

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 10, 2010

Volume 36, Number 23



BETTER THAN THE MOVIES

The spirited crowd. The comeback.
The last-second jumper. The win.

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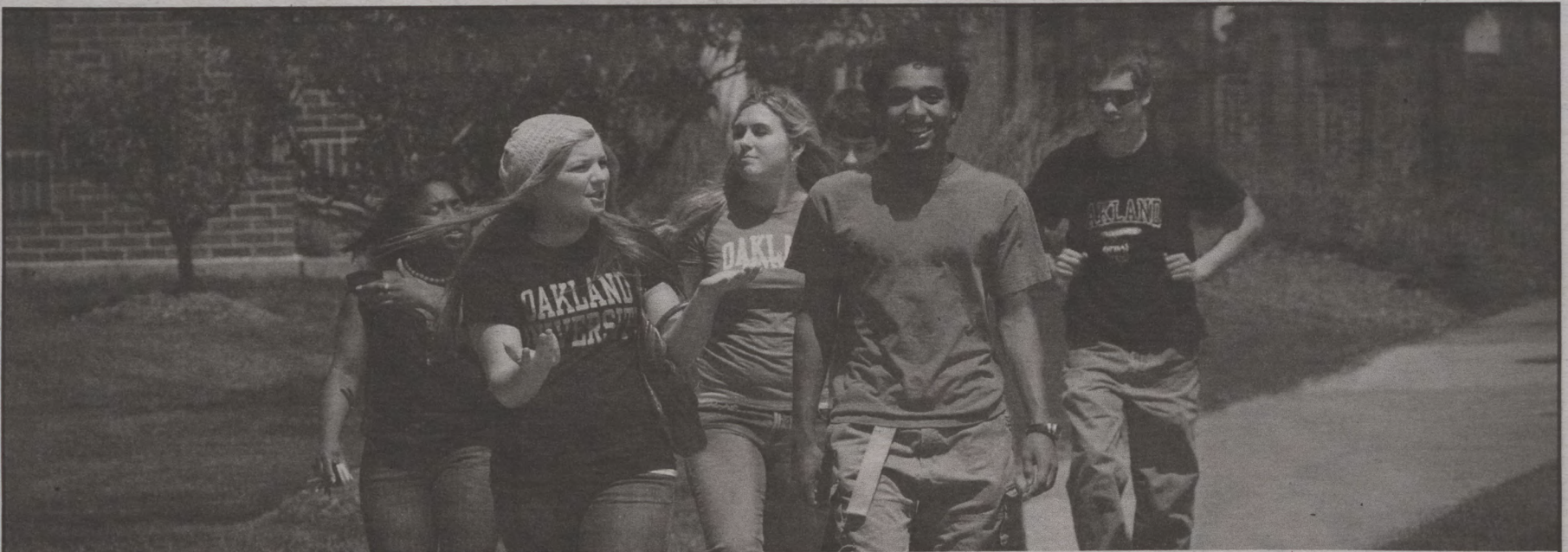
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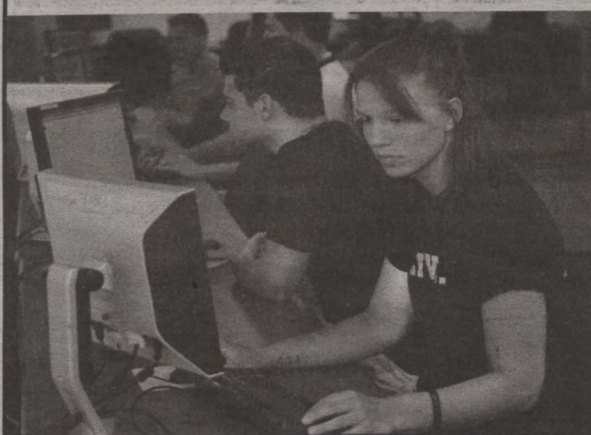
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Tell us where you like to go for Mediterranean, haircuts and more, for chance at tons of prizes. Only on

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Cover photos by Bob Knoska and Jason Willis

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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"To provide a forum for news, information, opinion and discussion for the Oakland University community."

— The Oakland Post mission statement

Perspectives

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February 10, 2010

STAFF EDITORIAL

Student apathy: A false charge

OU is debunking and defying unflattering myths

For those who say college students are apathetic, we suggest taking a closer look.

It's a common misconception that young adults are oblivious to current events, that they don't care what's going on in the world, and that all they do is party and drink. Unfortunately, it's an opinion that even The Oakland Post has given weight to at times.

Taking a closer look, The Post has mounting evidence to the contrary; we checked our archives for the proof. (OK, we're not denying that college students party, but that's not all we do.)

Take into consideration all of the charitable involvement on OU's campus. Last month's Haiti-Palooza! was a wild success, raising over \$3,000 — almost \$7,000 if you consider President Gary Russi's match.

This week Sigma Alpha Epsilon launches their Bic-A-Brother fundraiser, where the proceeds will help Leukemia research. If shaving your head for cancer research doesn't constitute as dedication, we don't know what does. Our own Mouthing Off editor donated his hair to make a wig.

Phi Sigma Sigma will be hosting their

annual Mr. PhiSignificant male charm pageant this Saturday. Their Wild Wild West theme will raise money for the National Kidney Foundation.

Student organizations across campus are participating in events like Relay for Life, another program raising money for cancer research in March.

Philanthropic events aren't the only way students are championing awareness on OU's campus. Events like this Friday's "Who's Got Crabs?" are commonplace in OU Housing to educate residents and commuters about social issues. The program is dedicated to sexual education and safety, with a light-hearted and fun spin. (See our cover story on page 6 for more details.)

Think about it: We have an impact on society. Young adults were an important demographic in our last presidential election. And President Obama's use of our generation's technology worked to his advantage.

At OU, student interest in politics is no different. When former radical Bill Ayers came to OU last spring there was an impressive turnout. The event was viewed as controversial by some, as Ayers was once a member of the 1960s

Weather Underground, and is viewed by some as a "terrorist." Supporters and dissenters alike gathered to participate in the event.

Last fall during the professors' union strike, students made sure their voices were heard above the clamor. They went to board of trustee meetings, attended the rallies, and gave their two cents on the issues.

To say that young adults are lazy, uninterested and undeserving of respect is out of date and out of line.

In today's current economy, college students are realizing that a cushy lifestyle will not be handed to them on a silver platter. The days of easy jobs and easy money are long gone; you have to work twice as hard if you want to succeed. In fact, we will probably have to work harder than our parents ever imagined when they were our age.

Our participation in local and national charities, our awareness of important social, political and university issues, and our avid interest in our futures all amount to one thing: We are not oblivious.

We are the exact opposite. We know it — now it's time to spread the word.

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Letter Policy:

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



CORRECTIONS CORNER

In last week's "Special presentation given to OUSC," Schlaff is hoping to keep the computer lab in the lower level of the OC open 24/7, not the Student Technology Center.

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

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

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Media messages offer false satisfaction, pressure



Christy
O'Shaughnessy
staff intern

Everywhere I go I find I am bombarded with a multitude of messages about what I should be or what lifestyle is the right one to pursue.

I never really noticed it until I took a class last semester that focused exclusively on the nature of advertisement; it has been on my mind ever since.

Looking back at my teen years, and even now, I am concerned on how these messages have shaped me and I wonder if my actions and what I do are because of personal decisions or rather due to a company wanting to sell a product.

An example is the Reebok Easy Tone shoe. In class we picked apart the commercial saying how ridiculous it was that a shoe is all that is needed for a perfect body. Yet I found myself still wanting to buy the shoe, or at least work out more.

Most people would deny the ad had any effect on them or say that those messages don't really work. However, I still have seen people wearing the fitness shoe. Even if it is not the Reebok brand, the advertisement worked.

And that's not even the most intrusive part. On Facebook there are always advertisements on the side that have been clearly put there based on information about you.

Yes, Facebook is voluntary and the information given is of one's own choosing. But I can't help but feel a little weirded out when I try to close the ad and Facebook wants some sort of in depth reasoning behind it so it can better tailor a company's message to me.

All of this made me rethink about what I post and what information I volunteer on this site. Sometimes it can be made such a personal thing, and it's so easy to make it that way.

Facebook is not free. Although we don't pay a monetary amount, we pay with information about ourselves.

Okay, so that's nothing new to most people. We all know how it's run, but I don't think we really consider how it shapes us and our society. Nor do we really care, especially when we should.

Moreover, the trend now is the link between a product and a lifestyle. It is not enough to market an item or items showing how they work and what they do. Now you must put a personal identity one can automatically have by purchasing it.

A huge example of this is the Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen brand. Although now it is "Elizabeth and James," the Olsen twins once had a lifestyle brand for young girls and tweens. They sold pretty much everything imaginable, from bedding and clothing to hair products and cosmetics.

You name it and they probably had it, and they sold it by marketing through their TV shows, books and movies, not to mention a website that acted as a behavior instruction manual for girls and how the Mary-Kate and Ashley product line could help them achieve a certain way of being.

In any mall, in every store, there is the same thing happening. The store is selling an image with the product. An image of what kind of person you can instantly become.

In the film "Confessions of a Shopaholic," there is a scene where a mannequin is telling the consumer how a green scarf will define her in a new way and somehow change her personality and how people react to her. This kind of thinking where anybody can buy their personality has given society a phony touch.

If we would stop buying into the notion that says consumption is the key to personality, we could all be more genuine and happy people. When a person can buy themselves an identity the real work needed to establish such is cut out of the equation. So there is no real satisfaction. And frequently it seems buying a personality is a way of coping with other issues with the self in a way that does not solve whatever problem lies at heart.

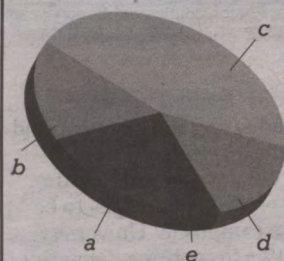
If we were all a little more conscious of why we consume products and how we think about identity, the societal issues we have currently would benefit. It would balance out the power between consumers and the marketing industry. Because we would change what we value and like, and they, in turn, would have to market differently to make money.

Happiness is what we are all chasing and when we put the choice to be happy back to ourselves and not external wants and needs like material items, it can be achieved at a higher rate than what it is currently. The amount of control others have on us would be minimized as well.

And who wouldn't want that?

poll of the week

last issue's results Total Votes: 30 | Poll conducted at oaklandpostonline.com



What's your favorite part of the Super Bowl?

- a) The football game, duh.
5 votes | 16.7%
- b) The food and beverages.
5 votes | 16.7%
- c) The commercials.
13 votes | 43.3%
- d) I enjoy the whole experience.
5 votes | 16.7%
- e) The halftime show.
2 votes | 6.6%

current poll

Vote now @ oaklandpostonline.com

When did you start to receive sex education and information about STDs? Read about campus awareness campaigns on page 6.

- a) Sometime around or before middle school.
- b) When I was in high school.
- c) Not until I started going to college.
- d) What's sex? What's an STD?



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Students ask: Who's got crabs?

Program teaches STI signs, symptoms and prevention tactics

By KAY NGUYEN
Campus Editor

Pillows shaped like genitalia, dildos and condoms; these are only some of the things one will find in the Vandenberg dining center Friday.

The cafeteria is not being converted into an adult novelty shop. Rather a program entitled "Who's got crabs?" will be taking place at 7 p.m.

Organized by senior nursing student Simon Keleel, the event is designed to educate Oakland University Housing residents and other participants about sex, contraceptives, sexually transmitted diseases and communication between partners.

"The program is not meant to endorse sexual activities," Keleel said. "It's meant to educate residents and participants on healthy sexual decisions and that abstinence is the only way to protect against STDs and pregnancy."

In its fourth year of existence now, Keleel hopes to bring his attendance numbers up. His initial audience of 40 grew to 130 last year. He hopes to have a group of 150 this year.

The hour and a half long program will start off with skits about communication regarding condom usage and how to combat those pushing for unprotected sex.

Attendees are encouraged to participate in the open discussion. Keleel acknowledges that some may feel uncomfortable with the subject matter.

"Who doesn't want to go to a program that's entitled 'Who's got crabs?'" Whitney Litzner, a past participant said. "The program is so interesting and educational, but it's so funny at the same time and that's what makes it such a great program."

Disclaimers are given about the nature of the program at the beginning and posted around the venue.

"People normally laugh when they're uncomfortable and we have humor within the program, so you really can't tell if someone's uncomfortable or not because everybody is laughing anyway," Keleel said. "We talk about penises. We talk about vaginas and say the words that you don't say at the dinner table."

Keleel encourages attendees who leave to come back after the program to ask

resident advisors any unanswered questions and to contact him or the Graham Health Center with questions.

After the skits are completed, the room will then be split into groups for a game-show style game about sexual education.

Categories include "pick your protection," "genital slang," "drips and sores," "positions," "decode your discharge" and "miscellaneous orgy."

In keeping with the "anything-goes" atmosphere of topical discussions, the category "positions" is acted out as opposed to described in Jeopardy-style.

The winning team will score free Trojan brand condoms, courtesy of Graham Health Center.

Questions during the following educational session are answered by Keleel. Questions he cannot answer will be deferred to Julie Thams, a physician assistant at Graham Health Center.

In addition to the question-and-answer segment, Keleel also performs experiments that highlight how easily condoms can break because of using oil-based lubricants.

Kenny Marion, a friend of Keleel's, will be attending for the first time and is also involved in one this year's demonstrations.

"It's going to be a good, informative event but it's also going to be fun," Marion said. "Simon likes to put on a good time so it's not going to be a boring lecture or sex education class."

He will be blowing up a condom on his head for the event.

"Who's got crabs?" began when Keleel teamed up with another RA and began to brainstorm "big, large-scale programs" in order to fulfill one of the requirements of being an RA.

Litzner, also a former RA, has helped Keleel with "Who's got crabs?" in addition to hosting her own programs, which are interactive events with residents of student housing.

She said that there are no other programming events that are done to the scale of Keleel's.

The idea came just as spring break was around the corner, spurring the idea of 'spring break souvenirs,' or STD awareness.

"I'm excited for it; it's a good topical issue ... the whole college and unpro-



Photos courtesy of Simon Keleel

Students participated last year in an experiment during "Who's got crabs?" that showed how using different types of lubrication can affect a latex condom's effectiveness.

tected sex thing," Marion said.

Since then, it has been done the week before spring break.

"They are timed around Valentine's Day and spring break," Thams said. "We want to help decrease risks of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies."

Due to scheduling conflicts this year, Keleel moved it to an earlier Friday, making the event coincidentally fall right before Valentine's Day.

"I don't want to just be selling sex throughout the entire program," Keleel said. "You're going to come with a bunch of other people and it's not just you walking into a doctor's office asking uncomfortable questions."

The program will be evaluated by a wellness, health promotion and injury prevention class called Evaluation of Health and Wellness Programs (WHP

460), which he is "excited" about.

Keleel is graduating in December and hopes to become a registered nurse. Though he is unsure about the future of the unique program, he hopes to be invited back to campus by University Housing in order to continue doing this event.

Though it is not required of him to put on this program, as he is no longer an RA, Keleel voluntarily organized it this year.

"Everybody asks questions and that keeps me wanting to do it more," Keleel said. "It's really cool knowing that people are walking away from the program learning something."

"Who's got crabs?" will take place in the Vandenberg dining center this Friday at 7 p.m.

—Contributor Brad Slazinski and staff intern Jen Bucciarelli contributed to this report

Bear Bus shuttle could roar to life

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

"Exactly 20 minutes," Oakland University Student Congress legislator Brett McIsaac said as he put his Volkswagen in park in P-11.

He and OUSC student services director Jarret Schlaff are hoping to have Oakland University's Bear Bus operate during peak hours throughout the week.

The route they're proposing takes 20 minutes, and with both Bear Bus shuttles running throughout campus, that means students could get picked up or dropped off every 10 minutes if their plan is approved.

They rode the Bear Bus last week to get the drivers' opinions on where stops should be made and what the route should be and did test runs Tuesday in McIsaac's car to time the length of the route.

Figuring in the 45 seconds of waiting time at each of the nine stops, the total ride time would be 20 minutes.

Each of the stops would require a sign or flag advertising it. McIsaac and Schlaff would also want to distribute maps to students.

Once they have costs for gas and maintenance figured out, they'll be presenting their proposal to the administration.

"If they approve it, they're only approving a (one to two month) trial period," Schlaff said.

McIsaac was named OU Student Congress legislator of the month at their last meeting Monday for his work with the Bear Bus proposal.

Currently, McIsaac and Schlaff hope to have the service run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We're starting out with just four hours a day," McIsaac said. "If it proves to be a success, we hope to extend it."

Stops include P-11 and University Drive Circle. They were going to have the route include Squirrel Road and Walton Boulevard to avoid campus traffic, but they said it added another mile as well as five minutes.

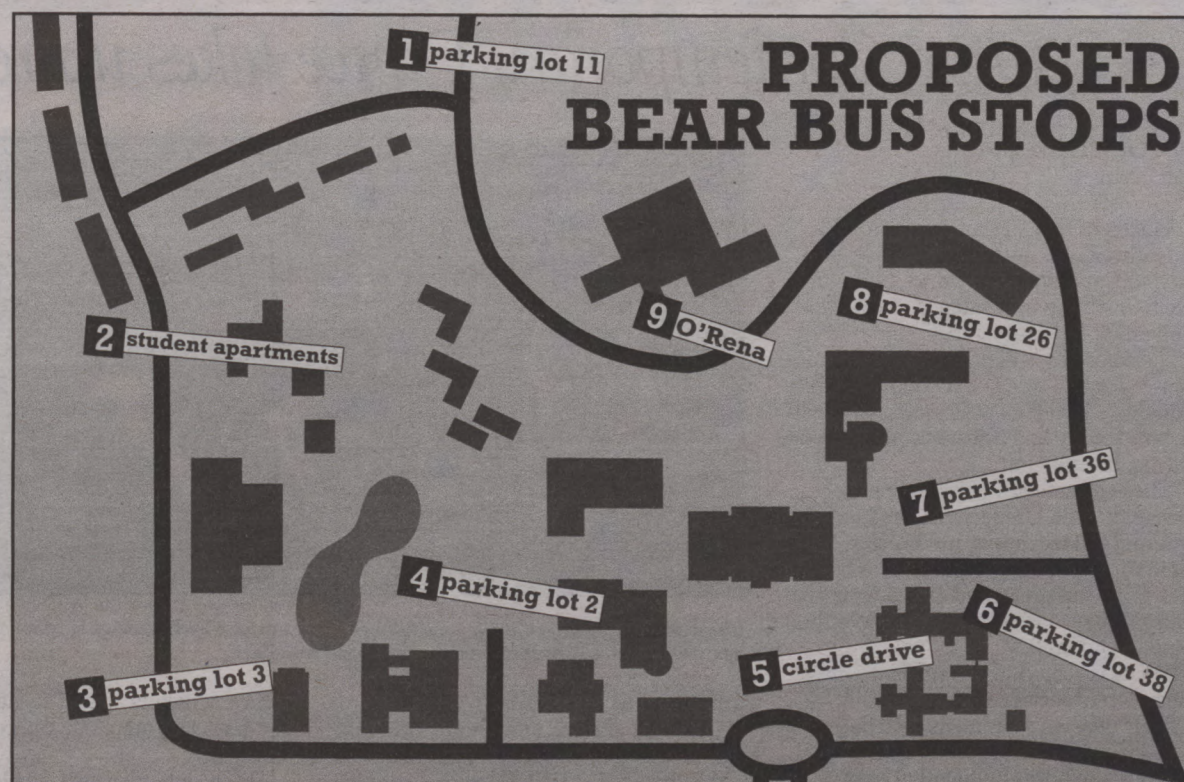


Photo illustration by Jason Willis

The above map is a projected rendering of the Bear Bus shuttle route around campus based on trial runs. The proposal is now being finalized after successful trial runs. It has yet to be formally presented.

Schlaff and McIsaac said another issue was getting drivers during the week.

"We will be actively seeking out student drivers," Schlaff said. "All you need is a chauffeur's license to apply."

According to the proposal, University Housing would pay the drivers.

The service would be free for all OU students.

"And you can't say we're not keeping OU students physically fit: We have a stop at the Rec Center," McIsaac said as he approached the final stop on the shuttle route.

While they were testing the route last week, McIsaac said that a student outside the Recreation Center asked, "You guys giving rides around campus?"

"Not yet, man," McIsaac answered.

OUSC meeting calls out former student body president

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

At Monday's meeting of Oakland University's student congress, one new legislator was approved while the performance of another was called into question.

Last week, OUSC members called steering chairperson Dan Evola's performance into question.

He was not present during that meeting, so it got tabled to this week.

"I realize there's an elephant in the room," Evola said to start off the discussion. "My position was brought up, to which I take some concern."

He acknowledged that he's been absent a few times and that he's made mistakes on agendas before.

"I have missed a total of two meetings, which is not enough to bring anyone up

for question," he said.

Evola, who served as student body vice president prior to assuming the role of student body president last year, said he felt it was "absurd" that no one had brought these issues to his attention in person.

"I haven't been confronted personally by any member of student congress still, so I'll leave it at that," Evola said.

The steering chair assumes the powers and duties of chairperson in the absence of the vice president.

Other duties include holding regular steering committee meetings and compiling and distributing agendas to all OUSC meetings.

"There have been a lot of mistakes in the agenda," said legislator Anthony Ivone.

Mark Medaugh, student activities funding board chair, said he'd like to see

minutes of steering committee meetings but urged OUSC members to either act or let it go.

"If there's a problem, fix it; if there's not, don't complain about it," Medaugh said.

No vote to remove Evola from steering committee chair was held.

At the meeting, newly approved legislator Chuck Kelly also brought up the possibility of having charging stations in the Oakland Center where students could drop off their phones and laptops to charge while they're in class.

OUSC members discussed logistics and possible locations.

Legislative affairs director Amy Ring also noted that Kelly should remove the Facebook group supporting presidential candidate Cameron Schea called "OU NEEDS A Charging Station," as it is a conflict of interest to use an OUSC proj-

ect as part of a campaign.

Kelly said he'd look further into the matter.

Prior to the meeting, Amy Ring, legislative affairs director, and legislator Shakita Billy met with a group in charge of building and directional signs around campus.

They discussed altering the appearance and visibility of existing signs as well as the possibility of buying an electrical sign.

Some members expressed concern over making signs too "cheesy."

It was announced that election packets are to be distributed on compact discs this year in an effort to save paper.

James Kaminski, a sophomore studying pre-law and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, was approved as a new legislator while Brett McIsaac was announced as legislator of the month.

Dance company teaches, performs

Dayton Contemporary Dance takes up residency in Varner

By COURTNEY UMBRAS
Staff Intern

As part of the African American Celebration, the internationally known Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) will be in residence at Oakland University February 7-19.

The company will be teaching technical classes for two weeks to Oakland's dance students, as well as performing in a concert on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.

"These dances are extremely professional," said Gregory Patterson, Oakland's Dance program director. "They came three or four years ago, maybe even five, and presented at the Opera house. We're very fortunate to have them come to Oakland."

DCDC is rooted in the African American experience.

Their mission statement is to deliver contemporary dance of the highest quality to the broadest audience possible.

Oakland students, along with the public, will have a chance to witness the company perform their contemporary dance works.

Patterson hopes that students will come to the performances and realize the

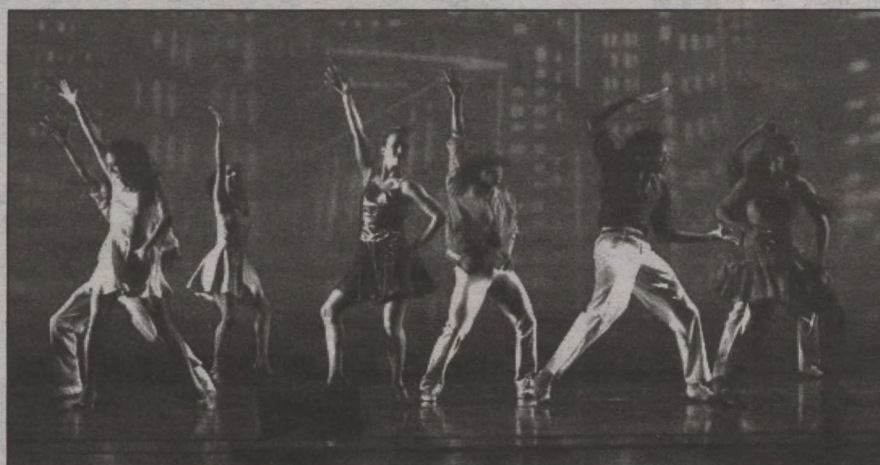


Photo courtesy of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company
Members of the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company have been teaching technical classes during the weeks prior to their performances Friday and Saturday.

artistic value of dancing.

"It's a lot of work and an art form just like painting or singing," said Patterson.

He also hopes DCDC will help students see the historical value in dancing since they've been around for a little over 40 years.

Tickets are \$11 for students and \$21 for the general public.

Tickets are available at the Varner Box

Office, which is open Tuesday-Saturday 3-6 p.m. and one hour before performances.

DCDC will also host an Open Dress Rehearsal Friday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon for those unable to attend due to ticket prices.

Everyone is welcome to come and the rehearsal is free.

DCDC artistic director, Debbie

Blunden-Diggs, will be at the rehearsal and be available for questions.

Separate from the DCDC program are Oakland University's senior dancers, who will also be performing this weekend in part of the African American Celebration as well.

The senior recital will be held Sunday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall.

"Those are our dance majors that choreograph and perform their own works," said Joni Hubred-Golden, publicist of the department of music, theatre and dance.

An annual event and capstone requirement for senior dance majors, dancers will have a chance to showcase their talents and program education.

Tickets can be purchased for \$7 per person.

General admission tickets may be purchased online without a fee.

Discounted tickets must be purchased in person at the Varner Box Office.

For tickets and more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/mtd>.

For more information on the upcoming performances, contact Dance program director Gregory Patterson by e-mail at patterso@oakland.edu or by phone at 248-370-3009.

Congress elections kick off via Facebook

By GABI JAYE
Staff Reporter

Facebook groups, t-shirts and speeches; this is the face of the Oakland University Student Congress elections campaign.

Last week marked the start of the unofficial campaigning by students hoping to be in the running for officer positions.

Although official campaigning does not begin until March, that has not stopped students from creating Facebook groups to promote runners for president and vice president positions.

Groups have been created by current OUSC members and students who who are not members wishing to run.

"I think it's great that people get their friends to join these groups," OUSC elections commissioner Bill Hamilton said. "It allows everyone to get more involved."

Hamilton said that people get so involved in the Facebook aspect of the campaign, that people will leave one group and join others once they learn

more about the candidates.

According to Hamilton, the unofficial campaigning is completely legitimate.

On Jan. 25, OUSC pass amendments to how elections are run after student activities funding board chair Mark Medaugh pointed out flaws in the election process.

Campaigns may now begin as early as the beginning of the fall semester.

Even though students can campaign on Facebook, he will not know the actual candidates until the election packets are filled out and all of the forms are turned in.

Visible tickets for president and vice president so far are OUSC legislators Cameron Schea and Mike Diedrich, OUSC financial affairs director Brandon Gustafson and legislative affairs director Amy Ring, and students Laura DeSanto and John Trenchard.

Student body vice president Saman Waquad has also stated that she is entertaining the thought of running for executive office again.

Along with Facebook, OUSC is trying to find other ways to encourage OU students to participate and vote in the upcoming elections.

Hamilton said the organization will try to send an e-mail through students' OU accounts reminding them to vote.

The whole election process has taken a virtual shift.

Even the election packets are now offered on CDs to save paper.

Campaigning is the key factor when it comes to the success of candidates.

Whether a student has been part of OUSC or is newly running, each has an equal chance at winning.

"A lot of times, the people elected are OUSC members," Hamilton said. "They meet a lot of proactive people through the congress and therefore their voting body is bigger."

However, Hamilton also said that OUSC non-members have been elected in the past.

It all comes down to the methods of campaigning each group chooses to use.

Once the campaigning is over, there will be three days of voting.

Those days will then be followed by a silent day.

That day is a time where a validation committee will determine if the campaigning was fair by all of the candidates.

Declaration of candidacy forms are due March 1, followed by one mandatory orientation that must be attended by the candidates.

This is the first year the elections committee chair has imposed a set deadline on candidacy declaration.

There is an official meet and greet session of the candidates in the Fireside Lounge March 8.

For now, students wishing to keep up with the campaigns can look to Facebook for information about potential candidates.

Students are encouraged by Hamilton to be involved with the election.

Election packets can be picked up in the OUSC office at 62 Oakland Center.

Writers honored for excellence

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

Slavery may no longer exist, but its legacy still persists, according to Taryn Dover.

"People with more Caucasian physical features are seen as more beautiful in society," said Dover, a pre-med sophomore.

This was the idea behind her project, "African American Women Females and Beauty: Divided by Complexion," which won first place in the "Writing and New Media" category of the department of writing and rhetoric's annual Writing Excellence Awards.

To be eligible, the paper had to be written for credit in a class during one of the 2009 semesters. Eighteen papers were awarded this year.

The contest had six categories, ranging from essays for rhetoric classes to research papers for science courses.

Winners received a cash prize — \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place in each category — as well as a framed certificate. They also attended a luncheon Feb. 3 hosted by Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of student affairs.

"It's a wonderful thing to have on your

resume," said Barbara Hamilton, rhetoric professor and chair of the judging panel.

A panel of four judges read the papers, looking for clear, precise arguments and strong syntax.

"Obviously we're always looking for originality," Hamilton said.

Jason Carabelli won first place in the "Humanities" category, which includes advanced rhetoric courses, for his essay, "Great American Tragedy: How A Strong Argument was Undermined by Theatrics."

Using "Great American Hypocrites" by Glenn Greewald — lawyer, columnist, blogger and author — as an example, Carabelli "argued that political theater and/or profit margins are infesting sound argumentation in political discourse."

Carabelli said the author undermines his own argument by resorting to "angry name calling," which he said sets a bad precedent for future political discourse.

Hamilton said the contest has been going on for years and that it continues to evolve.

"We're happy to see it growing as a university-wide program," Hamilton said.

For a complete list of categories and winners, go to <http://www2.oakland.edu/wrt/wea.cfm>.

POLICE FILES

Fraud: On Feb. 2, an officer took a report of unauthorized charges to a debit card. A student stated that on Jan. 18 he purchased books from the OU bookstore with his debit card. That was the last time he could remember seeing his wallet and that it could have fallen out of his sweatpants pocket. When notifying his bank, they informed him of three fraudulent charges placed on his card. The three charges equaled up to \$49. Other items in the student's wallet included his OU I.D. card, a bank account card and gift cards. The student canceled his debit card.

Marijuana use: On Feb. 7, a patrol officer pulled over a vehicle that had been driving recklessly. The driver had cut off others without a turn signal and had a brake light that was out. Upon pulling the vehicle over, the officer spoke to the driver and immediately smelled marijuana. The driver and all three passengers appeared to have watery red eyes. The officer asked for the identification from all three passengers, only one being able to provide it. The driver indicated that they were on their way to an apartment party. One passenger had a warrant for failure to appear for a traffic offense, another had a prior drug crime and two were clear. The student with the warrant was handcuffed and placed in the back of the patrol car. The officer searched all of the occupants and performed an inspection of the vehicle as well. He found marijuana remnants throughout the vehicle. One of the occupants stated the drugs were his and was issued an OU citation for marijuana use.

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

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Oakland University's Eco-Interest Team and the Environmental Coordinators will be hosting Cards for Kids on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The event will take place in the Vandenberg Lounge from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cards will be made for Valentine's Day.

The cards will be given to children at the Children's Hospital of Michigan at the Detroit Medical Center. There will be card-decorating supplies, free snacks, and a movie to watch during the event.

"Making cards for kids at the Children's Hospital of Michigan is an awesome and easy way for OU students to give back to others in their community," said Heather Ferow, sophomore and S.O.P.E. coordinator of the campus recycling program in the residence halls.

The Eco-Interest Team and Environmental Coordinators are also trying to emphasize being eco-friendly, making the cards out of reused materials.

The cards will be delivered to the DMC on Friday afternoon.

All students can attend and are encouraged to bring friends.

—Staff reporter Ryan Hegedus

Oakland University Eye Research Program

Summer Undergraduate Program in
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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.

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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



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Prof named teacher of the year

By JENNIFER WOOD
Contributing Reporter

Oakland University professor Mary Stein has many roles.

To her family, she is wife, mother and grandmother. Married for over 30 years, Stein is the proud mother of four and spends as much of her down time as possible traveling coast-to-coast to visit her family, and "beautiful grandsons."

"One son lives in Boston area and is a college student, my daughter lives on the opposite coast, in Seattle, and another son and his family live in Bloomington, Indiana," Stein said.

In addition to her family responsibilities, Stein enjoys any activity that involves "invoking creativity." From cross-stitch to cookie bouquets, she experiments in any hobby where she can channel her creativity.

Professionally, Stein's role has just as many facets.

An elementary education science professor at OU, Stein is the chairperson of the Institutional Review Board, overseeing research on human subjects at OU; and the School of Education and Human Services Dean Advisory Committee, leading the search for a new SEHS Dean.

But Stein isn't bothered by the workload that accompanies all of her titles.

"These activities take a lot of my time and energy — they are important responsibilities and I am honored to serve in these roles," Stein said.

This year she added another role.

In January, the Board of Michigan Science Teachers named Stein 2010 College Science Association Teacher of the Year.

"I feel very lucky to have received this award because there are many who are worthy of receiving it," said Stein. "I am also excited to have received it because it helps to bring statewide attention to the fine science teaching we have at Oakland University."

The award, which is chosen through a teacher and student nomination process, recognizes innovative teaching methods, offering inspiration to students, and passion for both students and science.

Stein, who plans her lessons with a "hands-on, minds-on, hearts-in" approach, believes that engaging students through interactive lessons relevant to their lives keeps things fresh and interesting.

"I design activities that will actively engage students in inquiring and critical thinking that generates genuine interest or enthusiasm because the lesson or topic is new to them and is relevant to their lives," Stein said. "I also know that stu-



Photo Courtesy of Mary Stein
Science professor Mary Stein was named College Science Association Teacher of the Year in January. Stein also holds several titles at OU.

dents learn a lot from each other as well. I build a lot of student interaction into each course session."

Elementary education student, Katie Ziegeler, found Stein's class to be informative and enjoyable.

"She is a wonderful woman," said Ziegeler. "She is very kind and always

willing to help. She always liked to make sure that everyone understood the material that was being taught."

Stein's love for science and teaching stems from her mother, Dolores Miller, who was Stein's 8th grade science teacher and high school chemistry teacher.

"Once I became a chemistry teacher, I was calling her all the time to discuss how to approach teaching specific topics," she said. "We went to science teaching conferences together and presented together for many years."

In addition to her mother, Stein also found role models through her college years. At SUNY College at Buffalo, Stein's science methods teacher, Dr. Joyce Swartney, taught her to always be "innovative and direct," and never allow the subject to get dry. She said this is a goal she strives to work toward each day still.

Although the award is an individual recognition, Stein believes it will also benefit OU by putting the spotlight on an Oakland professor and students alike.

"It is the individuals who make up Oakland that set us apart," said Stein. "We have dedicated, award-winning faculty who strive to make learning come alive. We have students who work so hard, both inside and outside of the classroom, to achieve their dreams."

Model United Nations competes in Toronto

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

Brett Geschke is representing the Republic of Turkey on a Security Council in Toronto this month.

Geschke, a senior political science major at Oakland University, isn't a citizen of Turkey. Instead, he's a member of the OU Model United Nations club.

The group is attending the North American Model United Nations conference in Toronto Feb. 18 – 20.

MUN, which is both a class and a student organization at OU, offers students the opportunity to discuss international issues in a mock United Nations setting.

The class, PS 326, is offered each semester for two credits, although some students who are involved are not enrolled in the class.

"There are also some members of the club that do not take it for credit, and simply participate because they gain so much through their research, practicing their delegating skills at weekly meetings, and of course the

conferences," Geschke said.

At the conference, students are placed into committees where they discuss the issues at hand as the specific country they're representing.

The group competes in one conference each semester.

During the upcoming conference in Toronto, Geschke will represent the Republic of Turkey on the Security Council. He speculates that important topics of discussion for the Security Council will be the current situations in Haiti and Iran.

He said that the majority of teams competing at this conference are from Canada.

At the Lake Erie Model United Nations Conference last October, the OU team won second place out of all of the teams in attendance.

"The reason for that award was the seven individual awards won by delegates from OU, representing numerous countries and on a few different committees as well," Geschke said.

Several of the students, including Geschke, received

the highest possible ratings at the conference. Geschke also received the chairman's gavel, which is given to the top delegate in the Security Council.

He credits his success to knowing how to behave both in discussion and in other aspects.

"Being able to articulate your position on a given issue is the most important skill a delegate can have while in the committee, but being able to gain support for your ideas and write them down in resolution form are key as well," Geschke said.

MUN is open to anyone, regardless of major.

"I think any student that wants to improve their ability to critically research, improve their public speaking skills and begin to professionally communicate on a high level in a competitive setting would enjoy participating in the Model United Nations club," Geschke said. "The conferences we go to are so much more than the actual discussions in the committees. Everyone gains more knowledge on current events and international issues as well."

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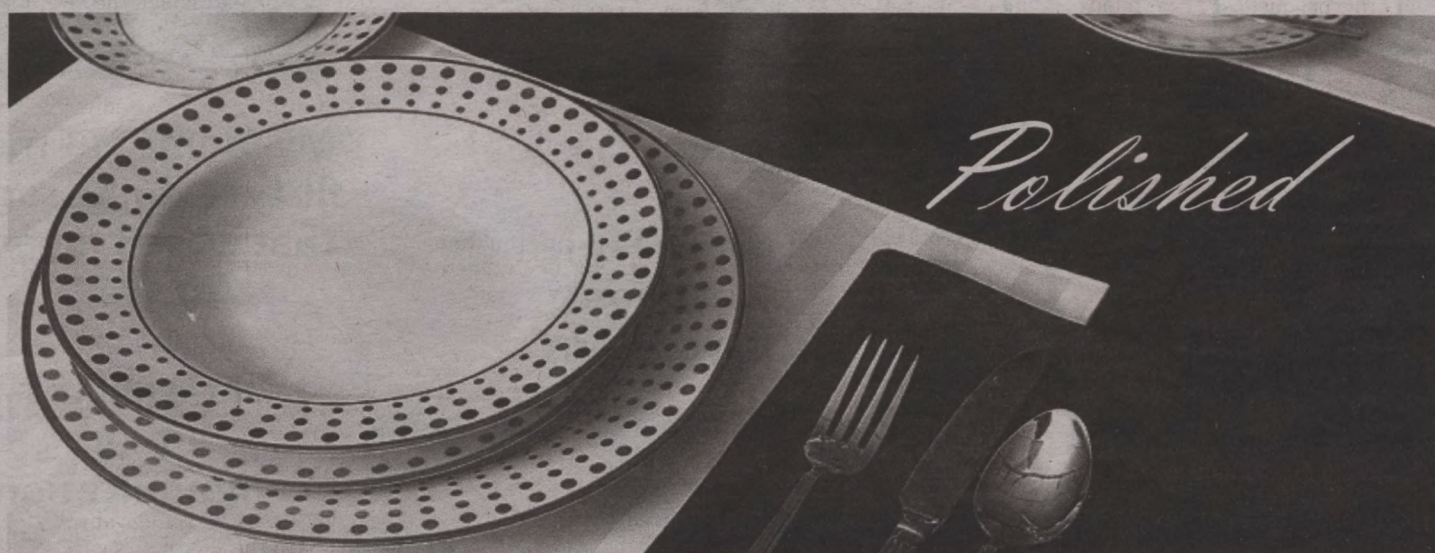
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February
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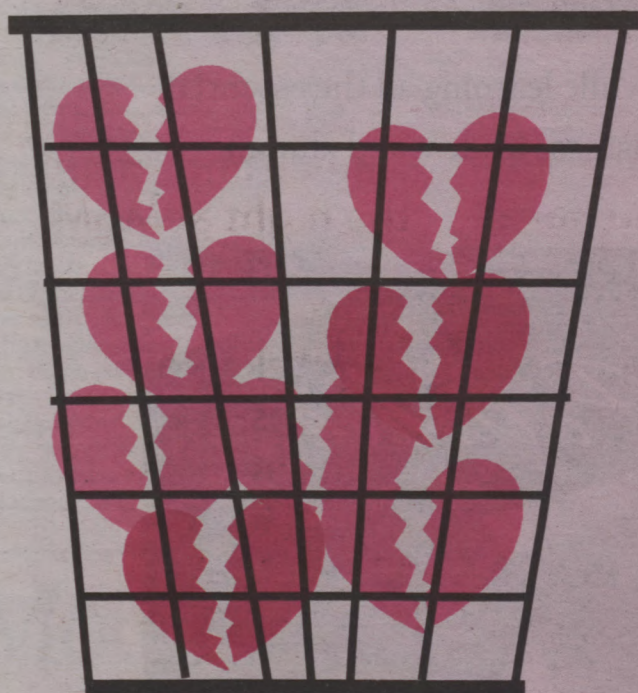
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Trash it



What was your worst Valentine's Day gift?



"A gummy G.I. Joe."

Carrie O'Brien
Junior
psychology



"My mom sent me a
flirty text message
that wasn't meant
for me!"

Tim Williams
Junior
communication

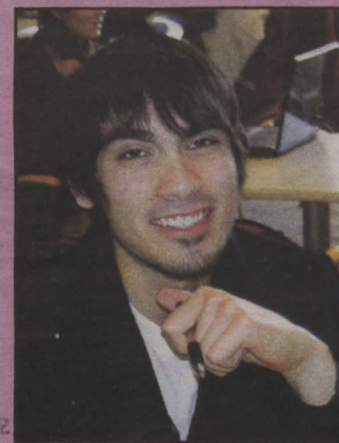


"School supplies."

Danielle Haddon
Junior
mathematics

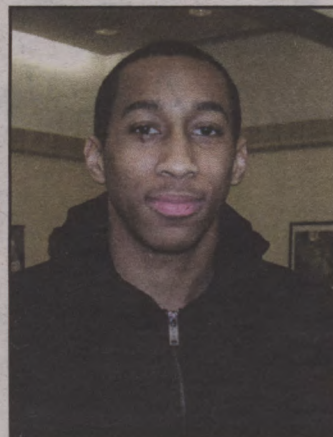
"A cheesy card."

Nick Manderachia
Junior
English



Survey conducted by Shawn Minnix, Staff Intern

What's your perfect Valentine's Day date?



"Go out to eat, and then go back to my room and have dessert."

Matt Kamara
Sophomore
biology



"Go out to a concert, a movie and spend the night at MGM Grand."

Aricka Pore
Freshman
communication



"Go snowboarding!"

Phil Parkinson
Freshman
undecided



"Go out to a very nice dinner and enjoy each other's company."

Kristen Lebryk
Sophomore
political science

The Scene

14

www.oaklandpostonline.com

February 10, 2010

Engaging local music

Troy band Aria Aesthetic grows after first album

By JAMIE GASPER
Staff Intern

It can be rough listening to the same old songs on your iPod day after day. It can be hard to find new and unique sounds on a mainstream level, and even rarer on a local one. That's why Troy band Aria Aesthetic is such a find.

Aria Aesthetic is an assembly of guitarist and lead vocalist Travis Bobier, lead guitarist Aaron Loftis, guitarist and backup vocalist Trevor Toder, bassist Alex Keller and drummer/sampler Zack Waggener.

They describe their interesting sound as "alternative ambient rock, with some progressive elements."

With the release of their first full-length CD titled "Aeon" in November, their popularity is on the rise with a growing fan base and thousands of music hits on their Myspace page. Even though these guys could become the "next big thing," don't let their success and electrifying stage presence fool you. They're just five guys looking to make lifetime friends instead of fans.

Aria Aesthetic plays the Pike Room in Pontiac on Feb. 14.

A couple weeks ago, The Oakland Post sat down with Aria Aesthetic to explore the band's history and future.

How did Aria Aesthetic form?

Waggener: Travis and I have been playing music for some six odd years together, and then we met Aaron through a friend, and later acquired Alex and most recently Trevor to fill out the sound.

What do you think sets you apart and makes you different from the various other local bands?

Bobier: We sing, and we're not a hardcore band. We don't do acrobatic moves. We're dorks.

How long have you been a band? How much do you think you've grown and what skills do you think you've acquired?

Bobier: We've been Aria Aesthetic for about two years now. We've acquired a better knowledge of marketing, and we've become significantly better at writing songs. We've also taken an interest in the following activities: baking cakes, pie eating competitions, juggling, martial arts, photography, speaking different languages, and bluegrass music ... Just kidding.

You guys have a well established fan base. What do you think has been most vital in obtaining that base?

Loftis: Giving free hugs is the way to go. Also, Eharmony.com. No, Myspace is probably the best marketing tool for promoting your band. Also, playing a lot of shows.

How do you feel after just releasing your first full length?

Bobier: It's quite an accomplishment! We released it all on our own with no financial support from a label or other investors, so it's a proud moment for us as a band. It's an added bonus that people have really been enjoying it so the next step is touring!

Describe your recording process.

Bobier: Well we recorded in the summer, so imagine being in a 5-by-9 room with no air circulation. In short, the recording experience was awful and awesome at the same time. Woke up at 9 a.m. every day and we were at the studio until 6 p.m. every night for over a month. So it was quite a busy experience. But it's fun though.

All of your songs are original; tell me about the process of creating a new song.

Waggener: Well lately, we've been all getting together and having a part in the writing of the songs. Occasionally one of us will come up with something and everyone will build off that, but lately it's been a 100 percent collective effort.

What are each of your favorite tracks from the album?



Photo courtesy of Sam Doyle

Aria Aesthetic's members from left to right: Aaron Loftis, Zack Waggener, Travis Bobier, Alex Keller and Trevor Toder. Their debut album is titled "Aeon."

Loftis: We all love "Serenity," "Mercy" and "Ascension."

Is there one song that you all love to just rock out to live?

Waggener: "Serenity" and "Frayed at the Edges." Probably "Mercy," too.

What's been your most memorable moment on stage?

Bobier: Everyone singing along to our songs at our CD release show. That was pretty awesome.

Have you had any embarrassing moments on stage?

Bobier: Alex has fallen a couple times. Aaron broke one of our light boxes by stomping too hard on it!

Where is the coolest place you've ever played, and where would you like to play some day?

Waggener: Emerald Theatre, Hayloft, and The Pike Room. We'd like to play in Chicago, Ill., and southern California. Also Florida has a pretty awesome music scene so down there soon.

What would be the ultimate line up on your dream tour?

Waggener: 30 Seconds to Mars, Circa Survive, There for Tomorrow, and Coheed and Cambria and us.

There are five of you, so what five items would you have to bring along on tour?

Bobier: Shampoo/conditioner, pillow, laptops, iPods, and clothes/food.

What's been the most rewarding aspect you've taken away from the whole "being in a band" experience?

Waggener: Making a lot of great friends in different bands and with people who listen to our music. I think that's what sets us apart from a lot of bands, we make lifelong friends with our fans.

What's something you still want to accomplish?

Loftis: Touring and to be signed, write a lot more albums.

Do you have any top-secret information to share, so our readers can stay ahead of the game?

All: We're touring in 2010! Maybe there will be some bigger news in the next few months?... I guess you'll have to keep up with us.

You can hear their music, and check out a full calendar of shows on their official site at myspace.com/ariaaesthetic.



music spotlight

THEM CROOKED VULTURES

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Columnist

While many bands consist of young stars with fresh voices, one band breaks the mold by combining raw talent with experienced musicianship.

Them Crooked Vultures consists of guitarist and vocalist Josh Homme from Queens of the Stone Age, drummer Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters and bassist John Paul Jones from the legendary Led Zeppelin.

The album is surprising, considering the direction it could have taken: A slow moving appreciation of Zeppelin-inspired psychedelic progressive rock.

Their self-titled debut album plays more like a jam session than an actual record.

The record is extremely fast-paced, consistently loaded with heavy guitar riffs, hard-hitting drums and deep bass tones.

In the opening track, "No One Loves Me & Neither Do I," vocalist Josh Homme exclaims, "You can't always do it right, you can always do what's left," as drummer Dave Grohl commands a drum solo with surgical precision.

During "Mind Eraser, No Chaser," Homme and Grohl share the mic, singing over a memorable bass line played by John Paul Jones. Jones is on fire, playing like he's been locked in a cage since the Zeppelin breakup.

My only gripe about Them Crooked Vultures is the occasional lack of vocal diversity. Homme is a remarkable vocalist, but he doesn't experiment outside his Queens of the Stone Age style.

Before recruiting Jones on bass, Paul McCartney expressed interest in joining

Them Crooked Vultures.

Time will tell what other artists will join the group. It's refreshing to see a band not concerned with age or trends, just raw talent.

UFFIE

By ALEXIS TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

A couple years ago Uffie was the forerunner of the electrotrash explosion. Before Ke\$ha, before Yelle and before a batch of a million other copycats, there was Uffie.

The Miami-via-Paris MC Uffie is back in 2010 with a fresh dose of trashy club beats and catchy drum samples. Her "MCs Can Kiss" EP is just a first taste of things to come in the new year before she releases "Sex, Dreams and Denim Jeans" on Valentine's Day.

Uffie's music is a sounding board for her larger than life personality, injected at hyper-speed into her quick-witted, quick-spitting lyrics. Her latest single, "MCs Can Kiss," came out of left field to get great response from bloggers and the whole world of hipster hype.

The tune is Uffie in her prime. She mashes up seedy French dance with bright '80s pop. Like her first debut hit, "Pop the Glock," "MCs Can Kiss" is just plain party fun. Play it in your car, hear it at a club or dance to it in your living room.

There was some talk last year that Ke\$ha stole Uffie's girl style. When I first heard "Tik Tok," I thought Uffie had made a big comeback on the radio. Listening on, it's easy to see the differences between the two. Uffie is a raw, original and international pop star. Ke\$ha will party on and party out soon enough.

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Center for Student Activities

CSA

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Trip to Parashakthi Temple
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Saturday, February 13th
click "Events" for details

Children in Poverty Workshop

Learn the causes &
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GAME — SEASON

Jones delivers Homecoming win

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

The Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team won in thrilling fashion over Oral Roberts Saturday, with senior point guard Johnathon Jones hitting a go-ahead jump shot with 1.2 seconds remaining on the game clock to lift Oakland University to a 79-77 victory on Homecoming night.

As if scripted by Hollywood, the Grizzlies rallied from a double-digit halftime deficit in front of an enormous Homecoming crowd of 4,034 people, which included university president Gary Russi sitting in the student section.

"I can't say enough," head coach Greg Kampe said. "The vision of Dr. Russi and my vision all came together tonight. This is what college basketball is about and we battled a long time to get this."

The atmosphere of the O'Rena was electric, with fans waving towels and balloons, cheering on their beloved basketball team.

"The crowd was unbelievable; I think we won because of the crowd. My first game at Oakland 26 years ago there were 33 people in the stands and 17 of them were named Kampe. To go from that to this ... it's special," Kampe said.

With 14 seconds left in the game, ORU freshman Warren Niles converted a layup to tie the game 77-77.

Jones immediately dribbled the ball up the court and into traffic before firing up an 8-foot fade away jumper that bounced up and in.

"Initially, I looked for Keith Benson, but his man wasn't going to let him get the ball," Jones said. "I saw that we had a driving lane, so I took the ball toward the middle ... I had to get the shot down, so I took it."

Following a timeout, the Golden Eagles were able to fire off a half court attempt, but Niles' shot landed a couple feet short of the rim as time expired.

"Obviously, they are a good basketball team, but in the second half, we were better and we really went after it," head coach Greg Kampe said. "I was very pleased with that and in the second half, we took what was ours and we went

out and earned it. Players make plays — coaches have never won anything and I put the ball in the four-year starter's hands knowing he would make the play, and he did."

Oral Roberts opened the game on a 10-2 run, capitalizing on three Oakland turnovers in its first four possessions to take control of the game.

The Golden Eagles were able to push their lead to 14 points at the midway point of the first half.

At the break, Oral Roberts held a 46-33 lead, due largely to its 62 percent conversion rate from the floor. Niles began the game 7-of-7 from the field, putting up 16 points before the half was over.

"I think we came out in this environment expecting something to be given to us, not really understanding what we had to do," Kampe said regarding his team's performance in the first 20 minutes.

The Grizzlies came out of the locker room with a vengeance and went on a 22-1 run, which included five 3-pointers, to open the second half.

Sophomore guard Blake Cushingberry gave OU its first lead at 13:30 of the second frame with a 3-pointer.

It was Oakland's defense, however, that keyed in the comeback.

"We had a little talk at halftime and when we came out, we played defense as well as it can be played," Kampe said.

It took Oral Roberts until the 11:32 mark to convert its first second half field goal.

On two occasions during the comeback, the crowd was stirred to an absolute frenzy when sophomore guard Drew Maynard slammed down alley-oop passes from Jones.

With 3:15 remaining in the game, OU held an 11 point lead following a pair of Jones' free throws.

But the Golden Eagles would not go down quietly. A pair of 3-pointers by Niles in the final minute and a half pulled them within two points, 77-75 with 51 seconds remaining.

Along with his game-winning shot, Jones contributed 16 points and eight assists. He also broke a school record by playing in his 126th career game.

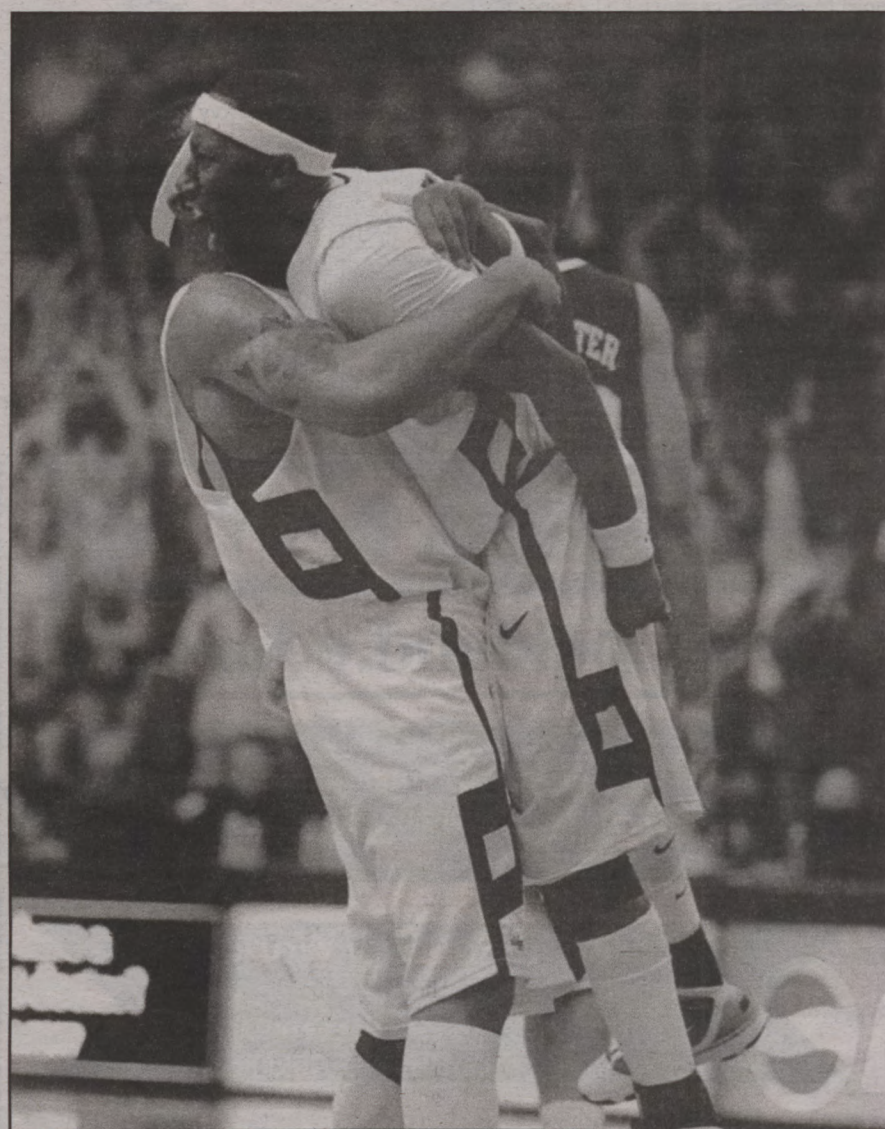


Photo by Jose Juarez, courtesy of OU Athletic Communications
Senior Johnathon Jones (right) hit the game-winning shot with 1.2 seconds remaining in the game.

Junior center Keith Benson recorded his 13th double-double of the season, tying his career high of 28 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. And much to the crowd's delight, he also had four blocks bringing everyone to their feet.

"My teammates and the crowd were a big boost and I could feel the momentum and the extra adrenaline," Benson said.

ORU head coach Scott Sutton also credited the sellout Homecoming crowd of with helping Oakland in its comeback win.

"I thought the crowd really helped them tonight," Sutton said. "I told my guys, you can't play 12 or 13 awful minutes on the road and expect to win against a good team."

Hockey trophy has strange origin

By KYLE BAUER
Contributing Reporter

The Oakland University club hockey team faced off against its biggest rival, Davenport University, over the weekend with a trophy on the line. After splitting the first two games of the series, the third and final game came down to a shootout to decide the winner Saturday.

On the decisive shot, Davenport University forward Marc Thompson moved in, kicked the puck from skate to stick, and faked to the right, pulling OU goaltender Alex Pikunas out of position. He fired a shot into the open left side of the net, ending the game and winning the series.

The Davenport bench cleared. Thompson was gang-tackled by his teammates in celebration. One DU player stayed back to grab the trophy — a concrete duck statue, painted red and black — from behind the bench. He hoisted it as if it were the Stanley Cup.

In the Oakland-Davenport rivalry, that duck is as close to the Stanley Cup as anyone could ever imagine.

The "Good Luck Duck," as it has been dubbed, is the symbol of a rivalry filled with bad blood that goes back to the beginning of the last decade. The rivalry has included fights on the ice and off, player transfers, a war of words, jarring hits, awesome goals and unbelievable finishes. The winner of the season-series between these two teams earns the duck, which inadvertently became a trophy on a February night two years ago.

"It started when the duck was mysteriously removed from Oakland's locker room and ended up in Grand Rapids.

We were playing on Friday night and Oakland came back the next night and got it back, so it went from there," Davenport coach Paul Lauden said.

Everyone you ask will tell you a different variation of the story. The initial presence of the duck is completely shrouded in mystery.

"I guess we stole the duck, but we made it ours," Davenport senior Adam Thomas said.

When the duck was stolen it caused a whirlwind of trash talking, finger pointing and confusion. This led the coaches to converse.

"We had a meeting with their coaches and we decided that the rivalry was so good we would play for the duck every year," Oakland head coach Jeremy Bachusz said.

Some were wondering if Oakland would make any big changes in preparation for DU this season, especially with a new coach at the helm.

"We don't prepare too differently, but the older players on the team will usually get up in the locker room and tell stories from past games and how good it would feel to beat them," Bachusz said.

OU took the first game of the series Thursday night, shutting out Davenport 3-0. But the Panthers captured the second game Friday by a 4-1 score.

Ryan Zuke, a freshman fourth liner on the Grizzlies squad, said he was quickly acclimated to the rivalry.

"When I first got here, I didn't really understand; then it was explained to me that they stole it from our locker room (and it) made me hate them right there," Zuke said. "Then the way they put it on the ice in warm-ups and how they



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The Grizzlies dropped two of three games to Davenport University last weekend, failing to recapture the rivalry trophy that was stolen from them two years ago.

celebrate ... I have no respect for them because they don't show it to us and that is enough to keep me hating them into the future."

The Grizzlies formerly played in Division II of the ACHA and moved up in 2006. But prior to that, Oakland played in the league where Davenport currently resides. The two rivals will become division opponents once again as the Panthers are moving up to division one next season.

That raises a question: How will ownership of the "Good Luck Duck" be decided in the future?

The teams will face each other four

times per year beginning next season, which creates the possibility of a tie in the series.

The Grizzlies don't concern themselves as much about the actual duck as they do a conference championship.

"We can still get a ring," OU captain Cody Austin said. "The duck is just stupid and made out of concrete; that is about our pride. It's our pride that hurts. The national tournament is way more important." But with pride and tradition in mind, Austin does see value in the rivalry.

"This rivalry brings everyone on the team together," Austin said.

Basketball season approaching its end

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

The Oakland University women's basketball team is caught up in a very close race in the Summit League standings with just five games left in the season.

The Golden Grizzlies had two games this week, going head-to-head with the two teams at the opposite ends of the conference standings.

The team suffered a disappointing 91-87 loss Saturday to first place Oral Roberts as part of the Homecoming double-header at the O'Rena.

The Grizzlies were unable to hang on to their lead late in the game after being ahead by as many as 17 points during

the first half.

The game was tied 81-81 with 3:21 remaining on the clock, but Oral Roberts hit more of its shots down the stretch to get the victory.

Offensively for Oakland, senior forward Melissa Jeltrema recorded a double-double with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Additionally, senior Hanna Reising had 17 points while junior Anna Patriotto scored a season-high 15 points.

The team rebounded from Saturday's tough loss by defeating winless Centenary 66-46 Monday night.

With 8:29 remaining in the second half, Oakland led by just two points, 47-45. But the Grizzlies went on a 21-0 scoring run in the next seven minutes to

pick up the victory.

Despite shooting just over 32 percent for the game, OU won by a large margin, mostly due to its 57-31 edge in the rebounding department.

Jeltrema had perhaps the finest game of her accomplished four-year career with 21 points, a career-high 18 rebounds and four assists.

The team will play its next two games on the road before returning home to end the season on a three-game home stand beginning Feb. 20.

Each of the remaining games will have an impact on the way the final standings shake out before the conference tournament seeds are assigned. The top eight teams will make the tournament.

The Summit League Standings — Women's basketball (as of Feb. 10)

Oral Roberts	10-3
South Dakota State	10-3
IPFW	9-4
Oakland University	9-4
UMKC	8-4
North Dakota State	8-5
Western Illinois	4-8
Southern Utah	4-8
IUPUI	1-11
Centenary	0-13

Revisiting a league issue, policy

By ZACH HALLMAN
Featured Columnist

COLUMN

In 2006, NBA commissioner David Stern instituted a one-year rule that barred high school players from entering the league until they had spent one year out of high school. Stern and his cohorts made this decision for a few reasons, most of them monetary.

According to Stern, if the big name players were forced to spend one year at the college of their choice, then college hoops would reap major benefits from showcasing top talent. The players would benefit from having spent a year in college learning from coaches and supposedly would have an easier time transitioning to the pros. The NBA would benefit because the players entering the draft would already have name recognition from their time as a star in college.

At first glance it looks as if the implementation of the one-year rule has been a success. Players like Michael Beasley and O.J. Mayo, among others, seem to have made college basketball more popular than before. But are they in fact ruining the game?

North Carolina's national championship team last year was everything that is right in college basketball. UNC lost badly in the Final Four the year before. Nobody would have blamed Raymond Felton, Tyler Hansbrough, Wayne Ellington and Danny Green if they

chose to leave early for NBA riches. Yet they all agreed to come back with the single goal of winning a national championship.

That is, in a sense, what college basketball is all about. Those four players put their team's aspirations before their own individual NBA dreams. What college basketball is becoming is quite the opposite.

Players only go to teams like USC and Kansas State because they know they will be a star and figure they will only be spending one year there anyway.

Was Kansas State really better off because Beasley spent one year there? The Wildcats didn't make the NCAA tournament that year. Was Beasley really more ready for the NBA because he spent a year at Kansas State? He was fined \$50,000 for a "marijuana related incident" his rookie year. Last August he checked into a rehabilitation clinic in Houston for an undisclosed reason. It would be interesting to know what Beasley was like before he spent a year "maturing" at Kansas State.

The one-year rule may have made college basketball more money for all the Kevin Durant jersey sales, but it's not accomplishing any of its other goals and is ruining the tradition of college basketball in the meantime.

Coaches no longer have to worry about building up their programs. One big-time high school recruit is enough to launch a team into contention.

Kentucky's John Wall is destined to be the first overall pick in the NBA draft this summer after just a year in college. His bags will hardly be unpacked by the time

he says goodbye to coaches and fans in Lexington.

The National Football League requires potential draftees to have been out of high school for three years. College football players have accepted the rule and the sport has benefited greatly from keeping its best players around. The promise of future money in the NFL is still there, allowing them to enjoy the game and their college experience. The benefits have been two-fold: Players care deeply about the collegiate competition while at the same time tend to mature in a way that makes the NFL lifestyle easier to handle.

The NBA should take the rules that the NFL enforces and apply them to their league with a twist. Why force players who are clearly ready for the world-class competition and 82-game schedule to play one insignificant season in college and potentially put their careers on the line? Have the players decide; if they wish to go straight to the NBA out of high school then they should be allowed to. If they wish to go to college then they should be required to spend at least three years playing devoted basketball to the program of their choice.

The thing that once made college basketball exciting and refreshing was the fact that players really cared about each other and the tradition of the school they played for. What used to be a sport rich in tradition played for bragging rights and pride is being marginalized by players looking for one year in the spotlight and coaches looking to those players get them a four and five year contract extensions.



By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

A rundown of the week's news in Oakland University sports.

Track records broken

The indoor track and field season is past its halfway point and several Oakland University runners are positioning themselves for strong performances at the Summit League Indoor Championship at the end of the month.

On Saturday, two school records were broken at the Mevo Invitational in South Bend, Ind.

Senior Jason Bigelow shaved time off his own OU record in the one mile run, placing first in a field of 42 runners with a time of 4:06.71.

In the one mile women's race, Grizzlies sophomore Lia Jones finished with a time of 4:59.77, becoming the first female runner in school history to finish the race in under five minutes.

Oakland's next track meet is Feb. 12-13 in Allendale, Mich.

Preseason softball poll

The preseason vote by the Summit League softball coaches was announced Friday with Oakland University's team coming in fourth in the poll.

Western Illinois was voted as the preseason favorite with five of nine first-place votes.

The Golden Grizzlies finished last season in fifth place with a 24-27 overall record. OU will have to replace last year's best hitter, Julie Owen, and pitcher, Jessica Granger.

The regular season will begin Feb. 19. The team will play out-of-state road games until April.

Men's and women's golf

Summit League preseason voting for the men's and women's golf was also announced last week.

The Oakland men's golf team was picked to finish fifth in the league.

The team is led by senior captain Frank McAuliffe, a two-time all-conference selection.

OU's women's team was predicted to finish fourth in the standings.

Senior co-captain Austin McDermaid and sophomore Liz Ecker were Oakland's top performers during the fall season.

After nearly a five-month layoff from competition, the two teams will return to action March 15 at the Jackrabbit Invitational in Nevada.



GAME SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 10-16

Men's Basketball
2/11 at Southern Utah
2/13 at UMKC

Club Wrestling
2/13 University of Toledo Duals
Tournament

Women's Basketball
2/13 at UMKC
2/15 at Southern Utah

Indoor Track & Field
2/12 - 2/13 Grand Valley Big
Meet in Allendale, Mich.

Club Hockey
2/12 vs. Buffalo 8:40 p.m.
2/13 vs. Buffalo 8:40 p.m.

Swimming & Diving
2/12 - 2/14 Michigan Open
at the Athletics Center

Officials address state's future

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Gov. Jennifer Granholm discussed the future of Oakland County and Michigan as a whole, respectively, last Wednesday.

Patterson focused his State of Oakland County address on his plans for 2010 rather than problems of 2009.

"Tonight I had two options," Patterson said. "I could have dwelled on the challenges of our economy, but we all know those too well. Or I could leave you with a positive message that we have a great team here in Oakland County — including my staff; the other countywide elected officials with whom I am privileged to serve; our legislative body, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners; and our outstanding courts and judges — they

are all managing through these tough budget years in a manner which I hope makes you proud."

Much of Patterson's speech focused on the work his Budget Task Force plans to carry out this year. Specifically, the task force developed a new three year budget, is helping prevent foreclosures through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and helping families purchase homes through the Homebuyer program.

"As we continue to move forward with both programs, the goal will be to reduce blight caused by abandoned homes and to stabilize property values by getting qualified families into these homes," Patterson said. "These programs work because they allow the private market to work."

Other developments in Oakland County that Patterson highlighted included the accreditation approval for

Oakland University's William Beaumont School of Medicine, which he said will likely create 1,000 jobs, and the progress made by alternative energy groups, such as Xtreme Power and Clairvoyant.

"I can't emphasize the significance of this medical school," Patterson said. "The possibility of a multibillion dollar shot in the arm will go a long way toward restoring our challenged economy."

During her final State of the State Address, Gov. Granholm stressed a need for smart investments in order for the state economy to begin to recuperate.

She put an emphasis on the Pure Michigan tourism advertising campaign, investing in education and improve transportation systems.

"The federal government will give us \$2 billion over the next four years if we can come up with a 20 percent match in state funds," Granholm said. "Without

the match, we lose the federal funds, and 10,000 jobs each year going forward."

Her revised budget, if passed, will reinstate the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

"My budget for the year ahead will restore the Michigan Promise Scholarship, identify a creative way to pay for it, and give it a new focus — keeping our young people in Michigan when they earn their degrees," Granholm said.

Granholm mentioned efforts to make Saginaw the next Silicon Valley as far as solar panel manufacturing companies go and Macomb County's budding defense industry. New industries are key to her idea of "New Michigan."

"Job providers are the critical architects and builders of the new Michigan," Granholm said. "When they come to us with reasonable proposals about ways to make them grow, we must listen."

Recession pushes teens, young adults to edge

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press Reporter

DETROIT — On one of the coldest days of the new year, Antonio Larkin found himself without a place to stay — again.

So the 22-year-old called a familiar number and was greeted by a familiar voice: "You wait there. We'll be there to get you."

When outreach manager Stephanie Taylor and other staffers from Covenant House Michigan pulled up, Larkin was standing in the gray snow outside his ex-girlfriend's apartment building, his world's possessions in three beat up travel bags.

Larkin is among the untold thousands of Detroit's teens and young adults struggling to get by in a disastrous economy that has left their families without jobs or homes. Making matters worse is the organizations that help them are grappling with tough financial issues of their own.

Some are cutting programs, others are scaling back on how many people they serve, but none of the groups are giving up.

"The neighborhoods we go in are the ones we know are very distressed ... burned buildings, abandoned buildings, areas that are high in crime," Taylor said. "Those kids need to know that we love them and we care about them and we're here to help them. We need to go into areas that others might be afraid to go in."

Covenant House serves youth ages 13 to 22 and their contributions totaled \$2.7 million in 2009 — \$1.6 million less than the \$4.3 million raised in 2008 and 2007.

It has cut out some GED preparation courses, but continues to provide 75 emergency and transitional beds, officials said.

And then there's the kind of help they give to people like Larkin.

He first stayed there months ago, but was kicked out for disciplinary reasons. He then began "couch-surfing" or staying with other relatives or friends.

The day he called Taylor at Covenant House, Larkin's girlfriend had kicked him out.

"If I only had stayed at Covenant House, I think my life would have been much better," Larkin said.

Covenant House has been working to find him a new place to stay, but the resources out there aren't as plentiful as they were before the recession struck.

Other groups in the city are hurting, too.

A shelter for young girls has cut staff and reduced its beds from 30 to 20, said Lindsey MacDonald, fund development manager for Alternatives for Girls. Its annual dinner raised about \$125,000 in 2006. That dropped to \$87,000 two years ago, before plummeting to \$34,000 in 2009.

Nationally, it's estimated that up to 1.5 million teens and young adults are homeless.

There could be tens of thousands in Detroit because of the city's enormous economic and social problems, according to Wayne State University psychology professor Paul Toro.

Nearly one in three working-age adults is jobless in Detroit. Job cuts have led to thousands of home foreclosures. The poverty rate is more than 33 percent.

The 84,000-student Detroit Public Schools projects it

will serve 3,894 fitting the federal homeless classification by the end of the school year. That's up from 2,976 in 2008-2009, and 2,326 the year before, according to school district records.

Finding those teens and young adults can be tough, Toro said.

"Kids under 18 living on the streets in Detroit is very rare," he said. "You have to really look hard. You can go to other places, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, and you can find them all over the place."

Instead of seeking out the few public shelters that cater to teens, most are dropping in on cousins, aunts and friends. When welcomes wear out, they move on to other sympathetic acquaintances.

Milwaukee, like Detroit, is another rustbelt city with a declining manufacturing base. The 83,000-student Milwaukee Public Schools is serving 2,100 homeless students, although that number is expected to rise by June, said Janis Shogren, district homeless coordinator.

"And that's only the tip of the iceberg. These are the families who come to our attention," Shogren said.

Baltimore's City Public Schools also similar to Detroit in size, has identified 1,057 homeless students so far this year. Last year, 1,357 were served. Those numbers only may be a third of the students who actually are homeless, said Louise Fink, director of Interagency Support for the Baltimore district.

"If mom's home is foreclosed and she moves across the street into an aunt's house, they are homeless," Fink said. "Students who want the kind of services we can give them, they will identify themselves. If they don't want our services, they don't bother."

Local news briefs: scholarship, bridge sale rumors

Tax donations go to breast cancer treatment and prevention

LANSING — By placing a check mark on line one of the Voluntary Contributions Schedule within your 2009 state income tax form, residents can help raise money for breast cancer research.

Donations of \$5, \$10 or more to Amanda's Fund for Breast Cancer Prevention and Treatment go directly to the Michigan's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, or BCCCP. This program provides free cervical and breast cancer screening and diagnostic services to low-income women in Michigan.

Since the program's start in 1991, 150,000 women have been screened for breast cancer. More than 2,400 cases of breast cancer have been diagnosed.

For more about Amanda's Fund and the Michigan BCCCP, visit their website at www.michigancancer.org/taxcheck-off.cfm.

—Staff intern Reanna Douglas

Program calls on students for ideas to improve Michigan's Economy

SOUTHFIELD — Ciber, Inc, an information technology solutions company, has introduced a proposal to stimulate Michigan's economic recovery by collaboratively helping students. Motivate Michigan is a collegiate competition that hopes to encourage students to develop creative ideas to improve Michigan's economy.

Teams and individuals can submit their ideas at www.motivatemichigan.org by March 12. Ideas will be judged based on originality, practicality, creativity and the potential impact on the state's economy. The winning idea will be developed into a project plan and presented to the logical "project owner" for support and funding. The objective is to turn the most reasonable idea into reality, in hopes of helping revitalize the economy in Michigan. The program will award a total of 10 scholarships and one grand prize winner.

—Staff intern Reanna Douglas

Man sentenced in mutilation of roommate's body

DETROIT — A Detroit man has been sentenced to prison for dismembering his roommate's corpse and stashing the remains in a basement freezer.

Prosecutors say 41-year-old Darryl Lewis was sentenced Tuesday in Wayne County Circuit Court to 10 months to 15 years in prison.

The remains of 58-year-old Andrew Hotkowitz were found in September.

The Detroit News reports that Lewis pleaded guilty in January to mutilation of a body. Authorities could not determine how Hotkowitz died. The newspaper says Lewis told police Hotkowitz died of a drug overdose and he cut up the body to avoid blame.

Defense attorney Corbett Edge O'Meara says Lewis loved Hotkowitz "like a father" and regrets his actions.

—Associated Press

Ambassador Bridge: Offer to buy bridge a "rumor"

WINDSOR, Ontario — The president of the Detroit International Bridge Co. said it has never solicited an offer to sell the Ambassador Bridge.

Dan Stamper also calls a report that Transport Canada is in talks to buy the bridge spanning the Detroit River and connecting Windsor, Ontario with Detroit a "rumor."

The Canadian Transport Minister's office says its government has had discussions on various topics with bridge officials, but has made no offer to buy it from owner Manuel "Matty" Moroun.

Officials have been working for years to add capacity at the border crossing. The border handles more traffic than any other crossing between the U.S. and Canada.

Moroun wants to build a second span and opposes a government plan to build a new, six-lane bridge further downriver.

—Associated Press

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Country expected to be blasted with snow

By JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — If snow keeps 230,000 government employees home for the better part of a week, will anyone notice?

With at least another foot of snow headed for Washington, Philadelphia and New York, we're about to find out. The federal government in the nation's capital has largely been shut down since Friday afternoon, when a storm began dumping up to 3 feet of snow in some parts of the region. Offices could remain closed at least through Wednesday.

So far, the effects have been negligible. Many essential government services are performed at offices around the country, and about 85 percent of federal employees work outside the Washington region anyway. Others were working from home despite the snow. An IRS spokeswoman said tax returns should not be affected.

"Anything that is critical is going to get done," said Linda Springer, a former director of the Office of Personnel Management, which oversees the federal work force of nearly 2 million workers.

David Fiore, who works for the federal government's Export-Import Bank of the U.S., stocked up on groceries Tuesday in Washington and said he planned to do some work from home, including a 2 p.m. conference call.

"They're open in Turkey. I'm getting e-mails from Morocco," he said. "The work goes on."

Philadelphia and Washington needed just 9 more inches of snow each to log the snowiest winters since at least 1884, the first year records were kept.

Even before the storm arrived in the District of Columbia, the House announced it was scrapping the rest of its workweek. Several hearings and meetings were postponed, including one planned for Wednesday on Toyota's massive recalls.

Agencies from the Federal Communications Commission to the Federal Trade Commission canceled hearings and planned announcements because of the looming snow. Shuttering the agencies for a day costs the government an estimated \$100 million in lost productivity and related costs.

Down Pennsylvania Avenue, the White House decided to move up by a day a Black History Month concert featuring Bob Dylan, Smokey Robinson and Natalie Cole. It had been slated for Wednesday, but was instead moved to Tuesday night.

President Barack Obama held a bipartisan meeting with congressional leaders ahead of the storm Tuesday and joked that it went so well that Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky had gone out to play in the snow.

"In fact, I understand that McConnell and Reid are out doing snow angels on the South Lawn together," Obama joked as he made an unannounced stop in the White House briefing room.

The snow started in the Midwest before moving into the Mid-Atlantic region, where utility workers struggled to restore power already knocked out by a weekend blizzard.

Greek bailout helps US market

By TIM PARADIS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — The Dow Jones industrial average jumped back above 10,000 on hope that the European Union will help Greece manage its growing debt burden.

The Dow rose 150 points Tuesday, a day after closing below 10,000 for the first time in three months. The major indexes all gained more than 1 percent.

Global markets bounced back on reports that European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet is changing his travel schedule to attend a meeting of EU officials on Thursday and that plans are being developed to rescue Greece. The reports are raising hopes that policymakers will take bigger steps to contain troubles in Greece. The country is struggling with big budget gaps and is seeing demand fall for its debt.

Though Greece's economy is small, investors are concerned that troubles there will spill into other countries. World stock markets have been tumbling in recent weeks on concerns that debt problems would spread. Investors are also concerned by budget gaps in Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the uncertainty has undermined Europe's common currency, the euro.

The European debt problems are the latest obstacle for investors who have put the market's

10-month rally on hold. Stocks began retreating in mid-January after China said it would try to control its economy to avoid speculative bubbles. Things got worse when President Barack Obama announced plans to curb trading by large financial institutions.

On Tuesday, Greece took its latest steps to calm markets, pledging to increase retirement ages, raise fuel taxes and accelerate reforms. However a strike over the government's new austerity measures is still expected to proceed on Wednesday.

"There's some euphoria that maybe it's not going to be blowing up," said Erik Davidson, managing director of investments for Wells Fargo Private Bank in Carmel, Calif., referring to easing fears over Greece.

The Dow also got a boost from Morgan Stanley's upgrade to shares of Caterpillar Inc. It was Morgan's first upbeat take on the stock in three years. A cautious forecast from the equipment maker hurt stocks late last month.

Stocks have become more volatile in recent weeks as concerns grow about the strength and sustainability of a global economic recovery. The Dow, which fell almost 104 points Monday, has posted triple-digit moves in 11 of the last 17 trading days. The index has posted four consecutive Dow market has retreated 6.2 percent since hitting a 15-month high in the middle of January.

Reserve has pledged to hold interest rates low to help revive the economy.

NIW BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

2-9 | NEAR MARJAH, Afghanistan — U.S. and Afghan forces pushed Tuesday to the edge of the southern Afghan town of Marjah, poised to seize the major Taliban supply and drug-smuggling stronghold in hopes of building public support by providing aid and services once the insurgents are gone. Instead of keeping the offensive secret, Americans have been talking about it for weeks, expecting the Taliban would flee. But the militants appear to be digging in, apparently believing that even a losing fight would rally supporters and sabotage U.S. plans if the battle proves destructive. No date for the main attack has been announced but all signs indicate it will come soon. It will be the first major offensive since President Barack Obama announced last December that he was sending 30,000 reinforcements to Afghanistan.

2-9 | DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The world's tallest skyscraper has unexpectedly closed to the public a month after its lavish opening, disappointing tourists headed for the observation deck and casting doubt over plans to welcome its first permanent occupants in the coming weeks. Electrical problems are at least partly to blame for the closure of the Burj Khalifa's viewing platform — the only part of the half-mile high tower open yet. But a lack of information from the spire's owner left it unclear whether the rest of the largely empty building — including dozens of elevators meant to whisk visitors to the tower's more than 160 floors — was affected by the shutdown. The indefinite closure, which began Sunday, comes as Dubai struggles to revive its international image as a cutting-edge Arab metropolis amid nagging questions about its financial health.

2-9 | JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesian police say eight people have died after drinking liquor laced with methanol on the country's main island of Java. Police Maj. Syaiful Anwar said Tuesday the victims bought the drink from the same stall Friday. No one has been arrested. Police have questioned the street vendor who sold the alcohol in the central city of Yogyakarta. Methanol can be used for fuel and is an ingredient in formaldehyde, plastics and paints. Alcohol is heavily taxed in Indonesia, meaning high prices that have spawned a huge black market for wine and liquor. Last year 25 people died in two weeks after consuming a homemade liquor laced with methanol on Indonesia's resort islands of Bali and Lombok.

2-9 | NEW YORK — The New Orleans Saints' victory over Indianapolis in the Super Bowl was watched by more than 106 million people, surpassing the 1983 finale of "M-A-S-H" to become the most-watched program in U.S. television history, the Nielsen Co. said Monday. Compelling story lines involving the city of New Orleans and its ongoing recovery from Hurricane Katrina and the attempt at a second Super Bowl ring for Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning propelled the viewership. Football ratings have been strong all season.

Mouthing Off

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

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February 10, 2010



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Nothing says love like ... hookers?

By CAILIN JASON

WXOU assistant program director/hooker fan

About a week ago, I was at home watching Nightline. Now, I can probably count on less than one hand how many times I have seen Nightline in my life, but by some force of kismet I happened to tune in this night.

I was sitting on the couch, already enthralled in a story about a clairvoyant woman who could communicate with the dead. Not only that, but she was pushing the idea that all people have these abilities if they focus their energy. Are you saying that if I try hard enough, I can talk to dead people? No. Freaking. Way.

I didn't think much could top the prospect of me becoming the next Miss Cleo, but that's when Nightline kept the laughs going from the paranormal to prostitution.

The Shady Lady Ranch, located two and a half hours outside of Las Vegas, has become the home to America's first legal male prostitute, "Markus." Under this less than creative stage name, Markus has set the rate of his services at \$200 for 40 minutes.

Typically, I don't give a damn what someone chooses to do with their body. Some work to save lives or inspire the minds of the future and others decide to perform fellatio on random strangers. Whatever floats your boat.

However, Mr. Markus believes that what he is doing goes beyond providing sexual satisfaction. He looks at himself as an artist who is breaking social norms.

"It's just the same as when Rosa Parks decided to sit at the front instead of the back," says Markus in his interview with Details magazine (find the full interview at details.com).

Are you kidding me Markus? Did you

really just compare selling your body to a key historic moment in the civil rights movement? Fifty years from now, will our grandchildren be taught about the legendary movement led by Markus "The Pen Is Mightier" Male Gigolo?

I didn't realize the male population felt that they were being held back from the exploitation and degradation that typically accompanies society's view on prostitution.

By the way, Markus prefers the term gigolo. You know, like Richard Gere, the "American Gigolo?" Look him up, he is no Richard Gere. Hell, even Rob Schneider is a classier gigolo than this tool.

Remember though, looks aren't everything. Luckily for us, Markus understands women.

According to him, women aren't paying for sex; they are sensitive creatures paying for an experience.

No, they're paying for sex. If they wanted sensitivity and affection, they would rent a Nicholas Sparks movie.

Markus claims that every woman who visits him will feel loved during their session and they will leave feeling more empowered than before they came. Yep, nothing is more empowering than shelling out \$200 for a false sense of love and affection, and not even a full hour's worth.

Markus says that a gigolo needs to have the heart of a saint, the mind of a philosopher, and the skills of the devil. I understand exaggerating your qualities to look good on a resume, but this is ridiculous.

Step back Julia Roberts, it's time for Markus to work his game. Excuse me, it's not a game, it's a change to social norms.

I wonder if he's going to have a special Valentine's Day package ...

Move, Valentine; Athanasia's here.

By DAN SIMONS

Mouthing Off editor/holiday creator

This is not a Valentine's Day rant.

I'm not going to be one of those people who drill it into your head that Valentine's Day has turned love into a soulless commodity, or that no one should dictate which day of the year to show someone we love them, or one of those people who's going to barricade themselves in their house and bake cupcakes in between the sobbing and bad romance films.

Screw you and your "Singles Awareness Day;" let the couples be happy. Hear me out.

Yes, it looks like I'm going to be single this Valentine's Day (Unless you wanted to change that, *ladies*.) But I'm going to do something no other rant on the holiday has done before. I'm going to offer up a solution.

A new holiday.

If the holiday for love is Feb. 14, in the dead middle of the deadest season, in a month which, like bad sex, is short and dull, then I propose a new holiday at the exact opposite end of the year, Aug. 14, where it's long and hot, where the sun shines and the only thing you have to scrape off your car before going home is bird poop.

Join me, will you, in celebrating Saint Athanasia Day on Aug. 14.

Athanasia (which rhymes with euthanasia) was a patron saint from the Aegina islands. When she was 16 her parents made her marry a soldier, and 16 days after her wedding he died in combat. Sucks to be her.

Later she remarried, but her husband instantly became a monk and wanted her to join in a life of servitude to pious causes. They opened their house to the

sick and the poor and Athanasia became a nun.

Clearly, this girl got no action whatsoever. *Really* sucks to be her.

And it just so happens her patron saint day is the exact opposite end of the year from Valentine's Day, a perfect day to celebrate being single.

Let us make a holiday where you don't awkwardly find someone, but you come up with an excuse to leave the dead-end relationship you are in now.

Let us celebrate a day in which we send our scorned ex-lovers chocolate hearts laced with laxatives, bouquets of dried and rotting roses, and a jewelry box containing a dead fish.

Let us rejoice in happy couples feeling awkward and out of place while all the single people go to the bars during a time of year where it makes sense to go outside.

Instead of running around and spending money to make one other person happy on Feb. 14, why not do nothing and enjoy being yourself, by yourself, with other people by themselves on Aug. 14.

Who knows, you might even find someone in the revelry and celebration of St. Athanasia's Day that will stick around for half a year so you can do all the couple stuff on Valentine's Day.

To all the couples, lovers, items, and "it's complicated's," go and have your fun on Valentine's Day. Smell your flowers, eat chocolates, drink wine, wear new jewelry and that lingerie you starved yourself to fit into and go at it like drunken rabbits on Valentines Day.

To the single, the lonesome, the "table for one's," the ringless-ring fingers, I will see you on St. Athanasia's Day.

Unless, of course, you wanted to change that ... *ladies*.

National 'Awareness Month' Awareness Month

Be aware: bowels, brain damage, apathy, and other really meaningful reasons to celebrate

By RORY McCARTY

Staff reporter / totally aware about stuff

Black History Month makes February important, but did you know that there are dozens of pointless awareness months that our nation wants you to be aware of? National Garlic Mustard Awareness Month, National Pet Dental Health Awareness Month, and National Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month all pass unbeknownst to the general public because, ironically, people are unaware of them.

Well let's fix that crap right now. Here is a sampling of some of the lesser known national awareness months (all of which I did not make up) and a brief explanation of why they're important in what has come to be called National Awareness Month Awareness Month.

January: National Bath Safety Awareness Month

According to the National Safety Council, the family bathroom is the most dangerous room in the house, accounting for 80 percent of all household accidents. I can see why, what with the sink and the floor and all. It's a veritable death trap. What's worse, young toddlers, eager to explore their surroundings, are always looking for new and inventive ways to murder themselves.

The National Safety Council proposes installing nonslip safety strips in your

tub, putting foam coverings on the faucets, and watching your baby carefully to make sure they don't bring a plugged in toaster in the tub with them. However, they also propose putting locks on all your toilets. Now, I'm against drowning babies as much as the next person, but once we start locking up our poop, I think we as a society need to commit ourselves.

February: National Pet Dental Health Awareness Month

February is the shortest month of the year, and in addition to playing host to Black History Month, Water Purity Awareness Month, Sinus Pain Awareness Month, and Marijuana Awareness Month, is also National Pet Dental Health Awareness Month. Now admittedly, this one sounds stupid, until you realize that there is no HUMAN Dental Health Awareness Month. Then you realize that it is extra stupid. Just to clarify, during this month I can't be made aware of my own decaying teeth, but my dog's oral hygiene is priority one. And he eats cat poop.

I suppose cats and dogs are just as much at risk of gingivitis as the rest of us. But I think clearly the greatest benefit of this month is the YouTube videos that spring up of sedated cats stumbling around after going to the cat dentist.

March: National Brain Injury Awareness Month

Did you know March is Brain Injury Awareness Month? You didn't? Now here's the tricky thing: Maybe you did know but then you hit your head and forgot. There's no way of knowing for sure.

This month is all about sports-related brain injuries like concussions, which can sometimes happen to an athlete without him or her realizing it and lead to worse problems later on.

I think the reason this is a month-long deal is because you can never really be certain if you got a brain injury and then immediately amnesia'd it away.

The only safe solution is to get an MRI daily. Or get a giant tattoo on your chest like the guy in "Memento" but have it say, "BRAIN INJURY."

April: National Alcohol Awareness Month

OK, I think what they meant to call this was Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month, but somebody sent the wrong letter to the printers and they ended up with a giant misprinted banner and decided to run with it. Reason being, I would say most Americans are well "aware" of alcohol.

Like intimately aware. Like in their tummies.

July: Solar Awareness Month

For a while, this one was baffling to me. I mean, I suppose there could be people who are unaware of or refuse to acknowledge the sun: Vampires, for one. I thought maybe this month was a front for vampire hunters, under the pretense of spreading awareness, to drag their prey out into the daylight where they burst into flames or sparkle and get weepy and emotional, depending on what movie you've seen.

But realistically, how many people are thinking, "What is that yellow thing up there, and what does it do? Is there some place I can get a pamphlet about this? And I need it explained to me not once, but daily for an entire month." Is that who this appeals to? Then I found out Solar Awareness Month is about solar energy. Now I feel like a jackass.

August: National Apathy Awareness Month

So I've decided to throw my hat in the ring and nominate this August as Apathy Awareness Month. The idea is to make people aware of people's indifference to things in general. I plan on holding a celebratory rally for Apathy Month as well. I figure if no one shows up, then I've succeeded entirely.

A week is nothing; she has gone months without Facebook

By MACKENZIE ROGER

Contributing columnist / expecting mother?

On Oct. 19, 2009, I found out that I was pregnant. From my Facebook profile.

Yes, I was one of *those* people, the ones WHO classily announce their pregnancies online. After all, I am a classy person.

However, the status update informing friends and family about my delicate situation was neither written by me, nor truthful.

Have I mentioned that I'm classy? Because the following statement will most likely refute that fact.

"Mackenzie would like to announce that she is 8 wks pregnant!!!!" This is verbatim.

Yes, I was one of the approximately 24,600 people to have their accounts hacked in 2009. Of course, that's just an estimate, based off of a Time Magazine article.

Within minutes of the message's posting, I received dozens of texts, asking if there had been an Immaculate Conception, part deux.

It's nice to have your friends think you can't get any. Which I'm actually OK with: Good-girl reputations don't come easily.

Unfortunately, my response was hardly ideal. I sent out a mass text, consisting of two words:

"Not pregnant!"

Classy, right? Even better, I didn't check who the message was sent to, so everyone got it.

My RHT 160 professor? Message delivered! The guy I crushed on in high school, but never told? He thinks I'm a psycho. PR manager to the All-American Rejects? Well, I'm sure she's used to getting those messages.

With one text, I did more damage to my reputation that one Facebook update ever could. On Oct. 20, I disabled my profile, and haven't accessed it since.

I've never done drugs, so I'm not familiar with withdrawal symptoms, but I'm 99 percent sure I experienced them.

Each time I hung out with friends, I asked for the latest Facebook gossip. Without them, I'd never know that the slutty girl from high school left her husband of one year who then began a relationship with her twin sister.

I would also never know that my brother broke up with his girlfriends.

Yes, I wrote that correctly. Apparently, the girls were OK with an awkward polygamous relationship. It's like living in an episode of "Big Love."

However, if I hadn't left Facebook, I would never have discovered the joy in other areas of the Internet.

I learned that you can read books online. For free, too. I stopped paying for books.

Then I found Perez Hilton, a celebrity gossip blogger so mean that I became a nicer person after reading his posts. After that, I stopped buying "People" magazine.

Later, I realized that **Lamebook.com** could give me a Facebook fix, but only with the funniest and stupidest things from my once-favorite site. I had no need to use my own profile.

Most recently, I found Twitter, a micro-blogging site that allows users to post constant status updates. It's like Facebook, but less of my friends are on it.

Fast forward to today. I'm in the third trimester of a phantom pregnancy, and in a good place.

Gone are the days I would waste on Facebook, stalking high school crushes in hopes of finding messages subliminally directed at me. (Love you too, Carl!)

I'm past creeping on photos of people having way more fun than me, especially when I could go out and have the same amount of fun.

Yup, a pregnancy scare was the best thing to ever happen to me.

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