

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 18, 2009

Volume 35, Number 23



RAPID RATE

School of Nursing expands to fill health care shortage while the economy is on life support

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THE SCENE

Paul Rudd and Jason Segel gush about their platonic man affair in "I Love You, Man," the latest "dick flick"

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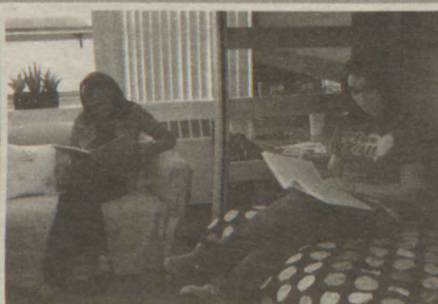
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THIS WEEK 3.18.09

THE OAKLAND POST
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIAL

Lindsey Wojcik

Editor in Chief

oakposteditor@gmail.com

(248) 370-4268

Colleen Miller

Managing Editor

oakpostmanaging@gmail.com

(248) 370-2537

Dan Fenner

Sports Editor

oakpostsports@

gmail.com

(248) 370-2848

Brooke Hug

Photo Editor

oakpostphoto@

gmail.com

(248) 370-4266

Amanda Meade

Scene/Mix Editor

oakpostfeatures@

gmail.com

(248) 370-2848

Masudur Rahman

Campus Editor

oakposteditor@

gmail.com

(248) 370-2848

Tim Rath

Web Editor

oakposteditor@

gmail.com

(248) 370-2848

Thomas Rowland

Multimedia Editor

oakposteditor@

gmail.com

(248) 370-2848

John Gardner

Web Master

(248) 370-4266

COPY EDITORS

Katie Jacob

Donna Lange-Tucker

oakposteditor@

gmail.com

(248) 370-2849

SENIOR REPORTERS

Sean Garner

Joe Guzman

Rory McCarty

oakposteditor@

gmail.com

(248) 370-2849

STAFF REPORTERS

Kay Nguyen

Mackenzie Roger

STAFF INTERNS

Wibke Richter

Kathleen Quandt

Ashleigh Quinn

Brad Slazinski

ADVISOR

Holly Gilbert

Dept. of Journalism

shreve@oakland.edu

(248) 370-4268

ADVERTISING | MARKETING

Sarah Lang

Lead Ads Manager

oaklandpostadvertis-

ing@gmail.com

(248) 370-4269

Jillian Field

Asst. Ads Manager

oaklandpostadvertis-

ing@gmail.com

(248) 370-4269

Steve St. Germain

Marketing Director

oaklandpostadvertis-

ing@gmail.com

(248) 370-4266

Mallory Lapanowski

Asst. Ads Manager

oaklandpostadvertis-

ing@gmail.com

(248) 370-4269

Cover illustration by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post



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Student Body Vice President Jordan Twardy explains why it's important to get to know the student congress candidates. Page 5



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Students advocate for more handicap-accessible bathrooms, but meet roadblocks.



Local page 12

The Michigan Legislature's ability to cooperate will be tested as they plan the use of federal stimulus money for road construction projects.



The Mix page 14

March is Women's History Month, The Post finds out who students consider the most influential women and weigh in on equal rights.



you page 16

A new series on how academic departments are preparing students for a changing economy begins this week with the School of Nursing.



Sports page 19

The softball team prepares for their Summit League Conference schedule.



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Jay Leno is coming to town — The Post talks with people who waited in line for their free tickets. Page 24



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Scene/Mix Editor Amanda Meade provides an explanation of her faith in the Loch Ness Monster.



Nation | World page 27

The use of social networking sites by jurors on duty to be tested.

Featured Video

Follow one student's bathroom ritual on campus and find out why it takes him 20 minutes.

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Perspectives

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March 18, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

No rest for the college student

Enter Grizz number and PIN. Look up classes to add. Plan the next nine months of your life. Breathe. Start paying for it.

Registration for fall and spring/summer classes by class standing started Monday. Picking out your classes and making plans can be exciting; you're getting one or two steps closer to graduation.

At the same time it's a bit agonizing. Can't we get a break? Most of us have not even paid off the winter semester yet. Nor have we took a moment to step outside and enjoy the smell of soil and the warmth of the spring sun. Yet it's time to commit to a schedule that will carry us through December.

Things seem to be happening faster and coming up quicker than they ever did in high school when the weeks would drag on like years. Being in college is like being a weeble that just keeps getting hit with assignments, bills and life, so we have no time to even fall before we have to get back up.

Taking into consideration the economy, the job market and tuition rates that are getting students down, Oakland University is putting in a lot of effort so that "You can afford this."

But really, returning students are getting the short end of the stick. Incoming freshmen and transfer students are the ones benefiting most from the renewable, increased scholarship money and even 100 percent tuition grants for "need-based freshmen." But in fall 2008 only 28 percent of OU's student body belonged to these groups.

While freshmen and transfers are get-

ting the gold and black carpet treatment, for the most part returning students are stuck with the same old acronyms: FAFSA, EFC, etc. Sophomores, juniors, seniors and lifers could also try their luck with the generous list of existing scholarships available at www.oakland.edu/scholarships, but most have very specific requirements, like being an upper-class undergraduate student from Macomb County with academic excellence.

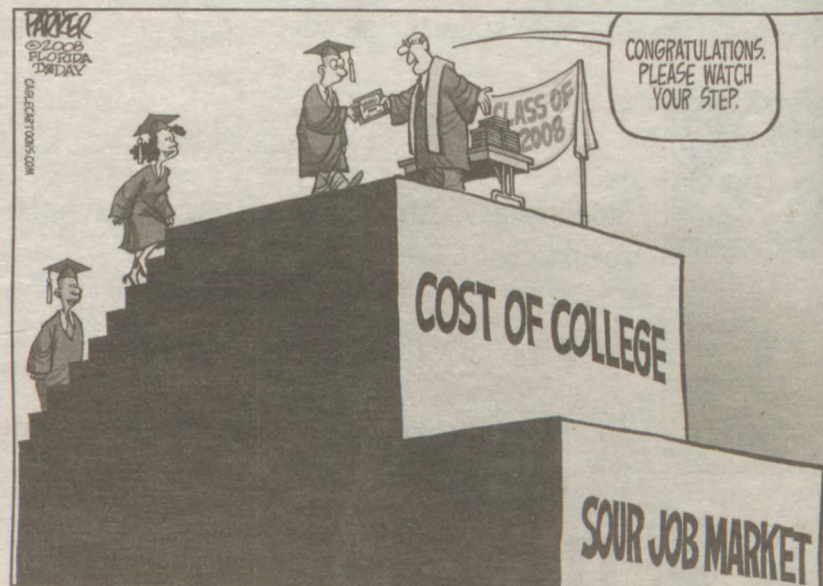
One improvement made by the administration designed to help all students is an extended payment plan for the 2009-2010 school year. A variety of payment plans, which only began in 2007-2008, are being offered with up to 10 payments spread out through the end of the year. This year is also the first to offer payment plans for the summer semester.

But if you're strapped for cash, enrolling in a payment plan with the smallest installments may not do any good considering the first payment would be due next week.

The university is also setting aside the registration hold until April 20 if students owe less than \$1,500, but students are still subject to late fees.

Regardless of what you think you may or may not qualify for, each and every student should make a trip to the financial aid office to speak with an advisor and try to maximize your possibilities.

If you have ideas for improving the financial situation for students, or if you would like to share something with the administration that is working or not working, you can e-mail Financial Services at mystuact@oakland.edu.



PARKER/Florida Today, Cagle Cartoons

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

By e-mail:
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CORRECTIONS CORNER

• On page 6 of the March 11 issue, "Campaigning for involvement" should have said the vice presidential debates will be held at noon Wednesday, March 18 in Gold Room A.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Lindsey Wojcik
Colleen Miller • Tim Rath
Amanda Meade • Katie Jacob

comments, concerns, questions:
oakpostmanaging@gmail.com

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

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Use your voice, make a choice

Jordan Twardy Student Body Vice President



Next week, the students of Oakland University (that means you!) will elect a new student government.

You might be thinking, "Who cares? What difference does it make who gets elected?" As your current student body vice president, I can tell you it makes a huge difference. Student Congress controls as much as \$100,000 per semester of your money, plus at least another \$200,000 that helps fund every student organization and club sport on campus. Congress also funds big concerts, trips and lectures.

Not only that, but Student Congress has the resources and access to university administrators to create huge potential in influencing the way the university works for us with the right people at the helm. Therefore, as someone who has been in OUSC for more than three years at every level from rank and file to second in command, I want to stress to you the importance of knowing who these candidates are and of making an informed vote.

In my experience, I found that OUSC works best when people are not taking themselves too seriously, but are getting serious work done and enjoying what they do. To create this balance and a Congress that doesn't just work for the students, but with them, hav-

ing the right president and vice president is crucial.

You need a president and VP that combine experience and ingenuity — people who have a proven record of success in the organization and the creativity to tackle challenges in new ways. You need a president that is going to be a workhorse in the office, out talking to the students and attending events — and they need to be willing to do these things even when they are tired, stressed out or sick, not just when they feel like it, and not just the bare minimum to get by. Most importantly, they need to get out there and engage the students in the process — all of them.

Over 18,000 students attend OU, and each one deserves a student government that is looking out for them. If you aren't aware of what Congress does, or if you haven't heard about these elections, then you know exactly why it is so important that we elect a president who is doing this for the right reasons: a president who is in it for you and not for their resume, or for the spirit of competition, or to get paid \$8.50 an hour to have a good time on the students' dime.

In 2008 we saw what could happen when people participate in the electoral process. While we don't have Barack Obama on this ballot, we have four diverse candidates to choose from, and I urge you to investigate all of them; five minutes on someone's Facebook page can tell you quite a bit. Go to www.oakland.edu/voteou and see who is running. Ask them questions and see where they stand on the issues important to you.

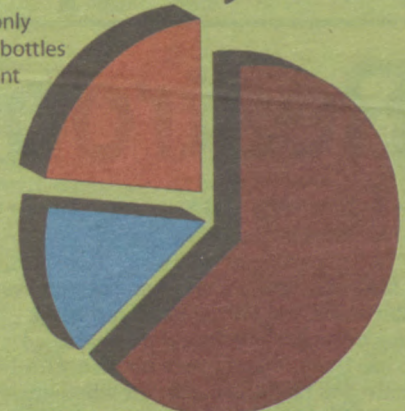
The polls are open March 23-25. Use your voice and make a choice!

14 students answered this question in an online poll last week.

Do you recycle?

21.4 % — I only recycle pop bottles for my 10 cent refund.

14.3 % — No, I throw everything in the trash.



64.3 % — Yes, I recycle everything from paper to plastic.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: How confident are you in finding a job in your area of study after graduation? Respond on Oaklandpostonline.com

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Restrooms out of reach for some

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Many bathrooms have handicap-accessible stalls, but for the most part, they aren't designed by the people that need to use them. When you're not in a wheelchair, you might not consider whether or not there's enough room to maneuver around in one of the stalls, or whether the soap dispensers are within reach.

These handicap-accessible bathrooms aren't always as accessible to the people for whom they're intended.

The members of Students Toward Understanding Disabilities say that for the most part, the bathrooms on Oakland University's campus are poorly designed. They also said they're trying to improve the situation, but it seems unlikely.

Brian Wigman, treasurer for STUD, said that there are no handicap-accessible bathrooms in any dormitories or student apartments.

He also said the bathrooms in Varner, Hannah and Dodge halls are totally inaccessible, and the handicap-accessible in the Oakland Center and Kresge Library are built in such a way that it's difficult to close the door from inside the stall.

"I have to wait for another guy to walk in and close the door for me," Wigman said. "Which you can imagine, is pretty awkward."

Wigman also said that due to the placement of the accessible bathrooms, someone in Varner Hall would have to go up to Elliot just to wash their hands.

"A bathroom trip for someone in

Varner could take up to 15 minutes that way," he said. "If you're a performer or an audience member [in a wheelchair], you better pray you don't have to go to the bathroom."

STUD member Aiana Scott said she also has experienced problems with the bathrooms such as being unable to reach the soap dispensers. Because she takes pain medication, she can stand out of her wheelchair for periods of time, but for most students this isn't an option.

"I either have to get up, or I have to have a seven-foot-long arm," she said.

Wigman and Scott both said not all of the campus bathrooms are bad, however. The ones in Pawley Hall and the Rec Center are good, according to Wigman.

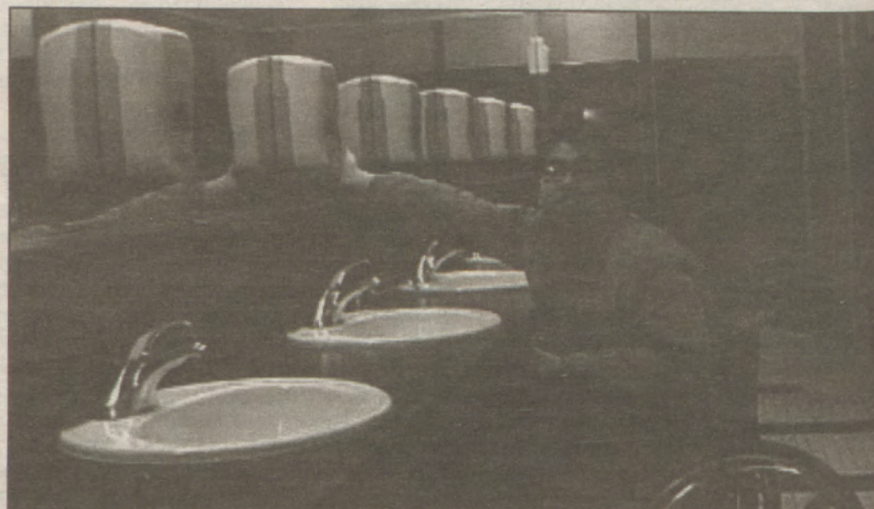
"The newer the building, the nicer the bathroom," he said.

According to Linda Sisson, director of disability support services at OU, that's generally the case. However, some of the older buildings on campus, built before the existence of the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, legally don't have to be up to ADA standards.

"There are some examples where due to space, there's no way to make it accessible," Sisson said. She said that some of the buildings on campus would be "difficult or impossible to retrofit."

She said a staircase in Dodge Hall that some students have requested have a ramp installed. But to make a ramp on the proper incline, Sisson said that the ramp would have to be impossibly long.

Sisson said that OU does a lot for its students when it can.



THOMAS ROWLAND/The Oakland Post
Brian Wigman shows how he can't reach the soap from his wheelchair in a Varner Hall bathroom.

"In several bathrooms they've removed a stall in order to make a handicap-accessible stall."

She also said OU has other accommodations on campus like electronic door openers, which are not required by law.

While Wigman said that the electronic door openers were good, he also said that, "A lot of people with disabilities, at least from a physical standpoint, we just want a place to piss."

Sisson is currently working on examining the bathroom doors in the OC following a complaint from STUD that they were too heavy for wheelchair-using students to open. She said there are also

work orders to check on the height of the soap dispensers in Elliot and Varner halls. For the time being, Sisson said she believes that the majority of the bathrooms on campus are accessible.

Wigman said STUD continues trying to make campus more accessible by talking to Vice President of Facilities Management Terry Stollsteimer and Director of Housing Lionel Maten.

"We're hopeful, but not optimistic," Wigman said.

Visit www.oaklandpostonline.com to watch a video of Wigman showing how it takes him 15 minutes to use the bathroom in Varner and Elliot halls.

Students advised to keep an eye on their belongings

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

As the second half of the semester continues and studying becomes more rigorous, it might be a good idea to keep a close watch on your belongings when studying in Kresge Library.

Two weeks ago, five Oakland University students reported having items stolen at Kresge Library. The lifted items included cell phones, laptops and textbooks.

OU Police Department Lt. Mel Gilroy said theft has been especially concentrated at Kresge this year.

"It certainly has been this year," Gilroy said. "If you're the thief, where are people going to be studying? Where are they going to leave their stuff?"

Gilroy also said that there were recently three thefts reported in one day in areas adjacent to women's restrooms in other buildings on campus.

Gilroy went on to say that most of the thefts occurring at Kresge are easily preventable, as long as students take responsibility for their own possessions.

"One of the real problems is people aren't paying attention to their property," Gilroy said. "They don't understand how vulnerable their stuff is. Based on recent activity at the library, we highly recommend people don't leave their property unattended."

Administration at Kresge would not comment on the record but one administrator said that the latest outbreak of thefts is an isolated occurrence and that Kresge is a safe place to study.

Recently, Kresge administrators have placed notices on a number of the tables advising students not to leave their possessions unattended.

Gilroy said all of the thefts are being investigated, though none have been resolved. He also said there is a possibility that a number of, if not all, the thefts were

committed by the same person.

"We don't have hard suspect information at this point," Gilroy said.

Freshman engineering major Neel Patel said he was not aware of the recent string of thefts but now that he knows about them, he will keep a more watchful eye on his possessions while studying in Kresge.





"I would try to, whenever I am going some place else just for a couple minutes, to take my stuff with me," Patel said.

Patel said he thinks it might help if there was security on each floor to look out for potential thieves.

Carolyn D'Almeida, a freshman biology major, also said she was not aware of the thefts until she read the notice at table she was studying.

"I usually spend a lot of time in the library, because I'm a commuter student," D'Almeida said. "That is really surprising to me."

Student Congress election voting guide

Names	Education	Campus involvement	Campaign	Contacts
 President: Janelle Arbuckle Vice president: Nick McCormick	Arbuckle: junior, political science and international relations major McCormick: freshman, communications and writing and rhetoric major	Arbuckle: currently serving as OUSC's public relations agent McCormick: OUSC legislator, Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity member, orientation group leader	Platform: Getting OU students — both residents and commuters — more involved. To do this, they want to hold student organization fairs more often. They also said they'll listen to students' concerns, and work toward solving them. Read their entire platform on www.oakland.edu/voteou	Facebook group: "Vote Arbuckle/McCormick" Arbuckle: jaarbuck@oakland.edu McCormick: nsmccorm@oakland.edu
 President: Kristin Dayag Vice president: Saman Waquad	Dayag: sophomore, international relations and public administration major Waquad: senior, biology major and human resource management minor	Dayag: OUSC's multicultural director Waquad: OUSC's legislative affairs director, Zeta Sigma Chi multicultural sorority member	Platform: Creating a more inclusive campus for people of all ethnicity, gender and sexuality. They also said they want to increase OU pride, strengthen OUSC and develop stronger student leaders. Read their entire platform on www.oakland.edu/voteou	Facebook group: "Kristin Dayag and Saman Waquad" Dayag: kadayag@oakland.edu Waquad: sfwaquad@gmail.com
 President: Anthony Ivone Vice president: Jackie Craite	Ivone: junior, political science and economics minor Craite: freshman, psychology major	Ivone: has not served a position on OUSC yet, but has attended the last few OUSC meetings Craite: has not served in OUSC; works as a research lab assistant in OU's biology department	Platform: Make OUSC take the initiative and responsibility to become more interactive with students. They also plan to let more students know what OUSC is up to, and take more student input. Read their entire platform on www.oakland.edu/voteou	Facebook group: "Ivone for Oakland U" Ivone: aivone@oakland.edu Craite: slither117@sbc-global.net
 President: Mark Medaugh Vice president: Ashley Marthen	Medaugh: senior, biology major Marthen: junior, human resources and development major	Medaugh: student representative to OU Senate, served as several positions in OUSC before, retired as a Justice in order to campaign Marthen: OUSC legislator, serves on the scholarships committee	Platform: They call it "Real Plans for Real Students": try to make Kresge Library stay open 24 hours, more bulletin boards for students to advertise, expand inter-student buy-sell program, get local companies more involved with students, and Project O-Yeah. Read their entire platform on www.oakland.edu/voteou	Facebook group: "Medaugh/Marthen for OU" Medaugh: mdmedaugh@oakland.edu Marthen: aalacomb@oakland.edu

Voting days: Monday, March 23 - Wednesday, March 25 **Vote on:** www.oakland.edu/voteou **Results announced:** Thursday, March 27

Coming Up On Campus

- "Green technology presentation" — Wednesday, March 18, 4-7 p.m., in the Rec Center's social lounge. This is a Powerpoint presentation for people interested in environmental science.
- "OU Day at the Capitol" — Friday, March 20, is the last day to register to go to Lansing on Monday, March 30 with other OU students, meet elected officials, attend committee meetings, observe Michigan Senate and House in session and have lunch with Senate and House members. Free and open to all students, faculty and staff. Transportation and food is provided. Sign up at <http://www4.oakland.edu/?sid=244>
- "Consensual Sex, or Rape? A mock trial" — Monday, March 23, 7-10 p.m., in the Gold Rooms in the OC. Actual judges and prosecutors will play roles in this mock trial about alcohol-induced sexual assault of voluntarily intoxicated victims, to raise date rape awareness.
- "Bill Ayers at OU: A dialogue on democracy and education" — Tuesday, March 24, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., in the Gold Rooms in the OC. Participate in a discussion with the author, activist and ex-revolutionary.
- "OU Degrees and Majors Fair - Speed-Dating Style" — Wednesday, March 25, noon-1 p.m., in the Gold Rooms in the OC. Students can explore different majors offered at OU by talking to a student currently in that program and academic advisers.

POLICE FILES

On March 4, OUPD executed a warrant for the arrest of a woman. The suspect was accused of larceny in an undisclosed building. While at the police station, the suspect was uncooperative with police officers, eventually being handcuffed to a detainment bench. The suspect adjusted her arm and was able to release herself from the handcuffs.

On March 6, OUPD responded to reported bicycle larceny near family housing. The victim said her bike was on the back porch of her apartment the day before, but was missing when her daughter went to go use it. The victim could not identify the brand or serial number of the bicycle. There are no suspects at this time.

(Right) Two female students showing off their traditional Indian clothing at the fashion show, one of the entertainment offered at the event. (Far right) Female students dancing a traditional Indian dance, as a packed crowd watches, some taking photos and shooting videos. Some of the other dances were traditional, and a few of them combined tradition with modern dancing.

(Right) Photo by JAYESON PHILIP/The Oakland Post and (Far right) photo courtesy of Indian Students Association.



(Above) From left to right: Lydia Isaac, Krishna Gummadi and Preeti Vij strut their stuff and show off their Indian clothes. Several other students also took part in the fashion show, as well as Jean Ann Miller, director of OU's Center for Student Activities, who dressed in a pink dress lent to her by a student.

(Right) After Indian Night '09 was officially over, the main stage turned into a mini dance hall for many students.

Photos courtesy of Indian Student Association



Celebrating India

By JAYESON PHILIP
Contributing Reporter

The Gold Room in the Oakland Center was overflowing with almost 300 people as Indian Night 2009 got underway on Saturday, March 14.

From 7-11 p.m., Oakland University students — Indian and non-Indian — performed a variety of dance, live music and other entertainment.

There was a fashion show with people wearing bright, colorful clothing from India, as well as dance and music from rural parts of India and Bollywood — the Indian version of Hollywood — tunes infused with American hip hop.

There was also authentic ethnic food, catered by Royal Indian Cuisine. Jean Ann Miller, director of OU's Center for Student Activities, said the students who put together the event got a waiver from Chartwells, the OC's exclusive food caterer.

The event was hosted by the Indian Student Association, and co-sponsored by Desi Rang Association of OU.

"We wanted to showcase the entire culture and events of the subcontinent," said Sejal Rathi, Desi Rang's president.

Other than providing entertainment and cultural awareness, the night also tried to help global hunger. Children's Rights and You America had a table by the entrance, raising money and awareness for children in America and India.

"CRY was there to raise awareness and get volunteers to support their cause," said Krishna Gummadi, president of ISA.

Rudragouda Channappanavar, a biomedical sciences grad student, said that the night represented the strength of unity through diversity. He said this event showcased the Indian community and its diversity to the world.

Sehar Kazi, who works for the International Students and Scholars Office at OU, said the event was a positive event, especially for Indian kids growing up in the U.S., in that they can know of their heritage.

Allison Moore, a teacher and part of a church group who adopted a student from India, said this was her second time coming to this event and that it was a fun evening. She said her favorite part was the Fusion dance which melded various music themes of India and the US.

—Masudur Rahman contributed to this report

Tech tips for leaders

By STEVE ST. GERMAIN
Marketing Director

On Saturday, March 14, students gathered in the Elliot Hall auditorium for a Leadership and Technology conference.

The conference was hosted by Oakland University's Center for Student Activities and open to all OU students.

The all-day event gave students a chance to participate in skill challenges and attend various seminars. Sessions ranged from topics on career development and marketing, to group communication and emerging technologies.

After the morning classes ended, students filed out of Elliot Hall and into the Pioneer Room of the Rec Center.

There, the students were divided into seven groups and asked to abandon their notebooks for the remainder of the afternoon. The Rec Center gym had been transformed into a low ropes course where groups of students faced physical challenges.

The group activities were coordinated by S.T.E.P.S. Inc. and gave students the opportunity to sharpen their leadership skills, practice effective communication, and work on team building.

The conference was a helpful resource

for anyone involved in a student organization on campus, student employees and leaders, as well as entrepreneurs.

This was the first year the conference has been held at OU and the conference is planned to be back in 2010.

"It was a huge success," said Jean Szura, assistant director of student activities and leadership development. "We will definitely be organizing it again next year."

Some tips from the conference were:

- When devising your marketing plan: figure out your primary, secondary and tertiary audiences.
- When planning an event, form a partnership with a student organization. This can be a great way to cross-promote.
- Eye contact is critical. Any eye contact lasting longer than six seconds tells the listener, "I want you."
- A wiki is not an encyclopedia, although it can be. Use **PBwiki.com** to speed up group communication with globally editable pages.
- Use language vividly. Try to paint a picture by using metaphors and similes.
- Trying to recall everything a speaker says is not always a healthy listening habit.

Cleaning up, greening up



BRAD SLAZINSKI/The Oakland Post

Groups of two could be seen around the campus picking up trash on Thursday, March 12, most of them near the residence halls, as part of Environmental Coalition's "Green Week."

"The idea was we clean up the campus after the snow melts. We have a clean up in the fall and the winter semester," said sophomore Edward Thompson-Matthews, a member of the Environmental Coalition. "I think a lot of students don't realize how much trash there is. Especially around the residence halls. I think that they need to be aware of how much they're throwing away. You're living here and you should still have some respect for the property."

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International faith conference preaches peace

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Campus Editor

Hundreds of people gathered in the Oakland Center in Oakland University on March 13-15 for the First International Conference on Religion, Conflict and Peace.

The conference was hosted by OU Islamic Studies program, Common Bond Institute and International Humanistic Psychology Association. Attendees included not only OU students, faculty and staff, but also people coming from all over the U.S., Canada and even Africa.

The conference featured lectures, movies and discussion groups, and focused on religious ignorance, extremism, prejudice, divisiveness and harmony, with a special focus on Islamophobia and the Muslim community, and engaged in dialogue to promote peace and healing.

Religion and extremism

Many people at the conference said religious extremism and violence stems from absolute certainty in one's religion.

"None of us can prove there is a god or isn't a god," said Rabbi Arthur Waskow, the founding director of the Shalom Center. "Religion doesn't enter the realm

of knowledge — it must remain in the realm of faith."

He and others said it often leads to violence and oppression toward religious minorities, and that belief in a specific religion is not important.

"Much more important than creed is deed," Waskow said.

Mohammed Abu-Nimer, professor of International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University, said that it's dangerous when extremists have access to state power and ideology. He, and many others, said there's a difference between ideal Islam and sometimes-practiced Islam.

"This gap is not a Muslim gap, it's a human gap," Abu-Nimer said.

Achmat Salie, director of OU's Islamic Studies program, was among others who stressed cross-community building and forgiveness for peace.

"Time does not heal wounds, healing heals wounds," said Joseph Montville, the author of "Conflict and Peacemaking in Multiethnic Societies."

U.S. policies hurt

Many said that United States policies hurt the peacemaking process.

Paula Gutlove, project manager of the

U.S.-Muslim Engagement Project, said the global war on terror is inconsistent with peacemaking.

"We're known around the world for human rights and civil liberties, so when we do things like Guantanamo, Rendition ... it hurts us," Gutlove said. "We don't gain any respect from other people."

She said there are four things the U.S. needs to do to improve relations with the Muslim world: use diplomacy, promote civic and government participation in Muslim countries, catalyze job creation in Muslim countries and improve U.S.-Muslim understanding through dialogue. "Youth unemployment is very dangerous," Gutlove said.

Imad Hamad, an Arab-American civil rights activist, said U.S. judicial process hurts charity efforts because Muslim-Americans are afraid to donate to poorer countries because they fear prosecution.

"It undermines our war on famine," said Shareef Akeel, a civil rights lawyer. He told attendees how the FBI raided an Arab-American charity in Southfield.

"And somehow, the media is there at 6 a.m.," Akeel said. "It creates a chilling effect for other people who were going to donate."

Fault of the media

Many said that the media was partially to blame, by only covering negative news about Islam, and not positive news.

"It has contributed to collective guilt by association," Akeel said. "Moderate voices are trumped by extremist voices."

"Anyone creating problems is not a Muslim," said Imam Fulani — an idea that resonated through the conference.

"Imam speaks, we hear him here, but not in the media," Akeel said. "Bin Laden speaks from a cave, everyone hears him."

Maida Besic, a Muslim junior psychology major and Islamic studies minor who volunteered at the conference, said she liked the variety of cultures, but didn't like how most people were trying to defend Islam.

"Islam is such a beautiful religion — it doesn't need defending," Besic said.

Steve Olweean, founder of Common Bond Institute, said the conference exceeded expectations, and that they're planning another one for next spring. He also said that practical applications of such conferences is people networking, which leads to other organizations.

Salie said he was happy with the different religions represented, and hopes for even more diversity next year.



Web Exclusives this week:

- Watch as we follow Brian Wigman, a student who uses a motorized wheelchair to move around, try to use the bathrooms in Varner and Elliot halls, and show how they're not totally accessible for some students with disabilities.

- Read about the faculty members who performed music pieces they composed on Sunday, March 15, and watch a clip from the show.

- The CIA came to recruit OU students on Wednesday, March 11. What kind of students are they looking for?

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Monday, March 23
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7:00 PM

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Thursday, March 26
7:30 PM
Gold Rooms, Oakland Center



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Thursday, March 19
5:30 - 10:30 PM.



UP til Dawn

Don't miss this fun event featuring a DJ,
live band, free food, prizes and fun!

Location: Banquet Rooms at the OC

CAMPUS BRIEFS

No bomb threat suspects yet, despite investigation

According to the Oakland University Police Department, the bomb threat called in on March 3 that led to the shutdown of the Oakland Center and O'Dowd Hall is being thoroughly investigated.

OUPD Lieutenant Mel Gilroy said that despite "very aggressive" efforts to uncover details about the threat, no suspects have been named. He said the investigation will continue, but it could be a long time before there are any suspects. Gilroy said if caught, the assailant could be charged with making a false threat of terrorism, which carries a maximum 20 years in prison.

"Mostly, all that we've got, we shared that first day when the threat was called in," Gilroy said. "I'm not holding my breath."

— Sean Garner, Senior Reporter

No sign of the man banned from campus

The OUPD suspects that Harry Nguyen, the 42-year-old recently arrested and subsequently banned from campus, is far away from OU.

Nguyen was arrested at a McDonald's off campus Feb. 26 after allegedly displaying unusual threatening behavior outside Wilson Hall. OUPD later released Nguyen and no charges were filed.

According to OUPD Lieutenant Mel Gilroy, Nguyen's records indicated that he is a frequent traveler. Gilroy said that he does not think Nguyen is a threat, but thinks OUPD was justified in making the arrest.

"Harry was peculiar enough that we thought we had to investigate further," Gilroy said. "There were just too many open questions."

Fliers with Nguyen's mug shot are still posted in some buildings on campus.

— Sean Garner, Senior Reporter

More nursing students to get clinical opportunities

Oakland University has partnered with St. John Health's Riverview campus in an effort to create a training ground for entry level health care professionals.

Tom Schumann, executive director for the Institute for the Advancement of Nursing and Healthcare, and OU nursing administrator, said the collaboration will provide abundant real world experience for nursing students.

"The former St. John Hospital at Riverview provides an excellent facility for clinical education and provides a unique true-to-life hospital setting for nursing education," Schumann said. "In addition, [this partnership] offers clinical practice opportunities for nursing students throughout their hospital system."

He said some nursing students are already taking classes in Riverview Center, and that another batch will start in Fall 2009.

OU faculty will be provide the instruction, and Dr. Barbara Penprase is the Program Director for the Accelerated Second Degree, Schumann said.

He also said St. John Health System has awarded a \$ 5.3 million grant to the School of Nursing over a five year period to support the additional cost of operating at the Riverview location.

— Sean Garner, Senior Reporter

Chartwells redoing its catering menu and prices

OU's food provider and the Oakland Center's exclusive catering provider Chartwells revealed its plans to change its catering food options and prices on Friday, March 13.

Chartwells' director Andrew Willows said they wanted feedback from the students on Friday, and will make the changes final later this month.

— Masudur Rahman, Campus Editor

Intervarsity raises awareness for global poverty

The Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at OU held several events to help raise awareness about issues related to poverty last week. Lois Miller, Intervarsity staff worker, said the events were also to help students think about poverty from a spiritual perspective and to explore how God responds to the situation in the scriptures.

Miller said students donated 150 pounds of food that was given to Forgotten Harvest, volunteered at a building that's being turned into a shelter for women from domestic violence and tried to help bring a local produce market.

— Kathleen Quandt, Staff Intern

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4th Annual Finale Event

March 19th, 2009

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"No child should die in the dawn of life" - Danny Thomas

This event will feature: food, fun, music, Wii, Guitar Hero, a photo booth, mini golf, prizes, and much more

Free and open to all OU students

Roads will test stimulus

Funding for Michigan road projects to be decided on this month

By TIM MARTIN
Associated Press Writer

LANSING — The first test of how much squabbling Michigan lawmakers will do over federal stimulus money is likely to come this month, when decisions will be made on where road funds should go.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration in the coming weeks plans to send the Legislature a road funding bill covering the first wave of roughly \$625 million in state road projects.

The state has less than 120 days to commit to the first set of projects under terms of the federal law aimed at helping to pull the nation out of recession. Both Democrats and Republicans say they want to get the road money out the door.

But tensions are already rising, with some west Michigan Republicans worried their districts are getting shortchanged on a preliminary list of projects.

"Some of the membership has been concerned that maybe some of the projects will flow more toward the Democratic-side districts than the Republican," said Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac.

Gilbert wants to work with the Michigan Department of Transportation to make sure a fair, balanced list is created before it's put to a vote.

"We need to do this in a way that has the least friction as possible," he said.



Nearly \$625 million will be spent on Michigan road projects this year. Construction barrels and road signs cautioning drivers will return as a summer staple on Michigan roads.

MDOT has a list of possible road projects worth about \$732 million. The list will be whittled down to the amount of available money, roughly \$625 million. Lawmakers' suggestions and concerns will be considered as cuts are made, MDOT Director Kirk Steudle said.

Projects that don't make the first cut could be submitted for stimulus funding later. Steudle expects Michigan eventually will get more road money because a few other states won't meet the strict

guidelines necessary to get all of their allocations.

Most of Michigan's stimulus road money likely will be spent preserving existing roads. About \$155 million would be spent on expansion projects.

Even if lawmakers get on board quickly with the road projects, fights could surface over the rest of Michigan's stimulus money if different philosophies over how it should be used create gridlock.

Some Republicans, for instance, have

suggested using stimulus money to start phasing out a 22 percent surcharge on Michigan's main business tax, saying it would spark job creation. But Democrats, including Granholm, say such a move isn't allowed under terms of federal law.

"We have to follow the rules that are set forth by the recovery act," Granholm said last week. "There is not a statute that says you should be putting money into a rainy day fund or putting money into additional tax cuts. Those tax cut battles were waged at the federal level."

The Republican-controlled Senate has set up a special appropriations subcommittee to deal specifically with stimulus money. The Senate is expected to act quickly on the road money.

But Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop says it may be better to wait until after state economists provide an updated report on Michigan's budget problems in May before more stimulus money is spent.

Democrats say existing appropriations committees can handle the recovery act spending bills. Sen. Michael Switalski, D-Roseville, says a special committee could "create more talking and less working" on stimulus bills, creating delays.

Bishop says his intent is not to delay stimulus spending but rather to make sure it's done wisely.

Michigan's Recovery and Reinvestment Plan web page: www.michigan.gov/recovery. Michigan Legislature: www.legislature.mi.gov.

NEWS BRIEFS



CARLOS OSORIO/Associated Press

Pallbearers carry the casket of billionaire philanthropist and Detroit Pistons owner William Davidson after a memorial service at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Tuesday, March 17. (Background center) Tom Wilson, (left) president of Palace Sports & Entertainment and the Pistons and Joe Dumars, president of basketball operations for the Pistons. Davidson died Friday, March 13, at his Bloomfield Hills home. He was 86.



ANDRE J. JACKSON/Associated Press, Detroit Free Press

Frank Harzinski, of the Utility Resource Group in Roseville, repairs a median after a Monday night car accident killed four teenagers across from the Macomb Mall on Gratiot in Roseville.

GM asks for government aid to avoid bankruptcy

By **TOM KRISHER**
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — If General Motors Corp. were forced into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the company would end up being liquidated because a long bankruptcy would scare customers away, Chief Executive Rick Wagoner said Tuesday.

Wagoner said restructuring the company out of court would accomplish 99 percent of what could be achieved in bankruptcy, but without the risk of losing customers or the huge expense of Chapter 11.

Wagoner's statements came as members of President Barack Obama's auto task force told Michigan lawmakers they would signal next week what direction they plan to take to restructure GM and Chrysler LLC.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who met with members of the panel on Capitol Hill, said they would make "a significant statement" by the end of next week on the restructuring. Levin said it would not be definitive but would show "the direction that it needs to go."

Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., the

senator's older brother, said the task force made clear they expect to present a "framework" that would take into account the companies, their debtholders, suppliers and the United Auto Workers union.

The panel members said they want to "help the industry survive and restructure outside bankruptcy," he said.

The lawmakers also discussed their concerns for auto suppliers, who are seeking billions in loans and government aid and face an intense cash crunch this month. Auto suppliers met later in the day with members of the task force.

"Our entire area is hanging on by their fingertips," said Rep. Candice Miller, R-Mich.

Critics of GM and Chrysler, which have received \$17.4 billion in government loans to stay alive and have requested a total of \$39 billion, say the government should let them go into a short, prepackaged bankruptcy that would let them restructure debt and void costly labor contracts.

But Wagoner said a 30- or 60-day prepackaged bankruptcy might not work.

"If it doesn't, you'd need in the end a long period of bankruptcy which I believe

would result in liquidation of the company," he said, adding that GM research continues to show that customers would shy away from buying vehicles from companies in bankruptcy.

Wagoner also said Ford Motor Co.'s deal with the United Auto Workers to change the funding of a retiree health care trust fund will not work for GM. Ford and the union agreed that the company will make half of its payments to the fund in stock instead of cash.

Wagoner said GM needs to do "something different" and is working with the UAW to make that happen.

He said he hopes auto parts suppliers get government aid soon because their situation is "getting more precarious."

Parts-making companies, especially those tied to the Detroit Three, have suffered as automakers have cut production to match weaker sales, and many are on the brink of bankruptcy.

GM has proposed that the government create a credit insurance program that would guarantee payments from automakers to parts makers, making it easier for suppliers to borrow against the expected payments.

Suppliers, Wagoner said, have held

up better than expected for the past 30 days, but he predicted their situation will worsen.

"I think the pressure is there and continues to grow," he said. "The longer the industry runs at low production levels, I think the greater the risk grows."

Chrysler and GM each face a March 31 deadline to finish plans to show the government how they can become viable again and repay the government loans.

GM has received \$13.4 billion in federal loans and is seeking an additional \$16.6 billion. GM announced Tuesday that it will hold its annual meeting in Detroit instead of Wilmington, Del., this year to save money and increase shareholder participation. The company also will delay the meeting until Aug. 4 — about two months later than usual — as it grapples with its restructuring plan. GM's directors believe it will be able to give shareholders a better perspective on the company's operations by waiting, company spokeswoman Julie Gibson said.

Associated Press Writer Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

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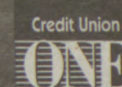


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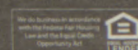
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Who is the most inspirational female figure?



"Helen Keller. She had a lot of obstacles to overcome and did a lot with what she didn't have."

Roberta Ches
Senior, health sciences



"A draw between Oprah and Hillary Clinton because the way they present their thoughts and ideas never seem to be one-sided and they have a large audience to speak to."

Ryan McIntosh
Sophomore, information technology



"Ellen Degeneres. She lives her life and does what she needs to do to make herself happy. She has had to overcome a lot to live her life the way she wants."

Samantha Rhein
Senior, health sciences

Do you know about the Equal Rights Amendment? Do you agree with it?



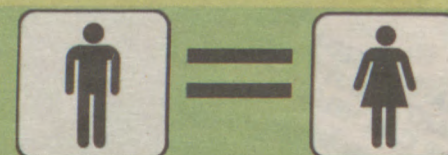
"No. Sorry I can agree with, but I think women should have a choice and shouldn't be forcibly enlisted."

Michael Zandi
Freshman, computer science



"Of course, everyone deserves equal rights, regardless of gender, race, etc."

Mike Espejo
Freshman, journalism



What is the Equal Rights Amendment?

It is an amendment that was first proposed in 1923 and efforts continue for its ratification. It would guarantee complete equal rights to men and women, including women being able to be drafted and to make the same amount of money as men.


According to 4ERA.org

Would you rather...

Women not be allowed in the military or women included in a draft?




"I am not in favor of women being in the military. From my personal and religious beliefs women in the military cause all kinds of problems."

 Laurie Monroe
Junior, communication



"I would say for the equal rights purposes, they would have to be drafted."

 Michael Logar
Sophomore, computer engineering

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Healthy job outlook for nurses

By JOE GUZMAN
Senior Reporter

As graduating seniors prepare to enter the work force in such uncertain times, departments at Oakland University have made considerable changes to help students adjust to a changing economy. The Oakland Post presents a series of articles on how departments on campus are adapting to the recession.

Inside the Crittenton Multimedia Center on the second floor of O'Dowd Hall, nursing students huddle intently around computer stations and a conference table, as audible whispers fill the room. Two nursing students, 20-year-old Lizzy Merrelli and 22-year-old Suesan Eghbalian, linger side-by-side, poring over notes scribbled onto their notebooks, preparing for their next class.

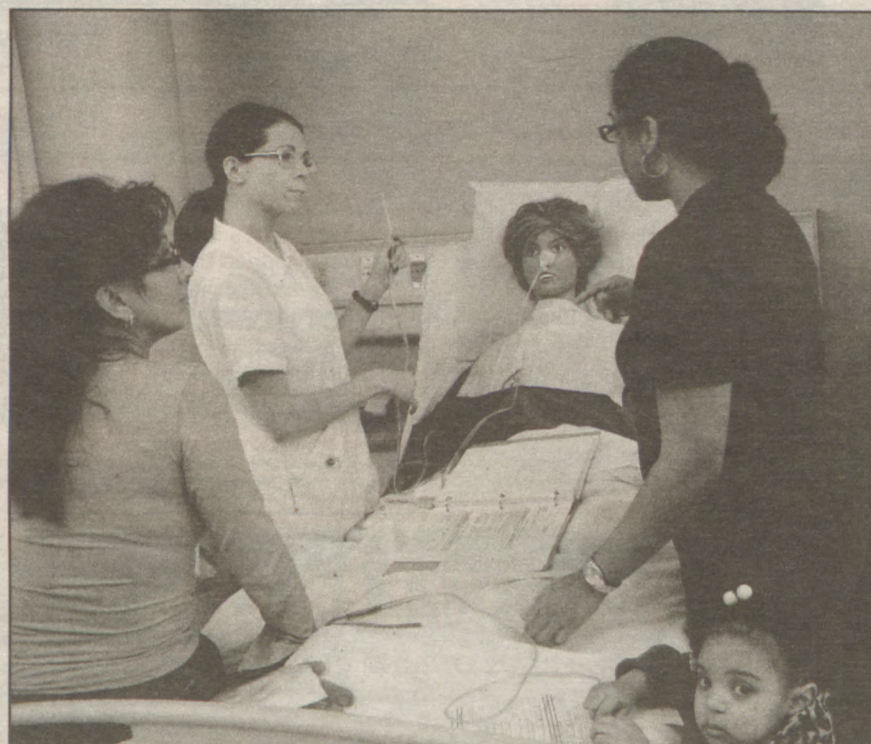
Both are in the first semester of their sophomore years, long past finishing their general education requirements and are fortunate enough to have already been accepted into OU School of Nursing.

Merrelli and Eghbalian share the belief that the medical field is always going to be a viable line of work despite economic trends because people are always going to get sick and need care. But they feel that because of the current situation people aren't able to afford health care and are waiting until they are in desperate need of care before going to see a doctor.

"My father, who is a doctor, has discussed with me how there are less patients, and people who do come in, who are critically in need of a doctor, are rejecting care because they lack insurance," Merrelli said. "Because more and more people are on unemployment, Medicare, or things like the [Womens, Infants and Children] program, it may lead to more people in hospitals without insurance, and the hospital will have to compensate for that."

Although the economy has affected the medical industry in the number of patients seeking care, according to Kristina White, academic adviser in the School of Nursing, the only adjustment the program has had to make is accommodating more students.

"I wouldn't say the economy has affected [the nursing industry], but I definitely



Nursing students Dana Dietz, Gina Lamb and Carmencita Thompson learn the saline drip process.

believe that the way the economy is, that it has affected the number of people who are interested in it," White said. "The numbers have increased because people are attracted to entering a field that offers career stability."

She said that when she started six years ago, classes were being filled, but not at the rate they are today. And since the economy has taken a turn, the demand has "multiplied exponentially."

According to White, when the second-degree program began in 2005, 50 students were admitted once a year, now 150 are accepted each year. The traditional program used to admit 75 students once a year; it has increased to twice a year.

As the primary adviser for second-degree students, she holds program advising sessions for prospective students every week; the number of students who attend has increased from 20-30 students to 73.

As the auto industry continues its

layoffs and engineering jobs continue to decline throughout the area, White said the nursing program.

"I assist those who have literally been affected by the local economy former white-collar workers and people with bachelor degrees in other disciplines who are choosing a new career path," she said.

Although she focuses on the second-degree students, White said that the traditional program has made more of a conscious effort to expose younger students to nursing and what they can do in the field.

She said prospective students coming into the program are definitely worried about the economy, but once they are in the program and are ready to graduate, they don't have any need to worry.

"We get a lot of incoming freshmen who are interested in nursing, I don't think necessarily because of the economy ... they have just heard so many positive things about the program," White said.

Junior Alaina Matteson, a 20-year-old nursing student who started in the nursing program in fall 2006, said she was directly admitted into the program from high school and is scheduled to finish in winter 2010.

After taking a medical class in her senior year of high school, she said she still wasn't sure what she wanted to do, but wanted to do something rewarding that helped others.

"After hearing about the nursing shortage and how many jobs there will be for nurses, I decided on nursing," Matteson said. "I liked the employment rate especially compared to my second choice of teaching, so I declared nursing on my college application."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, the nursing shortage is due to various factors, including the proportion of elderly citizens versus the number of registered nurses, an aging RN workforce and a lack of younger workers to fill positions, and the difficulty for organizations to keep nurses because the emotional and physical stress takes its toll.

According to the USBL 2008-09 edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook, USBL predicts that between the years of 2006 and 2016, a projected 587,000 new nursing jobs will be generated. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of job openings will result from the need to replace experienced nurses who leave the occupation.

White said that the constant demand for nurses has contributed to OU's 100 percent job placement for second-degree students after they graduate.

Kathy Livelsberger, assistant director of Career Services, who primarily advises students in health sciences, said she hasn't seen any falloff in local demand for nurses as most of the nursing students secure employment before graduation.

"Quite honestly we don't often see folks coming to us as nurses and saying 'I can't find a position.' Maybe if the challenges to the economy continue there might be a point where organization will back off on their recruiting, but they haven't communicated that to us yet."

According to Livelsberger, there is such a demand for nurses, many organizations have incentive programs to help in their

recruiting. For example, loan forgiveness programs assist with the payment of student loans, and employee referral programs give bonuses to nurses who refer a nurse who gets hired.

This gives Mattesson confidence that she can simply focus on her grades and the required curriculum, without having to rely on extra-curricular activities to make her stand out.

"I've heard that the more clubs you're in and the more positions you hold in school teams or groups, the more attractive you are to employers. But I'm counting on there being enough of a nursing shortage when I graduate to be able to get a job wherever I want, despite my lack of extra perks as an employee," she said.

She may be correct, considering the high standard OU has for its nursing program. It has been able to establish itself through various avenues of external funding, applying for grants, as well as continuing its long collaboration with area hospitals to help support expansion of the program.

"We see a wide variety of employers looking for our nursing students," Livelsberger said. "Not all the kinds of employers who come to us are big name hospitals, but other nontraditional organizations utilize our nurses."

OU associates not only with large organizations like Henry Ford, Beaumont and St. Johns but also with smaller ones, such as nursing homes, hospice and homecare facilities.

In September 2008, the Health Resources and Services Administration awarded the School of Nursing \$330,000 for the implementation of a Center for Pre-

"Quite honestly we don't often see folks coming to us as nurses and saying 'I can't find a position.' Maybe if the challenges to the economy continue there might be a point where organizations will back off on their recruiting, but they haven't communicated that to us yet."

Kathy Livelsberger

Assistant director of career services

Symptom Health Care and Societal Research.

HRSA is the primary agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.

Because of the competitive nature of the nursing program, White advises students who seek her help to improve their grades. She encourages them to not only diversify their options for careers, but to understand the diverse population that they will serve.

Eghbalian and Merrelli are currently working on their first clinical at Crossroads for Youth, a nonprofit juvenile detention center in Oxford.

Eghbalian said that it is very rewarding to help out troubled youth, and that the placement allows them to see a wide variety of issues that these children can

suffer from, not only those faced by suburban children.

"It forces you to be more accepting, because as a nurse you have an accepting personality anyway," said Merrelli. "It shows you how not to discriminate in any way, whether it's the elderly, or the poor and just care about the individual's health and then to help them."

Being aware of your body language is one of the first things nursing students are taught.

"Somebody tells you something, you can't make a face that shows you might be shocked, because they may not open up to you, things about their health that may be vital," said Eghbalian.

Almost more important than grades and interpersonal skills, is understanding what is involved in the day-to-day operations. White said she will get students who say they don't like children or that someone will admit to not really being a people person.

In that situation, she encourages students to explore the profession through job shadowing or volunteering, to experience working within the clinical setting before making the investment and commitment, then finding out that it doesn't match your personality.

"Although you can get overwhelmed with the 100 percent job placement and competitive salary, you still have to be realistic," White said. "You have to ask yourself 'is nursing for me? Am I a people person? Am I compassionate? Am I caring?' and if you don't have those characteristics, then this is not the profession for you."

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Season for redemption

Softball team gears up for its 2009 Summit League schedule

By JOE GUZMAN
Senior Reporter

This weekend marked the beginning of conference play for the Golden Grizzlies softball team, as Oakland University split the two games of Saturday's doubleheader, and won 7-1 on Sunday in a three game set against the IUPUI Jaguars.

At 8-14 overall, it was important for the team to get off to a quick start against its conference foes. Head Coach Glenn MacDonald said that this is when the true season starts for the team.

"We look at it like we have two seasons, an overall season and the league season," MacDonald said. "We're going to have 24 games that mean the world to us and we want to finish at the top."

OU was picked in the preseason to finish in sixth place out of the nine Summit League teams, after an inconsistent 2008 season in which they went 15-28 overall, and 6-13 for the league. With only four available playoff spots, the margin for error is slim, but expectations are high.

"Only four teams make the Summit League playoffs, and the girls really have their hearts set on that and I see us achieving that this year," MacDonald said.

After leading the team to the championship game in 2007, MacDonald has proven that he has what it takes to guide the team back. Behind a veteran presence that has experienced the title slip through their hands, backed by a strong crop of youngsters, the team is focused on putting a sub-par 2008 season behind them.

MacDonald led the Golden Grizzlies to the Mid-Con Championship game in 2007, but lost as the Grizzlies finished the year with an overall mark of 21-36. The team had three players earn all-conference recognition: ace pitcher Jessica Granger, senior second baseman Julie Owen and junior infielder Katie Dreyer.

MacDonald said last year's disappointment was the product of the team's inability to develop any consistency, as adverse weather affected them throughout the season.

"We had a tough year last year in that

we lost so many games due to weather; we flew to Kansas City, didn't get all our games in, same for Kentucky, game after game after game was canceled and we just couldn't get in the right frame of mind," MacDonald said.

When the team went on the road, the weather was often an unwanted distraction for the players.

"We were thinking we're going to get to this city and they're going to cancel on us, so we weren't mentally prepared to play every game last year, and that is something you can't let happen," MacDonald said.

The Golden Grizzlies finished this year's fall season with a 7-1 record, which led to the team's high expectations entering the spring season, which began last month.

According to senior third baseman Caitlin Lynch, the fall session really allowed the team to knock off some rust and see how good the team could be when they're hitting on all cylinders.

"We had a really good fall season, we were hitting the ball like crazy, we have four really good pitchers, so if we can play like we did in the fall we should be unstoppable," she said.

Lynch finished last season with a league best .985 fielding percentage for infielders, committing just one throwing error while playing in all 41 games, splitting time at third and shortstop. She also batted .314.

OU began the spring season with five straight losses, but followed them up with a streak of four wins.

The first two victories showed how potentially dangerous the team can be, when, in a Saturday double-header on Feb. 23 at Savannah State University, OU exhibited the versatility and depth it takes for a team to be considered championship contenders.

In game one, Granger set a school record with 15 strikeouts in seven innings, allowing one run on four hits, to lead the Grizzlies to a 3-1 win. In the nightcap, sophomore pitcher Marisa



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post File Photo

Senior third baseman Caitlin Lynch was elected as one of the team's captains this season.

Everitt threw a complete game, as the team exploded for a 16-1 mercy victory in five innings. The 15-run margin tied a school record.

Owen led the offense as she went 5-for-7 in the two games, with two doubles and three RBIs. The team also combined for nine stolen bases in the double-header, proving that they are just as threatening on the base paths as they are at the plate.

Owen earned Summit League Softball Player of the Week honors by going

13-for-24; good for a .542 batting average, with seven runs scored, seven RBIs and three stolen bases. The honor was the first time in her career, as she led OU to a 5-3 week.

"It was nice to put a week of good hitting together, but I have to credit my

teammates for hitting the ball well and getting on base in order for me to drive them in," Owen said. "I rely on everybody out there, I know everybody can do the job, it's just a matter of who's having a good weekend."

She says the team's depth, with backups for almost every position, and the competitive nature of everyone keeps the intensity up, so whoever is playing won't hurt the team's consistency.

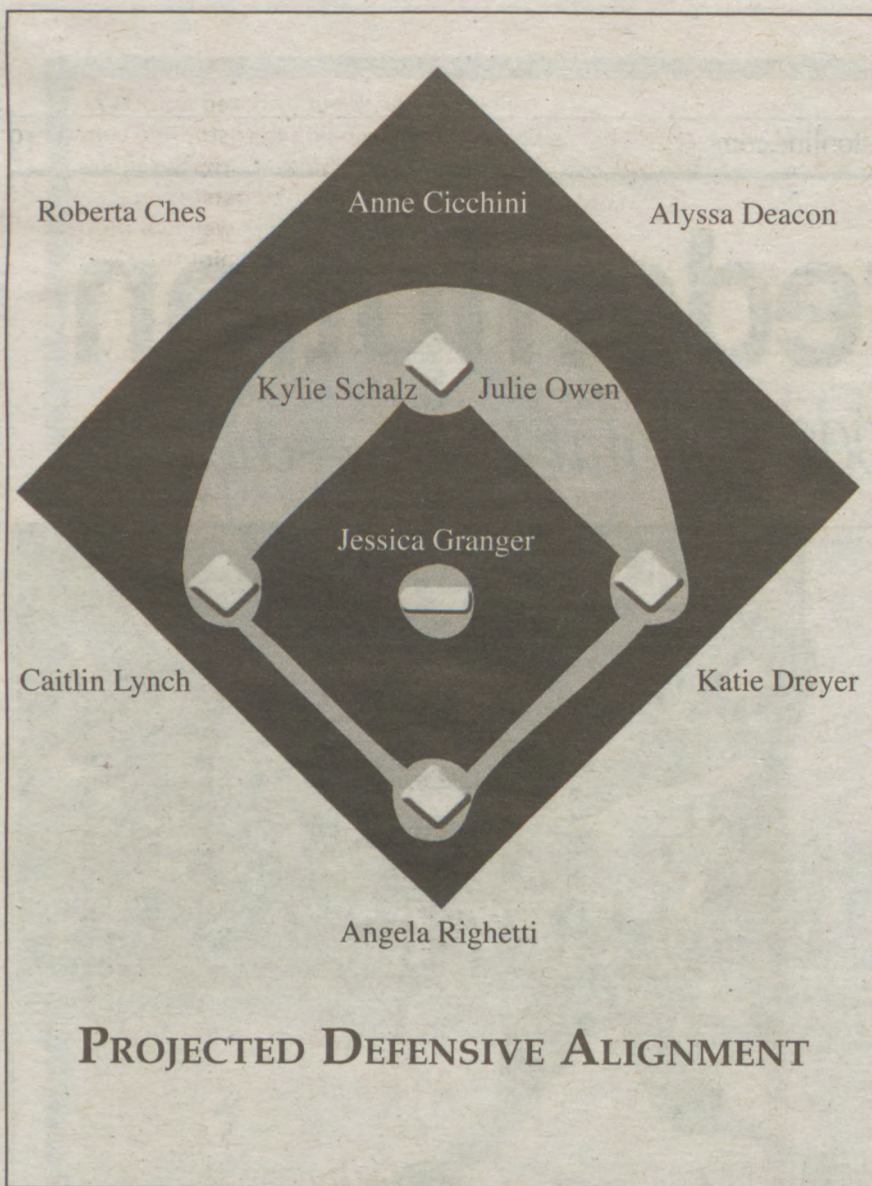
Lynch agrees with Owen about the depth's effect on the team, and has already seen it pay dividends.

"We have a couple underclassmen that are hitting well, so when we are struggling at the top of the lineup and our top four aren't hitting in a game, the bottom rest of the lineup have come up big for us," Lynch said.



Coach Glenn MacDonald

See Softball on page 20



WHO TO WATCH FOR IN 2009



JULIE OWEN - The Golden Grizzlies senior second baseman is currently batting an impressive .450 on the season. Also serving as one of the team captains, Owen leads the team with three home runs and 20 RBIs.



CAITLIN LYNCH - This slick fielding third baseman has started every game this season. She hit .314 and led the team in doubles and RBI last season. Lynch, a co-captain, is a steady producer in the heart of the Grizzlies lineup.



JESSICA GRANGER - The senior pitcher returns this season with a strong chance to become the winningest pitcher in school history, needing just seven wins to tie the record. She is expected to be the work-horse of the pitching staff once again.



LEAH DICRISTOFARO - As only a freshman, DiCristofaro has been a mainstay in the Grizzlies lineup so far this season. She currently ranks third on the team with a .333 batting average, and is a player to watch for many seasons to come.

— Dan Fenner, Sports Editor
Photos courtesy of OU Athletics

Continued from page 19

SOFTBALL

Owen, Lynch and Granger round out an experienced group of seniors, joined by outfielders Roberta Ches and Stephanie Schall. Ches is hitting .260 this season and is tied for third in runs scored. Schall has developed as the team's key pinch runner.

Granger anchors the rotation with a 3.38 ERA in 11 starts, with 10 complete games and one save. She has also compiled 82 strikeouts. Sophomore lefthander Marisa Everitt owns a 1.85 ERA in four games. Alison Tansel, a right-handed sophomore, rounds out the starters with a 3.46 ERA in eight appearances. Freshman right-hander Brittany Doyle works mostly out of the bullpen, where she has made seven appearances, just two of which were starts. A talented core of juniors also provide support to the team. Dreyer is hitting .293 in 41 at bats and is second on the team with

four doubles. Outfielders Anne Cicchini and Alyssa Deacon are hitting .394 and .303 respectively, and are ranked first and second in stolen bases on the team. Angela Righetti is the team's catcher, with 132 putouts against just one error this season.

MacDonald has made a concentrated effort to run more this season, as the team is on pace to shatter the school record for stolen bases in a season.

A three game set in Richmond, Kentucky was canceled on the final weekend in February. The team lost four of its next five games in Morehead, Kentucky.

Coming off of tough, close losses, MacDonald said that making sure they get that last quality at-bat, and score runs when they have the opportunity by putting the ball in play is what the team has been focused on overcoming. That is something they have been working on really hard in practice, which he believes will pay off for them.

"The team is pretty disappointed in the record as it sits right now, but we've been competing against southern teams that get to practice outside all the time, where

they don't have to worry about weather forcing them inside.

"It's a total different ball game when you're outside, so we got our experience outside, a couple of games under our belt, and we're ready to roll," MacDonald said.

Unfortunately, he said their biggest weakness is a tendency to let fly balls drop in for base hits. In some games they have lost, the pitching has been strong, but the outfielders simply haven't gotten to the ball.

He has adjusted for this by scheming to force teams to beat them deep, by playing the outfielders a bit shallower.

"Our pitchers are doing such a great job we don't have to play a deep outfield. It took us eight or 10 games to realize that, we just have to do a better job at reading what the pitches are and adjusting our fielding positions accordingly," MacDonald said.

Still, with all things considered, the team feels their experience, talent and depth put them in a position to enter the playoffs poised to take home a championship.

"We played in the championship game two years ago, with basically the same

team, so I've got five seniors on this team that are just chomping at the bit to get back there," said MacDonald. "They have such good leadership that the rest of the team is behind them 100 percent. They want it for the seniors."

When the team lost the championship game two years ago, 5-1 to Southern Utah, Owen was recovering from a broken collar bone, which she broke seven games before the tournament. And, although the "real" season just began and the players focus on "one game at a time," redemption drives Owen toward the ultimate goal.

"I was having a great year [in 2007], and after [the injury], it was really devastating to see my team play when you really want to play with them," she said.

Owen said that being in the tournament is one of those things that when you get there you want to keep going back each year.

"Hopefully I can stay safe and not be injured for the tournament, and we make it there and win the league," she said. "And seeing our talent this year I know we can make the tournament if we take care of our business."

Golden victory

Second-half turnaround spurns Grizzlies comeback win

By TIM RATH
Web Editor

Down by a score of 40-27 at half-time in the opening round game of the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament against Kent State Tuesday, Oakland University men's basketball head coach Greg Kampe had a speech prepared.

"It started with, 'bleep-bleepity-bleep-bleep,'" joked center Dan Waterstradt.

After that halftime address, the Golden Grizzlies responded with a 22-7 run to open the second half en route to an 80-74 victory over the Golden Flashes.

"[Kent State] has been the standard of the [Mid-American Conference] for a decade," said Kampe. "Obviously, the first half wasn't very good. I don't think either team was good early. But this was a very significant win."

It was a win that would not have been possible without the revitalized play of Erik Kangas. After shooting a lackluster 2-6 from the field in the first half and allowing two turnovers, the senior forward responded with a strong second half.

He led the team with 23 points, including 18 in the second half and seven rebounds while providing electricity to the Athletics Center O'Rena crowd with every bucket as OU fought to gain the lead.

"I told Kampe at halftime, that I had Kangas and to keep running plays for him," said Waterstradt. "I said, 'I'm going to lay out whoever's guarding him to get him open looks.' And he came through like the shooter that he is."

"The shots were feeling good but they weren't going down in the first half," said Kangas on the gunner's mentality. "It's not going to stop me, I've still got confidence in myself."

Waterstradt led the team with 11 rebounds and added 11 points in 26 minutes off the bench. Junior guard Johnathon Jones led OU with 12 assists and nine points, while sophomore forward Keith Benson chipped in 16 points and six boards to help provide an inside presence that KSU could not match in the second half.

"[Oakland] is a very well-rounded team that can score from the inside," Kampe said on the strengths of the Grizzlies. "We like to run our offense through Benson, out to Kangas, with Jones han-



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Kangas scored a team-high 23 points for OU, including 18 in the second half, while also grabbing seven rebounds in 37 minutes of work.

dling the ball all the time. We didn't handle their traps in the first half, but we got that straightened out in the second half and got the ball to the basket."

Apart from an improved execution, Kampe pointed to the strong effort that the Grizzlies displayed in the second-half as a driving force behind the double-digit deficit rally.

"That was the halftime discussion," Kampe joked. "Drew Maynard was a key. He started the second half, made a three, had a heck of a block, got the crowd involved and he was a key for us."

As the men's team awaits its second-round opponent, the OU women's basketball team (26-6) will begin its postseason play on Thursday after being selected to play in the Women's National Invitational Tournament. Their opening-round game will also take place at the O'Rena against Dayton (20-13). Tipoff is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday.



Check out updated reports at www.oaklandpostonline.com for the Golden Grizzlies men's and women's postseason tournaments as well live-blogs updated to the minute.

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 3/22 vs. Michigan Dearborn (at
 Notre Dame Prep) 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS *

3/18 vs. Bradley 5 p.m.
 3/19 vs. Centenary 9 a.m.
 3/19 vs. Southern Utah 2 p.m.
 3/20 vs. IPFW 9 p.m.
 3/21 vs. IUPUI 1 p.m.

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BASEBALL

3/20 at Michigan State 3 p.m.
 3/21 at Michigan State 1 p.m.
 3/22 at Michigan State 1 p.m.
 3/22 at Western Illinois 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

3/19 vs. Dayton 6:30 p.m.*

*Additional games pending the
 outcome of this game

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**SOFTBALL**

3/21 at Western Illinois 1 p.m.*
 3/22 at Western Illinois 1 p.m.

*Doubleheader

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK



Justin Wilson

Baseball

Year: Senior

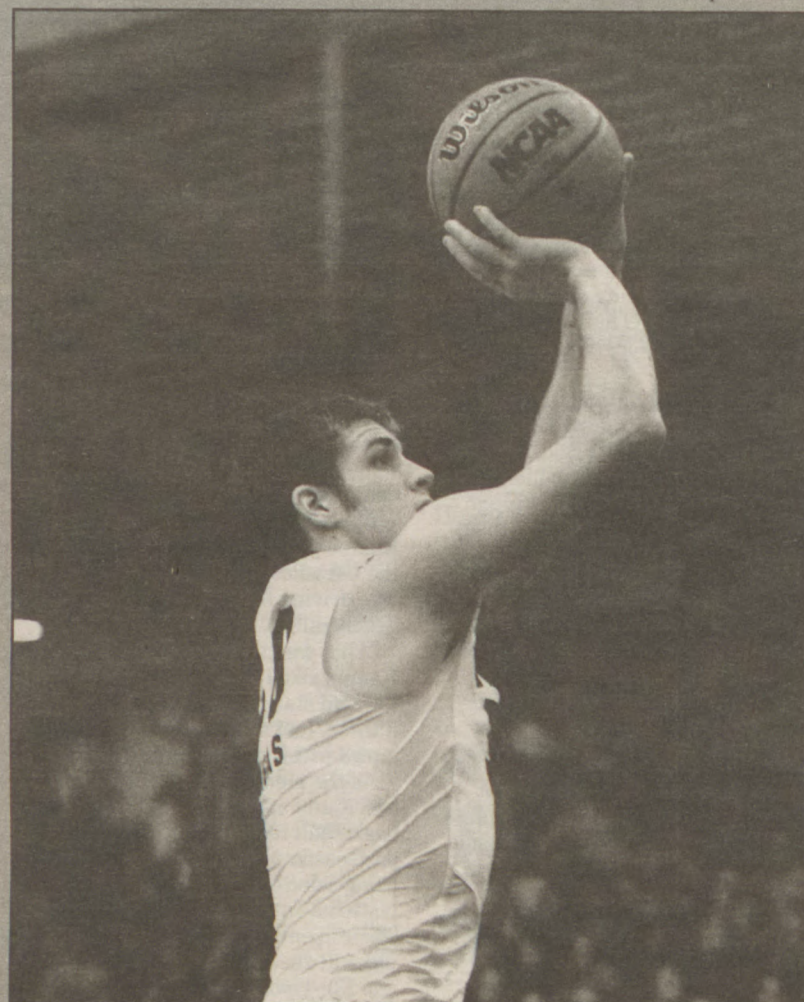
In the second game of a doubleheader
 sweep against Dayton on Saturday, Wilson
 became OU's all-time leader in hits with
 194, breaking a 29-year-old school record.

KANGAS TO REPRESENT OAKLAND IN NATIONAL THREE-POINT SHOOTING CONTEST AT THE FINAL FOUR

Oakland University's Erik Kangas has accepted an invitation to compete in the ESPN Three-Point Championship. The event will be held on Thursday, April 2 at The Palace of Auburn Hills, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Kangas was among the most prolific three-point shooters in the country this season, setting the new Summit League record at 127 shots made from behind the arc.

Dan Fenner, Sports Editor



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

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The Scene

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The perfect man-date

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

With "bromances" currently all the rage, the upcoming film "I Love You, Man" depicts an example of the special relationship that only two dudes can have with one another.

In "I Love You, Man" Peter Klaven (Paul Rudd) begins to plan his wedding only to realize an important factor is missing: a best man.

He goes on several "man-dates" before meeting Sydney Fife (Jason Segel) who is slightly obnoxious and very opinionated. The two bond instantly, so much so that Peter's relationship with his fiancée, Zooe (Rashida Jones) begins to suffer.

While the actors have worked together before, one could say a bromance of sorts was achieved between the two lead actors on the set of "I Love You, Man."

The Oakland Post was included in a Feb. 6 conference call with Rudd and Segel.

"My favorite part of shooting the movie was working with Paul Rudd again. I must say it's our third movie together and it took us a while,



but we really finally get along," Segel said.

The movie depicts a strong bond between two men in the most non-physical way possible.

"I think it's a long time coming that you've seen a good male platonic comedy. And that's what we're going for and we got as close to the homo-erotic line as possible without crossing it, which I think we both found comedically satisfying," Segel said.

Rudd talked about the new genre of comedy that his new movie falls in.

"It just seems to be the word of the moment, bro-mantic, because there have really been films throughout the decade that have fallen into that category," Rudd said.

Rudd had an alternative way of describing the genre of the movie and ones similar to it.

"A dick flick. I like that even more than bromantic. I can't believe I've never thought of that before," Rudd said.

Segel said he remembered a specific part of the filming process that he cherished the most.

"I think my favorite part was when Paul Rudd and I had our first man-date. They took us to the best fish taco restaurant and the director told us 'Look, the goal is just to look like you guys are slowly starting to like each other, don't really worry about a script,'" Segel said. "Then they gave us four hours of fish tacos and beer and we had to talk and be funny and enjoy each other's company — it was very easy and very fun."

As Rudd's character goes on many man-dates in the film, he discussed his ideal date with a man.

"A perfect man-date would be an early dinner. If it's late, then you're eating into valuable time. So I think an early dinner — something maybe like some Brazilian food. I'd like to finish dinner, I'd like to have a pitcher of sangria. Then I would like to go back to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel where I have rented a suite and slip into a bathtub of linseed oil," Rudd said.

"Then I would like a massage — an ice cream massage. Then finally settle down with a little SpectroVision and then maybe catch 'Defiance,' the film with Daniel Craig. That, by the way, I actually just call Tuesday."

The duo has been in several movies together, and had many things to say about one another. Segel also talked about a character he'd like to portray one day.

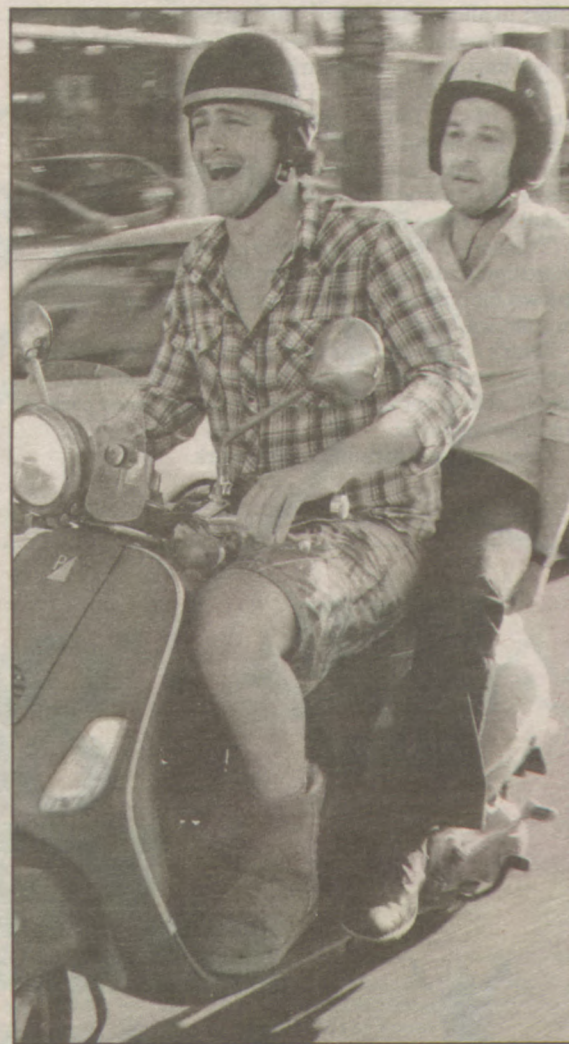
"Well, Paul Rudd is a very, very diverse actor. He has gone from Broadway to the West in London to drama to comedy to somewhere in between. I mean you look at an actor like Paul Rudd and you think diversity and talent," Segel said. "I'd like to play a villain some day. That would be my wish list."

Rudd spoke well of Segel also, and discussed a specific genre Rudd really likes to work in.

"I think you'd be a great villain, because I think that your style is very, very specific. I think that you could be terrifying. You also are physically imposing," Rudd said.

"I'm short and squatty. I look like a thumb. I like any genre in which I can play a thumb."

"I Love You, Man" hits theaters Friday, March 20.



Photos courtesy of Dreamworks Pictures

Left, above and below: Jason Segel and Paul Rudd star in the upcoming bromantic comedy "I Love You, Man" on March 20.



Leno offers laughter to Detroit

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

When people lose their jobs and make less money, what seems to go first are the dollars spent on entertainment.

On the March 10 episode of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," Leno revealed that he had set up a free show at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Tuesday, April 7 in an effort to allow those out of work or feeling the heat of these economic times to a free night out — right down to not having to pay for parking at the venue.

The Palace lot opened at 6:30 a.m. Monday, March 16 and by 10 a.m. the line for free tickets wrapped around nearly half of the venue.

Austin Zidar, an 18-year-old freshman U.S. history major at Oakland University, waited in line for his free tickets for three hours.

"It means a lot — Jay Leno is a nationally known comedian and I appreciate him doing this. Michigan is known for our bad economy, one of the worst economies in America," Zidar said.

Zidar's stepfather was laid off from his job building houses, and his mother was briefly laid off but fortunately able to get another job at a mobile home park as an office manager.

Zidar is also struggling to find work.



AMANDA MEADE/The Oakland Post
Due to the amount of people who lined up to get free tickets to Jay Leno's performance, another night of his comedy was added.

"I've tried to get a job, put in a lot of applications and have gotten a few interviews, but nothing yet. I tried to get a job on campus; they said they ran out of work-study money," Zidar said.

Kathleen Krause, 59, of Clinton Township said she was bringing her husband, daughter and son-in-law to the show, and was planning on giving the tickets to her daughter for her birthday.

"Laughter always makes life easier. I'm going for a night of laughter," Krause said.

Krause's husband was laid off from Sarns Machine, and she worked at a small consignment shop that is now out of business.

"My husband's been working on the house, and I've been working on the computer looking for work," Krause said.

Jeff Corey, the director of public relations at the Palace, said the Palace has never put on a completely free show before.

"We are so excited to host this event, when they approached us with Jay's idea, how could we say no?" Corey said.

Corey said he hopes that Leno's act of kindness will open up other future possibilities with other celebrities or events.

"[The show] isn't just for people out of work, but anyone having a hard time due to the economic struggles. [Leno] wants to provide a night out of entertainment," Corey said.

Corey also said there were so many people who showed up to receive free tickets that Leno added another show for the following night.

Tickets are still available and will continue to be given out at the Palace box office. (Accurate at time of press). There is a four-ticket limit with a valid ID.

More info can be found at www.palacenet.com.

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March 18, 2009

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The Loch Ness Monster does exist

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

I would be walking door to door throughout my neighborhood telling people all about the power that is the Loch Ness Monster, although the first rule of the Loch Ness Monster is we don't talk about the Loch Ness Monster.

Regardless, I feel the need to spread the word about this mystical creature who resides in Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands. Actually, while Nessie lives in Scotland, she has many prophets that can be found all over the world, little mini-Nessies. It has been speculated that we may have a mini-Nessie living right here on Oakland University's campus in Bear Lake.

You may think I'm crazy, and I don't care. I could be arguing that Nessie comes from space or something insane like that. The Loch Ness Monster is a wonderful and real being, and isn't doing something like making up a religion just for a tax break.

The following is a list of 10 commandments that any follower of the Loch Ness Monster should be aware of before entering the Loch Ness Monster faith.

1 First and foremost, the Loch Ness Monster doesn't want you to believe in her at all. Really, she wants you to believe in yourself.

She doesn't think people should feel bad about anything they have done in life — look at it as a learning experience. If you continue to make the same mistake countless numbers of times after knowing the consequences, well that's your fault.

2 Nessie considers herself just like her followers. She doesn't want to be worshipped or praised for something she had no control over. She believes in destiny, and doesn't take credit for any of the things that happen to you, whether they be good or bad. To Nessie, there's nothing worse than someone confessing their sins, especially when she isn't one to forgive — she tends to hold grudges.

The Loch Ness Monster doesn't want you to accept her as your savior, but to learn how to save yourselves instead.

3 Nessie doesn't care if you partake in pre-marital sex. She thinks that if you feel the need to wait until after marriage, there isn't anything wrong with that, but you do run the risk of your spouse being into something that you don't particularly care for. It just might make for an awkward honeymoon night when your new husband or wife brings out the whips, chains and ball gags.

4 The Loch Ness Monster doesn't think anyone should judge you for liking another member of the same sex. She doesn't think that a law or a specific text should tell anyone that they can't be joined in marriage just because they are of the same gender.

5 She thinks it is strange that a man would want to have many wives at once, but then thinks "Hey, who am I to judge?"

Unless you're into really messed up stuff like murder and arson, the Loch Ness Monster really doesn't care what you do with your life.

6 Nessie doesn't have a special holiday to celebrate her existence, but that's OK, because to Loch Ness believers, every day is Nessie Day.

7 Believing in the Loch Ness Monster doesn't require any intense reading of any really long and old books. But, if you are an avid reader, there have been several publications by many Loch Ness followers that could be added to your summer reading list.

8 Many have tried to disprove that Nessie does exist. But she doesn't mind that at all. She would actually prefer that no one talk about her.

The infamous "Surgeon's Photograph" (seen right) was a real picture of Nessie taken in 1934. But, she had the photographer, Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London gynecologist, come out to say it was a hoax.

He lied and said that the figure was really just a toy submarine with a head and neck constructed from plastic wood.

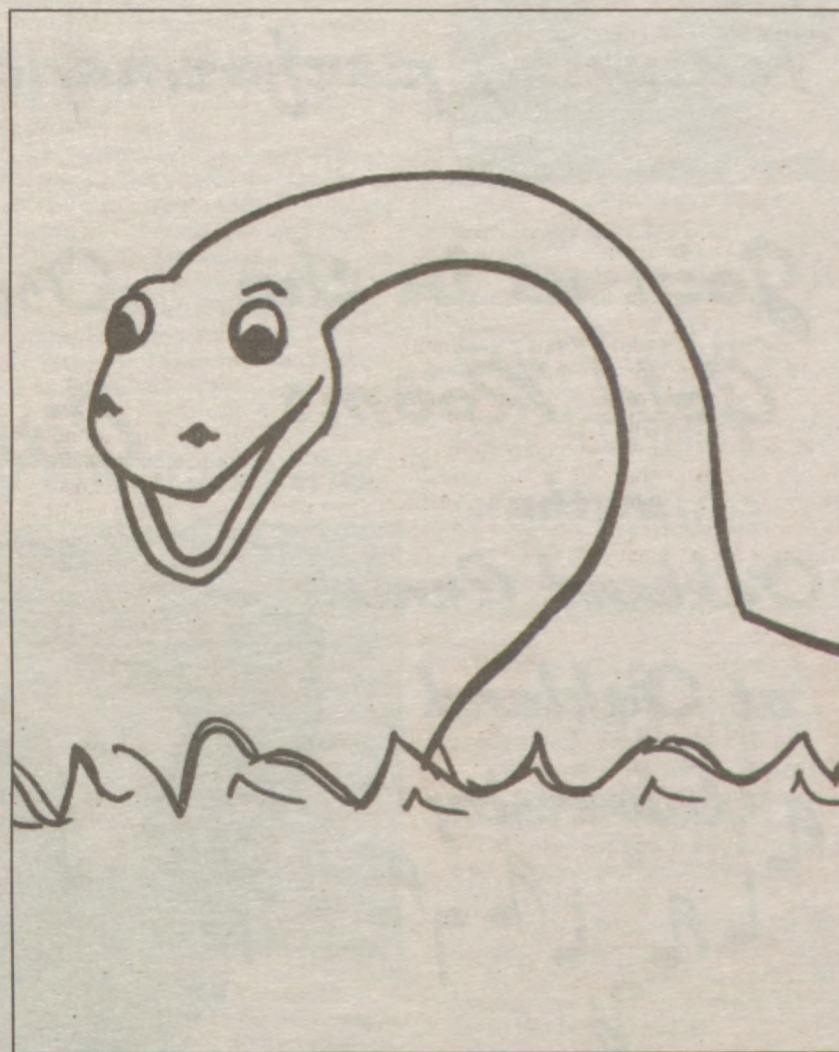
9 When we die, we go to Scotland and get to swim alongside Nessie. There isn't any other place Loch Ness followers go when they die, even if they've been "bad." People who do really bad things don't believe in Nessie anyway.

It's a good thing she doesn't have many followers, since the average depth of Loch Ness is about 430 feet.

10 Whenever you're down and need something to make yourself feel better, just think W.W.N.D. — What Would Nessie Do? There is even a line of W.W.N.D. beer hats, which are available in every color for \$12.99 online.

There's always something to buy to flaunt your faith — the website also sells magnets, bumper stickers and shot glasses with Nessie's face all over them.

So if you think you can handle these rules you can begin to follow and believe in the Loch Ness Monster. Praise Nessie!



AMANDA MEADE/The Oakland Post

(Above) A newspaper editor's sketch of her encounter with the Loch Ness Monster. (Below) The infamous photo of Nessie, titled "Surgeon's Photograph" taken in 1934 by Robert Wilson.



Photo courtesy of Amazon.com

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Jurors' online posts cause appeal

By MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Eric Wuest's post late Friday to Facebook friends teased: "Stay tuned for a big announcement on Monday everyone!"

Wuest wasn't hinting at an engagement or new job. Instead, the law firm benefits coordinator was suggesting the verdict was near after five months as a juror in a high-profile criminal case.

On Monday, Wuest found himself in the judge's chambers, defending his veiled posts about the corruption trial of former state Sen. Vincent Fumo in Philadelphia. But he is not alone in posting his courtroom musings online, according to one lawyer.

"Dozens of people a day are sending

tweets or Facebook updates from court-houses all over America," said Anne W. Reed, a Milwaukee trial lawyer and jury consultant who writes a blog that follows juries and social networking sites.

While most posts are innocuous, Reed said, a few cases have raised eyebrows — and questions about whether judges need to clarify jury instructions about online communications.

In Arkansas last week, a building materials company and its owner appealed a \$12.6 million verdict against them, alleging that during the trial a juror posted Twitter messages that showed bias. Juror Johnathan Powell, of Fayetteville, told The Associated Press that the complainants were "grasping at straws" to try to undo the award.

A federal judge in Florida last week

had to declare a mistrial after an eight-week trial after learning that no fewer than nine jurors had done online research about the case, according to the New York Times.

During his meeting with U.S. District Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter, Wuest said social networking sites gave him an outlet "to journal my thoughts," according to a tape of the meeting.

"Nobody really could know exactly what I was talking about without directly asking me. ... That's sort of the appeal of the whole Facebook, Twitter thing," said Wuest, 35, of suburban Collegeville.

There is little case law on the subject, although the Philadelphia case may create some. Lawyers for Fumo, who was convicted on all 137 corruption counts, plan to appeal the verdict.



AMUR NABIL/Associated Press

Egyptians who each sold a kidney for \$2,300 each, Abdel-Rahman Abdel-Aziz displays a long scar as his wife, Asmaa, looks on at their home in Cairo's outskirts.

Egypt drafts law to end organ trade

By JASON KEYSER
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO — The poverty of Cairo's slums forced a young couple to sell nearly everything. When that wasn't enough, each of them sold a kidney.

Now, a year later, penniless once more, they are too weak to even move around their apartment. Unable to afford follow-up care, their health is so fragile they spend much of the day in bed in a dark room.

"If anyone had made clear to me the danger, I wouldn't have done it," said Abdel-Rahman Abdel-Aziz, gaunt and looking older than his 24 years as he lay in bed beside his wife.

For years, word has spread among Egypt's destitute that selling a kidney — sometimes for as little as \$2,000 — can be a quick way out of a debt or to keep from sinking deeper into poverty. At rundown cafes, they are hunted by middlemen working for labs that match donors and recipients, many of whom are foreigners drawn to Egypt's thriving, underground organ trade.

Egypt is one of a half dozen countries identified by the World Health Organization as organ-trafficking hot spots. Under international pressure, other trouble spots like China, Pakistan and the Philippines have outlawed organ sales and barred foreigners from undergoing transplants to stop "transplant tourism."

Egyptian officials are finally showing signs of action. A draft law is expected to be put before parliament in the next few months.

N | W BRIEFS

03-11 | President Barack Obama signed a \$410 billion spending package that includes billions in earmarks.

03-12 | Dutch police arrested seven people suspected of preparing a terrorist attack in Amsterdam. | Howard K. Stern and two doctors were charged with giving thousands of prescription drugs to Anna Nicole Smith in the years leading up to her fatal overdose.

03-14 | Osama bin Laden called Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip a "holocaust" in an audio recording broadcast.

03-15 | A Miami gunman killed his estranged wife and three others at a family party and then went home and killed himself.

03-16 | Pakistan agreed to reinstate a fired chief justice to help defuse a political crisis that has sparked raised fears of instability.

St. Patrick's Day shenanigans



Associated Press

Bikers take part in the St. Patrick's day parade in the center of Dublin, Ireland, Tuesday, March, 17. An estimated 500,000 Irish people, immigrants and tourists jammed into Dublin's city center to celebrate the national holiday that has been darkened this year by deepening recession and rising violence. "To hell with the recession! Let's dance!" shouted a leprechaun-dressed street entertainer.

Family of chimp attack victim seeks \$50M

By DAVE COLLINS
Associated Press Writer

STAMFORD, Conn. — The family of a woman mauled by a chimpanzee filed a lawsuit seeking \$50 million in damages against the primate's owner, saying she was negligent and reckless for lacking the ability to control "a wild animal with violent propensities."

A relative of Charla Nash, who remains in critical condition, filed the lawsuit against Sandra Herold late Monday in Superior Court in Stamford.

The suit also alleges that Herold had given the chimp medication that further

upset the animal. Herold has made conflicting public statements about whether she gave Xanax, an anti-anxiety drug, to Travis on the day of the attack. The drug had not been prescribed for the animal, police said.

Herold knew the 200-pound chimp, Travis, was agitated when she asked Nash to come to her house on Feb. 16, the lawsuit said. The suit accuses Herold of negligence and recklessness for owning "a wild animal with violent propensities, even though she lacked sufficient skill, strength and/or experience to subdue the chimpanzee when necessary."

Neither Herold nor her attorney,

Joseph Gerardi, immediately returned messages left by The Associated Press on Tuesday morning.

Nash, 55, lost her hands, nose, lips and eyelids, and may be blind and suffer brain damage after the attack. She is being treated at the Cleveland Clinic and remained in critical condition Tuesday.

"No amount of money can compensate my sister for the injuries she has suffered," Nash's brother Michael, the appointed conservator of his sister's estate, said in an affidavit.

The animal was shot and killed by police, who are deciding whether to file criminal charges against Herold.

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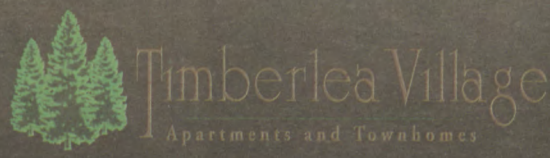
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