

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

April 15, 2009

Volume 35, Number 28

## HATS OFF!

Russi: OU raises funds, enrollment  
and outgrows current commencements

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YOU

Four-legged Mr. Ford, a hard-working service  
dog, helps with one student's mobility

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# THIS WEEK 4.15.09

THE OAKLAND POST  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Cover photo by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post



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Former Detroit Tiger Mark Fidrych "The Bird" dies in apparent accident.



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After a long semester, students talk about their plans and how important a graduation ceremony really is.



## you page 16

Meet Mr. Ford, a leader dog who helps one Oakland University student maneuver across campus.



## Sports page 19

The Oakland Post sports staff provides an analytical look at the future for the Grizzly fall sports teams.



## the Scene page 23

Journalist Steve Lopez discusses the movie adaptation of his written work about a homeless musician Nathaniel Ayers in the film "The Soloist."



## MOUTHING OFF page 25

Backseat drivers are more of a block in the road than a helpful navigation system. The Point-Counterpoint returns for this debate.



## Nation | World page 27

North Korea said Tuesday it will restart its rogue nuclear program.

## Sexy Chic

Stilettoes, skirts and  
spunk hit the runway  
at the ABS Fashion  
Show last Wednesday.  
See what looks made  
the cut.

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# Perspectives

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April 15, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

## Same-sex marriage, Mich. should be next

It's legal in Massachusetts and Connecticut. It will be legal in Iowa and Vermont by the end of 2009. It was legal for almost six months in California. Gay marriage — c'mon citizens of Michigan, all the cool states are doing it.

April has been a triumphant month for equality in marriage. Vermont's legislature overrode a veto by Gov. Jim Douglas and voted to allow same-sex marriage. The vote came on the heels of a unanimous Iowa Supreme Court decision striking down a 10-year ban on same-sex marriage as unconstitutional.

The vote by the Vermont legislature diminishes one of the main arguments used by opponents of same-sex marriage, that rulings on marriage have been made by unelected court officials.

Justice Mark S. Cady writing for the seven-member Iowa court wrote, "We have a constitutional duty to ensure equal protection of the law."

The American Civil Liberties Union said the Iowa Court decision is the third court case to treat governmental discrimination against gay people as a serious constitutional problem. The ACLU said in an April 10 newsletter that the main argument in opposition to gay marriage is for religious reasons, but pointed out that the Iowa court said that state government can have no religious views.

Remember that little thing called the separation of church and state? Religion should not justify a law excluding gays from marrying. The Iowa opinion should serve as an eye-opener for Michigan:

"The statute at issue in this case does not prescribe a definition of marriage for religious institutions. Instead, the statute declares, 'Marriage is a civil contract' and then regulates that civil contract ... Thus, in pursuing our task in this case, we proceed as civil judges, far removed

from the theological debate of religious clerics, and focus only on the concept of civil marriage and the state licensing system that identifies a limited class of persons entitled to secular rights and benefits associated with marriage."

In 2004, Michigan, along with 10 other states, passed a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. The proposal that passed 59 to 41 percent said that "the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose."

At least we can be proud of our state for finding a convenient loophole for equality. When we are that afraid to live and let live, let's write it into the state's constitution.

Historically, cultural norms evolve. At one time, issues like women's rights or civil rights were hotly debated, but today, acceptance is commonplace. We are at a historical moment where once again we are debating an issue of discrimination, this time on gender.

In a posting on a legal blog, Andrew Koppelman, a law professor at Northwestern University, said that the same-sex marriage movement must now be acknowledged as "one of the most rapidly successful social movements in the history of the United States, revolutionizing the law in an enormous part of the country in less than 10 years."

Michigan's 2004 amendment is a nasty stain on our reputation and credibility as a forward-thinking state. Five years ago most of us weren't registered to vote. But we are now and it's time for another vote.

This time when we fill in that bubble we should consider the importance of equality and pursuit of happiness over our fears and prejudices.



MIKE KEEFE/The Denver Post, Cagle Cartoons

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

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### Letter Policy:

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

### CORRECTIONS CORNER

• In the article "Lack of faculty input prompts lawsuit" on the April 8 issue, the article incorrectly stated that The Oakland Post tried to contact Oakland University trustee David Fischer for comment. While the reporter did try to contact Fischer, he is not currently on the board of trustees.

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

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*— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States*



# Bailouts for newspapers? No thanks



**Lindsey Wojcik**  
Editor in Chief

It started with the drama on Wall Street. Months later it progressed to the Motor City. The banking industry had a hard time keeping money straight. (Tell me how that works again.) And the auto industry struggled to make efficient cars for a reasonable cost.

Problems arose and the government's solution to the equation was to throw money at the problem. What's a few billion dollars here or there? It's not like we're in a recession or anything.

However, the impact of these industries on the global economy is widespread and printing extra money at a time where the U.S. dollar is decreasing in value seemed like a good solution.

That brings us to April 2009, nearly 10 years after the dot-com boom. The growth of the Internet and technology has suddenly snuck up on the media industry and guess what — they don't know what to do about it. Welcome to what some coin the "death of print."

Newspapers are focusing much of their efforts toward developing an online staff that can update content to the minute, upload slideshows and video content of the latest breaking news, along with blogs and podcasts.

**"Right, so let's as journalists, watch dogs of the government, ask for a federal bailout. Doesn't that blur the lines a bit?"**

The problem is no one is making money from online advertising revenue.

The transitional phase of journalism (as I call it) has created a stir among industry elite. How will we solve this problem? Advertising revenues are down, newspapers are cutting back on home delivery or essentially cease to exist. These factors have some in the industry suggesting that journalism should be the next industry to get a federal bailout.

Los Angeles Times columnist Rosa Brooks thinks it's time. "If we're willing to use taxpayer money to build roads, pay teachers and maintain a military; if we're willing to bail out banks and insurance companies and failing automakers, we should be willing to part with some public funds to keep journalism alive too," she wrote in her final column for LAT.

Others have offered up ways for this bailout to work: "In an article in the April 6 Nation, John Nichols and Robert McChesney offer some ideas on how to bail out the news industry. They suggest, for instance, eliminat-

ing postal rates for periodicals that get less than 20 percent of their revenues from advertising, a tax credit for the first \$200 taxpayers spend on newspaper subscriptions and a substantial expansion of funding for public broadcasting," according to Brooks' column.

Right, so let's as journalists, watch dogs of the government, ask for a federal bailout. Doesn't that blur the lines a bit? The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics states that journalists should act independently. The SPJ Code of Ethics states journalists should: Avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived. Remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility.

It's a journalist's job to cover the government as part of their regular beat. In the 70s, was it not two relentless journalists who busted open the Watergate scandal? What would the city of Detroit be like if the Detroit Free Press had not discovered the misconduct of a sex-texting mayor? Taking a government bailout would damage the credibility of the news media — not aid it.

As the shift from print to online continues and the worries about making money for online content persists, journalists must be responsible for solving the problem on their own. Journalists should utilize the skills they've obtained from reporting on hard-hitting news. We're resourceful when we need to find the perfect source to get that front page news story. We should continue to use our resources and skills in order to solve our own problems.

A government bailout? Thanks, but no thanks.

## A little self pity won't hurt anybody



**Sarah Lang**  
Lead Ads Manager

With all do respect to those who are less fortunate, I would still like to say that everyone has their own problems. Some maybe worse than others, but does that mean we should all suffer with them?

No, it doesn't. We can pity those who have experienced sad and tragic circumstances and lend a hand, but there is no use in purposely bringing yourself down just to make a point.

I am writing this in response to the column published in the April 1 issue about the website **fmylife.com**. Although I completely under-

stand the writer's point of view about unfortunate real life situations, what about the rest of us with our pitiful drop your head and laugh-it-off problems?

Not one person I know has saved up all their money from their past six birthdays or saved up their Christmas gifts to send off to the needy, even though we know they are less fortunate. Maybe the real issue isn't not laughing at ourselves and others, but possibly helping out the less fortunate.

Sometimes things happen to us that are just so completely ridiculous that there's nothing left to do but shake our head at the situation and then tell a friend to get a good laugh.

Also, when you're the person experiencing these minor problems, wouldn't knowing that other people have just as ridiculous problems as you be somewhat comforting? I can say that I believe there is a level of comfort and understanding. When I read the things that happen to some of these people on this website, of course I feel bad for them, but come on now, it's

pretty darn funny.

Take these postings from the website for example: "Today, I handed the keys to my Mustang to my mom so she could go car shopping. As she pulled away, I remembered the condom wrappers, sex toy packaging, and empty bottle of rum that was in the passenger's seat of my car. I'm twenty. FML."

Now couldn't pretty much anyone relate to that on some level? We've all bordered that line of fun and age limits, but wouldn't it suck to get caught? Maybe you're one of the people who did and can really get a laugh out of this situation.

There are some postings about situations that really do suck, but they can be thoughtful and we could all laugh about them. That's what keeps us sane. Purposely posting our minor problems is what keeps the tension off.

We have to find humor in these situations to keep our heads up over the little things through stories like the ones posted on **fmylife.com**. From what I know, nobody is using that site to make anybody else's problems seem less important than their own, but rather connect with others when having a bad day and find the silver lining.

I get it. We shouldn't be complaining about the minor problems we have, but why not post them up full-well knowing it's for good humor?

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can read the original column referenced here in the Perspectives section of the website "If that's the worst thing that happens to you," as well as a related satire column "How browsing can screw up your life," in the Mouthing Off section at [Oaklandpostonline.com](http://Oaklandpostonline.com)



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# Russi on the record

By COLLEEN J. MILLER and LINDSEY WOJCIK  
Managing Editor and Editor in Chief

The Oakland Post met with Oakland University President Gary Russi Wednesday, April 8 to check in on the status of ongoing and new initiatives.

Russi spoke positively about the successful fundraising efforts of the university, the expanding affordability campaign and the growth of the university.

## The Capital Campaign

The goal of raising \$110 million has been exceeded and it has been done a year ahead of time. The exact amount will be announced at a ceremony Wednesday, April 15 in the Fireside Lounge in the Oakland Center.

"To tell you what, in these economic times this is remarkable, absolutely remarkable to raise that kind of money," Russi said.

"The money is being used as we speak. But the money is not money that is at discretion. The donors typically tell you what they want you to do with the money. It is a variety of donor-driven projects and initiatives and it starts with scholarships, programs, capital, operating — you name it, it's in the campaign."

In light of the success of this capital campaign, another campaign will be initiated in the near future.

"We're going to close this capital campaign, celebrate it, and then launch another one," Russi said. The next campaign will focus on raising funds for the medical school, a performing arts center on campus, as well as the traditional scholarships, support for students and programs.

## 'You can afford this'

OU's affordability campaign, "You can afford this," is designed to provide affordability and access to a college education for new and existing OU students.

"This is our effort to respond to the economic times," Russi said, and as a result, the university has seen a 35 percent increase in applications for fall.

The campaign already has multiple components: no fees, the \$250,000 emergency fund (of which only about \$31,000 was used over fall and winter), a guarantee not to have to take loans for need-based incoming freshmen (as determined by the federal government), more merit based scholarships, and an alumni ambassadors program designed to mobilize alumni (who have committed \$1 million for scholarships) to recruit students.

Additional features such as three-year degree programs and full-time OU jobs are also in the works.

"Soon it will be announced we will have a summer employment corps," Russi said. "For those students who need a full-time job, they will have a full-time job. And it will be in meaningful work ... something that will help your portfolio. It's \$10 an hour, it's full time it's all summer." Russi said there may be 35 such positions.

One reason why college can be so expensive is the length of time it takes to complete. But Russi said that

three-year degrees are strongly being considered.

"The deans and the department chairs are working on this right now. Obviously it only works in those programs in which there aren't requirement for beyond four years," said Russi.

"That's a huge affordability issue too because you only have three years of cost and then you get out on the job market a year early."



Photo courtesy of Oakland University  
Oakland University President Gary Russi speaks on the record about affordability, fundraising and more.

## Graduation ceremony changes

Addressing rumors that the administration is going to change commencement ceremonies, Russi said that's an affirmative.

"We're outgrowing our commencements," he said.

After looking at other universities around the country, Russi said the commencement coordinator, Stephanie Lee, has narrowed it down to two possibilities:

1. There would be one commencement ceremony. No names would be called and nobody would walk across the stage. However, each individual college or school would be able to have their own celebrations.

"It's a lot more intimate than what we do right now. The school will add their own awards, their gifts," Russi said. He said that this is the preferred option.

"If we're going to do something, let's make the student experience and recognition more intimate and more powerful for the family," Russi said.

2. The other possibility would be to have separate ceremonies for graduates and undergraduates. Undergraduates would continue to have a similar experience to what is currently being done for graduation, where the commencements, an all-day affair, are broken down by colleges and individuals walk across the stage. The graduate students would have their own celebrations by unit.

"[This] scenario is only short term. Because you continue to grow, you have the same problem," Russi said.

The new graduation procedure will be decided on before the next commencement ceremony at the end of the fall 2009 semester.

## Med School update

While the changes to the commencement ceremonies are high on the priority list for the administration, keeping the OU William Beaumont School of Medicine on track is Russi's number one priority this summer.

"That's going exceptionally well," he said. "Now

they're in the process of hiring faculty." Russi said that they are looking for the best in the country, as they usually do, focusing on quality. The progress on the medical school is also on schedule.

"At this point we see no barriers to getting this done on time."

## Budget, tuition and stimulus

Russi said that they fight the budget every day and may have to create a contingency budget before the state makes any decisions about stimulus money and state funding.

"The volatility of the state is just enormous right now," he said. "That's a concern for us because families have to know what the cost is."

Russi explained that OU is waiting to hear from the state of Michigan before deciding on next year's budget, which may affect tuition.

"The budget bill starts with [Gov. Jennifer Granholm and she] said cut higher education three percent, freeze tuition, and move forward. That's just a recommendation. Ultimately where it's played out is in the legislature ... The House just came out and just essentially reinforced the notion of cutting 3 percent, took out the language to freeze tuition and now the bill moves into the Senate," he said.

Russi will be giving a testimony before the Senate on May 5, presenting OU's case for state funding. OU is also waiting to hear about the appropriations of federal stimulus money.

"If the governor accepts stimulus money, she's got to hold K-12, community colleges and universities harmless in cash flow," Russi said. "[If Michigan] were to cut us the three percent or [Gov. Granholm] does an executive order for five percent, she's got to take some of that stimulus money and make it whole."

"That doesn't solve any problems because that's patchwork. You're using one-time money to solve base problems. At the end of the day you've got a worse problem down the road because you're going to have multiple cuts that they fill with stimulus money."

As for the five capital projects that OU submitted to the state for stimulus funding — including a biomass/wind energy plant, new buildings and an engineering center — Russi said that those are going to be determined later after the state goes through the budget process.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Read what Russi said about the lines of communications between faculty, the board of trustees and the administration online.

Follow the developments of these stories with The Oakland Post in the summer issues and on the website.





# Kresge Library adds resources, versatility

By KAY NGUYEN  
Staff Reporter

The week of final examinations is approaching and the thousands of sleep-deprived Oakland University students buckling down to write papers and studying at the Kresge Library may find some new resources.

Many changes have been made at the library over the past year as part of its ongoing initiative to go from a traditional library to a technology learning center.

Intended to support student research and study needs, two of the three planned projects have been completed and are currently available to students.

The library's Government Documents collection was moved from the second floor to the first. It's still accessible and features new compact movable shelving.

The move was made in order to make room for the brand new Information Commons, which is to the left of the library entrance.

The Information Commons integrates the concepts of computer labs, research space and group study areas.

"Our goals are to provide students with a first-class information commons and a first-class research and study space," said library systems manager Eric Condic.

Hardwired desktop computer workstations are available for student use on the second floor, as well as laptops that can be checked out. The laptops and computers were moved from the first floor.

Three mobile carts with large screen monitors can be used to practice giving presentations and large whiteboards can be checked out and hung around the Commons area for group study purposes.

"We realize that students need this," said Library Dean Julie Voelck. "We want students to use [the library] and we want to support the kind of research and study they must do now."

The new space is designed to give students more mobility while working. Furniture can be moved and arranged to accommodate students' needs.

"Students need to rediscover the library," said Library Assistant Dean Brenda Pierce. "There is always a place you will feel comfortable with because there are spots no matter how you like to study."

Located adjacent to the Writing Center, reference desk, University Technology Services helpdesk, and a computer lab assistant, the Information Commons tries to give students convenient access to the tools necessary for research or study purposes.

The campus computing helpdesk has

also been moved to the second floor of the Library. A student-staffed helpdesk assists students with computer problems.

"We are trying to look for ways to expand research technology and information access," said Condic. "We try to constantly keep in touch with [students'] latest needs."

Students had differing opinions about the changes made in the library. Some thought the changes were needed.

"Kresge's renovations are a positive thing to give our beloved library a nice, needed update," said Jordan Twardy, former student body vice president. "Hopefully they will improve conditions of the restrooms and study rooms as well as main area aesthetics."

According to Voelck, the renovations cost \$1,437,000.

One student thought these changes shouldn't have been funded by tuition.

"I use Kresge Library to get books for research," said freshman Jared Carlson, a general studies major. "It is a good place for research purposes, but I am indifferent about the library using tuition money for the project."

Another student thought the changes were unnecessary.

"I just use the library as a quiet place to study," said freshman biology major Ken Lewis. "I think [the new projects

are] a big waste of money."

Oakland University E-Learning and Instructional support will be moving into the fourth floor of the library from its current office in Varner Hall on the week of May 4. The new office space is currently still under construction.

"We are trying to get all of the student and faculty help resources centralized," said Assistant Vice President of E-learning and Instructional Support Catheryn Cheal. "It will make it more unified for all of us."

The library is also acquiring Netbooks for the future. Currently they have Macintosh and Windows desk computers, as well as laptops. They have individual study rooms, group study rooms, as well as floors for quiet study and group study.

Kresge Library is planning a grand opening celebration in the fall.



Visit our website to read about attempts to keep Kresge open 24 hours a day and add a cafe vending machine. And check out an interactive floor plan of the newly designed library.

## GSA's drag show thrills



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post The Gay Straight Alliance held its 6th annual Drag Show in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center Friday, April 10. Shown is "Sabin," one of the performers. The show, co-sponsored by the Women's Issues Forum, featured dancing and singing, with a theme of "Old Hollywood Drag."



Visit our website to see a video of the Xpos'd Fashion Show on Wednesday, April 8, hosted by OU's Association of Black Students, as well as more photos from the Drag Show.

## See Rejects at Meadowbrook

By KATHLEEN QUANDT  
Staff Intern

In the middle of typing up papers and finishing final projects, Oakland University students will get a chance to see the All American Rejects in concert on campus Thursday, April, 16 at 7 p.m.

The Student Program Board is bringing the concert to Meadowbrook Music Festival with a ticket price of \$10 for students and \$20 for guests. Tickets are available at the Center for Student Activities ticket window in the Oakland Center and at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

Amanda Vanderford, student program board chair, said SPB received \$5,000 from Student Video Productions, \$7,000 from OU Student Congress, \$10,000 from Student Affairs and approximately \$23,000 from the Special Projects Fund, in sponsorships for the concert.

The concert is expected to cost about \$120,000, Vanderford said. She said SPB will contribute about \$35,000 and the rest will come from ticket sales.

"The concert was put together with the help from a lot of support from the campus," Vanderford said.

SPB wanted to bring the All American Rejects to campus in February for Homecoming, but they were not avail-

able due to the Grammy Awards.

"We felt that they were a popular band, with a chart topper hit. We felt that they could appeal to a wide variety of people and of all different ages," Vanderford said.

At closing time on Tuesday, a worker at the CSA ticket window said there were still over a hundred tickets left.

Melissa Brode, a freshman business major, is going to the concert.

"I think it's a cool opportunity. We get to go for a really cheap price and get to see them," she said.

Some students wanted to go, but had scheduling conflicts.

"It's great. I just don't have time," said Alex Wolicki, a junior finance major.

Travis Smith, a sophomore electrical engineering major, is not going, but is glad the band is being brought to OU.

"I know a lot of people that really like them," he said. "That's a really good thing that Oakland University did for the students."

Before the concert, SPB is hosting Spring Fest, which will offer inflatables, a rock wall, remote controlled car races, inflatable skee ball, music and free food and drinks from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the Oakland Center near O'Dowd Hall on Thursday, April 16.





All photos are courtesy of their respective artists

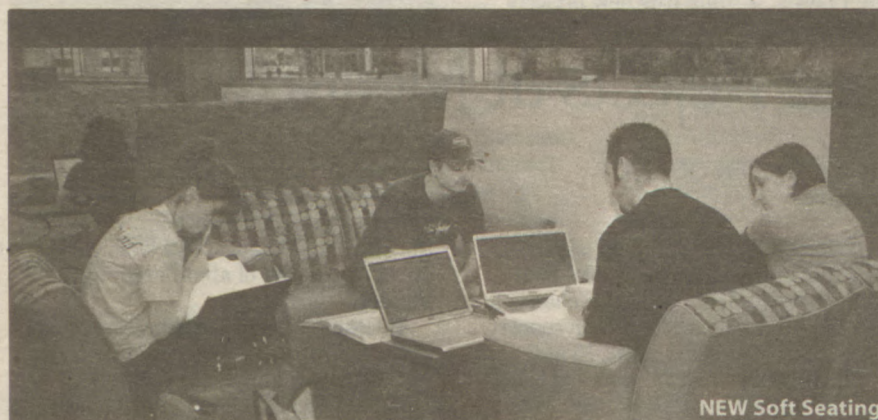


## Senior artists go on full display

The exhibit "idée fixe" will feature the work of ten different Oakland University student artists on display at the OU Art Gallery in Wilson Hall April 17-May 17. The artists will discuss their work Friday, April 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Art Gallery. Opening reception is Friday, April 17 from 5-7 p.m. Among the pieces featured are Amy Abdelnour's series of charcoal drawings, titled "im | personal" (left), Ali McClure's series of photographs titled "press play" (above) and Lauren Morey's pastel series "Drosophilia Melanogaster" (right).



Go to [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com) for a video preview of the senior art thesis, including comments from all ten artists featured in the showcase.



NEW Soft Seating



NEW Computer Work Stations

# Have **you** been to the **library** lately?



With construction on the brand-new student Information Commons nearly completed, Kresge Library has taken on a whole new look. Final improvements are still in progress, but the Commons is now open to students – **just in time for finals.**

*Grab your books, gather your study groups and come check out what the Information Commons has to offer:*

- PC and Mac work stations
- Laptops available for checkout
- Comfortable soft seating
- Flexible-use furniture for group study
- White boards for brainstorming and idea illustration
- A new service desk manned by trained staff members
- Breakout rooms for group projects

There has never been a better time to take advantage of the library and its updated resources.

**We look forward to welcoming you to the new Kresge.**

NEW Service Desk





## POLICEFILES

On April 7, OUPD responded to a fire alarm in the Science and Engineering Building at 9:59 a.m. By 10:25 a.m., they cleared the building and let people re-enter. At 11:02 a.m., they responded to another fire alarm in SEB. After checking the building again, they let people re-enter at 11:18 a.m.

On April 7, a Communication and Journalism Department employee said an older computer monitor was missing from 306 Wilson Hall. The employee said numerous people from various departments had access to the room.

On April 8, OUPD reported to an incident at the WXOU radio station in the Oakland Center. An OU student in WXOU said his cellphone

had been on the thermostat by the entrance door. The student said a group of high school students came into WXOU to tour, and after they left, his cell phone was gone. The OU student said that after he accused the group of high school students of taking his cell phone, the leader of the group became upset.

On April 10, a student reported his cell phone was missing. He said he was napping in his girlfriend's dorm room in South Hamlin Hall and set his laptop and his cell phone on his girlfriend's roommate's bed, but when he woke up, the cell phone was missing, and the laptop was moved. He believed his girlfriend's roommate or her friend may have taken the cell phone.

## Chartwells revamps menu

By RORY MCCARTY  
Senior Reporter

A little over a semester after Oakland University Student Congress first brought student complaints against Chartwells in October 2008, Chartwells made changes to their catering menu and pricing that seems to reflect a successful ongoing dialogue with students.

For student organizations that host events in the Oakland Center, all catering must come through Chartwells due to an exclusivity arrangement with OU.

Chartwells' new catering menus, which include both regular student catering and international catering, provide more choices to student organizations.

Andrew Willows, resident district manager for Chartwells at OU, said that collaborating with OUSC so far through the focus group has been "wonderful."

"Every single question or concern we had for them, they addressed it," said Danielle Fallis, chair of Student Activities Funding Board said.

However, some still would prefer to have non-Chartwells catering options for events they hold in the OC.

Chartwells offers waivers to bring in outside food to their catered events that have specific requirements.

The Indian Student Association got a

waiver to bring in outside food for their recent Indian Night. ISA President Krishna Gummadi said they got Indian food through Chartwells in the past, but were unsatisfied with it.

"We wanted to showcase food that authentically tastes like Indian food," he said.

Gummadi said that Chartwells effectively made smaller amounts of requested food, but not for groups of 50 or more.

Though they haven't worked with OUSC yet to voice their concerns, Gummadi said that they planned to soon and he's optimistic about Chartwells continuing to make changes, but that they'd rather make it easier to get waivers.

Melissa Bukowski, a Gay Straight Alliance member, said their organization has fewer concerns with Chartwells providing specific kinds of food, and they are generally happy with its quality.

But she said that she would still prefer it if student organizations had the option to more easily get catering from off campus for events they host in the OC.

"Chartwells isn't bad, but we don't really have a choice," she said.

Students interested in seeing the new menu and the menu prices can contact Chartwells at 121 Oakland Center.

Visit [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com) to see the new menus.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Athletics budget not approved yet

After a special meeting of the board of trustees on April 8, the Oakland University Athletic Department still has not finalized a budget for the fiscal year 2010.

The athletic department was the only campus entity that did not get its proposed budget for the upcoming year, which begins June 30, passed at the formal board meeting on April 1. The budget was tabled for a special discussion a week later, after which the proposal was tabled again to an undetermined date.

Members of the board expressed dissatisfaction with the athletic department's amendments to its previous proposal. The board had asked for details about the salaries of coaches and staff, for which the athletic department requested nearly \$400,000 in increases from the 2009 budget of just over \$3 million. The athletic department is asking for just over an 11 percent increase from the 2009 fiscal year. Salaries of all university staff are public record, and Athletic Director Tracy Huth said it would be reasonable to assume that the 13 percent increase in compensation could be applied to each individual coach.

The board said they felt the additional information provided by the athletic department was inconsequential and insufficient.

— Sean Garner, Senior Reporter

### SIFE wins regional award


Ten members of OU's Students in Free Enterprise brought home the organization's ninth straight regional title on April 2. The team qualified for and will now attend the SIFE national convention that will be held in May in Philadelphia.

— Kay Nguyen, Staff Reporter

### New student congress officially starts


The new student body president, vice president and OUSC legislators were sworn in on Monday, April 13. The new administration announced its proposal for the OUSC summer 2009 budget. In the proposal, of the projected \$58,000 budget, \$24,480 is to be used for OUSC e-board members' stipends, \$2,350 for leadership training, \$400 for committee facilitation, \$1,050 for students handouts like scarves and newspapers, \$4,950 for operational expenditures, and the rest for other costs. OUSC will vote on the budget before the spring semester starts.

— Masudur Rahman, Campus Editor



Center for Student Activities

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



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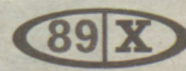
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## Mark Fidrych found dead at 54

By HOWARD ULMAN  
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — Whether he was dominating hitters or hauling asphalt, Mark Fidrych had fun.

The colorful pitcher talked to baseballs, smoothed the mound with his hands and high-fived teammates in the middle of the diamond.

He had one terrific season in 1976, and after injuries curtailed his career — just five years in the majors with the Detroit Tigers — he lived on his farm in Northborough, Mass., where he enjoyed driving his truck and using it for building projects.

On Monday, Fidrych was found dead beneath a 10-wheel dump truck by Joseph Amorello, a friend and owner of a road construction company who sometimes hired Fidrych. He was 54.

"Everybody wanted him on their crew," Amorello said in a telephone interview. "He was a hard worker, but, at the same time, he always had a smile on his face."

Worcester County district attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. said Fidrych was found at about 2:30 p.m. Monday in his hometown about 35 miles west of Boston, the victim of an apparent accident. He appeared to have been working on the truck, Early said. His office declined to release further details.

Amorello, owner of A.F. Amorello & Sons, said he had stopped by the farm to chat with Fidrych.

"We were just, in general, getting started for the [road building] season this week and it seems as though his truck was going to be needed. It looked like he was doing some maintenance on it," Amorello said. "I found him under the truck. There's not much more I can say. I dialed 911 and that's all I could do."

Fidrych was a curly-haired right-hander who was nicknamed "The Bird" because of his resemblance to the

Big Bird character on the Sesame Street TV show.

He was the American League Rookie of the Year in 1976 when he went 19-9 with a 2.34 ERA and 24 complete games in 29 starts.

Stats only told part of the story that season. The Tigers weren't very good then, and were barely drawing 10,000 fans per game when Fidrych made his first start on May 15.

His antics and success quickly made him a local sensation, and huge crowds started showing up at Tiger Stadium to see him. A complete-game win on ABC-TV's "Monday Night Baseball" against the Yankees in late June made him a nationwide phenomenon, with teammates rushing to greet him after the last out and fans calling him back from the clubhouse for a final salute.

Less than three weeks later, he started the All-Star game for the American League in Philadelphia. Though the likes of Pete Rose, Catfish Hunter and Johnny Bench had accumulated far greater career statistics, no player created more interest that night at Veterans Stadium than Fidrych.

Injuries, however, limited him to 58 major league games with a 29-19 record and a 3.10 ERA.

"The entire Detroit Tigers organization was saddened to learn of the passing of former player Mark Fidrych today," the Tigers said in a statement. "Mark was beloved by Tigers fans and he was a special person with a unique personality. The Tigers send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends."

Fidrych attempted a comeback in 1982 and 1983 in the Boston Red Sox organization. He pitched for their Triple-A team in Pawtucket, R.I. But he never played in the majors after 1980 and retired in July 1983.

The Worcester, Mass., native later owned a trucking business. State police detectives are investigating the circumstances of his death, Early said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

In this Oct. 3, 1976 file photo, Detroit Tigers' pitcher Mark Fidrych delivers a pitch during a playoff game with the Brewers, in Milwaukee, Wis. Fidrych was the American League rookie of the year in 1976 when he went 19-9 with a 2.34 earned run average.

## Local news briefs: Higher gas prices, fewer newspapers

### Gas prices increase by 3 percent

AAA Michigan said gasoline prices have risen 3 cents per gallon over the past week to a statewide average of \$2.03.

The auto club said Monday the statewide average is \$1.40 per gallon lower than last year at this time.

Of the cities it surveys, AAA Michigan says the cheapest price for self-serve regular fuel is in the Traverse City area, where it is \$1.96 a gallon. The highest average price can be found in the Ann Arbor area at \$2.05.



HOWARD YANES/Associated Press  
Gas prices returned to above \$2 this week.

The statewide average for biodiesel is \$2.25 and \$1.88 for ethanol.

### Rochester Eccentric among others to cease publication

Several non-daily newspapers owned by Gannett Co. Inc. in Oakland County have announced they will cease or merge publications May 31.

The Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Troy and Rochester editions of the Eccentric will close. The Southfield edition and the Observer & Eccentric group's Mirror newspaper will merge into a multi-community Sunday newspaper called the South Oakland Eccentric.

The company says it will cut 44 jobs as a result of the closings and consolidations.

The newspaper company will continue to publish the Observer Newspapers and Hometown Weekly Newspapers in western Wayne and Oakland counties.

The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror newspapers, which had been part of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., were sold in 2005 to Gannett Co. Inc.

Source: The Associated Press



# Legislation passes for more benefits

*New bill extends state unemployment pay for seven more weeks*



GREG DERUITER/ AP Photo/Lansing State Journal

Gov. Jennifer Granholm with Lansing Community College student Zabrina Lechner as she tells her story as a she tries to get ahead during tough economic times in the state of Michigan at an event Thursday, March 26. Granholm held a town hall meeting in Lansing to discuss the federal Recovery Act with local residents.

By KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN  
Associated Press Writer

LANSING — Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed legislation Monday extending unemployment benefits for seven weeks.

The governor said during a bill-signing ceremony at the Capitol that jobless workers can now receive benefits for up to 79 weeks while they look for work.

"This was a bipartisan effort to step forward and help those in need," Granholm said of legislators passing the bill quickly.

Michigan has the nation's highest unemployment rate at 12 percent.

Jobless workers already were eligible for 26 weeks of state unemployment benefits, 33 weeks of federal help and 13 weeks of extended benefits. Those extended benefits will now be available for 20 weeks. They're being paid for by the federal Recovery Act.

The state estimates more than 200,000 Michigan workers will have received

extended benefits by year's end, with 70,000 qualifying by the end of April. About 584,000 people were unemployed in February, the most recent month's data available, although not all were collecting unemployment benefits.

Last month, Michigan's maximum weekly unemployment benefit was raised temporarily from \$362 to \$387 with help from the federal Recovery Act. The extra money will disappear in July 2010.

The governor urged lawmakers to pass two more bills that would expand unemployment benefits to more people. The first would let the unemployed get job training without having to prove they're looking for work, and the second would allow some part-time workers to get unemployment checks.

If those pass, the state could get an additional \$140 million to cover the cost of the expanded benefits, Granholm said.

Both measures have been introduced in the House but haven't passed the House or the Senate.

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# Detroit budget plan seeking 334 total layoffs

*As the city faces difficult financial times, nearly \$42 million in salary and wages are cut*

By COREY WILLIAMS  
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — Faced with a bulging budget deficit, Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. released a budget Monday that calls for 334 layoffs and slashing 509 vacant jobs.

The cuts would trim the city's budget for the next fiscal year by \$42 million in salaries and wages.

The proposed layoffs are the result of failed efforts to get city unions to agree to a 10-percent wage cut, Cockrel said.

"For every position that we reduce or eliminate I know that it does not just affect one individual, it affects an entire family," he told the Detroit City Council. "That is why I have asked our unions to work with the city in preserving jobs by making joint sacrifices."

Cockrel's budget presentation came at a difficult financial time for the city. After moving up from city council president to take over for ex-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick in September, Cockrel inherited jumbled and incomplete financial records and a deficit pegged at upward of \$300 million.

Kilpatrick resigned as part of plea deals in two criminal

**"We're at a situation right now where we're already running pretty lean government."**

Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr.

a retirement incentive to city employees with 30 or more years of service. The one-time offer will include a payout of 85 percent on banked sick days, up from 60 percent.

That plan will be put into effect in May, he said.

The job cuts are across a number of city departments, Cockrel told reporters following the presentation.

"We're at a situation right now where we're already running pretty lean government," he said. "If we had to really hit a particular department very hard, it would probably be a question at this point of cutting bone, and we tried to avoid doing that."

Some unfilled public safety positions will be cut, but there are no planned layoffs of police officers or firefighters, Cockrel said.

cases.

Cockrel and Detroit businessman and professional basketball Hall-of-Famer Dave Bing are pitted in a May 5 runoff election to complete Kilpatrick's second term in office.

The eight-member council on Monday asked Cockrel questions about his plan and will review the budget for approval. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

To cut down on the number of layoffs, Cockrel has also proposed



CARLOS OSORIO/Associated Press  
Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel said failed efforts to get the city's unions to take a 10 percent wage cut will result in 334 layoffs. "I have asked our unions to work with the city in preserving jobs by making joint sacrifices," Cockrel said.

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# 2008-2009

## AN OAKLAND POST RETROSPECTIVE

As we wrap up production for the winter semester, The Oakland Post would like to thank readers for making this another memorable year. We hope you have enjoyed our coverage. Stay with us throughout the summer on [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com). Plus, stop by campus to grab our summer print editions.





# What does summer mean to you?



"It means going up north and enjoying the nice weather, meeting new people, experiencing new things, living life freely as much as I can and spending time with family."

Edwin McLeod  
Senior, studio art/new media



"A break from homework and more sleep."

Tyanna Moore  
Freshman, finance



"Summer is kind of a time to relax and catch up on stuff you didn't get to do over the year."

Mirjana Tomovski  
Freshman, business



# What are you most excited for this summer?



"I am excited for my cousin's wedding this summer, and a kid's camp I work at for my church."

Ligia Buia  
Freshman, undecided



"Woodstock '09 because it's peace and love for three days in the wild and you get great music too."

Michael Sawalha  
Freshman, nuclear medicine

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# Would you rather...

Attend your graduation ceremony or grab your diploma and run without a commencement?



"Receive it, because I want to get out of here as soon as possible, I've been here too long."

Carrie Patterson  
Senior,  
studio art/new media



"I'd rather walk because it's the hyperness of people cheering that makes me feel like I did something."

Diana Taib  
Sophomore,  
physical therapy



"Personally, I'd probably rather just get my diploma, it's just walking across a stage and not that big of a deal to me."

Nick Rashid  
Freshman, undecided



"I guess I'd rather just receive my diploma because I am really anxious about doing that sort of thing."

Alexandra Allen  
Sophomore, English

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# Dog on duty

*Service pet helps blind student get to class and around campus*

By WIBKE RICHTER  
Web Intern

After finding a chair for his owner and tapping it with his nose, Mr. Ford laid down and put his head on his paws. The big German shepherd with thick fur belongs to Dave Barber, a junior Oakland University student.

Barber is blind and Mr. Ford is his leader dog. When Barber began studying social work at OU in the fall semester of 2008, Leader Dogs for the Blind provided him with a mobility orientation on campus. The non-profit organization with headquarters in Rochester Hills celebrated its 70th year of service this April and

has trained nearly 14,000 leader dogs, who are placed with blind or visually impaired people.

Mr. Ford is one of them, and became a leader dog and guide for Barber nine years ago.

"His job is to bring me from one point to the other safely," said the 52-year-old who graduated with honors from Oakland Community College last year with an associate degree in applied science, mental health and social work. He also has an associate degree in applied science, radio and television from Ohio University.

Mr. Ford became Barber's second official service pet in 2000, after he retired his first leader dog Mr. Brutus with whom he spent 12 years.

"I put Mr. in front of Ford because that makes him more formal," Barber said.

He started using a courtesy title for his dog to control kids who often come up and want to pet his furry guide. "Do not pet me, I am working," reads the yellow sign attached to Mr. Ford's harness.

Barber, who moved from Ohio to Michigan in 1993, hasn't always been blind. "For the first 12 years of my life I could see. Due to an inherited genetic disorder, I lost my sight over time," he said.

As a teenager, Barber learned to find his way around with a cane. Gregory Grabowski, president and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind, said that having experience with a cane helps those interested in getting a leader dog.

**"Many times you will see the both of us running across campus pulling my school bags on wheels."**

— Dave Barber

"The accelerated orientation mobility class that we do with the white cane training — just to really kind of simplify it down — potentially is a prerequisite to getting the leader dog, 'cause you have to have good orientation mobility skills to start with before you get a dog," Grabowski said.

## Getting around

"Many times you will see the both of us running across campus pulling my school bags on wheels," said Barber about himself and Mr. Ford who guides him confidently from one building to the other.

While Mr. Ford helps Barber around campus, his wife, classmates or friends give him a ride to school.

"Ford is such a good dog. He is so excited [about] being at school, he doesn't



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post  
Oakland University student Dave Barber is one of 13,854 people that have benefited from Leader Dogs for the Blind, a Rochester Hills-based organization. His service pet, Mr. Ford, is one of the resources he has available to him to get around campus and enjoy a full college experience.

even say goodbye to me," said Deirdre Barber, 48, about dropping off both Mr. Ford and her husband at OU.

Barber also uses cab services or public transportation like the SMART buses to get to campus. "A nice bus shelter for those who have to wait in bad weather," is his suggestion for an improvement on campus.

OU's Office of Disability and Support Services has been another resource for Barber and other students with disabilities. Some of the services they offer are scanning and digitizing text books, computer stations with screen readers,

alternate testing, door openers, advising and campus orientation.

Barber takes notes on a talking electronic data assistant and audio records lectures with a cassette machine. For researching online and reading web sites, there is JAWS, a screen reading software. An application called Kurzweil 1,000 is available at Kresge library.

"This combination of hardware and software allows me to scan printed text and read the printed paper document via

See Mr. Ford on page 17



Continued from page 16

## MR. FORD

speech," Barber said.

On the day of an exam, he takes the same test like all other students of his class. The only difference is that he uses different tools to prepare for it.

"It's not 'look at the poor blind person, we need to treat him differently', it is 'they have availed themselves to all these tools and so now, they are equal footing,'" said Grabowski about blind or visually impaired college students.

## Outside help

Even though Barber and Mr. Ford make a strong and harmonious team, sometimes situations occur when they need the support of others. Barber said he appreciates help, but asks people to approach him by saying who they are because their voices are the only way for him to remember them.

"Sometimes a person should come up and say 'Hi, excuse me, do you need assistance?' or come up to me and say 'I see you're traveling here, are you aware of where you're at?' Because the key is making sure to let the blind person as much as possible do for themselves," he said. "It must be a dialog process between myself and the person providing assistance."

Barber lives with his wife, his cat, Mr. Ford and a Shih Tzu. Barber's mother-in-law calls the dogs "the elephant and the mouse" because of their size difference. When the couple goes for a bike ride on their tandem,



Photo courtesy of Rick Smith  
Greg Grabowski, president and CEO of Leader Dogs, with a student.

the animals stay at home, including Mr. Ford.

"There's a lot of things I'd love to do if I could have my sight back, a lot of things I used to do when I had sight," said Barber. However, he doesn't necessarily miss the time when he could ride a bike by himself because now, he and his wife have the tandem.

"Well, it would be nice to have my sight back. It would be nice to have it back, because I once had it. But, you know, when you've been doing this as long as I have, see ... relationships with people are more important than having sight back."

## About the Organization

Leader Dogs for the Blind was founded in April 1939 by three members of a Detroit area Lions Clubs who were unable to obtain a dog guide for a friend from any other source. Since then, the non-profit organization with headquarters in Rochester Hills has grown into one of the largest institutions of its kind. It has raised, trained and graduated 13,854 Leader Dogs which were placed with clients from 39 countries worldwide.

Leader Dog puppies are raised by volunteer puppy raisers for approximately one year in preparation for their lives as dogs guides. Volunteers who would like to raise a puppy, as well as the clients who want to be placed with a guide dog, have to apply.

There is also the possibility to adopt a dog who didn't pass the training to become a leader dog. Leader Dogs refers to them as "career changed." Due to the high interest in adopting career changed dogs, applicants can expect up to a two year wait.

For more information about Leader Dogs for the Blind, visit their website at [www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org).

Source: Leader Dogs for the Blind  
website and brochures

Watch a video about Barber and Mr. Ford, plus read the stories of two other blind students at OU only on [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)



# Campaign Celebration

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Oakland Center Fireside Lounge

Dessert and refreshments will be served.

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# Engineered for success

By JOE GUZMAN  
Senior Reporter

If there is one major most affected by the downfall of Detroit's automakers it would be engineering. Continued downsizing is forcing engineering majors to compete with the laid-off masses.

Alex Pawlowski, an Oakland University senior majoring in mechanical engineering, is optimistic about finding a job when he graduates despite layoffs.

"I myself have no problem going out of state for a good job, but I am confident that I can find something right here."

A member of the Oakland Robotics Association, Pawlowski said most of the talk within the department concerns the eventual upturn of the economy.

"Even though there are many layoffs at the car companies, many other companies are hiring engineers. As long as the country makes things there will be a need for engineering," said Pawlowski.

## Positive outlook

According to Pieter Frick, dean of OU's School of Engineering and Computer

Science, employment opportunities for engineers almost always remain good.

"The engineering world tends to do well in bad times, always has and always will," Frick said.

## Thinking outside the auto

Engineering students are working toward a diverse degree. According to the Kathy Livelsberger, assistant director for OU Career Services, students might think that automotive is all there is in engineering, and not realize the extent of opportunities in energy or with the government.

Career Services works closely with companies such as General Dynamics, Techcom and DTE energy. Livelsberger said that DTE uses a co-op program as a feeder; using the time the student is an intern to judge how they fit and offer them a position if one becomes available.

In the last couple years Livelsberger has witnessed students who have joined their co-op program and transition into full-time employment. She said that 19 students were placed there in 2005-06, 25 in 2006-07, and 17 the following year.

"We actually met with them recently and they expect that trend to continue, even in these times," Livelsberger said. "They anticipate that they will continue to have needs because working with energy requires a specific skill set, mostly due to the safety issues when dealing with gas and electricity."

Frick said the department has stressed to its students to look outside the automotive industry, and seek avenues that they may never have considered before the industry began to fall.

"Intensively, over the last six years, the department has revised the core of the engineering curriculum and to virtually remove the dependence of the automobile business," Frick said.

Frick said that they changed the focus of almost all of the undergraduate education to be more innovation driven, with the introduction of senior and sophomore design projects.

"The focus and message to students and parents alike is that the purpose of the exercise is to prepare undergraduates to practice engineering anywhere in the world," said Frick.

This is done through two philosophies:

a basic science core made up mostly of mathematics and physics, and an engineering core.

"The two cores cover the spectrum in a sense that a practicing engineer will have to reeducate him or herself at least four times within a 40-year career, and that base knowledge of the engineering core and science core forms the basis to do that," he said.

Today, there is no particular focus on the automotive business anywhere in the curriculum, as it has developed a strong relationship with the military. The alternative fuel industry is also emerging as another option for engineers to pursue.

## Get started

Although an internship and co-op are not required for engineering students, Livelsberger said that they are imperative to gain a competitive edge.

"If a student was to say that they want to stay in metro Detroit, they're competing with all these people with experience and that could be a very hard road, seeming like an uphill climb," Livelsberger said.

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## Looking ahead to the fall

*With past performances in mind, the outlook for 2009-10 sports*

### ANALYSIS

By THE OAKLAND POST SPORTS STAFF

### Men's Basketball

Not very often is a single Summit League team found on ESPN's top 10 plays in March, but Oakland University was featured twice. Unfortunately, it was the team on the losing end of the highlights, as the year's milestone highs would be outmatched by heartbreaking lows, witnessed by a national audience.

Celebrating his 25th year with the team, Head Coach Greg Kampe had one of the more talented rosters at his disposal during his tenure.

The team enjoyed a successful regular season, but its disappointing losses in postseason play will be remembered most.

Forward Derick Nelson, just the second Grizzly to score 1,000 points and grab over 600 rebounds in a career, broke his foot Nov. 13, 2008, two days before the season began. His absence would be missed all season, and Kampe would often praise his team for overcoming the loss of one of the league's best players.

The team opened the season with nine road games across eight different states. OU went 4-5 in those games. The signature win of this stretch came Nov. 17 against Oregon in overtime.

Kampe picked up his 400th career victory with an 84-78 win over the University of Missouri-Kansas City Dec. 4, and Erik Kangas scored his 1,000th career point the very next game.

OU finished the regular season on a seven-game winning streak, and cruised their way through the first two rounds of the Summit League Tournament. The team looked poised to make its second appearance in the NCAA tournament with 10 minutes left in the final game against North Dakota State. But that dream disappeared as Summit League player of the year Ben Woodside hit a game-winning jumper with three seconds left, to defeat the Grizzlies, 66-64.

OU was selected instead to the inaugural CollegeInsider.com tournament. They had a first-round home win over



Forward Keith Benson will be counted on in 2009-10 as one of the returning starters from last season.

Kent State before losing on a controversial buzzer-beating shot in the second round against Bradley.

**2009-10 outlook:** With the trio Nelson, Jones and Benson returning, the team is poised for another strong run toward a Summit League Championship. The team is losing senior starters Erik Kangas and Dan Waterstradt, but there are more than enough capable, young players ready to step in and fill the void. A bid to the NCAA Tournament is not out of the realm of possibility, and a repeat of last year's results would appear to be the minimum expectation.

### Women's Basketball

The 2008-09 campaign saw the Grizzlies return to the postseason for the fourth time in three years, finishing with a school-record 26 wins.

The team entered the year looking to redeem itself after falling in the second round of the 2008 Summit League tournament, and missing out on a third straight post-season appearance.

OU began the schedule by winning the first two games before suffering a tough, three-point defeat at the hands of Georgia at the O'Rena. They lost their next game by 28 points to Purdue in

West Lafayette; this was the only time the team lost consecutive games during the regular season.

The Grizzlies went 22-3 the remainder of the season, racking up several big wins along the way. Their 67-51 victory over highly-ranked South Dakota State Jan. 5 was only the third time in school history that they had beaten a Top 25 team.

SDSU would return the favor three weeks later though, with a 88-75 victory of its own. OU's 79-69 loss to the Jackrabbits in the Summit League championship game would bookend a Grizzlies 10-game winning streak.

Their appearance in the conference championship game earned them a WNIT berth, but a 70-55 first round loss to Dayton ended their season for good.

Overall, the 2008-09 season saw the women set a new standard of excellence. And under head coach Beckie Francis, the team has proven that OU women's basketball is ready to be considered a perennial Summit League contender.

**2009-10 outlook:** The outlook for next season is not helped by the loss of arguably the team's two most valuable players, seniors Jessica Pike and April Kidd.

Pike averaged 15.5 points per game and shot nearly 48 percent from behind the 3-point arc.

Guard April Kidd averaged 10.4 points and 3.4 assists per game, while swiping 107 steals. It will be very difficult to fill the hole she will leave behind, with the poise she exhibited as the team's offensive director and unparalleled intensity as the defensive spark plug.

Oakland returns 1,000-point scorer Melissa Jeltima, who was named to the All-Summit League team for the second consecutive year. Also returning is the team's force in the paint, center Brittany Carnago, who finished the season averaging 5.3 rebounds per game and swatted 89 blocks for the season.

Freshman Sharise Calhoun was named to the All-Newcomer team for last season.

Fans can probably expect much more of the same for this team this fall.

See Outlook on page 20



Continued from page 19

## OUTLOOK

### Hockey

Oakland University's club hockey team had a disappointing season in 2008-09. They finished with a record of 13-17-4 (wins, losses, overtime and shootout losses), and failed to make the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I national tournament for the first time in nine seasons.

The team was led by sophomore forward Kevin Kranker, who had team highs in goals (14), assists (20), and points (34) this season. Cody Austin and Jesse Worrell each contributed 13 goals. Senior defenseman Jarrett Samp was named to the ACHA Division I All-Star team in March.

**2009-10 outlook:** The reasonable expectation is that the team will rebound next season with a more experienced roster. Fourteen freshmen saw playing time last season, so with another year of preparation, bigger contributions will likely follow. Also, the top six scorers from a year ago are expected to return, along with goaltender Alex Pikunas, the recently named OU Hockey Rookie of the Year.

### Volleyball

The 2008 Oakland University volleyball team finished the season with an 8-21 record, which matched their 2007 results. Their eight victories equaled the school record since making the switch to Division I competition. The team finished the season on a high note by winning back-to-back matches for the first time all season.

Senior Leah Dupuie led the Summit League with 108 total blocks on the season, while also finishing in the top 10 in hitting percentage. Senior Amy Golem and redshirt junior Adrienne Leone ranked third and eighth in the league in kills per set. Lauren Duquette ranked first in the Summit League with 5.34 digs per game. The team also received significant contributions from their freshman class, specifically Jenny Jones and Ashleigh Slemmer. Both players will be expected to fill more significant roles next season.

**2009-10 outlook:** With five seniors moving on, the success of the team will depend on how well the younger players perform in new roles this season. Head coach Rob Beam will be entering his third season with the team and further improvement can be expected, though it may not necessarily reflect in their record at season's end.

### Women's Soccer

The Oakland University women's soccer team finished their season with an overall record of 9-9-2. They went

8-1 in conference play. OU advanced to the Summit League Championship game but lost 1-0 to South Dakota State University.

Senior midfielder Jessica Boyle was named the Summit League's Offensive Player of the Year in addition to being named to the All-Summit League First Team. She led the team with 10 goals and 29 points on the season. Other players who had qualified were seniors Kristi Evans and Kristi Smith. Sophomore Meghan Hartwig and freshman Sarah Lynch, who were second and third on the team in goals, respectively, were also named to the All-Summit League second team. Lynch and fellow freshman Deanna Colarossi were named to the newcomer team.

The team ended the regular season on a five-game winning streak.

Despite entering the Summit League tournament as the No. 1 seed, Oakland lost in the final game. They advanced to the Championship game in a double overtime win over Southern Utah in the semifinals.

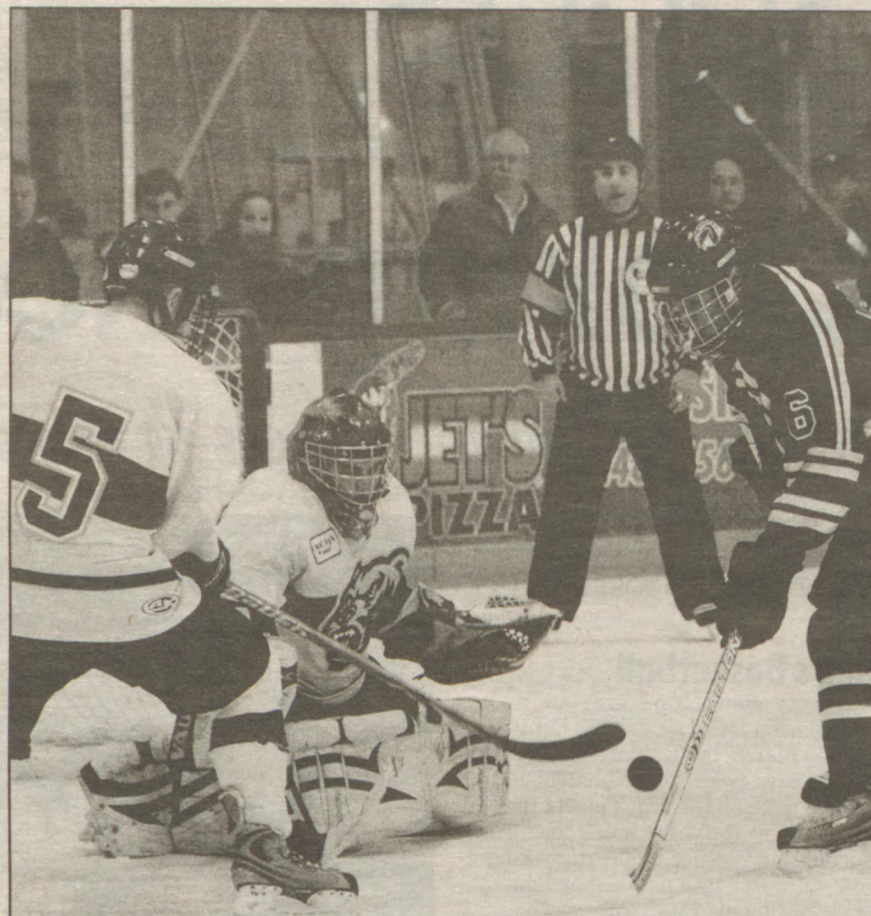
**2009-10 outlook:** While OU will lose scoring leader Boyle, the gap looks to be adequately filled by many of the team's younger players. Also graduating is starting netminder Kim Herbst, who will likely be turning over her goaltender duties to returning sophomore Shannon Coley.

### Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team finished the 2008 season with a 14-4-2 record. And like the women's soccer team, the men finished the regular season on a long winning streak, having won six straight matches. Oakland University advanced to the final of the Summit League Tournament but lost in the final in a shootout to the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Oakland's season did not end there, however, as they played Ohio State in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. But just like their previous game, the game went to a shootout following overtime and the Golden Grizzlies lost again.

Seniors Steve Clark, Ian Daniel and Piotr Nowak were named to the National Soccer Coaches Athletic Association All-Midwest Region first team. In addition, senior Martin Sandell and junior Stefan St. Louis were selected to the third team. St. Louis led the team with eight goals on the season, while goalkeeper Clark allowed just 10 goals in 19 games all season.

**2009-10 outlook:** It will be a season of transition as head coach Gary Parsons stepped down during the offseason after 28 seasons at Oakland. Assistant coach Eric Pogue, who spent seven seasons as an assistant was named to the new head coach. The Golden Grizzlies have a long history of success in men's soccer, so as long as a capable replacement for the departed Clark is found in net, expect another winning season in the fall of 2009.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The OU hockey team will be looking to rebound from a disappointing 2008-09 season.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The men's soccer team will be looking to play their way back into the NCAA Tournament once again.



# History aside, quarterback a must

By DAN FENNER  
Sports Editor

## COLUMN

The Detroit Lions need a better quarterback. This may be the understatement of the year but it's a truth that bears repeating.

Ripe for the picking at the NFL Draft later this month is Matthew Stafford, the former University of Georgia signal caller with a cannon for an arm and all of the intangibles you look for in a quarterback at the top of the draft.

It would seem to be one of those rare moments when opportunity meets necessity as the Lions find themselves in desperate need of a franchise quarterback and also happen to have the first overall selection this year.

But what seems like the entire state of Michigan, from its football fans to the sports media, is in lockstep agreement that the team would be better served to take someone else with the selection, and put the dire need for a quarterback on hold for just one more year.

History tells us that this is precisely what the Lions will do. Since the infamous trade of Hall of Famer Bobby Layne in 1958, the Lions have struggled mightily to maintain any sort of stability at the position, a problem that is perhaps more troubling now than ever before. In fact, only one Lions quarterback has been

selected to the Pro Bowl since Layne — the inconspicuous Greg Landry in 1972.

Deep down, every fan has to admit that a quarterback is precisely what the Lions truly need, first and foremost. It's about time that we put the Joey Harrington debacle behind us and chalk that selection up as just another misguided step in the Matt Millen era.

Stop living in the past.

The Lions can not continue to conservatively go about stocking their roster with reclamation project quarterbacks like Daunte Culpepper. They shouldn't take solace in the hope that one of their young backups will somehow morph into the second coming of Tom Brady either.

Choosing Stafford would go a long way toward boosting a franchise so totally devoid of hope as Detroit. And we'd be talking about real hope, not the type that former coach Rod Marinelli once claimed to see when digging in his metaphoric tunnel.

It's no coincidence that a quarterback has been selected first overall in seven of the past 10 years. The top pick in the NFL draft is a rare opportunity that, if used correctly, can set a struggling team on a straight course to contention.

Which leads us back to Stafford. He was highly productive throughout his college career, leading his Bulldogs to three bowl victories in three seasons. Also, he had the increasingly-rare benefit of playing in a pro style offense that will translate easily to the NFL.

The alternatives to Stafford are not very appealing. Tackles Jason Smith and Eugene Monroe would only present moderate upgrades over incumbent tackle Jeff Backus.

Aaron Curry, while immensely talented, would be an unconventional choice since linebackers are very rarely selected in the top five, let alone first overall. The Lions would probably be best served to avoid innovative drafting techniques as they are hardly the model franchise for decision-making and progressive thinking.

One way or another, the Lions will need to find a starting-caliber quarterback before they can legitimately expect to contend for anything other than last place.

Of every position on the field, the quarterback handles the ball the most. Maybe this is why the Lions have found so little success with their string of marginal signal callers in the last half century.

Of course the risk of a top quarterback becoming a bust is significant, but the potential reward is undeniable. Great quarterbacks bring Super Bowls. And the quarterbacks the Lions currently have will bring agony, disappointment and apathy toward the team.

The realization last December that a winless season was truly possible makes it even more imperative that the Lions take bold steps to ensure that this dismal season is an aberration rather than the continuation of an alarming trend.

Draft Stafford and, by all means, cross your fingers, Lions fans.

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### REMAINING HOME GAMES FOR APRIL AND MAY

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4/18 WCLL Championship at the University of Toledo

#### MEN'S LACROSSE

4/18 vs. Aquinas College 2 p.m.  
(Notre Dame Prep)

#### TRACK AND FIELD

4/16 OU vs. UDM Dual Meet in Detroit  
4/17 EMU Invitational in Ypsilanti  
4/23 - 4/25 Hillsdale Gina Relays in Hillsdale, Mich.  
5/1 - 5/2 Jesse Owens Track Classic in Columbus, Ohio

#### WOMEN'S TENNIS

4/17 vs. Oral Roberts 9 a.m.  
4/17 vs. SDSU 2 p.m.  
4/18 vs. UMKC 1 p.m.  
4/19 vs. Western Illinois 1 p.m.

#### SOFTBALL

4/15 vs. IPFW noon \*  
4/17 vs. Centenary College 3 p.m. \*  
4/18 vs. Centenary College noon  
4/19 vs. Rochester College 1 p.m. \*  
4/27 vs. Detroit 3 p.m. \*  
\* doubleheader

#### MEN'S GOLF

4/17 - 4/18 Titans' Invitational in Plymouth

#### WOMEN'S GOLF

4/20 - 4/21 The Summit League Championship in Rochester, Mich.

#### BASEBALL

4/15 vs. Bowling Green 3 p.m.  
4/29 vs. Toledo 3 p.m.  
5/5 vs. Eastern Michigan 3 p.m.  
5/6 vs. Olivet 3 p.m.  
5/8 vs. Oral Roberts 3 p.m.  
5/9 vs. Oral Roberts noon  
5/10 vs. Oral Roberts 1 p.m.





Photo courtesy of OU Athletics

## GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

Michael Coriasso

Men's Golf

Year: Freshman

Coriasso led the way for the Oakland University Men's Golf team at the Hoosier Invitational in Bloomington, Ind., last weekend. The freshman had a three-day score of 221 (+8), finishing 23rd in a field of 85 participants.



Be sure to visit our website at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com) and check out our newest blog, written by Golden Grizzlies outfielder Dan Gliot, who gives an exclusive insider's perspective to the Oakland University baseball team all season long.

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## THE BASKETBALL SEASON MAY BE OVER, BUT THE AWARDS CONTINUE TO COME IN

Oakland University's Jessica Pike was named the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association Scholar-Athlete of the Year Thursday, April 19. She was also named to the D I-AAA ADA Scholar-Athlete Team for the second time in her career.

Pike finished her college basketball career as the eighth leading scorer in the history of the school. This past season, the senior guard averaged over 15 points per game and was instrumental in the OU Women's historic season.

—Dan Fenner, Sports Editor



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post



# The Scene

April 15, 2009

www.oaklandpostonline.com

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## Inspiring columns transform to film

By AMANDA MEADE  
Scene/Mix Editor

A man named Nathaniel Ayers attended the Juilliard School in New York on a scholarship, but suffered from schizophrenia his third year at the school. He became homeless and was forced to live on the streets of Los Angeles.

In 2005, journalist Steve Lopez met Ayers and began writing a series of columns in the Los Angeles Times about his relationship with the musician.

The columns Lopez wrote turned into a book, which is now being transformed into a film. "The Soloist" stars Robert Downey Jr. as Lopez, and Jamie Foxx as Ayers. It will be released in theaters on Friday, April 24.

### The relationship

The author said he had never gotten so emotionally invested in a subject he had written about until he met Ayers.

"We're taught as journalists to keep some distance and to not become advocates, even as a columnist, to hold on to some of your impartiality but this was a special circumstance," Lopez said.

"I think that it was kind of cool for readers to see a writer become so involved, so maybe I've re-thought a little bit my history and tradition of keeping so much distance from the subject."

Lopez first met Ayers on Skid Row in Los Angeles.

"There is no question that Skid Row is a different place then it was when I met Nathaniel four years ago, there is no question that far fewer people are sleeping on the streets. The question though, is where did those other people go?" Lopez said.

One reason Lopez said he got involved in this project was to not only show the struggles of Ayers, but others in similar situations as well.

"One of the points I've been trying to make since this adventure began was it's not as if we don't know what works to help people, especially those with a mental illness, come in off the streets, the problem is that we haven't made a commitment to what does work," Lopez said.

### The inspiration

Lopez said he was very inspired by Ayers' fight and the things that he was passionate about.

"One of the things that I found so

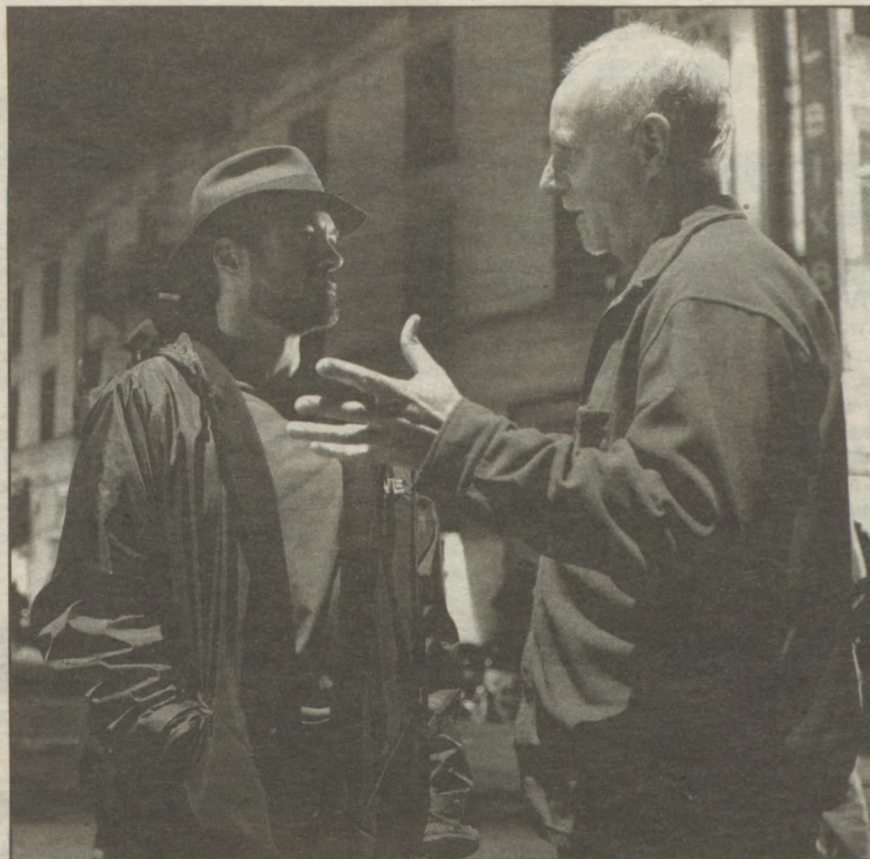


Photo courtesy of François Duhamel  
Robert Downey Jr. (left) portrays journalist Steve Lopez (right) in the upcoming film "The Soloist."

captivating about Mr. Ayers was most people would look at him and see a bum; most people would look right past him, not even make any kind of a judgment about him, and when I got to know the man, I became captivated by this passion," Lopez said.

Lopez said prior to meeting Ayers, there wasn't anything in his life apart from his family that he felt so strongly about as Ayers did with his music.

"It was all about having found his purpose in life and having found passion, and I don't know a lot of people in the world who ever find that, who ever get to where they really want to be, and in some ways, Mr. Ayers, although he's not in an orchestra and would like to one day teach music, he's not there," Lopez said.

"But when he is in the moment with the music, he's about as passionate and as successful and happy as any of us can ever expect to be. And he finds that every single day," Lopez said.

The writer said he started to doubt his

job and the journalism industry when it began to change, and it was Ayers who helped him realize how to appreciate his career fully.

"It was Nathaniel through his passion who opened my eyes to the fact I had my own [passion] and that I would never be happy doing anything other than what I do," Lopez said.

"The form might change because the information industry is changing. I might not be a print columnist, but one way or another I want to tell stories, and I think that knowing that about my career, about my purpose was quite revealing," Lopez said.

### To the silver screen

The book has twice as many pages as the screenplay for the film, but Lopez said the film did a great job of touching on all of the most important aspects.

"The film is by necessity a reduction, but the film is true to all essential themes [of the book]. It does a great job

of framing the relationship, the issues, my conflicts, so I'm really pleased with that," Lopez said.

Lopez talked about the different ways the film could have been made, and that the producers shared their vision of the movie, and it came out exactly as they had planned.

"I've become very passionate about all of the themes, the friendship and the redemptive power of music, and just the simple power of human connection — the way two people could come upon each other from different walks of life entirely and have an impact on each other and a lasting change that results from it," Lopez said.

"The movie gets that, and it's just a great movie," Lopez said.

While Lopez said he had no part in the casting of the film, he was pleased with the choice of actors to portray himself and Ayers.

"I've seen the movie a few times, and to see Robert Downey calling himself Steve Lopez is a little bit strange. But I'm flattered by the portrayal and very gratified by what they did with this movie," Lopez said.

### Advice for future journalists

Lopez had a lot of advice for hopeful journalists in an industry that is definitely changing.

"If you've decided that you really do want to do this, if you're committed to it, if it's your dream, if nothing else will make you happier, go ahead," Lopez said.

"If you don't feel that way, then now is the time to look into something else. But if you do want to do it, the reality is that there are more opportunities rather than fewer," Lopez said.

Lopez also suggested journalism students study every subject other than journalism, from economics to medicine.

"Try to stay as versatile and as interested in as many different fields as you can possibly be, because it makes you more attractive to employers," Lopez said.

"I think it's going to take some time before we know how [the journalism industry] settles out, and maybe it won't ever settle out — maybe the revolution will go on for decades," Lopez said.

*The Oakland Post was included in a college conference call with Lopez on April 1.*



# QUICK HITS

## Reviews in 30 seconds

By AMANDA MEADE  
Scene/Mix Editor

### "Adventureland"



#### Movie Review

Attention: "Adventureland" is not a comedy. While Kristen Wiig (Paulette) and Bill Hader (Bobby) can't help but add a bit of hilarity to the mix, this is a romantic flick. That's fine in its own right, but not when you expect to be falling out of your seat laughing.

Given the lack of extreme humor, the story is very real. Kristen Stewart (Em Lewin) sheds her "Twilight" vampire image and creates a character many women can relate to. Jessie Eisenberg (James Brennan) is not to be confused with "Superbad's" Michael Cera, but he does a great job playing the slightly nerdy boy with a crappy summer job who's in love with the beautiful rebellious girl. An added plus — Ryan Reynolds as Mike Connell, the musician/amusement park handyman.

The film is set in 1987, so every '80s fan will fall in love with the hairstyles, outfits and of course, the tunes. The soundtrack is killer.

By BRAD SLAZINSKI  
Staff Intern

### "The Venture Brothers"



#### DVD Review

"The Venture Brothers" is a show for those who are pop culture junkies, enjoy over-the-top violence, obscure movie references, esoteric music or hilariously-named characters like Herr Trigger. Cartoon Network's Adult Swim has released the third season of this show on DVD, which originally aired in 2008.

This season is more in-depth and contains an even deeper plot, which might confuse new viewers if they have not seen the previous seasons. The other thing that makes the show's humor different is the clever pop culture references, some of which the viewer might have to look up in order to understand a joke. Brock Samson is at his usual best beating people up, along with Dr. Girlfriend, The Monarch, and the Venture family being their usual outrageous selves. New characters such as Sargent Hatred gain more prominent roles and bring many laughs.

By AMANDA MEADE  
Scene/Mix Editor

### I See Stars "3D"



#### Album Review

Finally, a local band has gotten it right. Straight out of Warren, I See Stars' new release "3D" is nothing short of incredible.

Labeling this band as a specific genre is close to impossible. These guys mix genres ranging from hardcore to techno, and possibly better than anyone else can. At times, "3D" gives the poppy and catchy sounds that everyone can love, and then a track like "Sing This!" brings a slight rap sound into the mix.

Each song on the album is unique from the others, which is unusual in itself for any album. Even more unique — all the members of I See Stars are barely out of high school.

I See Stars have created an album that you can sing, dance and bang your head to — what more could one ask for?



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# MOUTHING OFF

The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Oakland Post

April 15, 2009

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## Road trippin': I gotchahome

*Backseat driving isn't as navigational and helpful as one might think*

**POINT  
counter  
POINT**

By **TIM RATH**  
and **JOE  
GUZMAN**  
Web Editor  
and Senior  
Reporter

The end  
of the win-  
ter semester  
means many

different things to different people. For some, it signifies the beginning of an arduous journey of summer-specific work, for others, the fireworks of studying abroad. Still, finals week is the kick-start to the majesty of the road trip.

However, the road trip isn't based in exact, uniform emotions for all the participants. Some see the road trip as encompassing the entire journey, whereas for others it's all about the destination. For those wayward souls caught in the wind-like plastic sacks, the unpredictability of the open road blinds them to the distant goal. For those driven by destination, the end of the drive actually signifies the beginning of their trip.

The backseat driver represents a roadblock for the actual driver. In his urge to the voyage, the backseat driver shoves disease-ridden needles into the neck of the actual driver with every piece of unwarranted advice as the actual driver attempts to remain focused on the road like a hawk on Ambien.

That will be the topic of a point-counterpoint debate, with web editor Tim Rath taking the pro-backseat-driver point and senior reporter Joe Guzman taking the anti-backseat-driver counterpoint.

**Joe:** It's obvious, Tim, that backseat drivers are the scourge of the road. Driving is not a democracy, it is a dictatorship. We're not here to get everyone's vote on how fast to go, what direction to take, when to stop and eat, or which **AC/DC** album makes the best open-road soundtrack.



Senior reporter Joe Guzman knows a thing or two about backseat drivers. He was recently the driver for a road trip to Ohio. Web editor Tim Rath enjoys demanding the driver of what turns to make or what exit to get off at. For him, it's a right of passage that every passenger in the car should have.

You don't need to respect my authority, just fear that I have the wheel and realize that at any moment the car could go flying off an overpass.

Road trips are not coke trips. I am not booking a hotel days in advance, packing up a bag full of clothes, or scheduling the time to leave point A and arrive at point B for the sake of clearing my head. The open road is simply an obstacle toward my destination, so Tim, spare me the cooing of your hippie prose from the backseat. It just adds to the pain of cornfields and roadkill.

**Tim:** Joey, I realize that the open road isn't all fun and games. I'm not tossing and turning like a crack baby in a cold hallway as I try to sleep in the backseat for my own amusement. Road tripping is an investment, a test of our endurance, and to pretend that such a time-consuming part

of our plan only exists in our minds is a fruitless endeavor.

You're missing out on all of the fun from your seat on "the throne" up front. You will never know the feeling of satisfaction that comes from filling up each cup holder in a vehicle with a cup, nor the sweet stroke of a blistering wind as you lean out of a window at 90 miles per hour. Go back to math class and leave the spring breaking to a pro.

**Joe:** First off Timmy, the name's Joe, use it, remember it, and never forget it. Second, I apologize. My idea of fun doesn't consist of being the bitch, sandwiched in the middle of the backseat for god-knows-how-long, sitting knee-to-knee with some "buddies," or crushed against the window being used as a pillow. For me, the glory comes with the results of the established system. That is to say,

us, on the beach directly outside of our hotel, slathering each other in suntan lotion, sucking Jello shots out of our belly buttons, ignoring Joe Francis of **Girls Gone Wild** fame as he incites stoned coeds to take off their sparkling tops. That is so wrong.



The glory of the quest does not come as the result of aberrations, rather, it is in the absence of them. When we're picking up a hitchhiker who's still wearing a straightjacket, weighing the car at the weigh station with ourselves still inside or stopping for ice cream cones that will most assuredly end up on the floor of my dad's BMW, we're not making real road trip memories. It is in the trip that we've paid for, the trip that we've planned, the answer to the question of what we're doing this summer. Tim, if you didn't want to do anything of real worth, you should have stayed at your summer job with **Dairy Queen**. I think you've got a real future in banana splits.

**Tim:** Joey, I think that finals week got you wound too tight. With every mile we pass comes a bong hit of the infinite, the windows of possibility expanding at 10 miles over the limit. The rigid structure of APA formatting has left you sterile and internally cavernous. This is our time to color outside the lines, we are due for a bong-hit of the impossible and let's not waste this time stuffing Rand McNally's fat wallet.

In conclusion, it is apparent that the debate of whether true glory is to be found in the journey or the destination is one that will be continued as long as the act of summer vacation itself. In the meantime, let's chill out, kick back and remember that at least we're not in class.





# Set your BlackBerry to end your dates

*Quick dating services could enhance meeting your next potential relationship*

By KATELYN STANIS  
Guest Columnist

I waited in line for 15 minutes at Subway in the Pioneer Food Court in the Oakland Center today. I then waited another five minutes in a separate line to pay. At this point, I had 15 minutes left to eat. But after taking into account the 10-minute walk I still had back to class, I realized I really had only five minutes to scarf down the \$5 footlong I had just purchased.

As college students, we're constantly busy — busting our business from school to work, separating our social lives from study time, and flipping out over finances.

In the midst of all the mayhem, there appears to be little time for dating. So when my girlfriends thought that speed dating would be both fun and fast, I decided to join.

Traditional speed dating is when a woman sits alone as the single men take turns talking to her every eight minutes. We, however, were able to endure this rapid review session with a partner during a double speed dating event.

The sidekick scenario turned out to be beneficial for all parties involved. Whenever there was an awkward lull in conversation, you had a nearby buddy to bail you out.

This was especially convenient when

bachelors one and two who spoke mostly of the medical industry, sat before my friend Sarah.

With her knowledge and interest of medicine, my partner took the floor and kept the two ER doctors talking while I, on the other hand nodded my head and smiled — while knowing nothing about what they discussed.

Now, I know what you are thinking. There are ER doctors at speed dating? Sign me up!

Not so fast, ladies. Let me introduce you to bachelors three and four.

The duo worked from a checklist. They frequently took notes on me and Sarah

during our eight-minute date while we answered very specific questions like, "If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life, what would it be?" and "What is your dream car?"

Answering "Travis Tritt: It's a Great

Day to be Alive" and "Um, a Jeep Wrangler?" put my score in the negatives. But I think what really earned me

an "F" was refusing to answer No. 4's final question: "And what is your cup size?"

At this point, I leaned back and finished my second glass of wine. I waited and hoped to hear the infamous bell ring that would ultimately end this eight-minute date and queue the next one.

As I sat in the middle of the pub and men took turns talking to us at the ring of a bell, I realized this was not the cliché many would believe. Instead, it was just another avenue to what could be your

next great date or kiss.

Bachelor No. 2 talked about being new to the area, working a lot, being overwhelmed by people at his job, and wanting to experience new things.

Soon, it became apparent that we are all functioning to the set schedule of a bell.

Alarm clocks beep to signal the start to our day, and BlackBerries ring to trigger calendar pop-ups and the fate of our future. Now, a simple bell ring was determining the ending point of a date. Was this a more convenient way for busy singles to meet people? Or are we all just so determined to meet someone that we add it to our "to do list" and chalk up finding love as another task?

As we walk through our daily lives, we run on routine. And without breaking the mundane mold, how are we supposed to meet anyone new?

I didn't meet anyone special that night but I realized that sometimes we need to stop programming our plans. Because when we do, we just may have time to hear something other than the bell ring, or at the very least a little more time to enjoy a \$5 footlong.

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## Poor sales report halts stock rally

By **TIM PARADIS**  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Wall Street shifted into reverse Tuesday after a surprisingly weak retail sales report punctured investors' optimism about the economy.

The poor sales data, combined with a sharp drop in wholesale prices, came just as the corporate earnings season, usually a volatile time in the market, got under way. The Dow Jones industrials lost nearly 140 points.

Underscoring the market's sensitivity, shares in Intel Corp. fell sharply in after-hours trading Tuesday after the chipmaker reported weaker results after the bell and didn't offer a forecast for revenue.

Investors are already braced for bad earnings but are highly anxious about

forecasts from companies that could indicate a weaker economy. Poor outlooks in the last earnings season in January derailed a 20 percent rally, and some fear the market's current five-week rally could be vulnerable as well.

Financial stocks tumbled after Goldman Sachs Group Inc. announced strong profits but said it would raise \$5 billion to repay government bailout money. Investors speculated that other major banks might follow suit, which would put pressure on their stocks. Citigroup Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. are also due to report results this week.

The Dow closed down 137.63, or 1.7 percent, at 7,920.18.

Broader measures also lost ground after three days of gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 17.23, or 2 per-

cent, to 841.50, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 27.59, or 1.7 percent, to 1,625.72.

Tuesday's selling was orderly and extended a give-and-take pattern the market has followed since halting a steep slide over the first two months of the year. Stocks have risen from 12-year lows since then on hopes that banks are getting through the worst of their problems and the economy might be bottoming out, though both the Dow and S&P 500 are still below where they started the year.

The unexpected 1.1 slump in retail sales in March undermined the market's brightening outlook for the economy. The drop was far worse than the increase of 0.3 percent that analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected and marked the biggest fall in three months.



NG HAN GUAN/Associated Press

A Chinese paramilitary police officer on duty stands outside the North Korean embassy in Beijing Tuesday. North Korea vowed to restore nuclear facilities it had been disabling to protest the U.N. Security Council's condemnation of the country's rocket launch.

## N. Korea boots U.N. inspectors

By **JEAN H. LEE**  
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Tuesday it was restarting its rogue nuclear program, booting U.N. inspectors and pulling out of disarmament talks in an angry reaction to U.N. Security Council condemnation of its April 5 rocket launch.

Pyongyang ordered U.N. inspectors to remove seals and cameras from its Yongbyon nuclear site and leave the country quickly, the International Atomic Energy Agency said.

North Korea told the IAEA it was "immediately ceasing all cooperation" and "has decided to reactivate all facilities and reprocess spent fuel," according to a statement from the U.N.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs condemned the decision, saying the international community will not accept North Korea until it abandons what Washington calls its pursuit of nuclear weapons. The North must "cease its provocative threats," he said.

Russia also deplored the move and urged its neighbor to rejoin six-nation talks, which have been held since 2003 in an attempt to get Pyongyang to give up its nuclear program in exchange for aid and other concessions. Britain's Foreign Office said the break with the IAEA was "completely unjustified."

China — Pyongyang's main ally and the host of the talks — called for calm.

Despite its defiance, analysts say North Korea, one of the poorest countries in the world, is unlikely to abandon the talks altogether.

### NIW BRIEFS

**04-10** | President Barack Obama asked Congress for \$83.4 billion for U.S. military and diplomatic operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, pressing for special troop funding that he opposed two years ago when he was a senator.

**04-11** | A ton of explosives in the Iraq city of Mosul kills five American soldiers in the deadliest attack against U.S. troops in more than a year.

**04-12** | Thailand announces state of emergency in Bangkok amid wild protests.

**04-13** | Mexican officials claim that 90 percent of the weapons seized there can be traced to the U.S. | Pope Benedict XVI gives a speech on St. Peter's Square on Easter Sunday to victims of wars, poverty and financial turmoil, saying it was urgently needed to overcome the miseries that are plaguing the globe.

## Obama family dog makes debut



CHARLES DHARAPAK/Associated Press

President Barack Obama walks his 6-month-old Portuguese water dog Bo on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, April 14. Obama had promised his two daughters, Malia and Sasha, a puppy during the presidential campaign.

## Gingrich eyes possible White House run

By **SHANNON MCCAFFERY**  
Associated Press Writer

ATHENS, Ga. — More than a decade after he stepped down as speaker of the House into what seemed like almost certain political oblivion, Newt Gingrich is back and seemingly more relevant than ever.

Gingrich seems to be everywhere these days, headlining an endless circuit of GOP dinners, popping up on TV news shows, authoring yet another best-selling book and acting as a policy guru to out-of-power congressional Republicans

on how to do battle with the Democratic White House.

As beleaguered Republicans look for a standard bearer after last year's disastrous election, they've been tossing around the names of new stars like Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the 2008 vice presidential candidate, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, young and Indian American in a party that's increasingly identified with older white men.

But could the GOP's savior instead be a wonkish throwback to the fiercely partisan Republican revolution?

Gingrich has managed to keep himself in the public eye since leaving the House,

but the blitz of public appearances in recent months is reminiscent of the run-up to 2007, when he toyed with a presidential run only to abandon it before the primaries began. Now, some are speculating that the former congressman from Georgia is laying the groundwork for a White House bid in 2012.

Grover Norquist, a prominent conservative and president of Americans for Tax Reform, said Gingrich is on nearly every Republican short list of possible White House prospects.

"One of the ways you judge these guys is how hard they're working, and Newt is out there hustling," Norquist said.



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