

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 12, 2008

Volume 33, Number 53

Defeated



A disappointing end for both men's and women's hoops in Tulsa

Coverage starts on page 19

Three OU students share their thoughts as candidates for the position of Student Body President

Campus

page 6

The world of the Web—what happens in the digital universe and why you should know about it

YOU

page 24

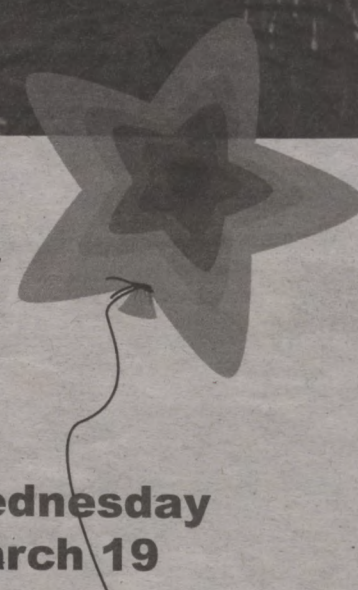
Late-night calls from Hillary Clinton. Would you pick up the phone?

Mouthing Off

page 27

OU Residence Halls 2008-09 EARLY SIGN UP

The Residence Halls Fall early sign-up is the process through which current University Housing students can elect to remain in on-campus housing for the upcoming academic year (Fall-Winter 2008-09). The information below highlights more your options and the complete timeline of the process. Detailed information was sent via email.



Wednesday | Thursday
March 12 | March 13

PHASE 1:
Resign for your current room /
same style

Location:
Housing Office,
448 Hamlin Hall

Time:
8:00am-6:00pm

Monday
March 17

PHASE 2:
Roommate Choice / Group
Sign-up / 6 West Vandenberg
/ Small Halls Doubles

Location:
Housing Office
448 Hamlin Hall

Time:
8:00am-6pm

Wednesday
March 19

PHASE 3:
Carnival

Location:
Vandenberg 1st Floor
Lounge

Time:
7:30am-5:30pm

LINE UP DRAWING:

In order to avoid safety issues resulting from students standing in line during the early morning hours to sign up for single rooms or specific buildings, we will conduct a random number drawing for the first 300 students in line for Phase 3. Beginning at the Midnight Breakfast at the Vandenberg Dining Center 10:30pm-1:00am Tuesday, March 11, students will be able to draw a number for a reserved space in line at the Phase 3 Carnival. Students with a reserved place in line will be serviced in number order starting at 7:30am on Wednesday, March 19.

Students submitting contracts during the early sign-up period will NOT be required to pay the \$100.00 down payment.

Are you living on campus next year?

THIS WEEK 3.12.08



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The Democratic Party owes us democracy / Plus, the return of Four-on-Four



Campus page 6

Student body president candidates debate campus issues / The Oakland Post gets interview with renowned violinist Regina Carter before her scheduled performance.



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Kwame delivers the State of the City Address / Bill would allow adoptees to access biological medical records



The Mix page 14

So you wanna be a sports star—what skills do OU students wish they had? / Reminiscing about childhood favorites on the playing field



the Scene page 17

Create a pottery masterpiece at Creative Arts Studio in Royal Oak / Check out a preview of hit Broadway musicals coming to Detroit



Sports page 19

Full coverage from Tulsa—how OU basketball rose and fell in the Summit League Championship Tournament / Baseball making a comeback



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OU students get serious about eating disorders / The Internet is taking over—or is it? More on the digital invasion of our culture



MOUTHING OFF page 26

Oprah Winfrey—confusing the masses one show at a time / It's 3 a.m., I hope the White House is not on the "do-not-call list"



Nation | World page 28

Obama not interested in sharing a ticket with Clinton / KKK store stirs controversy in South Carolina / New York State governor linked to prostitution ring

THE OAKLAND POST
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

March 12, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Democracy for sale— will Michigan buy in?

So the presidential game is still on.

This week, we had the primary on the bayou, in Mississippi, and before that, in Cheney's country, Wyoming.

Still, the democratic race to the nomination is close — there is no clear victor yet. Trips to Pennsylvania, Indiana, and New Mexico, among others, are still planned.

So some states are still awaiting the campaigns of presidential hopefuls. A few states, however, were not big destinations for the two candidates, one of which is Michigan.

Not two months ago, we had a major fiasco regarding our state's primary.

The waters have still not settled.

Both Barack and Hillary are hoping for the 2,025 delegates needed for the nod at the Democratic Convention in Denver this August.

But, no one is ready to nod.

It's still neck and neck — Barack has a little over 100 more delegates than his opponent.

And in the realm of superdelegates, Hillary is currently in the lead. Many still have not affiliated with either candidate, such as ex-presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich.

Nonetheless, the future may pose an important question — what if the total number of delegates for both does not reach 2,025? What should be done?

We could take the democratic route and offer the candidate with the majority number of delegates the honor of running for president.

The candidate with fewer delegates may even concede.

We could also turn the count over to the Superdelegates.

Or we could offer Michigan and Florida an actual say in the matter. Our representation was damaged due to the actions resulting from party politics.

Why can't we provide our voice to impact the race?

The last primary will take place in Puerto Rico, a Commonwealth.

A better option is to offer two major states a fair chance.

Estimates point to a figure of \$10 million required to have another primary in Michigan, and much more in Florida. But can a cost be put on democracy? In such a close race, every voice needs to be heard in an attempt to ensure the best representation of voters.

The hefty sum can come from a variety of sources. Possibilities include our state, the Democratic Party or the candidate's campaigns themselves.

The party and candidates, for their best interest, should offer to foot the bill. Rather than spend money on ads and smearing, the dough should be designated to ensure democracy.

Michigan and Florida are major players, and can offer some apparently much-needed delegates.

The state economy is in no position to purchase anything with this price tag. Howard Dean, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, prefers the party money be used toward winning the general election in November.

However, both candidates are now using plenty of money in the short term just to gain the party nomination. Over \$ 100 million has been spent on Hillary's campaign, for many things not nearly as important as ensuring democracy.

If there is any further confusion in the candidate selection process, the hopefuls should turn to Michigan.

Democrat or Republican, we here in Michigan can then get the democracy we deserve.



ADAM ZYGLIS, The Buffalo News/Cagle Cartoons

What do you
think? Have
a news tip?

Send your comments to
The Oakland Post.

By e-mail:

oakpostmanaging@gmail.com

By mail:

Letter to the Editor
The Oakland Post
61 Oakland Center
Rochester, MI 48309

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

Corrections from the last edition (March 5, 2008) of The Oakland Post:

■ In "Students give back in NYC for spring break" (page 21), it was incorrectly reported that the Alternative Spring Break participants traveled to New York on Saturday, March 1. Students actually went on Saturday, Feb. 23.

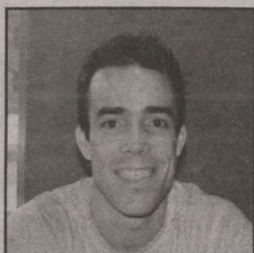
The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Four on Four

four panelists share their take on four topics



Erik Broo
Senior, Finance Major



Vikas Vij
Senior,
Political Science Major



Don Haffner
Graduate Student, History



Kristina Borck
Senior, Psychology Major

In the Democratic Presidential primary election, it's feasible that neither candidate will reach the 2,025 delegates needed to win their party's nomination. In such a case, do you think if one candidate wins the popular vote and the majority of delegates, the other candidate should bow out of the race, or do you think the superdelegates should decide the outcome?

It's my understanding that the only reason there were superdelegates ... is because the powers back then could not trust the American public to make a vote. [It] kind of defeats the purpose of democracy.

I think superdelegates should decide. Otherwise, I think it could get messy if you go with the first one. It would be cleaner and easier.

I would like to see the person who got the most delegates from the election and caucuses become the candidate. But the Democratic Party has set up their structure and it's not for me to decide how they do it.

Maybe the superdelegates because a lot of the lower people actually have no idea what's going on, it seems like. Then again, I would want to see who these superdelegates were.

With the recent wave of campus shootings, do you feel safe at Oakland University?

Not as safe as I'd like. It can happen anywhere. I don't know what could be done aside from, and I'm not saying I support this, the teachers themselves having guns.

Yes and no, because this is Rochester Hills; nothing really does down over here. Looking at what has happened at other campuses, they're pretty safe and then some weirdo comes out of nowhere, shooting up the place.

Yes, but I feel safer when I am in my car. Even though there have been a couple campus shootings, the chances of being shot on campus are less than the chances of being in a car crash.

Yes, I do. No specific reasons. I know that the shootings were kind of random; I know they could happen at any school. But they are so rare that the chances of me getting caught up in one seems very small.

Do you think the university has made the right decisions regarding potential snow days recently?

I have to disagree with them. I have about a 25-mile drive to and from campus, so I have to deal with it. My car can handle it, but I understand that some people's can't.

Most people are commuters so I guess the roads are not clean all the time. I think it's more on the people. The university can't do anything about it, unless it's like 12 inches or a foot of snow, then I guess I would understand.

I think it would be better to close when there is a bad snow storm because most of the students here are commuting and it can be rather dangerous. There have been two Tuesday nights after class when I've had a difficult time getting home.

I remember driving home on a Tuesday night, and saying to myself "If I'm dead, what good is this degree?" as I was driving down a very snowy [road]. I hate snow driving and I was so upset that classes weren't canceled a few times this semester.

Do you think the New England Patriots' success since 2001 is at all tarnished as a result of the recent allegations that they illegally video taped their opponents?

As far as I'm concerned, yes. I've discredited their accomplishments a little bit. I've [followed] more of the public opinion of what happened. But from what I understand its been alleged since 2001, so this legacy of sorts that they've had, could have very well been based on cheating.

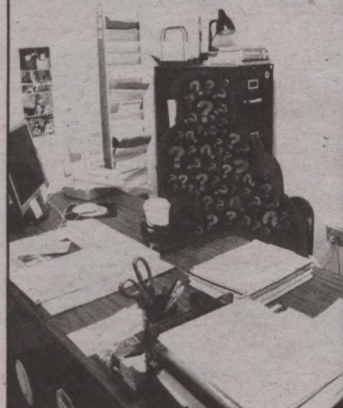
I think the Patriots, after loosing to the Giants, aren't going to have much hype this year.

No, that doesn't bother me. I used to live in Boston; I think it's whining by the other teams, personally.

It's the same as taking steroids. It's cheating. What's the point of a game like that? I can imagine their fans wouldn't want to go as much because it's like 'I rooted for this team, for the people that they were.'

The Oakland Post needs a boss.

Are you the one we're looking for?



**EDITOR
-IN-
CHIEF:**

The Oakland Post is looking for a student (any major) to manage the newspaper staff May 2008-09. To apply for the position, please submit your resume, writing clips and references to:

61 Oakland Center or oakposteditor@gmail.com
Attn. Kelly Kozlowski

All applicants must be enrolled through May 2009.
Position is paid with tuition reimbursement.

Student president hopefuls debate

By STEVE STAEGER
Senior Reporter

Football, \$4.8 million and campus life were major topics of discussion as the three candidates for next year's student body president faced off in a debate Monday in the Oakland Center.

Andrew Bashi, Steve Clark and Jordan Twardy answered questions posed by students, moderator Christine Stover and Oakland University Student Congress Elections Commission chair Joshua Miller.

When asked how OUSC needs improvement, all three candidates agreed that it needs to be a tool to improve campus life.

"We have 18,000 students, 48 major buildings, over 130 student organizations, and zero reason why we can't have any more events on campus," said Bashi.

Bashi said he thinks Oakland should offer students big events at least once a month, and if he had his way, it would be once a day.

By making campus more active, it would change the school's reputation, which is something that Clark thinks is direly needed.

"I want to make Oakland a place that's not like a JUCO (junior college), where people come for a year then transfer," Clark said.

Twardy thinks that OUSC should be a hub for student organizations to use resources and network with each other.

"Student orgs should be able to fund an event, plan an event and host an event in the same week," said Twardy. "That's how you increase campus life."

One of the proposed ways to increase campus life is the establishment of a football team. The candidates were asked if the university was lacking by not having a football team.

Each candidate felt that the university was lacking slightly, but a future football team is certainly not a lost cause.

Getting a football team is a step-by-step process that will take a long time, Clark said.

"In one year, will I be able to get a football team here as student body president? No," said Clark. He said that OUSC has to get the ball rolling on such a process, which may take many years.

Twardy agreed.

"My campaign is about laying the foundation so that when I'm done, the work will continue," said Twardy.

Twardy has already conducted a survey about OU getting a football team and said it was the most popular survey that OUSC ever conducted.

For Bashi, a football team is impossible until people are excited about other sports.

"There are great sports teams here that we don't capitalize on right now," said Bashi.

"We need to start getting people excited in the stuff we have now before we start investing millions," he added.

Speaking of millions, the candidates were also asked about the \$4.8 million deferred payment the university received from the state and is holding on to.

"Something needs to be done and I don't mean buying ice sculptures to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the university or a new OU Hummer," Twardy said.

But Bashi thinks that students demanding their money back may be a bit hasty.

"I want my check too, but if you think about it as an investment in our future, things start to change," said Bashi, who said that no matter his opinion he would do what the students wanted done.

Twardy already has experience on OUSC as a legislator and Student Services Director.

Clark was the captain of OU's soccer team and has lived both on and off campus.

Bashi is an Honors College student, who founded the Iraqi-American Student Alliance and is involved with many other campus groups.

Students can vote online starting March 24 through March 26.

Regina Carter to play with mentor at Varner



Photo courtesy of OU photo desk

Aside from receiving a Grammy nomination, Regina Carter is also the 206 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

World-renowned violinist and Oakland University alumnus Regina Carter will be performing this Friday at 8 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall with her former mentor Marvin "Doc" Holladay.

Carter became OU's artist-in-residence in the fall, and has since returned to campus to sit in with classes and pursue her own research in the therapeutic uses of music.

Carter took time out of her schedule to answer a few questions from The Oakland Post.

The Oakland Post: What impact did your time enrolled as a student at OU have on your career?

Regina Carter: The fact that OU was so close to Detroit was a definite plus. Several alums who lived in Detroit and surrounding areas would often come back to OU sitting in with the big band and doing some coaching.

We could zip down to the clubs in Detroit on jam session nights and put our practice to work.

Although OU was a large university, I always felt my professors in all the departments were in tune with their stu-

dents and very involved and approachable.

Post: How influential was Marvin "Doc" Holladay on your development as an artist?

Carter: Doc was extremely supportive of all of us. He would go to bat for us and the department in a minute.

He has a vast knowledge of many musical languages and their cultures and equipped us with that knowledge.

If there was a concert or restaurant that featured music or food from a culture we were studying, Doc would take us there so we were exposed to it first hand, so to speak.

It was evident he loved teaching and sharing information as much as he did performing.

Post: There have been so many highlights throughout your career, name one that particularly stands out?

Carter: I have been blessed with some incredible opportunities in my lifetime. I'd have to say though that performing with the late great bassist Ray Brown was an experience I'll always treasure.

He had many great stories from his days on the road playing with other greats and he also took time to make sure I had my finances in order. Mr. Brown was very much a father figure to all of the young musicians he invited on his stage.

Post: How are your studies in the therapeutic uses of music coming along?

Carter: It has taken me a while to get the ball rolling, but I'm very much enthralled with the information I'm digesting.

My perspective is very different now than from the time I attended OU in the '80s. "Living some" has its advantages.

Post: In your time as artist-in-residence, what are your impressions of the current music department at OU?

Carter: I sat in on a few classes during my first visit and it was encouraging to hear the level of musicianship of the students. Watching the professors pushing their students beyond their comfort levels also stirred some ideas in me.

Snow days are rare events at OU

By **RORY McCARTY**
Contributing Reporter

Oakland University has something of a reputation when it comes to closing school due to bad weather conditions. Or rather, not closing.

In a recent spate of sub-zero wind-chills, icy roads and snow-filled parking lots and pathways, Oakland has yet to close school this year due to severe weather conditions.

This is not unheard of for a university, but it's particularly relevant to the Oakland student body, which is made up of 87 percent commuters, according to the Peterson College Overview. On such days, it's the responsibility of the students to get to class regardless of how difficult the weather may make it.

Students have complained about difficulties in getting to and around campus, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the Facebook group, "OU Students Against The Apparent Prohibition of Snow Days." The group currently has over 800 members.

"There are times when OU doesn't even plow or salt the parking lots,

which would be the least they could do if we still endure the stretched out commute due to the weather," said Krissie Reardon, the group's creator. "Aside from getting into accidents, people can slip and fall on the unsalted ground."

Oakland University's official policy regarding closing school is to "remain open except under the most extreme conditions ... including, but not limited to, severe weather conditions, natural disasters, major utility failure, and public safety issues."

But when it comes to determining exactly what constitutes a "severe weather condition," the task falls to the Vice President of Finance and Administration, John Beaghan.

"I confer with OUPD and Facilities Management Department leadership to discuss the weather conditions," Beaghan said. "We then confer as a team to discuss the conditions and determine if the conditions warrant closure, taking into consideration that we live in Michigan and it's winter."

Some students like Alyssa Schneider, creator of another Facebook group protesting OU's snow day policy, have

argued that if all the schools in the surrounding area are closing then Oakland should be closed as well.

To this, Beaghan said that universities do not face the same problems that K-12 schools do, like school busses and children walking to their stops.

"OU is a schedule-driven university where some classes only meet 15 times in a semester," Beaghan said. "To cancel classes can be very disruptive to the students' and faculty's academic goals."

"Both the Chief of Police and I commute over 50 miles to campus and have a pretty clear understanding of the driving challenges, even on a clear, dry day," he added.

However, students still grapple with the problem of getting to class on inclement weather days or face the possibility of losing credit.

"I am a full-time college student, and simply cannot afford to waste money on tuition, books and gas, if I will ultimately fail a class because of weather-related absences," said Reardon.

The bad weather conditions can even prove a problem for non-commuters, with dangerous windchills and unsalted

walkways making it hard to get around campus.

However, Laura White, co-founder of Students Toward Understanding Disabilities, believes that the facilities management has improved efforts to keep paths clear.

"After we at STUD voiced our concerns the paths appear to be clear and easier to navigate," White said.

Other students, like junior Matthew Towers, believe that OU has done a fine job clearing snow and that it is better for the university to stay open as often as possible, to avoid losing lecture time at the end of the semester.

"Those districts that close with only one or two inches of snow are bullcrap," Towers said.

As for students still hoping for change to the policy, Reardon said the only thing they can do is contact Beaghan and voice their concerns.

"Sending these letters is really the most we can do, as students," Reardon said. "As more people send them, OU will hopefully find it harder to ignore the issue of student safety, and that is the most we can hope for at this point."

Center for Student Activities

CSA

49 Oakland Center, Rochester, MI 48309-4401
(248) 370-2400 • csa@oakland.edu • www.oakland.edu/csa

CSA Once [a] Month & Golden Key has teamed up:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Make Easter/Spring Baskets for Kids & Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches for the Homeless

Tuesday, March 18th

12PM - 1PM

Gold Rooms, OC

Baskets, small toys and candy are needed. Items can be brought to the event or dropped off in the CSA Office, 49 OC, this week.

CSA & Residence Life present:

SPRING into SOPHOMORE YEAR

Monday, March 24

12PM - 1:30PM

Vandenberg Cafeteria

Interactive & engaging community building event for first year students! Featuring speaker Dave Coleman (often known as the "dating doctor").

Contact Jean Szura at mick@oakland.edu for more information.

Student Activities & Leadership Award Nominations

DEADLINE

Friday, March 21st

Nomination forms are available online at www.oakland.edu/csa

Looking for \$SCHOLAR\$HIP\$?

Applications available online at www.oakland.edu/csa

Completed Applications due Friday, March 21st!

Upcoming... Women's History Month EVENTS!

Woman Policymaker/ Voter: A Distinction w/ a Difference

TODAY

12PM - 1PM

Fireside Lounge, OC

Political Voices From the Street: Countdown to March

Thursday, March 13

7:30PM

Fireside Lounge, OC

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Phinding OU's Mr. Right

King of the 'jungle' must have substance as well as charm

By NICK DEGEL
Campus Editor

Outstanding Oakland University men who understand the importance of campus-wide involvement are needed to take part in one of the university's most popular events.

The Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority will present the "Mr. PhiSignificant Male Charm Pageant" Friday at 7:30 p.m., in 201 Dodge Hall.

The annual event has been voted the best on campus event six years in a row, and is always a big draw for OU students and faculty.

"It's such a dynamic event; there's really nothing else like it [on campus]," said Phi Sigma Sigma Vice President Jamie Boyce. "Every year we draw more people

than we can fit in the room."

Men participating in the pageant are judged in three rounds: spirit wear, formal wear and jungle wear, as this year's theme is "Welcome to the Jungle."

However, Mr. PhiSignificant will not be judged on looks alone. Each participant is asked to answer a series of questions upon signing up, and a question-and-answer round will play a major role in the outcome of the competition.

"We define ourselves as very involved on campus and we expect that our Mr. PhiSignificant shares those same qualities," Boyce said.

Participation in the event is not isolated to just Greek organizations, but to all male students, campus wide, who feel they have the qualities necessary to be Mr. PhiSignificant.

"Campus involvement is a big thing for us," said the event chair Amy Maczko. "It's important not just to have Greek involvement but to bring everyone on campus together for the event."

Some students already in the running for the role of Mr. PhiSignificant include Jordan Twardy, Danny Beola and members of both the baseball and swim teams. There is even a chance that members of the basketball team could be involved.

Men hoping to participate in the event have until Thursday to fill out an application. You can claim one by emailing Mazcko at armazcko@oakland.edu.

The event is accompanied by a bake sale from which proceeds will benefit the National Kidney Foundation, Phi Sigma Sigma's national philanthropy.

To spice up this year's event, Xpressiv B.T.Z. will perform at intermission.

"We're always looking for ways to make [the event] more entertaining," said junior communication major Jamie Wilson.

The event is judged by a distinguished panel, including: CSA director Jean Ann Miller, student president Rob Meyer, last year's Mr. PhiSignificant Chris Cerrini and two former Phi Sigma presidents.

The pageant will conclude with a rose ceremony before choosing the 2008 winner.

"It's supposed to be an entertaining event," Boyce said. "We try not to make it just a beauty pageant or fashion show but rather a campus-wide, fun night."

This week in OU history

5 years ago

War teach-in draws campus community

Several hundred students, alumni and concerned citizens attended a "teach-in" to educate the community about the ongoing crisis in Iraq. A decided anti-war slant tempered the gathering. Congressional Budget Office estimates said a potential war would cost \$6-9 billion a month. (BBC estimates put the current war cost at \$845 billion)

25 years ago

Students stage protest

Students staged a "sleep-in" in front of the provost's office to protest the psychology department offices and labs moving into residence halls on campus. The students brought sleeping bags, food and TVs and camped out in the hallways of O'Dowd Hall. Two students dressed in rat suits to highlight the fact that rat laboratories would be included in the move.

30 years ago

New clinical animal lab

The Center for Health Sciences, in conjunction with area hospitals, opened a new animal lab, designed for research on large animals, such as dogs. The lab would go on to be utilized by the Eye Research Institute for ground breaking research.

-Information taken from archived issues of The Oakland Post
-Compiled by Adam Roberts, Senior Reporter

Are you looking for a life-long, committed relationship?
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Students for Life at Oakland University

Is proud to host a special talk and open discussion with...

Dawn Eden

"The Thrill of the Chaste"

Dawn Eden is a renowned former editor at both the *New York Daily News* and the *New York Post*, and her writings have found their way into newspapers around the country such as *The Wall Street Journal* and even *The Sunday Times* of London. Through sharing her personal experience, Dawn will explore how to embrace a life of chastity. Dawn Eden is the author of *The Thrill of the Chaste: Finding Fulfillment While Keeping Your Clothes On*.

After the talk, all are welcome to participate in an open discussion with Dawn. For more information on Dawn, see www.dawneden.com.

This event is free and open to all, and as always with SFL, a free lunch is provided for those who attend the talk!

Thursday, March 13th, 12-2 pm
In the Fireside Lounge



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post
(Above) A StarCon enthusiast shows off her custom portrait drawn by Mechanical Rose.

(Left) Con Chair Chris Duemling and fellow gamers enjoy a new game to StarCon: "Bureau 13." The game pits human, aliens and dinosaurs against each other in street level battle.

StarCon '08

By NICK DEGEL
Campus Editor

Gamers of all ages and genres gathered at the Gaming Guild's StarCon '08 convention to sample new games and check out local vendors.

The event played host to two game developers: Michael Marcus from Hamtramck Idea Men and Rich Tucholka from Tri Tac Games.

The convention is a long-running event at OU, with the first one taking place in 1975.

"It was a pretty good turnout, better than last year," said Chris Duemling, one of the events orga-

nizers.

StarCon '08 featured a room specifically for video games while other areas were reserved for various board and role-play games.

One of the highlights was a board game created by Tucholka called "Bureau 13," which included a miniature city as the battleground between government agents and dinosaurs.

StarCon '08 is one of three annual conventions presented by the Gaming Guild. The other events are MichiCon, to take place the second week in June, and WinterCon, to take place the second week in December.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

(Left) In normal "Dungeons & Dragons" play, seven types of dice are used for simple maneuvers and abilities during game play.

(Below) Gamer Nick Hornack plays as his character, Lord Hawthorne, in Descent, one of the many games at the conference. The game consists of an overlord that controls armies of demons.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

John Bowen, of BowenDragon1.com showcases some of his products including Dungeons & Dragons manuals, dice and guides, along with custom T-shirts and apparel. "The new rules of D & D allow you to build your own character from scratch, which was not possible in the old version of the game," Bowen said.



OU student's book is published

By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Scene and Mix Editor

After about a year and a half of researching the history of the RTS Transit Bus, junior journalism major Evan McCausland's book "Rapid Transit Series Buses: General Motors and Beyond" will be published May 15, 2008.

"The bus was relatively radical in terms of its launch but it's proven to be a staple of the industry and nobody's done the history of it, so I decided to start bridging the links together and put together a history of all 40 years of it's production," McCausland said.

The book is mostly recollections of the history of the RTS Transit Bus but also includes a chapter of a recent change in the industry, when a company called Millennium Transit Services tried launching the manufacturing of



Photo courtesy of Evan McCausland
OU Journalism major Evan McCausland's book on the RTS Transit Bus will be published May 15. McCausland credits hours of research, timing and a little bit of luck to his ability to track down vital information used in the writing of the book.

the buses in 2006 and production was stalled.

"It transgressed from collecting historical information, interviewing and making sure it was all accurate but also trying to report on something that was semi-breaking at the time," McCausland

said.

Day in and day out, McCausland spent time researching the history of the bus at Kresge Library, the Detroit Public Library and interviewing people in the industry who knew about the history.

After organizing his notes and grouping his thoughts together, McCausland said the writing process came in bursts.

"I found myself up late on a Friday night just randomly typing," he said.

Although the balance of writing a book and keeping up with his school work may have been challenge, he said, "I think it was a good thing to do this book now because the company was spiraling into a questionable future and I think if I did it any later, I probably wouldn't have any response from them."

Oakland Post Web Exclusives

■ Check out some of the student written plays to be performed this weekend at the Varner Lab Theatre

■ Three offices, one official. Find out the new position created at OU and who has been chosen to fill it.

Remember to check the Web regularly for new articles only online at:

www.oaklandpostonline.com



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61 Oakland Center
Attn. Kelly Kozlowski

or

oakposteditor@gmail.com

All applicants must be enrolled through May 2009.

Kwame pleads for unity, lashes out against media

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick lashed out at his opponents and the news media Tuesday night, accusing them of showing a “lynch mob mentality” in the aftermath of the scandal over his exchange of sexually explicit text messages with a former top aide.

It happened as he finished reading the written text released before his State of the City address, which had only a brief allusion to the text-message controversy.

The case has led to a criminal probe of whether Kilpatrick lied under oath when he denied the affair with former Chief of Staff Christine Beatty, revealed in numerous text messages.

“In the past 30 days, I’ve been called a nigga more than anytime in my entire life,” Kilpatrick said. “In the past three days, I’ve received more death threats than I have in my entire administration.

“I’ve heard these words before, but I’ve never heard people say them about my wife and children,” he continued, his voice rising as he wagged his fingers and gestured with his arms. “I don’t believe that a Nielsen rating is worth the life of my children or your children. This unethical, illegal, lynch mob mentality has to stop.”

The angry tone was a sharp contrast to his earlier remarks in what was Kilpatrick’s seventh State of the City address Tuesday to what he called a “transformed Detroit.”

He promoted an economic stimulus package, promised improved public safety and the creation of new jobs.

“In the daily press of events, in the midst of foreclosures, joblessness, Iraq and Afghanistan, presidential politics, hatred and racism, and even the Kwame Kilpatrick roller coaster ride, sometimes we may not see our own time for what it truly is,” Kilpatrick said in prepared remarks. “Tonight, we are at the dawn of a new, transformed Detroit.”

The City Council is expected to consider a resolution next week calling for the mayor to resign, but Kilpatrick called for city leaders to work together.

He said future mayors “will remember this as a time when we thought not only about us, but about the future — a time that we put aside divisions and found a new hour of healing and hopefulness in which we joined together to transform the city that we all love.”

Kilpatrick and Beatty denied under oath during a whistle-blowers’ trial last summer that they had a romantic relationship. The text messages from 2002 and 2003, released by the Detroit Free Press in January, contradict those statements, leading to a scandal that has embroiled the mayor’s office and forced Beatty to step down.

The lawsuit, which eventually cost taxpayers \$8.4 million, was filed by two former Detroit police officers who said they were fired or forced to resign for investigating claims that Kilpatrick used his security unit to cover up extramarital affairs.

Before the speech began, about 60 members of Detroit municipal unions picketed outside, urging his resignation or ouster.

They carried signs with messages that included, “fire the mayor” and “Kwame must go.” The protesters cited the text message scandal, as well as public worker layoffs.

The bulk of Kilpatrick’s 15-page address focused on the future of the city, not his personal problems. Among the proposals he introduced is a plan for a public works and economic stimulus package.

The city hopes to sell between \$300 million and \$330 million in bonds to pay for improvements to police, fire, recreation and other city departments, and continued demolition of vacant structures. Plans are to go to the bond market in May if it’s approved by the City Council and bond rating agencies.

About \$29 million a year from Detroit’s casino wagering tax revenues would be used to pay off the bonds. The wagering taxes this year are estimated at \$197 million, Kilpatrick said.

“By taking a small portion of this relatively new tax and investing it in our future we will shore up our infrastructure and have a tremendous impact throughout this city,” he said. “The deferred maintenance of our police stations, fire stations, rec centers,

crumbling streets and other crumbling facilities can no longer be addressed in a piecemeal way. Let’s get together. Let’s get it done.”

The bonds would be issued by the city’s Economic Development Corp., Deputy Mayor Anthony Adams said Tuesday.

“We’re hopeful and optimistic the City Council will go for it,” Adams told The Associated Press. “It brings work to the city. We’ll be hiring contractors and architects dedicated and committed to making sure Detroiters are employed.”

Kilpatrick’s plan calls for building a new police district headquarters on the city’s east side and construction of two new fire stations.

Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings also has been directed to start a recruiting plan to hire more than 300 officers this year. Kilpatrick also wants the process for entry to the Police Academy to be shortened from as long as a year to 13 weeks.

Kilpatrick addressed Detroit’s improved bond rating, cost-saving efforts that include a reduced city payroll and changes in health care benefits to employees, and continued development of downtown and the city’s riverfront.

“Tonight, no one is talking about insolvency. Tonight, no one is talking about bankruptcy. Tonight, no one is talking about receivership,” he said. “So we have come a long way in six short years. But, like all urban areas, we still have our challenges. Our job is to face up to those challenges with vision and courage.”

Kilpatrick closed the address with an appeal for cooperation at a time when city government appears to be in turmoil.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy is expected later this week to decide if she will pursue perjury charges against Kilpatrick and Beatty.

“The challenge for all of us in public office is to rise above our differences — to rise above our human frailties — and maintain our focus on working together to move this city forward,” he said. “At this moment in our history, we must turn to each other, and not on each other.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cell phone users to pay fees for emergency 911 calls

LANSING, Mich. (AP) Cell phone bills are going up in much of Michigan this July. State regulators on Tuesday approved 911 surcharges in 68 counties. Proposed surcharges in 46 of the counties were lowered before gaining final approval. The action is the result of a new state law that allows counties to charge 911 fees to cell phone users. Counties previously could impose a monthly 911 fee only on landline bills, which critics said unfairly shouldered those users with paying for emergency systems while cell phone use drastically increased. Cell users will pay 911 surcharges ranging from 18 cents to \$2.51 per month, depending on where they live.

—DAVE EGGERT

Females prisoners to relocate

LANSING, Mich. (AP) The state says it plans to close a female prison located in suburban Detroit. The Robert Scott Correctional Facility in Wayne County’s Plymouth Township will close in May 2009. It has been open since 1991. State officials say closing the facility will save \$12 million next budget year and \$36 million the year after that. Female prisoners at Scott will be transferred to the Huron Valley Complex in Ypsilanti. The Michigan Department of Corrections made the announcement on Tuesday. Scott is a reception center for women entering the system, and it also houses minimum-, medium- and maximum-security female prisoners.

Drunk driver charged with murder

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. (AP) A 72-year-old Warren man will stand trial in Macomb County on two counts of second-degree murder. The charges stem from an alleged drunken driving crash that killed an elderly Clinton Township man and his daughter as they were leaving church in November. Harold Lowe is accused of hitting a vehicle occupied by 58-year-old Cassandra Kiepke and her 82-year-old father, Galen Kiepke. Police say Lowe’s blood-alcohol level was more than three times the legal limit when his SUV broadsided Kiepke’s vehicle. Lowe’s lawyer, Randy Rodnick, doesn’t dispute his client was drinking, but says he believes Kiepke was at fault for pulling out in front of Lowe.

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cooley.edu

Bill would give medical history to adoptees

By **TIM MARTIN**
Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. — Some adopted children would be able to get information about their biological family's medical history and possibly copies of their original birth certificates when they become adults under bills that soon could be voted on in the Michigan House.

Rep. Lisa Wojno, a Democrat from Warren and sponsor of the bill, says the legislation is aimed at helping adoptees learn more about their health prospects. She said the legislation could be a tool to help people learn whether they are at higher risk for cancer, hereditary diseases or other illnesses.

"Without that information, it puts their health and their children's health at risk," Wojno said.

The bill is undergoing some revisions but could be ready for a vote later this month. The changes under discussion could help ease concerns about privacy rights for biological parents.

Michigan law allows some adopted individuals to get birth certificates once they become adults. But for those adopted between May 1945 and September 1980, a copy of the original birth certificate showing the names of biological parents is available only with a court order. Otherwise, the documents are sealed.

Denise Lindeman of Center Line told a House committee that the bill is needed to provide parity in Michigan adoption law. Lindeman was adopted, but as an adult has been reunited with her birth mother.

The House bill as originally written would allow adoptees 21 and older to apply for a copy of their original birth certificate regardless of when they were adopted. A birth parent of an adopted individual could file a form with the state indicating whether they want to be contacted by the child they gave up for adoption.

Birth parents also would have the option to file an updated medical history form with the state, which would be available to the adoptee regardless of whether the parent wants to be contacted.

Another option under consideration during a revision of the bill would allow adoptees to obtain a health history without getting a copy of the original birth certificate. That provision is aimed at alleviating concerns the bill would violate confidentiality promises made to birth parents years ago.

Ed Rivet, legislative affairs director for Right to Life of Michigan, said the bill could be drafted to ask biological parents to provide a health history at the time of the adoption placement. That could provide vital health information right away, rather than requiring adopted children to wait until they become adults.

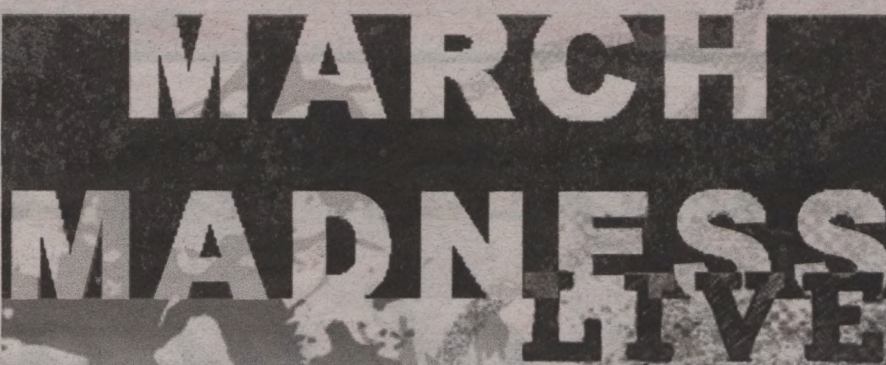
That option also would protect confidentiality, allowing closed-record adoptions in some cases.

"We need to leave that option available, even though it's a small segment," Rivet said.

There are more than 2,500 adoption placements in Michigan each year.

The adoption records bill is House Bill 4896.

OU Residence Halls



OU Idol Competition

Vandenberg Café | March 5 @ 8 p.m.

Un-birthday Bash

Hamlin Lounge | March 6 @ 8 p.m.

Leadership Experience

Pioneer Room | March 8 @ 10:30 a.m.

Academia Mania

Vandenberg Café | March 10 @ 11:30 a.m.

Midnight Breakfast

Vandenberg Café | March 11 @ 10:30 p.m.

Caricatures for Dinner

Vandenberg Café | March 12 @ 5 p.m.

FNL-Hypnotist Ron Jeffreys

Vandenberg Café | March 14 @ 7 p.m.

Siblings Weekend

Residence Halls | March 14-15

Housing Carnival-Room Assignment

Vandenberg Lounge | March 19 @ 8 a.m.

Dave Coleman

Vandenberg Café | March 24 @ Noon

Are you living on campus next year?

Take a digital coffee break

Check out more news at
www.oaklandpostonline.com

If you had the ability to play any sport, what would it be?

"Hockey. It's an overall great sport. It's the most fulfilling and I play it now."

Nick Shagena
Senior, Chemistry



"Basketball, because it's one of those sports that everyone is familiar with. Most of the players are tall and it would be nice to be tall for once."

Megan Gapczynski
Freshman,
Elementary Education



"I would choose volleyball because it is a mental sport and my favorite part is serving, and it's a team of girls."

Zakya Montgomery
Sophomore, Pre-Physical Therapy



"Soccer, because it's a full sport."

Ashleigh Charles
Graduate,
Masters of Art in Counseling



Remembering childhood play

What's one sport you played as a child and gave up, but wished you still played?



"I would run track because I used to when I was in middle school and Oakland has a good track team."

Shakara Lewis
Freshman, Nursing

"Volleyball. It was something I liked to do. It was a lot of fun. I met a lot of good people and it kept me in shape."

Laura Spangler
Freshman, Undecided



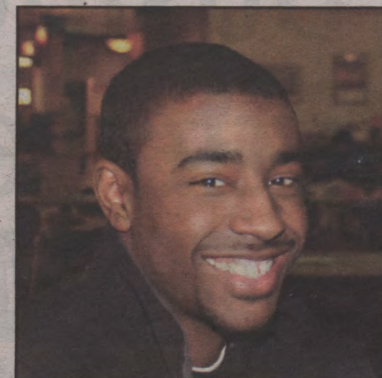
Loving on Detroit sports

What is your favorite local sporting venue?



"Michigan State Fair Ground Ice Arena."

Nick Myziuk
Senior, Math



"The Palace of Auburn Hills is a nice place."

Reese Robinson
Sophomore, Information Technology

Classifieds

Employment

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The Scene

March 12, 2008

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17

Passionate about pottery

C.A.S. provides opportunity to create your own masterpiece



Left, the Creative Arts Studio in Royal Oak has a mosaic selection for customers to choose from. Right, the studio has over 100 pieces of pottery to paint including kitchenware, glassware, vases and figurines.

By **STACIE L. BARTMAN**
Staff Intern

From piggy banks to pasta bowls, the Creative Arts Studio is an escape to an imaginative and artistic adventure for college students.

At the studio in Royal Oak, you can paint pottery or create artwork to give as a gift or keep for display in your home.

The studio offers activities including pottery painting, wheel-throwing, mosaics, glass fusing and beading, to name just a few.

The pottery is pre-made and shelved in categories such as kitchen dishes and glassware, vases, figurines and pet food bowls. With over 100 pieces to choose from you're sure to find something that captivates your creative side.

There is an \$8 studio fee and prices for pottery can range from \$3 to \$85 depend-

ing on the piece selected.

Once you have made your selection, it's time to start painting. Paint, brushes and sponges are all supplied by the studio. With every color imaginable to choose from, your pottery is sure to be a one-of-a-kind masterpiece, created exclusively by you.

"Leave yourself one and a half to two hours. Your going to get into your project, so allow yourself time," said Joe Shields, the studio manager.

Painting pottery can be enjoyed by anyone at any skill level or age and staff members will help you if needed.

Your masterpiece can be picked up one week after you have finished painting it. The studio will glaze and fire your pottery for you.

Kitchen pottery, utensils and glassware are safe to serve food on after they have been glazed and fired.

The studio has walk-in hours during the week, while workshops for beginning to advanced levels are also available.

Workshops are also offered for mosaic art. You can make a mirror, teapot or indulge your imaginative side and design a 16" or 19" diameter table.

The wheel-throwing workshop includes two sessions. Each is two hours long and includes hand-building with clay where you can create four projects using texture pads, stamps and sprigs or hump molds. Creative Arts also offer glass fusing and slumping, beading and precious metal clay jewelry.

Shields said the studio has a private room that can be reserved for team-building, girls' night, or just an excuse to get together with friends and be artistic.

Although the studio does not provide food or beverages, guests are allowed to have food catered or bring their own

refreshments.

Creative Art Studio is open Monday-Tuesday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.; and Sunday noon – 7 p.m. (Note: Saturday night is adults-only, from 6 p.m. until close.)

Reservations are not needed unless you're signing up for a class, renting out the event room or coming in with a larger group for a special event. If you're making a reservation, there is a \$25 non-refundable deposit that is put toward the total price of the party.

"It's something really fun at any level for all ages and all experience levels," Shield said. "Come make a day of it."

Creative Arts Studio is located at 114 W. 4th Street in Royal Oak.

For more information call 544-2234 or visit www.creativeartstudios.com.

Thrills of Broadway without traveling to NYC

By KATIE JACOB
Contributing Reporter

An evening at the theater might be a stretch for cash-strapped college students, but three Broadway musical hits are coming to Detroit and you might want to check them out.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

This groundbreaking theatrical masterpiece by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice will be opening at the Fox Theater at 7:30 p.m. on March 14.

Jesus Christ Superstar is the rock opera vision of "the greatest show on earth" — the final seven days of the life of Jesus of Christ.

Golden Globe-nominated actor, Ted Neely stars as Jesus, while Grammy-winning artist Corey Glover portrays Judas.

Neely was nominated for his role of Jesus in the Norman Jewison film adaptation of the musical, while Glover is the lead singer for multi-platinum selling rock band, Living Color.

Additional performances will be at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Mar. 15, and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, Mar. 16.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.olympiaentertainment.com, at any Ticketmaster outlet or in person at the Fox Theater or Joe Louis Arena box office.

The ticket prices are \$27-\$69 for evening performances and \$22-\$62 for matinees.

URINETOWN - THE MUSICAL

Following its debut at the New York International Fringe Festival, the Tony Award-winning musical opened on Broadway shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Despite the difficult circumstances, this "darkly hilarious musical satire" enjoyed a terrific run through January 2004, closing after 25 previews and 965 performances.

Described as "fresh, unique, original, impudent, colorful, irreverent, surprising and wonderful" by Rex Reed of the New York Observer, the show is the slightly absurd story of a hero and heroine who lead a revolution against the corrupt Urine Good Company, Inc. which, after a devastating drought, controls all of the town's toilets. Lawbreakers who refuse to "pay to pee" are sent to the penal colony,

"Urinetown."

The Stagecrafters production will be playing at the Baldwin Theater in Royal Oak from March 28-30, April 3-6 and April 10-13. Evening performances will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and matinees will start at 2 p.m. on Sundays.

Tickets are \$16-\$18 and can be purchased at the Baldwin Theater ticket office on 415 S. Lafayette Ave. in Royal Oak.

THE COLOR PURPLE

Presented by Oprah Winfrey, The Color Purple is the musical adaptation of the highly acclaimed novel by Alice Walker. The musical tells the story of four black women in rural Georgia in the early 1900s whose lives intertwine over four decades as they struggle to find self-esteem against the odds of dealing with poverty, racial inequality and sexual abuse along the way.



Photo courtesy of Olympia Entertainment
Members of the cast of The Color Purple during a performance.

The Color Purple, whose characters will be recognizable to moviegoers familiar with the 1985 film version by Steven Spielberg, stars Jeanette Bayardelle as Celie, Felicia Fields as Sofia and Michele Williams as Shug Avery.

The show will be playing at the Fox Theater from May 20 to June 1. Ticket prices range from \$39.75 to \$79. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.olympiaentertainment.com or at any Ticketmaster outlet.

Empowering sadness

REVIEW

By OLIVIA OLSON
Contributing Reporter

Indie folk singer Bon Iver's debut album "For Emma, Forever Ago" is, at times, very sad — heart-wrenchingly, mind-blowingly, tear-jerkingly sad. The kind of sad that makes sunshine seem ironic and pop music seem like a creepy carnival song in comparison.

This kind of sad doesn't always make for a successful album.

The dark and maudlin can quickly become overbearing and oppressive, and pessimism and self-pity have long ceased to be original themes.

But "For Emma," in this way and many others, defies such expectations. The music is calm but not complacent, which allows the album to mark the difference between sorrow and depression.

The life of the album can be partially attributed to Bon Iver, the stage name of Justin Vernon, and his unusual production decisions. Vernon chose to create the album one winter while living in Kerouacian solitude at his father's secluded Wisconsin cabin. As is so often the case with music made under restricted circumstances, the artist's resourcefulness was employed to create

wholly original compositions.

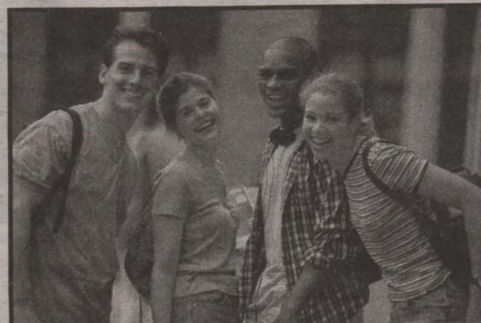
The lyrics are largely incomprehensible. But, like any well-played instrument, Vernon's thin yet soulful falsetto speaks fluently the language of emotion in music and needs no translation to make its message known.

"The Wolves (Act I & II)" is a hushed and dynamic track that reveals best the amount of control Vernon wields over his compositions. Never rushed or overdone, the quiet harmonies cut through the air like flakes of snow.

The unusual vocals are paired with the warmer and well-known strumming of the acoustic guitar, encouraging each other into an impressive crescendo that mimics the sounds of war, battling against the onset of regret while repeating the phrase, "What might've been lost don't bother me."

The more mellow "Re: Stacks" never becomes dull due to its unpredictability. The narrative lyrics are delivered with remarkable stoicism; even the line, "You're drunk as hell" is granted some kind of poetic dignity when delivered in Vernon's quiet croon.

Bon Iver mixes the strange and the familiar to create experimental music that is never atonal or displeasing, but perfectly listenable and downright beautiful. Whoever Emma is, she should be proud to have inspired such a worthy ode.



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HILL TOO MUCH TO OVERCOME

IUPUI's George Hill sends OU home with a 32-point effort in Summit League semifinal

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

TULSA, Okla. — Just one week before the Summit League Championship Tournament, the Oakland University men's basketball team received a crushing blow. Senior guard Brandon Cassise's career as a Grizzly was over after he violated his probation.

OU would be without a clutch perimeter player and would be handing the reigns of senior leadership to Patrick McCloskey, the only remaining Golden Grizzly with a conference championship ring from 2005.

Despite the setback, Oakland showed little fear as they easily attacked the basket against sixth-seeded Western Illinois University, en route to a 80-66 victory in Sunday's quarterfinal game.

The win set up a match up with IUPUI, who came into the game with a 25-6 record, and its star NBA prospect, George Hill.

Scoring 32 points, two shy of his career high, Hill led the second-seeded Jaguars to an 80-65 routing of the Golden Grizzlies.

Despite Nelson and Jones scoring 11 points each in the first half, it was not enough to overcome the single-digit bumps in the first half, thanks in part to Hill's 16 first half points.

At the half, OU found itself trailing by only four points, after Kangas' last 3-pointer.

The second half started out with promise for Oakland, with freshman Tim Williams, who started in the absence of Cassise, scoring a quick layup out of the gate to cut IUPUI's lead to two points, 37-35.



TIM RATH/The Oakland Post
Oakland freshman Tim Williams (33) and sophomore Johnathon Jones (23) have a look of concern during the Summit League Tournament. Oakland fell to IUPUI in the semifinals Monday night and end the season with a 17-14 record.

Cassise sorely missed in the clutch

COLUMN

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

TULSA, Okla. — To be a clutch player is to be a vital asset to any roster. Such a player doesn't have to consistently put up double-digit points or even have to be a starter. A clutch player is one who can enter a game, make his presence known and come through when the going gets tough.

The Golden Grizzlies were truly missing a clutch player in Brandon Cassise during the 2008 Summit League Championship Tournament.

Removed from the team after violating probation, Cassise was unable to travel to Tulsa, Okla., and left his teammates without a second senior to lead the charge.

In OU's quarterfinal game against Western Illinois University, the Golden Grizzlies were barely challenged defensively on the perimeter, giving all in attendance a ticket to the Erik Kangas show as he nailed six 3-pointers, five of them coming in the second half.

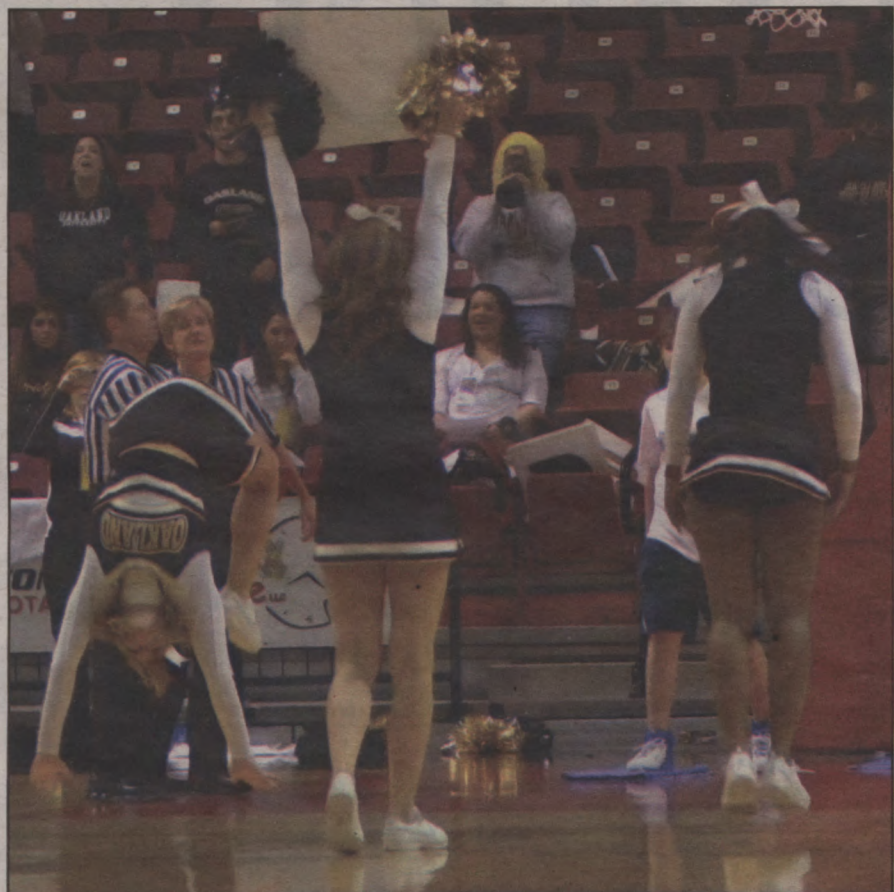
Kangas has been streaky all season long. After breaking his collarbone in the regular season opener and battling the repercussions of the injury as the months progressed, he was not up to

See MEN'S HOOPS on Page 21

See CASSISE on Page 21

In the midst of the madness

Scenes from the Summit League Tournament in Tulsa, Okla.



The Oakland University Cheerleaders keep the crowd entertained during a time out.



The Golden Grizzly Pep Band filled the John Q. Hammons arena with music at the tournament.

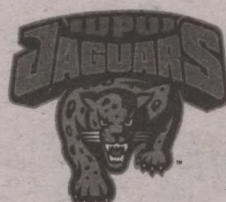


A fan proudly displays a Golden Grizzly banner.



The Grizz emerged from hibernation and made the 952-mile trip down to Tulsa, Okla. to cheer on the basketball teams.

Photos by: SAMANTHA FRANZ/The Oakland Post



80

SUMMIT LEAGUE TOURNAMENT SEMIFINAL



65



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post file photo
Cassise, seen here earlier in the season, did not make the trip to Tulsa, Okla.

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CASSISE

his preseason Summit League first team selection form.

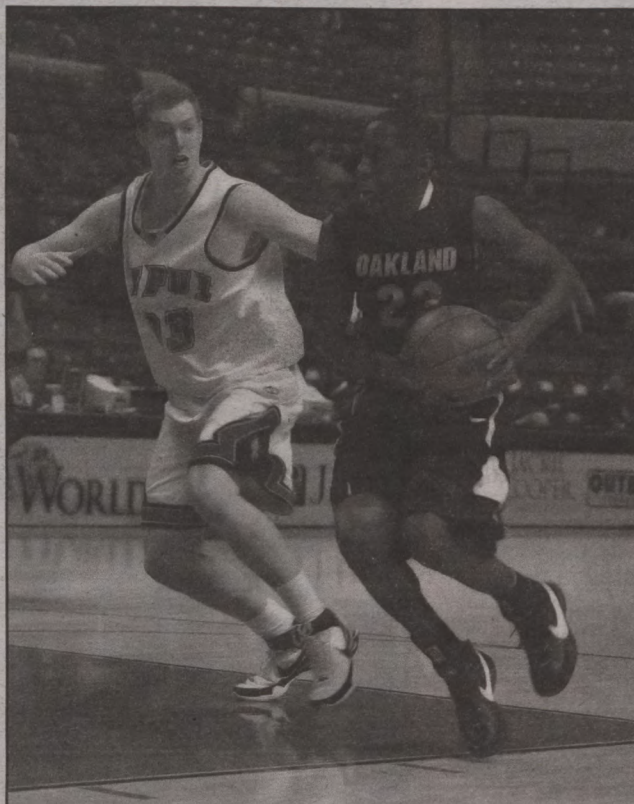
In the tournament, Cassise would have definitely come in handy. On nights where Kangas wasn't shooting double-digit 3-pointers, Cassise would come through in the clutch during big games and give the Golden Grizzlies the spark they needed.

This was evident in several games this season. When the Golden Grizzlies traveled to the Breslin Center to play the then-10th-ranked Michigan State University Spartans in November, the team was without Kangas. However, Cassie stepped up, sinking five 3-pointers in the near-upset. He also nailed a clutch three-point play against the then-23rd-ranked Oregon University to bring the Golden Grizzlies within one point, which lead to an upset victory and the program's first win over a top-25 team.

Sadly, the Golden Grizzlies did not have Cassise's services this year in Tulsa. With George Hill having his way with OU, scoring 32 points, a player with the experience and momentum building abilities like Cassise could have shifted the outcome of OU's run in the tournament.

"The biggest problem for us is that we lack another shooter out there," head coach Greg Kampe said after the 80-65 loss to IUPUI in the semi-final round. "They really took Kangas away and we're not a good jump shooting team. We're slashers and you need a second jump shooter to play against a defense that packs it in."

With Cassise's career as a Golden Grizzly over, here's hoping another player will emerge from the roster next season as a clutch performer.



TIM RATH/The Oakland Post
Johnathon Jones (23) gets positioning on Austin Montgomery of IUPUI. Jones ended the game with 18 points and six assists in the 80-65 loss in the semifinals.

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MEN'S HOOPS

But the momentum would not last long, as the Jags went on an 8-1 run that put them ahead by nine, 45-36, just one minute later.

While OU battled back to a five-point deficit, 64-59, with six minutes to go, a 3-pointer by Hill buried the Golden Grizzlies in a double-digit hole for good. With 2:40 remaining in the half, it was too much ground to cover for OU, and they watched IUPUI walk away with their dreams of a conference championship game with a score of 80-65.

The Golden Grizzlies slipped on the defensive end, being out-rebounded on the defensive glass, 28-18 and allowing the Jags to shoot 53 percent for the game.

"We just didn't make plays on defense like we normally do," Jones said. "We gave up easy shots and just didn't rotate to the players."

To rub salt on the wound, the Golden Grizzlies received next to no help from

their bench. The four substitutes, senior Patrick McCloskey, junior Shane Lawal and freshmen Peter Bunn and Will Hudson, contributed zero points and only two rebounds.

Missing from the tournament lineup was redshirt freshman Keith Benson, who rode the bench in OU's two games at the UMAC.

"You win a championship with defense and he's not good enough defensively," Kampe said of Benson. "We played him a ton this year. He's a freshman and a very good player. But we came here to win and I don't think the way he defends was good enough for us to win."

Despite the set-back, the Golden Grizzlies showed little fear as they easily attacked the basket against sixth-seeded Western Illinois University in Sunday's quarterfinal game en route to an 80-66 victory.

OU's victory against Western Illinois marked the first time since 2000 that a third seed defeated a sixth seed in the quarterfinal round of play at the conference tournament.

The Grizzlies helped their own cause,



TIM RATH/The Oakland Post
OU junior Derick Nelson drives the lane on Western Illinois University Sunday night in the quarterfinals of the Summit League tournament. Nelson netted 17 points and added nine rebounds in the Golden Grizzlies lone win in the tournament.

hitting a tournament record 35 of 55 free throws.

"I was very, very concerned about this game because we don't have seniors and they do," head coach Greg Kampe said. "I think that any time you go into a tournament and you've got seniors who are playing, that's it for them. It concerned me a great deal."

Kampe had little cause for concern. The Golden Grizzlies never gave up the lead and riding on the back of Kangas' six 3-pointers, the Golden Grizzlies showed little struggle in the 14-point win.

"I just knew that I wasn't going to stop shooting," Kangas said. "My coach has confidence in me to tell me to shoot no matter what. I was struggling a little bit, but I definitely, in my mind, knew the next one is going in no matter what."

Kangas led the way for Oakland with 26 points. Nelson finished with 17 points and nine rebounds. Sophomore Johnathon Jones scored 14 and junior Dan Waterstradt contributed 10 points. Senior Patrick McCloskey added nine rebounds off the bench.

Lady Grizzlies ousted by Golden Eagles

Women's team falls short to ORU for second straight season

By **TIM RATH**
Contributing Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Same time, next year? The Oakland University women's basketball team fell to Oral Roberts 71-61 in the semifinals of the Summit League Championship Tournament Monday, but head coach Beckie Francis is already looking forward to her next encounter with ORU's head coach Jerry Finkbeiner.

"We just love having these games," she said of Finkbeiner. "[Oakland] is coming back next year and we hope to even it out. We have our whole team back, he has his whole team back."

Oral Roberts, who was the No. 4-ranked team in the tournament, established control of the tempo early on when they turned OU turnovers into three-pointers. The Grizzlies totaled 20 turnovers for the game, which lead to 26 Oral Roberts points.

The Golden Eagles secured a 17-point lead with 5:05 left to play in the first half, and managed the same advantage until 1:46 remained.

The Grizzlies then went on a 7-0 run, capped by a three-pointer by junior guard Jessica Pike with seven seconds left in the first half to trim the lead to 10 points.

OU left halftime inspired and quickly trimmed the lead to six just two minutes into the half after a three-point play from freshman forward Brittany Carnago.

However, Oral Roberts once again managed to clamp down on defense and convert mistakes into three-pointers, culminating with a Jenae Voelker jump shot to extend the lead to 16 with 14:32 left to play.

Oakland began to chip away at that lead, and closed to within nine after a

three-pointer from Pike capped off a 7-0 run with 8:12 to play. Pike continued a desperate, furious rally with three more 3-point bombs that cut the lead to three, 63-60, with 3:48 left to play.

Again, turnovers teamed with fouls killed the Grizzlies' momentum after that. Oral Roberts would only allow one more point for the rest of the contest, and pushed its lead to as many as 10 to finish the contest after a free throw shooting parade.

The upset defeat marks the second consecutive season in which the Grizzlies' season has ended in Tulsa at the hands of Oral Roberts. According to Francis, playing in their own backyard gave the Golden Eagles a distinct advantage against OU.

"Last year, they closed school and brought the entire town," she said. "Maybe I shouldn't be saying this, but I do think the home crowd helps."

Also adding to OU's troubles were a rash of injuries, headlined by the broken foot of Hanna Reising, who averaged 12.7 points per game this season. The starting sophomore forward missed the last five games of the regular season and could only manage eight minutes against ORU.

"She tried to go out there and play, but she hadn't practiced in three weeks," Francis said. "She hurt us because [Oral Roberts] were so focused on Pike."

Pike led the Grizzlies in the losing effort with 18 points, four assists, and eight rebounds, while junior guard April Kidd added 12 points and eight boards. Pike's 18 pushed her career total past 1,000, giving her 1,003 career points.

"We rushed our shots," Pike said of OU's 36 percent shooting. "We didn't really run our offense."



SAMANTHA FRANZ/The Oakland Post

Rikka Terava (20) dribbles the ball up the court Monday afternoon against Oral Roberts in the Summit League semifinals. The junior point guard had seven points and a team-high three steals in the 71-61 loss that ended the Golden Grizzlies' season.

The 2007-08 season wasn't always a smooth flight

COLUMN

By **TIM RATH**
Contributing Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The voice of the pilot of my flight bound for the Summit League Tournament was like sandpaper to my ears, as it crackled on the intercom.

"The plane's wheels are up," he said. "It'll be about a half hour delay."

The ambiguity of his language quickly became the topic of small talk conversations throughout the cabin.

"The wheels are up, huh? Good thing we're not driving! Let's go already!"

As the OU women's basketball team's

2008 season draws to a close, its lessons remain just as unclear as the reason for the plane delay.

Can a team possibly be expected to overachieve? That expectation appeared to be the case for the Grizzlies at the beginning of the season.

Despite the complete absence of seniors in the starting five, the Summit League tabbed OU to finish second in its conference preseason poll.

The lofty ranking was a sign of respect for the amount of raw talent that head coach Beckie Francis had to work with, and the Grizzlies did not let her down.

When both No. 7 Georgia and No. 24 Auburn rallied late to beat the Grizzlies in November, they effectively transitioned from "early-season cannon fodder"

to "turning that national ranking of yours into a bulls-eye."

So when OU topped No. 21 Florida State on Dec. 2, Francis didn't talk like someone who had "shocked the college hoops world." It may have been her first win over a top-25 team since 2001, but apparently, it was bound to happen sooner than later.

"I was concerned when we built up that lead," she said. "Everyone in the arena remembered what happened against Auburn and Georgia."

However, also bound to happen was a visit from the injury bug. As freshmen Brittany Carnago and Kirstie Malone began to miss significant time, Grizzlies fans were reminded that their team was, after all, human.

Francis guided OU through the winter storms extremely well. Despite a 2-7 skid in February, OU finished strong and won five straight to secure the No. 1 seed in the Summit League Tournament.

In Tulsa, the Grizzlies appeared to be the favorites to advance to the NCAA Championship Tournament. When they started slow in the quarterfinal victory over Centenary on Saturday, it didn't appear to dent their reputation.

This team had endured adversity before and appeared to be stronger because of it. The Grizzlies had already beaten better competition than the Summit League has to offer, and appeared to remember it.

See RATH on Page 23

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RATH

That's why Francis' rationalizing of the upset loss in the semi-finals to Oral Roberts is so surprising.

Sophomore forward Hanna Reising may have been playing on a broken foot, but it didn't derail the Grizzlies when she missed five regular season games. The home court advantage for Oral Roberts may have aided their victory, but OU beat them in Tulsa on Feb. 11.

The Grizzlies were playing with the house's money. Asking such a young team to play at such a high level for such a long time is a lot to ask, and this season will undoubtedly be remembered as a great success for the win against FSU.

What else it will be remembered for is still unclear.

SUMMIT LEAGUE FINALS**Men's Final**

Oral Roberts: 71
IUPUI: 64

Women's Final

Oral Roberts: 65
IUPUI: 53

Each team advances to the NCAA tournament

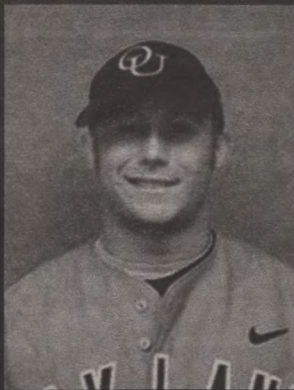
GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

Andrew Estes

Year: Sophomore
Major: Health, Wellness and Injury Prevention

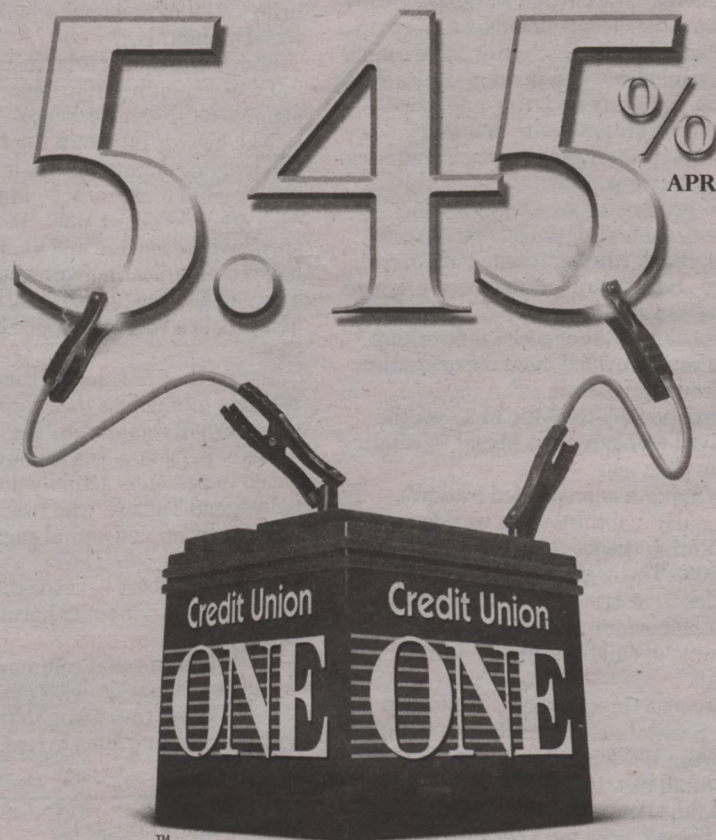
Estes won Summit League baseball player of the week honors after a stellar performance against George Washington University this past weekend. Estes pitched a five-hit shutout in a 7-0 win on Sunday.

Check out
www.oaklandpostonline.com
for more coverage of the Summit League tournament, including links to The Oakland Post sports blog and more pictures from Tulsa.

Oakland U. baseball team earns first two wins of the season

After six unsuccessful attempts, Oakland University's baseball team finally added a couple of tallies to the win column, going 2-1 against George Washington University last weekend. The Golden Grizzlies played a marathon game against the Colonials last Saturday that lasted over four hours, but dropped a 19-16 decision. The Grizzlies led 16-12 in the seventh inning, but the Colonials were able to hold them off, while overtaking the lead. The second game of Saturday's doubleheader was postponed until Sunday, when the Grizzlies swept the makeup, 10-4, and the originally scheduled game, 7-0. Matt Trausch and Andrew Estes each picked up a win for the Grizzlies on the mound.

— Brittany Ochtinsky, Senior Reporter

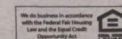
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The World Wide Webbed life

Internet growth provides more opportunities and new problems

By STEVE STAEGER
Senior Reporter

The World Wide Web is becoming a world of its own. Inside the endless sequences of HTML code lies there is a universe that is becoming just as realistic as the physical world. The Internet is quickly becoming as essential to our lives as the air we breathe and the water we drink.

A Web site that tracks Internet statistics around the world estimates that 1.3 billion people, or approximately 20 percent of the world's population, use the Internet worldwide.

In the United States, 215 million people, approximately 71 percent of the population, were estimated as users of the Internet as of November of last year.

The Internet has made it possible to talk to people around the world in a matter of seconds, buy anything you would like with the click of a mouse or find any information you may need without, even opening a book.

But with the new conveniences come new risks and dangers. Still, for many, the advantages of such a powerful tool are too important to lose.

INSTANT INFORMATION

Freshman Scott Manosky sees no disadvantages with the Internet becoming a bigger part of lifestyle.

"It makes everything faster and knowledge spreads faster," Manosky said. "In the old days, it used to take forever for news and events to spread around but now it's a snap of a finger type thing."

The most prominent feature of the growth of the Web is the expansion of information available. Search engine statistics show that people "google" things 91 million times a day, and nearly 3 billion times a month.

Boutell.com estimates that just last year, the Internet was home to approximately 108 million distinct Websites, with an estimated 29.7 billion individual Web pages in cyberspace.

With so much information out there, it's hard to tell what is true or false.

One factual debacle is Wikipedia, the

Web phenomenon where users can create and edit encyclopedia entries.

According to Wikipedia's Web site, it grew by 30 million words in July 2006 alone.

"A sleepless fast reader could never catch up with Wikipedia's new content," boasts Wikipedia's statistics page. "By the time they were done, so much would have changed with the parts they had already read that they would have to start over."

Over 2 million articles currently exist on the English version of the site with 207 million edits to those articles, averaging 16 per article. Critics of the site claim that its open-editing platform makes Wikipedia an unreliable source for factual information.

"Wikipedia is a change in how we as a society conceptualize information," said Catheryn Cheal, assistant Vice President for e-learning and instructional support at Oakland University.

"Wikipedia is a good metaphor for the post-modern view of simultaneous, ambiguous and multiple truths, since Wikipedia is constructed by the crowd who change and edit and add new viewpoints in a never-ending process," said Cheal.

A study by scholarly journal "Nature" in 2005 sent articles from each source to relevant experts in different fields and compared Wikipedia with Encyclopedia Britannica.

The study concluded that while Britannica had an average of two errors per article, Wikipedia only had three per article.

With such a small amount of inaccuracies, is the online encyclopedia a good choice?

"You need to be conscious of what type of truth you are looking for, to see whether or not you want to use Wikipedia as a source," said Cheal. "It's best to use multiple sources and consciously consider who is producing the information and who they are producing it for."

Sophomore Liz Trygstad believes that most of the facts on the Internet are accurate and said it is her most common way of research.

"You can just look up any problems or anything you're thinking about. You can just go online and find it all out," Trygstad said.

TOO MUCH INFORMATION

But for Trygstad, sometimes being able to find it all can be pretty dangerous.

"I can't help but be worried about privacy," Trygstad said. "Anybody can go online and find out where I live, what my phone number is, and so much more."

The Federal Trade Commission reports that just last year, instances of identity theft totaled 250,000. The amount of money lost totaled \$1.1 billion, with the average loss per person near \$500.

Identity theft has become such a problem that President George W. Bush assigned a task force to work specifically on the issue. The task force even set up a Web site that suggests only using companies you know when making transactions online, regularly updating and using anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software, protecting passwords and backing up important files.

Yet privacy issues extend beyond identity theft with the advent of social networking. Internet crime bureaus at police stations are buzzing with concerns of parents and teenagers alike. MySpace, Facebook and other social networking sites have provided more opportunities for sexual predators.

Statistics say that one in 33 youth received an aggressive sexual solicitation in the past year.

MySpace has responded by devoting nearly one third of its workforce to monitoring the site on a 24-hour basis in 2006. The company instituted new policies to restrict the age range of users to 14 and over and deleted over 250,000 accounts of children under 14 in the first month.

"Because the Internet is wide open with possibilities for good, it also exposes opportunities for negative use. This is true of all new technologies," said professor Janna Anderson of Elon University, who helped piece together the Pew Future of the Internet Survey.

"For instance, when the automobile

was invented, people were blessed with a positive tool that could also be used for nefarious purposes," Anderson added. "The automobile is responsible for the deaths of 40,000 - 50,000 people a year in the U.S. alone."

Anderson thinks the Internet and social networking are pretty safe by comparison.

COMMUNICATION BREAK-THROUGH OR BREAKDOWN?

The advent of social networking and instant messaging has changed the way the world communicates.

Senior Brian Kallou has his worries.

"You can do almost anything on your computer," said Kallou. "People don't communicate face-to-face anymore and it brings a lot of problems when it comes to social standards."

Beth Talbert, a special instructor in OU's communication department expresses the same concern.

"The biggest influence the Internet has had on communication is that people now need to constantly be in touch with each other," Talbert said. "People now spend whatever free and alone time they have communicating with each other. There is no time for personal reflection, and people sometimes need that alone time."

The method of Internet communication restricts intangibles that society can gain from normal communication.

"Sixty percent of the communicating we do in person is actually done non-verbally," said Talbert, who teaches a class specifically on non-verbal communication.

Overall, Talbert believes that communication is not being harmed by the Internet.

"I really think that communication is a generational thing," Talbert said. "People are always going to think their way of communication is best, but they all work."

See WEB on page 25

Eating disorders — the masked villain

By WENDELL SMILEY
Contributing Reporter

Sophomore sociology major Jennifer holds tissue in her hand tightly as she masks—stands in line to pay for a salad.

"This is not easy for me," said Jennifer. She is anorexic and has urges to binge followed by purging occasionally.

Jennifer seems vibrant, smart, pretty and truly sweet — you would never know of her struggle with an eating disorder.

"Perception is not always reality," said Jennifer. "We're all about culture. Everybody who watched TV would have one."

"When you hit certain depths of numbness, you reach despair. I felt suicidal. Starting very young I bounced from foster home to foster home. I did not eat because there was nothing to eat, or I was in a state of shock and worry."

Jennifer sought professional help and is battling her disorder one day at a time.

"It's learning how to live in the body you have and in the life that you have," said Jennifer. "I felt like someone who bites their nails and knows they should stop. They can't stop."

As Jennifer continues with her story, her playful smile turns into a cold stare.

"What triggered it?" Jennifer asks herself. "I wanted to self-harm myself. Not eating was an alternative to suicide, a defense mechanism."

It is hard for Jennifer to talk about times of physical and emotional abuse she put herself through. It got to a point when people around to her began to take notice.

"This guy I really like told me I was 'too thin.' That hurt," said Jennifer. "It won't go away on its own."

According to WebMD.com, it is estimated 3.7 percent of females suffer from anorexia.

"Once I got into a stable place, someone pointed out my eating habits. After some resistance I did seek help," said Jennifer. "It changed my life."

Influences of eating disorders are starting to show a rise in athletes and dancers as well. According to caringonline.com, eating disorders affect 62 percent of females in sports like figure skating and gymnastics.

Because athletes are engaging in strenuous physical activity and putting a lot of pressure on the body, eating disorders can put them at higher risk for electrolyte imbalances and cardiac arrhythmias.

OU biology freshman Sarah Thompson runs track and field and cross country for OU with fellow freshman Amy Noser. They both pay close attention to their eating habits.

"It's important to watch weight, but stay healthy," said Noser.

"I stay hydrated. Our coach is always saying don't eat just pizza or red meat," said Thompson.

"Coach makes a big effort to schedule classes around lunch. Coach says to eat healthier. What you eat is

your body's fuel."

Those who suffer from eating disorders are typically not open about their problem.

Susan Baron is a graduate student of psychology and says that it is hard to detect an eating disorder early on.

"Seeds of an eating disorder are there before obsessive behavior takes hold," said Baron. "Those with eating disorders are very private and guarded."

Girls like Jennifer have very guarded exteriors.

"I think it is very psychological," said Noser. "[Those with eating disorders] don't even see what they really look like."

"It's hard to let people in," said Jennifer. "Sometimes I tell myself those days are gone. I can sit and just cry, but now it's a good cry."

"It won't go away on its own."

—Jennifer, Oakland student dealing with anorexia.

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WEB

However, according to a study conducted on technology and society, Internet use at home has a strong negative impact on time spent with friends and family, as well as time spent on social activities.

FUTURE OF THE SUPERHIGHWAY
The Pew Internet and American Life

Project conducted a survey of experts in 2005 and 66 percent of them predicted a devastating attack on the United States' Internet infrastructure in the next 10 years.

"This is the biggest vulnerability to Western lifestyles," said Kate Carruthers, one of the experts polled in the survey. "But the growth of grid computing may mitigate the risk to networked information infrastructure. The weak link remains power generation."

Eleven percent of experts disagreed with the prediction.

"It's way too decentralized for that," said Fred Hapgood, who is an expert as well.

Fifty-nine percent agreed with a prediction that more government and business surveillance will occur as computing devices proliferate and become embedded in appliances, cars, phones, and even clothes. Fifty-six percent of them agreed that, as telecommunications expand, the boundary between work and leisure will diminish and family dynamics will change because of that.

The possibilities for the Internet

— good or bad — are endless.

Anderson thinks the Internet is a great tool but reminds users of an overlooked aspect.

"Those of us who use the Internet daily without giving it much thought should be thankful for the people behind the scenes who are making a difference every day through the work they do to continue to help the Internet evolve as a tool for global good," she said.

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MOUTHING OFF

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March 12, 2008

Oprah's message muddled; viewer bufuddled

By KELLY KOZLOWSKI
Editor in Chief

Now I know it's taboo to challenge *The Queen*, but things have gotten ridiculous. Allow me to explain.

It was a late night in February. I was surfing my TiVo and settled on a recent episode of Oprah.

The topic?

Shlumpadinkas.

Do you know what a 'shlumpadinka' is?

I didn't either, because Oprah invented the word. Upon further viewing, I came to understand a shlumpadinka as one who did not seem to care about his or her appearance.

Picture the woman who does her grocery shopping in pajama pants and a baseball cap. I know this works when you're 20 years old, but a 40-something mother of two is, apparently, not supposed to commit this shlumpadinka crime.

So far, so good. Oprah is teaching me new vocabulary. People are getting makeovers. I am entertained.

There's even a segment devoted to the 10 wardrobe must-haves that every woman — you guessed it — must have.

Oprah says I need a trench in a "punchy color." Rather, her guest expert says that I need it, but if Oprah is listening to this guy, he must know what he's talking about.

I also need something in leopard print. Usually, endangered animal skin is not my style, but for Oprah, I'll make an exception.

The list continues and I'm totally sold. I've mentally checked off the items that I already own and started visualizing the accessories that I am lacking and will soon buy.

Thank you, Oprah, for saving me from potential shlumpadinka doom.

Normally, I would view this show during the Thursday afternoon that it originally aired. Thanks, however, to the aid of modern technology, I was able to watch at 1 a.m. and follow it up with another episode of Oprah.

Next on the TiVo: An Oprah episode about "freegans and strippers."

Wait a minute. Oprah just told me to buy all of these clothes and accessories so that I could be one of the beautiful

QUEEN OPRAH says to do the following:

- 1) Don't be a "shlumpadinka."
- 2) Dumpster dive for food.
- 3) Strip to make ends meet.
- 4) Donate like Drew Barrymore.
- 5) Watch your intestines closely.

people, and now she's singing the praises of a woman who hasn't purchased clothing in over three years.

This woman eats out of dumpsters (perfectly safe, often packaged food, mind you) and ditches department stores in rebellion of capitalism.

Maybe I shouldn't buy leopard print ballet flats. Keep reading guys, even if you have no clue what a ballet flat is.

Maybe I could go three years without buying anything. Of course, that would put my Oprah-induced shopping spree on hold.

This got me thinking, "What is this 'Oprah woman' trying to do?" Exactly one week apart from each other, these two shows revolve around opposite messages.

Splurge.

No, save.

Be simple.

No, be fabulous.

I can't stand it!

What would have happened if I had viewed these episodes in real time, like everyone else?

I would've bought the flats and the punchy coat, and then a week later I would've returned them and converted to freeganism.

But what about the shows in between? Surely they offer some insight as to how I can be a freegan with flare.

Nope.

Plenty of mindless filler after the "shlumpadinka" makeover show, including an hour of celebrity cameos à la VH1's "Where Are They Now?" and 60 minutes devoted to reality TV phenomenon "Dancing with the Stars."

The four shows following Oprah's "you gotta have this" wardrobe builder give you just enough time to be excited about your fashionable new purchases and feel

inadequate because you don't have the abs of a professional ballroom dancer.

That's when the freegan show comes in.

Airing after nearly a week of "you used to be famous for something, so maybe people will watch," Oprah's got something to make you regret your selfish purchases and silly coveting of a sultry dancer's stomach muscles — it's a show about sacrifice.

'Freegans' are eating out of dumpsters to cut down on waste and fight consumerism — the very fuel of Oprah's show a week prior — and a single mom shares how she took up exotic dancing to support her children.

Okay, so maybe you're still wishing for the tight abs, but even more powerful than that desire is the guilt you feel for the thousands of dollars you've spent over the years on what are today classified as frivolous and wasteful purchases.

After all, Oprah said so.

So you get rid of your materialistic junk, trading shopping bags for garbage bags, and by the end of the day, you've done your part.

That is, until 48 hours later, when at precisely 4 p.m., Oprah will tell you that it is your duty to "give big" to those in need.

The charity bandwagon is in town, and you've got a chance to ride. Oprah's navigating this little venture, so you hop on, not having the slightest idea what good deed you should hit up first.

Isn't there a list or something? You know, "Oprah's Guide to Merit Badges."

Forget the instruction manual. Oprah's got another show to tell you where you can stick all of the money you have tied up in credit card debt (from the retail purchases last week): Hungry kids in



Amazon.com

Don't let her smile trick you: she's confusing.

Africa. Obviously.

Everyone's giving, even Drew Barrymore.

So, you've got yourself a cause at least for the next 24 hours or so. Because the next Oprah show is all about you and your diet. Starving kids had their hour — now it's your turn.

You've had a mere 24 hours to process the tragedies of world hunger before Oprah promptly moves your focus to an obsession with your own personal diet, complete with eating experiments and new technology that allows doctors to watch your intestines on the big screen.

You hardly have time to remember the \$100 you thought about donating to hungry children in Kenya before Oprah is telling you how you can eat 11 pounds of food and still lose weight.

People are starving! Do we really need to figure out how to eat more and weigh less?

Don't get me wrong — I'm all for educating the masses on the subject of healthy eating habits, but if you're starving, do you really want to know that Oprah is stuffing test subjects with food just to add a flashy video segment to her show?

That was the point at which I could no longer take it. I shut off the TV, erased the TiVo, and went back to life before Oprah.

Who you gonna call — Hillary?

By TODD BUTKOVICH
Guest Columnist

It's 3 a.m. in the White House, sometime in early 2009. The phone rings, and on the other end is news of the start of some world crisis. North Korea or Iran announcing the launch of nuclear missiles. Prime Minister Putin declaring the start of Cold War II: Atomic Bugaloo.

Or worse, it's Canada, just calling to chat.

This is the scenario presented by Hillary Clinton's campaign in a commercial that was aired non-stop in Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island and Vermont, playing on voter concerns prior to these states' primary elections on Tuesday.

It's the kind of thing Michiganians and Floridians missed out on when the Democrats refused to acknowledge we were holding elections, as these rebel states moved their primaries. Instead all we got was an ad where Mitt Romney pretended he'd been in a factory before.

In one of the trillions of rallies Hillary

held going into March 4 (most likely in Texas or Ohio), she claimed that her opponent Barack Obama did not have the experience necessary to handle that hypothetical phone call. She declared that she would be better suited to handle such a call, and even credited Republican nominee John McCain with being able to take that call. Of course he can — there's a pretty good chance he'd be up anyway to use the bathroom. Yes, John McCain is old.

Now, I've never received a phone call at 3 a.m., but I have been called at 3 p.m., and I believe I can safely assume that the mechanics of the telephone are the same.

It rings, you pick it up, then start talking. There, I have the experience necessary to be president.

Of course, I'm not sure I'd want to deal with a world leader rude enough to start World War III at such an inconvenient hour. I don't know about you, but I'm not ready for the end of the world until at least 7 a.m. (8 a.m. on the weekends).

Anyway, when the results of the four contests were tallied by the cable news feeding frenzy, it was revealed that Senator Clinton had reversed her month-long slump by winning Texas, Ohio, and Rhode Island.

Of course, winning Rhode Island only requires about 14 votes.

It seems that after scolding the Republicans for using scare tactics to win elections in 2002 and 2004 (where, among other threats, they ran ads informing us that wolves were after our children and no doubt working as a splinter group of al Qaeda), Hillary has finally realized the age-old truth: people will vote for whoever terrifies them the most.

Consider: In 1964, Lyndon B. Johnson's campaign sponsored a commercial declaring that a vote for his opponent, Barry Goldwater, was a vote for a five-year-old girl to be obliterated by a hydrogen bomb.

In the 1950s, victory was guaranteed to any candidate who screamed

"Communist!" while pointing to his opponent.

In 1864, Abe Lincoln threatened his loss of the presidency would ensure a Southern victory in the Civil War. That's right, if it were not for Abe, we'd all be speaking with accents now.

All this no doubt goes back to the day voters were urged to re-elect the "mayor who kept the witches out of Salem."

But in this case, the voters have spoken: In a national emergency, we need a leader who can cry on command.

So until Barack Obama can terrify the hell out of you, Hillary may have just regained her lock on the party's nomination.

Love them or fear them, scare tactics work.

So the next time you're awakened by the telephone at 3 a.m., pause and ask yourself how you would respond if it were Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on the line instead of your drunkest friend.

And if it's Canada, just let it go to voicemail.

Oakland University Presents The 2007-2008 Student Life Lecture Series

Naomi Wolf

The End of America: A Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot

Feminist, social critic and political activist Naomi Wolf raises awareness of the pervasive inequities that exist in politics and society and encourages people to take charge of their lives, voice their concerns and enact change.

Her latest book, *The End of America: A Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot* (Sept. 2007), is an impassioned call to return to the aspirations and beliefs of the Founding Fathers. Wolf shows how events of the last six years parallel steps taken in the early years of the 20th century's worst dictatorships. From Hitler to Mussolini and beyond, her book illustrates there are ten common steps that any would-be dictator must take to destroy constitutional freedoms. Naomi Wolf argues the George Bush administration and the U.S. Congress, since September 11, 2001, seem to be taking them all.

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

7:00 p.m. in the

Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center

This lecture is free. No tickets are required.

Seating is on a first come basis.



This lecture will be interpreted for the deaf. Anyone needing special assistance to attend this lecture should call the Center for Student Activities at (248) 370-2400.

This program is presented with the support of student tuition and fees, Division of Student Affairs, and the Student Program Board.

For more information or anyone needing special assistance to attend this lecture, call the Center for Student Activities at (248) 370-2400, or visit Oakland University's Web site at www.oakland.edu. The Oakland Center is located on the main campus of Oakland University, one mile east of I-75, off Exit 79 (University Drive). Free parking is available in P-1 lot.

Musharraf opponents agree to form coalition

By ZARAR KHAN
Associated Press Writer

BHURBAN, Pakistan — Pakistan's election winners sealed an agreement Sunday to form a coalition government and said parliament would restore judges fired by President Pervez Musharraf — further clouding the U.S.-allied leader's political future.

In the capital, police fired tear gas at protesters who gathered outside the residence of the deposed Supreme Court chief justice to demand his reinstatement.

Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, whose government was ousted in Musharraf's 1999 coup, announced their pact after talks at a town in the foothills of the Himalayas.

"The coalition partners are ready to form the government," Sharif said at a news conference.

Zardari, seated alongside, said his party had signed the agreement in honor of Bhutto, who was assassinated in a suicide attack, and her desire to put back Pakistan back on "the road to democracy."

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party won 120 seats in the new 342-seat National Assembly, followed by Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N with 90. The former ruling party aligned with Musharraf got just 51.

The two largest parties, both moderate and secular, have vowed to form a broad-based government, raising Western hopes of stability and renewed commitment to fighting al-Qaida and Taliban militants.

They are devoting most of their energy

to cutting back Musharraf's sweeping powers — a course the former military strongman seems unlikely to accept meekly.

Zardari and Sharif declared a breakthrough on two key issues: the makeup of the coalition and the future of the judiciary.

Sharif said his party would be part of a federal coalition led by the People's Party, which is expected to name its candidate for prime minister this week.

In return, Zardari agreed that the new parliament would pass a resolution within 30 days of convening to reinstate dozens of judges fired by Musharraf after he declared emergency rule on Nov. 3.

On Sunday, about 600 demonstrators marched on ousted Supreme Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry's residence — where he's been under house arrest — chanting "We want freedom."



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/Associated Press
Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks to supporters at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., March 10.

Obama ridicules idea of being Clinton's VP

By CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Miss. — Democrat Barack Obama ridiculed the idea of being Hillary Rodham Clinton's running mate Monday, saying voters must choose between the two for the top spot.

The Illinois senator used his first public appearance of the week to knock down the notion that he might accept the party's vice presidential spot on the fall ticket. He noted that he has won more states, votes and delegates than Clinton so far.

"I don't know how somebody who is in second place is offering the vice presidency to someone who is first place," Obama said, drawing cheers and a standing ovation from about 1,700 people in Columbus, Miss.

Obama aides said Clinton's recent hints that she might welcome him as her vice presidential candidate appeared to be meant to diminish him and to attract undecided voters in the remaining primary states by suggesting they can have a "dream ticket."

Obama had never suggested he might accept a second spot on the ticket. But until Monday, he had not ridiculed the notion so directly.

He told the audience that it made no sense for Clinton to suggest he is not ready to be president and then hint that she might hand him the job that could make him president at a moment's notice.

Clinton and her husband, the former president, had suggested recently that a Clinton-Obama ticket would be popular and formidable against Republican Sen. John McCain in November.

Many political activists discounted the notion all along, noting that the two senators lack a warm relationship and that Obama would be ill-served by hinting he might accept the vice presidential slot when he holds the lead in delegates.

NIW BRIEFS

3-06 | The U.S. Senate passes legislation providing for more rigorous inspection of toys imported into the country. | One of the world's most notorious arms dealers, Viktor Bout, is arrested at a hotel in Thailand.

3-07 | Václav Klaus is sworn in for another term as the president of the Czech Republic.

3-08 | United States Sen. Barack Obama wins the Wyoming Democratic caucus. | The ownership of hamsters banned in Vietnam.

3-09 | An apparent terrorist attempt to crash a Chinese jetliner last week was thwarted by a flight crew, officials said.

3-11 | The U.S. House of Representatives fails to overturn President George W. Bush's veto of a bill outlawing water boarding and other harsh interrogation techniques. | Barack Obama wins the Democratic primary in Mississippi by a healthy margin.



MARY ALTAFFER/Associated Press
New York State Gov. Eliot Spitzer is joined by his wife Silda as he makes a statement to reporters during a news conference March 10, 2008. Spitzer has apologized to his family and the public, but did not elaborate on a report that he was involved in a prostitution ring. With pressure mounting for him to resign over the scandal, investigators said Tuesday he was clearly a repeat customer who spent tens of thousands of dollars — perhaps as much as \$80,000 — on high-priced prostitution service over an extended period of time.

The battle over 'Redneck Shop': Black pastor fights against KKK store

By KATRINA A. GOGGINS
Associated Press Writer

LAURENS, S.C. — A black civil rights activist is fighting to close a store that sells KKK robes and T-shirts emblazoned with racial slurs. David Kennedy is confident he can make it happen. After all, he says he owns the building.

Since 1996, the Redneck Shop has operated in an old movie theater that, according to court records, was transferred in 1997 to Kennedy, 54, and the Baptist church he leads.

"Our ownership puts an end to that history as far as violence and hatred, racism being practiced in that place and also the

recruiting of the Klan," Kennedy said.

But legal documents also indicate that the man who runs the store, 62-year-old John Howard, is entitled to operate his business in the building until he dies. Now the dispute may go to court.

Kennedy has led protests outside the store since it opened but has never been able to close it because of the agreement that Howard can run the shop for life.

The reverend envisions the building as a potential future home for his church, which now meets in a double-wide trailer.

Kennedy claims he can't even visit his own property because Howard won't let him in. But that didn't happen during a recent visit with an Associated Press

reporter and photographer.

"Reverend Kennedy, where you been hiding?" asked Howard, answering the door.

Inside the store, hooded Klan robes hang on the same rack as the racist T-shirts. Pictures of men, women and children in Klan clothing and pamphlets tell a partial history of the organization.

"If anything turns people off, they shouldn't come in here. It's not a thing in here that's against the law," Howard said, adding that he was once the KKK's grand dragon for North and South Carolina.

To blacks, Kennedy said, the store is a reminder of this region's painful past, which includes the lynching of his great-uncle by a white mob.