

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 5, 2008

Volume 33, Number 52



Photo by Dustin Alexander

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PLUS:

Kristine LeMieux,
OU junior, wins big on

DEAL or **NO DEAL**

Read about her experience on page 20



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EDITORIAL

Kelly Kozlowski
Editor in Chief

oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-4268

Paul Gully

Managing Editor
oakpostmanaging@gmail.com
(248) 370-2537

Dustin Alexander
Photo Editor
oakpostphoto@gmail.com
(248) 370-4266

Rob Tate
Assistant Sports Editor
oakpostsports@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

Samantha Franz
Sports Editor
oakpostsports@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

SENIOR REPORTERS
Adam Roberts
Jesse Dunsmore
Brittany Ochtersky
Steve Staeger
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2849

Lindsey Wojcik
Mix/Scene Editor
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

STAFF INTERNS
Sarah Lang
Brendan Losinski
Tracy Wawrzyniak
Stacie Bartman
Amanda Saoud
Dan Tallant
Ian Llewellyn
John Droke
Chris Warbington

Alex Cherup
Mouthing Off Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-4263

Nick Degel
Campus Editor
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-4263

John Gardner
Web Master
(248) 370-4266

Justin Ross
Copy Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-4268

Jared Purcell
You Editor
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-4263

ADVISOR
Holly Gilbert
Dept. of Journalism
(248) 370-4268
shreve@oakland.edu

ADVERTISING | MARKETING

Crystal Nelson
Lead Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Heather Holm
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Celeste Filiatrault
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Maria Vitale
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269



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Staff editorial: Allowing concealed weapons on college or university grounds shouldn't be viewed as a solution to campus shootings.



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A recap of the rescheduled Board of Trustee meeting that took place over Spring Break. Plus, OU's African American Celebration Month comes to a close.



Local page 13

The Detroit City Council decides to postpone the "no confidence" vote on Mayor Kilpatrick. Plus, Gov. Granholm is not in favor of medical marijuana proposal.



The Mix page 14

What would you do if you had \$1 million? Find out who would burn most of it, and why. Plus, what's more important to two students, money or free time?



Sports page 16

OU basketball is headed to Tulsa, Okla. Check out our Summit League tournament previews. Plus, swimming and diving win ninth straight conference title.



you page 20

OU junior Kristine LeMieux shares her experience on "Deal Or No Deal." Plus, a group of students spend their Spring Break doing community service in NYC.



the Scene page 24

Check out a few local spots to grab a drink that may not be on your radar. Plus, a review of "Be Kind Rewind," starring Jack Black and Mos Def.



MOUTHING OFF page 26

True activism goes beyond the click of a Facebook group. Plus, find out why Ralph Nader represents both the best and the worst of American democracy.



Nation | World page 28

John McCain takes the GOP nomination, while Democrats remain close. Plus, hundreds of Venezuelan troops are moved to the Colombian border amid heightening tensions.



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www.oaklandpostonline.com

March 5, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Concealed weapons won't stop campus shootings

"Why don't we form a circle, pilgrim, so we can do some geometry."

Welcome to WWWU: Wild, Wild West University.

Starring professor Johnson, with a Derringer, and Mary, the cheerleading captain, with a semi-automatic.

This is real-life kindergarten cop. And there are no cops in this equation.

According to ConcealedCampus.com, the doctrine of allowing "concealed handgun license holders to carry concealed handguns on college campuses" has substantial support.

It is unfortunate that this is the reaction from so many. While it is difficult to cope with such horrors in humanity, inviting guns on campus is missing the point.

Many times school shootings stem from angst and mental issues. Emphasis should be placed on improvements that can be made in these areas.

Concealed handguns on campus are an issue independent of campus safety.

Issues of safety and security are the job of the campus police. It is not the responsibility of students and faculty to fend for their own — once again, this is not the Wild West. It is a civilized community, not a Hobbsian state of nature.

The Web site accounts that "over 19,000 college students, college faculty members, parents of college students and concerned citizens" have agreed with the stance.

Who wants to take a course from professor Ted Nugent?

The mindset of these citizens is that an armed student body will be able to "mitigate" campus gun violence. School shootings would diminish if state legislature enforced the allowance of guns on campus.

This is the same allowance, under Michigan law, for movie theatres, office buildings and shopping malls.

Of course, there are still shootings in these areas as well.

So, we must think beyond weapon legality — we must look at the root of the problem. Efforts should be made to reach out to those in need so these individuals do not feel alienated.

Locations where concealed guns are not legal include sports arenas, places of worship, hospi-

tals and "a dining room, lounge, or bar area of a premises licensed under the liquor control code of 1998," as stated in section 50 of Public Act 381. Schools and universities are also included in this act as "gun free zones."

Regardless of the laws, bringing more guns on campus does not stop the problem at hand. A concealed handgun would not be a guarantee against a deranged gunman. Concealed weapons on campus may not solve the disgruntled mindset and anger of a shooter. Other factors should be used to combat this.

Nonetheless, some of the arguments for concealed weapons are consistent. Those with concealed weapons permits are trained in gun safety, and have met certain requirements. Arguments against guns must face this reality — a concealed weapon is present in most other nonviolent and civil environments, and we do not classify these environments as "the Wild West."

However, the college campus and classroom are not places for guns, in the same way that hospitals and churches are not. Rules on campus exist, as do prohibitions on other behaviors, due to the nature of the environment. We trust the campus to be secure, and extra guns may not provide this security.

Statistics show that even police officers lose control of guns. Even a highly trained concealed weapon owner is prone to mistakes. College students and professors would hardly be sharpshooters.

Also, college students are notorious for drinking and rowdy behavior. Firearms and horseplay are not a healthy cocktail. As the law above states, concealed weapons are illegal where this activity is permitted. Guns on campus create too high a risk.

But holistically, this is not even the issue. Improvements in other areas are what will help stop school shootings.

Ultimately, whether Charlton Heston is sitting next to you in class or not, school shootings are still a danger and threat.

Increase the security force, and arm those in need with the tools necessary to help improve their lives.

The admittance of concealed weapons on campus will not solve the problem.



ADAM ZYGLIS, The Buffalo News/Cagle Cartoons

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

Corrections from the last edition (Feb. 20, 2008) of The Oakland Post:

■ The quotes and attributions for Janise Larkins and Brittany White were placed under the incorrect photos in the Mix (page 21). They were reversed.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Recounting Oakland University history: student activism can lead to change

40 years ago war took precedence at OU; will it happen again?

Guest Column

Michael Westphal
Member of Students for
a democratic Society



In the last issue of The Oakland Post (Feb. 23), "This week in OU history" recounted events from the corresponding week five, 15 and 25 years ago. Not to belittle those times, but something much more relevant to the current times occurred 40 years ago at Oakland University.

Let's imagine it's March 1968. The Vietnam War is escalating. The Tet Offensive causes a Pentagon demand for more funding and, more importantly, more troops for the U.S. military.

Meanwhile, many OU seniors, as well as countless students from across the country, are anticipating graduation. However, they were about to get a rude awakening.

In March 8, 1968, the official OU newspaper at the time, The Oakland Observer, featured a headline that read: "150,000 Graduate Students To Leave For Vietnam." This was a sharp increase over the 14,000 graduate students drafted the year before.

This expansion of the draft to graduate students meant that some of the country's intellectual elite would be joining the fighting in Vietnam.

And yet, there was no panic at OU. According to one Oakland student at the

time, "a majority of draftable students are apparently unconcerned."

But OU might have been an exception. Teach-ins were organized by students at other universities across the country, most notably at Columbia and the University of Michigan. The Oakland Observer reported.

At OU, over 80 percent of Oakland's faculty organized and cancelled their own classes on Monday, March 18, 1968 to discuss the Vietnam War.

Why did they do so?

When asked this question, professor Henry Rosemont answered, "Oakland University has an excellent tradition of being strongly committed to its students." He continued, saying that the teach-in was consistent with this tradition by "providing a vehicle whereby students will be assisted in making their own independent decisions concerning this most crucial issue of our times."

Sadly, the Vietnam War continued to escalate, even while the pro-peace movement prospered.

However, the efforts of the students during that time should not be overlooked or minimized, for they accomplished much.

Every attempt to escalate the Vietnam War was met with fierce resistance in the late-60s and early-70s.

When President Richard Nixon announced his "incursion" into Cambodia in April 1970, students went on strike. Without such actions, the Vietnam War could have been known as the Asian War, spanning all of Asia. Without such actions, the unimaginable could have happened.

While there is currently no draft, two

major wars are being fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are told by corporate media that the "surge" is working, stealing the root of the word insurgency itself.

We are not told about the miserable conditions in Iraq. We are not told that Afghanistan is becoming increasingly unstable due to the insurgency there.

Most importantly, we are told that Iran is the new, dangerous enemy that our military has conveniently surrounded and must one day attack. Maybe not in those words, but the powers that be are testing the water for a confrontation.

Does anyone remember the Jan. 6, 2008 naval incident with Iran in the Strait of Hormuz? The incident involved five armed Iranian speedboats threatening three U.S. warships by maneuvering near the ships and transmitting radio threats to them.

By now the dust has settled and the facts are a little clearer. According to several reports, it is very possible that a famous maritime prankster known as the Filipino Prankster issued the verbal threats to the U.S. Navy and that several naval personnel have rejected the incident as a threat.

The incident received extensive news coverage when it was completely blown out of proportion by the Pentagon and the sensationalists in corporate media. There has been little coverage of the lack of an investigation into whether details were distorted by the Pentagon.

And yet, why did the Pentagon decide to superimpose the prankster's radio transmission onto the video coverage of the brief incident and release it to the press?

Did it have anything to do with Bush's trip to the Middle East during this time to rally Arab states against Iran?

The sad probability remains that a minor encounter similar to this, which happens often in the busy, narrow strait, could trigger an "accidental war."

Another Gulf of Tonkin could have happened. Another war still can happen in Iran, or elsewhere, that will require more funding and more troops.

Hence, another draft is clearly possible.

Either way, the longer we stay in Iraq, the greater the chances of a broader war and the harder it will be to ever withdraw.

Constantly preparing for war is not working for peace.

For too long we have been good Americans, good students. What will it take for us to resist this war and accept withdrawal as the only viable option in Iraq and Afghanistan?

What will it take for new teach-ins at OU, another draft?

As students, we not only have the responsibility of knowing what else is going on in the world and hearing it from all angles, we also have the ability to effect change in our society and our nation's policies that have endangered peace and prosperity for the restless many throughout the world and for ourselves.

Let me borrow words from an OU student editorialist, Mike Honey, back in 1968 to refresh our terrible historical memories: "The student no longer has a sanctuary from the realities of a strident American foreign policy."

What will it take for our history to come

Campus involvement offers new opportunities, experiences

Sarah Brooks
Guest Columnist



One year ago I was a freshman, in my second semester at Oakland University. People told me all the time how important it was to get involved on campus, but who really falls for that?

I went to half of my classes, and I thought I was passing them — that's what counts right?

The closest I came to participating in an activity on campus was eating

the free food.

However, my final grades came as more than just a wakeup call, they told me I had just spent my last semester at OU and in the fall I would be attending Macomb Community College.

I had let my cumulative GPA fall to a 1.98 and lost over \$5,000 in scholarships because I no longer met the requirements.

I couldn't believe that doing the bare minimum didn't save me. After all, I did the same thing in high school and graduated with a 3.47 GPA.

I didn't even bother to figure out what I did wrong; I just accepted that I was now only going to be able to afford to go to a community college.

Late that summer I got two letters from OU. One said that I needed to make an

appointment with my academic advisor to discuss my academic probation. The other letter was a list of jobs available on campus for students with work study. A position at the Student Technology Center caught my eye.

Motivated by the idea of getting paid to work with computers, I called my advisor to make that appointment. Before I knew it, I was approved for a student loan to make up for the lost scholarships, and I had an interview at the STC.

Fall 2007 was an amazing time in my life, as a student assistant at the beginning of the semester.

Working on campus changed everything for me. I finally made some friends at OU and felt like I actually had a place I fit in.

I also I went from academic probation

one semester to making the Dean's List with a 3.62 GPA the next.

I recently found out that I will be spending my summer living on campus and being an orientation group leader, which is a huge honor for me.

After looking back on my experience, I feel it's my duty to let everyone know that if you're not happy with where you are, then get moving.

You are the only person who can decide what your future will entail; you have to get yourself where you want to be.

Don't settle for what is given to you and don't wait for anything to fall into your lap because while you're waiting for it, someone else is out there chasing it.

My final words of advice: Get involved on campus.

Payment staying put

Board of Trustees makes no new decisions on the use of the \$4.8 million deferred payment, still waiting on the state's budget

By ADAM ROBERTS &
STEVE STAEGER
Senior Reporters

The Oakland University Board of Trustees confirmed in a meeting last Thursday that it will hold on to the \$4.8 million it received in a deferred payment from the state last October.

"We've pledged to you as a board, we're here to serve you," Board of Trustees Chair Dennis Pawley told a full Elliot Hall Auditorium Thursday. "We wouldn't be well-served to write you all a check right now."

"In giving the money back, we would not be doing our fiduciary responsibility and our responsibility to you, the students," Pawley said.

Pawley expressed concern with the state of Michigan's economy and the crumbling infrastructure of the university as a whole.

"We have been remiss in taking care of the state's assets by keeping tuition down," Pawley said.

He said that the university used up most of its reserves after last year's lack of funding from the state and now needs to concentrate on planning for the worst.

"You just have to constantly stay out in front and ask the administration that if doomsday was ahead what are some of the things we can do to stay ahead," Pawley said.

He mentioned that the University has

about \$157 million in deferred maintenance to be completed in the next few years.

Pawley has seen firsthand how parts of the university have fallen into disrepair. He said he has asked Terry Stollsteimer, OU's associate vice president for facilities management, to itemize the necessary maintenance and present the board with a list of what needs to be done.

Stollsteimer said he has prepared a 50-page report of maintenance that needs to be addressed in the next 10-12 years.

Among other necessary repairs, he and his team estimate \$26 million in repairs to interior systems, including replacing floors, ceilings, walls and caseworker cabinetry in buildings throughout campus.

The team also estimates \$20 million in repairs to heating and cooling systems throughout campus buildings, and \$14 million in repairs to high-temperature hot water lines that provide climate control throughout campus.

"We're constantly evaluating what we have to do and what can be deferred until next year," Stollsteimer said.

Whatever the money will be used for, Pawley said that he wants to make the best decision as quickly as possible.

"No one wants to work faster than the people on this board," he said.

But he stressed that the board wants to make sure the state provides sufficient

funding for the coming school year.

Pawley's comments came after OUSC president Rob Meyer addressed the board, saying that a majority of students would like to see the money used now.

Meyer asked that the money be given to students now, either by direct refund, investment into campus improvements, or a mix of the two. He said that holding on to the money right now is not how it was intended to be handled.

"The one role that we never asked to play and certainly never agreed to was that of a banker," Meyer said.

Meyer told the Board that a majority of students want to see the money spent on the students of this academic year, especially graduating seniors, who paid the price after a 13.9 percent tuition hike last fall.

Meyer said that the board answered just how he expected it would, and was unhappy how the board failed to specifically address graduating students.

"There is no question in my mind, the money has to go back to the students," OU President Gary Russi said. "We will not keep it as a reserve long-term."

Russi expects the state budget situation to be figured out by June or July. He also mentioned that the Michigan House Subcommittee on Higher Education will hold a hearing at Oakland University on April 18, which should help resolve the issue of funding.

"The budget process is moving along

quicker than it has in the past," Russi said.

Board of Trustees member Ganesh Reddy said that some of the \$4.8 million will need to go to replenishing university funds that have been depleted over the past year.

"Some of it has already been spent," Reddy said. "There are a lot of different maintenance things that need to be done. The money has to come from somewhere."

Board member Henry Baskin was more emphatic, saying the money would stay reserved for the students.

"The money is in a vault in my basement," Baskin joked. "It's not going anywhere."

Baskin says he thinks the university will receive more funding in the coming year.

"The governor recommended it, and she's my guy, she's going to fight for it," Baskin said.

President Russi also stated he expects OU will receive more than the three percent increase in funding it expects.

Student liaison to the board Aaron Kochenderfer said, although he was disappointed, he could see where the board was coming from.

"I think it's understandable, but a tough thing for the board to do," Kochenderfer said. "At the end of the day, though, the decision will benefit the whole student body."

We've pledged to you as a board to serve you. We wouldn't be well served to write you all a check right now.

Dennis Pawley
Board of Trustees Chair

The one role we never asked to play and certainly never agreed to was that of a banker.

Rob Meyer
Student Body President

There is no question in my mind, the money has to go back to the students. We will not keep it as a reserve long-term.

Gary Russi
President of OU

Black history month closes with 'Neo Soul'

Students and alumni show off their talents, reflect on this year's events

By **WENDELL SMILEY**
Contributing Reporter

Oakland University students celebrated the close of Black History Month with "A Tribute to Neo Soul" on Feb. 21, 2008.

OU senior DeAnne Whitfield, programming chair of Association of Black Students (ABS), directed the tribute, which was co-sponsored by the African-American Celebration Month Committee and ABS.

The theme was "Reflecting truth through the understanding of our historical inspirations."

"A Tribute to Neo Soul" included performances, poetry and food.

Dominique Rickett, a junior education major, sang "Motherless Child," a Negro spiritual.

"We need more representation of minorities at OU, more than just Black History Month," Rickett said.

Rickett also said that the Black

History Month events presented throughout February could use some improved publicity.

"We need to prompt events earlier," Rickett said. "More people need to attend. If this were a dance it would be packed."

Jasmine Rudolf, a junior nursing major agreed. "Many are missing out on a valuable meaningful opportunity to learn and promote change."

Junior health science major Tavera Saunders also felt that diversity should be a focus for future events.

"We are holding these events and the only people showing look like me," said Saunders, alluding to her skin color. "We need interaction with other races, simple conversation takes you a long way."

Rickett was not the only student to perform in the tribute. Ashley Charlton, a junior human resources development major, performed "The Demise of the Black Woman."

"I encourage all to heighten self-esteem and step out of the paradigm and embrace diversity," Charlton said.

Nathan Brown, a junior human resources development major performed "My Heroes" and "Ride for Me" with Cooley High School senior Isaiah Shaw.

One of the greatest crowd receptions came for Monte Reed, a junior sociology major, who sang "Da Real."

OU alumni Karen Stacy Ballard and Michael Williams-El both performed poetry at the event while DJ No-A-Fex, another OU alumnus, also performed.

"Cultural awareness is a key component of our global environment," said Ballard. "Learn more about others; it's not just black history, its history."

"Not everything appeals to everyone. Take an honest look at yourself and if you see prejudice, work on that," said Williams-El, a 2005 graduate in journalism. "When you don't see yourself producing culture communally, you feel

demeaning shame."

DJ No-A-Fex offered further insight. "Advertisers connect deeper values with product, over 300 channels and not many portray blacks. We have come a long way but subconscious desires are being influenced, this is a way to not lose touch with our heritage."

L'Renee closed the ceremony accompanied by a paradisiacal band.

"Music and black history have always been married," said Marcus Hunter, one of L'Renee's band members. "Brothers pioneered music. Do your homework on music you have no choice but to look into black history."

Whitfield encourages students to get involved in the preparation for future events like this one by contacting the African-American Celebration Month Committee and the ABS.

"More people should help," Whitfield said. "It's easy to talk but it takes action."

Center for Student Activities

CSA

49 Oakland Center, Rochester, MI 48309-4401
(248) 370-2400 • csa@oakland.edu • www.oakland.edu/csa

Student Program Board:
FREE ROLLER SKATING PARTY

Thursday, March 6 (Tomorrow)
7PM - 9PM
Skate World of Troy

Includes Admission & Skate Rental

PRIZES, MUSIC and FUN

Sign up today in the CSA Service Window, 49 OC.

**STUDENT BODY
Presidential Debates**

Monday, March 10
12PM - 1:30PM
Fireside Lounge,

Come find out where your student body presidential candidates stand on different issues. Free food!

Feel the **POWER**
of **LEADERSHIP**

**FREE One Day Leadership
Experience**

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10:30AM - 6:00PM
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Lunch & Dinner Provided!

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Gender & Sexuality Center

Welcomes
Nancy Skinner:
Democratic Activist

TODAY
12PM - 1:30PM
Fireside Lounge, OC

Skinner will kick-off
Women's History Month:
WOMEN IN POLITICS!

**The Vagina
Monologues**

March 7 & 8
8PM
Room 201, Dodge Hall

Presented by
Women's Issues
Forum

Tickets are on sale now
for \$10
@ the CSA Service
Window, 49 OC.

MONTHLY POETRY READINGS @ KRESGE LIBRARY



Join us in the Library's Student Lounge

THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT NOON.

Read an original work, your favorite poet, or just listen!

Refreshments will be served.

OU RESIDENCE HALLS

2008-2009 EARLY SIGN UP

The Residence Hall's fall early sign-up is the process through which current University Housing students can elect to remain in on-campus housing for the upcoming academic year (Fall/Winter 2008-2009). The information below highlights more your options and the complete timeline of the process. Detailed information was sent via e-mail.

Wednesday, March 12 &

Thursday, March 13, 2008

PHASE 1: Re-sign for your current room/same style

Location: Housing Office, 448 Hamlin Hall

Time: 8:00am-6:00pm

Monday, March 17, 2008

PHASE 2: Roommate Choice/ Group Sign-up/6 West Vandenberg/Small Halls Doubles

Location: Housing Office, 448 Hamlin Hall

Time: 8:00am-6pm

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

PHASE 3: Carnival

Location: Vandenberg 1st Floor Lounge

Time: 7:30am-5:30pm

LINE-UP DRAWING: In order to avoid safety issues resulting from students standing in line during the early morning hours to sign up for single rooms or specific buildings, we will conduct a random number drawing for the first 300 students in line for Phase 3. Beginning at the **Midnight Breakfast at the Vandenberg Dining Center 10:30pm-1:00am Tuesday, March 11**, students will be able to draw a number for a reserved space in line at the Phase 3 Carnival. Students with a reserved place in line will be serviced in number order starting at 7:30am on Wednesday, March 19.

Students submitting contracts during the early sign-up period will NOT be required to pay the \$100.00 down payment.

IMPORTANT STUDENT APARTMENT INFORMATION

Sign up for the University Student Apartments (USA) is scheduled for March 4-10 at the USA 4000 Building. If you have been approved to live at USA, you will NOT be allowed to sign up for a Residence Halls room during the Early Sign-up period listed above. Additional information about the USA sign up will be sent via email soon. It is important that you read this information carefully. If you have any questions, please direct them to the USA Office, 4000 Building, x2581.

Undecided students get career assistance

Career Counseling workshop sheds light on choosing the right profession

By **BRENDAN LOSINSKI**

Staff Intern

Deciding on a major can be an important, yet difficult decision. Career Counseling provided a workshop, on Feb. 21, to show the students of Oakland University how to decide on a major.

At the presentation of "What can I do with a major in...?" at Kresge Library, Career Counseling offered advice on how to research different types of majors. One of their main goals was to help undecided students discover careers they might be interested in.

"We try to help students find self-awareness and self-assessment," said Shauna Jimmerson, a career and academic advisor.

The workshop presented students with various Web sites to aid in researching a variety of prospective careers and majors. The office's representatives also gave general advice and answered questions of students who wanted ideas for their futures.

Career Counseling also introduced students to the CAST system, which helps current students at OU contact alumni who have already entered a particular field of interest.

According to Jimmerson, Career Counseling offers more than just advice on majors. They also offer help in finding internships, producing resumes and filling out job applications.

"I think the Advising Resources Department has so many resources, it's not just for undecided students," said Jennifer Kautz, an intern at the Career Counseling office.

Career Counseling is planning another presentation in March to help with goal-setting and decision-making techniques. Jimmerson wanted to stress that advisors do not just provide help during programs, but that they can help students at any time in 121 North Foundation Hall.

"To know that there's a place they can go [where] they can come into our office for free and [we] work with them one-on-one, it's priceless," Jimmerson said.

This week in OU history

10 years ago

Year-long battle ends, student laid to rest

Oakland student Roosevelt Dawson took his own life, with the help of Dr. Jack Kevorkian. Dawson had become paralyzed after contracting a virus that attacked his spine. The 21 year old was studying in the hopes of becoming a neurologist.

25 years ago

Board cuts non-classes

OU's board of trustees decided to stop offering credit for physical education classes like golf and racquetball.

40 years ago

One hundred fifty thousand grad students to leave for Vietnam

Rule changes eliminated draft deferments for non-medical graduate students. Over ten times more students were drafted after the rule change than were before.

-Information taken from archived issues of the Oakland Post

-Compiled by Adam Roberts, Senior Reporter

GO GRIZZLIES!



Get your Grizz gear

NEED OU GEAR FOR BASKETBALL GAMES?

Check out the range of Golden Grizzlies merchandise and apparel, including hats, sweatshirts, t-shirts, jackets and more, available at the OU bookstore in the lower level of the Oakland Center and online at www.oakland.bkstore.com. You can also find Oakland merchandise at the following local stores:

- Sports Authentics in Rochester Hills (OU students receive 10% off all merchandise with student ID card)
- Meijer store in Auburn Hills
- All southeast Michigan Steve and Barry locations
- Lytle's Pharmacy in downtown Rochester
- Finish Line in Great Lakes Crossing Mall in Auburn Hills
- Textbook Exchange in Rochester Hills

Be sure to stock up on Oakland University merchandise for all the upcoming basketball games.

It's a great way to show your Golden Grizzlies spirit!

Date: 3/10 & 3/11**Time: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**

Graduation Extravaganza

Spring Edition!



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Win a FREE Diploma Frame!

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**Order your Class Ring*

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**Join the Alumni Association*

Students to perform 'The Vagina Monologues'

By **BRENDAN LOSINSKI**
Staff Intern

For the last 10 years, the national V-Day campaign has been promoting awareness for domestic violence and violence toward women around the world.

Oakland University's Women's Issues Forum will be participating in this national movement by sponsoring performances of "The Vagina Monologues" and "A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer" on March 7 and 8 in 201 Dodge Hall.

The focal point of the V-Day campaign is a performance of "The Vagina Monologues," a nationally recognized episodic play. "The Vagina Monologues" are a collection of performances about female sexuality written by Eve Ensler.

The topics covered in the performance range from comedic takes on sexual maturity to more serious issues, such as the aftermath of rape.

"It's shocking but that's how you let people know what's happening," said Laura Hoehner, the president of the Women's Issues Forum. "It doesn't just



A group of OU students will be performing "The Vagina Monologues" and "A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer" for the V-day campaign on March 7 and 8. Photo courtesy of Laura Hoehner

have to do with violence, it has to do with the experience of being a woman."

The performers in both plays selected their personal favorite works from a collection of monologues published by Ensler.

"It's personal for the people who are performing it," Hoehner said. "They get to pick which one they perform."

The Women's Issues Forum had to apply for the right to participate in the national V-Day campaign. The last time

Oakland participated was 2005.

Hoehner said she is glad to have Oakland participating again so people can be educated about these issues.

Hoehner wants to let the students of OU know about the far-reaching effects of violence toward women, and particularly why men should be interested in what her group has to say.

"It's not just affecting women," Hoehner said. "Guys have sisters, guys have mothers, guys have friends who are female."

Hoehner said that the second play, "A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer," deals with this idea of violence affecting everyone because, unlike "The Vagina Monologues," it features several male performers.

"It needs to be talked about that there's violence," Hoehner said. "I'm not looking to change Oakland University, but if we've changed one person's opinion, I'll be satisfied."

Proceeds from the performances will go to the women's shelters, Alternatives for Girls and Haven.

MARCH MADNESS in the Residence Halls!! Live.

What?

OU Idol Competition
Un-birthday Bash
Leadership Experience
Academia Mania
Midnight Breakfast
Caricatures for dinner
Dave Coleman
FNL—Hypnotist
Ron Jeffreys
Siblings Weekend
Housing Carnival—
Room Assignment

Where?

Vandenberg café
Hamlin Lounge
Pioneer Room
Vandenberg café
Vandenberg café
Vandenberg café
Vandenberg café
Vandenberg café

When?

March 5 at 8pm
March 6 at 8pm
March 8 at 10:30am
March 10 at 11:30am
March 11 at 10:30pm
March 12 at 5pm
March 13 at 5:15pm
March 14 at 7pm

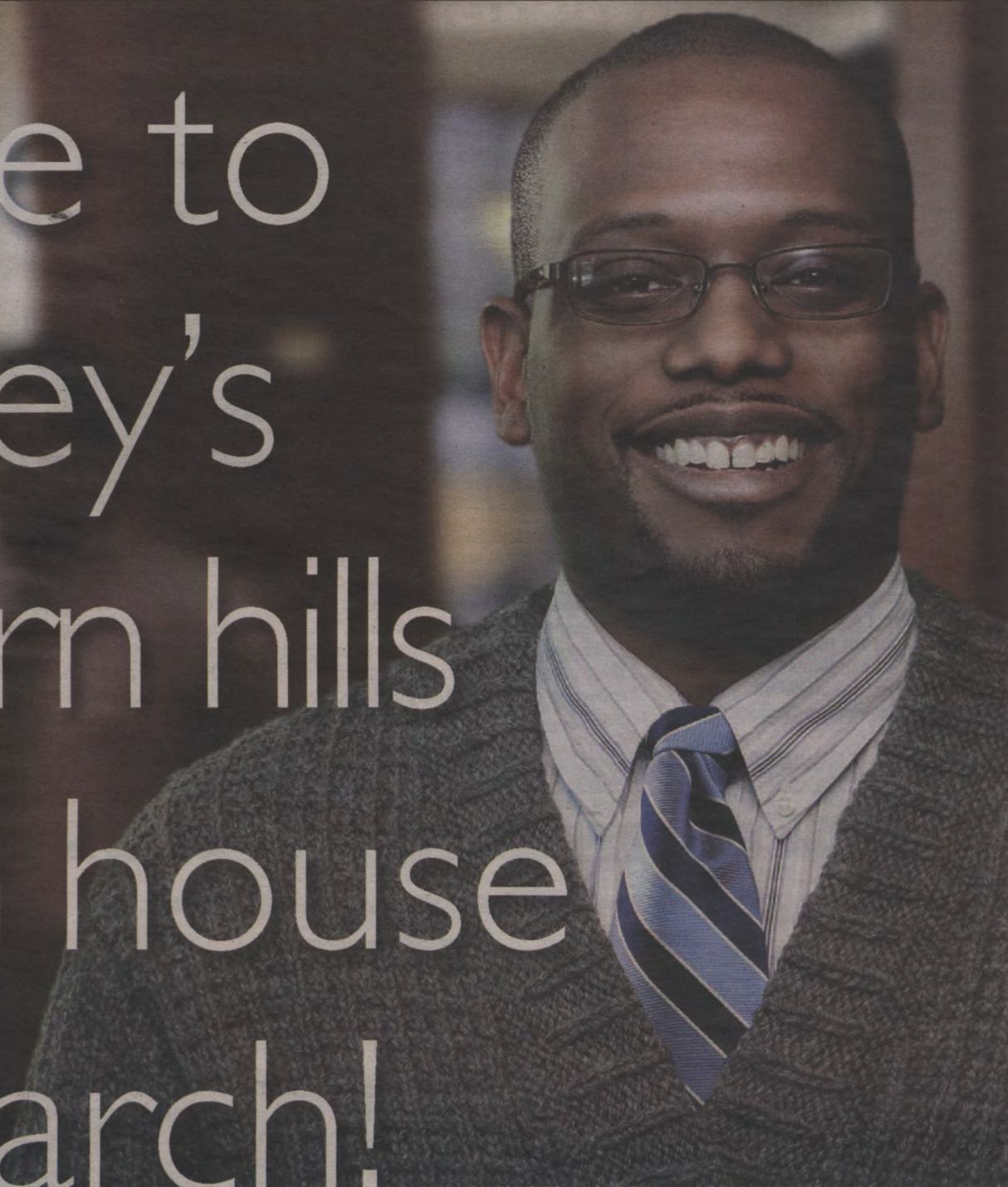
Residence Halls March 14-15
Vandenberg lounge March 19 at 8am



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next year?



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You and a guest are cordially invited to attend a Cooley Law School spring open house at our new Auburn Hills Campus. **Thursday, March 13, 2008**

Cooley administrators, department representatives, and faculty members will be available to answer your questions about Cooley Law School, applying and attending law school, and entering the legal profession. Register online at www.cooley.edu.

For more information about Cooley's spring open house, please visit cooley.edu. You can also set up a tour with Admissions by e-mailing admissions@cooley.edu.

Thomas M. Cooley Law School is committed to a fair and objective admissions policy. Subject to space limitations, Cooley offers the opportunity for legal education to all qualified applicants. Cooley abides by all federal and state laws against discrimination. In addition, Cooley abides by American Bar Association Standard 211(a), which provides that "a law school shall foster and maintain equality of opportunity in legal education, including employment of faculty and staff, without discrimination or segregation on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability."



cooley.edu

Detroit City Council postpones 'no-confidence' vote on mayor

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — The City Council on Tuesday postponed a vote on a resolution that would ask embattled Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick to step down.

Some council members said they needed more information before they could decide what to do. The vote has been rescheduled for March 18.

The resolution, introduced by Councilman Kwame Kenyatta, is a "no-confidence" vote and cannot force Kilpatrick to resign.

"We cannot afford to not speak. We cannot afford not to act," Kenyatta said.

Kilpatrick repeatedly has said he will not step down. Messages seeking comment were left Tuesday with Kilpatrick's office.

The vote to table the motion was 6-3.

Some on the council accuse Kilpatrick of hiding the truth behind a settlement agreement in an \$8.4 million whistle-blowers' lawsuit.

A prosecutor is investigating whether Kilpatrick and former Chief of Staff Christine Beatty lied under oath during the trial.

They denied having a romantic relationship, but embarrassing and sexually explicit text messages left on Beatty's city-issued pager apparently contradict their testimony.

References to those messages were part of a confidentiality agreement in the lawsuit settlement.

Council President Ken Cockrel Jr. said Tuesday the council's attorney, William Goodman, will subpoena the city's communications carrier, SkyTel, for the text messages.

The text messages first were reported on by the Detroit Free Press in January. References to the messages

were included in a confidentiality agreement with former officers who filed the whistle-blowers' suit. That agreement was signed by Kilpatrick and Beatty, giving their approval of the \$8.4 million settlement amount.

The council also is conducting its own independent investigation into the agreements that led it approve the whistle-blowers' settlement.

Although he voted to postpone the resolution vote, Cockrel said he supported its intention.

"I felt the timing of the resolution wasn't necessarily good," he — told council members. "It put us in the position of putting the cart before the horse in terms of Mr. Goodman's investigation."

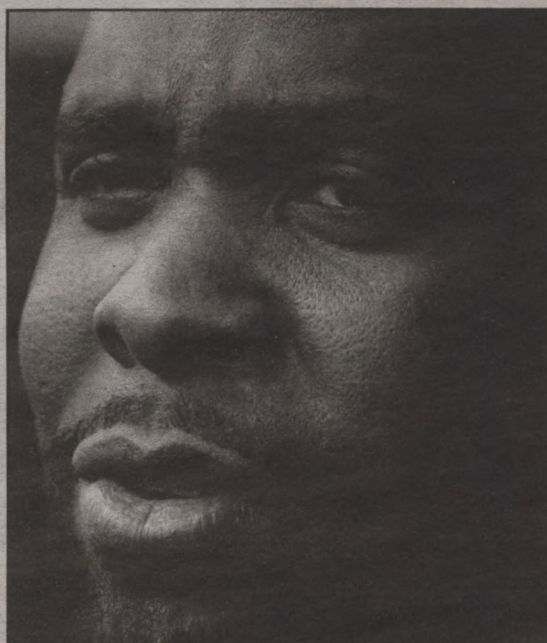
"We have seen overwhelming evidence that attorneys in the law department may have acted inappropriately, and outside attorneys may have acted inappropriately," Cockrel said. "This is a mayor who lied on the witness stand. There is a value of looking beneath the surface of the water to see how big the iceberg is and what else is there."

The support Kenyatta expected for the resolution did not develop, he told reporters following the vote.

He doesn't expect it to come back before the council on March 18.

"It's not postponed. It's over. What you see today is the defeat of this resolution," he said.

Kenyatta said the mayor's office



PAUL SANCYA/Associated Press
Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said Thursday, Feb. 29, that he won't resign because of a text-messaging scandal that has engulfed his administration.

called council members "until the ends of the night" Monday to change support for the resolution.

"I got calls," he said. "Just the mayor's people saying take it off the table and wait for the prosecutor."

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has said she expects to have a decision by mid-March on whether to charge Kilpatrick and Beatty with perjury.

Cockrel has said Detroit's City Charter provides for the mayor to be removed if convicted of a felony while in office. Cockrel would complete Kilpatrick's term if he vacates the mayor's office.

Chief slams ex-officer who says police probably killed stripper

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings has criticized an ex-lieutenant for saying he suspects an officer killed a stripper rumored to have performed at the Manoogian Mansion, which is the official residence of the mayor of Detroit.

Twenty-seven-year-old Tamara Greene was shot to death April 30,

2003 in a car. The case remains unsolved.

In a federal court affidavit, ex-homicide investigator Alvin Bowman says he investigated the killing and believes a Detroit officer was involved because of the "large number of bullets that hit her — indicating firearms training — and the .40-caliber shell casings found at the scene. Detroit police use

.40-caliber Glock pistols," according to a Detroit Free Press article. Bully-Cummings, who was appointed in November 2003, calls Bowman's statements "reprehensible" and tells reporters he should come forward with evidence — if he has any.

Investigations have failed to show Greene performed at Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's residence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate considers bill changing parental consent for abortion

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Republican lawmakers again are trying to pass a bill critics say would make it too difficult for girls to get an abortion without their parents' consent. The Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony on the legislation Tuesday afternoon. Governor Jennifer Granholm vetoed a similar measure in 2004. The legislation would create guidelines for judges to consider when deciding whether it's in the best interest of a girl under 17 to have an abortion without her parents' approval. The bill also would prohibit a judge from granting a parental consent waiver if the girl already has been denied one by another judge.

Granholm doesn't support medical marijuana proposal

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A proposal to legalize marijuana for medical purposes does not have the support of Governor Jennifer Granholm. Granholm says she is not in favor of opening the door to legalization of marijuana. A citizen-led measure that would legalize marijuana for some medical purposes is pending in the state Legislature. If lawmakers don't approve the measure within 40 days, the proposal will be placed on the November ballot. The Michigan initiative would allow patients to grow and use small amounts of marijuana for relief from pain associated with cancer, AIDS and other diseases. A doctor's approval or recommendation would be required to use the drug.

State Supreme Court hears dispute between newspaper and Michigan State University

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The Michigan Supreme Court is weighing a dispute between Michigan State University and its campus newspaper. Two years ago, The State News submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for a police incident report about an assault in a university dorm room. The school denied the request, citing privacy and law enforcement exemptions. The case reached the Supreme Court on Tuesday. The court may use the case to clarify what is private versus public information. Justices also are interested in whether information that becomes publicly known in court proceedings is no longer personal in nature.

IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS ...



"I would pay for the rest of school, then take a vacation in Europe and then save the rest."

Sara Ebensperger
Junior, English



"If I had a million dollars, I would buy a new computer and then burn the rest to help inflation."

Chris Darin
Junior, New General Studies



"I would pay school tuition and I wouldn't work because it would save time for school. I would help out my family and spend it on something good."

Safwan Anam
Freshman, Undecided



"If I had a million dollars, I would pay off my student loans then move out of Michigan."

Dorothy Brown
Senior, Psychology

Money, that's what I want

If you could choose between having more free time or getting a \$20 per hour raise at your current job, which would you choose and why?



"Twenty dollar raise. With more money you can do more stuff. Time has to be spent doing something and most of that includes money."

Rebecca Eaton
Junior, Accounting

"I would take the \$20 at work because I only work part-time and that would put my income at full-time status."

Shawneese Stewart
Junior, Psychology



Lucky day

What would you do if you found \$500,000 in an envelope on the street?



"I would try to find out whose it was if there was anyway to find out. Otherwise, I'd keep it."

Nick Munday
Senior, Business



"I would turn it in to the police."

Kevin Zurek
Freshman, Computer Science

Classifieds

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For Sale/Lease. Rochester Hills condominium on the Clinton River- 2 bedroom 1.5 bath 1,200 sqft. Close to campus (Adams north of Hamlin). Please email westermu21@yahoo.com for more information.

2 bedroom condo in downtown Rochester. Secure building. Laundry, storage, pool. Minutes from OU. Walk Paint Creek Trail. No dogs. \$92,000.00 call for appt. (248) 202-1050.

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT. 4 bedroom/ 2 full bath in West Bloomfield. New kitchen and bath with granite and oak. Brand new hardwood floors throughout house. New bathroom, kitchen and great room. Carport and garage. Almost 1400 square feet. Sqaure lake and Middlebelt area. \$990 to rent Call 734-395-5288.

Affordable condo close to OU! Interior built new in '06. Immaculate with custom finishes. Premium downtown Rochester location overlooking the park. (586) 883-4300

Employment

NOW HIRING self-motivated individuals with the ability to work in a fast-paced environment. Openings available for driving and inside positions. Apply at Cottage Inn Pizza 1970 North Opdyke, Auburn Hills 48326. Ask for Bill 248-371-9200.

Help Wanted - Birmingham couple seeks a week-end sitter for two boys, ages 3 and 6. Applicant must have experience, references and own transportation. Job is for Saturday nights and some Sunday mornings. Please call (248) 756-4108 if interested.

EMPLOYMENT: Students needed to work with our autistic son. Great experience for social work, education, psychology and related majors. Flexible hours and training provided. Sterling Heights, 17 and Dequindre. (586) 795-9344.

Teacher looking for "Mary Poppins" to care for infant and 3 year-old in our Beverly Hills home. M-F for the months of April and May. Education majors preferred. Call (248) 646-1368.

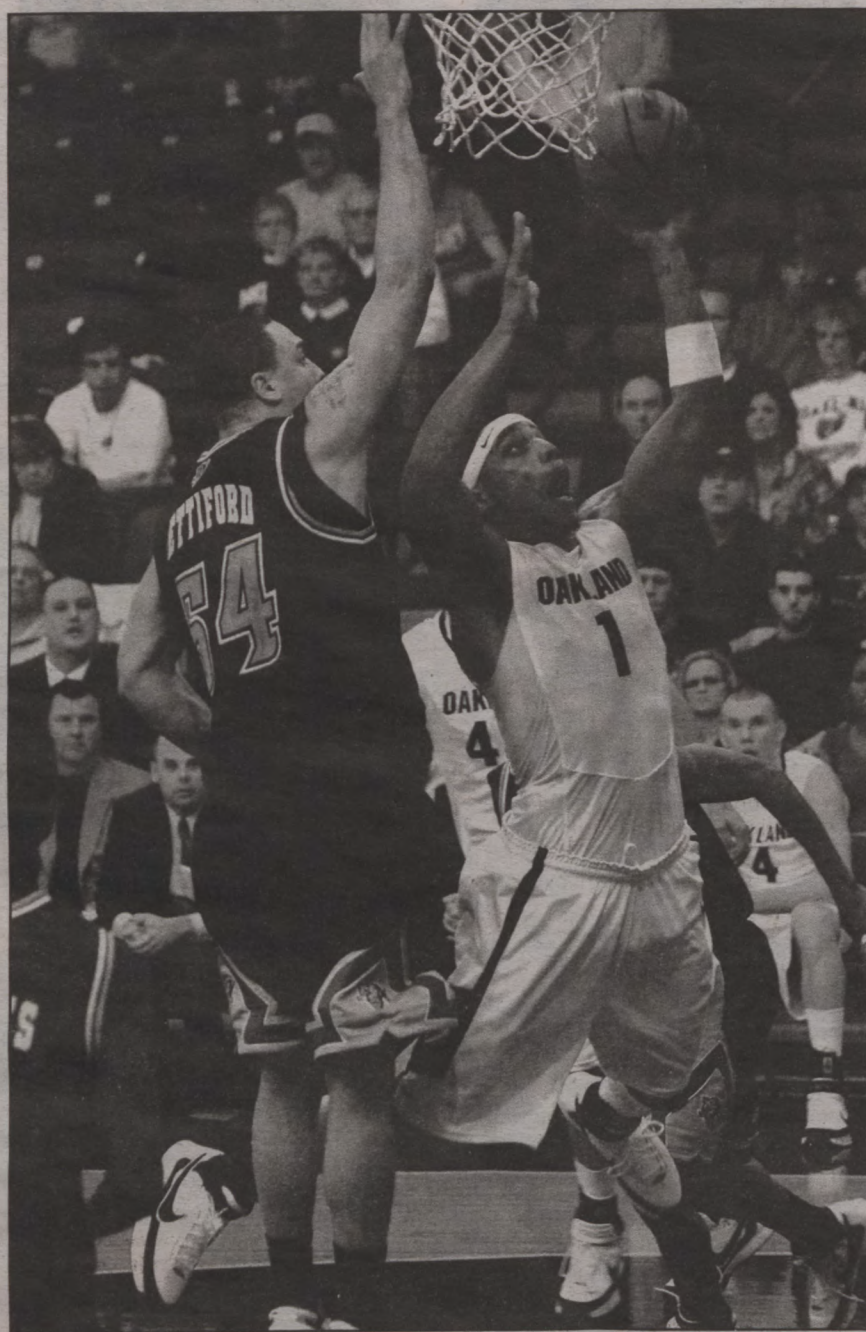
BABYSITTER NEEDED for 3 kids: ages 4, 6, and 8 in West Bloomfield. Part-time. Excellent Pay. Evenings and Saturday nights preferred. Call Becky 248-459-9191

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Peaking at the right time

Men's basketball heads into Summit League tourney winning seven of 10 games



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post file photo
Derick Nelson (1) leads the OU charge into Tulsa, Okla. this weekend for the Summit League Tournament. The Golden Grizzlies will look to make the tournament championship game for the second-straight season and for the third time in the last four seasons.

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

Break out your bracket and set your TiVo to ESPN because March Madness is upon us. But before teams begin to arrive at the Big Dance, they first have to get through their conference tournaments.

Starting this Friday, eight teams from the Summit League will hit the hardwood and duke it out in an elimination tournament for a chance to represent the Summit League in the NCAA tournament, which begins March 18.

Oakland University (16-13, 11-7) finished the season as the third seed in the tournament, and will take on sixth seeded Western Illinois University (12-17, 7-11) this Sunday at 9:30 p.m.

The Golden Grizzlies defeated the Leathernecks in both meetings this season, with an 85-71 victory Jan. 26 and a 91-82 tilt Feb. 23 in OU's last home game of the season.

But head coach Greg Kampe doesn't think this game will be a walk in the park.

"It will be a dogfight," Kampe said. "Anytime you play the first game of a tournament, anything can happen. You have eight teams with a dream and it's a flat-out war. We can't play in the semifinal without this first game and it's hard to beat a team three times in a season."

The Golden Grizzlies wrapped their regular season with a road trip out west and split their matchups against Southern Utah University and University of Missouri-Kansas City. The Thunderbirds of Southern Utah got the best of Oakland for the second time this season with a 68-59 loss.

OU rode on the back of junior Derick Nelson's fourth double-double of the season to pull out an 85-75 victory to close out the regular season at UMKC. Nelson had 12 points and a career-high 14 rebounds.

Western Illinois, meanwhile, is riding a three-game losing streak. In addition to its defeat at the O'Rena, they fell to fifth-seeded IPFW and second-seeded IUPUI by losses of 18 and 23 points, respectively.

Oakland University will certainly not be given a welcome reception, either. Like last year, the tournament will take place in Tulsa, Okla., stomping grounds of the first-seeded Oral Roberts Golden Eagles.

And the Golden Grizzlies are ready for the Oral Roberts fans to come out in droves.

"[The tournament atmosphere] is something we look forward to," Kampe said. "You work all year long for these three days and we want the pressure. That's the fun of it."

Summit League Tournament Fast Facts

North Dakota State and South Dakota State are both ineligible due to their first-year transition into the NCAA Division I.

Oral Roberts has won the last two conference championships, including a 71-67 win over Oakland in last season's Mid-Con championship.

This is the last conference tournament to be held in Tulsa for the time being. The 2009 and 2010 Summit League conference tournaments will be held in Sioux Fall, SD and hosted by South Dakota State.

The last conference team to win an NCAA Tournament game in the field of 64 was Valparaiso, which is now a member of the Horizon League, back in 1998 when the Crusaders made the Sweet 16. Oakland won its play-in game in 2005 over Alabama A&M to earn the right to enter the field of 64.

— Rob Tate, Assistant Sports Editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Other Summit League first-round matchups

Saturday, March 8 at 6 p.m.

1



Centenary played Oral Roberts pretty tough this season, even though they came up short on both occasions. The Golden Eagles won 71-62 in overtime Jan. 5 and then took an 11-point win a month later Feb. 2.

8



Oral Roberts (21-8, 16-2) guard Robert Jarvis averaged 15.5 points per game in the two meetings against the Gentlemen.

Centenary (9-20, 3-14) is led by Tyrone Hamilton and Nick Stallings who each averaged 16.1 points per game this season.

Saturday, March 8 at 8:30 p.m.

2



IUPUI took two victories at the expense of UMKC this season. Their first game back on Jan. 3, was a five-point win for the Jaguars who were led by George Hill's game-high 34 points. On Feb. 2 the Jaguars dominated UMKC, 90-70. Hill netted 23 points and added 10 rebounds while Austin Montgomery scored 22 for IUPUI.

7



IUPUI (24-6, 15-3) has won 11 of its last 12 games, with its only loss during that span to OU Feb. 21. Hill led the Summit League in scoring, averaging 22 points per game.

UMKC (11-20, 6-12) have played well as of late, winning three of its last five. Dane Brumagin leads the team in scoring with 17.1 points per game.

Sunday, March 9 at 6 p.m.

4



IPFW is given a quick chance at getting even with Southern Utah after a 99-89 loss in overtime this past Saturday. Southern Utah got a 17-7 effort in the overtime period for the win. Dave Marek netted a game-high 30 points for the Thunderbirds. Earlier in the season, IPFW scored a 74-66 victory Dec. 6.

Southern Utah (11-18, 9-9) has had an up-and-down season but has saved its best for last, winning six of its last seven games. Geoff Payne is the Thunderbirds leading scorer, averaging 20.8 per game.

5



IPFW (12-17, 9-9) makes its first appearance in the Summit League Tournament. They are led by the youngest head coach in the NCAA in Dane Fife (Clarkston) at age 28.

— Rob Tate, Assistant Sports Editor



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post file photo
April Kidd (23) will look to rise and fire against first round opponent Centenary College this Saturday at the Summit League Tournament. With North Dakota State ineligible because of its first-year transition to NCAA Division I, OU will be the No.1 seed in the conference tournament.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden Grizzlies grab the No. 1 spot

By TIM RATH
Contributing Reporter

The Oakland University women's basketball team will once again begin the Summit League Tournament looking down on their opposition.

Monday's victory at Southern Utah capped a five-game winning streak to close the season, and clinched the number one seed for the Golden Grizzlies.

This marks the second straight season in which OU will go into the tournament ranked first. The reward for their effort is a date with Centenary on Saturday.

The Grizzlies defeated Centenary in each of their two meetings this season by a combined total of 67 points. However, despite the dominating fashion of both victories, it would be unwise to assume that OU will underestimate the Ladies.

"With the way that we practice, hustle becomes a habit," said head coach Beckie Francis after the first game between the two, a 93-43 drubbing on Jan. 14. "We're diving around, rolling, getting rug burns. Our players take pride in getting every loose ball."

The Grizzlies' focus will likely be placed on Centenary's starting forwards, freshmen Ashley Jackson and Anne Farrell.

Standing 6-foot-2 inches, Farrell led the Ladies in scoring and rebounding on the season, averaging 11.6 points and 7.1 boards per game. In the second game between Oakland and Centenary, a 72-55 Grizzlies victory on Feb. 9, she controlled the paint with 12 rebounds and 10 points.

Jackson comprises the second piece

of Centenary's potentially troublesome frontcourt. At 5-11, she averaged 9.9 points and 5.2 rebounds per game for the Ladies.

Together with 6-foot-three inch sophomore center Leslie Forest, the Ladies will literally stand head-and-shoulders above the Grizzlies' smaller frontcourt. However, despite their disadvantage in height, the Grizzlies won the rebounding margin by a combined total of 79-61 in their two meetings.

Oakland's number-one seed comes in part thanks to the absence of North Dakota State and South Dakota State. While their respective records of 17-11 and 23-6 were enough to qualify, both teams are in their first year of Division I play, which disqualifies them from tournament play.

Oakland's first-round match up against Centenary tips off at 1 p.m. on Saturday from the John Q. Hammonds Arena at the UMAC in Tulsa, Okla.

Don't miss a minute of action at the Summit League Tournament

Check out www.oaklandpostonline.com for updates from Sports Editor Samantha Franz and Contributing Reporter Tim Rath.

All OU games can be heard live on 88.3-FM WXOU or on live streaming at www.wxou.org with play-by-play from Tulsa with Corey Hagood and Brad Doescher.

The Women's final can be seen on ESPNU at 3 p.m. Tuesday.

The Men's final can be seen on ESPN at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Coming up empty-handed

Club hockey loses to Oklahoma in first round of ACHA National Tournament, bounces back in consolation game

By **BRITTANY OCHTINSKY**
Senior Reporter

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Oakland University's hockey team traveled to Rochester, N.Y., hoping to follow up last season's ACHA Division I national championship with another, but the Grizzlies couldn't generate enough offense to topple the No. 5-seed Oklahoma Sooners, falling 4-3 Saturday, March 1.

Despite playing a hard first period, the Golden Grizzlies (23-11-0-1) struggled in the second period when they couldn't get their power play going. After falling behind 2-1, an unsuccessful last-minute flurry wasn't enough for the Grizzlies to advance to Sunday's quarterfinal game.

Brent Cooper and Jarrett Samp each

added goals in the final period to add to Kevin Kranker's first goal.

Goaltender Collin Chase, who led the Grizzlies to the championship last season, made 36 saves.

Cooper, one of three graduating seniors, finished the game with five points and Steve Piccoli had two assists.

"Our seniors did a great job. They didn't want to go out losing in the first round, but it's going to happen. They did all they could," said head coach Sean Hogan.

Although Sunday's consolation game against Kent State meant little in the overall scheme of things, the Grizzlies



Senior forward
Brent Cooper

went out with a bang, beating the Golden Flashes 9-5.

Tied 1-1 after the first, the second and third periods featured a flurry of goals from each team. Oakland led 5-3 after two and added four more to Kent State's two in the final period.

Cooper led the Grizzlies with four points, including a hat trick and Piccoli followed with two goals and

an assist. Cody Austin, Brett Haugh, Scott McGillivray and Jesse Worrell also added goals for Oakland.

Senior netminder Andrew Hansen made his post-season debut and picked

up the win in his final game.

Sunday's win also made Hogan the winningest coach in Oakland hockey history, with 75 wins.

Although Cooper would have liked another championship ring to add to his other two, he isn't too disappointed about coming up short.

"Two for three is really satisfying for me. It would have been nice to win another one, but it was a good note to go out on. Getting (to the tournament) is the main thing and once you get here, it's one game at a time," Cooper said.

Oakland finished the tournament ranked No. 11, one spot ahead of where it began the tournament after switching spots with Kent State.



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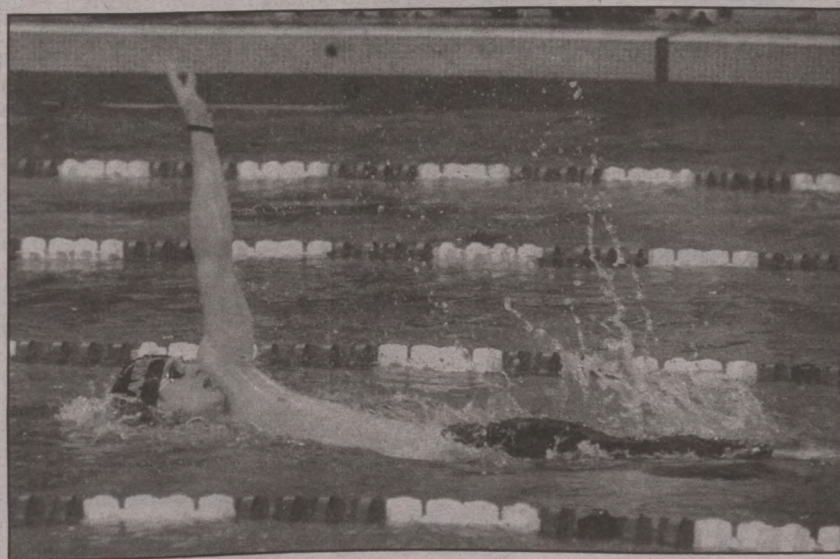
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Oakland U. swims high on cloud nine



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Swimming and diving head coach Pete Hovland leaps off a platform into the pool with glee after Oakland University won their ninth consecutive Summit League championship Feb. 23 at OU.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Sophomore Marcin Unold set a school record in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:43.57 and was named Summit League Swimmer of the Year. Junior Sophia Gustafsson was given the same honor on the women's side.

GRIZZ OF THE WEEK



Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics

Angela Righetti

Year: Sophomore
Major: Health Science

Righetti received Summit League Softball Player of the Week accolades after leading the Golden Grizzlies to a 7-3 record last week. The catcher held a .519 batting average and a .706 slugging percentage last week.

Baseball falters to start 2008 season

Oakland University's baseball team opened its season over break with five games on the road, but couldn't muster a single win, dropping a series to both Kentucky and Tennessee Tech.

Against Kentucky Feb. 26, Dustin Joffrion led the Golden Grizzlies with a three-run homer and Taylor Traub and Josh Kozuch each had an RBI in the 15-5 loss. Matt Trausch (0-1) let up eight runs in 5.2 innings pitched.

Kentucky stole the next meeting Feb. 28 from Oakland, 12-2. The Grizzlies fell behind 10-0 before finally getting on the board in the eighth inning off an RBI from Scott Sexton. Rob Merkle added one more for the Grizzlies. Andrew Estes (0-1) pitched 1.2 innings and Ben Darga pitched a scoreless seventh inning.

After the first meeting with Tennessee Tech was rained out, the Grizzlies dropped a double-header on March 1, 5-4 and 12-8.

The Grizzlies gained a 3-2 lead in the top of the seventh of the first game and maintained it until the bottom of the eighth, where they fell behind 4-3. Merkle's RBI tied the game 4-4.

Tennessee Tech led 8-0 through three innings of the second game, but the Grizzlies scored six runs by six players in the fourth. Justin Murdoch drove in a pair of runs in the seventh and Andrew Stafford added another for Oakland. Chad Yinger (0-1) fared only 1.1 innings. Dan Stinthcombe pitched a scoreless ninth inning.

March 2, Kentucky took the final game of the series, 7-5. Taylor Traub had four hits for Oakland and three each from Stafford and Scott Sexton. Trausch (0-2) pitched 4.2 innings and relief pitcher Greg Welke allowed two hits and one unearned run in three innings.

—Brittany Ochtinsky, Senior Reporter

Recapping Golden Grizzlies softball

Feb. 25 vs. Presbyterian College: L 4-3; W 13-2 (5)

Haley Emerson: 2 RBIs, Brittany Gryns (0-1) replaces Jessica Granger after 4 innings, charged with loss; Alyssa Deacon: 4 RBIs, Roberta Ches: 3 RBIs, Marisa Everitt (1-1) pitched three innings.

Feb. 27 vs. South Carolina State: W 9-2; W 9-0 (5)

Roberta Ches: 4 RBIs, Jessica Granger (1-3), pitched all seven innings.

Feb. 28 vs. Savannah State: W 16-2 (5); W 8-0 (5)

Angela Cicchini and Alex Perrino: 3 RBIs each, Jessica Granger (2-3) pitched all five innings; Angela Righetti: 3 RBIs, Brittany Gryns (1-1) pitched all five innings.

Feb. 29 vs. Brown: L 5-4

Brown scored two runs in the sixth for the win, Jessica Granger (2-4) pitched 2.1 innings.

March 1 vs. Toledo: L 6-3; vs. Charleston Southern: W 4-2; vs. Brown: W 5-4

Caitlin Lynch: 3 RBIs, Jessica Granger (2-5) pitched 3.2 innings; Caitlin Lynch: 2 RBIs, Jessica Granger (3-5) pitched all seven innings; Marisa Everitt relieved Brittany Gryns after five innings for the win.

—Brittany Ochtinsky, Senior Reporter

Winning is a big 'Deal'

Popular game show changes the future of one lucky OUI student

By JARED PURCELL
You Editor

Kristine LeMieux has recently gone through a life-changing experience that is quite a big deal.

LeMieux, a junior at Oakland University, won \$238,000 on the popular primetime game show "Deal or No Deal."

As one can imagine, the 24-year-old communications major doesn't have to worry much about new tuition increases anymore. Yet some of her friends — including her Gamma Phi Beta sisters — may want some help with their student loans.

"Obviously I'm not going to pay their student loans," said LeMieux, laughing. "I didn't win \$238 million."

The Game

The episode that aired on Feb. 7 was not the ordinary "Deal or No Deal" that viewers are accustomed to. It was a winner takes all episode as LeMieux, a St. Claire Shores native, went up against another contestant to see who takes the highest deal.

Neither contestant knew how much money their opponent won until the end of the show and they revealed their respective totals. LeMieux's \$121,000 edged out her opponent's \$117,000 deal, winning her the sum of both deals.

To top off the experience, LeMieux got engaged the night before the show aired and announced it the next night in the company of friends and family.

Road to the 'Deal'

So how did this fairytale begin?

The whole process began on May 5, 2007 when LeMieux woke up at 3 a.m. to drag herself into the shower in order to make it to the show's audition in Southfield.

"I was about to get ready and in the shower and I was like, 'You know what? I'm so tired,'" said LeMieux. "Then I ended up thinking I had a feeling I'd get



Photo courtesy of Kristine LeMieux

Kristine LeMieux (second from left) stands with her fiancé, Dave Tremberth (far left), her mother, Bridget LeMieux (far right), and her aunt Felicia "Fifi" Barlow at the episode premier party.

[on the show]."

When she arrived, she faced a line that could rival the DMV on a slow day.

"I went and waited in line for 11 hours," said LeMieux. "And once we got to actually see the casting people, all we got to do was talk about ourselves for 30 seconds."

Luckily for LeMieux, the 30 seconds was enough to earn her another interview that lasted a minute.

The Big Secret

Now imagine winning a huge sum of money and not being able to say a single word about it to anyone for nearly an entire month. That is what LeMieux had to endure after the taping of the show until the show aired.

"It was crazy," said LeMieux.

"Everyone was just trying to ask me questions to get around it. If I went out to the bars, people would try and buy me drinks to try and get me to talk about it."

LeMieux's mother, Bridget LeMieux was one of the trio of people who joined Kristen as voices of support and advice on the show. Along with her mother,

LeMieux brought her now fiancé, Dave Tremberth, and her aunt, Felicia Barlow. The three were held to the same standards of secrecy as LeMieux. Bridget couldn't even tell her own husband.

"We signed a contract saying that we could be sued a million dollars if we told anyone," said Bridget. "At first it was really hard because we were so excited. We wanted to call people and tell them right after."

Barlow would try and mask the secret by giving vague remarks.

"I told them 'it was an honor just to be picked' and 'I don't like how they played that game,'" Barlow said.

A Bright Future

Even though LeMieux might have to wait until May to receive her winnings, she hasn't let that stop her from making big plans. The first thing that came to LeMieux's mind when asked what she wants to do with the money may be a bit surprising.

"I want to go on a Kentucky houseboat trip," said LeMieux. "I've always really wanted to go on one."

After her wedding in October, LeMieux will be heading off to Fiji for the honeymoon and then hopes to build a house with her husband on Lake St. Clair.

Still, she is not going to squander her winnings as she plans on investing a lot of the money and meeting with a financial advisor.

"I definitely want to invest a lot of it," said LeMieux. "Not many people my age have the opportunity to get a lump-sum of money like that."

However, LeMieux does plan on having a little fun with her winnings.

"I want to obviously go shopping," said LeMieux with authority.

She also plans on spending some money on her mother and aunt.

Immediately after winning the money and leaving the studio, LeMieux made sure to buy her opponent a drink. After all, she did take his \$117,000 deal.

"I was hoping he didn't want to kill me," said LeMieux jokingly. "But he was a really good sport."

As can be imagined, LeMieux is occasionally recognized on the street by strangers who saw her on the show. Some of them approach with some rather unorthodox requests.

"There was this girl that found me on Myspace," said LeMieux. "She e-mailed me and asked me for my shoes that I wore on the show." The stranger offered her \$100 for the shoes. "Isn't that the weirdest thing you've ever heard?"

LeMieux's short visit to the primetime spotlight was enough to change her life and a few others.

"Now that I've been on the show, everyone's calling me 'Aunt Fifi,'" said Barlow, referencing the nickname that LeMieux referred to her as on the show.

"It was a great experience," said Bridget. "They treated us like movie stars."

When LeMieux finally gets the money, a world of opportunity will open for her.

"I was blessed to get that much money," said LeMieux.

Students give back in NYC for spring break

By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Scene/Mix Editor

Organizing, prepping and serving food, or sorting clothing at a thrift store in New York City doesn't sound like the standard sun-soaking, beer-guzzling spring break vacation. But 14 Oakland University students spent their spring break doing just that.

The students traveled to NYC on March 1 to participate in the Center for Student Activities (CSA) alternative spring break in which they spent four days doing various community service tasks throughout the city and two days exploring the city.

"I've never gone anywhere for spring break, and I thought being able to do some community service and help people, plus see another part of the country, was a really good balance and good way to spend my spring break," sophomore Lisa Daily said.

The New York appeal was one reason that senior Naved Ali wanted to go on the trip.

"Obviously, it's New York City; I've never been there. I thought it would be a cool way to balance the two things — volunteering and experiencing the hustle and bustle of the city," said Ali.

The prospect of doing community service in a city as large and diverse as New York left students curious about the experience that awaited them. Though some of them had worked on community service projects before, they still didn't know what to expect.

"I was going into the experience kind of blind," said senior Angie Freeman. "I knew I would be working with homeless people and in the soup kitchens but I didn't really know the setting or what would be happening."

The setting for the community service was Manhattan and its surrounding boroughs.

Students were responsible for navigating their way around the city and used the subway for most travel. They traveled to the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens in addition to the main island.

"I ran that city. Getting on the subway everyday and living life like a New Yorker," Freeman said.

The Youth Service Opportunity Program helped organize the tasks for students and held a reflection session at the end of each day where the students were able to discuss where they went, what they did and the people they interacted with.

Divided into three groups, they all had different tasks to accomplish every day. Some worked in soup kitchens while others worked in food pantries to sort food.

"They had us put on the gloves and the hairnets and we served the people who came in," Freeman said. "After everyone was served, we got to eat the food and sit with the guests and talk to them, so that was cool."

Freeman said her group also went to a thrift store where they sorted clothes, furniture books and toys.

Working in the different boroughs of the city exposed the students to many of the diverse New Yorkers.

"It was a big mix and it was an interesting, eye opening experience and it gave me a new perspective on what I already knew [about soup kitchens]," Daily said.

The assortment of people they encountered included the rich and poor; white, black and Hispanic; the mentally disabled and people who have traveled the world.

On the last day, the students went back to the YSOP to serve dinner to guests who attended by invitation only.

At the dinner, Ali said he talked with an older woman who had an English degree and was able to discuss literature.

"The whole purpose of the dinner was to have interaction with guests," Ali said.

Community service wasn't the only aspect of the trip that students experienced. Many of them visited the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the World Trade Center site, Times Square, the Empire State Building and checked out Broadway shows and concerts.

"Some of the girls went shopping everyday," Daily said.

Ali celebrated his 21st birthday at The Hard Rock Café in Times Square and took a carriage ride around Rockefeller Center with his girlfriend.

Although the alternative spring break wasn't the typical tropical fiesta, the community service aspect made it a rewarding experience for all that went.

"It was really humbling experience and it just opened up my eyes," Freeman said. "They're on the streets and that's their life. I try to be thankful for what I have. ...those people cleaned their plates and the food wasn't that good — I tried it. It amazed me that those people look forward to that food everyday."

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HIV lurking spreading killing in your own backyard

By **JESSE DUNSMORE**
Senior Reporter

It's been called the black plague of the 21st century.

Annual spending to fight the disease and its effects on low- and middle-income countries went from \$300 million in 1996 to \$8.3 billion in 2005, according to a report by the UN and the World Health Organization.

Seventy percent of infected people live in sub-Saharan Africa.

But the AIDS epidemic doesn't stop at the shores of Africa.

Reality Check

Imagine that following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, there was an equally deadly attack on the United States about every 46.4 days for the next five years.

The casualties would be roughly equal to the 84,794 AIDS deaths in this country from 2001 through 2005, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The OU nursing department sponsored a presentation held Feb. 5 called HIV/AIDS: Devastating the African-American Community. According to Dr. Francis Jackson, an OU nursing professor, there have been 985,000 people infected in the United States since the discovery of the virus, and about 550,000 of them have died so far.

THE STATS

- The World Health Organization lists AIDS as the sixth biggest cause of death in the world. It's beat out by (in descending order) heart diseases, cancers, injuries, respiratory infections and respiratory diseases.
- In the United States, it's not even in the top 15 list. US government data says 90 percent of AIDS victims live elsewhere in the world.
- The following data represents death tolls exclusively due to infectious diseases:

**Leading Causes of Death
Due to Infectious Diseases in 2002**

Lower respiratory infections	3.9 million
HIV/AIDS	2.8 million
Diarrheal diseases	1.8 million
Tuberculosis	1.6 million
Malaria	1.2 million
Measles	0.6 million

Assessing the risks

Dr. Jackson said that the African-American community, particularly women, is at great risk for infection.

According to data from a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study, African-Americans, who make up 13 percent of the United States population, account for half of HIV and AIDS cases nationally. Jackson said that although only 14 percent of Michigan's population is black, black people make up 75 percent of Michigan HIV cases.

Although black men have a higher infection rate, black women have some unique risk factors, said Jackson, the biggest one of which is that they are statistically the least-likely ethnic and gender group to date outside their race. When the size of a population is limited (in this case the population of potential male partners), a disease like HIV can spread very quickly throughout it.

It could happen to you...really

What really troubles Jackson is that despite information campaigns aimed at young African-American women, polls show that they still aren't concerned. "For some reason, they still don't feel it is their problem," Jackson said, noting that education isn't the issue. "The biggest problem is getting people to feel susceptible to this."

"Until it actually happens to me or someone around me, I think it would feel far away just like anything," said one female OU student.

When asked what word immediately came to mind when the HIV/AIDS topic was brought up, seven Oakland University students said "Africa."

"I don't hear much about it," said Dan, "so I wouldn't assume it's a big risk in this area."

Dan* has been in a committed relationship for three years. He said he wasn't concerned at all over the possibility of HIV infection.

"It's not really close to home," said another student. "It's really not affecting anyone I know. It doesn't really concern me too much. It's in the back of my mind



always if I hear of people having unprotected sex, but I feel it's more in African-American society or gay society."

He said he used condoms "on and off," more to avoid getting his partner pregnant than for STDs. "When I hear [she's on] birth control, I say 'Good, great' [and don't use a condom]."

Kelly sometimes uses condoms. She said that when she has sex it isn't usually in a relationship.

"I'm not a committed kind of girl," said Kelly. But her partners are usually friends, "Not like a random one-night stand kind of thing."

The less she knows about the person, the more likely she is to want them to use a condom. As far as she knows, no one she knows has HIV.

"I don't think it's that much of a problem around the Rochester area [or] the Metro-Detroit area," Kelly said.

Closer than you think

None of them knew that out of Michigan's 83 counties, Oakland County ranks sixth in rate of HIV infections, and makes up 10 percent of the total diagnosed cases in the state, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Nor did they know that down the street, Detroit is home to 40 percent of Michigan HIV/AIDS victims.

They might not have known that people ages 20 to 29 are in the second-most dangerous decade of their lives for HIV infection in Michigan (the most commonly-diagnosed group is 30-somethings).

"That's kind of scary," said Kelly, reacting to the information. "That's kind of shocking to me, actually." She said that she's been tested, so she knows she's HIV-free, but she'll probably be more insistent on condom use from now on.

Estimated numbers of diagnoses of HIV/AIDS in the 33 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting, by race or ethnicity

White, not Hispanic	11,559
Black, not Hispanic	18,121
Hispanic	6,782
Asian/Pacific Islander	417
American Indian/ Alaska Native	195

This data is from the CDC, and applies only to the United States. Worldwide data is not readily available due to different data-gathering procedures.

There are no guarantees

Augustine Nelson, a 45-year-old mother of three, found that her wedding ring offered no protection from HIV. Nelson spoke at the HIV/AIDS presentation following Dr. Jackson.

Nelson thought she was safe, she said, because she was in a committed relationship, and her boyfriend—and then husband, after six years of dating—didn't use drugs or even drink.

She had no idea he was cheating until her initial diagnosis of gonorrhea.

Eventually, she was diagnosed with HIV.

"I was in my comfort zone," said Nelson. She didn't feel the need to get her husband to use a condom.

She said she initially felt confused after her diagnosis about what to tell her daughter about sex. She had always assumed the best advice would be to wait until marriage to avoid worries about STDs, but now, she's just going to tell her to always be careful, "committed" or not.

AIDS then and now

Risks like this have prompted massive education campaigns targeting a variety of demographics. The information they have to work with now is considerably greater than it was 27 years ago, when AIDS was first discovered.

Since the original patients were gay men, one early theory about AIDS was

33.2 million adults and children around the globe are living with HIV/AIDS. (As of the end of 2007, according to Avert.org)



that it was a male immune response to another male's semen, said Barbara Fabian Baird, R.N., in an interview for "In Their Own Words," an online feature on the early years of research into AIDS. Prior to the discovery that a virus caused AIDS, hospital staff would dress in protective garb head to toe, and sometimes make patients do the same. Even in 1988, the general public didn't believe it was possible for a woman to contract AIDS, as it was still considered a gay man's or a drug user's disease.

Today, the mantra is "AIDS affects everyone." Public service announcements, billboards, and sex education classes work to make people aware of the risk of infection and how infection occurs. At the same time, early rumors were largely dispelled.

Still, HIV-infected immigrants have been banned from entering the United States since 1987, with some temporary exceptions. And though simple tests can detect HIV in blood, any man who has ever had sex with another man is unable to donate blood.

Getting the facts straight

Avert.org cites a 2006 survey that showed 26 percent of people still believed AIDS could be transferred by kissing. Ten percent thought it could be transferred via toilet seats.

The education campaign clearly isn't complete.

What is AIDS, exactly? It isn't a virus; it's a condition caused by the virus called HIV.

Viruses affect the body by infecting cells and inserting their own DNA into the infected cell's DNA. The cell then produces copies of the virus, which repeat the process in other cells.

OU biology professor Susmit Suvas explains that the cells HIV infects are CD-4 T-cells, a major cell type in the immune system.

Normally, your immune system adapts to a new virus, making it impossible for

that virus to affect you again.

But according to Suvas, HIV "persists" inside the body of the tendency of newly-produced HIV to have slight mutations from its "parent." No vaccine will offer any real protection, the body won't adapt, and the immune system will continue weakening.

"The problem is, once a person gets infected with the virus, he or she won't know initially if they are infected," said Suvas, "because ... it's like a normal flu or normal virus infection. Only with the progress of time, a person comes to know."

With a severely weakened immune system, other diseases that would normally never stand a chance of infecting the body become serious threats. It's at this point, said Suvas, often 10 to 15 years after initial HIV infection, that a patient is said to have AIDS.

What lies ahead

Currently the main treatment used is called highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART). Anti-retroviral drugs interfere at various points during the HIV life-cycle, from binding to the outside of a cell to modifying the cell's DNA. But these drugs have side effects ranging from nausea to (in rare cases, said Suvas) cancerous tumors.

Suvas said animal research has successfully kept PD-1 from interfering with CD-8 T-cells. He hopes future therapies will include better anti-retroviral drugs and something to prevent PD-1 binding. In other words, the goal will be to make sure there are fewer viruses in the body, and a tougher immune system to fight them.

But he doesn't expect treatment to win any wars against the disease.

"For any infection, there are two approaches to handle it. One is preventative, and the other is therapy," said Suvas. "Those who are not infected—they need to take care."

Word to the wise

According to CDC, the majority of infections in the U.S. come from sexual contact, mostly between men, but a significant portion is still attributed to male-female sex acts and use of injected drugs.

Prevention methods are straightforward. If you don't have sex and don't use needle drugs, your chances of contracting HIV are extremely low. Other factors, like blood transfusions, have had their risk significantly reduced since the advent of AIDS.

If you do have anal or vaginal sex, Mayo Clinic says, use a condom, and know how to use it. Lambskin condoms do not protect against HIV, so if you or a partner are allergic to latex, use a plastic (polyurethane) condom.

HIV can be contracted through oral sex. Use a condom on a man or dental dam on a woman.

If it is necessary to inject yourself, make sure the needle you use is sterile.

This lag between infection and symptoms contributes to the danger—an infected person can have sex with any number of people for years before realizing he or she is carrying a lethal virus. And the CDC says that there 40 thousand new HIV cases in the United States each year, an average of 4.5 each hour.

Setting some ground rules

Britny is an exception to Dr. Jackson's high-risk black female. She always uses condoms. In any relationship, she said

she gets tested for STDs before they ever have sex, and she's insistent that her partner does as well. She said she'll get tested every six months in a relationship, or three months if she has "suspicions."

Britny said she's just "trying to keep it clean."

The more you know

Shane feels people need to be more responsible for the sake of others.

"AIDS, in general, it's very simple to prevent it. But the biggest problem is that a lot of people are irresponsible with their actions. If people have AIDS, they need to be responsible and realize 'It's not right for me to go out and have sex unprotected ... which could affect somebody else's life and end up killing them.' I think it's more of a humanity thing."

OU student Patrick thinks self-education is an important part of prevention. "It is out there, and it's kind of nice to know that it is out there, instead of just being someone who just does things and [doesn't] think about the consequence until it happens."

Celson, another student, thinks ignorance has a lot to do with infection, but he also describes an attitude problem. "A lot of people think that they're invincible, that they can't contract AIDS. They're like, 'Oh, that's so unlikely that it's going to happen to me.' But it happens to people every day."

**Note: most students interviewed either wished to remain anonymous or be identified only by first name.*

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In History...

The first international AIDS conference was held in Atlanta in 1985. It was attended by 2000 people. The 2006 conference in Toronto attracted over 20,000.

In the 1980s, the British government began a massive informational campaign, including iconic public service announcements, primetime educational television programming, and leaflets sent to every home in the entire country.

In the United States, the CDC launched a campaign in 1987, including dozens of TV spots, radio airtime and print ads, followed up the next year by an "Understanding AIDS" brochure. More recently, AIDS awareness has become literally fashionable. Product (RED)'s partnership with major brands raises money for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Scene

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

March 5, 2008

Happy hour: three for the road

By AMANDA SAOUD
Staff Intern

If you're looking for a place to grab some drinks this weekend, but you're tired of the usual favorites like TGI Fridays and Red Ox, you'll be pleasantly surprised to find that, although the Rochester-Auburn Hills area may not appear to be a traditional college town, there are a fresh hot spots all within minutes of Oakland's campus.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/ The Oakland Post
Fuse's unique appeal is that it boasts a cigar lounge and a variety of flavored martinis.

Martinis

One of the newest additions to the downtown Rochester scene is The Fuse Lounge and Bar.

This trendy restaurant is known for its extensive selection of uniquely flavored martinis and also offers late-night dining options, featuring a creative menu of small plates, appetizers and an impressive wine list.

Fuse features one of the area's only cigar lounges, providing a place to relax late into the evening. The second floor loft dining room provides an excellent view of the city as well as a more secluded dining atmosphere.

The bar often features live music on the weekends. Both the dining room and cigar lounge and can be booked for private parties.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/ The Oakland Post
Don't miss the green beer at Gus O'Connor's St. Patrick's Day celebration March 17, beginning at 7 a.m.

Beer

Downtown Rochester Main Street is home to Gus O'Connor's, which boasts the reputation of being one of the largest authentic Irish pubs in North America.

The restaurant features a large menu of Irish and American food and lively setting for an evening out.

Live music entertains the rowdy crowd on the weekends, and happy hour drink specials — like half-off draft beers and well drinks — keep the bar busy throughout the week.

Their biggest claim to fame though, is their St. Patrick's Day party. The festivities begin at 7 a.m. on March 17 and feature green beer, buffet-style dining and live music throughout the day.



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/ The Oakland Post
Enjoy \$2 margaritas at Taco Loco during their happy hour.

Margaritas

If you're looking to head south of the border for the night, look no further than Taco Loco, on Crooks Road, just south of Hamlin.

Voted the number one Mexican restaurant by the Detroit News in 2005 and 2006, this restaurant transports you to a lively waterfront village with its floor to ceiling murals and roaming mariachi band.

The flavorful menu is improved during the nightly happy hour, which features \$2 margaritas.

New moves with the same twist in 'Devil May Cry 4'

REVIEW

By RORY MCCARTY
Contributing Reporter

You just cut a path through dozens of demons with knives for limbs. You climbed your way to the top of a gothic castle by flipping from ledge to ledge. You suplexed a flaming hell-beast into the ground hard enough to make a crater.

And you're going to get a "D" ranking for it because you weren't doing enough stylish combos along the way.

Fans of the Devil May Cry series should be quite familiar with this scenario. And this doesn't change in the latest installment in the series, Devil May Cry 4, which is currently available on the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360.

Devil May Cry 4 is a return to the familiar sword-swinging, gun-slinging and controller-breaking difficult game play that the series is known for.

You still fight waves of cackling demons and building-sized bosses, solve

simple "open door A with key B" puzzles and get to look cool while doing it. But there are a few changes to the formula this time around.

Players begin the game as series newcomer Nero, who looks remarkably like the previous games' protagonist, Dante. Nero brings some welcome change to the stagnant hack-and-slash monotony.

His right arm, the "Devil Bringer," allows him to pick up and hurl almost any enemy in the game like a rag doll. This is used both as a sort of grappling hook in the game's otherwise weak platform jumping sections, and as a way to reach out and bring distant enemies close to you to keep combos going.

Another addition is Nero's fuel-injected sword, the "Red Queen," which can be revved up like a motorcycle in the middle of combat and then released to create explosions whenever an enemy is hit with it. Players who master precise timing will be able to rev up the sword even in the middle of a combo to do absurd amounts of damage.

About halfway through the game, the control temporarily shifts from Nero to

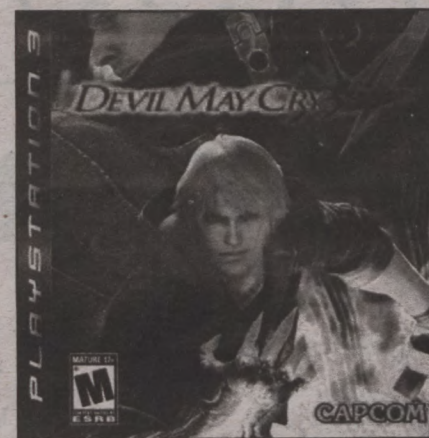
Dante, who plays much the same way he did in Devil May Cry 3.

Being a veteran demon-slayer, Dante feels too powerful, so much so that he easily kills bosses that would have presented a challenge for Nero.

However, Dante ends up working backward through the missions Nero completed, forcing players to backtrack to the beginning of a game. It's a serious blemish on a game that is otherwise a blast to play.

The difficulty of the game is noticeably lower than previous installments, thanks in part to a checkpoint system that lets you pick up where you died and a system that makes the enemies go easier on you the more you lose — but at the cost of style points. This makes the game more accessible to new players, but also frustrating for players who would rather not have the advantage.

The game still isn't easy; the bosses will kill you. But the series seems to have found a comfortable equilibrium between Contra's "if a guy stands too close to you, you die" and Kingdom Hearts 2's "press X until you win."



Amazon.com

If you get frustrated by working your way through a difficult section of a game only to be penalized for it, then Devil May Cry 4 is probably not for you. But if you're a fan of action games and for some reason haven't played the Devil May Cry series yet, definitely pick this one up.

Devil May Cry 4 is rated M for mature.

'Rewind' to find effects

REVIEW

By KYLE PHANEUF
Contributing Reporter

The film industry is nearing the point — if it isn't there already — where special effects no longer matter. Technology has simply advanced so far that effects aren't really a relevant gauge of a film's quality anymore.

Certainly some are more convincing than others, but there are really only so many times filmmakers can expect audiences to watch New York City being destroyed and still be impressed by it.

Michel Gondry is a sort of reaction to this. Gondry made his name directing music videos in the '90s.

He followed that aesthetic into his feature-length film career. "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" was a manic visual representation of the human psyche that relied slightly on CGI, though the most interesting scenes involved distorted perspectives, hidden doors and two very willing leads.

But Gondry's newest film, "Be Kind Rewind," marks the first time the whimsical imagery alone doesn't quite equate engaging cinema.

The plot centers on Mos Def and

Jack Black, two guys manning a video rental/thrift store in Passaic, N.J., who accidentally erase their store's entire film library and decide to record their own versions as replacements.

But the plot is mostly an inconsequential excuse for Gondry to show off his latest cardboard-related film techniques. The characters don't grow or accomplish, so much as they hang around and make funny videos.

The videos are hilarious; it's the movie around them that needs some work.

For a film that subtly implies Hollywood has turned cinema into a homogenized and formulaic exercise in by-committee design, "Rewind" feels a bit too much like it's playing it safe.

Still, even if it doesn't quite prove its own point — that the hand-made and authentic beats glossy grandeur — it's at least refreshing to see someone attempt to change the world of cinema for the better.

The abrupt ending to the film feels altogether too close to the Hollywood sentimentalism "Be Kind Rewind" rebels against. The emotional resonance, however, is still there.

If nothing else, Gondry has succeeded in making a film for the masses without losing what made him inspiring in the first place.

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Student Congress Office – 62 Oakland Center
Center for Student Activities – 49 Oakland Center

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For questions, please call: 248-370-4200

MOUTHING OFF

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

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March 5, 2008

Poke me to save humanity!

Facebook groups will not change the world ... OMG!

By NICK DEGEL
Campus Editor

I finally broke down early this school year and joined Facebook, a social networking Web site created by boy-manchild Mark Zuckerberg in 2004 specifically for Harvard University students.

Since it's inception, it has been regarded by some as Myspace for adults, which may or may not be all that accurate.

My decision to join was largely job related. I had become a staff reporter here at the Oakland Post and it was suggested to me that Facebook was a great way to contact certain student groups for writing articles.

Slowly but surely, I was sucked into a world of instant social information.

I now knew more about people I had just met than I ever would have in a typical classroom conversation about how hard the homework was or how bad OU's parking situation is.

I entered a world of bumper stickers, groups, and event calendars. People were constantly inviting me to OU basketball games or other campus activities.

Later, I discovered that people could poke you, head butt you or dropkick you.

I woke up one morning to find that someone had anonymously gifted me a pair of panties.

Is this person implying that they think I am a delicate little flower and should be wearing them? Was it the cute girl who sat in the corner of the classroom offering a gift of attraction? Who knows?

Remember, we're talking about the Internet. You never know if the person on the other side of the screen is a beautiful woman or a lonely, confused old man.

When did I go from politely networking to taking part in some perverted video game?

What is most surprising, as is with Myspace, is the number of people posting self-portraits of a sexually suggestive nature.

Even blatant examples of underage drinking or illegal drug use are posted for all to see.

Do these people not realize how easy it is to find someone on Facebook?

Try explaining that innocent little JPEG to your future boss.

"Yes, sir, I do know what that looks like."

"No, sir, I do not condone that type of behavior."

"Sir, I assure you that none of the animals involved in the photo were harmed."



DUSTIN ALEXANDER/The Oakland Post

Facebook gifts would send a different message if sent in the physical world.

How about a Facebook group called "I lost my job and my health insurance because of my New Year's Eve photo album on Facebook?"

What truly boggles my mind, however, are the Facebook groups devoted to a certain cause. They come in the form of "1 million strong against the Iraq War" or "Join this group to find the cure for (your disease here)."

There is really nothing wrong with showing your Facebook friends that you

support stem cell research or that you are appalled by what is happening in western Sudan.

The problem is when that is the extent of a person's "awareness."

In the 1960s, a protest involved taking over college administration buildings or traveling to Washington to try to lift the Pentagon off the ground with a circle of flower power, an idea that was undoubtedly inspired by copious amounts of LSD.

At face value these seem pretty ridiculous, but once the government realized that bouncing a few nightsticks off the top of hippies' noggins would not curtail the protests, they were forced to address the anti-Vietnam sentiments of the nation.

Today, you are more likely to find John-Q-Antiwar-College student pouring his "send them home" passion into his blog.

How revolutionary!

Our generation has a bigger problem than illegal wars or no Social Security: it is our complacency.

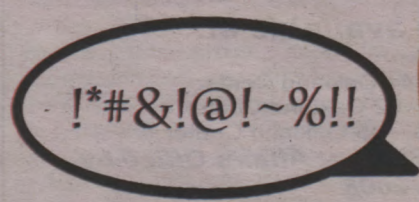
We're too busy and too acclimated to our safe environs to fix up an old school bus and set up shop on Capitol Hill.

Instead we join Facebook groups like "Animal Rights, Right Now" or blog about it to our eight or nine subscribers.

Both of which accomplish nothing.

While Facebook is a step forward in social communication, it may very well be a step backward in motivation. As these Web sites (Facebook, Youtube, Myspace, etc.) and future innovations of the Internet converge, will we even have to step outside?

And that whooping cough you hear over your shoulder is George Orwell laughing his dust off.



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Nader the nadir of 2008 election

By TODD BUTKOVICH
Guest Columnist

While the rest of the political world was digging through the sex life of a 71-year-old man, searching for decade-old improprieties or waiting for Hillary Clinton to cry her way out of her month-long slump of primary and caucus losses, another candidate made a largely unnoticed splash into the kiddie pool of the 2008 presidential race.

That's right, Nader's back, baby!

On Sunday, Feb. 24, in what must have been the slowest news week of the year, NBC's Meet the Press invited Ralph Nader, perennial no-chance candidate since at least the pre-WWI era, to announce that he will be running as an independent in November's election.

The rest of the interview was largely drowned out by mocking laughter combined with the weeping of millions of Democrats. Given his lack of anything even remotely resembling success in the past, one is prompted to ask why the hell he's doing it.

The most vocal anti-Naderites still blame him for Al Gore's loss in the 2000

election and subsequent weight gain. Although by the mathematical transitive property, one could just as easily cite Gore's candidacy as the reason why Nader isn't the one currently dancing his way across Botswana for no discernable diplomatic reason.

With the theme of "change" being rammed down our throats, we don't need another reformer cluttering the cam-

Fred Thompson look like Captain Excitement.

But don't get me wrong, Nader has built up quite a coalition.

In addition to the millions of young ex-Ron Paul supporters to whom the legalization of marijuana is the single vital issue (make that all Ron Paul supporters), he's also got those who love to vote but hate being on the winning side.

Ralph has dusted off the only suit he owns and is out there once again, out-crazing Mike Gravel and making Mike Huckabee's delegate-counting system seem completely rational.

paign, decrying corporations, wealth and enjoyment in general.

Nonetheless, after four years that were no doubt spent complaining to strangers on the street and arguing with cashiers over expired coupons, Ralph has dusted off the only suit he owns and is out there once again, out-crazing Mike Gravel and making Mike Huckabee's delegate-counting system seem completely rational.

Not to mention the fact that he makes

But, after three months buried in 11 feet of snow and three-hour drives down icy quarter-mile stretches, I doubt a man dedicated to fighting global warming will win the sympathies of the Midwest and the Eastern seaboard.

And one can't legitimately expect fiscal responsibility from someone who is willing to waste millions of dollars on a "Nader for President" run.

Which brings us back to the original question: Why is he bothering?

After receiving far less than one half percent of the popular vote in 2004 as an independent — and after being dropped by the Green Party, which is now likely to endorse Cynthia McKinney, a former Democratic congresswoman best known for physically assaulting a Capitol Building security guard in 2006 — his prospects look even worse in a race where the electorate actually seems to like the two major candidates.

The only logical conclusion is that the man must love failure.

And after eight months spent doing occasional cable news interviews, holding rallies at quarter-full VFW halls, and not appearing on televised debates, all while polling well below the margin of error in all major voter surveys, 2008 may just offer the biggest failure yet.

There's not even a reason to believe he'll vote for himself this time.

Say what you will about Ralph Nader, but he represents the greatest part of American democracy: anyone can run for president.

Of course, he also represents the worst part of American democracy: anyone can run for president.

See what all the excitement is about this summer at OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Registration for the summer semester begins March 17

To improve services to students, Oakland University has merged spring and summer semesters into one extended summer semester. This new format will help you get ahead in your studies by offering greater flexibility in scheduling and increased opportunities to complete required courses.

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Questions?

- **About course selection:** contact your academic adviser. Also visit www.oakland.edu/advisingcontact
- **About registration:** contact the Registrar's Office, 100 O'Dowd Hall, (248) 370-3450 or registra@oakland.edu
- **About unpaid balances:** contact the Office of Student Financial Services, 120 North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-2550, mystuact@oakland.edu or finaid@oakland.edu



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(248) 370-3450



Dems remain tight; McCain wins GOP ticket

By DAVID ESPO

Associated Press Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton split a pair of New England primaries Tuesday night and vied for bigger prizes in Ohio and Texas in a riveting Democratic presidential race. Arizona Sen. John McCain clinched the Republican nomination.

Obama won Vermont's Democratic primary, gaining nearly 60 percent of the vote for a 12th straight victory over the former first lady.

Clinton countered quickly, winning in Rhode Island, and gaining roughly 60 percent support in the process.

Ohio and Texas were the big trophies of the night, rich in delegates and — according to Bill Clinton — must-win states for his wife.

At the time of print, Clinton held a narrow lead in Texas with votes from nearly 64 percent of the precincts counted.

The former first lady was out in front in Ohio, where votes from about 81 percent of the precincts showed her with 56 percent of the vote, compared to Obama's 42 percent.

Time was running out for Clinton. Obama had the lead in the delegate chase, 1,389-1,276, in The Associated Press count.

His margin was larger — 1,187-1,035 — among pledged delegates chosen in primaries and caucuses. The former first lady had an advantage among superdelegates, but Obama picked up three during the day, narrowing her advantage to 241-202.

In all, there were 370 Democratic delegates at stake in the night's contests.

McCain gained the 1,191 delegates necessary to win the Republican nomination,

completing a remarkable comeback that began in the snows of New Hampshire eight weeks ago. President Bush invited him to lunch — and an endorsement — at the White House on Wednesday.

McCain's last remaining major rival, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, conceded defeat. "My commitment to him and the party is to do everything possible to unite our country so that we can be the best we can be," Huckabee said.

For McCain, success came on his second try for the White House. He lost the GOP nomination to Bush in 2000.

"The most important race begins," he said in an Associated Press interview, looking ahead to a fall campaign against either Obama or Clinton, with the country fighting an unpopular war and on the brink of a possible recession.



REINALDO D'SANTIAGO/Associated Press
Hundreds of Venezuelan troops were deployed along the Colombian border on Tuesday following orders from President Hugo Chavez.

Venezuela moves troops to the Colombian border

By FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia — Hundreds of Venezuelan troops moved Tuesday toward the border with Colombia, where trade was slowing amid heightening tension over Colombia's cross-border strike on a rebel base in Ecuador.

The Organization of American States scheduled an emergency afternoon meeting in Washington to try to calm one of the region's worst political show-downs in years, pitting U.S.-backed Colombia against Venezuela's leftist President Hugo Chavez and his allies. Colombian and Ecuadorean officials, meanwhile, traded accusations in the United Nations and the International Criminal Court.

The escalation of tensions was triggered over the weekend when Colombia troops crossed the border with Ecuador and killed Raul Reyes, a top commander of the Colombian FARC rebels who had set up a camp there.

Chavez, who sympathizes with the leftist rebels, condemned the killing and angrily ordered about 9,000 soldiers — 10 battalions — to Venezuela's border with Colombia. He warned Colombian President Alvaro Uribe that any strike on Venezuelan soil could provoke a South American war.

Colombia's defense minister said Monday that he would not be provoked into mobilizing troops in response.

President Bush said the United States will stand by Colombia and criticized Venezuela's government for making "provocative maneuvers." Colombia has received some \$5 billion in U.S. aid to fight drugs and leftist rebels since 2000.

Retired Venezuelan Gen. Alberto Muller Rojas, a former top Chavez aide, told The Associated Press the troops were being sent to the border region as "a preventative measure."

NIW BRIEFS

2:24 | Ralph Nader officially enters the presidential election as an independent candidate.

2:25 | Lee Myung-bak is sworn in as South Korea's president.

2:26 | A man who dubbed himself "Osama bin London" is found guilty of running terrorist training camps in the United Kingdom.

2:27 | England is hit by the most powerful earthquake in 25 years. The quake registered a 5.2 on the Richter scale. | Microsoft is fined a record \$1.3 billion by the European Union anti-trust commission.

2:29 | Turkey announces complete withdrawal of its troops from northern Iraq.

3:02 | Dmitry Medvedev wins Russia's presidential election by a landslide and is expected to succeed Vladimir Putin.

3:04 | Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee exits the race.



Young giraffe shows a little love

NICK UT/Associated Press

Animal keeper Irma Macleod, smooches with the Los Angeles Zoo's newest giraffe during the yet-unnamed animal's public debut Friday Feb. 29, 2008. Born on Feb. 6, the giraffe is the second Masai giraffe to be born at the zoo within three months. The baby, born six-feet-three-inches tall and 156 pounds, currently receives nine quarts of whole cow's milk per day.

Prince Harry returns to UK after 10-week deployment

By DAVID STRINGER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Prince Harry returned home to his relieved father and older brother Saturday after a 10-week Afghan tour of duty that security officials fear could now make him a top target for extremists.

His body armor hanging loose off one shoulder, Harry, 23, descended the steps of a Royal Air Force troop carrier with about 170 other soldiers. He handed some of his gear to his brother, Prince William, and was led by his father, Prince Charles, to a waiting family car.

Harry, a second lieutenant, left the southern province of Helmand after details of his deployment appeared Thursday on The Drudge Report Web site, leaking news previously kept secret under a pool agreement between the Ministry of Defense and all major news organizations operating in Britain, including The Associated Press.

Military chiefs said they ruled that Harry had likely become a Taliban target and decided it was not safe for him to complete his tour, which had been due to end in April.

In postings on known extremist Web sites, self-proclaimed al-Qaida supporters

have called for Harry to be kidnapped and executed since the disclosure of his tour.

Charles said Harry and the royal family were disappointed the prince had been forced to abandon his six-month tour.

He acknowledged it had been difficult to keep quiet about Harry's work, saying he had claimed that his son was on training exercises when asked about his whereabouts.

William — second in line to the British throne — is also likely to serve overseas with the military, probably on board a Royal Navy battleship, the defense ministry said Saturday.