells as an example of dealing with issues that directly affect the students.

"Our biggest issue is the services the school should be providing to the students," Medaugh said.

Medaugh, a biology major has served several positions in OUSC before.

One of the cornerstones of Medaugh's platform centers on getting Kresge Library to stay open 24 hours a day.

"We know there are some fiscal issues involved with this, but we believe that if we could sit down and discuss this with the administration or other people in charge, we could make this a reality," he said.

Arbuckle, a sophomore political science major who serves as OUSC public relations agent, said her platform revolves around getting students to care about what is happening on campus.

"It is so, so important to get involved on campus," Arbuckle said. "My freshman year, I came to class and I went home. Ever since I joined OUSC it has just made my campus life so much more enjoyable, and it has just given so much more passion to go to OU. So what I

want to do is get the message out and get as many people connected to OU as I possibly can."

Christie Stover, an adjunct communications professor and advisor for WXOU radio station, moderated both debates and said she was impressed with the current crop of candidates.

She said she thought having a debate in perhaps the most congested area on campus could compel otherwise apathetic students to take notice of the candidates and their platforms.

"Students are basically unaware here of student choices," Stover said. "So while it could be a little distracting, being in their face like this, might sort of force them to pay attention. Whereas if it were somewhere else, nobody would have been aware, at least maybe we rung a bell with some of the students here today."

The vice presidential candidates' debate will be on Wednesday, March 18 in Pioneer Food Court in the OC.

The candidates' campaign platforms are on [www.oakland.edu/voteou](http://www.oakland.edu/voteou). Each candidacy tickets also have a campaign Facebook group.

Voting will be open March 21-23. Like last year, students can vote only on [www.oakland.edu/voteou](http://www.oakland.edu/voteou). Election results will be announced March 27.



# Get to know your candidates

Arbuckle/McCormick



**Experience and aspirations:** Being OUSC's public relations agent is Arbuckle's main activity on campus, but she also teaches young kids soccer and works at Everything But Water in Somerset Mall. McCormick is serving as an OUSC legislator. His major is communications and writing and rhetoric. He wants to work in cable broadcasting or direct films, or work for the CIA or FBI.

**Campaign focus:** Getting OU students more involved — both residents and commuters. One of the ways they want to do this is to have student organization fairs more often.

They said they will also listen to students to see what concerns they have, and work toward solving them.

"Nick and I are very approachable ... We're very legit," Arbuckle said.

"We really don't want to spend more than maybe \$20 on this campaign," McCormick said. Arbuckle said they'll have fliers, but that their campaign is more about word-of-mouth.

Dayag/Waquad



**Experience and aspirations:** Dayag currently serves as the multicultural director in OUSC. She wants to go to law school.

Waquad currently serves as legislative affairs director in OUSC. Her major is biology with a human resource management minor.

**Campaign focus:** Creating a more inclusive campus (for people of all ethnicities, LGBTQ, and students with disabilities), endorsing OU pride, strengthening OUSC and developing stronger student leaders.

"The biggest thing I'm trying to do with the student organizations is getting them to work together," Dayag said of her current work with developing a student organization council. "I think it's important that we have interaction with each other."

"I think e-board members could be more aware of their positions," Dayag said, adding that e-board members should put in a lot of effort.

Dayag said that she plans to "exhaust every PR possibility" in their campaign.

Ivone/Craite



**Experience and aspirations:** Ivone has not served a position on OUSC yet. He helps coach a high school wrestling team.

Craite is a freshman psychology major, and said she was want to go to medical school. She works as a research lab assistant in OU's biology department. She hasn't served in OUSC yet either.

Ivone said he first got interested in running for OUSC after Andrew Bashi's campaign in 2008.

"We're kind of trying to model ourselves after that," he said.

Ivone said although he feels the other candidates have a head start but doesn't feel it will stop him. "Jackie and I are extremely quick studies," he said.

**Campaign focus:** Getting OUSC to be more transparent and representative of the student body, and more open and interactive with students.

"What we want to do is let the students know what [OUSC] is doing, so we get feedback from them ... so we can represent the student body properly," Ivone said.

Medaugh/Marthen



**Experience and aspirations:** Medaugh has served as OUSC legislator and a justice. He is a student representative to the OU Senate and works in an ad agency.

Marthen, a human resources development major, is a legislator on the OUSC Scholarship Committee. She currently works at Chase Bank.

**Campaign focus:** The campaign is entitled "Real Plans For Real Students." The list includes getting Kresge Library to remain open 24 hours a day, more bulletin boards where students can advertise, expanding inter-student buying and selling, getting local companies more involved with students and Project O-Yeah — a campus community service program.

They said they plan to use OUSC funds, meet with OU administrators and local businesses. They said they admitted that they might not complete all these projects.

"Getting the 24-hour library up and running seems to be a fan favorite," Medadugh said.

## Banned from campus for 'suspicious' behavior

On Feb. 26 at approximately 7:39 a.m., Oakland University Police Department responded to a suspicious person report on the first floor of Wilson Hall, according to an OUPD report. Upon arrival, an OUPD officer approached Harry Nguyen, a 41-year-old native of Vietnam.

When questioned about his reason for being on campus, Nguyen said he was waiting for a ride from his friend, Chen Lee. After being extensively questioned by the officer, Nguyen said he was conducting mechanical engineering research with Lee. A search by OUPD found no records of Lee as an employee.

Nguyen said he worked in construction in ware-

houses in Detroit. He said he had only been to Oakland University once, about a year before and that Lee had requested meeting him outside Wilson Hall before heading over to Applebee's for breakfast. Applebee's does not open until 11 a.m. At the time of the incident, OUPD believed Nguyen did not pose a threat to the campus and let him leave campus.

After alerting Detective David Birkholz and Captain Mark Gordon of the situation, Gordon directed OUPD to arrest Nguyen for trespassing. The same officer that initially contacted Nguyen spotted him entering the McDonalds located at Five Points Drive and Squirrel Road. After stating he didn't need help, Nguyen was

taken into custody.

During processing, Nguyen claimed that OUPD were like communists in the way they were treating him. While being processed, Nguyen made several derisive comments about the United States, saying that the Vietnam War was still going on, and the United States had "monkey laws" while being processed.

Nguyen has been banned from campus.

— Based on an OUPD report. A version of this story titled "Banned from campus" that ran on the March 4 issue contained factual errors.



# Petitioning for policy expansion

By MACKENZIE ROGER  
Staff Reporter

During the past year, Oakland University students and faculty have worked toward placing a gender identity and expression clause in OU's non-discrimination and equal-opportunity employment policies.

The policy guarantees protection to all students, but does not mention transgender or other non-gender-specific individuals on campus.

To raise awareness for this issue, the Gender and Sexuality Center hosted a lecture with speaker Renee Knipe on March 5 in the Oakland Center.

"We wanted the event to be fun, risqué ... but also to spread an important message," said Joann Bautti-Roche, GSC coordinator.

Knipe has been transitioning from male to female over the last two years, and spoke at OU before. Her presentation included a Top 16 tips list.

"These tips are mostly for the person in a relationship with a [transgender] person who has made the decision to remain included and fully supportive in their life," Knipe said.

A transgender person is someone

who was born with one sex, but identifies himself or herself as another. Transgender people are sometimes victims of violence because of their gender identity and expression.

The event was a part of Women's History Month. On display at the event was a petition for attendees to sign to show support for the policy change.

"The board of trustees needed to see that students want this change as well," Bautti-Roche said. "We received hundreds of signatures and letters from student organizations."

OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery said in a November interview with The Oakland Post that OU's Office of Diversity and Compliance feels the transgender community at OU is already protected under the current policy.

"Persons discriminated against due to 'gender identity and expression' are protected under laws prohibiting sex discrimination," Montgomery said.

OU student Hector Jackson, among others, disagrees.

Jackson, a freshman Spanish education major, is known to some as the only openly-transgender student on campus, and wants the policy to be changed.

"Looking at the discrimination policy,

we really aren't protected," Jackson said. "The sexuality clause doesn't cover every person. We aren't even eligible for certain grants and scholarships."

Jackson was born female, but identifies himself as male.

For other students on campus, OU's policy may be effective, but they wish to include the entire student population.

"I know the current policy doesn't include the transgender community," said OU sophomore Laura Jung. "But it's like with the gay community — Oakland doesn't discriminate against them, so they should include the whole LGBTQ."

LGBTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning.

The petition will be presented to the OU board of trustees at the next board meeting on April 1.

Supporters hope that the trustees will vote to include gender identity and expression non-discrimination clause into the current policy.

"I would feel much better if we were included," Jackson said. "There's no real downside, and it would make OU a more appealing campus."

Over the next several weeks, the GSC will petition to include the gender identity clause around campus.



## Web Exclusives this week:

• Watch an 8-minute video of exclusive interviews of all the candidates running for Student Body President and Vice President.

• Bill Bonds gave a lecture on campus on Thursday, March 5. Read what he had to say.

• Read Renee Knipe's Top 16 tips for being in a relationship with a transgender person.

Find these and more only on  
[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

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## POLICE FILES

On March 1, a student reported that her cell phone had been stolen from Kresge Library on Friday, Feb. 27. The victim said she left her brown T-Mobile phone and charger unattended for a short period of time. She said when she returned, the charger was still there, but the phone was gone. She estimated the value of the phone at \$179 and said she doesn't know who might have taken it.

On March 2, OUPD was alerted to a possible larceny in Kresge Library. A student reported that her bag was missing from just outside the women's restroom on the fourth floor. Upon a police officer's arrival, the stu-

dent found her bag inside the restroom. After searching her bag, she claimed her Apple MacBook laptop, laptop charger, wallet and cell phone charger were missing.

On March 3, a woman claimed that her gray coat and Jansport backpack had been taken from the south study area on the third floor of Kresge Library. She said they were gone after she left to use the restroom. No suspects were named at the time. She said her car keys were in her coat pocket, and that she checked the third floor and looked for the keys, but couldn't find them.

## SELF LOVE SPA

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## Leadership & Technology Conference 2009



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Location: Elliott Hall

For more information &  
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CSA

Contact: (248) 370-2400, [csa@oakland.edu](mailto:csa@oakland.edu), [www.oakland.edu/csa](http://www.oakland.edu/csa)



Gloria Jean Watkins (bell hooks)

Thursday, March 26

7:30 pm

Gold Rooms, Oakland Center

bell hooks will share her unique perspective on the interconnectivity of race, class, and gender and how this relates to feminism, sexuality, and mass media.



# Play raises money to combat sexual assault

By MASUDUR RAHMAN  
Campus Editor

Oakland University's Women's Issues Forum produced the the play "The Vagina Monologues" on March 7-8 in Dodge Hall.

About 40-50 people attended Sunday. Erin Downes, president of the Forum, said Saturday had a bigger audience, as well as some different cast members.

The Forum produces "The Vagina Monologues" almost every year and donates the proceedings to different causes. Downes said that this year, they raised about \$1,000 from the Saturday and Sunday shows, 10 percent of which go to combat female genital mutilation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The remainder will go to OU's Gender and Sexuality Center to help start OU's first comprehensive sexual assault prevention and awareness program.

Joanne Bautti-Roche, GSC's coordinator, said it will use the money to insert information cards in packets for new students and to hold sexual assault prevention workshops in the dorms, focused especially on freshmen girls, because they are the ones most targeted by

sexual assault.

She also said that she plans to start the workshops by Fall 2009, and while these workshops would be optional, she would try to make them mandatory in the future.

## Happy, not-so-happy

The play had both funny and serious parts, all spoken in short monologues by women who stood at the microphone.

Student Amy Skarb told a Vagina Happy fact, "The clitoris is the only organ in the body built solely for pleasure."

Jean Ann Miller, director of OU's Center for Student Activities, talked about some Not-So-Happy facts, and discussed how female genital mutilation was widespread, especially in Africa.

"Three million girls a year can expect [to have] their clitoris [cut out], or all the parts together," she said.

Later, student Aimee Coldren gave an Outrageous Vagina fact, which was that it's still illegal to sell vibrators in five states in America.

"In those states, it's legal to sell guns," Coldren said. "But no mass murders have been committed with vibrators."

## Staff and students

Most of the actors were students, but there were some university staff members as well.

Miller played some funny and serious parts. Anne Switzer, a Kresge Library staff member, played a serious part, speaking in the voice of a young girl who was raped by older men.

"Six men shoved bottles into me ... they took turns with me for seven days," she said.

The last skit, a serious title, "Baptized," featured Laura Hoehner as an aid worker who spoke of meeting an 8-year-old girl who was raped so severely that she had an extra hole and lost control of her bladder.

"I didn't even know that could happen," Hoehner said. "She peed on me ... I was baptized."

In one skit, three women said out loud the things that their vaginas might say if the vaginas could speak.

"Whoo mama!" Miller exclaimed. "Come inside me ... Not yet ... Yes! Yes!"

In another skit, a female prostitute, played by student Jeni Schroers, who took only female clients, described some of the things her clients liked to yell out

loud during sex.

"I should be studying! I should be studying!" she said between orgasmic moans, describing a college student.

## Shaving and smelling

Some of the skits were about genital hygiene and female expectations.

In the opening skit "Hair," a woman, played by Sara Ebensperger, pointed out the absurdity of men demanding women shave their pubic hair.

"When he made love to me [after she shaved] ... it felt painful," she said. "I refused to shave after that ... Hair was there for a reason ... as protection."

In the skit "My Angry Vagina," a woman played by Angela Wilhelm questioned why women needed to try to make their vaginas smell better.

"Stop shoving things up me, cleaning me up and making me smell better," she said. "Don't believe them when they say it [vagina] smells like roses. It smells like pussy."

GSC and Oakland University Police Department are hosting another event "Consensual sex or rape? A mock trial" Monday, March 23 from 7-10 p.m. in Gold Rooms A-C of the Oakland Center.

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# Symbolic banquet tries to help global hunger

By BRAD SLAZINSKI  
Staff Intern

Oxfam Community Aid Abroad, in collaboration with St. John Fisher Newman Group, hosted a banquet in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center to raise hunger awareness on campus March 5.

St. John Fisher was helping to raise money to benefit Oxfam and \$5 donations were accepted.

Lisa Brown, Pastoral Associate for St. John Fisher, got right to the point.

"We are here today because 1.2 billion people, about one-fifth of the world population, live in poverty," Brown said. "Eight hundred million of the people suffer from chronic hunger."

Brown said a person dies from hunger every 3.6 seconds, adding up to 24,000 people a day. She said the major causes of hunger are mainly political.

"It's about power," Brown said. "The roots of hunger lie in inequalities in access to education and resources."

Before the presentation, slips of paper were handed out assigning a role. These roles ranged from those who are well-off to the poor. The groups were classified by where they sat. The poor sat on the floor,

the middle class on the mats, and the wealthy on the tables.

The groups acted out scenarios in which group members represented individuals at different socio-economic levels.

Some of the middle class moved up or down and were able to sit at different locations.

Food was also assigned based on class. The poor received only rice, the middle class received rice and beans, and the wealthy received sandwich wraps.

Mary Karasch, an OU Latin American history professor, discussed the hunger situation in Latin America and began by speaking about Haiti.

"Just Google Haiti and dirt cookies," Karasch said. "They go through specific types of clay and give these to children to kill hunger pangs."

"In the third world, dirt is sometimes used to provide essential minerals in specific kinds of clay," Karasch said.

"Guatemala is high up on the malnutrition index, especially in the indigenous areas. Fifty percent of the indigenous children are severely malnourished," Karasch said.

"People who are indigenous simply cannot enjoy the same quality of food in



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post

Most attendees represented poor countries, sat on the floor and received one bowl of rice.

comparison to the upper classes," she said.

Students that attended said the banquet was a learning experience.

"I had no idea how prevalent it was," said junior Katie Gaia of the global hunger crisis. "I knew it existed but not to the extent that was discussed."

Sophomore Paola Yumpo also said she learned a lot.

"I'm Peruvian and was interested in coming here because it's Latin America in general and my country struggles sometimes, especially in the poor areas," she said. "I learned how I can help, one of them by going fair trade."

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## Task force test drives GM, Chrysler cars

By TOM KRISHER  
AP Auto Writer

WARREN — Four members of President Barack Obama's auto task force spent much of Monday driving General Motors Corp. electric vehicles and touring a Chrysler LLC pickup truck factory.

The members, led by Wall Street financier Steven Rattner and Steelworkers union official Ron Bloom, traveled first to GM's tech center in Warren and then drove to Chrysler's Warren Truck Plant.

GM and Chrysler are living on a total of \$17.4 billion in government loans, and the task force is trying to determine if they will get more money. The companies have requested a total of \$39 billion as they try to survive the worst U.S. auto sales downturn in 27 years.

Task force members first visited the sprawling GM Tech Center, where they were greeted by Chief Executive Rick Wagoner and test-drove white and silver Chevrolet Volt electric cars, according to shots taken from television news helicopters.

Then it was off to the Chrysler plant in a 2009 silver Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo driven by Bloom, where they met with top Chrysler executives, including CEO Bob Nardelli, Vice Chairmen Jim Press and Tom LaSorda and Chief Financial Officer Ron Kolka.

They entered the plant near an auditorium in which the company had placed several of its future products, including electric and hybrid vehicles. The plant employs about 2,600 workers.

Both companies are working on rechargeable electric vehicles like the Volt that can go around 40 miles on a single charge from a household outlet. After 40 miles, small internal combustion engines kick in to generate electricity and power the car farther. Chrysler and GM have pledged to bring the electric vehicles to market sometime next year.

The automakers were eager to show off new products in an effort to prove they can become viable despite



CARLOS OSORIO/Associated Press

United Auto Workers members leave the first shift at Chrysler's Warren Truck Assembly in Warren, where members of the Obama administration's auto task force visited Monday, March 9.

billions of dollars in losses. Chrysler lost \$8 billion last year, while GM lost \$30.9 billion.

Without government help, both companies would have run out of money early this year.

Bloom, Rattner and the others arrived at the Chrysler plant just as the second shift was heading for work making the Dodge Ram pickup.

An Obama administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the meetings were private, said the task force members also met with United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger and other top union officials for two hours.

During the day of meetings, task force members conveyed the message that the administration understands the sense of urgency facing the troubled auto industry, the official said. GM and Chrysler both issued short statements saying they were happy with the opportunity to show the task force members their new products.

"We believe today's visit provided a constructive glimpse of GM people, their passion for their work, and the future products and technologies that are an integral part of our viability plan," GM's statement said.

Melvin Thompson, a worker and former union official at the Dodge truck plant, said Monday that the visit to Warren shows that Rattner and Bloom are interested in learning about the industry.

"It adds a human touch to the decisions that they make," he said as he left the plant after working the first shift. "They're determined not to be insulated from their decisions."

The task force is trying to figure out how best to save the struggling GM and Chrysler as well as their parts suppliers. Ford Motor Co. has yet to take government aid, but is burning up billions in cash and lost \$14.6 billion last year.

A collapse of the auto industry could lead to as many as 3 million lost jobs at a time when the fragile economy couldn't handle it, industry analysts have said.

The government can recall its loans to GM and Chrysler if they fail to sign deals for debt restructuring and other concessions from stakeholders including the UAW by March 31. GM and Chrysler are seeking \$21.6 billion in additional financing to execute turnaround plans submitted last month.

Last week GM said in its annual report that auditors raised serious doubt about the Detroit automaker's ability to continue operating. GM has received \$13.4 billion in federal loans and is seeking an additional \$16.6 billion. Chrysler has received \$4 billion in federal loans and is asking for \$5 billion more.

Some Republican senators in Washington are pushing for GM to enter Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

GM has said the restructuring can be accomplished without bankruptcy and said Chapter 11 would scare customers that would be fearful the company wouldn't be around to honor warranties or make replacement parts.

## Blue Cross raises exec pay in '08, plans cuts for '09

Associated Press Report

LANSING — Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan reported pay increases for its top executives in 2008.

The report filed last week with state officials covers the year that ended shortly before the nonprofit announced plans to eliminate up to 1,000 jobs and requested higher rates for some of its health insurance customers in the individual market. Blue Cross also announced plans earlier this year to cut the pay of top executives and freeze pay for others in 2009.

Blue Cross says it lost nearly \$145 million in 2008, mostly on its health insurance policies sold to people who aren't covered by employer or government plans. Blue Cross wants the Michigan Legislature to change state law covering the individual market.

Blue Cross President and CEO Dan Loepp's total 2008 compensation was reported at nearly \$1.8 million, up from about \$1.66 million in 2007.

Four vice presidents got retirement packages upon leaving the company. Total compensation listed for those executives in 2008 ranged from \$1.3 mil-

lion to nearly \$3.5 million, but the bulk of that is retirement plan money that could be paid out over a period of up to 15 years.

Blue Cross spokesman Andrew Hetzel said the company's executive pay is competitively benchmarked and in some cases lower than salaries paid by for-profit rivals.

Hetzel said Loepp and the company's nine other senior executives will take a 5 percent salary reduction in 2009, in addition to missing out on a previously scheduled 3.9 percent inflationary increase. Pay for vice presidents has been frozen

in two of the past three years.

Attorney General Mike Cox, who has been at odds with Blue Cross over its proposed changes to state law, criticized the 2008 pay increases. Cox is a Republican who is considering a run for governor in 2010.

"Raising executive salaries while laying off workers and trying to increase rates on struggling consumers is unconscionable," Cox spokesman John Sellek said in a statement.

Blue Cross says most of its work force reduction may be by voluntary departures and attrition rather than layoffs.





JIM RIDER/South Bend Tribune, AP  
Michael Nolan, 50, snuggles with Baby, a doe that visits the Nolan family twice a day.

## Doe goes domestic

By LOU MUMFORD  
South Bend (Ind.) Tribune, AP

JONES — As the owner-operators of an animal rescue shelter, George Nolan Sr. and his wife, Kathleen, have seen a number of deer come and go.

Never, have they seen one like Baby. "I think God sent her to me because I have cancer," said Kathleen, 66. "She's my angel."

And, one recent morning, the nearly 1-year-old doe was hungry. Baby entered through the back door of the Nolans' farmhouse, held open by George, climbed the three steps to the kitchen and headed for the breakfast table where Kathleen waited with a pair of baby bottles of goat milk.

Baby wolfed down one and part of the second before George, with Baby sniffing at his side, sliced up an apple.

It was a typical morning at the Nolan household where Baby is anything but your typical deer.

"We've had other deer but never one that came in the house," George said.

He and Kathleen said it was George Jr. who discovered the fawn in a field across the road just shy of a year ago. Apparently, the deer's mother had been killed, and if not for the Nolans' attention, Baby, as she came to be known, probably wouldn't

have survived.

Kathleen said she and her husband, as they have done with other young deer, fed Baby for a week before releasing her.

To their surprise, she returned the same day, and, for all but one or two days ever since, she has continued her visits.

Usually, she shows up for breakfast and late in the afternoon for dinner. She even slept in the living room one night and has appeared to watch TV.

"The first time she went to watch it, she licked the TV and got a shock. Boy, she jumped back," Kathleen said. "Another time, I was watching a wildlife show and a wolf howled. She looked around to see where that was coming from."

Baby also has munched on the Nolans' cookies and, according to caregiver Pam Henderson, passed the time pulling tissues out of Kleenex boxes. As for the inevitable bathroom "accidents," the Nolans said they're rare.

"She's spoiled rotten," Kathleen admitted. "You know, we don't get paid to do this. The apples are breaking us."

Normally, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources would frown on such fraternization, but the Nolans say it's permitted in their case based on their animal rescue business.

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## News Briefs

### Detroit council names attorney in its fight against Major Cockrel

DETROIT — The Detroit City Council has appointed a lawyer to lead its fight against Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr.'s plan to transfer Cobo Center to a regional authority.

The council voted 5-1 Monday, March 9, to appoint David Whitaker, director of its research and analysis division. The council argues Cockrel lacked the power to veto the council's 5-3 decision Feb. 24 rejecting the Cobo deal.

Meanwhile, exhibitors at Cobo's Autorama car show are complaining about water leaks that gave an unwanted bath to some vehicles at the event.

### Panel recommends pay cut for Mich. politicians

LANSING — The Legislature was asked Monday to share Michigan's financial pain and approve a 10 percent pay cut for lawmakers, the governor and other state elected officials starting in 2011.

The cuts recommended by the State Officers Compensation Commission will take effect if both the House and Senate vote in favor.

The salaries and expenses of the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state and 148 legislators would drop 10 percent.

Lawmakers' \$79,650 salary, second-highest in the country, would fall to \$71,685. The governor's \$177,000 salary, third-most among governors, would be \$159,300 — though Gov. Jennifer Granholm already is voluntarily giving back 10 percent of her pay this year. She returned 10 percent to the state treasury in her first year in office and 5 percent every year after.

Source: The Associated Press

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*Jimmy John*

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## What is the most important quality in a student body president?



**"Trustworthy, responsible and good time management skills."**

**Dorela Kotonika**  
Sophomore, health science



**"I think the most important thing is leadership. A drive to want something better for the school and the students."**

**Kenneth Brooks**  
Freshman, business



**"Somebody who really cares about the students and wants to make a difference on campus."**

**Allison Sowles**  
Senior, health science pre-pharmacy



**"Definitely good leadership skills, being approachable and taking in concerns of the students, good communicator and a successful education lifestyle."**

**DeMilla Prince**  
Junior, elementary education

**Student body president hopefuls talk about their faves**

**Mark Medaugh**

**Band:** The Beatles

**Movie:**

"Super Troopers"

**T.V.:** "Scrubs"

**Video game:** "Doom"

**Janelle Arbuckle**

**Band:** Rascal Flatts

**Movie:**

"Sex and the City"

**T.V.:** "24"

**Video game:**

"Mario Bros. 3"

**Anthony Ivone**

**Artist:** Kenny Chesney

**Movie:**

"Good Will Hunting"

**T.V.:** "Scrubs"

**Video game:**

"Call of Duty"

**Kristin Dayag**

**Artist:**

Beyoncé Knowles

**Movie:** "Enough"

**T.V.:** "Friends"

**Video game:**

"Mario Kart"





What do you hope the next student president could help change or make better about OU?



"Get rid of the parking meters because I just got a ticket. I don't understand why some spots have meters, but most don't."

Jackie Simoni  
Senior, communication



"The prices of books because book prices are terrible."

Amanda Abernathy  
Junior, psychology

# Would you rather...

Be a leader or let someone else take responsibility?



"Let someone else lead, for now."

Evano Kashat  
Freshman, undecided



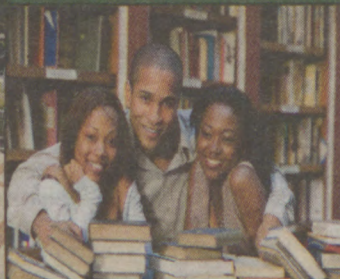
"I'd rather be a leader, I have a tendency to take that position."

Andrea Evangelista  
Freshman, biology

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# Tackle a taxing endeavor

By KAY NGUYEN  
Staff Reporter

It's that time of year again: Parents are frantically searching for receipts, accountants are crunching a myriad of numbers and many students are cautiously filling out every line of each required form for the first time.

The countdown to the April 15 deadline for filing tax returns has begun and for many college students the task of filing forms independently may seem daunting.

"I have never even tried to file my taxes myself," said sophomore Jacquiline Van Skiver.

According to the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan tax research group based in Washington, D.C., the safest and most efficient way to maximize a tax return may be to hand it over to a tax preparer, or purchasing software to aid in the process.

"But many college students may not have extra funds to pay H&R Block or TurboTax for their services.

TurboTax and other websites offer free e-filing for both federal and state taxes to

those that qualify. However, the editions that allows free e-filing for Michigan taxes can only be accessed from a link on [Michigan.gov/taxes](http://Michigan.gov/taxes).

Some tax-filing experiences are stress-free. Many first-time filers delegate the task to family members that are tax savvy.

"I suck at math," said sophomore Karen Alexander. "My dad knows that it's better for everyone if he just does [them for me]."

Other students may opt to go to tax professionals. Even with so many options

available, many are still prone to making mistakes while performing the annual ritual.

"It is all about bookkeeping," said Certified Public Accountant and OU alumnus Timothy McIsaac. "The actual return is just to report to the government of what happened financially over the last year."

Silly mistakes like writing incorrect social security numbers, reporting the wrong wage amount, or forgetting to sign the return can wreak havoc on the filing process.

According to McIsaac, first time filers do not read the directions carefully enough to complete the tricky calculations.

Staying informed about new tax credits and qualifications can be beneficial. Though the Tax Foundation believes that "tax law should not

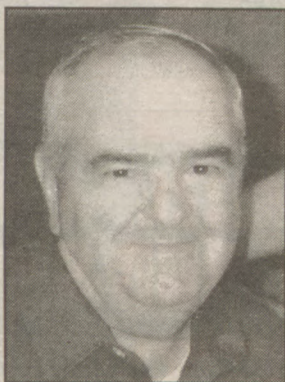
change continually," it stresses the importance of staying ever vigilant and looking out for new tax exemptions. Many may benefit this year from President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It replaces some tax credits and added others.

According to the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan tax research group based in Washington, D.C., the American Opportunity Tax Credit that replaces the current Hope credit can refund taxpayers up to \$2,500 for higher education expenses.

"There are many credits for college students," McIsaac said. "Each situation is different, talk to the financial aid office."

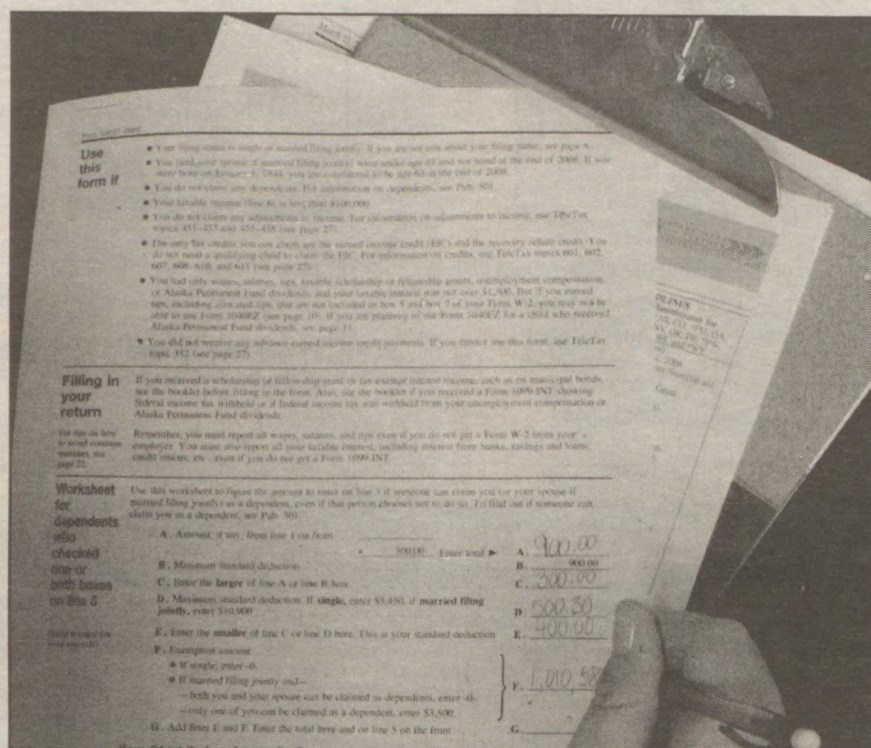
Another tax credit aimed at college students is the Student Loan tax credit, for those devoting a large share of their income to paying for a student loan.

McIsaac stressed that many tax credits



"E-file is the way to do it now. It has changed. Imagine if everybody still mailed their paperwork in to the government."

John Doyle  
H&R Block tax consultant



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

Whether on paper or online, many students will be filing their taxes for the first time this year.

apply to very particular circumstances. Figuring credits in error is another possible first-time tax misstep.

Free help is available on the Internal Revenue Service website, [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) and at local IRS offices.

Paying taxes in full and on time avoids unnecessary penalties. However, the IRS does give an option to citizens who do not have the means to pay their taxes in one lump sum. According to the [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov), those who owe \$25,000 or less in combined tax, penalties and interest can qualify to use the IRS' online payment agreement to break up payments.

Knowing the right information can make filing taxes easier for students.

"I thought they were really really easy," said junior Laura VanReyndam. "It took not even half an hour."

John Doyle, 76, works for H&R Block in Rochester Hills as a tax consultant and has helped others complete their tax returns for almost 20 years.

"E-file is the way to do it now," Doyle said. "It has changed. Imagine if everybody still mailed their paperwork in to the government."

A former chemical engineer, Doyle now keeps busy by taking the 30 hours of required classes yearly to stay up to date on new tax exemptions.

"I found [the process] very interesting," said Doyle. "I enjoy the mathematics."

According to Doyle, many college students may still be dependents. At a school like Oakland University, where many commute and live with their parents, this is true. When filing taxes, a single standard deduction of \$5,450 is usually taken out. However, parents retain the personal exemption.

Alexander and McIsaac were lucky enough to have accountants for parents. Others just have to be more self-reliant.

In the end, filing the correct forms before that April 15 deadline can be the most important tip.





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## Golden Grizzlies Games of the Week

MEN'S BASKETBALL — SUMMIT LEAGUE TOURNAMENT FINALS VS NORTH DAKOTA STATE

# Eliminated the hard way

*NDSU hits shot with 3.3 left to send OU home with heartbreak*

By JOE GUZMAN  
Senior Reporter

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — It was the championship game from a typical dramatic sports movie: A team wins the championship at the buzzer. Tuesday night, OU was the team that watched as that last-second shot swished through the net and the North Dakota State University Bison won 66-64.

With less than 10 seconds left and the game tied, North Dakota State guard, and Summit League player of the year, Ben Woodside carried the ball down the court and with his eye on the basket, he pulled up at the top of the key and a nailed a long two for the game winning shot to defeat the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies for the Summit League Championship.

After the game, OU head coach Greg Kampe attributed the loss to their 32 percent second half field goal percentage, as the team only hit 8 of 25 shots after a first half in which they scored 43 points on 20-32 shooting.

"I was asked last night, 'How does your team lose?' Field goal percentage. Look at the second half. We played 36 outstanding minutes, and down the stretch we played like a very young team," Kampe said.

As the NDSU defense gave them no room to move, OU faltered under the pressure. Mental mistakes near the end of the game hurt OU's chances. With three minutes left and the team up by one, a bounce pass by freshman Blake Cushingberry rolled out of bounds, amidst a 13-2 Bison run, allowing them to drain a three to take the lead with 1:27 left.

Kampe said the missed pass was the difference in the game.

Sophomore Keith Benson made a dunk to tie it moments later, with 11 seconds left, but ultimately it was North Dakota's night. Benson finished the game with a double-double, compiling 14 points and 14 rebounds, but he was held to only four of those points in the second half as ND came out focused on taking out the bigs down low.

OU senior guard Erik Kangas said he gave North Dakota credit for clogging up the lanes, for keeping the ball away from the paint.

"You have to give them credit on defense," Kangas said. "We just didn't step up and hit shots when we needed them the most."

Benson's frontcourt partner, forward Will Hudson, finished with 16, 10 of those in OU's dominant first half. The two big men joined Kangas and point guard Johnathon Jones in double figures.

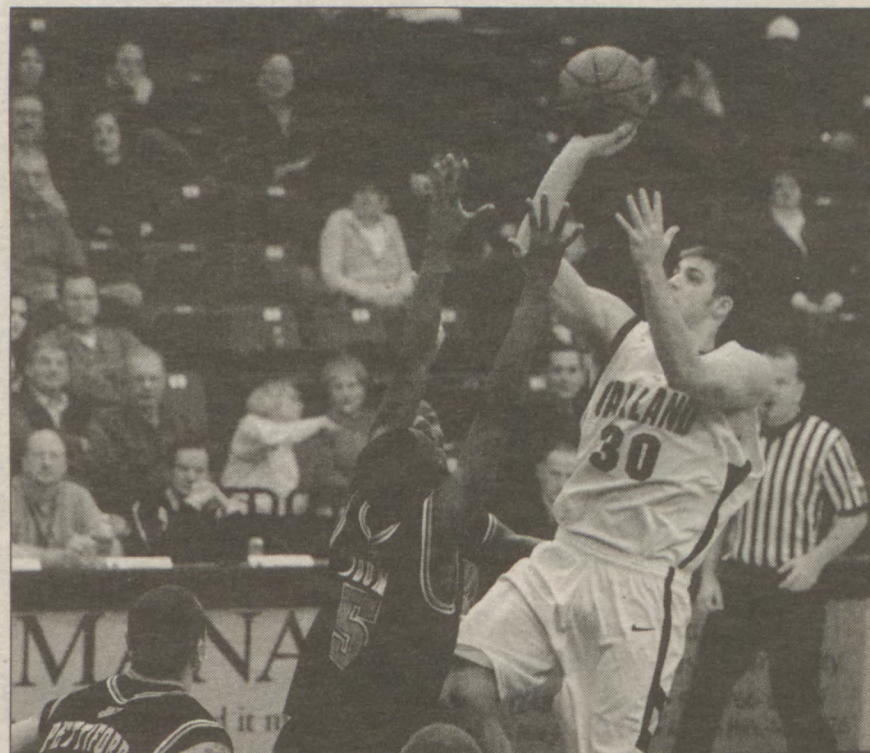
Kangas was reflective about his career after the heart-breaking loss. This is

the second time he's experienced a buzzer-beater loss in his OU career.

"Second time this has happened to me, that's it, I don't get another chance," Kangas said.

Kampe said the pressure to win the Summit League is something that has been built within his players for their whole lives, and that pressure attributed to their mistakes at the end.

"Spending your whole life wanting to go to the NCAA tournament, and it's a ton of pressure. We dominated the game for 35 minutes, but we didn't win. Can't attribute it to any one thing, a lot of their players made mistakes too, it's just the nature of game, that's basketball."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post File Photo  
Kangas feels the pain of leaving his senior year on a losing note. "I don't get another chance," he said.



JOE GUZMAN/The Oakland Post  
OU managed to lead by as much as 16 points but eventually lost by two due to a poor second half.





JOE GUZMAN/The Oakland Post



JOE GUZMAN/The Oakland Post



JOE GUZMAN/The Oakland Post

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL — SUMMIT LEAGUE TOURNAMENT FINALS VS SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

# Season of highs ends on a low

*OU can't hold onto halftime lead, championship slips away*

By JOE GUZMAN  
Senior Reporter

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — With seven minutes left in the Summit League Women's Championship and Oakland University down by two, South Dakota State forward and conference player of the year, Jennifer Warkenthien, attacked. She backed her man down into the paint, and muscled in a tough lay-up.

OU sophomore Anna Patritto missed a clean lay-up on the ensuing possession and OU failed to score for the next five minutes, as No. 14 SDSU went on an 11-0 run, en route to a second-half comeback win, 79-69 Tuesday. Warkenthien led all scorers with 23 points, 11 rebounds, three blocks and two steals.

"I give all the credit in the world to South Dakota State," said OU head coach Beckie Francis. "In the first four minutes of the second half they really started to believe that they were as good as they actually are and they hit their shots."

Foul trouble held OU sophomore center Brittany Carnago and senior point guard April Kidd to 20 and 28 minutes of playing time, respectively, allowing SDSU to exploit OU's smaller lineup.

Francis said that Carnago's absence really changed OU's game plan and forced them to match up differently.

"Our team is a completely different team when we have 5-foot-9 guards playing post, they took advantage of that," Francis said. "They're a disciplined team and they knew how to attack that immediately."

Carnago was stuck on the bench for long stretches in the second half and OU's interior defense began to suffer. Carnago wanted to be on the court.

Senior guard Jessica Pike said that Carnago's absence really affected the team on the defensive end, and that was the difference in the second half, as SDSU would score 50 points for the half.

Although it was considered a "neutral site," the fact that the game was on SDSU's home court allowed the school's fans to fill the arena to capacity. After the game, Francis admitted that the crowd had an affect on her team.

"It's frustrating when you come here and you want a neutral floor, we have been a number one seed and it would be nice to get the tournament somewhere like Cleveland," she said.

After going into the half up by 10, OU was outplayed in the second half as SDSU came out hitting two 3-pointers to set the tone.

Pike led all OU scorers with 22 points. She came out fast with 20 first-half points, as the team went into halftime with a 39-29 lead. Hanna Reising followed her with 18 points. It was the first game this season that the women lost when Reising scored in double figures.

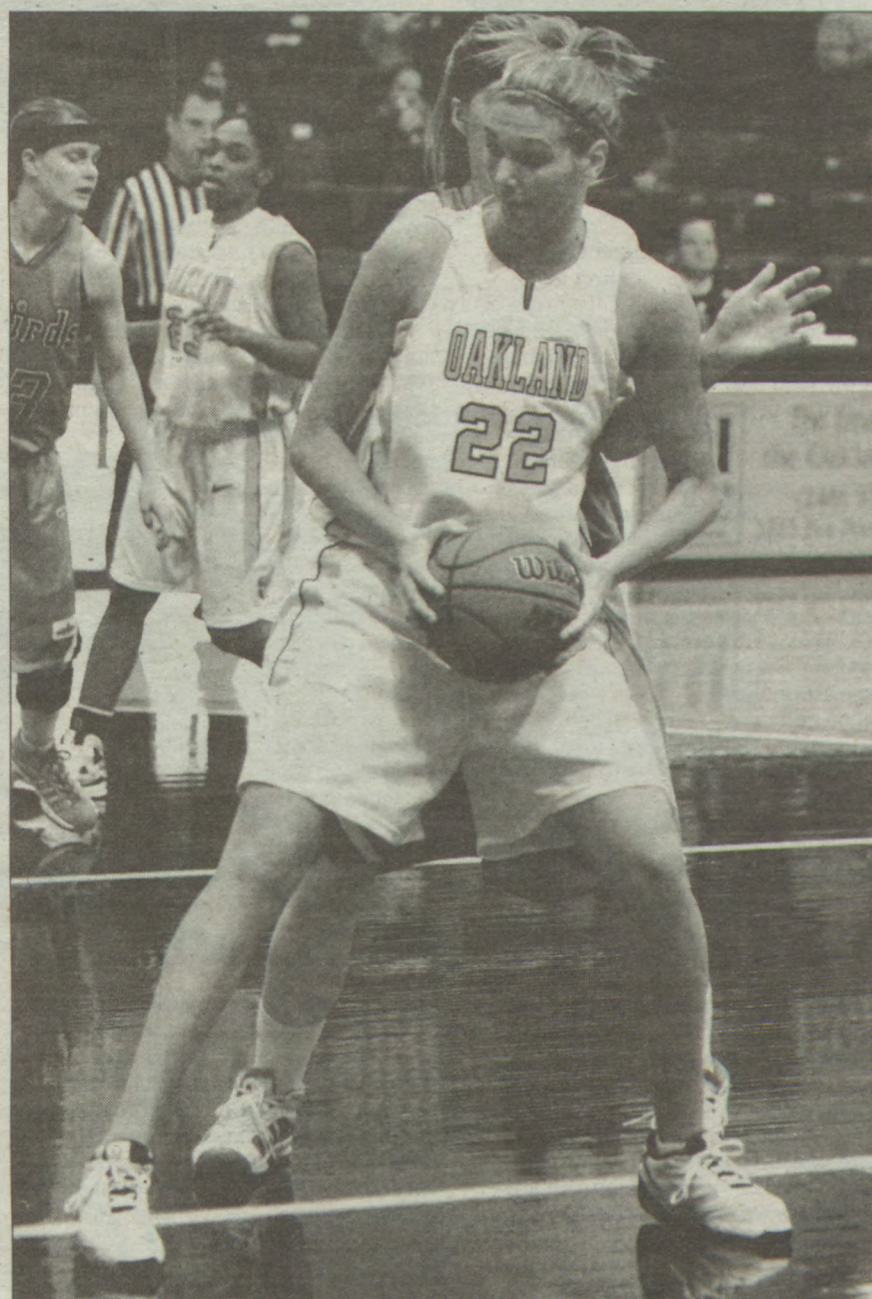
Pike credited a more focused SDSU defense for her second-half struggles.

"Their entire team defense really picked up [and] really pushed us out further away," Pike said. "[SDSU] made us have to run our offense from half court."

Ultimately, Francis felt her girls let up in the second half, and you can't do that against a team like SDSU.

"I could see it in their eyes, they weren't ready for that punch, and they got punched," Francis said.

OU will now wait for Monday to see what its postseason fate will be. Even with the loss, OU still has a chance to be selected to either the NIT or NCAA tournament.



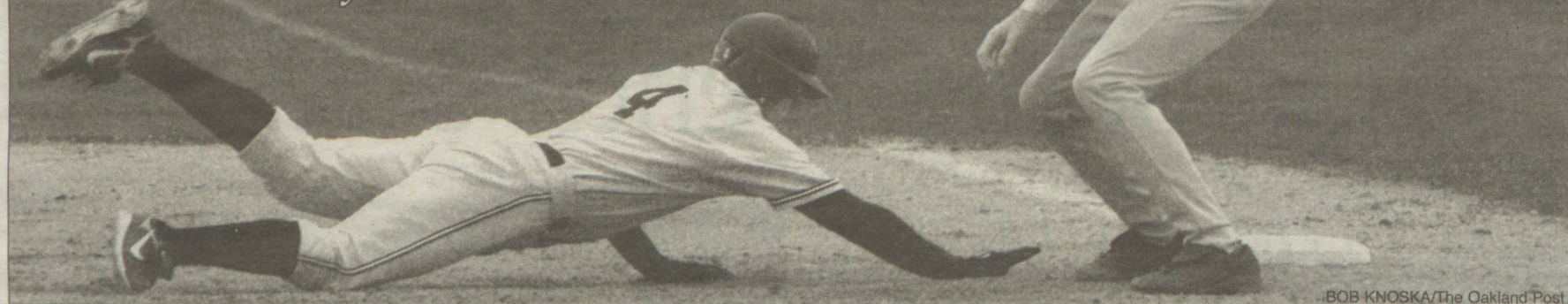
BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post File Photo

OU's foul trouble made it hard for Brittany Carnago (foreground) and April Kidd to find their game.



# The search for stability

*Baseball head coach looks to establish a winning game plan at the start of his second season*



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

By **JOE GUZMAN**  
Senior Reporter

On March 23, the Oakland University baseball team will play its first home game of the season. OU is currently 1-7 in a season that started on Feb. 21. The team still has to play eight more games on the road before the home opener.

With no prior success to draw from — OU has yet to have a winning season in Division I — building the team from the ground up is not an easy task. Second-year head coach John Musachio is taking takes a “baby-steps” approach to producing a respectable product on the field rather than focusing on things like number of wins and statistical goals.

“This is a program that hasn’t had a lot of success and concrete goals need to be attainable,” Musachio said. “More importantly players have to believe they can accomplish them.”

Relying on a philosophy that is grounded in playing every game like its your last and trying to “control only what is controllable,” combined with patient coaching, respect for his players and a focus on their growth as men as well as ballplayers, Musachio has already changed the mentality of players deeply immersed in a losing culture.

“Some of us here have gone [through] three coaching changes, and we’ve seen a lot of different approaches, some good, some not so good,” said fifth-year senior infielder Rob Merkle. “When I came in there wasn’t a winning attitude, it was more that we hoped to win and, if we do that, it would be great. There’s an attitude where we expect to win. We’re not surprised if we win.”

## A team of his own

Musachio was promoted to head coach last year after serving as assistant coach

for two years. The change was the team’s third in four years, so it goes without saying that finding a coach committed to the team was the first step before even beginning to think about turning around the product on the field.

Promoting from within provided the much needed consistency to the coaching position. Musachio is now in charge of managing the players he had recruited, players with which he had an established relationship.

Having Musachio grow along with many of the players he’s recruited has allowed a consistent message to be built upon. They have experienced the same successes and failures over his four years here and that relationship has allowed him to trust in his veterans to police themselves.

“He has trust in us, that he can hand over the reigns to us, so he can let us take the team where we want to go,” Merkle said. Musachio said that the players have earned his trust through their perseverance through the program’s tough times, as well as the character they exemplify while working hard on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

## A new mindset

Entering his first season as head coach, he was focused on motivating his players to play hard day in and day out,

as the team went 15-30 and finished second to last in the Summit League. Reflecting back, he saw that the team was becoming competitive in games against opponents that they didn’t play well against in years past.

“Last year’s team really went out and competed,” Musachio said. “That was really the goal, and then let the chips fall where they’re going to fall. We were in a position to win a lot more games than we did, and that’s the next step leading into this year, which is learning how to win.”

## End game

Last year, the team lost nine games in which they led after eight innings. According to Musachio, the inability to win late in games effected the team’s focus.

Musachio said learning how to

win starts with playing the same way, with the same mentality, for the entire game versus innings one through seven.

“This program hasn’t been comfortable being in the lead late [in games] on a consistent basis, so we have to get past that point,” Musachio said. “Our guys had had their hearts broken quite a bit, and sometimes it just takes one breakthrough victory before they turn that corner, and I know this group is going to get that breakthrough victory.”

Musachio is confident that this victory will come this season based on the

relative success the team experienced last year, when the program achieved the best RPI the program has had, and achieved the best run differential in program history as well. When he reflects on last season, he looks to the whole body of work and takes pride in the fact that the team was more competitive than any other OU baseball team in its Division I history.

## Confidence booster

First baseman Taylor Traub, another fifth-year senior on the squad, said that the team is buying into Musachio’s methods because what he brings to the team is instilling the core values that the team needed, such as team unity and trust in each other.

“He puts a lot of emphasis on senior leadership to take care of the younger guys and make it like a family atmosphere,” Traub said. “He has brought a sense of care and respect that I think was lacking in previous years.”

According to Traub, Musachio has done this by implementing a more comfortable, open-door policy for the players to interact with the coaching staff. He said the players respond to him because Musachio shows them respect in turn.

“He is not a yeller, so when he does, you know it’s for a reason,” Traub said. “It’s one thing to be a disciplinarian and yell to show guys up, when those guys aren’t buying into the program, it’s another when you show respect and then have a message to you madness.”

In the eight games this year, Traub is leading the team in hitting, with a .440 batting average, and in walks, with six.

For Traub the biggest effect the coaching changes had on him was on his confidence. He had battle injuries in his first couple years, and when that happened he began to put more pressure

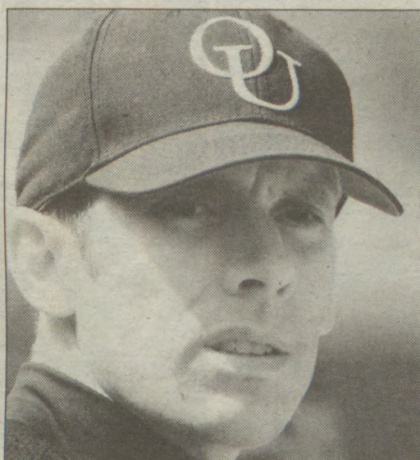
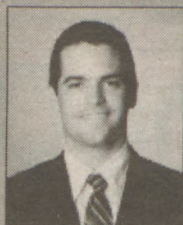


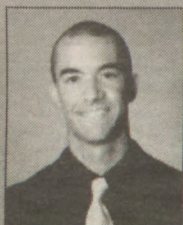
Photo courtesy of OU athletics  
Men’s head baseball coach John Musachio.



## Who to watch for in 2009



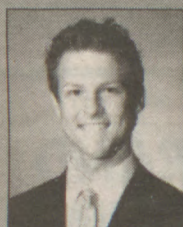
**Rob Merkle** — After batting an impressive .325 last season, Merkle was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District first team. His consistency (17 multi-hit games last year) is going to be a key to OU's offensive success.



**Matt LaMothe** — This freshman from Troy Athens is an athlete that has the ability to be a rangy outfielder or a clutch pitcher. Has OU's only win so far in the 2009 season as a pitcher. He has a 4.00 ERA with nine innings of action.



**Andrew Stafford** — This senior shortstop returns after being named second team all-Summit League last season. This regular starter should be one of the team leaders in hits by the end of the season.



**Taylor Traub** — A steady hitter, Traub's ability to make plays at first base (.990 fielding percentage) make him a reliable defender. A second team all-Summit League selection last season, Traub will make a push for first team selection this year.

— Jared Purcell, Sports Editor  
Photos courtesy of OU Athletics

on himself, which impeded his growth. But he said his game has grown because Musachio instilled him with the confidence to trust his talent.

"He really has slowed the game down for me," Traub said. "[He's done this by] letting you know that your talented enough to get the job done and just let the game come to you, and just focus on the things you can control, which is the biggest thing because a lot of time in baseball things are going to happen that are out of your control."

Musachio's coaching goes beyond the results on the scoreboard. He is determined not only to teach his players to excel on the field, but in life as well, by demanding excellence in the classroom and participation in charity work.

Last year, 25 players were named to the Summit League Commissioner's List of Academic Excellence, the most of any team in the league. They also volunteered to work with the children at Jack's Place for Autism.

Merkle said working for Jack's Place for Autism was hard at first because of all the responsibilities of college athlet-

ics, but it turned out to be fun.

"You see the smiles on their faces and their parent's faces and they ask you questions and think you're a superstar, and we know we're not, but you actually understand that you make a difference, and it feels good," Merkle said.

As OU's baseball team continues towards its goal of producing a competitive product on the field, there is no doubt that to measure its successes it will have to go beyond the numbers in the win column, and for that, the team is already on the road to turning the program around.

"The commitment we've made to these young men is to teach them and help them transition from young men into responsible men," said Musachio. "They take this experience very seriously, they see that this is a foundation of what we believe in as a program. Wins and losses are going to take care of themselves. We're going to win games, it's going to happen. But these guys have made a commitment across the board."

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# Coming attractions

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

Possible NIT or NCAA Tournament bid

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Possible NIT or NCAA Tournament bid

**MEN'S LACROSSE**

3/14 vs John Carrol (Pontiac)  
3/15 @ W. Michigan (Kalamazoo)

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

3/15 vs John Carrol (Grand Rapids)  
3/15 @ Davenport (Grand Rapids)

**SOFTBALL**

3/14 @ IUPUI (Indianapolis, Ind.)\*  
3/15 @ IUPUI (Indianapolis, Ind.)

\* = Double header

**BASEBALL**

3/13 vs. Wright State (Dayton, Ohio)  
3/14 @ Dayton (Dayton, Ohio)\*  
3/15 vs. E. Michigan (Dayton, Ohio)

\* = Double header

# POST GAME

March Madness is contagious. Some say that the term "madness" refers to the dizzying amount of basketball games. But really, the "madness" actually refers to the craziness that overcomes everybody who knows about college basketball. Even the athletes in other sports fall victim to the madness.



1) Hockey players begin to act like Happy Gilmore. Just look at Red Wings' Tomas Kopecky yell at the puck. You can almost hear him. "Get in the goal, puck! Why don't you go to your home?!"

AP/Paul Sancya



2) Baseball players begin to learn how to use Jedi powers. Boston Red Sox shortstop Julio Lugo tries to levitate a baseball during warm-ups before a spring training game.

AP/Charles Krupa



3) Canada actually has a fan crazy enough to go to a baseball game during hockey season. A little lonely, eh?

AP/Darren Calabrese

# GRIZZ OF THE WEEK



Photo courtesy of OU Athletics

During the Summit League Tournament, Kidd scored 22 points in the first round

game against UMKC and broke OU's single-season steals record with 91 and the career-steals record with 239.

**April Kidd**

**Women's Basketball**

**Year: Senior**

**Major: Communications**

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# The Scene

March 11, 2009

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23

## Don't flunk the Rorschach test

By AMANDA MEADE  
Scene/Mix Editor

The new film "Watchmen" might just look like another superhero movie. That is, if you haven't read the graphic novel from which it was adapted.

After opening Friday, March 6, "Watchmen" came in No. 1 at the box office in its opening weekend, raking in \$55,655,000, according to [boxofficemojo.com](http://boxofficemojo.com).

The movie is based on the graphic novel that is about as old as most Oakland University students. Written by Alan Moore and illustrated by Dave Gibbons, the novel is set in 1985 and follows former vigilantes and the conspiracy they find themselves in.

The Oakland Post was included in a conference call on Thursday, March 5 with the director of "Watchmen," Zack Snyder.

Several attempts have been made to re-create the graphic novel on the silver screen, yet all were unsuccessful, with none making it to final production. "Watchmen" has been referred to as the "unfilmable film" by [cnn.com](http://cnn.com).

"When they first called me, there was no way I could do it, figure it out," Snyder said.

But, Snyder said he feared that if the movie was made without him, it would be too much of a PG-13 "sequel-able" film.

Snyder said he wanted to keep the film from becoming a typical superhero movie.

"In the studio's mind, that's a safe and cool idea, a formulaic superhero movie," he said.

Snyder also said he worried that if he wasn't involved in the movie it wouldn't be as graphically violent, which was essential to the film version of the graphic novel.

"The violence in 'Watchmen' is specific in a way to provoke thought," he said.

The director said that he feels the novel talks about how superhero politics and power are similar.

"The movie asks who polices the police or watches the watchers or gods gods," Snyder said. "I think it takes on American pop culture from a distance. The more things change, the more they stay the same."

Snyder said it's difficult to accept as a society that the way our stories are told are from comics.

"It's all about the culture accepting that this is our mythology. I think that's the biggest turn the culture has to make," he said. "I think that's pretty obvious that this is a mythology."

The director said he felt there was nothing intellectually lacking about superheroes.



Above, "Watchmen" hit theaters Friday, March 6 and is currently No. 1 at the box office. Below, director of "Watchmen" and "300" Zack Snyder.

"Dumbing ourselves down by making superheroes — I don't believe that's true."

Snyder had to adapt many different superheroes from the graphic novel to the film.

"I think the most difficult character to realize is Dr. Manhattan, but in some ways it's more rewarding," he said. "I discovered Dr. Manhattan is a super emotional character. He's a dark and sad god."

The director read "Watchmen" in 1988. The conflict in the end of the novel between Dr. Manhattan and Rorschach especially affected Snyder.

"When I read it in the graphic novel I was so overwhelmed with philosophy. That scene for me was emotional, these characters coming to this conclusion," said Snyder. "That's no longer philosophy, it's two characters, a different emotional feeling."

Snyder said he wanted a cast to reflect the ideas he had when reading the novel.

"They're not different characters from what I had in mind," he said. "It was just about trying to find characters that reminded me of the graphic novel."

"Watchmen" is now in theaters.





# The Factory managers: 'In this for the music'

By KAY NGUYEN  
Staff Reporter

Jerry Wald and Shane Ford, owners of Rochester's newest concert venue The Factory, look at a car with bright headlights driving past the venue. It turns out to be a white Cadillac, not the police car they thought it to be.

"We surprisingly keep a really good relationship with the police," said Wald. "It's been surprising — they like what we're doing and think it's a righteous thing."

Very few problems have plagued the duo since the opening of The Factory August 2008. Many touring bands are now choosing the venue over larger and flashier alternatives.

"The word is getting out and about around bands that are from out of state," said Wald. "It's cool when we get touring bands."

Local bands like The Hard Lessons have also benefited from the new line-ups. They get a chance to play alongside bigger names and learn about touring.

The small venue brings larger bands back to their roots and serves a springboard for many local artists.

"I love the venue," said Oakland University sophomore Vivian Rackover. "I really like that it's so intimate and laid back."

Rackover, an acoustic/folk artist, is scheduled to play two shows in April after hearing of the venue through word of mouth.

"We never thought we'd be where we are now when we started this thing," said Ford.

Ford and Wald are now focusing on 2009. They hope to begin building their own shows with contacts they have made over the last few months.

An open mike night is in the works, and a first anniversary bash is planned for August. The Factory may even start renting out practice space.

"We want to get kids out of their parents' house or basement," said Ford.

The pair has also opened up the

venue's basement. It features an empty glass case and couches for hanging out.

Ford and Wald hope to sell local band music and merchandise in the case. A listening station is also in the works.

"People usually don't know what they're getting when they buy a local band's album," said Ford. "It will give them a chance to preview the music."

There is just one problem with the venue — since the furnace is broken, there is currently no heat in the building. A bucket placed on an old organ in the entry way collects 'donations 4 HEAT.'

"We'll also get fans for the summer so that it's not a sweatbox," said Wald, gesturing to the single antiquated window air conditioning unit.

The business does not bring in much revenue for two main reasons: no alcohol or any other beverages are served and capacity is limited. The operation is also still completely run by volunteers.

"We're all just in this for the music," said Wald. "We want to make a community; it doesn't have to be tight knit — just a small community."

Patrons are there for the music as well. Three girls huddled around a cigarette lighter for a bit of warmth while still tapping their toes to the beat at acoustic night Thursday March 5.

It is also not uncommon to see parents or maybe even grandparents in the crowd.

"We hate to see people thinking that it's a teen club," Ford said, citing the many genres and age ranges of recent performers.

Many walking into Gus O'Connors, the pub next door, often peek in through the dilapidated windows, piqued by curiosity.

"You get to hear a lot of incredibly good musicians and get to meet some very cool people," said Rackover. "There aren't a whole lot of venues out there like it."

Cover charge at The Factory starts at \$5. For more details check out [www.myspace.com/thefactoryrochester](http://www.myspace.com/thefactoryrochester).

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# MOUTHING OFF

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March 11, 2009

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25

## Not so back to the future

*The 1980s may have ended 20 years ago but history often repeats itself*

By LINDSEY WOJCİK  
Editor in Chief

My hair was teased perfectly and sprayed with enough Aquanet to keep the curls intact. I had just finished applying bright pink lipstick and enough black eyeliner and eye shadow for an entire runway show.

My black pumps met my legwarmers at the perfect spot and my black rubber bracelets made my arms look covered in sleeves even though I was only wearing a lacy tank top.

"Gonna give you all my love boy, my fear is fading fast ..." As I readied myself to hit the hottest dance club in town, I belted out Madonna's "Like a Virgin" as if I were staring down Sean Penn in the flesh, ready to "give it all" up in a sea of strawberry-flavored Capri Sun.

Then I woke up. It was 2006 and I was actually getting ready to attend a Halloween party as Madonna.

I was born in 1987. Technically I was a child of the 1980s but my memories of the decade's pop culture are blurred with dirty diapers, temper tantrums and countless hours listening to the New Kids on the Block with my 15-year-old babysitter.

I was unable to experience the greatness that was "The Brat Pack," the cocaine epidemic and the "Greed" era, among other yuppie events. I've always been really bitter about the fact I wasn't alive to get a taste of yuppie lifestyle. Like, seriously that totally sucks.

I've been jonesing '80s pop culture since high school. Every time I expressed interest in the gnarly decade to those who lived it they would tell me it wasn't that great.

Then I had an epiphany — nothing has really changed in the past 20 years. It's 2009 and I'm essentially living a similar life to Andrew McCarthy's character in "St. Elmo's Fire" — nervous about the future and afraid to fall in love.

Enough about me. My epiphany soon made me realize that I didn't need the DeLorean to travel "Back to the Future." Given history's inherent tendency to repeat itself and the new millenium having proven no differently, one could conclude that I'm already there.

### Same old politics

President George W. Bush really took the old cliché "like father like son" to heart when he took office in 2000. Nearly 22 years ago, his father, then-Vice President George H.W. Bush, denied knowing that the United States provided Iran with military arms.

In January 2008, nearly five years into the Iraq War, Bush Jr. claimed that Iran was "a threat to world peace."

Wait, we're still talking about Iran? Someone check to see if Condoleezza Rice left a scrunchie in the office — I think Washington's got a touch of '80s fever.

My theory is that Bush Sr. hid a Rubik's Cube in the White House's Lincoln Room, hiding the tricky solution from all the presidents who came afterwards. Upon solving the Rubik's Cube, the paragon of virtue would be opened by the president and all problems with Iran would soon be amended.

Much like all of the other American foreign policy problems since 2000, Bush Jr. was apparently unable to solve the Cube in his eight years as President. Now, it's up to President Barack Obama to preserve the '80s lifeline to the White House.

Could Obama be one of those geniuses who can solve the Cube in under a minute? Time will tell.

### Greed: not so good

"Greed is good." As Michael Douglas famously uttered those powerful words in the 1987 film "Wall Street," he typified the "yuppie movement," in which material goods triumphed over personal glory.

However, Jim Bakker was already two steps ahead of Douglas. The popular televangelist and former Assemblies of God minister was the original Bernie Madoff, embezzling nearly \$4 million from Praise The Lord Ministry the same year "Wall Street" was released.

Over 20 years later, Ascot Partners investment manager Bernie Madoff made headlines for fraud on a much larger scale. However, Madoff graduated Bakker's economic indecency from millions to billions, taking nearly \$50 billion from investors. Even "Footloose" star Kevin Bacon was hit hard from Madoff's Ponzi scheme — six degrees that Bacon wishes he could have back, to be sure.

Looks like Madoff learned a lesson or two from Bakker. But unlike his 2009 heir apparent, Bakker didn't strike up a plea deal and spent time in the slammer. "Greed" as we've learned is not good.

### Fads that never die

One of the most memorably wicked staples of the '80s were some of the sweet threads and trends. What was once popular in the tubular decade has risen from the dead and has found relevance in our fashion lives today.

Like, seriously, how many women are walking around on campus wearing leggings, legwarmers or miniskirts? Our mothers were rocking those looks nearly 25 years ago with bigger hair and brighter makeup to go with it.

But as seen at New York Fashion Week in February, fashion designers have taken the revival of the '80s to another level. Power suits, angular shoulder pads and Day-Glo colors hit the runways of Marc Jacobs and Michael Kors.

What's next — Parachute pants? Sweat pants tucked into tube socks? Pocket protectors? Ugh, like seriously barf me out. A message to the fashion industry: keep it at shoulder pads.



Photo courtesy of Lindsey Wojcik  
Editor in Chief Lindsey Wojcik didn't need vintage clothing to piece together her rendition of Madonna for a Halloween party.

One trend that didn't include using pads of any kind — despite the common spinning on head technique — was the break dancing phenomenon. Pop culture and hip-hop helped transcend the dance craze into the mainstream.

The fancy footwork, spinning on floors and stomps gave dancers street cred in the '80s.

Today, we have MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew." Mario Lopez from "Saved by the Bell" stands on a round stage, looking pretty as can be to announcing what mega mix the contestants are pop, lock and dropping it to. Although America, along with former "NSYNCer JC Chasez, "Lip Gloss" singer Lil Mamma and choreographer Shane Sparks get to decide on what's hot.

Pop and hip-hop music still provided the soundtrack for the breakers, but for some reason I don't think they get the same street cred as the breakers of the streets did. Maybe it's because the dance crews aren't spinning on cardboard.

Why did I ever complain about not being able to experience the '80s? I'm grabbing my shoulder pads and I'll be ready to roll.



# Potty training: Use at your own risk, fellas

By JARED PURCELL  
Sports Editor

I am 21 years old and I'm still trying to figure out how to use a public men's restroom. It seems like I learn something new every time I walk into one to take care of business. I figured if I'm still struggling other men must be too. Here are some rules and experiences for those men out there who may not be as educated as they think.

**1** Speaking is a sin in the world of the men's restroom. Even a nod is pushing it. Unless you're washing your hands and your buddy walks in, you keep your trap shut.

Never ever turn your head to a stranger at another urinal and say, "Hey." Why? I don't know. But if you do that, you're suddenly on the same level as a serial killer. That's not a good thing.

Yet, once in a blue moon, you run into that one guy who thinks the bathroom is the best place to share his life story. If that ever happens, here is some advice that will help you in that situation: **RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN!**

**2** Never take a urinal immediately next to another guy unless you have

no other choice. Seriously, the homophobia that still exists in men's restrooms today is palpable. There must be one urinal between you and the next person. God forbid if you accidentally catch a glimpse of something you didn't want to see.

Sometimes, when I walk into a bathroom with three urinals and I feel like being an ass, I take the middle urinal. The same thing happens every time: Some guy walks in and stops in his tracks. As I'm staring at the wall in front of me and taking care of business, I can swear I can hear the wheels turning in his frantic head. He clears his throat and shuffles around a bit in a panic and then goes into the stall. Talk about insecurity.

If nature's calling, nature's calling. If I have to go, I don't give a damn if I have to take a urinal right next to someone.

Yet, sometimes I walk into an empty bathroom with 10 urinals and a guy walks in just behind me and takes a stall. Then, I can hear that what he is

doing in there can be taken care of at a urinal.

I feel sorry for guys like that. Honestly, if you need to pee in a stall no matter what, buy some male

enhancement pills. Maybe you'll find the confidence to pee in a urinal. Really, why else would a guy be in a stall?

**3** Oh — if I can just say something here for a sec — guys, wash your freaking hands. I wish there was a camera system that could take photos of guys that don't wash their hands. That way, the photos can be sent to said guy's girlfriend with a message saying, "You held that hand today."

Ladies, it happens way more than it should. Call up your boyfriends and tell them to wash their hands. It's nasty and so not cool.

**4** And you wonder why men's restrooms are always nasty as hell. Girls have frickin' couches and martini bars while the guys have toilet paper stuck to the wall. Don't ask what

they use to stick it there.

Besides the crap (literally or not) that's stuck to the wall, the graffiti writing never fails to enlighten me.

Some things I've learned from men's restrooms over the year: "John is a douche," "Use at your own risk," "AC/DC is awesome," "AC/DC sucks," "You suck," and so on.

The crazy thing is that I've never seen anyone write anything. See, girls can write in secret inside the stalls. But how is it possible that I've never seen a guy writing something on the wall above a urinal? It's like "Phantom of the Bathroom" or something. I can go into a Bathroom day after day and something new can be on the wall.

I've even read entire poems. Honestly, Shakespeare wannabes, save it for your journal. Reading sonnets isn't a part of bathroom business.

Yeah, men's bathrooms are strange and mysterious places full of laws and rules entirely their own. It seems the more bathrooms I use, the more I know about them. At least now I have a list of 100 numbers of where to find a "good time."

Who wants to party?

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## Cornered cartels drive violence

By TRACI CARL  
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Headless bodies in Tijuana, kidnapped children in Phoenix and shootouts on the streets of Vancouver.

While the headline-grabbing chaos creates the appearance of a drug trade escalating out of control, evidence suggests Mexico's cartels are increasingly desperate due to a cross-border crackdown and a shift in the cocaine market from the U.S. to Europe.

Those pressures are forcing Mexico's criminal networks, once accustomed to shipping drugs quietly and with impunity, to wage ever more violent battles over scraps and diversify into other criminal enterprises, including extortion and kid-

napping for ransom on both sides of the U.S. border.

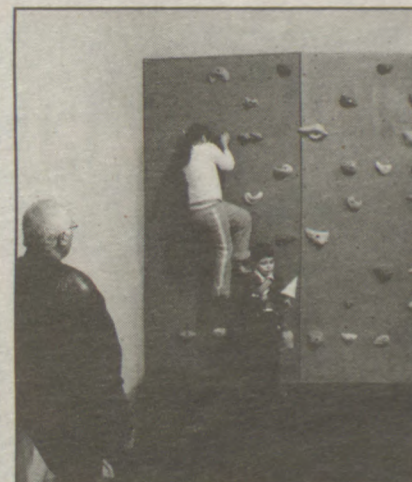
"This is not reflecting the power of these groups," Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora told The Associated Press in an interview. "This is reflecting how they are melting down in terms of capabilities, how they are losing the ability to produce income."

As evidence of that pressure, the U.S. government says the amount of cocaine seized on U.S. soil dropped by 41 percent between early 2007 and mid-2008. Reduced supply is said to have raised street prices by nearly a third to about \$125 a gram in the U.S. and lowered purity by more than 15 percent. Both the U.S. and Canadian governments are even seeing prolonged shortages of cocaine.

"The reason you see the escalation in violence is because U.S. and Mexican law enforcement are winning," Garrison Courtney, spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration, said Tuesday. "You are going to see the drug traffickers push back because we are breaking their back. It's reasonable to assume they are going to try to fight to stay relevant."

Mexican cartels are being cut out of the U.S. methamphetamine market as well, the U.S. and Mexican governments say, though smuggling of marijuana from Mexico has increased steadily since 2005 as demand increases.

The trouble for Mexico's illicit trade began on Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorist attacks in the United States prompted heightened security at the border.



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/Associated Press  
A man looks on as children play in a newly fortified indoor playground during its inauguration ceremony in the southern Israeli city of Sderot, on Tuesday, March 10.

## Israeli kids get safe play area

By ARON HELLER  
Associated Press Writer

SDEROT, Israel — Brightly painted walls surround a mini-soccer field, video games, a climbing wall and play areas. The converted warehouse also has a new thick concrete roof, a half dozen shelters and an alert system to give a 15-second warning of incoming rockets.

The children of Sderot finally have a safe place to play.

The fortified indoor playground got a warm welcome Tuesday when it opened in this southern Israeli town that has been battered by missiles fired from the adjacent Gaza Strip by Palestinian militants.

"It's an amazing thing. Until now, only the house and school were safe," said Pesah Hajbi, a 43-year-old father of three. "It's cold comfort," he added. "If they don't stop firing, at least there is a safe place to play."

Eight Sderot residents have been killed, hundreds wounded and nearly everyone in the working-class town of 24,000 has been traumatized by the frequent wail of sirens and explosions of the thousands of rockets that have hit over the past eight years.

Dozens of rockets have come down just since Israel's January offensive in Gaza ended. On Tuesday, Israeli aircraft hit a militant rocket squad in northern Gaza, wounding three, just after they fired rockets at Israel.

Now parents in this battered town have a secure place to take their children.

## N | W BRIEFS

03-03 | The Coast Guard called off the search for Detroit Lion Corey Smith and two others lost at sea off the Florida coast.

03-05 | Ten co-workers in New Jersey win Mega Millions and split \$216 million.

03-06 | The Obama administration confirms that CNN medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta won't be U.S. surgeon general.

03-07 | Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad announces resignation.

03-08 | Hours after a suicide bomber killed 32 people near Baghdad, the U.S. military said that 12,000 American and 4,000 British troops will leave Iraq by September.

03-09 | The Supreme Court turned away pleas by New York City and gun violence victims to hold the firearms industry responsible for selling guns that could end up in illegal markets, ending a lawsuit filed in '00.

## Tibetan activists rally for protest



RONALD ZAK/Associated Press  
Tibetans and activists scuffle with police at a road block, during a protest rally commemorating the 50th anniversary of the uprising against Chinese rule, in Vienna, Austria, Tuesday, March 10.

## Engravings on Lincoln's watch revealed

By BRETT ZONGKER  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — For nearly 150 years, a story has circulated about a hidden Civil War message engraved inside Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch. On Tuesday, museum curators confirmed it was true.

Watchmaker George Thomas used tiny tools to carefully pry open the antique watch at National Museum of American History, and a descendant of the engraver read aloud the message from a metal plate underneath the watch face.

"April 13 - 1861," the first line reads,

"Fort Sumpter (sic) was attacked by the rebels on the above date. J Dillon." The second part repeats same date, states the location as Washington and says, "Thank God we have a government."

Jonathan Dillon, then a watchmaker on Pennsylvania Avenue, had Lincoln's watch in his hands when he heard the first shots of the Civil War had been fired in South Carolina. Dillon's story was passed down among his family and friends, eventually reaching a New York Times reporter. In a 1906 article in the paper, an 84-year-old Dillon said no one, including Lincoln, ever saw the inscription as far as he knew.

The watchmaker's great-great grandson, Doug Stiles, first heard the tale of the engraving from his great uncle decades ago. He said the story had reached family as far away as Ireland.

A few months ago, he used Google to find the New York Times story, and last month he passed the information along to Smithsonian curators, who knew nothing about the engraving.

Lincoln's family kept the watch until it was donated to the museum in 1958. It was Lincoln's everyday pocket watch, one of the president's only valuable possessions he brought with him to the White House from Springfield, Ill.



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