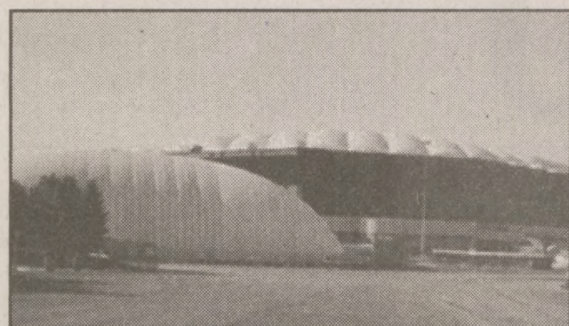


LOCAL...



With the Lions moving on down to Detroit, the only question left is what will they do with the Silverdome??

A5

SPORTS...



Bad week for swimmers

B5

EDITORIAL...

A6

Martin Luther King Jr. left his mark on America and continues to inspire any one willing to listen.

Today:
Partly Cloudy
High 47°F
Low 32°F

Tomorrow:
Mostly Sunny
High 41°F
Low 25°F

THE OAKLAND POST

Student-run newspaper serving Oakland University's community. 10 cents

Wednesday • January 23, 2002 • www.oakpostonline.com

Award-winning independent newspaper THE OAKLAND SAIL, INC.

The EDGE

• Students studying Japanese will be able to extend their minor into a major by fall 2003, according to a recent press release. OU's Japanese Studies Program was recently given a \$2,000 donation, which will go towards growing supplies such as books and helping students within the program.

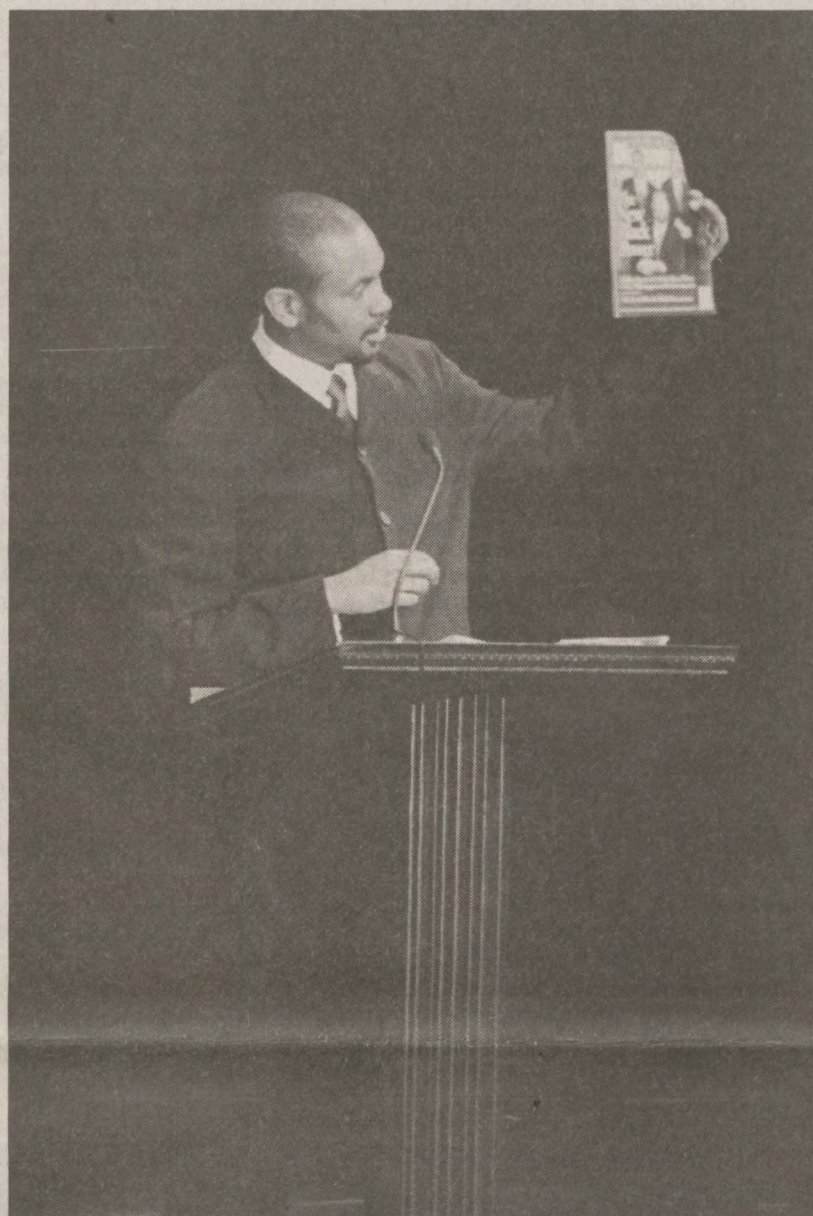
• One OU student will soon be on her way to Salt Lake City, Utah, to compete on the U.S. Olympic bobsleigh team. Jean Racine, freshman, performing arts, will compete in the world-wide arena Feb. 19.

• The deadline for the fifth annual essay contest to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. is Monday, Feb. 11. Participants must write a 1,000-word essay or poem that answers this question: What kind of hero do you envision yourself to be after you graduate from OU? First place receives \$300, and \$100 will be given for second and third places. Entry forms can be picked up at the Center for Student Activities, 49 Oakland Center.

• This is Career Prep Week on campus. A diversity career fair will be held from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., tomorrow in the Gold Rooms, OC. Also, fine tune skills Friday during the interview workshop, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Oakland Room. Call 248.370.3250 to reserve a spot.

IN THIS ISSUE

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Horoscopes... B2
Sports Scores... B4



WORLDLY: Kevin Powell spoke Monday during OU's MLK celebrations. Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post

Real Cool:

Powell moves MLK day audience with youthful approach

By Adam L. Neal
THE OAKLAND POST

Martin Luther King Jr. was remembered at OU in a special way this past Monday. Writer, speaker and former member of MTV's *The Real World*, Kevin Powell spoke about King and his achievements and dreams.

More than 350 people showed up for the speech, which lasted a little more than an hour. There was no big show with flashy signs and attention-getters. Under *The Mystery of Irma Vep* play banner, the play which is currently running in Meadow Brook Theatre, a black background was all Powell needed to grasp his audience and

have them tailing on every last word.

Powell spoke mostly on what King was looking for when he gave all of his famous speeches, in particular the *I Have a Dream* speech.

As much as Powell hails King, he challenged what people really knew about him.

King was not a saintly man, as Powell pointed out. King smoked regularly and cheated on his wife many times, which does make him human. It wasn't Powell's intention to degrade King, although he said wanted to humanize, which would help everyone understand.

Many people, Powell explained, know King only from the sound bytes they hear of his speeches. Powell challenged everyone to go out and explore King and do some research if they really want to celebrate his life every January.

Powell also spoke of how King thought of himself. King felt he was too short and too dark. He did not think that he was good looking or attractive because of how society portrayed him. However, he spoke and encouraged men and women of all looks, shapes and sizes to treat everyone else equally as they wanted to be treated.

Powell explained how happy King would be if he were alive today. He would see, for instance, the CEO of American Express, AOL Time Warner and Merrill Lynch. Powell addressed them as three black men

POWELL continues on A2

Publications Powell's written for:
The New York Times, Rolling Stone, Essence, Vibe

Books he's written:
– "Step Into A World – A Global Anthology of the New Black Literature"
– "Keepin' It Real – Post MTV Reflections on Race, Sex and Politics"

TV Shows he's hosted:
HBO's *Vibe Five*, MTV's special "Straight from the Hook"

Nonprofit orgs he's helped:
Get Up On It – aimed at young hip-hopers

Powerful leader helps sustain father's name

King III toured the state this week

By Heather Clement
ASSISTANT TO THE NEWS DEPT.

Martin Luther King III, son of Martin Luther King Jr., the famous Civil Rights leader assassinated in 1968, came to the Detroit area this past weekend to celebrate the birth of his father.

I love you and there ain't nothing you can do about it, Reverend Jim Holley said, encouraging the congregation of Little Rock Baptist Church, Detroit, to turn to the people around them and say the same.

My father's birthday is not yet a celebration, King said in a speech to the Little Rock Baptist Church.

King was selected in 1997 to

head the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization his father helped to establish in 1957. The SCLC is an organization of black churches and ministers that originally challenged racial segregation.

The elder King is known worldwide for his role in the SCLC. His peaceful organized demonstrations and marches across the U.S. brought the civil rights movement to the forefront of American policy and strove to eradicate the oppression of African Americans in the 1950s and 1960s.

As we come to this moment this morning getting to afternoon, much comes to my father for it was this great city that pro-



PROUD SON: Martin Luther King III, son of King Jr., made his way across Michigan this past weekend. Along the way, he announced his engagement to Arndrea Waters (above, right).

vided an opportunity for Martin Luther King Jr. to refine his most famous speech, King said.

For as we prepare to observe this birth, I want you to think about some things, said King. In 1983 we celebrated because it was the first national observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, but in 2002 it's not time to celebrate yet, because the dream and vision has not totally been fulfilled.

In a nation where over 12 mil-

lion are homeless ... in a nation where 44 million people have no health insurance ... in a nation where women still get 79 cents to the dollar that men make ... in a nation where black folks still make 60 cents to the dollar that everyone else makes...

So it's not time to celebrate yet. We've got work to do to create a love of community that Martin Luther King Jr. so often

MLK continues on A2

Blood drive should bring in 300 pints

By Cara Plowman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Blood levels across the country have been quickly decreasing since post-Sept. 11 donations.

This semester, OU will try to add its two cents for the American Red Cross, which will be collecting pints of blood on campus next week.

Organizers expect 300 people to come out and donate.

OU's annual winter blood drive will take place from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Jan. 28-30, in the Gold Rooms, OC.

To make an appointment, stop by the Center for Student Activities at 49 Oakland Center or call 248.370.2400.

A healthy person is able to donate blood every 56 days.

Senate mulls over graduation date, faculty liaison plan

■ **Steering Committee to nominate two faculty members to attend Board meetings**

By Jennifer Decker
COPY EDITOR

The University Senate agreed at its meeting last Thursday to recommend to the Steering Committee the nomination of two faculty members to serve as representatives to the Board of Trustees.

The recommendation came after a discussion of the Board's denial to create two faculty liaison positions.

Obviously, it's not what we asked for, Vice President for

Academic Affairs and Interim Provost Virinder Moudgil said at the meeting.

Moudgil stated that, in conversing with the Steering Committee, there was a consensus to invite the Trustees to attend a Senate meeting, with the hope of further opening the lines of communication.

If you recall early on, we decided that the first meeting (of 2002) should be for budget presentation. The second meeting should be dedicated to meeting with the Board,

Moudgil said.

He also stressed the need for discourse adding, Globally, all over the world, you can accomplish more by talking.

Christina Sieloff, assistant professor of nursing, noted that the Senate has tried to obtain better communication with the BOT.

I don't see the faculty's concerns or issues being taken seriously. To say communication's fine, or we don't need it, is false, Sieloff said. With a large OU faculty, Student

Body President Derek Dickow said he'd like to see many professors take turns representing the faculty at the Board meetings.

I think professors are entertaining a good idea. I think it's a good step in opening lines of communication, he said.

Also discussed at last Thursday's meeting was the fall commencement date. Tentatively scheduled for Dec. 21, 2002 the date for com-

SENATE continues on A8

POWELL

continued from A1

who lead some of the major companies in this country.

Powell said this would never have happened in King's era and rarely happens even today.

Even though progress has been made since King's death on April 4, 1968, Powell talked about why he would be saddened.

America's governors, no Blacks and no Hispanics here in the year 2002, Powell said. After the great civil rights

movement we still don't have a lot of elected officials of color, nor as many women elected officials after the civil rights movement. I think Dr. King would be saddened by some of the stuff he would be witnessing today.

Since King's death, there are now more poor people than ever before, he said. The progress, or lack of it, is not what King was looking for during his fight for civil rights, Powell said.

He continued to talk about how King

would be upset by what his family is doing with his name. They are not allowing people or companies to use his image unless they pay for it, Powell said.

By reading lesser-known parts of King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Powell used two words to explain it. He said it was radical, getting to the bottom of things, and revolutionary, to turn some things around. He showed how some people could ramble on for hours and not say anything, but King made an impact

speech in just 18 minutes.

Powell challenged everyone to go out and read one of King's speeches to understand more than just the parts heard on television or radio.

I understand everything Powell said. Everything that he talked about is reality. Racism still exists and issues still need to be looked at, Khurram Amin, sophomore, MIS, said.

After the lecture, Powell met with students in Pioneer Food Court to socialize

and talk one-on-one with them.

I don't like speakers that talk and run out. I like to meet with my audience and get their views and opinions, Powell said after the speech.

Powell challenged everyone to look at King and look at the past. Look at where they came from and what sacrifices were made in order for him or her to be where he or she is today, he said.

Movie Guide

Cinemark Warren 16

28600 Dequindre
Warren, MI 48092
(810)558-7520

"Wednesday and Thursday"		"Showtimes Starting Friday"
	Black Knight (PG-13)	
		11:45, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00
	Bones (R)	
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:20		12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:20
	Corky Ramano (PG-13)	
2:40, 7:20		
	Domestic Disturbance (PG-13)	
11:50, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10		11:50, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
	Don't Say A Word (R)	
11:20, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35		11:20, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35
	From Hell (R)	
11:10, 4:30, 10:00		
	Hardball (PG-13)	
11:00, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45		11:00, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
	Heist (R)	
11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50		11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
	Joy Ride (R)	
11:55, 5:00, 9:55		11:55, 2:20, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55
	Max Keeble's Big Move (PG)	
11:20, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20		11:20, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
	Out Cold (PG-13)	
11:25, 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 9:35		11:25, 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 9:35
	Riding In Cars With Boys (PG-13)	
11:00, 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45		11:00, 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
	Shallow Hal (PG-13)	
11:15, 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25		11:15, 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25
	Soul Survivors (PG-13)	
2:10, 7:25		
	Spy Game (R)	
11:05, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40		11:05, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
	The One (PG-13)	
11:30, 2:15, 4:35, 7:10, 9:30		11:30, 2:15, 4:35, 7:10, 9:30
	Princess Diaries (G)	
11:05, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40		11:05, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40
	Thirteen Ghosts (R)	
11:35, 2:05, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05		11:35, 2:05, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
	Training Day (R)	
11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 10:40		11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 10:40

MLK

continued from A1

talked about, King said.

While at Little Rock, King took the opportunity to introduce the congregation to his fiancé, Arndrea Waters, originally from Tallahassee, Florida. She received her degree in psychology from Emory college in Atlanta, Georgia.

She lives in Atlanta and works for The Center for Democratic Renewal, an organization that monitors hate crimes and hate groups.

Waters said students, as well as other people, can call the center to access their research or to report crimes of hate. They collect information from all over the U.S., including crimes that have transpired since the deadly terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

We find ourselves in the midst of a major wordily conflict, a reign on terrorism. Terrorism is very deadly thing, and Sept. 11 changed all of our lives. It changed the way we must conduct selves and our own.

We thought we were invincible, the United States of America, said King. Some may think we are great and we all talk about how great things are, but we are not a great nation. We

can't be a great nation as long as we are suppressing people know matter what color they may be.

God knows this a time when prayer is needed for our nation and the world as were engaged in a role, to wipe out terrorism and we can do that, but one day we have to learn to live together without destroying personal property.

Sunday, King traveled to Saginaw to speak to Brian Berg and Louis Dewitt regarding their dismissal for bringing attention to a superior for making racial slurs.

Later that day he traveled to the Minority Entrepreneurial Development Project to discuss ways to help Berg and Dewitt.

On Monday he spoke to members of AFSME in Detroit, the labor organization that his father was fighting for in Memphis until the day of his assassination in 1968.

Later that day he visited three hospitals in the Detroit area, flying back to Washington D.C. to unveil a portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. that will hang prominently on the walls of the White House.

He then returned to Michigan

for a final visit Monday at the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Flint to support Flint Mayor Woodrow Stanley.

Perrie Willey, 10, a fourth grader at Coolidge Elementary School in Flint, stood at the doors of Mt. Calvary Monday, his eyes huge in anticipation of King's visit. He plans to grow up to be a basketball player and to build things. He wants to build a mansion for himself larger than this church.

When King's vehicle pulled up, Willey slid up beside King to have his picture taken. He then pulled out a small tape player and asked him to say something into the machine, words that only Willey could hear. After, Willey turned and said, I got it, I got his voice on tape, and then ran home to tell his mom.

Sunday at Little Rock Baptist Church, King articulated what he thinks the world's most valuable quality is.

All that we do should be for those who come behind us, because a nation is judged by the way it treats its most precious resources and certainly our children are most precious resources, King said.

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African-American Celebration 2002
Heroes of Life

Thursday, January 24-Saturday, January 26
Diverse Student Leadership Weekend

Thursday, January 24
Diversity Career Fair
Time: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Location: Oakland Center

"Use Diversity to Your Advantage" Workshop
Time: Noon-1:00 p.m.
Location: Fireside Lounge, OC

Friday, January 25
NPHC Quilt: A Tapestry of OU Greek History
Time: Noon-1:00 p.m.
Location: Heritage Room, OC

Saturday, January 26
The History of the Underground Railroad
Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Location: City of Detroit (Meet at the Fireside Lounge, OC to board chartered bus.) Sign up at the CSA Service Window, 49 OC, Transportation included.
Cost: \$10.00/person.

SPB Rhythm's Den: Flipsyde
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Location: Heritage Room, OC

Sunday, January 27
Gospel Extravaganza: The History of Gospel Music
Time: 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: Vandenberg Dining Center, Vandenberg Hall

Tuesday, January 29
SPB: The Hilarious Religious Comedy Tour
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Pioneer Food Court, OC

Tuesday, February 5
"Heroic Efforts: Words, Photos and Dance"
featuring the Cass Technical High School Poet's Society
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Education Resource Lab (ERL), 216 ODH

Wednesday, February 6
Film: "Men of Honor"
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: Pioneer Food Court, Oakland Center

Thursday, February 7
President's Colloquium on Racial Profiling
Time: 11:30 a.m. - Reception; Noon-1:00 p.m.
Presentation (Seating is limited.)
Location: Gold Rooms, OC

Friday, February 8
Reaction Panel to Racial Profiling Presentation
Time: Noon-1:00 p.m.
Location: Fireside Lounge, OC

Oakland University

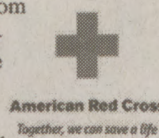


Campus College Bowl Competition

College Bowl is a knowledge and trivia game that challenges the mind. OU will be sponsoring a campus tournament on Saturday, January 26, 2002 to determine the top college bowl team on campus. The first place team will win a total of \$600 in prizes and the right to represent Oakland University in the Regional College Bowl Tournament. The entry fee for a 4 person team is only \$20. Information and entry forms available at the CSA Service Window.

The Winter Blood Drive

The Winter Blood Drive will take place on Monday-Wednesday, January 28-January 30. The drive will be in the OC Gold Rooms from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.. To make an appointment call (248) 370-2400 or go online to <http://givelife.redcross.org>. The code word will be OUBLOOD.



The nation's blood supply has dropped to pre-September 11 levels. There is currently a critical need for platelets which only have a shelf life of five days. Save a life and give blood!

CSA Personal Enrichment Series

- ✓ Wednesday, January 23: *Balancing Your Life* by Milla Padgett
- ✓ Monday, January 28: *Household Financial and Credit Management* by John Savio and Pat Nicosia
- ✓ Wednesday, January 30: *Time Management* by Dawn Aubry

All programs will take place in the Fireside Lounge, OC from noon until 1:00 p.m.. You are invited to bring your lunch.

AT THE CSA SERVICE WINDOW

✓Reservations for:

- South Pacific (February 7 and 10)
- The Vagina Monologues (February 21)
- Dance Theatre of Harlem (February 27)
- Cinderella (March 10)
- David Copperfield (March 17)

✓Sign-up for:

- OU College Bowl - Campus Tournament (Jan. 26)
- Underground Railroad (January 26)
- Keeper of the Dream Student Waiting List (Feb. 20)
- SPB's Winter Break Trip to Atlanta (Feb.27 - Mar. 3)
- CSA Student Leadership Retreat (March 8-9)

Student and Greek Organizations
Officer Training

Thursday, January 24
5:00 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Room, OC
for all new Student and Greek Organization Officers

SLLB Presents:
olf
Feminist Author

Monday, March 25, 2002
3:00 p.m. in Meadow Brook Theatre
FREE. Tickets are not required!

CAMPUS NEWS

The Oakland Post

Wednesday • January 23, 2002

A 3

Vigil held to honor King

By Melinda Parker
THE OAKLAND POST

Boom, Boom, Boom. African drums were being played by Darnell Wilson, Damien Cash-Osaze and Jordan Bennett while dancers dressed in skirts accenting every color in the rainbow are dancing around the room.

Their bodies moved up and down with the drumbeats, drawing the interest from everyone in the room, making them feel that during this remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr. they also were dancing.

The Association of Black Students hosted the a vigil in the Oakland Center Monday night at 7 p.m. in the Gold Rooms.

Colleen Mueller, senior, health care administration, said she came to the vigil because she is a firm believer of equality, peaceful protests and strength in numbers.

Only about two dozen people came to support members of the dance group which included Gloria Acea, Cynthia Chambers, Theresa Lewis and Krystal Johnson, and also to support the events of the day.

Jean Ann Miller, Director for the Center of Student Activities, said that the events made it a heartwarming day, which began with the march followed by the inspiring words of guest speaker Kevin Powell and then ended at the candlelight vigil.

Omar Brown, president of ABS from 1993-1995, spoke at the vigil, urging his listeners motivate others to reach outside of their own race and communicate with each other. Brown spoke of when he came to OU for the first time and how shocked he was to be a minority. However, with all the cultural diversity at OU, Brown could see that the students were lacking unity.

If students don't stand together, nothing gets solved, said Brown who graduated with a communication degree. The more we stand together, the more we can get accomplished.

He said he wanted students to know that they can't just look at the differences in the people around them and forget the similarities that might be there.

Unity isn't just wearing a t-shirt: Unity is action. Martin Luther King Jr. was not just a man of thought, but a man of action, he said.

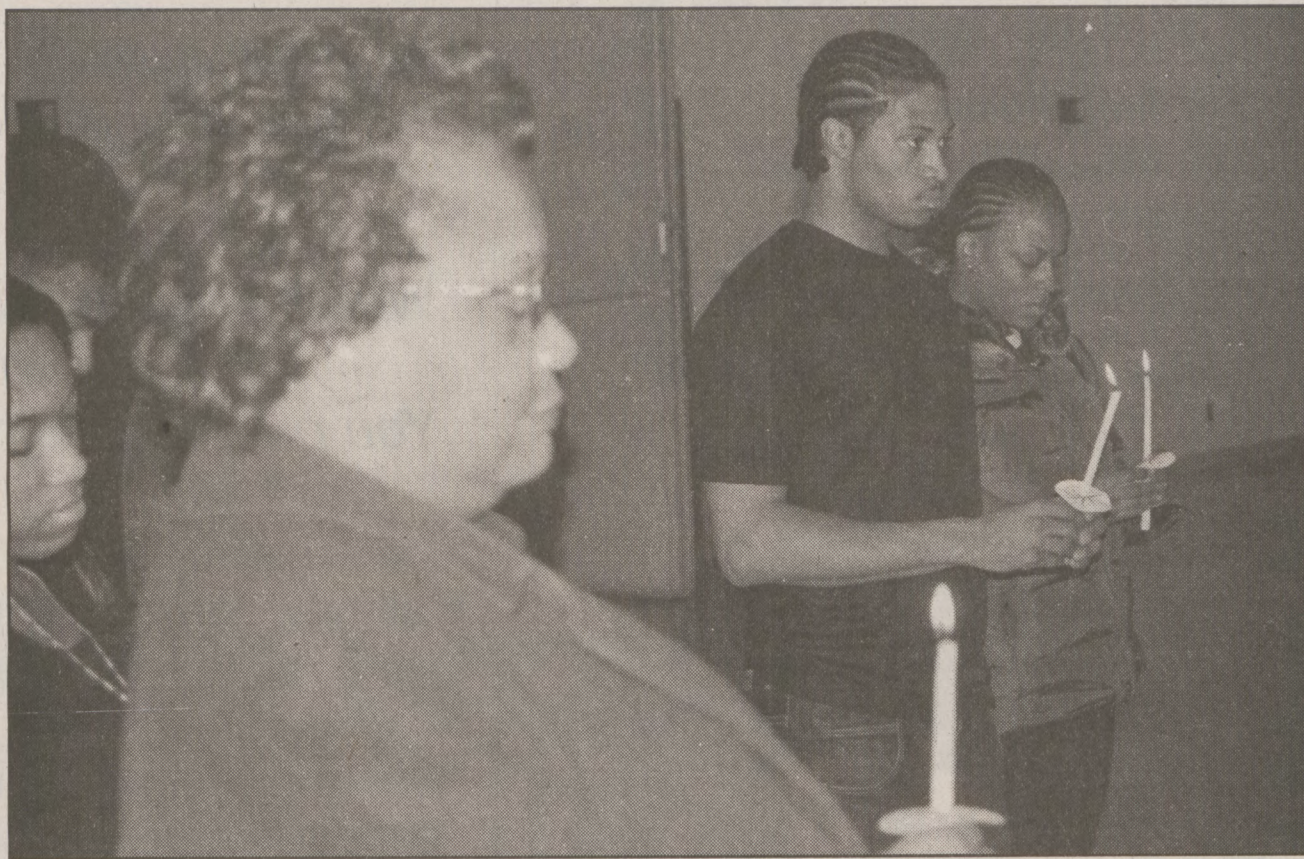
Lenny Compton, junior, elementary education and current president of ABS said, I feel that this is a stepping stone to greater things.

Compton envisions meaningful, sincere conversations between different races and a flame in individuals to get them more involved with activities that promote equality and unity.

Compton said the issues King presented can equally be applied today but he has hope that students can show more action towards people coming together and working as one.

Lashawnda James, sophomore, human resource development encouraged not just students to make this day a tradition but let this move students to change the way they live now.

This day is not just a day off from work, but a day of remembrance, she said. You stand for nothing, you fall for anything.



Photos by Cara Plowman/The Oakland Post
HE HAD A DREAM: A candle light vigil was held on Monday to honor the life and dream of Martin Luther King Jr. While only around two dozen people attended, the message was still the same. African drums were played while dancers moved rhythmically to the beats. The evening began with a moment of silence and songs followed, leading into the celebration.



ABS hosts celebration

More than 100 people marched for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By Sara Swanson
THE OAKLAND POST

Beginning with a moment of silence, more than 100 students, faculty and staff marched in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday.

Two songs followed the silence led by a member of OU's gospel choir and a large group of people representing various races and walks of life marched from Vandenberg Hall to Meadow Brook Theatre.

Cameras flashed, occasional voices broke into song, and friendly conversation, could be heard all along the way.

The march was followed by a special presentation from Kevin Powell, a nationally renowned author, speaker, and former cast member of MTV's Real World.

“As a people we have to get back to humanity. We have to learn how to give back like Dr. King did.”

Lenny Compton
Association of Black Students President

Organizations responsible for the event were the Association of Black Students, Student Program Board, the African American Celebration committee and OU Student Congress.

Those responsible for the events were pleased with how the programs went and



Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post
MARCH OF THE KING: More than 150 people came out to march on Monday to honor the dream started 28 years ago.

passionate about the messages conveyed.

So far I'm more than pleased. (Powell) ignited a flame that hasn't been in a lot of people's hearts, said Lenny Compton, ABS President.

Kelli VanBuren, Retention Coordinator and African American Celebration co-chair, said, I

think it's important that we communicate the life of Martin Luther King Jr... what his achievements mean for us as a society.

Compton agreed. Dr. King resembles service, he said. As a people we have to go back to humanity. We have to learn how to give back like Dr. King did.

CRIME WATCH

• A 22 year old Goodrich man was stopped for speeding by OU police off campus at Walton and Adams on Jan. 17. Police found four empty beer bottles and cans and 1/4 pint of Captain Morgan's rum. According to police the driver did not have insurance and was given a PBT. He allegedly blew .13. After he was

given the test, he allegedly tried to flee but was caught by police and was placed under arrest. One rear passenger in the car from Clarkston, also 22 years old disclosed three misdemeanor warrants and one felony warrant. He also was placed under arrest. The third passenger, a 22 year old Ortonville man was tick-

eted for open intoxicants.

• An allegedly intoxicated male student arrived at Graham Health Center in the afternoon on Jan. 17 complaining about an injury on his left hand. When given a PBT it registered .024. When asked to voluntarily go to the hospital detoxification center, he refused and was then escorted

to his dorm. An hour later he was taken to OUPD station and given another PBT at 8 p.m. and blew a .022. Police reports stated when all of the tests were performed well by the student, he was returned to his dorm room.

• A 20 year old male student in South Hamlin reported to police that someone had taken between

\$150 to \$250 from his room on Jan. 13. He reported to police that he always locks his door but his roommates do not. There are no suspects at this time.

• A false fire alarm was pulled on the third floor of Van Wagoner on Sat. around 2:55 a.m. Everyone was evacuated.

NEWS COLUMN



Heather Clement

Assistant to the news department

Interview changes heart

"People come and go around here so quickly" said Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz.

That was my sentiments surrounding Martin Luther King III and the events he attended this weekend.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to follow along behind King in one of the most exciting weekends I have ever experienced.

The people who came to hear him speak emulated a spirit of love that I have never seen projected towards another human being.

It was very obvious that the love and admiration these people have for Martin Luther King Jr. has not diminished in the 28 years since his death. It is also very clear in the eyes of those people that they still mourn him.

Kings words spoke of love of each other and love of community. He encouraged people to become involved in community and give of the self, because the greatest love is a love that is given unselfishly and without the expectation of anything in return.

I was fortunate to meet many dignitaries in the communities in the areas we traveled: Mary Waters State Representative 4th District officer in Detroit, Rev. Jim Holley of Little River Baptist Church, Rev. Horace Sheffield of the National Action Network and being given the honor of an introduction and the first public interview with Arndrea Waters, King's fiancée.

Two individuals stuck out in their actions and their words.

One, a young man named Perrie Willey, a ten year old who when I asked if he would like to get a picture with King his eyes sparkled with his answer.

We stopped the proceedings in order to get that picture. Unfortunately, they did not come out as well as I had expected or I would have put him on the front page.

The other was a Wayne County Sheriff, Officer Warren. His stately appearance showing the world the respect and love, he too, has for King.

He gave King a police escort from one end of Detroit to the other. My little Cavalier and I right behind.

He said he had been asked the evening before, and was "Both surprised and honored to have been chosen."

Did you know how to get from St. John's Detroit River View Hospital to St. John's Mercy in Southfield in under ten minutes? It can be done.

And Warren was being kind because I was bringing up the rear.

Being with Martin Luther King III on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was just like being with Christ on Christmas.

Think about it. There are no other human beings alive who we have named national holidays after.

George Washington may have living relatives, but we do not know who they are.

Abraham Lincoln doesn't have any relatives that we know of. And anyway, their birthdays have now been changed to President's Day.

So as royalty goes, we don't have any, except the Kings.

Assistant to the News
Department Heather Clement is a sophomore majoring in journalism. Email her at hcclement@hotmail.com



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LOCAL NEWS

The Oakland Post

Wednesday • January 23, 2002

A 5

Kmart files Chapter 11 protection

By Marianne Poulin
THE OAKLAND POST

Unable to hold off any longer, Kmart declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Kmart seemed to go from bad to worse as Fleming Companies Inc., which supplies some of Kmart's food and consumable products, announced it was suspending shipments to Kmart.

In a Jan. 14 press release, Fleming reported, "its business relationship with Kmart remains strong."

Fleming has a seven-day invoice and payment terms incorporated in the company's supply agreement with Kmart. As of last week, Kmart was current with its payments to Fleming. Mark Hansen, chairman and chief executive officer of Fleming, said that their supply chain of food and consumable products has proven to be the best and lowest cost solution for Kmart.

"Our experience to date indicates that food and consumables sales are robust in the Kmart stores and, fueled by our low-cost supply chain, a strength in this critical category of their current operations," Hansen said.

However, stating "Kmart did not make its regular weekly payment for delivery of food and other consum-

able products," Fleming has stopped shipments to all Kmart stores, except for certain perishable food products that were in transit.

Neal Rider, executive vice president and chief financial officer, said that Fleming is working with Kmart and intends to resume delivery of products to Kmart upon receiving satisfactory assurance of Kmart's performance. They are also taking steps to protect their own interest, by filing a notice of reclamation to Kmart along with a notice of failure to pay.

"Filing the reclamation claim now significantly improves our ability to recover the unpaid inventory, if necessary, or the related receivables," Rider said. Currently that figure is reported to be approximately \$78 million in merchandise receivables.

The Scotts Company, supplier of consumer products for lawn and garden care, recently made a decision to delay shipments to Kmart, but it is not expected to have an immediate impact on either company's business or long-term relationship.

With suppliers holding back on shipments, Kmart shelves may start to go empty.

Susan Demmis, a spokesperson for Kmart would not comment on the Fleming decision to stop shipments, or

how it would affect Kmart's products in-stocks at store level.

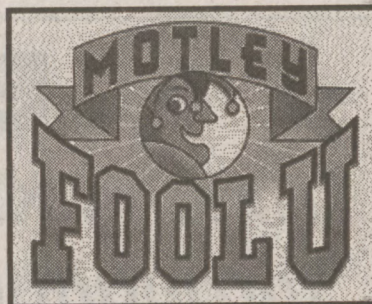
Other major suppliers to Kmart, including Proctor & Gamble and Martha Stewart, have not commented on Kmart's financial problems.

Kmart has put out very few press releases in recent months and is staying relatively quiet on the subject of bankruptcy. The board of directors met previously to discuss financial options, possibly even bankruptcy, but no report was given of the board's outcome.

If Kmart was to declare bankruptcy, it could affect one of its major name brands, Martha Stewart. Stewart is currently under contract to Kmart until 2008 but is released from the contract if Kmart declares bankruptcy. Stewart's line of domestics, house wares and paint products could move to another major retailer, like Sears, who already carry part of her line.

Kmart stock (KM) on the New York Stock Exchange closed Friday at 1.74 but took a nosedive Tuesday, when trading resumed from the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, because of speculation of the impending bankruptcy.

In the last year Kmart stock has had a high of 13.55 on Aug. 8, 2001, and a low of .69 on Jan. 22, 2002.



**How much
can you
withdraw in
retirement?**

Q. What's a good percentage of money to withdraw each year from my nest egg, after I retire?

A. This is a critical question. You want to live comfortably, but not so comfortably now that you end up eating government surplus cheese later. Here's some information drawn from the work of the Fool's retirement expert, Dave Braze (a.k.a. TMF Pixy).

Many formulas will help you plan, but they rely on average rates of return and inflation. Over the long term, an average rate should work, especially when you're still saving for retirement. Unfortunately, actual year-to-year results won't be the same as the average and, for retirees in some time periods, those yearly variations may prove devastating. In other words, one 15-year period, certain investments might average a 14% annual return, while another 15-year period, those same investments might average just 2%. The longer the time period you're dealing with, the less the overall average return rate should fluctuate.

When you start withdrawals is just as important as how much you take. Whether the market is surging or slumping in your first years can make a big difference. Since we can't predict the future, what's the right percentage to withdraw?

Three Trinity University professors — Philip Cooley, Carl Hubbard, and Daniel Walz — examined this issue by looking at historical annual returns for stocks and bonds from 1926 through 1995. Not surprisingly, their study revealed withdrawal periods longer than 15 years dramatically reduced the probability of success at withdrawal rates exceeding 5%.

They also concluded that:

1. Younger retirees who anticipate longer payout periods should plan on lower withdrawal rates.

2. Owning bonds decreases the likelihood of going broke for lower to mid-level withdrawal rates, but most retirees would benefit with at least a 50% allocation to stocks.

3. Retirees who desire inflation-adjusted withdrawals must accept a substantially reduced withdrawal rate from the initial portfolio.

4. Withdrawing 4% or less from a stock-dominated portfolio is probably too conservative.

5. For payout periods of 15 years or less, a withdrawal rate of 8% to 9% from a stock-dominated portfolio appears sustainable.

According to many studies, a "safe" withdrawal rate would amount to between 4% and 6% of a retiree's starting portfolio. Withdrawal rates above 5% increase the probability that a retiree will go broke in her lifetime. Many studies also agree that the presence of bonds provides a measure of stability absent in an all-stock portfolio.

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Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post

STANDING ALONE: While the Silverdome is booked with trade shows, concerts and other major events, many question if the venue can survive without the Lions.

Silverdome's future uncertain

By Adam Neal
THE OAKLAND POST

The Detroit Lions saw the first and last of the Dallas Cowboys in the Pontiac Silverdome ... literally.

The Lions opened their dome era against the Cowboys Oct. 6, 1975 in front of a sold out crowd of 79,784 people. They lost the game 36-10, so it seemed fit that they concluded their 27-year run at the Silverdome Jan. 6, 2002 with a 15-10 victory over the Cowboys.

It's time for the Lions to put their tail between their legs, pack their bags and make new Ford Field in Detroit their home sweet home.

Now that Pontiac has bid farewell to the Lions, what is in store for the dome castle that sits on the corner of Featherstone and Opdyke? Many people think that the Silverdome is worthless and no good to the city of Pontiac.

Adam Smolarek, junior, history, said it's good that the Lions get a new start in a new stadium.

"Without the Lions in the Silverdome, there is no way they can stay afloat and actually make money with minor

events being held here and there. The stadium costs way too much to run and maintain to be productive in the future," he said.

Eric Walker, executive director of the Silverdome, thinks just the opposite.

"The Pontiac Silverdome is still doing what we have been always doing. We still have events like always," Walker said. "The Lions were a good source of revenue lost, it will be tough trying to replace them."

The 80,325-seat stadium cost \$55.7 million to build and has hosted a multitude of events in its 27-year career. Pontiac Stadium, which was the original name when it first opened, has been called home for both the Pistons (1978-1988) and Lions (1975-2002) in regular season play. The 1979 NBA All-Star game was watched by 31,475 people, followed in 1982 by fans watching the San Francisco 49ers defeat the Cincinnati Bengals 26-21 in Super Bowl XVI.

The Teflon-coated fiberglass

dome was the first indoor stadium to host an international soccer game on natural grass and in 1994 it became the first indoor stadium to host four first rounds in the soccer World Cup.

The Silverdome has held all types of concerts, motorcycle racing, monster truck and wrestling events, carnivals, trade shows, football games of many levels and much more. Some of the major events in the Silverdome included Elvis Presley singing "Heartbreak Hotel" on New Year's Eve in 1975 before 60,334 and a Catholic Mass held by Pope John Paul II.

The Silverdome sits on 132 acres of land right next to two major highways, I-75 and M-59, making it a prime spot for all types of events with easy access from anywhere in Southeast Michigan.

Another question that arises concerning the Silverdome: are there any other sports teams that might call the Silverdome their home?

"The NFL is the largest and

most powerful league in football. We would not be able to find a team that would fill that many seats," Walker explained. The immediate future is certain for the house that Barry Sanders built because of scheduled hot rod monster jams, camper, travel and RV shows, boat, sport and fishing shows, supercross events and other miscellaneous events that bring in revenue.

"The final decision on the Silverdome will probably be made in the next 12-13 months," Walker said.

The Silverdome will be paid off with the Lions' \$26 million lease donation, which leaves more money to be made for future events.

"We are still in the market. We are a force to reckon with. Our advantage is that the Silverdome will be paid off," Walker said.

But will "Roll-in-the-Dome" make enough money to keep the Silverdome stay out of the red? Only time will tell.

New Pontiac program helps sexual assault victims heal

By Susan Bromley
THE OAKLAND POST

An estimated 50 percent of all medical and forensic examinations performed on rape victims in hospital emergency rooms are performed incorrectly, and women who have been sexually assaulted typically have to wait 6-12 hours before being tested. Botched tests can hinder prosecution of the rapist, and long waits in the ER often add to the anguish of the woman who has been victimized.

A new Oakland County program called the Safe Therapeutic Assault Response Team (START) aims to end botched tests and shorten the wait time for a medical exam.

Sexual assault facts

- Every minute in America, there are 1.3 forcible assaults of adult women.
- Over 80 percent of all sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.
- Sexual assaults are crimes of power, not lust, done to hurt and humiliate the victim.

that they can refer patients to the free program.

The team is made up of advocates who provide emotional support from the time the patient contacts the program through a courtroom trial and a compassionate and medical forensic exam performed by a specially trained nurse.

In explaining why a normal hospital emergency room might incorrectly perform tests on sexual assault victims, Creger noted that doctors and nurses don't receive specialized training in this area. The 6-12 hour wait results from rape victims being behind patients who have life-threatening injuries. Due to the nature of the crime, hospitals try to give the rape victim a private room but they are often hard to come by.

"This program is needed to provide compassionate and specialized care for START continues on A8

NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. stresses humane treatment of detainees; Peggy Lee dies from heart attack

• Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday the foreign prisoners detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba are being treated "humanely." The prisoners are mostly suspected al-Qaida fighters flown to a U.S. military base after being captured in Afghanistan.

• Jazz and pop legend Peggy Lee died Monday from a heart attack in her Bel Air home. She was 81. During her

career, Lee battled diabetes, had two near-fatal falls, underwent four angioplasties and a double-bypass heart surgery and suffered a massive stroke. The Grammy-winning artist's sultry voice powered over 600 songs, including "Fever" and "Is That All There Is" during her 50+ years in entertainment.

• Four Indian police officers were killed Tuesday at a U.S. government cultural center, and Indian officials say a Pakistan-based Islamic militant group claimed responsibility for the slayings. The incident elevates already high tensions between India and Pakistan; both countries currently have troops gathered on their common border.

PERSPECTIVES

The Oakland Post

Wednesday • January 23, 2002

A 6

Editorial

Extend King's hope throughout the year

The Student Life Lecture Board brought guest speaker Kevin Powell to campus Monday to speak on the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr.

During Powell's speech, this question was asked: What would America be like today if the Civil Rights Movement had never occurred?

Would OU be a whites only school? Or, if it was integrated, would pairs of drinking fountains or separate parking lots designated for different skin colors dress the campus?

Although we'll never know how our worlds would be changed, it is safe to say that we would not be living as near to our potential as we do today. Although there is still much work to do, as Powell pointed out, we are steadily reaching the goal of becoming a unified nation, freed from racial, religious and gender boundaries.

In school we are taught who King was and how he led the movement to desegregate America, putting all human beings on a more level playing field. But we were never taught about how he accomplished those goals, all the hard work, sweat and tears that it took. If we open our minds and understand the task that King, and all of the others who fought the uphill battle with him, worked for until his dying day and beyond, we may find the key that opens the door yet again, enabling us to win the battle against separation and intolerance.

Just as the war on terrorism will be won because of a unified and supportive home front, complete equality for all races can only be attained in the same manner.

This war against inequality will not be won unless everyone joins the fight. Don't stand silent for racial slurs or jokes. Be intolerant of those who do not show respect to all humans. Learn as much as possible about those who speak a foreign language, are from a far off place or look different.

Don't assume you have nothing more to learn.

And, most importantly, listen to what someone has to say before judging them. All too often we write a person off before we know them.

Corrections

Due to a printer error, last week's edition was missing many quote marks and apostrophes. We apologize for any confusion.

Also, in the Campus News story Student organizations pay tribute to legacy, freshman Erin Jackson was incorrectly identified as a male.

The Post Staff

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Oakland University

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Volume 28 Issue 17

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Letters to the Editor

Gallery exhibit completely student run, prepared

Dear Editor,

While I would like to thank you for the wonderful coverage you gave the current exhibition at Meadow Brook Art Gallery, *Harmony in Variation: Form and Meaning in Native American Art*, last week's article did not make clear a key aspect of the exhibition.

This exhibition was the result of an upper level seminar in art history for fall semester 2001.

OU students were involved in curating, researching, designing and installing this exhibition as part of their course work. I feel these students should receive recognition, by name, for their hard work, for their commitment to presenting a quality exhibition, and for their success. Student Curators were George Bennett, Ola Dlugosz, Mary Duenow, Jan Durecki, Brittmarie Graham, Monique Gunn, Rick Herron, Jamie Karl, Andrea Porter, Chantel Shock, and Carrie Smith. OU students were also involved through MBAG. The preparator was James Haddrill, and the assistant preparator was Ola Dlugosz.

Thank you for this opportunity to acknowledge them and their achievement.

Andrea Eis

Special Instructor

Department of Art and Art History

Diversity concerns

Dear Editor,

I want to congratulate The Oakland Post and Lisa Cali for the article on OU Student Congress and diversity, which I believe is the most important topic of the 21st century (OUCS focuses on diversity to represent student body equally, Jan. 16).

If we will have a look at the main concerns of our world, where the physical distance does not mean too much anymore, we can see the cultural, racial, religious, etc. differences (distances) as the main problems. These differences are usually sup-

ported by tribe leader kinds of people in order to maintain their power, which comes from creating a difference-based enemy. The U.S. is the chosen enemy of many of those tribe leaders.

At this point, I want to emphasize that the U.S. (also with some mistakes) is the best model for solving the diversity-related problems, which are created and supported by tribe leaders.

The U.S. bases problem solving on conversation and agreement, which will be the solution to many global diversity problems.

As future leaders of our countries — this campus has students from 50 different countries — we should use the opportunity of being on this campus to start new dialogues and share new perspectives with others who are also the future of our world. I do not see any barriers for starting to discuss the possible solutions of Arab-Israeli, Macedonian-Albanian, Turkish-Armenian, etc., problems from the this campus.

Diversity in campus life is about respect, dignity and democracy. I hope everybody understands its value and takes some responsibility in increasing the power of diversity. We owe this to our children.

Ahmet Ozgur Dogan

OUCS Legislator

graduate student, business

Fee a waste of money

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my continuing disgust, as I look over yet another summary presented to me by the accounting department of the illustrious OU. Less dramatically, I'm ticked at my winter semester bill, mostly because of something called the Rec Center fee.

This fee has been a thorn in my side since I started at OU. I simply do not see how exacting \$75 a semester from a student for

a service they have never used, is anything short of extortion. I belong to my own gym, which is located across the street from my subdivision and is open 24 hours a day, making it easy for me to find time to make the \$43 a month I pay for the privilege of working out there, worth my while.

You see, like most OU students, I do not live on campus. When I am on campus, I'm either in class or working for the organization I'm president of. I don't have the extra time to lug around my gym bag and fit in a work out, nor do I want to.

Quite simply, I want back the \$386 I've paid to OU for my Rec Center privileges. I don't care if the students took a vote on the issue or not, as was told to me by a Rec Center representative I complained to earlier this year. I was not a student then; I didn't vote, and I don't want to pay. If you're going to enact mandatory fees for a building that's on campus, then charge only those students who chose to use the facility or who live on campus and are likely to at least walk by the building, which I think I've done twice. I can use that \$386 to make payments on the car I pay for but never drive and the clothes I put on my credit card but tossed into the fireplace before I wore them. Both of those things make about as much sense as the ridiculous, presumptuous and entirely unethical, perhaps illegal, Rec Center fee charged to me by OU every semester.

Justin Mularksi

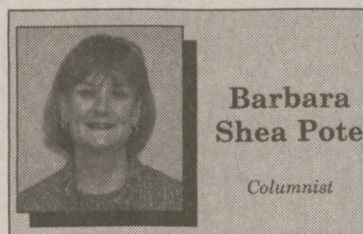
sophomore, pre-law/political science

All letters to the editor must include a name, class rank and field of study or OU affiliation. Please limit letters to 400 words. Letters may be edited for content and length. The Post uses discretion and may reject any letter for any reason. Letters become property of The Post.

OTHER VIEWS

Talkin' about my generation

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Barbara Shea Pote.



Barbara Shea Pote

Columnist

I am married, have three daughters, a dog, a bird and a big, new house. I am what has come to be known as a non-traditional student (that means

older and already out in the real world).

In each new class I enter, I am aware that I am older than anyone else is. Depressingly

enough, sometimes I'm older than the professor is. It doesn't really bother me, because I have such a clear-cut goal to graduate. I am very traditional in one sense - well actually many, but only one applies here - I interrupted my college career to get married and never went back. Until now.

I took Rhetoric 160 last semester, and one of our assignments was to look up the week we were born in newspapers

and magazines. Now, the early 1980s (as most of the students in my class reported) were interesting. I can actually remember Madonna dancing around in her underwear, draped in crucifixes.

But I found the third week in October 1957 (the week I was born) even more so.

There were two profound, history-making events just before I

COLUMN continues on A7

Quote of the Week

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

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COLUMN

continued from A6

was born. Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, had just been integrated, and the Soviet Union (that's Russia for you youngsters) had just launched Sputnik, an orbiting satellite.

Do these events seem less than amazing? They are not. The compelled integration of Central High School and the bravery displayed by the young teens who were vilified and attacked as they entered the school, brought about the end of institutional segregation. It would take many more years and tears, anger and bravery, but all public schools in this country must

now accept any student who wishes to attend.

When the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the U.S. was caught off guard. A few years later, our young and dynamic president, John F. Kennedy, anted up and so began the space race. We eventually won this race by landing a man on the moon in 1969.

Big deal? Yeah, because there is intrinsic and emotional value in winning. Also, the space program and all the research associated with it has brought about profound positive changes in our lives. Advances in biomedicine, vehicle safety, fire fighting, etc. (I'm not just talking about Tang).

In October 1957, a Magnavox TV with mahogany finish cost \$299.50; silk ties

were \$3.50; a one carat diamond was between \$650 and \$1230; an 80-foot by 125-foot lot in Port Charlotte, FL was \$795; and long distance calls from Chicago to Indianapolis were 70 cents for the first three minutes.

According to the Beloit College of Wisconsin's Mindset List sent out to the college's professors each year so they can better understand incoming freshmen, in the class of 2004, most students were born in 1982.

Here are some things to think about the world then compared to now: Kurt Cobain's death was the day the music died. The major Kennedy tragedy within their lifetime was a plane crash, not an assassination. A 45 is a gun, not a record with a large hole in the center.

They have always been able to buy their telephones, rather than renting them from AT&T. Wars have since began and ended quickly. Toyotas and Hondas have always been made in the U.S. Coors beer has always been sold east of the Mississippi. Woodstock is a bird, not a cultural touchstone. They have never thought of Jane Fonda as Hanoi Jane. Spam and cookies are not necessarily food. Finally, they feel more danger from having sex and being in school than from possible nuclear war.

So, as we students, all of us, move through our days and classes, let's (as the politically correct say) celebrate our diversity in age and skin color and cultural background and life experiences. After all, we really are here to learn (and to party, but that's a different column).

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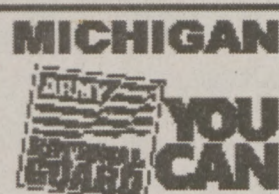
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A Student Affairs

Updating OU

Meadow Brook Art Gallery presents
"Harmony in Variation: Form and Meaning In Native American Art"

Now through February 17, 2002

The gallery, in 208 Wilson Hall, is open Tuesday through Friday, noon until 5 PM, Saturday and Sunday, 1-5:30 PM, and during Meadow Brook Theatre performances. Free admission. Call 248-370-3005 for more information.

Project Upward Bound

PUB, a college preparatory program for high school students, is seeking tutor/teacher assistants and peer counselors for the 2002 summer academy. Tutor wages are competitive with on-campus rates. Peer counselors gross \$325/week plus \$1400 in room and board, and all expenses are paid on short and extended field trips. Peer counselors must live in the residence halls with the students. For more information contact the Project Upward Bound main office at 370-3218 or stop by our office in 261 South Foundation Hall.

Experiential Education, a part of Placement and Career Services, offers services to students seeking career-related jobs, internships and co-ops. If you are interested in these kinds of positions, please attend an information session to learn about the services offered. All sessions are held in room 158, West Vandenberg Hall.

The schedule for February is:
 Monday, February 4, 1 PM
 Thursday, February 7, 11 AM
 Tuesday, February 12, 2 PM
 Wednesday, February 13, 1 PM
 Monday, February 18, 11 AM
 Thursday, February 21, 4 PM

Attention OU Students Great Grizzly \$100 Give Away

Come out to every OU men's home basketball game for your chance to win \$100 from OU's Division of Student Affairs. A lucky student who is at the arena in the first ten minutes of the game will have their name picked out of a hat during the 12-minute second half warning. The student, with valid ID, must be present to win the cash.

Graham Health Center

Graham Health Center is here to help. If you've managed to put on a few pounds over the holidays, here are some tips for losing them: drink plenty of water, watch your portions, eat a variety of healthy foods, and avoid sugary snacks. If you need further help, please call ext. 2341 for information on healthy eating and exercise.

Placement & Career Services

Planning to graduate between now and Fall 2002? If so (and, if you have not already done so), you should register with the Department of Placement & Career Services (P&CS) at the earliest opportunity. Stop in at 275 Vandenberg Hall West, visit our web site (<http://phoenix.placement.oakland.edu>) or call 370-3250 for more information. You must register with P&CS to participate in on-campus recruiting (begins week of February 4) and to post your resume on our web site (for easy employer access). Reminder: Thursday of this week (January 24) is our annual Diversity Career Fair in the Oakland Center (11 AM-3 PM, Gold Rooms/Heritage Room/Oakland Room). Visit our web site for an employer list and additional details.

Office of Equity

Is hiring peer mentors for the 2002-2003 academic year. Please pick up an application in 121 North Foundation Hall. Deadline for applications is 5 PM, February 15, 2002.

Campus Recreation Happenings

Buddy Training Package Buy your training sessions with a friend. Pay \$135 for a 6-session package for 2 people. Less than \$10 per training session! Call 370-4911 to set up an appointment. Buddy package purchase must be done by January 31.
Resist-A-Ball Class A different and great work out with big colorful balls.
Specialty Classes Pilates methods, intermediate yoga, fitness yoga, triathlon training, tai chi. All specialty classes require registration and a deposit of \$15. Call 370-4910 for more information.
Discover Scuba Open to all, a chance to try it out. February 23rd, 5-7 PM and March 23rd, 5-7 PM.
Scuba Classes Winter 2002 February 16th, 4-8 PM and 23rd, 9 AM-8 PM; March 16th, 4-8 PM and 23rd, 9 AM-8 PM. All scuba activities take place in the aquatic center. Call 370-4534 for more information.
Water Polo Now offered as a club sport on Monday and Thursday nights from 8-9 PM. Contact Todd Losey, president at oaklandwaterpolo@hotmail.com for more information.

This Week

January 22-January 25, 2002

PLACEMENT AND CAREER SERVICES presents Career Prep Week. This week offers free workshops and seminars to help you get an edge on job searching techniques, career issues and marketing yourself in a difficult economy. Our Diversity Career Fair is on Thursday, January 24th from 11 AM-3 PM in the Gold Rooms, Oakland Center. Details on Prep Week can be found at our website at <http://phoenix.placement.oakland.edu> or call our office at 370-3250.

Friday, January 25

7 PM, Vandenberg Cafeteria. RHP's Friday Night Live Winter 2002 Comedy Series presents comedian Elvira Kurt in her modest quest for worldwide comedy domination. Elvira's universal appeal has made her one of the hottest and most in demand college acts in the country. She's been nominated as both U.S. College Comedian and Entertainer of the Year. Free admission and refreshments.

START

Continued from A5

these patients," Creger said. Creger is one of the specially trained RNs able to provide a medical exam and care for START patients. Forensic nurses have 40 hours of classroom training and another 60 hours devoted to different clinical components, including observing first response advocates and criminal trials (eight hours each), observing autopsies and assisting with a minimum of two sexual assault exams. They must also conduct 25 male and female genital exams, work four hours with law enforcement and four hours at a crime lab.

START also has special equipment not available in a hospital emergency room. This equipment includes a colposcope, which magnifies or visualizes injuries that might not be seen with the naked eye, a special digital camera connected to the colposcope that enables photographs to be taken, a MACRO 5 camera that magnifies photos and Toluidine Blue, a dye that sticks to where the injuries are.

Nurses and advocates are always on call. When they are notified a patient is coming in, they have to be at St. Joe's within 45 minutes. The actual examination takes two to four hours. While treating the injuries, the

forensic nurse looks for evidence like bruises and does a swab.

The program saw three patients in its first week, a surprise for Creger. START's Macomb County counterpart, Turning Point, saw no patients in its first month when it opened two and a half years ago.

According to Creger, sexual assault programs first started in the 70s and have slowly expanded across the county. START is a HAVEN (Help Against Violent Encounters Now) program. Hedy Nuriel, CEO and President of HAVEN, organized a task force for START two years ago.

Members of the advisory task force include POH Medical Center, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital-Oakland, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, William Beaumont Hospital and Providence Hospital and Medical Center.

Of START's first three cases, Creger said, "Good evidence was obtained. If they go to court they would have the evidence they

need. Hopefully with our program, we will have the emotional support and forensic evidence for a successful prosecution."

According to OUPD Lt. Mel Gilroy, rape is not a frequently

reported occurrence on OU's campus.

Statistics are not yet available for 2001, but Gilroy said since 1995 there have been only two reported rapes on campus.

There were 419 reported rapes in Oakland County in 1999, but according to START information that

number is about one-third the number of rapes that actually occurred.

"Women at Oakland University should be comfortable in knowing that if they are rape victims they can come to our police department, they'll be handled sensitively and professionally. It is her decision whether to prosecute -- we don't push her. But if she wants to prosecute, we're going

"The buddy system is still the best thing going. If you're isolated, you're vulnerable."

Mel Gilroy
 Lieutenant
 OUPD

SENATE

continued from A1

ment must be finalized by March in order for it to make it in the fall schedule of classes.

Since the BOT has already approved the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 academic calendars, if the fall graduation date were to change, it would require Trustee approval, as well.

Out of 1,448 degree candidates invited to last month's fall commencement, 712 participated, according to literature distributed during the meeting. There were 1,448 total guests. Many attributed the low turn-out to

the date the ceremony took place, Dec. 22, three days before Christmas.

A 2000 survey of the 15 Michigan public institutions published by the Office of the Registrar showed Michigan State University had the earliest fall 2001 commencement, on Dec. 8 and 9. Lake Superior State and OU had the latest, Dec. 22.

Jane Eberwein, professor of English, recommended a January graduation date so that students graduating with honors would be properly selected. She said the current fall graduation day, tentatively scheduled for Dec.

21, interferes with student learning.

While Dickow noted that graduation is a special time for a student, he's in favor of keeping it in December.

As close as Dec. 22 is to the holidays, they should do something, but I wouldn't suggest pushing that date back. If graduation was after Jan. 1, it would be hard for students who have jobs already lined-up. A lot of students will be moving out of town, he said.

The discussion of the fall commencement date was postponed by the Senate and will be brought up later.

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

Troy Continuing Education has immediate openings for after school child care assistants. Flexible schedules. Starting pay \$8.70/hr. Ideal for students pursuing coursework in education, social work or related fields. For information call 248.823.5155

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- ★ Wednesday, January 23
 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Or
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Wellness Room, REC
- ★ Thursday, January 24
 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Or
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Wellness Room, REC

For more information, please contact the Office of New Student Programs : (248)370-3260 nsp@oakland.edu

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• Just a reminder, spaces for the SPB spring break trip to Atlanta are going fast, so sign up quickly. The trip is from Feb. 27-Mar. 3. The cost for students is \$125.

• The SPB rhythms den will be presenting Flipsyde. The Dayton, OH group will be offering up some of their relaxing R & B styles starting at 8 p.m. Sat. Jan. 26 in the Fireside Lounge.

• Info sessions on how to be a STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) and an OGL (Orientation Group Leader) will be held from noon-1 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wed. Jan. 23 and Fri. Jan. 24.

SHOWS

• Anarchist punk rockers Anti-Flag will be bringing the angry anti-government rhetoric to St. Andrew's Hall on Fri. Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. Opening will be Against All Authority, Thrive, Pipe Down, and Virus 9. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster locations everywhere.

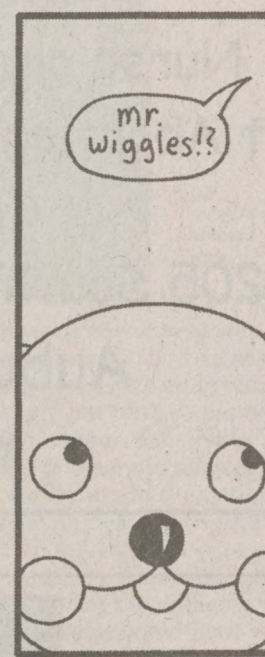
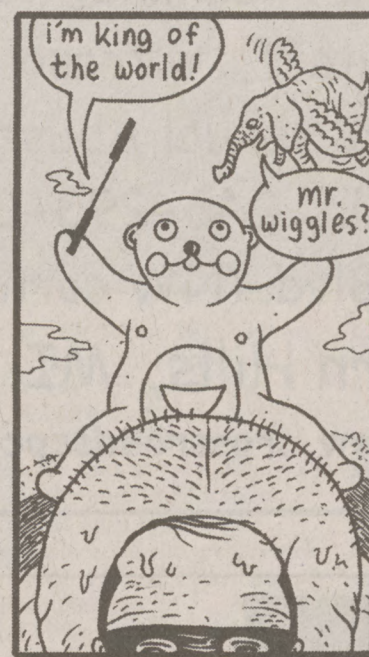
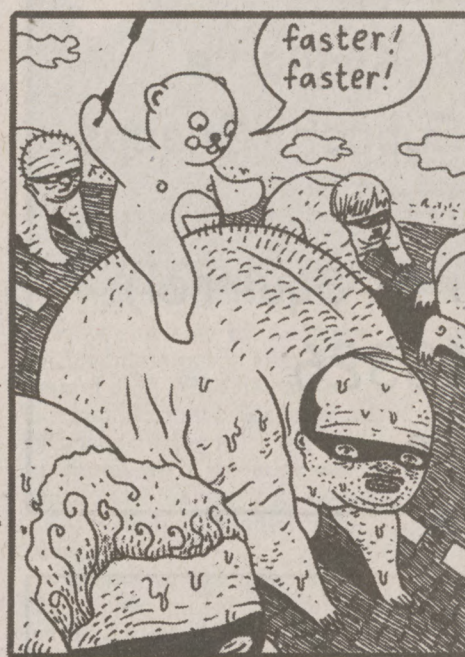
• Blues legend Buddy Guy will be appearing Mar. 10 at the State Theater at 7:30 p.m. Special guests James Mathis and His Knockdown Society will open. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster locations everywhere.

• Hardcore veterans Sick of it All will be appearing Fri. Mar. 1 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Hall. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster locations everywhere.

• The best dance extravaganza in town is back by popular demand. Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance is running an exclusive engagement at the Fox Theater from Apr. 5-7. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster locations everywhere.

• Pop songstress Nelly Furtado plays the State Theater on Fri. Apr. 5 at 7:30 p.m. It's an all ages show. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

Rehabilitating Mr. Swaab



Comic creator offers insight into offbeat strip

By David Jewell Jr.
THE OAKLAND POST

Writing about people's bodily functions and society's misfortunes, Neil Swaab has started to make a name for himself with his comic strip, "Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles."

It is the story of a stuffed bear and his human friend in a comic strip involving humorous looks at some contemporary issues, but also at things merely aimed to get laughs. It runs every week in *Real Detroit Weekly* and is obviously, this is not your typical Sunday comic strip.

Growing up in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Swaab always found himself somewhat of an artist, but it was not until he went to Syracuse University that the idea for "Wiggles" began.

First published in 1999 in Syracuse's *Daily Orange*, Wiggles did not appear *Real Detroit Weekly* until June 2000. Currently, the strip runs in three alternative newsweeklies, in addition to an exclusive color strip that is published monthly in *Gear* magazine.

While "Wiggles" may be what Swaab is known for, it is not all he does.

A look at his website, www.neilswaab.com, shows that he has many other artistic interests. His resume lists numerous stories and artistic exhibitions Swaab has been

involved in.

The cartoon is not even what Swaab enjoys most. "Writing is more preferable because you can say more with words," he said. "It is hard to tell a story with a picture and do it effectively. Comics can help people to read something they would not normally read, but it's the picture that catches them."

Writing comics and trying to subsist by other artistic means is not always easy, but is something that Swaab enjoys.

"It is a very tough area to break into, and very competitive, but it is one of the more rewarding career choices," Swaab said.

He is however starting to make a name for himself.

The style and subject matter of "Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles" can make it difficult to find publica-

Everyday newspapers are out, limiting the market to alternative news weeklies and other publications that do not cater to the general public.

Despite its limitations, Swaab said the strip is "starting to be sought out. Places are starting to email me."

While it may not be for everyone, "Mr. Wiggles," according to Swaab, is a comic

about "the darker sides of life. Not all sunshine and puppy dogs, laugh at everything. I'm trying to tackle more of the darker issues, things you would rather

not talk about."

He doesn't care if people are offended either.

"You can not do something for everybody, and it isn't for everybody," he said. "It is for people who are jaded and tired of traditional comics."

Throughout the publication of the strip, Swaab said he has made a "conscious effort to do humor that is on the line, but not cross the line, to see what the line is."

Swaab said he does not try to "intentionally piss people off." However, there have been a couple child molestation jokes that have drawn letters from the public but nothing that has gotten him in trouble.

Swaab said the newspapers like how things are. "I am lucky that the papers like what I do, and they don't try to censor things," Swaab said.

The editor of the *New York Press*, one of the papers in which the strip appears, specifically said not to change anything.

The site houses his resume, past artistic works along with the complete "Mr. Wiggles" archive. The website will be redone with the new site launching sometime in February. It will feature a new design, along with increased content, he said.

Also in the works for Swaab is a "Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles" book. It will contain about the first 130 comic strips, and Swaab hopes to get it published as early as June.

"It is not a question of getting it published, it is getting the money, printer, etc. lined up," he said.

Swaab said the book would most likely be black and white, soft cover with a full color cover,

“It is for people who are jaded and tired of traditional comics.”

Neil Swaab
Creator of Rehabilitating
Mr. Wiggles

REHABILITATING
MR. WIGGLES

by
Neil Swaab

BAD NEWS BEAR: Neil Swaab's comic strip "Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles" currently appears in *Real Detroit Weekly*. The strip centers around the misadventures of a small bear and his companion. Swaab says the comic deals with the darker sides of life.

although Swaab would like to include the *Gear* magazine strips in color. He is paying for the project, so cost is an issue.

Swaab also has another comic that he would like to publish into a book.

"I Got Pregnant Off a Pity Fuck and Now My Baby Looks Like Jerry Springer: A Book About Kids" has already been published in a 35 page volume, but Swaab hopes to publish a

larger 70-80 page edition. Currently, Swaab has a lot on his plate with the increased exposure of his comics along with his other artistic ventures.

These, in addition to the upcoming publication of the "Wiggles" book, should only help to increase the popularity of "Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles," bringing a little known comic the recognition it undoubtedly deserves.

Humorous drag queens highlight horror spoof

By Christine L. Mobley
THE OAKLAND POST

Take a little bit of *Dark Shadows*, *Monty Python*, eight characters, two guys, and just about every old horror flick ever seen and the end result is a hilarious play called *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, playing now through Feb. 3 at Meadow Brook Theatre.

Two actors take the stage as six characters in this comedy by playwright Charles Ludlam. This is done with a flurry of costume changes that would just make one throw up their arms in defeat.

Greg McFadden and Remi Sandri pull the audience through their hilarious exchanges throughout the play. Rushing from one costume change to another in order to create a different character (and different is an understatement!) leaves the audience in disbelief at first that the same actor is playing various parts. (Watch for wigs and dresses left back stage visible to the audience. Yeah, it seems like that would be unprofessional for the theatre, but with the genre of this play, it fits right in.)

But even the characters claim that it's quite impossible for two of their characters to be in the same room at once, even though they have an outrageous time trying to perpetrate it.

The plot is that of a comic soap opera/horror movie spoofed times 10. McFadden and Sandri act out scenes that include an Egyptologist, his new bride, their housekeeper, a ghostly portrait (watch the eyes, it appears as if Irma is watching), a hilarious wooden-legged man, a

ghostly intruder, a mumm, and other creepy characters that provide non-stop entertainment.

The *Mystery of Irma Vep* begins on the Victorian moors and travels to an Egyptian tomb-ba and then finishes up back on the moors, with a slight home interior change. Being transported from one place to another in a whirlwind of laughter, the actors venture deep within the tomb-ba they interact with the audience.

Even the set design has its quirkiness that gives the feeling something is going to happen. One can tell what's going to happen by closely examining the set.

Predictability is not necessarily a bad thing when it comes to comedy, but then again, what seems predictable may very well not be.

Peter Hicks, resident designer and production coordinator, did a fabulous job with the flat which was painted scenery that was inspired by the drawings of Aubrey Beardsley. The stage is set for hilarity.

The lighting, sound effects and costume design just helped add to the comedic atmosphere. This eerie comedy would not be complete without the hard work that is put in behind the stage.

One may not believe it, but sometimes the cheesier something is, the better it is. Victor is a fine example, but not wanting to take away a single moment of laughter from anyone, it's best seen in person.

Irma Vep is one without a solution, because it's all in the name. But this is definitely a play that you shouldn't miss.

“The Mystery of Irma Vep”

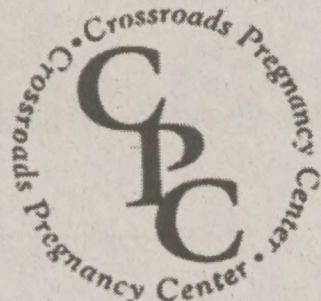
Where: Meadow Brook Theater

When: Running through Feb. 3. Check the box office for times.



Photo Courtesy of Meadow Brook Theatre
IRMA VEP: Greg McFadden and Remi Sandri star in *The Mystery of Irma Vep* at the Meadow Brook Theatre.

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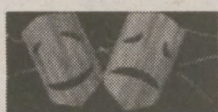
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January 2002

Theatre Ticket Order Form for Detroit Area Theatres

The Center for Student Activities is pleased to invite you to enjoy the best Detroit Theatre has to offer, at discounted prices. The programs open to all Oakland University, faculty, staff, students, alumni and their guests. All tickets are subject to a \$1.00 service fee. The Student Board will provide a \$5.00 subsidy the first 150 OU students who reserve theatre tickets at \$15 or more, limited to one discount per student per production. The theatre offerings are:

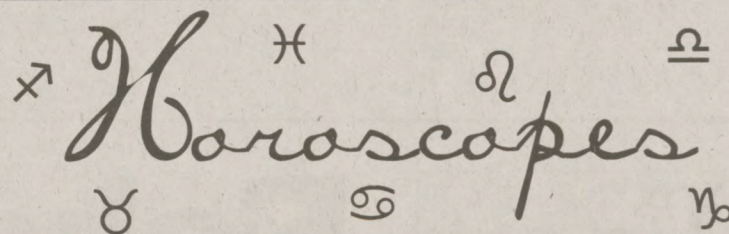
Vagina Monologues At the Music Hall. Thursday, February 21 @ 8:00 p.m. Main Floor @ \$32.50 (reg. \$40.00) Balcony @ \$19.00 (reg. \$23.00) Close Date will be Friday, February 8.	Dance Theatre Of Harlem At the Opera House Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. OU Students (with valid ID) \$10.00 (limit two discounted tickets) All Others \$18.00. Ticket Purchaser can choose between Main Floor or Mezzanine seating. Close Date will be Friday, February 15
South Pacific Starring Michael Nouri and Local Detroit Star Erin Dilly At the Fisher Theatre Thursday, March 7 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. Main Floor @ \$54.55 (reg. \$67.50) Loge @ \$30.00 (reg. \$54.25) Balcony @ \$17.50 (reg. \$35.00) Close Date will be Friday, February 15.	Cinderella At the Fox Theatre Sunday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. Main Floor (Side Rows 3-7) @ \$38.00 (reg. \$46.00) Close Date will be Friday, February 22.
David Copperfield At the Fox Theatre Sunday, March 17 at 4 pm Main Floor @ \$41.00 (reg. \$46.00) (side rows 1-5) Mid Main Floor (Center) @ \$33.00 (reg. \$38.00) Close Date will be Friday, February 22.	Music Man At the Fox Theatre Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. Main Floor @ \$41.00 (reg. \$49.00) Gallery A @ \$27.50 (reg. \$32.00) Close Date will be Friday, March 29.
ABT's LeCosaire At the Opera House Thursday, April 4 at 8:00 p.m. Main Floor @ \$20.00 (reg. \$45.00 one) Mezzanine @ \$20.00 (reg. \$45.00 one) Close Date will be Friday, March 22.	Marriage of Figaro At the Opera House Friday, May 31 @ 10:00 a.m. Main Floor @ \$10.00 (reg. \$70.00+) This is the final dress rehearsal Close Date will be Friday, May 10

Please order promptly for best seating! Blocks close approximately two weeks prior to show date. To order tickets, come to the CSA Service Window, 49 OC with payment and completed form. Please make checks payable to Oakland University. We cannot accept Credit Cards.

Name _____ Email Address _____ Phone # _____

Name of Play	Date	# of Tickets	Price of Tickets	Service Fee \$1.00 per Ticket	Total	Receipt #

Tickets arrive approximately one week prior to the show date. Messages will be left for patrons by phone and/or email (if given) that tickets are in and are ready to be picked up. Patrons are responsible to pick up their tickets prior to the performance during CSA hour. The CSA Office will not be responsible for tickets paid for but not picked up.



This is the time to take that leap of faith in business or romance. Risk-takers will be supported now more than ever, particularly those who have a good plan to back them up. However, be weary of how things are said; it's really easy to miscommunicate with others right now. Also, have patience with results, as things that are initiated now may not materialize until much later.

♈ Aries

You'll appreciate a burst of passion this week; however, try not to start things just for the sake of doing something or you may get bored. It's better to get smaller things done as opposed to being too ambitious.

♉ Taurus

Follow through on a long-term plan even if you are losing patience. Time by yourself helps you get objectivity on a work situation, if not on your whole life.

♊ Gemini

Things can move forward in a situation, but make sure it's what you really want. Friends can help, but make sure you don't value their opinion more than your own.

♋ Cancer

Outside forces may force you to change your viewpoint, which actually may be a good thing. You're not very objective because you're experiencing many different emotions; try to find an outlet for your feelings.

♌ Leo

Partner up with someone for business or a date even if you feel like being a loner. Romance may be in the air this week, assuming you are open-minded.

♍ Virgo

Business will probably have to be your focus this week, but you may meet a new romance through it. This is an excellent time to set career goals.

♎ Libra

A difficult situation may suddenly turn in your favor. This is a great time to reattempt a past failure. Avoid focusing on things that are out of your control.

♏ Scorpio

Now is the time to roll up your sleeves and work on a lingering project. Things you dealt with in the past may be reappearing, more than likely because there are still issues to work out.

♐ Sagittarius

Work on balancing out your work and personal life this week. Make time to spend with your family; you'll have a learning experience, if not a great time.

♑ Capricorn

What you say may not get your point across, but your actions definitely will. Trust your gut this week, especially in work.

♒ Aquarius

Now is the time to start new things, romantically and career-wise. A love interest is more receptive than usual to your advances.

♓ Pisces

Take care of business this week, though the results may not come immediately. A romance has potential as long as you stay realistic.

Oakland University alum Damon Brown has studied the occult for ten years. A Chicago-based freelance writer, Damon currently contributes to Playboy.com, MSN.com, and The Source. He can be reached via his website at www.geocities.com/nomadgames/.

WWW.oakpostonline.com

‘Down’ provides visceral experience

By Brian Urreta
THE OAKLAND POST

War. The word alone has the power to unite strangers while at the same time tearing nations apart. It is one of those few words that strikes fear into the hearts of generations upon its first whisper.

Only the dead have seen the end of war, said Plato.

And it is with these haunting words of reassurance that director Ridley Scott greets audiences upon entering his vision of war in, Black Hawk Down.

In this generation, when speaking of war in cinema, four films stand on the front line amongst all others: Platoon, Saving Private Ryan, Full Metal Jacket and Apocalypse Now. These movies portray the raw emotions and gritty conditions involved when

placed in a warfare situation, therefore making them the best of the best. Black Hawk Down, is no different and ranks amongst the elite in its genre.

Based on the Mark Bowden book of the same name, Black Hawk Down recounts the true botched U.S. military operation on Oct. 3, 1993 in a civil-war torn Somalia that left 18 American soldiers dead, as well

as roughly 500 Somalis. A mission that was estimated to take only an hour to accomplish, found many soldiers still fighting for their lives nearly 20 hours later.

Scott (Gladiator, Blade Runner) is well known for his visual mastery. He has a way of making the most tense and restless settings seem eerily beautiful through his gritty frames of camerawork.

In Black Hawk Down, Scott has no intentions of feeding what led up to the incident in Somalia,



BACK IN BLACK: Ridley Scott's Black Hawk Down chronicles the actual event of the U.S. raid in Somalia in 1992.

Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

nor does he leave his audience with what happens after that fateful day. What he hopes to accomplish, and holds no punches back in doing so, is to place the audience in the middle of warfare by making it as visually and emotionally realistic as possible.

One way in which Scott does this is through very graphic violence. Although some may argue

that the violence in Black Hawk Down is gratuitous, this is so very far from the truth. The film's violence isn't there for shock value, it aids in recounting the despair that these individuals went through during this tumultuous situation.

Nonetheless, be wary, there are scenes in this film that are not for the squeamish.

Another aspect that propels the

film among the elite of war films, is that it wisely strays away from forcing a patriotic and political message that tank so many others in its genre (i.e. Pearl Harbor). There is no need to express loyalty to the nation in order to pull off a successful war film. In an era filled with corporate and convenient patriotism, it's best to let the audience define its interpretation without waving

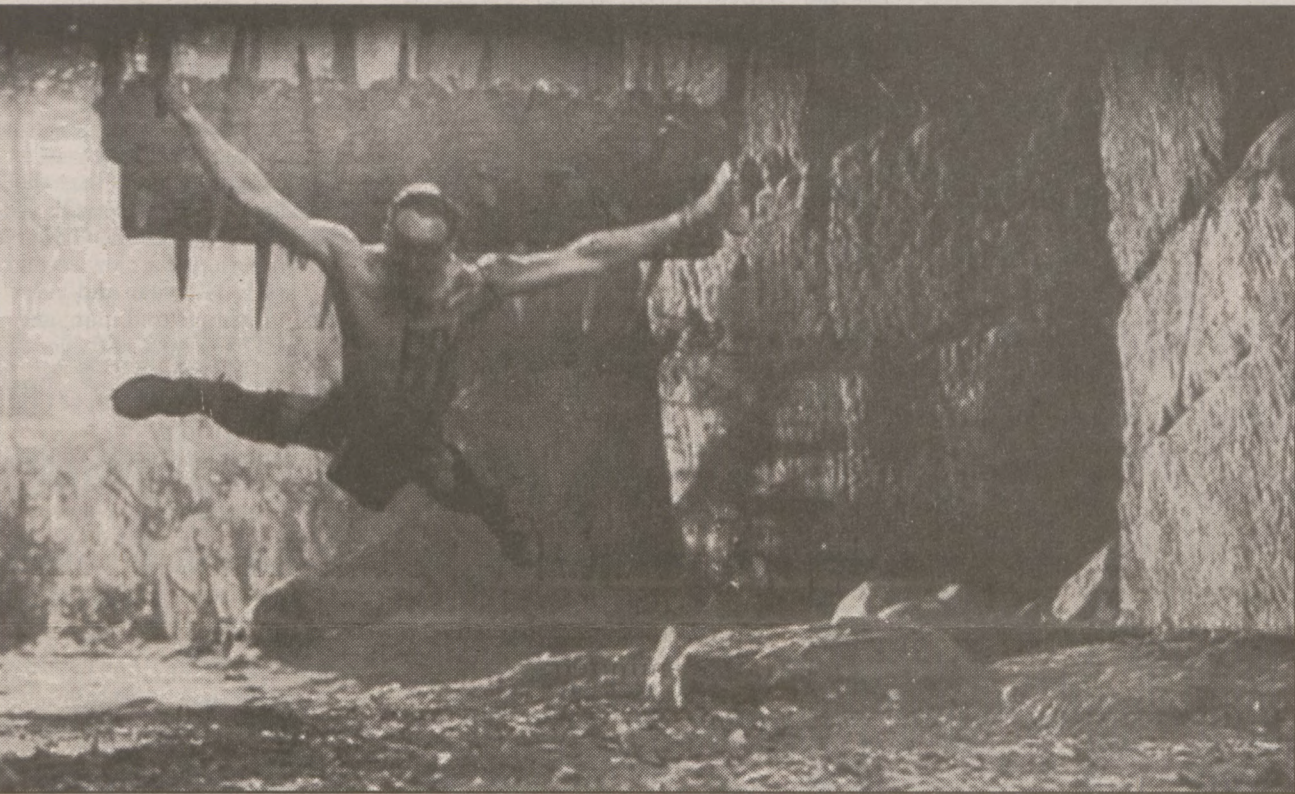
a flag in the face.

Kudos to Scott for staying true to this in a time where he may easily be influenced into doing otherwise.

The acting in Black Hawk Down is just above mediocre, not that it hinders the film in any way, as there is little character development throughout the film. There are, of course, some we see more than others. Josh Hartnett (Pearl Harbor), Ewan McGregor (Trainspotting), and Tom Sizemore (Saving Private Ryan) all have significant roles. Many would argue that strong character development is essential for any film, but that's not necessarily true.

Scott lets the facts tell the story, not the characters. The audience grieves for those who lose their lives because they are by their sides when death is upon them, not necessarily because they know them as individuals.

No matter what one's personal beliefs may be regarding combat, many should agree that Black Hawk Down is a smart, edge-of-the-seat, war film that will only get better over time.



I AM WEARING A LOIN CLOTH: Mark Dacascos stars in Christopher Gans' Brotherhood of the Wolf. The film chronicles the attack of a mysterious being on a rural French village.

Photo courtesy of Studio Canal

‘Wolf’ lacks compelling story, characters

By Patrick Labadie
LIFE EDITOR

Take one part monster movie, one part trashy soft-core, one part Merchant-Ivory costume drama, and one part mindless action film. Mix them together, stir thoroughly, let cool and season with French pretentiousness. The result, evidenced in Christopher Gans' latest film Brotherhood of the Wolf, is a steaming pile of cinematic blunder.

The film, based on legend, is set in rural 18th century France. A mysterious creature is terrorizing the countryside, devouring women and children alike. King Louis XV deploys two men, Gregoire de Fronsac (Samuel Le Bihan), a libertine

naturalist, and his kickboxing companion, Mani (Mark Dacascos, Crying Freeman) to find and destroy the beast. Inevitably, the plot thickens to the point of incomprehensibility.

In most cases, the film plays as a been-there-done-that monster film. Gans keeps the monster's appearance a secret (ala Jaws) until the 90 minute point, but by that

point the film is so far submerged in ridiculousness, that it makes very little impact.

The film's action scenes, one of its lone strong points, are largely effective. Mani's impeccable martial arts mastery is at the forefront of

much of the action. During the fight sequences, the blood and carnage are high, while the audience is sonically bombarded with the films deafeningly loud sound design.

Some of the film's better moments include one amci-tioned shot where a woman's naked body is dissolved and then superimposed onto the rolling snowy hills. Also, the MTV-style rapid fire editing is not suited to the material.

But for all its cinematic trickery, the film still falls flat because it fails to maintain the viewer's interest.

Wolf's eroticism, which in a film like this feels largely out of place, is not very effective and seems gratuitous. One bright spot in this department occurs when our leads enter a brothel. The audience is overwhelmed by shots of buxoms maidens in tight corsets.

Gans was clearly attempting to make a Hollywood pop-

corn epic on the grand scale. However, he fails miserably.

Brotherhood exists as a poor man's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. Gans is unable to get the action sequences an. Gans big-budget ambitions are thinly veiled under his film pomposity.

This film is almost unbearable to sit through. Its storytelling is clunky and meandering, and largely unappealing. Due to its unforgivably slow pace and nonexistent character development, the film feels much longer than its 142-minute running time.

The lesson Gans needs to learn is that Americans like action films short, sweet and forgettable. Unfortunately, what he provides is a film that is long, slow and incomprehensible.

In the end, the movie's glaring flaws make it near impossible for any audience to enjoy.

Comedy club serves up skits one last time

“Big Fun Limo” offers big laughs for all

By Christine Rashid
THE OAKLAND POST

The snow might be losing its novelty by now and it's getting harder to find things to do on the weekends. Here is the cure: A ride with Big Fun Limo.

At 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at Wunderground Upstage Theatre in downtown Royal Oak, director Mark Mikula and his highly comical cast of improvisors will put on a show too hilarious to be missed.

Big Fun Limo is often compared to The Second City only it's less formal, less expensive but just as hilarious. There is a \$7 cover and refreshments are provided for \$1. The shows are all ages.

There is a small catch though. This Saturday will be Big Fun Limo's last show. Sadly, Wunderground is selling its building to a restaurant forcing the improvisors to find another venue. This Saturday will be the last chance to catch Mikula and his cast put on a fantastic show full of laughs.

After last week's show, Mikula said, "The audience was great tonight. Very energetic and that

had some really creative suggestions. It's nights like this one that make us very sad to be leaving Wunderground. But we support the local arts and are glad to have been a part of them for about

eight years, now."

Big Fun Limo is looking into a theater in Hamtramck and several other places.

Steve Marsden said he enjoyed the shows that he's seen. "It was high class and a job really well done," he said.

Becky Ringholz, freshman, said, "My cheeks and stomach hurt from laughing so hard."

"Big Fun Limo was wonderful," said sophomore

Maureen Jones.

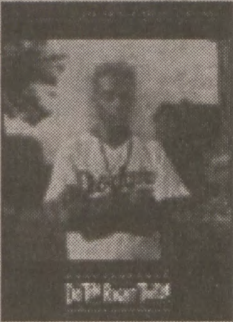
Senior Melissa Rossi agreed enthusiastically. "It's a great time for anybody that likes to laugh a lot," she said.

Big Fun Limo's final show is at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, at Wunderground Upstage Theatre in downtown Royal Oak, on Main St. next to Memphis Smoke.

Also, go on line and learn about the show and cast members by going to bigfunlimo.com. There are profiles, games and much more. Log on and yuck it up.

Melissa Rossi senior communication

4 STAR CLASSICS: Critics discuss important films of yesteryear



month, what better way to start off the 4-Star Film series than by honoring one of the best African American directors in cinema with the film that ignited his career: Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing.

In 1989, Lee raised eyebrows

and sparked debates with his provocative drama about life in the predominately black, yet multi-racial, community of Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, New York. On the of the hottest day of the summer, tempers rise, with tensions in the community reaching a fever pitch, as conservative masks are removed to reveal racial prejudices. What ultimately climaxes is a shattering explosion of hate that leads to a controversial quarrel over who's to blame.

Led by the poetic assault of Public Enemy, Do the Right Thing, is Lee's masterpiece, making it the best film about race relations in America. Lee's

strength lies in his ability to makes audiences think. Decked with harsh reds, and bright oranges to set the feel of the sweltering sun, Lee does a magnificent job at conveying feelings and emotions of hatred and despair in both subtle and direct fashions.

Unfortunately, Do the Right Thing was slammed by critics for its in your face portrayal of ghetto life. In spite of his lack of critical acclaim, Lee has proven himself one of America's premier directors here and later with the brilliance of Malcolm X and Bamboozled.

Lee is truly a director who is not afraid of treading outside of the mainstream.

MOVIE ONE-LINERS

Guess what movie each quote is from, then visit www.oakpostonline.com to see if you're right

1. A day without blood is like a day without sunshine.
2. Want to hear a poem I wrote? I love you, you love me. Going down the sugar tree. We'll go down the sugar tree, and see lots of bees: playing, playing. But the bees won't sting, because you love me. That's it.
3. Are you gonna bark all day, little doggy, or are you gonna bite?
4. I love the smell of napalm in the morning.

SPORTS

The Oakland Post

Wednesday • January 23, 2002

B 4

The EDGE

SCORE BOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL
January 19
Oakland 89
IUPUI 69

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
January 19
IUPUI 72
Oakland 67

MEN'S SWIMMING
January 18
Mich. State 136
Oakland 105
January 19
Notre Dame 162.5
Oakland 133.5

WOMEN'S SWIMMING
January 18
Miami 178
Oakland 118

MEN'S CLUB HOCKEY
January 18
Oakland 7
Ferris State 2
January 19
Oakland 5
Michigan 5

WOMEN'S CLUB HOCKEY
January 18
MSU 6
Oakland 2
January 19
MSU 3
Oakland 1

UPCOMING GAMES

MEN'S BASKETBALL
•7 p.m., Jan. 24 - Western Illinois
•6 p.m., Jan. 26 - Valparaiso

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
•3:30 p.m., Jan. 26 - Valparaiso
•7 p.m., Jan. 28 - Western Illinois

MEN'S SWIMMING
•1 p.m., Jan. 26 - Eastern Michigan

WOMEN'S SWIMMING
•1 p.m., Jan. 26 - Eastern Michigan

MEN'S CLUB HOCKEY
•TBA, Jan. 25 - at Indiana
•TBA, Jan. 26 - at Miami (OH) Univ.

WOMEN'S CLUB HOCKEY
•8:30 p.m., Jan. 25 - Lake Superior State
•10:00 p.m., Jan. 26 - Lake Superior State

Jaguars receive Grizzlies' wrath

OU storms out to huge lead

By Chad Mack
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Welcome to the greatest show on earth. Those are the words that should have been hanging out side of the Orena Saturday night.

The Grizzlies put on an impressive display of athleticism and poise as they disposed of Mid-Con foe IUPUI in front of an almost sold-out crowd.

The tempo was set early by sophomore Mike Helms as he put on an exhibition of dunks and pure athletic ability. Helms is second in the conference in scoring average with 19.1 points per game.

Twice in the first half the Grizzlies ran the alley-oop play against the Jaguars. Once to Helms and another time to sophomore Kelly Williams. Both passes came from the Mid-Con leader in assists and assists per game, senior Mychal Covington.

It's about being together, said Covington. Mike and I played summer league together and all you do in summer league is run and dunk.

The Grizzlies did just that all night long on the Jaguars. The crowd was constantly entertained with the can you top this mentality of the Grizzlies.

Even sophomore Jordan Sabourin got involved in the act. Near the end of the game when the decision was no longer in doubt, Sabourin broke free under the basket and put down a monster dunk that can only be described as Shaq-like.

When we see Jordan play hard and play with emotion, it makes us just that much better, said Covington.

After Sabourin's play the whole team and crowd erupted as if he had hit the game-winner. Brad Buddenberg was especially proud of the play of the seven-footer from Sarnia.

Jordan's a good player and he made some good decisions down low, said Buddenberg.



ABOVE THE RIM: Mike Helms dunks on an IUPUI defender during the onslaugth Saturday. Helms scored 36 points, 24 in the first half, and put on a crowd pleasing performance. The Grizzlies are now 3-2 in the Mid-Con and 10-9 overall.

At halftime the team was leading by 19, 45-26. Helms had 24 points and three steals.

OU was looking to make a statement after a dismal performance at Oral Roberts, where the Grizzlies lost by 32.

Coming into the game IUPUI was tied for first in the conference with Valpo and ORU.

We just wanted to come back and bounce back off those two losses that we got on the road, said Covington. We wanted to defend our home turf. We don't want to lose at home. We're trying to build something up like Michigan State that can keep

going on for years and years.

MSU owned the nation's longest home winning streak until it lost to Wisconsin earlier this month.

The win helped get the team back into the Mid-Con race. Currently, OU is tied for third with IUPUI.

We had something to prove to ourselves and nobody else, said Covington. If you've seen the stats you know that we got beat bad (referring to the loss at ORU). We don't want to forget it because Oral Roberts still has to come here. We want to remember that so we can play with that same energy that we came out with tonight.

Last year in a similar game at the Orena, OU had a big lead against the Jaguars at halftime and IUPUI fought back and made the game close at the end.

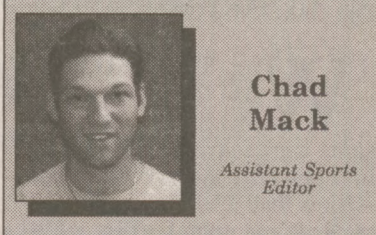
Covington spoke about that at halftime, said Buddenberg. I think it was a 26-point lead. It was something we didn't want to happen again. So we came out and made sure our intensity was just as high (as at the beginning of the game).

Since OU switched to a trapping zone defense, the Grizzlies have risen to tops in the league in turnover margin with a +5.61 advantage.

OU is also second in the conference in steals behind Valpo. The Grizzlies are averaging 9.28 steals per game.

There's only one way to play effectively, and that's all out, said Buddenberg. I keep my hands up and I seem to get some steals. Today I took it from a couple of guys just running in there and being a nuisance. It pays off. I think it's just playing hard. I wouldn't be on the court if I didn't play hard. I'm giving 100 percent on defense, all I can.

Saturday OU's arch rival Valparaiso visits the Orena. In six tries the Grizzlies have never beaten the Crusaders. Last year OU took a double-digit lead into halftime, only to see Valpo come back and win.



The team you love to hate is coming

Here comes trouble. That is what Valpo week is all about at OU. Since the Grizzlies were accepted into the Mid-Con there is only one team that they haven't beat. In six tries OU has come up empty against the most arrogant team in the conference.

The Crusaders managed to get the best of OU last year at the Orena in a game that the Grizzlies let slip away. OU led at the half by 18. The Grizzlies were notorious for slow second half starts last year and Valpo took advantage and managed to climb back into, and eventually win the game.

That is pretty typical of this one-sided rivalry.

At Valparaiso last year, the Grizzlies lost a lot. OU lost Jason Rozycki for the season in that game. He went down during a game where it seemed like nothing was going right. Rozycki hasn't been the same since.

OU was manhandled in the game and the only thing the Grizzlies managed to win was a fight between Jon Champagne and Phil Wille.

This season OU is a different team. You can see it in the players' eyes. Mike Helms has given the team an added scorer's touch. Head coach Greg Kampe has instituted a defense that has created lots of turnovers and fast break points for OU. The players believe in the system.

Earlier this season the Grizzlies came up big against a team that they had never beaten in 10 attempts. OU defeated UDM at the Orena by 26 points.

The match-up between OU and Valpo also has implications on the conference regular season title chase. OU is tied in third place. Valpo is tied for first with ORU. If the Grizzlies can beat Western Illinois on Thursday and pull off the victory against Valpo, they will be back in the race for the first seed in the Mid-Con post-season tournament.

This is supposed to be the best team Valpo has ever had.

Lubos Barton is third in the conference in scoring average. He is second in the conference in steals, averaging two a game. Barton can shoot the three and drive the lane. Valpo also has the ability to bang bodies in the paint featuring the two goons, Raitis Grafts and Antti Nikkila who together are averaging 2.5 blocked shots a game.

If OU continues to improve its Division I play this season, this game is one hurdle that will have to be leaped. Success comes in small steps. The goal this season for the five seniors is to make the NCAA tournament of 65 teams. This season OU has already taken steps toward that goal. They beat UDM and they finished outside the conference with a .500 record. The next step is simple, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD... BEAT VALPO!

Then it is on to winning the Mid-Con and off to the Big Dance.

Assistant Sports Editor Chad Mack is a senior majoring in journalism. Email him at mack0074@yahoo.com.

By Lisa Cali
MANAGING EDITOR

The stereotype for athletics is that if a team loses, it gets yelled at by the coach and has to run laps or do push-ups. This, however, is not the case for OU's swimming and diving team.

Despite the fact that the men's team lost both dual meets this weekend (136-105 against MSU and 162.5-133.5 against Notre Dame) and the women lost as well (178-118 against Miami-Ohio), the swimmers are never punished and their coaches only tell them to learn from each swim and try to make the next one better.

Nobody will remember or care about your dual meet record if you're the NIC champion, said Hovland.

Teal agreed. The thing I said to them is that you have to look at each race as a learning experience. Try to figure out what you can do better rather than having an emotional reaction to it if you swam poorly, Teal said.

Although they don't take it to heart, Hovland admitted that it is disappointing to lose.

We didn't have everyone firing on all eight cylinders at the same time, Hovland said.

We're not deep enough of a dual meet team to be able to get away with that with teams like Notre Dame and MSU.

Top scorers for the women, against Miami-Ohio, were Oksana Strelets with firsts in the 100y backstroke (56.73) and 100y freestyle (51.83) and Tanya Korniyenko with victories in the 200y butterfly (2:04.01) and 100y butterfly (57.09).

Both the 200y medley relay team of Renie Green, Shelley Aurit, Korniyenko and Tamara Swaby (1:48.87) and the 200y



RUBA DUB DUB: Can Kuldak swam the backstroke at the Grizzlies home MSU meet Friday. The men lost to MSU as well as Notre Dame on Saturday and have another challenging meet ahead of them this weekend against Eastern Michigan.

freestyle team of Swaby, Danielle Ward, Christina Mocer and Strelets (1:36.91) were also victorious.

Tanya Korniyenko had a great meet. She swam personal best times unshaved in both the 100y fly and the 200y fly, Teal said.

Angela Simetkosky had a best time unshaved in the 500y freestyle, and I thought our relay teams looked really good.

The men's top scorers over the weekend were Sean Broadbent and Mark Quinn, with three firsts each, and Dave Hartzel with two.

Broadbent won the 50y freestyle (21.00) and 100y freestyle (46.33) against MSU, and the 100y freestyle (46.67) against Notre Dame. Quinn placed first in the 200y breaststroke (2:05.71) against MSU and in the 100y breaststroke (59.06) and 200y breaststroke (2:07.18) against Notre Dame. Hartzel won the 200y backstroke in both meets (1:53.57 against MSU and 1:52.93 at Notre Dame).

Tim Johnson has had an outstanding year so far, Sean Broadbent had a good weekend, and Mark Quinn has just had an outstanding year, Hovland said with regards to the men's team.

The teams only have six more weeks until the National Independent Conference Championship, and only the next two will be hard training. According to Teal, the teams seem to be in the right position for a good performance at the NIC.

I still think that they're swimming their races well, tactically, Hovland said. They're being very consistent in how they swim the races, even if the time isn't overall something that we want.

Both the men and women will be in action at 1 p.m., Saturday at Eastern Michigan. This meet will mark the end of the men's dual season, and the women will have one remaining meet.

Men prove good offense best defense

By Randy Dudek
THE OAKLAND POST

With games against top rated opposition this weekend, the Golden Grizzlies men's club hockey team stepped up to the challenge, throttling the Ferris State Bulldogs Friday night 7-2 and battling U-M to a hard-fought 5-5 tie on Saturday.

FSU played with a physical attitude, but OU didn't back down. By game's end there were a total of 29 penalties.

FSU got on the scoreboard first with a player in the penalty box for slashing. A pass between the OU defensemen was intercepted and a slapshot was powered by junior goalie Shaun Zeldes.

Sophomore defenseman Dan Oleksy tied up the score for OU when he picked up junior forward Scott Marlinga's rebound and fluttered it between the legs of the Ferris State goalie.

The Golden Grizzlies found themselves two men short late in the first period, and Ferris State capitalized with a power play goal which led to a 2-1 first period lead.

FSU came out quickly in the second period, but spectacular saves by Zeldes kept OU in the game.

OU tied the score once again five minutes into the period when sophomore forward Brandon Marineau scored, assisted by junior forward Ron Kolito and sophomore defenseman Jason Artymovich.

The game remained tied until 7:20 of the second period when Marineau took sophomore linemate Sean Trueblood's pass and fired a backhand past the sprawled goalie.

The Grizzlies cemented the game, with 50 seconds left in the second when Kolito scored, with Marineau and Trueblood picking up the assists, to

make the score 4-2.

OU continued in the third period with the same control that it showed in the second.

The lone mistake let FSU in on a breakaway, but Zeldes stoned the scoring chance.

As OU was shorthanded five minutes into the period, freshman forward Ryan Teasdale picked up a loose puck, took it the length of the ice and beat the goalie high above his stick for an unassisted goal and a 5-2 Grizzly lead.

OU finished up the scoring by adding power-play goals from team junior captain Karl Borgquist and junior Rob Wishaw.

After the 7-2 victory, Coach Tony Jalaba expressed his happiness with OU's performance throughout the game.

Although we weren't thrilled to get down early, I was happy to see the guys score six unanswered goals and keep a good Ferris State team off the scoreboard for over two periods, Jalaba said.

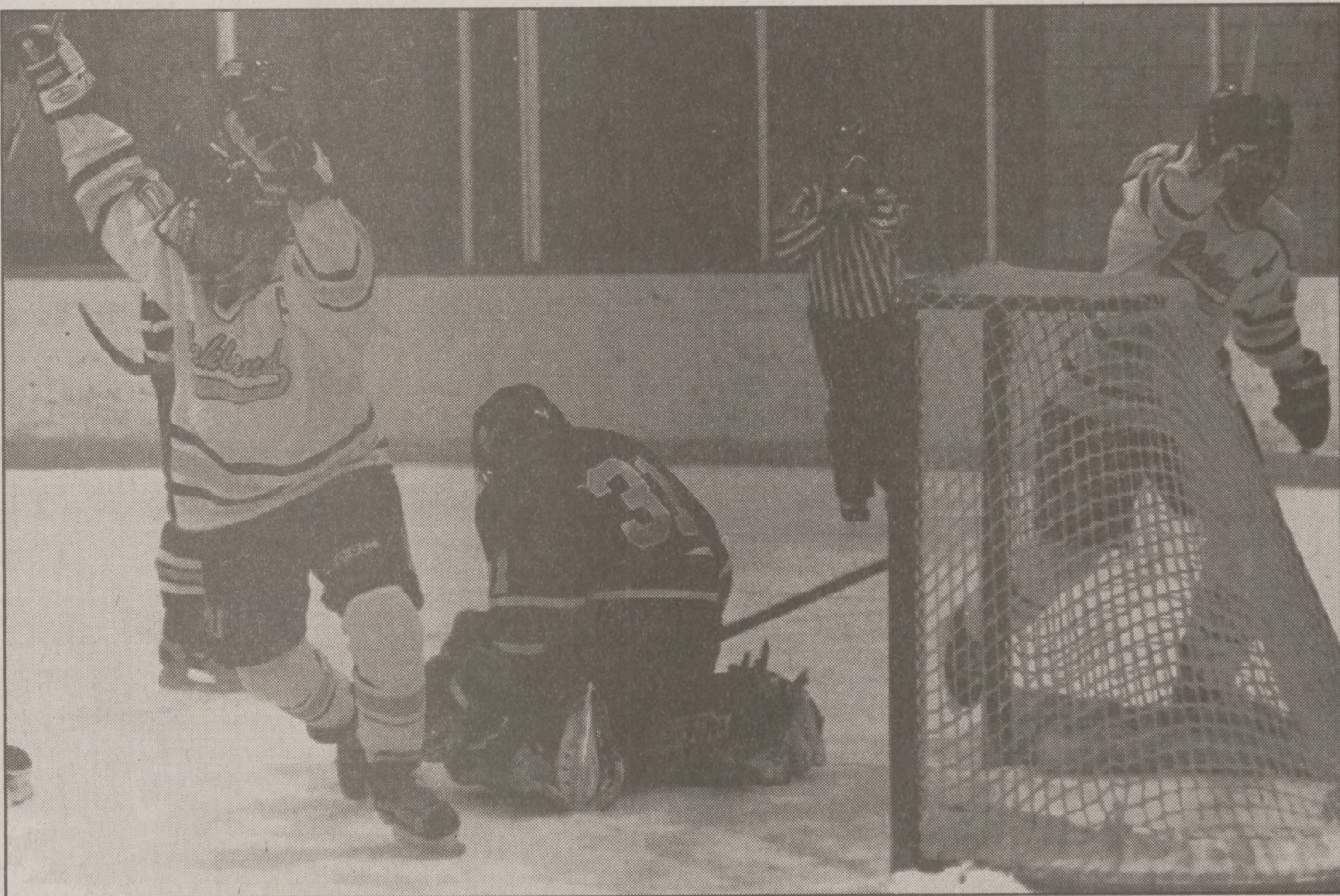
This win gives us a big boost going into Nationals, as well as gives us momentum going into [Saturday's] game against U-M.

On Saturday, both OU and U-M began with a good intensity level. U-M started the scoring off with a shorthanded goal resulting from another power play turnover.

The toll of Friday night's contest wore on the Grizzlies as the first period continued, and U-M scored two goals to increase its lead to 3-0.

Marineau scored as he and Kolito skated in alone on the U-M netminder allowing OU to head into the break only down 3-1.

U-M reclaimed a three goal lead with 5:24 remaining, but OU scored 20 seconds later to pull back within two and entered the second intermission down by two goals.



CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES: Rob Wishaw and Scott Marlinga rejoice after Wishaw scores one of OU's seven goals against FSU. OU scored six unanswered goals enroute to the 7-2 win on Friday and worked their way to a 5-5 tie on Saturday.

They pulled the game within one goal five minutes into the third period when Oleksy netted a power play tally.

OU tied the game at 4 as a net-side tussle resulted in the puck sneaking by the U-M goaltender.

Michigan capitalized on a five-on-three advantage to retake the lead with less than five minutes left in the game, but OU battled back once again to tie the score at five when Teasdale blasted a shot past the goalie off of Marlinga's assist.

We will take this tie, said team general manager Tom Ricketts. It counts for one point in the league standings

and, more importantly, tying a top rated program like Michigan goes a long way for us.

The men pack their bags for the weekend and go on the road to face Indiana University on Friday. They then continue on to face-off against Miami-Ohio on Saturday.

Depth problems evident in defeat

By Brendan Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

With a chance to pull to .500 overall, the OU women's basketball team was outlasted by a deep IUPUI team and suffered a 72-67 defeat.

After trailing by seven at the half, the Golden Grizzlies clawed back into the game, coming within three when Katie Wolfe hit a clutch three pointer with two minutes left to play.

Tough offensive rebounds by senior guard Lori Kipp gave OU chances to shorten the gap, but it was all for naught when OU couldn't capitalize.

Senior forward Sarah Judd led all scorers with 23 points, and she also grabbed ten rebounds to complete the double-double. Junior guard Romica Clint notched 12 points and a game-high five assists. Freshman forward Amanda Batcha continued to pound the boards, grabbing 15 rebounds.

Junior guard Katie Wolfe also contributed ten points, but shot a very un-Wolfe-like 4-14 from the field.

We aren't doing a very good job of getting her (Wolfe) the ball, coach Beckie Francis said. She is tensing up due to the frustration.

The Golden Grizzlies shot only 27-70 from the floor for a 38.6 shooting percentage, while the Jags managed a 44.6 field goal percentage.

We had a lot of good shots, Wolfe said. We are getting good looks. We just have to finish.

We had poor transition D, said Francis. We did not play on the D we know we can.

Although IUPUI came into the game with a lowly 5-11 win-loss record, and OU was 8-9, the loss only redefines the parody in the Mid-Con right now. The competition in the league hardly reflects the records the teams hold.

By winning back-to-back Mid-Con championships, the women are dealing with other teams' desire to beat the best team in the league.

Teams get pumped up to play us, Francis said. We have a bullseye on our back. We have pressure on us because we are champs. Teams are coming after us.

One of the main factors in the loss was the difference in the two teams' bench play. IUPUI's bench logged a total of 98 minutes while the Golden Grizzlies' bench only contributed 23 minutes. Due to the obvious advantage in playing time, the IUPUI bench also outscored OU's 21-4.

With the loss of last year's Mid-Con Freshman of the Year, guard Naomi Nickleberry and fellow sophomore guard Jodi Young, the Golden Grizzlies are still looking for a presence off the bench to complement their top-notch starters.

Romica Clint has stepped up this year to compliment Judd and Wolfe, but it has not been enough. Without an additional threat to come off the bench, neither Judd nor Wolfe can afford to have off nights.



DOIN' THE DIRTY WORK: Amanda Batcha grabbed 15 rebounds in OU's loss to IUPUI on Saturday. OU only out-rebounded 42-41.

Until then, Francis intends to continue her current bench-use strategy of getting a feel for each game and correlating her substitutions with the match-ups on the court.

OU has fallen to 2-3 in the Mid-Con and 8-10 overall with seven conference games remaining. But there is still plenty of time for the Golden Grizzlies to

prepare themselves for the Mid-Con tournament.

We have to keep it in perspective, Francis said. You play well and it happens.

OU hopes to turn things around when it continues its homestand against Valparaiso on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and the faces Western Illinois on Monday at 7 p.m.

Women's club hockey faces third loss in a row

By Brendan Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the weekend, the OU women's club hockey team, also known as the Polar Bears, suffered two tough defeats against its MSU counterpart.

After losing in a 6-2 contest on Friday, the women were able to keep Saturday's game close and skated to a 3-1 defeat.

Both of OU's tallies on Friday came on unassisted goals. The first came when junior Kristin Czarnecki took the puck from the corner, skated at the net and fired a shot past the goalie.

Fellow junior Laura Owczarski scored the other OU goal when she carried the puck the length of the ice and recorded a goal.

The Polar Bears' lone goal on Saturday was scored by sophomore Jenny Bernhart, assisted by Czarnecki and junior Laura Cuniffe.

Late in the game, senior Christina Colombe had a chance to notch her first goal of the season, but had her attempt waived off by the referee.

Although this marks the third consecutive loss for the ladies, Coach Shana Osler believes that the record doesn't properly justify the how well the Polar Bears have played.

I am proud of them for dealing with having to face teams with three lines, Osler said.

I feel really good about the season. We've come a long way

since the beginning of the year.

The turning point for OU may have been its victory over then undefeated Northern Michigan. Before that game, the players were doubting they could win, but that has changed.

We had thought we were the worst team in the league, junior Rebecca Kelly said. It was a really ego booster.

We feel we can beat any team, said Osler.

The Polar Bears return home for the first time since November this weekend. Two games are scheduled against Lake Superior State University.

OU matches up well against LSSU because both teams have very short benches. The Polar Bears will be understaffed even more with the suspension of junior Amanda Pietras.

Pietras received a misconduct for being the third woman into a fight over the weekend.

As the season wears on, OU is looking to build up confidence in preparing for their season-ending tournament. Kelly was extremely confident with the team's chances in the tournament.

We just have to keep coming out and playing well, Kelly said. And then go up to that tournament and dominate.

The Polar Bears' home games will be played at the Onyx in Rochester, with a 8:30 p.m. start scheduled for Friday and a 10 p.m. start for Saturday.

MID-CONTINENT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

MEN'S BASKETBALL	Southern Utah	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	IUPUI
Valparaiso	3-2	Valparaiso	2-3
4-1	6-11	5-0	6-11
14-6	UMKC	14-4	Oakland
Oral Roberts	2-3	Oral Roberts	2-3
4-1	11-6	3-2	8-10
10-10	Western Illinois	9-9	Western Illinois
IUPUI	1-4	3-2	2-3
3-2	10-8	7-10	9-8
9-8	Chicago State	3-2	UMKC
Oakland	0-5	Chicago State	1-4
3-2	2-15	2-3	5-13
10-9		6-11	

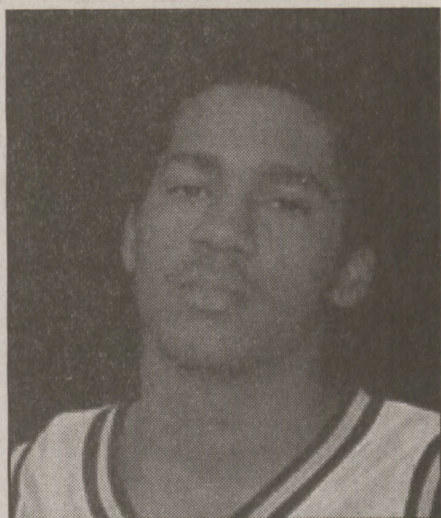
First stat represents the team's conference rank. The second is the overall rank.

GRIZZLY OF THE WEEK

MIKE HELMS

Helms led all scores in OU's convincing win over IUPUI Saturday. Before the end of the first half Helms had already accumulated 24 points, and finished the game with a total of 36. Helms also led OU with eight rebounds and had three steals as well.

-Brendan Stevens



GET OUT

The Oakland Post

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B6

royal oak

• written by Rebecca Wyatt & Jennifer Bagley • photos by Dan McDuffee •

This is the third part in a series on the most popular cities along Woodward Ave.

Royal Oak's success hinges on its people's diversity and willingness to accept change.

It is one of the only cities left in the area where OU students can go for a small town feel with large town appeal. Whether its night or day, the city of Royal Oak has something to offer to everyone. Another plus is its central location.

The city appeals to everyone, Marie Donigan, a City Commission member, said.

From its shops, to its restaurants, to its coffeehouses, Royal Oak's popularity is of interest to many people from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds. However, the appeal of the city has only been discovered in the last couple decades.

A lot of people came to the city in the 1980s when rent was cheap, Donigan said. But prices have changed since those days.

This movement of business to the area, along with the help of the Downtown Development Authority, helped evolve the city to what it is today.

People like the neighborhood and they like being able to walk downtown, and retailers want to be in cities rather than in malls, Donigan said about the city's goals to keep the small shops in the downtown area.

It seems as if people have this sense of connection or camaraderie when you're hanging out in town, whether it is at a park or the coffee shop, a Royal Oak resident Joelle Lucido said.

Keeping the small town atmosphere has been very hard, according to Donigan. The city wants to continue bringing the bigger chains like Starbucks and Barnes and Noble into the city. Barnes and Noble will soon open on the southwest corner of Fifth and Main. There is, however, an underlying concern that these types of stores could bring in too much competition to a city that thrives on the success of its small shops.

But there are those who have faith in these business strategies.

I think this Barnes and Noble will be a good anchor on the south side. I think it will bring in more people down here, said Keith Hay, owner of The Cat's Meow.

We continue to enjoy Royal Oak, despite the higher taxes, because it has a small and quaint community of people interested in increasing the value of the community as a whole, Lucido said.



Clockwise: View of the tree-lined downtown area, the Royal Oak Main Art Theater, inside the Noir Leather boutique and the infamous BD's Mongolian Barbeque. Royal Oak has a population of approximately 65,000 and a median family income of approximately \$56,000.



I just hope the city isn't going to turn into Birmingham like it's wanting to. It's still a diverse city, Katie Oparka, a sales associate at Noir Leather, said.

It is that diversity that has helped the city to create the ambiance that people seem to love. Whether it's stores like The Cat's Meow, the Main Art Theater, or BD's Mongolian Barbeque, people come to Royal Oak because it's an entirely different place to be.

The Main Art Theater is a huge attraction in the city because it shows non-traditional movies that can't be seen in other theaters in the area.

Royal Oak's location, and its proximity to Detroit, makes it more acceptable for showing house movies, or non-traditional movies, than it would be in a more conservative area, Susan Alteri, the House Manager at the Main Art

Theater, said.

The theater has been at its Main Street location since the 1940s, and it used to be a mainstream movie theater. The theater has been successful because of the people who go there, and their acceptance of the films that are shown there now.

People tend to be more accepting of alternative lifestyles here, Alteri said.

There are lots of different people that visit Royal Oak. According to Donigan, there are old people, young people, people with different financial backgrounds, and people with completely different lifestyles in this city.

Oparka said, The majority of Noir Leather's customers are middle-aged, what you would call normal conservative people.

Paul Aller, manager of BD's Mongolian Barbeque, said they see quite a variety of people in their

establishment and in the city. And according to him, they are what makes Royal Oak work.

BD's Mongolian Barbeque started as a sandwich shop, and soon developed the stir-fry concept that is well-known today. Once again, customers were accepting of a different approach to eating, and the business took off. Now it is a nationwide chain and its origin is in none other than Royal Oak.

Donigan calls the city user friendly. Businesses like to be there, and the people like to visit the shops and the tree-lined streets, which is how the city got its nickname City of Trees.

This area seems like the only city with a conglomeration of restaurants, bars and young people around, Greg Kutter, a patron of Caribou Coffee in Royal Oak, and a Detroit citizen said.

There is a definite uniqueness in Royal Oak, which you can't find anywhere else.

The atmosphere is liberal, and welcomes people from all backgrounds.

Besides being a hot spot at night, there are many small shops to browse through during the day. The distinctiveness of Royal Oak can be felt simply by being in the city and observing the activity that goes on there.

People want to see and be seen in Royal Oak. And it's a destination place for many in the Detroit metro area not just a city that people pass through.

I tell people to go up and down Main Street for three or four blocks and take Fourth over to Washington, and they've pretty much experienced Royal Oak, Hay said.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN ROYAL OAK

ARTS

Royal Oak Main Art Theater - features non-mainstream films and was one of the first theaters in the area to run "Blair Witch Project." Located on Main St.

Royal Oak Music Theater - a small venue, which not only shows off local talent but also lesser-known acts and some established artists. Located on Fourth St.

FOOD & DRINK

Brazil coffee house for good coffee and a good hang-out/meet-up place

BD's Mongolian Barbeque for the stir-fry on a grill

Tom's Oyster Bar for seafood

Monterrey Cantina for Mexican food

(all on Main St.)

SHOPPING

Incognito, a funky store for shoes and other items. Located on Main St.

Noir Leather a leather fetish and a sex toy store. Located on Fourth St.

Lotus Import Co. for Oriental designs and items. Located on Washington St.

PARKING

Free parking throughout the city on Sundays and holidays.

Parking secret - permanently free at Farmers Market.

Other structures and lots around the city including the 44th District Court parking lot at nights.