

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

December 3, 2008


Volume 35, Number 13

Year In Review

Text messaging mayors, safety threats on campus, a failing economy and the most historical election in history. Take a look at the good and the bad that made the year 2008



*Micah Flalka-Feldman
sues OU for discrimination
page 6*



start law school earlier, rather than later.

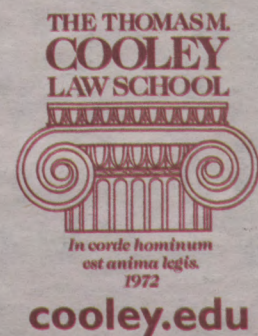
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THIS WEEK 12.3.08

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives page 4

The Oakland Post newsroom weighs in on the possible bailout for Detroit's Big Three.



Campus page 6

Student disability organization works with OU to make campus and housing more handicap accessible.



Local page 10

Detroit Red Wings alumni join a community to honor the life of a young man in a memorial hockey game.



The Mix page 13

Students reminisce about the past year's events and what they would like to accomplish in the coming year.



you page 19

Take a look into the life of a student who has been dealing with the effects of being homeless.



Sports page 22

The Oakland Post introduces four new women's basketball players who will be suiting up next year.



the Scene page 26

Bored with the same old concert venues? Check out Rochester's newest addition, The Factory.



MOUTHING OFF page 29

An Oakland Post editor shares his revolutionary, cost-cutting method of writing he is sure will save money and jobs.



Nation | World page 31

Executives from the Big Three share their plans for potential bailout money and offer up a hefty dose of humility.



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Perspectives

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December 3, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Black Friday behavior was appalling, deadly

For years, Thanksgiving has symbolically protected Americans from the onslaught of consumerism brought on by Christmas like an ever-weakening levee in a mighty rainstorm.

This year, the levee tragically broke as a mob of frenzied "Black Friday" shoppers smashed through a Long Island Wal-Mart's doors, trampling 34 year-old employee Jdimytai Damour to death and injuring four others, including a woman that was eight months pregnant.

The idea of shoppers fighting over bargains is nothing new. Every year, post-Thanksgiving sales turn ordinary people into raving lunatics.

However, this year it seems that a certain line has been crossed. "Black Friday" is no longer the day that businesses attempt to climb out of "the red" by offering bargains; instead, it has been replaced with images of injury and death.

Tough economic times are certainly in part to blame for this particularly chaotic scene. Many stores order their holiday inventory months in advance because some of the items are imported. Retailers did not foresee the current recession and could not plan their purchases around it.

Now, they have a surplus of inventory and not a large demand for it at least at full price. Consumers with less to spend are eager to make large-scale purchases at discount prices.

Retailers also share some of the blame for Damour's death. Placing a warm, well-lit store in front of cold, frenzied shoppers is a recipe for disaster and a breeding ground for chaos.

However, several chain stores have safeguards in place to avoid a catastrophe like this.

For example, CompUSA opened their doors at 9 p.m. Thursday night when it

wouldn't be so crowded and Best Buy only allowed customers with tickets, given hours ahead of time, to make good on discounts offered.

Admittedly, the media is also at fault. "Black Friday" provides media with opportunities for snappy headlines, photographs and stories "from the warfront" — all requisites for a great story. Clearly, the media should have better things to discuss in this time of relaxation and reflection.

However, in breaking down the doors of that Long Island Wal-Mart and the supposed innocence of "Black Friday," blame should fall most on the backs of consumers.

Indeed, it wasn't the media that killed Damour, nor was it Wal-Mart, Santa, Tickle Me Elmo or Ben Bernanke. It was the fault of his fellow citizens, none of whom were arrested or will be prosecuted. People and their actions kill people, whether it is one person with a gun or a mob of shoppers acting as one.

This group of shoppers was not only violent but also uneducated in their frenzy. Due to the large amount of inventory that stores need to get rid of, many are offering deals well into the holiday season. The shoppers that killed Damour over a discount could have found the same deal that Monday.

Especially in these times of economic crisis, it is important to help protect strangers as well as friends and family. The holiday help at your favorite big box chain is as important to someone as our loved ones are to us, even if we do not know them personally. The idea of hurting one person to buy another person a gift is repulsive. Sometimes, it's OK to be disappointed on the holidays if it means safety for those around you.



BRIAN FAIRINGTON/Cagle Cartoons

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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

In "Micah's fight continues," on page 6 of the November 12 issue, the Oakland University Post-Secondary Transitions program was incorrectly referred to as a "fully inclusive" university-based program. This was taken from outdated brochure information. The updated and correct description reads: "An Inclusive University-Based Program for Individuals with Mild Cognitive Disabilities."

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Post employees sound off on the Big Three bailout

The topic of the bailout that the auto industry has asked for from Congress is a point of contention across the country. No where is it as relevant as the state of Michigan, where many of us may either work for, have parents who work for, or friends or family who work for one of the Big Three automakers in the Detroit area.

While employees here at The Oakland Post may not be thoroughly educated on the numbers game, the has matter sparked discussion within the office.

Colleen Miller

Copy Editor

Why keep giving a failing industry with a bad business plan a crutch? Newspapers are going down too but sites like **Politico.com** and **Bloomberg.com** are finding new business plans. Companies that can adapt are the ones that should survive. What's going to happen if we bail out every failing industry and they keep operating under the same faulty system and then the times change again? I don't see media giants Gannett and Clear Channel asking for handouts and they are laying people off all over.

Paul Gully

Special Projects Editor

If any of the Big Three go under, there's a good chance that they may not be able to recover. Jobs are going to be lost. A lot of them. And the less people there are with jobs, the harder it may be to for people to attend college. Oakland University President Gary

Russi touched on this last week at the OU Senate meeting. This could work out one of two ways for OU. Either enrollment could decline, which would mean that the university would be making less money (unless there was a tuition hike), or, because OU is more affordable than other schools, its enrollment number may remain stable (which I think is unlikely).

Steve St. Germain

Assistant Ads Manager

My dad works for an auto supplier called TRW, they make seatbelts and airbags for the Big Three and a few other companies but my dad, who has been with the company for over 15 years, may be let go. I think a lot of students and their families are facing the same thing, their families' futures are in jeopardy. These auto companies are just about all Michigan has left, and if we are not careful we may end up ruining our reputation like the city of Detroit has.

Tom Murphy Jr.

Senior Reporter

My father took the buyout a couple months ago from Chrysler. It was a very tough decision for him because he wasn't ready to retire. But with all the turmoil and negative projections for the future, he decided it was the best option. It looks like he was right because things went from bad to worse during that time. It's scary to think about what could happen to this state if the Big Three fold. [Thousands] of jobs will be lost, the unem-

ployment rate will be dramatically high. In a state that already has way too many people out of work, what will happen? It's dangerous to bail out companies and set precedents for more government control, but the truth is, if this bailout doesn't go through, it's impossible to judge how bad things are going to get. But it will be very bad.

Kathleen Quandt

Staff Intern

There are businesses that surround the auto industry that could be affected by the bailout that need to be considered. Not only are there businesses that physically surround the factories that are supported by the workers' business but other businesses and companies that are related to the auto industry and that are involved in the production of cars. Financial trouble for the auto industry can mean financial trouble for many other related businesses.

Nick Degel

Managing Editor

With the arrogance exhibited by the Big Three CEOs, it is very hard for me to side with them. But the truth is this really isn't about three billionaires, it is about the jobs of thousands in Michigan. It is about an already troubled economy that could very well be in critical condition should the automakers fold. In a perfect world, the Big Three would come back to the table with a revised business plan that makes Congress happy.

This is the last issue of The Oakland Post for 2008. From all of us in the newsroom, have a happy and safe holiday season. Look out for the next issue when we return on January 7.

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Student files lawsuit

Micah Fialka-Feldman launches civil action for equal treatment

By SEAN GARNER
Campus Editor

Oakland University has told him no, but that is not an answer Micah Fialka-Feldman will accept.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, Fialka-Feldman, a student in the OPTIONS program for students with learning disabilities at OU, filed a lawsuit against the school with the help of The Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service for disability discrimination because the administration will not allow him to live in campus housing.

The lawsuit is just the latest in a series of steps Fialka-Feldman has taken in his effort to live on campus.

Fialka-Feldman has presented his case to the OU board of trustees on three separate occasions. At the latest meeting on Nov. 5, over twenty people showed up on his behalf to lobby the board.

Fialka-Feldman, who did not get in to OU through normal admissions procedures, has a mild cognitive disability.

OU administration has said it is not barring Fialka-Feldman from campus housing because of his disability, but because he is not in an OU-degree seeking program.

Fialka-Feldman said he is disappointed that the case has come to litigation, but is hopeful that the legal process will allow him to live on campus.

"It was kind of like the last thing I could think of doing," Fialka-Feldman said. "I have gone to all the board meetings, and I have shared all my ideas with them, and they still won't let me in the dorms."

MPAS lawyer Chris Davis, who has represented Fialka-Feldman since October, said he thinks the ruling in the case will have an impact — on Fialka-Feldman and the university as a whole.

"I saw, in this case, an issue about full inclusion of the university students into the university as a whole," Davis said. "This is an important issue not just for Micah, but for the university as a whole and how it accommodates students with disabilities, which is a very important issue."

Davis said he believes that current



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Micah Fialka-Feldman studies outside the Oakland Center in between classes Fialka-Feldman has been denied access to campus housing on five separate occasions and is now suing OU so that he and other non degree-seeking students can live on campus.

statutes and case law put Fialka-Feldman in a good position to win the lawsuit.

"We have requested reasonable accommodations through the Fair Housing Act that they modify their policy, and they have not budged from their position," Davis said. "It is my opinion that we are on very solid ground with this case. I am confident the court would rule in our favor if it came down to that."

OU administration declined to comment on the issue, saying it was their policy not to discuss pending legal cases.

However, in a letter to Davis obtained by The Oakland Post through Fialka-Feldman, OU vice president for legal affairs Victor Zambardi refuted claims made by Davis about the discriminatory nature of Fialka-Feldman's situation.

"Despite your repeated and conclusory assertions that Oakland University's applicable housing policy is discriminatory and that your client is a student because he participates in the OPTIONS program, neither is supported by relevant, objective facts," Zambardi said. "If filed, we will vigorously defend the litigation you threaten and seek appropriate sanctions against both your firm and your client pursuant to the applicable

court rules."

Fialka-Feldman's case has attracted the attention of several local media outlets including: The Oakland Press, National Public Radio, local television news stations and others.

Andrew Bashi, the student services director for OU Student Congress and friend of Fialka-Feldman, appeared with Fialka-Feldman on NPR and has vocally campaigned to have him admitted into the dormitories. While OUSC has not taken an official position on Fialka-Feldman's case, Bashi feels that supporting Fialka-Feldman is consistent with OUSC principles.

"In the constitution, it states that our job is to voice the concerns of the students," Bashi said. "It's really been remarkable how many people have been concerned with Micah's case... What worries me is that automatically the university is just shutting [the students] down. Even though there are so many students concerned, their opinions, I don't feel is really being taken into consideration."

Fialka-Feldman collected over 1,000 signatures from students who supported his effort to live on campus, and the turnout at the last board of trustees

meeting was "one of the best ever at a board of trustees meeting," according to Bashi.

Bashi said he thinks the reasons so many students have rallied behind Fialka-Feldman include his personality and outrage over a perceived injustice.

"Micah's a really dynamic guy. He's all over the place, everybody knows him," Bashi said. "But I think there is an even more important thing, which is I think people want to see equality across the campus. They don't want to see people excluded."

Bashi said he has received "a lot of possible solutions" from students including an idea to limit the length of time a student can stay on campus housing so that students in non-degree programs do not look at campus housing as a place of permanent residence.

Kristin Dayag, the multicultural affairs director for OUSC and also a supporter of Fialka-Feldman, reiterated Bashi's point that Fialka-Feldman is an inspiring figure.

"Micah is an extraordinary individual," Dayag said. "He has pushed and challenged himself beyond what most people could possibly have expected."

According to Dayag, the members of OUSC that support Fialka-Feldman reached that decision after weighing the pros and cons of each possible decision.

"After going through all the papers and doing the research, we have so many reason for why Micah should live in the dorms. Yet, we can't find any solid, concrete reasons for why he can't," Dayag said.

Since the legal process for the case might be quite lengthy, Fialka-Feldman may not even be able to take advantage of a change in policy. However, Fialka-Feldman who has been at OU for over five years said it is more important that the policy eventually gets amended than personally benefiting.

"The thing is that this thing has energized the university [more] than anything else since I remember," Fialka-Feldman said. "It would help me or any other students in the OPTIONS program to have the full college experience."

New procedure creates longer waits

Changes made in how software gets approved without notifying faculty or students

By COLLEEN MILLER
Copy Editor

There's an electronic hum among some faculty at Oakland University. The buzz is about how long it is taking to get software approved by the administration.

Andrea Eis, chairperson of the art and art history department, said she is working on ordering new software and will be moving ahead faster than she used to, expecting to wait.

"I heard it was taking as long as six months," Eis said.

Dr. Cathy Cheal, the assistant vice president of e-learning and IT instruction, waited several months for Adobe Creative Suite 3.

"We ended up getting CS4, so actually it turned out to be beneficial for us," Cheal said.

The longer waiting period is due to a change in procedure that now involves the office of the general counsel in virtually every decision, especially decisions about software.

"When we used to order software licenses, we would do that on our own through a regular company, apparently a new procedure is in place," Eis said.

OU's media relations director Ted Montgomery said that although the university's underlying contracting policies have not changed, the process for reviewing

them and the responsibility for approving them has changed.

"All software contracts are now reviewed by both IT [information technology] and by the legal office and must be approved by the legal office," he said.

Theresa Rowe, OU's chief information officer, also said that there is no new written policy or procedure.

"There is a documented university purchasing process, that's not new," Rowe said. The purpose of having software contracts reviewed is to "make sure that the vendor is held accountable" and if there is a licensing agreement involved, the university is protected.

Rowe also said that if there is a copyright involved, there is a need to check that the company actually has the copyright for the software they are licensing.

The purpose is to "make sure that any agreement reflects the best interest of the university," Rowe said.

"There really isn't any set time [for processing], it depends on what issues are in the agreement," Cheal said. "A lot of it depends on the variables, what the policy is, who the company is, how many people on campus are looking to get that same software."

"It has made things slower. I think that will change as they go through the various contracts and the software is purchased and they've had experience with it," Cheal said. "Now Adobe for example, they know what the issues are."

A wait of several months could mean that some students won't get to learn on the latest version of software. "Every procedure on campus affects students, that's a given," Cheal said.

The administration has not put out a statement about the new policy and the office of the general counsel would not comment directly to The Oakland Post. Unless a department has recently requested software, the faculty wouldn't know about the procedural change.

Scott Barns, executive director of the American Association of University Professors, said that he has not heard about any problems with purchasing. But if any arise, now is the time to address concerns.

The AAUP will start bargaining for next year soon. They will start meeting with the departments this winter and will meet with the administration about faculty concerns in May to discuss the next contracts.

Montgomery said that the "university subscribes to a lean philosophy." There has been an ongoing initiative to streamline procedures.

Cheal said she has been on a lean committee for the university before.

"We do that all the time, it's just running a university is so enormously complex," Cheal said. She said some processes can be made leaner and some can't. "What's amazing to me is how well things run in spite of how complex it all is."

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

RETURNING TO 49, OC - JANUARY 2009

POLICEFILES

On Nov. 17 a white Ford E-250 was reported missing from Chartwells' food storage in the loading dock of the Oakland Center. On Nov. 19, OUPD were contacted by Detroit Police Department auto recovery that the vehicle had been found undamaged and unoccupied.

OUPD was dispatched to Hamlin Hall where a student had turned in a small amount of marijuana into student living. The student stated that they had discovered the marijuana on the 9th floor of South Hamlin Hall and immediately turned it in to the night watch station.

On Nov. 21 OUPD was dispatched to the fifth floor of O'Dowd on the report of a possible electrical fire. A heater on the stairwell between the second and third floors was discovered to be the source of the strong odor of smoke. Visible sparks were emitted from the heater upon contact. A fire alarm was pulled and the building was evacuated. OU stand by was able to fix the heater.

A window to a study room door in Kresge Library was broken on Nov. 24. OUPD responded to look at the scene. A gash in the wall next to the southeast stairwell on the fourth floor was also discovered.

STUD makes strides for students with disabilities

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

Barely a year since its founding, a new student organization is working towards making Oakland University more accessible for students with physical disabilities.

Students Toward Understanding Disabilities is doing this with the help of the OU administration and housing.

OU students Brian Wigman and Laura White founded the organization in October 2007. They said while they like the progress so far, there is still more to be done.

According to OU's director of housing Lionel Maten, more things are being planned to make OU housing more accommodating.

White, STUD's president, said one of their earliest achievements was the snow removal of campus sidewalks.

"There were days [in January 2008] when the snow [on the sidewalks] was so bad that Brian and I couldn't get to class," White said. "Students complained about it, and we talked to [the OU administration]."

She said the administration's response was very good, and that after

talking with staff in OU's facilities management department, she noticed a "greater effort to get the shovel out and get the paths clean."

White and Wigman lived in the dorms before and currently live in the student apartments.

One thing they said is still problematic is the restrooms. They said that not all of them are accessible for people in wheelchairs but that the situation is much better than it was a year ago.

"Most of [the restroom problem] has been resolved," White said. "But some haven't because of money and sometimes because [the administration] said they can't fix it at this time."

Wigman said that none of the restrooms in Hill House, Van Wagoner and Fitzgerald are accessible to people in wheelchairs, and Maten confirmed this.

OU housing is an auxiliary, a private business separate from OU. Housing and STUD have kept up a dialogue since fall 2007. Maten said housing also consults with Linda Sissons, the director of OU's Disability Support Services and STUD's advisor.

"The restrooms are definitely under consideration," Maten said. "But we don't know if it will be done over the

next year, or the next few years."

He said that money is a factor but not the only factor.

Housing has been made more handicapped accessible with the addition of four automatic door openers to dorm hall entrances. Maten said a fifth automatic door opener is awaiting approval from the fire marshal.

STUD said they would like to get Braille signs to be added outside dorm rooms to help blind residents.

"They seemed very willing to help, but the price tag is kind of high," White said. She said she had to get a corner room in the dorms because otherwise it would be hard for her to find.

Maten said a compromise has been reached. A plan to add Braille signs to the stairwells and entrances of campus housing has been approved. He said that he received a \$20,000 quote from a company and the funds are already allocated. Maten also said housing doesn't have the financial means this year to add Braille signs on every door.

"In a perfect world, money wouldn't be a problem," White said. "But we'll keep giving them suggestions that won't cost \$1 million dollars ... to make the campus as accessible as it can be."



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
Laura White easily makes her way from her student apartment to the Oakland Center because the snow has been shovelled from the sidewalks.

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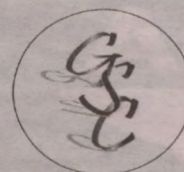
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Student artists show of senior work

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Senior Reporter

At first glance, it looks like a lot of paper origami cranes of different sizes and colors put together. But beneath the surface they represent something deeper.

Senior student Nancy Stover-Pontois said the art piece she created, titled "A Thousand Cranes," stems from Japanese culture and is actually an effort to promote peace in the world. It is also part of her graduation requirement.

Stover-Pontois and the seven other students graduating with a degree in studio art this semester will be exhibiting their senior art theses in Oakland University Art Gallery (formerly Meadow Brook Art Gallery) at 208 Wilson Hall from Dec. 5-21.

This exhibit, entitled "Beneath the Surface," will be open to the public and free of charge. The gallery is normally open from noon-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. On Friday Dec. 5, the students will give a presentation and discuss their art at 10 p.m.

Stover-Pontois, who says she is half-Japanese and half-American, is also getting a degree in East Asian studies along with a bachelors degree in studio art. She said she combined both of her majors and her heritage in creating "A Thousand Cranes."

She said she didn't specialize in any type of art and kept her focus general. "I started out with a focus on photography ... then later moved more toward graphic design," she said, adding that she used more of her graphic design experience in creating her thesis.

Stover-Pontois said she started working on her thesis before the winter semester started, but was not sure exactly how many hours she has worked on it.

"Folding each crane took me about 2-3 minutes," she said. "Folding all these cranes was kind of a meditative experience for me ... It was also a discovery process, because I looked for what types of paper I was going to use, and what images and texts to print on the paper."

"I have placed images like grenades, the cross memorial at ground zero, the burned out dome at Hiroshima, a Banksy image of a dove wearing a bulletproof vest and more onto the surface of the paper," she said.

On Tuesday, Stover-Pontois said she still has to fold the last handful of paper cranes before the piece is complete, and will have a thousand cranes in the end.

According to Stover-Pontois, "A Thousand Cranes" comes from a true story of a Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki during World War II who fell sick from radiation poisoning from an atom bomb that America dropped on Japan. As the story goes, Sasaki heard about a Japanese legend that if a person folded 1,000 cranes, they would be granted one wish. Sasaki's wish was to get well, but she died before she could finish.

"Because I was inspired by her story, I have undertaken a similar project to promote peace," Stover-Pontois said.

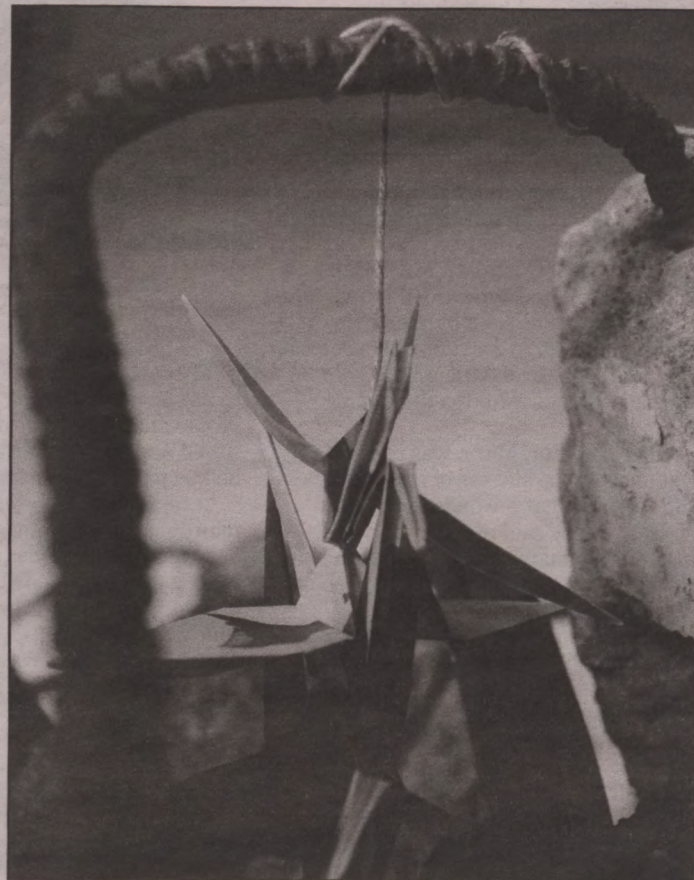
She said she can relate to both sides of World War II. "During WWII, half of my family was in Okinawa [in Japan] and half of them were in America," she said. "It's interesting to see history from both sides."

Stephen Goody, an art professor, said a senior art thesis is not just one individual work, but a body of works. "It's an opportunity for students to exhibit their work in a professional setting, and I think that's exciting for them," he said.

The other seven theses that will be exhibited differ in style and medium, ranging from photography to different kinds of mixed media.



Top and bottom right Courtesy of Nancy Stover-Pontois Bottom left photos courtesy of Oakland University Art Gallery
(Top) Paper cranes of different sizes and colors put together for the piece "A Thousand Cranes" by Nancy Stover-Pontois. (Bottom-right) Another section of the "A Thousand Cranes" thesis. (Bottom-left) Part of a piece by Jillian Nickel that will also be displayed at the exhibit. (Middle) A piece by Thomas Rowland will also be displayed along with the studio art theses.



A 'Gus' gets his 'Wings'

Family, friends and Red Wings honor life of a Berkley youth in memorial game

By JARED PURCELL
You/Local Editor

Even though the current Red Wings team did play Saturday night, a different kind of Red Wings game was played at a small ice arena in Berkley. It wasn't about winning and losing but more about a community coming together to remember a friend, brother and son.

Friends and family of Mike Gustafson, a 2006 graduate of Berkley High School who passed away in a tragic kayaking accident earlier this year, came together to watch Team Gus play against a group of Red Wings alumni in a charity event to raise funds for the Michael Gustafson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Former Berkley hockey players and friends of Mike make up Team Gus.

In August, the idea for the event came to the mind of Hank Berry, a Gustafson family friend, and he thought it was something he needed to do.

"[Mike] was a unique kid," Berry said. "He was the former captain of the Berkley High School hockey team and he played here since he was a little kid. There was really no more fitting thing to do to honor his memory and to perpetuate his scholarship fund for Berkley High School seniors."

The Michael Gustafson Memorial Scholarship Fund is awarded to individuals who are nominated by members of the community. At least one person each year will be awarded the scholarship based on an individual's outstanding character.

Mike's mother, Mary, was overwhelmed at the success of the event.

"It shows what a wonderful person he was," Mary said of the event. "He impacted so many people, young and old. He's going to live on through the people who know him."

Mike's father, Gary, said he couldn't be more thankful of everyone who helped.

"We owe a great deal of gratitude for all of these people that just come out of the woodwork, they just love Mike so much," Gary said. "It's hard to thank them all."

Before the game began, Gary spoke to the crowd and expressed his many thanks and feelings.



Photo courtesy of JEFF AISEN
Tom Gustafson, the older brother of Mike Gustafson and captain of Team Gus, shake hands with hockey legend and Detroit Red Wings alumni, Mickey Redmond, before the memorial game.

"Michael is alive today as he was back then," he said. "He touched so many people and we're so grateful for the life he led and the wonderful memories that he has given all of us."

At puck drop, the stands were full and many spectators were standing three deep along the boards to get a glimpse of the game. There was also a silent auction set up in the entranceway to the arena that was filled with sports memorabilia. The money from the auction went to the scholarship fund. Ticket sales for the game and the after-glow party also funded the scholarship program.

Well-known TV commentator for Red Wings home games and Red Wings alumni Mickey Redmond played in the game. Even though he wasn't playing in front of thousands of fans he was used to

during his career, he thinks that every game has its own meaning.

"These games that we play for the Red Wings' alumni all have wonderful meaning," Redmond said. "To go out and help the community, to raise funds for wonderful causes of all sorts and sizes — it just doesn't get any better. You don't have to have thousands of fans in the stands to put a smile on your face."

Tom Gustafson, the older brother of Mike, was also the captain of Team Gus. He couldn't think of a more fitting event to honor his brother.

"This is perfect," Tom said of the event. "It means everything to us. You can see how many people came out. People I haven't seen in a long time coming out and volunteering. We sold over 750 tickets. I'm just amazed by the turnout."

Zach Shencopp was a fellow hockey teammate of Mike in high school and was honored to be a part of Team Gus.

"It's a great opportunity for us to play against the guys we're playing against ... and it's for a really good cause," Shencopp said. "It makes me proud to wear the jersey in the name of Mike 'Gus.'"

Steve Naumann, a senior in secondary education at Oakland University and a 2005 Berkley graduate attended the event.

"I walked in and it was definitely a Berkley reunion," Naumann said. "Everyone who knew and was associated with Mike — and even the people that weren't — are all coming together and shows kind of the character that Mike had, bringing people together like this."

Although he admitted he was a bit nervous to play against the Red Wings alumni, Shencopp and the rest of Team Gus managed to impress Redmond.

"They make you feel old when you see them buzzing by you," Redmond confessed. "These guys we're playing tonight, they are one of the quicker teams we've played and they can keep you on your toes, I can tell you that."

Redmond also added that the game meant a lot to all of the alumni as well.

"Personally, and I know for most of our guys that I've asked, when we're able to put smiles on faces — especially with children — it's the greatest thing in the world to make them happy," Redmond said. "People probably have no idea what it does to us internally as well, it's a wonderful feeling for us."

Although the Red Wings alumni went on to win the game 10-6, Tom managed to add to the special night by scoring a hat trick for Team Gus.

"I never thought that would happen at all," Tom said after the game. "That was amazing. I can't believe I was on the ice with Mickey Redmond and all of those other guys out there."

Mary said that the event exceeded every expectation she had. After seeing her oldest son score the hat trick on such a night, Mary was convinced that it was more than just coincidence.

"I think he had some help," she said. "I know he had some help."

Rochester lit up for holidays



On Monday, Dec. 1, the city of Rochester opened their third annual downtown light show at 7 p.m.

To read more about the festival and to view more pictures, visit the Post on the web at:
www.oaklandpostonline.com

Photo courtesy of BRAD SLAZINSKI

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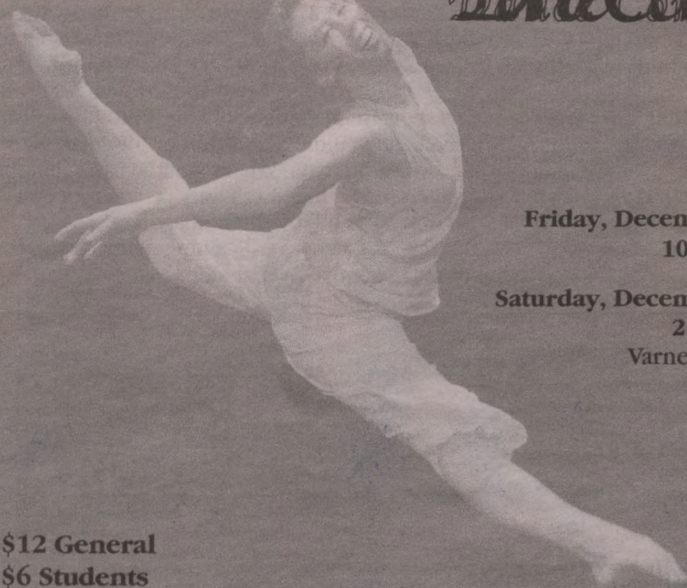


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DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Wigs 4 Kids provides donated hair to children who need it.

Help with hair

By COLLEEN MILLER
Copy Editor

The holidays are a time of giving but money, time, canned goods and new presents aren't the only things that can be donated this season.

Wigs 4 Kids, a St. Clair Shores based organization, will turn men's and women's donated hair into self-esteem for Michigan children dealing with hair loss.

Maggie Varney, founder and CEO of Wigs 4 Kids, operates the organization in her salon Sophisti-cuts. She sees the kids and hair donors on Mondays and Tuesdays and runs a full salon the rest of the week.

Donors need at least 10 inches of undamaged hair to cut off and then enough left over to style. If the hair has been dyed, it has been compromised.

"Hair color is permanent, it's there until it's cut off," Varney said. "It has to be virgin hair from the scalp. That means two years without dying." Those unsure if their hair is usable should ask a stylist.

Curly hair can be pulled straight to measure the 10 inches and layered hair can be divided up into different length ponytails. Most donors will have about four ponytails varying in thickness and length. It takes 10 to 12 ponytails to make a wig.

Most salons offer discounts on hair cuts for donation and only charge for styling. The hair is then mailed with a hair donor form found on the website, wigs4kids.org. Or, Sophisti-cuts will do the cut and style for \$20 and the money goes back to the charity.

Varney also volunteers for a program for adults called Look Good, Feel Better that helps cancer patients deal with appearance-related side effects of treatment. She realized there was nothing like that for children, who need the self-esteem and sense of self belonging to heal from physical and psychological conditions and feel confident about resuming social and academic activities.

"I'm accredited and certified to work with patients," she recalled telling herself five years ago when she started Wigs 4 Kids, "Maybe we can help a few kids, one kid at a time, to make a difference but I didn't know there was so many."

According to the website, Wigs 4 Kids has helped over 120 children in Michigan and has never had to turn anybody away. But Varney said there are over 500 new diagnosed cases of children with cancer in Michigan each year, and that they don't have the funding and resources to accommodate all of them if everybody needed their help. The organization helps children with hair loss, regardless of the reason.

"When I started the program, originally it was for kids with cancer. Then we started getting calls from kids with other diseases: burn survivors, lupus. There's a lot of reasons we just don't think about it unless it's somebody in our family," Varney said.

For more information, call Wigs 4 Kids at (586) 772-6656.

Debunking the Obama gun crisis: Should gun owners be worried?

By COLLEEN MILLER
Copy Editor

Get your guns, before they are illegal. That was the vibe at firearm stores and shooting ranges in the weeks after Barack Obama became president-elect.

Nationwide, reports are trying to pinpoint the reason for the increase in firearms sales. It could be fear that president-elect Barack Obama and Congress will limit the Second Amendment right to bear arms, uncertainty or just a coincidence.

In the week of Nov. 3-9, the FBI received over 374,000 requests for background checks for gun purchases — almost a 49 percent increase from the same period in 2007.

As of Nov. 21, applications for Concealed Pistol Licenses in Oakland County were also up 72 percent from last year. The increase may be due to citizens trying to get "grandfathered in" with their right to carry. In an April article in the Pittsburgh Tribune Review, Obama was quoted saying, "I am not in favor of concealed weapons. I think that creates a potential atmosphere where more innocent people could [get shot during] altercations."

But the increase may be due to changes in Michigan legislation that made the licenses easier to get in 2003 and are up for renewal this year and next year, according to Tracy Ward with the Oakland County Clerk/Register of the Deeds Office. To date, CPLs are still down 14 percent this year from 2004.

"Regardless, the amount of applications have increased over the years but I don't believe with this being an election year that it impacted it very much," Ward said.

"Since early November our gun and ammo sales are improved over last year," said Thomas Hardecki, general manager of Bass Pro Shops in Auburn Hills.

"While the election and the perceived threat of increased gun control measures may have something to do with it, I think that the Saturday opener to our firearms deer season, our first Saturday opener in 11 years, that allowed increased numbers of hunters to get out in the field had a bigger effect," Hardecki said.

Martin Tisdale at Double Action in Madison Heights said that nobody was prepared for such an increase in sales, which have tripled at Double Action.

But Tisdale said that he thinks Obama has so much else to worry about in the next four years that he's not too worried about the newly elected president taking on the Second Amendment.

Bob Weber, 55, at Peters Indoor Range & Gun Shop in Roseville said that sales have been about the same all year because of the economy. He is still facing the same problems as Double Action, the supply just can't keep up with the demand.

Weber hoisted an AR-15 off the wall, one of very few left for sale in the area. The semi-automatic rifle often used by police was part of the Clinton Gun Ban, in effect from 1994-2004, that many fear will be reinstated in some way while Obama is in office. Congress did not renew the ban in 2004 because studies showed that the guns banned were rarely used in violent crimes.

"An assault weapon is a weapon someone is pointing at you to harm people," Weber said. Adding that the people he knows who have an AR-15 use them for competition shooting.

Michigan Representative Matt Gillard discussed local conservation issues at Oakland County Sportsmen's Club in October.

"We grew up in a house where you think if you elect a Democrat, they'll take your guns away, but he won't take them away for recreational use," Gillard said.

There is also concern among store owners and customers over a bill Obama supported to raise ammunition tax in Illinois. Weber cited a few other bills Obama supported in Illinois, listed on the National Rifle Association website, that he said would put Peters out of business. The site also lists, in 1999, Obama supported banning gun shops five miles from a school or park.

"A lot [of people who purchase firearms] are victims or someone they know is a victim," Weber said.

Weber said that most people coming in to purchase firearms are victims or know someone who was a victim. Weber said an older man came into Peters recently to make sure his single-shot shotgun still worked after a 9 and 10-year-old shot up his neighbor's house with a 9 mm. When confronted, the parents said that they "didn't know what to do" about the children.

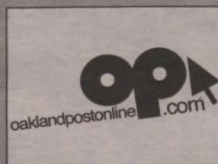
Weber said that a federal prosecutor came in to Peters to take the concealed carry course because of the "total collapse of government in Louisiana," referring to the illegal confiscation of guns after Hurricane Katrina.

Guns are already expensive, but gun owners and sellers fear that legislation similar to what Obama has supported in the past would make it harder for citizens to afford their own protection. Weber said he can't imagine what Detroit would be like if the only people that can afford guns are those buying them illegally.

"Law abiding gun owners will comply [with laws], the criminal doesn't comply," Weber said.

WEB EXCLUSIVES

www.oaklandpostonline.com



Be sure to visit The Oakland Post online to catch these exclusive stories:

- Get a glimpse at those who pass through a homeless shelter in a feature by Rory McCarty.
- Look at what the Rochester's Big Bright Light Show has to offer those in a report by Brad Slazinski.



What was the most memorable event of this year?



"Probably the presidential election. I worked at the voting polls and either way we were going to make history."

Anya Harris
Sophomore, biology



"Starting my business. It's a goal that I've had for a long time."

Jake Alexander
Senior, undecided



"Meeting one of my closest friends."

Stefania Ranucci
Freshman, business administration



"Definitely the murder mystery at Meadowbrook mansion. It was really creative."

David Leathers
Freshman, secondary education

Memorable Mix Moments from 2008

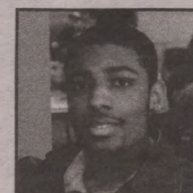
What's your favorite outdoor winter activity and why?



"Skiing, it's a chance to get outdoors and do something not around here."

Kristen Kaltz
Senior, biology
Jan. 9

What is the most important world issue to you at the moment and why?



"The presidential race, because for the first time we have a woman and an African-American in the race and it shows that the U.S. is changing. The world will look at us in a different way and notice change is happening."

Melvin Hollowell
Sophomore, anthropology
Feb. 6

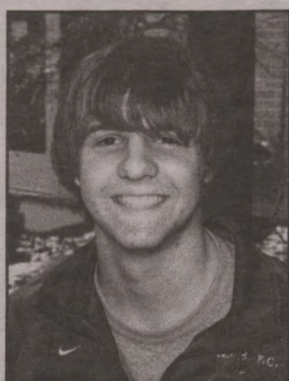
What was the first movie you can remember seeing?



"Pokemon: The First Movie.' I was scared because Mewtwo was trying to kill everyone and take over the world."

Josh Tsao
Freshman, computer engineering
Oct. 15

What do you hope to accomplish in the coming year?



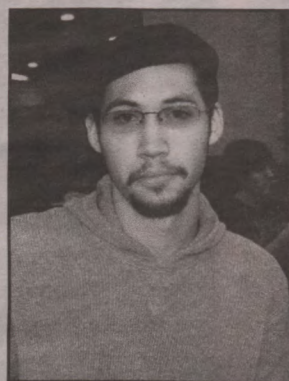
"Get a lot of work done, have fun while doing it and be happy."

Jim Kerry
Freshman, computer science



"I'm going to rent a house."

Dani Lince
Freshman, science



"Try to get my own jazz band together."

Jared Koverman
Freshman, physical therapy



"Hopefully half of my degree and getting a job."

Chris Bowlin
Freshman, computer science

This semester, The Oakland Post offered a photo contest to anyone interested in submitting their work.

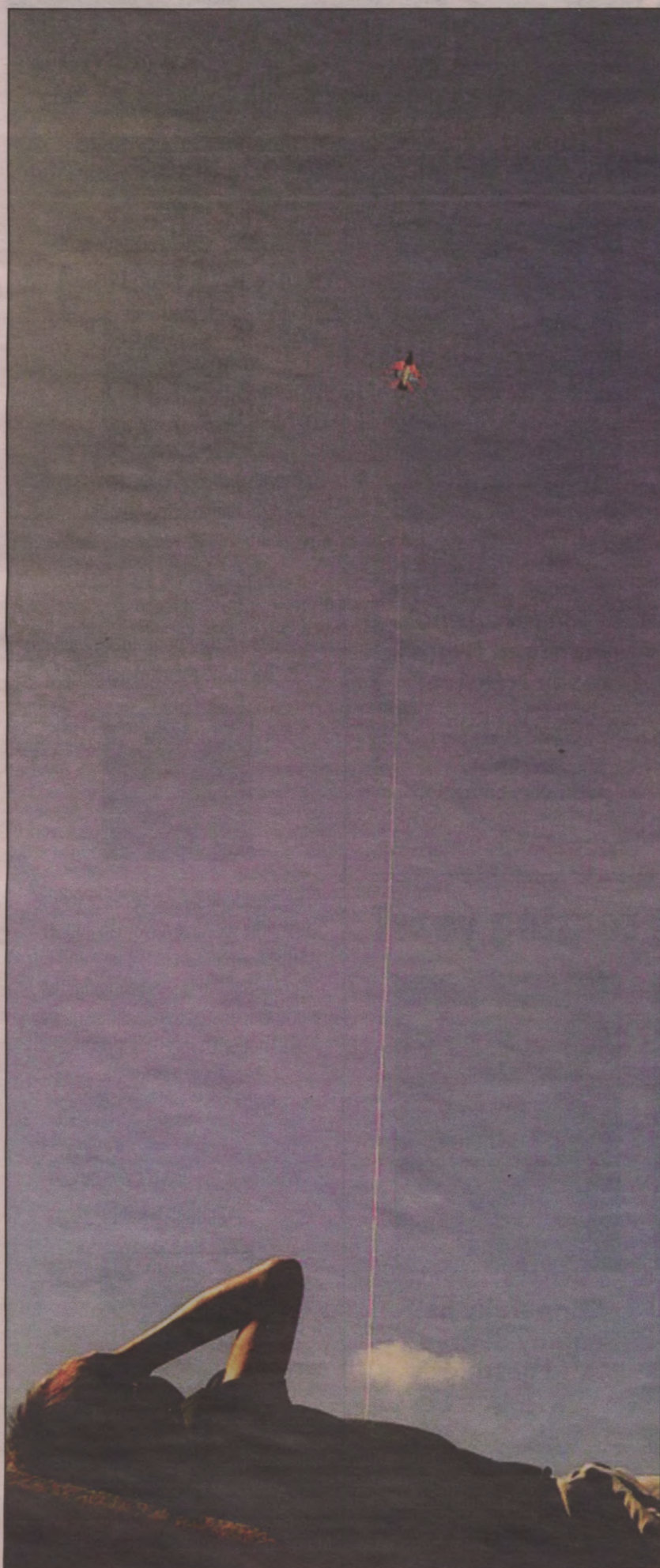
And the winner is:


senior Carol Washington

"I took this picture in Puerto Rico in December."

*Winner was voted on by The Oakland Post's staff.

Thank you to all who participated, and watch for a brand new contest next semester!





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*As a historic year
comes to a close,
The Oakland Post staff
sifted through dozens
of archives and
compiled the most
memorable stories
and photos of a
memorable year.*

This was 2008.

Campus News Highlights

It was an eventful 2008 at Oakland University. Here are some of the stories that made headlines in The Oakland Post throughout the year.

OU faculty and students remember art history professor John Cameron, who taught at the university for 43 years. Cameron, who was 76, was called the "patriarch of the department" by his colleagues in the department of art and art history.



January

May

June

July

August

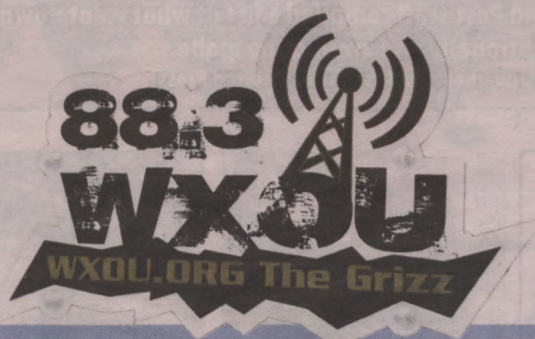
September



A series of threats written on bathroom walls close OU's campus on April 14. Former student Tory Dantuma is later charged for alleged copy-cat graffiti that occurred the following day.

In June and July, OU's administration makes two financial decisions that had a direct effect on students. First was the allocation of \$4.8 million, \$1.1 million of which was given directly to students. The following month, OU announced a 6.29 percent increase in tuition for undergrads.





WXOU regains the webstream of their programming after the radio station gets fined when "Jackass 2.5" was downloaded on an office computer by a hacker earlier in the month.



Men's basketball season ends with a defeat in the semifinals to IUPUI in the Summit League tournament. The women also fell in the semifinals to Oral Roberts.



February



March



April



October



November



Micah Fialka-Feldman gathers student support for his bid to be allowed access to living in the student dorms on campus. OU's denial of his petition has led to Fialka-Feldman suing the university.
story on page 6



After becoming student body president by one of the closest races on record, Steve Clark resigns his position to pursue a career in professional soccer.



YEAR IN REVIEW

2008 brought America a historical presidential election, heroic Olympic achievements and a struggling economy. The Oakland Post staff compiled a list of what went down this year nationally and around the globe.
News source and photo credits: The Associated Press

JANUARY

11 - Snow falls in Baghdad for the first time in a century.

14 - The 56th Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal becomes the first Indian-American Governor in U.S. history.

21 - YouTube is banned by a Turkish court for the second time because of clips deemed disrespectful to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

22 - Actor Heath Ledger dies from a medication overdose.

FEBRUARY

7 - The U.S. Congress approves a \$168 billion economic stimulus package and sends it to President George W. Bush for his approval.

12 - Members of the Writers Guild of America vote to end the three-month **strike**.

14 - A gunman opens fire at a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University, killing five people and wounding more than a dozen others before taking his own life.



MARCH

10 - New York Governor Eliot Spitzer is linked with a criminal investigation of a prostitution ring and resigns two days later.

13 - The U.S. dollar reaches its lowest value since 1995.

20 - The Dalai Lama offers to meet the President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao and other Chinese officials to rectify the problems between Tibet and China.

APRIL

7 - U.S. Senator Hilary Clinton calls on President Bush to boycott the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

11 - Somali pirates release 30 hostages kidnapped aboard a yacht off the Gulf of Aden.

14 - Delta Airlines reaches an agreement with Northwest Airlines to take over Northwest and create the world's biggest airline.



MAY

3 - Cyclone Nargis ravages Myanmar, killing 78,000 people and leaving up to a million homeless.

12 - As many as 68,000 people are killed and

thousands are injured when an estimated 7.9 magnitude earthquake strikes Sichuan, Gansu, and Yunnan provinces in western China.

21 - **Crude oil prices rise above \$130 a barrel.**

JUNE

6 - U.S. Court of Appeals sentences a Virginia man who joined al-Qaida to 30 years in prison.

7 - **Hillary Clinton** suspends her presidential campaign

and endorses Barack Obama as the Democratic candidate for president of the United States.

12 - The Salmonella outbreak in the United States caused by tainted tomatoes continues to worsen with 228 victims in 23 states.

JULY

13 - Violence levels lower in Iraq and there may be troop reductions, as reported by U.S. officials.

16 - The United States Senate agrees to triple funding for

the President George W. Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to \$48 billion.

30 - **The President signs The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 in response to the subprime mortgage crisis.**



AUGUST

12 - U.S. Department of the Treasury places sanctions on Iran and calls for halt to its nuclear program, which Iran claims will not be used for weapons.

17 - U.S. swimmer **Michael Phelps** wins 8 gold medals, breaking the record for the number of gold medals in a single Olympics.

18 - Pakistan's president **Perviz Musharraf** resigns under threat of impeachment.

SEPTEMBER

4 - Detroit Mayor **Kwame Kilpatrick** resigns as part of a plea deal in two felony charges of obstruction of justice.

7 - U.S. government takes over failing mortgage

companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to try to help the economy and the housing market.

24 - President George W. Bush addresses the nation on TV and warns that unless the Congress passes the

\$700 billion financial bailout plan, there could be a "long and painful recession."

30 - About 94,000 Chinese children are reported to have fallen sick so far due to a tainted milk formula containing melamine.

OCTOBER

3 - President George W. Bush signs the \$700 billion bailout bill after it is passed by the House.

5 - Russia begins to dismantle positions they have held within Georgia since crossing their borders in August.

NOVEMBER

4 - America elects its first black president, as Illinois Sen. **Barack Obama** receives 53 percent of the popular vote, beating Arizona Sen. John McCain in a record turnout.

7 - Unemployment reaches 6.5 percent, the highest rate since 1994.

20 - Executives from the Big Three testify before Congress in hopes of receiving a \$25 million bailout package.

DECEMBER

1 - President elect Barack Obama names Hillary Clinton to head his national security cabinet.



Looking for an open door

A student and her family deal with continued hardships and poverty

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Aricka Shuck is a student at Oakland University. She's working towards a degree in theater and she has only one semester left before she can graduate. But Aricka said that for the last year she's been too sick to work or attend school. However, she has a bigger problem: Aricka is homeless.

The last six years and a series of medical disasters led Aricka and her family to find it impossible to get jobs, to be evicted from two different houses and to be unable to afford necessities like medication.

The family's problems started in 2002 when her mother was diagnosed with a rare form of intestinal cancer and had to undergo surgeries to remove sections of her intestines. She said her father began spending so much time at the hospital with his wife that he lost his job.

A year and half later they had lost their home. Aricka said that for six weeks she was homeless, sleeping on friends' couches.

Aricka said shortly thereafter her father managed to get a job and the whole family had moved into a new house. Aricka was taking care of her mother in her free time and they seemed to be getting their lives back on track.

Aricka's father has had prostate cancer, a pulmonary embolism, cardiac arrhythmia and a staph infection over the last two years. The staph infection, he said, arose from an unclear IV while he was undergoing prostate surgery.

Her mother also has scoliosis and was recently diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, according to Aricka.

Aricka was on the verge of tears when she recalled having to care for her parents as they went through their medical difficulties.

"It was strange watching my parents turn into children. It's like a role reversal," Aricka said.

At that point, Aricka and her family were once again out of a house and without the money to afford food.



Nick, Aricka and Terry Shuck stand together. They are battling hard times but they haven't lost hope.

"We got to the point where we were eating saltines with ketchup on them," Aricka said.

While her family now qualifies for food stamps, they are running out of the money they need to afford medication, toiletries and gas.

Aricka's mother and father have had difficulty in finding jobs in the current economy. Aricka's father said he has worked jobs as Senior Vice President for **Britannica.com** and as director of delivery management for Gedas, an IT provider for the automotive and manufacturing industries. Currently he is applying for a job as a truck driver.

"You can't get anyone to get back to you," he said.

Aricka's younger brother Nick, now 20 years old, has applied for 24 jobs but has not yet been hired, and her father cannot work many jobs due to his lasting medical conditions.

"I've driven down Adams just looking for 'Help Wanted' signs," Nick said.

"The hole just gets dug so deep you can't get out of it. Everything's a catch-22," Aricka said. She pointed to the example of her father wanting to drive to job interviews but being unable to afford

the gas to drive to them.

With homeless shelters filled to capacity, the Shucks had few options left open to them; they ended up living at an extended stay Red Roof Inn. So Aricka started a Facebook group to ask for donations so that her family could pay their rent and buy basic necessities.

The response, Aricka said, has been overwhelming.

"The compassion I see in people has definitely restored my faith in humanity," Aricka said. "It's been overwhelming to know people care that much. Some people only send \$5, but you can't believe how much that can help." She said she could use that \$5 to feed her cat and dog, who she considers part of her family and said that she wouldn't be willing to move into a shelter if they didn't allow her pets to come with them.

But while the Shucks have the support of a community on their side, it hasn't changed their fortunes just yet. Two weeks ago, Aricka's mother and brother got into a car accident. Shuck said that while her family survived the accident unharmed, the car, their last asset, was totalled.

"Everybody says we had an angel in

the car or something," Aricka's mother said.

All of the stress and chaos of her life may be exacerbating Aricka's own medical problems. She said she has been sick for the last two or three years, undergoing surgeries in the past year to have her gallbladder and appendix removed.

But she says the hospital still doesn't know what's making her sick. She said she throws up four or five days out of the week and experiences abdominal pain. Aricka said there's a chance she could have the same abdominal tumors that plagued her mother.

However, she's had plenty of support in getting through her illness. Her former neighbor, Hadi Alzawad, had known her only a couple of weeks but regularly visited Aricka in the hospital. Aricka was discharged from the hospital with her problem still undiagnosed.

But most recently they've had an incredible amount of help in the form of the Mades family. The Mades family heard about the Shucks' Facebook through a mutual friend. They offered to let the Shucks stay with them, pets and all.

"We both felt compelled that something had to be done," Doug Mades said. Remarkably, Mades has also been unemployed for two years. But he says that by living lean and cutting back, they've managed to get by on savings.

The holidays for the Mades and Shuck family will probably be lean too, as they said that there won't be any gift exchanging "other than hugs and kisses." But Aricka said that things are bad for everyone due to the poor economy.

"Being homeless isn't just for bums. You can do everything right and still end up in this position," Aricka said. Her mother said it's not good for people to be judgmental of the homeless.

The Shuck family is still getting support through their Facebook site, "Aricka Shuck Family Fundraiser." They are optimistic that in spite of everything that's happened to them that when the economy starts to turn around they'll be able to take their lives back.

Getting to know YOU:

A series telling the stories of those who make OU unique

At 94 years old, OU student proves that age is just a number

By KELLY COE
Contributing Reporter

Where do you see yourself in 70 years? Can you imagine attending college in your 90s? Oakland University's oldest student, Edward Pintzuk, who is 94 years old, proves that when it comes to higher learning, age doesn't matter. As a man who studied and taught history, and lived through nearly every historical event in the 20th century, he has a lot to offer as a student.

Pintzuk was born in Philadelphia in 1914 to Russian immigrant parents. At the age of 15, he held his first job working at a produce store on the weekend for roughly nine cents per hour. But, from the time he was 17, he has been deeply involved in the political realm.

"Not party politics, but politics with a small 'p,'" Pintzuk said.

In fact, the basic reason why he pursued higher education was to acquire an academic critique of his political ideology. Although he already has a doctorate in podiatric medicine from Temple University in Philadelphia (1950) and a Ph.D. in history from Wayne State University (1993), his hunger for knowledge lives on.

"I'm not hunting for another degree," Pintzuk said. "The whole point here is that there were empty spaces in my knowledge of American history that I wanted to fill."

During his Ph.D. program at WSU, he served as a teaching assistant and later as an adjunct professor. He was also involved in Wayne State's Labor Studies Center, where he taught GM employees the history of the automobile industry and American economic history.

Pintzuk enrolled in his first OU class this fall, U.S. Early National Period, 1787-1815, taught by associate professor Todd Estes.

He had been searching for a course that covers the early years of the U.S. republic.

"I found one here and it turned out to be a very lucky grab," Pintzuk said. His goal was to gain a better understanding of the ratification of the Constitution, the War of 1812, and the Great Awakening.

Though he found that occurrences during this period are similar to what is going on today, Pintzuk said that "history doesn't really repeat itself. It never comes back the same, but continues with connections to the past; it's never a true repetition."

Pintzuk also played a role in creating it. Describing his political background,

he said that the State Department and the attorney general classified him as a premature anti-fascist.

Even before Hitler came to power in 1933, Pintzuk was part of the anti-fascist movement in America.

"We tried to educate the public of the fascism in Germany," Pintzuk said. "Our politics were much more radical than U.S. politics. I think it was in about 1942, Germany had become our enemy, but because we saw [them] as an enemy before [they] did, the U.S. government considered us to be anti-fascists."

At the same time, Pintzuk was involved in the Congress of Industrial Organization's growing union movement, where he helped to organize and unite public workers. He even remembers the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s when Spain abolished the monarchy to establish a democratic government.

"We on the left were in support of the republican government of Spain. The war was between the democratic republicans and the fascist governments of Europe."

Aside from WWII and the victory over fascism, Pintzuk explained how he and his wife, Reba, were involved in civil rights and the elimination of the poll tax (in order for a person to vote, they had to pay a tax).

"Poor people couldn't vote and many black people were poor," Pintzuk said. The poll tax was finally eliminated in 1968.

"For my wife and me, [it] was a personal victory because we were so much involved," Pintzuk said.

In spite of all of his achievements, Pintzuk insists that his greatest accomplishment has been marrying his wife.

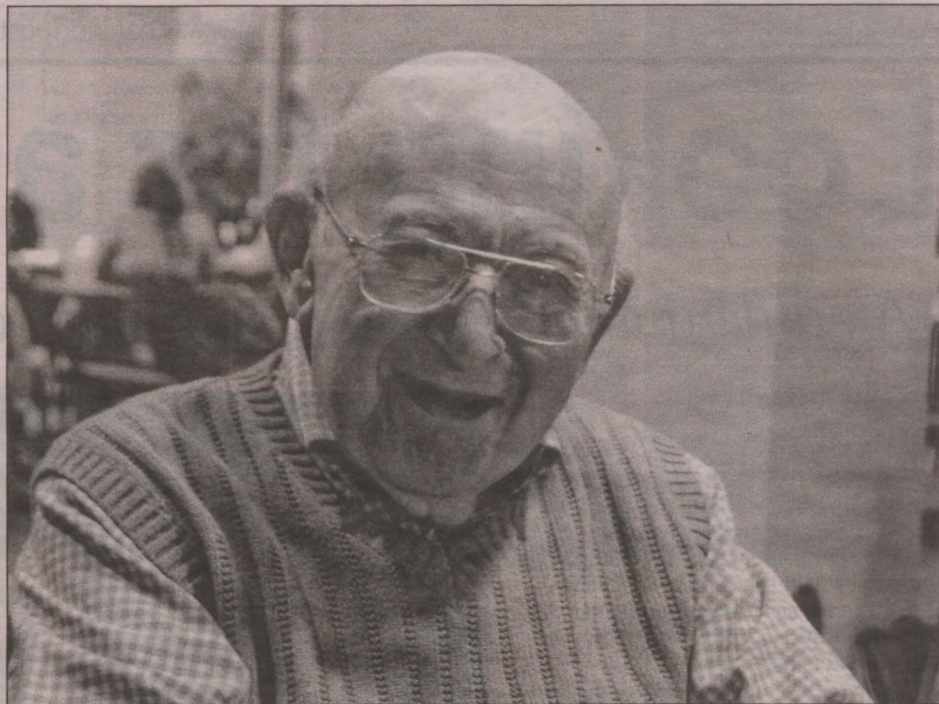
Reba, a well-known sculptor, passed away in April. They had been married for 68 years and together raised two daughters.

Pintzuk takes pride not only in his personal and scholarly success, but also in his participation in the Anti-Nazi movement, the Pro-Spanish government, and the organization of the CIO.

When it comes to U.S. history, he said that in most schools today, "a one-sided picture of American development is offered, therefore, student citizens must go out of their way to question and question and question."

Pintzuk believes that all young people entering college need to get active in the things that impact their lives.

"Get involved," he said. "Your life will be no better than the politics of the country."



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Edward Pintzuk, 94, has lived through history that many of his fellow students have only read in textbooks.

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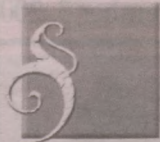
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Signing Day

Golden Grizzlies women's basketball inks four new recruits



Harris appointed at OU



Photo courtesy of Harris Family
Karli Harris drives the lane during a fast break in a game at Fishers High School in Fishers, Ind. "I think I can help in the transition game immediately," she said. "If and when I get time."

By TIM RATH
Sports Editor

Although she stands a mere five-feet-three-inches tall, Karli Harris is ready to play the point like a giant.

"She's always been a vocal leader on and off of the court," her mother, Micci Harris said. "As a point guard, she doesn't need to be told where to go and what to do. She'll definitely give and get respect from her teammates right away."

Harris, a product of Fishers High School in Fishers, Ind., has dominated since she took the floor as the varsity team's starting point guard two years ago. She holds the school record for career points with 492, career assists with 140 and career steals with 218.

Her head coach at Fishers, Michael Gaines, said that he's been aware of her potential since the first day he met her.

"Her explosive athleticism and competitive fire were striking. I was initially skeptical because of her short stature, but she is a testament to the idea that size doesn't matter in the game of basketball," he said.

Oakland University head coach Beckie Francis seems to agree. She said that Harris can compete for time as early as her freshman season.

"Obviously, with Riikka [Terava] graduating after this season, we'll have a hole in at point guard," she said. "Stacey [Farrell] will be there, but Karli will be there as well, fighting for time."

Harris turned heads of more than just the coaching staff. Ted Schultz, a sports reporter for The Indianapolis Star, said that he expected Harris to be

signed by a larger school than OU.

"She's a great defender — she's quick and she gets a ton of steals. She can drive to the basket and she's a good passer. I knew she had D-1 game, so I wasn't surprised to hear that she got a scholarship. In fact, I thought she could have played for a bigger school."

Gaines said that her personality, in addition to her playing skills, made her a great fit for OU.

"She has brought a vibrant life and energy to our program that has sparked us to find early success," he said. "Karli will undoubtedly bring a fun-loving and highly competitive spirit to OU. Beckie Francis has found an absolute gem in Karli."

In addition to playing time, Harris will also be fighting for time to study. She was active in her community at Fishers, doing work with the National Honors Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Micci said that she expects her daughter to keep up her extracurricular record as a Golden Grizzly.

"She only knows one speed," Micci said. "She doesn't know how to turn it off. If she sees something, she goes after it. She sees things in black and white — she knows her goals and what not to do."

Karli, who plans on studying medicine at OU, said that both the basketball team and the school made it an easy choice to go to OU.

"I stayed with [Hanna] Reising and Melissa [Jeltama] when I came to visit and they just made me feel so welcome," she said. "I'm looking forward to playing with them and going to school there. It was just the best fit for me."

Turner brings speed to Grizzlies



Photo courtesy of Turner Family
Kristen Turner signs a letter of intent for OU.

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

Beth DeVinney will never forget the first time she saw Kristen Turner playing basketball.

"She was in the seventh grade and I was attending a regular season game at our middle school. She drove in the lane and hung in the air and put up a layup and scored a lot like she does now," said DeVinney, Turner's head coach at Seymour High School in Seymour, Ind. "It was just one of those times where you realized the kid was going to be special."

The 5-foot-9-inch guard is going to finish high school in the top five in almost every category available at Seymour, including career scoring, assists and steals.

"We have a real blue collar team and it was hard for her to adjust being fast enough and we were a bigger, slower team so it did take her awhile to get her feet underneath her — it took her all of one game her freshman year," DeVinney said. "She had one point her first freshman game and then I think she had 18 in her second game so it took her 32 minutes to

get warmed up to varsity."

Arv Koontz, the sports editor of the Seymour Tribune in Seymour, Ind., said that her size and quickness will be key to her success.

"With her quickness she could take bigger players off the dribble and then she's going to be able to figure out how to shoot against bigger guards," Koontz said.

Coach DeVinney agreed with the sentiment.

"Her first step is so quick for the high school level that it's super hard for teams to guard her," DeVinney said. "She's going to have to change her game a little bit obviously. I think she'll give [Oakland University's team] a little scoring punch and definitely in transition she'll be able to help push them along."

Kristen's mother, Shelley Turner, said that OU was a natural fit for her daughter.

"She immediately loved the campus, loved the girls, the coaches and she felt comfortable," she said. "I think the fact that [the coaches] do care about the kids there's more than just basketball. One of the things [Coach Francis] said to me was they are preparing for them for life after college."

Versatile Watterworth brings post size

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

Bethany Watterworth, a six-foot forward from Lake Orion, decided to commit to Oakland University to play basketball for a number of reasons, but the main one was that it was close to home.

Lake Orion High School girls basketball coach Steve Roberts said that Watterworth is a very skilled player. She can play both inside and outside.

"She is very unselfish on the court," Roberts said. "She involves her teammates. She's a very versatile player. She can play all positions on the floor, handle the basketball, shoot from outside and play in the post. She has a well rounded total game."

Watterworth, a four-year varsity starter, began her high school career at Lake Orion Baptist then transferred to Lake Orion High School halfway through her freshman year. Roberts said that as soon as she stepped on the court for the first time for Lake Orion she was the best player on the varsity squad.

He said that as a sophomore she was very productive, averaging over 10 points and 10 rebounds per game. She increased her scoring as a junior averaging 15 points and 10 rebounds per game. Watterworth was named to

"It's a perfect fit for me because I can play inside and out. I have the size to rebound ... and I can shoot the three ball."

- Bethany Watterworth

the Oakland County Dream Team last season and was an all-state honorable mention.

Oakland women's basketball head coach Beckie Francis said she was excited to sign Watterworth.

"She's versatile," Francis said. "She can rebound like [junior Melissa] Jeltema, shoot like [senior Jessica] Pike and handle like [sophomore Stacey] Farrell. She will definitely put pressure on to play as a freshman."

Watterworth said that she was happy to sign her letter of intent for OU during the early signing period.

"It takes the pressure off," Watterworth said. "It allows me to focus on my upcoming season. I don't have to worry about where I am going to go to college. I have that set and clear in my mind, I am very happy."

Watterworth said that she is very excited to be joining the Grizzlies next season because of the style of play that Oakland features.

"They play a motion offense and they enforce defense," Watterworth said. "It's a perfect fit for me because I can play inside and out. I have the size to rebound and play in the post and also I can play out on the wing and shoot the three ball."

Energetic Hamlet brings excitement

By JOE GUZMAN
Contributing Reporter

In the world of high school athletics, playing at class-C schools offer little chance for national recognition.

Fortunately for Liz Hamlet, her play for class-C McBain High School, with its 362 students, has garnered the attention of Oakland University women's basketball coach Beckie Francis.

"She's five-feet-11-inches tall, obviously tall but she's skilled," Francis said. "She'll fit our motion offense."

Hamlet enters her final year at McBain averaging 20.1 points, 5.8 rebounds, 4.2 steals and 4.2 assists per game.

Todd Hamlet, Liz's father and head coach, says her athletic ability allows her the versatility to play both guard positions as well as the small forward spot, but what sets her aside from others her age is her mind for the game.

"From very early on Liz could see the court very well," he said. "I've always said good players play the game fast but see it in slow motion."

Aside from her basketball I.Q. and athleticism, Hamlet's real strength is her unmatched intensity and competitive drive. One could assume the small audiences at games would hurt an athlete's motivation to play their hardest, as it is likely that their efforts will

"Hamlet takes the game seriously. You won't ever see her smiling. If something goes wrong, it's not funny."

- Joel Bronkema

go unnoticed by the major conferences.

"When Liz is on the floor there is no question who's playing the hardest," MacBain's athletic director Joel Bronkema said.

Bronkema describes Hamlet as a good all around player, a five-tool type of player who fills all the lanes — one that makes her teammates on the floor better. Bronkema said that her leadership qualities on the floor and her attitude in the locker room will make her a good fit for OU.

"I have no reservations about her playing at the next level," he said. "Hamlet takes the game seriously. You won't ever see her smiling. If something goes wrong [during the game], it's not funny."

Hamlet says her competitive nature stems from her parents.

Basketball has been her priority since playing for travel teams in middle school. She saw that she gained an extra step over her competitors when she began to work on her game during the off-season. She said that her time with the Detroit Shock's AAU team this summer really helped as well.

"There is just something inside of me that says 'I have to win', I can't be second best."

Golden Grizzlies Game of the Week

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Grizzlies stay in the game, beat Bonnies

By TIM RATH
Sports Editor

Like the cobra from which she gets her nickname, Oakland University senior April Kidd went into halftime Sunday lying in wait.

The women's basketball team was down by two and had trouble stopping the St. Bonaventure offense.

After halftime, Kidd finally struck.

Her three straight steals paced a 12-3 run to open the second half and OU's eventual 76-72 victory.

"We always talk about dominating the first 10 possessions of the second half and when April [does that], that's domination," head coach Beckie Francis said. "That's what she does and we feed off of that. She's really accepted that role and knows that defense wins championships and she's the key to it."

Kidd added seven points to her six total steals, five rebounds and four assists starting in place of injured senior guard Riikka Terava.

Senior Jessica Pike scored 24 points and grabbed four rebounds, while junior Melissa Jeltema scored a career-high 22 points and added a key last-minute block

to keep OU's lead intact.

"[Jeltema] came up huge in the end. She was on fire and we kept trying to get her the ball. That's MJ, though," Pike said. "She's clutch and we know that and in the clutch, we want to go to her. She was 10-10 from the free throw line and that was the difference in the game."

OU led by as many as seven in the first half before SBU staged a 9-0 run to reclaim the lead just before halftime.

"We were just trying to go out there and run a little too much in the beginning, so we settled down, got people open and let them take their shots," Pike said.

After the run to open the second half, OU led by as many as seven before the Bonnies rallied again to go up by two with 2:52 remaining.

However, after a layup from Jeltema to tie the game, the Grizzlies never looked back.

"We practice this all the time, so it was nothing new. We just went into there with confidence and knew that we could do it," Jeltema said.

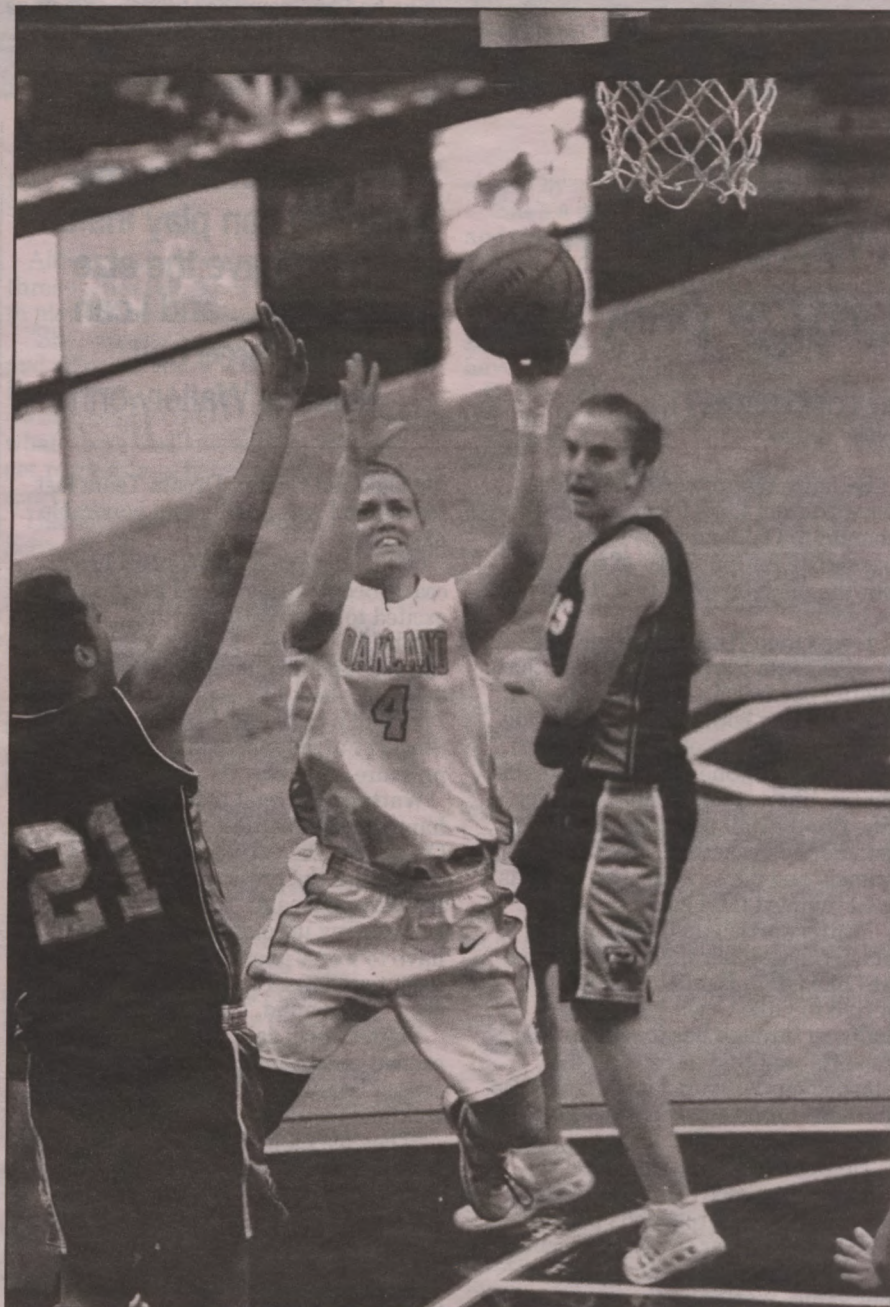
The win pushes the Grizzlies' record to 4-2 on the season. They hit the road to open up Summit League play at Southern Utah Saturday at 7 p.m.



BOB KNOSKA/
The Oakland Post
At left, junior guard Melissa Jeltema drives the lane against St. Bonaventure defenders Sunday. Jeltema scored a career-high 22 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the Golden Grizzlies' 76-72 victory. Below, senior Jessica Pike soars over the Bonnies defense for a bucket. Pike's 24 points tied a season high and jumped her to 18th on OU's all-time women's basketball scoring list. She entered the game at 21, behind Jamie Ahlgren (1996-2001), Heather Bateman (1993-96), and Stacy Lamphere (1989-93).



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Senior April Kidd glides into the lane for two of her seven points against St. Bonaventure Sunday.



Giving thanks for no football

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

COLUMN

In the past, Thanksgiving and Detroit Lions football went together like turkey and stuffing.

But what the Lions cooked up this past Thursday, a 47-10 home loss to the Tennessee Titans, was disgusting.

I would've traded my feast in for hot dogs and chips if it had meant getting to watch some exciting football.

I used to get angry when I heard the national media saying that the Lions didn't deserve to have their annual televised Thanksgiving game, but now I agree. This team is so bad and so embarrassing that they should not be allowed on national television until they turn things around.

The state of Michigan has endured enough throughout the past year. Do we really need more jokes? The Lions are the laughing stock of the NFL and Thursday's debacle cemented the fact that this is the worst team in the league

— maybe of all time. This team is so bad that I bet if they played in the Big 12 South they would be in fourth place.

When America gathers around the television on turkey day, great football is hoped for, competitive football is expected. Thursday's Lions game wasn't even close to either. It was boring. Worse than that, it was one of the most horrible displays of football by an NFL team that I have ever seen.

It was to be expected that the Lions were going to have a tough time beating the Tennessee Titans. The Titans have only lost one game so far this year and the Lions have a very good chance at losing every game this season. But to be down 35-10 at halftime, at home, is ridiculous, especially considering so many people think that they should lose their traditional Thanksgiving time slot.

A good showing could have calmed some of that talk down. But now, losing the right to the tradition is very possible.

The heads of the NFL will be meeting in March and one of the issues on the table will most certainly be whether or not the Lions get to keep



DUANE BURLESON/Associated Press
Lions quarterbacks Daunte Culpepper (11) and Drew Henson (12) stand on the Lions' sideline Thursday during the final seconds of a Thanksgiving Day loss to the Tennessee Titans.

the Thanksgiving game. I will not be surprised if that decision goes against the Lions. All we can do as fans is suffer another humiliating blow.

It has been a terrible football season for me. I am also a Michigan Wolverine fan. Now that I am an Oakland

University student, I'm wondering if perhaps it is a good thing that OU doesn't have a football team. If we did, it would take a long time to be any good and I don't think I could handle it. I can only give thanks for our famously undefeated record.

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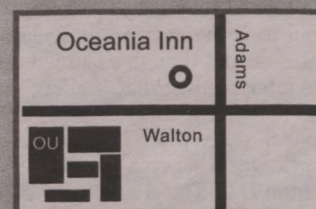
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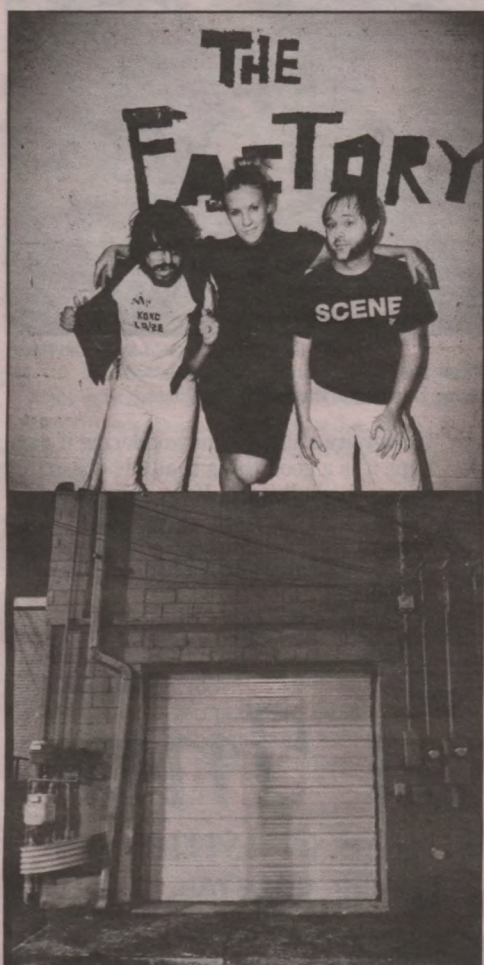
The Scene

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

December 3, 2008

Underground concert venue opens in Rochester



Photos courtesy of Jerry Wald
Above, The Hard Lessons have been one to play The Factory. Below, The Factory's yellow garage door.

By KAY NGUYEN
Contributing Reporter

To some, walking down a dark alley and slipping into an unmarked doorway might not seem like the best idea. However, Shane Ford and Jerry Wald completely encourage it.

Owners of The Factory, a new music venue in downtown Rochester, Ford and Wald have attempted to create a new scene in a neighborhood traditionally dominated by high-end boutiques and restaurants. The name might sound familiar; the spot was named after artist Andy Warhol's New York City studio. The duo's goal is simple.

"We want to expose people to new things that they might not typically hear or see," Wald said. "Our main goal is to make it more than just a venue, but a place for anyone to go and hang out no matter what the age."

In order to reach out to potential showgoers and performers, Ford and Wald have used the ever-popular social networking sight MySpace as a springboard for their accidental venture. The venue actually started as a studio.

"MySpace helps connect bands with kids who love [our] type of music," said Chad Barrett, lead vocalist for the band Pursuing Victory. "We got on the first show ever at The Factory."

Run by the support of the community, the venue creates its own unique stomping ground for the creative to do just that. The dynamic cross-section of bands who have played shows at the venue is a testament to this fact. From folk artist Brad Nash

to Pursuing Victory's hardcore sound, the venue caters to all tastes.

"[My band and I] were stoked to see such an intimate venue so close to where we live and knew everyone was going to want to play there," Nash said. "It has drawn in locals we can expose our music to — [people] who wouldn't have had a chance to hear it otherwise."

Shows have been playing at the venue every Thursday through Sunday for almost three months now. While many artists and bands performing are relatively unknown, many signed bands like The Singles, Citizen Smile and The Hard Lessons will also be performing at The Factory.

"All of the kids running The Factory are super cool," commented Hard Lessons singer and guitarist Augie Visocchi. "It was fun to cram into such a tiny space right in people's faces."

Exactly how small is the space? The city of Rochester has deemed capacity at 75. Inaccessible from the main street, the venue's MySpace page gives instructions on how to find the secluded spot.

"Funny story: I thought that the bands played in the little space where bands store their gear," recalled Singles singer and guitarist Vince Frederick. "You gotta see it to believe it!"

The venue already has shows lined up for the coming months.

"It is also close to OU," said James Brown, lead guitarist and vocalist for Citizen Smile.

Find out more about The Factory and how to get there at www.myspace.com/thefactoryrochester.

Good Times

"The first night we went to see a show at The Factory, a friend who came with us went to the bathroom and forgot to lock the door. The closing musician needed to use it before he went on to perform and walked right in on our friend, sitting on the toilet with his pants on the ground. It was hilarious" — Brad Nash

"Our guitarist Augie [Visocchi] climbed on the ceiling above the bathroom at the end of the show, and after we finished we were informed that the ceiling didn't exist a week before. He could've ended up in the toilet, I guess." — Mark Dawson, The Hard Lessons

"Funniest moment I can think of was when our merch guy was playing air guitar and fell into the trash can and fell over." — Chad Barrett, Pursuing Victory

"The first time we played there, the house music was some dancy techno stuff, and Kory [Kopchick] and I were dancing jubilantly. Or exuberantly. It was a good time." — James Brown, Citizen Smile

QUICK HITS REVIEWS IN 30 SECONDS

By GABRIEL OUZOUNIAN
Contributing Reporter

Fallout 3



Video Game Review

"Fallout 3" is the next in the acclaimed fallout series, and though assumed dead, 10 years later the world of "Fallout" still manages to intrigue and surprise.

"Fallout 3" takes place in a post-apocalyptic world set in a demolished Washington D.C. The character was born in a bomb shelter built prior to the nuclear war. After a lengthy intro sequence,

the first time you leave the vault and see the destruction is truly stunning.

The art style is based on 50s post-war paranoia and it displays this with newspaper clippings and appropriate verbal lingo. The gameplay is deep and intricate with dozens of ways to conquer obstacles, be it violence or eloquence, and the world is massive. It would take days to fully explore it.

The story can be the most enrapturing thing you've ever viewed and yet certain inconsistencies in the world and characters doing things that do not support their convictions make you withdraw.

Overall, "Fallout 3" is a worthy successor to the series.

By BRYAN EVERSON
Contributing Reporter

Guns N' Roses

Chinese Democracy



Album Review

Since 1994, "Chinese Democracy" has become not-so-affectionately referred to by the public as the most expensive record never made. That is, until now. While few, if any, albums can be worthy of such a wait, "Chinese Democracy" is still a release that bands like Hinder couldn't aspire to release, ever.

It is not "Appetite For Destruction," or "Use Your Illusion" I or II. It's a melting pot of both with varied flavor and style, a toast to lead singer Axl Rose's direction.

The album is cluttered with some misses and nu metal attempts, but the band is at their best on "Better" and "There Was A Time," full of lessons learned and some of the album's best guitar riffs and solos. "Street of Dreams," a track that could have fit inconspicuously onto either "Illusion" disc, is another highlight with a piano-driven intro.

Rose's vision may not have been worth the wait, but it turns out money can buy us a pretty decent rock 'n' roll record.

'Tis the season to give and get

The Post presents a plethora of items to fill your holiday list



"The Dark Knight"

Batman and the Joker return in the DVD form on Dec. 9 for the holiday season. If you loved the movie on the silver screen, you'd

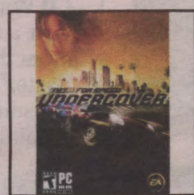
love getting the DVD for the holidays.



BlackBerry Storm

This new smart-phone is purely touch screen, complete with actual clicks to let you know when you're pressing what. It

also has a full QWERTY keyboard for those who like to type with their thumbs, which is activated by simply turning the phone horizontal.



"Need for Speed Undercover"

The 12th installment of the racing game includes new features like a new gameplay mode "the Heist," and an online mode.



iPod Touch

This version of the iPod is available in 8, 16 and 32 GB, and is complete with a full touch screen. Also the iPod Touch has included the appli-

cations music, videos, photos, iTunes, Safari, YouTube and more.



Kanye West's "808's and Heartbreak"

West fans no longer have to wait until after the holidays to hear a new album as West changed his release date. The new disc

will include appearances from Lil Wayne and Young Jeezy.



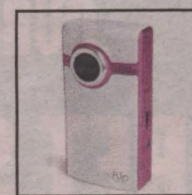
Garmin nüvi

This GPS device is perfect for anyone who tends to get lost a lot. The nüvi is pocket sized though, so try not to lose it.



"Sex and the City: The Movie" - The Wedding Collection Ultimate Collectors Edition

This four CD special edition includes four and a half hours of special features and a music compilation disc of songs inspired by the movie.



Flip video camera

This camera is not much bigger than your cell phone and holds 60 minutes of video. It comes in different colors and

styles, and is perfect for the next wannabe YouTube sensation.

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We'll be coming back on Jan. 7 with an interview with

Kate Hudson

and

Anne Hathaway

for their upcoming film "Bride Wars."

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Media memories

The Post staff gives its two cents on 2008's entertainment

Lil Wayne — "Tha Carter III"

At a time when CDs are quickly going the way of the dodo, Lil Wayne found a way to move more than one million units in the first week of his landmark release. From "Lollipop" to "Dr. Carter" to "Let the Beat Build," Tha Carter III never faltered, providing us the soundtrack for the summer with personal lyrics over music that sounded like it was produced on Mars. Come to think of it, that may be where "Phone Home" came from. — Tim Rath

Metallica — "Death Magnetic"

Five years since the release of "St. Anger," old-school Metallica fans could rejoice with the new CD "Death Magnetic." The album marked the band's first release with Warner Bros., and was two years in the making. The whole album was made available for download for the video game "Guitar Hero: World Tour." — Amanda Meade

Coldplay — "Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends"

With the release of Coldplay's latest smash-hit album in June, "Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends" proves that lead singer Chris Martin is way better at making music than thinking of children names. Maybe living his entire life with such a plain name inspired names like Apple Blythe Alison for his daughter and Moses Bruce Anthony for his son.

The album reached double-platinum status in the U.S. and it looks like Christopher Anthony John Martin and Co. will continue to enjoy the sweet life as the album continues to rake in the money. — Jared Purcell

"Mad Men"

From the constant cigarette smoking to the vintage suits, "Mad Men" showcases a different world like Dwayne Wayne. Set at a Madison Avenue advertising agency in the 1960s, the show centers on Don Draper (Jon Hamm) as he drinks scotch, makes derogatory comments about minorities and ogles his secretary (Christina Hendricks). "Mad Men" won Emmys in 2008 for Outstanding Drama Series and Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series. — Tim Rath

"The Office"

After 2007's writer's strike, "The Office" returned this year from a four-month hiatus. The show's producer had to stop filming completely when star Steve Carrell refused to cross the picket lines. The show came back with six episodes, and the season was kicked off with the cast participating in a dinner party. "The Office" is better than getting the gas at the dentist. — Tom Murphy

"30 Rock"

"30 Rock" received a record 17 Emmy nominations this year. The comedy, told through the voice of Tina Fey as Liz Lemon, also features Alec Baldwin as Jack Donaghy, a top network executive and Tracy Morgan as Tracy Jordan, a the star of Lemon's hit variety show, "TGS with Tracy Jordan."

Throughout the show, Lemon balances corporate interference from Donaghy and antics from Jordan, while attempting to salvage her own personal life.

The title of the show is derived from 30 Rockefeller Plaza, the New York City street address of NBC Universal. — Kathleen Quandt

"The Dark Knight"

The summer blockbuster "The Dark Knight" turned out to be the second highest grossing film in U.S. history (\$530.3 million, imdb.com).

Although there was a downgrade in eye candy — Maggie Gyllenhaal replaced Katie Holmes — at least Gyllenhaal stepped up the acting skill. Will anyone be able to take on the role of the Joker with the same intensity as Heath Ledger? Even more disconcerting, how many years will we have to deal with half of the masses dressing up as the Joker for Halloween, sporting events, family reunions, baby showers, business meetings, etc...? It gets old fast. — Jared Purcell

"Sex and the City: The Movie"

Four years after Carrie Bradshaw closeted her Monolo Blahnik's on the HBO series, the fabulous and not-so-single ladies of "Sex and the City" graced the silver screen. The television show's transition to the big screen proved to be successful as the film grossed over \$152 million in the United States and over \$408 million worldwide according to boxofficemojo.com. Some fans dressed to the nines for a girls night out and the film did not disappoint. An eyeful of designer labels, love and lust proved to be the perfect combination for success. Carrie, Miranda, Samantha and Charlotte are not done running the streets of Manhattan yet, Sarah Jessica Parker recently confirmed a sequel is in the works. — Lindsey Wojcik

MOUTHING OFF

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

December 3, 2008

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Cost-cutting journalism: filling in the

Before reading, please fill in the blanks to plug into the column

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) _____
The name of your favorite celebrity wreck | 6) _____
Flattering adjective |
| 2) _____
Insulting word | 7) _____
Position of reverence |
| 3) _____
Inanimate object | 8) _____
Synonym for "empty space" (noun) |
| 4) _____
Vile noun containing letters "S," "H," and "T" | |
| 5) _____
A body part | |

A little grammar refresher:

Noun: a person, animal, place, thing or abstract idea

Adjective: modifies a noun or a pronoun by describing, identifying or quantifying words

Adverb: indicates manner, time, place, cause or degree and answers questions such as "how?" "when?" "where?" and "how much?"

Verb: usually denotes an action, an occurrence or a state of being

8) Synonym for "empty space"

conserve cash. Our computers have been auctioned off — we now contract a human with computer-like handwriting to pen our pages.

We also hired a/an

2) Insulting word with the athletic ability of

a 3) Inanimate object to run our sports section

because he said he would work for peanuts. Literally, peanuts. He prefers the dry-roasted kind.

We brought in volunteer

copy editors who said they would work for free, which was great until we realized that they thought their job was to man the copy machine.

Even I, a veteran of this publication, have been asked to do my part in cutting costs.

Because I get paid per word I write, I have been directed to limit my word counts for my stories and articles. It disgusts me more than the taste of _____ mushrooms! (I 4) Vile Noun containing ... was going for "shiitake" here.)

Would you tell Picasso to refrain from using blues? Or ask Ron Jeremy not to utilize his _____?

5) A body part

Would you dare ask Carlos Mencia to not use other comedians' jokes? Of course not! It would be crippling.

But, because I am a company man through and through, I have decided to do what it takes to keep The Oakland Post from filing for Chapter 11.

Yes, to keep my dear bosses from flying to Capitol Hill via private jet to ask for a government bailout, I have come up with a new cost-cutting method of journalistic and editorial writing.

This new method that I have developed allows you, the

6) Flattering adjective Oakland Post reader, to fill in the words that would have otherwise been money added to my paycheck. (Do not worry, I get them back with my refusal to use contractions.)

We will see how management reacts to this. If all goes well, I expect to be hailed as a/an 7) Position of reverence for my revolutionary foresight.

However, there is also a chance that this could get me fired. So, this may be the last piece I ever write for this paper.

By PAUL GULLY
Special Projects Editor

The newspaper industry is in poor shape. Really poor shape. Worse shape than _____
1) The name of your favorite celebrity ... after the night on the town that makes he/her realize it's time to go to rehab again ... for the fourth time — that is how bad.

Around the country, papers are cutting costs, jobs and, in some instances, shutting down in an effort to save money.

Earlier this year, the New York Times cut 100 newsroom positions, while locally,

the Detroit Free Press is continuing to offer buyouts to its employees.

According to Paper Cuts, a blog that tracks the number of news industry job cuts in the U.S., there have been close to 14,000 layoffs or buyouts at U.S. newspapers.

We at The Oakland Post are not immune to the industry hardships. Cost-cutting has become our top priority. And by "top priority" I mean second in importance to delivering serious, accurate news, of course.

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Big Three execs vie for bailout money

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS AND TOM KRISHER
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Humbled and fighting for survival, Detroit's once-mighty automakers appealed to Congress with a retooled case for a bailout Tuesday, pledging to slash workers, car lines and executive pay in return for a federal lifeline.

GM said it wouldn't last till New Year without an immediate \$4 billion and could drag the entire industry down if it fails.

General Motors Corp., asking for as much as \$18 billion, painted the direst portrait to date of what could happen if Congress doesn't quickly step in.

"There isn't a Plan B," stated a GM report. "Absent support, frankly, the company just can't fund its operations." Without help, the company warned

it "will default in the near term, very likely precipitating a total collapse of the domestic industry and its extensive supply chain, with a ripple effect that will have severe, long-term consequences to the U.S. economy."

Democratic leaders have said they might call Congress back next week to pass an auto bailout — but only if the carmakers' blueprints show the Big Three have reasonable plans to stay viable with the help.

All three plans envision the government getting a stake in the auto companies that would allow taxpayers to share in future gains if they recover.

Along with detailed stabilization plans, the auto executives were offering up a hefty dose of humility and a host of symbolic concessions designed to repair their images, badly tattered after they arrived in Washington last month on three sepa-

rate private jets to plead for federal help.

Ford CEO Alan Mulally, GM CEO Rick Wagoner and Chrysler chief Bob Nardelli all planned to road-trip to Washington in fuel-efficient hybrid cars for hearings on Thursday and Friday.

Mulally and Wagoner both said they'd work for \$1 per year if their firms took any government loan money, while Ford offered to cancel management bonuses and salaried employees' merit raises next year, and GM said it would slash top executives' pay. Both said they would sell their corporate aircraft.

Ford Motor Co., in far better shape than GM and Chrysler LLC, asked for a \$9 billion "standby line of credit" to stabilize its business but said it didn't expect to tap the funds unless one of Detroit's other Big Three went bust. Its plan projected Ford would break even or turn a pretax profit in 2011.



A police inspector checks the documents of fishermen at a coast in Porbander in India. Security has been beefed up in coastal towns after terrorists are suspected to have used the Porbandar port to reach Mumbai.

Police: Mumbai gunmen came by sea from Pakistan

By RAMOLA TALWAR BADAM
Associated Press Writer

MUMBAI, India — The gunmen who attacked Mumbai set out by boat from the Pakistani port of Karachi, then later hijacked an Indian fishing trawler that carried them toward this financial capital on their suicide mission, a top police official said Tuesday.

As evidence of the militants' links to Pakistan mounted, Mumbai police commissioner Hasan Ghafoor said ex-Pakistani army officers trained the group and denied reports the men had been planning to escape the city.

The revelations came as a senior U.S. official said India received a warning from the U.S. that militants were plotting a waterborne assault on Mumbai.

The Bush administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of intelligence information, would not elaborate on the timing or details of the U.S. warning.

The Indian government is already facing intense public accusations of security and intelligence failures after suspected Muslim militants carried out the three-day attack across Mumbai last week, killing at least 172 people and wounding 239.

India stepped up the pressure on its neighbor after interrogating the only surviving attacker, who told police that he and the other nine gunmen had trained for months in camps in Pakistan operated by the banned Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. On Tuesday, U.S. officials also pointed the finger at Pakistani-based groups, although they did not specifically mention Lashkar.

The U.S. is pressuring Islamabad to cooperate in the investigation of the siege that paralyzed Mumbai and left six Americans dead.

NIW BRIEFS

11-24 | Citigroup receives \$32 billion from the U.S. Emergency Economic Stabilization Act.

11-25 | Israel again seals off the Gaza Strip in response to attacks.

11-26 | At least 80 people are dead and more than 250 wounded in coordinated terrorist attacks across Mumbai, India.

11-27 | Two people are shot at a Toys R Us store in California, and a Wal-Mart employee is trampled by shoppers in New York during Black Friday shopping.

12-01 | President-elect Barack Obama nominates Sen. Hillary Clinton for Secretary of State.

12-02 | Saddam Hussein's notorious cousin "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid is sentenced to death for crushing a Shiite uprising in the in 1991. | Thailand's Constitutional Court bans the country's prime minister from politics for five years for electoral fraud.

Venice underwater



People wade through high water in front of the Doge's Palace, in Venice's St. Mark's Square, northern Italy. Water in Venice has risen to its highest level in more than 20 years. City officials say the sea level topped 61 inches on Monday, leaving most streets submerged.

Report: U.S. can expect biological attack in next 5 years

By PAMELA HESS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. can expect a terrorist attack using nuclear or more likely biological weapons before 2013, reports a bipartisan commission in a study. It also suggests the Obama administration bolster efforts to counter and prepare for germ warfare by terrorists.

"Our margin of safety is shrinking, not growing," states the report, obtained by The Associated Press. It is scheduled to be publicly released Wednesday.

The report of the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism, led by former Sens. Bob

Graham and Jim Talent, acknowledges that terrorist groups still lack the needed scientific and technical ability to make weapons out of pathogens or nuclear bombs. But it warns that gap can be easily overcome, if terrorists find scientists willing to share or sell their know-how.

The commission believes biological weapons are more likely to be obtained and used before nuclear or radioactive weapons. Civilian labs with potentially dangerous pathogens abound and could easily be compromised.

The report notes that the U.S. government's counterproliferation activities have been geared toward preventing nuclear terrorism. The commission rec-

ommends the prevention of biological terrorism be made a higher priority.

Graham said anthrax remains the most likely biological weapon. However, he told the AP that contagious diseases — like the flu strain that killed 40 million at the beginning of the 20th century — are looming threats. That virus has been recreated in scientific labs, and there remains no inoculation to protect against it if it is stolen and released.

Graham said the threat of a terrorist attack using nuclear or biological weapons is growing "not because we have not done positive things but because adversaries are moving at an even faster pace to increase their access" to those materials.



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