

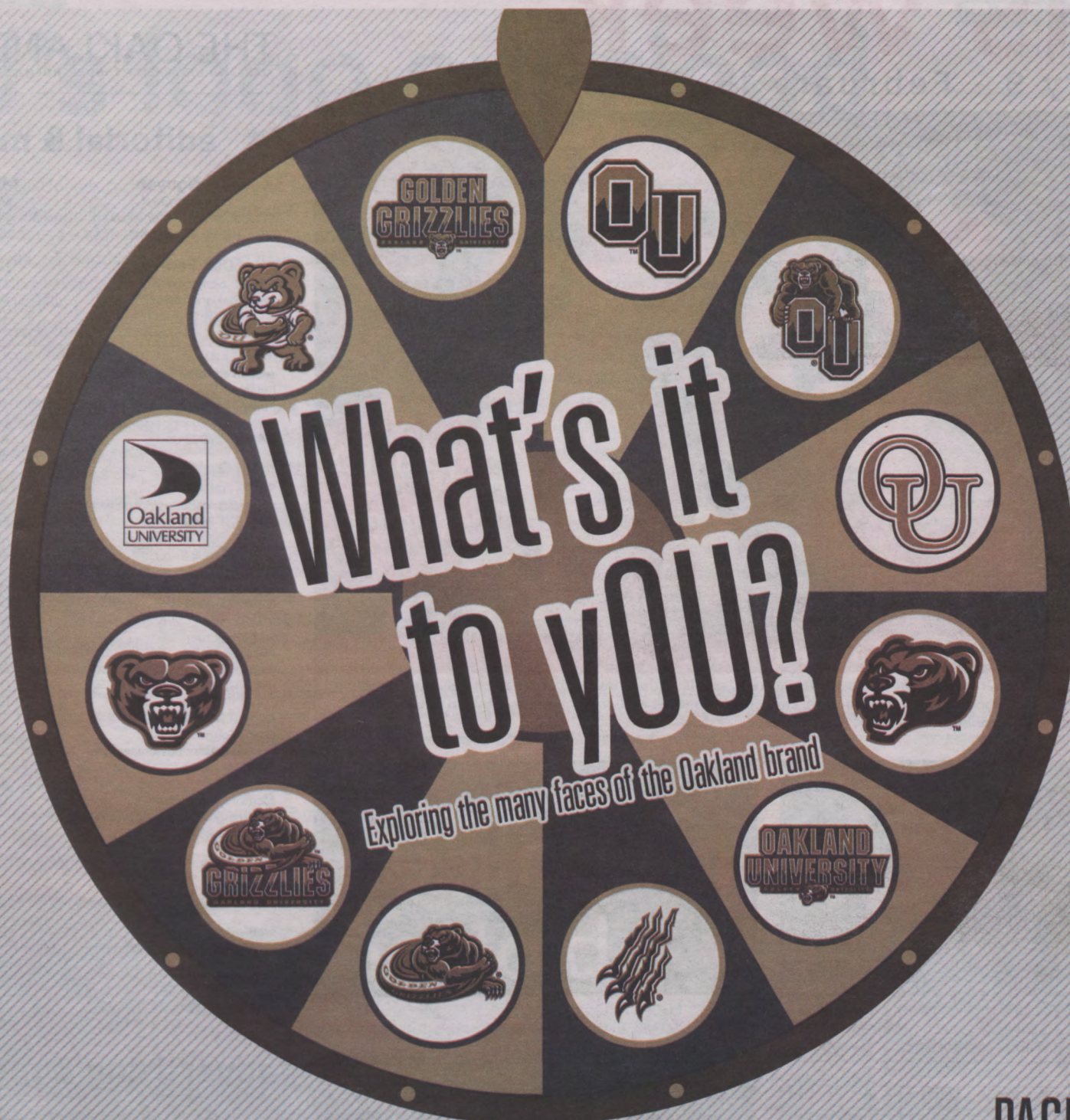
THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 9, 2011

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Volume 37 // Issue 22



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February 9 - February 15, 2011



Meadow Brook Ball // Saturday, Feb. 5

NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Roughly 300 students and other guests enjoyed food, dancing and music at the annual Meadow Brook Ball. Attendees were treated to free valet parking, tours of the mansion, caricature drawings and prize giveaways. When tickets for the ball went on sale back in December, they sold out in record time.



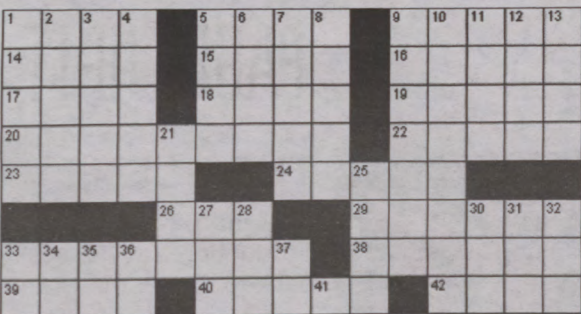
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SPORTS // Oakland University's Division III club hockey team strives to excel on the ice like its renowned Division I counterpart.



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LOCAL // Local police blotter details recent activity in the cities that surround the campus of Oakland University.



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CROSSWORD // Our weekly crossword puzzle is a great way to kill time on campus. Answers are available on our website.



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MOUTHING OFF // In light of the generally unpopular Super Bowl XLV halftime show, we suggest 10 alternatives to the Black Eyed Peas.



The Oakland Post provides online coverage of every home basketball game immediately after the game ends. Check out our coverage if you can't make it to the O'rena to see it live.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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STAFF EDITORIAL

OU's logo overload

If you attend Oakland University, odds are you are a white, female resident of Oakland County between the ages of 17 and 22.

But a bunch of young, white girls with a five- to ten-minute drive to campus don't define OU. So, what does?

If you know the answer to that question, OU President Gary Russi would like to hear about it.

At last month's university update, Russi said the University of Michigan and Michigan State University have already sealed their fates and cannot change who they are, whereas Oakland is still young enough to rebrand itself.

Oakland cannot — nor should it — be U-M or MSU, but there is something OU could learn from the state's two biggest schools.

When you think of each school, a block letter comes to mind. Perhaps the image of a Spartan or a maize and blue helmet do, too. All told, U-M and MSU have a combined 14 registered marks.

OU, conversely, has 17 official, regulated logos, according to its website. Granted, several have very specific uses — the "Little Grizz" logo is used only for youth merchandise and the side profile of Grizz is primar-

ily for club sports — and some are slight variations of each other.

Still, having multiple identifiable logos gives OU an identity crisis.

Oakland, of course, started its collegiate career as the Pioneers, becoming the Golden Grizzlies in 1998 when it switched to Division I.

Now 54 years old, Oakland University must finally settle on an image.

Sticking with one, solid logo should be the first step OU takes toward branding itself.

Once OU's visual image is solidified, it should look to invoke a strong mental association of what it has to offer.

Oakland is known for being a cheaper, viable alternative to MSU, but doesn't have the prestige of its green and white mother.

According to the Office of Institutional Research, only 1 percent of Oakland's total student population is from out of state, indicating that the university is not nationally recognized — despite the popular myth that OU is in Oakland, Calif.

The men's basketball team is changing that fast. The team will likely make its second straight NCAA Tournament appearance, and a rumored expansion of its O'rena would further legitimize the team.

The women's basketball team isn't far behind, and the swimming and diving teams are perennial powerhouses.

If OU improves its retention rates, Russi projects an enrollment of 24,420 in 2020 — a 28 percent growth from OU's current enrollment of 19,053.

Growth, of course, would come with several logistical issues as on-campus housing has been above 100 percent occupancy for three years running and parking continues to be a real, albeit exaggerated, problem.

Once all the kinks are figured out, Oakland is in a terrific position to grow. But it needs to first identify its true identity.

Is it to become the hub of medical research? Is it a perfect medium between a community college and an elite university?

When kids grow up, they go through many phases, and try out many things. Ultimately, they settle on one thing they want to do.

For Oakland to finally hit maturity, it needs to do the same.

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THE MATCHING SOCKS

by: JOHN O'NEILL

www.thematchingsocks.com

Support of dictatorship in Egypt must end

As I write this commentary, many courageous human rights activists that I've met in my research on the pro-democracy movement in Egypt are being beaten and detained — not just in Tahrir Square, but in their offices and homes.

The good news in Egypt is that Mubarak may finally step down — and the sooner he does, the less blood will be shed.

The good news here at home is that events in Egypt are forcing the most careful reexamination of U.S. foreign policy toward that country (and hopefully the world) since the end of the Cold War.

We've been playing both sides of the fence for too long. Over the last few decades we've sent a brutal dictator billions of dollars in military and economic aid — on the claim that he was protecting us from Islamic fundamentalism.

We must use this tragedy to reexamine our foreign policy priorities and our strategies for achieving them.

We failed to notice that there is an important difference between the Muslim Brotherhood, a moderate group that renounced violence in the 1960s and worked within the Egyptian political system for



Laura Landolt
Assistant Professor,
Political Science

reform (similar to Christian Democratic parties in Western Europe); and violent jihadis like al-Qaeda, whose primary target has been civilians (Muslims, Christians and Jews) across the Middle East and North Africa (more recently in the U.S.)

Because we were more interested in Egyptian "stability," we overlooked Egypt's permanent Emergency Laws that denied its citizens civil and political rights. We overlooked the Mubarak regime's policies of detention without trial and systematic torture.

Indeed, recent figures put the number of political prisoners in Egypt at 20,000. The hypocrisy of this position is clear — we cannot effectively demand democracy in Iran (or anywhere else) while supporting an equally dictatorial ally.

More recently we've been sending much smaller amounts of pro-democracy aid to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Egypt.

Again, you can't support dictatorship and democracy at the same time. Many government officials formed NGOs to receive that democracy funding and used it to present a façade of political reform.

Even our own USAID officials in Egypt were under surveillance and often actively intimidated by Egypt's Interior Ministry.

Meanwhile, Egyptian human rights activists, who bravely challenged the regime and faced regular detention and torture, were unable to accept our assistance for fear of being labeled foreign agents and prosecution for treason.

Indeed, the Mubarak regime used the most prominent pro-democracy (and pro-U.S.) activists like Saad Eddin Ibrahim and Ayman Nour as examples, and we looked the other way.

If it could imprison and brutalize these well-known friends of the U.S., what would it do to anyone else?

When you play both sides of the fence, you are always on the wrong side. At this very moment these brave pro-democracy activists are fighting and dying to overthrow our old friend, Mubarak. Whose side are we on?

Now the world wants to know whether we really support democracy, or not. We can't continue to play both sides of the fence.

If we truly believe that democracy is the best system of government, and that democracy facilitates compromise and

peace, how can we justify supporting dictators? In the long run, indeed, how can this strategy facilitate our primary objective of stability?

We must use this tragedy to re-examine our foreign policy priorities and our strategies for achieving them.

Laura Landolt is an assistant professor in the political science department at Oakland University. In addition to gender and development, as well as domestic and transnational movements, she has specialties in Middle East politics, democratization, U.S. foreign aid and global governance.

In the summer of 2010, she completed research in Cairo, Egypt. Since 2007, Landolt has collected over 45 interviews with human rights activists in Egypt for the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review.

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The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact.

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POLL OF THE WEEK

LAST WEEK'S POLL //

Do you think GPA is an accurate measurement of college academic performance?

yes — 31 (34%)

no — 61 (66%)

CURRENT POLL //

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

What are your thoughts on the possibility of a campus-wide smoking ban?

I support it

I am against it

I don't care



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

The Chinese Women's Association of Michigan performs a folk dance called "Fengyang Flower-Drum", one of 10 performances.

Celebrating a new year

Chinese New Year kicks off with music, food, dance

By **NICHOLE SEGUIN** and
MEGAN NOVAK

Features Editor and
Contributing Reporter

While some students spent their Thursday night studying in the dorms, other students had the opportunity to experience Chinese culture first-hand.

The International Allies Organization, International Student and Scholars Office, Center for Multicultural Initiatives, Chinese Friendship Association, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, China Association, Asian American Association hosted the Chinese New Year Celebration on Thursday, Feb. 3 in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center.

"This was the most well-attended event so far," said Petra Knoche, assistant director of the International Students and Scholars

Office. "I think it was because it was on the actual date of the beginning of Chinese New Year (this year)."

The event featured a variety of activities, including Chinese food, calligraphy, Chinese paper cutting and carving display, which is the Chinese version of origami, dancing, skits and performances.

For some students, attendance to the event was recommended by their professor to experience the celebration. Blaze Hill, a junior majoring in biochemistry, was one of these students.

"(This event) was a very good opportunity to learn a new things about the culture... and earn extra credit ... I respect their culture and the way that they teach their kids," Hill said, a student in the Chinese 115 course.

Angelica Dimson, a freshmen with an undecided major and a member of the IAA, said that she enjoyed the event.

"It was very interesting to see how different cultures are," she said. "My favorite part was when the little boy was doing the Kung Fu. It was more graceful than on television and less violent. It was cute when a little boy was doing it."

Shakita Billy, a junior majoring in political science, makes time for this event every year.

"It's something I enjoy doing," Billy said. "I enjoy the culture, dancing, food — the whole event."

At the event's close, student volunteers passed out good luck charms, which consisted of red envelopes with candy money in it, replacing the real money that is typically handed out in China.

The next cultural experience, European Night, will be held on Friday, March 7 from 4-7 p.m. in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center.

campus briefs

Thomas Friedman postponed

The Thomas Friedman event is being rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. All tickets that have been sold for the Feb. 8 presentation will be honored at the rescheduled event.

Arab world panel discussion

The recent uprisings throughout the Arab world will be addressed at a panel discussion on Thursday Feb. 10 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. Topics include the situations in Egypt and Tunisia.

A Taste of Africa

As part of African American Celebration Month, the Center for Multicultural Initiatives is hosting an event on Friday, Feb. 11, from 4-7 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center. Students can enjoy African-American cuisine, African dance and musical performances.

Wind Symphony performance

Oakland University's Wind Symphony will host a performance on Tuesday, Feb. 15 in Varner Recital Hall from 8-10 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the Varner Box Office or through Star Tickets Plus.

National Alcohol Screening Day

On Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Oakland University Counseling Center will be sponsoring an event in the Oakland Center. Students can test their drinking knowledge, talk with a professional and learn more about safe drinking at the free screening.

— Compiled by Lauryn Andrews,
Staff Intern

Detroit City Council President visits campus

By LAURYN ANDREWS

Staff Intern

Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh spoke on Thursday, Feb. 3 in Kresge Library as part of African American Celebration Month.

OU students and community members were curious to hear the councilman's thoughts about why we celebrate this month.

James Neal, a second year student at Cooley Law School, wanted to hear Pugh speak because he is "looking to take up some type of political position in Detroit or Wayne County somewhere."

Pugh, a Detroit native, was raised by his grandmother after both of his parents died by the time he was seven years old.

Pugh graduated from Murray-Wright High School in 1989 and won a scholarship to attend the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

After graduation, Pugh worked as a television journalist across the country before returning to Detroit to work as a reporter and anchor for FOX 2 News.

"I used to listen to listen to him on the news and radio, so I decided to come," senior, biology major Crystal Moon said.

Pugh anchored three-hour news shows Saturday and Sunday mornings for seven years, but according to his website, Pugh said that "it was my direct connection to the



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh speaks to students at Kresge Library. Pugh's visit was a part of African American Celebration Month.

people on the streets of Detroit that gave me my real purpose."

Pugh ran for Detroit City Council and he was elected council president in 2009.

"I'm such an un-politician," Pugh said. "I'm a regular guy who happens to have a very political job for elected office, but I'm just a regular guy from Detroit."

Pugh said that he is delighted to be a part of African American Celebration Month at OU.

"I am very pleased as a lover of African American History Month, to be here as part of the celebration because I am somebody

who loves African-American history," Pugh said.

When Pugh talks to young people, he said he often asks students why we celebrate African American History Month in the month of February. Pugh said the responses he receives are surprising.

"Our children today are lacking a true and healthy understanding of themselves in the context the world," he said. Many of them have their identities defined to the impoverished nature of their environment, rather than having their identity rooted in the rich reality of their history."

He said many students "are unaware of their history" and urges them to remember that they "should never be confined to their environment ... because our forefathers and foremothers have taught us that we can move beyond our unfortunate situation by daring to be achievers."

Pugh said that we celebrate African American Month because of historian Dr. Carter Woodson, who created Negro History Week in 1926 because he noticed that there were few African American achievements listed in history books.

Dr. Woodson created Negro History Week during the second week of February because "it contains the birthdays of Frederick Douglas, the abolitionist, and Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator," Pugh said.

As Negro History Week observance gained momentum, it was extended to a month.

Pugh said that its intent was not to create a "separate category of history, but a place where the achievements of African Americans would not and could not be ignored."

Pugh wants to continue to advocate for better historical education in America and is pushing to bring new initiatives to Detroit.

"Change is underway and a lot of wonderful seeds were planted years ago, and now we're really trying to bust through the soil ... and some new and exciting things are happening in our town," Pugh said.

'Not For Sale' event to explore human trafficking, sex slavery

By EMMA CLAUCHERTY

Staff Reporter

According to the International Justice Mission, between 600,000 and 800,000 people are victimized by human trafficking every year.

Inspired by this information, OU student congress will be hosting Not for Sale, an event to raise awareness of sex trafficking and to inform students how they can help put an end to it.

The event will be held Tuesday, Feb. 15 from 2- 3:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Gold Room B of the Oakland Center.

OUSC Legislative Affairs Director Benjamin Eveslage, a freshman, is organizing the event.

"It's raising awareness so it has more of an educational base at the beginning. Towards the end of the event we are going to try to invoke a sense of inspiration in the students and attendees to make a difference in the arena of sex traf-

ficking," Eveslage said.

Part of the goal of the event is making students aware that sex trafficking is happening closer than in third world countries on the other side of the earth.

"Many people don't know that it is an issue or that it even exists," Eveslage said. "Many people identify it with Cambodia or Eastern Asia, but it is surprising to note there are many cases within the United States and Michigan occurring."

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Michigan ranks 13th in the country for the number of sex traffic victims.

"We hope to raise awareness of sex trafficking as a generally international issue but also as a domestic issue as well," Eveslage said.

A few speakers will be presenting at the event. Professor Katrina Kubicek of California State University will speak. Kubicek teaches a class at California State on sex traffick-

ing. According to IJM, the trafficking of humans is a \$12 billion industry worldwide.

"This is something that is very well hidden," Eveslage said. "It has been progressing so much because of that. The reason sex trafficking continues to spread is because the people that are involved in it are ashamed. They don't talk about it. That makes it a sheltered issue."

The event is meant to inspire awareness and activism among students and other attendees for an issue that normally does not get very much attention.

"An issue like this, the second largest criminal industry in the world, it's good to be able to target that," Eveslage said.

Eveslage said that he hopes Not for Sale will have a deeper effect on students than the typical one-day on-campus event.

"It's not just going to be food and walk away," Eveslage said. "I want people to walk away inspired. That way we can do something together to make a difference."

Wall finally falls in the GSC lounge

By LAURYN ANDREWS

Staff Intern

The Gender and Sexuality Center has received a figurative face lift.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the wall separating the Gender and Sexuality Center's lounge from its office was dismantled.

"I feel good," junior Kelly Shaw said. "We have been waiting for a while. A lot of faculty members and people in administration were working on this."

Since the wall has been dismantled, students now have more room to host meetings and gather for events.

According to junior Paul Pontois, about 20-25 people visit the Gender and Sexuality Center every day.

"That does not count volunteers or other people who do not sign in," Pontois said.

The Center plans to host an official ceremony to debut the new space in March.

Freshman Rebecca Bonkowski hopes that more students will stop by the Gender and Sexuality Center.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

The wall dividing the Gender and Sexuality Center lounge was torn down on Jan. 22, allowing for more room to host meetings and events.

"I think that the biggest thing that people need to know is that you don't have to (only) come here if you have a problem right now. You don't have to be in one of three categories to hang out here," Bonkowski said.

The Gender and Sexuality Center pro-

vides services and education on issues of gender and sexuality for the campus community. For more information about the GSC and what it has to offer, stop by 49D Oakland Center or contact the coordinator, Melissa Pope at 248-370-4333.

police files

Overflow on first floor

On Jan. 31, OUPD was dispatched to Hill House dorms in response to an activated smoke detector. Upon arrival, excessive steam was visible. The steam was determined to be coming from a surplus of overflowing hot water in the hallway on the first floor. It was determined the source for the hot water was room 109. A hot water pipe had burst in the room.

Explicit e-mail debacle

On Jan. 31, it was reported that a student had received an e-mail containing a photo of a partially naked female that appeared to have been taken from a cell phone. The student received the e-mail through her Oakland account. The student contacted the sender to straighten the situation out, but the sender only responded with "it is you?" The student notified OUPD of the situation.

Student apartment larceny

On Feb. 2, a student reported a stolen laptop and iPod to the OUPD. The student had left her suite on the night her belongings went missing without locking the door. When she returned, her laptop and iPod were gone. During the time that the student was gone, a party took place with her suitemates.

Felonious roommate assault

On Feb. 4, a roommate assault was reported to OUPD. What began as a request to be quieter quickly escalated into a physical confrontation between three apartment residents. The fight included the pushing of one roommate and the throwing of a drinking glass. There is no further information at this time.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
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CSA

Center for Student Activities

www.oakland.edu/csa

Leadership Conference

"Spring Training"
April 2nd, 2011

check out the website: oakland.edu/lead

Center for Student Activities Service Window - February 2011

Broadway in Detroit

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Chicago
Les Misérables
Mamma Mia

Michigan Opera Theatre

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre
Magic Flute (Opera)
Rigoletto (Opera)

Detroit Red Wings

Feb. 9, Nashville Predators
Feb. 22, San Jose Sharks

Fox Theatre

Color Purple

For information on how to purchase tickets to these or other events, visit our window at the lower level of the Oakland Center, or click the "Service Window" tab at oakland.edu/csa

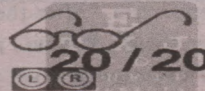
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Achieving quiet success

Lesser-known Div. III club hockey team aims for postseason run

By JAKE THIELEN
Sports Editor

What many students may not know is that Oakland University has not one, but two winning hockey teams.

The university's Division I team has gained the most notoriety, winning a national championship as recently as 2007. This year, the lesser-known Grizzlies' Division III club team is looking to achieve similar success as a member of the Michigan Collegiate Hockey Conference's Blue Division, which is a part of the American Collegiate Hockey Association.

However, in order to reach that success the team must first overcome an obstacle that doesn't affect major sports at OU, such as basketball.

Hockey's status as a club sport at Oakland means that much of the financial burden is carried by the players themselves.

Second-year coach Troy Barron said the fact that hockey is not a scholarship sport at Oakland can make recruiting difficult at times. While other colleges can afford to buy their players equipment, Oakland simply offers a good education and a competitive team.

"We are not the Yankees where kids get paid in scholarships," Barron said. "These guys work jobs, they go to school full-time and they pay for their own hockey. It's like playing travel hockey — you're paying \$300-\$400 a month."

Despite potential financial and recruiting difficulties, Barron has managed to put together a solid program.

Game day

The team entered Friday night's showdown against Michigan State University at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills with a record of 16-7, which was good for seventh place in the most recent ACHA North Division rankings. The Grizzlies had defeated Michigan State 5-2 on the road in their last game on Jan. 23.

Early on, it looked like Oakland would

repeat its previous success against the Spartans. The team came out looking to dominate the game physically in the first period, and that's exactly what happened.

Barron said setting the tone early with physical play is part of the team's game plan.

"I think the whole reason for being physical is to get somebody off their game," Barron said. "You don't want to be dirty, but you want to force (the other team) up the boards and counter-attack it. The whole thing about being physical is getting them off the puck. If they don't have the puck on their stick, they can't do anything."

The team's physical play helped create several early scoring chances. After a Michigan State penalty, sophomore forward Derek Sulpizio put home a rebound in front of the net that gave the Grizzlies a 1-0 lead just five minutes into the game.

Michigan State tied the game in the second period, but Oakland team captain Zach Warson put the Grizzlies in front again with a redirection goal with eight minutes left in the third period.

Despite several late penalties, it appeared Oakland would be able to hold on for a victory. However, Michigan State's Joe Kulczycki scored with just 1.3 seconds left in the game to force overtime.

"I didn't even know there was that much time left; I was just playing," senior goaltender Steve Henzie said. "After they scored, I looked up and saw 1.3. It was just like a backbreaker. It was tough to get out of my head."

Michigan State went on to win the game in a shootout.

"With one second left, you think you have it," Sulpizio said. "You're that close, and then they get a lucky goal bounce off the back of the boards. It's a tough loss, but we'll come back hard next week."

Looking ahead

Oakland will look to rebound in its next game against the University of Michigan-Flint Feb. 11, and cap off the season with a



JAKE THIELEN/The Oakland Post

The Oakland University Division III club hockey team warms up before the team's Feb. 4 game against Michigan State. Oakland is ranked 7th in the ACHA North Division.

trip to the ACHA National Tournament.

"The first goal that everybody set was going to nationals," Henzie said. "I don't know if we're saying winning, but we definitely want to get there, and we'll take it from there."

A 6-3 loss to Davenport University in the ACHA regionals kept the Grizzlies from qualifying for the National Tournament last year. Henzie said avenging that loss was a motivating factor entering this season.

"The other number one thing that we set out to do was to beat Davenport, which we did," Henzie said. "We lost to them in the first game that we played them (Nov. 5), and we won the second game at their ice (Nov. 7). That was one of the big goals, so we accomplished that."

The ACHA Regional Tournament is

scheduled to begin Feb. 18 at the Suburban Ice Arena in Macomb. Barron said he expects the Grizzlies to be seeded in the middle of the pack, but he still has high expectations for his team.

"At this level, any level, it's who wants it more," Barron said. "Anybody can win on any given night. If the guys want it, they can play the best, and they can beat the best. It's not up to the coaching staff; it's what they want to do."

If Oakland advances from the Regional Tournament, they would play in the National Tournament in Holland beginning March 9.

"We won our first game, and we were a period away from going last year," Barron said. "Hopefully, if the puck bounces right, we'll be able to be there (this year)."

Internal decisions lead to Pistons' struggles

COLUMN

Five months from now, the Detroit Pistons will celebrate the seventh anniversary of their 2004 NBA title victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

It sure seems like more than seven years ago.

It pains me to have to write this column, as I've been a Pistons fan since the days of the Bad Boys era. I've enjoyed and suffered through the best and worst years in team history, from NBA titles to the unfortunate teal and burgundy jersey experiment.

After the death of longtime owner Bill Davidson, the team was left with an apathetic owner seeking to sell the team in a hurry.

Making matters worse were a combination of failed trades and questionable free agent signings.

The Pistons have devolved from a well-oiled machine of a franchise into the hollow shell of one.

The worst part about the fall of



Ryan Hegedus
Senior Reporter

the Pistons empire? It's completely self-inflicted.

Joe Dumars, the team's once-untouchable president and general manager, has seen his seat get increasingly warmer over the past few years, especially on the heels of personnel moves that have led to uncertainty and embarrassment for the franchise.

In what now seems like an eternity ago, the Pistons were regularly one of the biggest draws in the league, routinely drawing sellout crowds. Four straight seasons of sellout crowds, in fact.

These days, you won't hear MVP chants reverberate through

the Palace of Auburn Hills unless the names Kobe Bryant, LeBron James or Dwight Howard are announced.

Perhaps the biggest sign of fan discontent came at last week's home game against Charlotte. Despite giving away free tickets, only 14,376 fans showed up, roughly 6,000 less fans than capacity for the Palace. Free tickets went unclaimed.

The disappointing turnout may have been related to the recent snow storm, but in truth, it has more to do with the dark storm clouds hovering over the franchise. Things are looking pretty bleak these days.

The never-ending saga of the Richard Hamilton estrangement rightly drew league-wide criticism as he was kept out of the lineup. The situation escalated to the point of a poisonous relationship between the once-beloved all-star and team management.

Efforts to trade Hamilton have been lackluster, leaving both par-

ties disgruntled and unwilling to waver from their convictions.

Pistons players have had problems with coaches in the past (see Rick Carlisle, Larry Brown, Flip Saunders and Michael Curry). Whether it was because of playing time or utilization of skills on the court, no one seemed to ever be content playing for these guys.

It's been a vicious cycle of mismanagement and discontent, and there's seemingly no end in sight.

When the team was winning, these types of volatile relationships were carefully sidestepped and swept under the rug.

The Pistons won an average of 55 games from 2002-03 to 2007-08, including two trips to the NBA Finals and six consecutive Eastern Conference Finals.

Karen Davidson, the widow of Bill Davidson, has seen the team's valuation plummet in recent months as several major buyers have stepped up and subsequently backed out of the provided 30-day bargaining windows for purchas-

ing the team.

Even millionaire businessman Mike Ilitch, who has never been shy about throwing his money around, balked at the prospect of buying the team. He contested the asking price when it was determined that the team's worth was overinflated.

In July 2010, Forbes Magazine published its annual team value rankings, in which the Pistons fell precipitously. Only the Cavaliers, now without LeBron James, saw their value plummet more than Detroit in a year's time.

With each passing day the team goes unsold, the further the value depletes.

Davidson needs to recognize the declining worth of her husband's formerly great franchise, face reality and sell the team.

Decisions made by management have left the franchise in turmoil, casting doubt over the team's future relevance in the NBA.

Right now, everyone comes up a loser, and fans deserve better.

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THE OU BRAND OVER THE YEARS



Pioneer Pete (top left) was the university's mascot until 1998. The emblem of a sail was proposed in 1962. The seal (top right) is now used primarily on Board of Trustees documents and official university transcripts.



In 1998, the university hired a design studio to create the current Golden Grizzly mascot and logos associated with it. The current sail logo (top right) has been in use for 25-30 years and is used in official capacities.

IDENTITY WHAT IS OAKLAND'S?

President Russi seeks to further develop the university's image

Written by Editor-in-Chief **Kay Nguyen** and Features Editor **Nichole Seguin**

Oakland University is lost and needs your help. The school is trying to find a clear path, seeking to define its identity and trying to create a unified image.

At his University Update and an abbreviated speech given at an Oakland University Student Congress meeting last month, President Gary Russi challenged members of the campus community to help form the OU brand.

"Branding can happen one of two ways," Russi said. "It can happen to us or we can take control of it."

A brand can encompass a myriad of things about an institution — including personality, physical campus, quality of

education and public perception — and can be more than a symbol. It's more of an overall image and Russi hopes to carve one out with input from the local community and students, faculty and staff.

In 1959, OU welcomed its first official class. Compared to schools with established identities like the University of Michigan, which opened in 1817, and Michigan State University, established in 1855, Oakland is a young institution.

"We are young enough and we still have this opportunity," Russi said. "We are in a (great) position to make this happen, this brand."

He explained that schools like U-M could not re-brand

because "everyone knows what it is" and that "it's going to be that way."

A 13th straight year of enrollment growth and over a decade of Division I athletics can attest to OU's growth in name recognition, but it is time to pinpoint the precise direction of the youthful school's brand.

According to Russi, "we will need your help to make that happen."

"When you say East Lansing or Ann Arbor, you think of the schools and it's not quite the same feeling," OU alumnus and Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett said. "I think that's why it gets a little more challenging. Oakland has a greater hill to climb than some of the

other schools."

While it will be difficult to change the opinion, awareness and exposure of the university have been increased in recent years.

"OU does a really good job at putting themselves out there — the ads on television and the little ads on YouTube are a great reminder of what's out there," said Deanna English, a senior at Oxford High School and prospective Oakland student. "I feel like they're really trying."

Imaging and marketing

"We have a constant conversation going with the president because we don't really have

9,821
FACEBOOK FANS

4,701
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

19,053
STUDENTS AS OF FALL '10

17,151
YOUTUBE VIDEO VIEWS

a brand right now," said Ted Montgomery, OU's media relations director. "Your brand drives all your marketing. U-M has the block M, but they also have a 200-year jumpstart."

The future of a physical brand or identifiable logo, an integral part of campus identity, is still up in the air.

"It'll be an interesting change internally and I don't know of any timeline," said Michelle Moser, OU's director of integrated marketing.

A logo people may recognize is the image of a grizzly bear climbing on OU's letters. That is more synonymous with the branding of the athletics department.

The success of the basketball programs has propelled Oakland onto the national stage, making the identity of the school more crucial than ever.

"Even seeing Oakland scrolling across the bottom of a sports program gives it some validity it didn't have before," Barnett said.

Oakland teams were known as the Pioneers before 1998. The change to the Golden Grizzlies came along with a switch to Division I competition.

OU's first mascot was Pioneer Pete, but a panel of about 20 members that included various administrators, men's basketball coach Greg Kampe and students like Barnett was assembled in 1998 to help decide on a new mascot.

Barnett said the process involved answering personality-type questions and the group — with the help of a marketing firm — chose the grizzly because it "was marketable for selling cuddly bears for kids and would also look aggressive on a T-shirt."

The move has arguably been one of the biggest shifts in OU's

short history and elicited some concern.

"Does it say 'Pioneers?' We wanted to pioneer new designs and pioneering the future," Barnett said. "There were a lot of concerns about it and a lot of people just didn't know."

As the student body president during a time of transition for athletic imaging, he said OU has improved greatly over the "Pioneer" days in terms of marketing.

Currently, there are nine different official OU logos depicting the Golden Grizzly. Each is used for different purposes, but makes it difficult to create unified merchandise.

Moser, like Russi, believes there should be a singular brand. She thinks there may be the same kind of resistance against that move, similar to what happened with the phasing out of Pioneer Pete.

"These things take a long time to develop, launch and engrain in the public consciousness," Moser said.

According to Montgomery, the Oakland Sail logo pictured in a rectangle has been in use for 25-30 years. It is displayed on the official OU website, university documents and signage.

The original logo, a sail within a circle, is still used on Board of Trustees documents and official transcripts. The changing of the sail image has been the only major change as far as official non-athletic branding.

Developed by John Galloway and Howard Clarke in 1962, the emblem, colors and motto were a part of some 100 preliminary sketches submitted to the Emblem Committee.

The school's colors have stayed the same throughout all these changes. The color gold was chosen since it has

"long commanded admiration as a heraldic religious color," black, because it, combined with white, "denotes purity and hope" and white for the idea of virtue.

"White is the most widely used of stationer's or publisher's papers; black is the tone which printing presses are commonly set up to handle; and gold is thus the only special one of the three colors, commercially speaking," Galloway wrote.

The sail emblem was chosen by Galloway, who created it to be symbolic of pursuit.

"That sails will be used by men, especially those of the heroic mould of Homer's Odysseus, long after people will have become bored by our settling of new planets in outer space; secondly, the seal or crest which ever satisfied the wishes of all persons in a nation or a family has yet to be created," Galloway wrote.

Changing the icon

OU's social media presence includes heavy usage of Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Rachel Reardon, a senior majoring in French with a minor in advertising, recently created the university's social media image through an icon that is used on its social media platforms.

"Branding is much more than a logotype," she said. "It encompasses everything from graphics and color schemes to slogans, the social voice and everything in between. It's the whole package, the entire identity of the university in this case."

Another part of the marketing campaign is the "peeking" grizzly bear used on billboards and on undergraduate admissions materials.

Ideas for the icon were crowdsourced because Moser didn't think the athletics-based climbing grizzly bear was evocative of her department, and also did not want to use the traditional interlocking letters.

There are two different typographical logos depicting OU's letters. One has two-toned block letters that touch, while the more official logo has interlocking characters that resemble the official logo of Oklahoma University.

"It's a temporary thing with our page until we get the official brand," Moser said. "We were just kind of sick of looking at the bear."

The Twitter feed became a fixture of the OU Marketing and Communications department in early 2009, while the Facebook fan page was commandeered from a student who had started it unofficially.

"We tracked him down and took over from there," said Moser of Brian Gingrich, the page's creator. "He had built a nice fan base for us and established the clout."

Moser said the marketing department began this project without official approval from university administration, but was surprised by the reaction to their efforts to create a conversation with students.

"I was taken aback by the communities we were able to bring together," Moser said of the initiative. "Because of the tone, we can talk a certain way that we couldn't get away with in print."

While the addition of a different icon image may seemingly separate Oakland's social media from print or web marketing, Moser said the three go hand-in-hand and will experience any imaging changes together.

LOGOS IN USE



Official logo used on university documents and signage



General usage university logo



The climbing Grizz mostly associated with athletics



General usage logo used by the athletic department



Golden Grizzly logo used in athletics and marketing



Used in association with the university's club sports teams



All purpose variation of main Golden Grizzlies logo



All purpose variation of main Golden Grizzlies logo



All purpose variation of main Golden Grizzlies logo



Used for the Grizz Kidz Club in association with athletics



All purpose variation of main Golden Grizzlies logo



Used in association with the university's club sports teams

Logos courtesy of Oakland University Communications and Marketing



This article is the first of a two-part series. Next week's issue will further explore the branding of OU.

President Russi encouraged students and faculty to present ideas on this topic. Send your thoughts to editor@oaklandpostonline.com and we'll pass them along.



Taking a quick dip



Photo courtesy of Ashley Diersch

Participants of last year's annual Detroit Polar Plunge jump into freezing water as part of the fundraising event for Special Olympics Michigan Inc. This year's event will take place on Feb. 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Milliken State Park.

police blotter

Rochester

NEWSPAPER DELIVERER CRACKS THEFT CASE:

On Jan. 29, Rochester police were dispatched to the 800 block of Ramblewood Drive on a suspicious circumstance complaint. A newspaper delivery person had noticed several footprints in fresh snow leading up to different vehicles, which were parked in driveways and in the street.

Officers were able to follow the footprints back to a specific house in the neighborhood. Upon further investigation it was learned that two teenagers were responsible and admitted to entering unlocked cars and removing items from them that night. Several stolen items were recovered on scene.

ICE SCULPTURE PROPERTY DAMAGE:

On Jan. 29, Rochester police were dispatched to the area of 205 S. Main St. on a report of a damaged ice sculpture and store window. The ice sculpture had been on display for the Rochester Fire & Ice Festival.

It was learned that an unknown subject had intentionally pushed the ice sculpture through the window causing the window to shatter. The damage to

the window was valued at \$750.00. The investigation continues.

Troy

INTOXICATED DRIVING INCIDENT:

On Feb. 5, Troy officers were dispatched to southbound I-75 and Crooks Road at 2:10 a.m. when a motorist reported that a vehicle was weaving across the three traffic lanes.

Troy officers located the vehicle, observed the erratic driving and conducted a traffic stop. Investigation determined that the driver was intoxicated with a breath test result of 0.20 percent. The 24-year-old male resident of Madison Heights was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated.

ESCALADE ESCAPE:

On Feb. 7, it was reported that on the 4000 block of Foxcroft Drive, an unidentified person removed four wheel covers from a 2007 Cadillac Escalade. The frame of the driver's side and rear door were damaged as well.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor

Local Briefs

10,000 participants needed for group hug

This Saturday, Detroit, its residents and fans alike will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most hugs at one time — the largest group hug.

Taking place at the Compuware headquarters at Campus Martius in downtown Detroit, the record-breaking attempt will begin at 7 p.m. during the city's annual Winter Blast Festival.

More than 10,000 people will need to participate to break the current record, set in 2009 by Transylvania.

Inside Detroit, the driving force behind the Guinness record attempt, is a nonprofit company whose mission is to promote Detroit as a preferred destination to live, work and play.

Visit www.insidedetroit.org for more information.

'Super Rich: A Guide to Having It All'

This week, Russell Simmons, the author of "Super Rich: A Guide To Having It All" and known as one of the richest figures in hip-hop, pioneering the music label Def Jam, will visit Detroit this Friday, Feb. 11 for a meet and greet book signing.

Simmons will visit Borders, located at 5601 Mercury Dr., Dearborn.

Also the author of the New York Times best seller, "Do You!" According to the event website, Simmons "uses his rare blend of spiritual savvy and street-smart wisdom to offer a new definition of wealth" in his newest release.

For more information, call 313-271-4441.

Annual chili cook-off, beer tasting and auction

On Sunday, Feb. 13, stop in the Corner Brewery, located on 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti, for the second annual, Ann Arbor Civic Theatre chili cook-off, beer tasting and silent auction.

Beginning at noon and running until 3 p.m.; the event will include a prize contest for the best chili, judged by local celebrities including John Fischer from Gratzl, chef Martin Contreras and local restaurant critic Julie Halpert.

The winner will be crowned the Civic Supreme Chili Master, according to AnnArbor.com. Tickets will be \$20 and will include 10 chili tastings, five beer samplings, a silent auction and a take-home tasting glass.

Visit www.a2ct.org for more information.

—Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor

Violent protests, uprising grip Egypt

By SARAH WOJCIK and
RHIANNON ZIELINSKI

Senior Reporter and Campus Editor

Conflict in Egypt has been festering for decades, and on Jan. 25, it escalated to violent protests.

"I'm glad my country is able to demonstrate a demanding change that was needed for over 30 years," said Amr S., an OU alumni. "I'm proud of the young generation that took to the streets, stood their ground and let their voices be heard by not only the president, but by the entire world."

The military dictatorship led by Hosni Mubarak for the last 30 years has oppressed the Egyptian people to the point that they are finally fighting back.

"There is torture, 20,000 political prisoners, arbitrary detention, killings," said Laura Landolt, assistant professor of political science.

A large part of the reason that the Egyptian government has been allowed to oper-

ate in such a way is due "to the fact that the United States and all previous presidents, except Bush for one year, supported dictators in Egypt," Landolt said.

The support stemmed from the cloak that Mubarak pulled over the country's eyes, fooling the U.S. into believing that he's the only thing standing between the U.S. and the Muslim Brotherhood, according to Landolt.

Landolt attributed the revolution to four things. First, the pro-democratic movement started in 2004, Kifaya, spurred into motion a series of protests that caught on to new media outlets and Egyptian blogs.

Second, Ahmed Said, a "middle class kid" who was uploading evidence of police corruption, was attacked and murdered in a public Internet café by Egyptian police.

Third, the Tunisian uprising successfully overthrew their militant government.

Fourth, the elections last fall resulted in no seats for the Muslim Brotherhood or opposition candidates, resulting in Mubarak

"signaling not only (that he is) going to kill people in public but (he is) also going to stop pretending that (he is) even trying to democratize," said Landolt.

The future of the Egyptian government seems uncertain, with a significant damper put on reorganization attempts by the dictatorship's disallowing parties from even organizing.

Senior Justin Clarke, a political science major, said, "Other than the unrest in Egypt, I feel that this could be the stepping stone for other Arab nations to transition to democratic states like the possibility of Jordan."

Landolt urges students to follow the situation in Egypt.

"Hopefully they will support democracy and hopefully they'll write to their representatives and to the Obama administration and insist that we support democracy," she said.

Students can attend a panel on this topic Thursday, Feb. 10 from noon to 1 p.m. in The Fireside Lounge.

Timeline of Revolution

Jan. 25: Egyptian protesters proclaim a "day of rage" and take to the streets.

Jan. 27-28: Facebook, Twitter, Blackberry, Internet and texting services are disrupted.

Feb. 1: Mubarak announces that he will not run for re-election.

Feb. 5: The United Nations estimates that 300 people have been killed since protests began.

Feb. 6: Opposition groups hold talks with the government and demand Mubarak's removal.

Feb. 8: Vice President Suleiman says there is a timetable for peaceful transfer of power.



Scholarships Available for Fall 2011 - Winter 2012

The Oakland University Alumni Association will be accepting scholarship applications for the 2011-12 academic year.

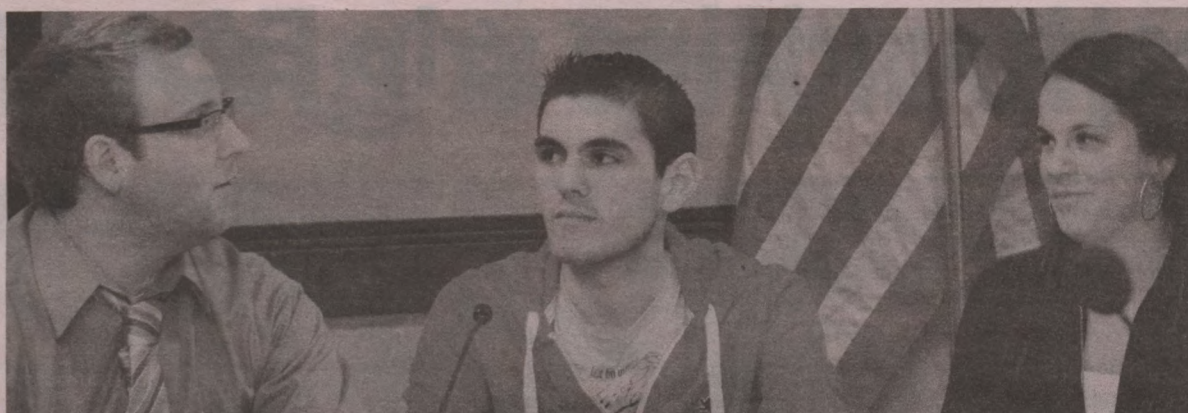
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A complete list of scholarships, as well as eligibility criteria, is available online at www.oualumni.com under Awards & Scholarships. Sample of scholarships offered includes:

- \$5000 - Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration award
- \$3000 - Thomas A. Yatooma School of Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Memorial award
- \$3000 - Legacy Scholarship award
- \$2000 - Working Student Scholarship award
- \$2000 - CAS, SBA, SEHS, SECS, SHS, SON, Honors College awards

Over 35 scholarships were awarded last year!!

Contact Gail Meyers at (248) 364-6132 or meyers@oakland.edu for more information. Completed applications for all OUAA scholarships must be submitted by **March 1, 2011** to the OU Alumni Association, 202 John Dodge House (east side of campus).



Tom Cruz (center) serves as the multi-cultural affairs director for OU Student Congress, which holds meetings every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Oakland Room upstairs in the Oakland Center.

Taking on everything

Student 'Cruzes' through multiple student organizations

By **ALI ARMSTRONG**
Staff Reporter

Tom Cruz goes to Oakland University. No, not the Hollywood actor married to Katie Holmes or "Top Gun" star. This one's a student.

With a resume including titles ranging from the multi-cultural affairs director for OU Student Congress; educator for Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity; district secretary treasurer for the Michigan District of Circle K International; a group facilitator for leadership challenge; a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, OU's political science honor society; and a member of Phi Alpha Theta, OU's history honor society, Cruz has been actively involved with school activities and organizations since he was in high school.

By the time Cruz graduated high school, he was working three different jobs, taking two college courses, involved in eight extra-curricular activities and graduated in the top 10 of his class, with honors.

"When I came to OU I kind of had some of that build up and I hit the ground running," he said. "I immediately got involved with student government: I first came to OU with a lot of aspirations of what I was going to do. I wasn't sure where I was going, but I knew I had a lot of energy to do it."

His freshman year at OU, an organization called Mustang recruited Cruz to start a new fraternity, but the organization fell apart that winter. His sophomore year, Cruz decided he wanted to organize his own fraternity.

"It was something that I was really passionate about and something I thought would be passionate for other people," Cruz said.

Cruz started Tau Kappa Epsilon in Fall 2008. It was the first fraternity that didn't have a discrimination clause, allowing students in regardless of race, orientation and religion. Tau Kappa Epsilon is now the largest fraternity at OU.

That same semester, Cruz also started the Circle K International chapter at OU. Circle K is an international community service organization that has middle school, high school and college levels.

"OU used to have an active Circle K, but it got dismissed

a while ago so I was able to bring it back. It just focuses on helping children all around the world," Cruz said.

In addition to his involvement with student organizations on campus, Cruz also carries a full academic schedule. He is a double major in political science and history with a triple minor in economics, international relations and communications.

Cruz originally came to OU with hopes of pursuing business and politics and while he was working his way through the prerequisites for his business major, he realized that business just wasn't for him.

"I started looking at some of the higher level business classes I had to take and I realized I wasn't really passionate about these things," Cruz said. "I withdrew from them and decided to pick up history. History is a passion of mine. I love learning about history and things like that, so I just added that on as another major."

In addition to his two majors, he said that he decided to minor in international studies after realizing his credits from history and political science could double count. Economics is a passion he discovered when pursuing his business and communications degrees, seeing it as something that could be integrated into his other studies.

While Cruz has been studying at OU, he has also been working simultaneously toward his associate of arts degree from Macomb Community College. He is currently in his fifth year at community college.

"I've been taking my gen-eds still to this day," he said. "I'm taking them at Macomb and having them transfer ... I only need to take about six extra credits at the institution to get a bachelors of arts from there."

Next year, Cruz plan to run for student body president with Brett McIsaac as vice president, getting the Lumberjack club up and graduating with his degrees.

"I first met Tom as an enthusiastic freshman who wanted to start a new fraternity," said Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for student affairs. "He's now a senior and still an extremely enthusiastic advocate for Oakland students in so many ways."

Though Cruz is not the famous couch-jumping actor, he is trying to make an impact at OU through his involvement in the different organizations.

40 professor profiles

Weekly spotlight on OU professors

Hye Seung Chung
Assistant Professor,
English and Cinema Studies

In the world of cinema, "the possibilities are infinite," according to Hye Seung Chung, Assistant Professor of English and Cinema Studies.

Chung received her bachelor's degree in English at Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, South Korea, her master's in cinema studies at the City University of New York and her Ph.D. in film and television at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Before joining Oakland University in the Fall 2010, Chung worked as a postdoctoral fellow of Korean Studies at the University of Michigan, then as a visiting assistant professor of comparative literature at Hamilton College, and then as an assistant professor of American studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Chung landed her job at OU after interviewing for the position of a world cinema specialist in the cinema studies program. "Although I enjoyed teaching films from interdisciplinary perspectives, my ultimate goal has always been to find a home in a cinema studies program, an environment where I can realize my full potential as a film and media scholar," Chung said.

Chung published her first book, "Hollywood Asian: Philip Ahn and the Politics of Cross-Ethnic Performance," through Temple University Press in 2006. Her second book, dealing with the films of contemporary Korean film director Kim Ki-duk, will be published this year or early next year by the University of Illinois Press.

"I liked her interesting choices in films," said Paul Delasko, a senior majoring in integrative studies. "Her nationality brought an interesting perspective of each film's portrayal/depictions of foreigners and minority groups."

Chung's philosophy is that peer learning is as important as her own instruction. "I am deeply committed to developing a curriculum that will facilitate an awareness of diversity and multiculturalism among OU students," Chung said.

This semester, Chung is teaching two courses on campus: Masterpieces of world cinema, which is ENG 260 and the Cold War in American film and television, which is CIN 450.

— Mayuri Munot, Staff Intern

'Brother Mine' highlights unique relationships

By RYAN HEGEDUS

Senior Reporter

Reading other peoples' mail can land you in serious trouble with the government.

Or, in the case of Dr. Kathleen Pfeiffer, it can land you a book deal.

Pfeiffer, an associate professor of English at Oakland University, is the author of "Brother Mine: The Correspondence of Jean Toomer and Waldo Frank, a back-and-forth account of over 120 letters between the two in the 1920s."

Toomer, a young black author, began writing to Frank, an established white writer in New York, and the book details the unique friendship between the two.

"Dr. Pfeiffer's work provides an important tool for understanding the dynamics of the relationship between Jean Toomer and Waldo Frank," said associate history professor and chair of the history department, Karen Miller. "Both Toomer and Frank were participants in the conflict over the construction of racial identity. Their correspondence helps us to understand how the debates over race worked themselves into friendships."

In the summer of 1993, Pfeiffer was deciding on the topic of her dissertation at Yale University, and ended up at the univer-

sity's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, one of the country's best resources for African-American literature. The opportunity gave her the chance to do research in the primary archives.

It was at Beinecke that she decided on the topic of race passing.

Race passing was a "hot topic" in American literature at the turn of the century, Pfeiffer explained, where people who were legally defined as black because of previous generations, were actually light enough to pass for a white person.

"These people would take on a new identity and pass for white," Pfeiffer said. "They would have this better opportunity as a white person than they would have as a black person, but then there would be all of this guilt and sense of loss because they'd have to leave their families. That's really what my dissertation was about — about stories of characters who 'pass.'"

After reading letters by Toomer and Frank, Pfeiffer got an impression of a budding friendship between the two. She began reading literary and critical accounts of the interaction, but got a different understanding of the authors than others.

"I didn't think that (their understandings) really reflected what I saw in the letters," she said. "These differences led to the

beginning of the project."

A self-described "very, very nosy person," it is exactly that trait that helped Pfeiffer collect, organize and transcribe the letters between Toomer and Frank.

In the five to six years that the project took to complete, Pfeiffer experienced several challenges that even required the assistance of one of her graduate classes.

Only about 15 to 20 percent of the letters were dated, requiring several readings to correctly organize them.

"I had to figure out, by reading the letters, which came before this one or this came before that one. It was hard because at times, I really wasn't sure which letter came first," Pfeiffer said.

She spent almost an entire year exclusively working on figuring out the order of the letters and putting them into chronological order.

Another major part of the process was writing footnotes for instances in which Pfeiffer felt more explanation was needed, such as names of friends or events attended by Toomer or Frank.

Transcribing the original letters into word documents was arguably the most time-consuming activity, however, and it was at this step that Pfeiffer involved her graduate-level class.

"In order for this to be an accurate transcription, you have to go through and make sure, letter-for-letter and word-for-word is correct," Pfeiffer said. "Even with that, there were a lot of editorial decisions to make."

Despite the duration of time needed to finish the book, Pfeiffer was pleased with the final product and believes there are many things that readers can take away from it.

"I wanted to make it the sort of book that anyone could pick up and find interesting ... it has an interesting story to tell about interracial friendships and the challenges that came with those friendships in the 1920s," Pfeiffer said. "These two struggling artists found something in each other that was very meaningful to the both of them and they really understood each other as writers as well. The fact that the friendship deteriorated the way that it did I think is pretty sad."

After working on Brother Mine for over half a decade, Pfeiffer realized one major thing about herself and her writing upon completion of the book: She was ready to move on from Toomer and Frank.

"I've had enough time working on both of these two authors and I'm ready to move on to something different," Pfeiffer said.

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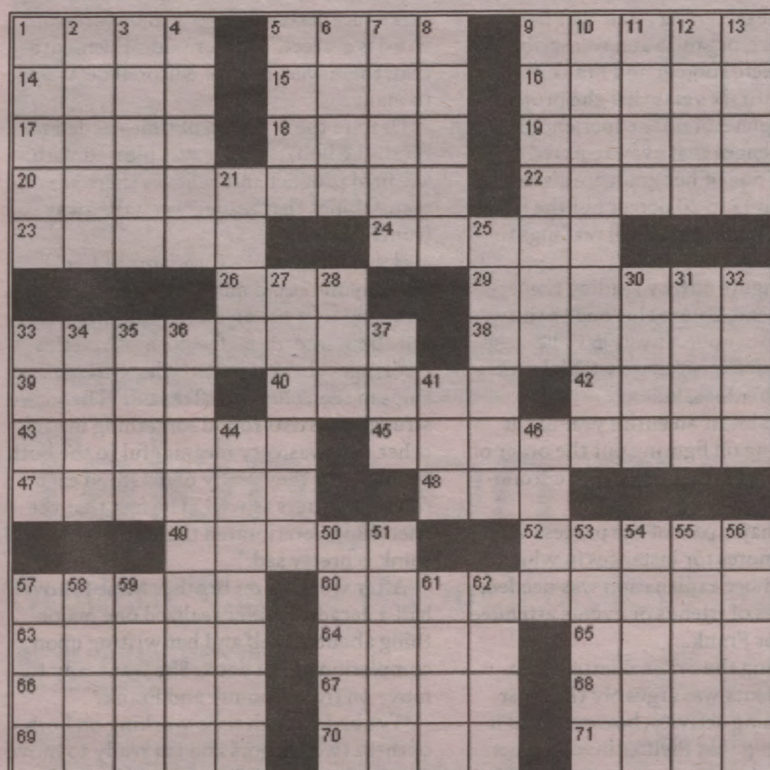




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ACROSS

1. Not this
5. Donations
9. Country
14. Part portrayed
15. Violent disturbance
16. Bowel cleansing
17. Auth. unknown
18. Novice
19. Expect
20. Bruise
22. Jewish unit of weight
23. Lock of hair
24. Handrail post
26. Poetic time of day
29. Fix firmly
33. Leech
38. Fall guy
39. October birthstone
40. Specter
42. Donkey
43. Duration
45. Pierced with a spit
47. Blackmail
48. Summer refresher
49. A synthetic silk-like fabric
52. Armada

57. Storage area

60. Acceptable to the taste
63. Kiosk
64. Wickedness
65. Wander
66. Wood-turning tool
67. Scarce
68. Secluded valley
69. Swelling under the skin
70. Wings
71. Cobs of corn

21. Purposes

25. Squandered
27. Four score
28. Greatest possible
30. 60 minutes
31. Look at flirtatiously
32. Marsh plant
33. A native of Poland
34. Culminating point
35. Rave
36. Formula
37. Goddess of the dawn
(Greek mythology)
41. Music with jazz-like riffs
44. Windpipe
46. Weave
50. Classical music theatre
51. Pertaining to ships at sea
53. Big
54. Hemorrhagic fever
55. Young eel
56. Adolescents
57. Competent
58. Frog
59. Carry
61. Former Italian currency
62. Sheltered, nautically

DOWN

1. Plot of land
2. Respect
3. Without company
4. Canvas dwellings
5. Products of human creativity
6. Fifty-three in Roman numerals
7. Fool
8. Rock
9. Any chemical used in reactions
10. Uninvited
11. Backside
12. Dogfish
13. Strip of wood

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SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

When main character Ella becomes over-involved with her clients' lives, police officers begin to suspect the business. The show will run for four nights.

Humor in misconception

MTD's most recent show, 'Bells Are Ringing,' has something for all to enjoy

By **RHIANNON ZIELINSKI**
Campus Editor

"Bells Are Ringing," the latest musical to emerge from the Music, Theatre and Dance program, is a comedy and love story presented in one family-friendly package.

The story takes place in the 1950s at Sue's Answer Phone. The main character, Ella, works for her cousin Sue, answering phones and taking messages for subscribers that aren't available — a precursor to modern-day voicemail.

When Ella becomes over-involved in her clients' lives, forging friendships and close ties, the police begin to think that Sue's Answer Phone is a front for illegal activity. The case of mistaken identity unravels in the form of song and dance.

"It's a story everyone could like," director Karen Sheridan, a professor of theater, said. "There's a lot of funny things that happen and there's also romance at the heart of it."

Allison Kochanski, a senior musical theater major, plays the part of Ella, a character whose quirky personality she said she can relate to.

"She can be kind of awkward in certain situations, but she's very strong in other situations," Kochanski said. "She's very caring toward the people that she loves. She wants to be a part of their lives."

Ella eventually falls in love with one of

her clients, a man she has only heard on the phone and never met in person.

"It's kind of an interesting concept, especially in today's world," Kochanski said. "Everything is very visual, and about who's hot, and that's how you fall in love with someone. In this case, she hears him and she wants to help him so much and she just loves the person that he is, so she falls in love with him. The musical escalates off of that."

Because "Bells Are Ringing" is a musical, it often utilizes the ensemble, a group of actors cast as different characters that change throughout the story. Natalie Sparbeck, a sophomore musical theater major, is part of the ensemble.

"We portray about six different characters each," Sparbeck said. "We go in different scenes as different people, so it's a really great opportunity for us to dive into various roles all in one performance, which you rarely get to do. They're all cute, fun '50s roles."

David Vogel, a sophomore musical theater major, plays Carl, a teenage delivery boy that hangs out at Sue's Answer Phone. Carl teaches Ella how to ChaCha, one of Vogel's favorite aspects of his character.

"I've never done Latin dancing before, so learning the basic aspects of Latin movements was probably the hardest thing for me, but not in a bad way," Vogel said.

"It was fun to be able to use my skills as a dancer."

Both a major advantage and obstacle that the cast and crew faced was leaving Varner Studio Theatre.

Because of how large scale the performance is, the musical will take place at Eisenhower High School's Performing Arts Center.

"We wanted our students to have an opportunity for students to work with a conductor in front of them in an orchestra pit," Sheridan said. "We wanted to have big sceneries that they can push on and off stage, so it's really an opportunity for students to work in what would be a big theater situation."

The new environment has meant major adjustments for the students and faculty as they adapt to the changes.

"It's a big show to begin with, and not having it in a comfortable place for us was really hard," stage manager Kate Smith, a senior theater design and technology major, said.

Usually a show will run for 12 performances in the Varner Studio Theatre, which seats 130 people. The Eisenhower auditorium seats 690, and as a result, only four shows will be performed.

Kochanski emphasized that "Bells Are Ringing" is a family-friendly comedy that has something for everyone to enjoy.

"There's jokes that adults will get and there's funny things that all kids will like a lot," she said. "It's good for all ages."

Vogel urges students and faculty to attend the show as a way to get away from everyday life.

"It's escapism," he said. "When the economy is bad and there is political unrest, things like that, it's good old-fashioned fun."

Sheridan is impressed by everyone involved and said that she could have cast it several times over for all the talent in the room.

"We've got a really terrific program," Sheridan said. "The talent is really extraordinary and we've got some really great people in the entire company. People should come and see it. They're going to laugh and have a good time."

"Bells Are Ringing" will be performed on Friday, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Eisenhower High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$9 for students and \$17 for general admission.

Tickets can be purchased at the Varner Box Office, at Eisenhower High School one hour before the show starts or by calling 248-370-3013.

Saturday night's performance will be shadow-signed by interpreters from Terp Theatre.

Detroit defined through art

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Staff Reporter

With growing national attention to the Chrysler advertisement featuring Eminem, another local artist has been striving to bring a different perspective to the city of Detroit.

Tony Roko, a former Ford assembly line worker, is sharing experiences that may be considered unconventional and making them a part of his art.

"(Art) really allowed me to see traditional materials differently," Roko said. "Having those materials readily available evolved my arts."

Roko is known for gritty pieces with vibrant colors.

While some artists start with paints and drawings at young age, Roko's interest in art began through writing.

"As a kid I started writing very early," Roko said. "I took to the pencil and saw things a little bit differently."

"It's been the most successful moment in my art career."

— Tony Roko, about his recent local exhibit

After working the line for a number of years, Ford began to take notice of what he was creating and asked him to make a piece for them. The piece, called "Plant Life," would represent the comeback of the company.

"We used the materials from the demolition of the former Michigan truck plant like boards, scrap metal, refurbished paints to create 'Plant life,'" Roko said. "All the materials are very symbolic of that shift in thinking."

One of the subjects in his pieces is a woman he has named Lily, who Roko believes can be considered an icon in the plants of the present.

"Lily better represents the diverse work force you see in

the factory," he said. "In the past it always was Rosie the Riveter as labor role models or heroes; I think this more accurately depicts the workforce."

Among the several people to take notice to his work, volunteer groups like "Art Around Town" asked Roko to help promote art to the youth of Metro Detroit.

"I was approached by them a few years back, and it was a real natural thing," said Roko. "I volunteered at schools and taught kids about repurposed materials and (how) to approach art from a different perspective. It was a really good fit."

Roko believes that in the struggling urban area of Detroit, art can be an outlet for the children

and people of the city.

"I think it's a voice and a lot of children and people in general are visual learners," he said. "They need to be able to have other outlets to express themselves because words are redundant; I think that people are pretty desensitized to words and feel that images in that form of expression can speak far louder than words."

From Jan. 15 until Feb. 10, Roko presented his some of his work to the public in an exhibition at 323 East in Royal Oak titled "Elegantly Waste."

Reception to the exhibit has been very positive. His pieces sell for around \$200.

"I think it has been one of the biggest turnouts in their history," he said. "Quite a few pieces sold. (It was an) amazing and diverse turnout, from infant babies to people in their 70s, and of all different backgrounds. It's been the most successful moment in my art career."

Roko believes the allure of his

art is that is a true representation of the area.

"I think the art is really reflective of the region," said Roko. "I think that if you go to other areas around the world, Detroit is known for Ford, Motown and murder. I represent all of the cultures. It is representative of the region and the gritty surroundings."

While Roko's success has taken a huge leap and has local recognition, he believes that the recognition of Detroit itself is what is really important and is under appreciated.

"When you drive through Detroit and see the architecture and it was creative minds that created the automotive industry and industrial revolution, and I think it was: Those were people who don't get much credit in the art world," Roko said.

For more information about Tony Roko and to view his portfolio of art pieces, visit www.tonyroko.com

Orchestra finishes third concert, prepares for final

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY
Scene Editor

Although it has only been part of Oakland University for just over a year, the OU Chamber Orchestra has found success for its members on the Varner stage.

Tuesday's concert marked the third concert the Chamber Orchestra has performed since its initiation in January 2010.

Alan MacNair, the conductor and founding director of the Chamber Orchestra, was approached by the University to start the program. MacNair said he thought that the time was right for a string culture to grow at OU.

"While the University has a very strong band, vocal, and dance program, the string program was very small, and didn't have a focus at the school," MacNair said. "Hopefully, this group will serve that function, and prove to be a catalyst for the string program in general."

The orchestra, which is an all student group of both major and non-major musicians, has been working on pieces for the concert since after the Christmas holiday.

The concert featured music by J.S. Bach, Jean Sibelius, David Gillingham and Nicolo Paganini.

The orchestra consists of 12 regular members, and MacNair said new performers are added each concert.

Yesterday's concert welcomed three trumpets, two oboes, a tympani and harpsichord to the string orchestra.

In contrast to the new performers, the orchestra is relying on a familiar face to lead the show.

Brittney Brewster, a senior majoring in instrumental music education with a focus in strings, will be serving as concertmaster for her third show.

Brewster said she enjoys being part of the orchestra to deviate from participation in the Oakland Symphony Orchestra and small chamber ensembles.

"It is a nice change-up from sitting next to a semi-professional to a student," Brewster said.

Brewster believes being concertmaster will provide confidence to step up in front of an orchestra she will be teaching after graduation. This is her last full semester before student teaching in fall.

"It builds character, gets me thinking on my feet when someone asks me a question during rehearsal, and what is happening for the next week if someone missed orchestra," Brewster said.



KAITLYN CHORNOBY/The Oakland Post

The Chamber Orchestra performed their third concert on Feb. 8.

Brewster said that each concert she has participated in has included diverse music from the Baroque period to newer compositions. Excited about Tuesday's selections, she said it is fun to add winds to the ensemble to "make the chamber piece come to life."

Brewster said she liked being concertmaster not only to prepare her for the future, but it has also allowed her to be

leader of the group.

"This gives me a chance to go back to past experiences and relate to my students. They need to know that I did and will continue to perform with orchestras outside of the school," Brewster said.

The Chamber Orchestra's next concert and final performance of the season will be in Varner Hall on March 30. The concert will begin at 7 p.m.

records & reels



THE EAGLE // 114 min. // PG-13

Twenty years after the disappearance of the entire Ninth Legion in Scotland, Marcus Aquila returns from Rome. Aquila ventures to not only solve the mystery of the disappearance, but to reclaim the reputation for his father, who was the commander of that legion. With his British slave Esca by his side, he sets out on a journey for closure and answers.

JUST GO WITH IT // 110 min. // PG-13

Danny (Adam Sandler) plays a plastic surgeon who has a secret: He uses a wedding ring to pick up women. When he starts falling for a girl, she questions the ring. Caught up in lies, Danny enlists his assistant Katherine (Jennifer Aniston) to cover up the stories.



CEDAR RAPIDS // 86 min. // R

Insurance agent Tim Lippe (Ed Helms) has never been outside of his small hometown, so when his company sends him out to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to an annual insurance convention, three party veterans take Tim on a ride that turns out to be a wild vacation.

GNOMEO AND JULIET // 84 min. // G

In this recreation of Shakespeare's famous piece, garden gnomes Gnomeo (James McAvoy) and Juliet (Emily Blunt) try to overcome the rivalry between the Blue and Red families. The couple, caught up in adventures with pink flamingos and lawnmower races, try to find a happy ending to their star-crossed love. The film features original music by Elton John.



HAWK NELSON // "Crazy Love/The Light Sides"

With their fifth studio release, the boys of Hawk Nelson really stepped up their game. "Crazy Love" is a CD of all new material that showcases their sound of the past while taking their talent to a new level. There's also a second disc of the band performing 10 hits acoustically.

JESSICA LEA MAYFIELD // "Tell Me"

While this alternative rock singer/songwriter may be best known for her duet with The Black Keys' "Things Ain't Like They Used to Be" on "Attack & Release," she strives to continue her success and show that she can carry herself. Mayfield brings her own unique sound of raw emotion and heartbreak in the 11 track album, which was engineered and produced in Akron, Ohio.



— Compiled by Kevin Romanchik, Staff Reporter



Oakland University

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Chinese New Year inspires conquest

By **ANDREW CRAIG**

Staff Reporter / cultural super-enthusiast

The year 2011 is officially settled in. By now, you've probably disregarded all of your New Year's resolutions for the year and realized your life is composed of the same monotonous crap and you've made no real advances in life. Sucks to be you.

With that in mind, I implore you to trash the old-school ways of the Gregorian adherents and follow your lunar tides; embrace your inner Chinese place setting.

The Chinese calendar kicked off another year on Feb. 3, so it's not too late to make more meaningless resolutions if you so choose. However, there are many outstanding reasons why the Chinese calendar trumps the traditional calendar in every way.

First and foremost, each year of the Chinese calendar has a mascot. We've just entered the year of the rabbit, which is followed by awesome beasts capable of tearing your flesh, like dragons and tigers. If you're keeping score, that's China 1, Pope Gregory XIII 0. Obviously, mascots make everything better. That's just common knowledge.

In addition, a Chinese New Year celebration lasts for 15 days. That's longer than Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or an average Diddy/Daddy/Puffy party. Fifteen New Year's celebrations

are better than one — simple math, folks. P. Gregory XIII evidently didn't party much.

To celebrate, I plan to brush up on my Asian history and re-enact some of my favorite moments from the timeline.

And why not? I have 15 days to fill with personal reflection on the year behind me. But introspection sucks, so maybe I'll stick with the original plan to recreate the Mongol conquest through Asia instead.

I will assume the role of Genghis "Mack Daddy" Khan and begin my journey. Since the nomadic tribes in the area haven't responded to my texts or e-mails, I'm going ahead without them. Across from school awaits BD's Mongolian Barbecue, and that will suffice as a substitute.

Adorned from head to toe in my authentic Mongolian garb, I will enlist the assistance of my Mongol brethren, eradicating insolent members of the local BD's tribe if necessary. However, I don't expect much resistance.

Upon arrival, a feast of epic proportions will be held in my honor. Bloodshed and barbecue, my friends. After a Big Brownie for dessert, my savagery must continue.

My huge boots, sheepskin hat and angry Mongol company will then travel by foot, oxen and Bear Bus to the nearby Pei Wei, leaving utter devastation along the way.

Since Pei Wei offers five cultures of dining

experience, my clan can eliminate Korea, China, Thailand, Japan and Vietnam in a single visit.

The real Genghis Khan would undoubtedly cower before me. I just summoned the Mongols and conquered five neighboring countries in a mere hour. Psh.

After pillaging five nations, capturing women and children, and stealing precious metals and fortune cookies when the employees aren't looking, I've become the most feared pseudo-Mongol warlord in the history of the Auburn Hills area.

With the size of my terrifying army now exceeding 12 people, India will be child's play.

Rangoli Indian Cuisine on Walton Boulevard is overpowered within minutes. Six nations and three meals are enough for one day, though. Mobility is starting to become an issue, and I'm rather sleepy.

Besides, I have another week left of celebration to resume my healthy infatuation with ancient Chinese history. They invented fireworks, you know.

So with these very practical, intelligent arguments in mind, I trust you to make the right decision and switch to the Chinese calendar. And besides, you weren't really going to quit smoking, hit the gym or start buying American-made products only. Let's face it, everything is made in China.



Super Bowl XLV halftime acts that would have been better than the Black Eyed Peas

10. A Black Eyed Peas cover band
9. Stadium karaoke — fans sing "Don't Stop Believing," "Tiny Dancer" and "Piano Man" in unison
8. Milli Vanilli and Ashlee Simpson — when you need someone to lip sync, you might as well call in the experts
7. The original members of the marching band that performed at Super Bowl I
6. An encore presentation of Christina Aguilera's interpretation of the national anthem
5. The cast of Glee or former American Idols — FOX really missed its big chance at some shameless self-promoting of its own shows
4. 25 minutes of total silence
3. A Joe Buck and Troy Aikman duet, with special guest Terry Bradshaw (just don't expect him to share the microphone)
2. The Harlem Boys Choir singing "Teach Me How to Dougie" and the best of Limp Bizkit
1. Literally anything — this could have easily been a top 10,000 list

— Written by the staff of
The Oakland Post

Surviving the impending Valentine's Day

By **BRIAN FIGURSKI**

Guest Columnist / romantic survivalist

Valentine's Day. The day looms over us. Some people welcome its approach with sheer joy, while others cower in fear of the most love-struck day of the year.

For the majority of my life I have been part of the latter group, my days of Valentine spent clothed in a cold running shower with the lights off, listening to The Cure while crying incessantly. This year, I have vowed to leave the past behind and enjoy this romantic day.

Valentine's Day — the Holy Grail of Hallmark holidays. Love-flustered fists flying to stocked shelves gripping every card, chocolate box, and stuffed bear to impress a certain sweetheart.

Dear readers, it is my personal mission this year to prevent you from being a lonely sucker on Valentine's Day as I have often been, while at the same time not walloping your wallet to show your honeybear you care. It's the Valentines Day survival guide!

This may come off a lot like The Zombie Survival Guide, but aren't love and fighting off hordes of the undead strikingly similar?

Success at either can be glorious, while failure is sure to eat away at your brain, and eventually kill you.

The first step to getting your girlfriend/wife/dog to love you is to get her a gift that shows her you care.

So do not buy her any chocolates, flowers, cupid-emblazoned sweatpants, girdles or the like. It's a rookie mistake. She will know you walked into a CVS 20 minutes ago and bought the first thing you saw that cost less than five dollars, pocket lint and a button combined.

More advice: A nice glass of wine or Jack Daniels should help to set the mood and have her wanting you. Be aware that the effects of the alcohol may also drive her toward inappropriate feelings for your neighbor or roommate though, so avoid every other human being during a state of impaired vision.

The truest way to her heart is to do something special for her, not shower her in crummy gifts. I suggest here the most effective thing is to find someone from her past that hurt her, and pummel them senselessly.

Perhaps on a separate evening she burst into tears about her ex-boyfriend who ignored her needs and instead played his Xbox.

It is much more romantic to say, "Look, honey, I Facebook-stalked so-and-so you used to date three years ago and caught him walking to his car after work and beat him up with a tire iron!" Bring proof in the form of Polaroids, ragged T-shirt or blood sample. Ah, true love.

If these avenues fail to lead to love, time is wearing thin to woo the woman of your dreams (or the first girl you happened to see on campus that day). Whatever the situation is, you are in peril and must pull out quickly.

You must pin the blame on her. Use your common knowledge and wit to turn any argument she has about not having gifts or her repressed ex-boyfriend memories and turn it against her in any way possible.

If she says, "You didn't even send me any flowers, or "So-and-so is going to think that I made you do that to him," your reply should always be, "this kind of thing does not seem like it is my problem."

So good luck to you all on your Valentine's excursions. If all else fails, you can come join me in the showers of the men's locker room. Bring extra cookie dough and a copy of "Boys Don't Cry," mine suffered irreversible water damage last year.