

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 13, 2010

Volume 36, Number 19



THE MIX

Students speak out on the winter parking fiasco.

page 10



SCENE

Michigan plays part in indie rock band's journey.

page 11



SPORTS

Martial arts club mixes it up; looking for members.

page 17

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THIS WEEK

January 13 - January 19, 2010

Perspectives

4 Editorial: An untimely snow storm begs the question of whose responsibility it is to keep order in the parking lots.

5 Column: The problem with parking may be more personal than we think.
Letter to the Editor: Professor offers another explanation for Fialka-Feldman case.

Campus

6 Several new Facebook groups get students talking about their texts and things heard on campus.



7 Russi gets interviewed on WXOU. Spotlight on a new student organization.

8 Students named Keepers of the Dream and Welcome Week speed dating event suffers from low turnout.

9 Police Files: Harassment and an arrest.

Mix

10 Snowed in! Students get stranded when the parking lots don't get plowed.



Scene

11 Music Spotlight interviews Alaskan indie band Portugal. The Man.

12 Avatar impresses audiences with special effects, but simple story line.

You

13 One campus group looks for volunteers to perform The Vagina Monologues, plus grad students conduct award-winning oncology research.

Local

14 Automakers appear to be making a recovery. Local city councils consider bans on medicinal marijuana shops.

15 Local news briefs: Local doctor chosen to work at the Olympic games, state sees net job growth.

Sports

16 Derick Nelson has had to change his style of play after missing last season with an injury.



17 A new club sport at Oakland has formed and is recruiting members.

18 Column: Another year and another oversight by baseball's Hall of Fame voters, Coming Attractions, and out of town scores for the Golden Grizzlies.

Nation|World

19 Haitian earthquake, Conan O'Brien, and developments about Proposal 8.

Mouthing Off

20 The end is near — are you freaking out or fed up?

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Perspectives

4

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January 13, 2010

STAFF EDITORIAL

Storm leads to gridlock, blame

You may be wondering what the hell happened on Monday in many of the campus parking lots.

It was nothing short of a cluster-you-know-what. And nothing describes it better than the photos shown here and in the Mix section. Looking for a spot for most people entailed driving down narrow lanes that were actually the parking spots and weaving through randomly parked cars, some in "rows" of three (as opposed to the usual two).

In true Oakland University fashion, when something goes awry in the parking lots, we wondered, "who's to blame?" Looking at the factors at play — the snow, the cleanup of said snow, the students, and the enforcement of good behavior of said students — it's apparent that there is room for improvement from a couple of those players.

We obviously cannot do anything about the snow but plan for it and be patient. John Barth, manager of custodial and grounds, said they were prepared for the storm, with shifts starting at 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. Monday. But the storm hit hard and not until after the second shift started and kept coming down until after the 8 a.m. classes started.

It was just "a lot of snow at the wrong time of day," Barth said. He said they had to do a lot of catch up all day, plow-

ing and laying salt around the vehicles.

We can't blame mother nature for her timing, or a department for their honest efforts that just didn't cut it.

Next on the blame list is the OU Police Department. The Post spoke with Lt. Mel Gilroy about the situation. He said that while they try to help students get to class on time, it is not their priority to help them get off campus.

This is where we see some room for improvement. The safest cities aren't patrolled by police departments that simply react to problems. Surely it is the individual's responsibility to allow for time to find parking in bad weather, but when we leave parking up to hundreds of hurried college students, the outcome isn't that much of a mystery.

Maybe in a situation like this, which is bound to happen again sometime,



Who's to blame for Monday's parking lot chaos? Dozens of students were stranded on campus as their vehicles were blocked in all sides.

we could have OUPD officers directing traffic. Something similar to what they do at basically any concert venue when massive amounts of vehicles are flowing into the lots.

That brings us to the last on the list: Those who are filling the parking lots in any random order. Of course it is the fault of the people who just don't know how to park in a row. It's not that hard, whether the lines are visible or not.

But we shouldn't be left to our own devices. That's proven in the fact that we need police departments and other service agencies in the first place.

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

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by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)



CORRECTIONS CORNER

In the story "Annual events kicked up another notch" the name Kate Burke was incorrect. It should have read Kate Boylan.

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

It's not a parking problem; it's a walking problem

Emily Carpenter
guest columnist

How close do students need to park to their on-campus destinations? 50 feet? 200 feet? These are the choices that Oakland students face every day upon arrival to Oakland University's constantly growing campus. Some have learned to accept any parking space as a gracious gift no matter how far the walk to class.

Others have observed and absorbed the patterns of the commuters, thus predicting what parking spots will be open and at what times. However, for the vast majority of the student body — and anyone else who parks a car at Oakland — it is a daunting task to find adequate parking around campus at all.

So what's the solution? Isn't it obvious? We need to build more parking lots. Wait! I'm sure other options exist that require little to no money. As I recall, the U.S. is still in a recession and we need to spend wisely. The board of trustees has approved for new buildings to be erected with general bonds being issued to pay for them. What this means is that OU is borrowing to expand our campus. I am sure it is all safe and good but I would rather not add to the expenses of OU for a parking problem that does not exist.

That's right. OU students do not have a parking

problem; OU students have a walking problem.

I'm sure many of you are thinking, "WHAT?" followed by, "I just rolled around the OC's parking lot for 15 minutes before I had to stalk some professor down an aisle just to get a parking spot." Don't worry. Many parking spaces are available on campus all the time. You just have to be willing to walk a little extra.

Consider the following: Our campus is very small in comparison to other state universities. One can walk from one end of campus to the other in just 10 minutes. Now, imagine if our campus was as big as the University of Michigan or Michigan State University. We would, indeed, have a parking problem and I would be writing a column on pro-parking lot construction. Being that our campus has not reached this size yet, walking any extra distance does not seem completely unreasonable.

Some may say it's cold and the wind-chill factor is unbearable this year. It is true. Michigan is not kind to those who venture outdoors during these winter months. To this complaint I have a remedy: Bundle Up. I'm sure most of you have been in Michigan for some time now. This is not the time for uncovered heads and gloveless hands. We know how crazy this state's weather is, so come to Oakland prepared. You never know what day you're going to have to settle for an inconvenient parking spot.

The main thing to remember — besides coming prepared — is parking spaces are scarce from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Don't even try to park in front of the OC during these times. Same goes for the parking lots next to

the Science and Engineering Building, Pawley, Dodge, Varner and Elliot. There are some parking lots that always have spaces available provided you are willing to take a longer journey to your destination.

Here are some suggestions: 1) If class is in Hannah Hall, Dodge Hall, or SEB, try lot P37. P37 is located on Pioneer Drive before Library Drive. 2) Looking to work out at the Rec Center, improve your musical talent at Varner or Elliot, drop your kids off at Pawley before a long day of teaching or learning? Look no further than the parking structure. The parking structure offers four levels of parking spaces and it's optimal for winter-time conditions. 3) For those of you heading for nerve center on-campus (i.e., Foundation Halls, the OC, Graham Health Center, Wilson Hall), lot P3 is your best bet. Conveniently located across from GHC, lot P3 is rarely full and it's right next to the OC parking lot.

These suggestions bring up an extra bonus health-wise. Walking 10 minutes per day contributes to healthy living. Walking a little further adds to one's health not just physically but mentally. After all, it's very frustrating searching for empty spots in crowded lots.

We as students, faculty and administrative personnel need to find a practical solution to this perceived "parking problem." Building more lots is not the answer. We need to accept that walking is not evil, old-fashioned or problematic. I understand that most of us have tight schedules, but an extra 3-4 minutes of walking never hurt anyone. Look on the bright side; with my suggestions, OU saves money and people become more active.

Letter to the Editor

I read with interest the story and editorial in The Oakland Post on Micah Fialka-Feldman. One question raised but not answered in these stories is why the OU administration would expend so much time, effort, and money to try to prevent Micah from living in the dorms, even to the point of appealing the judge's decision on that matter. The reasons given by the administration were shown in the articles to not stand up to scrutiny.

So what is the real reason?

Unfortunately, the answer is all too clear to faculty: this administration is unwilling to admit when it is wrong and is unwilling to accept any limits on its ability to take whatever actions it chooses.

In order to renege on an agreement involving governance and signed by President Russi, the administration made the argument in court that Mr. Russi's signature is worthless and that faculty accept it at their peril. They lost that case (of course) and the judge's decision required that the administration publicly admit that it was wrong.

In response, the administration has appealed this decision. It is exactly

this sort of behavior, as well as the administration's behavior in Micah's case and during the strike, that has led many faculty to lose confidence in Mr. Russi. The faculty vote of no confidence in Mr. Russi is scheduled for the last week in March. It was originally scheduled for the end of November; but it was postponed in order to give Mr. Russi one last chance to mend his ways.

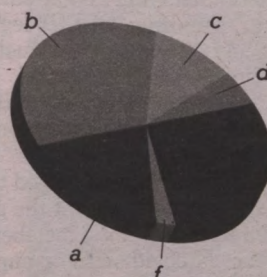
Given the administration's behavior in Micah's case, as well as their procrastination on carrying out promises made during the November faculty forum, it seems to me that Mr. Russi is bent on squandering this one last chance.

It seems likely that the faculty will have to vote "no confidence" at the end of March. Given the administration's behavior towards Micah, as well as the disrespect to students that is implied by a 9 percent tuition hike coupled with a \$100,000 raise for the OU president, perhaps students should vote "no confidence" in Mr. Russi too.

David Garfinkle
Professor of Physics
and American Association of
University Professors president

poll of the week

last issue's results Total Votes: 40 | Poll conducted at oaklandpostonline.com



At what moment did you feel like you were considered a student at Oakland University?

a) When I got my letter of acceptance.
7 votes | 17.5%

b) The first day of class.
14 votes | 35%

c) When I paid my first tuition bill.
4 votes | 10%

d) When I took my first college exam.
2 votes | 5%

e) When it took me half an hour to park my car.
12 votes | 30%

f) The day I moved into the residence hall.
1 vote | 2.5%

current poll

Vote now @ oaklandpostonline.com

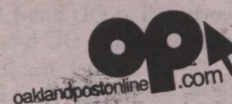
Who do you think should be held responsible for making the parking lots safe during the winter season at Oakland University?

a) The Grounds management

b) OUPD

c) The people who use the parking-lot-students, faculty, etc.

d) It's everybody's responsibility



Did they really just say that?

Oakland comes together through a set of viral Facebook groups

By BRAD SLAZINSKI AND CHRISTY O'SHAUGHNESSY

Contributing Reporter and Staff Intern

"So I wonder if you can grow weed on Farmville, and sell it to the guys on Mafia Wars."

The words, uttered by an Oakland University student, were posted on the Facebook group, "Overheard at Oakland University."

That's just one of the many comical and sometimes confusing quotes can be found on the group page.

The group is based on the popular "Overheard" sites such as www.overheardinnewyork.com, where humorous quotes are posted.

The group's purpose is to post overheard conversations at OU. Usually these conversations are heard in passing and posted because the listener's interest is piqued by the oddities of the statements.

Conversations can range from unintentional witticisms to clueless statements on the part of the speaker.

The group was created by senior Amy Ring, who formed the group after seeing some friends join a similar group at another school.

"I saw the Overheard at Michigan State University; a few of my friends joined and I thought it would be a great thing to start and get students involved with as well," she said.

She also wanted to allow students to bond online in a way students at those universities can, thanks to their respective groups.

"I think it causes a camaraderie among the students, that there's this ridiculous stuff being said on our campus and they can come together for it," she said.

Ring wanted to create something that larger schools have for OU's campus.

"I always want to make sure that Oakland can be participating in the other stuff that the other big schools are in," she said.

Nicole Derocher is a member of Overheard at OU and has posted quotes on the group. She said she enjoys the "outrageous" aspect of the posts.

Derocher said her topics of interest are posts about drunken nights people have had, when people start talking about other people, and relationship stuff.

Sophomore Chris Holt, the creator of OU's Texts from Last Nights group, formed the group after his friends sent texts to the website www.textsfromlastnight.com.

Based on Texts from Last Night, users can post amusing text messages that they have sent or received.

Like Ring, he got the idea for the group after seeing other schools having their own groups.

"I had friends that tried to submit their texts to the actual website but didn't get through and we wanted a chance to get people's texts visible," he said.

Unlike the websites that these groups are based on,

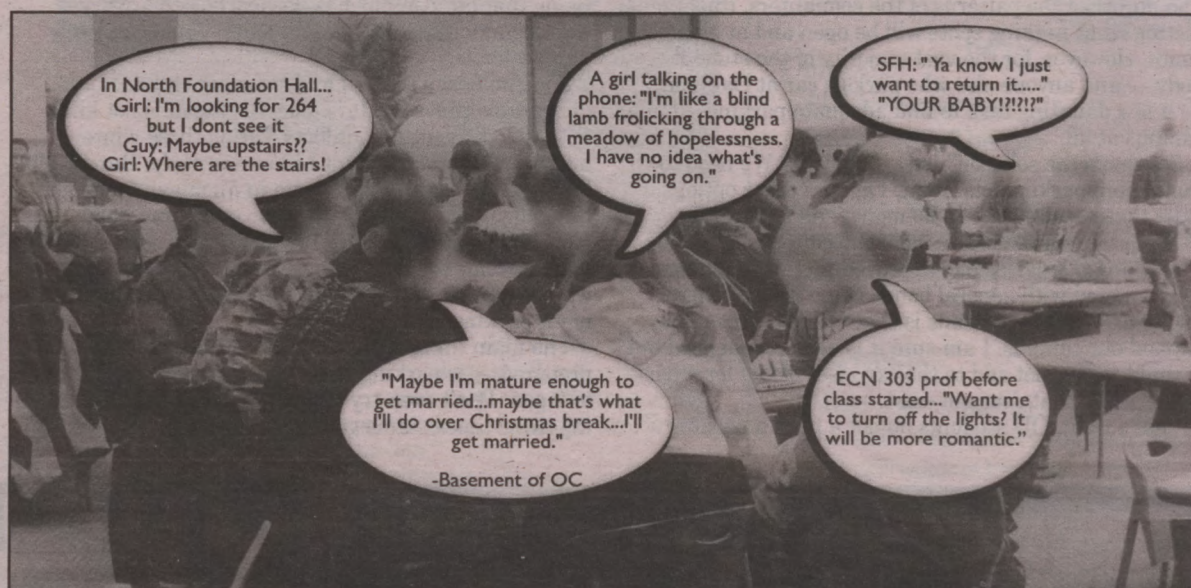


Photo illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Facebook users can post spontaneous outbursts heard around campus on the OU-centric group pages modeled after other popular sites.

the niche Facebook versions lack the anonymity found on those sites due to them being on Facebook: A factor that Ring quickly learned.

"This guy walked into the OUSC office, we asked how we can help him and he said 'Oh, nothing, just vultur-ing,'" said Ring, OUSC's legislative affairs director.

Ring then posted the quote on the group. After the winter break, he returned.

"I put that on there and the other day he came in here and he asked, 'Were you the person who put on there that I was a vulture?' and I said yes," Ring said.

Ring said they managed to share a laugh about it. Others still frequent the groups without joining. Kyle Morery, while not a member of the group, had found himself quoted on the group's page.

"I was quoted on Overheard saying, 'clearly its spiffy name makes it entertaining,'" Morery said.

Membership for both groups is large and growing rapidly, though both are not as large as their big-school counterparts.

Overheard at OU has 1,861 members while Texts from Last Night - OU has 676 members.

"It started off fast; the first night I had it, there was about 60 members, when I woke up the next morning I saw 260," Holt said.

Ring has been happy with the way membership has been going for Overheard at OU.

"I was just happy that it could grow so quickly," she said. "I was worried for the first few hours because not many people were posting things, then all of a sudden there was a few hundred people and it was growing so

quickly."

The Facebook group "Save the Bike from Beer Lake" is a group of 583 members that pays tribute to the bicycle that is frozen in Beer Lake.

Updates are given regarding the bike's status and students have also made suggestions as to how to save the bike.

"I think it's hilarious. It's a meaningless group but it's a way of showing spirit at OU," freshman Hasan Kaakarli said.

Student congress legislator Dan Evola has a different use in mind for his Facebook group.

He is the founder of "Oakland University needs a football team," which has 1,026 members.

"The response is greater than I expected. We have had alumni on the group giving advice on how to approach the situation," he said.

Evola has been pleased with the response to the group thus far.

"The interaction in the group isn't forced and it can allow people to have an open form of communication," Evola said.

While the group has a strong membership base, Evola is intent on recruiting new members.

"I plan on sending a message to the members to get more people. I did it before and group membership increased heavily," Evola said.

Accessible by anyone in the campus community, the groups serve to help pass some time, serve up laughs and create another free way to get people involved on campus and with each other.



RUSSI WATCH

Keeping track of promises

and holding him accountable.

BY MIKE SANDULA

Senior Reporter

Four months ago, WXOU Radio general manager Erik Anderson started a campaign to get Oakland University President Gary Russi to appear as a guest on his show, "The Erik Anderson Program."

He even created a blog called "Dr. Russi Log" that tracked his efforts.

On Nov. 30, 2009 — 11 days after Russi held an open forum with faculty — Anderson launched "Russi Watch," a segment on his show where he and Kay Nguyen, The Oakland Post's Campus Editor, followed promises Russi made at the forum.

On Monday, the show opened up the way it always does, with the theme song to "2001: A Space Odyssey."

But this time, there was no science fiction. Russi was on the program.

Russi and Anderson discussed the promises Russi made at the forum and the progress that's been made since, as well as OU men's and women's basketball and the Micah Fialka-Feldman case.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

President Gary Russi answers questions about hard-hitting campus issues posed by Erik Anderson.

Prior to the forum, Russi had been labeled "elusive," but he said it only appears that way because he's always off campus fundraising, lobbying and partnership building on behalf of OU for the capital campaign.

The campaign, the first in OU's history, had a target of \$110 million dollars. It ended this year, a year ahead of schedule, and raised a total of \$112 million.

Russi said cuts in state funding have

made such fundraising necessary.

"At one point, just a few years ago, state funding was 75 percent of our general fund," Russi said. "And today it's a little over 22 percent."

Still, Russi has promised to become more transparent and open up more direct lines of communication.

One measure was to open the leadership seminar, "which has been restricted to leaders, but now it's open to anyone

who wishes to come," Russi said.

Another was to open up the administration corridor in Wilson Hall, where the west doors are now open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day.

The budget process and the way faculty procure software for their classrooms are also being streamlined, according to Russi.

"The general council's office should not get in the way of academic progress," he said.

Russi reiterated that it's not in his power to establish faculty liaisons, but said he's dedicated to facilitating communication between administration and faculty.

In response to protest over his unprecedented 40 percent salary increase in 2008, Russi donated \$100,000 to the university.

It was a one-time donation, but Russi gives money to the annual fund and matches gifts given to departments up to \$5,000 every year.

See President on page 8

SPOTLIGHT ON SLAG STUDENT ORGS

Name: SLAG

President: Kevin Friesmuth

Behind the name: SLAG (Student, Leaders, Athletes, Gentlemen) are the four pillars of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Purpose: To recruit undergraduate male students to form the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at OU.

Goal: To develop men of integrity, honor, and intelligence and advance members in the "four pillars": education, put them in leadership positions, strive to be the best athletically and to be a gentlemen: socially equipped in all areas, respectable people in social situations.

Group Dynamic: Brothers will learn to

rely on fellow brothers and push each other to do well. In that, they will hope to affect the communities around them (school, family, city, campus)

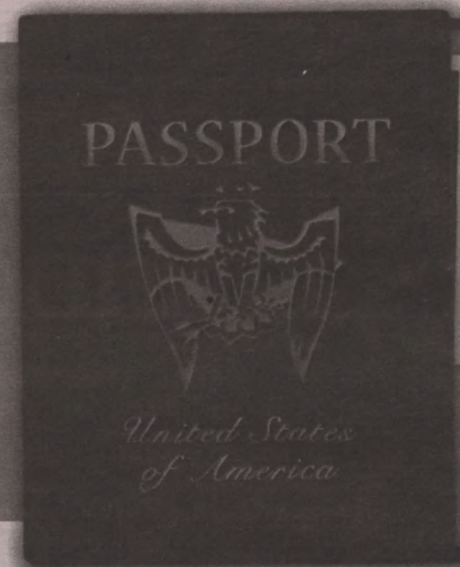
History: Started with the prerequisite four people to start an organization this school year. There are currently 22 members that create a "diverse blend of social groups, lifestyles, religions and ethnicities."

Future: SLAG plans on forming a Relay For Life team and will soon be colonized as a fraternity by early February.

How to get involved: SLAG does not yet have regular meetings, but those interested can e-mail Friesmuth at kpfriesm@oakland.edu.

— Staff Reporter Ryan Hegedus

GOT TO GET AWAY?



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Carrying out a legacy

Three students to become 'Keepers of the Dream'

By RORY MCCARTY
Staff Reporter

Almost 47 years after Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his momentous "I Have A Dream" speech, the full impact of King's struggle is so extensive that it's nearly unimaginable what the world would be like otherwise.

The three students being honored this year with the Keeper of the Dream award are but a few of those carrying on King's vision today.

The Keeper of the Dream Award was established at Oakland University in 1993 to serve as a reminder of how far we've come from the Civil Rights marches of the 60s and to recognize outstanding OU students who, in some part, exemplify King's legacy. This year, Melissa DeGrandis, Juquatta Brewer, and Chelsea Grimmer have been selected to receive the award.

Only students who have "contributed to interracial understanding and good will" and have a clear focus and high level of academic achievement are eligible for the award.

The award is available to all students regardless of their race, ethnicity, sex or major. This year each recipient will be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship toward their classes at OU.

This year's keynote speaker will be Susan L. Taylor, editor emeritus of "Essence" magazine, where she worked for almost 30 years, and founder of the National CARES Mentoring movement. She has also written a book, "In The Spirit: The Inspirational Writings of Susan L. Taylor."

Omar Brown-El, director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, explained why Taylor was chosen to present this year's keynote. "Ms. Taylor's significant achievements make her an inspiration and a dynamic role model for the students receiving the Keeper of the Dream award," Brown-El said.

In previous years, keynote addresses have been delivered by figures such as actor and civil rights activist Danny Glover; Martin Luther King III, president of the Southern Christian Leadership conference; and Dave Bing, prior to his run as Detroit's mayor.

Bridget Green, assistant director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, was on the committee that selected the award winners this year, and she said that they look for candidates who have a plan or idea that advances King's dream.

"Students that win this award are the elite. We don't give it to just anybody," Green said. Green said that initiatives like Melissa DeGrandis' diversity mural

or Chelsea Grimmer's work with Beyond Basics helping elementary school students make those students stand out from the crowd.

Juquatta Brewer contributed to the dream by co-founding the ELITE Organization for Women. ELITE promotes relationships among all women on campus, and Brewer hopes to continue promoting them during graduate school.

"(The award winners) are so high energy, so active; they're the epitome of what this award represents," Green said.

Green herself was the recipient of the Keeper of the Dream award in 1995 and has since come full-circle.

She said it's the highlight of her job to work with these students.

The rest of the selection committee is made up of faculty, administration, and former award-winners. Dr. Chaundra Scott is an associate professor in human resource development.

She said that they tried to pick students that did community-based projects in the realm of equality.

"They're passionate students who recognize the significance of Martin Luther King's work and have a plan," Scott said.

The 18th annual Keeper of the Dream Award Celebration will be held Monday, Jan. 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the Oakland Center's banquet rooms.

Speed dating hits a bump

By GABI JAYE
Staff Reporter

While Oakland University's Welcome Week festivities came to an end on Saturday, Jan. 9, there were still plenty of activities that carried on well into the night at the Oakland Center.

At 9:45 p.m. students were encouraged to gather in the Pioneer Food Court for Speed Dating: OU Style. When the time came for the event to begin, there were only about 10 people participating; most of them were men.

"It's ridiculous that people didn't take it seriously," sophomore Christie Firestone said. "I wanted to give it a try because I've seen it in movies and it looked fun."

The turnout for Speed Dating was different compared to other weekend events.

The psychics had waiting lists due to their popularity while The Gold Rooms flourished with students participating in the OC Mini Club.

About 400 people attended the hypnotist show the previous night and a lot of students enjoyed the comedian that performed during "Friday Night Live."

The speed dating event was supposed to give guys and girls the opportunity to chat with one another for a given amount of time. Once a few minutes were up, partners would be changed.

Included in the activity was a list of ice breaker questions that included discussions about majors, hobbies, friends and much more.

Although the point of Speed Dating is to potentially find a date, many of the participants came simply to meet more people at OU.

"I came 'cause I thought it would be fun," freshman Jim Van Nada said. "And I wanted to try something new. I came to make friends and have fun."

Center for Student Activities Director Jean Ann Miller anticipated more girls turning out than guys, which was opposite of the actual turnout. Miller took suggestions from the 10 students who were there about how the activity could attract more people.

"I think it should be done during lunch one day," sophomore Nathan Benoit said. "Whoever happened to be there would be like 'Hey, why not?'"

Even though Speed Dating did not turn out how it was originally intended, students did get the opportunity to meet new people. Ironically, attendees talked about a lot of the topics that would have been on the ice breaker sheet.

Miller took all of these suggestions into consideration and has different ideas for ways to make a bigger turnout possible.

Continued from page 7

President

"If you give \$5,000 to WXOU, you would get another \$5,000 from the office of the president for WXOU," Russi said.

Anderson and Russi also discussed the Fialka-Feldman case and the university's subsequent appeal of it.

"For me, it's not about Micah, it's about the principle. And it's this principle: the University should have a right to judge who should be permitted in their programs and in their housing and so on," Russi said. "So the appeal is based on that."

OU's new medical school was another hot-button issue brought up at the November forum. The medical school, which is partnered with Beaumont Hospital, is in the process of filing for initial accreditation. Once that's received, Russi said the doors should be open fall 2011.

Anderson went on to discuss with Russi OU's men's and women's basketball seasons.

Russi expressed hope that both teams end up in the NCAA tournament.

In December 2009, Russi appeared as a guest columnist for The Oakland Press, writing about the good year OU had in spite of Michigan's tough economy.

"I thought we had a very fine year despite the challenges, and I expect to have a similar year this year despite even greater challenges, particularly with state funding," Russi said.

The show then turned to lighter matters as Russi went over his typical day, which involves waking up at 5 a.m., going to the gym and then meeting with people "on the hour every hour."

Anderson then addressed various rumors he had heard about Russi and OU, including one about Matilda Wilson agreeing to donate the land for OU to be built only if they don't have a football team.

"That is a myth ... I asked one of our attorneys to go to the state house and look at the founding documents ... and there is no such stipulation," Russi joked.

He said the real reason is, quite simply, that it would be too costly.

To conclude the half-hour segment, Russi revealed his favorite meal: salmon and broccoli and water with lemon to drink.

To read Anderson's "Dr. Russi Log," listen to podcasts of "Russi Watch" and to listen to the full interview with Russi, go to www.erikandersonprogram.com.

The Oakland Post will be sitting down with Russi on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Students can submit questions for him through The Oakland Post by submitting questions at 61 Oakland Center, e-mailing oakposteditor@gmail.com, or posting them at www.facebook.com/oakpost.



For previous coverage of Gary Russi's faculty open forum and promises made visit our website.

POLICE FILES

Harassing Communications: On Jan. 7 a former student met with an officer to state that she had a friendship with a male student while attending Oakland University in 2002. By 2004, the student felt the friendship was getting "weird." However, the friend moved to Florida that same year and things ended. In June 2009, he made contact with the now professor, stating he moved back to Michigan and lived with his parents. The male student tried to increase unwanted contact with the woman. She soon learned he was on the sexual offenders list and became fearful he would make uninvited visits to her home or workplace. The woman was advised to make contact with OUPD if any more contact is made.

Domestic Violence: On Jan. 9 a student and her mother reported that her ex-boyfriend had assaulted her at an Oakland University dance at the Oakland Center. The ex-boyfriend had been arrested and convicted of domestic assault on her before. The previous day, he texted the student to see how she was doing. After expressing to him that she wanted to be left alone, he preceded to ask "why?" and "How come we can't get along?" She again told him to leave her alone. At the dance, he sent the student a derogatory text message containing several sexual references. The student went downstairs to use the bathroom and saw her ex at the top of the stairs upon returning. She tried to walk past, but he came up behind her, tugged her hair, and then pushed her in the back. The student said the man acted as though he was playing around and she went back to the dance. In October 2009, she invited her ex to OU. While there, they began to argue. He slapped the student across the face while she fought to get away. The student's lips were swollen. She did not report the incident at the time because her ex had told her he'd kill her if she reported it. Her ex-boyfriend is not a student at OU. About 10 minutes after reporting the

incident on Jan. 9, the student wanted to drop the incident because she didn't want to deal with the stress of school and going to court. An officer told her she needed to contact the prosecutor's office if she wished to drop the charges.

Telephone Used for Harassment: On Jan. 10 a student complained of threatening phone calls and online messages from a former friend. The friend called five times and left one voice message. The student returned the calls and his former friend said that he would punch and stab him. A mutual acquaintance left the student a voicemail advising him to avoid contact with the person who was calling him.

Arrest: On Jan. 10 an officer was on patrol when they noticed a gold Grand Prix traveling on Meadow Brook Road at 31 mph. The vehicle's speed climbed to 36 mph before the officer decided to pursue it. The officer pulled the vehicle over at the intersection of University and Squirrel. The driver could not produce a valid operator's license. The officer had the driver exit the vehicle and placed him in handcuffs. He requested that both the driver and passenger exit the vehicle while the officer checked for weapons and placed them both in the back of his car. The driver had a valid warrant, so the officer released him to the Pontiac Police department. He was issued a traffic citation for failure to produce a valid driver's license. The passenger had a traffic warrant from Flint. Flint Police Department did not want to pick the passenger up and he was released to a student. The passenger was told to leave campus. The Grand Prix was impounded and towed.

For additional Police Files, go to www.oaklandpostonline.com

— Compiled by staff reporter Gabi Jaye from OUPD's media logs

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING STUDENT AWARDS:

WILSON AWARDS

Nominees for the 2010 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in winter 2010 or have graduated in summer or fall 2009. The awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. Nominees must have a strong academic record of a 3.5 or higher GPA.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in winter 2010 or have graduated in summer or fall 2009. The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to inter-group understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community. The major consideration of the award is the individual's service to the community. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.

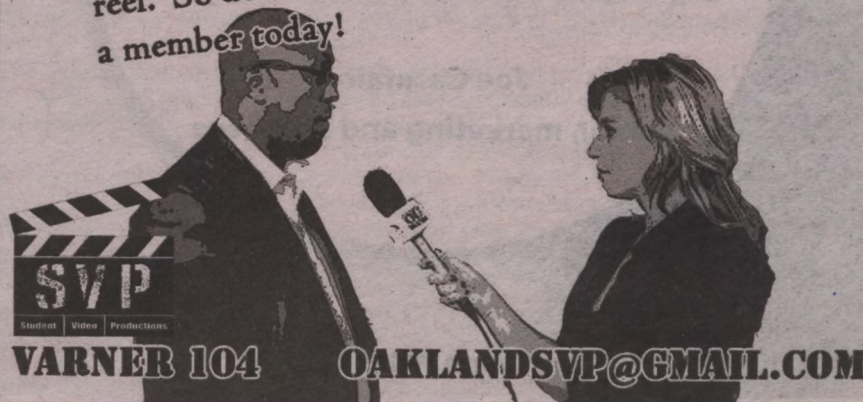
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Overheard in the parking lot

"I've been here for over an hour. Public safety said there was nothing they could do. They said I could write down license plate numbers and they could try to contact them."

Elizabeth Hurley
Junior, biology

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WINTER PARKING?

After Monday's snowstorm
blocked-in students try to
find a way home

"This is something I've never seen before; this year feels like it's been harder to find a parking spot. Or maybe it's just the winter semester and people want to park closer."

Joe Garofalo
Junior, marketing and Japanese

"It sucks. This is about the wildest I've seen it. It seems people just guessed!"

Arden Bolden
Senior, IT

"Everyone's making up their own spots! I turned down here because it looked like an aisle way but ..."

Hailey Zeigler
Junior, communications

The Scene

January 13, 2010

www.oaklandpostonline.com

11



Portugal. The Man

Interview with
Zach Carothers

music spotlight

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Columnist

Although Alaska may be best known for its great outdoors, it also possesses an indie rock credibility as the home state of rising stars, Portugal. The Man.

Many popular musicians are influenced by their hometown roots. The members of Portugal. The Man had limited access to the music while growing up in Wasilla, Alaska.

"There wasn't much of a local scene. All we had was Top 40 radio and what our parents gave us. So when we moved to Portland, it was an explosion of culture," bassist Zach Carothers recalls. "Coming from Alaska really helped us appreciate a lot of the odd stuff we found when we came to Portland."

Even with the limited resources in Wasilla, the environment and memories of their picturesque hometown still continues to effect their music.

"The lyrics and imagery are all about growing up in Alaska, everything that is around you and the mindset of living in the middle of nowhere with no one around," said Carothers.

Guitarist John Gourley and Carothers were both in progressive rock band, Anatomy of a Ghost, after moving to Portland.

"We were more of the pop kids (in Anatomy of a Ghost) and we were already doing Portugal-like music. We (stayed in Anatomy of a Ghost and) did it for a couple years then we all decided to call it quits and go do our own things."

Soon after the breakup of Anatomy of a Ghost, Gourley and Carothers decided to continue making music together by starting their own band. So, where does the name Portugal. The Man come from?

"We liked how David Bowie made up Ziggy Stardust and it was (a) different (act)," Carothers said. "We wanted one name to represent a whole group of people and we figured a name of a country would represent a whole group of people. One voice in the world."

With a name finally in place, and more bandmates signing on, Portugal. The Man was green-lighted.

In the beginning, they didn't have a drummer, and they used synthesizers and keyboard-based drum kits. But after the initial demos were put out, they made the transition to live drums instead.

Even with their home being so far away from Michigan, the northern state holds good memories in Portugal. The Man's history.

"Michigan has always been a special place to us, because we basically lived there for about a month before our first tour with Chiodos. They let us live with them in Flint," Carothers said.

After recording initial demos in 2006, their first studio album "Waiter: You Vultures!" was released by Fearless Records. Soon after, drummer Jason Sechrist and Ryan Neighbors joined the band.

Portugal. The Man continued to release new music



Portugal. The Man members from left to right: Ryan Neighbors, Zoe Manville, Jason Sechrist, John Gourley and Zach Carothers. Photo courtesy of portugaltheman.net

every year, opting to ditch the sounds of popular previous records.

In 2007, electronic and synthesizer-based "It's Complicated Being a Wizard" and southern rock-rooted "Church Mouth" were released through Fearless Records.

Starting in 2008, Portugal. The Man joined friends Circa Survive and Fall of Troy, becoming labelmates on Equal Vision Records and released harmony driven "Censored Colors."

Their newest record, 2009's "The Satanic Satanist" has caught large media attention, with a peak position of 81 in the top Billboard 200 and airtime on television stations like Fuse and mtvU.

Being invited to play on major summer festivals such as Bonnaroo, Outside Lands and Lollapalooza had a large impact on their most recent success.

"This year was absolutely amazing for us. We definitely felt the bump. A lot of the festivals had a lot to do with it. Those allow people to see you who would never come to a show or buy the album," Carothers said.

Despite growing success with every release, Portugal. The Man is humble. The hard times that they experi-

enced continue to influence and strengthen their love for music.

"I've lost good-paying jobs, dropped out of college, lost homes, girlfriends and dogs. But it's all starting to come around and we are starting to see the light of day," explains Carothers.

Portugal. The Man shows no signs of slowing down. This March, they plan to release "American Ghetto," which follows the style of "It's Complicated Being a Wizard."

Soon they plan to start preproduction on their fifth full studio album, currently untitled.

"Every record is a different thing. It's starting to get to that point now; four records in, we can really look back and see the changes that we've made."

Some bands grow complacent in their status and style and rarely stray from their own comfort zone. With four musically different, full-length releases under their belts, and more sure to come, Portugal. The Man is one of the rare exceptions in music today.

With culture-rich roots and the backing of a great fan base, Portugal. The Man's future reflects Alaska's landscape; bright and full of surprise.

Special effects send message

Review of top-grossing film 'Avatar'

By KATIE JACOB
Copy Editor

MOVIE REVIEW

Watching James Cameron's blockbuster hit "Avatar" was nothing short of amazing for the special effects alone, and movie-going audiences must certainly agree.

The highest grossing film of 2009, Avatar raked in approximately \$1.3 billion gross box-office worldwide as of Jan. 10, just three weeks after its Dec. 18 release, making it the second-highest grossing film of all times, behind number one, Cameron's "Titanic."

Like a magician, Cameron conjures up a rich visual universe that sucks the viewer into it.

If you see it in 3-D, fantastical creatures will drift down upon you or whirl past overhead. Perched above the clouds, where much of the action takes place, you'll feel like it's you racing with abandon through treetops or climbing floating

mountains, holding on tightly as characters soar through the sky on the backs of mythical beasts.

You will twist in your seat to avoid arrows whizzing through the air or fiery explosions raining down from the sky, feeling like you should get up and run from rampaging behemoths or the thunder of the trees that come crashing down around you.

The year is 2154; the location is the mystical forest world of the planet Pandora, inhabited by the peaceful and environmentally friendly Na'vi.

The RDA (Resource Development Administration), whose combat arm is a group of gung-ho private military contractors — some of them former U.S. Marines — is on a mission to strip mine Pandora due to large deposits of the mineral unobtainium (similar to oil) that is desperately needed by humans, as it is assumed that Earth has been ruined.

Scientists at the RDA mixed the DNA of humans with DNA of the 10-foot-tall, blue-skinned Na'vi, creating Avatars

"Like a magician, Cameron conjures up a rich visual universe that sucks the viewer into it."

that can roam safely amongst the Na'vi in Pandora's toxic atmosphere with the purpose of befriendng them to ask them to move.

If they won't, the ruthless mercenaries (similar to the ruthless private contracting company still working in Iraq and Afghanistan) plan to demolish the beautiful terrain that the Na'vi call home.

Jake Sully, a paraplegic marine played by Sam Worthington, has been signed up to fill in for his dead twin brother, who an Avatar was created for.

Trapped in a body with legs that won't move, Sully breaks free as his mind meshes with the bioengineered body.

Predictably, Jake falls in love with Na'vi princess, Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), and eventually joins the tribe to take

up arms against the bad guys — the marines in the movie — and with the help of Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver, Ripley from "Alien") save them and the planet.

If this sounds a lot like "Pocahontas" or "Dances with Wolves," it's because it is. And if you think Cameron is trying to tell you something, it's because he is.

At three hours, the movie is too long and somewhat redundant. You rarely get a breather, leaping from one action scene to the next.

The dialogue and plot are simplistic, and this is basically a showcase for the special effects. However, Cameron produced amazing special effects and you can't help but feel grateful he did.

Trailers at avatarmovie.net.

6 CRITICS' CHOICE MOVIE AWARDS NOMINATIONS

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AIN'T IT COOL NEWS HARRY KNOWLES

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You (your stories your words your style your health)

January 13, 2010

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13

Monologues come to OU

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

Performing in front of an audience is no problem for the members of the Women's Issue Forum. Neither is talking about sensitive topics.

Nataisha Washington, a senior women's integrative studies major, has performed in The Vagina Monologues at Oakland University for two years.

The monologues were written by Eve Ensler and are a collection of stories to celebrate and commemorate all the experiences associated with womanhood. Topics include everything from rape to menstruation to first sexual experiences.

"The monologues talk about vaginas in all types of aspects," Washington said. "There's one about abuse, embracing the word 'cunt,' and one called 'My Happy Vagina.' It's very funny and fun. It's something everyone can enjoy watching."

Each year, the Women's Issue Forum puts on the play as part of Women's History Month in March. Other events include a women's film festival and guest speakers on a variety of female-oriented issues.

Although the play is entirely performed by women, men are allowed and encouraged to participate in the

backstage activities, including lighting and microphone set-up. Senior Todd Fitzsimmons, a sociology and anthropology major, has worked behind-the-scenes for the show for the past two years.

Washington, president of the Women's Issues Forum, said the show's title often scares people away, but the show is something a wide variety of people can enjoy.

"It's not something to be scared of just because of the name," Washington said.

She said one of her most memorable experiences performing the show over the past two years has been when a group of women from a local church came to the show last March.

"It was this whole group of little old ladies just laughing at the stories and having a great time," Washington said.

Washington said the church group was particularly exciting because one of the ladies won a large amount of condoms as part of a giveaway at the performance.

Proceeds from the event go toward a charity focused on women's issues, including shelters, crisis centers, and programs to help teenage girls in need.

The play is also the basis for a nation-wide V-Day movement, which seeks to end incest, genital mutilation, rape and sexual slavery.



Photo Courtesy of www.flickr.com/photos/marleah/
Nataisha Washington, a senior at OU and president of the Women's Issues Forum, is organizing March's performance of The Vagina Monologues.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the show should stop by the GSC to speak with Melissa Pope or Washington.

"Everyone who comes to the show or works on it has a good time," Washington said.

Students conduct award-winning research

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

Three Oakland University graduate students in the doctor of physical therapy program have received national recognition for their research on energy expenditure in women during radiation treatment for breast cancer.

"There's very little information on having people recover from fatigue, so this is one of the early studies where they were actually measuring energy expenditures," said Jacqueline Drouin, associate professor and coordinator of Post-Professional and Graduate PT Research.

The students — Emily Battle, Emily Wilson and Kathryn Slevin — will be presented with an award at the National Conference of the American Physical Therapy Association in San Diego, Feb. 17-20. Battle and Slevin will be giving the platform presentation at the National Combined Sections Meeting. There are 17 other sections.

"What was interesting about the research is that we expected by the end that people would be less active and using less energy," Drouin said. "But up until now, energy expenditure has only been measured by surveys where you ask people how they feel."

At the beginning of the seven-week study, which included six weeks of radiation treatment and a few days before and after, the students did conduct surveys to get a feel for where the participants' energy levels before treatment.

The 17 women in the study, whose average age was 52, wore SenseWear armbands equipped with thermometers, accelerometers, pedometers and skin response sensors. These devices counted calories, kilocalories used per day and amount of time spent sleeping.

"It could also measure how many steps they took per day so we were able to see if they were more active or less active," Wilson said.

The armbands, which Wilson said

were smaller than a deck of cards, were worn on the subjects' upper arms at all times except during showers.

The group hypothesized that there wouldn't be any significant changes in energy expenditure or in activity levels during the six-week treatment period. They also predicted that any changes in those levels would not be associated with perceived changes in fatigue and hemoglobin measures.

As it turns out, people said they felt better and were more active than they really were.

"If you're just using survey data to measure fatigue, it's not accurate," Drouin said.

The armbands also showed that by the last weeks of treatment, the women had a significant decline in activity levels, hemoglobin measures were not significantly different and the women could reduce their activity levels to accommodate increasing fatigue.

Part of the doctor of physical ther-

apy degree requirement is to conduct research. Students can choose between helping a professor with their research and designing their own.

Drouin had been researching oncology rehabilitation several years prior to coming to OU in 2007. The students picked her research and teamed up with three nurses at Beaumont Hospital in Troy.

Drouin, who acted as their faculty mentor during the study, nominated the students' research and later got the chance to inform them that they had won the 2009 National Student Research Award by the oncology section of the APTA.

"We were all pretty excited," Wilson said.

Despite winning an award, the study is not done and new data is being collected every day.

"This was just a pilot study, so it's ongoing," Wilson said. "The target is to get 40 to 50 subjects on this particular study."

Automakers on the rise

By TOM KRISHER
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — The vital signs are improving for American automakers.

General Motors may reopen some shuttered factories because it can't produce four of its vehicles fast enough to meet demand, and Chrysler is set to hire more engineers and development workers.

While both companies still depend on government help, the moves are signs of increased confidence that the U.S. auto market bottomed out last year and will improve in 2010, even without a jolt from a Cash for Clunkers-style program.

GM factories making the Chevrolet Equinox, GMC Terrain and Cadillac SRX, all SUV-like crossovers, and the Buick LaCrosse sedan are at or near capacity, GM's North American president, Mark Reuss, told reporters at the Detroit auto show.

The company will try to squeeze more production out of its existing plants first, Reuss said. He mentioned an idled factory in Spring Hill, Tenn., as a possibility for reopening. GM has closed 14 factories in the past two years.

The head of Chrysler, Sergio Marchionne, said his company does not have enough people to revamp its U.S. product line and soon will start hiring, beginning with temporary workers.

"We just don't have the manpower," he said. "We are going to increase heads."

Michael Robinet, an auto industry ana-

lyst for the CSM Worldwide consulting firm near Detroit, said Chrysler's former owners cut the engineering and design staffs too far for the company to compete.

Both need to add factory capacity to take advantage of hot-selling models because competitors can adapt quickly.

"You have to make hay in the sunshine," he said. "These days, within a year or 18 months you can have competitors with products as good as yours, if not better."

GM and Chrysler both entered and exited bankruptcy in 2009, when Americans bought the fewest cars of any year since 1982. In all, U.S. sales of cars and trucks totaled 10.4 million, roughly 700,000 of them with the help of the government's Cash for Clunkers rebates.

Sales were down 21 percent for last year but up for December, giving the companies hope of gradual improvement.

GM Vice Chairman Bob Lutz said GM has lost market share over the years because it has been afraid to raise factory output when it has hot models.

Lutz was the head of product development for Chrysler in the 1990s. He said that company doubled its market share in a few years by immediately cranking up factories to make more of the cars and trucks that were selling well.

He recalled a recent management meeting at GM in which executives suggested holding production steady, even for hot-selling products, for fear that sales would wane and GM would be

stuck with unused factories and workers.

"This is why we have never been able to gain share because we won't roll the dice and go with our winners," Lutz remembered saying.

Among the winners now are the Equinox and Terrain, both crossover SUVs equipped with four-cylinder engines that can get up to 32 mpg on the highway. GM had only a 13-day supply of the Equinox and 18 days' worth of Terrains at the end of December.

In Chrysler's case, Marchionne said the timing of hiring more production workers will depend on whether and the company meets sales projections. Its former owners, Cerberus Capital Management LP, cut white-collar jobs through layoffs, buy-outs and early-retirement offers.

Marchionne also said Chrysler has maintained the \$5 billion in cash reserves that it had in November, despite a year in which sales dropped 36 percent.

He pledged Chrysler will not produce too many cars and discount them to boost sales numbers. The company, he said, wants to sell at a profitable level but still plans to double sales by 2015.

He said Chrysler's new owner, Fiat Group SpA, which has only been running the company for seven months, is already putting out higher-quality vehicles. The best way to change the public's perception of poor quality is to produce better vehicles, Marchionne said.

"The only thing you can do is shut up, work very hard to get the issues

resolved," he said.

At GM, Reuss said if he does his job correctly and restores faith in the GM brands, the company could hire workers again. The company now has about 7,500 workers on layoff.

The Terrain and Equinox are made at a factory in Ingersoll, Ontario, while the LaCrosse is built in Kansas City, Kan. The Ontario factory is working around the clock, and GM has plans to add a third shift to the Kansas City operation.

The SRX is made in Ramos Arizpe, Mexico. GM dealers have reported shortages of all four, and Reuss said he has fielded e-mails from frustrated customers who couldn't get vehicles they ordered.

Reuss also said GM has finished tweaking the Chevrolet Cruze compact car and is ready to begin producing it at the factory in Lordstown, Ohio. Last month he said the production schedule had been stopped while engineers worked out problems with the car.

The Cruze, due out later this year, is a key product for GM as it tries to compete in the growing market for small cars.

Toyota also recently added a second shift of workers to the Ontario plant that produces the RAV4 crossover, said Bob Carter, head of Toyota's U.S. division. Carter said Toyota's Georgetown, Ky., plant is at full capacity.

Carter predicted moderate growth in the U.S. market throughout 2010, with sales picking up steam toward the end of the year.

City councils ban marijuana shops

By JENNIFER WOOD
Senior Reporter

Local city governments are considering a ban similar to the ordinance passed by the Livonia City Council in July that will prohibit the growth and distribution of medical marijuana within Livonia city limits.

The zoning ordinance, although not directly addressing medical marijuana laws, states that "uses for enterprises or purposes that are contrary to federal, state or local laws or ordinances are prohibited."

While Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act legalized marijuana use for medicinal purposes in 2008, federal laws still prohibit what Livonia city attorney, Donald Knapp calls, "marijuana businesses."

"The ordinance doesn't even say anything about medical marijuana ... If you have a valid Michigan medicinal

marijuana card and you are in possession of it (marijuana), you're not in violation," said Knapp. "However, if you're a caregiver attempting to distribute or sell it in a storefront, that would violate federal law."

Knapp said that Livonia residents have not voiced any objections to the new ordinance.

However, Oakland University electrical engineering student, Anthony Leo, while not a resident of Livonia, would not be in support of such laws in his community.

"I think that it's kind of a lame attempt at a community just trying to sit on the fence on the issue," said Leo, who voted against the Medical Marijuana Act. "If you can go to a neighboring community and get it, then still use it in your community, then it's still in your community whether you ban distribution or not."

Other communities, including Royal Oak, have started to look at how to manage medical marijuana shops.

"The planning commission is currently considering what kind of amendment to make to the zoning ordinance considering medical marijuana ... we're taking a look at both side of the story," said Royal Oak city attorney, Dave Gillam.

According to Gillam, while no final decision have been made, Royal Oak Chief of Police, Chris Jahnke, recommended the commission follow Livonia's example of banning dispensaries from operating within the city.

Knapp also stated that Livonia's legislation came about in part because of confusion about what the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act was targeting and voters not fully understanding the law.

"The law (Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act) was poorly written and does not address the right issues," Knapp said. "Frankly, we're not interested in these type of businesses operating in Livonia."

Local news briefs: concept cars, homicide

Olympic Committee names local doc as medical chief for games

TROY — The U.S. Olympic Committee has named a Michigan sports medicine specialist as its chief medical officer for the Winter Games in Vancouver.

Dr. James Moeller of Troy practices at Beaumont Hospitals in suburban Detroit. He's head team doctor for Oakland University and has a private practice in Auburn Hills.

Beaumont said Tuesday that Moeller will oversee a medical team of about 50 providing medical services for the U.S. team of about 200 athletes.

He'll also serve as team spokesman on athletic injuries at the games, which run Feb. 12-28.

Moeller said he mostly will be "trying to keep the athletes healthy, in winning form." He was a speed skating team doctor at the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy.

Cadillac unveils plug-in hybrid luxury concept car

DETROIT — General Motors Co. on Tuesday unveiled the Cadillac XTS Platinum concept car at the Detroit auto show.

The XTS, which can run on a rechargeable battery-powered electric motor or a 350-horsepower V-6 engine, has touch-screen entertainment, and navigation and information systems, GM said.

Concept cars are displayed at shows to gauge consumer interest, and they often are the basis for future products.

The XTS has two electric motors and a gas engine controlled by a computer that decides the most efficient combination.

They also introduced the 2011 CTS-V Coupe, which will go into production this summer.

Mich. teen survives being hit by freight train

SPRINGFIELD — Calhoun County authorities say a 16-year-old listening to music on headphones survived being knocked down by a 105-car freight train he apparently didn't hear.

Jesse Bauder of Springfield remained hospitalized Tuesday at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo. The hospital isn't discussing his condition.

Authorities say Bauder was walking on tracks in his hometown Monday when the train hit him from behind.

Police said the train engineer saw the boy about a quarter-mile ahead and began slowing while sounding the horn.

The train was traveling about 5 miles per hour when it hit Bauder, according to police. They said he was standing and talking when officers arrived.

Hospital patient's death ruled a homicide

FARMINGTON HILLS — An autopsy reveals that a 92-year-old patient in a suburban Detroit hospital's psychiatric unit died after he or his pajamas were set on fire.

Nothing else in the room was burned.

The Wayne County medical examiner's office has ruled Walter Gajewski's death a homicide. He died Friday of complications from thermal burns.

The Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News report that a nurse at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, about 16 miles northwest of Detroit, found Gajewski on fire shortly after midnight Thursday. He died the following day at Detroit's Receiving Hospital.

Farmington Hills police say the case remains under investigation.

A Botsford spokeswoman said that finding the cause of the fire is a priority.

Source: The Associated Press

State sees net job growth

By KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN
Associated Press Writer

LANSING — The state with the nation's highest unemployment rate likely began adding jobs in the last three months of 2009, a University of Michigan economist said Monday.

George Fulton said Michigan probably added about 10,000 jobs between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, although he's still waiting for final December numbers. The state has been adding business and professional jobs, such as accounting, in recent months and had a small gain in manufacturing jobs in October, according to state unemployment reports.

But it's just a temporary bump.

"We're not expecting job growth to stick, unfortunately," Fulton told state government economists at a revenue estimating conference. Economic recovery "is going to take some time."

Still, the small gain is a welcome change from the job losses Michigan saw in the first half of 2009, he said.

Fulton estimated the state will have lost 278,000 jobs in 2009 once December figures are in. Most of those were in the auto sector as General Motors Co. and Chrysler went through bankruptcy and auto suppliers struggled to survive.

The extra jobs won't do much to help

Michigan's unemployment rate, which hit 14.7 percent in November. Fulton expects the rate to hover just under 15 percent through much of 2010 as another 60,200 jobs are lost. Job losses should shrink to around 25,200 in 2011, dropping the unemployment rate to 14.4 percent in 2011, he said.

He expects Michigan will end up losing 895,000 jobs between 2000 and 2011, one of every five jobs in the state. The news is even worse because a fourth of the jobs that paid medium to high wages but didn't require much education have disappeared.

He also said Michigan residents should see their personal incomes rise this year and next after drops in 2009.

Although Michigan is less reliant on the shrunken auto industry, the success of GM, Chrysler and Ford Motor Co. will still play a large part in the state's turnaround.

Fulton, as well as Sean McAlinden, chief economist for the Center for Automotive Research, and Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist for IHS Global Insight, told state officials they expect motor vehicle sales to climb from about 10.3 million last year to anywhere from 11.5 million to 12.4 million in 2010.

"The recession can't last forever," McAlinden said.

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A comeback with a purpose

By ZACH HALLMAN
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University men's basketball team is full of players who excel at different aspects of the game. Point guard Johnathon Jones is the team's coach on the floor; Keith Benson is the team's inside presence; and Derick Nelson, senior co-captain and two-time All-League Selection, is one of the team's defensive stoppers, a leader and most of all, its energy guy.

Before every game, the Grizzlies form a team circle around Nelson as he fires up his teammates, motivating them for the contest ahead.

"If your seniors aren't your leaders, then you're in trouble," said head coach Greg Kampe. "We've got two very good leaders (Nelson and Jones) and they are the words and the mouth of our team, and if it weren't that way, it's not good."

"Jones is more of a vocal person, but I am the one who brings the energy," Nelson said. "I am the guy who brings energy to the team by playing hard defense or by crashing the boards to get an offensive rebound to get the team fired up."

Throughout his career, Nelson has done just that. On Jan. 9, he grabbed his 752nd career rebound and moved into 11th place all-time in Summit League history in total rebounds. He is the second Oakland player in the Division I era to ever surpass 1,000 points and 600 rebounds.

This season, Nelson is second on the team in points and rebounds, averaging 11.8 and 6.6 per game, respectively.

Perhaps one of the biggest surprises thus far this season for the Grizzlies is that Nelson is leading the team in 3-point shooting percentage.

Nelson's commitment to improving his perimeter shooting came as a result of a serious foot injury he suffered last year.

He missed all but two games last season when he broke his foot two days before the opening game.

"Last season was hard; I wanted to play so bad in the beginning of last season when the team was struggling a little bit," Nelson said. "It just gave me motivation over the summer to make sure that me and (Jones) go out with a ring, because we've never won the championship and that's our main goal."

Sitting out for a season also gave

Nelson a different sort of motivation, one that has paid off this year.

"My coaches told me that I couldn't come back as the same player I was two years ago and the jump shot is one thing I didn't have before," Nelson said. "After I hurt my foot, when I was first able to come back on the court, I did a lot of shooting because I couldn't really do too much except shoot jump shots."

This new development in Nelson's game has been welcome news in a year in which the Grizzlies have, at times, not been able to convert a high percentage of their field goal attempts.

"He's shooting the ball very well for us and actually, right now, he's our best jump shooter," Kampe said. "He is still somewhat of a slasher, but he's now added the jump shot to his game."

His improved shooting isn't the only part of the game that has changed for Nelson. Two years ago, he played a much more prominent role in the offense and averaged 17 points per game.

This season he has seen his scoring figures drop as the offense features more players who can put the ball in the hoop.

"(Nelson) understands, as everybody else understands, that we need to play inside-out and our offense now has to run through Benson," Kampe said. "When he played two years ago, it wasn't that way."

According to Nelson, not being the featured scorer is not of his concern and he has other ways of contributing to the team's success.

"It's a lot different than it was two years ago. We had a team then where I had to score. Now, we have so many other people that can score, and our focus is to get it to (Benson). I knew that coming into this year, and I really don't care. I just want to win. As long as we are winning then I am fine. There might be a game when I have six points, and there might be a game like the one against IUPUI when I get 24. It all depends on the game and the matchup. I just try to play defense and guard the leading scorer from every team we play."

Nelson said he tries to use his physical style of play to pick up the energy level of his teammates.

"I'm the strongest guy on the team and I take pride in that," Nelson said. "Usually the most physical team is winning the game, and there are some times on the road when we are not going to get



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Derick Nelson became Oakland's all-time leader in offensive rebounds earlier this season and has averaged 6.7 rebounds per game throughout his career to go along with 11.7 points.

any foul calls going our way; we don't want to get pushed around."

Nelson's physical abilities might also pay off in his post-Oakland career. While attending Lansing Everett High School, Nelson was a two-time all-league outside linebacker in football. While his first love is basketball, he said he's not ruling football out of the equation in the future.

"I was better in football than I was in basketball, but I just liked to hit people. I didn't have the love for football that I did for basketball," Nelson said. "(Professional) football might be open, so we will see what happens."

On the court, Nelson tries to lead his teammates by example.

"I just try to help the guys that play my position, because they are going through things that I went through," Nelson said. However, his messages to teammates often extend off the court.

As a team captain, he said he believes it's part of his responsibility to make sure that his younger teammates do not relax in school at this time of the year due to their busy school and athletic schedules.

"It's easy to forget about class when we go around the road," Nelson said. "I just tell them to make sure you remember your books and do your work early so your professor knows you are serious about the class."

Nelson knows that this will be the last season that he will have the chance to take his team to the NCAA Tournament and said he has every intention of making sure they get there.

"If we don't win the tournament, the season is definitely a failure in our eyes," Nelson said. "No if, ands, or buts about it, it would be a fail."

— Dan Fenner contributed to this report.

Newest club sport taking shape

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

Oakland University students interested in martial arts can join one of several clubs. There's a wrestling club, a judo club, a taekwondo club and an aikido club. But up until now, there wasn't a club for the sport that mixes all of those skill sets.

"There are tons of (martial arts) clubs here, but nothing to bridge them," said Manny Katakis, founder and president of OU's new mixed martial arts club team. "MMA does just that."

Katakis, a senior majoring in journalism, said he became interested in the sport over the summer and thought it would be a good thing for OU students, calling MMA a "great way to stay in shape and build athleticism."

Although the club was approved at the end of last semester by Dan Bettmann, coordinator of intramural and club sports, it isn't an official OU club sport yet.

"Because they're a new sport, they'll have a one semester introductory period," Bettmann said.

That means before they can receive funding from OU, they have to prove they can function like a club. They need to be able to reserve space, have a club constitution, establish membership dues and a functioning executive-board with officers. Club sports receive funding based on their budget on a per-need basis, and are eligible for up to \$6,000, according to Bettmann.

A club constitution is for the club's own benefit,

Bettmann said, as it gets them to think about what direction they want the club to go in and how they'll maintain it.

The club also needs to have six members to be recognized by the university — 10 if it wishes to be competitive. Currently, the club consists of Katakis and Tyler Auclair, the group's vice president. Their Facebook group, OU Grizzly Mixed Martial Arts Club, currently has 51 members and Katakis said he knows of 10 people verbally committed to joining.

Auclair, a freshman studying pre-law, said he's been practicing martial arts at Integrated Training Systems in Marine City since he was 10. He's also a member of OU's wrestling club, and he encourages members of OU's other martial arts clubs to join the MMA club to pick up new skills.

"If you come in and you're just a wrestler, you're not going to do very well ... you have to have every single aspect," Auclair said.

Katakis said the group also has a coach, Dom O'Grady, a professional MMA fighter for Motor City Boxing, based in Detroit.

"He's probably the best 155 (pound fighter) in the state," Katakis said. O'Grady, a Wayne State alum, has earned championship belts as well as compete in Europe.

The club will be using a training room in OU's recre-

"The good thing about MMA is that it bridges the gaps between all the martial arts." — Manny Katakis, club president

ational center for their on-campus training.

The group will focus on the basics of mixed martial arts, such as submission moves, grappling, and striking techniques by hitting targets and thai pads. Katakis also plans to hold training off-campus at Self Defense Academies of Michigan in Clinton Township.

Katakis hopes the club can become competitive within a year or two and compete with MMA clubs at other schools with similar programs, like Eastern Michigan and Michigan State universities.

For now, the club is focused on learning proper mixed martial arts technique in a safe environment.

"MMA can be confused with being more violent, but this club is meant to teach the proper procedures," Bettmann said.

Those interested in joining can e-mail Katakis at ekataki@oakland.edu. The group will be meeting Monday, Feb. 8 in the Lake Huron Room of The Oakland Center.

Katakis said every OU student is welcome to attend. Well, almost everyone.

"Our only discrimination are gung-ho tough guys that think MMA is about fighting," Katakis said. "And that's not what we're about."



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FALL 2010 - WINTER 2011

The Oakland University Alumni Association will be accepting scholarship applications for the 2010-11 academic year.

UP TO \$5000 PER YEAR!

A complete list of scholarships, as well as eligibility criteria, is available online at www.oualumni.com under Awards & Scholarships. sample of scholarships offered includes:

- \$5000 – Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration award
- \$3000 – Thomas A. Yatooma School of Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Memorial award
- \$3000 – Legacy Scholarship award
- \$2000 – Working Student Scholarship award

OVER 30 SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED LAST YEAR!!

Contact Erin Sudrovech at (248) 364-6136 or sudrovec@oakland.edu for more information. Completed applications for all OUAA scholarships must be submitted by **March 1, 2010.**

Stating a case for a local legend

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Staff Reporter

COLUMN

This past week, one of Detroit's greatest athletes was once again denied entry into his sport's prestigious Hall of Fame. I am of course referring to Alan Trammell, the soft-handed shortstop who, alongside Lou Whitaker, formed a duo that holds the record for most double-plays turned in MLB history.

Whether it's because I grew up watching Trammell in the twilight of his career or because of my Detroit Tigers fandom, I have a problem with his continued exclusion from Cooperstown. Only outfielder Andre Dawson was inducted in the 2010 Class, with Trammell garnering a measly 22.4 percent of the votes — 75 percent of the votes are needed for induction.

This was the the ninth year Trammell's name appeared on the ballot.

In 1984, the Detroit Tigers took the American League by storm, winning 35 of their first 40 games, en route to winning 104 games and eventually the

World Series. Showered by cheers of "Bless You Boys!" by the Detroit faithful at legendary Tiger Stadium, that season's Tigers team is arguably one of the greatest of all time.

One of the leaders of the squad that year was the aforementioned Trammell. Despite missing 23 games with shoulder tendinitis, he finished in the top 10 in the American League in both batting average and on-base percentage.

In the 1984 playoffs, he hit .364 in the American League Championship Series versus the Kansas City Royals and .450 in the World Series versus the San Diego Padres. His play in the World Series ended up earning him MVP honors.

Some players have made their marks on MLB history as "one-hit wonders," flaming out after one spectacular regular season or single postseason. With Trammell, however, the 1984 season was anything but an aberration.

In an era where most shortstops were light-hitting defensive specialists, Trammell was a rarity. While he was extremely skilled defensively — his fielding percentage was an incredible .976 for his career — his offensive numbers were

pretty amazing for a shortstop.

As it stands today, 23 shortstops have been selected to the Hall of Fame.

In his entire 20-year career wearing the old English D, the man known as "Tram" played in 2,293 games. In that span, he hit for an average of .285, an on-base percentage of .352, accumulated 2,365 hits, over 1,000 runs scored and RBIs and 236 stolen bases.

He was voted to the All-Star game six times, won the American League Gold Glove award four times and the AL Silver Slugger award three times. He was even awarded the 1983 Comeback Player of the Year award.

One of the most heralded shortstops of all time, Ozzie Smith, was inducted into the Hall in 2002 with an astonishing 91.7 percent of the votes during just his first year on the ballot.

Looking at both of their careers, it's hard to see how Smith made it into the Hall so easily while Trammell is forced to wait, perhaps forever.

He may have fewer hits (2,365 to Smith's 2,460), but that could be attributed to the fact that Smith played on artificial turf his whole career while the

right-handed Trammell played on the grass at Tiger Stadium, traditionally a left-handed hitter's park.

Other important statistics that define Hall of Famers — homeruns, RBIs, walks, batting average, on-base percentage, and slugging percentage — lean toward Trammell. He has 157 more homeruns than Smith (185 to 28), 210 more RBIs (1,003 to 793), and hit better overall (.285 lifetime average to Smith's .262).

Aside from statistics, Trammell was an all-around great player who changed the shortstop position. No longer were players able to just coast by when they came to the plate — good hitting and fielding were both crucial to a player's success.

Similar to Trammell, players like Hanley Ramirez, Derek Jeter, and Jimmy Rollins are once again redefining the shortstop position. As time passes, however, these players will make Trammell's credentials look less impressive.

Trammell is eligible for the 2011 ballot, but unfortunately, his critics outweigh his supporters, which will likely keep him out of the Hall of Fame.

SCORES FROM THE ROAD

Women's basketball

Jan. 9 — The Grizzlies jumped out to a huge lead in the opening minutes against Centenary College Saturday, winning 75-32 when all was said and done.

Leading the way for the Oakland was senior forward Melissa Jeltima with 24 points. Also scoring in double figures was senior Hanna Reising with 12 points to go with six rebounds.

Jan. 11 — The team's four-game winning streak came to an end Monday at Oral Roberts, falling 77-62.

The game remained close, within just a few points for the first 10 minutes of the game before Oral Roberts began to distance themselves on the scoreboard. OU trailed by double digits for the entire second half.

Jeltima recorded her fourth double-double of the season, while sophomore guard Sharise Calhoun recorded a career-high 10 points.

Men's basketball

Jan. 7 — The Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team (10-7) kept its perfect conference record intact Thursday night, defeating Oral Roberts 67-64, and winning in a building where OU had previously lost its last nine games.

Oral Roberts had a last second chance to tie, but missed a 3-point shot as time expired.

Point guard Johnathon Jones led Oakland with 16 points while center Keith Benson finished with 13 points, eight rebounds and five blocks.

Jan. 9 — Against Centenary, OU matched its best-ever 5-0 start in conference play, winning 88-50. The win was Oakland's fifth straight.

Statistically, the scoring was wide-spread across the box score. Junior Larry Wright led the Grizzlies with 15 points, while Black Cushingberry, Drew Maynard, Ledrick Eackles, and Benson scored in double figures.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

GAME SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 13-19

MEN'S BASKETBALL

1/14 vs. UMKC 7 p.m.
1/16 vs. Southern Utah 6 p.m.

CLUB WRESTLING

1/17 Mount Union Open
in Alliance, Ohio

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

1/16 vs. Southern Utah 3:30 p.m.
1/18 vs. UMKC 6:30 p.m.

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

1/15 at Eastern Michigan (Men)
1/16 at Bowling Green State
(Women)

CLUB HOCKEY

1/14 at Adrian College
1/15 vs. Adrian College 8:40 p.m.
1/16 at Grand Valley State

SWIMMING & DIVING

No events this week, season
resumes Jan. 23

Prof. challenges same-sex ban

By LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A Yale professor testifying in a case challenging California's same-sex marriage ban said Tuesday that the 2008 campaign to pass Proposition 8 played on stereotypes historically used to portray "homosexuals as perverts who prey on young children, out to entice straight people into sick behavior."

George Chauncey, a historian who specializes in the subject of 20th century gay life, was the second expert witness to appear for two couples unable to marry because of the state's voter-approved gay marriage ban. Their lawsuit has led to the first federal trial to decide the constitutionality of laws limiting marriage to a man and a woman.

After viewing several television commercials produced by Proposition 8's sponsors, Chauncey said images and language suggesting the ballot initiative was needed to "protect children" were reminiscent of earlier efforts to "demonize" gays, ranging from police raids on gay bars during the 1950s to campaigns to rid public schools of gay teachers in the 1970s.

"You have a pretty strong echo of this idea that simple exposure to gay people and their relationships is somehow going to lead a whole generation of young kids to become gay," Chauncey said. "The underlying message here is something about the

undesirability of homosexuals, that we don't want our children to become this way."

Chauncey's views were introduced to help persuade Chief U.S. Judge Vaughn R. Walker, who is hearing the case without a jury, that the California measure unlawfully discriminates against gays because it was based on an underlying hatred or moral disapproval and serves no legitimate public aim.

Court concluded with a lawyer for Proposition 8's backers just beginning to cross-examine Chauncey, who is scheduled to resume his testimony on Wednesday.

Earlier Tuesday, another history professor, Nancy Cott of Harvard University, presented a centuries-old history lesson on government regulation of marriage, even touching on President Bill Clinton's indiscretions to argue that the institution has evolved dramatically over time.

In her second day of testimony, Cott disputed a statement by a defense lawyer that states have a compelling interest to restrict marriage to heterosexual couples for the sake of procreation.

Cott said marriage also serves an economic purpose — one that was especially pronounced when it was assumed that men and women performed different jobs in their partnership.

But as traditional gender roles and the purposes of marriage have changed, the reasons to bar same-sex couples from marrying have gone away, she said.

Casualties expected after quake in Haiti

By JONATHAN M. KATZ
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The largest earthquake ever recorded in the area rocked Haiti on Tuesday, collapsing a hospital where people screamed for help and damaging other buildings. An aid official described "total disaster and chaos."

Communications were widely disrupted, making it impossible to get a clear picture of damage as powerful aftershocks shook a desperately poor country where many buildings are flimsy. Electricity was out in some places.

Karel Zelenka, a Catholic Relief Services representative in the capital of Port-au-Prince, told U.S. colleagues before phone service failed that "there must be thousands of people dead," according to a spokeswoman for the aid group, Sara Fajardo.

"He reported that it was just total disaster and chaos, that there were clouds of dust surrounding Port-au-Prince," Fajardo said from the group's offices in Maryland.

The earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 and was centered about 10 miles (15 kilometers) west of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It had a depth of 5 miles (8 kilometers). It was the largest quake recorded in the area and the first major one since a magnitude-6.7 temblor in 1984, USGS analyst Dale Grant said.

An Associated Press videographer saw the wrecked hospital in Petionville, a hillside Port-au-Prince district that is home to many diplomats and wealthy Haitians, as well as many poor people. Elsewhere in the capital, a U.S. government official reported seeing houses that had tumbled into a ravine.

Haiti's ambassador to the U.S., Raymond Joseph, said from his Washington office that he spoke to President Rene Preval's chief of staff, Fritz Longchamp, just after the quake hit. He said Longchamp told him that "buildings were crumbling right and left" near the national palace. He said he had not been able to get through by phone to Haiti since.

Don Blakeman, an analyst at the USGS in Golden, Colorado, said such a strong quake carried the potential for widespread damage.

"I think we are going to see substantial damage and casualties," he said.

The earthquake's size and proximity to populated Port-Au-Prince likely caused widespread casualties and structural damage, added quake expert Tom Jordan at the University of Southern California.

"It's going to be a real killer," he said.

The temblor appeared to have occurred along a strike-slip fault, where one side of a vertical fault slips horizontally past the other, Jordan said.

"Whenever something like this happens, you just hope for the best," he said. "The damage caused by this earthquake is not going to be pretty."

Minor earthquakes are common in the Caribbean, but there has not been a major one in Haiti in 16 years. The country of about 9 million people, most of them desperately poor, has struggled with political instability and has no real construction standards.

In November 2008, following the collapse of a school in Petionville, the mayor of Port-au-Prince estimated about 60 percent of the buildings were shoddily built and unsafe in normal circumstances.

N | W BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

1-12 | KENNESAW, Ga. — A disgruntled ex-employee stormed a truck rental business in camouflage and opened fire with a handgun, killing two people and critically wounding three others at his former workplace, police said. The lone gunman fled the scene in a pickup truck and was arrested after police stopped him about a mile from the Penske Truck Rental facility, said Cobb County Police Officer Joe Hernandez. The names of the suspect and victims were not immediately released. "He wasn't here for very long, and it wasn't long before he was taken into custody," Hernandez said. There were conflicting reports about who the victims were. Penske spokesman Randy Ryerson said four victims were employees and the other was a customer, but police said none of the victims were customers.

1-12 | LOS ANGELES — Conan O'Brien says he's rejecting NBC's attempt to move "The Tonight Show" to a post-midnight slot to accommodate Jay Leno's return to late-night. In a statement Tuesday, O'Brien says that NBC has given him a scant seven months to try to establish himself as host of "Tonight." NBC wants to move "The Jay Leno Show" out of prime-time and to the 11:35 p.m. EST daily slot, bumping "Tonight" to 12:05 p.m. EST. O'Brien said he hoped he and NBC could resolve the issue quickly so he could do a show of which he and his crew could be proud — "for a company that values our work" — raising the possibility he might go to another network. But he said he has no such offer.

1-12 | TEHRAN, Iran — A senior physics professor who publicly backed Iran's opposition leader was killed when a bomb-rigged motorcycle exploded as he left for work Tuesday. The government blamed the U.S. and Israel for the attack. The blast apparently was set off by a remote trigger, but it was unclear why the professor was targeted. The victim was a 50-year-old researcher with no prominent political voice, no published work with military relevance and no declared links to Iran's nuclear program. Hard-line backers of the Islamic system have urged stronger measures to try to crush and intimidate anti-government forces, but the Tehran University professor, Masoud Ali Mohammadi, was far from a front-row political player.

1-12 | KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Christian leaders in Malaysia refused Tuesday to stop using the word "Allah" for God despite attacks on churches in a religious crisis that has raised concerns about the erosion of minority rights in the Muslim-majority country. Daniel Raut, a senior leader of the Borneo Evangelical Church — the largest Malay-speaking congregation in the country — said it will not drop the use of the word "Allah," even though Christians fear for their safety. "Since our forefathers become Christians in the 1920s, we have been using Allah even in our mother tongue," said Raut, who is from the Lumbawang tribe in eastern Sarawak state. "We are quite fearful (for our safety) but we will pray for protection and believe God will intervene in this matter." About 9 percent of Malaysia's 28 million people are Christian.

Mouthing Off

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

20

January 13, 2010

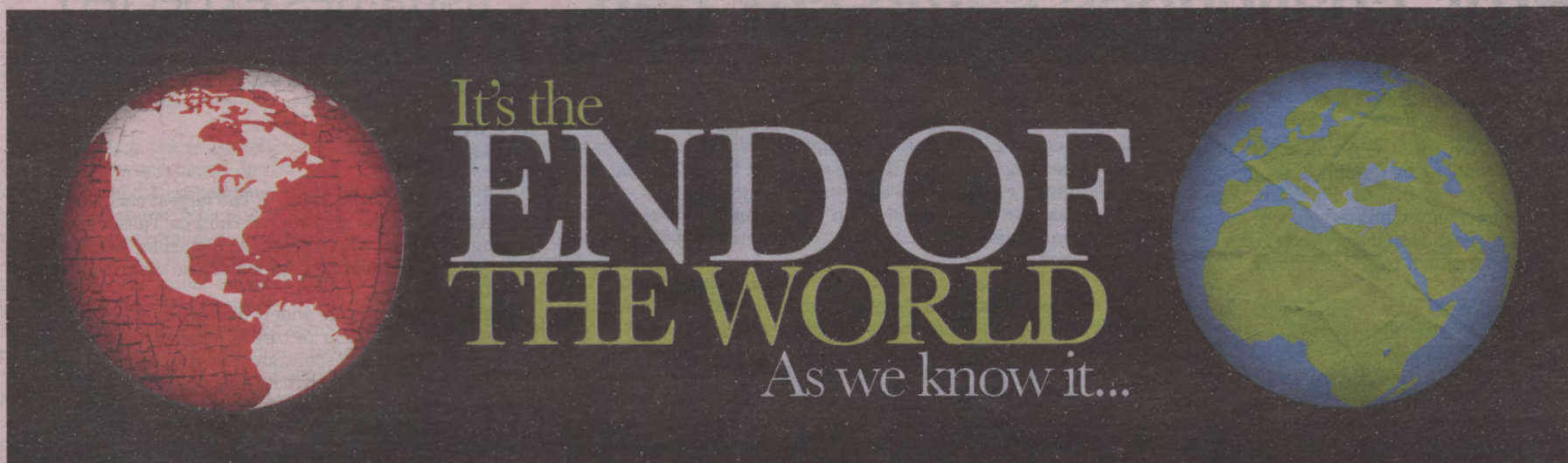


Photo illustration by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

...and it's time to panic

By ANNIE STODOLA

You/Local editor, paranoid person

So the Mouthing Off editor catches me freaking out about the end of days and makes me write about it. I hope you enjoy me pushing myself further toward emotional breakdown for your damn amusement.

One of my friend's status updates was talking about the History Channel being obsessed with the world ending and I didn't believe him but I was flipping through channels and saw that there was a Mayan prophecy show on. I was curious so I watched it and it was a *giant mistake*.

It was so damn scary. Here's what I learned: The world is going to end December 21, 2012. It could be anytime that year, but it's most likely going to be that date. It could be with a meteor, or ice caps, or a solar storm, or a plague or something but no matter what it's going to suck and we're all going to die.

The Mayan calendar stopped there, and while I wouldn't normally agree with a group of people that sacrificed humans and worshipped snakes, the History Channel can make me believe. I'm very impressionable and when they tell me that science and Nostradamus line up with the Mayan predictions, I'm not about to argue. We're boned.

Then they started talking about how biblical things tied into the predictions and the current state of the world. When I was younger, I read Revelations in the Bible and I always thought it was pretty and hopeful. Wrong. It's all about how the world is going to be overrun by four horsemen who all basically just want to make our lives miserable and kill puppies.

They were talking about how past and present world leaders might actually be the horsemen. So basically, we're

already on the path to the world ending. *Awsome.*

After the History Channel made me seriously want to crawl into a hole and hide from Armageddon, I turned on the Discovery Channel, looking for some sort of solace from scientific experts on the end of the world. They started out by saying the 2012 theory was just myth. I felt better and was grateful I had listened to a voice of reason.

And then they mind-F'd me.

It was all like "the Mayans didn't know anything." But then they told me realistically, we've overstayed our welcome on the planet and the end of the world is coming any day now, probably sooner than 2012. The TV said we should really start preparing for the end now because the sun won't heat us forever and the continents will shift and there really could be a solar storm and it could happen like right now. So much for making me feel better, science. You ass.

All of this wouldn't bother me as much except that if judgment day comes, I wasted my whole life. Granted, I do a lot of stuff I enjoy and have some pretty excellent times with my friends and family and all my cats, but I haven't really done anything with my life.

I want to teach inner city kids and save the rainforest and punch all the bad people I know and find a Prince Charming and get a bunny and write a better article than this one.

I basically hate the History Channel for making me believe I don't have time for all of this because I need to be building an underground freezer to save seeds to grow crops to replenish the world because it's about to end and so if the Mayans and Nostradamus could mind their own damn business and let me get back to my Supergirl meets Prince Charming fantasy, that would be fabulous.

Until then, I'll be hoarding bottled water and repenting and nuke-proofing my apartment.

...and I feel fine

By DAN SIMONS

Mouthing Off Editor, apocalypse ready

A long time ago, a group of people not smart enough to have a civilization that could last into this century said an age will end.

Now, in these times when we can send libraries of information across the globe in less than a second and live to be over 100, people are taking this prophecy to heart and believing the world will end.

This is why I hate people sometimes.

The world will not end, just like it didn't collapse into the Stone Age when Y2K came and went. Swine flu did not kill us all. And the zombies haven't come... yet.

The History Channel, running off their recent kick of *not talking about history*, keeps playing shows where they splice CGI footage of asteroids and nuclear bombs with Mayan pyramids and images of old Bibles.

I remember when they used to play shows about how much of a badass Teddy Roosevelt was, or how Caligula was a raging psychopath, or how Spain once ruled damned near everything on the planet.

Now we mainstream shows saying the same thing every conspiracy theorist nut job with a YouTube account has been saying for years. This is in between shows about truckers and loggers and other, again, non-historical programs.

We're still in that period between the theatrical and DVD release of "2012" by Roland Emmerich. The man spent \$200 million and further ruined John Cusack's career to perpetuate apocalyptic hype in the weak minded.

This is the same man who tried to kill us all in "Independence Day" and "The Day After Tomorrow." He clearly has a grudge with humanity.

I admit I'm curious to know how ex-

actly we're going to go out, because hopefully we go out with style. I've seen too many movies and played too many video games to not think about this. We've got global warming, getting slammed by an astral body, plagues, famine, war, radiation, trans fat, Furby's coming back to life and organizing an uprising, or Facebook going out for more than a day causing a global, humanity-ending riot.

If, and I can't believe I'm entertaining the idea, we do all perish on Dec. 21, 2012, then who cares? If it really is the end of days, there is nothing we can really do about it. Global panic? More like global party. Drink all the booze before the asteroid hits and run wild and naked in the streets, punch your middle school bully in the face and don't tip the barista, because no one will care on the 22nd.

What if you do survive? Do what you can only do when most everyone else is dead. I'd be doing doughnuts in my car on Ford Field, dropping paint cans off the Renaissance Center and totally putting my feet on the seat in front of me in the theater. I'm going to pee in Beer Lake and turn the Science and Engineering Building into my own private Tower of Dan. The end of the world could be totally awesome.

But it won't happen in our lifetimes. Yeah, the sun will eventually expand in size and fry every living organism into oblivion in like 500 million years, but our descendants will be Tweeting about it from Mars by then.

Should you freak out about the end of the world? No, that would be stupid. Should you live your life as if the world was ending tomorrow? Yes, live while you can, and live it up. Pretend the zombie mutant cyborgs are coming tomorrow and you have to do everything you want to do before you die.

On Dec. 22, 2012, I will still be alive, doing last minute holiday shopping, and laughing at Annie Stodola.