# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 3, 2010

Volume 36, Number 22



A starter for four years, Johnathon Jones has been a stabilizing presence for the Golden Grizzlies.

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ANTICIPATING THE BIG WEEKEND HOMECOMING 2010 / FEB 4-7

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Cover illustration by Jason Willis

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# Perspectives

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February 3, 2010

STAFF EDITORIAL

## State of our university?

## Russi gets to 'the point' on progress, brewing issues

It wasn't as witty or charismatic of a speech as President Obama's, but that's not to say President Gary Russi didn't get his share of laughter at his annual address to university faculty and staff.

If there's one thing that can bring together a crowd of administration and union representatives, it's a joke about how "bad" parking is.

Monday, Russi spoke to a near capacity crowd in the banquet room of the upstairs of the Oakland Center. An invitation for the event was sent out via e-mail to all staff and faculty of the university. It seemed that few faculty were in attendance compared to the quantity of administrators and staff.

The presentation itself was a little dry, reviewing the same things that were discussed at budget meetings over the summer. Russi spent a lot of time, maybe too much, on the progress that the university has made. Many of the figures were comparing changes made since the mid-1990s, so it wasn't much of a shocker that enrollment rose since then; or, given the state economy, that funding has gone down.

That was one other thing that garnered a chuckle from the gallery: How

the university went from state funded to state "supported." It's doubtful that same joke will go over well in Gov. Jennifer Granholm's State of the State address on Wednesday.

Despite the challenges that the university faces, the outlook looks good; especially considering everyone seems to at least have a sense of humor about those challenges.

Russi assured the audience at several moments, with confidence, that the academic core of the university is being protected. What that means is while professors and university staff members across the nation are facing job loss, OU still guarantees a level of job security. And this is to ensure that the level of education here is to remain and to continue to strive to be top-notch.

Yes, this is also where annual tuition increases come into play, but it is not for the padding of inefficient systems or fattening up of wallets.

Of course some people are getting paid more money than they did a few years ago, but can we really blame them for choosing to work in a field that demands a competitive salary? It's not as if OU has a high profit margin for tuition. According to slides shown during the speech, we are actually right in the middle when it comes to how much each student pays and how much it costs to support that student.

Many projects that soak up the money from the general budget seem trivial, like redoing the main entrance to the OC because it is "pretty lousy to look at and transport yourself through," according to administrator John Beaghan.

But many others are necessary upkeep of an aging, much-used campus. Would you like to live in a house that never gets a fresh paint job, has a leaking and decrepit roof, or a city that doesn't look for ways to improve quality of life?

The presentation ended with a brief question and answer session, which Russi pre-empted with answers to several questions that have been floating around (see page six). A few productive questions were raised and gave evidence that no leader has all the answers, or even the possibility to know every question unless it's asked. But all evidence does conclude that Russi is open to suggestions and discussion about the issues, and that we are in good hands.

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## Super Bowl advertising standards are super confusing



As a proponent of free speech — the cornerstone of my livelihood — I'm always really happy when people get to express their opinions and ideals, even if they don't coincide with my own. Running the opinion section of The Oakland Post suits me well.

I also understand that in order to voice my opinion, I need to find a forum to convey

my thoughts. Once again, The Post has its perks.

But if I were say, trying to buy advertising space in a publication or some other form of media, I know I might not be able to have complete freedom over what I want to say. I'm paying to use someone else's means of distribution to put my ideas out to the world — if I don't have a message they want to support, I don't get to use their forum. Fair enough.

Let's say I want to buy an ad during the Super Bowl. I know I have to comply with CBS network's broadcast standards for Super Bowl Sunday. No nipples — got it.

So what the hell are their standards?

To be frank, I don't care about the Super Bowl. That "hallowed" day, for me, consists of eating way too much junk food and drinking too much beer.

This Super Bowl Sunday, I'm going to be getting heartburn from more than just what's on the menu.

CBS is dealing with two "controversial" ads this time around. One features Pam Tebow, the mother of former Heisman trophy winner Tim Tebow. Paid for by a group called Focus on the Family, the 30-second spot talks about how during Mrs. Tebow's pregnancy with the football player, she became severely ill. She was advised by doctors to abort the pregnancy. (I think we all know what she decided to do.)

I haven't seen the ad, but from all accounts, it's a heartwarming story of how Mrs. Tebow made the right decision based on her own her own moral code, and the product of her choice was her gift to the world of football. The controversy is that the advertisement is promoting a pro-life message, and abortion is a hot-button issue.

The other ad in question is paid for by a gay dating web site, **mancrunch.com**. It features two men, touching hands in the chip bowl, and proceeding to "make out." If you watch closely, it doesn't even look like their lips touch. The controversy is that the advertisement is promoting a gay lifestyle, which is another hot-button issue.

Which ad is CBS running, and which ad has been rejected? Yep, that's right. Only one of these ads has been given the green light. The pro-life ad will be airing this Sunday, but the gay dating ad will not.

As reported on cbsnews.com, "All the national net-

As reported on **cbsnews.com**, "All the national networks, including CBS, have policies that rule out the broadcast of certain types of contentious advocacy ads." It seems to me that the Tebow ad is advocating just

as much, if not more, than the ManCrunch ad.

CBS is starting to build a history of their own controversial decisions. In 2004 the network denied the United Church of Christ's ad that focused on UCC's openness toward the gay community and other groups

who may be more comfortable in the friendly environment.

I'm concerned with CBS and how they decide on what constitutes "contentious."

Also reported on **cbsnews.com** was a quote from Tim Wildmon, the president of the American Family Association. Regarding the ManCrunch ad he said, "CBS should not put parents in the position of answering embarrassing and awkward questions from their children while they're just trying to enjoy a football game."

So let me get this straight: Two men kissing is way out of the realm of appropriate conversation topics during a football game, but a child asking, "Mommy, what's an abortion?" is totally acceptable?

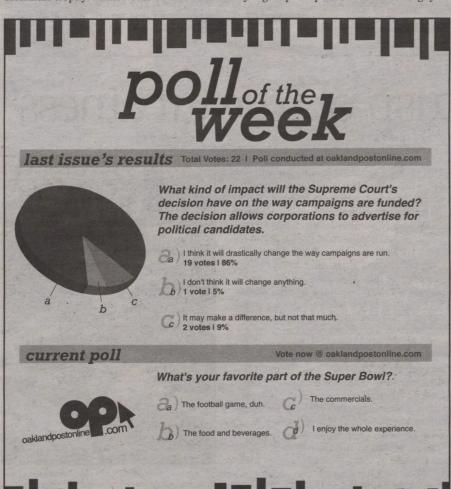
And let's not forget how many half-naked women are featured every Super Bowl game. Now that's family fun.

Gregg Doyel, columnist for **cbssports.com**; is against the Tebow ad: "If you're a sports fan, and I am, that's the holiest day of the year. It's not a day to discuss abortion."

Does CBS really think people are buying this load they're trying to feed us? There is an agenda here.

I don't care if CBS is conservative, liberal, socialist or communist. I don't care if they want to push an agenda. It's their network, and they can do as they see fit. But they simply cannot say that Super Bowl Sunday is a family event, and it's a day to avoid contentious advertising, and then to make a move like they're doing with the Tebow and ManCrunch ads.

Can't we just watch the damn game?



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# Campus

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February 3, 2010

## Med school clears major hurdle

By KAY NGUYEN Campus Editor

The new William Beaumont School of Medicine received preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education Tuesday.

The announcement came from President Gary Russi shortly after noon, though the news came after hours Monday

Russi had anticipated the event at his state of the campus address Monday morning, calling the LCME approval a "transforming event"

approval a "transforming event."

Russi said in the official announcement that the event is the second most momentous for Oakland University; the first being the original charter given to the university by Matilda Dodge Wilson, which created the

"This is tremendous news for Oakland University, our students and faculty, and the entire region," said Russi.

In August, the medical school filed a 855-page accreditation application to the LCME, the organization whose accreditation approval is needed to teach students and grant degrees.

This application included information about the school's proposed budget, funds and funding sources,

hired faculty and a detailed description of the planned curriculum.

A partnership between OU and Beaumont Hospitals was forged in April 2007 and school of medicine dean Robert Folberg was officially appointed and approved by the board of trustees in July 2008.

"I think this is a great step forward not only for our school, but for our university. This is Oakland's first professional school," said Folberg. "It is built and designed to integrate into the whole fabric of OU."

Pre-med students like sophomore biology major Ken Lewis welcome the news.

"It's always been my plan to apply to the school," Lewis said. "The big thing that makes me want to go there is the fact that there is a partnership with Beaumont"

Pre-med society president Laura Justice also plans on applying to the school and looks forward to the school's open house events, which will be open to all students and faculty.

"We were in the dark about what specializations they were going to offer and the specifics of the school," Justice said. "Now that they can talk to us about that — it's going to be great."

Though the school originally hoped to garner accredi-

tation by May or June 2009, plans were pushed back a

"It shows that we're ready and able to build an innovative, knowledge-based economy for the future," said Virinder Moudgil, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at Oakland University in a press

However, the LCME accreditation does not mean that the medical school has been completely approved.

The process of recruiting students for the charter class for fall 2011 will only begin if the school also receives accreditation and recognition from the North Central Association.

"The North Central Association looks at OU overall to see where the school fits in," said Folberg. "This is a school inside Oakland."

The NCA just finished its site visit and Folberg said he does not forsee a problem with garnering approval. The decision is expected to come some time in April.

Ground breaking on the new Human Health Building is slated to begin April 12. It is expected completion to come fall of 2012.

"(The school) facilitates a give and take between everybody in the university and we are looking forward to it," Folberg said.

## Russi: 'We are on the cusp of true greatness'

By KAY NGUYEN Campus Editor

Oakland University president Gary Russi gave his annual state of the campus address Monday morning in the banquet rooms of the Oakland Center.

With about 400 members of the faculty, administration, board of trustees, and Oakland University Senate in attendance, Russi began with remarks about the plan made for the university in 1995 and the fulfillment of Vision 2010.

and the fulfillment of Vision 2010.

Russi presented evidence that, since the implementation of strategic planning, the number of students, faculty, academic programs, available teaching spaces, campus housing residents, and accredited programs has gone up.

"In order for us to move forward, we need to invest in quality. Specifically: quality education," Russi said.

He stressed the importance of elevating OU toward becoming a first-rate research university and spoke of the increase in research activity at the school, particularly the \$33 million in funded research.

"Research is essential at any institution of higher education," Russi said.

He added that it adds distinction to the university.

Russi noted that the school is now considered a doctoral level research university and pushed for more work in developing graduate programs and avoiding things that may get in the way of fulfilling the president's vision for the school's growth in 2020.

He listed negative forces like competition, higher community college enrollement, a lower high school graduation rate, the Michigan economy and federal and state appropriation amounts as "serious threats."

Russi began the question and answer session that followed by first addressing campus rumors on topics like athletic department salaries, where funding came from for the William Beaumont School of Medicine, OU's appeal of a court decision regarding student Micah Fialka-Feldman, and parking and housing expansion.

He quelled rumors about the use of public funding for the school of medicine, spoke again about the creation of 468 parking spaces this summer and announced that the new planned housing complex project is now on hold.

In addition, he followed up on promises made in a November faculty open forum.

"All of you in this room, not a group or an individual, are true shareholders in this institution," Russi said.

Audience members asked questions about everything from the graduate studies program at OU and governance to ad campaign spending and negotiating the proposed 2020 student enrollment goal of 25,000.

Russi noted his work and knowledge on each issue, deferring to vice presidents Virinder Moudgil and Mary Beth Snyder when needed.

Russi unveiled a new website for communicating with the president: www.oakland.edu/thepoint, where information presented at the address is available on the site as well.

"We are on the cusp of true greatness," Russi said as he closed the talk. "We cannot allow anything to disrupt us on that nath"



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Po President Gary Russi answered pressing questions from faculty after briefly touching on a myriad of current hot-button campus topics.

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## Special presentation given to OUSC

## John Beaghan outlines plans for future construction, parking

By MIKE SANDULA Senior Reporter

The Oakland University Student Congress Monday meeting in the Oakland Room began with a special presentation.

John Beaghan, vice president for finance and administration and treasurer to the board of trustees, presented a slideshow that outlined past and planned construction projects, including parking and the Human Health Building.

He was joined by Terry Stollsteimer, associate vice president for facilities; Sam Lucido, chief of police; and Greg Kampe, parking committee chair.

## **Human Health Building**

Groundbreaking will begin April 12 for the Human Health Building, according to Beaghan.

The five-floor, 160,000 square foot building will cost \$62 million. State appropriations will be covering \$40 million. Beaghan said OU issued bonds for the remaining cost, which will be paid back with money from the general fund.

The building will be located on the corner of Squirrel Road and Walton Boulevard and is expected to open fall

Additionally, Beaghan said they're expecting a \$2.7 million grant from the Department of Energy for a geothermal energy system located in P1, which would need to be shut down over the summer for the duration of the project

## **Summer Construction**

Beaghan started off his presentation with an overview of construction projects OU completed in summer 2009.

These projects included retiling the first and second floors of O'Dowd Hall, replacing Kresge Library's roof, and a new backup power source for University Technology Services.

A high temperature hot water tunnel under Wilson Boulevard — about \$5 million — is one of several projects planned for summer 2010.

In 2011 the university plans to fix the glass curtain wall of O'Dowd, which Beaghan said has had continual water and energy problems.

"We're basically going to take that building apart and put a new exterior on it," Beaghan said.

The project is expected to cost between

Auburn Hills is planning construction on Squirrel Road this summer as well,

and OU is working on having the activity affect the campus as little as possible.

## Parking, Parking, Parking

Beaghan outlined 13 parking lot priorities that would add 468 spaces at an estimated cost of about \$1.7 million.

Most spots would be created from existing lots through repaving, restriping and reconfiguring.

The biggest project would be adding a new lot to the east of P37, which would create 320 spaces.

Another big project is to relocate the sidewalk between Pryale Hall and P11, by the upper fields, and increase visibility of oncoming traffic for pedestrians.

This wouldn't create any new spaces, but Beaghan said it would make P11 safer to get to and from and therefore more appealing to park in.

"It's a bit of a misnomer that there's no parking available," Beaghan said.

For the first two weeks of every fall semester, OU's police department conducts a survey that counts the occupancy of campus parking lots at various times throughout the day.

Data from Sept. 23-24, 2009, show that P11 and the parking structure were never full between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

"An objective observer of those results would say, 'You don't have a parking problem," Beaghan said.

He said over the last decade OU has added 1,831 parking spaces — a 28-percent increase — while student enrollment increased 24 percent.

Though Beaghan said part of the medical school complex plan is to eventually have a parking structure attached to additional buildings, the current list of parking lot priorities doesn't have a parking garage.

"We've shied away from doing a parking structure because of the cost,"-Beaghan said.

He said a parking garage would cost about \$12 million and paying it off would likely mean a tuition increase of about 1 percent, which would be widely unpopular.

Some OUSC members brought up the possibility of parking fees, but Kampe said he's surveyed OU students before and an overwhelming majority of them are against paying for parking.

Furthermore, Beaghan said parking fees would be expensive to install as it would require, among other things, passes, gates, and a way to enforce them.

Touching on the OUSC proposal created by student services committee chair Jarret Sclaff and legislator Brett McIsaac

to have the Bear Bus operate during weekdays, Beaghan expressed doubts that it would be worth the cost.

He said he's worked on other campuses that offered such a service and it was barely used

"People would rather hunt ... and slip into a space than drive five more minutes, get on a bus, then ride it," Beaghan said, though he did add that maybe it could be different at OU.

Kampe said that additional parking is too expensive to address proactively "until it becomes such an issue that no one can park."

"It's going to have to be something that (students) have to push, push, push ... if (they) think that's the important issue," Kampe said

Traffic flow was also discussed. Lucido said an entirely new communications system may be needed, in response to a suggestion for police to block off full parking lots. Beaghan also said that there may be the addition of two-lane exits as well as acceleration and deceleration lanes on Squirrel Road.

## **New Legislator**

Following the presentation from Beaghan and a question and answer session, the congress carried on with its usual proceedings, including the approval of a new legislator: Chuck Kelly.

Waquad questioned his motives for becoming a legislator during the requisite questioning, as Kelly is currently spearheading a new social networking project called Buhz Hyve.

She said she was concerned that he would use OUSC as a vehicle for promoting his personal project.

Kelly denied the claim and was approved unanimously by members of congress.

## **Library Extension Hours**

Schlaff and OUSC legislator Anthony Ivone were working on extending Kresge Library's hours during the week prior to exam week.

Dean Julie Voelck recently approved this initiative.

Kresge will now be open until 2 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday, the week before finals.

Previously, the library had only one "study day" prior to exam week during which they were open that late.

Schlaff said he'd now like to look into having the lower level of the Oakland Center open 24/7.

He is primarily looking into keeping

the Student Technology Center and Bumper's Game Room open.

## **Election Changes**

At OUSC's Jan. 11 meeting, Mark Medaugh, student activities funding board chair, said their elections process was "broken and needed to be fixed."

On Jan. 25, student congress passed amendments to the process.

Candidates used to have to file a declaration of candidacy form with the elections committee no later than eight weeks prior to the start of elections.

The elections committee chair will now determine the deadline, which Medaugh said was always extended anyway.

The voluntary code of ethics was removed because it wasn't possible to enforce

The way the student body is able to ask questions at the debates have changed too.

Previously, if students had a question they wanted asked at a debate, they had to submit it no later than one week beforehand.

They may now pose questions at the debates, but they must be submitted in writing to the moderator, who has sole discretion over whether they'll be asked.

And what used to be the campaign kick-off event was changed to the elections kick-off event.

Campaigning may now start at the beginning of the fall academic term; there is no more "unofficial" campaigning because it was too difficult to define.

"It takes a lot of complexities out where they didn't need to be," Medaugh said.

Election packets come out Friday. The elections begin at the end of March.

Despite this, student congress executive ticket candidates have already begun making their campaign bids, mostly via Facebook.

OUSC legislator Cameron Schea and Mike Diedrich, chair of the judiciary committee as well as a legislator, are running as president and vice president and have garnered support from 499 Facebook friends.

OUSC financial affairs director Brandon Gustafson is running with legislative affairs director Amy Ring after a short run with his original running mate, Andrew Gustafsson. Their Facebook group currently has 449 supporters.

Student body vice president Saman Waquad is also entertaining the idea of running for president.

 Campus editor Kay Nguyen contributed to this report

## Campus competes to save lives

By MIKE SANDULA Senior Reporter

Donating your organs after you die can help keep other people alive. If that's not enough incentive, Gift of Life is challenging schools across the state to sign students up as organ donors.

Oakland University is one of 17 Michigan schools participating in the annual Gift of Life Campus Challenge.

The campus challenge has seen nearly 22,000 people sign up on the donor registry since it began in 2004.

There will be two trophies awarded at the end of this year's competition on Feb. 25: One to the school with the most donor registrations and the other to school with the most registrations compared to student population.

Jean Ann Miller, Center for Student Activities director, said OU has participated in the campus challenge for a few

"It's been on the quiet side," Miller said, noting that it hasn't been as visible as the blood drive.

This year the Oakland chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity, is heading up the cause at OU.

APO members said the biggest obstacle is assuring people that they're agreeing

to potentially donate their organs, skin tissue and eyes after they're deceased, not right then and there. The sign-up process only takes a few minutes.

"All they have to do is fill out a form," said Catherine Wilde, APO member.

The form requires your full name, birth date, address and driver's license number or state ID.

APO then submits that form to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, which is confidential.

Michigan's Secretary of State provides a heart sticker for the driver's license or ID card of anyone who signs up.

ID card of anyone who signs up.
"Everyone should become a organ
donor because the decision today to
become an organ donor can some day
save up to eight lives," APO President
Kaitlyn Fetterman said.

Fetterman added that over 3,000 people are on waiting lists and that heart, liver, and kidney donations "are always in critical need."

APO will have a table in the Oakland Center hallway from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from now until Feb. 18.

Those interested in more information and donating can visit the organization's website www.GiftOfLifeMichigan.org for more information.

## POLICE FILES

Larceny in building: On Jan. 29, an officer met with a student in the OUPD lobby to take a report that his wallet had been stolen at the OU Recreation and Athletic Center. The student said that he had his wallet in his pants pocket that was folded in his gym bag. The bag was inside of an unlocked locker. The wallet was the only item missing even though there was an iPod and cell phone also in the bag. There are no suspects at this time.

Assault: On Jan. 30, officers were informed that there was a possible altercation occurring near the cafeteria of Vandenberg Hall. A male was pulling and holding the wrist of a female who was sitting on the floor. The male attempted to drag the female by her wrist away from officers. An officer approached him from the back and ordered him to get on the ground. The student refused to let go of the female's wrist and began to physically resist his arrest. After the officers separated the students, the male still refused. He was forced in the corner by an officer and sprayed with pepper spray after a warning. The male was brought to the ground and handcuffed. He was placed into the back of a patrol car and taken to the Auburn Hills Fire Department for medical treatment. The student complained of troubled breathing. He was transported to Oakland County Jail for charges of domestic violence and resisting an officer.

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

## CAMPUS

Students interested in sightseeing or religion can take several free trips this semester through Oakland University.

OU's Center for Student Activities hosted one trip in January and is planning to host two more. The CSA hosted several free trips last semester with the same College of Arts and Sciences theme of religion and society, and visited sites related to different religions.

On the last trip, students visited the Holocaust Memorial Center as an exploration of Judaism.

On the first trip of this semester, Feb. 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., students willgo to Parashakthi Temple in Pontiac, exploring Hinduism, and also visit Kensington Church, a Christian non-denominational megachurch in Troy. Students can lunch in IKEA.

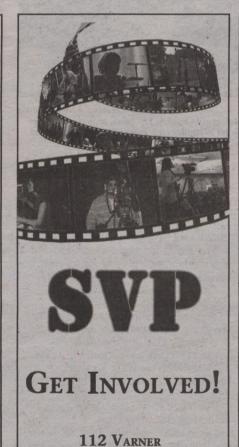
For all the trips, students will have to provide bring spending money for

lunch and shopping.

The second trip, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., students will tour Hamtramck, go to the St. Florian Roman Catholic Church and lunch in

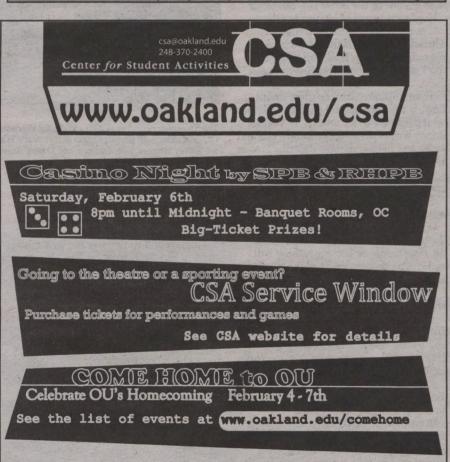
Eastern Market.
Students can sign up at 49 Oakland
Center or visit www.oakland.edu/
csa for information.

-Staff reporter Mas Rahman



OAKLANDSVP@YAHOO.COM

OR OAKLANDSVP@GMAIL.COM



Looking for more to do on campus? Check out the CSA calendar at:

www.oakland.edu/csa/events/

# The Strangers rock for warmth

## OU grads perform at Walk for Warmth in Auburn Hills

By JEN BUCCIARELLI Staff Intern

The Strangers, a band composed of three Oakland University graduates, are playing music for a cause this weekend at The Palace of Auburn Hills during the annual Walk for Warmth.

The Strangers is a rock band, playing covers from the '50s and '60s forward, as well as original music. They have found inspiration from U2 and singer-songwriter Ryan Adams.

Jeffrey Hughes, 29, the oldest of the group, grew up in Sterling Heights and is the bassist for The Strangers. Hughes jokingly described himself as the "dad" of the group, as he typically drives home after a show so the other two can sleep.

Hughes is proud of his ties to OU. "I met my wife in English class in South Foundation Hall and proposed to her outside Wilson Hall," he said. "I bet you I'm the only one who's ever done

Danny Runey, 28, who grew up in Troy, is the vocalist and guitarist. He has been playing solo for around 10 years. Runey writes many of the band's original songs and his bandmates describe him as a talented lyricist.

"I once tried to count all the words I knew," Runey joked.

Runey said that during a show, he will choose a song to play on the spot.

Whether Hughes and Josh Cyccone, the band's drummer, have even heard the tune before or not, everything will still run as though it was planned all

"That's a testament to how great they are as musicians," Runey said.

Cyccone, 25, grew up in Shelby Township. His first show with Hughes and Runey was at the annual Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency Walk for Warmth fundraising event in 2009.

"About a year and a half ago, through conversation, I just decided Josh would

be our drummer," Runey said. Even though Cyccone had not played drums for six or seven years because he was playing guitar with other groups, Runey said he was a great match for The

"He was perfect; he was the perfect fit for the band," Runey said.



The Strangers performs at 2009's Walk for Warmth to benefit OHLSA. The band, comprised of three OU graduates, will perform again at this year's Walk for Warmth event. From left to right, members are Jeffrey Hughes, Josh Cyccone and Danny Runey.

One might observe that all three artists interact just the way anyone might predict, as if they have known each another for years. That's because they

Hughes and Runey worked in a music store in Shelby Township, The Music Box, where they began performing

The two also met Cyccone through the music store when he visited and played drums and guitar for previous bands,

The band said that because they have been able to play regularly for so long, their goal is to keep playing music to

The Strangers never plan to go on tour as each member has his own com-

We all have day jobs, professional jobs," Runey said, "which makes us unusual," Hughes added.

Cyccone works in advertising, Runey handles logistics for the Army, and Hughes is a high school educator.

On average, the band plays two to four shows a month.

'Some nights are better than others but we typically have a good night; I can't really think of a bad (experience),"

The group has also played a handful of marathon gigs, playing for seven hours on end.

"We have amazing endurance," Hughes said.

Some of the more strenuous gigs that the group has experienced were those on St. Patrick's Day or Cinco de Mayo.

The Strangers are performing at the 20th Anniversary Walk for Warmth at the Palace of Auburn Hills this Sunday,

The Walk for Warmth is an annual fundraiser hosted by OLHSA. Donations are used to help Michigan residents stay warm during the winter and reduce the effects of poverty.

According to Lindsey Grosso, a public relations assistant for OLHSA, the Walk for Warmth check-in and registration

begins at 12:30 p.m. with a kick-off ceremony following shortly after at 1 p.m.. The event goes until 3 p.m.

There is a \$10 minimum donation per person for walkers, but Grosso said a larger donation is encouraged.

We give utility assistance to those in need with the funds we raise," Grosso

Since it is the 20th anniversary for the walk, there are a few special attractions

These new additions include the recognition of 20th anniversary partners at the ceremony and a chance for participants to play basketball on the Pistons' court during the event.

A Green Court event is scheduled during the walk as well. The Green Court hopes to help residents reduce their monthly bills, resulting in less need for assistance from OLHSA

"Green Court will highlight local businesses that provide energy efficiency," Grosso said.

With an expected turnout of around 800 walkers, in comparison to last year's turnout of 500-600 participants, OLHSA's goal is to accumulate \$200,000 for their 20th anniversary

"One hundred percent of the proceeds go directly to the Utility Assistance Program," she said.

The organization will continue to collect donations throughout the year to reach that goal.

The event is family-friendly and will host a DJ, abelly dancing lessons, free blood pressure tests, free massages and a couple of different musicians.

Participants at the Walk for Warmth walk can walk around the track at The Palace while experiencing the different events going on throughout the day.

"It was fun and we look forward to doing it again," Runey said, about The Strangers' first Walk for Warmth performance in 2009.

The band expects to release their first album together, titled "Hello," near the end of this summer, according to Runey. Although "Hello" will be the group's debut album, each band member has worked on and debuted albums with pre-

For information about OLHSA's Walk for Warmth, visit www.OLHSA.org.

# More students decide to dual enroll to save money

By JENNIFER WOOD Contributing Writer

With increasing tuitions and the continuing economic slump, many students are seeking ways to save a little cash when it comes to their education.

Others feel more secure in a smaller, more intimate classroom setting but still want to enjoy the typical on-campus social life.

With both Macomb Community College and Oakland Community College nearby, many students opt to use community colleges as either a stepping-stone or in conjunction with their workload at OU.

Junior psychology major, Elizabeth Tanalski, opted to take a lot of her general education requirements at Oakland Community College.

"I took classes in the summer there 'cus it was far cheaper than OU and I could quickly get them out of the way," said Tanalski.

In addition to the monetary benefits, Tanalski also noticed a more diverse student body at OCC.

"The thing I noticed about the OCC is that there is a far wider variety of people who go there opposed to the university," said Tanalski.

Kaitlin Carnaghi, a freshman health science major, said the option to take summer classes at Macomb Community College would help to ease her financial burden.

"It is cheaper than taking summer classes at OU," said Carnaghi about her decision to possibly take chemistry or



Logo Courtesy of Oakland University Many students are turning to dual enrollment programs, including the one between Macomb Community College and Oakland University, as an affordable way to get their degrees completed.

physics at MCC.

In addition to the option of applying and registering for classes at a neighboring community college, OU offers students a direct line to Macomb Community College through the Macomb 2 Oakland program.

The program, which is available to students with less than 32 college credits, eliminates the legwork of applying as a guest student and transferring credits by allowing prospective students to submit one application to OU, which is then also processed at Macomb.

"The idea here is that the student can be concurrently enrolled at both establishments at the same time," said Cheryl Rhodey, the academic coordinator for student success and advising at OU's Macomb campus.

"You can be working on an associate and a bachelor's taking classes toward them at both schools, and they are automatically transcripted to the opposite school."

The program has seen a steady increase since its start in 2006.

Now at 532 students, M20 grows by 20 to 30 percent each year, said OU director of enrollment outreach, Julie Dichtel

"The M2O program gives the best of both worlds," said Dichtel. "You are an Oakland University student but you can take classes at Macomb for less money

... Students are able to enjoy the university experience from day one."

However, the Macomb 2 Oakland program offers more to students than cheaper classes at Macomb and coordinated financial aid. Concurrently enrolled students also have access to both schools resources including advising, library facilities and a more expansive course selection.

During Monday's address to faculty and staff, OU President Gary Russi said enrollment is up for community colleges, which could affect OU both positively and negatively.

While it may initially take away from OU enrollment as more students go to community colleges, most of them transfer to larger schools, including OU.

Russi also suggested that a program similar to the M2O program with OCC may be in the works.

Students interested in the Macomb 2 Oakland program, can visit the M2O site at http://www.oakland.edu/m2o/.



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## Oakland University Eye Research Program

Summer Undergraduate Program in Eye Research May 10 – July 30, 2010

Ideal S.U.P.E.R. candidates will be
Oakland University sophomores or juniors who
are pursuing careers in biomedical research
or teaching. Up to six students will be
assigned to one of six research laboratories,

working directly with ERI faculty.

This training program includes:
lab safety, research design, Vision Science seminar series, a \$3,000 scholarship, independent research, and training in audio-visual presentation.

ERI scientists explore the biochemical, physiological and molecular aspects of eye function development, and diseases including: cataract, retinal degenerations, and glaucoma.

Application packages may be obtained on line at http://www2.oakland.edu/eri.

Deadline for applications: MARCH 5, 2010

## Hey you!

The Oakland Post is looking for writers for the You section.

The You section tells the stories of OU professors and students.

Get involved in the newsroom and get your work published!

Interested writers can stop by 61 Oakland Center in the basement of the O.C. or email oakpostfeatures@gmail.com.

# HOME TO GOING

written by Gabi Jaye

our days of basketball, freebies, food, gambling, ice skating and more. The "nothing to do on campus" complaint is invalid this week, as Oakland University's second official "Come Home to OU" celebration is being held Feb. 4-7.

The idea for "Come Home to OU" stemmed from the Week of Champions, an event celebrated annually at OU for 14 years.

Most universities center their homecomings on the football season, but OU's signature sport is basketball. The Grizzlies' Saturday's basketball games are the centerpiece of OU's Homecoming. The games follow four games on the road. The celebration is also a recognition of all sports and dedicated athletes on campus.

The goal behind Homecoming is to get students, faculty, staff, alumni and administration all together to participate in activities. Even the title,

Last year was the trial year for the new homecoming celebration. With novel activities like a synthetic ice arena and alumni events, CSA director Jean Ann Miller said the continuation of "Come Home to OU" was a given.

The main difference between last year and this year is the duration of the celebration. With the addition of the Golden Grizzlies Homecoming 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, the event had to be lengthened.

An extra two days allowed for a few more events and activities too.

"We established a core last year," Miller said. "This year we just built upon that core."

The events are planned by the OU Task Force, a university committee made up of representatives from organizations such as the CSA, the Student Affairs Office and the Oakland University Alumni Association.

Miller also says that the number of activities this year reflect how successful the previous year was.

"The inaugural homecoming was well received by alumni and the campus community," McIntosh said. "We were very pleased with the turnout for the various events."

Each year a few organizations focus on bringing their alumni back to offer insight on how their involvement as students helped them after graduation. The Greek organizations are trying to get their alums together through the Fraternity and



Photo courtesy of OU Athletics Department

Last year's Homecoming game at the O'Rena.

"Come Home to OU," encourages alumni to return and celebrate their alma mater.

"Most colleges and universities host a homecoming weekend," said Glenn McIntosh, dean and assistant vice president for student affairs. "Given that Oakland recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, we felt our growing alumni base warranted a homecoming weekend."

Sorority Alumni Event.

Junior Lauren Canestraight has been a participant in Greek life for about two years and is eager to reconnect with her former sisters.

"We kind of lost touch with our alumni," Canestraight said. "It's cool to see what they've been up to after sorority life and how it's impacted their careers." One of the other organizations trying to bring back their alums is the Oakland University Student Congress.

OUSC encourages their former members to come back and attend during their very own event. They are creating a tailgating tent before the women's basketball game on Saturday, from 1-3 p.m., in parking lot 16 off Pioneer Drive. The heated tent will supply free food, giveaways and a DJ.

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During a reception, 15 minutes before the tailgating event, former and current OUSC members will gather and share memorable moments and advice, and talk about their years in the organization.

"The tent was something created for the broader community," student body vice president Saman Waquad said. "It provides a fun atmosphere for students."

Other events geared towards students will be Casino Night, Friday Night Live and the Winter Ice Skating Party. The ice skating rink was build earlier this week and gives students the chance to skate on real ice this year.

"For last year's homecoming, some of my friends and I went to the ice skating event, the basketball games, and the Casino night," junior Tara Felock said. "I was a little disappointed that we were skating on plastic tiles instead of real ice, but I've heard rumors that Oakland decided to use frozen water this year."

Some traditions, like Casino Night, have previously been part of OU's celebrations. The Student Programming Board and Residence Halls sponsor this event.

"Two events I'm interested in at OU's homecoming are the ice skating and bonfire party and the casino night," junior Megan Rochon said. "I think the concept of a homecoming is great for OU, but they need to have some events during the day and/or ones that more students might like."

According to Miller, there really is "something for everyone." She and the University Task Force want the event to grow and become something that everyone looks forward to from year to year. Miller also hopes the alumni return to see all of the changes OU has made.

With the diverse student population, homecoming is based upon bringing the university community together.

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**SUNDAY** 



13

# designed by Jason Willis

ighlighting the Homecoming festivities is the men's and women's basketball doubleheader at the O'Rena on Saturday. The two teams will take on Oral Roberts University, one of Oakland's biggest rivals.

written by Ryan Hegedus

Both teams will be playing their first home games in over two weeks after lengthy road trips across the country. The men will also play Centenary College on Thursday.

The women's game starts at 3:30 p.m. and the men's game will begin at 6 p.m. Both games are expected to be sold out by game day.

Kate Boylan, coordinator of athletics marketing and promotions, echoed the sentiments of the other event planners.

"We're excited to be a part of OU's second annual Homecoming, 'Come Home to OU', as a means to further develop a great sense of tradition, community, and fan engagement on Oakland's campus," Boylan said.

Halftime at the games will feature special events including the introduction of the 2010 Hall of Honor inductees

Oakland University President Gary Russi will be in attendance for both of the homecoming games, but not from his normal courtside seats. Russi will be sitting in the student section, which is free and first-come, first-serve.

"The homecoming weekend is a chance for the entire campus to show their school spirit, support our teams, and just have some fun," Russi said. "Homecoming activities have definitely enhanced the campus life experience for all our students, and I fully expect us to build on this momentum in the years ahead. It's great to see how excited our students are about the coming weekend."

Six students will be given access to Russi's seats.

"I expect the game to be fast-paced and exciting," said Russi. "I'm looking forward to sitting in the student section and soaking up the tremendous atmosphere created by an enthusiastic and very partisan crowd."

In addition to four intramural Snow Bowl champions, two students will be chosen at random during the Guard The Grizz event on Friday.

Much like Michigan State's Sparty Watch or

THURSDAY 012-1 p.m. / Pep Rally 8-9 p.m. / Hip-Hop Dance Competition

6-9:30 p.m. / OU Hall of Honor Ceremony

6-10 p.m. / Ice Skating & Bonfire

9-11 p.m. / Friday Night Live

0 10 p.m.-1 a.m. / Guard the Grizz & Snow Bowl

01-3:30 p.m. / OU Alumni Assoc. Family Festival

02-4 p.m. / Fraternity & Sorority Alumni Event

02-6 p.m. / Alumni Hospitality Tent

3-5 p.m. / Black Alumni Social

3:30 p.m. / Women's Basketball Game

6 p.m. / Men's Basketball Game

8-midnight / Casino Night

9 6-10 p.m. / 5K Run/Walk



JASON WILLIS /The Oakland Post The Grizz in front of the O'Rena.



The student section at last year's Homecoming game.

defending the Diag at Michigan, Oakland students are encouraged to take part in the Guard The Grizz event prior to Saturday's game versus Oral Roberts. The stand-in will take place on Friday near the Grizz statue outside of the O'Rena.

The fact that the Homecoming events coincide with a matchup against a rival team like Oral Roberts is no coincidence.

"Saturday's basketball games are special, not only because of homecoming, but because we're playing Oral Roberts. This is always a big rivalry game for Oakland — it goes without saying that Oral Roberts isn't liked very much among OU fans," said Anthony Lewis, president of the Grizz Gang. "The student section last year for Homecoming was huge, and that was against Centenary. I can only imagine how big it's going to be this year playing Oral Roberts. It's going to be crazy."

With the success of last year, the homecoming festivities have been extended to four days. Those additional days are adding much more to the college experience for many students.

"The Homecoming game last year had a really festive atmosphere," junior Tiffany Gray said.
"With OU being mostly a commuter school, it was just something that you don't see every day, so it was really cool to see people showing so much school spirit."

# SUPERBOWL XLIV ATHLETES PICK



"At first I was going to say Indianapolis because I can't bet against Peyton Manning, but the Saints might be able to pull it out. I'm taking New Orleans."

Derick Nelson Senior, communications Forward, Men's basketball



"Who I wanted to win were the Vikings, but I'll take the Colts to win. I want to rub it in Ledrick Eackles' face."

Will Hudson
Junior, communications
Forward, Men's basketball

**Questions by Dan Fenner** 

## GAME EVENTS

Superbowl Fan Jam 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4 on VH1 featuring Rihanna, Justin Bieber and more. Game Time
Festivities begin at 6 p.m.
on CBS. Kick-off begins at
approximately 6:28 p.m.

Halftime Show
The Who will play a
"compact medley" of
their greatest hits.

## Staff predictions



"Saints, because a Saint would win in a fight with a colt."

Annie Stodola

You/Local Editor



"The Saints, because I don't think the Colts defense can stop Drew Brees."

Ryan Hegedus Staff Reporter



"The Colts, because I don't think the Saints defense can stop Peyton Manning."

Dan Fenner Sports Editor



"What's football?
Does OU have a team?
Oh hell, just give me
the Colts."
Kay Nguyen
Campus Editor

Indianapolis Colts or New Orleans Saints? Voice your picks for Superbowl XLIV at oaklandpostonline.com

# March

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

Watch **oakland.edu** for more information about combined fall and winter registration!

## Plan ahead

Take advantage of combined FALL 2010 and WINTER 2011 registration at Oakland University

With combined registration, eligible students may register to obtain a fall and winter class schedule. That means on **Monday, March 15**, eligible students can begin registering by class standing and earned credit hours for fall 2010 and winter 2011 classes. Summer 2010 registration by class standing and earned credit hours begins Monday, February 8.

Priority registration dates will be staggered based on class standing and the number of earned credit hours (outlined at right). Go to the **Check Your Registration Status** feature in SAIL to view the number of earned credit hours you have to date.

### Just follow these steps:

- Go to the OU homepage (oakland.edu)
- Click on SAIL (in the upper right-hand corner of the OU homepage)
- Log in using your NetID and password
- Once inside the portal, click on Register for Classes
- Click on Check Your Registration Status
- Select a term (fall semester 2010)
- View your assigned registration time status, any registration permits/overrides and your total earned credit hours.

Class Standing	Earned Credit Hours	Fall/Winter Priority Registration Dates (all start at 12:01 a.m.)
All graduate students	Not applicable	Monday, March 15
Second undergraduate degree students	Not applicable	Tuesday, March 16
Seniors	121 credits and above	Tuesday, March 16
Seniors	91 credits and above	Wednesday, March 17
Juniors	73 credits and above	Thursday, March 18
Juniors	56 credits and above	Friday, March 19
Sophomores	42 credits and above	Monday, March 22
Sophomores	28 credits and above	Tuesday, March 23
Freshmen	16 credits and above	Wednesday, March 24
Freshmen	0 credits and above	Thursday, March 25
Post-bachelor, non- matriculated and guest students	Not applicable	Friday, March 26
All students		Saturday, March 27

The chart is based upon the combination of total degree credit hours earned on an Oakland University transcript as of Friday, March 12, 2010. Enrolled credits will not be considered.

# The Scene

www.oaklandpostonline.com

February 3, 2010

# Ferndale's muddy waters Local blues festival returns for ninth year

By ALEXIS TOMRELL Scene/Mix Editor

The blues are the grave godfather of music, set in heartbreaks and transgressions. Ferndale is youthful, unabashedly colorful in its modern downtown feel. The two make an unlikely pair.

Despite all pre-conception, organizers of the Ferndale Blues Festival have struck an authentic down home sound right outside the D.

Frigid temperatures haven't stopped thousands of attendees from visiting the Ferndale Blues Festival each year. Last year's attendance topped 20,000, and planners expect even more in 2010.

For nine days local performers play at Ferndale's downtown cafes, music venues, bars, restaurants and nightclubs to support the Ferndale Youth Assistance and the Michigan AIDS Coalition charities. The festival began Jan. 29 and ends Feb. 6.

Over 20 venues host more than 60 concerts by a diverse range of Detroit musicians, young bands and veteran musicians. Blues enthusiasts and casual spectators travel from neighboring cities to enjoy the already large and growing benefit festival.

The operation relies strictly on donations. All shows are free with no cover

Visitors can donate to the Ferndale Youth Assistance and Michigan AIDS Coalition by dropping money in the blue piggy banks at various Ferndale cafes, shops and restaurants.

Last year's festival raised over \$24,000 for local charities. One hundred percent of all money raised is donated.

"The economy's still tanking, holiday bills have come due, the days are short and the nights are long," said festival founder and Ferndale Mayor Craig Covey in a press release.

"What better time to get out of the house and listen to live music and party

with the community."
Covey also founded the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project. He is Co-Chair of the festival with Monica Mills, the Volunteer and Project Coordinator for the Michigan AIDS Council.

Covey celebrated his birthday this year by guest bartending at Rosie O'Grady's on Monday.

If one were to include all the musical styles and influences heard at the Ferndale Blues Festival, the name would stretch too long to repeat. A unique draw of the festival is its diver-

On any night attendees can hear funk, rock 'n' roll or soul. Many performers are like Marcie Bolen, a former member of Detroit garage-rockers The Von Bondies, who bring sounds from their past and current projects to create their own blend of blues fusion.

Bolen and other guest Detroit DJs will spin a mix of blues and rock 'n' roll at Sakana Sushi Lounge on Thursday

One of the weekend's biggest draws is the Third Annual BBQ Rib Burn Out. Eleven local restaurants and chefs compete for the title of "Best Ribs." For \$10 guests can sample two ribs from each team and listen to blues bands.

The event takes place Saturday Feb. 6 from noon-9 p.m. in a heated party tent behind Dino's Lounge.

At 9:30 p.m. SRB band takes the Dino's stage to finish out the night. This is the third year the electric blues cover band has performed at the fest.

"We take blues songs that were done by masters like Howlin' Wolf, B.B. King and Muddy Waters and make them more electric," said Martin "Madcat" Carter, lead singer of SRB.

Other festival perks: On Friday and Saturday night a free shuttle runs from the venues from 7:30 p.m.-3 a.m.

Four events are smoke-free concerts and a few are alcohol free.

There is also a blues brunch Saturday and Sunday at Emory from 9

Friday Feb. 5 shows: Como's: Danny Kroha & Tino Gross Dino's: The Luddites SOHO: Violet Brooks Saturday Feb. 6 shows: Como's: The Dave Walker Blues Band Buffalo Wild Wings: Bluescasters Rosie O'Grady's: Alberta Adams

For a complete performance schedule

check out ferndalebluesfestival.org.

JAN 29 - FEB 06 PARAMOUNT Additional Sponsors: Between The Lines - CBS Outdoors - Ferndale DDA Howard Shiftman P.C. - Metra Magazine Venues: Affirmations - Angel's Cafe - Buffalo Wild Wings Candle Wick Shop - Club Bart - Como's - Danny's - Dino's - Emory Ferndale Elks - Gracie's Underground - Howe's Bayou - Inyo - New Way Paramount Bank - Post - Rockin' Blues BBQ Rib Burn-Out Rosie O'Grady's - Sakana - Sneakers - SOHO - Tony's Sports Bar - WAB www.ferndalebluesfestival.org Benefits Michigan AIDS Coalition & Ferndale Youth Assistance

The Blues Fest and BBQ Burn Out has raised over \$50,000 for local charities. This year's charities are the Ferndale Youth Assistance and the Michigan AIDS Coalition.

## Post-apocalyptic entertainment

"The Book of Eli" and "The Road"

By MAS RAHMAN

Staff Reporter

MOVIE REVIEW

It's that time of year again; time for studios to release a slew of end-of-the-world movies.

In "The Book of Eli," Eli (played by Denzel Washington) passes through a town, guns-a-blazing like Dirty Harry, shooting down anyone who gets in his way. Carnegie, the town's ruler, wants and is willing to do anything to get what Eli has: a King James Bible.

In this world, all Bibles were destroyed. They were thought to be the cause of some unnamed warfare that decimated the human population and left America in anarchy. Eli is determined to take the last remaining copy of the Bible west.

Yes, it's a weak premise, but the rest of the movie makes up for it.

"The Road" shares several similarities with "Eli." As a father and son stop at nothing to stay alive in a post-apocalyptic world. Similar to "Children of Men," the main characters must transport something that will save humanity from a shattered, dangerous world.

In "Eli" it's taking the Bible west. In "The Road" it's taking the main character's son south

These themes show that even in a dog-eat-dog world, filmmakers don't feel comfortable portraying a protagonist who only cares about himself.

In both movies, the characters travel by foot because fuel is sparse. Eli has walked for 30 years and the father and son for 10.

Both movies are vague about the cause of devastation. In "The Road" the animals and trees began dying but it's unclear whether humans were affected too, or if their demise was caused by lack of food and cannibalism.

"Eli" doesn't shy away from showing people use, abuse, oppress, rape and murder other people. (Don't worry, there are no graphic scenes.) In his world, the world deteriorated because of a hole in the sky. This alludes to a nuclear war putting a hole in the ozone or other atmospheric layers, allowing harmful rays of sun to come in and kill people.

Both show how people change in extraordinary situations: Those who have given in to despair, like the mother and the cannibal slavers in "Road," those who have turned into monsters like the ruler's bandits in "Eli," and those who just try to sur-

By removing the familiar first-world state of consumerism and luxury, both films remind viewers what is important in life: Human companionship, purpose, hope, food, water, shelter and the small things (an MP3 player in "Eli" and a can of Coke in "Road").

The difference between the films lay in style and tone. "The Road" is bleak, devoid of color and obtrusive music. "Eli" is colorful, vibrant and energetic.

"Eli" is glimmered with hope throughout, unlike the innate kind of hope in "The Road"

Hope is a powerful theme in "The Road." You wonder how the characters are so resilient, when others, like the son's mother, committed suicide out of despair and hopelessness. The father tells the son the struggle is necessary because they are "carrying the fire" within.

In a rather poignant yet absurdly comical scene, a large part of the film's morality boils down to: "We don't eat people."

"The Road" is a realistic portrait of what could happen in a post-apocalyptic world. It shows things don't happen because there is a larger purpose, but just because they happen to happen.

Those interested in finding out more about what the characters think are recommended to read "The Road" by Cormac McCarthy (author of "No Country for Old Men"). Plenty of key narration is missing in the movie.

The characters in "Eli" are realistic, but they fit together in a more storybook type of way. Still, the movie is enjoyable and will leave the viewer surprised; questioning the power of faith.

The bottom line: "The Book of Eli" is easy to watch for those less inclined to grittiness and despair. "The Road" is a good movie but is full of sparseness and harsh realism; a hard sell for the casual viewer.



Photo courtesy of Warner Brothers Pictures

"The Book of Eli" released nationwide Jan. 15. It stars Denzel Washington and Mila Kunis.

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# Sports

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February 3, 2010

# Racking up school records

## Point guard plays a steady hand as the Grizzlies' leader

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

He receives the inbounds pass and dribbles up the court, motioning to teammates and calling out the play. Point guard Johnathon Jones can practically do this stuff in his sleep.

For fans of Golden Grizzlies basketball, this has been an all too familiar sight at the O'Rena for the last four years.

Since coming to Oakland University from Okemos High School four seasons ago, Jones has been a constant for head coach Greg Kampe's basketball program, starting every single game of his career—124 games and counting, a school record

That's 4,461 minutes of game action, always as the leader on the floor and the so-called "quarterback" of the offense.

"He's kind of our Peyton Manning," Kampe said.

Jones is a multi-dimensional player with the ability to shoot, score and defend, but his calling card has unquestionably been his passing and his ability to set up his teammates.

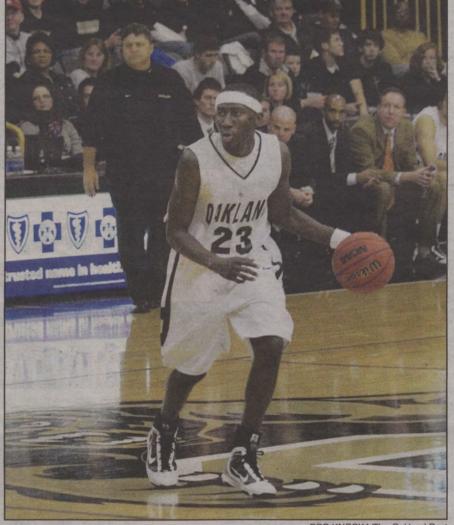
"Johnathon knows what I want and why I want it. He has the freedom to call out plays and really do anything he wants out there," Kampe said. "We collaborate and we talk a lot, but basically when the game starts, it's his show."

Earlier this season, Jones became the Summit League's all-time leader in assists in a game against Central Arkansas on Nov. 28.

The soft-spoken Jones is humbled by the numerous school and conference records he's broken this season and is sure to thank his teammates for their part in the record.

"I think the assist record stands out because a lot of people think it's just an individual award but it's also one of the best team awards," he said. "Even though I get the assists, it's the other players who are knocking down the shots, so I do think that it's a big achievement."

As for his school records for games and minutes played, Jones views these as a testament to the consistency he's shown



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post Already the school leader in games started, Johnathon Jones can tie former Grizzly Patrick McCloskey Thursday against Centenary for most career games played.

throughout his career.

Junior Larry Wright, the other half of the Grizzlies' starting backcourt this season, said Jones' patience and calm at point guard are what set him apart. The two players were re-united at Oakland this season after playing AAU basketball together in high school.

"J.J. sees the floor better than anybody I have seen play that position," Wright said. "He takes what the defense gives; he doesn't force anything. He can shoot, obviously. If he doesn't score, he doesn't get mad. He strives to make the team better and I commend him for that."

A senior now, Jones makes his play on the court look effortless, but both he and Kampe remember how his career began and all of the learning he had to do to get where he is today.

## A star rising

Upon Jones' arrival at Oakland before the 2006-07 season, Kampe said that his initial plan was to go with Keith MacKenzie as the team's starting point guard. But during a team basketball trip to Canada over Labor Day weekend that season, Jones made a huge impression on the coaches and beat out MacKenzie. Kampe entrusted the offense in the hands of a true freshman; something he's rarely done in his 26-year career.

"We sort of gave him the keys to the car, and just like you would with your own son when he's 16 years old and he's driving, you're on his butt," Kampe said. "He better have his seat belt fastened, put his blinker on, and he better do everything proper when he's driving."

Jones said that the way Kampe eased him into the role helped him to be successful in the early going and not to feel overwhelmed.

"He gave me a lot of responsibilities, but at the same time, he coached me through it," Jones said. "He would tell me what I'm doing wrong, but also what I was doing right."

The Grizzlies advanced all the way to the Summit League championship game that season, but lost to Oral Roberts.

In the years that followed, Jones continued to develop into a well-rounded player, becoming more comfortable leading the team with every passing game.

"Four years later, now Johnathon is out there driving with one hand on the wheel with his arm out the window," Kampe said. "He can do whatever he wants because he's proven that he knows how to get the car where he needs to go."

Everything seemed to come together for Jones last season as a junior. He was selected as a co-captain and continued to fill up the score sheet with assists. In 2008-09, Jones led the entire country in assists per game, averaging 8.1 per contest. He earned national recognition as a Mid-Major All-American selection, but his Grizzlies once again suffered a heart-breaking defeat in the conference championship game on a last second shot.

Continued on page 19

## Leading the way

Jones is one of just two seniors on the team this season, and serves as a captain alongside Derick Nelson.

"I embrace being a leader," Jones said. "I'm just trying to go out here and lead the young guys so we can get to the NCAA tournament."

Nelson has known Jones since a young age and has seen him progress into the player that he is now.

"I have watched him grow from the beginning playing basketball. He is just an excellent floor leader," Nelson said. "He does everything extra that you need your point guard to do and he controls his team.

In addition to his actions on the court. Jones maintains his leadership qualities wherever he goes. Whether it's an interview session with the media or community service work with his teammates, Kampe said he's the perfect guy to be the face of the Grizzlies' program.

Dan Stolz, Jones' former coach at

Okemos High School, said they've remained in close contact over the years.

"He's been a big influence to our kids and our program. He's still active within our basketball community," Stolz said.

## **Unfinished business**

This season, Jones is determined to make the most of his senior season — his final chance at taking part in March

He was voted as the preseason conference Player of the Year and received numerous other accolades heading into the year.

The Grizzlies — off to their best start in conference history — will need to win the Summit League championship in early March in order to receive a bid to the NCAA Tournament this season.

But regardless of how this season plays out, Jones will have been at the helm for several of the most successful seasons in school history.

"In 26 years, I've coached a lot of great players and I'm not going to get into the habit of saying who the greatest is, but from a statistical standpoint, (Jones) has a chance to leave here as the winningest player in the program's history," Kampe said. "That tells you right there where I'm going to rank him because the most important thing to me is winning."



## **GAME SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 3 - 9**

### Men's Basketball

2/4 vs. Centenary 7 p.m. 2/6 vs. Oral Roberts 6 p.m. Visit www.oaklandpostonline.com for game stories and out of town basketball scores.

### Women's Basketball

2/6 vs. Oral Roberts 3:30 p.m. 2/8 vs. Centenary 6:30 p.m.

### **Indoor Track & Field**

2/6 Meyo Invitational in Shreveport, La.



## **Club Hockey**

2/4 vs. Davenport 8:40 p.m. 2/5 at Davenport 2/6 vs. Davenport 8:40 p.m.

### **Swimming & Diving**

No events scheduled, season resumes 2/12

## Scores from the road

## Men's basketball

Jan. 28 — The Golden Grizzlies men's team saw its nine-game winning streak snapped Thursday night and lost its stranglehold on the conference standings as IUPUI dominated Oakland University in a 78-54 final.

OU trailed by just six points at half-time, but IUPUI poured it on at the end, taking advantage of an uncharacteristically porous Grizzlies defense

Only two Grizzlies, Derick Nelson and Larry Wright, reached double figures.

The two teams are tied atop the conference standings with identical 9-1 records, having lost only to each other this sea-

Jan. 30 — Oakland survived a scare against Western Illinois Saturday night, holding on for a 68-64 win.

With the Grizzlies leading by just a single point with under a minute to play in the game, Wright buried a 3-point shot to seal the victory. After the game, head coach Greg Kampe called it the biggest shot of Wright's career.

Wright was a perfect 5-for-5 on the evening from behind the arc, leading OU with 19 points.

Oakland (16-8, 10-1) will return to action Thursday against Centenary.

## Women's basketball

Jan. 30 — OU improved to 7-3 in conference play Saturday, knocking off Western Illinois in a low-scoring 52-36

The Grizzlies went into halftime with a four-point lead and steadily expanded their advantage in the second half.

Senior forward Hanna Reising scored nine points to become the 23rd player in school history to reach 1,000 career points. Freshman Bethany Watterworth led all scorers with 15 points.

Western Illinois was limited to under 25 percent shooting from the floor, converting just one 3-pointer.

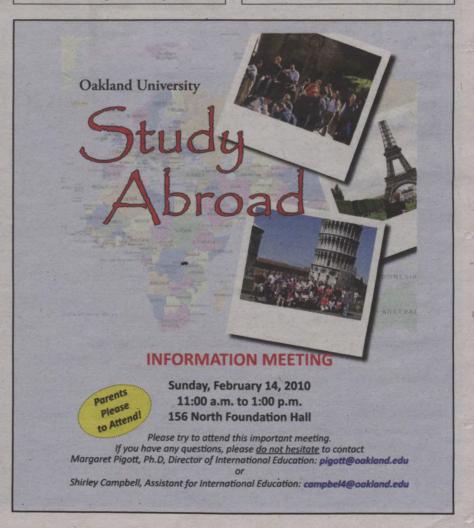
Feb. 1 — The women's team defeated IUPUI for the second time this season in a 74-55 victory Monday night.

Senior Melissa Jeltema recorded a double-double, scoring 22 points and recording a season-high 13 rebounds.

Other offensive contributors for the Grizzlies included 15 points from sophomore Sharise Calhoun and 11 points from Watterworth.

IUPUI fell behind early and spent nearly the entire second half down by 20 points or more.

OU (11-11, 8-3) will take on Oral Roberts at home Saturday.



## Protesters gear up for speech

By TIM MARTIN AP Writer

LANSING — Students upset about cuts to education funding and groups leery of possible tax increase proposals are expected to protest Wednesday outside Gov. Jennifer Granholm's final State of the State address.

Capitol event managers say they won't be surprised if about 1,000 people demonstrate outside the stately dome as Granholm addresses lawmakers inside.

Some of Granholm's annual speeches have drawn only a few dozen protesters. But David Sole, whose group has called for action to prevent foreclosures and utility shutoffs at four consecutive State of the State addresses, expects plenty of company from other organizations this year due to Michigan's worsening economic slump.

"There are a number of groups with concerns that will be out there," Sole said. "It's happening now rather than a year or two ago because the crisis is deepening." Michigan's jobless rate, 14.6 percent in December, has doubled in the past two years and has been highest in the nation for nearly four straight years.

Some who still have jobs have had their pay and benefits frozen or reduced. The state's government budget problems continue to worsen in large part because of falling tax revenues, with a shortfall of at least \$1.6 billion expected for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

Six organizations have contacted Capitol facility managers about planned protests Wednesday.

Some protesters are coming because they think taxes are too high, driving away businesses and depriving families of disposable income. Other protesters will argue that taxes are too low or that taxes are spent the wrong way, with not enough investment in education and other public programs that would brighten Michigan's future.

School funding has been slashed by a minimum of \$165 per student this academic year. Cuts are much deeper in some districts. The state eliminated funding for its main college scholarship program, leaving about 96,000 students without the \$1,000 or \$2,000 most expected to help pay their tuition. And the situation could be even worse headed into next fall.

"We need to get Michigan on the right track again," said Christian Vanderbush, an East Lansing High School sophomore helping to organize one of Wednesday's protests. "We feel education is where to start with that. If the education's great, the rest will follow."

Other protesters will ask lawmakers to raise taxes on alcohol and devote the proceeds from the increase to programs for mental health and victims of prenatal alcohol exposure.

"These are tough times and people are showing their elected leaders what is important to them," Granholm spokeswoman Liz Boyd said.

Boyd said that people know "unfair trade policies and globalization" have contributed to Michigan's job loss and that Granholm is focused on diversifying the economy and helping to create jobs. Protester dissatisfaction goes beyond Granholm. Many of the groups planning protests Wednesday say they aren't happy with Democrats or Republicans in the state Legislature and the federal government, either.

Members of the Tea Party, a loose confederation of conservative activists who opposed the federal bailouts of the financial system and automakers as well as President Barack Obama's proposed health care overhaul, are expected outside the state Capitol on Wednesday.

The Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, which campaigned against state tax increases in 2007 and is on guard in case another materializes this year, is part of a wide-ranging protest billed as the "State of the Citizens" address.

"Too much of the State of the State address is about what the budget for the state looks like and what the government is experiencing," said Leon Drolet, leader of the Michigan Taxpayers Alliance and a former Republican state lawmaker. "This is to tell the government what the people are experiencing."

## Local news briefs: reverting roads, heroin bust

### Michigan continues turning paved roads to gravel

DETROIT — Two artists who have encased one of Detroit's thousands of abandoned homes in ice are hoping their effort inspires and helps draw attention to the housing crisis that has battered the nation.

Photographer Gregory Holm and architect Matthew Radune have spent weeks spraying water on the home for the Ice House Detroit project. They plan to bring in large lights Friday to illuminate the house.

They haven't yet made the house's location public, but passers-by have already gotten a peek.

The project also included helping a Detroit woman get a home by paying back taxes on a foreclosure. This spring, the plan is to take apart the home so building materials can be reused.

The Detroit area's foreclosure rate is among the country's highest.

### Woman given six months to divorce one of her husbands

BAD AXE — There are matchmakers and then there are match breakers, such as the Huron County judge who sent a woman to jail for polygamy and gave her six months to divorce one of her husbands.

Lorri L. Freesland of Kinde pleaded guilty to the charge in December.

Authorities have said she wasn't divorced from the man she married in 2000 in Macomb County's Clinton Township when she married her second husband Aug. 3, 2007. Her first husband moved to Alaska in 2006.

Prosecutor Timothy J. Rutkowski said that Circuit Judge M. Richard Knoblock on Monday sentenced the 43-year-old Freesland to 15 days in jail and one year of probation. He also told her she had six months to resolve her marital status.

### Motor City freeze: Detroit home encased in ice

LANSING— More Michigan counties are returning stretches of previously paved roads back to gravel to save money.

The County Road Association of Michigan said Tuesday that 35 miles were returned to gravel in 2009. Thirty-eight counties have combined to pulverize about 100 miles of pavement and lay down gravel in the past few years.

The main reason is that counties lack money to reconstruct or repave deteriorating

A few communities in other states including Pennsylvania, Indiana and Vermont also have reverted a few miles to gravel.

Michigan road construction groups are seeking higher fuel taxes to generate more money for road and bridge repairs. The proposals have run into opposition from groups opposed to tax increases.

### Blind drop: Detroit, feds seize 1.5 pounds of heroin

DETROIT — Detroit police Chief Warren Evans says authorities have seized about 1.5 pounds of heroin being delivered to a vacant house.

Evans says his officers and agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement intercepted a package that was sent to a house on Detroit's west side over the weekend.

Evans estimates the heroin had a street value of about \$1.3 million. On Jan. 26, Evans announced police had seized about 1,130 pounds of marijuana in two separate raids.

Source: The Associated Press

Dimmy John

## Pres. Obama seeks \$300M for clean up

By JOHN FLESHER AP Environmental Reporter

TRAVERSE CITY — A Great Lakes fix-up plan designed to ward off species invasions, cleanse harbors and make other repairs would get \$300 million under the budget President Barack Obama released Monday.

The amount is down from the \$475 million Congress appropriated for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative last year at Obama's request. Administration officials said the dropoff for the 2011 fiscal year is reasonable, with federal agencies under pressure to cut costs.

It "reflects the difficult economic times while recognizing the president's continued commitment to restoring and protecting this vital environmental and economic treasure." the Environmental Protection Agency said in a statement.

EPA chief Lisa Jackson called the \$300-million request "robust," noting that much of the money from last year had yet to be spent.

The Great Lakes restoration initiative calls for funds to be spent on measures including slamming the door on exotic species, removing sediments laced with toxins, improving habitat and reducing runoff of pollutants that cause algae blooms and oxygen-deprived "dead zones."

Environmental activists complained that Obama was not keeping pace with his campaign pledge to pump \$5 billion into restoration, but acknowledged he was seeking more for the lakes than any of his predecessors.

The proposal was "not the amount of funding we had hoped for" but is a step forward, said Jeff Skelding, campaign director of Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition.

"The level of funding that the president committed indicates that he understands the plight of the Great Lakes and the urgency to do something about it," Skelding said.

The Great Lakes Commission, an agency representing the region's eight states, will ask Congress to duplicate last year's \$475 million appropriation, said Tim Eder, executive director.

"We're certainly better off than we were, but we have to recognize that the need is still much greater," he

Obama's request doesn't include money the region will get under a separate loan program for upgrading sewage treatment infrastructure.

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# Nation/World

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February 3, 2010

## Defense Sec. seeks repeal of "Don't ask..."

By ANNE FLAHERTY Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — It's time to repeal the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and allow gay troops to serve openly for the first time in history, the nation's top defense officials declared Tuesday, with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff proclaiming that service members should not be forced to "lie about who they are."

However, both Defense Secretary Robert Gates and

However, both Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen asked for a year to study the impact before Congress would lift the controversial policy.

Reversing the Pentagon's 17-year-old policy toward gays "comes down to integrity," for the military as an institution as well as the service members themselves, Mullen told a Senate hearing. Not persuaded, several Republican senators said they would oppose any congressional effort to repeal the policy.

Ten months before voters elect a new Congress, some Democratic leaders also were leery of trying to change the policy this year, when both sides concede Republicans are likely to pick up seats, especially after GOP Sen.elect Scott Brown's surprise victory last month in Massachusetts.

Repealing don't-ask-don't-tell is not a winning campaign strategy for a party under siege especially in the South and Midwest.

"What do I want members to do in their districts? I want them to focus on jobs and fiscal responsibility," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., classifying gays in the military in a category of "a lot of other issues" that will invariably come up.

"It's never a good year" for Democrats to bring up the controversial policy, said Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois. "You can expect that it's going to be a rough ride."

However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he didn't see why it should wait another year.

The Pentagon announced an 11-month review of how the ban could be lifted, as President Barack Obama has said he will work to do. But there is no deadline for ending the policy that dates to President Bill Clinton's tenure and that gay rights advocates are pressing to overturn.

In the meantime, Gates announced plans to loosen enforcement rules for the policy, which says, in essence, that gays may serve so long as they keep their sexuality private.

Obama has called for repeal but has done little in his first year in office to advance that goal. If he succeeds, it would mark the biggest shake-up to military personnel policies since President Harry S. Truman's 1948 executive order integrating the services.

Homosexuality has never been openly tolerated in the American military, and the 1993 policy was intended to be a compromise that let gay men and women serve so long as they stayed silent about their sexuality.

Clinton had wanted to repeal the ban entirely, but the military and many in Congress argued that doing so would dangerously disrupt order. Repealing the ban would take an act of Congress.

## Toyota stalled by pedal recalls

By YURI KAGEYAMA Associated Press Writer

NAGOYA, Japan — Toyota's fix for the gas pedal problem that led to the recall of millions of cars has not come soon enough to prevent a consumer backlash in the U.S. and elsewhere that is battering its sales.

One of the automaker's top executives on Tuesday said the damage from the global recall of nearly 4.5 million vehicles may be greater than previous quality problems because of the massive scale.

"This is unprecedented in having caused this huge problem for customers," said Shinichi Sasaki, who oversees quality control at the world's No. 1 automaker

He said it was too soon to put a number on the ultimate cost of the recall. But Tatsuo Yoshida, an auto analyst at UBS in Tokyo, estimated the recalls are likely to cost about \$900 million, and lost sales are already costing Toyota another \$155 million a week

The recall to fix a gas pedal that can stick when depressed covers some 2.3 million vehicles in the United States alone, including some of Toyota's best-selling models, such as the Camry and Corolla. The company has recalled millions more because of floor mats that can catch the gas pedal.

Toyota apologized to its customers Monday and

said a piece of steel about the size of a postage stamp will fix the gas pedal problem. Repairs will take about a half-hour and will start in a matter of days, the company said.

The repair involves installing a steel shim a couple of millimeters thick in the pedal assembly, behind the top of the gas pedal, to eliminate the excess friction between two pieces of the accelerator mechanism. In rare cases, Toyota says, that friction can cause the pedal to become stuck in the depressed position.

Toyota insisted the solution, rolled out six days after it temporarily stopped selling some of its top models, has been through rigorous testing and will solve the problem for the life of the car.

After a week in which Toyota drivers said they were worried about the safety of their cars and dealers were frustrated by a lack of information, Toyota said it would work to regain the trust of its customers.

"This is embarrassing for us to have ... this kind of recall situation," Jim Lentz, president of Toyota Motor Sales USA, told reporters. "But it doesn't necessarily mean that we have lost our edge on quality. But we do have to be vigilant. We have to redouble our efforts to make sure this doesn't happen again."

The National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration said it had "no reason to challenge
this remedy."

## NIW BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

2-2 | TEHRAN — Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday proposed a swap of Iranians in U.S. prisons for three American hikers being held in Tehran. Ahmadinejad said in an interview with state TV that there were ongoing negotiations about exchanging the hikers for several Iranians jailed for years in the United States. "There are some talks under way to have an exchange, if it is possible," he said. "Recently they (the U.S.) have sent messages, we answered to bring them (the Iranians), to bring these people (the hikers). We are hopeful that all prisoners will be released." Ahmadinejad did not mention any specifics but in December Iran released a list of 11 Iranians it says are being held in the U.S. — including a nuclear scientist who disappeared in Saudi Arabia and a former Defense Ministry official who vanished in Turkey.

2-2 | TAMPA, Fla. — A 43-year-old man who had won millions in a lottery jackpot before he went missing nine months ago died of "homicidal violence," Florida authorities said Tuesday. Further information on how Abraham Shakespeare died would not be released, Hillsborough County Sheriff's spokeswoman Debbie Carter said in a news release. The body of the former truck driver's assistant who won \$30 million in the lottery in 2006 was found Thursday, buried behind a home, beneath a concrete slab. Shakespeare, of Lakeland, was last seen in April of 2009 and officials have long thought he was slain. No arrests have been made in the case. In January, Polk officials named a "person of interest" in Shakespeare's disappearance: Dorice "DeeDee" Moore, who befriended the lottery winner after he claimed the winning ticket and took a \$17 million lump sum payment.

2-2 | PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Twenty armed men blocked a road and tried to hijack a convoy of food for earthquake victims, but were driven off by police gunfire, U.N. officials said Tuesday as they warned of security problems in a still-desperate nation. The attack on the convoy as it carried supplies from an airport in the southern town of Jeremie underscored the shaky safety in the streets that has added to Haitians' frustration at the slow pace of aid since the Jan. 12 earthquake. Most quake victims are still living outside in squalid tents of sheets and sticks and aid officials acknowledge they have not yet gotten food to the majority of those in need. Mobs have stolen food and looted goods, prompting many to band together or stay awake at night.

2-2| JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — A western Pennsylvania woman faces a hearing on charges that she hit a transit but driver in the head with a snowball because he wouldn't let her board with an expired bus pass. Lateia Jefferson, 20, was accused of cursing at the Cambria County Transit Authority driver and hitting him with the snowball on Jan. 20.Her preliminary hearing on charges of disorderly conduct, harassment and resisting arrest was set for March 4 before a district judge in Johnstown.

# Mouthing Off February 3, 2010

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

# The log out freak out

## Reporter goes a week off Facebook to prove he's no addict

By MIKE SANDULA Senior reporter, Facebombing victim

"You're addicted to Facebook," Mouthing Off Editor Dan Simons, while slaming his fifth energy drink of the day, said to me last week.

I told him he was crazy, and on Facebook Chat, no less.

He said I should seek help, which made me think, "Hmm, I wonder if there's a Facebook group ... I could join that.'

Maybe he's right. It's time to ditch my disease. I'll need support though. If I create a cause ..

That's it. I'm forcing myself to quit. Cold turkey. Temporarily anyway, so maybe just room-temperature turkey. No Facebook for an entire week. This should prove to be quite eventful. In fact, I'll

make an event and ...

Damnit. This is going to be a rough

## 12:01 p.m. Tuesday

My Facebook status reads: "Mike Sandula, for the sake of objectivity, will not be on Facebook for an entire week. Call, text or e-mail if you need to get a hold of me. Thanks. :D'

2:11 p.m. Tuesday

Just over two hours in and I find myself wondering how many people have commented or liked my last status. I need help.

11:36 a.m. Wednesday

Per my normal morning routine, I just fired up my MacBook, opened up Safari, and went to click "Facebook" on my bookmarks bar. I'm probably going to have to remove that if I'm to make it through the

## 12:38 p.m. Thursday

During our Post-Mortem staff meeting, my fellow Posties expressed doubt that I can go all week. Game on. Only 120 more

## 3:47 p.m. Thursday

In class. Bored. I'd text someone, but the professor doesn't allow cell phones. He only allows laptops because he thinks

I could surf the Internet, but truth be told, I don't even want to go online anymore. I deleted Facebook from my bookmarks, but it's still too tempting. It's like when you break up with someone and you avoid your usual hangout spots out of fear you might run into her.

The twitching isn't as bad as I thought. I'm stronger than this, I can go without notifications, a poke, a Mafia Wars invite. Is there a Facebook Anonymous?

4:42 p.m. Friday
I just overheard the funniest thing in Café O'Bears. It would have made for a great Facebook status. What a waste. I could tweet it, but it's just not the same.

6:13 p.m. Sunday

We had a family get-together today and my brother took a picture of my grandma and I. I told her I'd tag her, to which she said, "What?" and I quickly responded, "Oh. Never mind."

## 10:45 a.m. Monday

Remember MySpace?

Yeah, I didn't either until I was desperate for social networking of some kind. It took only two minutes of seeing that only semi-acquaintances that I never talk to seem to use it anymore to be reminded of how horrendously lame it is.

Painfully cluttered profiles and the songs of a random band starting up without my say so makes me long for the clean, white background quietness of Facebook

I can do this. I can stick this out for one

## 11:02 a.m. Tuesday

Just one more hour. At this point I'm merely bracing myself for the hundreds of notifications I know my fellow Posties left me. I turned off all e-mail notifications a long time ago, so I don't even know what to expect. It's going to take a full week of nothing but Facebook to sort through the

## 12:03 p.m. Tuesday

I definitely got Facebombed (when a person or group of people leave a string

"iPad," uSay? Well, iMad

Get off Facebook and check our site for a web-exclusive Mouthing Off about Apple's newest gimmick



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post Reporter Mike Sandula, checking his Facebook after a week long abscence. Next: A Tweetless month?

of comments on your wall with the sole intention of giving you dozens of little red notification flags).

Fortunately, being away from Facebook for a week left me immune to Facejacking (when you leave your Facebook up and your "friends" sabotage your account).

Never, eyer leave your Facebook account open. I've seen damage done to profiles as innocent as a simple status change to friending the weirdest person we know, changing your relationship status to being engaged to a sibling, changing the profile picture and listing "Office dumbass" as our job title.

Now I need to write a story about my week away from Facebook for the Mouthing Off section, but I'm too distracted by all these comments, invitations, requests and messages

It's good to know that while I was productive and getting homework done, my co-workers were reciting entire conversations from "The Office" in the comment

section of a wall post. Oh, and each one of them "liked" it too.

My personal favorite was a message from Graphics Editor Jason Willis that simply read, "Yo."

The "99" at the bottom right-hand corner of my screen won't go away. It even briefly read "101" (Couldn't snag a picture or a screenshot, but I had witnesses). I thought it stopped at double digits. Did this experiment break Facebook

But even more historic than being the first person to break triple digits for little red flags was the fact that I successfully went an entire week without Facebook, a feat never before accomplished by a college student

By the way, one string of a dozen backand-forth e-mail messages does not count as cheating, regardless of what a certain sassy ginger co-worker may tell you.

I'd lecture more about the dangers of Facebook, but someone just commented on my status and I need to reply.

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