

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

April 8, 2009

Volume 35, Number 27

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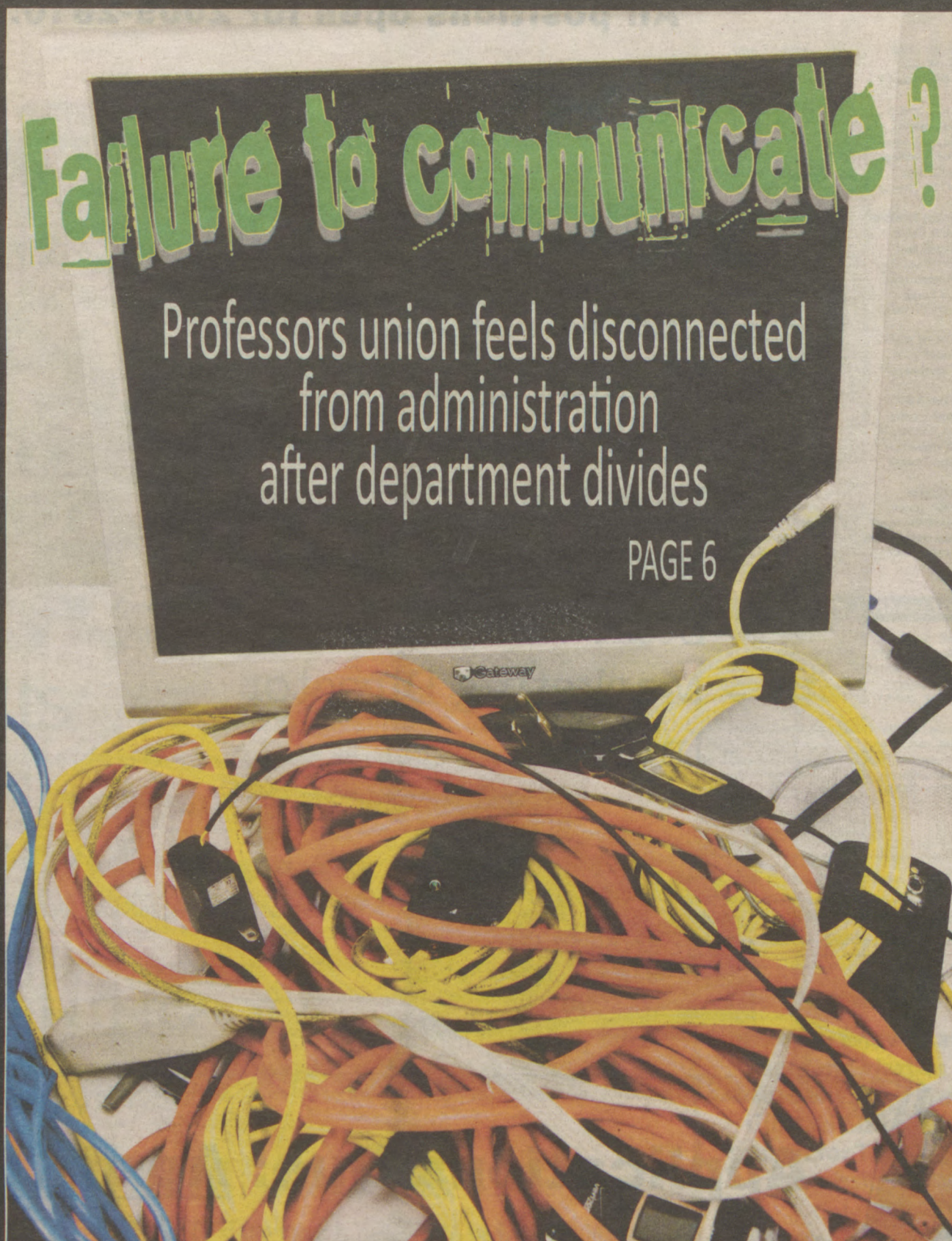
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Police investigate a letter sent to a TV station that is believed to be from the man who shot 13 people in New York last week.

Cover photo by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

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Did you know that
Golden Grizzlies
baseball player Dan
Gliot will blog the
season for The Post's
website?

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Perspectives

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April 8, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

An MIP amnesty could save lives

The Our Lady Peace lyrics, "I'll be waiving my hand, watching you drown, watching you scream," conjures up memories of teenage angst. Being trapped somewhere between childhood and adulthood can be tormenting. Surrounded by a culture that glorifies drinking, but being told not to touch it is a cruel dare.

Regardless of how unsure we were about our friends, it's hard to visualize one of them standing on the beach blankly staring as the waves crash over and over again as you flail for life. But it happens, metaphorically speaking, when drinking minors are more afraid of getting a Minor in Possession than letting somebody else get alcohol poisoning or get behind the wheel drunk. So they don't make the call that could save a life.

It's a double-edged sword. Laws to deter underage drinking are getting tougher, and according to duifoundation.org, they're working. Zero tolerance laws for underage drinking and driving have decreased the likelihood of binge drinking among males aged 18-20 by 13 percent and since the legal age to drink was raised to 21 in 1984, an estimated 1,000 lives are spared every year.

But laws meant to deter drinking may also deter minors from making the right decision once they have gotten themselves into a bad situation.

While most laws surrounding underage consumption are meant to curb drinking, an amendment to the current Michigan liquor control code of 1998 would encourage minors to lay their fears aside when somebody's life is in danger. Senate Bill 408, which has passed the Michigan Senate and has been sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee, states:

"A minor who has consumed alcoholic liquor and who voluntarily presents

himself or herself to a health facility or agency for treatment or for observation, any other minor who accompanies that minor, and any minor who contacts a peace officer or emergency medical services personnel are not considered in violation of subsection (1)."

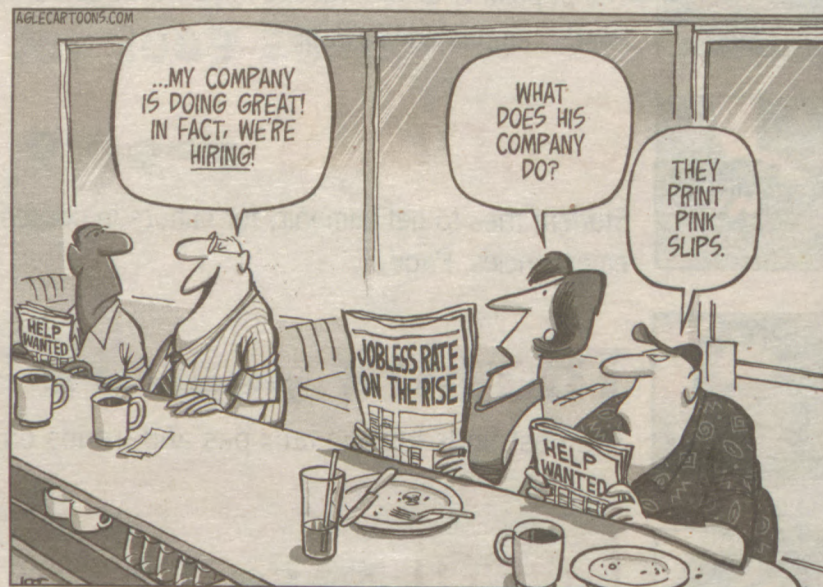
This is the only change to the state's liquor laws and we support it. We don't support underage drinking or binge drinking, but we do support this logical caveat to the law.

Most of us played a round of beer pong and passed a bottle before the legal drinking age. It's inevitable. Regardless of the law, both "good" and "bad" kids are going to drink. And according to the National Institute of Health, approximately 5,000 minors die each year from causes related to underage drinking: about 1,600 homicides and 300 suicides. Some of those lives could be saved if somebody just made the call.

Some say that minors should accept the consequences of their mistakes, and what better time to learn about consequences than when you're young. However, studies have shown and defense attorneys have argued that teenage brains aren't operating at the same capacity as a well-rounded adult. According to a Live Science study, the area of the brain associated with empathy and guilt is underused by teenagers.

So how can they be expected to make a sacrifice to their record and social life on the chance that a drunk person at a party might not wake up the next morning or might not make it home without crashing the car.

Nobody should ever be afraid to ask for help. To contact the Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee e-mail their clerk at mwills@senate.michigan.gov.



JEFF PARKER/Florida Today, Cagle Cartoons

What do you think? Send your comments to The Oakland Post or stop in the office, 61 Oakland Center.

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Letter Policy:

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

- On page 11 of the April 1 issue, Robb Lauzon's name was spelled incorrectly and WXOU is located in 69 Oakland Center.
- The cover story for the April 1 issue should have said that the new student body administration will be sworn in on April 13.

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.

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— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

If that's the worst thing...

Masudur Rahman
Campus editor



Some of you may have heard about the website **fmylife.com**, where people submit tales of their "day to day crap." It seems to be the latest rage, complaining and reading the complaints of other people, usually among teenagers in the modern western world.

Recently, one person wrote: "Today, whilst working at subway (the sandwich store), i took a man's order for 6 footlongs. The entire process took 15 minutes due to his hesitant and glacial pace. When it came to paying, the guy pulled out his wallet, looked inside, then looked at

me and walked quickly out of the store. FML"

The most popular one ever on the website is: "Today, I received my passport in the mail. They got my birthdate wrong. Then I picked up my birth certificate that I had sent in with the application. Turns out my parents have been celebrating my birthday on the wrong day for 16 years. FML"

Most people would be lucky to only have problems as trivial as the ones on the website. The first person has a job, the second person has parents who celebrate birthdays. Many people around the world don't even have these opportunities.

There are so many people out there with actual problems, not high school drama or momentary embarrassment, but real problems that are either fatal or impossible to avoid. Here are some hypothetical people (who probably exist in real life) and what they might have written on **fmylife.com** if they had access to it:

A monsoon destroyed my village, killed my family and destroyed the crops. I have no food, no relatives, and nowhere to go. F*** my life.

My father sold me into marriage to a 50-year old man. He rapes me every night, and keeps me locked in his house. I am 11 years old. F*** my life.

More than half the people I know have AIDS. So do I. I was born with it. The limited access to medicine that comes near our village gets stolen by soldiers with guns. F*** my life.

My father is crippled and my mother is dead. I have to work in a workshop making shoes for 16 hours every day to take care of my sister and father. I am 9 years old. F*** my life.

My sister was stoned to death because she renounced her religion and lived in an apartment with her girlfriend. I am gay too and don't believe in religion, but I must never act on these otherwise they would kill me too. F*** my life.

Soldiers with guns came to my village, killed my family and forced me and my brother to be child soldiers for them. I have to do anything they tell me, even kill people, or they will kill me and my brother.

F*** my life.

Hummers are more eco-friendly than hybrids

Emmanuel Katakis
Guest columnist
Journalism, junior

I think it's safe to say the "Green Movement" was born the day "An Inconvenient Truth" with Al Gore came out. People are asking themselves what they could be doing to preserve our planet and are picking up on recycling, turning off the lights and reevaluating what they drive.

Many people see hybrid cars as a great solution to excessive emissions and petrol/diesel because of their great gas mileage. The most popular hybrid seems to be the Toyota Prius for its affordability, ability to seat four and an average fuel economy of around 50 mpg. That's impressive. But are hybrids more, or even as environmentally friendly as the traditional automobile?

For starters, let's begin with emissions. Hybrids are perceived to be some of the cleanest cars on the road, inspiring awards like "Green Car of the Year." They do emit very few greenhouse gases, but the amount is comparable to what a modern, regular car releases. Every car, from Smart to Hummer, has to pass the same strict emission standards set by the EPA, the same standards a hybrid follows. Compared to

hybrids, traditional cars aren't as bad for the environment as you might think.

What gives a hybrid car its fuel economy is its lithium-ion battery or batteries. In assisting the combustion engine, batteries provide a huge boost in city fuel economy, in some cars as much as 50 percent. It also increases the highway fuel economy, but not as much.

But the eco-friendliness shouldn't just be measured by mpg. The lifespan of a typical hybrid would be lucky to surpass 110,000 miles. A Hummer H1 (most would agree as the anti-hybrid) can easily last for as much as 500,000 miles before finally heading to a scrap yard. It just won't die. So for every time a Hummer is sent to the junkyard, roughly five hybrids are being manufactured. Those batteries can't really be recycled either, whereas just about the entire Hummer can be salvaged to make more car parts. That doesn't seem too "green" does it, Toyota?

Also, all the mining for the nickel needed in these hybrid batteries is more environmentally poisonous than anything that's ever been on the road. Some of the vehicle's parts, as small as quarters, take something as big as a jet to bring it to the assembly plant. In fact, the Prius has parts flown in from all over the world to its final assembly plant in Japan; more trips around the world are needed again to put the final product in dealership lots.

Think of all that fuel burned on its behalf; a lot more than a Prius will ever

make up for. The making and junking of a Prius is probably one of the most environmentally unfriendly things in the automotive world. So to all those people who bought one because they thought they were being "green," think again.

There are actually regular, non-hybrid cars out there that can out-perform a Prius in fuel economy. These aren't just go-carts with doors, either. Take the BMW 520d for instance. It runs on diesel and has a 193hp four-cylinder engine that gets an average fuel economy of 55 mpg, 5 mpg better than the Prius. But sadly, this BMW isn't available in the U.S.

There is a little gas-miser that will most likely be coming to America thanks to a partnership with Chrysler, and that is the Fiat 500. Think the Mini Cooper, only 20 times cuter. This little squeaker can get 56 mpg (with the diesel variant).

But why does Europe seem to be so good at making cars that have such great fuel economy? It's not that they are using magic over there, but their gasoline is between 90-95 octane where ours is between 87-93 octane. Higher octane levels increase fuel economy,

increase horsepower and boast much cleaner emissions. It's also better for a car's engine, but it comes at a more expensive price. Even switching from 87 to 89 at the pump makes a difference.

Diesel engines have come a long way too; they're quieter and their tailpipes no longer belch that thick, black smoke. Diesels also have 50 percent more torque and as much as 30 percent more fuel economy than unleaded engines. Diesel engines are also capable of running on nothing but used vegetable oil.

Imagine, someday filling up your diesel car at a McDonald's on yesterday's oil that was used to cook all those delicious fries. Not only would you helping the environment by driving a car that doesn't run on fossil fuel, you would be assisting in the disposal of used vegetable oil.

A Hummer that runs on veggie oil is probably greener than just about anything. Safer, too.



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Lack of faculty input prompts lawsuit

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Campus Editor

Nobody is arguing that splitting the department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism into two departments was a bad idea.

But the way it was done is causing a rift between some Oakland University professors and the OU administration, and reinforcing feelings that the general atmosphere at OU isolates the faculty from the administration.

It has escalated to the point that OU's chapter of American Association of University Professors, which represents full-time faculty members and special lecturers, filed an Unfair Labor Practice lawsuit last November against OU because it felt its members' rights are at risk. On Wednesday, April 1, AAUP received judgment from the Michigan state office of administrative hearing and rules' employment relations commission in their favor.

Vice President of the OU chapter of AAUP, Karen Miller, urged OU's board of trustees at the April 1 board of trustees meeting to ask the OU administration to accept the judgment and not appeal. But AAUP said they were told that OU would appeal anyway.

OU spokesperson Ted Montgomery declined to comment on the matter, citing OU policy not to comment on pending litigation.

This grievance suit came about because Ron Sudol, dean of OU's college of arts and sciences, decided to split Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism into two departments: Writing and Rhetoric, and Communication and Journalism, in spring 2008. According to AAUP, Sudol did so in violation of OU constitution, because he did not take in adequate faculty input.

Joel Russell, chemistry professor and the president of OU's AAUP chapter, said that Sudol, as dean, did have the authority to split the department, but only after receiving advice of the College of Arts and Sciences' executive committee and assembly, in accord with the college's constitution.

"We filed a grievance, and suggested that [Sudol] consult with us — that would be all that's required ... It doesn't mean he has to do what we tell him," Russell said at the AAUP general meeting on Friday, April 3. "But he chose to take the tactic I'm not going to ask because this is my prerogative and I'm just gonna do it."

Sudol said that the suit is without merit, because the division was educationally beneficial and that the faculty of the previous RCJ department had been asking to be split up for years.

"I know the faculty across the university supports this endeavor," Sudol said.

Russell said he knows the division was supported, but still held that Sudol should have taken more faculty input. Thus, AAUP filed a grievance against OU.

Russell said OU first defended itself by saying this was a government issue, not a contract issue. Then, AAUP presented OU administrators with a copy of a grievance settlement in 1999, signed by OU president Gary Russi, that promised OU would not use this defense again.

Russell said the administration's next response was saying that Russi did not have the authority to sign this agreement because it was not signed by the board of trustees afterward, and that AAUP accepted at their peril that whoever signed that agreement had the authority to do so.

This has AAUP members worried about the validity and insurance of any agreement signed by OU administrators that is not signed by the board of trustees as well.

"This means that any agreement we sign with the administration is probably worthless," Russell said. "We would need the board's chairman's signature on absolutely every agreement ... you apply for sabbatical ... until the board's chairman signs off on it, who knows what could happen."

The court's judgment tells OU they have to follow the 1999 agreement.

Russell said OU has 24 days after April 1 to appeal the decision, and expects that OU will appeal. He and other AAUP members said they feel that the legal cost OU is taking up is a waste of university resources and student tuition money.

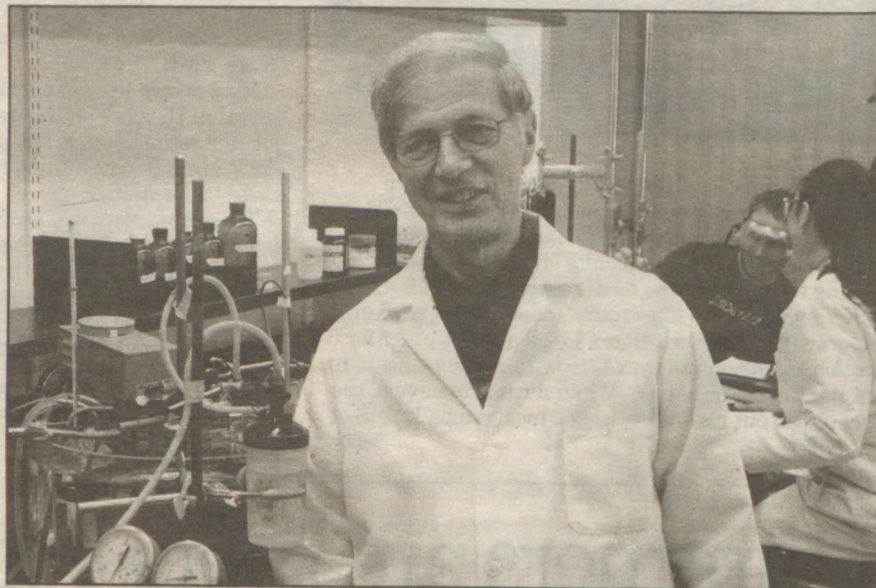
'One-way communication'

This recent news comes at a time when several AAUP members feel that the general atmosphere at OU is one that isolates the faculty from the administration and the board of trustees, and that faculty opinion isn't valued.

"Within the last year, they have chosen to isolate themselves more," Russell said.

Some members agreed with Russell.

"I don't think we've ever been more separated from the administration as



TOM ROWLAND/The Oakland Post
Chemistry professor Joel Russell is the current president of Oakland University's chapter of AAUP.

we are now," said Sean Moran, a history professor who is running for AAUP president against physics professor David Garfinkle, at the AAUP meeting. Moran said he intended to hold the administration accountable.

"It seems to be across the board: it's governance issues, personnel issues," Moran said at the meeting. "A lot of them seem to have no rationale given ... you're not told why it has to be this way. It's presented non-negotiable."

Many members said they not only feel isolated from the OU administration, but from the board of trustees as well.

"The supreme authority is really the board of trustees, but we have no access to them," said Francis Jackson, a nursing associate professor, at the meeting. "We're told that to talk to them, we have to go through [Victor] Zambardi. They don't speak to us, they don't meet with us, everything they get is filtered through the administration."

Zambardi is OU's vice president of general counsel, as well as secretary and general counsel to the board of trustees.

Calls and e-mails to Zambardi, trustee David Fischer, trustee vice chair Henry Baskin and trustee Dennis Pawley for comment were not returned by press time.

Russell said that he has been pushing for a faculty liaison to the board for a long time, but doesn't know if the trustees even know of this desire. He said having a faculty liaison like the two student liaisons to the board would help

because then the faculty could give the board live feedback at the board meetings, instead of having to sign up to speak days in advance.

Russell said that he knows the trustees are busy, but that he wishes the board would meet with faculty sometime. He said AAUP invited the board to meet faculty in May 2008, and that the then chairman of the board said they'd get back to them.

"It's been 11 months, and we haven't heard anything," Russell said.

Upcoming negotiations

Members of AAUP have contracts that expire this summer. Negotiations for contract renewals officially begin on May 15, but AAUP is preparing already.

Mike Latcha, chief negotiator on AAUP's bargaining team, said AAUP is meeting with academic departments, and urged all departments to talk to them to be represented during negotiations.

"Unfortunately, not every academic unit has sent members to our forum," Latcha said at the meeting. "If your unit doesn't have a meeting scheduled for 2009 negotiations, get in touch with us immediately."

He asked faculty and staff, as well as students, to keep an eye on their website www.oaklandaup.org for news updates. OU's AAUP also has a Facebook group called "Oakland University AAUP" and a Facebook fan page that has contact information and news updates.

Trustees approve housing rate increase

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

At the last Oakland University board of trustees meeting a number of campus entities presented their budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, and a residence rate increase was approved.

With a great deal of business to be addressed, the meeting was the longest session of the year clocking in over two and a half hours long. Nearly every proposal was passed.

Housing costs to go up

Due to a greater number of students applying for admission into campus housing, and expanded housing programs, the cost for living on campus will increase.

In Fall 2009, students will pay 3.5 percent more to live in the residence halls, 3 percent more for the University Student Apartments and 2.2 percent more for the Matthews Court Family Housing.

OU Housing Director Lionel Maten said there was a waiting list of 163 students last July. Maten said OU had the highest retention rate for campus housing ever this semester.

Because of the influx of housing applications, Housing assigned two students per room in Van Wagoner Hall, which

had traditionally served as single-person housing.

Housing has worked with the School of Business and the International Students and Scholars Office to create two additional campus residence communities.

Maten said that if the upgrades in housing wasn't made this year, and the rates weren't increased this year, it would cost even more in the future to make the same upgrades.

Housing spent much of 2008 revamping its security by installing camera and Grizzly Card-access devices.

Aramark

OU reached an agreement on a contract extension with independent custodial services contractor Aramark.

Aramark, which has served OU for a few years working in Pawley Hall and other buildings on campus, outbid several other contractors to continue their services at OU for the next five years.

Over the next five years, OU will increase its payment to Aramark by a total of roughly \$110,000.

Terry Stollsteimer, the vice president for facilities management, said the specifics of the contract are subject to change in order to adapt to fluid circumstances.

"If the economy gets bad, they are willing to renegotiate," Stollsteimer said.

"There's five different levels of service. Right now, we are at basic. There is something lower than that that we could go to if we wanted to reduce the dollar amount."

Aramark's service contract with OU was set to expire on June 30. OU Professional Support Association, the union serving university-paid maintenance and custodial workers, has been operating without a contract since September and is still negotiating a new deal with the university.

Members of OUPSA typically make significantly more money and receive better benefits than those working for Aramark. Since Aramark is an outside contracting company, OU is not responsible for paying its workers' salaries or providing for its benefits.

Treasury

John Beaghan, OU's vice president of finance and administration, reported that overall university expenditures are within budget with no deficits.

However, Governor Jennifer Granholm's proposed budget for the fiscal year of 2010 calls for a 3.4 percent decrease in state appropriations to OU, bringing overall state funding to roughly \$1.76 million. The details and stipulations of the one-time federal stimulus

package coming in the upcoming fiscal year have yet to be exactly figured out.

Beaghan said while university investments are losing market value, they continue to pay out and should be sufficient under current budget restrictions.

Hey, that's my identity

The board endorsed an identity theft prevention program to comply with Federal Trade Commission regulations.

The policy stipulates that OU will alert students, staff and faculty of suspicious activity on their campus accounts and will freeze the accounts at the request of the account holder.

Additionally, staff will be trained to be able to detect red flags. The policy is already in place but needed to be endorsed by the board to comply with the FTC.

Additional meeting called

The only budget that was not passed at the meeting was the proposal for inter-collegiate athletics.

The proposal, which called for a total of nearly \$2.3 million, a \$15,000 increase from last year, was not declined but tabled for further deliberation. A special meeting was called for April 8 to discuss the matter further.

Michigan students unite to lobby for MIP amnesty

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

It's 2 a.m. You're vomiting uncontrollably from a heavy night of Jager Bombs and Natural Light. You need to go to the hospital, but since you're only 19 you're afraid you might receive a citation for being a minor in possession of alcohol. What are you to do?

If some Oakland University students have their way, you won't need to worry about that anymore.

OU Student Congress Vice President Jordan Twardy was promoted from vice president to president of the Student Association of Michigan this weekend. The organization, comprised of students from 15 state universities from Northern Michigan University to Western Michigan University, is currently working with members the state legislature to pass a repeal to part of the Michigan Liquor Act.

A number of members of OUSC made the trip up to the SAM meeting at Michigan Technological University, including recently elected president and vice president Kristin Dayag and Saman Waquad. At their meeting on March 23, OUSC decided to petition the government in favor of MIP amnesty.

The bill would provide underage drinkers with amnesty from MIP citations if they or someone they were with needed to receive medical attention for alcohol poisoning.

Twardy said he is making a priority of emphasizing that SAM is not endorsing underage drinking, rather

that the consequences of those who don't seek medical attention for fear of an MIP far outweigh the benefits of aggressive legal prosecution in such cases.

"It's in no way an approval of that happening," he said. "It's just an acknowledgement of this happens, and you can't police everyone all the time. What you can do is create an environment where people who are going to make these decisions, if somebody does drink too much, they can get medical help without worrying about getting slammed by the law."

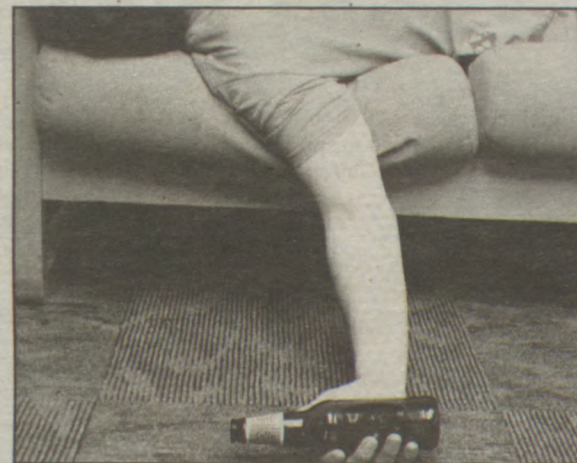
A pair of students agreed with SAM's stance on the issue. Qasim Abbas, a sophomore political science major, agrees with the premise of the bill but does not think it goes far enough.

"I think the drinking age should be lowered to 18 anyway, so I think everyone should get amnesty," Abbas said. "I'm 20 years and I can't go to a bar. Instead of lobbying for a law that is going to give amnesty to underage drinkers with medical problems, I think you should push for a law that would legalize drinking for people 18 and up."

Ray Lee, also a student at OU, said he was conflicted on the issue but ultimately agrees that underage drinkers should be cited for an MIP even if they needed to go to the hospital.

"I would say that I am for receiving the MIP only because it is the consequence of getting drunk, getting sick and the physician having the obligation to inform someone," Lee said.

Twardy said that, while support for medical MIP



MASUDUR RAHMAN/Oakland Post

Soon, minors may not face MIP charges if calling for medical help.

amnesty was unanimous among the 15 schools attending the SAM meeting this weekend, it was not equally urgent among the schools.

"There were some schools that felt it didn't apply to their schools as much," Twardy said. "Like U of M-Dearborn, which is even more of a commuter campus than Oakland, felt that if it affected anybody, it would be their Greek population. They were all in support of it, but it affects different schools to varying degrees."

City-based art exhibit goes multimedia

'Contemporary Flanerie' has photo and video pieces

By ANNIE STODOLA
Contributing Reporter

Students, faculty and the public can get a taste of the city at the Contemporary Flanerie exhibition at the Oakland University Art Gallery.

Vagner Whitehead, professor of studio art, is the curator for the exhibit. A flâneur is one that walks through the city just for the experience. With this idea in mind, Whitehead selected 28 artists from around the world to create works for the exhibition.

"Living in a metropolitan area where walking is almost non-existent also motivated me," Whitehead said. "I see the action of the flâneur and the flâneuse as a form of recapturing or rescuing the urban space."

Contemporary Flanerie is a group of 17 video pieces, two browser art pieces and eight photo-based pieces.

"[The artworks] are multicultural and conceptual in nature, inspired by personal experiences and history, literature and cinema, as well as critical theories," Whitehead said.

The gallery was painted black to simulate the feeling of walking through a city at night. Different city sounds, including dog barking, is heard when walking through the gallery. Each piece works with the city theme.

A series of photos entitled 65-Point Plan for

Sustainable Living has to do with landscape development and architectural environments. In a video called "Medicare," two artists sing about different discarded medication bottles in Chinese pharmacies.

In addition to the photos and videos, there is an interactive exhibit called Ghost City on a computer in the inner gallery. Guests can interact with animated graphics and go through various levels of the computer-created city.

One piece is a video channel that loops several different pieces, including one with a song about Chinese medicine bottles.

Whitehead said he thinks all members of the campus community should take advantage of the gallery.

"Art is not only for art-savvy people; there is always something that relates to the diversity of areas of studies undertaken at this university," Whitehead said. "I hope students investigate the strategies used by these artists and consider employing their own variations around their own communities."

Contemporary Flanerie runs through Sunday, April 12 at the OU Art Gallery, at 208 Wilson Hall. The gallery is open from from noon – 5 p.m. It's also open during evening Meadow Brook Theatre performances. Visit www.oakland.edu/ouag for information about the exhibit or the OU art gallery.



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
One piece showed people's feet as they walked through a city.

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Daniel Dennett shares theory of how religion evolved

By MACKENZIE ROGER
Staff Reporter

As the speech opened with an illustration of the United States shaded in and labeled 'Jesusland,' it was sure to be an unusual one.

American philosopher and social theorist Daniel Dennett's lecture Monday continued in that vein for the rest of the night, balancing tongue-in-cheek humor with the serious topic of religion as a natural phenomenon.

The discussion's main points included why religion may have developed, its evolution and subsequent domestication.

"Religions are brilliantly designed products with an evolutionary history," Dennett said. "There is no good reason to believe in Allah. There are good reasons to say you do."

Dennett made the argument that cultural homogenization in the world will lead to the death of many languages and cultures.

"Religion has changed more in the past 100 years than the previous 2,000," said Dennett.

Social and technological developments are the cause of the many changes, Dennett said. He believes that in the future, among other things, religions may retain only their moral and pagan elements, while leaving behind the actual religion.

Ultimately, Dennett hypothesizes that the Vatican may be renamed the "European Museum of Roman Catholicism," and that Mecca may become "Disney's Magic Kingdom of Allah."

He proposes that each child should be educated on all world religions in public, private and home schools. The

policy would, according to Dennett, act as an "inoculation principle" to teach both adults and children about cultural differences.

Speaking to a packed house in the Banquet Rooms in the Oakland Center, Dennett's lecture was not only advertised by OU. Southeastern Michigan's branch of Center for Inquiry has been promoting his lecture for several months.

"CFI is a non-theistic organization with a naturalist viewpoint," said CFI coordinator Mark Thompson. "Dan Dennett has written for Free Inquiry, and has been active in several CFI national events."

Thompson was also at the event to determine the number of students present. He, along with other CFI members, are trying to initiate an OU student group, similar to the one already located at Michigan State University.

Overall, the discussion was well-received by the audience, many of whom had previously heard lectures or read books by Dennett.

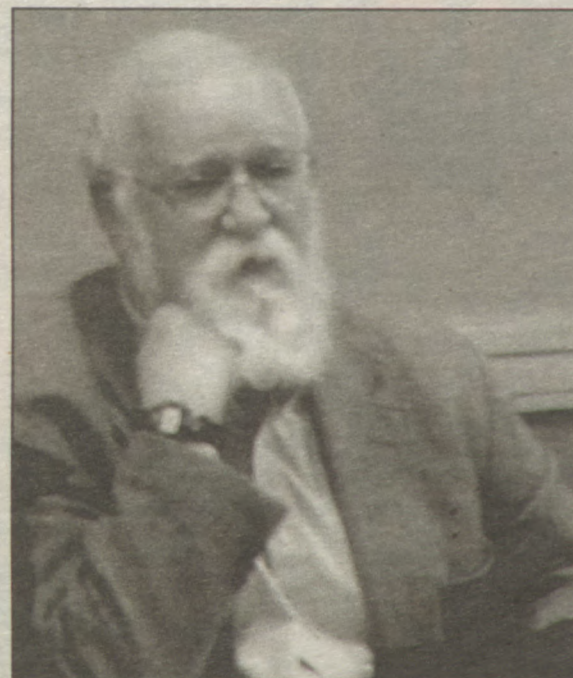
"I drove from Ann Arbor, but this is the third time I've heard him speak," said audience member Ellen Teller. "This time was the best."

There were also many student attendees, along with a great number of faculty members.

"I agree with Dennett's proposal," said junior Philosophy major Tom Schlaich. "You can't get a truthful choice without understanding of other religions."

Dennett's speech was the latest in the Richard J. Burke series of philosophy lectures. The lecture was made possible through Burke's retirement as an OU professor and endowment to the university.

The series is in its fourth year, and has featured



BRAD SLAZINSKI/The Oakland Post
Noted philosopher Daniel Dennett on Tuesday in the OC Gold Rooms for a discussion. He also lectured in classes during his visit.

speakers such as Peter Singer, who spoke on euthanasia. This year, however, was the first lecture that focused on a specifically religious topic.

The Oakland Post wins two regional journalism awards

On Saturday, April 4, The Oakland Post staff was awarded third place in the Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper in Region 4 by the Society of Professional Journalists.

University of Cincinnati's The News Record staff won second place, and Central Michigan University's Central Michigan Life took home first place.

Region 4 covers Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania.

"Things can only go up from here for The Oakland Post," said Lindsey Wojcik, The Oakland Post's editor in chief. "I couldn't be more proud of my staff."

Masudur Rahman, campus editor of The Oakland Post, also won third place in the In-Depth Reporting category for the article "Equality in Home Quarters" that was published in the Oct. 1, 2008 issue of The Oakland Post.

"Equality in Home Quarters" covered the troubles of Micah Fialka-Feldman, who audits classes at OU through the OPTIONS program but isn't an admitted student, as he tried to live on campus.

He still isn't allowed to live in the dorms, and is currently awaiting a court date for his lawsuit against Oakland University.

"I was surprised I won," Rahman said. The conference featured some journalism workshops, as well as a keynote speech by Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts, Jr.

This year, collegiate journalists submitted more than 3,600 entries in 39 categories across SPJ's 12 regions, according to SPJ.

The first place regional winners in each category will move on to the national round. Winners will be announced around mid-May.

Coming Up On Campus

• "Annual OU Photography Contest" — Wednesday, April 8, Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge. Students display their photographic skills.

• "X'Posed Fashion Show" — Wednesday, April 8, 7 p.m., Oakland Center's Banquet Rooms. Fashion show hosted by OU's Association of Black Students.

• "Rock4Rights" — Thursday, April 9, noon, Oakland Center's Banquet Rooms. OU Student Congress' Global Issues Awareness Campaign comes to an end. Although there's no concert like previously advertised, there will be displays of all the other events in this two-week campaign.

• "End Sexual Assault" — Monday, April 6, 4 - 5 p.m., Macomb University Center, Building UC3, Room 120. A community conversation about sexual assault.

• "Roles of Men and Women in the Workplace" — Thursday, April 9, 1:30 p.m., Oakland Center's Lake Superior Room B. Learn how power and leadership play within the workforce for men and women.

• "Gay Straight Alliance 6th Annual Drag Show" — Friday, April 10, 7 - 11 p.m., Oakland Center's Banquet Rooms. A night of "Old Hollywood Drag," to celebrate each other and promote freedom of expression in gender identity.



PANDEMIC PERCEPTION



(Above) Edward Thompson-Matthews creates his own art at "Through Their Eyes," which was part of Oakland University Student Congress' Global Issues Awareness Campaign. (Left) The piece "Big Gay Love" by student Alexa Van Vliet won first place at the "Through Their Eyes" art display. The campaign runs through Thursday, April 9. Other pieces included posters and image print-outs that tried to raise awareness of human and animal rights.

Photos by MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post

Campaign Celebration

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE — WE REACHED OUR GOAL!

Together We Made a Difference

Join President Russi, university leadership, the OU Golden Grizzlies Band and fellow students, faculty, staff and donors for a brief program, video presentation and reception to celebrate the conclusion of the university's first-ever comprehensive campaign.

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

1:45 - 2:45 p.m. immediately following the Faculty Recognition Luncheon
Oakland Center Fireside Lounge

Dessert and refreshments will be served.

INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY —
The Campaign for Oakland University

SPB to receive more funds

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

As a result of the recent vote on the Student Activities Fund, 1 percent of the fund will be shifted from Oakland University Student Congress and the Special Projects Fund each, and that 2 percent will be contributed to the budget of the Student Program Board.

Amanda Vanderford, chair of SPB, said the new shift in funding would be a big help for SPB cosponsoring events on campus with other organizations, bringing in comedians and concerts, and continuing to hold smaller events.

"We wanted these percentages because we literally give every penny of it back to the students," Vanderford said. "All of our funding goes directly to our programs which affects our students."

Vanderford said that although SPB does not spend money on payroll, \$2,000 will go toward stipends for executive board members at the end of the semester, but all other money will be used on student programs.

WXOU general manager Chuck Kanouse said WXOU is happy with the current amount of funding they receive under the SAF. WXOU's funding remained unchanged.

"I mean, we could always use more funding," Kanouse said. But in regards to the recent budget changes, he said, "I think it's fine because of what they're doing with it."

Demetrios Anastasiow of Student Video Productions, which also kept its current rate of funding, said he was also

content with the amount of money they got under the current SAF budget.

Jean Ann Miller of CSA, on behalf of the Student Life Lecture Board, said that they work with what they have, but they could always use more funding to invite more famous or prestigious figures to speak on the Student Life Lecture Series.

"Some of the figures are very expensive," Miller said. "To have a successful series, you've got to have someone people really recognize." She gave examples of figures like Dan Quayle that failed to attract a decent size audience.

Vanderford said the Special Project Fund would be fine with 1 percent of the SAF budget.

"That money is just set for a safety net and still a considerable amount of money goes into that fund," she said.

Vanderford said the only proposal to use the Special Project Funds this year was SPB's All American Rejects concert.

"My opinion on that matter is that if we have this money, we should be using it, instead of letting it keep sitting in funds. Personally, programming at the level that SPB does is very costly and any additional funds will always help us to improve campus life."

The Oakland Post gets 7 percent of the student activities fund money.

Representatives from each group covered by the SAF make up members of the Student Activities Fee Assessment Committee, which voted on proposed changes to the fund earlier in the year. The proposal is then voted on by OUSC, the student body, and finally the board of trustees before it takes effect.

POLICEFILES

On March 30, a student reported having his wallet stolen from his pants in an unlocked locker in the Recreation and Athletic Center. The student told OUPD his locker was unattended for roughly 25 minutes. When he returned he found that his driver's license, American Eagle gift card and \$100 were gone. There are no suspects at this time.

On March 24, a student reported a possible domestic violence incident. The student said she had been pushed by a male student. The student said she had followed the male from Varner Hall to Hamlin Hall in order to discuss a disagreement they had earlier. She reported the male refused to talk about the matter. When the two arrived on the third floor of Hamlin, where the male lives, she obstructed his doorway, and he pushed her out of the way. She said after he pushed her out of the way, he grabbed

her wrists and pressed her against a wall. She claimed to have a bruise above her right elbow. In a later interview, the male said that he had simply pushed her out of the way and entered the room, closing the door. The male student agreed not to have any more contact with the female student. No charges were pressed.

On April 4, OUPD responded to report of a larceny in West Vandenberg Hall. A student, who does not have a roommate, was sharing her room with her younger brother, who was visiting. After vacating the room for roughly three and a half hours, they realized some items had apparently been stolen. She also noticed a pry mark on her door. The items reported stolen include a laptop, a cell phone, two gaming systems and a portable DVD player. No suspects have been named.



Web Exclusives this week:

- What happened at World Health Day, part of Oakland University Student Congress' Global Issues Awareness Campaign?
- How does coffee affect people around the world?
- How does water affect people and the environment locally, nationally and globally?
- What was the play "The Pendergrass Fortune, or Liars and Moneygrubbers" about?
- Who won the Fly and Flashy Talent show on Tuesday?
- Which three graduating student won the three highest awards OU has to offer?

Find out by visiting www.oaklandpostonline.com

- Plus, blogs on 8 different topics updated Monday-Friday.

Center for Student Activities

CSA

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



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Friday, April 10
7:00-11:00 PM

Banquet Rooms, OC



PROMOTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN GENDER IDENTITY

CSA AWARDS NIGHT



Join us and meet the winners of the:

Student Activities & Leadership Awards

Thursday, April 9, 2009
Awards: 5:30-6:30 pm
Gold Rooms

How would you describe your clothing style?



"I would describe it as comfortable, simple and slightly creative. I get a lot of clothes at children's clothing stores. I think it's unique because not a lot of people my age are wearing clothes from children's stores, and it's cheaper."

Amanda Linska
Senior, new media



"Casual. I am one of the few to wear casual clothing year round."

Jared Okoniewski
Sophomore,
electrical engineering



"Sometimes laid back and casual and sometimes fancy. It depends on the situation. I like wearing different earrings."

Ellie Ganos
Freshman, undecided



"I guess I usually dress fancy. I almost always wear heels wherever I go."

Allison McKeon
Freshman, undecided

*Fashion on
campus*

Xpos'd: The Ultimate Fashion Show
Hosted by D Woods of Danity Kane
Wednesday, April 8 @ 7 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms

Gay Straight Alliance 6th Annual Drag Show
Hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Center
Friday, April 10 @ 7 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms



What fashion trend could we have done without?



"For sure, UGG boots. We could have done without those."

Lindsey Phelps
Junior, psychology



"The pink shirts on guys, that's totally inappropriate."

Derek Smith
Senior, finance

Would you rather...

Have \$1,000 to spend at any secondhand store or \$500 to spend at just one high-end department store?



"\$500 at high-end department stores to get more quality clothing."

Kathleen Quin
Junior, nursing



"I'd rather have \$1,000 to spend at a secondhand store because I don't buy designer clothes and I could get twice as much."

Jason Willis
Junior, new media

Classifieds

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248-451-2711 work

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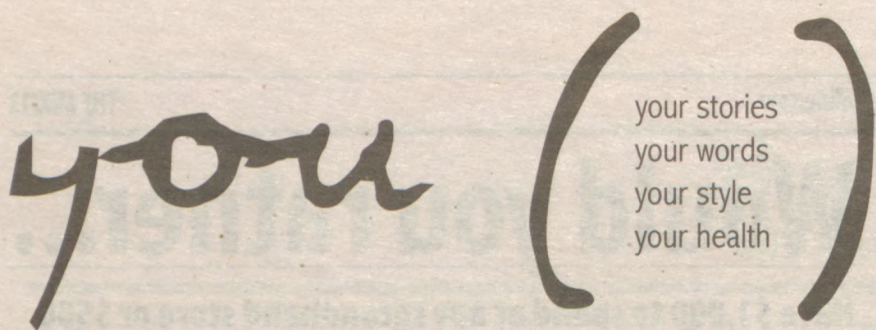
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Students learn to teach

Education program creates smooth transition into the classroom

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

A couple years ago, Jim Radcliffe decided he didn't want to have a "job" anymore.

The 40-year-old who had spent most of his post-college life as a retail salesperson and manager decided that he wanted to pursue the career that he had initially desired.

Now, two years in at Oakland University, he is happy with the decision.

"Honestly, I have absolutely no complaints," Radcliffe said. "All of the professors have been very fair and taught me well ... It has been an overwhelmingly positive experience."

Radcliffe is just one of hundreds of students to enroll in the OU School of Education and Human Services, which Dean Bill Keane said is one of the most highly-regarded schools in the university and one of the top education schools in the state.

Competitive edge

Despite recent economic struggles, tightening public school budgets and the highest unemployment in the union, Keane believes SEHS' reputation and training will carry it through the turbulent times.

"Every school thinks [OU's program is] terrific, and we do too," Keane said. "The basis on which we make those statements are basically various types of surveying that we have been doing with principals in the metropolitan area ... The feedback we've gotten from the principals has been extremely positive. More than a few of them have told us that the first choice they make will be of an Oakland University student."

Keane said he believes a large part of the OU graduates' success is due to their extensive training in a live classroom. In addition to student teaching in the last year of the program, students must also log observational hours at two high schools, one in an urban area and one in a non-urban area.

"The feedback we've gotten from the principals has been extremely positive. More than a few of them have told us that the first choice they make will be of an Oakland University student."

— School of Education and Human Services Dean Bill Keane

Keane said the policy is one students do not take issue with, saying they recognize that exposure to diverse student populations is more important now than ever with greater integration in suburban schools.

"We want to have our kids look at urban environments and realize they are not as hazardous or as challenging as you might think from reading the newspaper," Keane said. "We also want them to have experience working with minority kids because wherever they go in the area now they are likely to meet a large number of minority students."

Audrey Nardone, a senior focusing on elementary education who works at Scribner Elementary in Utica, said the hands-on training at OU has helped her stand out from other aspiring area educators.

"From what I've heard the teacher in my field placement said I've had the most experience from any other college," Nardone said. "When you're becoming a teacher, you become best by being in the classroom. So having as many field placements as we do enables me to apply what I've learned in my classes."

Teacher retention

Keane said one of the biggest problems facing both OU and the state of Michigan is retaining teachers trained in the state. Keane said that the current recession has caused many public school districts to cut back in staff, leading to Michigan being one of the country's top exporters

of teachers.

Nardone, who will be going into her student teaching next year, said she plans to move to Texas when she graduates, saying she had a friend graduate and find a job in the Lone Star state, where the job market is less competitive.

"I think they're better prepared in Texas to hire teachers and have normal-sized classrooms," Nardone said. "If I was offered a job here, I would stay here, but the job opportunities are just a lot better there."

The receding economy that has devastated Michigan has also taken its toll on SEHS. Keane said OU is at a disadvantage compared to larger schools like University of Michigan and Michigan State, because it doesn't have ample endowment funds.

"It's still a little too early to tell how all this is going to affect us, because this whole business with the recession didn't come on until late last fall," Keane said.

Angie Schumuker, the director of development for SEHS, said that tighter budgets have forced SEHS to be more creative and aggressive in raising funds. Schumuker said this means emphasizing scholarships and programs people are likely to have an interest in.

"I definitely spend the most time [soliciting and developing scholarships], because if people are willing to give at a time like this, they're going to give to help a student be able to continue their education," Schumuker said.

SEHS has information about 28 different scholarships posted on its website.

Schumuker said SEHS is also able to attract funds through ancillary projects like the OU Center for Autism Research and Education.

"Our autism center serves hundreds and hundreds of families," Schumuker said. "Thing like that and things like the counseling center where they're helping the unemployed, are things I am really trying to focus on, and I think it's something that's really going to affect us in a positive way."

Back to school

Radcliffe said he realized he wanted to be a teacher when he began training sales associates and managers for his job at MeasureCorp, a measuring service provider for Home Depot. It was then he said he realized more than ever that he had been working in the wrong profession.

"The days I was training the other workers were certainly the days when I enjoyed my job the most," Radcliffe said. "I decided I didn't want to be a manager who teaches, I wanted to be a teacher who manages."

Keane said there are a number of working adults in SEHS, and their learning curve can be very different from the more traditional students.

"There are a whole set of theories about how you teach older people," Keane said. "Most people who have had experience in another career, they like to be very responsible for their own learning, so we try and work with them from that point of view."

Radcliffe said that he does notice differences between how he is treated versus the younger students in his classes but says it is natural and to be expected.

"Because of the fact that I am older, I do have a different rapport with the professors," Radcliffe said. "Sometimes the only reason is that if you're talking about something in history or politics that happened in the 1980s, a lot of times the professors will call on me, because I was there, whereas most of the other students weren't even born yet."



ERIC GAY/The Associated Press

(Left) MSU's Korie Lucious sits on the bench during the championship game at the men's NCAA Final Four college basketball game, Monday, April 6. (Above) North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough (50) and Michigan State's Delvon Roe fight for a loose ball in the same championship game.

Final Four finale in Detroit

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — The NCAA says it had a marvelous week in the Motor City.

The chairman of the selection committee, though, declined to predict Tuesday when or if the Final Four would return to Detroit because he won't be part of the next bid process. Detroit will have to wait a few years to submit another bid to host a Final Four in 2017 or later.

Chairman Mike Slive lauded the record-breaking crowds at the games and related events. North Carolina beat Michigan State on Monday night in front of a championship-game record crowd of 72,922 at Ford Field.

Other marks were set with 75,000 at Hoop City, 4,000-plus children at the Final Four Dribble and 1,702 participants in the Road to the Final Four 5K Run.



(Middle) Former Michigan State player Earvin "Magic" Johnson celebrates near the end of Michigan State's 82-73 win over Connecticut in a men's NCAA Final Four semifinal college basketball game Saturday, April 4. (Above) Erica Enriques, 10, left, Araceli Cruz, 4, second from left, Arianna Bonilla, 12, (with yellow hood) Alexandra Lopez, 8, center, and Dominique Lopez, 11, all of Detroit, participate in the NCAA Final Four Dribble in Detroit on Sunday, April 5. (Left) Crowds gather outside Ford Field before the championship game between Michigan State and North Carolina at the men's NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament Monday, April 6.

Above photo by MANDI WRIGHT/ AP Photo, Detroit Free Press
Middle and left photos by AMY SANCETTA/The Associated Press

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IN 112 VARNER

Charity to support former OU student

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

In December, Oakland University student Aricka Shuck and her family found themselves homeless after a long series of medical and financial disasters. Though they managed to find shelter living with another family, little has changed in the past four months. The Live to Give Foundation is hoping to change that by getting support for the Shuck family through fundraisers and by raising awareness of the Shuck family's situation.

Live to Give, a charity run by five people all under 23 years of age, has been trying to raise support to receive a \$10,000 grant from the MiPro Consulting company in order to help the Shuck family and others. They are in competition with organizations like Beaumont Hospitals and Covenant House Michigan for the most online votes to win the grant money.

Ryan Doyle, a University of Michigan alumnus, is one of the two men who started Live to Give.

"It's very important to us to be reaching out to local families, especially in our own backyard," Doyle said. "We're trying to demonstrate that young America can make a difference."

The Shuck family is the third that Live to Give has helped since it started in 2006. Doyle said that in the past, Live to Give helped a family raise \$6,200 for medical concerns and helped get the father an interview for a heart transplant. He also said they've helped alleviate the financial concerns over medical costs for the family of a terminally ill woman.

The Shuck family has had their own share of medical problems, including Aricka's ongoing illness, which they said doctors now believe is related to an adrenal insufficiency, Addison's disease.

"I'm just really tired all the time," Aricka said. Aricka said she's been going to a free clinic in Royal Oak over the past few months, but her illness has not improved. She said she is still in constant pain. Aricka's mother and father have had continued medical problems as well. Her mother, Terry Shuck, was admitted to the hospital three times this year.

The Shuck family has some positive support from concerned family friends in the past few months. The Shucks have no car, since one car was wrecked in a crash last year, and another was towed to Flat Rock, Mich., a year ago after it was left at a gas station overnight and marked as abandoned. A

family friend who owns a towing company agreed to help tow the car home and fix it up for them.

"They had put four new tires on it, fixed the brakes, replaced the battery, and cleaned it inside and out," Terry said. "So that was a miracle. That was a blessing." She said now they need to find a way to pay for insurance and license plates before they can drive it.

Another friend offered to pay one month of fees to let the Shucks keep their belongings in storage, which they said cost \$600 a month. Aricka said if they're late on their storage fees, they are locked out of the storage units and have 30 days to pay them back before the storage company auctions off their belongings.

"In a few weeks we're going to be locked out and chance losing it all again," Aricka said. "Until my dad gets a job, we're still in a bad place."

Aricka's father has had little luck finding a job due to issues with his health and what he referred to as "age discrimination." He's had some job interviews but they didn't pan out. He said he's been to his third interview for some jobs when the companies decide to retract to job offer, due to the state of the economy.

That's one of the things that Live to Give is hoping to help the Shucks with. "We'll try to help get their foot in the door," Doyle said.

In addition to their attempts to win the MiPro grant, they are also planning different fundraisers to support the Shucks, though nothing is concrete yet.

"Win or lose, we're going to support the family."

Doyle decided to start Live to Give after seeing a "60 Minutes" report that said that the poorer members of society tend to donate more to charity than the upper classes. "Being someone with a totally blessed life, it was one of those 'look in the mirror' moments," he said. "I measure myself by the impact we have on society."

Live to Give is hoping to help five more families this year in addition to the Shucks, and raise \$25,000. They make videos of the experiences they have helping people and post them on the Live to Give website, to give donors a more personal look at how their money is helping people.

"They're trying to change the world one family at a time," Aricka said.

Doyle and the Shucks have been encouraging people to vote to win the MiPro grant via their website, livetogivefoundation.org. The voting for the grant is now closed, and the winner will be announced on April 13.

Building a lasting legacy

Record-setting aside, Justin Wilson puts his team's goals first

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

When Justin Wilson signed on to play baseball for Oakland University four years ago, he knew that the program hadn't enjoyed much recent success and that it would require some patience on his part. Coming from the highly successful Blissfield High School baseball team, he saw opportunity and potential as he chose to become a Golden Grizzly.

"I really liked the idea of being able to come in and be a part of a program that was designed toward us, the team, the seniors, and all that stuff," Wilson said. He wanted to start "setting the tracks" for incoming classes of players at OU.

Now in his senior season, Wilson is one of the standout players on an improving team. He can be seen patrolling center-field and scattering hits in every direction for the Grizzlies, who began Summit Conference play this weekend. The team went 1-3 in a four-game home series against Western Illinois on Saturday and Sunday in which Wilson hit .316 with a home run and five runs scored.

Veteran mentality

Head Coach John Musachio began coaching at Oakland the same year Wilson joined the team as a freshman. "My first impression was that [Wilson] was a hot-wired young man who played the game with a high level of intensity and he had a lot of ability," Musachio said. "He just needed to get some experience and learn by playing."

And this is exactly what Wilson did, starting 50 games as a true freshman. Wilson said that he has come a long way as a hitter since 2006. Looking back, he said that being able to make hitting adjustments on the fly has enabled his improvement.

"When I was younger," Wilson said, "I used to go zero for five and not make adjustments until the following game. But now I'm able to take a bad at bat in the first inning and make an adjustment and be able to come out and be successful in my following at bat."

Musachio said the ability to make adjustments like this has allowed Wilson

to take his game to the next level.

"Hitting is a craft and it's not just about how far you hit the ball. There's a mental, emotional aspect of hitting and that's the most difficult," he explained.

After four years as a starter for the Grizzlies, Wilson's career statistics are among the best the school has ever seen. As the team leader in home runs (7), RBIs (24), and runs scored (25) this season, Wilson has started every game as the team's centerfielder, while batting in the leadoff position regularly.

Musachio said that it's very comforting to know that he can pencil Wilson into the lineup game in and game out and get pretty consistent results.

Illustrious career

Wilson became the school's all-time leader in hits on March 14 in a victory over Dayton, breaking a 29-year-old record with four hits in the game. Mark Bielski, who played at Oakland from 1977 to 1980, was the previous record-holder with 193 career hits.

Like a true team-oriented player, Wilson downplayed the significance of his recent achievement.

"It's kind of one of those things that doesn't mean a whole lot to me now, but I think it's something that five to 10 years down the road it's really going to make more of an impact," he said. "It was cool at the time to break the record but now I'm really focused on our goals as a team."

Wilson also holds the OU record for career runs scored, and is a perfect 26 for 26 in stolen base attempts over the past two seasons.

"Winning is the number one goal to me," Wilson said. "So if I hit .200 and we win 30 games then I'm pretty happy. If I hit .400 and we only win 15 [games] then it's a loss in my opinion."

Senior leadership

First baseman Taylor Traub, who has been teammates with Wilson for four years, said that Wilson brings intensity and focus to the team.

See Wilson on page 18



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Justin Wilson has a career batting average of .340 in his four years as a starter for the Golden Grizzlies. Statistically speaking, Wilson's career numbers place him among the most accomplished baseball players in the history of the university.

Continued from page 17

WILSON

"It seems like every game Justin comes ready to play and it really shows," Traub said. "It reflects really well on the team."

Looking beyond the statistics, Traub also spoke about Wilson's intangibles, and the things that don't reflect in the box score after a game.

"It's just his aggressiveness. Taking the extra base and keeping the runner from tagging up. It's stuff like that where you can't really value it until it's going on in

the game," he said of his teammate.

Wilson is one of eight seniors this season that make up the core of the team. Musachio said the leadership provided by his seniors is critically important to the success of the team.

"That leadership by example is paramount for the younger players to take this program one step further when these guys leave," Musachio said.

This season, Wilson has also taken on a role as a mentor. He said that he tries to share the knowledge he has accumulated over the years with some of his younger teammates.

"People always say 'man, if I had known that when I was that age I would have been a good player,' and so I think of that and try to help guys where I can and give them that experience," Wilson said.

Wilson cited the team's victory at Notre Dame earlier this season one of the most memorable of his career. It was the first time in 12 meetings that Oakland beat the Fighting Irish.

With the season nearing its halfway point, the team has hopes to continue making strides and build off of the improvements made last season. Musachio said that if his team maintains a winning mentality, the wins and losses will take care of themselves.

"You never win as many games as you like and I don't care what program you're playing at," Musachio said.

As for Wilson's plans after graduation, he said that he would like to continue his baseball career professionally.

"It's the sport I love to play and being able to play for money, that would be the ideal goal and fulfill my life-long dream," Wilson said.

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GRIZZ OF THE WEEK



Photo courtesy of OU Athletics

Jessica Granger

Softball

Year: Senior

Granger became OU's all-time leader in wins with a 3-0 record last week, including two complete game shutouts. For the season, she has amassed a staggering 115 strikeouts.

Coming attractions

GAME SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 8 - 14

WOMEN'S GOLF

4/10 vs. Detroit in Redford
4/14 Falcon Invitational
in Bowling Green, Ohio

TRACK AND FIELD

4/8 vs. Western Michigan 2 p.m.*
4/10 at NDSU 2 p.m.*
4/11 at NDSU 1 p.m.
4/14 vs. IPFW 4 p.m.
* doubleheader

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

4/10 vs. Central Michigan 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

4/10 vs. Milwaukee 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL

4/1 at Central Michigan 2 p.m.*
4/3 vs. Southern Utah 3 p.m.*
4/4 vs. Southern Utah noon
4/7 at Eastern Michigan 3 p.m.*
* doubleheader

MEN'S GOLF

4/11 - 4/12 Adidas Hoosier
Invitational in Bloomington, Ind.

BASEBALL

4/8 vs. Toledo 3 p.m.
4/10 vs. North Dakota State 3 p.m.
4/11 vs. North Dakota State noon*
4/12 vs. North Dakota State 1 p.m.
4/14 at Eastern Michigan 6 p.m.
* doubleheader

Women's lacrosse making strides

By **JOE GUZMAN**
Senior Reporter

The Oakland University women's club lacrosse team lost 15-3 to Michigan State University's 14th-ranked 'A' team at the Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac on Thursday, April 2.

Despite the loss putting them at 5-4, OU wrapped up their third consecutive division championship two weeks ago.

The game was their first ever against the Spartans, but scheduling games of MSU's stature was the next step for the team as they continue to make a name for women's lacrosse at OU.

"Last year we were 15-2, this year we specifically scheduled more difficult teams, knowing we would lose more, but be better prepared for the playoffs," said Head Coach Towbey Kassa.

According to second-year attacker and co-captain Ashley Krisfalusi, their 15-2 record last year was misleading because they were playing teams that she said her high school team could beat.

"This year we decided to have a tougher schedule, so that we can compete [at a higher level], and even though the scores aren't reflecting how we're playing, we

are playing better skill-wise," Krisfalusi said.

Since the Grizzlies have already clinched the playoffs, they view the remaining games as preparation for teams that are of OU's caliber.

The team has their sights set on finally capturing the Western Conference Lacrosse League championship when they travel to the University of Toledo for the playoffs on April 18.

For Kassa, winning the conference championship in his third year will be the realization of the team's short-term goal. After leading OU to a combined 25-5 record his first two seasons, he has yet to win a conference title.

But walking away from Toledo with a title provides them the opportunity to join other conference champions at the national tournament, achieving the team's long-term plan to establish a consistently successful program that will ultimately result in the transition to Division I college athletics.

"We all have a goal to not only win, but to build a program that maybe someday girls will be getting scholarship money for, and the school be able to spend more than they are at the moment," said third-

year co-captain Haley Noonan.

Noonan and Krisfalusi lead the team this season with 28 and 27 goals, respectively.

This year marks the first time that the team will be able to compete at nationals, after spending the last three years on probation for forfeiting the 2005 season due to a lack of player participation.

Noonan's hope is that consistent growth and successful showings at their first national tournament will persuade the athletic department to build a field house by the time the team is competing at a Division I level.

But even if the championship doesn't come this season, the program's recent success has provided those involved with an outlet to continue playing competitive lacrosse.

"For a school like Oakland, where it's like 85 percent commuters, it helps the school more when students are a part of something on campus," said Krisfalusi.

"I wasn't even going to stay at Oakland after my first semester," Noonan said. "Then second semester I joined the lacrosse team, I decided to stay because of the lacrosse program, and it now I'm going to graduate from Oakland."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Towbey Kassa and the women's lacrosse team.

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April 8, 2009

Mall cop to the rescue

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

Some aspire to have the corner office with a view. Ronnie Barnhardt (Seth Rogen) just wants to be the hero at the Forest Ridge Mall where he works as head of security. And, he wants to win over cosmetic counter girl Brandi (Anna Faris), who he thinks is the most gorgeous woman in the whole world.

Writer and director Jody Hill said he got the idea for "Observe and Report" somewhat from personal experiences.

"My dad used to own coffee stores in malls and he was always parked in loading zones to make deliveries. He just had a car, so they were always giving him warning tickets. I saw him get in many fights with security guards and kind of started with that theme first," Hill said.

"I was interested in doing something about kind of driving a character insane, to the edge of insanity. I kind of hate malls so I thought it would be a good place to do it," Hill said.

Rogen said the hardest scene to shoot was a brawl between police officers.

"I crack around 14 people in the head in one shot. It looks really messy, but there is actually extremely specific choreography. As you can see, I was extremely out of shape in the movie. That was a real m***** f***** to shoot, I'll tell you that," Rogen said.

Faris said the character of Brandi was different from most characters she had portrayed.

"She's obnoxious like my character in 'Just Friends,' but I think that she is different because my character in 'Just Friends' was so outlandish," Faris said.

"I think Brandi is a little more grounded, even though she's definitely the worst character I've played. I loved every second of it," Faris said.

Rogen said he didn't go to any great lengths to prepare for the role of Barnhardt.

"It was pretty much all out of script. I'm not really the type of actor that does research or anything," Rogen said.

"I did actually talk to one security guard for like five minutes a couple days before filming and I didn't really gather all that much from it. It was all kind of created by Jody and me," Rogen said.

Hill said he considered himself very lucky to work with Rogen and Faris.



Seth Rogen plays bi-polar mall cop Ronnie Barnhardt in "Observe and Report," with Anna Faris as his love interest and cosmetic counter girl Brandi. Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Entertainment

"I wrote this with Seth in mind and he was [one of] the first to sign on. Anna Faris is just the funniest girl out there. When you have two talented people like that, it's like an insurance policy. I just feel really lucky that I get to work with such talented people," Hill said.

Faris said she was happy to work with Rogen and Hill, and she also mentioned how she was happy to just have the job.

"It's so funny when you hear actors talk about being a part of a project. A lot of actors are like 'Well I read the script and something about it just touched my heart' when really it's like, 'They were going to give me a paycheck, I got a job actually,'" Faris said.

Faris said her role in this film was different in terms of her attitude.

"I kind of had to be aggressive with this movie. They were sort of unsure if I wanted to be the girl vomiting on herself and doing all the horrible things I do in the movie, but it's so fun to be so bad and awful and it was a really fun change," Faris said.

"Observe and Report" is rated R for pervasive language, graphic nudity, drug use, sexual content and violence. However, director Hill said he was happy it wasn't rated NC-17.

"I kept my fingers crossed the whole time. We weren't sure if it was going to get a NC-17 rating or not. Luckily we got an R. Yeah, that's lucky," Hill said.

Rogen's character in the movie attempts to hunt down a streaker who assaults women in the parking lot of the mall he works at. This wasn't his first time dealing with nakedness in films.

"It's just funny. I feel like you've got to push it a bit, you've got to shock people, surprise people. Not proud of it but we're doing it," Rogen said.

Both Faris and Rogen have made names for themselves in the comedic movie genre. Faris said she enjoyed all the comedy roles she had been given, but had one in mind that she'd possibly like to do one day.

"I always hoped there was a heroin addict prostitute that I could be. I'm

not sure if there is. At first I was really frustrated when I started doing comedies that I couldn't break into drama and that I was just the spoof movie girl," Faris said.

"In the last few years I'm just like why would I do drama? I love doing comedy so much. About 30 seconds ago, I was thinking about doing some kind of Lorena Bobbitt musical."

Rogen said he chooses movies he would like to make based on a fan's point of view.

"All we ever wanted was just make movies that we would actually go see as movie fans. If I was to look at this movie I would think 'This is the exact type of movie I would want to go see.' I'm constantly grateful that we're able to do that," Rogen said.

"Observe and Report" hits theaters Friday, April 10.

The Oakland Post was included in a college conference call with Faris, Rogen and Hill on Tuesday, April 7.

Communications major slaps 'da bass

By DAUD YAR
Contributing Reporter

Myspace proclaimed garage/jungle band The Decks were picked by Oakland University students as one of the three best local bands. Bassist Hank Wolfe has been jamming with the band for close to four years now. He is currently finishing his senior year at OU with a major in communications. Apart from his band and his studies, he is an RA on 5 East Vandenberg.

Wolfe spoke with The Oakland Post about his band's history, present status and future goals.

The Post: How and when did the band form?

Wolfe: Around 2005, but it was very different back then. Alex Glendening and Maria Nuccilli were the founding members of the group. They've been playing together since they were 15.

The Post: How did you end up in the group?

Wolfe: At that time, they had a couple people sit in on bass but none of them cut it. I had just moved here from Oklahoma and they asked me to sit in for a couple jams.

The Post: What were The Decks in the beginning compared to now?

Wolfe: Well in the beginning, we just wanted to write



Photo courtesy of Dan Meyering
OU senior Hank Wolfe plays bass in the local band The Decks.

songs. We didn't really start getting gigs until the end of [2005].

The Post: Why do you play bass?

Wolfe: I grew up in Oklahoma and all the kids played guitar. No one played bass. I just stopped by the local music store, picked one up and ever since then I've loved playing it. It's the instrument I know best.

The Post: When is the next record coming out and

what is the title?

Wolfe: The record is called "Breath and Bone" and debuts on May 26. It will be on iTunes when it is released. The artwork and the album are done. There will probably be a release party but I don't have all the information on that yet.

The Post: Any singles from the album?

Wolfe: There are two singles that have been released previously from the album. One is "Skeleton" which is available to download at this time. The other single is "What She Said" which has had solid airtime with certain radio stations.

The Post: What would you say is your favorite part about being a part of The Decks?

Wolfe: I get a really big rush from just playing live. I don't know how the rest of my band is but I just love to play in front of people.

The Post: What is the worst thing?

Wolfe: I don't like what I have to do behind the scenes in terms of releasing an album, press packages, any business stuff really. I wish that I did have more input on the albums but Alex and Marie really handle that stuff.

More info can be found at www.myspace.com/thedecks.

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Obama goes to White Castle

Twenty-two-year-old pothead explains how to solve political crisis

By TIM RATH
Web Editor

Since President Barack Obama's inauguration in January, he's had to operate under a very dark cloud in Washington, D.C. A dark cloud of smoke, if you will.

Senate Republicans have been using every dirty trick they can in an effort to derail the president's new policies. The GOP's latest ploy will have them filibuster the confirmations of Obama's legal appointments if he goes public with President Bush's set of four memos that apparently granted authority for the brutal treatment of political prisoners.

It's been a huge buzzkill for me, as someone who voted for Obama and would like to see national politics run smoothly. I think Obama is right to go public with the torture memos, but he needs to keep everyone cool so his legal appointees can get to work and our country can get back on track. I think I can help Obama do this, because even if I don't know a lot about political science, I know a lot about weed.

He might not realize this, but Obama's problems are happening at the perfect time of year to mend fences. It's almost April 20, otherwise known as "4/20," the counterculture holiday best suited for going outside to play Frisbee, listening to live Phish bootlegs and hanging out with your best "buds." If Obama were to take advantage of my favorite holiday, it would either be a really smart move or the stupidest thing he has ever tried.

So, here's the thing: Obama should go on "The O'Reilly Factor" on 4/20.

I think that an impromptu, Monday night edition of "The Factor" starring Obama would be such a ratings boom that O'Reilly would agree to almost any stipulation in order to feature the president. Given the theme of that special date, the stipulation would be O'Reilly smoking with Obama.

If smoking in the Fox News studio is a problem because of legal issues, O'Reilly can bring "The Factor" to my basement. It'll be way more chill than his set in New York City anyway; I've got a black-light Johnny Depp poster from "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," a box of Nag

Champa and a whole bunch of different cereal brands. I'll just tell my mom that the smell is O'Reilly's cologne.

After they smoke out, Obama and O'Reilly should not sit around and repeat their favorite quotes from "The Empire Strikes Back," although that is definitely good times. They need to get down to business.

Obama's EuroTrip. O'Reilly would definitely earn some brownie points with Obama and the American public if he asked the president about what he did on his recent tour of Europe. Obama recently traveled to five countries, three international summits, one-on-one meetings with at least 17 leaders, two question-and-answer sessions with regular-folk foreigners and three official dinners.

Don't get me wrong: building strong diplomatic ties is totally awesome. However, are we as the American public really supposed to believe that the president was in "business mode" with sweet foreign leaders like German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev the entire time he was there? You mean to tell me that Obama walked the beaches of Normandy with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and talked about World War II?

I don't buy that for a second, brudes. I bet that as soon as the cameras were off, Obama was all like, "Hey, Chinese President Hu Jintao, you know where we could maybe get some burritos and watch the Chicago White Sox game?" Hu probably replied, "Totally, Obama, we've got a Chipotle in Beijing where we can do that. After the game we'll see 'Adventureland' and then, chuck containers of rotten salsa at cars from the freeway overpass."

Whether that was their actual discussion or simply a recap of my weekend isn't important. What is important is this: Obama needs to show off his diplomacy skills on "The Factor." Talking "G-20 summit" this and "D-Day" that isn't going to impress Senate Republicans. Hanging out with Franz Ferdinand and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown at Glastonbury totally would.

Dude, Where's My Party? O'Reilly doesn't need to be all sunshine-and-lollipops while Obama is on "The Factor"



CHARLES DHARAPAK/The Associated Press
President Barack Obama meets with China's President Hu Jintao in London, Wednesday, April 1. Talking over burritos and a White Sox game could keep the politics from going up in smoke.

because a major trait of potheads is their affiliation with radical politics. As long as O'Reilly keeps the conversation pointed toward nonviolent protests and Rage Against the Machine, he should discuss former House Speaker Newt Gingrich's prediction that voters will split from the GOP and form a major third party by 2012.

Now, I'm not really a big fan of party politics from either side. Like "The Dude" in the "The Big Lebowski," I consider myself a nihilist; and like Ziggy Marley, I think we should all just try to live in harmony under a big "rainbow in the sky."

However, a major third party built around values that myself and the rest of the American public hold dear would definitely be a cool thing to vote for in 2012. O'Reilly should ask Obama how he feels about those values; which include federal bailout money to pay off Big Worm by 10 p.m. Friday, presidential pardons to get my friend Kenny out of jail, legalization of all soft drugs and White Castle restau-

rants on every street corner (obviously). If Obama's not ready to make the kind of change that I really want to see, his career as president may go "up in smoke" before it ever takes off.

Topics to avoid. O'Reilly should probably steer the conversation away from the following topics, because as serious and important as they are, their dark nature would probably cause a major buzzkill: the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, the mounting budget crisis, the new Defense Department, gay marriage, abortion, steroids in baseball, the "Watchmen" film, the last four episodes of "Gossip Girl," the new Animal Collective album, the NCAA men's basketball tournament and the overall lack of Little Debbie snack cakes at my house.

I know that with a little bit of my help, O'Reilly could dominate sweeps week, Obama could win back Washington politics and we as the American public can hash out all of our differences. Pun totally intended, brudes!

Police: no doubt letter is gunman's

By WILLIAM KATES
Associated Press Writer

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Police on Tuesday said they have no reason to doubt that a letter mailed to a TV station forecasting last week's mass shooting at an immigrant center was written by the gunman.

The letter received by Syracuse TV station News 10 Now is still being analyzed, but police believe it was written by 41-year-old Jiverly Wong, police chief Joseph Zikuski said at a briefing.

"We have no reason to believe it's not (authentic)," Zikuski said. "It's another piece of evidence in a very complex puzzle that's going to take us weeks and months to determine what's going on. It's going to help us."

In the rambling, disjointed letter

mailed the day he gunned down 13 people before killing himself, Wong blamed his troubles on the police and vowed to take at least two people "to return to the dust of earth." He ended the letter, neatly written in capital letters, on a chilling note: "And you have a nice day."

The letter was dated March 18, more than two weeks before the shooting. Zikuski declined to discuss what police thought the letter says about the mental stability of gunman Jiverly Wong. He said he will leave that assessment to FBI experts.

"There are obviously some mental health issues there, we saw some religious overtones," Zikuski said.

Zikuski said the letter hasn't gotten them any closer to figuring out why he targeted a classroom full of immigrants learning English.

Wong's sister said on NBC's "Today" show she doesn't think the letter was written by him.

DNA testing on the letter has not yet begun because police have to collect samples from the five or so News 10 Now employees who handled the letter, Zikuski said.

The letter was mailed from Binghamton and postmarked Friday, the day Wong went into the American Civic Association community center and started shooting. Two employees and 11 immigrants taking an English class died in the assault.

"I am Jiverly Wong shooting the people," the letter says.

Police have speculated Wong, who was ethnically Chinese but was from Vietnam, was angry over losing a job and frustrated about his poor English skills.



CHARLES DHARAPAK/Associated Press
President Barack Obama gets a hug while meeting with military personnel at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, April 7.

Obama: Iraq must take over

By JENNIFER LOVEN
AP White House Correspondent

BAGHDAD — Cheered wildly by U.S. troops, President Barack Obama flew unannounced into Iraq on Tuesday and promptly declared it was time for Iraqis to "take responsibility for their country" after America's commitment of six years and thousands of lives.

"You have given Iraq the opportunity to stand on its own as a democratic country," the president said as he made a brief inspection of a war he opposed as candidate and now vows to end as commander in chief. "That is an extraordinary achievement."

A total of 4,265 U.S. troops have lost their lives in Iraq since March 2003, and Obama said American forces had "performed brilliantly ... under enormous strain."

"It is time for us to transition to the Iraqis," he said as an estimated 600 troops cheered. "They need to take responsibility for their country."

Obama also met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who said afterward that he had "assured the president that all the progress that has been made in the security area will continue."

Obama said he had "strongly encouraged" the Iraqi leader to take steps to unite political factions, including integrating Sunnis into the government and security forces.

Obama spoke favorably of political progress but also expressed concern that recent gains could deteriorate with the upcoming national elections.

Obama's visit came at the conclusion of a long overseas trip.

N | W BRIEFS

- Italian news agencies report Tuesday that a woman has been pulled alive from the rubble 42 hours after a powerful earthquake ravaged the mountainous region.

- A flight student suspected of stealing a plane in Canada and flying erratically across three states was trying to commit suicide, hoping to get shot down by military fighter planes, a state trooper said Tuesday. He was arrested Monday in Ellsinore, Mo., shortly after landing.

- The Iowa Supreme Court announced Tuesday that the date when same-sex couples can begin filing for marriage licenses is delayed until Monday, April 27 because of budget cuts.

Source: The Associated Press

Spring fishing season has begun



MICHAEL DWYER/Associated Press
Boston chief of environmental and energy services Jim Hunt, right, releases a salmon into Jamaica Pond with Helen Skerrett, 11, Tuesday, April 7 in Boston. State officials kicked off the spring fishing season by stocking the pond with various species of hatchery-raised fish.

Somali pirates back in action, seize 5 ships

By ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY
Associated Press Writers

NAIROBI, Kenya — For the first three months of 2009, Somalia's notorious pirates faded from the headlines, until pirates hijacked at least five vessels since Saturday.

Using a new strategy, they are operating further away from warships patrolling the Gulf of Aden. And they no longer have to contend with the choppy waters that always plague the seas off Somalia in the early part of the year.

The lull in successful major attacks was partly because the pirates found it harder to strike inside the Gulf of Aden,

where warships from the United States, China, France, India and elsewhere have concentrated their efforts to protect one of the world's most important shipping routes.

Now, analysts say, the pirates have moved many of their operations further south, targeting ships as they come out of the Mozambique Channel.

The five attacks since Saturday show a new strategy — they are moving further out to sea and down the Somali coast.


One reason is that surveillance in the Gulf of Aden is higher, with unmanned drones, helicopters and aircraft flown from shore. The helicopters have frequently intervened in attacks, firing at

gunmen or even picking up crew members who jumped overboard.

Cmdr. Jane Campbell of the Bahrain-based U.S. 5th Fleet, which monitors piracy in the Gulf of Aden, said "international navies alone will never be the complete solution to piracy."

The U.S. Navy and other nations have international authority to battle pirates in the open seas and come to the aid of vessels under attack. But they have been stymied over how to respond to ships under pirate control, fearing an all-out assault could endanger crew members held hostage.

—Associated Press Writer Malkhadir M. Muhumed contributed to this report



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