

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 12, 2011

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Volume 37 // Issue 18



Past, present and future

Administrators deliver annual State of the Campus address

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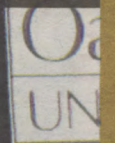


Photo
... of the ...
Week

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

A new weekly addition to The Oakland Post

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Swimming and diving teams stride past Eastern Michigan

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Meadowbrook Theatre begins 2011 season with "The 39 Steps"

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this week

January 12 - January 18, 2011



Photo
of the
Week

Second Time's A Charm // Saturday, Jan. 8

JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Saturday's men's basketball game against Western Illinois got off to a peculiar beginning when the game clock failed to start at the opening tipoff. The Grizzlies quickly scored, but the game had to be restarted and the score cleared after officials noticed that no time had elapsed. Oakland won the second tipoff as well en route to a 79-50 win at the O'rena.



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SPORTS // Fencing Club provides unique sporting experience to students and hopes to gain NCAA status.



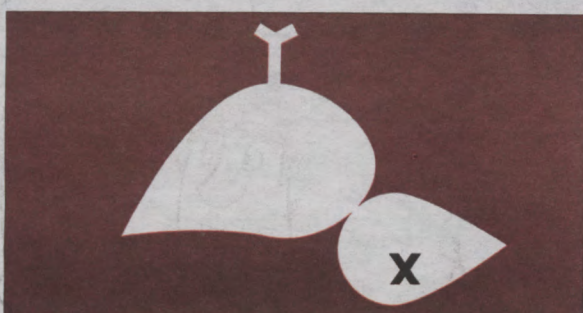
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LOCAL // A new addition to The Oakland Post, Police Blotter highlights recent criminal activity in surrounding cities.



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FEATURES // Student starts non-profit organization in memory of a friend who recently passed away from a heart condition.



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MOUTHING OFF // Based on a true story, Hollywood releases its latest action-thriller, telling the tale of a bird pandemic.



The Oakland Post is looking for contributing writers for our Mouting Off section and a Multimedia Editor to produce video and web content.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Cover photo by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

STAFF EDITORIAL

Support the Grizzlies

We get it. You're too busy to get involved on campus. You have a job, classes to attend and you don't like basketball.

If that's the case, stop complaining about how there is never anything to do on campus, about the president of the university's lack of accessibility and about the commuter campus' lack of a football team.

Whether you're a fan of basketball or not, it's hard to resist being a Grizzlies fan.

Attending a home basketball game is the most convenient way to get involved on campus. It's a small time commitment, plus, if you're a student, it's free to attend.

The men's basketball game against Western Illinois Saturday featured the fourth largest crowd to ever pack the O'rena.

That's a nod in the right direction when it comes to attendance after disheartening numbers earlier in the season.

However, there's still a long road ahead when it comes to building impenetrable school spirit.

The Grizzlies O'rena seats over 4,000, and though 3,805 turned out for the WIU game, there is no reason to not have that kind of turnout at every game.

A team that did not lose a conference

game at home last season, earned a berth in the 2010 NCAA tournament, is ranked first in the Summit League and is projected to be the No. 12 seed this year at the tournament by ESPN's Bracketology deserves much more.

Going to a basketball game is the first step toward getting more involved on campus.

Here at Oakland, we stand on the precipice of something really big. With the Grizzlies' victory over Tennessee and how they have played this year in other non-conference games, the university has garnered national media attention that was unheard of in years past.

Memories like last year's buzzer-beating shot from Johnathon Jones to beat Oral Roberts at last season's Homecoming game bring people together.

Another reason to attend is the high visibility of campus celebrities the game provides. President Gary Russi is present at every game and the athletes, win or lose,

take time after every game to greet fans.

Show these dedicated athletes that you are behind them. If the students can begin filling up the O'rena, the athletics department would get a huge boost. It would truly show that the gap is closing between OU and the major schools around the region, and that we are clearly on the rise.

Greg Kampe, head coach of the men's basketball team, has one of the best teams he's ever had in his entire career.

If we can't even pack the stands for our high-performing basketball team, how would an entire football stadium be filled with fans for the upstart football team that many students yearn for?

Let's come together with the hard-working spirit squads — the Grizz Gang, cheer and dance teams, and pep band — to support the team and school.

If that's not enough, the free swag and food vouchers given out during halftime and the media timeouts are yet another draw.

Let's pack the stands with Grizzlies fans and show the rest of the Summit League, as well as the nation, what OU is all about.

Take the plunge and begin being a true grizzly.

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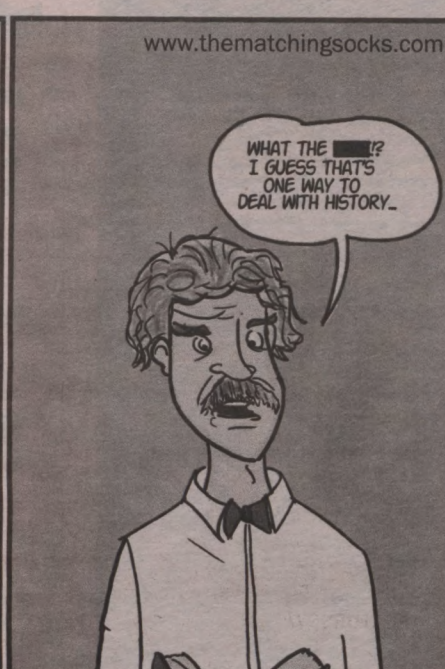
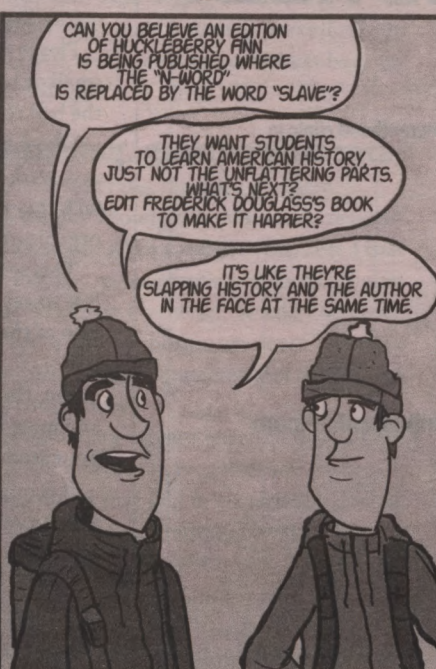
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Letter Policy:

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



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Don't be too quick to tweet

"RT @nprnews: BREAKING: Rep. Giffords (D-AZ), 6 others killed by gunman in Tucson."

This premature tweet was sent out by numerous news outlets Saturday.

Not only did 21-year-old Jared Lee Loughner unsuccessfully attempt to assassinate Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford at a local supermarket, but inaccurate reporting of her apparent death also consumed the Internet — Twitter newsfeeds, in particular — like wildfire.

I find it both surprising and disheartening that news organizations could fall prey to such widespread folly in this day and age.

With the raging advancement of technology in the last decade and the fine-tuning of journalistic excellence, it's a pity that a race to break the story robbed the story of its integrity.

To cite a historical example of proper reporting in 1963, CNN famously interrupted national television broadcasts to alert viewers that President John F. Kennedy had been shot.

Journalist Walter Cronkite repeatedly stressed that his death was unconfirmed until 38 minutes later, when the TV station received news from the



Sarah Wojcik
Senior Reporter

coroner.

Among the first to tweet the inaccurate news were Reuters, Breaking-News, NPR, BBC and CNN, according to www.lostremote.com

The news organizations gained their information from two sources deemed credible — someone from the Pima County Sheriff's Office and someone from a congressional office, according to Andy Carvin, who manages the @nprnews Twitter account.

However, neither source was a coroner and therefore did not have the proper authority to pass official information onto news organizations.

When JFK was assassinated, the carnage was far greater than in the case of Gabrielle Gifford, yet CNN still waited until the official report was issued

by a medical professional.

NPR left the tweet, corrected their mistake and issued a public apology.

CNN, however, deleted the Tweet and made no effort to reconcile their mistake.

Other news organizations should follow NPR's lead to acknowledge their wrongs and make speedy corrections, as well as apologize for the unacceptable breach in trust.

In an age when everything is immediate, from credit card purchases to fast food orders to news websites, people are acclimated to instant gratification and patience levels are on the decline.

If only the news organizations had waited for an official statement, much embarrassment, strife and disrespect could have been avoided.

The simple addition of attribution or uncertainty also could have steered the situation clear of rough waters.

Hopefully a lesson has been learned and past attention to ethics will keep future Twitter reports in line.

GUEST COLUMN

We haven't checked out, so you shouldn't either

It's funny how winter semester always seems to have such a different feel to it than the fall.

In September, students come back from the summer

more than excited to get involved and with student organizations that are enthusiastic about achieving goals and increasing participation with their events and initiatives.

It almost seems like in the second semester, a lot of times even the students leading organizations



Brandon Gustafson and Amy Ring
Student Body President and Vice President

are just ready for it to be over and to pass the torch on to someone new and fresh. In Student Congress, it is especially easy to let the madness of elections cloud the productivity that is still possible for nearly four more months.

Four months is a long time. There is still so much to be done, and so much that has the potential to be improved here, and we want to be a part of it.

We have not checked out, and do not plan to do so until the new administration has been announced. We understand that every day counts, and we plan to make our time here worth it.

In this semester, we ask you to challenge both yourself and us. Don't make excuses, and we promise we won't either. We will do everything we can to motivate our executive board and legislature to continue on with the fall semester's enthusiasm in order to serve you to the best of our ability.

Please know anything that is important to you is not too small or large in our book. Let's hear about it now, and get the ball rolling.

Know that the second semester is not too late to get involved, both inside and outside of Student Congress. In fact, this would be a great time to gain experience in any organization if you plan to ever go further with it.

This semester has a lot of potential, and so much to offer. It is so easy to let the winter months drag on in anticipation of the more exciting summer months, leading into the fall.

But, there are friends to be made, experiences to be had, and most importantly to us, improvements to be made to your student experience at Oakland University.

It is important that we continuously hear from you, and if you ever would like to set up a meeting with us or speak with your organization, that is what we are here for and we are more than happy to do so.

Cheers to a new year and a fresh, exciting start. We hope to see you at our weekly legislative body meetings — every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Oakland Room.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

- In last week's story "Focusing in: Passion turns into business," Mioara Dragan's photography business's website was reported inaccurately. The right web address is www.mioaradragan.com

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact.

If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.4268.

POLL OF THE WEEK

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What are your thoughts on the proposed Planned Parenthood clinic in Auburn Hills?

I support it — 28 (67%)

I am against it — 10 (24%)

I don't care — 4 (9%)

CURRENT POLL // Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

Will you switch to Verizon to get an iPhone?

yes

no

State of the University

Oakland encounters 'success,' faces challenges in a 'new context'

By **MIKE SANDULA**
Managing Editor

Akin to the president's annual State of the Union address, a State of Oakland University address was given Tuesday morning in the Banquet Rooms.

"There's some storm clouds out there. Pretty tough ones," OU President Gary Russi said.

But, using a presentation titled "Success and New Context," Russi said that while OU has been affected by the economic recession, it isn't hard to make the "cuts, cuts, cuts" that other universities of "similar means" have had to make.

A 'new context'

Russi, who was joined by OU's six vice presidents, said changes in the economical and political landscapes have created a "new context" for OU to deal with.

John Beaghan, vice president and finance and administration said manufacturing jobs have slowly disappeared while jobs requiring higher education are on the rise. That has contributed to a higher average age of students.

Beaghan also said that available jobs in Oakland County are expected to rise in 2011-12 and that the top three projected growing job sectors are business and finance, biotechnical engineering and energy.

Politically, Michigan — the only state to experience population decline, according to the 2010 Census — lost one seat in the House of Representatives following the 2010 mid-term elections.

Rochelle Black, vice president for government relations, said one positive that could come from the elections is a proposal to enact a July 1 deadline for a two-year state budget, which would give OU a clearer picture when drafting its own budget.

Still, state appropriations have continued to comprise less and less of OU's budget, while tuition rates have risen steadily. Plus, Susan Davies, vice president of university relations, said that monetary contributions from alumni have decreased over the last 15



Vice president of finance and administration John Beaghan discusses Oakland University's financial outlook at a university update held Tuesday morning in the Banquet Rooms.

JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

years.

But OU currently possesses about \$53 million in endowments, according to Beaghan, and grants and contracts have increased, too.

Retaining, gaining students

Retention rates remain a problem.

Virinder Moudgil, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, noted that 25 percent of students are looking elsewhere in their first year. He said OU needs to focus on "anchoring students," so they feel intrinsically connected to campus and the community.

Still, undergraduate enrollment has seen a steady increase in recent years. However, Russi noted that OU is "experiencing some challenges at the (graduate) level."

"The issue for us right now is dealing with our master's program," Russi said.

Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, said Michigan has fewer high school stu-

dents eligible to go to college. Plus, OU's main feeder counties, Macomb and Oakland, expect further drops in population.

Mary Otto, vice president for Outreach, said more and more students are opting to go to a community college for two years before transferring to OU.

"Frankly, from a competitive point of view, we need to start having some really good answers for that," Otto said.

"We need to offer something that makes it worth the extra money to be here for those four years," Otto said, and to be responsive to the wants and needs of those who attend community colleges.

For instance, she said, OU is well-situated geographically. "We need to build on that," Otto said.

Future plans

Russi said the above changes will cause OU to be "held to a different standard than we have (been) in the past."

"We've got to figure out what our com-

petitive advantage is," Russi said.

Russi expressed hope that the Human Health Building, which is expected to open in 2012, and a new campaign — "Creating the Future II," which currently consists of 500 local leaders who are looking into ways OU can use its resources to enhance the community — will provide that.

Just over 50 years old, Oakland, Russi said, is still young enough to re-brand itself.

Possible ways of doing this include emphasizing learning outcomes, opening a center for "non-completers" and increasing the expectation of students.

As far as aesthetic improvements, Russi said it was suggested to him that OU build "imposing" main gates.

Russi urged staff and faculty, who he repeatedly praised throughout the presentation, to "act with a sense of urgency."

"There's a lot of potholes and we need to drive over those pothole and around those potholes, but I'd like to pave a new road and drive right over it," Russi said.

campus briefs

World Percussion Day

The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will host a percussion workshop and performance by the Bernard Woma Ensemble on Saturday.

The workshop will take place at 10 a.m. in 110 Varner and the performance will be from 8-10 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall.

Tickets are \$17 and can be purchased at the Varner Box Office or through Star Tickets Plus.

Keeper of the Dream Scholarship

The 19th Annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebrated will take place on Monday from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the banquet rooms of the Oakland Center. The ceremony will recognize OU students who exemplify the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on campus and throughout the community.

Relay for Life of Oakland University

The Kickoff Party for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life at OU will take place Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in Lake Superior Room B.

For more information, visit the event website at www.relayforlife.org/oaklandumi or contact Kelsey Ruder at 248-663-3441.

AACM Opening Ceremonies

The African-American Celebration Month kicks off on Monday at the opening ceremonies in the Pioneer Food Court from 1-3 p.m. There will be food, African dancing and singing performances.

The celebration will run from Jan. 17 to Feb. 17 and reflect OU's commitment to celebrating African-American history and culture.

— Compiled by Lauryn Andrews,
Staff Intern

Late Night Skate Night rolls in

By MEGAN SEMERAZ

Staff Reporter

Students ended welcome week with a bang, roller skating into a new semester on a synthetic roller rink inside the Oakland Center.

The 1980s-themed event called "Late Night Skate Night" was organized by the Student Program Board and Center for Student Activities.

According to Jean Ann Miller, director of the CSA, the students involved in the SPB chose the details of the event.

Miller heard about the indoor roller rink and thought it would be a fun event for students.

Attendees could bring their own skates or use the ones provided at no cost.

"I really like what SPB does," junior Gregg Webb said. "Students have more fun."

Since the event needed a theme, the student organizations chose the 1980s said Miller.

Shoulder pads, neon leggings, large hair bows and knee-high socks were just some of the fashionable attire seen on the rink.

Freshman Brandi Odneal wore a complete 1980s look, including a multicolored tutu.

"I wanted to give the 1980s, a little color," Odneal said. "I like their music."

The music also followed the theme. Vintage hits such as "It's Tricky" by Run-D.M.C. and "Beat It" by Michael Jackson



MEGAN SEMERAZ/The Oakland Post

Students roller-skate in the banquet rooms of the OC for Late Night Skate Night. The event was free and part of Winter Welcome Week 2011.

were played at the event.

Several students stepped out onto the rink for the first time since childhood, some instantly taking a tumble.

"I haven't roller skated since I was little," sophomore Elyse Peterson said. "It was an opportunity to dress up. Why not?"

Peterson, an art education major, had some difficulty skating and didn't get very far on the rink.

"I've barely ventured anywhere yet," Peterson said.

Nicole Lockhart, a freshman, biology major had no problem skating.

"(The event) seemed like fun, and I like to skate," Lockhart said. "I like to watch people fall."

Webb, a studio art major, had not yet fallen, but was having trouble keeping his skates tied.

"I had to go over to the side (of the rink) and tie my shoes," Webb said.

Students, especially those who live on campus, said they want to attend similar events in the future.

"I hope they have more like it," Nicole Kogowski, a sophomore physical therapy major, said.

Campus plays host to SAM conference

By RHIANNON ZIELINSKI

Campus Editor

Fourteen universities from around the state gathered at Oakland University over the weekend for the monthly Students Association of Michigan conference.

It was the first time in about two years that the conference took place on campus.

"SAM is basically a compilation of all the public universities in Michigan," Student Body Vice President Amy Ring said. "We all come together once a month to talk about issues facing all students in Michigan. It's kind of like a political force, and the main thing that we focus on is higher education funding, because that is the biggest issue right now, with budget cuts in the state and our tuition rates going up every year."

SAM's goal is to take a unified stance on these issues and often passes resolutions regarding them. On Saturday they discussed a

bill that recently passed in Michigan requiring retailers that sell kegs of beer to attach an identification tag to the keg, notifying police of who purchased the keg if the party is broken up.

"That sort of thing affects college students," Ring said.

This was the highest-attended SAM conference thus far and provided OU with a chance to show other universities what we have to offer.

"The school that's hosting really tried to show off their school," Ring said. "We're really trying to impress the schools with our facilities and the food that we provide and activities for them. It turned out to be a really good weekend because they got to go to the basketball game and do the roller skating."

Former Student Body President Kristin Dayag is the Vice President of SAM and feels that the event was an overall success.

"It was one of our most productive. It really helps to have all the university interact together," Dayag said. "We have a lot accomplished as far as what our goals are for the future."

Students prepare for Day of Service

By ALI ARMSTRONG
Staff Reporter

Oakland University is getting ready to participate in the annual MLK Day of Service.

Saturday, Jan. 22 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., students will be volunteering in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Pontiac High School doing various activities around the school including organizing storage rooms so supplies can be better utilized by the school's staff.

"At this point we are planning to volunteer with high school students from Pontiac High School ... As the school strives to be financially responsible, volunteers are needed to help with the well being and upkeep of Pontiac High School," said Tiffany Sims, Americorps VISTA for the Center for Student Activities.

Junior Amanda Kmetz attended last year's MLK Day at Grace Centers of Hope, and is looking forward to volunteering again this year.

"I just like volunteering and helping others ... I've been doing community service through my churches basically my whole life. I really enjoy helping others," Kmetz said. "It's about serving others and taking the initiative to do better. Make the world a better place."

Oakland University teamed up with the United Way, as well as the Student United Way student organization on campus and Oakland Community College to help complete the project.

Students from other colleges and universities in southeast Michigan will also be volunteering throughout the week

that honors Dr. King.

"Last year we partnered with United Way of Southeast Michigan to secure these projects and work out the logistics of the day. The partnership with United Way is truly valuable and exciting and allows us to coordinate our service projects," Sims said.

MLK Day is a part of Oakland University's African American Celebration Month.

As a part of MLK Day last year, students participated in a service project at Grace Centers of Hope and an on-campus service project of sorting supplies for Arts and Scraps.

"I think Dr. King would be proud to know his day is a day dedicated to service. We incorporate reflection into the day of service because it helps remind students that the work they

are doing contributes to the larger picture and impacts the community as a whole," Sims said.

All students are encouraged to attend the MLK Day of Service. Students can register for the event at www.oakland.edu/volunteer, but walk-ins are also welcome. The bear bus will be taking students to Pontiac High School.

"I would love to have a variety of students attend this project ... this is a great opportunity for students to get engaged in service at OU. For students who are interested in getting more involved with the wonderful service initiatives at Oakland University, I would encourage them to e-mail me, call me or stop by the Leadership and Volunteer Center," Sims said.

Police Files

Safety alert

On Monday, Jan. 10, it was reported that a student was approached by two male subjects who attempted to steal his laptop computer by forcibly knocking it out of the student's hands. The student was able to pick up the computer and run to the southern doorway of Vandenberg Hall. The male subjects gave chase and again approached the student. At this point, other students approached the area and the male subjects fled the scene on foot. The student was not injured. Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to immediately call the Oakland University Police Department at 248-370-3331 (or 911 on campus telephones).

Chartwells counterfeit complaint

On Wednesday, Jan. 5, a student attempted to pay for her lunch with a counterfeit \$10 bill. When the cashier advised the student of the falsity of the cash, the student was surprised. The bill was returned to the student and she proceeded to pay for her meal with non-counterfeited money. The bill was placed in evidence and there was no further incident.

Rec ring larceny

On Thursday, Jan. 6, a student reported that her diamond ring was taken from a locker in the Recreation Center. The student had placed her ring in the locker, locked it and began working out. Upon leaving, the student forgot to retrieve her ring. She returned shortly to find another student using the locker. With permission, a Rec supervisor and the student searched the locker but the student stated she didn't see the ring when she began using the locker.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Local Editor

Student Congress welcomes new legislative affairs director

By JAKE THIELEN
Sports Editor

Oakland University's Student Congress met for the first time in the winter semester on Monday afternoon. Items on the agenda included approval of new committee members, statements of student concern and the Student Association of Michigan conference.

Ben Eveslage was approved as the new legislative affairs director, replacing Nessma Bashi, who resigned in December.

Eveslage said he plans to hold several events including "Law and H'Orderves" and an OU Day at the Capitol in March.

"Law & H'Orderves" is scheduled to take place on Jan. 22 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

Event attendees will learn about their rights as young adults and students, and free food will be provided.

Student body vice president Amy Ring said Eveslage has already adapted to the job well.

"He's been very detail-oriented about everything," Ring said. "We're very happy with his performance thus far."

Tyanna Moore was approved as the associate chair of the Student Program Board.


"The associate chair position is responsible for preparing and getting everything ready for all of the events that Student Program Board will be putting on this semester and next semester," Moore said.

Kate Rozek, a junior communications major, was approved as mainstage chair.

"My biggest job so far is putting on an April concert at OU and doing entertainment stuff for the next year," Rozek said.

Current OUSC legislator Nick McCormick, a junior communications and cinema studies major, was approved as special events chair.

Other appointments included Alejandro Herrera as public relations chair, Max VanRaaphorst as campus connections chair, Jasmine Moseley as annual events chair, Yasmine Shitta as golden events chair and Jibron Ahmed as diversity chair.

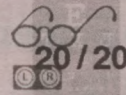


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Board of Trustees approves severance plan

By KAY NGUYEN
Editor-in-Chief

Nearly 400 OU employees are eligible for an early retirement package being offered by the University. Proposed at a Dec. 2 finance, audit and investment committee meeting, the Employee Severance Plan is designed to be a cost-cutting measure for the Oakland University administration. The plan was approved at the Dec. 9 board of trustees meeting before it was offered to employees.

The Educators Preferred Corporation will help in the implementation of this initiative. The Plan applies to all full-time employees at OU who have worked on campus for over 15 years.

"We are grateful for the exceptional work and dedication of all our employees — both those who will be with us for years to come and those who will choose to embark on the next phase of their personal and professional lives," OU President Gary Russi said in an e-mail sent to all faculty and staff. The benefit will be given to those who opt to take it over a 5-year period.

There are no age restrictions and every recipient could possibly make up to 100 percent of their base salary, but there are caps on how much staff and faculty can receive.

For instance, the benefit for administrators and deans cannot exceed \$90,000. The cap is \$35,000 for those in clerical and technical services and campus maintenance and trade. Faculty may not receive more than \$75,000.

"The primary strategic purpose of the voluntary plan is to reduce compensation costs," Ron Watson, assistant vice president for university human resources, said at the board of trustees formal session. "Further benefits to the university include strategically managing employment levels and employee promotions — vacated positions will be evaluated by the administration on a case-by-case basis."

Those eligible have between Tuesday, Jan. 18 and Monday, March 7 to make a decision regarding the offer. Karen Miller, associate professor and chair of the history department, is eligible to take advantage of the plan. She has been at OU since 1993.

"Some departments could be potentially

very badly hurt by this," Miller said. "If a department had a large number of senior people and those people are not replaced, that can do a lot of damage to the curriculum as far as what classes are offered."

However, Miller said it seemed like a "perfectly okay" thing and that "there is incentive built into it."

Physics professor David Garfinkle said full-time faculty often have a deeper grasp on their subject and can often contribute more to the university because of that commitment.

"It's possible that (The Employee Severance Plan) would have a negative impact on scholarship and service," Garfinkle said. "It's even likely that what will happen is that it will have negative impacts on the quality of instruction."

Trustee Jayprakash Shah was the only board member to vote against the plan, citing concerns for the quality of replacement faculty and turnover rate. The rest of the board voted to approve the resolution.

Garfinkle, president of the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, said that because the missions

of the union is to negotiate the contract between faculty and the administration, the issue of retirement is not exactly a union issue. At the finance, audit and investment meeting, trustee Jacqueline Long did ask whether collective bargaining units has looked over the Plan.

According to Garfinkle, unions were not involved with the planning of the Plan. He said he was unable to thoroughly go through documents given to him before the meeting, but has since read through and finds no violation of faculty rights in them.

Projected savings would be \$1.3 million over the next eight years for the university. About \$2 million in up-front costs will have to be absorbed by the university in order to pay the benefits and fees for each retiree, since it costs \$94 each month per retiree in fees to implement.

Both Garfinkle and Miller believe it will be a few years before the impact of the one-time deal can be measured. The board of trustees amended the resolution to require reports at board meetings over the next two years in regards to the impact of the plan and whether it has been successful.

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Fencing team rises up

Team looks to make jump from club to NCAA varsity status

By **TOM BARRY**
Staff Reporter

Three times a week, an unfamiliar sound rings through the lower level of Oakland's gym. It is loud, and distinguishable from the dribbling basketballs and the hum of the exercise machines.

It's the clanking sound of metal making contact on metal.

This is the work of the Oakland fencing team, a large club sport looking to work its way up to the levels of an NCAA varsity sport.

NCAA varsity status

The fencing team is coached by D.C. Moons, a theater major and graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1986. The fencing club was re-established in 1980, and though it has disbanded and been brought back together off and on since then, it has never completely folded.

The fencing team is composed of just fewer than 50 members, and more than 40 of them are current OU students. The club has been certified by the United States Fencing Association (USFA), and many members hold a USFA ranking of "E" (the rankings range from "F" all the way up to "A").

The team's goal right now is simple: Become an NCAA team.

"We need at least 10 USFA fencers and then apply for to the NCAA to varsity status," fencer Aaron Perry said. "We have at least eight right now. We're really close."

Game day

On Oct. 30, members of the fencing team gathered at Liberty Lakes Fencing Club in Howell to participate in a tournament and to try to capture highly sought after gold medals.

The tournaments have two to four pools, and one fencer faces each opponent from his pool once. Following pool play, the fencers are seeded and placed into a single-elimination tournament. Pool play has a scoring limit of five points, and tournament

play can go as high as 15 points, as long as the fencers can finish before the match's time limit is up.

The different styles of fencing are best represented through each of the three sword types: The foil, the epee and the sabre.

"Foil involves a lot of footwork, a lot of style, a lot of deception," Moons said. "You must move your feet and your weapon quite a bit more in foil. Epee requires a lot more thinking and a much more delicate touch because your arm is closer to your opponent and it's a legal target. In foil, you have to get past the weapon and the arm to get to the target, so there's a lot more movement around. Sabre is much more aggressive. I've been told that foil is dance, epee is chess and sabre is to fight."

Ryan Wood was the lone Oakland fencer in the sabre. Though the meet did not go in his favor, Wood was able to learn and analyze where his fencing could have improved.

"The pool, that was an issue of it was my first time (using a sabre), so there was a lot more warming up in practice," Wood said. "So most of my points, I wound up losing one or two points, I did go to La Belle, which is 4-4, next point wins."

Wood said he improved in each match.

"In (the next) match, I started out decent, got in a few really nice hits. But then (my opponent) caught on to what I was doing and was able to find a way to counter it. And that's really where I lost."

The epee battles were next, and only a couple Grizzlies, Jonathan Huynh and Denise Bradley, took part in this event. Both were able to advance to the tournament's quarterfinals before being eliminated. Bradley said she felt confident about her performance with the epee that day.

"It felt good," Bradley said. "It was my first time doing epee. I ranked sixth out of 12, so that's good. I wasn't following through on a lot of my attacks, though."

Huynh remained confident as well, saying that he is still learning the sport.



TOM BARRY/The Oakland Post

The Oakland University club fencing team practices in the university gym. Fencer Aaron Perry said the team hopes to gain NCAA varsity sport status within two years.

"I really enjoyed it," Huynh said. "There were some major mistakes that I made, which included telegraphing my moves, but I think my performance today was good for the weekend. I've only been fencing for the semester, but I think I am improving."

The final event was the foil. Most of the OU fencers, composed of Perry, Wood, Bradley, Brendan Morris, Michael Christofis and Tom Liptak, were competing in the foil, but as a result of the grueling competition, many were winded before they were finished competing. Some of the winning fencers did not even reach five points before the time limit expired.

Christofis' performance was the highlight of the team's performance at Liberty Lakes. He advanced to the fourth of seven

rounds in the tournament after receiving a first-round bye and only surrendered seven points in his two victories.

"It was pretty good I guess," Christofis said jokingly of his performance. "I have to actually work on hitting people, apparently, because I don't. It's just point control or something."

"(The quarterfinals) is the brick wall. I never get past that point. I'm pretty happy about my performance today, but I just couldn't capitalize."

The Grizzlies' strong showing demonstrated that they have the potential to compete at the NCAA level.

"I think we should reach NCAA level by the time we graduate, so in the next two years, maybe next year," Perry said.

Grizzlies improve to 6-0

By **DAN FENNER**
Senior Editor

In the ebb and flow of the lengthy season, a general rule for success is often a diverse scoring attack and a wide array of contributors.

The Oakland University men's basketball team (11-8) put both of those qualities on display Saturday night, defeating Western Illinois, 79-50, to improve to 6-0 in Summit League play.

All five starters had 10 points or more, three of which also recorded a double-double.

"I'm really pleased with the game," head coach Greg Kampe said. "I think there could have been a lull when you're playing a team that's record isn't outstanding. But I think we played like a championship team that just goes about its business. They're committed to winning and this was a night they could have backed off that commitment but they didn't and that's why they won by 29 points."

The Golden Grizzlies, who have been bitten by the injury bug lately, were without sophomore guard Ledrick Eackles, while starting point guard Larry Wright was only available in a limited role.

Senior Will Hudson led the way with an efficient 18-point performance for OU.

"A lot of things happen in the course of the season, so it's important to pick each other up and push each other more (to be better)," Hudson said.

Western Illinois came out of the gate shooting, as the Leathernecks scored eight points on their first four possessions. But the Grizzlies defense quickly gained composure.

Trailing 8-7 with 17:20 remaining in the first half, Oakland spent the next 20 minutes of gameplay outscoring Western Illinois 44-10. The Leathernecks were held without a point for nearly nine minutes in one stretch as Oakland led 51-18 early in the second half.

Grizzlies center Keith Benson got off to a slow start, but finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds. He also inched closer to the conference record for blocks with five more rejections.

"(Benson) got a little frustrated because he was getting beat up pretty good and the whistle wasn't coming as quick as he would have liked," Kampe said. "Offensively we weren't clicking (early on), but we were defending, so you knew at some point we were going to start making shots and that run was going to come."

In the absence of Wright, junior guard Reggie Hamilton assumed the role of point guard again and responded with a career-high 10 assists while committing just a single turnover. He also chipped in with 10



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Senior Will Hudson (4) was one of five Golden Grizzlies to reach double-digit scoring in Oakland's 79-50 win over Summit League rival Western Illinois on Saturday.

points for his first-ever double-double.

"The game he had Thursday night, I think he came of age," Kampe said. "And to come back today, he didn't look for his shot but rather looked for assists. The thing that he does better than Larry is he brings the ball up the floor faster. In a way, he's actually better for us at the point, but we need Larry back at full strength."

Redshirt freshman Travis Bader followed up a career-high 18 points in Thursday's win with 15 more against WIU. His 3-point shooting was once again a catalyst for the Grizzlies offense in the first half as he continually knocked down open looks in the corner.

"It really just comes with repetition in practice," Bader said. "The chemistry on the team is great so when we're on the floor, we know where each other are."

Kampe said the recent injuries have allowed players like Bader and sophomore Drew Valentine to gain playing time and, more importantly, confidence.

"With Larry's injury, it put (Valentine) in a position where he had to play. And he stopped, stood back, and realized, 'I'm pretty good if I just slow down and let the game come to me.' He has been unbelievable his last three games. He's playing as well as anyone in our league right now."

Valentine reached new career-highs in points (17) and rebounds (14) Saturday night.

With the win, the Grizzlies extended their streak of consecutive league victories to 14 games, three games short of the conference record.

The most difficult portion of Oakland's remaining schedule begins Saturday with a trip to IPFW (10-5, 5-1) in the first of a three-game road trip.

"If we win those three, then we become the greatest team in the history of the league in terms of consecutive wins," Kampe said. "We tied the record last year at 16, but then we lost. Where we're at and what we do, as long as we keep winning, we don't have to worry about anything but ourselves."

STANDINGS OF THE SUMMIT

Summit League standings
as of Jan. 12

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Oakland 6-0
IPFW 5-1
South Dakota St. 3-2
North Dakota St. 3-2
IUPUI 3-2
Oral Roberts 3-3
UMKC 2-3
Western Illinois 1-4
Southern Utah 1-4
Centenary 0-6

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Oral Roberts 6-0
Oakland 5-1
IPFW 4-2
Southern Utah 3-2
North Dakota St. 3-2
South Dakota St. 2-3
Western Illinois 2-3
UMKC 1-4
IUPUI 1-4
Centenary 0-6

The top eight teams qualify
for The Summit League
Tournament March 5-8 in
Sioux Falls, S.D.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 15 —

Women's basketball at IPFW
4:30 p.m.

Men's basketball at IPFW
7 p.m.

Records fall as OU swims to victory



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Oakland swimmer Vanessa Balogh finished first in two individual events, and was a member of the 400 free relay team that clinched the win for the Grizzlies over EMU.

By **TOM BARRY**
Staff Reporter

A pair of 1-2 finishes in the 400-yard freestyle relay proved pivotal as the Oakland University women's swimming and diving team defeated Eastern Michigan, 151-149, while the Golden Grizzly men came up victorious against the Eagles, 184-116, Saturday at the OU Aquatics Center.

Down 11 points and needing to take the top two spots in the 400 free relay, the Oakland women (4-1) did just that, finishing within 0.06 seconds of each other to defeat the Eagles (0-5). Alyssa Vela, JulieAnne Stears, Vanessa Balogh and Alyssa Busch came in first at 3:35.82, followed by Christine Seiple, Kelli Dewey, Margo Stanfa and Johanna Gustafsson (3:35.88).

"Back and forth, back and forth, all the way to the tail end," Oakland coach Pete Hovland said regarding the women's meet. "Coaches were scrambling, changing the relays up so we would have two strong relays instead of one good one and one not-so-good. We knew we had to get first and second in that in order to win the meet, and you've got to give your hats off to the young ladies. They stepped up big time and they did what they needed to do."

"Going into that, I wouldn't have thought of that scenario. I'm real pleased with the ladies' effort. They did a great job."

Though the men's meet was already decided going into the 400 free relay, Oakland (3-2) also finished first and second in that event to complete their victory over Eastern Michigan (1-2). Marcin Unold, Alex Aceino, Zach Johnson and Matyas Keresztes finished first at 3:04.57, with Amr el Sayed, Nick Evans, Tim Montague and Jordan Moses finishing second (3:08.35).

The Grizzly men also showed dominance by going 1-2-3 in the 500 free. El Sayed

captured first in that event with a time of 4:35.06, followed by Evans (4:37.97) and Montague (4:38.65). El Sayed also won the 1,000 free (9:29.14).

Balogh finished first in the 1,000 free with a time of 10:07.75. She was 0.04 seconds behind the school record, set by Danielle Ward in 2001. Balogh also finished first in the 500 free (4:57.89).

Balogh and el Sayed each had times in the 1,000 free that surpassed the league records. Balogh finished far ahead of the women's mark of 10:17.71, set by Maggie Vaughn of Centenary in 2007. El Sayed bested the men's record of 9:25.42, established by Montague in 2009. Balogh and el Sayed were not credited with the league records Saturday, however, because they can only be broken during The Summit League Championships, which will be held Feb. 13-19 in Indianapolis.

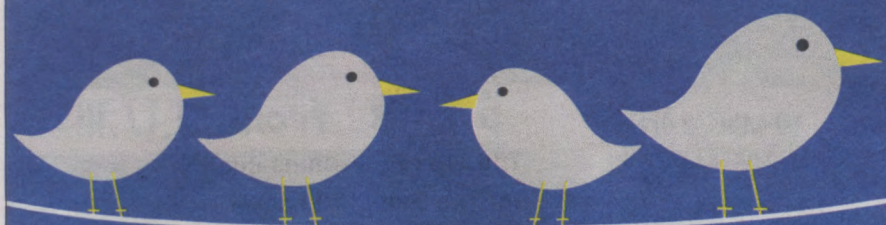
Chelsea Oates made history as she finished second in 3-meter diving with a score of 310.05. That is a new Oakland record as Oates broke her own previous school record of 308.26 from 2010.

After season-opening losses, both the Oakland men and women are building strong winning streaks. The women have won four straight since losing their first dual meet to Toledo, while the men won their last three after starting the season with a tri-meet loss to Michigan and Notre Dame.

The Grizzlies have a difficult task in front of them Saturday when they travel to Cleveland as they will be competing in a quad-meet against Cleveland State, Duquesne and Xavier.

"(Preparing for all three opponents) is tough to do," Hovland said. "You try to focus on yourselves, try to put your best swimmers in their best events against three teams like that."

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Francis earns 100th career conference win

GAME OF THE WEEK

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

In another dominating defensive performance, the Oakland University women's basketball team shut down the IUPUI Jaguars, 73-50, Monday night inside the O'rena, and improved to 5-1 in conference play.

For the second game in a row, the Golden Grizzlies held their opponent below 40 percent shooting and forced more than 15 turnovers.

The win gave Oakland coach Beckie Francis her 100th career conference win.

Francis was impressed with her team's defensive effort in the victory.

"Our defensive intensity was really, really good," Francis said. "They started hitting a few more shots in the second half, but I'm still happy with holding a team to 35 percent for the game. We're taking pride in being the number one team in the league in defense, and we want to keep that going."

OU was on top of its game early, shooting their way to a 10-3 lead just seven minutes into the game. The Jaguars were able to claw their way back into the game, how-

ever, and briefly took a 14-12 lead with eight and a half minutes left in the first half.

The Grizzlies responded emphatically with a 20-4 run to take a 32-18 lead into halftime. Four different players scored during the spurt, including freshman guard Malika Glover, who was making her second career start.

"We knew we had to pick it up and go into the second half with a solid lead," Glover said. "We wanted to take no mercy, basically."

Glover played a large part in creating Oakland's 14-point halftime lead, scoring 13 points before the break. She finished the game with 16 points, a career-high. She also pulled down seven rebounds, which was tied for the team-high.

"I was taking what was open (in the first half) and hitting my open teammates in the second half," Glover said. "That's just how it worked out. (Rebounding) is something that we really emphasize in practice and I've really been getting better at it, so I just take pride in every rebound I can get."

With a shortened bench and only eight players available due to injuries, Francis was able to get the most out of her players, as everyone who entered the game scored. While not happy with all of the injuries,

Francis said she is looking for positives from the situation.

"Everyone is starting to know their roles, and it's a little bit easier now that numbers are lower — not that we want that — but when they're lower, everyone knows their roles," Francis said.

The team's leading scorer, sophomore Bethany Watterworth, was held below her season average with 11 points, but also tallied four assists and two blocks. Junior Brittany Carnago added to her defensive totals with four blocks as she continues to move up OU's all-time list.

One of the biggest factors in the game was free throw shooting. The Grizzlies shot 17-of-22 from the charity stripe, compared to just 3-of-6 for IUPUI. The physicality of IUPUI's defense was both a strength and a weakness as it kept the Jaguars in the game early, but allowed OU to get easy points late.

"They (IUPUI) play very aggressive man-to-man defense and we struggled with it early, which is why they hung with us," Francis said. "Other teams had been playing us differently so we had to make adjustments. They just keep fouling and being aggressive. The refs are either going to call it or they're not."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Freshman Malika Glover scored a career-high 16 points in her second career start Monday against rival IUPUI.

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JEN BUCCIARELLI/The Oakland Post

Jacquelyne Thornton, of Auburn Hills, and Bob Jackson, of Troy, enjoy an afternoon of ice skating at the recently-opened, outdoor ice rink located at Auburn and Squirrel Roads. The rink is open from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

police blotter

Rochester

MARIJUANA POSSESSION:

On Jan. 1, Rochester police were dispatched to the 100 block of Wilcox Street on a report of a fight in progress.

Upon arrival officers were directed to a specific apartment where they then observed several uncooperative subjects. An 18-year-old male, Rochester resident, was detained, questioned and found to have suspected marijuana in his possession.

The subject was issued a misdemeanor ticket for marijuana and released.

KICKED OUT:

On Jan. 1, Rochester Police were dispatched to 215 Main St. (Main Street Billiards) on a disorderly subject. Upon arrival, officers observed a highly intoxicated 30-year-old male, Centerline resident, who had been forcibly removed from the bar.

The subject became argumentative and was subsequently arrested for being a disorderly person.

SUSPENDED LICENSE:

On Jan. 2, Rochester police conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near Main and Romeo streets, due to the

vehicle traveling without headlights. An investigation revealed that the 36-year-old male, Nevada resident, had a suspended driver's license.

The driver was arrested for driving on a suspended license.

Troy

HOME INVASION:

On the 2000 block of Rhodes Drive at 7:50 p.m., there was a complainant report regarding an unknown person that gained entry to a residence through an unlocked, rear sliding door. It was reported that jewelry and cash were taken from the home.

LARCENIES:

At the Jaguar dealership, located at 1815 Mapelawn Drive, it was reported that trunk emblems from two 2011 Jaguar XJ vehicles were stolen.

On the 100 block of Randall Drive, on Jan. 6, it was reported that an air conditioning unit was stolen from a vacant residence.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor

Local Briefs

Eco-conscious restaurant closes for winter season in downtown Rochester

Mind, Body & Spirits closed last weekend for the winter season. The restaurant will reopen again this spring. Fans of the Inspired Treats desserts that are served at both Mind, Body & Spirits and the Rochester Brewery, can purchase the desserts at Celiac Specialties Gluten Free Bakery in Rochester Hills. For more information contact mindbodyspirits@yahoo.com or 248-650-2824.

MLK Day 2011: A Celebration of Freedom at Troy Athens High School

On Monday, Jan. 17, from 8:30-10 a.m. a free event to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through art displays, essays and guest speakers.

Rev. Charlotte Sommers of Northminister Presbyterian Church will open the celebration as well as lead the symbolic, Unity Walk around Athens High School. The event will include a keynote speaker — Keith Cooley, a CEO, Principia, LLC, according to Troymt.gov

Cooley has been an engineer, strategist and corporate executive for more than 40 years and currently a community leader focusing his talents on developing policy, creating strategies and collaborating to stimulate innovative regional activism for the revitalization of Detroit and its environs.

The Troy Honors Choir will perform for the event with the theme of "A Celebration of Diversity." There will also be a student art exhibit displaying the winners of the MLK Essay Contest as well. For those attending, Sodexo Food Service, following the celebration, will provide a continental breakfast.

Athens High School is located at 4333 John R. Road. For more information, call 248-524-1147.

Paint Creek Trailways Commissions Meeting in Rochester

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, the Paint Creek Trailways Commissions Meeting will discuss a temporary permit request for the upcoming Deaf Arts Festival and Bark Walk-a-thon for this spring, among other topics. The Mill is located at 4480 Orion Road in Rochester. Everyone is welcome and public comment is encouraged. For more information, call 248-651-9260.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor

Global News

ON JANUARY 12 IN HISTORY:

1896 - Dr. Henry Smith took the first X-ray image in the United States

1948 - Mohandas Mahatma Gandhi began his final fast

1991 - U.S. Congress gave President George Bush the authority to wage war against Iraq

1998 - Nineteen European countries signed an agreement banning human cloning

2010 - A severe earthquake shook the island nation of Haiti, killing 150,000 people

1 Illinois

The Illinois Senate voted Tuesday to abolish capital punishment, prompted by the removal of 20 people wrongly condemned to death row since 1987. The Senate voted 32-25 to send the issue to Gov. Pat Quinn. In the past, Illinois dismissed capital punishment once before, but it was reinstated. Already, 15 U.S. states as well as the District of Columbia have abolished the death penalty since 2007.

2 Europe

Europe is dealing with repercussions centering on the debt crisis surrounding the euro. Portugal is borrowing at unsustainable levels, and many feel that a bailout might be necessary. Greece and Ireland have already caved under financial pressure. With bailouts, however, salaries and pensions are cut and taxes increased. Some relief for Portugal appeared Tuesday, in the form of Japan pledging to support Europe's bailout efforts.

3 China

The United States and China may initiate previously unheard of military talks in the first half of this year, according to a statement from U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Tuesday. As of now, contacts between the two countries focus mainly on maritime issues, but the talks could begin conversations on topics such as nuclear and missile defense, cyber warfare and military issues of space.

4 Ivory Coast

Threats towards United Nations peacekeepers in Africa's Ivory Coast continue to escalate. On Tuesday, U.N. peacekeepers were forced to flee after an angry mob blockaded the road and gunmen following incumbent leader Laurent Gbagbo opened fire on their vehicles. The group cordoned off sections of a neighborhood and unleashed violence against a rival's supposed stronghold, leaving at least four people dead.

5 Yemen

Hilary Clinton appeared Tuesday in Yemen on an unannounced visit to promote international ties between the two countries. Clinton stressed her desire to improve relations not just for military purposes (Yemen is the focal point of American counterterrorism) but also for long-term challenges, such as Yemen's economic, social and political problems. The U.S. is hopeful that their ally will take a stronger approach against al-Qaeda in Yemen.

6 Afghanistan

Vice President Joe Biden announced Tuesday that after the U.S. relinquishes the responsibility of military-led security over Afghanistan in 2014 and turns it over to Afghan forces, the U.S. will continue to provide aid and training. Biden has retracted his previous sentiments, when he said last month that the U.S. would leave Afghanistan completely come 2014 "come hell or high water."

— Compiled by Sarah Wojcik,
Senior Reporter, from AP Reports

WORLD IN NUMBERS

6 Number of people shot and killed by Jared Lee Loughner on Saturday in Tucson, Ariz.

9 Number of people killed (so far) by flash flooding in Queensland state, Australia in recent months

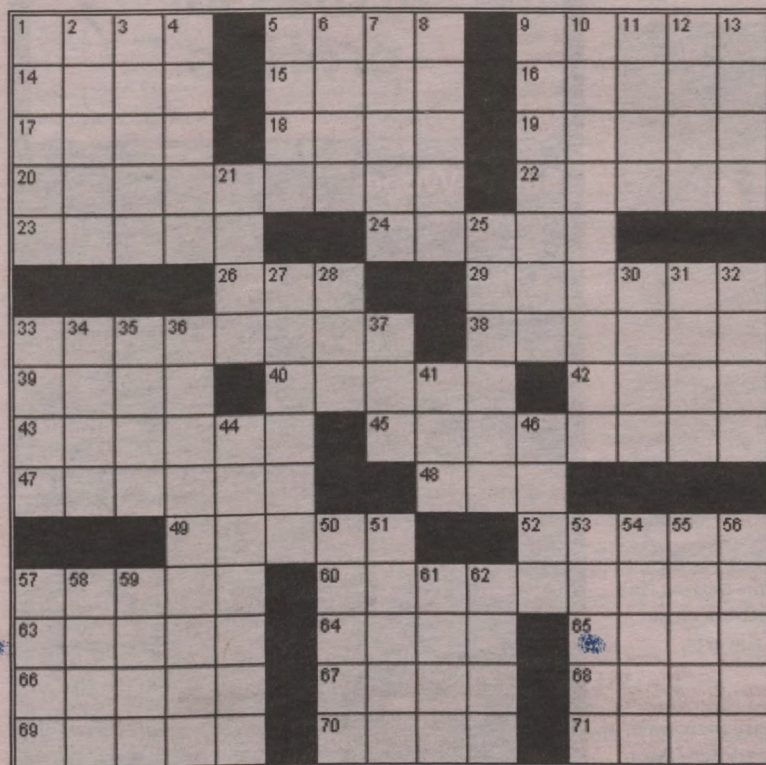
\$325 Cost to switch from an AT&T smartphone (if purchased after June 1) to Verizon's new iPhone



WEEKLY CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Donations
5. Precious stones
9. 144 of something
14. Song for two
15. "Smallest particle"
16. Soup server
17. Not deceived by
18. Certain
19. Fool
20. Narrowly restricted in outlook
22. After dinner candies
23. Fairy tale character
24. Andean animal
26. Donkey
29. Foursome
33. Novice
38. American songbird
39. Black, in poetry
40. Sea
42. Double-reed woodwind
43. Found at the end of a pencil
45. Ajax or Mr. Clean
47. Comfort
48. Any doctrine
49. An English dynasty
52. Left the engine running

57. Tiny parallel grooves
60. An extravagantly theatrical play
63. Not behind
64. Flair
65. Ends a prayer
66. Enthusiasm
67. Donate
68. Air current
69. Flower with a showy head
70. Cards with just one symbol
71. Gentlewoman

DOWN

1. Take as one's own
2. Pertaining to the Moon
3. Parisian subway
4. A simple seat
5. Deep cut
6. Decorative case
7. Words to live by
8. Odor
9. Gleam
10. The product of nuclear decay
11. Chief Norse god
12. Coin opening

13. Collections
21. Tribe
25. Makes amends
27. Breathed noisily while sleeping
28. Dry, as wine
30. Holds up
31. Found in skin lotion
32. Elk or caribou
33. Honey insects
34. A river in Spain
35. Objective
36. Impossible to satisfy
37. VCR button
41. Famous boxer
44. A South American country
46. In the center of
50. Greek last letter
51. Museum piece
53. Slow speech pattern
54. Female demon
55. Alter
56. Clotheshorse
57. Epic
58. As a result
59. Repose
61. Wash
62. 1111

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Center for Student Activities

CSA

www.oakland.edu/csa

"Reading is Leading"

Thomas Friedman Book Lecture Series

The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century
Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need A Green Revolution

The first lecture begins January 18th, in the OC.
The first 18 students to register will receive a free novel.

Sign up and learn more at: oakland.edu/ThomasFriedman

MLK Day of Service

partnering with United Way
Volunteering at:

Pontiac High School

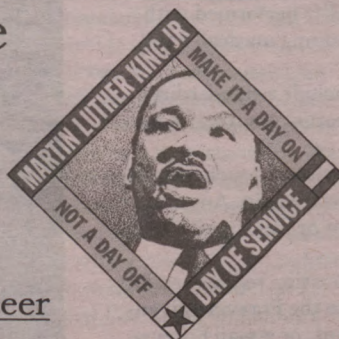
Saturday, January 22nd

9:00am - 3:00pm

Information & Registration at:

oakland.edu/volunteer

Transportation will be available for students who live on campus.



NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 STUDENT AWARDS

WILSON AWARDS

Nominees for the 2011 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in **Winter 2011** or have graduated in **Summer** or **Fall 2010**. 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 **3.5** or higher GPA.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in **Winter 2011** or have graduated in **Summer** or **Fall 2010**. 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.

Nomination forms are available online at
www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/
under "Awards and Scholarships" or at 144 Oakland Center.
Call 248.370.3352 for more information.
Nominations due by Monday, February 7, 2011.

Turning tragedy into charity



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Sophomore Mike Morris and two friends started the non-profit organization "Forever Adventure, Inc." after a close friend passed away from an enlarged heart condition. The organization allows young people to explore the arts.

By **ALI ARMSTRONG**
Staff Reporter

Live. Learn. Love. Forever Adventure.

After the loss of a close friend to an enlarged heart condition, sophomore Mike Morris and a group of friends decided to start Forever Adventure, Inc., a non-profit organization in honor and remembrance of their fallen friend.

The idea for the organization came about after the unexpected passing of John Hitz, a close friend and lead singer of Morris' band, Forever and a Day.

"Prior to his passing, John and I would be working 24/7 on music and ideas to promote our band," Morris said. "After he passed, I lost that motivation to be into music right now. I decided to channel my efforts and my talents into something that I think would honor John and promote to a larger audience, his legacy in a sense."

The mission of Forever Adventure is to help less fortunate or disadvantaged young people to explore personal adventures through music and the arts. They hope to raise donations to start a memorial scholarship in Hitz's memory, provide young people with the materials they need to pursue the arts and host learning seminars and workshops.

"Our goal with Forever Adventure, essentially, is to assist as many people as possible with their own personal goals regarding music and the arts ... We hope we can provide many opportunities for the creative and most certainly inspire people along the way, much like John did for us," said Sarah Brockett, co-creator of Forever Adventure, Inc.

While the organization is less than a month old, it is already planning on unique activities to help aid young people pursue their goals in the arts.

Hitz's father, who was also interested in photography like John was, agreed to dedicate his time to developing a workshop for young people interested in photography.

It is also planning on donating and raffling adventure kits, backpacks with supplies like digital cameras, paintbrushes and flashlights, to young people looking to explore

the arts in all of its different forms.

"So many people are very willing to dedicate their time, so we just kind of need to tighten these things down," Morris said. "The overwhelming support that we have gotten so far from a couple of posts on Facebook and YouTube videos has been overwhelming ... we hope it continues down this line."

Hitz and his desire to make life an adventure inspired the name "Forever Adventure."

Hitz was born with a serious heart condition, leaving a portion of his heart three times too large, which led to the complications that caused his passing.

"John had a profound way of living," Morris said. "His philosophy on life was incredible ... he knew that every second he had was a gift and that he had to make every second an adventure ... his whole idealism was treat everything as an adventure."

Forever Adventure is currently in the process of making T-shirts, wristbands and buttons to help raise donations for their projects.

"Getting the word out is the biggest thing," Morris said. "With that will come the funds and then from there we can establish our programs and more specific direction with what we want to do with our donated goods, adventure kits and seminars for photography or art."

The organization has put together a series of YouTube videos of rough music recordings Hitz performed with his band to showcase what he was doing musically and photographically.

Press kits for the organization include a standardized letter and a tribute DVD to Hitz, featuring a song he performed with his band.

"We hope this reaches some people and touches them in a way that they would be so inclined to help. Anything is helpful. Monetary donations, talent or just time," Morris said.

People interested in making a donation to Forever Adventure, Inc. can make donations to the Forever Adventure account at any Huntington Bank, or e-mail Forever Adventure at foreveradventure@yahoo.com.

40

professor profiles

Weekly spotlight on OU professors

Susan Wood
Professor, Art History

When faced with a difficult decision, what Wood you do?

Susan Wood, professor of art history, would transfer schools and move to the city of her dreams.

Wood earned her master's and doctorate degrees from Columbia University in New York, pursuing the busy city in efforts to fulfill her fairytale expectations.

"The main reason I wanted to be there was because it was in New York City and I had romantic ideas of how much fun it was going to be to live in (the city), but I

quickly found out it's only a lot of fun if you're really rich. It's not fun if you're on a student budget," Wood said.

While working on her dissertation, she spent a year at the American Academy in Rome, which allowed her to access European museums and research facilities. Though the institution didn't give her a degree, it did give her the title of "Fellow of the Academy."

"Something I always tell my students is that there is no substitute for seeing the actual objects," Wood said. "You've got to get into museums and look at the real things because you'll notice details that I can never in a million years show you in a photograph, no matter how good the photographs are."

In her spare time, Wood likes gardening and bird watching. She says it's hard to do both at the same time because they are mutually exclusive, and gardening takes up a lot of her time.

This summer, Wood and a few students will be traveling to the small country of San Marino in Italy to learn about art history and conservation. Wood will be teaching a few classes while she is there.

"The (San Marino trip) should be an exciting chance to get back to some places I've seen, and to go to places I haven't seen," Wood said. "I'm also excited to share it with a group of students."

This semester, Wood is teaching two classes: Intro to Western Art I (AH 100) and Greek Art (AH 312).

— Nichole Seguin, Features Editor

Beating winter blues

By **EMMA CLAUCHERTY**
Staff Reporter

Being sad during the winter months used to be referred to as the "winter blues," but those gloomy emotions can now be diagnosed as a legitimate depressive disorder.

"Nobody is absolutely certain, but it seems to be a substantial number of people, when it gets to be late fall, early winter, that becomes to all appearances depressed," said Dr. James Franklin, clinical psychologist and director of training at Graham Health Center.

According to WebMD.com, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is most likely to affect people who live in areas where winter days are very short or there are big changes in the amount of daylight over the span of the year. Younger people, women and people who have relatives that were diagnosed with it also have an increased risk.

"It is different than just being unhappy about something, because everyone gets unhappy about something at one time or another, and then they get over it."

— James Franklin,
Clinical psychologist and director of
training at Graham Health Center

"I get more depressed at the end of the winter because it's not as beautiful outside," said Erin Sobetski, a sophomore majoring in mathematics. "When you look outside for a distraction, it's not as lovely and pretty as it usually is."

SAD symptoms, which usually start in September or October and last until May, can affect mood, health and daily life in many different ways.

Discouraged moods, loss of interest in enjoyable activities, eating more and being tired are also common symptoms.

"(People) become lethargic, their metabolism slows down, they put on weight, they lose interest in being active," Franklin said. "This of course makes participating in the usual demands of public life very difficult and frustrating because they are really not up to it, they become sad, morose and they get depressed."

Freshman Victoria Crow does not suffer from SAD, but has noticed changes in her mood and energy during the winter months.

"(The colder weather) makes me just want to stay inside and not do much," Crow said. "It makes me want to hibernate."

Franklin has worked with several students who exhibited symptoms of SAD. He also admits to seeing a greater number of students as it gets colder, but doesn't blame it strictly on the colder weather.

"(Seeing more students in the winter months) is a little confounded," he said. "The middle of the fall term is when everybody starts flunking out of school and getting stressed. The winter term is when they start doing it again. You would expect to get a greater influx because of the stress and pressure and you would expect to have more people with emotional difficulties around that time of year anyway."

Due to the drastic change in life by starting at a new school, college students are at an extremely vulnerable position to become depressed, according to Franklin.

"It's a stressful thing; all this independence plus the additional demands of the academics," Franklin said. "Going off to college, in most ways, is extremely challenging. If you've got any sort of predisposition of becoming depressed, that kind of situation can give you the extra nudge."

Students experiencing depression can receive help. SAD responds to many different kinds of treatment, including anti-depressants. Other treatment methods may include standard counseling or light therapy.

"There are lamps you can buy that produce the kind of light you get during the summer," Franklin said. "People who have their environments lit with that kind of lighting seem to do better in terms of their SAD."

Seasonal changes in mood are completely normal as long as they do not inhibit daily life, Franklin said.

"It is different than just being unhappy about something, because everyone gets unhappy about something at one time or another, and then they get over it," Franklin said.

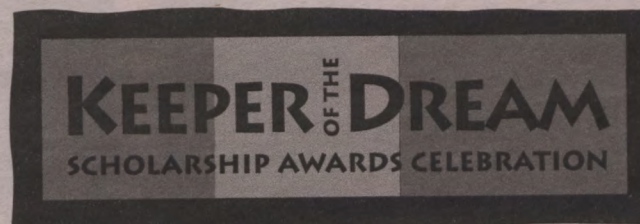
According to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, seasonal blues may potentially develop into SAD. However, both can be avoided quite easily.

"Take good care of yourself emotionally, maintain a good support system and stay active," Franklin said. "Eating healthy, not doing drugs, not trying to live on coffee and exercise regularly. (Exercise) can easily fall by the wayside in college, which is why it is nice we have a good rec center here."

Even though most students shouldn't be too concerned with developing SAD, Franklin believes it is important that they are aware of the signs and symptoms.

Those experiencing symptoms of SAD or other depressive disorders, can make an appointment with a counselor at Graham Health Center, which is located next to Wilson Hall and Bear Lake, by calling 248-370-2341.

Oakland University presents the 19th annual



Honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

JANUARY 17, 2011

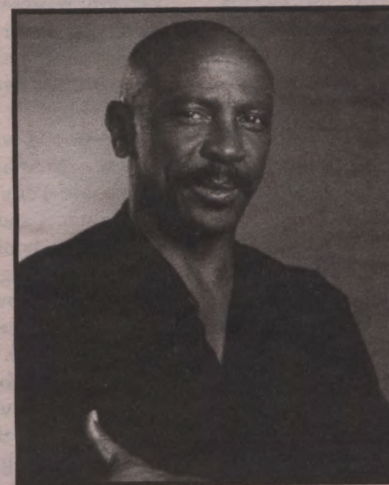
11:30 A.M.

Oakland Center Banquet Rooms on OU's campus
Rochester, Michigan

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LOU GOSSETT, JR.

Oscar-winning actor and founder, the Eracism Foundation



The event is free and open to the public.
For more information, call (248) 370-4915.

oakland.edu/kod

CES announces top of tech

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY
Scene Editor

Within the next year, consumers will be able to view 3-D pictures and films without glasses, video chat on a mobile device from anywhere in the United States, and print photos from a handheld printer that is light enough to carry around in a bag.

The annual Consumer's Electronics Show, held in Las Vegas Jan. 6-9, featured gadgets—from smartphones to laptops to cars with Segway technology—setting the stage for the future of consumer technology.

Sony

Largely known for advances in gaming technology with the Playstation 3, Sony has decided to refocus the majority of its efforts on 3-D technology, announcing many new prototypes, televisions and photo tools for the first quarter of the year.

Sir Howard Stringer, Chairman, CEO and President of Sony Corporation, declared 2011 as beginning the next phase of Sony's 3-D strategy, taking 3-D from the theaters and making it personal.

Sony prototypes and televisions, including a new 55-inch LCD TV, use Gorilla Glass, an unscratchable, unshatterable material, to improve visuals.

A 3-D headset, which completely covers the eyes, produces a high quality, high contrast display for left and right eyes. The headset provides a theater-like display with strong sounds and what will be visually captured as a large screen.

Sony also announced the first market 3-D camcorder, the Handycam HRD-TD10, equipped with 10x zoom and a 3.5 inch display that does not require glasses to watch playback in 3-D. The camcorder will sell for approximately \$1,700.

Gran Turismo 5 launched in late November with 3-D capability, and Killzone 3 will be on shelves mid-February. Uncharted 3, the third 3-D title in PS3's lineup, is scheduled for release on Nov. 1.

Kno Reader

Specifically designed for students, the Kno Reader, a Linux-powered tablet, can hold 10 semesters worth of content, books and collaboration software.

Users can see the full e-textbook and take notes, research with Internet capability, and the Reader allows students to use Facebook, Twitter and Google docs.

"Our notion is textbooks are large and you need to be able to see them; e-textbooks

have been available for ten years and have not taken off at all," said Osman Rashid, CEO and cofounder of Kno, Inc. "(Students) need a form factor that works for them with a large screen. The ability to write is also a pro for them."

The 14-inch single screen sells for \$599, and the dual screen for \$899.

Verizon

32 days after Verizon's December announcement of LTE 4G coverage, attendees to their press conference on CES 2011's kickoff day looked forward to several devices to support LTE.

Tony Malone, VP of Network Operations Support, announced the company would add 140 LTE markets across the nation this year, including coverage in Detroit. The LTE network features a download speed of five-to-12 megabits per second.

Ten devices were added to the market.

The HTC Thunderbolt, Droid Bionic and LG Revolution, three of Verizon's new smartphones, will be powered by Android version 2.2.

"Let me tell you: it's blazing fast," said Peter Chao, HTC's CEO, who admitted to using the Thunderbolt as his personal device.

Verizon representatives did not comment on pricing for the new devices, though the company has hinted at keeping current pricing: \$50 for five gigabytes, and \$80 for 10 gigabytes.

Skype mobile will be deeply integrated into new smartphones with front facing cameras, said Tony Bates, CEO for Skype. Skype contacts and statuses will be added to the address book, allowing Skype users to make free calling at any time.

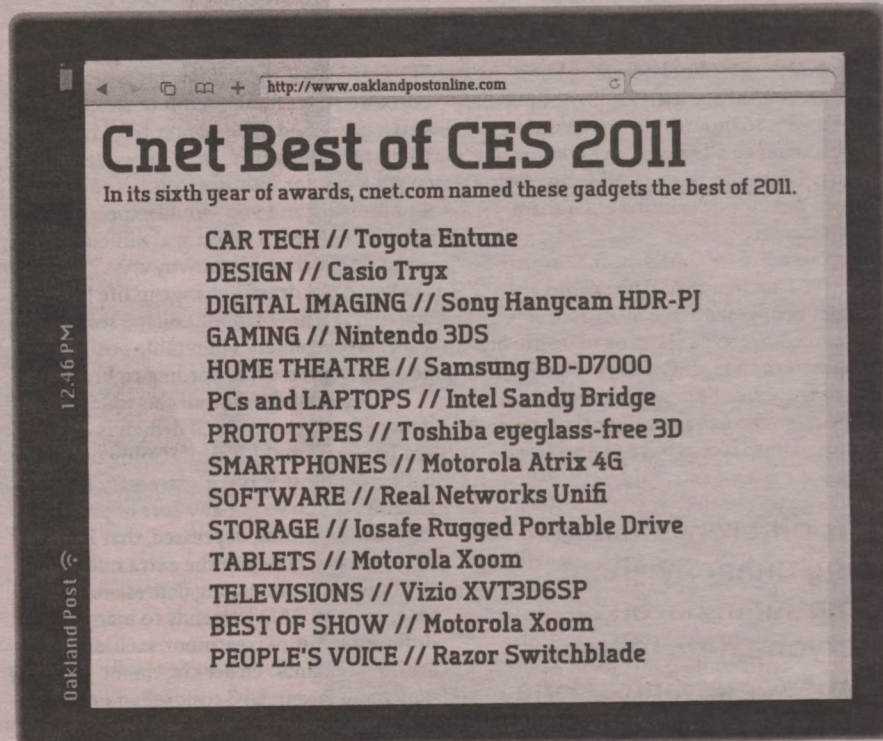
"People can now easily connect with people face to face right from the smartphone," said Chao, announcing the Skype integration would be available on the Thunderbolt. "And the video streaming over 4G is incredible with the huge 4.3 vivid super LCD screen it brings to life."

Representatives from each respective company announced the 4G enabled Galaxy Tab from Samsung, a Compaq mini netbook with LTE compatibility, and the Motorola Xoom tablet, running Android version 2.3.

Polaroid

Polaroid is taking dreams from fans of Lady Gaga and making them reality, announcing the birth of three devices from the partnership of the company and musician.

The first and most prominent gadget to be part of the Lady Gaga line is a pair of



photographing sunglasses. The glasses can be worn as normal sun shades, but they also have the capability to take photos and videos.

The earpiece on the glasses can be removed to reveal a USB to upload photos on a computer. The glasses can also send photos via Bluetooth to a printer.

"Of course the glasses are very exciting because we are merging fashion and technology together," said Gaga, who attended Polaroid's press conference to announce the devices. "We're creating something that's innovative and cultural."

To pair with the glasses, a handheld printer will soon be on the market for portable printing.

Lady Gaga presented the printer on stage with a full demonstration, taking a photo of the crowd from her blackberry and sending it via Bluetooth to the printer. The process took a total of 40 seconds.

"I suppose many of you here are nerdy enough to carry around a mobile printer with you," Gaga said. "I know I will."

The printer is not compatible with the iPhone and prints 3x4 inch photos.

Polaroid also offers a Gaga-inspired camera, which takes Polaroid photos as well as digital.

The camera holds a maximum of 10 photo sheets.

PCs, laptops and tablets

The Asus EPC Transformer offers the best of both worlds, featuring a tablet computer that locks into a laptop dock. The dual-unit runs the Android operating system and is slated to release with a \$699 pricetag.

The Acer Iconia pioneers dual screen technology in a laptop. Both screens can be used as a touch-screen monitor, and placing 10 digits on the bottom screen brings up a full keyboard. Touching the bottom screen with five fingers will produce a media reel.

Prototypes

Although the prototypes announced at the show have no timetable, two of the future gadgets have taken a lot of public attention.

The Razor Switchblade is a mini-sized netbook featured for gaming.

The keyboard on the netbook has a customizable keyboard, which changes the arrangement of keys to make hotkeys for individual games easy to access.

Toshiba is also working on developing eyeglass-free 3-D technology for the laptop.

The technology is expected to use the webcam to adjust the focus of the 3-D film based on the location of the eyes.

Videos of CES keynotes and more information can be found at www.cesweb.org

"39 Steps" starts season

By **KEVIN ROMANCHIK**
Staff Reporter

Shots rang out at the Meadow Brook Theatre and the manhunt has begun in the Tony Award-winning adaptation of the comedic thriller, "The 39 Steps," which kicks off the beginning of 2011.

"The 39 Steps" runs from Jan. 5-30 at Meadow Brook Theatre on the Oakland University campus grounds.

"The 39 Steps" is an adaptation of the famous 1935 film by director Alfred Hitchcock that was brought to the stage by Patrick Barlow.

Winning two Tony Awards, acclaimed by critics for years, and currently in London and on Broadway, MBT hopes to create similar success on their own stage.

"The 39 Steps" is a story of secrets, love and espionage centered around Richard Hannay, a man with a dull life, who finds himself with a mysterious woman staying at his flat one night.

From the beginning, Hannay becomes curious about the woman with a thick accent who also claims she's a spy.

Things take a major turn when the following morning, Hannay wakes up to find the mysterious woman dead. Forced to flee, he is followed by the mysterious organization called "The 39 Steps" who are hot on his trail.

One of the challenges artistic director Travis Walter had producing the show was creating a balanced comedic thriller.

"Normally when you do a thriller, it's a straight thriller," Walter said. "When you add comedy into it, you run the risk of the audience not following. But I'm excited that people have really enjoyed it and already came back to see it more than once."

What separates "The 39 Steps" from other Meadow Brook productions is the utilization of a four-person cast, all of whom play multiple characters.

"The four actors play about 120 characters," Walter said. "The cast members who do play multiple characters did a great job at making the audience believe that they've become someone different."

Playing the character of Richard Hannay is a returning



Photo courtesy of Travis Walter

"The 39 Steps" filled 120 roles with only four actors.

MBT actor, Rusty Mewha, who has been in previous productions such as "Dracula: A Rock Opera" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

Also appearing in "The 39 Steps" is Stephanie Wahl (Annabella Schmidt, Pamela Edwards/Margaret McTyte), Rob Pantano (Clown #1) and Kevin Young (Clown #2).

The crew also includes Terry W. Carpenter, stage manager, with set design by Kristen Gribbin and lights by Reid G. Johnson.

Sound and costume design is done by Mike Duncan and Liz Moore, respectively.

Tickets range from \$24 to \$39 and are available by calling the Meadow Brook Theatre Box office at 248-377-3300 or visiting www.ticketmaster.com

A sign language interpreted performance is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.mbttheatre.com

Local jazz artist brings voice to Varner Hall

By **MIKE SANDULA**
Managing editor

Oakland County resident Kathy Kosin's jazz voice is world-renowned.

She will perform at Varner Recital Hall at 8 p.m. Thursday. Tickets, available at Varner Box Office, are \$7 for students and \$11 for general admission.

Kosins, who received the 2001 Michigan Council of the Arts/ArtServe Michigan Jazz Composers Award, will also be teaching a master class at noon Thursday in Varner Hall Room 110.

"Some OU students volunteered to perform for her and she'll be offering her expertise," Miles Brown, visiting assistant professor of music and jazz program coordinator, said.

Kosins, who's been a professional working musician for 36 years, never received classical training, instead learning the craft by playing with working musicians. She got her start singing and arranging for producer Don Was.

"I'm not influenced by anything other than having my training be on the street," Kosins said.

Looking back, she said she might have benefitted from formal training, but likes the motivation provided by "the necessity of making a mortgage payment and putting food on the table."

"It's made me be a total entrepreneur," Kosins said.

Brown echoed that jazz is often best learned not in a classroom, but through real life experience.

"Students sometimes miss the real world training," Brown said.

Kosins' fifth album is expected to be released in the fall. It will feature songs from her concept tour, "The Ladies of Cool," based on the works of '50s female jazz singers Julie London, Anita O'Day, June Christy and Chris Connor. She will perform some of those songs Thursday, as well as a few songs with the OU jazz band.

For more information about Varner shows, visit her website at www.kathykosins.com

records & reels



THE GREEN HORNET
108 min. // PG-13

Seth Rogen plays the role of playboy Britt Reid who becomes the new publisher of the "The Daily Sentinel" in Los Angeles after the sudden death of his wealthy father. Britt's constant party lifestyle changes when he

and his driver, kung fu expert Kato (Jay Chou), stop a robbery. Britt, along with the help of Kato, soon starts a new career of fighting crime as a masked superhero.

THE DILEMMA
118 min. // PG-13

Since college, bachelor Ronny (Vince Vaughn) and the happily married Nick (Kevin James) have been friends through thick and thin. While the preparation stages of their new auto design firm have been great, things take a turn when Ronny sees Nick's wife Geneva with another man. With the clock ticking on the upcoming presentation and possibly the biggest moment in their careers, Ronny must decide what will happen when he tells Nick the truth.



CAKE // "Showroom of Compassion"

"Showroom of Compassion" is Cake's first album of new material since the 2004's gold-selling "Pressure Chief." "Showroom of

Compassion" is the band's sixth studio album and was recorded in its entirety over the past 30 months at the band's solar powered studio in Sacramento, Calif.

CAGE THE ELEPHANT
"Thank You, Happy Birthday"

"Thank you, Happy Birthday" is the eagerly awaited sophomore album from the alternative band Cage the Elephant. Their 2009 self-titled debut sold nearly 400,000 copies. During their two years of constant touring, they accumulated 80 songs worth of ideas. Cutting that number down to 12 was a challenge, but it's a reflection of their vast musical influences.



— Compiled by Kevin Romanchik, Staff Reporter

The sky really is falling

Fowl fatalaties are like something out of a movie

By MIKE SANDULA

Managing Editor / cave dweller

"Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a —."

You had it right the first time. Why did you continue guessing?

For those of you not living under a rock — which, it turns out, is the only safe place to live nowadays — thousands of birds have died from yet-to-be-determined causes over the last couple weeks.

First, 5,000 red-winged blackbirds were found dead throughout Beebe, Ark., giving this small southern town as many dead birds as residents. A few days later, another 500 birds reached a similar fate just a few hundred miles away in Louisiana.

For those fearing that the U.S. is again a target of another terrorist attack or finally paying the price for being too stubborn to seriously combat climate change, this is happening elsewhere, too. Thousands of turtle doves crashed from the sky in Italy on Friday — apparently their hard shells and propensity for peace couldn't save them. Another 50 birds were found dead in the streets of Sweden last Wednesday.

Experts initially laid the blame on fireworks, but not all of these fowl fatalaties occurred on New Years Eve. Some suggested the deaths were caused by hail storms, but you would think birds are used to severe weather by now. My theory is that people were trying to bring the Angry Birds game to life. None of these explanations, however, explain why fish have also been dying mysteriously.

Millions of dead fish, it's been reported, have washed upon the shores of Maryland, Brazil and New Zealand. Scientists are citing "natural causes," but they're yet to say definitively that it wasn't just bitter fishers using poisonous bait.

This may sound like something out of a movie, but — hey, wait a minute...

'The Sky Really Is Falling'

It starts with a group of children playing in a park. One girl strays from the group to chase a butterfly. She starts screaming. A mother runs frantically toward the piercing noise to discover her daughter staring, mouth agape, at a pile of dead birds.

The next scene shows teenagers on their way to the beach. Decked out in bathing

suits and suntan lotion, the teens are filled with visions of riding a few waves and catching some rays. The fun ends before it even gets to begin, however, when they pull up to discover the shore covered with dead fish.

News reports relay several such incidents happening throughout the world. Birds falling from the sky. Fish floating to shore. Names evoking the apocalypse or using "gate" as a suffix are splashed across TV and the Internet, and conspiracy theorists become regular guest panelists on cable news shows.

Environmentalists are up in arms, demanding strict regulations to fight global warming. Al Gore makes a comeback ala Rocky.

People are instructed to stay indoors and to only leave home when absolutely necessary. NASA receives a massive influx of money as the U.S. prepares to colonize the moon.

Of course, no movie is complete without a love interest. Experts say these mass die-offs are commonplace, but one young man knows better. He sets out to discover the truth and, in the process, discovers some truths about himself and falls in love with a female lab assistant.

I won't give away the ending here, but let's just say there will likely be a sequel.

Granted, similar movies have been made before. But how many of them are "based on a true story?"

Meanwhile, back on Earth...

Back in the real world, scientists continue to postulate over what's causing mass quantities of animals to die at random.

Maybe the birds were late in migrating for the winter — held up by TSA agents, no doubt — and the sudden warmth was too much for them to handle and the fish, perhaps, were driven out of the ocean by fishstick-craving pirates.

Or maybe Senior Editor Dan Fenner was right to fear that the end of the world is nearer than the Mayans told us it is.

The world may never know.

Regardless, these incidents are a clear indication that both the skies and the seas are no longer safe to inhabit. Only land appears to be safe — for now.

If you need me, I'll be under a rock, fearing for my life.

A QUENTIN TARANTINO FILM

THE SKY REALLY IS FALLING



EVEN CHICKEN LITTLE WOULDN'T HAVE SEEN THIS COMING ...

STARRING THE KID FROM "THE SIXTH SENSE" AND ONE OF THE OLSEN TWINS

JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

The recent wildlife pandemic had film-makers vying for the right to dramatize the chilling events. Believe me when I say this is no fairly tale and there is happy ending.

GOT SOMETHING TO MOUTH OFF ABOUT?

The Oakland Post is looking for satirical scribes, witty writers and comical columnists. Submit your best efforts to editor@oaklandpostonline.com and you could get published for the world to see.