



The OAKLAND POST

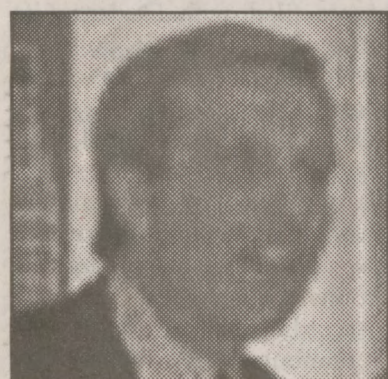
Weekly campus newspaper serving The Oakland University community

Wednesday - March 10, 1999

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Award-winning independent newspaper THE OAKLAND SAIL, INC.

Russi recommends Esposito for VPAA



By LIDIJA MILIC
News Editor

VPAA/Provost search, take two.

The new vice president of academic affairs and provost should take his post at OU June 1, 1999.

Louis Esposito, economics professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, formerly vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost from 1994-97, has accepted the offered position.

tion.

He was recommended for the OU position at the Thursday Board of Trustees meeting by OU President Gary Russi. The four present trustees voted unanimously in favor of offering Esposito the job, which he accepted.

According to VPAA/Provost search committee chair Kevin Murphy, Russi did not make a visit to Esposito's campus prior to making the decision.

"Many reference phone calls were made," Murphy said. "You won't find a person who'd say something a bad thing about him."

After the three top candidates visited campus at the end of February/beginning of March, the search committee submitted a report pointing out perceived strengths and weaknesses of each, Murphy said.

According to Murphy, the com-

See VPAA page A6

OU trustee votes down \$400,000 consultation

By TANIA PREPOLEC
Assistant News Editor

One negative vote of a bare quorum of OU's Trustees Thursday stalled a \$400,000 contract to review the proposed Multi-Purpose Conference Center. The purpose of the review, would evaluate the benefits and uses of a proposed conference center, performing arts center, ice hockey arena and hotel on campus.

The recommendation, submitted to the Board by Vice President for Finance and Administration Lynne Schaefer, would enable OU to enter into a contract with the developing team of The Smith Group and Ernst & Young Kenneth Lavinthal (SG/EYKL) for up to \$400,000 for consulting services.

These services are necessary according to the resolution, since "OU does not have the depth of experience or expertise on staff to conduct market and financial feasibility studies and other analysis required to fully evaluate the feasibility and economic return of a multi-purpose complex."

"We want to evaluate whether this is good for the university's academics, and good for the university financially," Doyle said.

Board Chair David Doyle and trustees Ann Nicholson and James Sharp, Jr. voted in favor of the recommendation.

Trustee Henry Baskin refused, because according to him, the cost of the services should be paid by SG/EYKL, the company that approached OU with the consultation idea.

Baskin was concerned about campus becoming a "private enterprise for individuals."

In other Board action, the fate of late-paying students was finally

resolved when the trustees approved the resolution to restructure OU's registration, billing and collections process.

The resolution, created by the administrative Tuition and Fees Committee, would no longer drop students if they fail to make a payment.

A one-and-a-half percent late balance fee per month and financial counseling would be implemented in place of the current \$10 late fee.

Attached to the resolution was a provision made by Board Chair David Doyle to review it after 12 months.

With approval, OU becomes one of the seven Michigan public universities that do not cancel student registration for non-payment, said Steve Roberts, associate vice president of finance and administration, and tuition and fees committee chair.

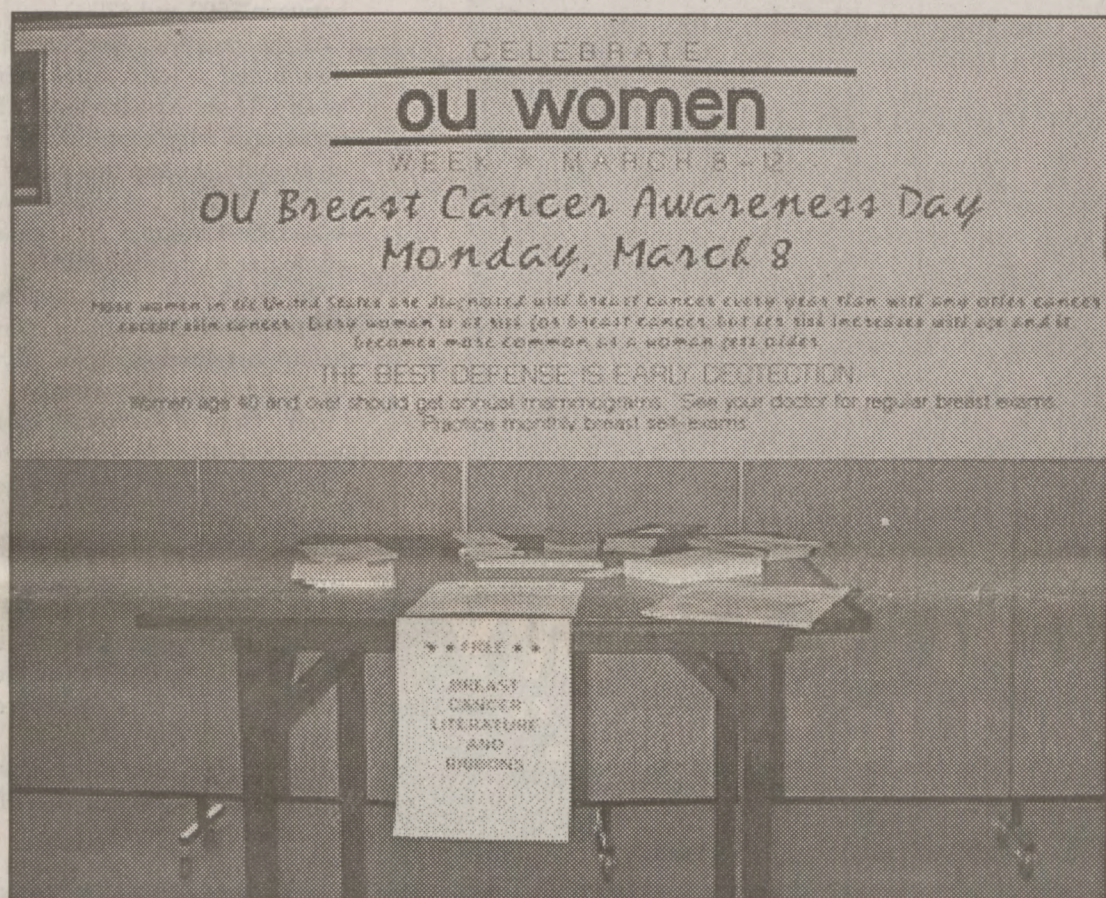
In other Board actions, Russi recommended Louis Esposito for the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, as well as a professor of economics with tenure, effective June 1, 1999.

An approval was given for the development of a \$400,000 master plan, \$2.4 million for a plan to renovate North Foundation Hall, and a \$255,000 Trustee Academic Success Fund.

Student voices were also heard when the Board's student liaisons LaShanda Evans and political science junior Linda Hickmott presented their report.

Evans and Hickmott stated that the goals of a liaison is to "Build Bridges" between the Board of Trustees, the President, faculty, staff, administration and the student body, in order to communicate ideas about ways to increase the level of (OU's) student identity and spirit."

Celebrate Women's Month



The OU community invites all to celebrate the Women's History Month throughout March.

The activities that marked the event this week included the Breast Cancer Awareness Day Monday.

See related story on page A9.

Post Photo/Tom Bressie

Congress hires external counsel to advise on firing of SAFB chair

By SHAJAN KAY
Staff Writer

At Monday's Student Congress meeting a number of issues were touched upon, ranging from appointment of new members to the Student Activities Funding Board, to proposing a resolution to disband Congress.

Congress President Scott Andrews, who is acting as the SAFB chair in place of recently fired Carina Moore, brought forward five nominees to become members of SAFB.

While no questions were asked of the nominees, the appointment of the individuals was nearly postponed due to the fact that only two of the people showed up to the meeting. Nevertheless, all five were approved. They are Joe Mierzewski, Michael Collis, Nicole Cook, Phil Fredrick, and

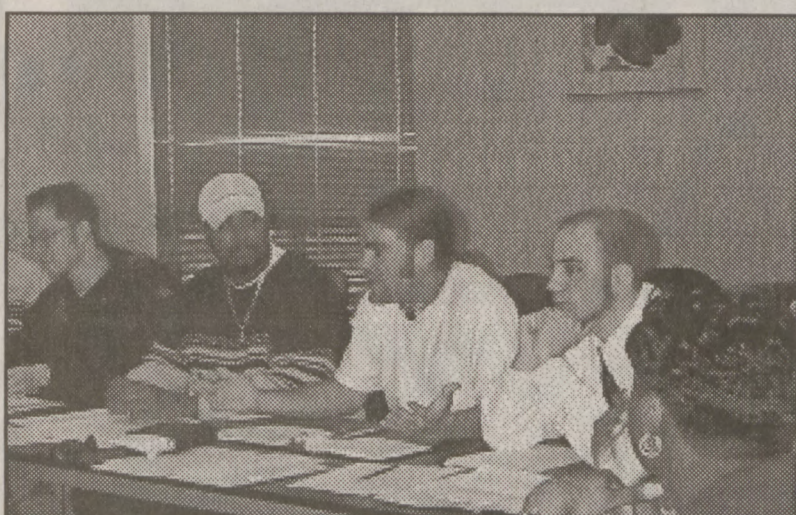
Brett Hammer.

After appointing the five individuals to the SAFB, Andrews distributed a legal opinion from an attorney Congress has hired to consult them on the controversial matter of Moore's firing.

The opinion which was given by David Cahill, attorney at law based in Ann Arbor, supported the official position taken by Congress.

Members of Congress, on numerous occasions, have addressed a concern that the OU administration has been meddling in the affairs of student government.

Cahill wrote, "There is no provision of the (OUSC) Constitution which gives any University staff member the authority to interpret, cancel, veto, modify or suspend the Constitution or any action taken by any part of the student gov-



Post Photo/Jenn Madjarov

DEBATES: Student leaders asked for Congress support in diversity promotion event. The issue remained unresolved.

ernment." Cahill goes on to say that it is his opinion that the OUSC "is an entity separate and distinct from Oakland University."

Cahill also stated that in his analysis, "the Chair of the SAFB

would have no claim of 'wrongful discharge' ... because at the time of her dismissal she had no right to employment."

Moore has submitted an appeal

See CONGRESS page A2

FAST

FACTS

- OU Women Week in celebration of Women's History Month will include:
- Accomplished OU Women panel discussion today from

noon-1p.m. with Associate Music Professor Lettie Alston, Assistant Education Professor Maria Cseh, Women's Basketball Coach Beckie Francis, and others.

The discussion will take place in the Heritage Room, OC. Refreshments will be served.

- Issues Facing Women in College panel discussion Thursday from noon-1p.m. with

Diversity and Compliance Director Sharon Abraham, Graham • Health Center Coordinator Karen Olsen, University Counseling Center Psychologist Brenda Hartman, Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism Special Lecturer Susan Baker, and others.

The discussion will be in Gold Room A, OC.

Refreshments will be served.

- OU Women Recognition Day display all day Friday in the Fireside Lounge, OC.

OU women faculty, staff and students will be featured with the purpose of recognizing contributions.

- Advising Resource Center's Major Exploration Workshop will be presented in three parts Wednesday, Mar. 24 from noon-

1p.m., room 126, OC; Wednesday, Mar. 31 from noon-1 p.m. in room 128, OC; and Wednesday, April 7, from noon-1p.m., room 126, OC.

Call (248)-370-3227 to reserve a seat.

- University Senate Meeting will be held Thursday at 3:10 p.m. in the Gold Rooms, OC.

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ON CAMPUS

Engler proposes higher budget for OU

By PAM HENDRIX
Staff Writer

OU students can now take action that may help lower their tuition cost in the future.

How? By writing to the chairs of the higher education committee that will be voting soon to increase OU's share of Governor John Engler's higher education budget for the year 2000.

Students can let the honorable Sandy Caul, Pam Godchaux and Herbert Price know they support the Governor's plan to increase OU's share of the budget by 8.1 percent over last year's budget.

The proposal is for \$4,609 per student,

said Rochelle Black, director of government relations at OU.

"The state gives money to public universities each year from income taxes, business taxes and four-and-a-half cents from sales tax to help fund the money OU will receive next year," said John Truscott, press secretary to Engler.

Why does Engler want to raise funds to Michigan universities?

According to Truscott, one reason is that "higher educational standards help attract businesses to Michigan. This in turn would raise our economic outlook."

The Michigan schools are divided into four tiers, according to Black. Each tier

receives a set amount of money.

Tier four is U-M, MSU and Wayne State. They are major research schools.

Tier three is OU, Western and U-M Dearborn. Black said, "We are known as graduate intensive schools. This means at OU we have 30 percent of our students in graduate programs."

Tier two is CMU, EMU and Ferris State. Tier one is Lake Superior, Grand Valley, Northern and U-M Flint.

"This is one of the most promising budgets for OU that we have had. It is due to a combination of a lot happening on campus, and we were able to get the word out to request strong support from our Oakland County delegation," Black

said.

OU President Gary Russi will testify March 10 in Lansing at 10:30 a.m.

"He will support Engler's recommendation because it addresses the key concerns of growing universities like OU," Black said.

Truscott said, "In the past different universities received different amounts of money. If an alumnus from one university is a powerful legislator making budget recommendations whom would that person highlight? Engler wants to even up the funding."

According to Black, if the OU community members let Lansing representatives know they care, chances are they

will work harder for them.

"Most of OU's general fund revenues come from fees and state appropriations. The greater the appropriations the lower the tuition increase will be," Black said.

In March the recommendation goes before the House, then to the Senate. If there are changes it goes to the conference committee, then back to Engler for the final decision.

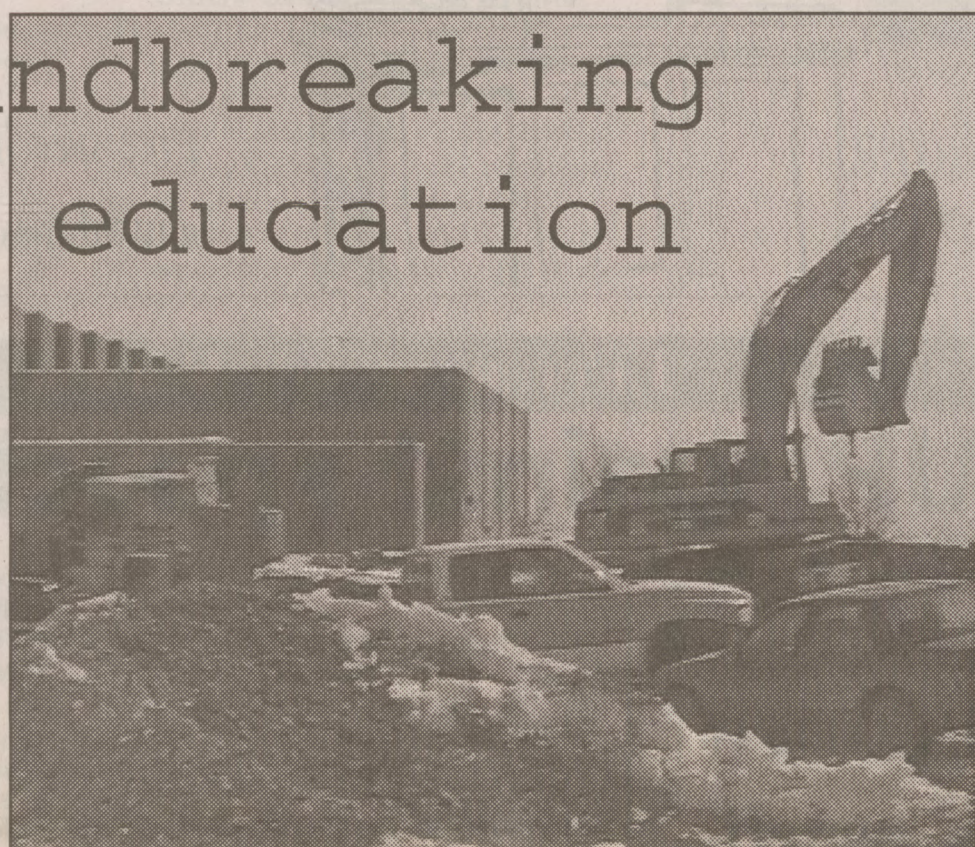
Take a positive stand; let our representatives know before March 17 that you support Engler's recommendation.

The address is Michigan House of Representatives, State Capitol, PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909.

Groundbreaking for education

Over the spring break, the work began on yet another new development on campus.

On the side of Varner Hall, the workers started the construction on the new \$1.7 million Business and Applied Technology Institute for the School of Business Administration.



Post Photo/Tom Bressie

Professors ask for faculty only senate

By KRISTI TWORC
Staff Writer

OU faculty is becoming increasingly frustrated with what they see as inadequate representation regarding university policy and decision making. While the students have a voice through student Congress, and the administrative personnel can communicate ideas and concerns to the AP Assembly, or to the president, there is no established political forum which represents faculty only.

At the university senate meeting held February 18, faculty members proposed forming a committee to investigate converting to a faculty senate. According to Joel Russel chemistry professor, non-faculty constitutes almost one-third of the membership, which has been an ongoing obstacle, and one that the faculty is getting tired of trying to hurdle.

A tense debate which lasted for more than an hour, ended when the dean of the school of engineering, Michael Polis made a motion for a quorum call, and it was found that there were not enough members of the senate present to vote on formation of a committee.

Russel stated that a petition has circulated and has been signed by 75 percent of full-time faculty members who support the change. Russel, who is seated on the senate has been at OU for 33

years, regards this as a long-standing issue and will chair the committee to investigate the reformation, if approved by the senate.

College of Arts and Sciences representative Abe Liboff said this is an issue which begins with the bottom line.

"The university and the administration want to run the university as a business which I feel is wrong. They say that the student is the customer, which is a strange way of putting," Liboff said. He has been a faculty member for 28 years. "The university basically does not respond to issues that faculty sees as important," he added.

Liboff included issues of quality of education, equipment and resources that affect faculty efforts, and student education, that are being decided on how they impact the university pocket book.

Although many of the non-faculty constituents were not available for comment, Ronald Olson, dean of the school of health and sciences did express concern that such a move would take away his voting privileges.

"It eliminates deans and AP's from having a voice in the senate," Olson said.

Other opponents of the idea agree that

See SENATE page A6

GHC targets alcohol use, stress

By NATASHA VANOVER
Staff Writer

The Counseling division of the Graham Health Center will be gearing up for two very different causes that focus on active student input on Monday, March 15 and Thursday, March 18.

A survey used to supply students and faculty with the most recent and relevant alcohol and drug statistical information has been distributed randomly to OU students and is due by March 15. Also, the Counseling Center will hold its annual Anxiety Screening Day on March 18.

Both topics stress awareness as the first step in the GHC proactive approach.

First, Brenda Hartman, psychologist and coordinator of substance abuse services of the Counseling Center, urges students to spare less than ten minutes to answer and mail their postage-paid envelope containing the Alcohol and Drug Core Survey.

"If you fill out only one survey this year, please make it the Core Survey at (OU)," reads each of the 1500 surveys.

The Center uses survey findings to give students and faculty the most current alcohol and drug statistical information, Hartman said. Surveys will impact future funding, policy and programming.

OU is one of 15 public universities working together to re-administer the Core Survey created by the University of Minnesota, who nationally share its findings.

The last OU Core Survey taken in 1993-94 reported that the highest inci-

dent of family related alcohol or drug use is attributed more likely to an uncle or aunt when compared with the percentage of fathers, siblings, maternal or paternal grandparents, or mothers.

"If we look at the combined statistics of the most recent survey compiled by Michigan State University in 1996-97, 55 percent, over half of the student body consist of either 25 percent not drinking or 35 percent reporting they infrequently drink," Hartman said.

"How much other people are drinking is overestimated, and this can be permissive giving."

The trend according to OU statistics stated that 33 percent of students think others drink at least once a week. Of the students answering the survey only 18.2 percent reported drinking once a week.

This kind of raw data will be made available to the university president and any other interested individuals.

"I encourage students to request this information as soon as it is available," Hartman said. "A great thesis of dissertation could come out of this."

The next proactive event is the Counseling Center's annual Anxiety Screening Day, scheduled from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, March 18 in GHC.

The GHC testing site will include a video depicting how students learn to overcome some of the more pernicious effects of anxiety symptoms. In addition a confidential meeting will be available with a qualified health professional.

"Anxiety disorders may surface as if there are no apparent reasons, but many times there are some very good reasons," said Bela Chopp, associate direc-

tor of the Counseling Center.

"Of the major anxiety disorders, generalized anxiety and panic disorder are the most frequently diagnosed on campus."

According to the 1999 National Anxiety Disorder Screening Project college edition, generalized anxiety is an exaggerated worry about everyday routine life events that typically last at least six months. Worry, fatigue, muscle tension and nausea are common symptoms.

Panic disorder is a series of panic attacks that cause feelings of terror that strike without warning. Symptoms include feelings of unreality, fear of dying, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, chest pain and dizziness.

"Depression may accompany anxiety disorders, but are not necessarily a product of depression," Chopp said. "Behavioral strategies should be the first option of treatment before medication is consulted."

Both chemical and psychological problems have the same symptoms, Chopp said. Currently, there is no test for a chemical imbalance.

Anxiety screening is one of several other non-diagnostic tests sponsored by GHC. They include depression, eating disorders, and the new alcohol screening tests that will be available for the first time at OU.

This test will also be new to universities across the nation. The event will take place April 8 during the Alcohol Awareness Day.

"These programs are useful because

See SURVEY page A8

AAUP grievance finally settled

The Association of American University Professors (AAUP) grievance filed over the appointment of interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) was settled during the winter recess.

The grievance was filed Aug. 24 last year due to lack of consultation with faculty chairs before OU President Gary Russi recommended William Macauley, CAS assistant dean, to the Board for the interim position.

According to the grievance, the violation of the procedure set by the CAS constitution was also a violation of the faculty contract.

The settlement, reached on Feb. 23, affirmed that the provisions for the constitutions of OU schools are contractually protected.

According to the letter sent out by AAUP President Michael Riley,

"Because the complaint was over process no specific relief was sought, other than assurance as to compliance with the constitutions in future appointments."

The grievance was on the way to arbitration prior to the settlement.

Riley also stated he hopes the resolution of this matter will be followed by improved relations between the Russi administration and the OU faculty.

"It is not, nor has it ever been the intent of the AAUP to usurp the rights of the administration in the performance of their job," Riley said in the letter.

"Nevertheless, the AAUP is committed to protecting the rights of faculty in doing our job and to maintaining our traditional role in shared governance," he added.

CRIME

WATCH

Double Exposure

A student was studying on the second floor of Kresge Library Wednesday morning when a man stood near, asking her the time.

After looking up, she noticed that his pants were pulled down, exposing his genitals. She then stood up and ran away.

Another incident followed.

A student was studying on the third floor of Kresge Library, when a man sat down across from her.

She saw a hole in the crotch of his pants, unprotected by underwear. Moments later, she saw him masturbat-

ing. She said that the man never spoke to her, but that she saw him roam the third floor prior to her leaving for class.

Both cases are open.

Attack at ARAMARK

An ARAMARK employee was assaulted by a co-worker in the ARAMARK offices Thursday, Feb. 25 after moving a

fry rack the co-worker placed in his way.

The victim was then hit on the forehead.

The alleged attacker told her, "I should be kicking your a—, but I'm gonna do it professionally and let the manager know."

After talking to a supervisor, the victim felt that it was assumed that it was the victim's fault.

The victim was then suspended for three days.

On the fourth day, the victim met with the retail director.

The director said that the suspect told him that it was she who had been hit.

The victim then threatened to make a police report.

This allegedly prompted the suspect to write a statement admitting that she had been at fault.

She then cleaned out her desk and left.

The case is open.

THE OAKLAND POST

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EDITOR'S VIEW

OU does business, as usual, during spring break

As usual students faculty and staff returned from a hiatus to find and hear of changes that took place while the majority of the community was out of the loop.

These changes, however, may not cause as much controversy as others have in the past, such as the decision for a second golf course that came down at a summer Board meeting.

Aside from the swimming and basketball teams concluding their seasons, there was a trilogy of major events that took place over Mid-Winter break.

Another construction zone can be found on campus. Ground was broken for the long awaited Business and Applied Technology Institute that will be located on the South East side of campus next to Varner Hall.

The 60,000-square-foot building is hoped to be completed by fall 2000 and is estimated at \$17.5 million.

Students, faculty and staff can look forward to additional computer labs, a multimedia auditorium, classrooms and more office space.

In other news, President Gary Russi has been busy making proposals and announcements.

We hear congratulations are in order for Russi who made a formal wedding proposal to Women's Head Basketball Coach Beckie Francis.

It's nice to know warm hearts and sweet romance is in full bloom even though blizzards and frozen ground sweep campus rather than Spring air.

Russi also put an end to the second of two VPAA and Provost searches in the last three years after announcing his recommendation of Louis Esposito on March 1.

The Board unanimously approved Russi's recommendation at its March 4 meeting.

Esposito, a former provost and current professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts - Boston, was one of eight search candidates who was flown in for airport interviews.

In the Post's opinion, he was the most desirable of the group. He was not only highly qualified, but he was also knowledgeable on student issues, educational needs and seemed eager to be forthright, witty and personable.

Of the two searches, this one was conducted legally and in an orderly fashion. It was far more, shall we say, media friendly than other searches on campus in the recent past. The Provost Search committee and its chair, Economics Professor Kevin Murphy, were cooperative and well-organized making at least the initial impression of the outcome of the search, successful.

So, a warm welcome goes out to Esposito.

And, lastly, the grievance filed by the AAUP on Aug. 24 for a lack of consultation with faculty chairs on the appointment of William Macauley to act as interim dean of the CAS was resolved.

It was settled before going to arbitration in hopes of improving relations between administration and OU faculty.

Could these changes be stepping stones for more communication, consultation and cooperation at OU? If so, maybe we can expect smooth sailing into the 21st Century.

JEANNEE KIRKALDY

PERSPECTIVES



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AAUP against speech codes

Dear Editor,

Your article Cussing: free speech or obscenity? gives the impression that OU's policy restricting language use in the classroom, typically called a "speech code," arises from the AAUP's 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom.

An actual reading of the passage you quoted will reveal, however, that it concerns something else entirely.

The fact is that the AAUP has stood firmly against the use of speech codes at universities. So have the U.S. Federal courts, which have held them to be illegal:

(1) Why so many universities have adopted these codes, though they are known to be against the law, may be as much a reflection of the fact that the adage "Monkey see, monkey do," applies as much to institutions of higher education as it does to anything else. It may be worthwhile noting, however, that

the courts have recently begun holding university officials personally liable for policies that they should have known to be illegal. (2) When such matters come before the court, the idea that everyone else is doing it is not likely to count as much of a defense.

• Kors, A.C. and H.A. Silverglade, The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America's Campuses. New York: The Free Press, 1998.

• Healy, Patrick. Officials at College in Ohio Held Personally Liable in Suit Over Affirmative Action. Chronicle of Higher Education, November 2, 1998.

Sincerely,

Howard Schwartz
Professor of Organizational Behavior
Chair, AAUP Committee A on Academic Freedom

Professors defend need for diversity

Dear Editor,

It is useful that Mr. (Daniel) Ring raises the question of intellect at the university.

But he should go one step further and ask what is intellect for?

Intellect is not free from the history, culture and even the human body in which it is carried.

The task of intelligence is to address questions of our time. At the end of the 20th Century, it is difficult to believe that issues of race, gender and social class are not in the fabric of our society and of importance to Oakland University.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Scherer
Professor of Sociology
Shea Howell
Professor of Communication
Michael Ponder
Special Lecturer of Sociology

Editor's note: Daniel Ring wrote a Letter to the Editor questioning the validity of diversity. It was printed in the Feb. 10, 1999 issue of THE OAKLAND POST.

Applications are now being accepted for next year's staff of THE OAKLAND POST! All positions are available.

Stop by Trailer B for more information or call 370-4268.

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

THE OAKLAND POST corrects factual errors that appear on its pages.

• In the Feb. 17 issue of The Oakland Post, Steven Shablin was misquoted. His quote should have read, "A student's GPA through the Fall term 1998 will determine who will appear in the Commencement program as a candidate for honors."

POST INFORMATION

Due to OC renovations, THE OAKLAND POST has moved to the south side of campus. The office is temporarily located next to the Science and Engineering Building in Trailer B.

Editor in Chief	(248)370-4268
News	(248)370-4267
Campus Life	(248)370-4266
Sports	(248)370-4263
General	(248)370-4265
Fax	(248)370-4264

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Sunday, March 21, 10 am - 4 pm

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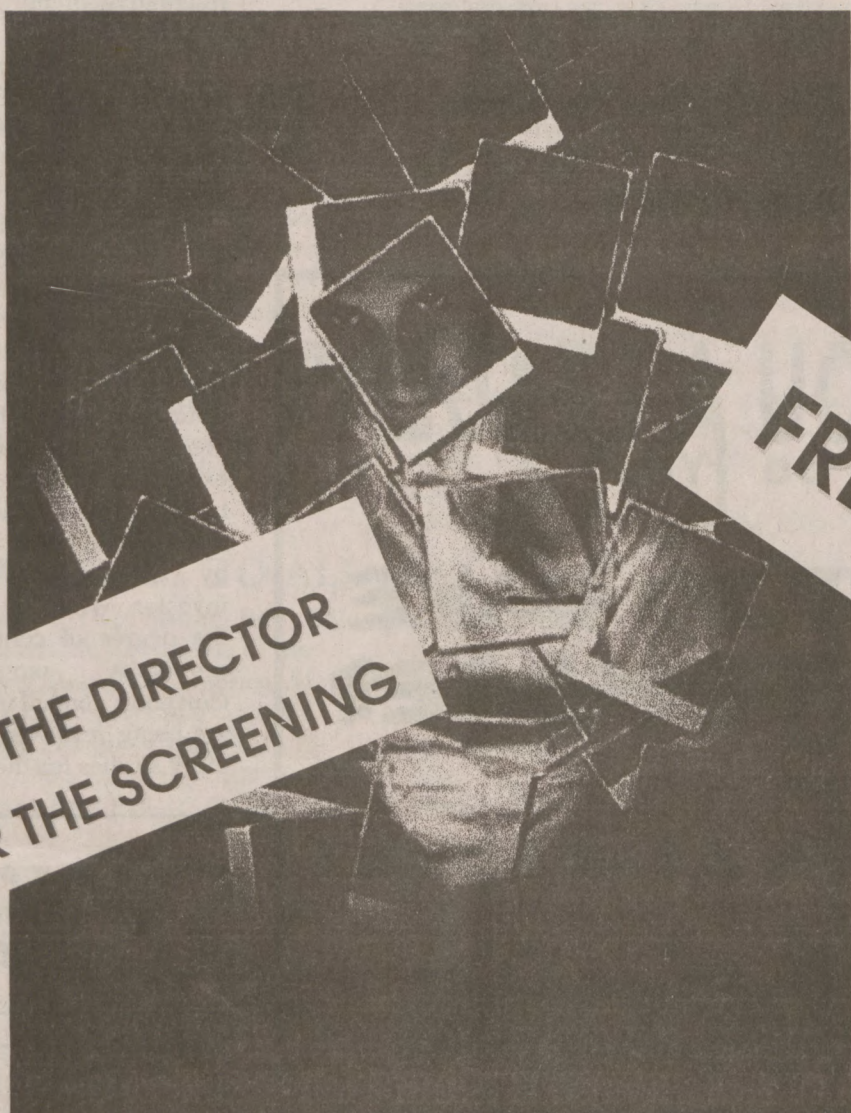
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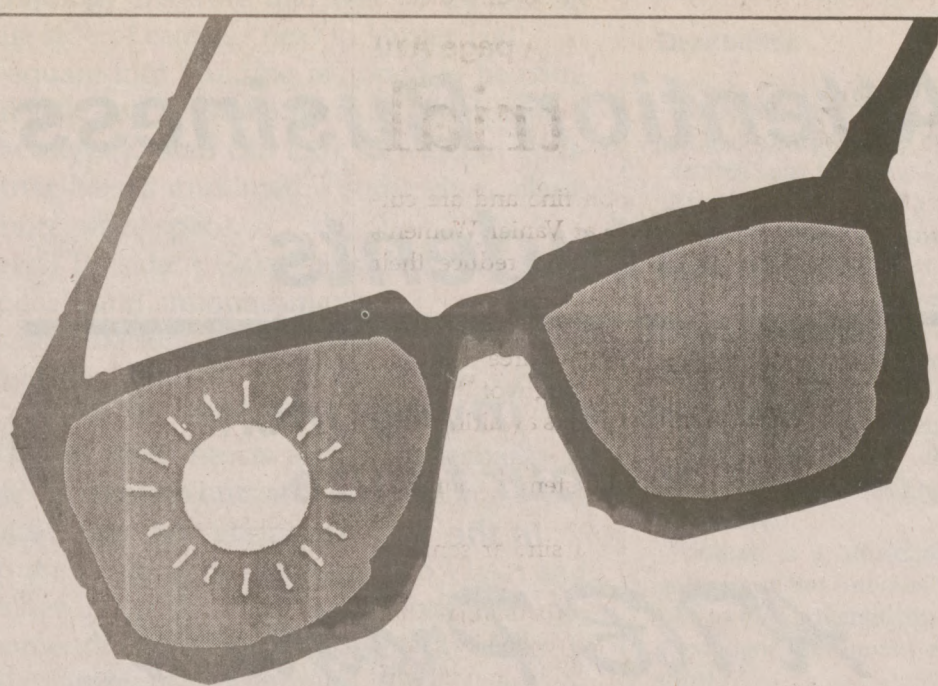
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Monday, March 15

7:00pm

OC Gold Room "C"

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VPAA

Continued from page 1

mittee did not rank the three finalists by any particular order, since all three were extremely strong candidates.

"The three candidates each had their own set of strengths (that were) very different," he said. "It gave the President a lot from which to choose."

Russi sent out a letter March 1 informing the OU community of Esposito's selection.

In the letter, Russi stated, "I think you will find Dr. Esposito to be a good listener, knowledgeable of higher education issues, open to the viewpoints of others and very energetic and enthusiastic."

Since his start at Boston in 1967, Esposito has held other administrative positions such as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for two years and economics chair for three years.

While serving in the provost position, Esposito handled a \$50 million academic affairs budget and more than 800 faculty and 200 staff.

He has also completed a revision of the general education curriculum, systematic and regularized academic program review, support and recognition of innovative teaching, and hiring and retention of minority faculty.

During his visit to OU, Esposito defined the VPAA/Provost position as one of the "protector of core academic values" and left a positive impression on several community members who perceived him as candid, enthusiastic and with strong academic background.

Esposito also commented on the current pressing issues in the OU community, caused mainly by recent university land and building development. He said projects should be reviewed in the light of their benefit to the academic resources.

Senate

Continued from page A3

the university senate is a fair representation of several interests.

"I think it's a dumb idea," Polis said. "A faculty senate makes sense when you don't have a union. The current senate is representative of not only faculty, but other groups."

AP Association president Jean Anne Miller said that they are waiting to see what will happen before they become active on the issue.

"We have not taken a stance one way or another, we're going to see what direction it takes," Miller said.

Also discussed at the meeting was the construction of the multipurpose complex being considered. Several concerns were expressed that the art center, hotel/conference facility, and ice arena would be partially funded by an outside commercial investor, which would reduce the degree of control that the university would have. Currently, consultant companies are being reviewed to do feasibility studies for the project.

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COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

FESTIVALS & SHOWS

• **Computer & Antique Show**
Mar. 12, noon - 9 p.m.; Mar. 13, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Mar. 14, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens.
Admission: \$2 per car. Call (810) 465-6440.

• **Michigan Golf Show**
Showcasing golf supplies, techniques, and workshops. Mar. 12, 4 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 13, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Mar. 14, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Novi Expo Center, Novi.
Admission: \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$2.50 under 12. Parking: \$5. Call (248) 348-5600.

• **Plymouth Beanie Baby Show**
Current and retired Beanie Babies and their accessories will be up for sale and trade. Mar. 14. Plymouth Cultural Center, Plymouth. Call (734) 455-2110.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

• **Coping With Cancer**
Cancer patients, families, and friends are invited to attend this program which offers coping and planning strategies for dealing with cancer. Risk and treatment, the power of hope, and other topics will be discussed. Sponsored by the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Mar. 13, 7:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Southfield Centre for the Arts, Southfield. Call (800) 543-9355 to register.

• **Making Marriages Strong**
The program, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways" examines practical ways to make your marriage strong. Mar. 12, 7 - 9:30 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb Twp. Cost: \$10 per couple. Call (810) 286-4231.

• **Water Safety Course**
State law now requires operators of personal watercraft born after Dec. 31, 1978 to pass the water safety course. The next course dates are Mar. 11, 18 - 7 - 9:30 p.m. Bemis Jr. High, Sterling Hgts. Call (810) 795-2300. Course is also offered Mar. 13 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Macomb County Sheriff's office, Mt. Clemens. Call (810) 783-6330.

BENEFITS

• **MASKor AIDE for COTS Gala**
Handpainted, ceramic masks from celebrities like Sinbad, Rosie O'Donnell, Brendan Shanahan, and prominent citizens like Dennis Archer will be up for auction to stamp out homelessness in Detroit. A cocktail reception, dinner, mask auction and music are part of the gala. Mar. 13, 6:30 p.m. International Banquet Center of the Atheneum Hotel, Greektown, Detroit. Tickets: \$100. Call (313) 831-3777 for info and tickets.

OF INTEREST TO ALL

• **Bloomfield Twp. Library Book Sale**
An annual library book sale of the Bloomfield Twp. Public Library. Mar. 13, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Mar. 14 (half price day), 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Mar. 15 (bag day), 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1099 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 642-5800.

• **Women's History Month Videos**
The American Association of University Women (AAUW) chapters of Michigan and Detroit and the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame present two video afternoons. "Sojourner Truth" and "A Woman's Place" will be shown along with four shorter videos in honor of Women's History Month. Mar. 12 & 19, 1 - 3 p.m. David Adamany Undergraduate Library, WSU - Detroit Campus. Free, open to public. Call (248) 626-5414.

Let us know about upcoming community events. Call Outside Oakland Editor Kim Connell at (248) 370-4267.

Monica mania engrosses few

Despite her prime time interview and book release, many Americans still don't sympathize

By KIM CONNELL
Outside Oakland Editor

The ex-presidential intern who shook up the White House and shocked the nation finally got her say on national television last Wednesday.

But instead of gaining the nation's sympathy during Barbara Walters' prime time interview, Monica Lewinsky seemed to draw little support.

Chat rooms and message boards all over the Internet, including those at America Online (AOL) were buzzing with comments on the interview.

Some AOL users like Craig Taylor of Fairfield, CA had no desire to tune in to the interview.

"...nothing Monica Lewinsky has to say now is of importance to anyone but herself," said Taylor.

Christopher Kahler of Chicago, IL agrees.

"After all the saturation in the media, I don't see how anyone in their right mind could have an ounce of interest in anything more about this. [Lewinsky] will be the most insignificant footnote in American history."

If [Clinton] wasn't the president, would any... malicious rumor mongers care one way or the other? I think not," Kahler added.

But regardless of what the public

thinks of Lewinsky, an estimated 70 to 74 million households tuned into the interview on March 3, which was the most watched interview since Oprah Winfrey interviewed Michael Jackson in 1993.

Lewinsky, in a sophisticated navy pants suit and slicked-down hair, sat on a beige sofa across from Barbara Walters with a smile on her face.

At first, the 25-year-old seemed excited to share her intimate story with viewers, adding smiles and "nervous giggle" to many of her answers.

When

feelings, and about her own feelings regarding Independent Prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

"I was never going to talk about this publicly," she said.

Lewinsky's initial giddiness turned to tears as the interview progressed, starting when a shocking, new intimate detail about her life was revealed.

During the 10 month period in 1996 when Clinton was on the campaign trail, Lewinsky said she had an affair with a senior White House

staffer known as "Thomas". She became pregnant by him and aborted the child. Lewinsky cried as she told Walters about how the FBI's questioning threatened her and how pressure from the incident almost pushed her and her parents to the brink of suicide.

"People have no idea what this has done... that behind the name Monica Lewinsky

there is a person and there is a family... and there has been so much pain that has been caused by this," she sobbed.

But toward the end of the interview, as the room's lighting increased and the bubbly Monica reappeared, she told Walters about being on Prozac and about wanting to start a family.

"There's some days I regret that the relationship ever started and there's other days that I just regret that I confided in Linda Tripp," Lewinsky said.

This was enough to win some viewers' affections, including that of AOL member Jim Pool of Dallas, Texas.

Pool said, "I do believe that she will be a better person and change her life in the most positive way... We all do dumb things in our life and so did she... I

See MONICA page A10

OU alum awaits Canadian trial

By KIM CONNELL
Outside Oakland Editor

It was almost two years ago when then-OU Journalism Senior Gary Yourofsky allegedly ventured to Canada with four cohorts, intent on setting some fur farm minks free.

But today, Yourofsky, now an OU alum and leader of Animals Deserve Adequate Protection Today and Tomorrow (A.D.A.P.T.T.) is essentially still walking free in the United States, awaiting his Canadian trial.

Yourofsky's last scheduled trial date of March 1 was pushed back to April 19, due to a flood of cases entering the Canadian courts.

His trial has been postponed about 15 times since it was ordered in April 1997, with the first instance because Yourofsky was about to graduate from OU. All the other postponements were decisions made by the Canadian system.

According to Yourofsky, the looming sentencing date isn't changing his busy life.

"Sitting at home and worrying is the last thing I've ever done. That's what they (the Canadian justices) want me to do, though."

Alan Hoffman and Robyn Weiner, two of his alleged accomplices in the fur farm break, plead guilty after the incident. They were released on probation and ordered to perform community service.

Because of Hoffman and Weiner's confessions, A.D.A.P.T.T. and other animal rights organizations have distanced the pair from the animal rights crusade, according to Yourofsky.

Pat Dodson and Helma Ruby, the other two accomplices,

were ordered to pay a \$35,000 restitution fine and are currently serving a 90 day prison sentence at Vanier Women's Center. Canadian prison overcrowding could reduce their sentences to 60 days.

In the meantime, Yourofsky, the third member of what Canadian police have dubbed "The Chatham Three" is awaiting his trial along with his attorney, Steven Rogin of Windsor.

Yourofsky says he will not plead guilty and is awaiting a full trial.

"I refuse to cooperate with an unjust system," Yourofsky said.

Yourofsky predicts that he will receive a similar sentence given to Dodson and Ruby.

"I'd rather do five years in jail than pay them a penny," Yourofsky said.

If convicted, he said he and 80 supporters from 20 states will wage a 40 day hunger strike.

Yourofsky claims that Canada's justice system is delaying his case to harass him and deter him from his animal-rights crusade.

But away from his crusade he is not, and A.D.A.P.T.T. is keeping him busy, he said.

A.D.A.P.T.T. has recently produced two public service announcements against the use of animals in circuses. It is also fighting to outlaw animal-based circuses from coming to Michigan and plans to get the message out by using a billboard somewhere on I-75.

Yourofsky also plans to raise animal abuse awareness by taking to the airwaves of WKRC on March 12 and WYCD on March 18.

"Anyone who feels strongly about a cause will do anything to fight it," he said.

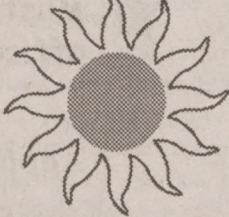
VALERIE'S FOUR DAY FORECAST

Thursday



Partly Cloudy
High - 36°
Low - 20°

Friday



Mostly Sunny
High - 37°
Low - 18°

Saturday



Ptly Cloudy/Snow
High - 40°
Low - 20°

Sunday



Ptly Cloudy/Snow
High - 32°
Low - 20°

Journalism Sophomore Valerie Shultz is the Weather Forecaster for THE OAKLAND POST.



Your home as an investment

Q: Is buying the biggest house you can afford a better investment than buying a more modest one and investing the difference in the stock market? — B.D., via the Internet

A: The Foolish answer boils down to two factors: 1) the investment returns your home would generate for you as it appreciates in value over time vs. those of the stock market, and 2) how much more you'd enjoy living in that bigger home.

So let's begin with the nut of the matter: Is owning a home a good financial investment? The question itself is not at all nutty. Remember that the cash you invest could well provide all the cash you need for your retirement, and we ain't talking peanuts.

There certainly have been periods during which real estate has been a great investment. For most of the 1980s, for example, home values kept shooting up while demand exceeded supply. In the *Doonesbury* comic strip, Mike Doonesbury said that instead of working, he felt like staying home and watching while the house worked for him.

But now, as we close in on the year 2000 and boomers are turning 50 every 7 1/2 seconds (if you listen closely you can hear the sounds of arteries hardening), they already own their homes, so demand for houses may grow very slowly for a while.

That doesn't mean a house you buy tomorrow won't be a good investment. You may find yourself in a hot market, for whatever local reason — good beaches, an influx of trendy Hollywood stars, Elvis sightings or whatever. But it's hard to predict.

Could your money do better elsewhere? We Fools certainly think so. There's been no better place to park your money this century than the stock market. Over time, it beats just about everything else out there. So if you're thinking of your house solely in investment terms, we think you're better off living, as it were, in the stock market. (Sure, you'll be irritated by the screams of the traders on the exchange floor, but hey, just press that pillow hard against your ear.)

Let's say you decide to buy the smaller house and to use the money you save from monthly payments for the stock market. Now you must ask yourself: Am I really going to do this? Do I have the discipline? Or would I go to the movies thrice weekly and splurge on the occasional Austrian ski junket? If you do, you may still decide that this matters more to you than having more house. Just try to be honest with yourself along the way.

What's the bottom line? Think of your house as a purchase, not an investment. If it ends up shooting up in value like an Apollo rocket, well, so much the better. In the meantime, the returns you'll gain are of a different nature: a fireplace to hang stockings at Christmas, barbecues in the shade of the backyard Norway maple, a good school district for your kids.

What Now?

Wondering how much you might be able to borrow, and whether you might be better off renting? You'll find a host of easy-to-use online calculators at www.financecenter.com/calcs.html.

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CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

THIS WEEK

Celebrate OU Women Week March 8-12

- **Wednesday March 10, Noon - 1:00 p.m.**
Heritage Room, Oakland Center

Presenting ...Accomplished OU Women

A panel discussion highlighting the accomplishments of several OU Women including: Lettie Alston, Associate Professor of Music; Maria Cseh, Assistant Professor of Education; Irene Edgett, Office Assistant/Registrar; Beckie Francis, OU Women's Basketball Coach; Merridith Perry Moore, Retention Coordinator, Office of Equity; Linda Van Natta, Executive Secretary, Campus Facilities & Operations.

- **Thursday, March 11, Noon - 1:00 p.m.**
Gold Room A, Oakland Center

Issues Facing Women in College

A panel discussion featuring Sharon Abraham, Director, University Diversity and Compliance; Susan Baker, Special Lecturer, Rhetoric Communications & Journalism; Alicia Bonahoom, Counselor, University Counseling Center; Karen Olsen, Coordinator, Graham Heath Center; Terry Ross, Police Officer, OUPD

- **Thursday, March 12, Noon - all day**
Fireside Lounge, OC

OU Recognition Day

Display featuring OU women students, faculty and staff nominated by their peers to be recognized for their contributions to the OU community.

Nomination Forms for OU Recognition Day are available at the Center for Student Activities Office, Copy Stop, and 20/20 Information Center. Nomination forms are due in the CSA Office, 49 Oakland Center by March 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Get a little Culture!

See a performance of the Opera "Madame Butterfly", Friday, April 16th at 10 a.m. performance at the Detroit Opera House.

OU students can buy up to two main floor tickets, regularly sold for \$50 for only \$10 each. Tickets can be reserved until Friday, March 12. Actual tickets will be distributed in early April.

The opera will be sung in Italian with the English subtitles shown above the stage. Madame Butterfly is one of the most beloved operas in the world. It is a great introduction for one seeing an opera for the first time.

Blood Drive

The March Blood Drive will take place Monday, March 22, and Tuesday, March 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Gold Rooms, Oakland Center. Those with appointment will have priority over those without an appointment. You can make an appointment by calling 370-2400 or at one of the sign-up tables available in the Oakland Center.

The Southeast Michigan Red Cross has a critically shortage of blood and needs over 1000 pints donated every day to supply area hospitals with needed blood. Your donation of one pint of blood assists up to three people. If you have given blood before, you know how easy it is. If you haven't, please consider starting. Yes, it is a bit uncomfortable for some, but it makes you feel good about helping others.

The Red Cross appreciates all the people who donate at Oakland University. Please help the Red Cross! Give the gift of life and donate blood.

The CSA Service Window

We now have tickets or sign-up sheets for the following activities:

- ❖ SPB trip to the Holocaust Center March 30
- ❖ Student Tickets to Madam Butterfly

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You are one of the 1500 students asked to complete the CORE SURVEY. This means that you have a chance to provide important information about how much alcohol and drug use is happening on our campus. Is it still true that 36.5% of OU students do NOT drink alcohol? Is it still true that 29.4% of OU students binge drink? Only you can say.

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\$31²⁵



Survey

Continued from
page A3

they serve the purpose of education, heightening awareness, indicating to people that they are not alone, and that there is always help available," Chopp said. "The whole program is free, consultation is free, and the fee for the Counseling Center has six free sessions, and all subsequent sessions are \$10 per visit."

For further information on the Core Survey or Anxiety Screening, contact GHC at 370-3465.

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- ★ Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- ★ Must have earned a minimum of 56 undergraduate credits, of which 28 are earned at Oakland University, or have earned 18 graduate credits, of which 9 are earned at Oakland
- ★ Must not hold any other major elected or appointed office.

Applications are available at:

- ★ Student Affairs Office - 144 Oakland Center
- ★ Student Congress - 100 Oakland Center
(adjacent to Heritage Room)
- ★ Center for Student Activities - 49 Oakland Center

Applications are due
at the Student Affairs
Office March 31, 1999.
Questions: Please
call (248) 370-4200.

VP reflects on rags-to-riches life story

Irish poet to visit OU

Desmond Egan will cross oceans to read his internationally known work in the OC March 10.

By MATT GARCIA
Staff Writer

You don't need the luck of the Irish to experience a world class poetry reading at OU.

The English Department, in cooperation with the Honors College, has invited the internationally known Irish poet Desmond Egan to read some of his work.

"His poetry is kind of like a musical score. It is meant to be heard out loud, and the music of his words can be heard inside of your head," said Brian Murphy, Honors College director.

Egan used to teach Greek and later English in various colleges before

resigning his teaching position in 1987 to write full time.

Since then he has published 12 collections of poetry, one book of prose and many other works.

He has also won several awards, including the National Poetry Foundation of USA Award (1983) and the Pilgrim's Progress Prize (1993), according to his web biography.

Although Egan planned a trip to the United States for the documentary film he is to work on in Iowa, as well as for the annual Gerard Manley Hopkins conference he is to attend as one of the organization's officers, it was OU that paid for his travel expenses.

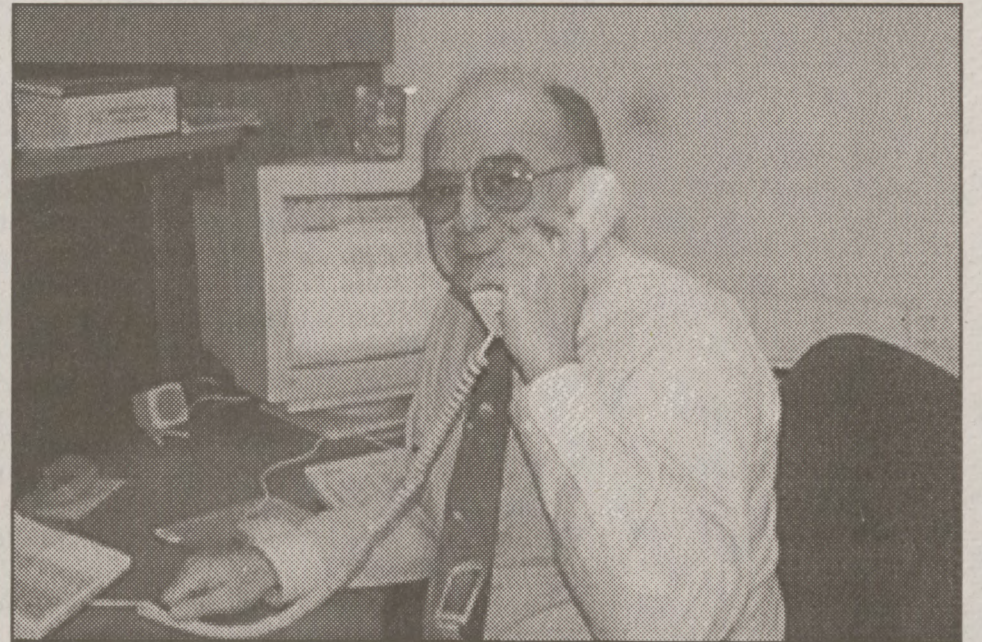
"Egan's poetry is very accessible. It is

not straightforward poetry nor is it terribly obscure like Ezra Pound," Murphy said.

"The only thing slightly difficult about his poetry is that he avoids punctuation, but as I said before, his poetry is really something meant to be heard," Murphy added.

Brian Connery, English Department chair, said, "Egan's poetry has an elegiac quality to it. Some poems have a tone of an elegy in memory of people. There is poetry on landscapes and other things of importance. As for Egan's style, it is very fresh and conversational."

Egan will give the reading March 10 from 4-5:30 p.m. in rooms 126 and 127 in the OC.



Post Photo/Jenn Madjarev

ON THE MOVE: Ron Cigna, vice provost for Information Technologies, has many stories to tell and yet more to still live through.

By TINA NEDDERMEYER
Staff Writer

It's not often that a top university administrator admits his life goal is to become an educated beach bum.

Then again, it's not often that the person travels across the United States and holds jobs as diverse as floor sweeping and company management.

Ronald Cigna, 57, vice provost for Information Technologies at OU, claims the only thing he wants to accomplish in life is to be able to look back and say, "I enjoyed it."

Cigna arrived to OU last July to fill up a position that did not exist before. He is the chief information officer for the entire campus, overseeing seven organizations within the university structure.

"Originally, I said no to the position," Cigna said. "I was looking to go south."

However, despite the Michigan winters, he decided the position would be a step up.

The job was previously filled on an interim basis and loosely defined.

With many goals in mind, Cigna began at OU trying to finish projects that had already begun.

One such project was the installation of the SCT Banner System. This \$4.5 million integrated system is capable of completing all of the administrative functions such as registration, payroll and financial aid that are currently outsourced in Pittsburgh.

According to Cigna, the primary reason for the Banner implementation is that OU's current system is not Y2K compliant.

"By implementing a system like this, it should make us more responsive to students and their growth," Cigna said.

The core system is expected to be implemented in July.

Future objectives for Cigna include providing better communication in the residence halls through replacement of the old wiring, and increasing the availability of distance learning.

Currently OU has classrooms outfitted with distance learning capabilities, and Cigna said he would like to see more.

"With distance learning, you have the benefit of not attending class on campus, and yet you still get the benefits of the faculty," he said.

Although Cigna is new at the top of the food chain, he, like many, has had to work his way up the ranks to get to where he is now.

Born in 1942 in Rochester, NY, to mother who worked in a box making factory and father an automechanic, Cigna had to learn how to take care of himself at an early age.

"I was a latch-key kid long before the term was ever coined," Cigna said.

Living in the small Italian neighborhood taught Cigna about responsibility and consequences of his actions.

"I think through life experiences you learn to cope and take care of yourself. You gain self-confidence or you don't survive," he said.

Cigna graduated from high school at 17, and instead of accepting a partial music scholarship from the University of Miami Coral Gables, he auditioned for the navy and got accepted in 1959 as a musician.

Cigna said he has played the drums

since he was eight. He became inspired at a young age by Gene Krupa, a popular jazz drummer of the 1930s and 40s.

For six months, Cigna studied at the Navy School of Music in Washington, D.C. until he was transferred to the island of Kodiak, Alaska.

Stationed on this island, just south of Anchorage, Cigna and the members of the band marched and played at clubs until January 1962.

Moving from one extreme to another, Cigna was next transferred to San Diego, CA. While playing occasionally in the local clubs, he went from living in an apartment off the beach to bumming on the beach for a couple of weeks.

"It was a time for me to relax," Cigna said. "I worked as a bell boy for tips and swept a pizza parlor for a slice of pizza to get by. But I needed to shake off some of the military experience before I entered the work force."

After his release from the Navy the day before his 21st birthday, Cigna entered the work force as a floor sweeper in a toner plant for Xerox Corporation.

Over the next 25 years, Cigna moved up the corporate ladder and held a variety of data processing, customer service and operation management positions.

"Xerox was a great company to work for and I really enjoyed working there," Cigna said.

"But they were starting to slow down, and I thought it was time to make a change. I didn't want to do more of the same thing." With that in mind, in 1988 Cigna took a 40 percent cut in pay to change careers and accepted a position at the University of Rochester, NY as a project manager.

The Integrated Mental Health Project, funded by a state grant, tried to demonstrate that people could be taken out of a psychiatric center and released into society with the help of homecare and halfway support.

As project manager, it was Cigna's responsibility to consolidate data for seven mental institutions and send accurate and timely reports to the state to make its requirements.

Although he was no longer working on the project when it was finished, to Cigna's understanding it was successful. In many cases, people were capable of living reasonably normal lives without incarceration in a hospital.

Nine months later, as the project was near completion, Cigna began looking for new challenges.

"I am a strong believer in (the theory that) if you like what you do and do what you like, you won't work a day in your life," he said.

Remaining at the University of Rochester, Cigna switched career paths and accepted a position as an assistant director for the university's computing services.

Avoiding the conventional office setting, Cigna had used a renovated hotel room as his office. The room overlooked the historic Mount Hope Cemetery where Susan B. Anthony and Frederic Douglas are buried.

For more than two years, Cigna worked with a large application programming team to organize personnel payroll and install a new benefits package for the university to make it compliant with the federal regulations.

See CIGNA page A10

Survey says Teaching Award doesn't effect class choice

By RAMEZ KHURI
Staff Writer

What do Political Science, Mathematics, English, Engineering, Anthropology, Music, History, Education, and Communications all have in common?

They are all taught by professors who have won Teaching Excellence Awards for outstanding teaching and deep concerns for students at OU.

However, students are apparently not aware of this.

A poll of 25 students, taken in the OC, showed that none of the students questioned knew that these subjects were taught by award-winning professors.

Eleven out of 25 did not even know the awards existed. The rest have heard of the awards, but said they never really paid much attention.

Seven students said they chose classes randomly, four said by popularity of the professors, 10 said they have not taken classes taught by any of the awarded professors, and nine of those said they would consider taking a class with one of the awarded professors.

Two students said they pick their professors both by popularity and randomly. One student said she has taken a class with one of the awarded professors, but did not know that he won the award. The last student said she does not choose neither randomly nor by popularity.

Junior Jim Bloom, who said he picks

randomly, said, "As long as a class fits into my schedule, it's fine."

Junior Nick Nowakowski had a similar view.

"Sometimes I hear what people say, then I'll do it, but that's rare. (Teaching Excellence Awards) don't really make a difference to me. I go by what fits my schedule and what fits my time," Nowakowski said.

"If a teacher had an award, that

"(Awards) don't really make a difference to me. I go by what fits my schedule and what fits my time."

Nick Nowakowski
Junior

would be better, but I'm sure all of these teachers here are qualified enough to teach, so it shouldn't make that big a difference," he said.

Junior Michelle Frank, who chooses by popularity, said, "If I have heard any recommendations about them previously, that's how I would pick who I want them to be."

Junior Chris Malloy, who chooses both by popularity and randomly, said, "Some I pick by popularity, and some I

never heard of so I just pick them randomly."

Kendra Brewer, communications senior, was the only student polled who has taken a class with an awarded professor. She said, "I didn't know he won an award, but I heard his name before, and he's well known on campus. He's a good professor."

Freshman Cheryl Berron, who does not choose professor neither randomly or by popularity, said, "I try to figure out which professors speak the best English, that's the one I would pick. I take a lot of math and science classes, and I need people that speak English (well) because the majority of the math and science teachers here don't speak very good English."

According to professor Andrew Rusek who won the award in 1996 in engineering, the awards are an annual event and \$2,500 dollars are added to the salary of the teacher who wins.

"The money is taxed, and I contribute a lot from my pocket to the University, so it isn't about the money," Rusek said.

"It's more of a good feeling to win because you get to go to Lansing and shake hands with some important people," he added.

Rusek said he was nominated entirely by students, but sometimes the faculty nominate each other.

A complete list of professors that have won Teaching Excellence Award is located at the Kresge Library.

Breast cancer awareness kicks off women's month

By MICHAEL JONES
Special Writer

The nationally recognized Women's History Month of March officially got underway Monday with Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

An information booth, located in the Fireside Lounge, armed students with the necessary knowledge to combat breast cancer.

The assistant director for student activities, Jean Ann Miller, sponsored the Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Previous events sponsored by Miller include Alcohol Awareness Day, Rainbow Diversity and African American Week.

Miller's involvement of planning student activities and awareness programs began last February.

Miller and a group of students developed the idea of Breast Cancer Awareness Day in anticipation of Women's History Month.

"We wanted to focus on a health issue that is relevant for all of us."

It is a devastating disease if not caught in the early stage of development," Miller added.

The information stand contained literature about breast cancer and aids in prevention. The American Cancer Society provided the literature for the booth and pink ribbons were also available to symbolize breast cancer awareness.

Numerous people passing through the OC heading for the food court visited the booth.

Miller said the attention paid to the stand was pleasing since awareness is a major key in winning the battle against breast cancer.

Prevention is the best way to fight breast cancer.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) says about 180,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 44,000 of these women will die of the disease.

"Every year more than 1,600 Michigan women die from breast cancer," according to the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Detecting the cancer in its earlier phase can save lives. A basic test or procedure in detecting breast cancer is breast self-exams.

Self-examinations can expose lumps or swelling in the breast. Not all lumps are cancerous, but finding these symptoms create the need for further investigation.

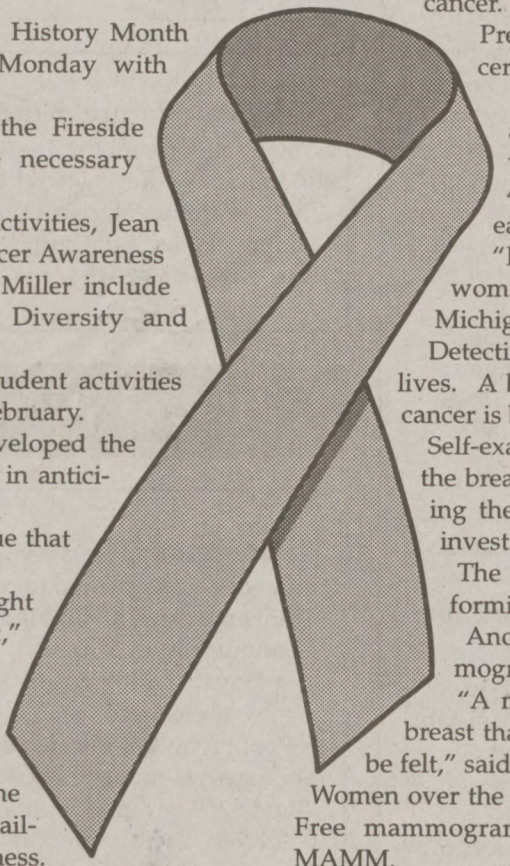
The ACS strongly recommends women performing breast self-examinations once a month.

Another early stage detection device is a mammogram, a simply X-ray of the breast.

"A mammogram can pick up changes in the breast that might signal cancer long before any can be felt," said the ACS.

Women over the age of 40 need a mammogram every year. Free mammograms are available by calling 1-800-922-MAMM.

Women under the age of 40 should have a clinical breast exam performed by a doctor every three years.



Trial

Continued from page A7

believe we should give her a break and move on."

"Let's not be quick to judge her as she was in a position that is not foreign to many young women. I must admit compassion for her and disgust for him," said Silver Spring, MD resident Nathan Kinsey.

"I thought Monica looked great. She demonstrated great taste in apparel, hair and make-up, if not men. I hope she makes a fortune off her book; she's earned it," said Gigi S. of Jacksonville, FL.

But most Americans' opinions seemed unchanged by the interview.

"[Monica] showed signs of being well rehearsed and very staged, along with her professional makeup job. But the acts she had to perform to get these leads me to think of all the other

hookers who never had a chance to meet a powerful, political man. We know it would be those hookers we would see interviewed, not this one," said Pepper Pimienta of Cape Coral, FL.

Kennesaw, GA resident Ginger Wann's mind wasn't changed by the interview, either.

"...now that I have seen Monica speak about her experiences, I am even more disgusted. I think Miss Lewinsky is a disturbed individual with severe problems..." Wann said.

Some even expressed disgust with ABC and Walters.

"I wouldn't give you two cents for her book or her thoughts. ABC apparently wanted to make her the victim. Despite what she said on T.V., she still protects and wants him," said Eddie Sorrell of Hernando, MS. Dan Simmons of Milwaukee, WI agreed.

"...For a media that delighted to point out that the American people were tired and wanted it

to go away, Walters/ABC absolutely wallowed in the story. So, the story was annoying and unnecessary when Ken Starr was telling it, but sensitive and important when ABC was telling it?" Simmons questioned.

But regardless of what opinions are out there, Lewinsky continues to sell her version of the incident to the public, with her 288-page book, "Monica's Story", by famed British biographer Andrew Norton.

The book is currently number four on Amazon.com's best-selling list, and number eight on BarnesandNoble.com's list.

Those opting for a comical twist to the Lewinsky saga can check out the recently released *Monica's UNTOLD Story: An Amoral Tale* by Anonymous.

The book features comic sketches and the Lewinsky story told in humorous prose.

Cigna

Continued from page A9

"I enjoyed working there, and had a good staff with a lot of challenges," Cigna said. "But again, I began looking around and had to ask myself, 'Where is my career path?'" Cigna said.

In 1991, he moved to Indiana to accept a position at Indiana-Purdue University in Fort Wayne as a director of computing and data processing services.

"I had a big culture shock," Cigna said. "I had moved from the Northeast to the Midwest. Everything, from the people to the environment, was different."

For seven years, Cigna was responsible for everything computer related except telephones and instructional technology.

With a student technology fee, Cigna and his team fulfilled their promise to the students by completing a full upgrade of their technology equipment. Dot

matrix printers were replaced with laser printers, the number of computers available increased from 80 to 250, and all of the student labs were upgraded.

Although happy with his place at the university, Cigna knew he had to move on.

"You shouldn't become complacent with yourself," he said. "To be honest with myself, I needed to find interest in myself to start going again."

At this point in his career, Cigna became very selective and was looking for another position in a smaller city either in the south or in California.

However, he took the OU job.

"I now remember why I was looking for a smaller city," Cigna said. "The only thing I don't like is traffic. And the only specification I had was that I wasn't going to live anywhere that I had to take I-75 (to work)."

With no plans for retirement, Cigna intends to earn his doctorate degree next.

Having obtained his bachelors and masters degrees in business from the University of Rochester, Cigna said he is not sure what area he'll study for a Ph.D.

Some interests he said he may pursue include the issues of how older people learn, when people re-enter the work force at an older age, or worker shortage and the retention of elders.

"I know there's a theme there, but we have a great resource out there that has talent, wisdom and experience," Cigna said. "We have a tendency to push them out at an early age. How do we bring them pu to speed when they decide to re-enter the work force?"

Without any regrets nor wishes to change anything in his life, Cigna said he was happy.

"I think it's important you make things happen," he said. "Too many things can happen to you that you don't have control over. If you have control, it makes sense to use it all."

THE OAKLAND POST

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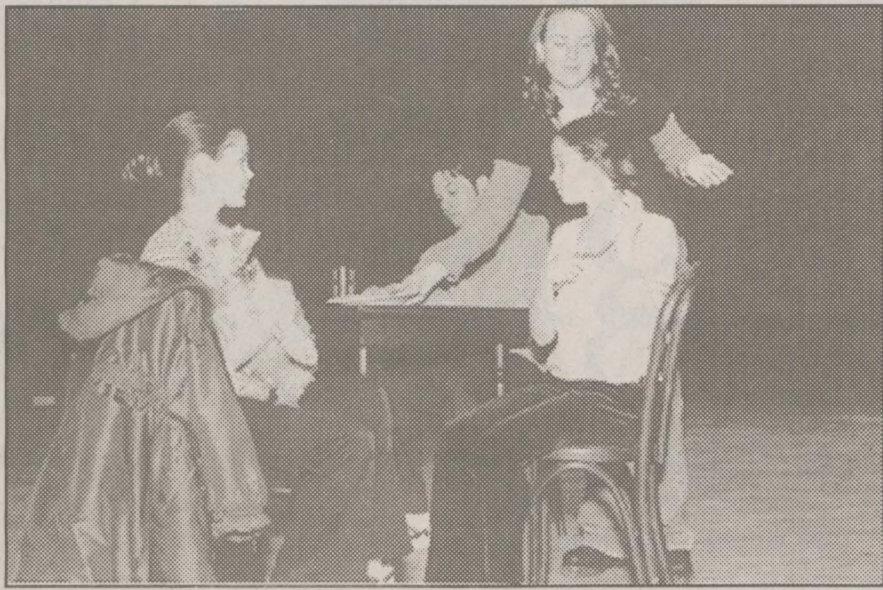
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DRESS UP: Cast members of "Gypsy," often rehearse five to seven days a week in Varner Recital Hall.

For busy theatre students juggling rehearsals, class and work, life can be. . .

A BALANCING ACT

Andrea
Nobile



*Understanding
humanity is the
key to acting*

Humanity itself is a hard thing to understand. If Shakespeare was right when he wrote "All the world is a stage," then people are the complex characters in the play of life. So, imagine making the task of figuring out what makes an individual tick your life's work.

That's what serious aspiring actors strive to do, and also what the most extraordinary of the successful ones do on a regular basis.

There was a time when I wanted to be an actress. I wanted to make it big. Television, film, theatre - I wanted to do it all. For about two crazy months, I even considered myself a musical theatre major.

Of course, I eventually realized my self-esteem probably couldn't take the amount of rejection that the industry is famous for dishing out. And it didn't help that I once read only 2% of real "actors" are ever actually working. Not only would I be unemployed because no one wanted to hire me, but I wouldn't even be able to afford my psychiatrist, who would probably have to treat my floundering sense of self.

I decided the "starving artist with an inferiority complex" way of life just wasn't the route I wanted to take.

Yet, I still can't help but admire those who have the determination, talent and sheer guts it takes to not only audition for a part, but bring the role they land to sparkling life. The great actors, the ones who fill their audiences with energy and rapture because of their performances, are those who tackle humanity. Great performances should fill you up.

These performers (only the good ones, and believe me, there are bad ones) figure out their character. They become their character. And because of that, we, the audience, are fascinated by them.

The best of the best can take black and white type on meaningless sheets of paper, and from those words create characters, emotions and situations that audiences remember forever.

Late actors like Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, and current phenoms like Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep do just that. Hanks wasn't Hanks in "Forrest Gump." He WAS Forrest Gump. Streep, whether a tragic Holocaust victim in 1982's "Sophie's Choice" or a determined soon-to-be ex-wife in "Kramer vs. Kramer," becomes her character.

The greats make us forget their names (and their millions) for a moment.

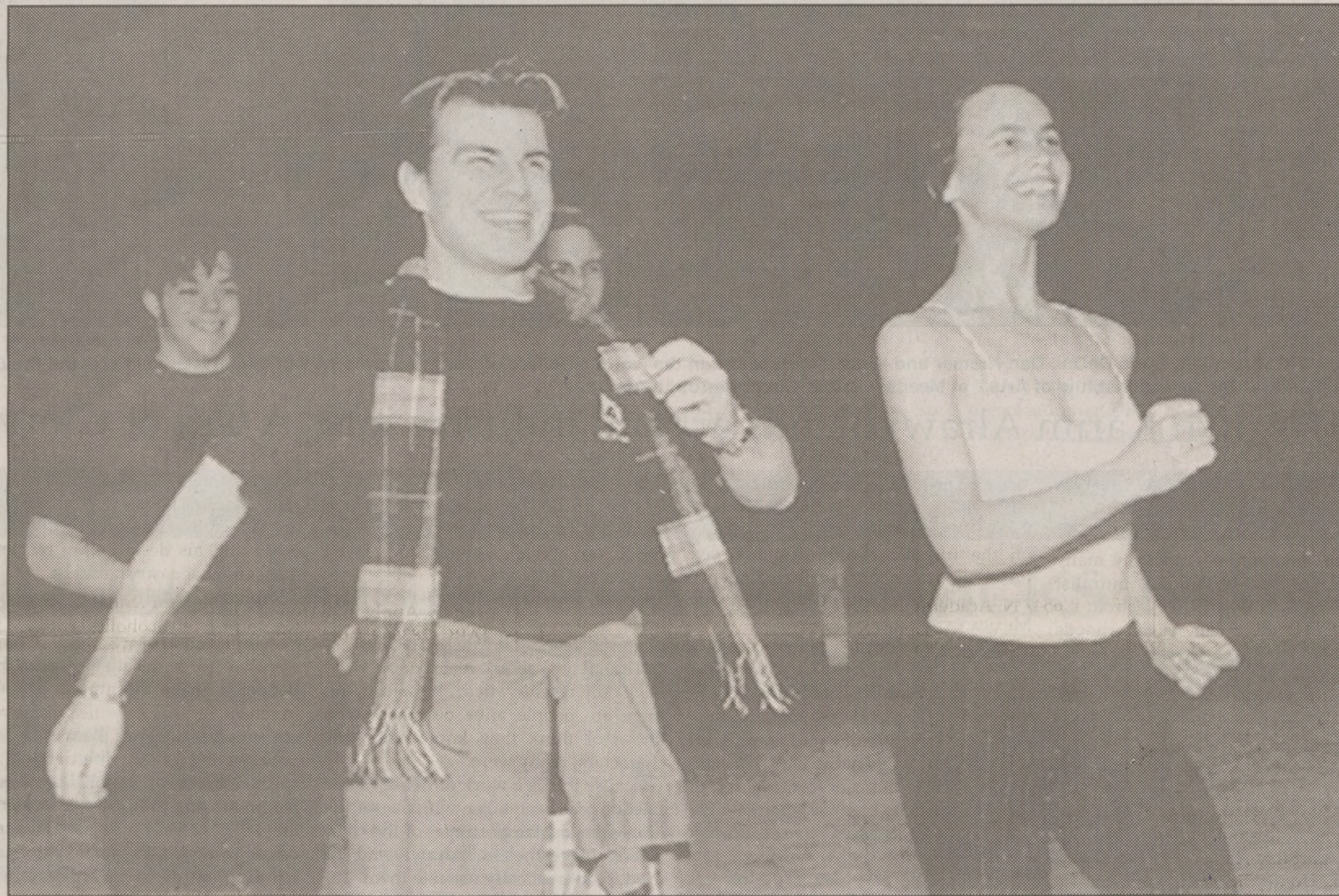
Maybe that's what makes acting one of the few professions (along with musical performers) that the non-participating members of society follow with awe and often strive to know more about. For comparison, think about this: NASA engineers may be amazing people, but do you really have a favorite Flight Director? I didn't think so.

We as a society socialize via entertainment. We flock to live concerts, go to movies, listen to the radio and attend the theatre usually with friends.

But what makes those movies and musicals so enticing? We're seeing humanity up there. We (humanity as a whole) are watching our lives. We are watching not only what we wish our life to be, but also what we hope it isn't. We get lost in characters — heroes and villains — that are created by men and women who must have some secret understanding of what we are all about.

Either that, or they're just really lucky. But for humanity's sake, let's hope it isn't the latter.

Senior Andrea Nobile is a journalism major and Life Editor for THE OAKLAND POST.



DO YOUR DANCE: Principle actors practice one of several song and dance numbers for next week's opening of the musical "Gypsy."

By LISA SHANNON
Staff Writer

It's a busy time in the semester any way you slice it, but in addition to a workload of school, homework and work, try adding the commitment of rehearsing for an upcoming musical.

That's the kind of schedule OU students involved in theatre juggle every day.

"Gypsy" is the latest production to be tackled by the OU theatre program. Closing in on opening night, those students involved in the musical are beginning to feel the all-too-familiar signs of urgency that goes along with it all.

On a Sunday, a little more than a week before opening night, the cast and crew congregate in Varner Hall. A cluster of them can be found in the costume room, pouring over each character's attire. Weekend meetings are familiar and customary, and go along with the demanding schedule of putting on a successful production.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything. I love it. It's one of the most rewarding experiences I've had," said Emily Wilson, a musical theatre major.

Wilson, a sophomore, plays "Mama Rose," the lead in OU's production of "Gypsy." She rehearses Mondays through Fridays for four to six hours each night in addition to weekend rehearsals.

And if she weren't busy enough, Wilson is taking 21 credits this semester, working a part-time job, and is involved in the Meadow Brook Estate Show Choir (MBE) which holds performances next month.

"I like being busy," Wilson added, "It makes me work harder in some sense because I want to get it all done."

Wilson's dream is to continue her involve-

ment in theatre with a career as a musical actress.

Junior Jennifer Lynn Ripari, musical theatre, plays "June," Gypsy's younger sister. "My favorite thing is that feeling you get when it's all over and you're standing there, the audience is clapping and they love your show. I just love to entertain," she said as she smiled, singing the chorus from "Let Me Entertain You," one of the show's most well known songs.

Ripari's goal is to move to Nashville to live out her dream as a country singer, but right now she joins Wilson in her involvement in MBE, as well as holding a part time job at a dance store.

Kevin Hughes, who plays "Yonkers," is a senior in musical theatre. In addition to his busy rehearsal schedule, Hughes juggles 18 credits and 30-35 hours a week working as a waiter.

"I'm averaging about 4-6 hours of sleep a night," Hughes said, "but I'm used to it by now."

Hughes is a seasoned actor with the theatre program as this is his 12th production (but that's just his rough estimate).

When Hughes was a freshman he was cast as the lead in "The Secret Garden" and he also played a lead in "All in the Timing." The two shows ran together with only a week in between their performances. As he was performing in one, he was rehearsing for the other.

"I think that was probably the most hectic my theatre schedule has gotten. That was definitely a lot to take on, but it was worth it," said Hughes. He plans on moving to New York after graduation to pursue a career in stage acting.

Lani Morgan, undecided freshman, knows what it's like to take on more than one produc-

tion at a time. Recently she was involved in three shows.

"I was in 'Death and the King's Horsemen,' an Improv troop, and of course 'Gypsy' which, at one point, were all going at the same time." Morgan plays "Agnes" in "Gypsy" in addition to her 20-credit class schedule.

Morgan continued, "The hardest part for me was just lately during midterms. It was really difficult to find enough time to study, go to class, and rehearse for all three shows."

Wilson said, "Rehearsals are a demanding part of the shows, but you have to understand that going into it."

Ripari added, "It helps when you get along with everyone. We have a fun time with each other."

During the six week rehearsal process the group of actors and crew really come together to make it all happen. "We're like one big happy family," beamed Ripari as she looked around at her cast mates.

"One of the best things has been all the friendships we've made together," Wilson added. Watching the group, it's clear that they are a close bunch, sitting together during breaks to chat about the rest of their lives outside of rehearsals.

Wilson reflected on her theatre experience, "It's just amazing to look back on it all once you're through and see everything you've accomplished. All the hard work definitely pays off. It's incredibly rewarding."

"Gypsy" opens on March 17 and runs through March 21 at the Varner Recital Hall. Tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for senior citizens and OU employees and \$6 for students. Call the box office at (248) 370-3013 or Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666.

CURRENT

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• "A Gift of Glory," 2 p.m. Wednesday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2, 6, and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday; Meadow Brook Theatre. Call (248) 370-4900.

• "Parallel Visions:" Exhibition of Contemporary Russian and American Paintings, 1 - 5 p.m. Wednesday; 2 - 6:30 p.m. Saturday; 2 - 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Meadow Brook Art Gallery. Call (248) 370-3005.

THEATRE

• "Dear Esther," 2 and 7:30 p.m. tonight; 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday; Jewish Ensemble Theatre. Call (248) 788-2900.

• "The Bicycle Thief," 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday; 4 and 7 p.m. Sunday; Detroit Film Theatre. Call (313) 833-2323.

• "Life of Jesus," 7:30 p.m. Monday; Detroit Film Theatre. Call (313) 833-2323.

• "Beau Jest," 8 p.m. Friday; 8 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday; Ridgedale Playhouse. Call (248) 988-7049.

• "The Hole," 8 p.m. tonight; 8 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday; The Purple Rose Theatre Company. Call (734) 475-7902.

• "Light Up the Sky," 8 p.m. Friday; 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday; Stagecrafters Theatre. Call (248) 541-6430.

• "The Sleeping Beauty," 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday; Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. Call (810) 754-2960.

MUSIC

• Korn and Rob Zombie wsg Videodrone, 7 p.m. Saturday; Palace of Auburn Hills. Call (248) 377-0100.

• Mighty Blue Kings, 8 p.m. Thursday; Majestic. Call (248) 645-6666.

• Joe Henry, 9 p.m. Saturday; 7th House. Call (248) 645-6666.

• Gladys Knight and the Temptations, 8 p.m. Friday; Fox Theatre. Call (248) 645-6666.

• Alanis Morissette "Junkie Tour 1999" wsg Garbage, 7:30 p.m. tonight; Palace of Auburn Hills. Call (248) 377-0100.

• Jay-Z & DMX wsg Method Man & Redman, 8 p.m. Friday; Cobo Arena. Call (313) 983-6616.

• The Johnny Favourite Swing Orchestra wsg DJ Del, 8 p.m. Sunday; Blind Pig. Call (248) 645-6666.

• The Living End, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, The Shelter. Call (248) 645-6666.

• The Music Madness Tour w/ Babe the Blue Ox, The Interpreters and Trinket, 8 p.m. Thursday; Magic Bag. Call (248) 544-3030.

• The #1 Beatles Tribute Show, 1964: The Tribute, 8 p.m. Saturday; Magic Bag. Call (248) 544-3030.

MISCELLANEOUS

• Tango Buenos Aires, 8 p.m. Friday; Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. Call (810) 286-2222.

• "Daimlers Are a Girl's Best Friend," 8 p.m. Thursday; 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday; 8 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday; 8 p.m. Sunday; The Second City. Call (313) 965-2222.

• "Words & Images," 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday; Paint Creek Center for the Arts. Call (248) 651-4110.

• Wednesday Night Brew & View: "The Waterboy," 8 p.m. tonight; Magic Bag. Call (248) 544-3030.

A 'Glory' of a story



Photo Courtesy / Meadow Brook Theatre

GIFT GIVING: From left, Chris DeOni, Dan Kremer and Kirsten Giroux star in the world premiere of Karim Alrawi's "A Gift of Gory: Edsel Ford and the Diego Rivera Murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts," at Meadow Brook Theatre through April 4.

MBT's own Karim Alrawi blends art and industry into 'A Gift of Glory'

By ANDREA BURMANN
Staff Writer

Artistic inspiration comes in many forms. For world-famous muralist Diego Rivera, it was 1930's Detroit: it's auto plants, blue-collar neighborhoods near the factories and odd corners of the city.

For Meadow Brook Theatre's playwright-in-residence and literary manager Karim Alrawi, it was the product of Rivera's inspiration, the "Detroit Industry" murals on the walls of the Detroit Institute of Art.

"When I saw the Detroit murals, I was very impressed," said Alrawi, whose play about the story around the murals has its world premiere today at MBT. "Then I got curious to find out the story behind them."

The end-result of nine months of research and writing can be seen in "A Gift of Glory: Edsel Ford and the Diego Rivera Murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts," directed by MBT's Associate

Artistic Director, Debra L. Wicks.

The play was commissioned especially for the Meadow Brook stage. It is based on the true-life relationship between Edsel Ford, son of auto baron Henry Ford, and the politically controversial Mexican artist, Diego Rivera.

Photo Courtesy / MBT
ALRAWI

Against his father's wishes, the younger Ford commissioned the communist Rivera to depict the Motor City's history, workers and identity on the walls of the DIA. This created a major controversy in the city because some said the murals had a communist motif.

The play paints the picture of a wealthy industrialist, played by Dan Kremer, and a communist, portrayed by Chris De Oni, overcoming personal and political obstacles for the sake of art.

"It intrigued me that Edsel and Rivera, two very different men with very different backgrounds, became friends," said Alrawi. "And out of that friendship came the murals."

A Gift of Glory is set against the turbulence of the Great Depression and the

union movement of the 1930's. Not only is it about the conflict surrounding the murals, it is also a love story between Edsel Ford and his wife Eleanor, played by Kirsten Giroux.

Alrawi, who has written over 30 plays in 18 years, said the challenge of this play was keeping it true to the facts.

"The play's about real people who have only recently died," he said. "And there are people alive out there who know, or think they know, who [the characters] really were."

Because this is a work of fiction, some freedom has been taken with the setting of events and the portrayal of the characters. Nevertheless, Alrawi said he tried to authentically recreate them.

"I try to be as truthful to my understanding of events as possible," he said.

"I think I was able to build a reasonably accurate picture of what happened and who the people were."

Another character in the action is Ford Motor Company's thug-like director of security, Harry Bennett, portrayed by Hollis Huston. While Rivera works on his murals at the DIA in the full glare of public attention, Edsel is struggling to design a new car away from the prying

eye of Bennett. He has appointed himself as Henry Ford's eyes and ears and will do anything to force compliance by Edsel and his design team to Henry's ideas of what a car should be.

Stephen Bradbury portrays Henry Ford and Detroit's Radio Priest, Father Coughlin, another bad guy. Coughlin wants to forge an alliance with Harry Bennett to have the murals destroyed. In return, he says he will split the workers' union at the Ford plants.

Alrawi brings an international perspective to one of Detroit's local stories. Before moving to Rochester to work for the MBT, he had a successful writing career in Egypt, England and Canada, winning multiple awards along the way.

"Not only is it good to find stories that people are interested in, but to find stories people are familiar with," he said. "Those are the ones that grab the audience."

"A Gift of Glory" runs today through April 4, 1999. Check out our Current Events Calendar for showtimes and days. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations or by calling the MBT box office at (248) 377-3300.

Campus group spreads hope during break

By JOHN STOLL
Special Writer

To many, Kentucky may seem like a strange destination for an energetic group of OU students on spring break.

There are no major beaches, not much sun, and maybe even a late winter snow flurry or two.

Nonetheless, the Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) of OU took a much anticipated vacation to Kentucky, and for them the week of Feb. 21 - 27 was definitely a memorable time.

LSF is a small but meaningful pocket in the sea of student life.

A campus ministry of Rev. Fred Traugott for 19 successive years, LSF serves as a spiritual hub for a diverse collection of OU students.

"We are a community within a community that offers much needed hope and stability," Traugott said.

One interesting trait shared by LSF members is that they are not about to keep this hope and stability to themselves.

For the past five years, Rev. Traugott has led a team of LSF students to eastern Kentucky to work with poverty-stricken people in the Appalachian Mountains. For these people, food, sup-

plies and education are not as bountiful as they are in Oakland County.

Rev. Traugott remembers times that he has had to cross a river just to get to a family's home.

"This is 1999," he said. "It's hard to believe that people have to live like this, but they do."

It is this reality that draws LSF students into a cooperation with the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP), a program based in Lancaster, KY.

CAP utilizes more than 650 volunteers per year to assist more than 79,000 people plagued with illiteracy, hunger and many who don't even have electricity.

LSF's annual trip takes place during spring break. Past projects have included such things as remodeling houses, installing heating units, tutoring and even building an outhouse.

This year, Traugott and the participating students worked on an old wooden-planked coal miner's lodge not far from Lancaster.

Human resources development senior Krista Tocco participated in the reconstruction of the building. Because there were very few power tools, Tocco was outfitted with only an old pair of tin snips for the task of cutting pre-hung strips of vinyl siding.



Photo Courtesy / John Stoll

RAISE THE ROOF: Members of the Lutheran Student Fellowship lay down the first course of shingles on the bottom tier of the new roof.

Along with siding, LSF members replaced the rusted tin roof and the windows and rebuilt the walls.

In the end, a refurbished home was ready for occupancy by a grateful family.

As the LSF students return to class and Rev. Traugott returns to work as leader of the Detroit Area Lutheran Campus

Ministry, they can keep in mind that there is a thankful family in Kentucky, thinking of a group of OU students that gave up their spring break to help out someone in need.

And there will always be those students who were fortunate enough to have something to give.

GET OUT

By KRYSTAL KALTZ
Assistant Life Editor

Are you planning to go out to dinner this Friday? If not, maybe you should.

A large number of area restaurants are participating in the fourth annual "Dine Out Detroit" program to benefit the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project (MAPP).

The participating restaurants will donate 10 percent of their lunch and dinner sales to MAPP.

"Dine Out Detroit" is sponsored by the Metro Times, WDIV-TV4, 93.9 FM/The River, 89X, Absolut, Second City, and Olympia Entertainment.

Yvonne Greenhouse, Development Director of MAPP, describes the program as a "win-win situation for everyone."

"It lets the customers know that the restaurants support the cause and lets the customers contribute as well," said Greenhouse.

B.D.'s Mongolian Barbecue in Royal Oak is one of the participating restaurants.

"It's just a good way to give back to the community," said Bill Hanes, Assistant General Manager of the restaurant. "The community is what's made us a popular restaurant."

Hanes expects an increase in the number of customers Friday night, because of the program.

Al Ayoub, manager of the Pizza Papalis Taverna in Greektown, doesn't necessarily expect an increase in sales for Friday.

"Raising sales wasn't our primary goal," said Ayoub. "We wanted to give something back to the community. If sales go up, that's just a bonus."

According to Greenhouse, this event has taken place in other big cities such as San Francisco and Chicago.

"Detroit has a lot of great restaurants," said

Greenhouse. "And Detroit is really the epicenter for AIDS and HIV in Michigan."

In the past three years combined, the event has raised about \$300,000 total including on-air advertising donations, corporate sponsorship, and restaurant revenue.

Another event scheduled to benefit MAPP is a concert taking place at Detroit's Second City on Thursday. The featured band will be the Crash Test Dummies with special guest Big Rude Jake.

MAPP is Michigan's largest non-profit AIDS organization.

Megan McConnell, human resources management senior worked as a volunteer for MAPP.

"They did a really good job getting the awareness out there about AIDS," she said. "The people really know how to communicate with all kinds of different groups."

MAPP provides information about HIV/AIDS, safer sex, testing and referrals, and the atrocities of AIDS.

The mission of the organization is to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS through education.

The organization works with the Michigan Department of Community Health, city and county health departments, community-based organizations and health care professionals to offer informative presentations and workshops to many different groups.

"Dine Out Detroit" allows people to contribute to this organization by doing something they do anyway: going out to eat.

Greenhouse described the event as "very effortless help for a great cause."

For a complete list of participating restaurants, contact the Metro Times or call MAPP at (248) 545-1435.

MAPP also has a website dedicated to the organization and HIV/AIDS. To learn more, check out <http://www.aidsprevention.org/>

Mike
Murphy



God save the
Queen of the
sane train

The last man to get on the train was the Queen of England.

I was in New York City visiting friends. This happened around midnight Wednesday. My friend Dave and I were on the Subway's 2 Train downtown to Brooklyn.

We were in the last car, with maybe six other people, spread out all over the car. We had just settled in to our seats when the Queen boarded.

Her majesty was a short, thin man dressed in warm, layered clothing. His face was dirty and unshaven, and he carried a tattered backpack and a bottle.

He was swaying.

The liquid in the bottle was not the color of any alcohol I had ever seen. It was a dark yellow, like urine, or maybe household cleaner. It was in a generic bottle, not a drinking bottle. Maybe it was grain alcohol.

"This goin' downtown?" he asked in a blurry, gritty voice. He didn't wait for an answer, he just started yelling.

Quick background on the New York subway, based on my limited experience — it's not a social occasion. You go in, sit if you can and wait for your stop. It's orderly, it's fast, it's cheap. It's not friendly.

But after the doors had shut and the train started moving, this man threw down his backpack, took a swig of his liquid and announced, "I am the Queen of England, and my friends, I love you all!"

Thus began the most bizarre 15 minute experience of my Spring Break. Nobody in the car would pay attention to him, even though he was yelling. You just don't. This inspired him.

He screamed, he toasted up, he ranted and he blocked the door.

He ran up and down the car, raving. He did a back flip. He sang half of "Stop (in the Name of Love)" when the train stopped. Whenever there was an announcement over the PA, he would swear loudly at it, trying to break the speaker. It was a show, to say the least.

"You are my only friends," he yelled. "But if you aren't a friend to yourself, you can't be a friend to me." He took a swig of the drain cleaner, for emphasis.

He sure was insightful for a lunatic.

When the train was stopped, he yelled "This is it! The bombs are falling! We are the last of the human race!"

I felt fortunate.

"I am the Queen!", he screamed in someone's face. "Today is the last day of our lives!"

With this, I got scared. It's not a good sign when the crazy guy starts talking about death.

Luckily, the situation ended abruptly. A metro transit worker came on at the back of the car. The Queen of England, seeing an authority figure, stumbled down the car to further yell belligerently. Mere seconds after the doors to the other car were "psycho-free," we left for a car that had a lot more sanity.

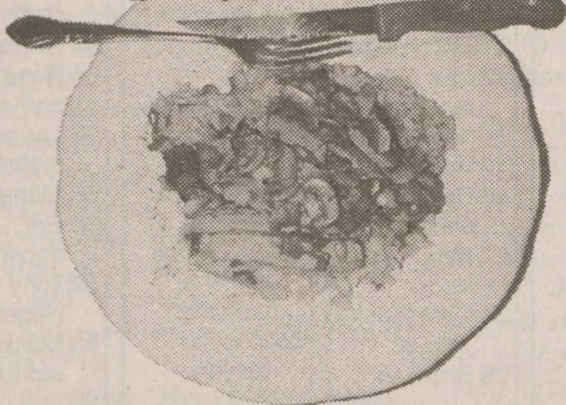
The point? We live in a really sane world, but it's not the only world out there. Once in a while, we wander our way into a situation that is far from sane, one that makes no sense. I think we take all this sanity going around for granted. Don't be thankful you're surrounded by sanity. And if you go to New York, maybe, just maybe, on the 2 train downtown, the Queen of England is out there... waiting for you. Just a little reminder from the world gone mad that it's out there, too, and it's just as real as you or me.

Long live the ... Queen?

Junior Mike Murphy is a journalism major and staff writer for THE OAKLAND POST.

Eating your out

This Friday's "Dine Out
Detroit" program benefits
AIDS project, community



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

'Sunset Boulevard' star lacks luster

By ANDREA NOBILE
Life Editor

Norma Desmond is the ultimate diva. When she strides down those stairs in "Sunset Boulevard," Andrew Lloyd Webber's dark tribute to Hollywood backlots and faded screen stars, an audience should feel her diva power shoot through their body and soul.

When British pop music star, sometime screen actress and all-around entertainer Petula Clark made her appearance as Norma Desmond at the Detroit Opera House, hardly a tremble of presence was felt.

And it all went downhill from there.

The group sitting behind me even left at intermission.

This downsized production, re-designed by director Susan Schulman with simplicity and mobility in mind, is in the middle of a 47-city tour scheduled through 2000. The musical runs through March 21 at the Detroit Opera House in the city's theatre district, located just off I-75, on Madison Avenue.

'Sunset,' with book by Don Black and lyrics by Christopher Hampton, tells the tragic, melodramatic and definitely over the top story of Desmond, a once huge silent screen actress whose star has faded considerably. When we meet her, she's living in oblivion from the harsh world (her butler writes her fake fan letters) in her lavishly decadent gothic mansion on Sunset Boulevard.

Webber's musical is based on the 1950 feature film hit of the same name, which starred Gloria Swanson and William Holden.

After an aspiring young screenwriter, Joe Gillis (Lewis Cleale) comes to the mansion, Desmond convinces him (with the help of a little seduction and a lot of money) to rewrite a bloated screenplay she wants to stage her comeback with. Eventually, he becomes her boy toy too.

"Sunset Boulevard"

Not too bright

● ●
out of 4 points

Although the musical is usually associated with the mega stars that have played Desmond in the past, like Glenn Close, Diahann Carroll and Betty Buckley, this company's strong suit is anything but Clark.

Her weak rendition of the classic diva-declaration, "With One Look," in which Desmond claims herself the greatest star of all, is an anti-climactic disappointment for the musical's fans. Clark rushed the ballad, and also cut several of the notes short. The song, usually delivered with a rush of power and warmth felt throughout the body, felt more like an obligated musical interlude to keep the story moving than the show-stopper it normally is.

As Clark's male counterpoint, Cleale seems to be the real star here. The actor's Broadway credits include a turn as Sir Harry in the recent revival of "Once Upon a Mattress," with Sarah Jessica Parker. He also created the roles of Eddie, Bing and others in "Swinging on a Star," for which he received a Drama Desk Nomination.

Cleale gives the often over-shadowed role of Joe a real presence, using a powerful and commanding voice to create a tragic character we really believe might have existed on those dream-filled Hollywood backlots of the 1950s.

The ensemble cast shines out Clark as well, with stand-out performances by Sarah Uriarte Berry as another young screenwriter who falls in love with Joe, and Allen Fitzpatrick as Max, Desmond's faithful ser-

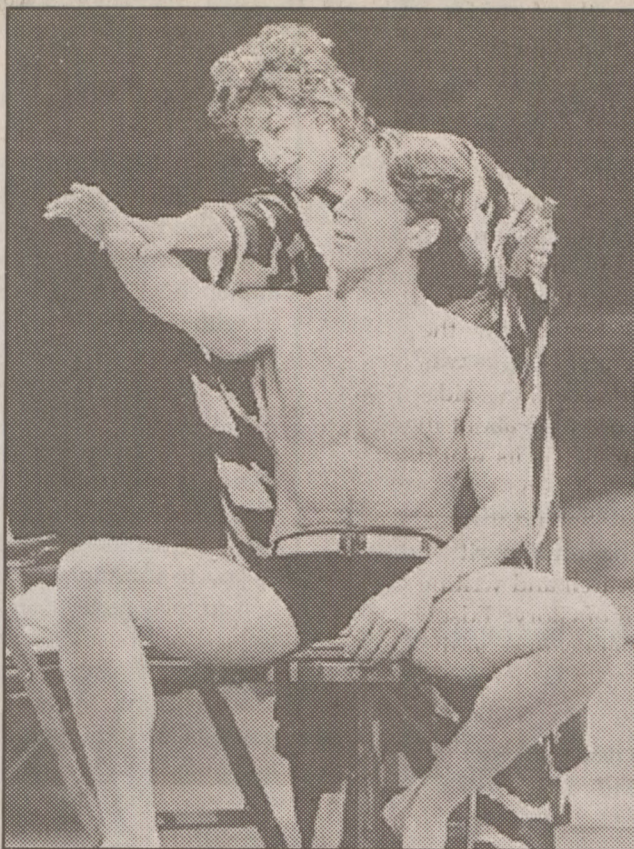


Photo Courtesy / Detroit Opera House

'SUNSET' SINS: Brit pop legend Petula Clark entices Lewis Cleale in "Sunset Boulevard," at the Detroit Opera House 'til March 21.

vent who fervently works to protect her from the outside world.

It's the songs of these supporting performers, like Fitzpatrick's "New Ways to Dream" and Berry and Cleale's "Too Much in Love to Care," that make for the brightest sunset.

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

TELEVISION

• "The Unexplained: Multiple Personalities," takes a docu-drama look at the mental disorder, balancing testimony from actual sufferers and cheesy reenactments, at 9 p.m. Thursday on A&E.

• A musical treat, the "Roy Orbison Anthology" features a catalogue of his best performances, and interviews from Bono, k.d. lang and more, at 9 p.m. Saturday on PBS.

• MTV pries even more into real life, with "Spring Break Uncensored," a point-of-view look into college's yummiest rite of passage, at 1 p.m. Sunday.

FILM

• Lucid beauty Michelle Pfeiffer stars this week in "The Deep End of the Ocean." The drama — about a family who loses their son, then finds him years later — was Oprah's first ever book club selection.

• The teen horror trend continues, with "The Rage: Carrie 2," a sequel to the 1978 Brian DePalma horror classic featuring Carrie's telekinetic outcast half sister, Rachel (newcomer Emily Bergl).

• Mark Wahlberg, who has yet to prove he's more than a one-hit wonder, teams with Hong Kong martial arts god Chow Yun Fat, in "The Corrupter."

BOOKS

• Sport and photography fans can salivate for "Walter Iooss: A Lifetime Shooting Sports & Beauty," a collection of images by Sports Illustrated's shining photojournalist.

• Divorce is poignantly addressed by former Esquire and New York magazine writer John Taylor's "Falling," a memoir chronicling the disintegration of his 11-year marriage.

• Christina Baker Kline gives Gen-Xers a mystery, with "Desire Lines," about an unemployed, divorced journalist living with mom, who searches for her missing-in-action high school friend.

VIDEO

• Robin Williams gets sappier than ever in "What Dreams May Come," a visually astounding journey through new-age hell, also starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Annabella Sciorra.

• If you can believe college students whose roommates commit suicide get automatic As, you might enjoy "Dead Man On Campus," a box-office blunder starring Tom Everett Scott and Mark-Paul Gosselaar.

• Film festival phenom "Slam" stars Saul Williams as a slam rap poet struggling to survive life and love in a Washington D.C. ghetto.

ETCETERA

CITIZEN DOG

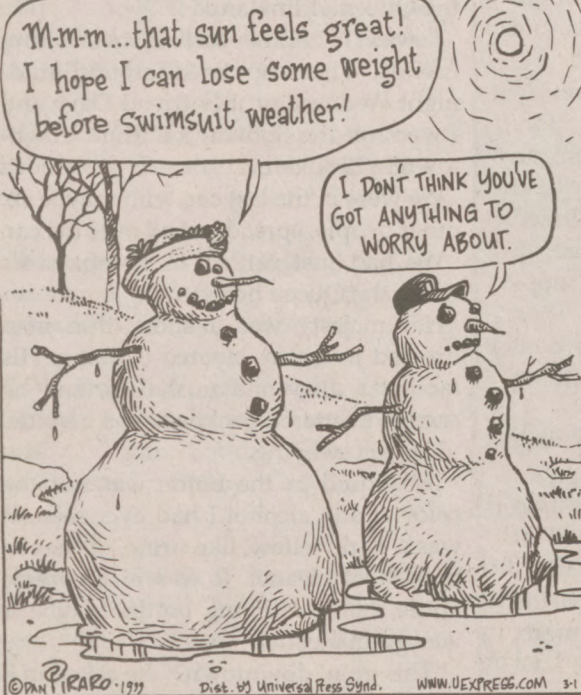


BY MARK O'HARE



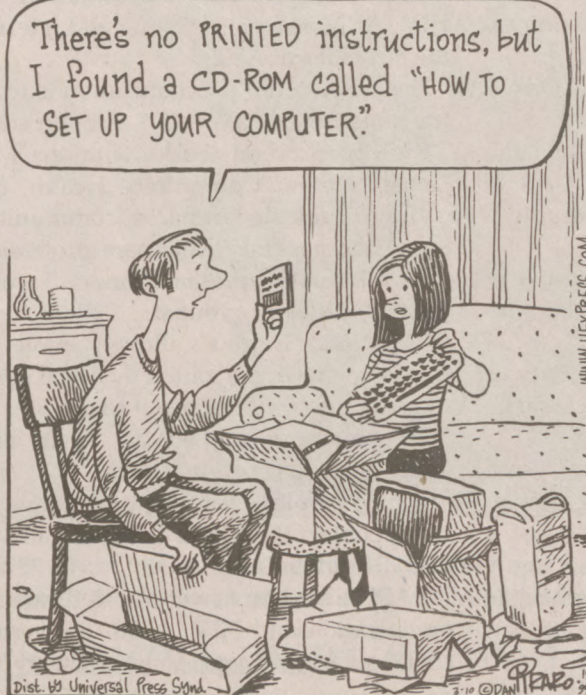
Bizarro

by Dan Piraro



Bizarro

by Dan Piraro



SPORTS

OU swimmers make waves at NIC's, close season at home with success

By KELLI PETROVE
Assistant Sports Editor

OU's Men's and Women's Swim Teams spent their spring break in the pool fighting to be champions.

As OU hosted the NIC meet, the rest of the university was on vacation. However, the stands were not empty. Approximately 600 friends and family showed their support.

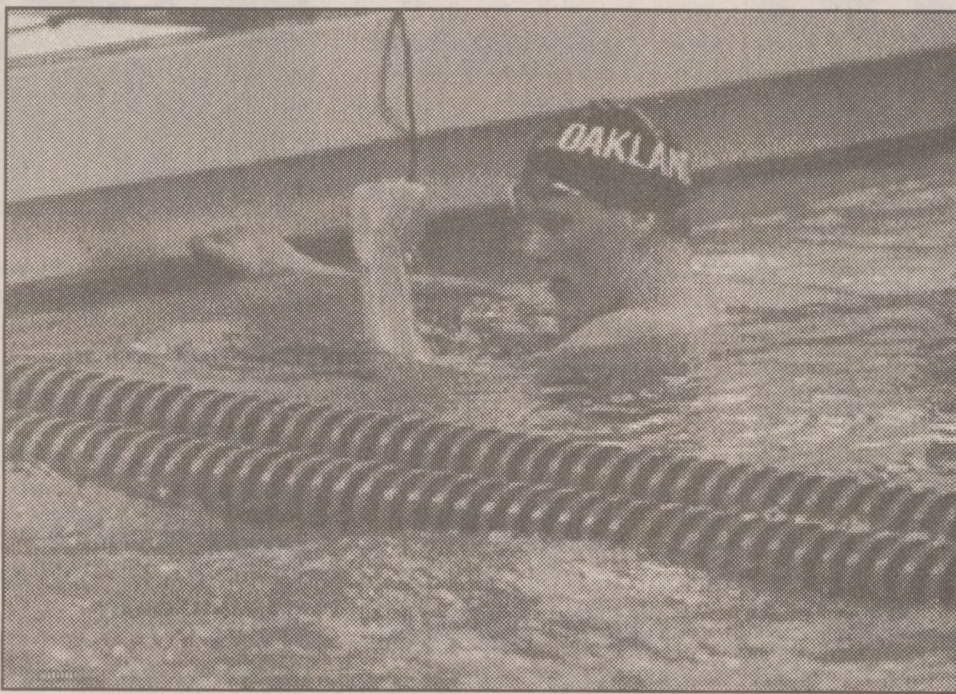
"Spring break hurt the student crowd," Men's Head Swim coach Pete Hovland said. "But it sure seemed pretty noisy and electrifying on Saturday night."

The three day event started on Feb. 25 and ended Feb. 27. Days filled with preliminary races and then final swims is how the swimmers took a break from school.

The year of meets and practices paid off for both teams. The women placed 3rd overall and the men came in with a 4th place finish.

With the swimmers having home pool advantage this years championship meet was different from that of last year. "This year we had a home pool advantage, it was great not having to get used to a different pool," junior Courtney Dunlap said. "We didn't have to eat fast food or stay in a hotel, we couldn't have asked for more."

Hovland added, "The atmosphere was different from last year. The addition of new teams into the meet added depth and quality. It went from a mediocre championship meet to a high caliber meet."



Post Photo/Bob Knoska

RECORD SETTING: Freshman Andy Schmidt swam the 1650 Freestyle in a record breaking time of 15:39.61 at the NIC meet at OU.

Three days of swimming brought out many season best swims and even two new school records set by freshman Andy Schmidt in the 1650 yard freestyle with a time of 15:39.61. He placed 3rd in the race.

Schmidt also broke a record he set in a previous meet when he swam a split of 9:23.83 at the 1000 mark in the 1650 freestyle.

The women's 200 free relay broke its season best with a time of 1:37.38 and a 4th place finish.

In the 500-Freestyle, junior Ellen Collins beat her seasons best by over 10

seconds with a 3rd place finish and time of 4:59:43.

In the 100 Fly, sophomore Peggy Strauss placed 3rd. She swam her season and her personal best time of 57.81.

"The dual meets prepare us for the NIC meet," Strauss said. "The competition definitely pushes you at the NIC. Everyone's goal is to do their best at the NIC's, that is the focus of the whole season."

In the 200 Free, freshman Gracie Bender placed 5th giving both women their season's best times.

In the 3-Meter dive competition,

sophomore Devon Cunningham placed 8th and junior Kazi Murr came in 11th.

Breaking her own season record and coming in as the NIC champion for the 100 Back was sophomore Yvonne Lynn with a time of 56.88. She also came in 3rd in the 200 Back with a time of 2:05.12.

The 400 Free relay placed 2nd and earned a season's best of 3:31.99.

The men's team also showed off a number of season best times and impressive swimming.

The 200 Medley relay placed 5th with a time of 1:32.62, and the 800 Free relay came in 7th with a time of 6:47.29.

Junior Thiago Orso and junior Yoav Ritter swam the 100 Fly at nearly the same time. With Ritter only .01 of a second behind Orso finished 5th with a time of 50.06.

"Thiago has been one of the most consistent swimmers for three years," Hovland said. "But Ido and Courtney have also swam well for their three years."

A swimmer who joined the team from Egypt, sophomore Haitham Hassan took on the 100 Back and swam to a 4th place finish and a time of 50.01. Close behind was junior Ido Meron with a time of 51.35.

Hovland was pleased with the performance of Hassan who he says swam extremely well in the meet.

Next years NIC meet will not be hosted at OU, instead the swimmers will travel to Florida Atlantic University for the championships.

Lisa
Borich



Women get down and dirty... have successful results

A funny thing happened to me Saturday on my way to school.

We were still getting the remains of the big snowstorm that Mother Nature had dumped on us. I was heading down M-59 and I was looking at all the stranded drivers who had spun off the road.

I remember thinking, see what happens when people do not drive cautiously.

I exited at Adams Road and I was heading down a hill when all of the sudden I spun to the other side of the road. To prevent an accident I spun to the other side of the road and ended up in a ditch.

I have to admit that I was a little lost because I never exited on Adams Road, and I'm not used to going to school from the east side.

So what, I thought! It could have happened to anyone.

But what happened next, could have only happened to me.

I tried to get out of my car, but I was literally up to my knees in snow.

The next thing I know an Audi rolls down its window and a guy asks, "Do you need me to call you a tow truck?" he asked.

My first thought was, all I need is just a couple of big pushes. So after I reassured the driver that I had a cell phone he drove off.

About five minutes later a guy in a truck stopped and asked me, "Do you need me to call you a tow truck?"

I felt like I was in the twilight zone and the only thing that anyone knew to say was, "Do you need me to call a tow truck?"

And, NO! All I needed was a push. Just when I was about at wits end and about to pull my hair out thinking, why won't anybody help me, a woman came up running from nowhere asking me, "Do you need a push?"

My savior. The woman then started pushing my car with no gloves or hat. She must have been freezing.

Then after about five minutes of pushing, a car with two younger women in it got out of their car and started to help us.

Within minutes another car stopped with three more younger women and they started to push also.

And with one big push, my car was freed from the snow bank.

Everyone then in the middle of the street started yelling "GIRL POWER!" I wish I had a video camera to tape the whole incident.

The moral of the story, yes it did take more women to move the car than a man. But, all the men that stopped for me (a nice gesture on their part) just wanted to take the easy way route and call a tow truck.

The women pulled together, rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty in the cold.

I was fortunate to have been saved. Yesterday, I still saw some abandoned cars on the side of the road needing to be rescued.

This just goes to show what can happen when you leave a woman to do a man's job.

Senior Lisa Borich is a journalism major and the Sports Editor for THE OAKLAND POST.

Spirits rise at the NIC's



LISA BORICH
Sports Editor

Even though OU was on vacation for Spring Break the Rec Center swimming pool was alive with athletes, students and parental support.

On Feb. 25 - 27, the National Independent Conference (NIC's) meet was held at OU.

The teams that were included were OU, the College of Charleston, Florida Atlantic University, Northeast Louisiana University, Northern Arizona University, Northeastern Arizona University, Southern Illinois University, University of Cincinnati, University of Evansville, Western Kentucky University, University of Houston and Illinois State University women's teams and Southwest Missouri State University men's team.

Photo by Bob Knoska

Francis' biggest fan pops question

By RAMEZ KHURI
Staff Writer

OU President Gary Russi and Women's Basketball Coach Beckie Francis will marry later this year.

Crowds may have witnessed the couple snuggling at recent men's basketball games. Francis was willing to comment on her engagement initially, but said she had to check with Russi first.

He evidently told Francis not to comment and an interview was declined earlier this week.

Although it is not sure when the relationship started, the wedding may occur as early as this spring.



Post Photo/Media Guide

ENGAGEMENT: OU President Gary Russi (Left) and Women's Basketball Coach Beckie Francis (Right) are engaged to wed.



OU loses two on road, finish season strong

By ZVONKO BLAZEVSKI
Staff Writer

While many OU students were vacationing during spring break, the OU Men's Basketball Team went on a 3 game, 10 day road trip to play UMKC, Oral Roberts and Southern Utah receptively to finish the season with a 12-15 record.

The Golden Grizzlies opened their road trip with a golden 90-78 victory over the UMKC Kangaroos on Feb. 18.

OU was on fire in the first half as the Golden Grizzlies jumped out to a 49-32 lead behind a sizzling 51 percent from the floor. The Kangaroos shot only 38 percent from the field.

"We shot the ball as well as we did all year," said Dan Champagne. "We did the little things to win."

In the second half, it was the Kangaroos who were shooting hot from the field, outscoring the Golden Grizzlies 46-41 in the half. But OU had built too big a lead for the Kangaroos to come back despite OU shooting only 36 percent from the field. The Kangaroos shot 49 percent.

Brad Buddenborg celebrated his birthday with eight three point bombs in a 27 point effort for the Golden Grizzlies. Dan Champagne contributed with 18 points.

Myke Thom added a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Mychal Covington added 11 points and seven assists.

"We played really good," said Buddenborg. "We came out with some energy."

On Feb. 20, the Golden Grizzlies traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma to face the Mid-Con Conference regular season champion Oral Roberts.



Post Photo/Tom Bressie

SHOOTING HIGH: Brad Buddenborg reaches above the competition to sink his shot.

OU put up a good fight but fell, 80-68 to the Golden Eagles.

OU got off to a slow start and found themselves trailing by eight at the half, 34-26.

Both teams shot well from the floor in the second half, with the Golden Grizzlies being outscored by a 46-42 tally. OU shot 49 percent in the second half but the Golden Eagles shot an unbelievable 65 percent.

When the final buzzard sounded OU's winning streak came to

an end.

Dan Champagne lead the Golden Grizzlies with 24 points. Buddenborg chipped in with 13.

Thom had another strong game on the boards, grabbing a total of nine. He also chipped in with 12 points. Covington contributed nine points.

"We played tough but things just did not go our way, said Head Coach Greg Kampe.

See GAME page B8

Women bite last two games and say goodbye to seniors

By RAMEZ KHURI
Staff Writer

For their final games, OU's Women's Basketball Team traveled to Kansas City to take on the UMKC Kangaroos and to Tulsa to take on Oral Roberts.

The team lost both games, but it wasn't for a lack of effort or heart.

According to Head Coach Beckie Francis, UMKC and Oral Roberts are excellent, fundamentally sound teams. In fact, she thinks Oral Roberts has an excellent chance in the upcoming tournament, and she is very pleased that her team ended up with the same amount of wins as them at the end of the season.

On Feb. 18, OU faced off on UMKC's home court. The final score was 76-71. It dropped OU's record down to 14 wins and 12 losses, and it raised the Kangaroos to 13 wins and 12 losses.

Senior Tamika Bates scored 22 points and pulled down 12 rebounds, freshman Sarah Judd scored 20, junior Courtney Ruffing had 14 and senior Teresa Tallenger finished with ten for OU.

Francis said, "UMKC just came off of beating Valparaiso and they ended up sweeping Valparaiso who was the pre-season number one team this year.

We knew we were going to be in for a tough game on their floor. It was a close game the whole game, in fact we were up by two at the half, and at the end of the game it was tied."

Francis added, "Sarah Judd really came on for us in the second half, she had four three pointers and 20 points, but it just wasn't good enough to clinch it. They switched their defense a lot on us and it confused our guards a little bit, forcing us into some



Post Photo/Media Guide

GRADUATION: OU will lose senior Tamika Bates (Left) and senior Teresa Tallenger (Right) to graduation.

turnovers. We were pretty pleased with our performance overall against them all year."

On Feb. 20, OU faced Oral Roberts on their home court. The final score was 79-73.

After the final game of the season, OU dropped their record to 14 wins and 13 losses and raised the Oral Robert's record to 14 wins and 12 losses.

Bates almost had another double double, but she fell one rebound short. She ended up with 20 points and nine rebounds.

Tallenger also had a strong game with 17 points, Ruffing scored 13 and Judd finished with ten.

Freshman Tish Martin had a technical foul called on her with 6:03 left to go in the game.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game on their floor. They are hard to beat there, and I think they are currently tied for third,"

Francis said. "They had just beaten Youngstown State Thursday night and ended their nine game winning streak. So they were on a high and had a lot of confidence."

Francis added, "We came off to a big start and we pressed them early. We pressed them the

"We knew it was going to be a tough game on their floor."

whole game and we just didn't have enough energy at the end to pull it off.

They have one of the best guards in the conference,

Krisa Ragen, she ended up having 19 points." Francis said both UMKC and Oral Roberts have guards who blocked key OU shots.

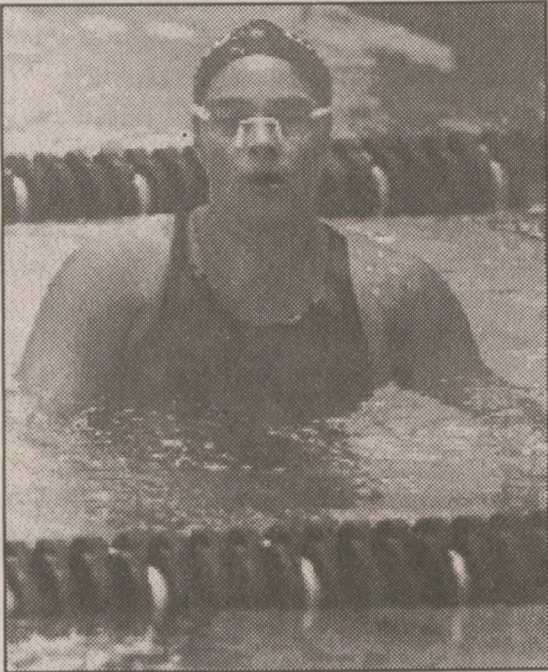
Overall, however, she said she was pleased with the teams performance. "Teresa and Courtney played really good games again for us on the road and I was really proud of the seniors in their last games," she said.

Beckie Francis
Women's Basketball Coach

Spotlight on the Black & Gold

KATIE SZOPO

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING



Post Photo/Bob Knoke

By ZVONKO BLAZEVSKI
Staff Writer

Junior Katie Szopo has been an excellent athlete her whole life.

At ten years old, Szopo attended an OU swim camp and was impressed with the its swim program.

Eight years later, when it came time to choose a college and continue her swimming career, she chose OU.

"I chose OU because it was a good school and it had a good reputation in the swimming world," said Szopo.

At Brighton High School, Szopo won three all-State honors in three different sports and still had time to become a member of the National Honor Society.

She ran track and cross country in high school, earning All-State honors in both. In addition, Szopo earned four varsity letters in swimming and won All-State honors as a senior.

As a senior in high school, Szopo decided that swimming was the sport she wanted to pursue.

"I decided to be serious about swimming and do it full season," said Szopo. "I did real well and received a scholarship."

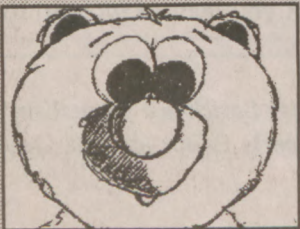
As a freshman in 1996 at OU, Szopo finished sixth overall at the GLIAC championships with 38 points. She finished second in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:09.72 and in the 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 17:56.62. Szopo also finished third in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:56.28.

As a sophomore, Szopo had an excellent showing at the Pioneer Fall Classic. Szopo placed third in the 500-yard freestyle, fifth in the 200-yard freestyle and seventh in the 200-yard individual medley. Other strong season finishes include placing fifth in the 1000-yard freestyle against Denison University and placing 19th in both the 1650-yard butterfly and the 400-yard individual medley at the Eastern Michigan Invitational.

Szopo did not place at this year's NIC Championships, but remains positive.

"For me, to finish the season and to be with the team...was my victory," Szopo said.

GRIZZWALD'S INSTANT REPLAY



BASKETBALL

- The men defeated UMKC 90-78 on Feb. 18.
- The women lost to UMKC 71-76 on Feb. 18.
- The men lost to Oral Roberts 68-80 on Feb. 20.
- The women lost to Oral Roberts 73-79 on Feb. 20.
- The men lost to Southern Utah 79-104 on Feb. 23.

SWIMMING & DIVING NIC MEET

- The women placed third with 458.5 points.
- The men placed fourth with points.

MARCH 12-19

- The baseball team at training camp Homestead College in Miami, Florida. They will return and open their season on March 25 at Toledo University.

INSIDE SPORTS

MARCH 11-13

- MHSAA Individual wrestling finals at Joe Louis Arena.
- Session 1, March 11, at 2:30 p.m.
- Session 2, March 12, at 9 a.m.
- Session 3, March 12, semifinals at 8 p.m.
- Session 4, March 13, at 9 a.m.
- Session 5, March 13, finals at 5 p.m.

Residence Halls 1999

Early 1999-2000 Contract Sign-up for current residence Halls students and interested commuter students will be:

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Fireside Lounge, Oakland Center

Thursday - Friday, March 18-19, 1999

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

University Housing Office

448 Hamlin Hall

(248)370-3570

Any student submitting a contract during the early sign-up period is not required to pay the \$100 down payment

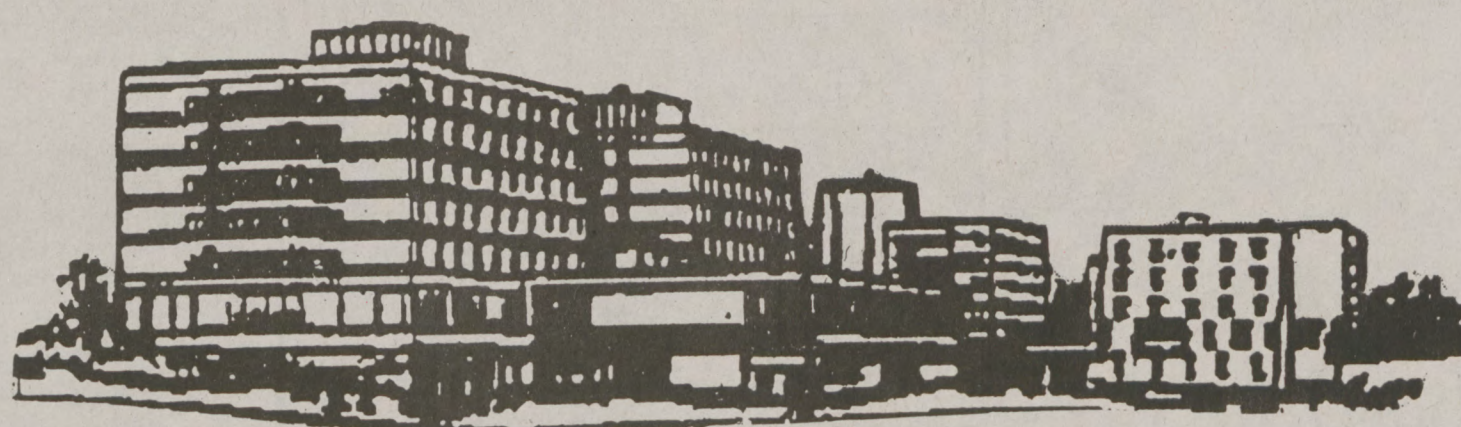
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Game

Continued from page B6

Jason Rozycki added, "We did not play bad," said Jason Rozycki. "We played the conference champions tough in a place that no one in the conference has beat them yet."

Thom said, "It was their seniors final game and they came out with intensity."

OU finished its season on Feb. 23 with a 104-79 loss to the Southern Utah University Thunderbirds.

The Thunderbirds shot 66 percent in the first half and jumped out to a 51-39 half-time lead on the Golden Grizzlies.

OU improved its dismal first half shooting from 34 percent to 40 percent in the second half, but Southern Utah shot 58 percent from the field on route to outscoring OU, 53-40 in the second half.

Sean Carlson led OU with 17 points, while Dan Champagne added 16 for the Golden Grizzlies. Rozycki also added 12 points.

animal (an • i • mal) n.
a living being capable of feeling.

—To find out what you can do to help animals, contact PETA.



"Southern Utah didn't miss anything," said Carlson. "When we missed, they kept on hitting." Kampe said, "We were tired and we did not play well. Nine days was too long to be on the road and we showed it."

Thom and Rozycki agreed. "We were tired throughout the game. They hit their shots and we couldn't match," said Thom.

Rozycki added, "We were run down from the road trip... we did not have the legs."

The OU players felt the season was a success.

"It feels good to do better than what everyone expected," said Steve Reynolds. "We felt we made a lot of progress this year."

Thom and Buddenberg felt the season was a learning venture.

"The growing process exceeded all of our expectations," said Thom. "We progressed throughout the season."

Buddenberg added, "This season was a stepping stone for next season."

season."

The team is confident about next season.

Kampe summed up the team's expectations for next season.

"We expect to compete for the conference championship next year," he said.

Dan Champagne added, "Next season we have a good shot at the conference title. 8-8 in the conference was good for this year, but it will not be for next year."

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Chuck Shepherd's

News of the Weird

LEAD STORIES

- In February, Eastern Illinois University officials declined to refund \$364 in tuition to April Hixon for the course "Nonwestern Music," which Hixon said was little music and much pornography, seemingly designed to draw reactions from female students. Said Professor Douglas DiBianco, "You have to understand the extremes of art to appreciate art in general." Hixon (who received an A) said DiBianco's themes in lectures and visuals included enemas, penis-amputation, incest and the advocacy of student orgies. The university acknowledged at least one ongoing state complaint over a DiBianco course.

- News of the Weird last year ran the announcement that an Australian scientist was working on growing human sperm cells inside mouse testicles, and in February 1999 a team at Tottori University in Japan announced it had actually grown some that way. But just when science was making men obsolete, prominent British fertility researcher Lord Robert Winston told reporters that his book (due in April) would show how an embryo could be planted in a man's abdomen, develop to full term by massive infusion of female hormones and attachment to certain organs for nourishment, and be born by Caesarian section.

FASHIONS OF THE SEASON

- From recent police reports: Fort Lupton, Colo., December, woman tried to rob a Bank of Colorado wearing a large garbage bag over her body. Huntsville, Ala., December, man robbed a Circle K convenience store with his face swathed in toilet paper. Bexley, Ohio, January, man robbed a National City Bank while wearing checkered pajamas and bedroom slippers.

LATEST WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS FOR THE GIFTED

- A top Columbia University law student, Zolton Williams, 29, was convicted in December of running a cocaine-smuggling operation to help finance his studies. And in January, University of California at Santa Cruz National Merit Scholar Emma Rose Freeman, 18, was charged with robbing a beauty salon and a Costco store at gunpoint (along with her philosophy-major boyfriend). And Berkeley, Mich., honor student and athlete Sarah Plumb, 16, was charged with the armed robbery of a gas station in December (on her way to gymnastics practice), allegedly to feed a 2-year-old heroin habit.

CRISES IN THE WORKPLACE

- Carmel Valley, Calif., grocery cashier Sandi Lewtschuk was fired in October after 20 years at Safeway because, though she had no customer complaints, she was deemed deficient by management in executing the company's "smile" policy. (Lewtschuk and other Safeway employees have criticized required smiling as phony, and some female employees in San Francisco said the policy encouraged male customers to believe the women were flirting.) And in January, flight attendants for Cathay Pacific Airways (Hong Kong), feuding with management over automatic pay hikes, threatened to violate that company's smile policy by frowning for one hour per flight.

- Brian Mills, 20, was charged with malicious destruction of property in December after he returned to a fast-food restaurant in Lincoln Township, Mich., where he used to work and urinated into the deep-fat fryer. (Local health officials said the risk to the public was minimal because the frying temperature is so high.)

- In January, a union filed a complaint on behalf of a male civilian employee at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida who was recently barred from wearing earrings, makeup and a bra to work as an airfield management specialist. On the other hand, the Canadian armed forces last year approved the application of a 35-year-old male combat leadership instructor to continue his career as Sgt. Sylvia Durand by undergoing hormone treatment and surgery.

LATEST CIVIL RIGHTS

- Inmate George Davis, 58, filed a lawsuit in February against the federal correctional center at Fort Dix, N.J., for its failure to treat his sleep apnea, a condition that causes loud snoring. He said he needs treatment especially because he is vulnerable to getting beaten up by inmates whom his snoring keeps up at night. (At his last facility, he says, he was knocked from his bunk, had water dumped on him and once had his bed set on fire.)

- Mr. Wim de Nijs had his piloting privileges resorted by the airport in Groningen, Netherlands, in August after as court ruled the airport had gone too far in punishing him for abusing radio frequencies. De Nijs was notorious for trying to air traffic controllers' channels by singing the theme song to "The Flintstones" in English for up to 20 minutes at a time.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINAL

- Fort Smith, Ark., police arrested James Newsome, 37, in January and charged him with taking money at gunpoint from the Gas Well convenience store. The robber was easily identified from the surveillance tape, plus, the coat worn by the robber was found in Newsome's car. Also, Newsome's wife said the family car had a radiator leak, and a puddle of antifreeze was found beside the store where the robber parked. Also, the robber wore a hard hat with "James Newsome" on it.

RECURRING THEMES

- News of the Weird has reported several times on people who have swallowed large quantities of metal objects for various reasons (suicide, mental illness, showing off). In Ankara, Turkey, in February, Mr. Omer Faruk Cetinkaya reported to a hospital with abdominal pains, which turned out to have been caused by the screwdriver, 20 nails, six magnets and several lengths of wire in his stomach, which were removed by surgeons. The patient's father said his son had recently undergone counseling but that it had not been successful.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33738, or Weird@comcast.net

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**TOM the
DANCING
BUG**

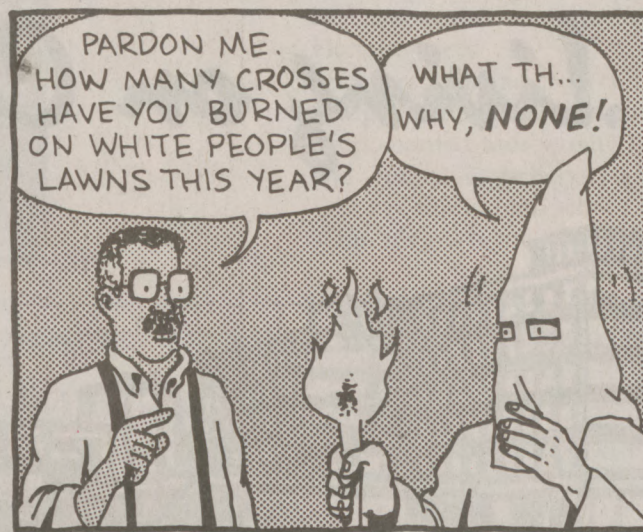
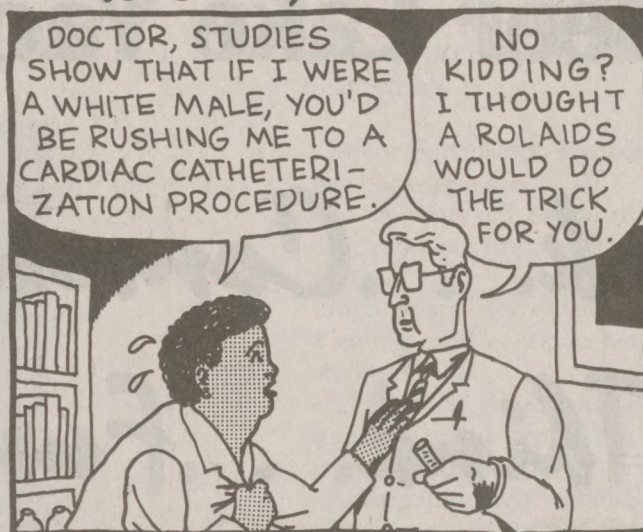
**BY
RUBEN
BOLLING**

Whites to Blacks: How're We Doin'?

OVERT ACTS OF RACIST VIOLENCE GRAB THE HEADLINES, BUT AN UNCONSCIOUS CULTURAL BIAS HELD BY WELL-INTENTIONED PEOPLE CAN DO REAL DAMAGE ALSO. HOWEVER, LIKE A PIECE OF SPINACH STUCK IN OUR TEETH, WE DON'T KNOW IT'S THERE UNLESS WE'RE TOLD!



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